SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT RESEARCH LIBRARY

Historical items of interest
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August 2014
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HISTORY & ROLE OF THE LIBRARY

The South Australian Parliament Research Library is the oldest publicly-funded library in the State of South Australia. Its origins pre-date responsible government. In 1851 Mr. Charles Cameron Kingston moved that a select committee be established to investigate which books and maps should be acquired for use by the Council. In 1853 a Library Committee was appointed to make acquisitions and to manage the Library. The first Parliamentary Librarian was appointed in 1865.

Today the primary function of the Library is to provide research and information services to the Members of the Parliament. It is staffed by highly qualified researchers who provide research support to Members of the Parliament on a confidential basis, and by librarians who maintain the collection in a variety of formats and provide loans and interlibrary loans services.

The collections reflect the broad range of areas relevant to Parliament. There is an excellent reference and research collection with particular strengths in politics, economics, history and biography and there are small collections of fiction and other materials. The collections together comprise about 100 000 volumes.

Provision is made under the Libraries Act 1982 to ensure that one copy of any publication produced in South Australia is deposited with the Parliament Research Library.

The Library’s main collections of books and pamphlets are on the ground and upper mezzanine floors. The main collections of journals and newspapers are on the lower ground floor.

Because of the age of the Library there is a significant collection of old books and other materials. The rare books are locked in the Library’s vault and are routinely displayed. Occasionally some of these materials are lent to other public institutions to support their exhibitions.

From 1861 to 1939 the Library was located in what is now Old Parliament House, but when the Legislative Council wing of the present Parliament House building was completed the Library was brought to its current position where it is easily accessible from both Chambers.
The Parliament Research Library is open from 9am on weekdays. When Parliament is sitting the Library is open and the reference desk is attended until both Houses rise. On non-sitting days the Library closes at 5pm.

Members and former Members of all Australian Parliaments have use of the Library. Access can also be arranged for *bona fide* researchers but the Library’s primary responsibility is to the South Australian Parliament. It is not a public access Library.
RARE BOOK COLLECTION  
(Housed in the Library’s ground floor vault)

The books in this vault were mostly acquired to assist earlier Parliaments with the business of their day. As with all books in the Library they have been well used. They were not acquired for their potential value but have become rare and valuable over time.

In 1987 the Joint Parliament Service Committee appointed a consultant to undertake a valuation of books, maps and photographs in Parliament House, including the Library. In 2007 the most valuable books were moved to the vault to ensure their safe-keeping and to prevent further deterioration as much as possible.

In accordance with common practice of special libraries in the nineteenth century, most book covers were removed and replaced with embossed tan calf covers. This made them look appropriately important, but the practice has somewhat reduced their value in today’s terms. Despite this, the books are still very valuable. The rarest in this collection is G. Blaxland’s *A Journal of a Tour of Discovery across the Blue Mountains in NSW*, published in London in 1823. Only nine copies are thought to have survived. Ours is one of the nine and is the tiny book on the stand left of centre on the shelf directly opposite the glass door. The oldest book was published in Cambridge, UK in 1637, “The *Holy Bible* containing the Old Testament and the New”. It has been extensively restored and can be found on the bookstand to the right of the Blaxland Journal.

The safe is fitted with a highly sensitive alarm which will alert the building attendants of any threat to the collection. The vault is checked regularly for evidence of vermin, and environmental conditions have been checked and are considered to be appropriate for the storage of these books.
Following an initiative of the *Friends of the Library* in 2011 to participate in History Week an existing cupboard opposite the rare book vault was converted to a display cabinet for rare books.
An additional display cabinet was acquired in 2012 and is positioned at the east end of the Library outside the door to the Library meeting room. The rare book displays are changed regularly.
MAGNA CARTA
Latin for Great Charter

(The Library's copy is affixed to the ground floor southern wall)

The Library's copy of the Magna Carta is of the original 1215 version. There are in fact four versions. The 1215 version was amended and reissued with alterations in 1216, 1217 and 1225. It was not signed by a British Monarch, however, until Queen Elizabeth II signed it in 1965 at a ceremony in Runnymede where King John had, in June 1215, agreed to the demands of his barons by affixing the Great Seal to the original document. Some say that King John had not signed it because he could not write. After affixing the Seal he ordered handwritten copies of the Magna Carta to be prepared on parchment and publicly read throughout the realm. It has become the foundation document of English and American freedoms.

It is a widely held belief that the Magna Carta was the result of a peaceful surrender by King John to demands for individual rights at the end of a lengthy period of political unrest on the part of his barony. In fact the King, who had already been engaging in protracted negotiations and delaying tactics, only sealed the agreement as a stalling action.

King John came to the throne in 1199 when his brother King Richard died. He was by reputation cruel and greedy. He had fallen out with both his father and his brother in family feuds and argued with his nephew Arthur over succession. In 1205 he lost English territory to France and tried repeatedly and unsuccessfully to regain it for the rest of his reign, constantly raising taxes to pay for his campaigns.

He was excommunicated from the Church of England due to a dispute over the appointment of the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1209 and used this as an excuse to confiscate church property and sell it back to his bishops at a profit. He used part of the money to create a fledgling British Navy. His barony was discontented with both his “pecuniary exactions and his continental ventures” and some of them formed a rebel group, choosing as their leader Baron Robert FitzWalter, who called himself “Marshal of the Host of God and the Holy Church”. Not all barons joined this rebellious group, although few supported the
King. The rebels declared against the King on 3 May 1215, finally getting him to agree to their demands in June. Both the rebels and King John soon reneged on the pact and civil war broke out.

Although clearly not committed to the Magna Carta, the articles of the agreement do reveal an understanding by King John that he had pushed his barony too far. After an opening statement guaranteeing the rights of the Church, the next fifteen clauses were provisions designed to curb the King's exploitation of loopholes in feudal custom. A further ten dealt with finances and the final clause confirmed people’s rights under common law. It is this latter clause that has been seen as crucial because it subjected the King to the law of the land for the first time in Britain’s history, and it is the only clause which remains on the statute books today.

It would be erroneous to believe that the Magna Carta was always a guarantee of people’s liberties. It was a treaty between the nobility and the King to protect the feudal rights of the noble class. It was much later that the rights of ordinary people were ‘read into’ the document.

King John died in October 1216 leaving a divided country, still occupied with French invaders, to his nine year old son King Henry III. The Magna Carta was reissued by the Regency Council, led by William Marshal, after removing a major part of the rebels’ platform. With the barons now onside, the civil war over baronial rights shifted to a war of resistance against foreign invasion.
In January 1649* King Charles I was charged by Parliament with treason and ordered to stand trial before a specially formed court of judges. This was the first time a British monarch had been tried for such a crime. There being no precedent in English law, a Dutch lawyer, Isaac Dorislaus was brought to England to draw up new statutes. These he based on ancient Roman law which stated that military bodies had the lawful authority to forcibly remove tyrannical rulers. Charles was found guilty of being a "tyrant, traitor and murderer; and a public and implacable enemy to the Commonwealth of England." He was sentenced to death by beheading.

This was the culmination of a long series of conflicts between the King and the houses of Parliament. At the heart of these conflicts was Charles' unwillingness to surrender his divine right to rule to parliamentary processes. Members of Parliament on the other hand wanted to assert their own authority and thus weaken the King's royal prerogative to act independently of them.
Among the major points of conflict was the King’s propensity to employ advisers antagonistic to Parliament. The first of these was the Duke of Buckingham, who had previously been the chief adviser to his father James I. The Duke was assassinated in 1628. Charles Laud, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Earl of Stafford were later appointed. Neither was acceptable to Parliament.

The King’s religious leanings were another source of dispute. His wife Henrietta Maria was Catholic and is said to have had an enormous influence on the royal court. Charles I and the Archbishop of Canterbury’s attempts to reintroduce greater pomp and ceremony into Protestant church ceremonies were one aspect of this, a move at odds with the growing numbers of Puritans in the English church who advocated plain, more simplified services.

Yet another area of conflict was the King’s insistence on raising his own revenue and imposing taxes independent of those set by the government. This was in part in order to fund his art collection.

Charles I amassed a significant proportion of the British Royal family’s extremely valuable collection of art. He was also patron of well-known painters of the period, Van Dyck and Rubens. Far more demanding of revenue, however, were two costly and failed military expeditions to Spain and Normandy.

Parliament’s refusal to grant sufficient funds led the King to lock Members out of Parliament for a period of 11 years from 1629 to 1640 in what became known as the ‘11 Years Tyranny’.

Charles’ decision to recall Parliament in 1640 was again driven by his desperate need for revenue, this time to fund an ill-starred war with Scotland whose armies had risen up in anger at Charles’ (and the Archbishop of Canterbury’s) attempts to impose a standard prayer book and liturgy on the Scottish Presbyterian church. Parliamentarians agreed to return on condition that Laud and the Earl of Strafford be removed and forced to stand trial, that the King cease his methods of tax collection and that he agree to a ruling that Parliament could never again be dissolved without its own consent.

The King and Parliament, however, remained antagonistic to one another. Charles’ attempt to arrest five of his critics led in 1642 to
the beginning of the English Civil War. The eventual defeat of forces loyal to the King led to his arrest and trial for treason. This was at the instigation of Oliver Cromwell whose name appears third on the list of signatories to the death warrant.

Tuesday, 30 January 1649, the day set aside for his execution, is said to have been dark and bitterly cold. In the morning the King was permitted to walk with his pet dog around St. James Park and then to have his last meal of bread and wine. Difficulty finding a willing executioner temporarily delayed his execution and it was not until 2.00 pm that he was walked out to the scaffold. So that his shivering should not be interpreted as fear, Charles had requested that he be allowed to wear extra thick undergarments. The request was granted and his composure at the place of execution was noted by all who attended. He spoke calmly to the executioner asking him whether he would like him to tuck his hair into the night-cap he wore to give him a clearer view of his neck. The executioner said that he would.

With his neck on the block and his arms outstretched before him, the executioner raised the axe and with one clean blow severed his head. As the axe fell the crowd as one is reported to have let out an enormous, horrified groan. The King’s headless body was placed in a black velvet covered coffin while his head was held up for all to see. The blood of a King was thought to have powerful healing properties. For a fee, those present were allowed to come forward to dip their handkerchiefs into the pool of blood on the block and raised scaffold.

Following the King’s execution, the monarchy was abolished and supreme authority fell to Cromwell and the Parliament.

Some of the men who signed the warrant for the King’s execution were in effect signing their own death warrant. Upon the return of the monarchy under Charles’ son Charles II in 1660, those signatories still alive were charged with regicide. Eighteen, including Oliver Cromwell, had already died. A number escaped. Whaley and Goff, for example, escaped to America where Puritan sympathisers gave them refuge. Those signatories who successfully argued that they were unwilling participants were pardoned. Richard Ingoldsby claimed Oliver Cromwell had held his hand and forced him to sign. Regicides who surrendered themselves for the most part received lengthy prison sentences.
Thirteen who did not were captured and executed. On January 30, 1661, the anniversary of the execution of Charles I, Cromwell’s dead body was exhumed, hung from a gallows and beheaded. His head was displayed on a pike on London Bridge where it remained for more than twenty years.

* Note that the copy of the warrant here is dated 1648. This is because at the time and until 1752, the New Year in Great Britain and its colonies began on March 25, not Jan 1.

SUMMARY OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MAGNA CARTA AND THE EXECUTION OF CHARLES I TO THE ASCENDENCY OF PARLIAMENT

The final clause of the Magna Carta that confirmed people’s rights under common law is still regarded to be of fundamental importance in English speaking countries. When King John placed his seal on the document in 1215 he began a process that was to bind future monarchs to observe due process of the law.

The execution of King Charles I in 1649 temporarily ended reign by monarchy in England, and when it was reinstated it was under conditions of association with the people’s representatives in Parliament. His execution also served as an example to the French and Americans that it was neither necessary nor desirable to have a monarchy.

The “Glorious Revolution” in 1688 between Protestants and Catholics saw James II deposed and the accession to the throne of the Protestant King William and Queen Mary under very clear conditions of restraint (the 1689 Bill of Rights). From this time the monarchy was subjected to the rule of law and parliamentary democracy grew and strengthened.
TERRESTRIAL AND CELESTIAL GLOBES

Modern terrestrial and celestial globes have been produced at least since the early 16th century, though there are examples of spherical globes being used to represent the heavens as far back as BC 370.

Celestial globes in particular often served a decorative purpose in wealthy homes. They mainly comprised fantastic astrological motifs until the late 18th century when they began to reflect a more scientific epoch - although the decorative motifs were not dispensed with entirely.

By the 19th century globes had become a popular and (usually) accurate reference tool, indispensable to libraries and other educational institutions. The Parliamentary Research Library’s globes, ordered by the then Legislative Council Library in 1854, represent state of the art mid-19th century educational technology.

The manufacturer, Malby & Son, was one of the most prominent British globe makers of the 19th century, perhaps best known for producing a huge pair of globes for the Great Exhibition of 1851 based on John Addison's terraqueous globe.

The cartography on the globes was based on the work of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, a proponent of adult education who acted as intermediary between authors and publishers.
CELESTIAL GLOBE: LONDON 1845
(Located on the southern side of the ground floor)

The concept behind celestial globes is that the Earth stands at the sphere's centre while the constellations revolve around it.

The Celestial globe rests on a mahogany stand which includes a calendar, zodiac dates and a compass. Instructions are printed near the compass on how to view the horizon bar to allow for the approach and departure of leap years.

Apart from the stars and nebula the globe is also decorated with astrological and mythological figures, and depictions of scientific and maritime apparatus and industrial machinery.

The Cartouche, dated 1845, reads:

Malby's celestial globe, exhibiting all the stars contained in the catalogues of Piazzi, Bradley, Hevelius, Mayer, La’Gaille & Johnson.
TERRESTRIAL GLOBE, LONDON 1854
(Located on the northern side of the Members’ Reading Room, ground floor)

The globe is mounted on a mahogany stand with a horizon ring showing zodiac signs, days and months of the year, and graduated scales of degrees for amplitude and azimuth. There is a full brass meridian ring containing the degrees of latitude.

North America is extensively illustrated with the locations of numerous Native American tribes, including the Pawnees, Sioux, Chippeways, Blackfoot and Osages.

The Antarctic shows some of the earliest geographic discoveries. Queensland is not marked – only “North Australia”. Tasmania is denoted as “Van Diemen’s Land”.

The cartouche reads:

Malby's Terrestrial Globe, Compiled from the latest & most authentic sources, including all the recent geographical discoveries, manufactured and published under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, by Thomas Malby & Son, map & globe sellers to the admiralty, 37 Parker Street, Little Queen Street, Holborn, London, January 1st, 1854.

The analemma reads:

Analemma Shewing (sic) the Sun’s declination and place in the Ecliptic for every day at noon.” The ecliptic is graduated and marked with signs of the Zodiac.
QUEEN VICTORIA’S BOOKS
(Housed in the small glass box next to the Reference Desk)

In 1864 Queen Victoria sent a gift to “several of the more important colonial libraries”. In each case the present was a copy of a book containing the more important speeches by Prince Albert, the Prince Consort, who had died three years before.

The South Australian Parliament received one of these books. It was accompanied by a message from the Secretary of State which showed that Queen Victoria saw her late husband’s interest in learning and good governance as an ideal role model for the legislators of her Empire.

The President of the Legislative Council was also Chairman of the Library Committee of the time, so he was requested to make sure that the Parliament understood the significance of the gift:

“In conveying to the Legislative Council of South Australia the copy which I have the honour to enclose by the Queen’s command, you will express Her Majesty’s full assurance that it will be valued as a memento of one who took a lively interest in the welfare of each separate portion of her colonial empire, and who studied at all times to promote the diffusion of that sound and useful knowledge which is one of the surest foundations of order and prosperity in every community, and which Her Majesty doubts not the Legislative Library of South Australia is the means of spreading in that colony.”

The Parliament of Canada, in Calgary, also has a copy, as has the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. In Australia, copies are held by the Libraries of the Parliaments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Our Parliament’s Library Committee sent a message of grateful thanks, noting that the gift had been directed to the Library itself, and reporting that it had been “placed, according to Your Majesty’s commands, in the Library, and now forms an inestimable portion of the contents of that Library”.
Between 1868 and 1884, Queen Victoria sent three more books to some of the colonial Parliaments around the world. Not all of the colonial Parliaments received these next books – Canada has all four but the South African Parliament apparently has only the first one. In Australia, New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania and South Australia have all four, but Queensland and Victoria have only three.

At some time, presumably after the fourth book arrived, they were placed in a specially-made glass case, which protects them from day-to-day handling. Nonetheless, the books are the subject of a great deal of interest particularly because of the inscription in the first book, which is touching and quite unexpected from a reigning monarch:

"Presented to the Legislative Library of South Australia in memory of Her great and good Husband by His broken hearted Widow. Victoria R 1864". The signature appears to be that of Her Majesty.

These books are rare and the inscriptions make them irreplaceable. The most important of the books is the first one (The Principal Speeches and Addresses) because it is the one for which we have a message from the Secretary of State and a reply from our Parliament. It is also the one with the most personal inscription.

It is clear from the message and the reply that the books were understood by both the Queen and the South Australian Parliament to symbolise the ties between Britain and her colonies, the honourable pursuit of “sound and useful” knowledge, and the necessity of legislators having access to knowledge in order to govern wisely.

As symbols of these ideals the books were seen at the time as items to be treasured and protected. While the ties between Britain and South Australia have weakened over time, the pursuit of appropriate and useful knowledge in order to legislate and govern wisely remains absolutely central to the work of the Parliament and in particular to the Parliament Research Library, so these books remains uniquely significant to our Parliament and to the Library.
THE BOOKS ARE:

1862, *The Principal Speeches and Addresses of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, with an introduction, giving some outlines of his character*, John Murray, Albemarle Street, London.

Inscribed as follows: "Presented to the Legislative Library of South Australia in memory of Her great and good Husband by His broken hearted Widow. Victoria R 1864"


Inscribed as follows: "Presented to the Legislative Library of South Australia by Victoria R, Windsor Castle. March 1868."


Inscribed as follows: "Presented to the Legislative Library of South Australia by Victoria R, Windsor Castle, March 1868."


Inscribed as follows: "Presented to the Legislative Library of South Australia by Victoria R, August 1884."
In South Australia from 1836 until 1857 the Province was governed by a succession of Governors, who were responsible to the British government in London and were supported by an advisory body in Adelaide. Initially the advisory body was a council of government officials and later it was supplemented with a few non-official members appointed by the Governor. From 1851 the advisory body was called the Legislative Council and comprised several elected members as well as members appointed by the Governor.

From 1851 until 1856, the main subjects discussed by the Legislative Council were those relating to self-government. For example, should Parliament have one or two Chambers? Who should be entitled to vote? Would all of the Members of the Parliament be elected or could some still be appointed by the Governor? Would they qualify because of their position in the colonial administration? What would be the appropriate relationship between the government and the public service? Who would control the budget, the elected government or the Governor? Should there be electorates? Would a secret ballot work or should voters continue to just mark their vote in a book?

The Constitution Act of 1856 resolved some of these questions. There would be a wholly-elected Parliament comprising two Houses, with property qualifications for voters and Members of the Legislative Council but with a wider franchise for voters and Members of the House of Assembly. Almost all men – including Aboriginal men – could vote for the House of Assembly, but women could not vote. Money bills could be introduced into the House of Assembly by the government (not the Governor).

The Constitution Act determined that the Legislative Council would have 18 Members elected to represent the Province as a whole, but that the House of Assembly would have 36 Members representing districts. It was originally thought that the boundaries used for the Legislative Council elections in 1855 would be used again for the House of Assembly, but these boundaries favoured
country electors. On a motion by George Strickland Kingston, a Select Committee on Electoral Districts was appointed to establish how many districts should be created and where their boundaries should lie. The five man committee included Kingston and the Surveyor-General Sir Arthur Henry Freeling.

Our map shows what the Select Committee recommended to the Legislative Council. The 36 Members of the House of Assembly would be elected to represent 17 electorates, most of them having at least two members, and the boundaries would be drawn along the lines shown on the map.

The recommendations of the Select Committee were accepted by the Legislative Council and were incorporated into the Electoral Act 1856. These boundaries were then used for the first election to the House of Assembly in 1857 and also the elections in 1860. The boundaries were changed in time for the third general elections in 1862.

The Select Committee produced just one map and the Parliament Research Library holds that original map. The boundaries were hand-painted onto a standard map of the settled areas of South Australia, perhaps by the Surveyor-General who was a member of the Select Committee. The inks are now fading and the material of the map is brittle so it is stored in relatively stable conditions – what you will see on the wall is one of only three copies that have been made of this original map.
STATE ELECTORAL MAPS
(Located on the walls of the passageway inside the main entrance to the Library)

South Australia
2007 Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission
County Region

South Australia
2012 Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission
Metropolitan Region

South Australia
2007 Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission
County Region

South Australia
2007 Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission
Metropolitan Region

South Australia
Local Government Areas

Metropolitan Adelaide
Local Government Areas
This map depicts the 'northern runs' of South Australia. The thick black line is the line of demarcation mapped in 1865 by South Australia's Surveyor-General, George Woodroffe Goyder. It came to be known as Goyder's Line of rainfall because it differentiated between land suitable for growing crops and land that could only support grazing. Goyder's Line became a common feature on maps of South Australia and has proven to be very accurate, although recent research shows that climate change may result in a southward pull on the line.

During years of abnormally good rainfall and under pressure from farmers, the South Australian government decided to sell land north of the Line for growing crops. Goyder was shown to have been correct when many of these farms later failed due to a lack of reliable rainfall.

An inscription on the map says the “red line shows route travelled by Drought Commission from Port Augusta to Kooringa, the dotted portion of the line representing where the Commission returned upon [sic] the same line”.

George Woodroffe Goyder was born in Liverpool, England in 1826 and emigrated to Sydney in 1848. He subsequently moved to Adelaide where he entered the South Australian Public Service in 1851. He joined the Department of Lands in 1853 and was appointed Surveyor-General in 1861.
The Petition prior to cleaning and preservation
DIGITAL DISPLAY OF THE WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE PETITION  
*(Located adjacent the Legislative Council corridor entrance to the Library on the ground floor)*

This interactive digital display contains a searchable list of signatories to the Women’s Suffrage Petition which resulted in the full franchise for women in South Australian. The Display also contains a history of the Petition.

The Colony-wide Petition was the work of the Women’s Suffrage League, the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union and the Women’s Trades Union during the 1880s. Catherine Helen Spence added impetus to the campaign when she joined in 1891. When presented to the House of Assembly on 23 August 1894 by G.C. Hawker, the separate sheets of the Petition had been glued together and were arranged in 12 rolls of various lengths. The total length of the Petition was 101 metres. It contained 11,600 signatures, of which approximately a third were by men. The Petition was officially No 38 of 1894.

The Suffrage Petition resulted in the franchise being extended to women for both houses of Parliament. The Constitution Amendment Act was passed on 18 December 1894, making South Australian women the first in Australia to gain the vote on the same terms as men.

After preservation and conservation work was carried out on the Petition in 1991, it was mounted in separate lengths and attached with hinges to mountboard. The Petition was then encapsulated in mylar, a transparent protective polyester covering. It is safely housed in the House of Assembly vault.
PHOTOGRAPHS OF EARLY ADELAIDE AND REGIONS
(Located in the Members’ Reading Room on the ground floor)

A number of framed historical photographs of Adelaide and some regional towns of South Australia dated between 1876 and 1955 are displayed in the Members’ Reading Room.
Parliamentary Library, Old Parliament House prior to relocation to its current position