

# The Museum of Antiquities

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2015



Newsletter #1  
Editor: Dr Bronwyn Hopwood



A Humanities  
Research Centre

## Engage

Explore the MoA:  
programs, exhibits,  
& much, much  
more...

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Preserving the Past  
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## Engage

The Museum of Antiquities

*Time to Explore*

Discover just some of the programs of the MoA



## Visit the MoA

The Museum of Antiquities is located in the foyer of the UNE Arts Building. Open: weekdays 9:30am to 4:30pm. Entry is Free.

**Closed:** *Weekends, Public Holidays, and December 24th to January 1st inclusive.*



## School & Group Tours

The MoA welcomes school and community groups to explore the Museum and is happy to provide guided tours. To organise a tour contact the School of Humanities on 6773 2300

## Object in Focus

Roman glass jug with trefoil lip

4th-5th centuries AD

Height: 140mm

MA1975.1.1

Photograph by Sharon Marshall

This mould-blown glass jug has an ovoid body with pronounced indentations, rounded shoulders, and a tapering tubular neck that flairs into a trefoil lip. The body is of amber-coloured glass, while the handle is of a darker, bubbly green. The base of the jug has been



flattened and pushed in. Damage has been sustained beneath the base of the handle, where a sliver of glass has broken free to leave a thin, jagged hole.

Glass working is known from the most ancient of times in Mesopotamia and Egypt, from which lands many beads and core-formed vessels have been found. It was the Romans, however, who first developed the technique of blowing glass (both in moulds and mould-free) at the end of the first century BC. Following this development glass became both a luxury and an everyday commodity in antiquity.

M<sub>K</sub>

## The Maurice Kelly Lecture

Each year the Maurice Kelly Lecture is presented by a distinguished researcher on invitation from the Museum of Antiquities. The lecture, established in 1997, honours the founder of the Museum, classicist Dr Maurice Kelly (1919-2011).



This year's lecture was presented by James Donaldson, senior officer of the R.D. Milns Museum at the University of Queensland.



James' topic "*Reimagining Antiquity: lessons from the RD Milns Antiquities Museum*" reflected on some of the UQ Museum's recent successes, challenges, and experiences in creating an accessible public space, in preserving and presenting the past in innovative ways, and in reconnecting contemporary audiences with the past

## The Charles Ede Prize

The Charles Ede Essay Prize was established in 1999 by James Ede in memory of his father. In 1947 Charles Ede founded the *Folio Society*, and in 1971 he founded *Charles Ede Ltd*, a leading London based firm dealing with Classical and pre-Classical antiquities from Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Italy, and the Near East. The essay prize is awarded for the best essay by a UNE student on Museums or museum collections.





## Innovate

From building an HSC schools program, to installing a touchscreen display, to preparing CT scans of a mummy's foot:

Discover just some of the projects at the MoA



### Putting our best foot forward...

What do the Museum of Antiquities (UNE) and Australian Museum (Sydney) have in common? Lots! For instance, did you know that they both have a mummy's foot? The AM have already x-rayed their gruesome exhibit. Here at the MoA we hope to partner with Archaeology, Palaeontology, and Science in 2016 in a project to make a complete set of CT scans of our own macabre piece of history.



### An M&G NSW VIM Grant

The Museum of Antiquities is delighted to announce that it has been awarded a Museum and Galleries NSW Volunteer Initiated Small Grant. M&G NSW VIM Grants are an Arts NSW devolved funding program administered by Museums & Galleries of NSW on behalf of the NSW Government. These competitive grants are designed to meet the short term, collection based requirements of community museums and keeping places.

The Museum's Project: "*Enhancing the MoA's Schools and Community*

*Outreach Program*" was awarded a VIM Grant to purchase interactive audio-visual display equipment, including a new touchscreen, to replace the Museum's broken audio-visual exhibit.

"This is exciting," said one committee member, "not only because the new touchscreen equipment will let us resurrect the AV programs the MoA has already developed, but because it will allow us to develop new visual programs and to make available some of the cutting edge programs made by other museums and collaborative partners"

## The VCs Scholars Special Project

The *Vice-Chancellor's Scholar Special Projects* are a UNE strategic initiative. Schools and Directorates are asked to nominate special projects that provide additional opportunities and/or professional development for students with drive and initiative. The program is designed to support UNE's highest achieving students in ways that are real and meaningful. In 2015 seven diverse projects from across UNE were approved for the *Vice-Chancellor's Scholars Special Projects* program. The Museum of Antiquities is delighted to have been named as one of the successful project leaders.



The 2015 *Museum of Antiquities Project* is a collaborative endeavour of *Classics & Ancient History* (CAH) and *Archaeology* (ARPA) at UNE. Led by Professor Martin Gibbs (ARPA) and Dr Bronwyn Hopwood (CAH), the project will engage UNE's VC's Scholars to develop the Museum's Schools and HSC Outreach program, to create a dynamic, interactive, and educational program designed to foster community engagement.

## 50 Treasures

In 2016 the Australasian Society for Classical Studies (ASCS) will reach its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To celebrate the occasion a catalogue of fifty of the finest Greek and Roman items held in antiquities museums in Australia and New Zealand will be published. The catalogue will provide a valuable indicator of the riches located in the southern hemisphere and serve to bring these collections to international attention. The MoA is proud to have contributed 5 entries spanning 750 BC to the 4th century AD, representing our Cypriot, Etruscan, Greek, and Imperial Roman collections.



## A 100th Anniversary

2016 is the centenary of the birth of A.G. (Mac) McCready. Mac and his wife Irene were major supporters and benefactors of the Museum of Antiquities at UNE. Together they established the A.G. & I.C. McCready Fund to assist the Museum with the acquisition of Egyptian artefacts.

Mac was an outstanding philologist with training in Hieroglyphs and his wife Irene, herself a formidable Classicist, initiated the *Greek language program* for the Armidale Greek and Cypriot communities.

To mark the centenary of Mac's birthday, the Museum intends to make a purchase to enhance its Egyptian collection, the culture that formed the McCready's first love of antiquities.

The museum would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in supporting this endeavour.

### Back to the Future

The MoA has a vision - not just for the past, but also for the future. Part of that vision is to develop a quality visitor experience for both our on-campus and online visitors. The MoA is currently working towards that goal by investigating ways to develop virtual tours hosted on the MoA website that include dynamic 3D images and CT scans of the objects in the Museum. For the on-campus visitor we hope to develop a self-guided audio-tour that

lets visitors explore the museum at their own pace. Work to make the artefacts accessible to all ages and in a range of languages is already underway. The next step will be to attract grants or donor funding to purchase an audio-guide system to make the on-campus experience truly free and available to all.



### Friends of the Museum



Like to stay in touch? Want to get involved? Find out how! Contact:

The Museum Committee  
museumofantiquities@une.edu.au  
+612 6773 2225

### Support the MoA



If you would like to learn more about how you can support the Museum of Antiquities please contact either:

The Museum Committee  
museumofantiquities@une.edu.au  
+612 6773 2225

or the

UNE Donor Relations Officer  
Ms Kate Jones  
kjones25@une.edu.au  
+612 6773 3876

## In 2019 The MoA Will Turn 60

The Museum of Antiquities (MoA) in the School of Humanities at the University of New England is the oldest regional, and second oldest museum of antiquities in mainland Australia. The Museum was established in 1959 with enthusiasm by Classicist Dr Maurice Kelly (1919-2011), ably assisted by UNE's Registrar Mr Tom Lamble (1926-1985). The collections of the Museum encompass the Ancient

Mediterranean and Near East, as well as ethnographic material from Australia, South East Asia, New Guinea, the Pacific Region, Mesoamerica, and Africa. The Museum serves as a centre of excellence for the research and teaching of the disciplines of Classics & Ancient History, Archaeology, History, and Indigenous Studies, and has a long tradition in research,

teaching, and community outreach. The MoA seeks to promote the interest and engagement of the broader community in the history of peoples through the ages.

2019 is the 60th Anniversary of the Museum of Antiquities and it will be a big year. Preparations for the celebrations, as well as for hosting the 40th Annual Conference of ASCS have already begun. So:

*Watch This Space!*

**The website for the Museum of Antiquities can be found at:**

<http://www.une.edu.au/about-une/academic-schools/school-of-humanities/about-us/museum-of-antiquities>