

MEDIA RELEASE

12 June 2015

State Library Responds to Security Risk

The State Library of South Australia is working with South Australia Police (SAPOL) to recover items which are missing from one of the library's non-public storage areas.

"The missing items, mostly personal diaries, paper and other ephemera relating to S.A. White who served in the Boer War, belonged to a collection group which is infrequently requested for retrieval and may be the result of targeted theft," said State Library Director Alan Smith.

"In addition to a review of the State Library's security protocols, the matter was immediately reported to SAPOL, who have undertaken investigations," said Mr Smith.

Descendants of the family who donated the collection to the library have been advised of the missing items, which may have been taken over an extended period, and are supporting the library's efforts to tighten security and recover the missing pieces.

SAPOL has made inquiries with local and online collectors of antique war items, including the Boer War Association, booksellers and auction houses which may come across the missing items, or be offered pieces for sale.

"We value the collections held in the State Library on behalf of the people of South Australia, and the people who entrust their family's heritage records to our care," said Mr Smith.

"This incident raised immediate concern, and action was taken to quickly identify any possible areas where collection security had been breached."

This includes restricted access to storage areas, the use of additional security devices and locked trolleys for transporting collections throughout the library.

Mr Smith said the library also plans to install CCTV cameras to monitor all entry points to the basement, where many collections are held.

"The State Library wants to reassure the community, including our many valued donors, that while theft is rare, every effort is being made to prevent any re-occurrence."

Anyone with information which may assist police is asked to phone Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report it [online](#).

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