



**“Tradition and Innovation: Readers, Books and Libraries”**

The 2019 annual conference of the BSANZ will be held at the University of Melbourne and the Melbourne Museum on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. The Keynote Speaker will be Professor Russell Goulbourne of the University of Melbourne. The conference casts a broad net encouraging papers that trace links between bibliography and cognate disciplines such as history, literature, art history, biography, and critical theory. The [call for papers](#) and other conference information can be found on the Society’s website. Closing date for the reception of paper offers for the conference has been extended to **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019**. The organisers also invite offers of panels of speakers. The conference is being organised in collaboration with the Australian Library History Forum (LHF). Further information from Hayley Webster (Melbourne Museum) [hwebster@museum.vic.gov.au](mailto:hwebster@museum.vic.gov.au), or Prof Véronique Duché (University of Melbourne) [veronique.duche@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:veronique.duche@unimelb.edu.au).

**2018 Conference Report**

Ably convened by Simon Farley, Manager Fryer Library at the University of Queensland, the 2018 conference, “Marginalia: Bibliography at the Margins” explored some of the implications of a post-publication phenomenon that everyone will have encountered. There were taxonomic dimensions to some papers – just how far does the definition of marginalia extend? Papers started from, circled round or discussed authorial and readers’ glosses, endpaper inscriptions, drawings in margins, medieval manuscript illuminations, indexical systems in notebooks, and scrapbook-like insertions. This canvassing of increasingly *outré* examples reached its amusingly whimsical limit in Jo Birk’s presentation of a copy of L. Riviere, A. Cole, N. Culpeper, W. Rowland, and J. Fernel, *The practice of physick, wherein is plainly set forth the nature, cause, differences, and several sorts of signs: together with the cure of all diseases in the body of man [...] In twenty and four books*; (The Physitian's Library. London : Printed by Peter Cole, 1666) which *inter alia* had acquired “marginalia” in the form of the rust-mark left by a pair of surgical scissors.

The keynote address was given by Emeritus Professor Richard Yeo, of Griffith University, who spoke on the role of the commonplace book in early modern self-education and the intricate schemas of annotation used to index the culled and collected material in those notebooks. Although the focus was on the practices of philosopher John Locke, the paper ranged much more widely over both these organisational practices and the changing function of the commonplace book across the seventeenth century.

Presenters generally eschewed the invitation to discuss bibliography in relation to its cognate disciplines. This topic may be more effectively addressed at the 2019 conference. Nevertheless, Wal Kirsop presented an account of the extended southern hemisphere engagement with the marginalia of Australian poet and scholar, Christopher Brennan, particularly in his copies of Aeschylus and Stéphane Mallarmé, making the point that this work preceded the northern hemisphere take-up of marginalia study (e.g. by Roger Stoddard and Heather Jackson) by some decades.

A number of presenters raised the issue of marginalia and the library catalogue. While the catalogue principally identifies the existence of a book and its in-publication edition or

issue, a particular copy might be of special interest because of its post-publication marginalia. Such marginalia might include authorial corrections or revisions and might contribute biographical or ideational information about either the author or the annotator. Especially where the annotator is important for other reasons, the arguments ran, it was important to alert library users to the presence of this material via the catalogue.

The strategy of drawing on marginalia for evidence for what was essentially a biographical study was a popular one, taking the conference into numerous interesting by-ways. In examining her use of marginalia in loaned and shared books, Rosalind Smith clarified the sorts of constraint that Anne Boleyn was under when she was in Royal disfavour and imprisonment. Katherine Acheson discussed annotations by women in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century bibles, cataloguing the types of inscription and exploring their resonances with gifting, space and performativity. Considering a very different world, Caroline Jones discussed Australian poet Mary Gilmore's use of marginalia to record claims of literary influence over, and mentorship of, other Australian writers. Dawn Albinger pointed to gifting messages in books presented to poet Billie Jones as an index to his popularity and influence. A trio of papers by Diana Carroll, James McCourt and Ariana Tikao treated figures with various roles in nineteenth-century European colonialism. McCourt's exemplars were Edward and Ann Rudge, which continued a theme of botanical illustration and annotation that had been announced in papers by Merete Colding Smith and Helen Cole, the latter of whom argued for "The Inevitability of Botanical Marginalia" as reports and reference books were updated by hand to encompass new discoveries.

Mimicking bookshops' Curiosa section, Patrick Buckridge presented a tantalising if sceptical paper describing an annotated sixteenth-century polyglot dictionary, and the recent claim made by two New York antiquarian booksellers that their copy may have been used by Shakespeare in the creation of his plays.

Earlier bibliography cases were considered by Nicolas Sparks and Véronique Duché. Nicolas continues his project of analysing and documenting incunabula fragments in the State Library of NSW collections. In this paper he discussed cases where fragments of earlier works, especially from the "prime real estate" of margins, had been used in the binding of later books. Véronique treated illuminated marginalia in Books of Hours, and explicated the mediaeval symbology of two motifs, snails and butterflies. How things change! To the mediaeval clerical mind, the asexuality of the snail might inexorably suggest the virginity of Mary at the Annunciation, but that is not a resonance that presses itself upon the modern French diner.

The conference welcomed presenters from Canada, the UK and Portugal as well as Australia and New Zealand. A student travel bursary was awarded to Teresa Filipe from the University of Lisbon who spoke on annotations in the library of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Portuguese poet, Fernando Pessoa, their importance for his work, and the ongoing project to create a digital edition of them.

The programme and abstracts for the conference can be found on the Society's webpage at [bsanz.org](http://bsanz.org).

Chris Tiffin

### **BSANZ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

On Tuesday 26 February, a gathering in Melbourne marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society, which had met for the first time in the boardroom of State Library Victoria in 1969. Convened by Professor Wallace Kirsop (one of those founding members!) and Meredith Sherlock, the 2019 event was a collaboration between the Society and Monash University's [Ancora Press](#).

The gathering began with papers from Prof. Wallace Kirsop, Dr Brian McMullin, Dr Chris Tiffin, Louise Voll Box and Dr Merete Colding Smith, on topics ranging from the history of the Society to its future, and current research projects by members. The programme can be found on the Society's [webpage](#). It is hoped these papers will form the basis of a special issue of [Script & Print](#).

After these papers, the SLV's annual Foxcroft Lecture was delivered by Louise Anemaat of State Library NSW. Her topic was some recently acquired and previously unknown botanical and zoological illustrations by First Fleet artists, now part of the SLNSW collection. The lecture was recorded, and can be viewed at

<https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/media-tags-themes/foxcroft-lecture>, along with lectures from previous years. The Foxcroft Lecture, of which Prof. Wallace Kirsop and Joan Kirsop are the generous patrons, commemorates Alfred Broadbent Foxcroft, a librarian and bibliographer at State Library Victoria whose extraordinary career resulted in the purchase and study of many of the early printed works in the collection. You can read more about his life in this article from the *La Trobe Library Journal* by BSANZ member Shane Carmody, <http://latrobejournal.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-79/t1-g-t8.html>.

Finally, a cheerful group of BSANZers made its way to University House at the University of Melbourne for dinner. President Veronique Duché and founding member Prof. Wallace Kirsop both addressed the group. In particular, we acknowledged all those members unable to join us at this gathering, particularly those in New Zealand – the tyranny of distance! It was fantastic to have immediate past President and current NZ Council member Donald Kerr with us, waving the flag for NZ. So: thanks and congratulations to all! The Society continues to thrive, and to stimulate and celebrate bibliographic research in this region. We anticipate it will do so for many years to come.

Anna Welch

### **Wellington Rare Books Summer School 2019**

From 28 January through 2 February 2019, Victoria University of Wellington hosted the latest instalment of the Australasian Rare Books Summer School. Now in its fourteenth year, this annual summer school provides something for the seasoned bibliographer, the technological pundit, the creative sprite, and anyone in between. Whether in Dunedin, Melbourne, Sydney or Wellington, this annual gathering of book and technology aficionados

has proven to be a success story. Sincere thanks to Chrissy Knight of the VUW Library's J. C. Beaglehole Room who splendidly coordinated the 2019 school on behalf of Wai-te-ata Press.

For "The World of Altered Books", local curator, photographer and bookmaker Paul Thompson was joined by several notable Wellington-based artists including Sarah Maxey, Ya-Wen Ho, Zach Dodson, and Glenna Matcham. Nine eager participants interrogated the book form, learned new calligraphy skills, engineered some inventive possibilities for both structure and content and visited a book artist's studio as well as the National Library's conservation lab. The mixture of talks, visits, and hands-on sessions was a winning combination as were the opportunities to explore new media, formats, and collaborative bookmaking.

Thomas Koentges, Assistant Professor, Digital Humanities, Leipzig University and Fellow in Historical Language Processing and Data Analysis, Centre for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University led a course entitled "Exploring Digital Humanities: a hands-on introduction to data-driven research". He worked with six participants from the library and archives sector, defining and exploring digital humanities through both theoretical and hands-on seminars. Topics included how to: create your own personal research environment; manage, curate, and enrich data collections; analyse natural language, geospatial data, and social networks; use visualisations to reduce the complexity of data; and make use of linked data, APIs, and microservices for humanities research. These were new languages and cultures for many of the participants and the pace was understandably quick and learning intensive. All appreciated the ways in which the instructor adapted his style to the class and enjoyed his approachable and responsive manner. VicBooks' unparalleled coffee and shelf browsing often came to the rescue!

A highlight of the week was the D. F. McKenzie Memorial Lecture in which Thomas presented a fascinating talk on "Enabling Digital Scholarship: Tools, Methods and Infrastructure for Participatory, Inter-

disciplinary and Inclusive Research.” He shared his insights into the dynamic and expanding field of digital humanities and ably demonstrated there was nothing to fear in this brave and inclusive new world.

See you all in Sydney in 2020 and don't forget to investigate our special BSANZ scholarships!

Sydney Shep

### **Melbourne Rare Book Week**

BSANZ's contribution to this year's MRBW will be a workshop offered by Dr Patrick Spedding for collectors of hand-press period books (especially from the 18<sup>th</sup> century).

Patrick explains:

The workshop aims to help collectors (private or institutional) with relatively limited experience of hand-press period books. Topics covered will be guided by participant interest, but will likely include the state of the market; opportunities and risks for collectors; how to search for, find and buy hand-press period books, undertake a collation, find and interpret enumerative and descriptive bibliographies, identify oddities and frauds, and investigate provenance.

The workshop will be held on Sunday 14th July, 10am–12noon, in the Dulcie Hollyock Room, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne. As with all MRBW events there is no fee; however you must register for the workshop at <http://www.rarebookweek.com/>.

### **2020 Australasian Rare Book School**

Next year's Book School will be held in Sydney from 2 February to 7 February under the convenorship of Maggie Patton of State Library NSW. Details of the workshop teachers, course topics and arrangements will be available in due course. BSANZ will offer a bursary to a member of the Society to cover the tuition fees.

### **“Biography, Autobiography and Memoirs”**

University of Otago Centre for the Book announces its eighth annual research symposium to be held on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup>

November. The theme for the 2019 meeting is one that might equally be found as focus of an English or humanities conference, so it will be interesting to see what slant a bibliographical Centre will give it. The Call for Papers is very Broad Church in suggesting themes and approaches such as “Ethics of honesty in depicting lives – the truth?”. For more information, go to the web page of the Otago Centre for the Book

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/centre-for-the-book/index.html>

### **Past Conference Programmes**

Annual conferences are one of the Society's two major ongoing activities, so as a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project the Society is collecting and posting on its webpage the programmes and abstracts of its past conferences. After an initial hiccup (the programme files all disappeared from the page), the Webmaster, Helen Bones, has restored the ones that were there previously and added a couple more, so we now have 2010, 2012-2019. We would like to complete at least 1998-2019 by the time of the November 2019 conference. If you convened the BSANZ conference in any of the years 1998-2009, 2011 and still have the files of the conference programme and abstracts would you please send them to Donald Kerr ([donald.kerr@otago.ac.nz](mailto:donald.kerr@otago.ac.nz)) who is in charge of this project. Once we have seen which ones are no longer available in digital form, we shall canvass members for hard copies of the programmes to scan.

### **SHARP conference**

The 2019 conference is coming up in Amherst, Massachusetts, 15–19 July 2019, with the theme of “Indigeneity, Nationhood, and Migrations of the Book”. The programme is now available at [www.sharpweb.org](http://www.sharpweb.org) and as always is worth reading through even if you are not planning to attend. With around 250 papers being offered you can get a sense from the titles of where the ballast in History of the Book is lurching. An interesting feature of the programme is the number of panels scheduled. Past BSANZ conferences have not included a lot of these, although this year's conference specifically welcomes them.