

Gift of Ms Elsie Dishington, June 2001

Access : may be consulted (hanging on wall in rare books room)

### GURNEY CARTOON

- G 11 Alexander George Gurney (15 Mar 1902 – 4 Dec 1955), was an Australian cartoonist born in Morice Town, Devon, UK. After his father died in 1903, his mother (who was Australian) returned with him to Hobart, Tasmania, where she remarried. After leaving Macquarie Street State School at age 13, he served a seven year electrical apprenticeship with the Hydro-Electric Commission, studying art part-time in night classes at Hobart Technical School
- In 1939 he created the characters for which he became famous : *Bluey and Curley*, which first appeared in the "Picture-News" magazine then *The Sun News-Pictorial* in 1940 and syndicated throughout Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The strip, about a pair of soldiers. Was appreciated for the good-humoured way it depicted the Australian "digger" "mateship" and for its realistic use of the Australian idiom. Alex visited army camps throughout Australia and New Guinea to ensure authenticity. While in New Guinea he contracted malaria and was incapacitated for some time. The strip lost some of its appeal and readership when the pair returned to 'civvy' street.