

Fryer today

Fryer continues to build on its literary strengths while growing its collections into new areas: the history of architecture; indigenous studies, popular fiction, labour history and increasingly the records of refugee activists from the late 1990's and the first years of the new century. It is supported by the Friends of Fryer group. It stages regular literary events and promotes access to its collections through the publication of *Fryer Folios* magazine. The nature of Fryer work has changed significantly in 80 years. It now includes digitisation initiatives and online exhibitions. The Library retains the original cedar book case as a reminder to Fryer staff of the achievements of earlier generations of staff and the Library's humble origins.

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SLSA collections recognised by UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Program

Earlier this year, three major South Australian history and heritage collections were recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Memory of the World. UNESCO established the Memory of the World program in 1992 to recognise key historical collections and their significance to society, as detailed in the following statement:

Documentary heritage reflects the diversity of languages, peoples and cultures. It is the mirror of the world and its memory. But this memory is fragile. Every day, irreplaceable parts of this memory disappear for ever.

UNESCO has launched the Memory of the World Program to guard against collective amnesia, calling upon the preservation of the valuable archive holdings and library collections all over the world, ensuring their wide dissemination.

The Australian Memory of the World program is one of over 60 such projects and aims to: develop the Australian Memory of the World Register, maintain a Register of lost and missing Australian documentary heritage and propose nominations to the Memory of the World International Register.

In 2004, the State Library of South Australia successfully nominated the South Australian Company Deed of Settlement and Royal Charter of Incorporation of the South Australian Company (1836) for addition to the Australian Memory of the World Register. The Deed of settlement is a foremost document in South Australia's history, as the South Australian Company played a pivotal role in the founding, early survival and development of the colony. The South Australian Company was formed in October 1835 to encourage the preliminary purchase of land. In January 1836 the Company equipped and dispatched an expedition of four ships to the province of South Australia, ahead of the arrival of Colonel William Light and Governor John Hindmarsh. A small settlement was established at Kingscote on Kangaroo Island in July 1836, but the Company's operations were soon transferred to the mainland. The South Australian Company continued to play

an influential role in the commercial affairs of South Australia for more than a century.

In June 2007, the State Library of SA nominated a further three significant collections for inclusion on this Register. The joint nomination with the Adelaide City Council, of the records of Colonel William Light, is an example of heritage documentation recognised by UNESCO, for the impact that Light had as a pioneer in the practice of modern town planning. Light's plan for Adelaide influenced the international development of the idea of the 'garden city'. The collection ranges from 1809 to Light's death in 1839.



**South Australian
Company Deed of
settlement**

In contrast, the archives of Polish migrant Joseph Stanislaus Ostoja-Kotkowski (1922-1994) endorse cultural and artistic leadership in the exploration and innovation of creative endeavours. He was a prolific artist of enormous diversity who made a significant impact on the Australian art scene and influenced developments overseas in relation to chromasonics and kinetic art. His work crossed many disciplines including painting, photography, film-making, theatre design, stained glass, sculpture, murals, op-collages, computer graphics, and laser art. Stan Ostoja-Kotkowski was best known for his ground-breaking work in chromasonics, laser kinetics and 'sound and image' productions. This nomination was jointly made with the Baillieu Library at the University of Melbourne, where additional records are held.

Charles Percy Mountford (1890-1976) was a self-taught ethnographer who worked with indigenous communities throughout Australia, producing photographs, recordings, and a rich collage of meticulously detailed stories of Aboriginal people. During the 1940s Harold Sheard (1890-1975) was responsible, with the co-operation of Mountford, for assembling the private archive of the expedition records. Sheard negotiated for its donation to the State Library in 1957, with further items added in 1975. The Mountford-Sheard collection, as it is now known, has been respectfully preserved by the State Library of SA as an important contribution to the Australian memory.

Successful nominations were announced on 22 February 2008 at the Third International Conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World program, held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra. All 2007 State Library of SA nominations were added to the Australian Memory of the World Register. Work is in progress to feature collection items on the State Library's SA Memory website <http://www.samemory.sa.gov.au> This multimedia website illustrates and interprets themes highlighting South Australia's people, places, issues and events from the colony's beginnings to now. The wide range of archival and published items featured on SA Memory build a rich picture of the state's culture and heritage. UNESCO Memory of the World ongoing program registers and promotes significant historical collections integral to Australia's story <http://www.amw.org.au/>

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