

# THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH  
Australia



AMOSA

July 2020

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2



## Braendlin-Albini Rifle Handover .....

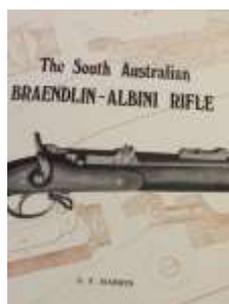


On Wednesday 8 July there was an informal transfer ceremony at which time the Army Museum of South Australia (AMOSA), on approval from HQ AAHU, has returned ownership of the subject weapon to History SA, received by Ms Corinne Ball and in the presence of the original donor, Mr Cecil Ireland.



This weapon is of great value to the State of South Australia as we (as a colony) were the only Australian jurisdiction to employ it. AMOSA already has this item in rendered form in its collection, as does the Australian

Army Infantry Museum, the principal location for small-arms heritage management within the Army Museum Network.



**A copy of this book is available for purchase from the AMOSA Shop 'Online' Shop.**

In deference to its historical value and the good intention of Mr Ireland at the

time of donation (2006) it was decided that the weapon be retained in its original condition for its return to History SA.



**Ms Corinna Ball discussing the historical significance of the rifle with Staff Sergeant Danee Davis, the Museum's Curator.**

Mr Ireland concurred with this course of action, and military approval was given for this to occur on their receipt of evidence that the item would be secured appropriately and in accordance with State legislation. All arrangements have been confirmed. Quite apart from the historical value of the weapon, this event is noteworthy as it is rare for the ADF to return non-rendered weaponry to the civilian community, once such items have been donated to the Commonwealth.



**Corrina signs for the weapon.**

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### VALE Geoff Parker

Visit our website to find our news for our volunteers and current activities within the Museum.

## News Flash!

From Monday 13 July 2020 we have launched the AMOSA 'Online' Shop. You can purchase items listed and have them delivered by post to your home! Go to the website and click on the word 'Shop' in the top banner area.

[www.amosa.org.au/shop](http://www.amosa.org.au/shop)

Contact Joy Souter to add material & information

## From the Manager ....

As we are now into a new Financial Year we can reflect on what has been, so far, a most unusual time. We could not have anticipated complications arising from the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and it required us to react on the run to a situation that, certainly of late as we try to navigate a way out of the restrictions imposed, has been changing daily. The most important thing is to thank you for your patience and understanding. Like you, I have been frustrated that even though restaurants and sporting events, and even other museums, seem to be embracing ever greater numbers we are not allowed to. Plans for a resumption of volunteer attendance now seem to be finalised, however, and I'd like to think that by the time you read this most of the volunteers will be able to attend Keswick Barracks on a fairly regular basis. The tempo for the military did not slow down. We have conducted a number of audits, checks and surveys as well as consolidating the new equipment arrivals that we asked for. Many small, but important jobs have been attended to. Our remaining tasks for the year are in three main categories.

As a precursor to everything else, firstly, we must prepare for a museum environment in the post COVID-19 world. This will require strict adherence to cleaning protocols, delineated routes through the facility, tracking



Major Christopher Roe  
Manager

of visitor details and even more diligent monitoring of volunteer health and welfare protocols. The next stage will be the integration of a large number of new Tashco cabinets. The end product of this will be uniformity and a smart veneer to our displays but to remove artefacts from old cabinets, move heavy items and store them, and ensure that the new displays still fit within the overall Museum shape will take all of July and perhaps even a week or so of August. Therefore, regardless of COVID-19 considerations, we will remain closed to the public until this task is completed and it will be our main focus of effort after volunteers return to the Museum.

Finally, we will return to the issue of a new daily schedule for operations, something that I had begun to consider before being interrupted by a global pandemic. This will result in a greater level of scrutiny by the military on safety considerations and greater awareness, of 'who is doing what, why and where' within the Museum area. This, too, will be impacted by COVID-19 considerations: for instance, something as simple as our regular Morning Tea cannot occur in the same way as it used to do for health reasons alone.

All of these changes, both forced and by choice, will take time to implement and adjust to, but we will get there. Once again, in closing, I thank you for your patience and understanding and look forward to your return to the Museum. We, the military, have achieved much since the closure but the return of our volunteers with their enthusiasm, noise and sense of comradeship will be most welcome!

**Christopher Roe**  
Manager

## Vale Geoff Parker ....

Geoff passed away peacefully on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020, aged 69 years. Geoff was a well loved and respected member of the Museum community who will be sadly missed. Having served in the CMF and Army Reserve for nearly 40 years he retired with the rank of Staff Sergeant after serving as a Rifleman, Driver and Recovery Mechanic. When his favorite Twin Boom Wrecker was made obsolete and transferred to our Museum he decided he needed to help us look after it and spent most of his time at the Museum carrying out lifting tasks or maintaining 'his wrecker' and its recovery equipment. One of Geoff's great attributes was his technical knowledge and ability, which he was able to apply to almost any situation. His love of vehicles (the bigger the better) suited his role in recovery because of the variety of vehicles he had the opportunity to drive plus it also involved a lot of theoretical



calculations and gave him the opportunity to put it all into practice. His dream job! Geoff was often described as a 'Diamond in the Rough' as he had a tremendous ability to make people laugh with his stories and jokes and he could mix with people of all backgrounds. He was a real 'larrikin' in every sense of the word. In his civilian career he spent most of his life in the South Australian Police Force where his technical skills fitted him well for his work in forensics and fire investigations. This was an area which he particularly enjoyed. He also volunteered for overseas United Nations police peacekeeping roles when they became available.

Unfortunately his time with the Museum was cut short when he was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, a disease which severely restricted his breathing and meant he required oxygen on a regular basis to maintain any sort of reasonable lifestyle. Our condolences go to his wife Irene and their family. HE WILL BE SADLY MISSED. *By Greg Rosser*

## Harry's Corner ....



Times are tough! We are missing all the volunteers coming along each week and leaving some food scraps around for our family. We are all looking forward to a re-opening and turning on some visitors to our magnificent Museum! I notice a few new Tascho

Cabinets appearing around the galleries. I hope the plan for their installation will take into account some of the

'Hamster Holes' which lead into our home between the walls! I understand some of our volunteers have been keeping in touch using Facebook and Messenger. Maybe we will be able to develop our 'Virtual' presence' with more information on our web page and Facebook? Keep up the good work in isolation, We are fortunate that the virus doesn't seem to infect us Hamsters! We hope to see you all back at the Museum, in good health, very soon.

**Harriet & Harry**

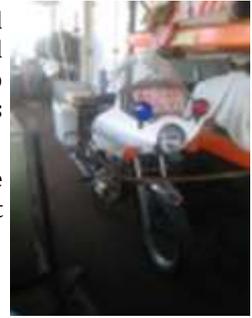
## Two Wheels .....

The photo is of a Military Police motorcycle which has been delivered whilst we have been on leave because of the Corona Virus outbreak. When we return to the Museum and are able to return to our volunteering environment we will be working on putting this motorcycle safely on display. This entails a bracket being manufactured to secure the motorcycle to a secure and safe standard to allow it to be displayed on show in the Museum. This an example of the work that

the Conservation and Restoration Group are called upon to assist the Museum to display artifacts for the visitors and their visual enjoyment.

We do have a few 'retired' police officers who would love to put the bike through its paces!

*Graham Janz*



## When We Were Young....

In these last couple of months with lockdown I guess we've all been catching up with odd jobs around the home such as cleaning out junk and stuff. (Definition: Stuff is junk you keep, junk is stuff you throw away!)

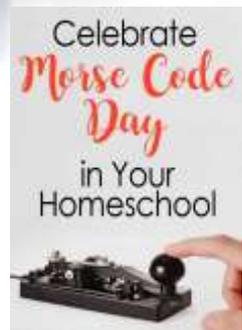
The Simms family have been, among other things, sorting out the garage and we came across, of all things, a Department of Defence Morse Code machine. Well the story goes that at the end of WW11 Malcolm and his mate went along to the local Army Disposals Store and they each purchased a Morse code machine. Malcolm's mate lived in the house across the back fence, so being very innovative lads they set up a wire running between their respective bedrooms and sent messages in code to each other. Not bad for a couple of 10 year olds.

No TV, computer games or I-pads, you just left home after breakfast, made your own fun and only went back to the house when called for tea. Those were the days!

This part of our history will soon be a part of a new display in the museum.



*Remember the good old days!*



*Heather and Malcolm Simms*

## Museum Opening ....

"Due to the current health alert, fortunately we are planning to open the Museum on the 16<sup>th</sup> August. Enquiries about visits, in preparation for it opening again, can still be directed to 0438 875 900. All other enquiries should be directed to the Museum Manager on 0431 381 513. Thank you"



## Dikko .....



## The Story Behind The Face – Colin Cogswell MM .....

There are so many faces of servicemen and women in our Museum it would take a book to tell all their stories. One in case is the fourth face from the left in the Vietnam cabinet. The young Digger in a bush hat in a photo that was snapped in 1966. Colin Cogswell was 19 when that photo was taken, he was the youngest soldier in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Australian Regiment during 5RAR's first tour of Vietnam and if any soldier could say he had pain in his life it was this veteran from Adelaide. It took several weeks to get Colin's story during the research for a book I was writing with Bob Kearney. Bob knew of Colin's background and told me it was "very interesting" as he had come to know the youngster in 5RAR during war service. Young Cogswell, who had lived in a series of boys' homes after his parents separated, had dreamed from childhood of a life in the military and had tried to get in service before he was 16. Rejected, went back at 17 and signed in for 6 years. He had been slotted for engineering but scored infantry. A crack shot and exemplary Infantryman, Cogswell still had to wait a year to eventually get a seat on a 707 to Vietnam where he arrived at 19 years and one week old. Three months in country and as a forward scout he carried in one hand a "ghost stick" stick to prod and feel for trip wires and an Armalite in the other hand. This he was doing with 5 Section 5 platoon between rocks and boulders on the Nui Tai Vai Mountains when he caught the pungent smell of enemy. He crouched behind a boulder and peered around. Less than eight feet to his front stood a North Vietnamese Army Commander, complete with baggy cap and red star addressing a score of enemy troops. For 45 minutes a sweating and dry-mouthed Cogswell crawled around and observed the caves and tunnels of the 274th North Vietnamese Army Regiment, feeding information back to his CHQ until American Phantom bombers napalmed the strong hold. His "cool head and courage" saw Colin Cogswell recommended for the Military Medal by his company commander Major Bruce McQualter . Flash forward a short time and on February 21, 1967 Colin's platoon was moving into another enemy strong hold, the Long Hai mountains. as part of a company operation. As if in slow motion the Digger watched 13 tons of armoured personnel carrier rise 10 feet into air in a huge orange fireball. The mine detonation blew men from the back and top of the vehicle. Cogswell glimpsed Major McQualter run towards him with stretcher bearers – then another explosion and another mine went off. McQualter vanished in another orange flash and black smoke. Colin Cogswell was thrown to the ground. He saw mates around him writhing in agony from more mine fragments. 5RAR's youngest Digger stood and collapsed unconscious, shrapnel to his head and legs.

His last clear recollection was from the Dustoff chopper - the red cross marking of the US 36 Evacuation Hospital at Vung Tau. His Company Commander McQualter was one of the nine killed and 22 wounded that day in the worst Australian APC-mine blast of the war. Some of the best surgeons in the world worked for five hours on Colin Cogswell, pulling M16 "jumping jack" splinters from his body.

Later, the telegram to his mother read: ***"Removed from seriously ill list Private John Royston Cogswell 43755 at 2 Camp hospital Ingleburn NSW. Further information on transfer to Adelaide will be advised."***

On arrival in Adelaide on a propeller-driven Viscount, Colin went into Daw Park Hospital. He recovered but his youth had been burned out of him. The war hero saw others looking at him wondering how one so young could carry so much pain in his tender years. He had three years left in the Army but had been medically down graded. He was transferred from 5RAR to Engineers and was still peppered with shrapnel.

One day he swung up into the passenger seat of an Army truck. A short time later that truck collided head-on with another. The ex-scout and war hero suffered multiple fractures to his pelvis and lower back. Three months of debilitating pain later Colin Cogswell's Army life ended. But not quite. He later became a regular member of Trojan's Trek – a self-help program for PTSD Diggers founded by Bob Kearney – as a chief cook on the outback trips. He is full of humor and inspiration to others. ***By Peter Haran***



***(Extract from Flashback: Echoes From A Hard War by Peter Haran and Robert Kearney New Holland)***

## ***MEDALS, AWARDS AND BADGES ....***

While visible awards for battlefield courage and military service date to antiquity, the modern practice of displaying campaign and gallantry medals has more recent origins. Britain's first campaign medal was issued to Waterloo veterans in 1816-17. Four decades later, when the disaster in the Crimea was widely reported in the British press, reports of mismanagement at the highest levels of the army and government appeared alongside stories of great bravery and self-sacrifice. Queen Victoria, who followed the news closely, felt that such courageous acts deserved public recognition. The Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry, were instituted in 1856, and in 1867 the awards were extended to colonial forces across the British Empire. Until 1975 Australian awards were made under the British system, which evolved to include a wide range of bravery decorations. Since then Australia has issued decorations under an independent system of hours and awards. More than 71,000 Australians have been recommended for a decoration since Federation, with almost 47,000 having received one. Decorations tell of singular acts of courage and leadership, and all who wear the ribbon of a bravery award have distinguished themselves in the face of danger. But many moments of courage and leadership have gone unrecorded and unsung. An Australian infantryman recalled in a lull in the bitter fighting at Dernancourt in 1918: *'Ready for anything, we stand and wait, yarning about things seen and done today, brave deeds, passed unnoticed and unrewarded, taken as part of the day's work, though that part meant facing death'*. Some who are recommended are surprised at being singled out. One VC recipient remarked: *'If I was the bravest man during that day, then God help the man who was most afraid'*. Almost a century later another Australian, a peacekeeper decorated for bravery, said: *'As for the medals ... I'm prouder of being an Australian soldier on operations, I'm prouder of having served with the ... battalion and these guys within my section, within my platoon'*. Decorations honour the individual, but campaign medals, with clasps indicating where they were earned, are far more widely distributed. They illustrate the extent of Australia's military involvements over more than a century. Some are for well-known conflicts or campaigns; others, like the Naval general Service Medal 1915-62, cover minor conflicts for which no specific campaign medal exists. Campaign medals recognise service in prescribed warlike operations. They take in peacekeeping missions and some of Australia's most significant military involvements. Over time, new awards have been introduced. The Australian Operational Service Medal, instituted in 2012, for instance, succeeds the Australian Active Service and Australian Service Medals.

In addition to Australian bravery and campaign medals, Australians have received an array of

decorations conferred by foreign sovereigns or governments. Australian formations have received foreign unit citations for operations ranging from peacekeeping in the Sinai to service in the Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation and Korean and Vietnam Wars. In 1991 Australia instituted its own system of recognising an individual unit's outstanding service with the Meritorious Unit Citation, which has been awarded for service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Medals and ribbons are familiar symbols of military attainment, but for veterans no longer in uniform there are few days on which these can be worn. Those who are eligible and who wish to display evidence of their having served are entitled to wear the Returned from Active Service Badge on civilian clothes. Though such a badge may not be widely recognised, it is reminiscent of times past when a range of pins and badges and patches could be seen affixed to civilian's clothing.

During the World Wars in particular, many Australians were entitled to wear insignia indicating their contribution. Civilian sailors who risked their lives on merchant ships wore a Merchant Seaman's Badge. At home, the Female Relative Badge or Mothers' and Widows' Badge were visible signs of a family's commitment to the war effort, and often of what that commitment cost. For some, the loss of a husband or son, represented by the addition of a star, made wearing the badge too painful: *'Mother had been proud to have four sons in the army', remembered one man, 'she wore a badge with four bars on it ... now she was entitled to as a star to one of the bars. She never wore that badge again'*. Others wore badge indicating the extent of their support for patriotic causes, to tell of their working in a reserved occupation or to make clear that they had been wounded and discharged from service.

Australia's military commitments span more than a century and have involved millions of individuals. Many have become eligible to wear campaign medals, far fewer have worn decorations for bravery. Whatever their origin, the row or rows of ribbons on the left breast of a military uniform or the medals worn on days of remembrance count among the most treasured possessions of veterans around Australia. ***(Department of Veteran's Affairs, 2020 Calendar)***

***by Geoff Laurie***



## Print Waterloo: A Case Study of Failure in Care ....



621 Framed Print Waterloo was catalogued to AMOSA Ke-Emu on 11 May 1999. It is therefore one of our Museum's earliest collected curated objects. No donor was listed, and the source of this object remains unknown. The condition on accession was listed as Good. The provenance was listed simply as the Battle of Waterloo. The initial valuation of \$350 was set by a gentleman named Lee Blair-Jenke. Lee is well known in the Victoriana Society, and as the proprietor of a business trading as Regimentals Antiques. Perhaps he was involved with AMOSA at the time, or perhaps he was consulted as an external expert in order for a valuation to be obtained? Peter Foster of AMOSA agrees that \$350 would have been an accurate valuation for this object at the time of accession. Peter explained that 287 Framed Print Waterloo was not simply a common department store print. It was a high quality chromolithograph, and it dated from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, circa 1900. Had this object been maintained properly as should be the case with all curated objects, it would now have a value in excess of \$1000. We can thus conclude that at the beginning of this object's time with AMOSA, due diligence was applied in terms of seeking expert advice in order for it to be catalogued with an accurate value.

In its twenty years with AMOSA, 287 Framed Print Waterloo has suffered significant damage and is currently worthless. I first remember seeing it hanging in Room 8 of Building 203 when I commenced my posting at AMOSA as Admin Sergeant in late 2014. Room 8 is a bathroom but had been used for some time as a storage repository. The room contained a number of items that appeared to have been left for donation but had not been processed. Many of the objects in Room 8 did not appear to have any paperwork. This was before AMOSA's current strict collection policy was implemented; a policy under which 287 Framed Print Waterloo would now most likely be rejected. Even so, 287 Framed Print Waterloo was hanging on the wall, clear of any likely source of injury, with the damage most likely having been sustained in some other location. I remember thinking to myself that it was a pity that it had been damaged, but it did not occur to me that this was an object that was well over one hundred years old, and that it would have commanded a four figure sum if it were still in good condition. It did not at all occur to me that



Framed Print Waterloo was a curated object. Fast forward to 2018 and I began my time as Army Curator. I still had no idea that 287 Framed Print Waterloo was a curated object. The intent was clear enough, the emptying of Room 8 was of primary importance, and the fate of the print was considered by some to be of no importance. I did accession some of the Waterloo picture. I just assumed that it had made its way to a skip as did so many things at that chaotic time. In 2019 the RSAR volunteers phoned me up and asked me to remove a "picture of the Battle of Waterloo" that had made its way to their bay in Building 8. I recognized it as the damaged picture from Building 203 – Room 8. The picture also caught the attention of Peter Foster. When Peter informed me that the picture would have originally been a valuable object, I searched for it on Ke-Emu and confirmed its identity as 287 Framed Print Waterloo. Ke-Emu showed no record of movement, nor any spot checks for this object. The location had remained Building 76 since the time that it was catalogued. It is not my intent here to be judgmental as to why an object with no apparent connection to Army or South Australia was accepted for the collection. The Museum was very young in 1999, and no doubt had a large space to fill. I accept that as per Ke-Emu, 287 Framed Print Waterloo had its time hanging in the museum. There certainly had been prominent Waterloo veterans in colonial South Australia. Sergeant Johann Gottfried Lubasch, a Prussian Army veteran present at the battlefield meeting of Blucher and Wellington was one such individual. In 1844 he established the first regular mail service between Mount Barker and Adelaide. So what to do now with 287 Framed Print Waterloo? Peter Foster assessed the damage to the picture as being too extensive to repair. He proposed a couple of options; an excision salvage to save the largest possible portion of the image, or the excision of two equal sized undamaged portions to create a diptych. Peter's damage assessment and his proposals for remediation were forwarded to the Foundation, and he has been given approval to proceed as he sees fit with the best possible recovery. This is a case history of a failure in due diligence in the care of a curated object. It serves as a reminder to all Foundation members to be both vigilant and pro-active in the care of the entire collection, and not just the objects that are on display. If an object no longer meets the display requirements of AMOSA, and is not likely to do so again, but is potentially of value to other historical collections, it should be offered for transfer accordingly.

**Staff Sergeant Danee Davis**

# The Way Forward ..... from the Curator

This year has seen COVID 19 Pandemic close the Museum to our volunteers and the public. I have endeavored to keep in touch with our volunteers who have said without exception that they have missed working at the Museum and the social interaction they have with their mates. There is now light at the end of the tunnel and a stepped return to work for volunteers will commence on the 7 July 20. A roster system has been organized, which lists names, timings/dates and tasks for this return. Volunteers can now come into the Museum on a roster basis on Mondays, Tuesdays as well as Wednesdays. From the 8<sup>th</sup> July only 10 volunteers can attend each day, from the 13 July and up until at least the 5 August, 20 volunteers each day. The priority of works at the moment is to remove all artefacts from the 13 old cabinets which are to be replaced. A small team of our volunteers will deal with this on the 8/10 July 20. On the day volunteers are rostered back they will be required to attend a short COVID 19 brief. This will cover all of the current infection control measures that Defence has put in place to protect volunteers. For our Sunday Guides there is training on 9th August 2020.

**Tashco Cabinets ...** In late April 2000 we were notified we could buy some new Tashco cabinets. I decided that all of the old existing wooden cabinets would be replaced. Most of these cabinets have served us well but some were up to 25 years old and did not conform to contemporary Museum standards. In total there were 13 of these cabinets. Tashco is an Australian owned Company based in Melbourne. When we receive them all of our cabinets in the Museum will be of the same style, construction material and colour.

**IT ...** A high speed and reliable internet connection has been installed in Building 136 to provide Research and Education staff and Museum visitors with the ability to access the internet. It is hoped that before the end of this year all of the Foundations records will be on the Cloud, which will give the ability for volunteers to conduct work on Foundation files from home and also be able to gain access to information. This will be a big step in safeguarding the Foundations valuable records and Corporate Data.

**Museum Shop ...** Joy Souter has continued on with increasing the range of goods/merchandise that is available in the Museum shop. The online shop will be up and running as of the 13 July so please go onto our website and have a look. It has a large selection of books/merchandise and they can be paid for online and then be delivered direct to your address.

**Outside Exhibits Catering Display ...** After a request by AMOSA to AAHU for items pertaining to the Catering Corps we have been given a Wiles cooker. This will be placed on the outside veranda of building 76 on the southern side, a trailer mounted Army field kitchen of the 1970's will be placed alongside. These cookers will form part of a comprehensive Australian Army Catering Corps (AACC) display.

**Future Works P&EE Port Wakefield Collection ...**

In June 20 Chris Roe and I had a meeting with the OC of Port Wakefield P&EE, Major Tony Mumford. The reason

for the meeting was to finalise plans for the transfer of a number of significant items to the Museum and to request personnel and equipment resources to support the transfer. The transfer of the Port Wakefield Proof and Experimental Establishment Collection has been on and off for the last three years. I can now announce that this transfer will occur in September 2020. AMOSA will receive the M3 gun carriage for the 155mm gun barrel, a 4.5 inch Naval Gun with carriage, an 81mm F2 mortar, residual items from the Adlam Collection and three Rapier Repair modules. This will be another major task for volunteers hot on the heels of the installation of the new Tashco cabinets

## **Port Wakefield Proof & Experimental Grant Application ...**

I have to report that the Grant Application to DVA for the Port Wakefield Proof & Experimental Establishment Unit Display has not been successful. I will submit another shortly, this does not mean that the display will not go, but some of the IT items will have to wait for future funding.

## **Conservation & Restoration .....**

Before the COVID close down, due to OHS considerations, all of the bays in Building 80 were cleared of all equipment and materials. The Army supplied skips and the work was progressing well until the close down. The Army agreed to upgrade all of the lighting and power in this area and I can report that this is well underway and should be finished within the next 2 weeks. AAHU has supplied nearly \$15,000 worth of new tools and equipment's to put into these refurbished bays. The volunteers in this area will be quite busy for some time getting all of this equipment fitted and getting into working order. The Welding area will be relocated from Bay 8 in Building 80 to the compound of Building 8. Edged weapons will relocate to Bay 1 of Building 80 and the old Edged Weapons area will become an office area for Conservation and Restoration.

*By Wayne Birch*



*Tascho cabinet—adjustable shelves, lighting and security of display items*

# Tashco Cabinets .....

