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Headline TBC

This book is an important addition to advancing knowledge of the Grimwade Collection, now cared for by the University of Melbourne. It includes contributors from a diverse range of study disciplines including history, art history, demography, botany and Indigenous culture. Working in universities, libraries and art museums, they each offer new and varied insights into heritage collections.

This year is a time for reflecting upon the significance of the 250th anniversary of the *Endeavour's* landing on Sunday 29 April 1770 at Kurnell, Kamay (Botany Bay), and the arrival eighteen years later, with devastating effect for Aboriginal people, of the First Fleet in Port Jackson on 26 January 1788. Sir Russell Grimwade's collection of books, works on paper and other items, as discussed in the editor's introductory essay, covers many aspects of European exploration of the Pacific, and the colonisation of Australia, in particular Victoria. The first detailed depictions of Australia's fauna and flora were produced seventy years prior to Lieutenant James Cook's landing as captain of the *Endeavour*. Regarded as a sea-faring pioneer and known infamously as a pirate, William Dampier first explored Western Australia's coast accidentally in 1688, and intentionally in 1699. Dampier's explorations are eloquently detailed in Chapter 1 while in Chapter 3 we hear of the history of Cooks' Cottage, which was acquired in 1933 by Russell Grimwade and transported with great care to the Fitzroy Gardens in Melbourne.

Australia is home to some of the longest living continuous Indigenous cultures on the planet. The works in the Grimwade Collection provide, through early writing, prints and drawings, many snapshots of the early colonial settler era that may otherwise have been lost. Locating and analysing this knowledge about Australia's First Peoples and colonial Australians is a project that continues into the twenty-first century. It makes visible, for example, the often-overlooked story of the *Endeavour's* encounters at places such as Cape York Peninsula in northern Australia with members of the Guugu Yimidhirr community (see pp. XX).

Many collections amassed during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries served harmful and now outdated empire-building strategies. Today these historical collections not only represent our colonial history but also a plethora of First Peoples' material culture and knowledge. Items in these collections, as demonstrated in this book, are now being reinterpreted by academics and cultural advocates through a range of disciplinary approaches and implementation of culturally appropriate and meaningful engagement strategies.

For many decades the University of Melbourne has greatly benefitted from the generosity of Sir Russell and Lady Grimwade, through the funding of conservation, storage, research and acquisitions, as well as access to, and display of, their collection. This, in turn, has helped First Australians in keeping content about our Indigenous knowledge and histories alive. This knowledge embedded in collections, as explored in this book, has the potential through ongoing research to generate long-term benefits that support current generations to participate in land claims, tracing of family histories, recovery of languages and the continuation of cultural traditions.

The essays included in this book are a window into our collective and rich Australian history, inclusive of the turbulent colonial era and beyond into the present day. Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the foundation and cornerstone of our country. Our stories of resilience and desire for truth-telling of the past are told in and through collections of colonial material such as the Grimwade Collection. Today, the Miegunyah Fund continues the legacy of the Grimwade family in support of new Indigenous partnerships and shared learnings.

**Merry Creek, Plenty Ranges,
1864**

(detail, see page XXX)

unknown artist

hand-coloured tinted lithograph

26.0 × 36.1 cm (image)

in

**The Melbourne Album:
Containing a Series of Views of
Melbourne & Country Districts**

Charles Troedel, Melbourne, 1863-64

UniM SpC



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