



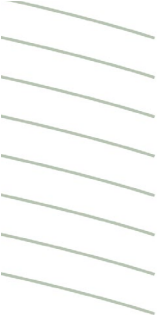
Moore College Library's Community Heritage Grant Journey

by Erin Mollenhauer

The National Library of Australia's Community Heritage Grant (CHG) program provides funding for community organisations which hold nationally significant collections, to enable them to obtain significance assessments, preservation needs assessments, conservation treatment and training workshops (National Library of Australia 2019). The program is a wonderful source of financial support for the promotion and preservation of archival material and the assessment reports provide valuable evidence about the value of collections which can be used to generate further support from stakeholders. The Samuel Marsden Archives, a collecting archive of material relating to the history of evangelicalism in Australia, forms part of the Moore College Library. Over the past decade, the Archives has progressed through all three CHG stages and received a total of around \$35,000 to fund two assessment reports and a variety of conservation treatments for the nationally significant sub-collections described below.

Stage 1: Significance Assessment (2009)

This assessment, written by Emeritus Professor Brian Fletcher OAM, is a comprehensive report describing how various sub-collections in the Samuel Marsden Archives are nationally significant, according to the criteria laid down in *Significance 2.0* (Russell and Winkworth 2009).



These criteria are divided into the primary categories of historic, artistic/aesthetic, scientific/research and social/spiritual significance; and the secondary categories of provenance, rarity or representativeness, condition or completeness, and interpretive capacity. Unsurprisingly, the collections in the Samuel Marsden Archives were determined to contain high levels of historic and social significance, with strong provenance and interpretive capacity. The report does not cover the whole collection of the Samuel Marsden Archives, which has almost tripled in size since it was written but provides an overview of the collection then focuses on eight highly significant sub-collections. The report has been made available on Moore College's repository.

Stage 2: Preservation Needs Assessment (2016)

The next step of the National Library's 3-stage process is to commission a conservator to provide a Preservation Needs Assessment of the same collection assessed in the Significance Assessment. This grant was successfully acquired in 2016 and Tegan Anthes of Preservation Australia completed the report in early 2017. A Preservation Needs Assessment requires close examination of the material composition of the collection items, their current physical and storage conditions, and makes recommendations for any necessary conservation treatment and changes to their environment. Preparation for this highly comprehensive report involved two visits to the archives and leaving a data logger inside the compactus unit for several weeks, to monitor any fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Because of the wide range of formats included in the sub-collections being assessed, the report provides very useful conservation advice which can be applied to other materials of the same type. For example, rehousing paper documents and photographs in individual polyester sleeves.

Stage 3: Conservation Treatment (2018 and 2019)

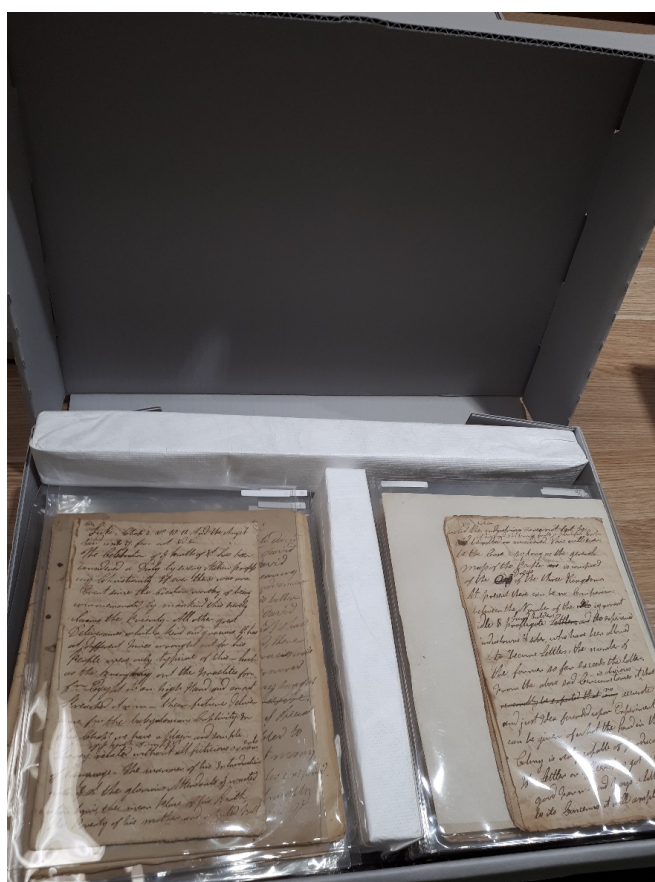
The third and most exciting stage of the Community Heritage Grant process was applying for funding for conservation work to be undertaken on the sub-collections, according to the recommendations of the Preservation Needs Assessment. In 2018, just under \$15,000 was acquired to have the Samuel Marsden, Bishop Broughton and Henry Waterhouse papers treated and rehoused by a professional conservator, and for archival quality sleeves to be purchased to rehouse the Mary Andrews flannel graph collection. International Conservation Services (ICS) in Chatswood undertook the paper conservation and rehousing.

The following year, further conservation funding of almost \$10,000 was obtained to have the film negatives from the Rev Frank Cash collection identified (as to whether they are cellulose acetate or cellulose nitrate) and rehoused in individual sleeves.

Significant Sub-Collections of the Samuel Marsden Archives

The Sermon Manuscripts of the Rev Samuel Marsden

The Significance Assessment (Fletcher 2010) unfortunately includes incorrect information about the provenance of this collection of 98 sermons – although it states that the sermons came to the College from the Diocesan Library which closed in the 1950s, they were in fact donated in 1961 by the Rev J.R.L. Johnstone (Knox 1961). The correspondence which accompanied this donation has now been clearly identified in the archives catalogue. The report mentions other sermon manuscripts held by the State Library of NSW and the Marsden School in Wellington, NZ, and a testimonial of Rev Dr David Pettett, who used the sermons to write his PhD: “My research would not be possible if it were not for the existence of these 98 sermons in the collection. Despite the fact there is a wealth of material written about Marsden, positive and negative, it is surprising that no one to date has looked carefully at Marsden’s sermons” (Fletcher 2010). The Preservation Needs Assessment identified the fact that each manuscript was stored in an oven bag (!), the ink is iron gall ink, and the paper is handmade with chain lines. The recommended conservation treatment was to rehouse the manuscripts into individual polyester sleeves, then house the sleeves in an acid-free box.



Sermon manuscripts of Rev Samuel Marsden in their new enclosures

The Bishop W.G. Broughton Collection

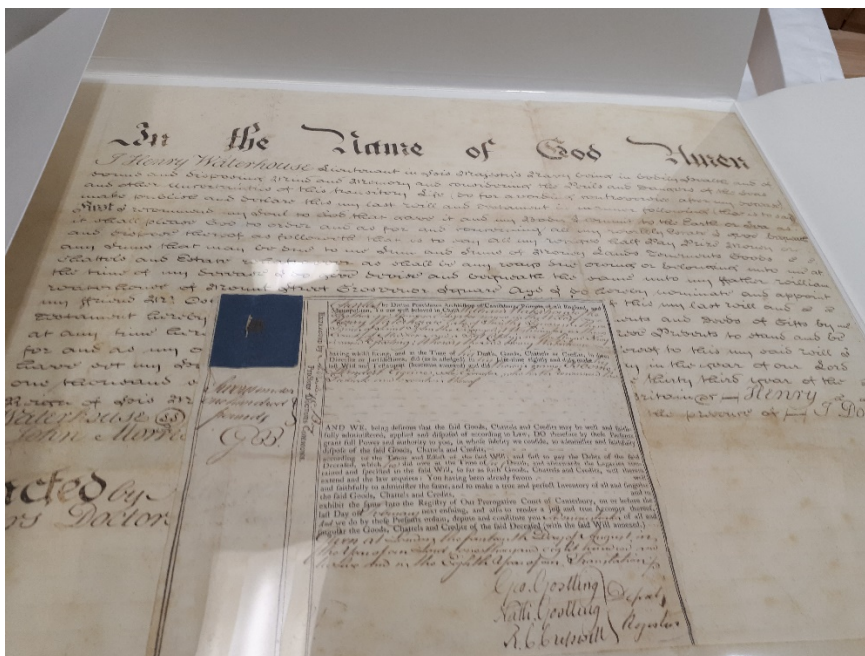
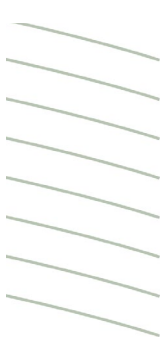
This collection comprises mostly correspondence between Bishop Broughton, his friends Edward Coleridge and Joshua Watson, his wife Sarah and daughter Phoebe. It also includes the journal that Broughton kept during his voyage to Australia on the convict ship *John* in 1829. It was part of the Diocesan Library until the 1950s, when that library closed, and the material was transferred to the College. As the first and only Bishop of Australia, and first Bishop of Sydney (as the diocese was subdivided), Broughton was a highly significant figure in the history of Anglicanism in Australia, and his correspondence reflects both his professional endeavours and aspects of his personal life. As with the Marsden collection, the conservation recommendation was to remove the documents from the oven bags and rehouse them in polyester sleeves inside acid-free boxes.

The Henry Waterhouse Collection

This small collection of 18 letters and legal documents relates to land and other business transactions between Captain Henry Waterhouse, Thomas Moore and other men in the early days of the colony of NSW. It includes documentation relating to the 'Vineyard' property in Parramatta, which was purchased from Captain Waterhouse by Hannibal Macarthur in 1813. Letters from Waterhouse to Thomas Moore mention the Napoleonic Wars, the progress at military college of Moore's stepson Douglas White, and mention Waterhouse's sister Elizabeth who married the explorer George Bass. They have great historical significance in providing details about the social and economic life of the early colony. The paper documents were rehoused in polyester sleeves, while the parchment Will of Henry Waterhouse was flattened using a humidification process, then rehoused in a custom sized acid-free cardboard enclosure.



Captain Waterhouse's will, before treatment



Captain Waterhouse's will, flattened and enclosed in a polyester sleeve

The Rev Frank Cash Collection

This collection of photographic negatives, lantern slides and associated documentation is most notable for its depiction of the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Cash was rector of Christ Church Lavender Bay from 1922-1964 and was given permission to access the construction sites of the bridge to take photographs. He also photographed the demolition of houses in Milson's Point, which were knocked down to make way for the approach to the bridge. This historically significant collection contains the preservation challenge of early film negatives, which contain both cellulose acetate and cellulose nitrate film. These negatives are the focus of the most recent conservation grant, which funded their scientific testing to ascertain the exact type of film used, and then to have the negatives rehoused in individual polyester sleeves. The glass plate negatives have been rehoused in acid-free 4-flap enclosures and placed in custom-sized acid-free boxes. So far, the glass negatives and lantern slides have been digitized and are available on the Library's repository.



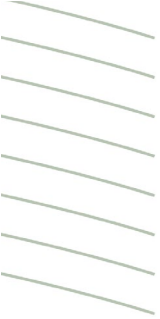
*Sydney Harbour Bridge – decking from a cross lateral, Thursday 11th Dec 1930.
Photography by Rev. Frank Cash*

Deaconess Mary Andrews Collection

Mary Andrews was a missionary in China before and during the Second World War, and later served as Head Deaconess and Principal of Deaconess House. She was involved in many women's organisations and was a well-known advocate for the ordination of women to the priesthood. Her large collection contains a variety of papers, diaries, photographs and realia. The paper documents have since been rehoused in acid-free enclosures, although further work remains to be done on the photographs. Part of the 2018 conservation grant was allocated to purchasing polypropylene enclosures for the flannel graphs in this collection. A popular method of teaching Bible stories in the early to mid-20th century, these flannel graphs are hand-coloured and represent almost all the Bible stories commonly taught to children. Their paper envelopes include Chinese annotations, and these have also been preserved in archival sleeves.

'Portrait of the late Thomas Moore, Esq. of Liverpool' by William Griffith

This oil painting, measuring 2.44 x 1.83m, is by far the largest item in the College's collection. It is a portrait of the College's benefactor Thomas Moore and contains within it a picture of his wife Rachel, who had been a Second Fleet convict. It is described in the Significance Assessment as a unique portrayal of a key figure in early colonial history. Due to its significance, the College decided to arrange for it to be fully restored by ICS without waiting for grant funding. This



restoration included cleaning and housing the painting and frame in custom made boxes. A high-resolution photograph of a section of the portrait was printed on a new canvas and framed to hang in the College's main foyer. ICS also provided a digitally reconstructed close-up of the portrait of Rachel Moore, copying the image of the left side of the frame onto the right side, giving the impression of a complete frame.



*(L) Portrait of the late Thomas Moore Esq. of Liverpool, by William Griffith;
(R) digitally reconstructed portrait of Rachel Moore*

The Marella Mission Farm Collection

This collection contains all the records from Marella Mission Farm, an independent home for Aboriginal children at Kellyville NSW, operated by Keith Langford-Smith and his wife Gwen from 1949 to 1986. The Library received frequent requests from former residents of the home for copies of their personal records. Because these records not only have great historical significance due to their documentation of out-of-home care for Aboriginal children, they also carry deep personal significance to the care leavers whose childhood memories are contained therein. Rehousing and repair of previous pest damage was recommended by the Preservation Needs Assessment; however, the College made the decision in 2018 to transfer the whole collection to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra.



The E.C.B. Maclaurin Collection

E.C.B. Maclaurin was Professor of Semitic Languages at Sydney University. His collection of research papers on Hebrew and Ugaritic was donated by his widow and includes the Ugaritic dictionary which he compiled. Maclaurin was a leading scholar in this field at the time, and this collection is certainly unlike any other in the Samuel Marsden Archives. The Preservation Needs Assessment recommended rehousing the papers in acid-free folders and boxes, and this work was completed in 2019.

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