

Defining moments

Celebrating the
University of Adelaide Library's
two millionth item



Defining moments

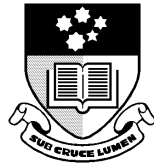
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BARR SMITH
PRESS
UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

1999



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ADELAIDE

1874-1999

Celebrating 
125 years

Defining moments is published as part
of the 125th anniversary celebrations
of the University of Adelaide.

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INTRODUCTION

The University of Adelaide Library decided to mark the milestone of the acquisition of its two millionth book (including musical scores, discs, and other non-book material) with a special celebration to coincide with the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the University of Adelaide; the Library itself was established only a few years later.

It is an event which required us to pause and take stock of the enormous benefit the Library has brought (and continues to bring) to several generations of staff and students over the more than 120 years of its presence on the campus. As the major research Library in South Australia, and one of the largest libraries in Australia, the Library serves the broader community both by offering direct access to its collections and through resource sharing within the state, the nation and internationally.

With all of this in mind, we asked a number of South Australians, not necessarily members of the University community, to take a few moments to recollect an example of literature, music or learning which signalled a 'defining moment' in their lives. We suggested that it could be a poem, a passage in a novel, a music score, a fundamental truth gleaned from a textbook, or perhaps a quotation. In addition to identifying the work for us, they were asked to briefly describe in a few sentences why the work had such an impact on them.

We present in this commemorative publication their responses, and have linked them when appropriate to the holdings of our Library. The variety of 'moments' recorded here is, we believe, symbolic of life's rich tapestry as reflected within the two million books, poems, journals, scores, manuscripts, prints, newspapers, tapes and similar publications, which comprise the collections of the University of Adelaide Library.

It gives us great pleasure to share these ‘defining moments’ and we trust that readers will be stimulated to reflect on their own similar experiences. In my own case, it was the purchase by my mother of a large, 2,400-page, one-volume encyclopedia (*The Volume Library*) from a travelling salesman, when I was a child of about 6 or 7. Many long and interesting hours were spent perusing this work and I have kept it (albeit now worn and well-travelled) with me for ongoing consultation, even today.

It is also pleasing that this publication allows us to publish two photographs of the Barr Smith Library from a series taken by a member of the Library staff, Gilbert Roe, which formed one of the exhibitions that were on display in association with the celebration of the acquisition of our two millionth book. The other exhibitions included some of the rare, unusual and special gifts that have been presented to us over past years by the many friends of the Library and of the University of Adelaide.

The Library is indebted to the efforts of Jan Gaebler and Marie Danvers, whose ideas, drive, and infectious enthusiasm contributed enormously to the success of *Defining Moments*. Special thanks are due also to the members of the committee who organized the various activities associated with the celebrations, Patricia Scott, Robina Weir, Susan Woodburn, and Stephen Beaumont.

Ray Choate

University Librarian



Photograph: Gilbert Roe

The Barr Smith Library Reading Room

I discovered death at the age of five and thought about it every night in my little sleep-out, lying in what had been my grandparents' brass bed. Then I read the following words from *Seven Little Australians*: "And her foot touched the water." It was a metaphor for the moment of death and it thrilled, appalled, chilled and enchanted me. I read the words over and over again. "And her foot touched the water."

For the first time I understood, felt the magic and power of words — how the dull ingredients of a dictionary could be transformed into something numinous.

Phillip Adams

Phillip Adams, AO, is a radio broadcaster, former film-maker and advertising guru, and social commentator. He currently visits Adelaide homes via his weekly column in *The Australian* and 'Late Night Live' broadcasts on Radio National.

As you know, I am a Chartered Accountant and my qualification has been the basis for my business career.

My defining moment came in my study of bookkeeping at the School of Mines, now, of course, part of the University of South Australia. I had had no previous experience with bookkeeping or any accountancy concepts, and when I finally grasped the concept of double entry bookkeeping, I remember it was like a ray of light. At last I understood! From that moment my interest in the subject and my career developed.

This was my first thought when you posed the question to me, so, boring as it is, I have decided to be honest.

R. H. (Rick) Allert

Rick Allert, a chartered accountant, has his own practice and holds a number of prominent directorships of leading companies, locally and nationally.

Following are the influences that contributed to my defining moment:

- *Ryan's Daughter*, the film, coincided with breaking away from my first love.
- Another movie that contributed to the awakening of the senses was *Taming of the Shrew*, starring Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.
- The emerging emotions as we travel through puberty, adulthood, feelings, maturity, our identity, inner strength, our acceptance by others, being part of the scene and realising life's adventures.
- 'A Whiter Shade of Pale' by Procul Harum. This song was played at midnight — the slow waltz where you clung to your partner and thought, "She belongs to me, I'm cool. I've got a girlfriend". If you smelt 'Rapture' by Avon then you were dancing very close.

To summarise — this was the growing up period. It was the '60s, Vietnam, the world was experiencing social revolution, all the rules changed, we all belonged no matter what race, creed, religion or sex.

Michael Angelakis

Michael Angelakis is Managing Director of Angelakis Bros, a legend in the seafood industry in South Australia. Michael is the personable and well-loved public face of the company.

As a child, I remember that a church near our city home had a hoarding facing a busy road with a "saying of the week". I recall one in particular that read "it is better to be neat and tidy than tight and needy". Whether in any way it shaped my life-long antipathy towards alcohol, I do not know. All I can say is how glad I am that similar sentiments were not expressed about chocolate or sweets!

Kym Bonython

Kym Bonython, AO, has been a leading light in art, jazz, cars and cultural ideas. Retaining the status quo for Australia's Constitution is his latest passion.

The Gift of a Teacher

Silence fell like a final curtain as the new teacher strode into the classroom. His commanding presence captured eye contact with the 20 students in a sweeping glance.

The large brass buckle on his wide belt showed ominously from under the waistcoat of his dark grey, three piece suit. His 6' 4" (193 cm) demanded respect as he froze the moment with theatrical silence.

“My name is O’Sullivan, and there will be 15 As from this class in the Leaving Certificate! I will give you homework every night and you will write three pages in 27 minutes”. (Three minutes for review).

Mr O’Sullivan was the new English Master and one of the State examiners. Unfailingly, he gave the class an assignment each night for two years and handed back the corrected work the next day. Every error in grammar had been marked and the content critically reviewed. Unsatisfactory work was returned like a spinning frisbie, landing unerringly on the student’s desk or hitting a dissident student in the chest, coincident with a cryptic comment.

He led his class of initially reluctant boys through the drama, humour, wisdom, text, and metre of Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* and *Hamlet*. We learnt the meanings of vintage words and phrases and the derivations of words from different and ancient languages. We read, analysed and commented on classic novels, poetry and short stories, until we developed understanding.

Understanding grew into interest, passion and excitement.

Increasingly, wisdom and precepts sank deep into the core of our consciousness.

The class delivered more than 15 As and we left the school to make our separate ways in life. Mr. O’Sullivan retired and we never saw each other again, but he had shown us a path to profound learning, understanding and knowledge.

In my quiet moments of reflection I am increasingly thankful to Mr O’Sullivan for those defining moments when he passed the baton of enlightenment and passion to his fortunate students. Mr O’Sullivan was a teacher, his gift, a deep commitment to the celebration of civilisation!

Bill Anschutz

William Anschutz, OAM, is the long-serving S.A. Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia. Recently retired from the Chamber, he continues to campaign actively for local organisations with his involvement with S.A. Business Vision 2010.

My defining moment — in business.

Our lives have many dimensions.

Business is only one, but an important one.

In 1966 as a 27 year old young turk heading up a fast-growing part of the AVJennings Housing Company, I was on a steep learning curve about management and leadership.

My management training had drummed into me with almost religious zeal that management was about planning, directing, controlling, etc.

Then I attended a week-long management workshop with a rather eccentric management trainer — Howdy Koontz.

He gave me a totally new perspective on management.

He showed me that management was about ‘environment creating’.

He changed my business life.

Any business success I have enjoyed since has been in part due to this totally new perspective I gained on management and leadership in 1966.

Christopher Banks

■ Christopher Banks, AM, is Managing Director of the award-winning Delfin Property Group, and is a discerning collector of Australian contemporary art.

That “Defining moment” for me was when I acknowledged that God was the creative power in my life, and I became the maker and servant according to his will.

It probably had its impact when reading “A Text for the Day: with God all Things are Possible”.

This was a period of difficulties and confusion, which resulted in strength and joy!

David Dridan

■ David Dridan is an artist and promoter of art, particularly in the corporate sector, by encouraging companies to become collectors of fine art. He maintains a studio and gallery in McLaren Vale.

There have been so many “defining moments” in my life that I had to take the time to think of the one that I wanted to run with; considering music and poetry are so important to me, it almost surprises me that it is not either of those, but in the end it came to — wait for it — a book about food

Angelo Pellegrini was born in Italy in 1904. and his family emigrated to America in 1913. He became a professor of English at Washington University, and the first book of his that I became aware of was *The Unprejudiced Palate* which he wrote in 1948.

Pellegrini wrote with such passion about his table, his family, his garden, all guiding his life in a sense. But the concept that will stay with me forever was in his book *Food Lover’s Garden*, and has influenced everything that I have done since, is that every tree or bush he planted was to bear fruit/food. It seems such a simple thing, but living in the country, having 25 acres at home, my decision was rather than planting plane trees, it was walnut, chestnut or macadamia, hedges of olive, bay, lavender and rosemary rather than privet, and the list goes on. His philosophy, transferred to me though his evocative prose, is there for my children, my grandchildren and eventually their grandchildren.

This “defining moment” will truly live on.

Maggie Beer

Maggie Beer has been South Australia’s Business Woman of the Year and is S.A.’s culinary stateswoman. Her energy and passion are her hallmarks. The Pheasant Farm, Charlick’s Feed Store and Maggie Beer Products are local ventures that have become national success stories.

BERTRAND RUSSELL

IN PRAISE OF IDLENESS
AND OTHER ESSAYS

LONDON
GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN LTD
MUSEUM STREET

...I found myself in a bookstore leafing through
Bertrand Russell's *In Praise of Idleness*. ...My eyes had
been opened. Every word touched me to the core...

Albert Bensimon [page 7]

In the '60s, I was living in Paris at the time of the student riots. At the age of 19, a time of high idealism and serious contemplation on communism and socialism, I found myself in a bookstore leafing through Bertrand Russell's *In Praise of Idleness*. That moment lasted so long I was eventually asked to either buy the book or move on. My eyes had been opened. Every word touched me to the core and I devoured all his books, with the exception of *Principia Mathematica*. His essays mix wit and irony to examine the human condition.

His exposure of the anti-social character of high finance has been a guiding force behind my lifelong commitment to social issues. His examination of the education system has taught me to always ask questions and to encourage my children to do the same. His essay on *useless knowledge* taught me that there is no such thing and furthermore, demonstrates that knowledge diminishes intolerance and cruelty. Fortunately, he demolished my enchantment with communism enough to turn me into a devout capitalist (with socialist overtones!).

Albert Bensimon

■ Albert Bensimon is a prominent Adelaide jeweller with a gift for marketing ... no hoo hah!

If you need to be somewhere or to find something out and you don't know where or what, then follow the car in front. It is bound to take you to a better place than you are at the moment. "The fundamental interconnectedness of all things", Douglas Adams — *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*.

Ron Danvers

■ Ron Danvers is a prominent architect, recognised nationally for his heritage and restoration work, and internationally for urban design.



DOUGLAS ADAMS

**DIRK GENTLY'S
HOLISTIC
DETECTIVE
AGENCY**

**SIMON AND SCHUSTER
NEW YORK**

If you need to be somewhere or to find something out
...then follow the car in front. ...

Ron Danvers [page 7]

In a literary life which consists mostly of the battle to write lyrically rather than with an ill rhythm, I have several dozen “defining moments” so I’m piking out on this task by sending you two pages from my autobiog. *Mem’s The Word* (Penguin, 1990) which lists at least three such moments. Choose whatever you like best!

You have in the Barr Smith my Dad’s MA thesis on Australia’s voting system, or something similar. It was written in 1946 — the year I was born. Perhaps his level of education was a defining moment in my genes! His name is Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge which I chose, as you’ll know, as the title of my second book.

All my childhood I was exposed to the music of the Bible. The sound of the often-repeated words in all the church services I attended affected me forever, as a speaker and a writer. The sonorousness, the position of words, the number of words per phrase, the rhythms of those phrases and the placement of the pauses have been collected in a storehouse from which I draw constantly, particularly for opening and closing sentences. Listening to the Bible developed my need to read aloud every sentence I write in order to check its balance and meaning. When I read or write, I hear. The words I’ve read ring in my ears and reverberate against the ceilings of my storehouse, echoing their way into my own writing. Earlier, in chapter two, for example, in a description of my mission classroom I wrote:

‘There were holes in the walls ready for the fitting of windows, but there were no windows.’ Even as I wrote ‘... but there were no windows’ I knew I’d heard that phrasing before. Days later I remembered its source: T.S. Eliot’s ‘The Rock’ in which this line occurs: ‘But there was no water, only rock’. I even stole the ‘w’ of his water for my windows! But that’s all right — it was Eliot himself who said good writers steal, bad writers borrow.

Mem Fox

Mem Fox inspired a defining moment for children throughout the world with her third book *Possum Magic*. She continues to inspire with her books and zest for teaching others.

Aesop's Fables



With a Life of Aesop

Translated from the Spanish

with an Introduction by

John E. Keller and L. Clark Keating

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS OF KENTUCKY

...he told me about and then read to me *Aesop's Fables* ...
it had a profound effect on me — it gave me a thirst for
education and knowledge ...

Tom Gleghorn [page 11]

I spent my childhood at Warner's Bay on the shores of Lake Macquarie, N.S.W.

Warner's Bay started as a "depression town" — a cluster of tents, "Humpies" and a few houses.

"Humpies" like the one I grew up in as a child, were made from bush timber, white-washed flour bags with earth floors.

Our family were one of the first groups to settle there. A one-teacher school existed to cater for the families that settled there, and the surrounding areas.

I started school at 6 years of age in 1932. Education then was not a great priority and for the first year my attendance was very bad; most of the time I spent in the bush, and on the lake shores.

Towards the end of this year I established a friendship of sorts with a hard drinking, uncouth ruffian — Joe Westcott, a "Glaswegian" ex-merchant sailor who lived in a makeshift tent with his partner who had settled in the area.

One summer evening around his camp fire he told me about and then read to me *Aesop's Fables*. This incident has remained with me all my life; it had a profound effect on me — it gave me a thirst for education and knowledge. Also a tremendous respect for my friend, for his care.

I never "wagged" school again.

Years later, during the Second World War, Joe Westcott worked as a "Billy Boy" in the wartime A.W.C. (Allied Works Council).

William Dobell was also conscripted to this unit and painted Joe.

Bill Dobell's portrait 'The Billy Boy', one of his more famous portraits, personifies Joe Westcott.

Tom Gleghorn

Tom Gleghorn is a figurative and abstract painter, and a contemporary of most of Australia's leading artists. A bon vivant, he combines his passion for art with a love of good food and wine.

Reading J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* in Grade 7 at the then Mannum Area School was a defining moment because of the impact of its scale, imaginativeness and complexity and yet the quite simple underlying themes. It has been a major influence on my attempts to better understand and simply explain the world.

P.S. Gollum is probably also a reason why I cannot stand body piercing.

Darryl Gobbett

Darryl Gobbett is an honours alumnus of the University of Adelaide, with a successful economics career in Canberra and Adelaide.

It has sustained me forever. Tyrone Guthrie's Olde Tote Theatre Company production of Sophocles' *King Oedipus* adapted by John Lewin in Bonython Hall (no less) in that year of grace, 1971. I was young, yet Sophocles seemed no older. Designed by Yoshi Tosa, here was the guts, the majesty, the power, the imagination, the command of the theatre proper. It was the essence of the theatre. The wellspring. Guthrie at his inestimable best with a cast of some of the best actors in the world — Australians all — led by Ron Haddrick. Masks. Mystery. Journey. That production changed my life and remains an inspiration, beacon bright in one's heart. Guthrie allowed that "the theatre is a perfect way to serve our gods" and Guthrie and his theatre and his imagination became my gods. The same week that I saw *King Oedipus* I also saw *Kiss Me Kate* at the Arts Theatre and realised that the theatre can do anything. From the sublime to the ridiculous. The attempt is all. The struggle. The show and tell ...

Peter Goers

Peter Goers is an outspoken and often controversial journalist, theatre critic and sometime director. He recently returned to Adelaide from adventures abroad, and now writes for *The Sunday Mail*.



KING OEDIPUS

adapted by

JOHN LEWIN
from the original by Sophocles

directed by

BYRONE GUTHRIE

AN AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST ATTRACTION

It has sustained me forever

Peter Goers [page 13]

I love libraries! — and sadly, do not spend nearly enough time in them these days.

Looking back, several libraries have provided memorable moments in my life:

- When I was a small girl, in the early 1930s, my mother used to take me to the Children’s Library, then located behind the State Library/Museum complex in the old Police Barracks. It was a **most** enjoyable experience.
- Then, in 1942-43 I spent happy hours studying Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* in an alcove of the balcony of the now Mortlock Library — and later, in the same library, more fascinating hours when doing my third year Science/Chemistry project on researching Heavy Water, including learning the rudiments of scientific German language.
- In 1944-46, I spent a great deal of time in the Barr Smith Library studying for my B Sc degree — memorable, inspiring and enjoyable.

Again, looking back, I gradually became a ‘science addict’! The Investigator Science and Technology centre grew out of my belief that **everyone**, in the whole community, should know a little about science. They would then understand so much more about environmental, and economic, problems — and solutions.

Barbara Hardy

Barbara Hardy, AO, is a self-described ‘science addict’ and a champion of science. She is prominent on many business committees and a staunch advocate for respecting the environment.

As a ten year old browsing in a second-hand bookshop near Oxford, I discovered a geographical almanac more than two hundred years old. It set me back five bob (a tidy sum for me then), but it signaled an interest that in my middle age I now indulge to the full — collecting first editions and interesting items on exploration and travel. Every time I open my bookcase I'm assailed by the smell of old paper and bindings which transports me back to that moment, and the excitement I felt then. That book still jostles alongside more prestigious editions of Burton, Cook, Livingstone, Stanley and Phillips, but it will always recall for me my own moment of discovery.

Scott Hicks

Scott Hicks is an Adelaide film-maker who introduced Hollywood to Henley Beach with his award-winning film, *Shine*, which received seven Oscar nominations in 1997. His next film, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, based on the novel of the same name, will be released in September.

Dr Wayne W. Dwyer *Your erroneous zones*

A speaker stood before a group of alcoholics determined to demonstrate to them, once and for all, that alcohol was an evil beyond compare. On the platform he had what appeared to be two identical containers of clear fluid. He announced that one contained pure water and the other was filled with undiluted alcohol. He placed a small worm in the water container while everyone watched as it swam around and headed for the side of the glass. He then took the same worm and placed in the container with alcohol. The worm disintegrated right before their eyes. 'There', said the speaker. 'What's the moral?' A voice from the rear of the room said quite clearly, 'I see that if you drink alcohol you'll never have worms'.

People hear and perceive exactly what they want to based upon many of their own beliefs, prejudices and personal history.

Lalla Rymill

Lalla Rymill is an icon among Adelaide's florists. Her panache is best demonstrated by her customers' favourite catchphrase: 'Leave it to Lalla!'

Collected Poems
1909-1962



by
T. S. Eliot

London
Faber and Faber Limited
24 Russell Square

... T.S. Eliot has been a favourite of mine and 'Burnt Norton' the most precious of pieces.

Timothy John [page 18]

My initial choice was Arthur Ransom's *Swallows and Amazons* my favorite book when I was eight years old. I loved the sense of adventure and freedom and longed to be one of the children sailing off on their camping expedition.

I also toyed with a number of impressively cerebral Zen quotes, but in the end I thought the Nike slogan "Just do it!" more accurately sums up my last ten years.

Finally I settled on Hugh Johnson's *Pocket Wine Book*. When it was first published in 1977 by Mitchell Beazley I was twenty two years old and had just finished studying Wine at Roseworthy. Johnson's Guide contained a sea of non-Australian wine to taste and learn about — exotic grape varieties, famous and not so famous Chateaux, an atlas full of appellations and regions.

Over the next two years I worked and travelled around Europe with my dog-eared copy in constant use, researching wines in bottle shops and restaurants and planning vineyard visits.

This book was pivotal in my decision many years later to move to London, to study and eventually pass the Master of Wine Examination. I still refer to it today.

Michael Hill Smith

Michael Hill Smith set a new benchmark in Adelaide style with his Universal Wine Bar. He holds a Master of Wine Examination from London.

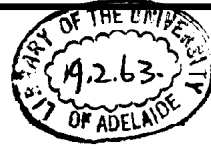
Not long after my father's death, when going through the drawers of his bedside table, I found a well-worn copy of the *Collected Poems* of T.S.Eliot; its well-thumbed pages fell open and underlined in pencil was the line

"... at the still point of the turning world".

From that moment on T.S. Eliot has been a favourite of mine and 'Burnt Norton' the most precious of pieces.

Timothy John

Timothy John is a South Australian figurative painter, well represented in private and corporate collections, locally and nationally.



THE GRAPES OF WRATH

BY

JOHN STEINBECK



HEINEMANN

LONDON MELBOURNE TORONTO

... it remains, for me, the most effective piece of writing ...

Ian Kidd [page 23]

Thank you for your letter inviting me to offer my defining moments in literature, music and learning. To confuse the issue I am nominating two books although I was also tempted to add The Beatles' 'Sergeant Pepper' album.

If my contributions are of any value and I have breached my brief I would be quite happy if you selected only one to bring me within the strict rules.

Probably the first adult novel I read was Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. I read it, as young boys do, as an adventure story.

It was only in the last 25 pages that I realised it was more than the tale of a fisherman having a tough day in the office.

The Old Man had battled to the point of exhaustion, his hands pulped by the fishing line, but finally triumphed. I can still recapture my elation when he finally killed the fish and lashed it to the boat, and the despair when the sharks appeared.

The Old Man killed one shark and Hemingway wrote: "It was too good to last, he thought. I wish it had been a dream now and that I had never hooked the fish and was alone in bed on the newspapers. 'But man is not made for defeat,' he said 'A man can be destroyed but not defeated'. I am sorry that I killed the fish though, he thought. Now the bad time is coming and I do not even have a harpoon.

"The dentuso (shark) is cruel and able and strong and intelligent. But I am more intelligent than he was. Perhaps not, he thought. Perhaps I was only better armed.

"'Don't think, old man,' he said aloud. 'Sail on this course and take it when it comes.'

"But I must think, he thought. Because it is all I have left. That and baseball."

And so it went on. But for the first time I realised that books were more than adventure stories. Here were so many messages about

the courage, spirit and resilience of the human soul, about their ingenuity their compassion and their ability to think against an enemy which relied only on strength.

I have since read *The Old Man and the Sea* a dozen times and more, and have never tired of its lessons in life, and its adventure.

When I was a small boy my mother took me to Allan's bookshop in Rundle Street where I was to choose a book for my birthday.

I selected a yellow-covered 1956 *Wisden Cricketers' Almanac*. What joy that volume gave me. Like so many small boys I dreamed of playing cricket for Australia. Over and over again I read with despair every detail, every scoreboard, of Australia's Ashes defeat in the summer of 1954-55.

I read with tireless frustration about the exploits of the English fast bowler, Frank Tyson and the batting of Len Hutton, Trevor Bailey, Peter May, Colin Cowdrey and others.

I willed the pages to rewrite history and allow my idols, Arthur Morris, Les Favell, Neil Harvey, Richie Benaud, Keith Miller and Ray Lindwall to somehow snatch the Ashes. But it was all in vain.

For the first time I learned about counties in England and of the great writers, people like Neville Cardus and A.A.Thompson, attracted to cricket.

The 1956 *Wisden* inspired a lifetime hobby of collecting cricket books which have been my constant companions and given me endless joy ever since. It was, perhaps, the best and most influential gift of my life.

Rex Jory

■ Rex Jory is Deputy Editor and a columnist for *The Advertiser*.

At about the age of fifteen I first read the lines:

“Not marble nor the gilded monuments
Of princes shall outlive this powerful rhyme
But you shall shine more bright in these contents
Than unswept stone besmirched with sluttish time.”

I remember being struck by the notion that music, art and literature could capture things of beauty, moments of intensity and emotion so that they would endure.

“Sluttish time” was such an evocative and quirky use of words. Probably my first understanding of the impact of the passage of time, of life as precious and passing, came through Shakespeare’s sonnets.

I discovered them all and still read them, often late at night. Later I discovered John Donne, who’s another late night companion.

The language of Shakespeare’s sonnets is exquisite - the ideas both simple and complex. As a collection of verse they say much about human emotion and those eternal metaphysical preoccupations of time, death, love and the pursuit of immortality. They are an influence in my life. Time is not to be wasted and the day is to be enjoyed.

Jane Jose

Jane Jose has a varied career in public relations, marketing and local government. A former high profile candidate for Lord Mayor, she currently serves on a number of significant boards and committees, and works as a consultant.

The last page of Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.

I have not read it for twenty or thirty years and, for some reason it is missing from my library, but it remains, for me, the most effective piece of writing that expressed the depths to which the human condition can find itself.

A young woman accommodating a dying young man to suckle on her breast described their destitution in a way that only flows from the pen of genius.

Ian Kidd

Ian Kidd is Managing & Creative Director of multiple award-winning Ian Kidd Design. His firm's creativity spearheads the logos and branding of corporate South Australia, and beyond.

Regarding the celebration by the Barr Smith Library of the acquisition of its 2 millionth item in the collection, I agree that such a milestone requires us to pause and take stock of the benefits that a library brings to society.

In terms of 'defining moments', I offer the following reference from a wonderful book, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, by the early 20th Century American writer, Willa Cather.

It was the Indian way to pass through a country without disturbing anything ... to pass and leave no trace, like fish through water or birds through the air.

I have always loved bush walking — and often find the need simply to sit under an old gum tree and reflect. Our natural environment is so special, so enduring, but so fragile! Must this generation always make its presence felt by leaving memorials, monuments, graffiti or rubbish wherever we pass?

Diana Laidlaw

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw, MLC, is Minister for Transport and Urban Planning, the Arts, and the Status of Women. Her diverse portfolio reflects the passion she holds for life in general.

Throughout my childhood I spent many hours during the school holidays in the local public library. When I was 12 or 13 I found two books which I read and remember now as clearly as if I had read them yesterday. One was *Elephant Bill*, where there was an account of an autopsy on an elephant who died shortly after the Plantation Manager arrived to fill a new post. According to the company regulations, an autopsy had to be performed and since the Manager failed to find the kidneys, his report read “elephant died through want of kidneys”.

Even as a child I loved this story since it showed that quick thinking can often save you from embarrassment. I believe the elephant was around 30 years of age.

The other book I remember clearly was the *Life of Isambard Kingdom Brunel*, a 19th century civil engineer who produced tunnels through hills, under rivers and the first bolted metal ship. I was especially impressed by his lateral thoughts in constructing a wheel in order to swing out a sovereign caught in his trachea, using centrifugal force. Again a story about common sense and simple solutions being the best.

For the life of me I can't imagine why you would be interested in these obscure facts.

Jane Lomax-Smith

Dr. Jane Lomax-Smith is the high-profile Lord Mayor of Adelaide. She serves on the University of Adelaide Council. A pathologist by profession, she is Adelaide's most outspoken supporter, demonstrating a sharp and enthusiastic approach to city life.

You'll see following the phrases that had enormous impact on me when I read them and which I have recalled over the years at various times.

“Tough times never last, but tough people do”. Robert Schuller.

“You'll see it when you believe it”. Wayne Dyer

and ...

“There is only one grand lie. That we are limited. The only limits we have are the limits we believe”. Wayne Dyer.

Ann Middleton

Ann Middleton is world renowned for her innovative jewellery designs and passionate belief in perfection. She was Australian Table Tennis Champion 1971-1981.

It was my good fortune to have been born into a family which owns and manages a Family Business.

At the time of my birth, the business was 62 years old; it is now about to enter its 130th year. It presently has members of generations 3, 4 and 5 actively involved in its daily business and has more than 30 shareholders.

Whilst the oldest known family business began in Japan in 718AD and is in generation 47, ours is nevertheless one of a relatively small percentage of such businesses to have 'made it' beyond generation 3. Some say that only about 12-15% reach that milestone.

How then does this connect with a "defining moment" in my life?

The moment came when a magazine article called 'Why Family Firms Fail' by chance attracted my attention in 1967 and opened the door to an evolving body of knowledge about the dynamics of Family Business.

This text did "show the way forward" for me which I believe has allowed me to make a contribution towards enhancing the prospect of continuity of a business to which about 900 people contribute every working day.

The article to which I refer was published by *International Management*, November 1967 and authored by Dr Leon Danco of Cleveland, Ohio, USA who, together with his wife Katy, have visited Adelaide twice and become firm friends.

I believe that our Family Business owes much to the wisdom and loving assistance given so generously by these two people to myself and to my wife, Rosemary.

As there are more than 50,000 Family Businesses in South Australia, there is great potential value to our state and nation through understanding and use of this knowledge. Accordingly I have worked to heighten the awareness of what others have found so helpful, in the hope that our educators will better serve our Family Business Community.

J. Raymond Michell

Ray Michell is a prominent business identity from one of Adelaide's most respected and revered family businesses. GH Michell & Sons (Aust). Ray has worked tirelessly to ensure the continuing viability of family businesses in Australia.

The very special nature of our Western civilisation was driven home to me in reading J.M. Roberts' *History of the World*.

It demonstrates that we live in a very small and vulnerable place in history in which the rights of the individual, rational thinking and importantly, the belief that individuals can, in some way, control their lives pervades our society and sets a global agenda.

The fact that the tide of history has not generally supported these values means that we should never take them for granted.

Fergus Simpson

Fergus Simpson is an engineer and founding partner of Kinsmen Pty. Ltd. His private persona and professional career as an engineer share common values, and a sensitivity for the development of society.

In 1972 as a student at the School of Art I came across Michael Cardew's book *Pioneer Pottery* published in 1969 by Longman (ISBN 0 582 12624 X). A mixture of practical manual and polemic, it was and I suppose still is a "defining moment" for me and my development as an artist potter.

Along with all the tough pragmatics and practicalities of the potter's craft, Cardew defines the territory of the modern artist potter and sagely dispenses much practical wisdom to guide the way. The following quotation more or less seems of the essence of my "defining" experience!

Pioneer Pottery by Michael Cardew, Longman, U.K. Chapter 11 (page 236):

"The potter's maxim should be one which says

"THE WORLD ONLY FOLLOWS THOSE WHO HAVE DESPISED AS WELL AS SERVED IT."

If you put the "service" first you enquire only what people demand. But, if you put the "despising" first, it means that you have your own firm persuasion about what people ought to be demanding — make that — and await developments.

To these wise words I cannot resist a sardonic addition: well — I'm waiting!

Jeff Mincham

Jeff Mincham is an artist potter, known for his bold and imaginative works. He is represented in major collections, locally and nationally.

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the Barr Smith Library Celebrations... even if it does remind me of all those awful hair-tearing essay and assignment deadlines!!

I have to say, the idea of *The Defining Moment* is a good one, but one which I have just found TOO HARD. There have been so many defining moments over the years: to choose just one is something I have found impossible.

From my early encounters with Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and Shakespeare's poetry and plays, to Socrates' blend of idealism and scepticism, to my later readings of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and *Island*, and George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, there has been a pathway of continuous discovery and synchronicity which has made me continue to question the meaning of life and what role we mortals play. In more recent years the works of Paul Davies, the anthropologist Maria Gimbutas and the Jungian analyst and author of *Crossing to Avalon*, Jean Shinoda Bolen, all have had a profound influence on my thinking and personal philosophy.

And so I have chosen a cartoon by one of my heroes, Michael Leunig, whose whimsical satire and deep insight into the foibles of human nature so often strikes a chord. The one I have chosen* is a favorite and reflects much of what I feel is wrong with society today. Let there be more wise cockatoos and more little Teds!

Winnie Pelz

*Unfortunately we are unable to reproduce Leunig's 'Galipolli Cockatoo' cartoon because of copyright restrictions.

Winnie Pelz has a diverse and rewarding background in arts administration, crafts and television. She now has her own corporate communications business, Winnie Pelz and Associates.

One of the most significant moments, a *defining moment*, came as a result of going with my mother to the Birmingham Library in the early 1950s. The library had a special music room devoted to its collection of 78" records. This was the greatest discovery for me.

I knew my father had been musical, his piano took up most of our living room. However, he had been killed during the war and my mother frankly admitted she didn't know anything about music. So each week I borrowed from the library a set of records to play on an old gramophone at home. I started with composers whose name began with 'A' and I slowly worked my way through the alphabet.

By the time I reached 'S' I was totally hooked. Classical music had become central to me. The actual moment of recognition came whilst listening to the third movement of Sibelius's fifth symphony as it gradually reached a crescendo that carried me away into another world. A world that has been there for me ever since.

Around the same time, I must have about 13 years old, my mother and stepfather suggested I read a book that they were reading. It was *The Scourge of the Swastika* by Lord Russell. It had a lasting and profound effect on me for it left me with two insights. History is not fiction, it happens to real people. Racism is unpardonable and responsible for some of the worst atrocities ever committed by man.

Viv Szekeres

Viv Szekeres is the innovative and energetic Director of the Migration Museum, noted for its ability to explore and explain Adelaide's rich multicultural heritage through clever use of music, food, and diverse community pastimes and traditions.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



JULIUS CAESAR

Introduction by Glen Byam Shaw

Designs by Motley



THE FOLIO SOCIETY

1962

... I was re-reading some Shakespeare when, for the first time, I came to recognize its quality and see its cleverness ...

Andrew Thomas [page 30]

During the course of my education in Adelaide, both in high school and at the University, I did have a few defining moments where I came to see certain examples of literature, the sciences and music in a different light.

I remember during my secondary school years, the literary classics were beaten in to us with an approach that made military training look easy. But one day I was re-reading some Shakespeare when, for the first time, I came to recognize its quality and see its cleverness and its prose. The play that I was reading was *Julius Caesar*.

My interest in science stems from my university days where I endured many obscure physics classes with apparent obtuseness. But one day I was reading one of Herman Bondi's books on relativity, and I was struck by the extraordinary insight and creativity of Einstein in his development of the Theory of Relativity. I found it amazing that he had the intellectual courage to abandon the paradigms of classical mechanics and totally redefine the way we would see the universe.

In music, when I was younger my tastes were mostly toward the popular music of the '60s, much of which I still enjoy. But I recall that one of my aunts gave me a recording of Tchaikovsky's piano concerto which I grew to enjoy very much. That event basically opened the door to classical music for me and, while I now tend to prefer Beethoven and Bach, that concerto was a defining turning point in the development of my music appreciation.

Andrew Thomas

■ NASA astronaut, Andrew Thomas, is an Adelaide University graduate. When not orbiting the earth, he is stationed at the Lyndon Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

The Memoirs of George Sherston, the fictionalised autobiographical trilogy of Siegfried Sassoon, published between 1928 and 1936, may be better known by the titles of the individual volumes: *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man*, *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer* and (to a lesser extent) *Sherston's Progress*.

These accounts of Sassoon's life in pre-war rural England and front-line France are widely acknowledged as twentieth-century classics, and it was this reputation that influenced me to read the books in the first place. But they became much more than just items on the long list of books I have read.

The initial impact of these books on me came through the myriad unadorned details of what Sassoon calls 'the "long littleness" — or large untidiness — of life'. Superficially, I was enchanted or horrified or uplifted in turn by the events of his life, as indeed few could fail to be. But the lasting impression I retain is that life is for living, notwithstanding the many long littlenesses and large untidinesses that are fundamental to it.

Michael Treloar

Michael Treloar is a bibliophile of repute, with an enviable knowledge of books and history. His Antiquarian Booksellers shop on North Terrace is a treasure trove of out-of-print and rare publications.

After reading Oscar Wilde's *A Woman Of No Importance* I realised I was on the right track — to quote —

"Moderation is a fateful thing, Lady Hunstanton.
Nothing succeeds like excess."

Harry Watt

Hugely successful fashion designers Harry Watt and partner, George Gross, have put Adelaide on the catwalk with their George Gross & Harry Who Design Co., one of Australia's most sought-after fashion labels.

I used to ask my students about their earlier defining moments. Most had some, all quite fascinating. Nothing really stands out for me, but here's a story.

I taught as an art teacher in boys' secondary schools for years. In 1962 I was appointed as a lecturer at the South Australian School of Art. I retired in 1982. I began teaching at a tertiary level with some apprehension. Given subjects to teach as seemingly unconnected as Lettering and Painting I fumbled around wondering what to teach. Everyone had different opinions so one listened, read, tried and rejected. I began to realize that I was gaining a new kind of tertiary education. Eventually I began to read the writings of artists who worked in the late 19th cent. and early 20th cent. and I sometimes structured a lesson around a particular quotation from one of them. So I am not giving you one defining moment but will state "a fundamental truth gleaned from a textbook". It stands with others as a telling truth in the development of early modernism.

Maurice Denis from the book *Gauguin and the Pont-Aven School* by Wladyslawa Jaworska. Thames & Hudson, London, 1972.

"Remember that before it is a war-horse, a naked woman or a trumpery anecdote, a painting is essentially a flat surface covered with colours assembled in a certain order."

It is a quote that has appeared in a number of art books.

When landscape painting with Dave Dallwitz I sometimes ask him what colour, for example, the foreground is? He replies "you don't copy the colour before you but you mix a colour that is right for the other colours in the painting."

Here surely is an essence of Maurice Denis's words hanging over my palette 110 years on.

Geoff. Wilson

Geoff Wilson is a South Australian artist renowned for his subtle Southern Vale settings, sometimes scattered with farming implements. Now retired, he was a charismatic lecturer at the SA School of Art for many years.

While there have been many defining moments in my life — viewing my first da Vinci; watching the young dancers from the Bolshoi — possibly the biggest decision I ever made was to walk out of my marriage of two decades. The defining role model for me was Emma Goldman who, in her two-volume autobiography, showed me what courage means. How could I not make such a little decision when she refused to be enslaved and fought so hard for basic rights for other women with passion and empathy.

Carmel O'Loughlin

Carmel O'Loughlin is Director of the Office of the Status of Women. She is a leader and long-time campaigner for women in South Australia and was integral to the success of the Women's Information Switchboard, established in the 1970s.

From 1970 to 1973 I studied for a Bachelor of Education degree at James Cook University of North Queensland. It was the studies in Educational Psychology and especially the work of one author that have influenced many of my decisions and actions as an educator and trainer and provided the conceptual foundation upon which I have built a successful career in education.

David Ausubel's book *Educational Psychology — A Cognitive View*, was published in 1968 and was stirring the traditional views on teaching and learning when I was a student. I can still recall reading the second chapter on 'Meaning and Meaningful Learning' and thinking why didn't my teachers know all this. From Ausubel's work the concept that is "my defining moment" is that the single most important factor influencing learning is what the learner already knows. "Find this out and teach accordingly."

Ausubel, D.P., *Educational Psychology — A Cognitive View*. USA: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1968

Dr. Ian Whyte

Ian Whyte is Principal Director of the College of Hotel Management in Adelaide.

BRIDESHEAD
REVISITED

THE SACRED AND PROFANE MEMORIES
OF CAPTAIN CHARLES RYDER

EVELYN WAUGH

PENGUIN BOOKS

... With the passage from *Brideshead Revisited* I saw my activities in their true light for the first time and it changed my approach to all my subsequent work ...

Howard Young [page 35]

Many years ago I read Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*. It was the first time I had read any of this author's works and I must say I was impressed by his style of writing.

My defining moment came when reading Lord Marchmain's dying soliloquy. He describes the feats of his forebears in building and developing Brideshead. One generation drained the marshes and brought the wasteland into production, another built the house, another added the dome, another expanded the wings of the house and another dammed the river. Finally Lord Marchmain had built the chapel. Every generation had been builders but the driving force had been vanity and he then mentioned the quotation from the Bible "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity...". This passage really made me think about myself.

As an engineer, I had always been very proud of the projects I had been involved with. It was pleasurable to look at many of Adelaide's major buildings and know of your involvement. With the passage from *Brideshead Revisited* I saw my activities in their true light for the first time and it changed my approach to all my subsequent work. It was a humbling experience to recognise that a good deal of your motivational force was simply vanity.

Howard Young

Howard Young is an engineer and founding director of Kinsmen Pty Ltd. His expertise and style have had a profound influence on Adelaide throughout his prominent career in engineering and associated industries.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The photograph on the cover, and of the Barr Smith Reading Room on page viii, are the work of **Gilbert Roe**. Gilbert has worked at the Barr Smith Library since March 1995. Photography has been one of his major interests for twenty years.

Defining moments was designed by **Alan and Rita Keig**.