



La Trobeana

The Newsletter of the La Trobe Society of Australia

Grevillea La Trobeana Engraving by Edward La Trobe Bateman - La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria

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Soirée Musicale at Glenfern An evening with music and refreshments.

Thursday 10 October 6.30-8.30p.m. at *Glenfern*, 417
Inkerman Road, Balaclava.

Members are invited to attend a special Society function to be held at *Glenfern*, 417 Inkerman Road in Balaclava. This unusual gothic-style villa was built in 1857 and its most famous owners were the Boyd family who resided at the property between 1875 to 1901. Captain Theodore and Mrs Boyd had a large family, a number of whom possessed great artistic talent. Merric Boyd, the sculptor, was born at *Glenfern*, and his artist wife, Mimmie A'Beckett Boyd, painted a number of interior scenes of the house. *Glenfern* also features in the novels of Martin Boyd, another family member. Brenda Niall's recently published book *The Boyds - a biography* was launched at garden party held at *Glenfern* by Melbourne University Press earlier in the year.

The property is owned and managed by the National Trust but is not generally open to the public. The Trust recently established an Artist-in Residence program with the Team of Pianists to extend the use of this important historic house and garden. Music was an important part of family life at *Glenfern*, just as it was among the La Trobe family at their Jolimont cottage. Charles Joseph's father, Christian Ignatius La Trobe, was an accomplished keyboard musician and composer. In 1806, Christian Ignatius published the first of six volumes of Church music. He was a close friend of Joseph Haydn and dedicated to him three sonatas for piano.

La Trobeana is the newsletter of the La Trobe Society Inc. It appears twice yearly, with news of forthcoming events, and reports of interest to the membership. Contributions are always welcome.

Committee

President: Prof. A.G.L. Shaw, AO
Vice Presidents: Richard Heathcote
Susan Priestley
Treasurer: John Drury
Secretary: Dianne Reilly

The La Trobe Society Inc.
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His *Three Sonatas for piano, Opus III*, were published about 1791. La Trobe was an admirer of Haydn's music, and when he composed his *Opus III*, he probably had access to almost all of Haydn's own Sonatas. La Trobe met Haydn during the master's first London visit, and in a letter of 1828 to the publisher, Vincent Novello, La Trobe recalled a visit by Haydn to his home. "... hearing from a friend, that I had ventured to compose some sonatas for the pianoforte, he desired to hear from me. As he observed that they ought to be printed, I agreed if he would permit me to dedicate them to him". Haydn, himself, mentioned Latrobe in his first London Notebook, stating that "He dedicated his sonatas to me".

That characteristics of Haydn's style exist in La Trobe's works is understandable. Not only could he perform Haydn's piano works, but he also could play from memory many of his string quartets. La Trobe's compositions do reveal a great deal of the master's influence, yet they have merit of their own and are not mere stereotypes of Haydn's works. William S. Newman, in the *Sonata of Classic Era* notes that "... symphonic development is one of the most pronounced traits in the unexpectedly good set of the *Three Sonatas ...* by Christian Ignatius La Trobe".

It is hoped that a member of the Team of Pianists will be able to present one of these sonatas at the Society's function at *Glenfern*. Efforts are currently in hand to secure copies of the music manuscripts which are held in the British Music Library. Richard Heathcote will give a short talk on *Glenfern* and its history as well as tours of the grounds. Car parking is available by entering the property from Inkerman Road.

Tickets at \$15.00 (members), \$20.00 (non-members) can be booked by sending a cheque, by Monday 7 October, to:

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Seeking 96 Victorian School Boys of 1951

In the Royal Historical Society of Victoria archives is a letter from L.J. Wilmoth, detailing a memorial service and ceremony on Sunday 1 July 1951, Victoria's official centennial day. It was held at Litlington, Sussex, where Charles Joseph La Trobe had his home, Clapham House, in his latter years, and where he died. The occasion was arranged by John Lienhop, Victoria's new Agent-General in London, appointed following his retirement from 14 years as MLC for Bendigo, which included wartime ministerial positions. Wilmoth, who by his own account had considerable input, was a semi-retired Victorian-born geologist living in south-east suburban London. Seemingly connected with the Royal Empire Society, he was a Fellow of both the Geological Society and the Royal Geographical Society. In Melbourne during the late 1940s, he and his wife were active in the historical society.

The following edited version of Wilmoth's letter gives its flavour:

The day was magnificent, the sky cloudless, and a beautiful summer warmth was tempered by a gentle breeze. Anything more beautiful could not be imagined than the setting of this tiny downland village midst its trees nestling at the foot of the soft swelling contours of the South Downs. The ... village (with a population of only 123 men, women and children) possesses a 12th century Norman church and a 16th century Rectory.

Lienhop arranged for the Victorian school boys 96 in all to come down by coach. In addition ... there were several coach loads of Victorians and many private cars ... The Lord Mayor of the City of London, the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs of the City and the sword bearer in full regalia ... took part in the whole proceedings ... On the arrival of the Lord Mayor and his party a small party awaited him in the Rectory garden. This included Mr & Mrs Lienhop, the Archdeacon of Hastings and his wife [Mrs Reid], Charles La Trobe, his wife and his daughter, Mrs Shea-Simonds (La Trobe's grand-daughter & sister of Charles La Trobe), my wife and myself, Colonel Cust (representing the Royal Empire Society), the Agents-General of Western Australia and Tasmania, Sir William & Lady Angliss, the Rector (Edwin Chatterden) and his wife, as well as several members of the co-lateral branches of the La Trobe family.

The school boys lined the 100 yards between the Rectory and the ancient little church and all the others including many villagers and strangers crowded the sloping ground overlooking the narrow tree-shaded road. The Archdeacon, in Cope etc., preceded by a small cross bearer, headed the procession ... The little church of St Michael the Archangel only holds about 100 people and the first few pews were reserved for members of the procession. The service was relayed to the church yard where were gathered probably 250 or more people. Before the service proper commenced Mr Lienhop presented the church with a Victorian flag which the Archdeacon dedicated. The service was truly beautiful and the sermon magnificent. The Lord Mayor read the lesson ... from a new finely bound Bible [later presented to him as a memento by Lienhop]. After the service we left the church and proceeded to the [La Trobe] grave.

Here Charles La Trobe laid a wreath followed by Mr Lienhop, on behalf of the Victorian government, followed by myself on behalf of the Victorian Historical Society, then came Col. Cust with one on behalf of the Royal Empire Society, and finally my wife placed a sheaf of roses from our garden (a forebear was A.D.C. to La Trobe). When this was over the Archdeacon pronounced the blessing. At the request of the church warden, Mr Lienhop then planted a yew tree in the church yard to commemorate the day ...

[A]fterwards everyone went to the famous tea gardens for refreshments provided by the Agent-General. I use the word famous, for these gardens have been in use as tea-gardens for over 100 years, and are more like an exquisite private home with lawns and herbaceous borders such as only generations of love and labour can produce. It was a fine site [sic.] to see everyone happy and content - eating and talking midst such surroundings. About 2 o'clock they assembled round a natural hollow in one of the larger lawns, on one side of which was placed a table draped with a large Victorian flag and spread out in front on the brilliant green grass lay a Union Jack. The Lienhops, The Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Charles La Trobe, myself & Councillor Gutteridge of Kensington (from Melbourne) sat against the table [with the rest of the official party seated at the back].

Mr Lienhop opened the few brief speeches by welcoming the people and then called on the Lord Mayor who spoke simply and well for ten minutes at the most ... [B]efore the Lord Mayor resumed his seat one of the school boys presented him with a letter from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne ... I was then called on to speak ... Charles La Trobe then spoke thanking everyone for the homage they had paid to his grandfather - a simple fine speech which showed considerable emotion - not unnaturally under the circumstances. The rector then spoke and the whole ceremony ended with the national anthem.

... [F]or the mass of the people the day was finished and they returned to the coaches and went back to London. Those of us who had been in Mr Lienhop's party were all invited to Clapham House for tea by Mr & Mrs Brown the present owners. It was almost like a small garden party for the grounds are very fine indeed and the home which (not over large from a country house standard) was old and picturesque. Here we were regaled with a wonderful tea - strawberries and cream (from the estate) etc. etc. I know the Browns slightly and I can assure you they are very delightful. They own the whole village, church etc and a very large area around.

... The celebrations originally intended to be on a comparatively modest scale developed in a most remarkable manner and the numbers became almost an embarrassment in the end as everyone had to be fed. There were absolutely no local facilities for the village was far too small ... Every bite of food was sent from London. ... I certainly felt the day was a wonderful experience for all those present. Frankly it was most impressive ... Chatting with the Archdeacon of Hastings on our way up to tea he in his quiet and dignified way told me he had been most impressed with everything and

considered it a great privilege to have been present ... I had occasion yesterday to speak on the telephone to a couple of people (both Home-born and neither of whom were there) and they had heard of it and said they had been told it was a wonderful day.

Such positive ripples might have given some fillip to the Historical Society of Victoria's application to add Royal to its title, granted at the end of 1951, and perhaps to the proposal for John Lienhop's knighthood, awarded in 1952. There is surely some irony in the surge of 'Home' feeling evident in Victorian society in 1951, when C. J. La Trobe, the man eulogised on 1 July, was a century earlier struggling to have the Home government acknowledge the true worth of his achievement in Victoria.

Can members further identify any of the 96 school boys visiting Britain in 1951? Or Councillor Gutteridge of Kensington, or add other memories of the occasion?

Susan Priestley
Vice-President

The Second Mrs. La Trobe

Extract of speech by Douglas Bishop, University Secretary, La Trobe University on the occasion of the unveiling of the portrait of Rose de Meuron-Montmollin and Margaret Rose La Trobe, Wednesday 3 July 2002 at the Bundoora Homestead.

This portrait of Rose de Meuron-Montmollin and Margaret Rose, aged one year is valued as a direct link with his Excellency Charles Joseph La Trobe – a man who was a visionary in the fields of education, environmental sciences, law and management in Australia. He was a talented man of literary and artistic pursuits and a man of strong religious conviction. The artist is Johann Friedrich Dietler of Switzerland. Dietler painted at least three portraits of members of the La Trobe family over the years.

Historical references have been taken from the English translation of chapters concerning Charles Joseph La Trobe in the book *Patrie Neuchâteloise* by Jacques Petitpierre, held in the State Library of Victoria.

Following the death of his wife in 1854 and his retirement to England, La Trobe often visited Neuchâtel and after twenty months as a widower, he married his sister-in-law, Rose de Montmollin. Her late husband, Louis Auguste de Meuron had died in 1843. He had been the first ranger and Superintendent of Public Lands in Neuchâtel.

Rose was the sixteenth child of Frederic-Auguste de Montmollin Meuron, Chamberlain to the King of Prussia. Her sister and La Trobe's first wife Sophie, had been the ninth child.

In September 1856 Margaret Rose, later called Daisy, was born in England and Isabelle-Castellane Helen was born in June 1858, the sixth and last child of Charles Joseph La Trobe. Margaret Rose lived until 1932 but never married. Isabelle died at the age of seventeen.

This painting came to La Trobe University via a fortuitous and circular route. Some twelve months ago, Mrs. Audrey Macallister of Aldeburgh in Suffolk, England, directed a letter to the La Trobe Medical Centre, asking if there would be interest from an Australian institution with the name of La Trobe in receiving the painting.

The letter was passed to me as University Secretary, and considerable correspondence and shipping documents followed. At this stage all the University knew was the name of the artist, the date, the subject, the medium (water colour and gouache) and dimensions. A photograph of the work had not been seen and the condition was unknown.

Mrs. Macallister advised that she had purchased the portrait in an antique shop many years previously. The inscription *en verso* stated that Margaret Rose had given the painting to her nephew Charles de M. La Trobe, MC, grandson of Sophie and Charles La Trobe.

Some months later the portrait arrived at La Trobe University and it was pleasing to note that it was in reasonable condition for such an old and fragile work. There was some discolouration and pigment loss commensurate with age and exposure to household dust etc.

Conservation was undertaken at the University of Melbourne, one of the cultural institutions whose establishment was granted by Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe

Particularly at the time of the Victorian Land Grant, La Trobe took many rides on horseback over the area now occupied by La Trobe University and indeed Bundoora Homestead, the venue of this function. In keeping with La Trobe's vision, large areas of land have been set aside on the Bundoora and regional campuses of La Trobe University for gardens, landscaping and nature reserves.

As you will appreciate, La Trobe University is a young institution by English standards but we are proud to carry the name of Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe. The University's motto is taken from the La Trobe family motto and the University armorial bearings incorporate the La Trobe family coat of arms.

The University could have been called a number of names, some more fitting than others, but La Trobe University is most appropriate to acknowledge this man of vision.

I present the portrait of Margaret Rose La Trobe aged one year with her mother, Rose de Meuron-Montmollin by Johann Friedrich Dietler of Switzerland and record official thanks to Mrs Audrey Macallister of Suffolk, England, for her donation of this work.

Douglas F Bishop
University Secretary
La Trobe University



Johann Friedrich Dietler, 1787-1854

Margaret Rose La Trobe aged one year with her mother, Rose de Meuron La Trobe, née de Montmollin, 1857

Watercolour and gouache

Collection: La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria

ITEMS OF LA TROBE INTEREST

Austin Latrobe

Tim Latrobe of Ballarat writes that, as an old car buff, he recently came across a reference to an Austin Latrobe motor car:

"There was a car dealer/importer in Latrobe Street, Melbourne in the 1920s that had a lovely script (cast in aluminium) of the word Latrobe after the Austin mounted on the radiator of each car sold. In those days the dealer imported the chassis and engine and a local coach – builder built the rest of the car.*

Austin Latrobe

- *The Austin 7 car club celebrated its 80 years in Australia at Ballarat in April this year.*
- *There were all different types of Austin 7s gathered there.*
- *There were cars from every state and territory in Australia.*
- *There were five Austin Latrobes lined up for all to see.*
- *They even had an Austin 7 racing car demonstration race.*

I found the whole thing quite interesting, because I had never seen it before".

*** The Motor Radiator Manufacturing Company operated a business from 1921 to 1935 at 329 Latrobe Street, and from 1936 to 1974 (at least) at 253 Latrobe Street. This may have been the company promoting the Austin Latrobe vehicle. Ed.**

Latrobe's America

A Consortium of nine Cultural Institutions in the United States is being formed, dedicated to preserving the work and vision of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the father of American Architecture. Benjamin Henry was Charles Joseph's uncle.

The institutions are as follows:

Adena, The Ohio Historical Society

The Baltimore Cathedral
Basilica of the Assumption Historic Trust

Decatur House
The National Trust for Historic Preservation

Maryland Historical Society

The Octagon
A Museum of the American Architectural Foundation

Pope Villa
The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation

St. John's Church. Lafayette Square
Washington, D.C.

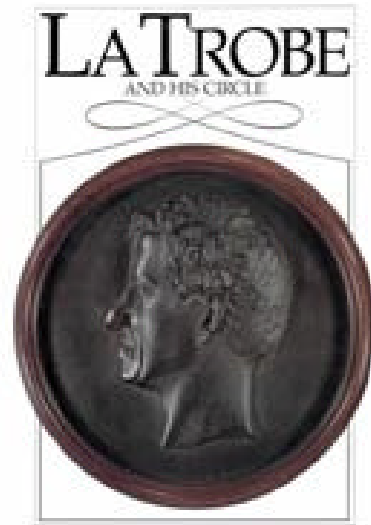
United States Capitol, The Architect of the Capitol

The White House, The White House Historical Association

Each of these institutions will be involved, some more than others. Some already have web pages and others will be added. It is interesting to note that the Maryland Historical Society is preparing an exhibit, which will have some of BHL's watercolors on display.

Latrobe's America Web Site is up and running at <http://www.latrobesamerica.org>

La Trobe and His Circle



The Society has available a few copies of the publication *La Trobe and His Circle*, an informative catalogue of an exhibition held in 1989 at the State Library of Victoria to mark the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of Victoria's first Lieutenant-Governor. Now a collector's item, copies may be obtained for \$20.00 from:

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The Establishment of the Latrobe Fellowship, U.S.A.

The College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, with a primary mission to support the Institute and advance the profession of architecture, has established a new biennial fellowship to be awarded to an individual or team to be designated The Latrobe Fellow(s). This new grant named for the architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, described as America's first professional architect, is to be awarded for research leading to significant advances in the profession of architecture. The Latrobe Fellow is awarded a stipend for research; findings, and recommendations are to be documented in publications, exhibitions or educational programming with the goal of informing, educating, and providing new insights for the architectural profession. The inaugural recipients of this award, Stephen Kieran, FAIA and James Timberlake, FAIA were announced at the 2001 National AIA Convention in Denver.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 2002

- Stephen Kieran, FAIA
- James Timberlake, FAIA

The Latrobe Research Fellowship has been established to respond to the unique set of circumstances facing the contemporary architect. The profession is evolving at an astonishing rate and architects are faced with a continually changing market place, varying levels of client sophistication, new regulations, the desire for greater environmental sustainability and evolving project delivery systems. For the profession to maintain its leadership position in the construction industry it must challenge traditional practice models and seek new paradigms that facilitate the integration of rapidly changing design and construction technology, new materials, new methods and new client and public expectations.

The College of Fellows established the Latrobe Research Fellowship in order to assist in identifying opportunities for change that encourages advancement of the profession. The College desires to create a body of knowledge for students, educators and practitioners that allows a better understanding of the current practice of architecture, while providing a base for the development of new models to meet the needs of a rapidly advancing society. For additional information related to the Latrobe Fellowship please visit the located on the American Institute of Architects' website at <http://www.latrobefellowship.org/about.html>

- 10 October - Soirée Musicale at *Glenfern*, 417 Inkerman Road, Balaclava, at 6.30p.m. See feature on page 1.
- 3 November - Annual Pioneers' Service at St. James Old Cathedral, 8 Batman Street, West Melbourne at 10 a.m. All members of the La Trobe Society are welcome. A flyer will be sent as a reminder closer to the time.
- December - Christmas Cocktails. Date and venue to be advised.

2003

- 20 March - Charles Joseph La Trobe's 202nd Birthday celebrations at La Trobe's Cottage in the Domain. Further details will be sent to members closer to the time.

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

Members are advised that subscriptions for the year 2002-03 became due on 1 July.

Subscription rates:	Individual	\$25.00
	Family	\$40.00
	Corporate	\$550.00

A renewal slip is enclosed.

Would those members who joined during 2002 or who have already renewed their membership kindly disregard this reminder.