Abstract

*Creatio ex nihilo*, or the “creation out of nothing” of the Archbishop Goold special collection at Mannix Library, is one of the unanticipated but very welcome benefits of the library’s involvement with the “Goold Project”. This Australian Research Council-funded Discovery Project aims to explore the cultural contributions of James Alipius Goold to colonial Melbourne. Prior to 2016, staff at Mannix Library had no way of knowing whether any item in its collection had previously belonged to the former Archbishop of Melbourne. No information indicating Goold provenance had ever been included in library catalogue records. Goold had 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. However, when staff at Mannix Library became involved with the Goold Project, many items with Goold provenance were rediscovered. Over 1000 discrete volumes with Goold provenance have been identified.

Discovering Goold

In an attempt to identify all items that once belonged to Goold, Mannix Library staff systematically checked all items in its collection published prior to his death in 1886 for evidence of Goold ownership. Initially all books in the library’s Rare and Early Imprint collections were examined for evidence of Goold provenance, and to see if any items were listed on an inventory of Goold’s library that had been compiled in the mid-1860s. This inventory included books with publication dates ranging from 1599-1865. Since the initial research was completed, many additional Goold books have been identified by Mannix Library staff from other areas of the collection. As staff became more familiar with the “look” of a Goold book some serendipitous discoveries were made from amongst previously uncatalogued materials.

Identification Process – Imprints and Signatures

Several methods were used to identify books that previously belonged in Archbishop Goold’s personal library. The various identifying markings that indicate prior Goold ownership tend to be located on the title page of each book. The most common ways of identifying items include:

1. Goold’s Imprint (Figure 1)
2. Variations of Goold’s handwritten signature (Figures 2a.-e.)
3. Handwritten note indicating item owned by Bishop or Archbishop of Melbourne, often with a date corresponding to Goold’s period of office. (Figure 3)
Figure 1. Goold’s imprint - Jacobus Alipius Melbournensis Episcopus

Figure 2a. Inscribed “+ Jacobus Alipius Goold, Epus: Melbournensis”

Figure 2b. Inscribed “+ J.A. Goold, Archiepiscopus Melbournensis 1874”

Figure 2c. Inscribed “+ James Alipius Goold Bishop of Melbourne 1851”
In addition to checking for identifying marks of Goold ownership, suspected Goold items were also checked against the inventory of Goold’s library. Not all items which include Goold’s signature or imprint were also listed in this inventory. It is assumed that these items may have been later additions to Goold’s library, and added to his collection sometime between when the inventory was created in the mid-1860s and his death in 1886. There are also some items included in the inventory that do not include any of the usual marks of Goold ownership. Instead of Goold’s signature some of these items bear the signature of one of Goold’s colleagues or close associates. Some books added to the Goold Collection include both Goold’s imprint as well as the signature of one of his associates on the same item (e.g. Patrick Bonaventure Geoghegan, Goold’s former vicar-general and first bishop of Adelaide, or John Fitzpatrick, Goold’s right hand man for 38 years and administrator at St Patrick’s Cathedral in Melbourne from 1858-1879). It seems that when it came to Goold’s library collection it was a case of what’s yours is mine!

There are still a significant number of items from Goold’s personal library, the whereabouts of which remain unknown. Many have been discarded or lost over the years but there may be as yet undiscovered items that remain in private hands or other collections. Additional items from Goold’s library have also been discovered in collections outside those of Mannix Library and the Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission. This includes one volume owned by the Blessed Sacrament Congregation at St Francis Church in Melbourne. The volume Bullarium pontificium Sacrae Congregationis de Propaganda Fide. Tomus V has at some stage been separated from volumes 1-4 of the item, which are held by Mannix Library. Members of the Goold Project team would be very interested to hear from any Footprints readers who know where additional Goold books may be located. Please Mannix Library
Manager on library@ctc.edu.au if you have any information about the location of any items with Goold provenance.

The creation of the Goold Collection
As the number of items with Goold provenance at Mannix Library grew, the library decided to establish the Archbishop Goold Special Collection. This collection now represents a significant portion of what survives today of Goold’s original library. As items were discovered and catalogued, library records were enhanced with added notes and provenance information. This information is now included in records uploaded to Libraries Australia, which ensures that all Goold books held by Mannix Library are discoverable via Trove, the National Library of Australia’s online database.

The Goold Project: Outcomes and Benefits for Mannix Library
In addition to discovering items with Goold provenance, staff at Mannix Library have been associated with the Goold Project in various other ways. This has included being members of the Project team, being employed as a research assistant, preparing displays, and presenting papers inspired by Mannix Library’s Goold collection. Papers from the Goold Symposium held in February 2018 have also been developed into a book which is to be published in 2019 by Melbourne University (Miegunya) Press. Technical Services Librarian at Mannix Library, Huw Sandaver has given several presentations, one held at Newman College and another at a conference held at the University of Melbourne in December 2018.

Staff at Mannix Library have also created a Goold Library website, which can be viewed at https://gooldlibrary.omeka.net/. This site builds on the wealth of raw data collected earlier in the Project. It showcases items from Goold’s library with digital images of title pages and illustrations, and includes rich and detailed metadata describing each item. There are currently over 4,200 images available on the site. The home page of the Goold Library website states:

“The collection consists of over 1000 volumes known to have been collected by Goold over his lifetime. The majority of items are listed on Goold’s handwritten inventory of 1865, however the collection also holds works collected by Goold from 1865 until at least the year of his death in 1886 featuring his signature or imprint. Works cited by Goold in his personal diary also form part of the collection. The collection also consists of works collected by Goold's close associates, such as John Fitzpatrick, Patrick Bonaventure Geoghegan, John Bleasdale, James Francis Corbett, and William Wardell who were also keen book collectors.”

All Goold items in the Mannix Library are gradually being added to this website. Mannix Library is also incorporating Goold items held by the Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission and any other surviving volumes that are identified. As well as metadata and text the website also includes links to articles related to Goold and various other resources. A bibliography of resources that include biographical information about Goold has been compiled. This bibliography includes a permalink to the Mannix Library catalogue record and location information for the library’s print holdings. The Goold library website is now a rich resource for future researchers with an interest in Melbourne’s first Catholic Archbishop.
The increased focus on the Goold Collection at Mannix Library influenced its decision to create a new Special Collections Room within the main library to house and showcase the library’s rare books and other items of special interest. All Goold items are now housed together in a new lockable compactus which is located in a secure area adjoining Mannix Library’s Special Collections Room. This will ensure preservation of the collection and enable items to be accessible to researchers. This new room was officially launched on 15 February 2019. The launch was also an opportunity for library staff to demonstrate the features of the Goold Library website and the functionality of the library’s newly installed A2 Scanner. This scanner will be used for digitisation of items for the Goold website. It will also be used to facilitate future digitisation projects associated with other special collections located within the University of Divinity.

Library staff, along with other members of the ARC Discovery Project team, have also been involved in the planning for a Goold exhibition that will be held at the Old Treasury Building in Melbourne from July 2019. The exhibition *The Invention of Melbourne: A Baroque Archbishop and a Gothic Architect*, will highlight the contributions to early colonial Melbourne of Goold and the architect he commissioned for St Patrick’s Cathedral, William Wardell. The library component of the exhibition will include items from Mannix Library’s Goold Collection. Additional sections of the exhibition will focus more on Goold’s art collection as well as his significant contribution to the architectural landscape of early Melbourne. Mannix Library will have additional Goold items on display in its Special Collections Room in association with the exhibition.

**Conclusion**

The creation of the Goold Library website and the new Special Collections Room have been significant developments for Mannix Library. They are very welcome outcomes from the library’s association with the Goold Project. Mannix Library’s newly established Archbishop Goold Special Collection represents a significant portion of what survives today of Goold’s original library. The Goold Special Collection and the Goold Library website now serve dual purposes, honouring Gould’s legacy as well as providing a rich resource for future research.

**ENDNOTES**

1 Mannix Library’s collections date back to 1923 when a library was established as part of Corpus Christi College – the provincial seminary for the Catholic dioceses of Victoria and Tasmania. Predecessor seminary libraries were located in Werribee, Glen Waverley and Clayton, with the current library being relocated to East Melbourne in 1999. Mannix Library now serves the needs of staff and students of Catholic Theological College and the wider University of Divinity community.

2 ‘A Baroque Archbishop in Colonial Australia: James Goold (1812-1886)’. Australian Research Council Discovery Project DP 170100426. Principal Investigators: Professor Jaynie Anderson, Mr Shane Carmody, Reverend Dr Max Vodola.


