



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand Inc. (BSANZ)
Annual Conference 2017

“Connecting the Colonies: Empires and Networks in the History
of the Book”

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

22-24 November 2017

Empires of all kinds—commercial, geo-political, bureaucratic—are defined by their peripheries as well as their centres, by the flows of information that maintain or destabilise their structures of authority and control.

BSANZ, in collaboration with SHARP, the Society for the History of Authorship Reading and Publishing, invites scholars and researchers to consider the printed word, the book, and texts of all kinds, as both mechanism and matter of transmission.

We invite proposals for 20-minute papers on any matters of bibliographical interest, traditional and contemporary. Proposals for three-person panel discussions are also welcome. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Commercial empires: the book as a commodity in colonial contexts
- Across boundaries: print networks across geo-political, commercial or bureaucratic borders
- The trans-temporal: the afterlife of books and re-imagining of ideas
- Indigenous cultures, frontier encounters, and the presence or absence of print
- The stuff of legend: the role of print in constructing colonial and imperial consciousness
- The book as treasured possession: emotion, ownership and display

Some financial assistance towards travel costs may be available for postgraduate students who are presenting papers. Please enquire when submitting your proposal, and include a brief budget outlining your anticipated travel costs.

Proposals – including, a 250-word abstract title of paper, name and institutional affiliation of each author, a brief biography of each author, email address of each author, and 3-5 keywords – should be sent to the convenor, Ian Morrison, ian.morrison@education.tas.gov.au. Presenters must be or become members of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand Inc.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday 31 March 2017**.



The 2016 Conference “Local Bibliography: The Deepening Stream”

The conference opened with Donald Kerr’s keynote “An Incomplete Art”, a surprisingly extensive overview of the beginnings of bibliography going back to the Sorbonne catalogue of the 14th century when books were, as like as not, identified and arranged by the first word of their text. Over the centuries, precision, theoretical complexity, and historical rigour were brought to what we now know as bibliography. The paper then moved on to a survey of the achievements and philanthropy of a satisfying number of modern bibliographers in New Zealand and Australia, some professionally and academically engaged, but some simply old-fashioned collectors combining self-destructive addiction and quiet pertinacity.

Several papers were built around collections: Brian McMullin and Merete Colding Smith on the Poynton collection at the University of Melbourne, Jo Birks on the provenance of books in the collection of the University of Auckland focussing on four collector-donors who had made substantial contributions to the library, and Katherine Milburn who described a collection of manuscripts and pamphlets in the Hocken Library assembled by a communist activist. Apart from the fascinating narrative of Ted Hunter and his wife Vera being subject to all the predictable suspicions of Cold-War New Zealand, Milburn touched on many theoretical and practical dilemmas faced by curators of ephemera collections. In a fascinating extrapolation, Susan Thomas used printers’ imprints and colophons in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century books at the University of Melbourne Library as a starting point to envisage the publishing geography of St Paul’s Churchyard in London.

The best examples of papers that exploited the “local” of the conference theme were those by Michael Hamblyn and Margaret Reece-Jones. Hamblyn’s paper (ably read in his absence by Kathryn Parsons) sketched a history of Reynold’s, an important Dunedin second-hand bookshop run by a self-educated ex-soldier, ship-deserter, and ex-railway-ganger, Richard “Dick” White. Over decades he handled some of the most important collections sold in New Zealand, and established an international reputation as a dealer in fine books while running a chaotic establishment whose bread and butter continued to be the resale of school and university text books. Margaret Reece-Jones reminded us of the precariousness of remote printing houses like that of the *Poverty Bay Herald*, with communications, newsprint supplies and transport all subject to high prices and perilous interruption. But a forward-looking embrace of technological development enabled the provincial paper to overcome some of its disadvantages and compete with metropolitan ones.

Other papers probed deeply into single books or groups of books. Véronique Duché elegantly sited the 15th century *Hypnertomachia Poliphili* (*The Strife of Love in a Dream*) by Francesco Colonna in a series of contexts or “communities” moving forwards from its original Italian illustration and printing to French translations and printings in both Paris and Lyon, and its subsequent life as a prized artefact in private and institutional collections. Georgia Prince described a late 18th century hand-coloured *rosarium* by Mary Lawrance, startling the audience by revealing that Lawrance rubbed shoulders with prominent engravers such as Henry Fuseli and William Blake. Simon Farley collated the various contemporary accounts of Captain Cook’s voyages, pointing out that the Admiralty sought to monopolise the narrative of the voyage, partly to suppress information which might be useful to colonising competitors, and partly to recoup some of the costs of the expedition. Jocelyn Hargrave spoke on editions of the second oldest maths book known, Euclid’s *Elements of Geometry*. She followed it from its first translation into English and publication in 1570 for an academy audience to the progressively student and then layperson focus of successive editions.

Two papers considered issues in the editing and publication of private papers. Mark

Houlahan discussed Katherine Mansfield's notebooks in the Alexander Turnbull library, the sophistication of them by John Middleton Murry as keeper of the flame, and the editorial choices necessary in any project that translates manuscript conventions (or lack of them) to the formal conventions of print. Ian Morrison described a set of scrap- and letter-books maintained by early Tasmanian surveyor, John Scott, and his descendants, that held ongoing interest for their artistic expertise as well as their historical insights. A crux in the latter is the dating of Scott's movements in the 1820s as the reliability of his records of Aboriginal vocabulary depends upon the primacy of his exposure to particular clans.

Extending the gaze, a few papers led the discussion into popular culture fields. Gail Pittaway explored what might be termed the cultural marginalia of early New Zealand cookbooks, while Nicola Daly discussed strategies for multi-language children's picture books, drawing distinctions between those that issued completely separate editions in different languages, those that offered parallel texts in a single edition, and those that were written in one language but made prominent use of loan words from a second language. In a happy pairing of papers on fan magazines, Daniel Wee (who won my notional prize for the best title: "We need to talk about Zines") and Bryce Galloway spoke about definitional and cultural aspects of zines, Galloway wondering if they had lost their political resonance and *raison d'être*, and Wee entering a plea for them to be treated more seriously by institutional curators. The conference had a chance to hiss the villain in Catherine Wallace and Fabrice Desmarais' engaging paper on the 2011 social media revolt against Adidas's attempted price gouging on that most necessary and sacred of icons for which they held the monopoly, the All Blacks' football jersey.

The organisers, Kathryn Parsons and Mark Houlahan, did a splendid job in preparing the conference, and running it smoothly. An excellent production of *Love's Labours Lost*, a play not often produced even in cities much bigger than Hamilton, was a fine conclusion to the first day, and on the Wednesday after the conference the Rare Book Librarians group excused to Tauranga to visit the Elms Mission House Library, and to conduct their Secret Librarians' business.

Chris Tiffin

President's Report

2016 has been a solid if somewhat subdued year for the Society, although a few changes necessitate mention. Jan McDonald, Rare Books Librarian, State Library Victoria, took over the Treasury post and has worked towards getting BSANZ financial matters on track (see Report). And Vice-President Anthony Tedeschi is standing down from the Committee. I offer many thanks to Anthony for his support over the years; an ever-willing member this side of the channel. Dr Chris Tiffin (Hon. Secretary) continues his very able work for the Society, and I offer a huge thanks to him. Dr David Large continues to work behind the scenes with the BSANZ website; members are encouraged to contribute to it: www.bsanz.org. Council continues to provide sage advice to the Committee. We received excellent suggestions concerning methods of supporting student members, and attracting others into the BSANZ fold. No doubt further discussion on this matter will ensue. It is also pleasing to note that we continue to attract new members to the Society. Each receives a formal letter of welcome from the President, and a copy of the BSANZ rules book.

Issues of the Society's *Script & Print* continue to appear regularly, each well-packaged and presented by editor Dr Shef Rogers. As his Report testifies, our journal currently offers an unusually quick turnaround time. Please do think about *Script & Print* as a vehicle for your next article.

We again contributed as a Society to Melbourne Rare Book Week. Our BSANZ representative was Dr Lucy Sussex, who talked on "'Marvellous Melbourne' and its publishers" at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Library. This had an excellent turn-out, and from all accounts Lucy's presentation was much enjoyed by the attendees.

As you are all aware, the BSANZ conference for 2016 is in Hamilton, New Zealand.

This is a first for them and as President I have to thank Kathryn Parsons (Cambridge Museum) and Dr Mark Houlahan (English Department, Waikato University) for stepping up and hosting the conference. Some interesting papers have been offered and I know those attending will thoroughly enjoy the scholarship, the conviviality (as always), and the exploration of Hamilton, including the Rare Books/Heritage Collections Librarians' excursion to Tauranga.

Looking Ahead

And the BSANZ conference for 2017? I am pleased to report that the 2017 conference will be hosted in Hobart, Tasmania. Ian Morrison has already begun planning and we look forward to the call for papers which will be announced shortly. As always, we look further ahead and hope by the end of the AGM the venue for 2018 can be named. Tentative offers have been received from both Brisbane and Adelaide for 2018. Special thought is being put towards events in 2019, because that year will be the Society's 50th anniversary.

Everyone will note that membership and subscription rates have remained unchanged. This continues to be good news, and hopefully it will attract more members to our Society. Again, this is my old 'chestnut' – the need for more members to invigorate the Society and ensure its longevity. Please mention the BSANZ to fellow scholars, librarians, bibliographers, book historians, etc., and encourage them to join.

Please do enjoy the conference, travel safe, and good wishes for the rest of 2016.

Donald Kerr
University of Otago

Editor's Report 2016

If you have been reading your journal this year, you will be well aware that it is running behind. 40.3 will go to press before the end of November and be posted out this year. 40.4 will have to wait until early 2017, meaning that there should be five issues in 2017. I say 'should' because the problem facing the journal is not an especially lazy editor (though there have been distractions this year with Otago facing cuts to Humanities, including the Department of English and Linguistics, in my first year as Head of Department), but rather a shortage of copy that prevents the editor being able to work an issue ahead and therefore keep to schedule. With limited copy there are fewer opportunities for logical pairing of articles, and the whole process becomes more stressful and less polished.

So I strongly urge all members to send in submissions. *Script & Print* is open to bibliographical notes and editorials as well as essays, and we love reviews. We also have a strong reputation among publishers for the quality of our reviews, a reputation I would like to sustain. Whenever you see a book you know you need to read, email Iain Sharp, our reviews editor, and tell him you want to review it (iain.sharp@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz). The book will appear in your box in a few weeks direct from the publisher, and Iain will receive the resulting review enthusiastically and offer elegant editorial support. We also like to include illustrations in the journal, so if possible please include visual material to help tell your story.

Our overall subscription numbers have remained steady at just over 190. Costs remain fairly stable and current subscriptions remain adequate to enable production of the journal. We can afford to publish; we just need your support in encouraging submissions. As editor, I am happy to work with authors to develop pieces, and I welcome illustrations, tables, and other supporting data. If you have a postgraduate student doing interesting things with books, please encourage that student to think about *Script & Print* as a possible outlet. We offer quick turnaround of well-prepared material and very personalised service.

As in the past two years I am pleased to be able to thank Jo Oranje for her excellent proofreading and help with mailings. Chris and Jan also provide valuable updates to the mailing list, but if you feel you've missed any issue, please email me and I will try to rectify

the omission.

Shef Rogers
University of Otago