

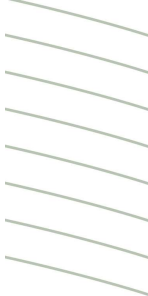
Launch of Mannix Library's Special Collections Room

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On Friday 15th February 2019, a gathering was held in Mannix Library (<http://www.mannix.org.au/>) in East Melbourne to celebrate the launch of the library's new Special Collections Room. The well-attended event was also an opportunity for library staff to demonstrate the library's newly installed ElarScan A2 scanner, as well as a new website, created to showcase the library's Archbishop Goold Special Collection.

For the past two years, Mannix Library staff have been involved with a project funded by the Australian Research Council titled *A Baroque Archbishop in Colonial Australia: James Alipius Goold, 1812-1886*. Goold was Melbourne's first Catholic Archbishop and made a significant contribution to colonial Melbourne, amassing significant collections of artworks and books, and commissioning the construction of St Patrick's Cathedral. Contributions by Mannix Library staff to the Goold project to date have included: several talks and conference presentations, including at the Goold Symposium in February 2018; research into and curation of an



exhibition of Goold books at Catholic Theological College; the creation of a website to showcase Goold's library (<https://gooldlibrary.omeka.net/>); writing articles for the project's blog; co-authorship of a chapter on Goold's library in a forthcoming book, *The Invention of Melbourne: A Baroque Archbishop and a Gothic Architect*; and preparation for an exhibition of the same name being held at the Old Treasury Building in Melbourne from 31 July 2019—January 2020.

Archbishop Goold amassed a significant personal library during the course of his lifetime and on his death his books were left to the diocesan library. Over the years this collection of books was variously dispersed and largely forgotten. In fact, prior to the project, staff at Mannix Library had no way of knowing whether any items in its collection had previously belonged to Goold, as no information indicating Goold provenance had ever been included in library catalogue records. However, more than a thousand discrete volumes with Goold provenance have now been identified at Mannix Library and a new Special Collection created of these items. Some Goold books are also located at the Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission in East Melbourne, and items from both collections are gradually being catalogued, digitised and added to the Goold Library website.

Digitisation of items from the Goold collection is being facilitated by the installation of a new Elarscan A2 scanner. This purchase was funded by the University of Divinity in support of a new target in the Library Resources goal of the University's Strategic Plan. Over the past few years, Mannix Library has focussed on the development of its special collections. The library has sought to use digitization as a means to better showcase these materials and to improve access to them by researchers. The library's old technology, while suitable for scanning general documents, was not appropriate for use with rare and fragile materials. In addition, the new scanner has made it possible to digitize much larger items which wouldn't have been possible before. It has been possible to scan a variety of different types of items, from rare books to antiquarian coins. One of the favourite features of the scanner has been perspective correction, which enables users to scan tightly bound older books, only needing to open them to 90 degrees. Library staff are also pleased that the scanner has inbuilt OCR functionality and look forward to making more use of this feature. Although located in the Mannix Library, the scanner will facilitate a range of University-wide digitisation projects. Over the course of 2019, Mannix Library staff will develop several strategic digitisation projects with the intention of showcasing other special collections held across the University. Collections will be accessible via the University's Library Hub (<https://library.divinity.edu.au/>) which is managed by Mannix Library on behalf of all members of the University. The aim is to enhance the accessibility of these collections and to promote their future research potential.

As well as housing both the new scanner and items from the Gould Collection, the new Special Collections Room will also display and showcase other rare and unique resources that are held by Mannix Library. These include the antiquities and coin collections formerly owned by former lecturer Br Rod Doyle CFC, and the Rare Books Collection (including pre-1800 works and incunabula). The *Corpus Christianorum* collection includes critical editions of predominantly Latin and Greek texts by Christian authors from late antiquity until the end of the Middle Ages. A multi-volume set of Jacques-Paul Migne's *Patrologia Latina* and *Patrologia Graeca*, published in the mid-late 1800s is also located in the new room as well as a more current collection of Catholic Theological College Staff Publications.



The new Special Collections Room is also home to four historically significant bookcases which enhance the beauty and formal ambience of the room. These large timber bookcases were originally located in the library at Raheen, an Italianate mansion in Kew built in the 1870s. Raheen was the official residence of several Archbishops of Melbourne from 1917–1981, most notably Archbishop Daniel Mannix, after whom the Mannix library is named. Subsequent owners of Raheen, the Pratt family, donated the bookcases to the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 1986. Prior to their relocation to Mannix Library they had been housed at Corpus Christi College, initially in Clayton and then in Carlton. Because of their size, relocating the bookcases was a major logistical exercise. After they were moved into the Mannix Library,

repair and restoration work was undertaken to help return the bookcases to their former glory. These magnificent pieces of furniture can now be appreciated by all who visit the library.



At the launch, Mannix Library manager, Kerrie Burn noted that she wished to embrace a broad understanding of what it means to be “special”. This is the reason that the new room is called the Special Collections Room rather than the Goold or the Rare Books Room. She also spoke about the chain of events that led to the construction of the room in a space formerly dedicated to the housing of the library’s journal collection. The launch was also a time to offer thanks to all who had contributed to the project, which was a real team effort spanning many months.

It is hoped that the new Special Collections Room will itself be a resource for both library users and all those associated with both Catholic Theological College and the wider University of Divinity. It is able to be used by all staff and students, booked for meetings or presentations, and will be particularly useful for researchers wishing to access items from any of the library’s Special Collections.