

Incorporated at Last!

as Tom Collins might have said. The Society's application for incorporation was approved in December, so we are now a legal entity with a slightly longer name and more formal meeting and reporting requirements. Individual members will probably not notice any difference, although the idea of membership itself has become more formal and *inter alia* the Society has to keep a record of when members join and when they leave the Society by resignation, death or expulsion. Such recording opens the Dickensian possibilities of leather-bound ledgers and quill pens. The Rules under which we operate will be posted to the Society's website shortly. Look out for such juicy items as how the Chairman handles a meeting that lapses for want of a quorum and how you can appeal against being expelled from the Society.

Minutes of 2013 Annual General Meeting

held in the Dixon Room, State Library of New South Wales on Thursday 21 November 2013.

The meeting opened at 4.50 pm

Present: John Arnold, Jo Birks, Des Cowley, Chris Elmore, Nathan Garvey, Donald Kerr (Chair), Wal Kirsop, David Large, Ruth Lightbourne, Tony Marshall, Janet McDonald, Brian McMullin, Katherine Milburn, Elizabeth Morrison, Ian Morrison, Kathryn Parsons, Maggie Patton, Pam Pryde, Shef Rogers, Erica Ryan, Nicholas Sparks, Rodney Swan, Anthony Tedeschi, Chris Tiffin, Jurgen Wegner

1. **Apologies:** Pat Buckridge, Kay Craddock, Gillian Dooley, Paul Eggert, Keith Maslen, Jenna Mead, Rosemary Richards, Rachel Salmond, Patrick Spedding, Noel Waite

2. Minutes of the 2012 AGM

MOTION: "That the Minutes of the 2012 AGM be accepted as a true record of the meeting". [Rogers/McDonald] Passed *nem con.*

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not otherwise covered in the Agenda.

4. President's Report

The President's report having been previously circulated, it was spoken to briefly. The President said the Society had had a successful year with a small rise in membership, and the completion of drafting our application for incorporation.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented audited reports for calendar 2012, and unaudited accounts for the period January to September 2013
MOTION: "That the Treasurer's report be accepted."
[Treasurer / Large] Passed *nem con.*

MOTION: "That Robert Digan be appointed auditor of the 2013 accounts."
[Treasurer/ I. Morrison] Passed *nem con.*

6. Editor's Report

Editor's report had been circulated. The situation on supply of articles for *Script & Print* has improved a little over the past year, but *S & P* remains a journal with an attractively short waiting time for submitted material to appear, and members are encouraged to submit their research.

Favourable NZ postage rates make it comparatively inexpensive to post out issues below a certain weight. This constrains the size of the issue and also of any inserts to be distributed.

7. Webmaster's Report

The Webmaster appointed at the last meeting, Nathan Garvey, and his assistant had effectively exchanged roles during the year. The Executive has endorsed the transfer, and appointed David Large the Society's Webmaster who reported to the meeting. He said that a change of platform during the year has provided easier management of the site and lower maintenance fees. Members are invited to provide content for inclusion on the site.

8. Election of 2013-2014 Executive and Council

The President declared all elected positions vacant. The following nominations had been received.

President: Don Kerr

Vice-President: Anthony Tedeschi

Secretary: Chris Tiffin

Treasurer: Andrew Sergeant

Council Members

NZ Noel Waite, Kathryn Parsons

Tasmania Ian Morrison

Victoria Jan McDonald

ACT no nomination received

NSW Maggie Patton

Qld Nathan Garvey

SA Gillian Dooley

WA no nomination received

These persons were all declared elected.

9. Incorporation of the Society

The Secretary spoke of the reason for incorporation and the process by which the Rules had been developed. He outlined the probable changes that would ensue for the Committee and for the general membership. The proposed Rules having been previously circulated to all members

he called for any questions or comments. No questions or comments being forthcoming, the motion was put:

MOTION: "That the Society should incorporate in the State of Victoria and adopt the schedule of Rules as circulated to members." [President / Secretary]

Proxy votes to the Chairman had been received from Patrick Buckridge, Gillian Dooley, Paul Eggert, Jenna Mead, Rachel Salmond, Noel Waite. All voted in favour of the motion.

The motion was passed *nem con.* Vote tally was: Yes 31; No 0; Abstain 0.

Jan McDonald moved a vote of thanks to the Executive for their work in preparing the application. [McDonald/Marshall]. Passed *nem con.*

10. Future Conferences

Andrew Sergeant volunteered Canberra to host next year's conference. Wal Kirsop pointed out that next year's Academy of the Humanities meeting was to be held in Canberra 20-22 November and he suggested there could be some advantage in the BSANZ conference immediately preceding or immediately following that. The conference convenor noted that suggestion.

Melbourne was proposed for 2015.

Without prejudice, Melbourne members present agreed to consult with their constituency to see if they could muster support for mounting the 2015 conference.

11. AOB

Brian McMullin raised the issue of the Publications Committee, which in the past had operated under difficulties with a single paper copy of a book MS circulated for assessment to assessors stretching from Melbourne to Oxford. As it is now some time since our last occasional publication it was decided to advertise for manuscripts. It was thought that a coordinator was

necessary to initiate and take control of this process. The Society Editor had previously expressed scepticism about whether his role should be extended to include this activity. Brian McMullin volunteered to act as Publications Officer, a suggestion that was enthusiastically supported by the meeting. The membership will be canvassed for suitable MS.

The meeting closed at 5.30.

ACT Council Representative

The Committee has appointed Professor Paul Eggert as ACT Council member for 2014. Paul is widely known in the field of bibliography and editing. He is a former President of BSANZ and is currently President of the American-based Society for Textual Scholarship. The position of Council member (WA) remains vacant.

Occasional Publications

As well as *Script & Print*, the Society issues a series of monographs on most aspects of bibliography. A list of previous publications can be found on the Society's webpage at <http://www.bsanz.org/publications/occasional-publications/> If you have a suitable manuscript nearing completion the editor of the series, Dr Brian McMullin, would like to discuss it with you. He can be contacted initially at brian.mcmullin@monash.edu.

Conferences

BSANZ's annual conference will be hosted by the National Library of Australia, Canberra, 26-28 November 2014. A Rare Books Librarians' Day will precede the conference opening on Wednesday 26 November. The conference this year has the general theme of 'Bibliographica'. A call for papers will be emailed to members shortly.

book:logic 6 will be held at the University of Newcastle, NSW, on 26 April 2014 on the theme of 'Literary Histories, Material Cultures, Digital Futures'. There is no registration fee, but places are limited. Information from A/ Prof. Ros Smith, Ros.Smith@newcastle.edu.au.

A little more exotically, SHARP will hold its 2014 conference at the University of Antwerp, Belgium 17-21 September, on the theme 'The Religions of the Book' (following on from 2013's 'Geographies of the Book'). The venue is superbly appropriate; Antwerp has deep, deep bibliographical roots.

book:logic 2013

Many and various were the takes offered by presenters at the annual 'book:logic' symposium on that long continuum between writing and revising to producing, publishing and reading. The one-day event was held at the University of Queensland on 4 October 2013, and rejoiced in the title: 'Editing, Reading Studying: A symposium of the affordances of the (im)material book'. It was convened by Roger Osborne and David Carter. 'What is the work?' was a common implied question in many of the papers as was the question of the material *or* immaterial (digital) form that scholarly editions and analysis of reception might take henceforth. 'Text' was no longer good enough, with each stage of a work's journey able to be inspected from historical and discursive perspectives, or materialised, agented and timebound ones. Tim Dolan got the event off to a heady start with his paper 'Wonders taken for signs: digital texts and close reading'. Accepting the argument of John Frow that the history of literature is the history of its uses, Dolan argued that historicist analysis allows us to challenge the symbolic capital ('the regime of reading') that institutionally valued literary works bring with them. But, on the other and speaking from his experience of recent years in editing

Thomas Hardy's *Return of the Native*, he argued for the counterbalancing need to allow room for the study of the present moment of writing, revising and reading always in response to material documents. Will literary studies change, he asked, given that its methods tend to reflect the medium?: a nice doffing of the cap to the term 'book:logic', with its cleverly medial and unspaced colon. No two presenters seemed to spell this umbrella neologism identically in their PowerPoints, as nearly all explored the widening gap between the material and digital forms of textuality.

The question of the sociality of literature as a component of reception study was dealt with by Julieanne Lamond. She used algorithm-driven cluster analysis of borrowing records at the Lambton miners' library to try to establish tastes shared by borrowers there. Tully Barnett surprised us with her contention: 'The binding of this book is social: Google Books and Kindle Social Highlighting as Modes of Reception.' She talked about books, perhaps with marginalia, being disbound for scanning and digital distribution. The material book's history is thereby frozen, and yet this scan will come to represent the work for the great majority of its readers in future. Such books are effectively rebound within apps and within the 'social binding' around the edges of the book: readers' evaluations or shared highlighting of passages or annotations of them, lodged at the site, alongside others' exploiting of a site's functions as a means of social networking. (Strange but true!) So how should we undertake in future a digital bibliography so as to take account of readers' new forms of encounter with books?

In more familiar bibliographical climes, Nathan Garvey showed us the need to understand the editorial mediation and rewriting in convict narratives published in the nineteenth century (which often nevertheless profess to present the convict's authentic voice). This raised the question of the applicability to such

narratives of literary or documentary scholarly editing. Bryony Musgrove drove the wedge deeper by showing that the Rachel Henning letters in the early 1950s allowed those texts to attain to a social authority by virtue of the 80,000 copies in nine editions that have appeared over the 50 or 60 years since. The digital environment, which seems to give priority to documentary presentation rather than editorial intervention, could do this for the original letters in the Mitchell Library, which were themselves, ironically defaced by the processes of the 1950s editing. Two historical moments here?, as well as the third of digital presentation?

Several other papers, each enlightening and welcome, were given at this enjoyable gathering: Jocelyn Hargrave on editing educational books on screen; Brigid Magner on the emergence of interactive digital travel guides especially for dead authors' house museums (what happens to the authorial real thing in this digital form?); and David Large on studying and accounting for Malcolm Lowry's heavy borrowings in his novel *Ultramarine*, and revisions of its published forms. It is consequently in need of an annotated scholarly edition. Mark Byron filled us in on the progress on his collaborative digital edition of the manuscripts of Samuel Beckett. Genetic criticism and editing, as applied to modern manuscripts, are becoming a growth industry, especially but not only in Europe. Finally, Ros Smith provided an update on the mixed formats (both archival and editorial) that the collaborative early modern women's writing project has been adapting for the resources it gathers, a variety of approach possible only because of the digital medium that it uses.

The next book:logic meeting, to which all BSANZ members are warmly invited, will be at the University of Newcastle in 2014 (convener: Ros Smith); updates will appear at <http://hass.unsw.adfa.edu.au/ASEC>

Paul Eggert