

The rare and heritage collections

The rare and heritage collections held by the QVMAG Library constitute its most important book holdings.

Importantly, the Library holds what remains of a number of important colonial collections of northern and regional Tasmania.

The Library's various rare and heritage collections conform to the following criteria so far as composition and new acquisitions are concerned:

- Items of significance to local history and heritage
- Tasmanian publications that are 100 years or older
- Nineteenth century Australian publications
- Non-Australian titles published prior to 1800
- Limited editions of some contemporary and older publications.

The QVMAG Library Rare Collection

The Rare Collection is the largest of all of the rare collections held by QVMAG Library. It consists of over 1,000 volumes that have been acquired by the Museum over many decades. The collection focuses mostly on Tasmanian history and the natural sciences, with the majority of the publications having been published in Australia or Tasmania. Many works, and especially the folio publications, are adorned with fine coloured illustrations.

The Plomley Rare Collection

N.J.B. 'Brian' Plomley was an avid collector of rare books. His collection contains many interesting 19th century Australian and Tasmanian publications, including the infamous 1838 Dowling imprint of Dickens' *Pickwick Papers*. The collection includes many early accounts of the colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land.

The Plomley Rare Collection also specialises in late eighteenth and early nineteenth century publications on French and British voyages of discovery to Australia by explorers such as Cook, Peron, Baudin and D'Entrecasteaux.

The Weindorfer Collection

The QVMAG Library holds a small collection of 32 items that once belonged to Gustav Weindorfer, the early naturalist and conservationist whose efforts were important in Cradle Mountain becoming a national park. The collection contains mostly natural sciences books on subjects such as botany as well as some texts in German (Weindorfer being Austrian-born).

There are also smaller rare book collections that accompany the **Maddock, Rolph** and **Sims** special collections.

See also the document **The colonial collections of northern and regional Tasmania**.