

College, which came to him from the estate of Mr B. C. Rodd. Dowling notes that 'Mr Mitchell has other papers on the subject but not so complete as these'. The documents were bound and annotated by Dowling and are supplemented by a matching volume of the printed prospectus and annual reports. Included amongst the documents is a copy of the original prospectus dated 1825 with manuscript annotations and the printed minutes of the first meeting of the college trustees with a manuscript sheet recording their individual votes on the adoption of the plan. With this are manuscript plans of the proposed school buildings and grounds, together with the final printed plan.

Finally, there is a collection of correspondence relating to the formation of the Melbourne Public Library and Art Museum and the acquisition of books and works of art for that institution. The letters dating from 1859 to 1864 are mainly from Judge Sir Redmond Barry and H. C. E. Childers, trustees of the Library, and Augustus Tulk its first Librarian. In early 1859 the Parliament of Victoria voted £2,000 to the Library for the purchase of works of art and the letters concern the establishment of a committee to discuss what ought to be bought and arrangements with Mr R. E. C. Waters in London who was to act as their agent. Their aims are outlined by Barry in a letter to Waters of 25 August 1860:

Our desire was to form not merely a miscellaneous collection of casts and busts but to bring together a comprehensive and well balanced series of groups to illustrate Natural characteristics and exhibit the history of the growth of refinement and intellectual excellence represented in the arts. To form not merely a museum for amusement but the rudimentary basis of a School of Design the different departments of which might be enlarged as means at our disposal allowed.

Their work did not progress without difficulties and many of the letters concern shipments of statuary from a Signor Brucciani which arrived broken. Letters fly between trustees, agents and insurance agents. However the trustees were delighted with their endeavours and Barry shows this in a letter to Waters thanking him for his exertions on their behalf in

. . . having procured for us objects of such beauty and value to persons living so far from the seats of art, of science and art excellence. The trustees hope that no time will be lost in expending with equal judgement the balance of money remaining undisposed of in London, as it has become necessary to force upon the Government of this country that the public demand a further addition to our Building and this can be best accomplished, by our having multitudes of such treasures as you have already sent, which we have not space to exhibit with justice to them.