



Local Bibliography - ‘The Deepening Stream’

The Annual Conference of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand Inc.

University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand 20–22 November 2016



The organisers, Kathryn Parsons and Mark Houlahan (maph@waikato.ac.nz), have been working hard on the conference arrangements and have provided advance information for this issue of the *Broadsheet*. The conference will be held at the University of Waikato, Hamilton on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 November. Although there will be no formal conference event on the evening of Sunday 20 November, tables are being reserved at a nearby heritage pub-bistro (second oldest building in the city!) for people to meet and greet over dinner before the conference formally opens next day.

Accommodation choices include a campus dorm, suburban motels and city hotels. More details of the accommodation can be found on the Society’s webpage at BSANZ.org. (Intriguingly, the student dorm claims to offer “modern and comfortable single rooms with a king-sized bed” so either bed-sizes are named differently in New Zealand from what they are in Australia, or New Zealand students demand a significant level of comfort while they study.) The BSANZ website gives the URL for booking a student dorm room and the contacts for the various recommended off-campus motels and hotels.

The conference programme offers 17 papers plus a keynote, which this year will be given by the Society’s President, Dr Donald Kerr whose theme is, “An Incomplete Art: The World of Bibliographies”. Donald is the author of two important biographies of New Zealand bibliophiles, “*Amassing Treasures for All Times: Sir George Grey, Colonial Bookman and Collector* (2006), and *Hocken: Prince of Collectors* (2015), but his credits extend also to a splendid sequence of online book exhibitions, and the standard work on the history of duelling in New Zealand. Papers at the conference will cover manuscript studies; new media and bibliography; European books and print culture; studies in antipodean publication; specific collections and local archives. The list of papers is:

Birks, Jo, “A notable collection of New Zealand books”: tracing bibliophiles and their books in Special Collections at the University of Auckland

Colding Smith, Merete, and Brian McMullin, The Poynton Collection at the University of Melbourne

Daly, Nicola, Te Reo Māori in New Zealand Dual Language Picturebooks

Duché, Véronique, Francesco Colonna's *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*

Farley, Simon, Publications in the Wake of Cook's *Endeavour* Voyage

Galloway, Bryce, Of Sci-Fi, Punk and Paper Craft: the New Zealand zine scene

Hamblyn, Michael, Newbold's Bookshop and the "Tyranny of Distance"

Hargrave, Jocelyn, From the Academy to Trade: the movement of mathematics texts in early-modern England

Houlahan, Mark, Mansfield Materials: Notebook 10, q.ms 1250

Milburn, Katherine, The Hunter Collection; an example of a mid-twentieth century socialist and communist collection

Morrison, Ian, "Copied from a manuscript of 1826": the commonplace book of a colonial surveyor and his family

Pittaway, Gail, Recipes for Life, Flashes in the Current

Prince, Georgia, Mary Lawrence: artist, engraver, printer and publisher of *A Collection of Roses from Nature*

Rees-Jones, Margaret, *The Poverty Bay Herald*: a time of challenge but stability

Thomas, Susan, Blacke Beares, Green Dragons and Brazen Serpents: re-imagining a 17th century publishing community through the University of Melbourne Rare Books Collection

Wallace, Catherine, and Fabrice Desmarais, Activism and National Identity: online community responses to a public relations crisis

Wee, Daniel, We Need to Talk about Zines

At the close of sessions on the first day (Monday 21st) there will be a reception at the Academy of Performing Arts on the Waikato campus from 5pm to 7pm. There will be a performance of *Love's Labours Lost* by the local drama company, *Carving in Ice* (<http://www.carvinginice.co.nz/>). The theatre adjoins the reception venue so no route march will be required of those opting to attend. It will be possible to buy tickets for this performance when registering for the conference. Shakespeare's play, of course, is not without interest to bibliographers, both through its appearance in variant texts – the Quarto version and that of the First Folio – and in the enduring puzzle presented by the phantom sequel *Love's Labours Won*.

The AGM of the Society will be held on Tuesday probably in the morning. The agenda and supporting papers for the meeting will be circulated about four weeks in advance. All members of the Society are invited to attend and vote, and non-members are invited to attend as observers.

Registration for the conference will be available shortly using the Eventbrite window as in the last couple of years. You will be able to pay registration fees by credit card on a secure portal linked from the Society's webpage. If you are allergic to either the internet or credit cards, please contact the organisers about alternative methods of paying your registration.

For those planning travel arrangements, the final session of the conference will conclude not later than 4pm on Tuesday 22nd.

Keep an eye on the Society's webpage *BSANZ.org* for progressive updates of information.

Rare Book Librarians Day

As in previous years, the conference will be abutted by Rare Books Librarians Day. However, this year the RBL Day will follow, rather than precede, the BSANZ conference and will be held on Wednesday 23rd November. Planning for this event is not yet finalised. Details will be circulated through the Rare Book Librarians informal network as they become available.

Melbourne Rare Book Week 2016

The Melbourne Rare Book Week is a wondrous thing. Apart from the Antiquarian Book Fair which concludes the week (actually it's ten days), there is a plethora of exhibitions, talks and activities sponsored by a rich variety of institutions that one would not immediately think of in connection with books, rare or otherwise. The stand-out example this year was the Melbourne Cricket Club who kindly provided the venue for BSANZ's contribution this year. This was Lucy Sussex's wide-ranging lecture, "Marvellous Melbourne and its Publishers" which offered insights into the established book publishers like George Robertson and Samuel Mullens, but also more marginal and even adventitious ones like Kemp and Boyce, Inglis and Co., and Frederic Trischler. There was an interesting explanation of the sensational success of *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, and as an aside, Lucy's recent success in tracking down the grave of crime-writer, Mary Fortune. The talk was given in the MCG Library three stories above the hallowed turf.

Other BSANZ members presenting during the week included John Arnold and Patrick Spedding. John rather cleverly took his audience on a virtual walk in the 1970s from the Public Library to Flinders Street station visiting the secondhand bookshops of that era en route to describe their stock and the personalities (and in some cases foibles) of their proprietors. He then appended a similar virtual biblio-excursion by car to Melbourne suburban bookshops in the 1980s. Full of delicious anecdotes, it was the sort of performance that only someone who had been on the Melbourne book scene forever could have done. Patrick Spedding delivered the annual Foxcroft Lecture in the rather flash auditorium at the VSL on "Banned Books Exposed". The lecture's starting point was an exuberant 1960s claim that various major libraries around the world including the Vatican were stuffed to the ceilings with tens of thousands of erotic titles. Patrick progressively debunked these estimates as wildly optimistic. He then proceeded to discuss the protocols under which restricted collections have been stored (in one case, literally caged), catalogued (discreetly flagged by symbols such as X, *, or Δ) and issued to readers (very reluctantly). It was a well put-together account that approached banned books from an unusual angle.

Chris Tiffin

SHARP 2016 in Paris

SHARP (the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing) has been working on expanding its role as an international organisation for book history. Following the 2014 conference in Antwerp and the 2015 conference in Montreal, the Paris conference seemed more natural in its bi-lingualism (French and English) than in previous years, though the simultaneous translation of plenary sessions still created mystifications at times ("bibliothèque bleue" became "the blue library")*.

Designed around the theme, "The Language of Books," the more than three hundred presentations covered a wide range of topics. This was the largest SHARP conference to date, with nearly five hundred delegates, though it never felt crowded within the massive

space of the BNF François Mitterrand. Nonetheless, because the BNF is not really set up as a conference venue, concurrent sessions were also held at another venue just far enough away that it was not possible to move between venues for individual papers, though the breaks were long enough to switch locations between panels. Fortunately, most panels were well designed and encouraged attendance of all three related papers.

The full program and abstracts in both English and French are on the web (<http://www.sharpweb.org/conferences/2016/program/>). Obviously any one person's experience of the conference can offer only a very limited perspective on the event. The best panel I heard was the very first one, "Voices and Books 1500-1800," examining evidence from printed sources of how readers thought about the act of reading, especially reading aloud. The three speakers had all been part of a grant project, and all three (Elspeth Jajdelska, Jenny Richards and Abigail Williams) offered intriguing insights about the meaning of dialogue in print and about how writers conceived of their relationships to readers. I hope to review Jajdelska's new book, from which her talk was drawn, for *Script & Print*.

There were several panels on ornament databases and their uses for identifying anonymous publishers or false imprints in France and the Netherlands. Digitization has made such studies possible, and the initial results look quite promising. Visual interest also appeared strongly in multiple panels on comic books, graphic novels and illustrated works for children. Marketing, especially international marketing, and translation were also frequent panel topics.

The plenary speakers were all engaging. David McKitterick discussed the origins of the concept of rarity among bibliophiles and institutions, offering a taster for those interested in his Dunedin Rare Book Summer School class (<https://blogs.otago.ac.nz/cfb/rbs2017/Origins/>). Anne Coldiron presented a dazzling reflection on "Translation, Paratext, Design: Languages of the Early Modern Book" that was the conference highlight, while the closing tribute to the impact of the work of Roger Chartier (who was present and responded graciously to the comments) provided an impressive testimony to the wide-ranging power of book history in the hands of an expert.

The 25th annual SHARP conference, on the theme of "Technologies of the Book" takes place in Victoria, British Columbia, from 9–12 June 2017. The Call for Papers may be found at <http://www.sharp2017.com/>. The conference will be bookended by sessions of the Digital Humanities Summer Institute (details here: <http://www.dhsi.org/>), so the technological theme will be prominent. And for those of you who like to plan ahead, SHARP will be coming to Australia for 2018: 24–27 June at the University of Western Sydney. BSANZ members in the area will no doubt be called upon to help organise aspects of that event.

Shef Rogers

[* "bibliothèque bleue" are French chapbooks of the 17th and 18th centuries often issued in blue-coloured wrappers. But of course you knew that. – Ed.]

Looking Ahead

The 2017 BSANZ conference will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, on dates yet to be fixed, but probably in November. The Committee is keen to hear from members who are interested in hosting the 2018 and 2019 conferences. To lodge a preliminary (non-binding) expression of interest, please send an email to the President, Donald Kerr (donald.kerr@otago.ac.nz) to initiate discussion and hopefully stake a claim. 2019 will, of course, be the Society's 50th

Anniversary, and we should already be thinking of how to mark that occasion appropriately.