

Mannix Library's new Special Collections Room

On 15 February 2019, a gathering was held in Mannix Library (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 showcase the new website for the Archbishop Goold Special Collection and demonstrate the library's newly installed A2 scanner.

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 (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 – 2 March 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 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 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. Although located in the Mannix Library, the scanner will facilitate 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 (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 Goold 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 previously owned by former lecturer Br Rod Doyle CFC, the Rare Books Collection (including pre-1800 works and incunabula), Corpus Christianorum, Migne's *Patrologia Latina* and *Patrologia Graeca*, and a new Catholic Theological College Staff Publications Collection.

The reason that the new room is called the Special Collections Room rather than the Goold or the Rare Books Room is to try to embrace a broad understanding of what it means to be special. The launch of the room was also a chance to offer thanks to all who had contributed to the project, which was a real team effort that spanned 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 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. ✱

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