

Rare Book Auction Report: 21 April 2017.

Over 150 lots went under the auctioneer's hammer on Friday evening, when the Playhouse at UQ's Women's College was transformed into a special Rare Book Auction. The auction acts as the curtain-raiser to the biennial UQ Alumni Book Fair®—opened on Friday 21 April, 2017 by UQ's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Peter Høj. Describing the Fair and auction as "iconic events," Høj congratulated the *Alumni Friends* volunteers for their work in putting together this "Brisbane institution."

Each of the many bidders will have had their own highlights. But to mention just a few:

- ✓ *Pensees de J. J. Rousseau* by J.J. Rousseau (Vols 1-3 bound together, publisher Chez J. Racine, Rouen, 1794-1795). The bidder was delighted to walk away with this lot at \$250.
- ✓ *Discoveries in Australia; with an account of the coasts and rivers, explored and surveyed during the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle In the years 1837-38-39-40-41-42-43. By command of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty* by J. Lort Stokes (Vols. 1, 2. published by T. and W. Boone, London. 1846). Complete with folding maps, and including a number of beautiful engravings, this attracted much interest. Following active bidding this sold for \$410.
- ✓ One lot of two Ipswich books attracted strong interest, resulting in a total winning bid of \$125: (i) *Jubilee History of Ipswich: A Record of Municipal, Industrial and Social Progress*. Edited by G. Harrison (publisher H. J. Diddams, Brisbane, nd [c. 1909]), and (ii). *The Ipswich Hospital 1860-1991* by R. Patrick (Boolarong, Brisbane, 1993).
- ✓ C. Hodgkinson's *Australia, from Port MacQuarie to Moreton Bay; with descriptions of the Natives, their manners and customs; the geology, natural productions, fertility, and resources of that region; first explored and surveyed by order of the colonial government* (T. and W. Boone, London, 1845) was won with a bid of \$200.
- ✓ The highest single lot of the evening was *Cyaniding for Gold* by I. Idriess (Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1939). With a signed inscription by the author to the Under Secretary of Mines, the successful bid was \$1,000.



The rare Books 'section' of the UQ Alumni Book Fair® included the donation of a rare book (valued at over \$10,000) to UQ's Fryer Library, and funds in excess of a further \$13,000 were raised on the night.

Fundraising continues until 26th April, as the 20th UQ Alumni Book Fair® opens at 9am on 22nd April 2017. Funds raised by *Alumni Friends of the University of Queensland*—through the UQ Alumni Book Fair® and Rare Book Auction—are donated to support the students, educators and researchers of the University of Queensland. 2017 is the Golden Jubilee (50th anniversary) of the association (which was the first alumni association to be formed in Australia). Over the past 50 years *Alumni Friends* has donated the equivalent of over \$8m to the University (figure inflation-adjusted).

Pictured at the preview: (top right) *Alumni Friends* Bookhouse volunteer, and Rare Book Auction specialist, Anne Mullins looking at *Pensees de J. J. Rousseau* with UQ's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Peter Høj. Also pictured (above left) books on the preview table,

Pictures: Geoff Lawrence, Creative Futures Photography.