



Pro Utilitate

Preserving and promoting the St John heritage.

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From the Editor

Balancing new with old is delicate. Innovation with tradition is a challenge. A very wise person once said we can hold onto existing traditions and at the same time create some new ones. In this edition, we are introducing a new section on Heraldry suggested by Dr Matthew Glozier. Like other sections it might not appear in every issue but I hope so. Please don't hesitate to suggest new ideas for *Pro Utilitate*. **Editor**

Another transition

Len Fiori KStJ, CEO and Priory Secretary

Len has had a 53-year association with St John since joining as a Cadet in Melbourne in 1968. He is the only Cadet to have risen to be Priory Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Office of St John Ambulance Australia, a position he first took up in 2001. He has served twice in the position, 2001–2008 and 2017–2021.

As Priory Secretary Len is responsible for the Order's corporate and ceremonial life. As CEO he superintends St John's national business affairs. He has fulfilled the responsibilities of his twin positions with exemplary efficiency and sensitivity, for which we are most grateful.

Len has been an enthusiastic member and always a generous friend and supporter of the Historical Society since its inception. Through the Australian Office of St John, Len and his staff have been instrumental in ensuring that our various publications, including *Pro Utilitate*, have been produced and distributed.

We thank you, Len, and wish you and Wendy well for the future. We also look forward to your continued membership of the Society.

We look forward to welcoming the new National CEO to our group. Keep watch for an announcement in the December issue of *Spotlite*.

Who's in Order?

Our congratulations to the following members of our Society who have recently been promoted in the order.



Professor Peter Leggat to Knight of Grace (KStJ)

Professor Peter Leggat has made an exceptional contribution to St John as a member of the National Board, Chair of the Medical Advisory Panel, St John Human Research Ethics

Committee and various other Board committees. He established and was the inaugural Chair of the national St John Clinical Governance Committee. He has been the St John representative on the Australian Resuscitation Council. He has made significant contributions to the development of St John first aid protocols. Professor Leggat has continued to provide advice to St John Queensland whilst a member of the National Board.



Dr Jason Bendall to Commander (CStJ)

Dr Bendall has provided an outstanding contribution to St John NSW that has inspired cohesive growth. This was evident in his time as Commissioner starting in 2016, he is a passionate and dedicated leader. Dr Bendall has focused on the structure of the organisation that supports St John's role in the wider community. As a Board Director and Commissioner, he has driven a policy agenda that has simplified governance concepts and processes. Significant policy achievements include: clinical

risk management; the recognition and regulation of health professionals; the adoption of clinical rank slides; the incorporation of paid health personnel for event health services; appointments and promotions; and incident reporting and management. His actions have helped ensure St John has a strong, sustainable future.



Mr Gordon Botwright to Officer (OStJ)

In his roles as Commercial Manager and then CEO of St John Ambulance Victoria, Gordon has led the organisation through a period of organisational revitalisation and unprecedented growth including its digital transformation, development of market leading virtual training programs, an expansion of the NEPT contract with Ambulance Victoria, record volunteer numbers, and a clear focus on delivery of community programs. Nationally, Gordon has provided continuity, credibility and has engendered confidence amongst the CEO group and Priory. He has been a

strong and committed member of the Federal Council, a constructive and thoughtful contributor to discussions demonstrating openness to greater collaboration between States and territories and a commitment to the success of the Federation. He has generously shared his time and organisational resources with other States and territories.

Coming events

Priory Chapter Meeting webinar

21 November 2021

10.00 am AEST

Historical Society

Annual Seminar

21 November 2021

12:30–5:30 pm AEST

Annual General Meeting

25 November 2021

8.00 pm AEST

James Cheshire encourages all jurisdictions who are able to come together in-person, to do so.

Heraldry

The heraldry of Professor Mark Compton AM GCStJ, Lord Prior, Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem

The shield has the green backing representing the international colour of healthcare. The red cross in the middle is from the Arms of the State of NSW. The central sun is the heraldic symbol for enlightenment, and learning or teaching. The four quadrants of the shield hold St John crosses representing four generations of volunteers in Mark's family as well as the four corners of the world. On the top of the shield are the Order's Arms-in-Chief in red and white – an honour only given to Bailiffs and Dames Grand Cross.

Behind the shield is the St John Cross – also only for Bailiffs and Dames Grand Cross.

Below the shield and motto are the Order of Australia insignia and Bailiff Grand Cross insignia.

Supporters (again for Bailiffs and Dames only) – a dog for loyalty and the lion for courage.

The Helm or Helmet A closed helmet was used by Medieval Knights but more recently adopted by English gentlemen. Open helmets are reserved only for the highest levels of nobility.

Above the Helm – the griffin, symbolising leadership, is gripping the rod of Aesculapius who was the god of medicine and the son of Apollo who was the god of healing in Greek mythology. Together they symbolise leadership in health care.

Motto – *Pro Bono Universali* means 'for the good of all'.

These arms were Granted by the College of Arms, London and designed in consultation with Mark.

Dr Matthew Glozier OSTJ



Matthew would also like to draw your attention to *The Banner and Flag Handbook* published by St John International. It contains some great information about the heraldic banners of several GCStJs, including some wonderful Australian content. The *Handbook*, Issue 2 (26 April 2018) is available for download from [St John International website](http://StJohnInternational.com).

The Challenges

From Dr Ian Howie Willis comes this printer's block of unknown provenance:



Ian's clues are: The block must be at least 53 years old, because the name 'St John Ambulance Brigade' disappeared in the UK in 1968, when the former Brigade & Association (training branch) were merged as plain 'St John Ambulance'. (We didn't take that step in Australia until 1985.) And as you will know, the 'Grand Priory' didn't disappear until 1997, when the present international 'Grand Council' replaced it. (The former 'Grand Council' was a UK institution, of which we 'non-grand' Priories in the 'colonies' were appendages.) My guess is that the printer's block might have belonged to a local Division of the Brigade somewhere in or around Nottingham. From 1968 it would have been redundant and was perhaps cast aside. When inked it reads:

***The Grand Priory of
The Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem
Ambulance Department
The St John Ambulance Brigade***

Something on the old St John Hospital in Jerusalem

Members may be interested in a collection of essays entitled *The Archaeology of the Church of the Redeemer and the Muristan in Jerusalem* which are papers from a workshop held in Jerusalem in 2014 and edited by Dieter Vieweger and Shimon Gibson. Of special interest are Chapters 9 and 15—essays on the excavation of the Crusader period hospital in the Muristan, and Chapter 4, which is a detailed description of the excavation below the Church of St John by Jean-Baptiste Humbert.

Other publications of further interest in these matters include:

- Conrad Schick [1822–1901]. 'The Ancient Churches in the Muristan' in *Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement* 33.1 (Jan. 1901): 50–53
- The Muristan, or The Site of the Hospital of St. John at Jerusalem (archive.org)

And a **SECOND CHALLENGE** from our medical past is provided by David Fahey.



Previous challenges

We are still hoping to identify these two medals provided by Matthew Glozier.



And Allan Mawdsley is awaiting the story behind this small badge.



Something on the old St John Hospital in Jerusalem (*continued*)

- Archibald Campbell Dickie [1868–1941]. 'The Lower Church of St. John, Jerusalem' in *Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement* 31.1 (Jan. 1899): 43–45
- BiblicalStudies.org.uk: Palestine Exploration Quarterly Vols. 31–40 (1899–1908)

As a footnote to this item, Ian Howie-Willis has been doing some sleuthing on names ... Archaeological research at the Church of St John the Baptist in the Muristan area of the Old City of Jerusalem during 2010 produced some surprising results.

The church, which is the source of the Order's name, is a truly ancient edifice. The crypt dates back to the fourth or fifth century AD (i.e. the 300s–400s, during the Byzantine era); but the church above is from the later mediaeval period. In Jerusalem, if not elsewhere, the church was commonly called 'Mar Hanna', meaning 'St John' in the Syriac–Aramaic language, which was still widely used by Christians in the Holy Land during the Crusading era. Aramaic, which is still spoken around Nazareth, was Jesus's

native language. 'Mar' means 'Saint'; and 'Hanna' is a short form of 'Yuhanan', the Aramaic version of 'John'. Until the church was taken over by the Blessed Gerard and his fellow Hospitallers, it was a church of the local Syrian Orthodox Christians. As Fra' Gerard and his brethren were 'Latin' (i.e. Catholic) rather than Orthodox Christians, they called the church by its Latin name, 'Ecclesia Sancti Ioannis Hierosolymitani', i.e. 'Church of St John of Jerusalem' in English. The St John in the name was implicitly St John the Baptist rather than, say, St John the Evangelist (one of the twelve disciples of Jesus). After the brethren became a separate Order of the Catholic Church in 1113, they adopted the name of the church they were occupying, calling themselves in Latin 'Ordo Fratrum Hospitalis Sancti Ioannis Hierosolymitani' or (in English) 'The Order of the Brotherhood of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem'. Meanwhile, the local Palestinian Christians continued calling the church 'Mar Hanna' — the Syriac–Aramaic name they had been using for at least six centuries. The Syriac name continued in use for at least another 800 years. People in Jerusalem were still calling the church 'Mar Hanna' during the period of British rule in Palestine, 1920–1948.



The (then) Australian Chancellor at the door of the chapel and interior painting of St John.

Numismatics

Queen Victoria's four Jubilee Medals

Following on from the earlier Jubilee Medal challenge, Paul Rosenzweig provided information on the medals awarded for Queen Victoria's Golden (1887) and Diamond (1897) Jubilees. Dr Allan Mawdsley sent in images for another medal for Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Were there two completely different medals commemorating the same events?

The short answer is – Yes.

The medals Paul described, with blue and white ribbons, were the 'general' awards, struck in gold, silver and bronze for presentation to those who attended the Jubilee celebrations in England in 1887 and 1897. Gold medals were given to members of the Royal Family and Royal guests, while silver medals were presented to naval and military officers, envoys, ambassadors, colonial Prime Ministers and senior members of the Royal Household. Selected sailors and soldiers, including those from Indian and colonial contingents, and ladies and gentlemen of the Royal Household, received bronze medals.

Anyone who had received the 1887 Golden Jubilee Medal received an ornate clasp '1897' for wear on the ribbon, in silver or bronze to match the metal of the original medal. The 1887 Medal was awarded to the co-founders of the St John Ambulance Association, John Furley and Samuel Osborn, and they also received the 1897 clasp.

The medal in the images provided by Dr Mawdsley is the second type of jubilee medal – known by the name of 'Queen Victoria Police Jubilee Medal'. Firstly, a medal was awarded to Police officers who were on duty in London at the time of the Golden Jubilee celebrations and the Great Procession on 21 June 1887. This bespoke medal was struck only in bronze, and had a plain dark blue ribbon. The obverse was designed by the

medallist Leonard Charles Wyon (1826–1891), Chief Engraver at the Royal Mint. It bears the diademed head of Queen Victoria wearing a veil and facing left, with the legend 'VICTORIA REGINA'. The reverse bears a wreath of oakleaves containing the text 'JUBILEE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA' surmounted by a small Royal Crown, with the year '1887' below, with a Tudor rose to either side. There were only two versions: the title of the Service was given on the reverse above the wreath – either 'Metropolitan Police' (14,000 medals awarded) or 'City of London Police' (900 awards).

Then a decade later, an identical bronze medal but with '1897' on the reverse was similarly awarded to Police officers on duty for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations on 21 June and the Great Procession on 22 June 1897 (mostly lining the Royal procession route).

This time, eligibility was widened to include firemen and members of ambulance units – including surgeons, nursing sisters and ambulance men of the St John Ambulance Brigade (image 1).



1. The Queen Victoria Police Jubilee Medal (1897), obverse design: this medal was awarded to Dr Heaton Howard MRCS LRCP from Kirkham, Lancashire, an Honorary Surgeon with the St John Ambulance Brigade (from the Paul Rosenzweig collection).

Numismatics – Queen Victoria’s four Jubilee Medals *(continued)*

There were 10,086 awards of this 1897 medal, to five different police, fire and ambulance services, accordingly with five variations of the title on the reverse of the medal (image 2). The engraving of all Police Jubilee Medals, including those to fire and ambulance personnel, was managed by the Receiver’s Office of the Metropolitan Police and the cost was borne by the City and Metropolitan Police Funds.



2. The Queen Victoria Police Jubilee Medal (1897), reverse design, with the title ‘ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE’ (one of five possible variations of the title): this medal was awarded to First Officer James Garbutt of the St John Ambulance Brigade (from the Paul Rosenzweig collection).

Anyone who had received the 1887 medal who again qualified received a bronze rectangular clasp ‘1897’ to be affixed to their existing medal. There were 9,193 awards of the ‘1897’ clasp to those who already held the 1887 medal – all to the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police.

There were 210 awards of this medal (and no clasps) to the Police Ambulance Service, including members of the Hospital Association Ambulance Service; some of these awards were given to police ambulancemen who were on duty with the London Volunteer Companies of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Of particular interest to us, there were just 910 medals (and no clasps) awarded to members of St John Ambulance Brigade (image 3). The Brigade deployed 36 honorary surgeons, 103 nursing sisters and 771 men, with 14 stretcher and 7 ambulance wagons, operating 95 medical stations along the six-mile route, which straddled both sides of the River Thames. It is recorded that they treated around 1,000 cases over 24 hours. The most common cases from the large crowd were many ‘squeezed people’ and numerous cases of fainting.

In summary, there were two types of jubilee medal issued in 1887, and then in 1897 a further two medals and two types of clasp. In addition, a special diamond-shaped medal was awarded to Mayors and Provosts across the United Kingdom. So, in effect there were seven different official awards available to mark Queen Victoria’s jubilees.



3. The Queen Victoria Police Jubilee Medal (1897) awarded to First Officer James Garbutt of the St John Ambulance Brigade, who was on duty in London during Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations on 21 June 1897 and the Great Procession on 22 June (from the Paul Rosenzweig collection).

Major Paul A Rosenzweig OAM (Ret’d)

Making history

The New Secretary General, International Order

The Lord Prior has recently announced 'that HRH the Grand Prior has appointed Ms Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque CMG as the next Secretary General of the Order, with effect from 1 December 2021.



Susan will succeed Vice Admiral Sir Paul Lambert KCB KStJ. Susan has recently completed her term as UK High Commissioner to Canada ... and has had a distinguished career in the British Foreign Service reaching one of the highest positions as Her Majesty's Representative in Canada ... Susan has extensive international experience and has a strong track record in budget management. Susan is very much looking forward to taking up this new role and working closely with all St John Establishments across the world in our established work and to pursue the plans and actions emanating from the new Order strategy.'

Won't it be exciting when appointing a female to higher positions in St John won't make history. Editor

Behind the scenes in the Museum

The Ian Kaye-Eddie Heritage Centre, WA

The Heritage Centre continues to be impacted by two events this year. First, the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are still unable to permit any community group visits but some inhouse staff—especially new arrivals to the organisation—have been allowed. Second, major redevelopment of the Belmont site necessitates the demolition of the building we currently occupy, and the Heritage Centre will move into storage for the duration of the rebuilding program. This is anticipated to be later in 2021. As a result of these two factors, we have suspended our membership of Museums Australia.

However, we are still receiving donations including a South African centennial plate; assorted badges; medals and insignia; first aid certificates; photographs and newspaper cuttings. Although we rarely decline a donation, we were offered an old canvas wheelchair but this was not a type

St John ever used in WA and it was not accepted. Deselection of duplicate first aid manuals and other books is ongoing and a new duplicates list has been circulated intra and interstate.

Current and possible 2020–21 projects are all dependent on how long the Centre remains open and include all preparation and packing of the Centre's contents for storage, and assistance to any department for the 2021 state conference.

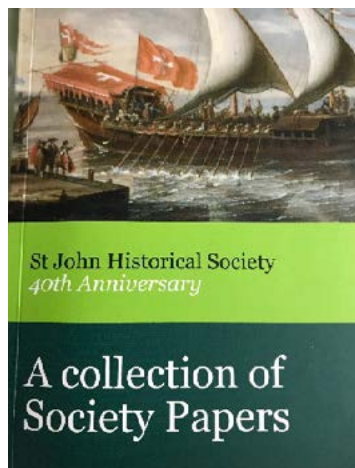
Souvenirs, as a category in our Museum, are some of the most interesting pieces in the collection. They can be very practical such as key rings, pens and books, or, more decorative items such as stuffed toys, miniatures and badges.

The image you see here is a SMO souvenir – a fridge magnet, in fact! It is made of yellow metal with a white enamel 8-pointed cross and Order of St John Malta and Gozo around the rim. It was donated by a retired nursing member and will now feature in periodic displays related to the Sovereign Military Order – far too good for a fridge door!



Dr Edith Khangure OAM, DStJ, Librarian & Archivist

Book review



*St John Historical Society 40th Anniversary:
A collection of Society Papers*
St John Historical Society UK, 2021

This book was sent to me by Paul Gwilliam, Chair of the St John Historical Society UK and instead of doing a review, I am going to take the liberty of quoting from the Preface by Dr Jeremy Warren, Librarian for the UK Society. He reviews the content in detail.

'The sheer richness and variety of the Hospitallers' history comes to life from the 19 essays reprinted here, a compendium of some of the most interesting papers to have been given at meetings of the Society, which have been edited for the present publication by **Paul Gwilliam**, OStJ. No fewer than five come from the distinguished historian of the Crusades **Professor Jonathon Riley-Smith** (1938–2016), Bailiff Grand Cross of the Venerable Order of Saint John, who played a key role in the founding of the St John Historical Society and provided energetic leadership over many years, notably his instigation of the quadrennial international conferences on the history of the Military Orders, held at St John's Gate. Jonathon Riley-Smith's career as an academic researcher focussed on the early history of the Crusades, leading him to explore, as in several of his essays in this volume, the paradoxes and potential conflicts between the Knights' military activities and their religious vows. Unlike the more overtly militaristic Templars, the Knights Hospitallers were from the start essentially a religious order, dedicated to the care of the sick and the poor. By promising on his admission to be 'serf and slave' of his 'lords' the sick, the Hospitaller knight acknowledged that he in effect belonged to his patients. In the hospital they established in Jerusalem, replicated after 1191 at the Order's new headquarters in

Acre, the Hospitallers' willingness to take in not only both men and women, but also non-Christians, was unique in the Christian world at this time.

The growing conflict between Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land and, increasingly, the wider Mediterranean nevertheless saw the Hospitallers over time taking on a more overtly military role alongside their humanitarian work. They also grew in size and importance with, by the late Middle Ages, property rights and a physical presence in every major European country, including Britain, a topic explored here by **Helen J Nicholson** and by **Michael Hodges**. **Lester Hellman** and **Pamela Willis** show the important roles that English members played in both domestic and international politics prior to the Dissolution and the Order's expulsion by Henry VIII in 1540.

Although little physically survives in Britain, the Order's former presence in the Holy Land and the Eastern Mediterranean is prominently marked to this day by famous buildings such as Krak des Chevaliers and the great Hospital of the Knights in Rhodes. In his contribution, **Michael Heslop** explores the sophisticated defensive systems that the Hospitaller Knights were forced to develop along the coast of Rhodes, in their ultimately fruitless attempts to keep the Ottomans at bay...

The Hospitaller Knights' presence over more than 250 years has left a rich and

Book review (continued)

varied historical and social legacy on Malta, here discussed in several papers, **Emanuel Buttigieg** on the structures within which novices and pages lived and world and **Tom Fokes** on the brief and chequered life of Michelangelo Merisi da Carivaggio, who famously spent a year on the island, where he painted some of his greatest works. **Christopher J. Duffin** shows how medicine remained at the heart of the Hospitallers' work in Malta. In his contribution, **Richard Cheffins** explores the gradual transformation of the Order of Malta after the catastrophe of 1798 into a chivalric but pacific organisation dedicated to the care of the sick, whilst **John F Talbot** shows how the Venerable Order of Saint John, established in 1888 as a British royal order of chivalry, returned to the Hospitallers' original purposes in a most

symbolic fashion, with its foundation in Jerusalem of the St John Eye Hospital. The Eye Hospital flourishes to this day as of course does St John's Ambulance in so many countries. **Paul Gwilliam** and **Ian Howie-Willis** give us fascinating insights into the selfless and pioneering work done by numberless St John's Ambulance volunteers...

St John's Gate, the gatehouse to the former Priory, remains the most important symbol of the Hospitallers' presence in Britain... the gatehouse had its own rich history between 1540 and the return of the Order in the nineteenth century, not least, as Cressida Finch explains, as the location of the Old Jerusalem Tavern, presided over for a short period by the gather of the painter William Hogarth.'

Dr Elizabeth Ellis OStJ



From Ian Howie-Willis, episode 16 in the 'What is history?' series.

What is history?

History is always more complicated than it seems at first

There's a great difference between History (with a capital-H) and written history.

Capital-H History is what has happened – the grand, continually unfolding saga of human events. It consists of the sum of myriad, numberless events. We can think about these events at the individual personal level (which is called autobiography and biography), at the family level (called genealogy and family history), at the local and regional levels, and at the national and international levels (variously called national, global and world history).

Written history is what historians write about those events. Written history can never hope to be a complete, detailed compendium of what has happened. That's because written history is just a summary. Any written history is only ever the historian's attempt to make sense of the confusing, teeming chaos of disparate and countless events. Historians seek to impose order upon the events. They cannot include everything, so they choose the incidents that seem most relevant. The problem of that approach is that there'll always be other incidents, perhaps equally important,

What is history? *(continued)*

that won't be written about. Put the two together, the incidents included and those left out, and you have a situation more complicated than just the summary.

I was reminded of this recently in a chapter of the book I've just finished writing. The book is an account of how the Australian and American Allies recaptured Lae, Papua New Guinea, from the Japanese in September 1943. This was a complex campaign, involving an amphibious landing on a beach near Lae by the 9th Australian Infantry Division and an airborne landing by the 7th Division on an inland airstrip on the other side of the town. One chap caught up in the conflict was a 79-year-old German Lutheran missionary, the Rev. Johann Decker (1864–1958), who'd been running his mission station near Lae ever since he arrived there as a young man in 1895. The Japanese invaded New Guinea in early 1942, but allowed Rev. Decker to remain at his mission. After the Australians retook Lae, they deported him to Australia because they didn't want a civilian, especially a citizen from an enemy nation, in their war zone.

Decker later wrote a six-page history of his mission station's experience of the war. He described the atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers, for instance the brutal killing of harmless villagers. And he wrote about how Allied air raids on local villages killed members of his flock. So far so good — a seemingly simple story of brutal invaders driven out by the militarily superior Allies. But then Rev. Decker reveals that things weren't quite so simple because he tells the story of how two Christians among the Japanese soldiers sat among the village people to read the Bible with them.

Brutal Japanese? Terrified villagers? It was more complicated than that. Somehow, Christians from two different cultures had found each other and began sharing the faith they held in common. A touching story, but also a surprising one.

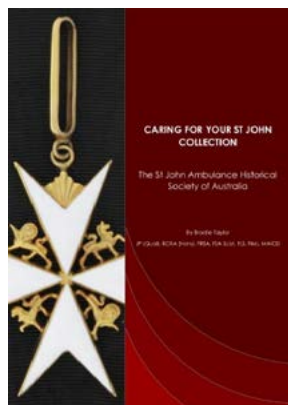
That story reminded me of another I'd come across in helping write *A Beacon of Hope*, the 140th anniversary history of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. The Eye Hospital story was from the late 1930s, when the original Eye Hospital was treating many Jews as well as Palestinians. During the Arab Revolt of that time, many Jews and Palestinians died in tit-for-tat killings during eruptions of inter-community violence. To avoid difficulties, the Hospital managers tried to segregate their male Jewish and Palestinian in-patients by placing them in different wards. The managers, who guessed that the men wouldn't wish to share a ward with people they saw as bitter enemies, were much surprised when the Jewish and Palestinian male patients refused to be separated. They liked being together and enjoyed each other's company. Sharing a ward was the only way the men of the two opposed societies could get to know each other.

Irreconcilably opposed Jews and Arabs? People so hostile to each other they could only ever be enemies? The men's ward at the Hospital suggests that the reality was more complicated than that.

These two stories, one from wartime Papua New Guinea, the other from pre-war Palestine, reminded me that written history can't include every event. Capital-H History is always much more complicated than the summaries that we historians write.

Dr Ian Howie-Willis KStJ





New publication

A resource for all – *Caring for your St John collection*

The world of heritage collections can be a complicated one ... Where do you start? What should you do? How do you proceed? To be responsible for the care of an institution's history and heritage can be a very daunting task, but it can also be a rewarding duty. Queensland-based St John Volunteer and Cultural Heritage professional **Brodie Taylor** has been busy the last several months putting together something that may just help: *Caring for your St John Collection* will help you get started to build your confidence with preserving your St John collections and historical material. It aims to demystify collection management and layout in simple terms, and the do's and don'ts of collection care, including:

- fundamental principles
- the kinds of materials you might encounter in your collection
- the ideal conditions in which to store your collections
- storage solutions
- how and when to contact and hire a professional conservator or archivist.

This piece has been published on the St John Ambulance Australia website, and is freely available to all with a keen interest and a desire for knowledge. Just follow the link below and download your free copy

Contact details for the author and links to useful resources are included at the back of the text, for all who made need some advice or support whilst caring for their St John Collections.

Acknowledgments and thanks must be given to the President of the St John

Historical Society of Australia, Dr David Fahey AM CStJ for finding the need for this piece; planting the seed, and providing support to the author throughout the process. Special thanks must be tendered to those who helped proofread and edit: Dr David Fahey AM CStJ, Faye Gledhill CStJ, Vince Little KStJ, and Ros Lauder.

Brodie Taylor JP (Qual), BCRA (Hons), FRSA, FSA Scot, FLS, FIML, MAICD.

Brodie Taylor is currently the Curator (Arts and Exhibitions) of the University of Southern Queensland; the Grand Librarian of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland; and a member of the National Executive Committee of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia. Brodie has been working with St John since 2018 and has found some of his closest friends within its Historical circles. Astounded and enthralled by the history of St John, Brodie has compiled this document for benefit of all with the aim of protecting the institutions history, and with the hope of giving back a small amount to the organisation which has given him so much.

Other items of interest

- 2021 edition of *Investitures & Service Medals in the NT* by Frank Dunstan MStJ.
- *The Riddle of the Stones*, an article about historic Torphichen in West Lothian by Duncan McAra CStJ, Librarian to the Priory of Scotland.
- *European First Aid for 5- to 7-year-old*, Johanniter International, www.firstaidjoin.org. Translations are available in Arabic, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian and Polish.

Sample pages from *Caring for your St John collection*

BOOKS

Your collection may have books that were published more than 100 years ago. Books are composed of many different materials, including paper, ink, thread, glue, cloth, semi-precious metals, leather, and gliding. As with paper, the quality of materials varies dramatically. As discussed earlier, paper with high wood pulp content, will naturally degrade faster due to the acid content. The result will be a yellowing of pages and embrittlement of the paper fibres. However, a book printed on cotton rag will provide a stable surface, if stored in the appropriate environment.



This *First Aid to the Injured* was printed on cotton rag paper pages bound with waxed cotton thread.

MEDALS AND INSIGNIAS

The medals and insignias of the Order are always present within any St John Collection. Generally, they are relatively stable, apart from tarnish and fraying of the ribbons. These pieces are composed of a number of materials, including silk, watermark make ribbons, metal gilt, bronze, brass, silver and gold. These items can be damaged by the oils and acidity on your hands which can expedite tarnish and deterioration.



The service of the Order Medal is a cupro-nickel, rhodium plated metal, suspended by a black and white ribbon.

TEXTILES

The textiles within your collection will span from ceremonial mantles, banners, apparel such as caps, badges, patches and uniforms. Materials vary from wool, silk, fur, protein fibres, cotton, linen, jute, flax, straw or other cellulose fibres. Your textiles are amongst the most sensitive items, particularly to light exposure and UV radiation. Moisture, mould and heat pose a continual threat, as well as pests such as beetles, moths, silverfish, rats, mice and even birds.



This Eastern Subs Division Patch has been stored flat and out of sunlight, with good airflow, free of moisture.

IDEAL STORAGE CONDITIONS

For items to be boxed, use archival grey cardboard boxes, line the base with thick sheets of archival Ethfoam – it is a rigid, chemical inert packing foam, which can be carved to create recesses to match the shape of your objects to ensure a secure fitting. Placing a sheet of Tyvek between the object and the foam will ensure further support and protection. If the objects require further stability, they can be secured with cotton spaghetti yarn. Only do this step if the items are not fragile or unstable.



Ceremonial Vessels boxed, with an ethfoam base, Tyvek lining and secured with cotton spaghetti yarn.

Your boxes should be numbered and labelled clearly with corresponding accession numbers of the items enclosed, a brief description, and an image of the box's interior/specifically the items. This ensures that if you can inspect your base's contents quickly without having to move the boxes or unpack. This is useful if you are looking for something specifically.

Box Label Example

Accession Numbers - 2021.56 - 2021.57 - 2021.58 - 2021.59	
Ceremonial Vessels	
BOX 1	

TEXTILES

Your textile collection pieces are amongst your most fragile, and can deteriorate rapidly in the wrong environments.

They should be inventoried, and stored in polypropylene boxes, lined with buffered archival tissue. Handle only with gloves.

The same as the rest of your collection. Your boxes should be numbered and labelled clearly with corresponding accession numbers of the items enclosed, a brief description, and an image of the box's interior, specifically the items.



Buffered archival tissue provide a structural support and an additional protective layer.



Your boxes should be stored, label facing out, never stacked too high.

Recent event

Matthew Glozier presented 'The Heraldry of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital' to the Australian Heraldry Society in July. You can listen to his talk on the AHS link: <https://youtu.be/1McxEtaFzyg?t=260>.

It starts at 4m20s, which is where the slide show starts, but you can go back earlier to the start if desired.

Renewals for 2022

As we're now getting to the end of 2021, we invite you to consider renewing your Historical Society membership subscription for 2022. As a paid-up member, you receive 3 issues of *Pro Utilitate*, a copy of *St John history*, and, not to mention, access to a wealth of information on the ancient and modern history of our international organisation. You'll find the generic membership application/renewal form, here: <https://stjohn.org.au/about> (scroll down to the Historical Society) . Follow the instructions given on the form.

A pleasing footnote

The restoration of the grave of Dr James Edward Neild, founder of St John in Australia is now complete. From the foot of the grave the details of family members are seen. From the head end we acknowledge the major achievements of this remarkable early Victorian doctor.

On the edge of the tombstone is a QR code (below), bringing a 21st century internet access to a short biography on Neild.

Sincere thanks to all Historical Society members who contributed to the restoration.

Dr Allan Mawdsley KStJ



And finally ...

The next issue of *Pro Utilitate* (2022/1) will be out in May, 2022, with a deadline for contributions by mid-April. We warmly encourage potential articles or ideas for the forthcoming publications.

You're also invited to email me as editor with comments or questions – especially if you think something needs putting right.

Wishing you all the very best for a safe and joyous holiday season, dear reader, and let's hope for a seriously better year in 2022 ...

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