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Royal menus to railway maps — State Library winners to track printing office history

The visual history of the Queensland Government Printing Office will be explored by the winners of a prestigious State Library of Queensland award.

Louise Martin-Chew and Matthew Wengert were awarded the \$20,000 John Oxley Library Fellowship at tonight's Queensland Memory Awards ceremony in Brisbane.

Titled *'Designs-Details-Devils': A Visual History of Queensland's Government Printing Office 1862-2013*, their project will document the elaborate decorative printing that took place in the heritage listed-building over its 150-year history.

Everything from Hansard, burial regulations, tourism posters, railway timetables, signs and postage stamps were printed there.

The prize was one of seven fellowships and awards, collectively worth \$65,000, presented at State Library.

Two new fellowships were introduced this year; the Place Making Fellowship (the history of Queensland ice cream making) and the John Oxley Library Honorary Fellowship.

A cameraman who rescued 40 years of North Queensland's news and television history from being lost forever was awarded the 2019 John Oxley Library Award for his outstanding efforts to document and share Queensland's history.

2019 WINNERS:

- **Place Making Fellowship (\$10,000 plus 12-month residency):** Tricia King for her project *Banging the Drumstick: The creative and cultural legacy of the women inside the Peters Ice Cream Factory*.
- **John Oxley Library Fellowship (\$20,000 plus 12-month residency):** Louise Martin-Chew and Matthew Wengert for their project *'Designs-Details-Devils': A Visual History of Queensland's Government Printing Office 1862-2013*.
- **John Oxley Library Honorary Fellowship (12-month residency):** Dr Gemmia Burden for her project *Private lives, public knowledge: Gendered collecting and intimacies of place in Queensland c. 1842-1900*.
- **John Oxley Library Award:** Paul Lyons, in recognition of his dedication to the recording and sharing of North Queensland news and history, and his efforts to preserve Townsville news archives.
- **John Oxley Library Community History Award (\$5,000):** Caylie Jeffery, in recognition of the project *Under the Lino* for its innovating engagement in the documenting and sharing of Queensland's cultural heritage (after she discovered money and bankbooks from the 1940s and 1950s while renovating her 1912 Queenslander in Milton).

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- **Mittelheuser Scholar in Residence (\$15,000 plus 12-month residency):** Seth Ellis for his project *Sound as a historical material: Developing a new way of cataloguing, describing, and accessing sound in the archive.*
- **Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame Fellowship (\$15,000 plus 12-month residency):** Rutian Mi for his project *The history of Chinese business in Queensland.*

Quotes from Minister for the Arts Leanne Enoch:

“The Queensland Memory Awards celebrate excellence in research and recognise those who are sharing Queensland stories and making new contributions to our heritage.

“This year’s winners reflect a growing need to fill historical gaps in our understanding of the lives of First Nations Peoples, women and migrants.”

“I congratulate this year’s winners, whose work is certain to uncover rich and important stories from our state’s past to share now and with future generations.”

Quotes from State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer Vicki McDonald:

“The new Place Making Fellowship and John Oxley Library Honorary Fellowship expand the exciting work undertaken by State Library of Queensland fellowship winners.”

“All our fellowships recognise the importance of adding meaning and context to our collections and the state’s continuously evolving narrative.”

“The Queensland Memory Awards continue to inspire researchers and extend the boundaries of what is possible in the discovery and documentation of the state’s history.”