



2014 BSANZ Conference
'Bibliographica'
National Library of Australia, Canberra, 26–28 November 2014

Preparations are well advanced for the BSANZ annual conference to be held at the National Library in Canberra from Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th November. As in previous years, the conference will be preceded by Rare Book Librarians' Day on the Wednesday and the BSANZ conference will kick off with a Welcome function that evening. The sessions proper will commence on the Thursday morning and will conclude at 4pm on the Friday afternoon. The theme this year is the general one of 'Bibliographica' to allow the broadest range of papers to be offered by members. The conference dinner will be held on the Thursday evening. The conference will also include the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

The Keynote speaker will be Colin Steele who, under the title 'The Past, the Present and the Future of Book Collecting: An Illustrated Lecture,' will reflect on over 50 years of book collecting, both from an institutional and personal perspective and speculate on twenty-first century trends. Major collections that Colin has assembled have been donated to institutional libraries. His Latin American collection is held by La Trobe University Library, his science fiction and fantasy collections by the Fisher Library at the University of Sydney and his signed Australian literature collection is in the ANU Library. A small but significant collection of signed Australian political material is held in the Library of Old Parliament House, Canberra. His current personal collections include signed material covering politics, sport, film and television, and biography.

From his time in the Bodleian Library, Oxford and the Australian National University Library, Colin will reflect on the nature of collecting and some of the fascinating collectors and booksellers he has met. Colin will also look forward, from his current research on scholarly communication and publishing, to the nature of book collecting in a digital era.

Colin was awarded an Australian Centenary medal in 2003 for contributions to Australian scholarly communication. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities, a former judge for four years of the Prime Minister's history and non-fiction awards, Chair of the Council of Humanities and Social Sciences Australian academic book prize for 2014, and a Knight Cross of Queen Isabella la Catolica of Spain.

Colin has been a long-time reviewer for the *Canberra Times* and for *Australian Bibliionews*. He also reviews for the *Australian Book Review* and the *Australian Library Journal*. He was a regular contributor to the British journal, *Antiquarian Book Review/ Rare Book Review* from 1977 to the journal's demise in the early twenty-first century. Colin is the author/editor of seven books and over 100 articles and has been the keynote speaker for library and book conferences in seven countries.

A draft list of other papers to be presented includes:

<i>Denis Bryans</i>	“‘Lost, Stolen or Strayed”: A Survey of Australian Type Founders’ Specimens’
<i>Geoffrey Burkhardt</i>	‘Provenance Across the Tyrannies of Time and Distance’
<i>Bryan Coleborne</i>	‘Editing an Early Eighteenth-Century Political Correspondence’
<i>Mary Jane Edwards</i>	‘Bentley and Bibliography: Why the First Needs the Second’
<i>Robert Holden</i>	‘The <i>Boyd</i> Massacre: How the Compilation of a Bibliography and Chronology Reveals an Unprecedented Event in Print Culture’
<i>Philip Jackson</i>	‘The Woodbury Printing Process’
<i>Amanda Laugesen</i>	‘The Publication History of <i>Songs and Slang of the British Soldier</i> and Historical Remembrance’
<i>Jean McBain</i>	‘The Remediation of Cato’s Letters through the Transatlantic Eighteenth Century’
<i>Bernard Muir</i>	‘A Report on the Preliminary Analysis of Three Medieval Books of Hours in Victorian Libraries’
<i>Libby Nichol</i>	‘Supporting New Zealand’s Early Composers: The Role of the Music Publisher Arthur Eady and Company, 1878–1913’
<i>Michael Piggott</i>	‘Developing a Scholarly Finding Aid to Sir John Ferguson’s Manuscripts Collection – Closing the Final “Ferguson Gap”’
<i>Margaret Rees Jones</i>	‘How They Got the News’
<i>Caitlin Stone</i>	‘Menzie’s the Reader: The Personal Library of Sir Robert Menzie’s’
<i>Rodney Swan</i>	‘All that Jazz – The Story of the Creation of One of the 20th Century’s Finest Illustrated Books, Matisse’s <i>Jazz</i> ’
<i>Anthony Tedeschi</i>	‘Sir Redmond Barry’s Books in the Baillieu Library’

Key Dates

Submission of proposals	<i>now closed</i>
Registration opens	Monday 1 September 2014
Closing date for members’ early bird registration	Monday 27 October 2014
Closing date for general registrations	Thursday 20 November 2014
Rare Book Librarians’ day (related event)	Wednesday 26 November 2014
Conference welcome	Wednesday 26 November 2014, 5.30pm
Sessions commence	Thursday 27 November 2014, 8.45am
Annual General Meeting	Thursday 27 November 2014, 5pm
Conference dinner	Thursday 27 November 2014, 7pm
Conference close	Friday 28 November 2014, 4pm

The conference dinner will be held on the evening of 27 November at University House, ANU. More details available shortly on the Society website.

Conference registration will be available through the Society’s web page www.bsanz.org/ from Monday 1 September 2014.

All enquiries to the conference convenor, Andrew Sergeant, Petherick Reading Room, National Library of Australia, a.sergeant@nla.gov.au, ph 02 6262 1602.

Conferences and Seminars

SHARP this year will be held in Antwerp, Belgium, 17–21 September 2014 with the theme of ‘Religions of the Book.’ Next year’s conference is planned for Montreal, Canada, 6–11 July 2015.

36th Annual Conference of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association
26–28 March 2015, Boston, MA
‘Material Cultures/Material Worlds’

The list of topics on which papers are sought reads like the contents of Granny’s attic, but includes (in the long nineteenth century): ‘collecting folklore and songs, ... colonial objects, ... books and manuscripts as objects, the materiality of texts, art materials, food, fraudulent items or the luxury trade’.

‘Please email 250-word abstracts for 20-minute papers along with one-page CVs to the program chairs by **September 30, 2014** to ncsaboston2015@gmail.com. Paper abstracts should include author’s name, institutional affiliation, and paper title in the heading. We welcome panel proposals with three panelists and a moderator or alternative formats with pre-circulated papers and discussion’.

Int’l Congress on Medieval Studies
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo,
14–17 May 2015

‘Manuscript Fragmentology’

Odd thongs, bits of leftover pastry dough, the perfectly good 12-volt transformer orphaned by a printer that has died – life is full of manifestly valuable things whose use or application needs to be rediscovered. The well-known dilemma is being confronted at this conference in relation to medieval manuscripts.

‘Although tens of thousands of intact medieval codices can be found in collections worldwide, countless other manuscripts survive only in fragmentary form—whether as illuminations divorced from their original contexts, small constituents recycled as structural supports

for later bindings, or single leaves and quires cut up by dealers for the collectors’ market. Regardless of their origins, these fragments represent an incalculable number of lost codices. They suggest evocative and meaningful ways for students and scholars to engage with the textual, literary, artistic, and religious culture of the Middle Ages, not to mention the antiquarian, bibliophilic, commercial, and pedagogical interests of subsequent owners. Students today are most likely to encounter medieval manuscripts for the first time through fragments.

This session especially encourages papers on the research questions, methods, and resources used by scholars in teaching from manuscript fragments. While we invite submissions broadly related to the theme of ‘fragmentology,’ other areas of focus could be the digital reconstruction of manuscript books, including efforts to disseminate fragmentary manuscripts online, the history of biblioclasm, and the place of the fragment in private and/or institutional collecting. We also welcome proposals for presentations about unknown or underutilized fragment collections.’

Please send your proposal including a one-page abstract and completed Participant Information Form (available from <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/submissions/index.html>) to Eric J. Johnson (johnson.4156@osu.edu) no later than **5 September 2014**.

Exhibitions

The University of Otago Library is currently showing ‘Viva l’Italia. A Regional Romp through Italy’, a geographically (i.e. regionally) arranged exhibition of books and prints from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. Engravings of the layout of early fortified towns are particularly impressive. The physical exhibition closes on 5 September but the splendid online version is at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/library/exhibitions/italy/index.php>.

The University of Adelaide Library celebrates a 140th birthday with an unusual exhibition containing one book published each year since 1874. There is no online version but even the list of the titles makes for interesting contemplation.

The State Library of South Australia has given over its Treasures Wall to an exhibition of World War I and South Australians. The exhibition features artefacts and ephemera rather than books for the most part, but the items are all interesting. A handwritten mimeographed newsletter produced by German internees in South Australia, and a commemorative plaque for a dead comrade made from a flattened shell casing (the plaque, not the comrade) are among the highlights.

The World War I theme is strong also at the State Library of New South Wales. One exhibition running till 21 September is 'Life Interrupted: Personal Diaries from World War I.' Although not easy to navigate, quite a bit of the material is accessible online. Try exploring at <http://ww1.sl.nsw.gov.au/explore/179>.

The Fisher Library, University of Sydney, has an exhibition running till mid-December entitled 'Books and Things: Collections for Pacific Studies.' It includes early printed books, maps and charts, works of natural history and fiction.' There is no online version.

The Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne, has just launched an exhibition commemorating the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. Entitled 'Some Are Born Great', the exhibition will run until 26 September. The exhibition comprises early drama texts and contextual documents including a 1632 Second Folio.

Also at the University of Melbourne Library is 'Radicals, Slayers and Villains' an exhibition of prints of heroes loosely linked by all being at odds with their

governing powers. Artists include Dürer, Goya and Rembrandt. The exhibition concludes at the University on 17 August, but then tours to Ballarat, Hamilton and Morwell.

For Your Library

We have been advised that some fugitive copies of the 700-page *Australian Children's Books: A Bibliography* vol. 3, 1989–2000 (Melbourne University Press, 1992) have turned up and are being offered at the fire-sale price of \$24.95. The first volume in this work was compiled by Marcie Muir. Vols 2 and 3 were compiled by Kerry White. Email orders and enquiries to acbookphile@gmail.com.

The Giller Effect

Our quizzical eyebrows rose at one of the sub-themes of the upcoming 'The Prestige of Literature' conference (10–11 October 2014, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, prestigeofliteratureconference.wordpress.com): 'the Giller effect.'

The 'Giller effect' turns out to be the impact on sales enjoyed by a book's winning a major prize. In Canada the noted example is the 20+ years-old Giller Prize, worth \$50,000, and responsible for up to a five-fold explosion of sales for the winning novel. The presentation night is a gala event watched by millions of TV viewers.

Anecdotally, a similar phenomenon occurs in Australia with the Miles Franklin Award, but it does not seem to have been researched as fully as it has in Canada, nor has the term passed into the language.

The Interrobang

This non-standard punctuation mark **?** was invented in the 1960s to combine question and exclamation. It never really caught on, but the State Library of NSW has very cleverly adopted it as its logo, suggesting, no doubt, that they offer emphatic and exciting answers to clients' queries.