

TJC



AT HOME WITH TJC | STORIES FROM THE COLLECTION

Hello friends, supporters, and communities,

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well.

The Johnston Collection first opened its doors to the public on Monday 19 November 1990. As we draw towards our 30th Anniversary, we will be sharing some very special stories about how the Collection came to be, and how the Museum has grown over the past thirty years.

Don't forget that you can also learn more about our Collection via our [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#) which regularly feature highlights from our Collection and past exhibitions.

Take care, and stay safe, and be kind.

Your ongoing support means a lot to us at this time. As an independent self-funded museum, the current period of unplanned closure represents a real challenge. If you're able to help, you can donate via the link below, or buy something from our [online shop](#). All profits go towards the upkeep of TJC. Thank you.

SUPPORT US

NOW WE ARE 30 | 1

Today we remember our benefactor William Johnston who died on 27 October 1986. We also begin to look towards our milestone celebration of The Johnston Collection being open to the public for the first time on 19 November 1990.



The last photograph of William Johnston, leaving London for India in October 1986. Left to right, William Johnston, Ahmed Moussa Abo el Maaty, Alan Eustace
William R Johnston Archive

Over his lifetime, Johnston had become a prominent antique dealer, real estate investor and collector. Leaving Melbourne for England in early 1947, by 1957 Johnston had based himself at 14 King William Walk, Greenwich, London - a townhouse that also served as a warehouse for his growing trade in antiques. From the profits of antiques he had sourced from England, he purchased *Fairhall*.

In December 1970, Johnston had a fortuitous meeting with John Rogan at a sale of antiques held in the Green Drawing Room of *Fairhall*. Rogan, a lawyer, was involved with the National Trust and was tasked with organising *The Best of Britain* exhibition as part of the 1972 Moomba Festival, and to complement a British Trade Promotion being shown at the Georges department store.

Rogan invited Johnston to include some of his pieces in this exhibition. Johnston was enthused by the public interest in his pieces as part of the display. Acting as Johnston's solicitor, Rogan encouraged him to keep his collection together. By 1982 Johnston had resolved that he would leave his estate to the people of Victoria.

Johnston left Greenwich for Melbourne, with a buying trip in India as a stopover along the way. Sadly in Pune (Poona), India, he collapsed and died in the foyer of his hotel on 27 October 1986.

Although Johnston had returned to *Fairhall* over 15 years earlier, it was still a boarding house, stuffed full of personal things and shop stock. It will take four years to reimagine *Fairhall* and create the museum we now know and love, where we continue to share stories and create conversations.

Join us as we begin to celebrate our remarkable milestone of 30 glorious years of sharing Johnston's vision and collection to the people of Victoria.



TJC VIRTUAL LECTURES

Browse our current virtual lecture program with something for everyone! Travel the word with Kenneth Park, or delve in to your favourite literary classics with Susannah Fullerton, as well as guest lectures covering a wide range of topics.

BROWSE LECTURES



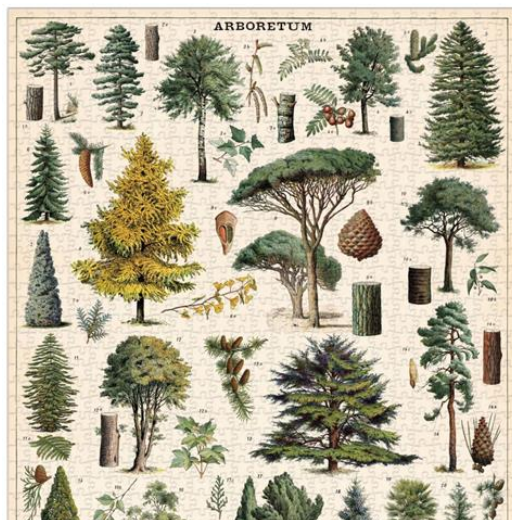
VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

Join The Friends via Zoom in a discussion of Shaun Bythell's

Confessions of a Bookseller. This novel reunites readers with the characters they've come to know and love from his first book *The Diary of a Bookseller*.

The book club will be held via zoom at 10am Friday 6 November 2020, and is open to members and non-members alike.

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Join The Friends of The Johnston Collection and become a part of a social network of people who support the world of visual art and design.

Your support helps us to continue to care for our Collection and present our award-winning program of exhibitions and events.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

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THE LETTER



'the cup that started a collection'

Support TJC with a tax-deductible donation to our *OPENING DOORS* fund to ensure the vibrant continuation of our work in 2020 and beyond.

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Image Credits:

detail from *AN INTERIOR LIFE* as part of our ongoing 'WILLIAM JOHNSTON: His Residence & Collection' series being held from 17 February 2020 - 20 November 2020

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The last photograph of William Johnston, leaving London for India in October 1986. Left to right, William Johnston, Ahmed Moussa Abo el Maaty, Alan Eustace | William R Johnston Archive

detail from *AN INTERIOR LIFE* as part of our ongoing 'WILLIAM JOHNSTON: His Residence & Collection' series being held from 17 February 2020 - 20 November 2020

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Shaun Bythell *Confessions of a Bookseller* (cover image)

Arboretum Jigsaw Puzzle

detail from *AN INTERIOR LIFE* as part of our ongoing 'WILLIAM JOHNSTON: His Residence & Collection' series being held from 17 February 2020 - 22 September 2020

image | adam luttick | luts photography | melbourne, vic

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