



Annual Conference 2018

“Marginalia: Bibliography at the Margins”

The University of Queensland
Brisbane, Australia
29-30 November 2018

CALL FOR PAPERS

Readers have always responded to books, often by inscribing their reactions – of approval or outrage – in the margins. This conference seeks to explore the condition of being bibliographically “in, on, or at the margins” ranging from examples of significantly annotated copies of books to the relationship of bibliography to cognate disciplines such as history, literature, biography, and critical theory. The conference will also address issues in interpreting, editing, recording and preserving marginalia.

[BSANZ](#) invites proposals for 20-minute papers on matters marginal from the early modern period to the present and beyond. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Celebrated annotators, and particular annotated texts
- The interpretative challenge of anonymous doodles and notes
- Marginalia as deep engagement and social intertext
- The charged vacillation between readership and authorship
- Marginalia as biographical writing
- Digital technologies and contemporary marginalia
- Australasian contributions to the field of marginalia studies
- Recording and cataloguing marginal traces in library collections
- Valuing the personal inscription – association, marginalia and the market

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, Simon Farley s.farley@library.uq.edu.au.

Presenters must be or become [members](#) of The Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand Inc.. The **deadline for submissions** is Friday 6 April 2018.

Resources

Members may not know about the *Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts* (= SDBM), which is managed by The Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

The *SDBM* makes available data on medieval manuscript books of five or more folios produced before 1600. It does this by aggregating observations drawn from over 12,000 auction and sales catalogues, inventories, records from institutional and private collections, and other sources that document sales and locations of these books from around the world. Its purpose is to facilitate research for scholars, collectors, and others interested in manuscript studies and the provenance of these unique books from origin up to today.

The database is located at <https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/> and I commend the reader to it.

Nicolas Sparks

There are some very useful tools on the Folger Library website, now supplemented by a cunning virtual Elizabethan printing demonstration based on sections of the Shakespeare First Folio. Actually “demonstration” isn’t quite the right word because the user gets to drag and drop the pages in order to form regular folio-in-sixes gatherings, and then to step through examples of irregular imprinting involving cancellations (the late exclusion of *Troilus and Cressida*). and the squeezing in of Preliminary pages. Thus, it is a sort of DIY layout job with no physical effort, no ink smudges and no noxious smells from softening the leather. It is accessible at this link, <https://www.folger.edu/publishing-shakespeare/first-folio/diy-first-folio>. It has been developed in collaboration with scholars at Yale University.

Chris Tiffin

Broader in scope than the Folger workshop is a new resource directed by Prof. Johanna Drucker and offered by UCLA’s Information Studies Department

called “History of the Book” of which the first part, “Coursebook” is now online (<https://hob.gseis.ucla.edu/index.html>). “Coursebook” is a set of lectures on the evolution of the book within a series of contexts including primate evolution, sign-systems and writing, the Western and Eastern Middle Ages, social and political ideas, Renaissance technology and society, licensing and censorship, industrialization and globalization, and digitalization. The project envisages including more illustrative material and a “further reading” bibliography, but this first tranche offers an excellent entry into bibliography and book history for the novice, and some powerful suggestions for re-contextualizing the field away from the predominantly technological and Anglo-European. Well worth a look.

Chris Tiffin

SHARP 2018 Sydney

“From First to Last: Texts, Creators, Readers, Agents”

July 9-12 July 2018

The Convenor, Dr Jason Ensor, recently announced that the assessment of abstracts for this conference had been completed and that proposers would be notified swiftly whether their presentation had been accepted.

Book Reviewing for *Script & Print*

Books for Review and correspondence concerning reviews should be sent to the new Reviews Editor, Dr Nicholas Sparks, *Script & Print*, St. John’s College, Camperdown, NSW, 2050 (bsanz.reviews@gmail.com). Publishers and others are requested to note that space in *Script & Print* for reviews is limited, and that only books whose character is very definitely connected with the objects of the Society can be noticed fully. Brief, mainly descriptive notes may be published of relevant books which cannot be given a

full-length review. Further information about submission is available at <http://www.bsanz.org/publications/script-and-print/>



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Tasmania Art Galley and Museum, Hobart on 24 November 2017

The meeting opened at 11.05

Present: Donald Kerr (Chair), Keith Adkins, Helen Bones, Damian Cairns, Gillian Dooley, Mary-Jane Edwards, Simon Farley, Jocelyn Hargrave, Mark Houlahan, Wallace Kirsop, Amanda Laugesen, Katherine Milburn, Sarah Morley, Ian Morrison, Kathryn Parsons, Pam Pryde, Rosemary Richards, Shef Rogers, Rachel Salmond, Sydney Shep, Merete Smith, Rodney Swan, Chris Tiffin

Visitors: David Collins, Emeline Haight, Leisha Owen

Proxy to the Chair: Lars Kremers

1. Apologies: John Arnold, Bryan Coleborne, Rosi Crane, Lars Kremers, Brian McMullin, Laurie McNeice, Tony Marshall, Maggie Patton, Anthony Tedeschi

On behalf of the Committee, the President conveyed the special apologies of the Secretary, Bryan Coleborne, who was disappointed to have been prevented by personal matters from attending his first AGM as Secretary.

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM: The minutes of the 2016 AGM having been previously circulated, the Chairman asked for any corrections. There were none.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2016 AGM held on 22 November 2016 at Waikato University be approved as a true record of the discussion held and the motions passed. (Jocelyn Hargrave/ Merete Smith) Passed *nem con*.

3. President's Report

The President reported on the activities of the year, including changes on the Committee, our sponsorship of Véronique Duché's presentation at Melbourne Rare Book Week, an encouraging number of new members, current member surveys on the website and on the *Broadsheet*, and expanded banking arrangements. He thanked SHARP for its co-sponsorship of the conference and congratulated Ian Morrison and his organising team of Penny Edmonds, Ralph Crane, Alicia Marchant, Andrew Parsons, Wendy Rimon and Kurt Temple for their splendid organisation. He announced that a travel grant to attend the conference had been made to Dr Samir de Angelo from the University of São Paulo in Brazil, and welcomed him to the conference.

He noted that publication output by the Society had slowed, and that the Editor would address that matter in his report.

He announced that the Committee was looking to institute a system of internships to cover the major Society roles to increase involvement of members in the running of the Society and as a form of succession planning.

Rodney Swan asked about the typical background of members. Were they mostly academics or librarians? The President replied that these were the main categories but that there were also collectors and bibliophiles.

4. Editor's Report

The Editor spoke to his circulated report. Issue 40.1 of *Script & Print* was at the printer (with a run of 250 copies) and 40.2 is about to go to the printer, so he expected two issues of the

four for the year to be out by the end of December. All efforts to get back to schedule would be made during 2018, but as always it depended on the flow of publishable material.

The Editor announced the appointment of a new Book Review Editor, Nicholas Sparks (nicholas.sparks@sydney.edu.au), and reminded members that they are encouraged to volunteer to review a book in their field of expertise that they see advertised. The Book Review Editor will then seek to procure a review copy for them and negotiate a due date for the review.

Rodney Swan queried the criteria for selection of material for the journal noting an apparent discrepancy between the scope and interest of the journal and that of the annual conferences. The Editor agreed that the conference programmes were often more latitudinarian and that he felt *S&P* needed to keep more focused on physical and material bibliography. Wal Kirsop recalled the original anathema under which enumerative bibliography was put when the Society was founded. The Editor explained that while the journal was receptive to articles on European (and other) material bibliography, he felt it had a special responsibility to publish research focussed on bibliographical issues in the ANZ and Pacific area. The journal is a bibliographical one, and the ultimate criterion for selection is what is going to interest readers of the journal.

Rodney Swan pointed out that a good deal of valuable information was contained in the conference programme and abstracts, and proposed that these be posted on the Society's website. Ian Morrison observed, editorially, that there was a version issue to be confronted as the programme as printed did not necessarily correspond to the papers that were actually delivered. Chris Tiffin reminded the meeting that in the list of past conferences some include a PDF of the programme and others also include the abstracts. He suggested that it should still be possible to recover and post most of missing ones, and that the Committee could pursue this.

5. Webmaster's Report

The Webmaster's report was not to hand for distribution but had been received and was spoken to by the Treasurer. He announced the resignation of the incumbent, David Large, and thanked him for his several years of service. The Webmaster recommended the continuation of the current hosting arrangements, (domain registration through Ventrail, and hosting by Bluehost), which have been trouble-free. Among the vital statistics of the site is that of the most popular article in the *Bulletin / S&P* backlist, Patrick Spedding's "Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Manuscript Publication and the Vanity of Popular Applause", published in Vol 33 (2009), with a current total of 3037 views and/or downloads.

Motion: That the President's report, Editor's report and Webmaster's report be approved. (Ian Morrison/Rachel Salmond) Passed *nem con*.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer spoke to his circulated report pointing to the variation in the activity level of the Society, and therefore its financial state, in ways that do not always synchronise with the financial year. The membership total at the end of June 2017 was 84, but this had risen to 119 by 20 November as members caught up with their renewal notices and reminders. Although the income and expenses account for the year showed a small deficit, this would disappear if the membership renewals paid in arrears after the end of the financial year were added to the income for the year. The Society had opened a NZ\$ bank account during the financial year and from 2018 NZ members would be able to pay membership dues directly into that account in New Zealand dollars.

Sydney Shep noted that the Society had considerable reserves in low-interest facilities and proposed that that money could be invested more productively.

Mark Houlahan advised, in connection with last year's conference expenses, that there had been one ambiguous catering item. While an invoice for this had not been raised at the time, there was a small, albeit diminishing, possibility that the Society could still be invoiced for

this.

Motion: That the audited accounts and the Treasurer's report for the year ending 30 June 2017 be approved. (Rachel Salmond/Shef Rogers) Passed *nem con*.

7. Membership and subscription fees for 2018

The Treasurer advised that neither the Editor nor he anticipated any significant increase of expenditure in the next twelve months, and therefore the Committee was recommending that there be no increase in membership dues or journal subscription rates for 2018. Jocelyn Hargrave proposed inviting donations to the Society, perhaps by putting an extra line on the renewal form or a button on the webpage, to build up an endowment fund for special projects. Sydney Shep pointed out that the 50th anniversary was a propitious time to make such an appeal. The Treasurer explained that donations to the Society would not be tax-deductible. The Society had a few years ago investigated applying for this status but, perhaps over-pessimistically, had not been convinced that the rate of donation would cover the additional accounting costs that would be incurred. Jocelyn Hargrave argued that if members were willing to round up their annual membership fee by a few dollars they would not be deterred from doing so by a lack of tax-deductibility. It was agreed to experiment with soliciting donations and to canvass ideas for projects to which designated funds could be put.

Motion: That there be no change to the membership and subscription fees for 2018. (Ian Morrison/Rachel Salmond) Passed *nem con*.

8. Appointment of auditor for 2018

The Treasurer observed that the days of finding a bibliophilic, retired accountant cheerfully willing to mentor the Treasurer and audit the annual accounts in return for a book voucher seem to have passed and we now have to face the reality of significant fees for accounting services. Now that we have successfully re-established the auditing process, he recommended we continue to engage the present auditor until we have a reason to change.

Motion: That Geraghty Accountants, Clayfield, Queensland be appointed auditor for 2018. Passed *nem con*

9. Election of Committee and Council

All elected Committee and Council positions having become vacant at the start of the meeting, the Chairman announced that one nomination each had been received for all Committee positions, and for Council positions for New Zealand (2), Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Nominations were then called from the floor for the remaining positions. After clarification of the Council members' role by the Chairman, and various stringent self-assessment processes around the room, volunteers were elicited to fill all positions. The Chairman then declared that the following members were elected for 2018.

President	Donald Kerr
Vice-President	Véronique Duché
Secretary	Bryan Coleborne
Treasurer	Chris Tiffin
Council member (NZ) (2 positions),	Anthony Tedeschi, Kathryn Parsons
Council member (WA)	Lars Kremers
Council member (SA)	Gillian Dooley
Council member (Tas)	Sandra Hudd
Council member (Vic)	Jocelyn Hargrave
Council member (ACT)	Amanda Laugesen
Council member (NSW)	Nicholas Sparks
Council member (Qld)	Simon Farley

Confirmed by acclamation.

10. Other Business

Wal Kirsop updated the meeting on plans for a 50th anniversary seminar in Feb 2019. He envisaged that this would be single day or afternoon event with a modest attendance, and that the event would be supported by Ancora Press. The room in which the initial meeting of the Society was held is now part of the Wheeler Centre and unavailable, but the table used for that meeting has been moved to a room in the building that would be suitable. Moreover, the zonal location of the alternative room would allow for competitive catering. It may be possible to share an international speaker with the Rare Book School for the event.

The question of a celebratory 50th anniversary history of the Association was raised by Merete Smith. It was noted that Brian McMullin had compiled a comprehensive account of the Society for the 40th anniversary which had been published in *Script & Print* 35.2 (2011). It was noted that that could be revisited and supplemented, or alternatively a revised version could be undertaken. Resolved that the Committee consult Brian McMullin on his availability to do this and/or how to proceed.

2018 conference Simon Farley called members' attention to the tabled announcement of next year's conference, "Marginalia: Bibliography on the Margins", and advised that the Call for Papers would be issued shortly. The conference would be held at the University of Queensland with possible involvement from the State Library of Queensland. Wal Kirsop welcomed the focus of the conference theme, and argued that with the work of scholars like Gerry Wilkes on Christopher Brennan, bibliographers in Australia and New Zealand had been investigating marginalia in books about twenty years before it became fashionable in northern hemisphere bibliographic circles.

2019 conference Véronique Duché advised that planning for the 2019 conference was in a very preliminary phase, but that it may run in collaboration with Melbourne Museums.

The Society's Digital Interface. Mention of this had been made during the conference, and the meeting recommended making aggressive strides into this area. Issues of immediacy of communication and of privacy were canvassed. Rosemary Richardson raised the issue of privacy constraints on the promiscuous dissemination of photographs of members taken at Society functions. Sydney Shep advised that SHARP had drawn up a detailed set of protocols for its digital procedures, and that these might be of use to BSANZ. They were freely available from the SHARP webpage.

It was resolved to set up a sub-committee to establish a BSANZ presence on Facebook and Twitter and to maintain and improve communications via the Society's webpage. Initial membership of the sub-committee is: Helen Bone, Gillian Dooley, Simon Farley, Jocelyn Hargrave (Chair), Véronique Duché, and Amanda Laugesen, with power to co-opt. The sub-committee will report to the Committee via the Secretary.

The President advised that he had intended to canvass opinion on a scheme to orient future Office-bearers through informal internships, but the time for the meeting being exhausted, he would defer this, and the Committee would pursue the matter with members by email.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm