

# UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register

Owners and custodians of nationally significant documentary heritage material are invited to submit nominations for entry on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register for 2004.

Nominations will be rigorously assessed against selection criteria and the custodians of those deemed to be of national significance will be presented with certificates of inscription at a ceremony at the State Library of Victoria in August 2004.

The Australian Memory of the World program is part of a global UNESCO program that aims to preserve and provide access to the world's most significant documentary heritage, and to raise awareness of its existence and significance.

International, regional and national registers comprise important components of the program. They list precious items of world significance in the same way as the UNESCO World Heritage List identifies precious natural sites and buildings.

Documentary heritage reflects the diversity of peoples, languages and cul-

tures. It is the mirror of the world and its memory. Six outstanding collections and documents, deemed by UNESCO to comprise precious and irreplaceable parts of Australia's national memory, have already been inscribed on the Australian Register. They are:

- The *Endeavour Journal* of Captain James Cook.
- The Mabo Case Manuscripts.
- The Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin Design Drawings of the City of Canberra.
- The archival records of the Australian Agricultural Company, the nation's oldest surviving commercial entity.
- The Cinesound Movietone collection of weekly cinema newsreels from 1931 to 1975: a living record of Australia's life and times.
- Constitutional documents: an assembly of key items charting the development of Australian democracy.

Captain Cook's journal and the Mabo papers are also on the World Register along with eight-nine other entries from

forty-five countries including the New Zealand 1893 *Women's Suffrage Petition*; Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*, and the Leprosy Archives of Bergen both from Norway; and the Human Rights Archive from Chile.

To qualify for inclusion on the register, documentary heritage — on paper, in books and recordings, on film, photographs or in a digital format — must be authentic, unique and irreplaceable.

Inscription on the Register confers many benefits — it enables the use of the prestigious UNESCO logo, it brings the material to public attention, and it strengthens advocacy for improved care and preservation of the material.

Nominations close on 21 May 2004 and full details are available at <http://www.amw.org.au>.

Library sector representatives on the Australian Memory of the World Committee Margy Burn ([mburn@nla.gov.au](mailto:mburn@nla.gov.au)) and Alan Howell ([ahowell@sl.vic.gov.au](mailto:ahowell@sl.vic.gov.au)) can provide further information and assistance. ■

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