



School of Historical and European Studies



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History

Fiona Kinsey

Bachelor of Arts (Hons), 1995

I have been employed as a curator in Museum Victoria’s History and Technology department since 1998. Being fascinated by a weird and wonderful variety of historical subjects, I could not imagine a more appropriate place to work than Museum Victoria.

My journey to a career as a museum-based historian began in 1987 at La Trobe University’s Bundoora campus. I spent an enjoyable year enrolled as an undergraduate in Biological Sciences, but when it came to re-enrolling for second year I elected to defer and think over my options. Having been a collector of ephemera since childhood, I eventually decided to defect to ‘the other side’, and launched into an Arts degree with a major in history.

During my studies I had a fascinating time volunteering with the Curator of Domestic Life at Museum Victoria. When it came time to choose an Honours thesis topic I didn’t need to think long before opting to examine the history of the domestic technology collection at the Museum. My history degree, and in particular my Honours year, at La Trobe University gave me an important grounding for my future career, teaching me intellectual rigour and developing my skills in critical analysis.

After my Honours year I was accepted into the Graduate Diploma of Museum Studies course at Deakin University and I recently completed a Masters degree with first class honours in Australian Studies from the University of Melbourne.

Museums provide great opportunities for Arts graduates to practice history. One of the most rewarding aspects of being an historian in a museum is that I work with a wide range of creative people, members of the public, donors of collection material and other researchers. In addition, I draw on a variety of historical sources, ranging from material culture to documents, photographs and oral history, and my work is accessed by a wide audience, in exhibitions and on the web.

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