



Lot 21

The library of
Dudley Dickison
together with other properties



Natural history, voyages & travels
Australiana
Literature & art books

To be sold by auction
Melbourne 17–18 September 2007

Ormond Hall, Moubray Street, Prahran

First session:	Monday 17 September	at	7.00 p.m.
Second session:	Tuesday 18 September	at	10.00 a.m.
Third session:	Tuesday 18 September	at	1.30 p.m.
Viewing:	Saturday 15 September	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	
	Sunday 16 September	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	
	Monday 17 September	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	
	Tuesday	by appointment only	

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INTRODUCTION

Some 500 lots in this sale, including nearly all of the natural history books, derive from the extensive library formed by Dudley Dickison (1896–1967), for many years one of Victoria’s best-known ornithologists. Bird observing and book collecting were the twin passions of his life and both were soon evident. His earliest surviving field notes, carefully compiled, date from before the First World War; and his set of the *Report of the work of the Horn Expedition* was bought from Melville and Mullen’s in 1913 (at the reduced price of 28/6d.) when he was sixteen. Two years later he was writing to a New Zealand bookseller in search of Potts’s *Out in the open*, published at Christchurch in 1882. For this he had to wait until 1930, when a copy was amongst a number of desired books that passed into his collection from the library of A.J. Campbell.

He became an official of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists’ Union in the 1920s, serving for more than forty years either as Hon. General Secretary or Hon. Librarian. His paper on ‘The history and early records of ornithology in Victoria’, which appeared in the *Emu* in 1932, was one of many contributions by him to that journal and to the *Victorian Naturalist*. In the *The literature of Australian birds*, H.W. Whittell thanks Dickison for his assistance and pays tribute to his knowledge of the subject. (Privately he went further, offering him the choice of any book in his notable library).

The collection was inherited by Dickison’s nephew and protégé, Harvey Dickison, who made some significant additions and diligently kept up the numerous journals. Over the years some books have been sold, but the natural history component has remained nearly intact.

In keeping with this theme, we are delighted to be also offering, from two other vendors, first editions of Darwin’s *On the origin of species* and King, Fitzroy and Darwin’s *Narrative of the surveying voyages of His Majesty’s Ships the Adventure and the Beagle*.

The fine showing of earlier voyages and travels in the sale, including outstanding sets of Cook and Flinders, comes mostly from two Melbourne collectors who have, over the last two decades, formed discriminating cabinet collections in this field.

A Sydney collector has entered a group of Antarctic books from the heroic era, and a portion of the Australiana in the sale has been consigned from an old New Zealand library.

We are also very pleased to be offering a selection of books from the library of the Melbourne psychiatrist P. Guy Reynolds (1908–65), including a first edition of Hobbes’s *Leviathan*, some notable literary firsts and a number of splendid art books. A.H. Spencer, in his *The Hill of Content*, 1959, described the Reynolds library as unrivalled of its kind in Melbourne. It was a traditional ‘gentlemen’s library’, conceived on a grand scale: very few like it in this country have survived.

CONDITIONS OF SALE & NOTES FOR BUYERS

1. The highest bidder shall be the buyer.
2. In the event of any dispute, the auctioneer may re-submit the lot or may decide the buyer, at his discretion, and his decision shall be final.
3. The auctioneer may, without giving any reason therefore, refuse to accept the bidding of any person or persons.
4. Each bid shall be an advance determined by the auctioneer.
5. The auctioneer may require the successful bidder to pay forthwith the whole or any part of the purchase price.
6. Lots are in all respects at the risk of the buyer at the fall of the hammer.
7. The successful bidder shall be deemed to be the buyer and be personally liable unless it has been agreed in writing at the time of registration and prior to the sale that a bidder is acting as agent on behalf of a third party and that such third party is acceptable to Peter Arnold Pty Ltd.
8. **LIMITED GUARANTEE.** All lots have been carefully examined and any faults or deficiencies found have been noted in the catalogue. It remains true that descriptions, especially of condition, are expressions of opinion. Prospective buyers are therefore asked to make their own inspections during the public viewing, and to satisfy themselves as to the condition and completeness of any lot on which they intend to bid. In the event of any book being found by the buyer to be defective in text or illustration and not so described, Peter Arnold Pty Ltd undertakes to rescind the sale and refund the full purchase price, provided that the book is returned within 14 days of the auction together with a written notice of the defect, and provided that the buyer satisfies Peter Arnold Pty Ltd that it was defective at the date of the auction. This guarantee shall not cover the absence of half-titles or divisional titles, errata leaves, advertisement leaves, plate lists, subsequently published plates, appendices, supplements or volumes, or error in the enumerating of the plates; nor any defect not affecting the completeness of text or illustration. Nor shall it apply to unnamed items in a lot or lots of more than 3 items, to periodicals, or to books already described in the catalogue as incomplete or defective in text or illustration. Nor shall it apply to any defects announced at the time of the sale. The benefits of this guarantee are not assignable and are applicable only to the original buyer of the lot.
9. A buyer's premium of 16.5% (including GST) on the hammer price of each lot up to the first \$50,000 of the hammer price, and 11% (including GST) on any amount in excess of \$50,000, is payable by the buyer.

REGISTRATION. Bidders are requested to register before the auction and obtain a bidding number.

ABSENTEE BIDDING. Absentee bids must be confirmed in writing no later than 3 hours before the sale. An absentee bidding form is enclosed with the catalogue. Such bids will be executed as cheaply as other bids allow.

TELEPHONE BIDDING. Arrangements for telephone bidding must be confirmed in writing no later than 3 hours before the sale, and will be restricted to lots with a lower estimate of \$800 or more.

Peter Arnold Pty Ltd will not be held responsible for any error or failure to execute bids.

METHODS OF PAYMENT. Payment may be made in cash, by bank cheque or telegraphic transfer to our account. Personal cheques may be accepted by prior arrangement.

COLLECTION. Lots will not be delivered during the sale, but limited delivery will be offered at the close of each session, as time permits. We will be in attendance at Ormond Hall on Wednesday, 19 September, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Thursday, 20 September from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Packing and despatch can be arranged, at the buyer's expense. Lots not collected from Ormond Hall will be removed to our premises, 606 High Street Prahran. If any lot sold is not collected and paid for, the auctioneer and/or the seller shall have the right to resell the lot either by public or private sale, and any deficiency on resale, together with any other costs incurred, shall be borne by the defaulting buyer.

The estimated prices given are provided as a guide and should not be taken as definitive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Once again, my thanks to Warren Joel, of Leonard Joel, for the loan of our auctioneer, Lachlan Burnet. Thanks also to Josie Arnold, our photographer Daniel Stainsby, Lurline Stuart, Stephanie Thompson and especially Rachel Robarts for their help in the preparation of the catalogue.

Peter Arnold

Order of Sale

First session

Monday 17 September at 7.00 p.m.

- Lots 1-60: Natural history
Lots 61-118: Voyages & travels
Lots 119-132: Art & literature

Second session

Tuesday 18 September at 10.00 a.m.

- Lots 133-298: Natural history
Lots 299-356: Art & architecture,
literature & childrens books,
miscellany

Third session

Tuesday 18 September at 1.30 p.m.

- Lots 357-637: Australiana,
voyages & travels