

# NEWSLETTER

Number: 1907 (108)  
July 2019



## *From the chair*



Dear Members and Friends,

What a very interesting lecture from Jenny Bowker. Her time in the Middle East over the past 21 years gave us not only an insight into Iranian women's lives but Jenny's own quilts gave us an amazing look into her feelings and emotions and the historical events she experienced whilst there.

Your committee has been very busy choosing topics for our 2020 lectures and I'm happy to give you the following dates for your 2020 diary so you can allocate all your other important outings for 2020 around your ADFAS dates.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March (Special Interest evening)  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July (Special Interest evening)  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
AGM & Christmas luncheon – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November

I can't tell you too much (as a friend I used to work with always said) but I can assure you 2020 will bring you another diverse and enjoyable range of topics to enjoy.

We are exactly half way through our year, with four lectures and one Special Interest evening yet to go. It is timely to have a look at our second Special Interest evening for the year on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August – **From Samarkand to the Taj Mahal: Central Asia and the Great Mughals**. I hope you can join us for that evening and booking forms will be out soon.

Our next lecturer, Rosalind Whyte, has already arrived in Australia and is half way through her tour – I look forward to welcoming her to Camden for her lecture on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Stay safe & well..

Sincerely,

*Carla*

Carla Hill, chair, ADFAS Camden

### 2019 LECTURE SERIES

#### Lecture 5:

### **BREECHES, BONNETS & BAGS**

Fashion in art

Presented by:

**Rosalind Whyte, MA**

**SATURDAY 27 JULY 2019**

4 for 4.30 pm

**Carrington Recreation Centre**

Gate 2, 90 Werombi Road, Grasmere  
NSW 2570

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#### Lecture 6:

### **CONSTANTINOPLE & ISTANBUL**

A tale of two cities

Presented by:

**Sue Rollin**

**SATURDAY 31 AUGUST 2019**

4 for 4.30 pm

**Carrington Recreation Centre**

Gate 2, 90 Werombi Road, Grasmere  
NSW 2570

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**For more information &  
bookings, contact:**

**Secretary: Linda Inglis**

**Mob: 0428 825 386**

**Email:**

**[linda.inglis@westnet.com.au](mailto:linda.inglis@westnet.com.au)**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**

**TWO-LECTURE**

**SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMME**

5.30 for 6.00 pm, Carrington Recreation Hall  
90 Werombi Road, Grasmere

**From SAMARKAND to the  
TAJ MAHAL**

**Central Asia and the Great Mughals**

Over 2 sessions we will:

- Explore Tamerlane's imperial capital Samarkand as well as his birthplace Shahr-i Sabz across the mountains, where he built a colossal palace.
- Visit other great Central Asian cities and travel with Prince Babur through Afghanistan and across the Hindu Kush into India.
- Take a tour of the splendid art and architecture of four imperial cities of Mughal India (Delhi, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri and Lahore)
- Catch a glimpse of life and ceremony at the glittering courts of the last of the 'Great Mughals'.
- Explore pavilions and palaces of sandstone and white marble, magnificent mosques, fountains and pleasure gardens. Among the most impressive of all Mughal monuments are the imperial garden tombs, culminating in the Taj Mahal, one of the loveliest buildings ever created by the hand of man.

**Presented by:**

**SUE ROLLIN**

Archaeologist, interpreter, lecturer and author

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME

MEMBERS \$45: VISITORS \$50

(Price includes a light meal between lectures)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL (by 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019):

For bookings or further information, ring:

**Linda: 0428 825 386 or Susan: 0499 636 885**

materials in accordance with the ADFAS mission statement and spirit of giving. Founding Chairman and current Patron, Patricia Robertson, had long recognized that conservation is a significantly under-funded area of the arts and suggested that ADFAS could make a meaningful difference to this vital work.

To this end, ADFAS made a three-year commitment to an annual Association of ADFAS Student Conservator Award, drawing on existing Association funds and providing financial support for outstanding conservation graduates.

A new fund, known as the Patricia Robertson Fund (PRF) was officially launched in 2014. The administration of the PRF is conducted by the Executive Committee of the Association of ADFAS and reviewed annually. Operation of the fund is reported bi-annually to ADFAS Council. Through the fund, ADFAS has also supported members of the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) since 2010.

In 2014, the PRF awarded an emerging young graduate to develop conservation skills within an overseas workplace environment.

In 2015 and 2016, the fund was used to further the professional training of conservators either within Australia or internationally.

In early 2017 a new agreement between the Association of ADFAS and the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) was formed. It was agreed that for three years (2017-2019) three awards would be granted annually. ADFAS Mid-Career Scholarship would be awarded to a mid-Career conservator with a minimum of ten years conservation practice.

The selection criteria of the award are:

- Benefit to recipient's career
- Benefit to the AICCM and conservation profession.
- The recipient to be known as the ADFAS mid – Career Scholar.

ADFAS Scholarships would be awarded to the AICCM Student of the Year in both the University of Melbourne and Canberra University course in Material Conservation.

- The awardees to be determined by the respective Course Convener.
- The recipients to be known as ADFAS Scholars.
- The three awards to be announced each year at the annual AICCM meeting in November.



*Mrs Patricia Robertson OAM  
Founder of Sydney ADFAS  
Founding Chairman of Association of ADFAS  
Patron of ADFAS*

Abstracted from the ADFAS website - Ed

**PATRICIA ROBERTSON FUND**

***The aims of the Association of ADFAS are the promotion and advancement of aesthetic education, the cultivation and study of the decorative and fine arts and the preservation of our cultural and artistic heritage.***

In 2009 the Association celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, it was decided to actively support the conservation of Australian cultural

## Alan Baker Art Gallery

Introducing a new weekly term program  
'Watercolour Fridays'!

This 'Watercolour Fridays' program introduces the basics of watercolour, moving progressively toward more complex techniques. By keeping our class sizes small our experienced facilitators will be able to individualise the tutoring to accommodate very new beginners as well as intermediate and more experienced participants.

This program will be hosted predominantly inside the Alan Baker Art Gallery Floral Gallery where we will have a rotation of displays from which to draw inspiration. At times (when weather permits) we will host classes in the gallery's courtyard or on the front veranda in order to take in the busy streetscape, historic architecture and local flora.

The 10 Week Term Program commencing July 26 (10am – 12pm), promises an encouraging and fun atmosphere for learning.

We have very basic materials on hand for student use, but encourage students to invest in more specialised materials as the course progresses in order to get the most benefit from the classes – please get in touch if you would like advice on materials to purchase.

**TO BOOK:** <https://www.trybooking.com/BBVQH>



**The Alan Baker Art Gallery at Macaria**

37 John Street, Camden

Ph: 02 4645 5191

Email: [alanbakerartgallery@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alanbakerartgallery@camden.nsw.gov.au)

## GRONG GRONG

.....and beyond!

Last week I was browsing the ADFAS website and decided to click on the 'SCHOOLS OF ARTS / MECHANICS INSTITUTE' tab and have a look at some of the contributions by Societies. Somewhat to my surprise, and despite the relatively short time this project has been running, I found that reports had been published by 60 Societies on 63 eligible institutes - 31 in NSW, 28 in QLD, 3 in TAS and 1 in the ACT, but none from SA or Vic.

As most of our members would be aware ADFAS Camden, in 2016 and in collaboration with Camden Historical Society, produced a very interesting and quite detailed report on Camden School of Arts. This is among the list of published reports on the website, but on scrolling through the list I came across GRONG GRONG. I discovered that a report had recently (2018) been prepared by ADFAS Canberra on the War Memorial Commemoration Hall and School of Arts, in Balara Street, Grong Grong, NSW.

This piqued my interest as Grong Grong was on the western edge of the fairly large area that I had to cover when stationed in Wagga Wagga in 1962 as a newly minted Veterinary Officer with the NSW Department of Agriculture. My memory of Grong Grong was of a small rather sleepy country town. Much to my surprise again when I saw the image in the report of the rather imposing School of Arts Building the foundation stone for which was laid by Major General C.F. Cox, CB CMG DSO on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1924.



Grong Grong School of Arts - Image copied from Report on ADFAS website

This report, as do all of the Schools of Arts reports, contains a very interesting 'potted' history of the town and surrounding district and is well worth the read for that alone.

In the case of Grong Grong the short history of the township contains a sobering reflection on one of the unfortunate effects of bringing 'civilisation' to a country such as Australia as you can appreciate from the following quote from the report:

'It was during an expedition approved by the Governor Sir Ralph Darling in 1829 to further explore the rivers of western New South Wales that Charles Napier Sturt came to the region. He *'camped next to a lagoon situated close to where the homestead of Berembed Station'* was later to be established by John Lupton in 1832. *'During his stay [Sturt] surveyed the country to the north. With him though he brought small pox, which had a devastating effect on the local Wiradjuri people killing as many as 60% of their population'*.

Infectious diseases such as smallpox and even measles, when introduced by explorers, colonisers, missionaries, traders, to previously unexposed populations were devastating to indigenous populations, and not only in Australia.

When you can find some free time I am sure you would enjoy a browse through the 'Schools of Arts' reports that can be found on the ADFAS website at: [www.adfas.org.au](http://www.adfas.org.au).

Peter Claxton  
Editor

## Revisiting 1066 AND ALL THAT

A few days ago I watched a repeat episode of David Starkey's BBC TV series **Monarchy**. The episode was titled 'Conquest' and was Episode 3 of Series 1, first aired on BBC television in 2004. In this episode, Starkey presented the story of all of the English monarchs of the House of Normandy, commencing with William I (the Conqueror) and finishing with Stephen. For the purists, Stephen, although a grandson of the Conqueror was nonagnatic (not descendant on the male line). His mother Adela, although a daughter of the Conqueror, was married to Stephen Count of Blois, hence her son Stephen, King of England, was a member of the House of Blois rather than the House of Normandy.

That little bit of pedantry aside, the post-conquest 90 or so years under Norman rule was a period of great tumult in England leading ultimately to civil war (known as the Anarchy) after the death of Henry I when his daughter, Empress Maud (Matilda) and Stephen battled for the throne.

House of Normandy



From the very beginning, after the Battle of Hastings in 1066, William and his invading Norman followers made little attempt to reach an amicable arrangement with the defeated Anglo Saxons. Instead they chose to dominate and rule by intimidation and aggression, quickly throwing up over 500

motte and bailey castles (other estimates have put the number closer to 1000) throughout England and along the Welsh border. In fact Windsor Castle started life as one of the first motte and bailey castles. From these power bases the Normans were able to control and dominate the local people.

William further alienated the locals by dispossessing the Anglo-Saxon earls of their land and confiscating their property. The seized lands were granted to William's followers with some of the English elite fleeing into exile in Scotland, Ireland and Scandinavia.

He imposed the Norman language on the elites of the country and imposed many laws among which were the 'Forest Laws'. Under Anglo-Saxon rule rights to woods, heath, moorland and wetlands were shared among the people. Under the Normans the forests became the domain of the king and his nobles. The hunting of game, cutting of wood or the collection of fallen timber, berries or anything growing in the forest were forbidden.

So the seeds of rebellion were sown early in William's reign with many of the dispossessed English aristocracy mounting on-going rebellions against the invaders. The Normans took increasingly aggressive action to contain this subversive activity, culminating in the *Harrying of the North* in 1069-70. In the North, Edgar Atheling, the last of the Wessex claimants to the throne was stirring up Anglo-Danish revolt. In an ultimately successful attempt to subjugate these rebellions, William first paid the Danes to go home and then is reported to have conducted a series of increasingly savage campaigns, eventually starving the population into submission by adoption of a 'scorched earth' policy of burning, massacre and looting and replacing the English aristocracy, particularly in York, with Norman nobles.

Rebellions were occurring all over the country, none so active as in the Fen country of present day Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, particularly around Ely...which brings me in a very roundabout way to the rather nostalgic interest I had in this particular episode of Monarchy.

Despite the fact that the Danes had earlier agreed to withdraw from the conflict, the fleet did not return home but anchored off the Humber. In 1070 King Sweyn II of Denmark arrived on the scene and took personal control of the fleet, renounced the earlier agreement and sent troops into the Fens to join with the English rebels based on the Isle of Ely. Sweyn must have known he was onto a good thing as he soon accepted a further payment from William and returned home, leaving the rebels, led by one **Hereward the Wake**, to carry the insurrection alone.

Hereward was something of a heroic figure for me as a youth as I had read of his rebellion against the cruelty and dispossession by the invading Normans. In 1954 I sat for the old Intermediate Certificate and received as my prize for topping Manual Arts, a copy of Charles Kingsley's novel *HEREWARD THE WAKE- 'Last of the English'*, written in 1866. Kingsley's historic novel immediately came to mind when Starkey made mention of Hereward's rebellion and after the episode had finished I rescued the novel from the

bookshelves and have started to read it again – after more than 60 years!

Despite being deserted by Sweyn and his Danish troops, Hereward and his Fenland rebels continued to harass the Normans, retreating when necessary into the protection of the marshy Fens. Their base on the Isle of Ely was well protected, being surrounded by water and impenetrable marshes. In 1071, supported by exiled rebels who had come down from Scotland, there was another serious outbreak of rebel activity in the Fenlands, forcing William to bring his army in to finish off this last pocket of resistance. Ely continued to prove impossible to penetrate until the Normans constructed a long pontoon enabling them to reach the island and finally defeat the rebels. No doubt for political reasons, Hereward was pardoned, allowed to swear allegiance to William, and had his lands returned to him.

However, rebellion in one form or another continued and in 1075 Ralph de Gael, Earl of Norfolk and Roger de Breteuil, Earl of Hereford, conspired to overthrow William in what became known as the Revolt of the Earls. This revolt seems to have lost its way as Roger became bottled up in his Herefordshire stronghold by supporters of William and Ralph was likewise holed up in Norwich Castle. Norwich was besieged and eventually surrendered and Ralph went into exile.

I mention this episode at Norwich only because my father came from that city and there is a small village to the east of Norwich called Claxton, boasting the remains of Claxton Castle. However the castle was of later vintage, being licenced to castellate in 1333, in Plantagenet times.



All that is left of Claxton Castle

I have visited the village and Norwich on several occasions during trips to England and on some occasions continued my sightseeing on to Ely.

And this brings me to **Ely Cathedral** which, beside its connection to William the Conqueror, to my mind is one of the most interesting cathedrals in England.

Another consequence of the imposition of Norman rule in England was the sequestration of abbey lands and monasteries. This came to a head in 1071 with the siege of Ely for which the abbey of Ely suffered substantial fines and was subsequently replaced by a Norman church. Almost every English cathedral and significant abbey was rebuilt by the Normans from the 1070s onwards. This was another way of the Normans sweeping away Anglo-Saxon influence, replacing even their places of worship with Norman inspired religious buildings, institutions and communities.

Building work on the Norman abbey church at Ely started in 1083 and it was designated a cathedral in 1109. However

significant additions and restoration works have been undertaken over the following centuries resulting in the magnificent building complex that exists today.

Ely cathedral has its origins in 672, with the construction of the Anglo-Saxon abbey church of St Etheldreda which was destroyed during Viking raids and rebuilt in 970 under Benedictine rule. This building in turn was progressively demolished from 1102 during construction of the Norman abbey church.

The Norman church had a cruciform floor plan with a central crossing tower, aisled transepts and a semicircular apse at the east end. Construction work was halted in 1093 (William Rufus) and did not resume until 1100 (Henry I) with work on the nave continuing from 1115 to 1140 when it was finally completed in the reign of Stephen.

Not much of the Norman building now remains, but the architecture of the transepts has survived giving some suggestion of the appearance of the original building –with massive walls and Romanesque arches along the aisles in the choir and transepts. Some idea of the massiveness of the structure can be seen, too, in the remnant Norman arcade in the nave.



Norman Arcade in the nave

In the 1170s (Henry II) the west tower and upper sections of the western transepts were completed in a richly decorated early Gothic style. Construction work continued through the next couple of centuries with the architectural style becoming Decorated Gothic. The central octagonal tower was added in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and Chantry chapels in the late 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries under Henry VII and early reign of Henry VIII.

Ely survived the Dissolution under Henry VIII and the Reformation on the basis that it performed three useful functions – propagation of true worship of God, educational role and care for the poor. Nevertheless, shrines to the Anglo-Saxon saints were destroyed, along with most of the stained glass and statuary. Much of the sculpture was also defaced or destroyed.

Restoration works commenced with Charles II and re-establishment of the Church of England after the Commonwealth of Oliver Cromwell and the style of the furnishings now turned to the Baroque. In Victorian times, major restoration work was overseen by Dean George Peacock, employing an enthusiastic exponent of Gothic Revival architecture, George Gilbert Scott. A major campaign was also undertaken to re-glaze the Cathedral and among the stained glass artists involved was none other

than William Warrington – who, some readers may recall, produced the Perry Memorial Window in St Pauls Anglican Church, Cobbitty.



Ely Cathedral today is not only a spectacular building, it embodies the history of England from Saxon times to the present day and should be a must-see on any visit to England – but don't visit in late afternoon in December.

My son accompanied me on a business trip to the UK in December 1990, immediately after he had completed the HSC. On a free day we visited Norfolk and Claxton and went up to Kings Lynn.

To end the day I decided we should drive to Ely so I could show him my favourite English Cathedral. We arrived in Ely after 4.00 pm by which time it was already pretty dark and it was difficult to appreciate the majesty of the building from the outside. However the cathedral was still open so we ventured inside only to find that there was minimal lighting and it was just as difficult to see the interior with any clarity. However we were able to locate the Norman remnants and the differing architectural styles and appreciate the imposing nature of this most historic building.

So thank you David Starkey for encouraging this little bit of nostalgia and associated not-too-in-depth research.

**Peter Claxton**  
Editor, ADFAS Camden

## CASULA POWERHOUSE ARTS CENTRE

1 Powerhouse Road, Casula, 2170  
T: 02 8711 7123;  
E: [reception@casulapowerhouse.com](mailto:reception@casulapowerhouse.com)  
Locked Bag 7064, Liverpool BC NSW 1871

### EXHIBITIONS

#### **Memories of the Moon Landing**

1 July – 1 September 2019  
9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Memories of the moon landing captures key NASA images and showcases local memorabilia and memories.



#### **High Loom:** Lisa Sammut

1 July – 1 September 2019  
9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Lisa has created a large scale installation that suggests the size, scale and wonder of space, which takes over Casula Powerhouse's cavernous Turbine Hall.



#### **Under the Same Moon**

20 July – 8 September 2019  
9.00 am – 4.00 pm

This exhibition features works by artists that are members of community or cultural groups that have particular relationships with the moon.



## WHAT'S ON AT OTHER SOCIETIES?

### **ADFAS Blue Mountains:**

**Next lecture:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00 pm, Wentworth Falls School of Arts, Great Western Highway, Wentworth Falls  
**David Rosier** will present '*Ruling from behind the Yellow Silk Screen: The Dowager Empress Cixi*'.  
(Contact: Sharryn Ryan 0410 580 257)

### **ADFAS Bowral & District:**

**Next lecture:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30 am, and at 6.00 pm in the Ballroom, Annesley, Westwood Drive, Bowral  
**Andrew Prince** will present '*A Portrait of jewels: following missing treasures through canvas*'.  
(Contact: Paul Nemeth on 0414 925 035)

### **ADFAS Canberra:**

**Next lecture:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 6.00 pm at The National Library of Australia  
**Sue Rollin** will present '*Persephone's Isle: The Heritage of Sicily*'.  
(Contact: Marcel Dimo on 0451 681 473)

### **ADFAS Ku-ring-gai:**

**Next lecture:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July at Zenith Theatre, Chatswood at 10.30 am and at 6.00 pm.  
**Rosalind Whyte** will present '*Signs and Symbols – Decoding Art*'.  
(Contact: Lynette Davenport on (02) 9438 4090)

### **ADFAS Molonglo Plains:**

**Next lecture:** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Leagues Club, cnr Stuart St & Richards Ave at 2.00 pm  
**Sue Rollin** will present '*Constantinople and Istanbul: A Tale of Two Cities*'.  
(Contact: Helen Paterson on 0438 627 057)

### **ADFAS Newcastle:**

**Next lecture:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July at the Hunter School of Performing Arts, Lambton Rd, Broadmeadow at 6.30 pm  
**David Rosier** will present '*Journey through the Imperial Wardrobe: Court Dress 1644-1911*'.  
(Contact: Kathy Heinrich on (02) 4927 8053)

### **ADFAS Pokolbin:**

**Next lecture:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00 pm in Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, corner of Vincent St & Aberdare Rd, Cessnock.  
**Andrew Prince** will present '*From Downton to Gatsby: Jewellery and Fashion 1890-1929*'.  
(Contact: Tracey Seath on 0417 489 635)

### **ADFAS Scone**

**Next lecture:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 6.00 pm at Scone Arts & Crafts Hall, Kingdon Street, Scone  
**Andrew Prince** will present '*Jewelled Journeys – The Art of Opulent Travel*'.  
(Contact: Kerry Cooke on 0428 458 141)

### **ADFAS Shoalhaven**

**Next lecture:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30 pm at the Berry School of Arts, 19 Alexandra St, Berry.  
**Andrew Prince** will present '*Jewelled Journeys – The Art of Opulent Travel*'.  
(Contact: Ted Jarrett on 02 4464 3242)

**Programmes & contact details for ALL Societies are available on the ADFAS website: [www.adfas.org.au](http://www.adfas.org.au)**

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