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**Poster: *Relocating a framed collection. State Library of New South Wales Framed Collection Store***

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**ABSTRACT**

**Purpose / rationale/ scope of SLNSW paintings collection. SLNSW/AGNSW collaboration**

(By Louise Anemaat).

The pictures collection of the State Library of NSW includes a collection of almost 1,700 framed works in all formats. Acquired by the Library primarily for their documentary rather than aesthetic value, the collection includes many significant works of art recording the earliest visual responses to European settlement to contemporary works documenting significant people, places, events, buildings and landscape.

By 2015 the existing Framed Collection Store (Mitchell building) had reached capacity. Commissioned 30 years earlier, the storage facility no longer met current storage, access or WHS requirements.

A new framed collection store (Macquarie building) was commissioned to deliver appropriate environmental, storage and security conditions; allow for 20% collection growth; provide improved lighting, work spaces and collection access.

**Preparation for relocation: collection survey / condition/ preservation conservation.**

(By Barbara Dabrowa).

Prior to relocation to the new storage facility, preparations were undertaken in order to assess the condition of the art works and their frames. Evaluation focused mostly on the frames (as they had never been assessed before) to establish their originality, style, finish and condition. A document was created to prioritise the fragility and susceptibility to damage of the frames and works of art during relocation. Numerous frames were treated with a preservation conservation treatment including consolidation and gluing of separated pieces of the ornaments. All hanging devices were checked for strength and changed if necessary. The most vulnerable works of art and their frames were carefully packed in appropriate protective wrapping.

### **Logistics of relocation: outcome / benefits / lessons learned.**

(By Catherine Thomson).

The new Framed Collections Store was commissioned on 1 September 2015. Planning for the move required collaboration across different branches of the Library and contracted art handlers. The complex route from the Mitchell building to the Macquarie building was fine-tuned after a trial run. Progress of the move was closely monitored, and during the first week the methodology was made more efficient following input from all parties. Framed collections were safely relocated over 16 days in November 2015.

The Project successfully improved the preservation of the Framed Collections. Key requirements for provision for collection growth, improved storage conditions, safer access for staff and improved lighting, and a comprehensive survey of the condition of the framed collections, including the first survey of the frames, were achieved providing a base from which to prioritise future conservation work on these collections.

### **BIOGRAPHIES**

Barbara Dabrowa completed her Master's Degree in the Preservation of Architectural Monuments at the University of Nicolaus Copernicus, Torun, Poland, majoring in the Conservation of Gilded Objects, 1985. Since 1995 she has been working as a Senior Frames Conservator, at the Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, Australia. During her career she carried out many projects in the field of gilding conservation at various galleries, museums, and private collections in Europe and Australia. Prior to her migration to Australia, she worked as a Head of Gilded Objects Conservation Laboratory at the Royal Castle and later at the Wilanow Palace, both in Warsaw. Other major projects comprise conservation treatments and research at the Bishops Palace, Bratislava, Slovakia, 1992; Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK, 2003 and State Library of NSW, Sydney, Australia, 2015.

Catherine Thomson has a BApSc in the Conservation of Cultural Materials and a Graduate Certificate in Photographic Conservation from the University of Canberra. Currently Senior Conservator, Collections at the State Library of NSW, Catherine is the co-author of the paper *Building Holtermann's triumph: from Plate to Pixel* for the ICOM-CC 18th Triennial Conference.

Louise Anemaat is the Acting Executive Director, Library & Information Services at the State Library of NSW where she was also formerly the Head of the Pictures Collection. Her area of research is colonial drawing practice in NSW. She is the author of *Natural Curiosity. Unseen art of the First Fleet* (2014)