

## A Note on the BSANZ Archive

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The records of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand (MS 13167) presently comprise some fourteen boxes of material, which are held in the Australian Manuscripts Collection at the State Library of Victoria (SLV). The first deposit was made to the SLV in 1984; recent additions mean that we now hold records covering the period from 1969 to 1998. A range of material has been archived—minutes, correspondence, financial records, proofs and draft articles for many issues of the *BSANZ Bulletin*. Several files on specific projects have survived, also details of conferences and membership. A number of files have come from Wallace Kirsop and Dietrich Borchardt, providing valuable information about the early days of the Society.

I sorted and listed the collection ten years ago and I welcomed the opportunity to revisit it. The original order of the documents is difficult to determine, given that the records have come in instalments from different hands, but this order has been maintained as far as possible (although I took the liberty of tidying the correspondence up and matching related letters which had become separated).

The collection represents the indefatigable efforts of a determined band of bibliophiles and scholars to bring together like-minded individuals and promote the study of bibliography. The Society's work has extended globally, proving itself a proponent of the value of networking and collaboration. Its members are drawn from many areas and comprise librarians, bibliographers, bibliophiles, booksellers, academics, and those who simply have an interest in the history of the book. Apart from the *Broadsheet* and the *Bulletin*, the Society has published various occasional publications. Unfortunately, little material concerning these publications has survived other than a file on J. C. T. Oates's *The Manuscripts of Thomas Erpenius* [Occasional Publication 1 (1974)].

Kirsop seems to have been the driving force behind the Society, engaging in a vigorous campaign of letter writing to drum up support and try to establish the aims of the Society. Included in the archive are letters from early members—Kirsop, Borchardt, Harold Love, Keith Maslen, B. J. McMullin, Jean Hagger, and Trevor Mills, to name but a few. Although all had a common goal, there was clearly some dissent along the way concerning the direction the Society was taking. In 1978 Borchardt was complaining at the heavily international focus of the *Bulletin* and confessing he had lost his enthusiasm. The archive reflects differing, even opposing views, on the administration of the Society, not to mention the subjects it represents. Borchardt was probably not alone in feeling that the Society's international focus had diverted attention from antipodean interests.

It should be pointed out that the collection does not necessarily contain a complete set of each type of record for the duration of the Society—nevertheless, the files

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

CONSTITUTION

Article I  
NAME

✓ The name of this society shall be the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Article II  
OBJECT

✓ The objects of the society shall be to promote research in historical bibliography and to issue bibliographical publications.

Article III  
OFFICERS

✓ The officers of the society shall be a president, one vice president, a secretary and a treasurer. The affairs of the society shall be in the hands of a council, consisting of the officers, the past president, the past secretary and the past treasurer. The officers shall be elected annually by the society and shall serve until the election of their successors. The president, secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and past president, past secretary, and past treasurer shall be elected by the society, standing committees, and special committees not otherwise provided for, shall be appointed by the president.

Article IV  
MEMBERS

✓ Any person who is recommended by the society and who is approved by the council shall be entitled to become a member of the society. The council shall have the power to elect members of the society for a term not exceeding one year. A member who has been in arrears for more than one year shall be dropped from the society, but may be restored by the council in Council of all cases.

Article V  
STANDING COMMITTEES

✓ On the motion of the president of the society the society may elect standing committees, the duties of which shall be as follows:

✓ All fees of life members, together with such other sums payable by members, shall be set aside as a permanent fund, the income of which shall be used.

Article VI  
FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

✓ Funds of the society may be raised by subscription by the society or by the sale of books, and the society may accept of any such funds.

Article VII  
BY-LAWS

✓ The council may adopt by-laws, from time to time, which shall be subject to the approval of the society.

Article VIII  
AMENDMENTS

✓ Amendments to this constitution may be proposed at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present. If the amendments are approved by the council, they shall be subject to the approval of the society.

Section 1

✓ The time and place of the annual meeting of the society shall be determined by the council. From time to time the council may determine the time and place of other meetings.

Section 2

✓ The time and place of meetings of the council shall be determined by the president or any other three members of the council.

Section 3

✓ Resolutions of the council may be obtained by correspondence through the secretary, but a two-thirds majority of the entire membership of the council shall then be necessary.

Section 4

✓ Resolutions of the council shall be taken by the secretary by correspondence only when so requested by the president or by any other three members of the council.

Section 5

✓ Resolutions of the council shall be taken by the secretary by correspondence only when so requested by the president or by any other three members of the council.

Section 6

✓ All bills shall be approved by the president and secretary prior to payment by the treasurer of the society.

Section 7

✓ The standing committees appointed by the president shall include a publication committee, a subscription committee, and a financial committee.

Section 8

✓ The publication of papers at the expense of the society shall be authorized only by vote of the council, upon recommendation of the publication committee.

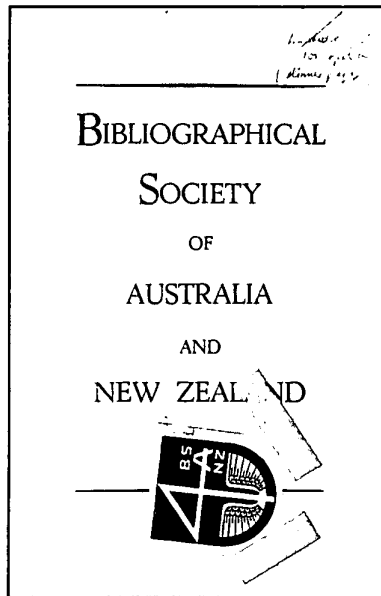
Section 9

✓ The society shall be taken into account on account of the society, or committing the society to any obligation of policy, unless approved by vote of the council.

Section 10

✓ Amendments to these by-laws may be made by a vote of the council, provided that at any meeting of the council not less than three members vote for the amendment.

*Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand, Draft Constitution, 1969?  
State Library of Victoria*



*BSANZ promotional leaflet, with original artwork of BSANZ logo*

on the *Bulletin* from 1977 onwards appear to be fairly intact and consistent though no doubt some material has been lost or lies abandoned in a garage! Examples of files that have been preserved include Janet Daalder's article on Sir Thomas Wyatt, (*BSANZ Bulletin* 8, no. 2 (1984): 82–97) and Ian McLaren's articles on publishers' author advertisements (Pts. 1 and 2. *BSANZ Bulletin* 8, no. 2 (1984): 110–26; no. 4 (1984): 191–201). Earlier *Bulletin* material, though doubtless not all of it, can be found in Kirsop's files. The membership lists are spotty, and I suspect this to be the case with the financial records. This is not unusual but it does reflect the issue of lack of continuity with changing office-bearers. One letter from an incoming editor of the *Bulletin* reveals a lack of documented procedure, about, for example, such matters as supplying free copies to contributors.

One interesting item is a draft copy of the first Constitution (which has since been revised) complete with annotations in Kirsop's hand. This sort of documentation is always useful as it enables researchers to trace the chain of thought of an individual or organisation. No doubt the annotations also reflect lengthy debate over the aims of the Society and the wording of the Constitution! A few later copies of the revised Constitution are also scattered throughout. The Borchardt files yield two different copies of the BSANZ logo, one of which is probably the original proof copy. I did not find any information about the designer of the logo although there must have been some correspondence on the matter.

BSANZ conferences are well represented in the archive, there being files on many of them. In this age of email, it is easy to forget that such events were once largely organised by letter, including guest speakers from home and abroad. Some of the files are quite comprehensive and offer an insight into the planning of the conferences, deciding on speakers, finding replacements for speakers who couldn't make it, abstracts of papers, associated activities etc.

The entire archive can be consulted by any BSANZ member; non-members require permission from the Executive to view records less than seven years old (we anticipate further instalments!) but the earlier material is freely available. A descriptive list must be consulted before material is ordered. Material should be ordered at least one working day in advance. Ideally one should ring the Manuscripts Collection on (03) 8664 7007 during business hours (10 AM–5 PM weekdays). Messages can be left out of hours. Material is read in the Heritage Collections Reading Room, which is open 10 AM–9 PM Monday to Thursday and 10 AM–6 PM Friday to Sunday. Permission to copy material generated by the Society must be obtained from the Executive. Incoming correspondence cannot be copied unless the client has obtained written permission from the copyright holder.

The SLV looks forward to our ongoing association with the BSANZ and hope members will avail themselves of the opportunity to revisit their past.