



“Tradition and Innovation: Readers, Books and Libraries”

28–29 November 2019

We are now in the final run up to the annual conference, so if you haven't yet registered or booked a place at the dinner it's time to visit the conference web site lickety-split.

<https://sites.google.com/monash.edu/2019bsanzalhconference/home>

The programme is impressive, featuring three keynote speeches and 36 session papers. There is also a plenary panel on Library History. The list of intellectual treats is :

Keynote Addresses

Prof Russell Goulbourne (Dean of Arts, University of Melbourne), ‘Voltaire as reader and annotator: between private and public’

Dr Mary Carroll (Senior Lecturer in Information Studies, Charles Sturt University), ‘Lost to memory and invisible stories: reflections on the Australian Library History forums 1984–2016’

Dr Christopher Thomson (Senior Lecturer in Digital Humanities, University of Canterbury), “‘The attention only an algorithm can give’”: books, data and digital humanities’

Panel

Mary Carroll, Sue Reynolds, Anna Welch, James Baker, Ellen Coates, ‘Library History Matters’

Session Papers

John Arnold, ‘Eric Partridge’s war memoir: a case study in the cycle of a book’

Tully Barnett, ‘Digital libraries and their read-in-browser environments’

Helen Bones, ‘Digital “linked archives”: Pat Lawlor and trans-Tasman literary networks’

Bertrand Bourgeois and Véronique Duché, ‘Of books and laces: the curious case of *Les Joyaux* (1847) and *Les Parures* (1850)’

Mary Carroll and Jane Garner, “‘The utility of the well-adapted book to ignorant and immoral persons is beyond dispute’”

Adria Castellucci, ‘Ethics of access: confronting racism in natural history library collections’

Mary Coe, ‘A sense-making approach to active e-book indexes’

Craig Collins and Sally Bloomfield, ‘Reading around censorship: *The Hermit in Van Diemen’s Land* (1830)’

Michelle De Stefani, ‘Genres of advice: considering the multiple contexts of early colonial books’

Paul Eggert, ‘The book, the scholarly edition and the literary work: the role of the reader’

Simon Farley, ‘Apostle of the flesh: memories of Charles Kingsley in the Fryer Library’

Rachel Franks, ‘True crime: classification and consumption’

Jocelyn Hargrave, ‘Re-fashioning ideas of taste and nineteenth-century cultural production in the digital age’

Anne Holloway, ‘*In principio erat Verbum*: bringing to life theological manuscripts’

Stephen Jakubowicz, ‘Colonial connections and lost books: Victoria at the 1876 Philadelphia Exhibition’

Nicole Kearney, ‘Digitising Australia’s biodiversity heritage literature’

Emma Koch, ‘Phrasebook adaptation: content, mode and medium’

Fiona McConnell, ‘Books’n’ things: tradition and innovation in the art of “Chaekgeori” from Joseon Korea’

James McCourt, ‘The legal background to the publication of Hawkesworth’s *Voyages*’

Olivia Meehan, ‘Reading into the garden: a meander through the Bloomsbury bookshelf’

Erika Mordek, ‘The bear that travelled through time and space and other tails’

Sarah Morley, ‘May Gibbs: the business side of things’

Ian Morrison, ‘Descriptions of a description: the “Allport” copy of STC 15193’

Meghan O’Neill, ‘BookTube #Readathons: examining permutations of the contemporary reader experience’

Maggie Patton, ‘An early colonial thirst for knowledge’

Bronwyn Reddan, ‘The material metamorphoses of French fairy tales’

Rosemary Richards, ‘The McCrae family library’

Heather Robinson, ‘The past is present: provenance and personal narratives of value at the State Library of South Australia’

Shel Rogers, ‘Invoking tradition to manipulate readers’

Julie Sommerfeldt, ‘Looking to the future to learn from the past: using specialist imaging technologies to aid research into historic books and manuscripts’

Nicholas Sparks, ‘Modern methods, ancient texts, phylogenetic analysis of an Old English royal genealogy’

Gemma Steele and Hayley Webster, ‘Volumes in vogue: women, readership and fashions’

Caitlin Stone, ‘Two Australian Prime Ministers and their personal libraries’

Rodney Swan, ‘Tériade: new frontiers for the artists’ book’

Darius von Güttner, ‘Diversity and unity in medieval Europe: transmission of ideas and the *Chronica Polonorum*’

Anna Welch, ‘Cut and paste: the reuse of decorated initials in Fisher Library, Add MS 411’



Abstracts of the papers (doubtless reflecting an earlier conceptual version before the paper was drafted, bench-tested, rejected, rewritten, and meticulously polished) are available on the conference web page. Click on a paper title in the programme and you will be taken to the paper presenter’s bio. Meditate patiently on that for approximately 15 [sic] seconds (which, because you are looking at a screen, will seem a sizeable chunk of the rest of your life) and the abstract will also appear.

Social events around the conference include the conference dinner at the Kent Hotel in North Carlton on Thursday evening, and a drinks reception at Douglas Stewart Fine Books in High Street, Armadale on the Friday evening. The latter continues a tradition of generous hospitality offered by leading antiquarian booksellers including Horden House in Sydney, Kay Craddock in Melbourne, and Archives Bookshop in Brisbane for which the Society is extremely grateful.

Rare Book School

The 2020 Australasian Summer Rare Book School will be hosted by the State Library of New South Wales from Monday 3 February to Friday 7 February 2020. There will be three 5-day courses and one 1-day course on offer.

English Bookbindings, 1450–1850: Identification & Interpretation – David Pearson (5-day course)

The main aim of this course is to give participants a toolkit to identify and date English bindings on historic books of the handpress period, distinguishing the contemporary from the later and the repaired, covering the progression of decorative styles which enable simple as well as upmarket bindings to be recognised. It will focus on external, visible features, rather than internal structures, but will cover the materials used to make bindings, and their distinguishing features. The course is aimed at anyone who works regularly with historic books in which English bindings are likely to feature: librarians and curators, humanities researchers, collectors and dealers.

Rare Book Cataloguing – Deborah Leslie (5-day course)

Aimed at experienced cataloguers who find that their present duties include (or shortly will include) the cataloguing of books in their rare materials or special collections departments and want to be trained in applying Descriptive Cataloguing of Rare Materials (Books). Primary emphasis will be placed on books of the hand-press era (roughly, the 16th through 18th centuries).

This course is restricted to working cataloguers experienced in AACR2 and/or RDA and MARC 21, and general cataloguing principles and practices. No prior knowledge of early printed books is necessary.

The History of Maps – Julie Sweetkind-Singer (5-day course)

This course is designed to provide a general overview of the history of maps as well as their use in modern day teaching and research. Topics will include the production and use of maps; the rise of the map trade in Europe and Australia; the role of maps as cultural and social objects; the wide variety and type of

maps produced; the modern map trade; conservation issues; and the role of museums and libraries as stewards of the content.

Illustration Processes to 1900 – Richard Neville (1-day course)

Using examples of original prints drawn from the Library's extensive collection this one-day workshop will focus on the identification of illustration processes and techniques, including woodcut, etching, engraving, stipple, aquatint, mezzotint, lithography, wood engraving, steel engraving, photogravure, and colour printing. The workshop will concentrate on illustration between 1800 and 1900.

Tuition for a full course is \$850; for the one-day course it is \$120. There are two tuition bursaries available, one of which is sponsored by BSANZ, with details of these and other matters concerning the School available on the School's website at <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/research-and-engagement/australasian-rare-book-summer-school>.

The crucial dates are: close of applications 29 November 2019; final date for payment of tuition fees 13 January 2020; start of School 3 February 2020.

SHARP 2019

SHARP 2019 at the University of Massachusetts Amherst was the Society's first US conference in six years, having been in Montreal and Victoria, BC for the past two North American meetings. Taking as its theme, 'Indigeneity, Nationhood, and Migrations of the Book', the venue proved ideal in both practical and inspirational ways, and the conference was a grand success. The full programme and abstracts from the conference can be found online at <http://www.sharp2019.com/program/overview-schedule/>.

The opening keynote by Margaret Bruchac (University of Pennsylvania) was a masterful exposition of ways scholars can learn to 'read' American Indian wampum belts. While not often encoding written characters, these artefacts nonetheless have stories to tell when restored to their original indigenous contexts. Delivered at Amherst College's historic

Johnson Chapel, the lecture opened with an indigenous ‘Welcome to the Land’ that powerfully reminded us all of the relevance of Prof. Bruhac’s work for the particular place where we were meeting. From there, conference participants walked to the Emily Dickinson Museum for a delightful reception and a chance to tour the house, an opportunity that further highlighted the significance of the conference venue to SHARP’s interests.

The second conference theme, nationhood, was the focus of the next day’s keynote presentation by Peter Sokolowski, a practising lexicographer at Merriam-Webster, who presented a lively story of Noah Webster’s aims and struggles in creating the great American dictionary. It was he who created the American spellings of center and neighbor, but his proposal for ‘tung’ (tongue) and quite a few other spelling rationalisations failed to gain public favour.

The second day of the conference concluded with a live interview of Ilan Stavans, who teaches at Amherst College, about his publishing venture, Restless Books, that is ‘devoted to championing stories that speak to us across linguistic and cultural borders, meditates on the challenges of diversifying the diet and broadening the viewpoint of international readers.’ Interviewed by the conference moderator, Corey Flintoff, a well-known presenter on US National Public Radio, Ilan provided an honest sense of the challenges and excitement of making voices available in print.

The final keynote was a panel of three curators or experts on literary house museums, a genre of cultural institution especially common in the northeast of the US. The insights and experiences of all three whetted the appetite of those able to scatter in four directions the next day on group excursions to see their favourite authors’ haunts, reminding us yet again of the rich cultural heritage of this part of the world.

Because the conference also enables the members of SHARP to hold lots of organisational meetings, I was not able to attend as many panels as I would have liked, but I heard a good selection of papers on a wide range of topics from the publication of

The Whole Earth Catalog and its many spinoffs, the complicated political and national tensions behind the printing of Nelson Mandela’s *Long Walk to Freedom*, and the value of GoodReads for gauging national distinctions among readers’ taste and reactions.

As Jonathan Rose, founding co-editor of *Book History*, noted when presented with a gorgeous print to commemorate his long editorial service, the level of participation by younger scholars was very heartening, and bodes well for the future of the subject and the Society.

The conference organisers, especially Jim Kelly and Jim Wald, did a superb job of organising a total of over 250 presentations over three full days. The conference created a strong sense of coherence while still welcoming a diverse range of approaches, periods and disciplines. It set a high bar for next year’s conference in Amsterdam on the theme of ‘The Power of the Written Word’ (15–19 June 2020; watch for the call for papers on SHARP-L and SHARPweb.org).

Shef Rogers

PBSC on Open Access

The Bibliographical Society of Canada has just put the backrun of its *Papers* on free access, and will make current issues similarly available immediately they appear. Hosted by the University of Toronto Libraries, the journal can be found at

<https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/bsc/index> .

The archive runs back to 1962 when the Society’s newsletters were cumulated into the more formal *Papers*, although initially still issued in modest typewriter face. The modern interface is much more elegant and the archive is easily searchable.

Urgent Deadline

Harry Ransom Center University of Texas at Austin 2020 short-term Fellowships to use the collection. Applications close **11**

November 2019

Full information at

<https://www.hrc.utexas.edu/contact/>.