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

This year’s conference will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, over three full days from Wednesday, 22 November to Friday, 24 November. It will be preceded by Rare Book Librarian’s Day on Tuesday, 21 November.

The theme of the conference opens up multiple possible paths in book history, and the convenor, Ian Morrison, and his committee have received a formidable slate of offers of papers. The list of acceptances is as follows:

Keith Adkins: Theophilus Anglicanus and the fear of Tractarianism in Van Diemen’s Land
Eric Anderson: Cheap books, bad books
Rachael Bell: Staking a Claim: New Zealand’s Official Histories of the Second World War
Sally Bloomfield: The long reach of a little bushranger book: Michael Howe, the last and worst of the bush rangers of Van Diemen’s Land, 1819
Helen Bones: The ARCHivER project and the rise and fall of the Tasman writing world
Dennis Bryans: English Monotype: providing services to the Empire and beyond
Damian Cairns: For Church and College
Merete Colding Smith: Australia and New Zealand in nineteenth-century British children’s books: the role of print in constructing colonial consciousness
Liz Conor: Peripheral vision: recurring colonial imagery of Aboriginal Australians as framing devices
Joanna Cruickshank: ’The constant demand for sermons’: print sermons and religious networks in Australia, 1788-1888
Samir de Angelo: The book object: the book used as a response to missionary authority by the Amerindians of the northwest Amazon
Gillian Dooley: Matthew Flinders, Sir Joseph Banks and Robert Brown: the Library at Soho Square
Véronique Duché: Treasured possessions in Australian Rare Books collections
‘The British Government is now awaking’: Frontier Violence, Aboriginal protection, and Backhouse’s early colonial distribution of the 1837 Report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Aboriginal Tribes

Transnational connections: the Moodies, the Stricklands, and their Canadian, English, and South African publications

Notes from empire’s end: the diary of a Turkish soldier

Thirteenth-century English Cistercian nunneries and their cartularies: manuscripts, technologies of power, and the inscription of women into a trans-national medieval religious institution*

Owner bound volumes: a musical transmitter of culture

‘Errors therein marked on the margin’: John Degotardi’s The art of printing and editorial practice in nineteenth-century Australia

The Shakespeare Quarterly 1922-1924

Writing for the folks back home: Colonial missionary storytelling

The silence of Wellington Channel: contested archives and the search for HMS Erebus and Terror, 1850-1851

‘The charms that a savage life holds’: Sir George Grey’s frontier experiences

Providing printed matter for multicultural Australia in the nineteenth century

Dictionaries in the Australian colonies: a history

‘Bound in leather, rather than parchment, to last longer’: nuns as discerning readers in seventeenth-century Quebec

Boundaries and Books: St Albans, Wales and the transmission of knowledge

Converting flora and fauna into books: scientific collecting in colonial Tasmania

The Waifs and Strays of Sea Life: Melbourne Printer Michael T Gason and the Voyage of the “Tudor”, 1857

That bright little New Zealand annual The Huia

Florence Nightingale and Sir George Grey: colleagues of empire

‘Many a treasure more’: Robert Bedford and the Kyancutta Magna Carta

Cookbooks and the Printing Press in Britain and Colonial Asia

Personal geographies and global networks: William Colenso and the Victorian Republic of Letters
Jane Stafford  Mrs Muter and the construction of the lady traveller
Rodney Swan  Matisse’s Jazz: the enigma of his text
Nicki Tarulevicz  Learning to Fear: Textual Encounters with Food Safety in Singapore
Evija Trofimova  The twilight zone of Soviet books
Hayley Webster  Circulating scientific literature: the development of the Museum Victoria library collection

*[cartulary: 1. a collection of charters or records, especially relating to the title to an estate or monastery; 2. any place where records are kept. But of course, you knew that.]*

The Keynote speaker will be Prof. Rod Thomson, medieval scholar and co-editor of The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain II: 1100-1400. He has numerous publications on both individual medieval manuscripts and on collections of them. Title of his address to be announced.

**Melbourne Rare Book Week**

Melbourne Rare Book Week is almost upon us. BSANZ will be sponsoring a talk by Professor Véronique Duché on “Uncovering Rare Illustrated Books” at the Leigh Scott Room, Level 1, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne, 12:30–1:30pm on Friday 7 July. There is no charge, but reservations are required. BSANZ members are not only invited, but actively exhorted to attend. Book on the Melbourne Rare Book Week website https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/uncoversing-rare-illustrated-books-by-professor-veronique-duch-the-university-of-melbourne-tickets-32945114725

During the European Renaissance, the presentation of the printed book was often a matter of experimentation, due to rapid developments in typographical and related technologies. The inclusion of illustrations affected the organisation and layout of a given book, with consequences for the text and its reading. This lecture will examine the relation between text and image in some of the illustrated treasures of the Baillieu Library, among them the French version of the famous Hypnerotomachia Poliphili. (1546).

*[Regrettably, 32,945,114,725 is not the running total of places already booked, so the talk can still be accommodated at the Baillieu Library.]*

**SHARP 2018 Sydney**

The Society for the Study of Authorship, Reading and Publication holds its very large annual conference alternatively in North America and Europe, so it is something of a coup that convenor, Jason Ensor, has enticed the conference across the Line to hold it in June next year at the State Library of New South Wales. If you are unfamiliar with SHARP, a visit to its
web page, **sharpweb.org**, is rewarding, especially the tab “Book History Resources”. This is one of those webpages whose address is worth learning by heart, because if you try to google “SHARP” it will be days before you emerge from pages of Toasters and DVD players. The theme of next year’s conference is embargoed until the conference’s official launch next month at this year’s conference in Canada, but note the dates: 26-29 June 2018. SHARP is, of course, a co-sponsor of this year’s BSANZ conference in Hobart, and similarly co-sponsored the BSANZ “Paradise” conference in Wellington in 2005.

**BSANZ 2018 Brisbane**

Convenor, Simon Farley, has confirmed that the 2018 conference will be held in Brisbane at the University of Queensland, November 28-30, with the theme, “Bibliography at the Margins”.

**BSANZ.ORG**

Read any good web sites lately? The Committee is turning attention to the Society’s website and its appeal/usefulness to members. There will be a request for members’ input down the track after we formulate how best to elicit your information and opinion. In the meantime, if you haven’t looked at the site for a while could you devote a few minutes to perusing it and thinking how it might be rendered more useful and informative for you, or at least better able to cheer you up between coffee breaks.