

tance mode. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

Starting in August, Preservation of audiovisual collections — to be conducted in distance mode. Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

NT

• **3/4 NT Library Technician section meeting**. Northern Territory Uni Library, Conference room. Contact: Marilyn Hawthorne, ph 08 8946 6193, fax 08 8945 1317, marilyn@library.ntu.edu.au.

• **17/4 NT Branch council meeting**. Northern Territory Uni Library, Chan Building, 4.30pm. Contact: Ana Gowan, ph 041 880 7795 or 08 8946 7016, fax 08 8946 7033, ana@library.ntu.edu.au.

8/5 Blackwell's technology evening. Overview and demonstrations of new WWW systems: *Electronic Journal Navigator*, *Serials CONNECT* and *Collection Manager for Monographs*. Novotel Atrium, The Esplanade, Darwin. 4pm. Contact: Margaret Shoebridge or Rhonda Lelliott, ph (02) 9948 7300, 1800 251 699, shoebrige@blackwell.com.au, lelliott@blackwell.com.au. RSVP 5/5.

QLD

• **14/4-8/12 Qld Library Technician section meetings**. State Library of Qld, Metway Theatre, 5.30pm (unless advised otherwise). (14/4; 12/5; 16/6; 14/7; 11/8; 8/9; 13/10; 10/11; 8/12). Contact: Ailsa O'Donnell, ph (07) 3259 3025, fax (07) 3259 3084.

21/4 Queensland Library Promotion Council Inc. Closing date for nomination for the 1997 *Library Achiever of the Year Award*. Nominations forms available from: Sue Hutley, ph (07) 3405 1124. This award proudly sponsored by Queensland Library Supplies Pty Ltd.

6/5 Queensland Library Promotion Council Inc. *Australian Library Week launch in Queensland*. Sunshine Plaza, Maroochydore. For more information contact: Heather Gordon, ph (07) 5430 2805.

• **7/5 Qld Branch and Qld Specials** *Australian Library Week dinner*.

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Possessed

Treasures of the State Library of New South Wales



The Library's 'collector's chest', c 1820, which opens to reveal painted panels and collections of shells. The chest was presented to the Library by one of its great benefactors, Sir William Dixon

For the first time in its one-hundred-and-seventy years of collecting, the State Library of New South Wales has staged a major exhibition of its greatest treasures. Featuring manuscripts from the Middle Ages and unique historical paintings, through to the exotic and the bizarre from many countries throughout the ages.

A *Wunderkammer* (cabinet of curiosities) will be filled with strange and surprising items, from the precious to the bizarre including a sample of blood from Charles I; a lock of Mary Shelley's hair; a miniature coffin made by the crew of Captain Cook's ship after his murder that contains a sketch of the scene of his death and a lock of his hair; a letter by the American writer Paul Bowles, written on the back of a hashish

wrapper; and wood from the tomb of James III.

Within the cabinet of curiosities is a cabinet of secrets, revealing the library's rarely seen erotica collection. Unique oriental boxes open to disclose tiny dolls in matrimonial positions. The illustrations from *The festival of passions, or Voluptuous miscellany* by Philo Cunnus offer the visitor a taste of the Victorian style of erotica.

The exhibition will develop the theme of maritime exploration in the 18th and 19th centuries, and European fascination with foreign cultures and the collecting of fauna and flora.

Possessed will also express the violence, rebellion and folly that often resulted from European voyages of expansion and collecting in the South Pacific. The dramatic slaying of Captain

cook in Hawaii will be represented by the most important painting of the scene by the official artist of the voyage, John Webber.

William Bligh's original manuscript logbook of *HMS Bounty* records a personal account of the most notorious of all voyages; and the private journal of Matthew Flinders documents the painful years of his imprisonment by the French following his epic circumnavigation of Australia.

Possessed: treasures of the State Library of New South Wales is on view until 29 June 1997 at The Galleries, State Library of New South Wales. ■

Network services update

The National Library of Australia issued a networked service project information paper on 10 February. Information sessions for prospective tenderers were held in Canberra on 11 February, and in Washington, DC on 18 February.

The library has received constructive and useful comments on the information paper. Many of these comments have highlighted the complexity of the project. The library has become aware

that some of the products and services required for this project are still under development. Other respondents felt that the information paper lacked a comprehensive statement of the library's priorities for its networked service. In the light of these comments, the library has decided to proceed with the project in stages, with separate procurement processes envisaged over the next twelve months. The library remains committed to the overall goals outlined in the information paper. ■