Still looking to America: Labor and the US alliance

Many on the left in Australia seem to agree with a maxim ascribed to the Duke of Marlborough: that in every alliance one party wears the boots and the spurs while the other wears the saddle.

2007 JCPML Visiting Scholar, Dr Michael Fullilove, will dispute this assessment, at least in relation to the alliance between Australia and the United States.

Dr Fullilove will argue both that the alliance is in Australia’s national interest and that it deserves more support from progressives, and he will suggest ways that the alliance may develop under a future Labor Government.

See enclosed invitation for RSVP details for this not-to-be missed event.

Anniversary Lecture
Shaping a nation: Visionary leadership in a time of fear and uncertainty

On July 5 Professor Larissa Behrendt delivered the 2007 JCPML Anniversary Lecture, to a capacity audience of over 200 people.

If you missed the lecture or would like to revisit Professor Behrendt’s stimulating address, go to the JCPML website at john.curtin.edu.au/events/speeches/behrendt.html where video, audio and text versions of the lecture are now available.
And what is the connection between Alex McCallum and John Curtin?

Hearing Curtin speak on the Yarra Bank in Melbourne in the early 1900s, McCallum recognised his qualities and correctly predicted that Curtin would one day become Prime Minister. In 1917 he recruited Curtin to relocate to WA to become the editor of the *Westralian Worker*. McCallum became a mentor, lifetime friend and confidant to the younger man. It was this friendship with John Curtin that led the family to donate the collection to the JCPML.

The valve was sent to a conservator who confirmed that it was made of gold and brass. A visitor to the conservator’s workshop recognised it as a scale model of one of the valves used on the Goldfields, New Hills Water Scheme and the Canning Dam pipelines.

Who was Alex McCallum and why did he have this valuable item?

Born in 1877, Alex McCallum had a long and illustrious career as a unionist, a director of the *Westralian Worker* newspaper, Member of Parliament for South Fremantle and as Minister for Public Works, Labour, Water Supply and State Trading Concerns. In these public roles he was an official guest at many gala occasions such as the ball held to honour the Prince of Wales in 1920. (JCPML00821/1)

As Minister for Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage McCallum officially turned on the water for the Hills Water Scheme at Valve House at Kelmscott on 7 December 1925. A program for the occasion is in the collection. (JCPML00821/5)

Later, as Minister for Public Works, he was responsible for the building of the Canning Dam and associated pipelines. A commemorative tablet at the dam bears his name and records the start of construction in September 1933. (JCPML00830/35)

It is likely that the model valve was presented to him as a memento of one of these grand occasions.

David Wylie is the JCPML Archives Technician

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Look for the *Podcasts@your library* logo on the John Curtin biography page at: john.curtin.edu.au/resources/biography/details.html.

A podcast on the JCPML web pages provides a short and easy introduction to John Curtin.

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