

Reading Communities and the Circulation of Print: Australia, China, and Britain in the 19th century

**22-24
April
2014** China in the World Building
Fellows Lane (Building 188)
The Australian National University

A conference on the production, circulation and consumption of printed material in Australia, China, and Britain in the long 19th century.

Free and open to the public.

CONFERENCE WEBSITE: <http://ciw.anu.edu.au/events/2014/readingconference/>

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

James Raven (Professor of Modern History and Director of the Centre of Bibliographical History, University of Essex, and fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge)

Lydia Wevers (Director, Stout Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington)

Martyn Lyons (Professor of History and European Studies, University of New South Wales)



Reading Communities and the Circulation of Print: Australia, China, and Britain in the 19th Century

This conference investigates the production, circulation and consumption of printed material in Australia, China, and Britain in the long 19th century, when technological improvements in printing, engraving, papermaking, and transport made the production and distribution of texts easier and increased opportunities for education led to rising literacy rates. Over the century, the proportion of travellers to and migrants from these three areas also increased. How did the movement of people across space and culture influence publishing and reading practices? Is the nation a relevant framework for examining histories of print culture and its circulation in this period? In what ways have histories of reading and print culture in Australia, China and Britain intersected? How has the relationship between reading and its contexts been theorized and researched?

Schedule

Tuesday 22 April

Great Hall & Auditorium, China in the World Building

17:00-18:00 Drinks reception and registration

18:00-18:15 Welcoming Remarks

18:15-19:30 **Keynote Public Lecture**

Prof Martyn Lyons (University of New South Wales)
**Reading and Writing Communities in the Trenches
1914-1918**

19:45 Dinner: A. Baker

Wednesday 23 April

Seminar Rooms A & B and Auditorium, China in the World Building

9:00-10:30 **SESSION 1: AUSTRALIAN READERS**

Professor Pat Buckridge (Griffith University)
**Nodes and Slices: Was 1930 a Special Year in the
History of Australian Reading?**

Dr Julieanne Lamond (The Australian National
University)
**Local Readers and Mass Markets: Travelling Fiction
in the Library**

Professor Paul Eggert (University of New South
Wales)
**Colonial Reading Experience: A First Report from the
Colonial Newspapers and Magazines Project
Taiwan's Aboriginal Religions**

10:30-11:00 Morning Tea

11:00-12:30 **Keynote Public Lecture (Auditorium)**

Professor Lydia Wevers (Victoria University of Wellington)

Reading Dickens

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 **SESSION 2: PRINT CULTURE: CHINA, AUSTRALIA, BRITAIN**

Dr Phoebe H. Li (Tsinghua University)

The Founding of the Australian Chapter of the Baohuanghui Retold from the Tung Wah News

Mr Hoi-to Wong (City University of Hong Kong)

Books without Borders: Transnational Networks of Publishing and Bookselling between China and Britain in the 19th Century

Dr Hyun-ho Joo (Yonsei University)

The Shenbao's Transnational Envisioning

15:00-15:30 Afternoon Tea

15:30-17:00 **SESSION 3: MISSIONARY PUBLICATIONS**

Dr Ryan Dunch (University of Alberta)
**Visual Novelty: Illustrations in Missionary
Publications in Chinese, 1840-1911**

Dr Shih-Wen Sue Chen (Deakin University)
**“To Favourably Impress the Oriental Mind with
Western Knowledge”: Chinese Children’s Periodicals,
Missionaries, and the Circulation of Ideas, 1875-
1915**

Dr Benjamin Penny (The Australian National
University)
Print-faith; or How to Do Things with Tracts

17:00-18:00 Break

18:00-19:30 **Keynote Public Lecture**

Professor James Raven (Magdalene College,
University of Cambridge; and University of Essex)

**The Industrial Revolution of the Book: Cheap Print
and New Readers**

Thursday 24 April

Seminar Rooms A & B and Auditorium, China in the World Building

9:00-11:00 **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA**

An excursion to view some of the rare books collections, including the London Missionary Society Collection and the 1796 theatre playbill

10:30-11:00 Morning Tea

11:00-12:30 **SESSION 4: BRITISH READING**

Dr Helen Groth (University of New South Wales)
The Future of Reading and the End of Books

Professor Gillian Russell (The Australian National University)
The Reading Communities of Collecting: Sale Catalogues, Sociability and Ephemerality, 1676-1861

Dr Neil Ramsey (University of New South Wales, Canberra)
Military Journals, Wartime Reading and the *Edinburgh Review*

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 **SESSION 5: READING WORLDS**

Dr Mei-fen Kuo (Swimburne University of
Technology)

**Becoming Chinese Gentlemen between Two
Empires: charity, community and Chinese Australian
newspapers in Late 19th Century**

Dr Helen Bones (University of Western Sydney)
**New Zealand, Australia and the Colonial Writing
World**

Dr Susann Liebich (James Cook University)
Reading at Sea and Oceanic Print Cultures

15:00-16:00 Afternoon Tea

16:00-16:30 **AN AUDIENCE WITH:**

Professor Jon Mee (University of York)

**At the End of the Chain: Knowledge Networks and
Books in Australia in the 1820s**

16:30-17:30 **SESSION 7: CONCLUDING ROUNDTABLE,**
hosted by Professor Paul Eggert (University of New
South Wales)

Paper Abstracts

Dr Helen Bones

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New Zealand, Australia and the Colonial Writing World

A common theme amongst the settler colonies of the British World is concern about promising intellectuals and writers leaving for larger cities and cultural metropolises elsewhere. Late nineteenth and early twentieth-century New Zealand is no exception, and is seen as a place of “exile” for writers who were forced to leave and become expatriates in places like London or Sydney in order to fulfil their literary ambitions. On closer investigation, however, it is revealed that this problem has been greatly exaggerated by those with a nationalist outlook.

From the 1930s, New Zealand literary history became dominated by a small group of cultural nationalists who wrote the story of the establishment of a national literature with themselves at the centre. Most of the local literary creations up until this point were rejected because they failed to fit the narrow paradigm newly required for New Zealand writing. This cultural cover-up was so successful that much of the literary activity of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century remains obscured, despite cultural nationalism having been extensively deconstructed in recent decades. Because late-nineteenth century culture in New Zealand was largely British culture, and thus did not meet the cultural nationalists’ anachronistic standards, the idea that New Zealand was a cultural vacuum has been allowed to prevail. Besides imported culture, New Zealanders had access to a wealth of resources through what I have called the ‘colonial writing world’: part of the system of networks that surrounded the globe as the result of Britain’s colonial expansion into the southern hemisphere. Through these links they could make use of the better-developed writing infrastructure

across the Tasman as well as in places like London, and achieve their goals of publication. The opportunities that the colonial writing world provided meant that physical location in New Zealand was not a hindrance to literary success.

Professor Pat Buckridge

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Nodes and Slices: Was 1930 a Special Year in the History of Australian Reading?

Over thirty years ago, Ken Inglis and Graeme Davison made an eloquent and persuasive case for ‘slicing’ as a suitable mode of historiography, at least for the multi-volume Bicentennial Australian History then in the making, and perhaps for Australian histories more generally. The slicing was duly implemented in the first five volumes of the 12-volume set – a single year in every fifty from 1788 to 1988 – but the method seems not to have remained popular (it was controversial even at the time), and conventional narrative history, whether nationalistic, progressive, revolutionary or institutional, has since regained its seductive appeal, in the Oxford History of Australia and elsewhere.

This is not entirely true of the two published volumes of the history of the book in Australia, where the narrative trajectory is disrupted – in the latter volume dominated – by ‘case studies’ of various kinds; but these, being strung out along half-century timelines, function less as components of a synchronic whole than as instantiations of a larger diachronic process.

In this paper I want to experiment with the slicing of Australia’s reading history, using 1930 as the year of choice. As in the Bicentennial volumes where the selected years are neither heavily epochal ‘nodes’ nor wholly random ‘slices’ (the last four are all half-centenaries of the founding year), so 1930 is both a slice – a cross-section of historical time in which various general trends in reading

can be arrested, observed and inter-related – and a node, at which certain specific events took place, which were arguably of special significance to the history of reading in the interwar period.

Slice historiography may turn out to be particularly useful for capturing the diverse simultaneities and multiple proximities of reading experience in history. It may also reveal unexpected concentrations of intellectual and emotional energy around certain themes, which can then radiate out into larger periodic syntheses.

Dr Shih-Wen Sue Chen

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“To favourably impress the Oriental mind with western knowledge”: Chinese children’s periodicals, missionaries, and the circulation of ideas, 1875-1915

Since the early 19th century, Protestant missionaries in China have been publishing Chinese language periodicals. In the 1870s, when the missionary press became more secularized, children’s magazines began to emerge. One of the earliest pictorial magazines for children was the *Xiaohai yuebao* (*The Child’s Paper*, 1875-1915). The periodical’s contents include church news, science columns, travel literature, parables and fables, conversion stories, hymns with musical scores, and short stories. Many of the early illustrations were borrowed from American and British children’s periodicals while later images were produced by Chinese engravers. In this paper, I will first introduce the periodical’s editors, printers, contributors, sellers, circulation and distribution. In the second section, I examine *Xiaohai yuebao*’s role in disseminating Western knowledge of natural history and other related fields of nineteenth-century science and point out how it was influenced by the trend of publishing popular science articles in late nineteenth-century English-language children’s periodicals. I will also analyze the role Protestant missionaries played in the transnational transmission

of knowledge and their connections to international print cultures. Finally, I draw upon missionary correspondence to trace the readership of *Xiaohai yuebao*.

Dr Ryan Dunch

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Visual novelty: Illustrations in missionary publications in Chinese, 1840-1911

Protestant missionaries and Chinese Protestants produced many publications in Chinese covering a wide range of genres and content in late Qing China. Transnational and translingual networks were integral to the production and circulation of these publications. In content, Protestant publications spanned a broad spectrum from literal translations of foreign work to original compositions. In form and genre, they engaged with Chinese print culture in multiple ways also, while generating new readerships by (for example) printing in dialects, both in Chinese characters and in newly-created romanized or phonetic scripts.

The use of illustrations in Protestant publications provides a fascinating window through which to explore the transnational movement of concepts, technologies, and materials. Missionary authors and translators regarded illustrations as important for capturing the attention of readers and lending credibility to the content of their publications. These could be Chinese-style woodcuts by Chinese artisans, woodcut or lithograph tracings from foreign books (sometimes hand-tinted), or plates printed abroad and imported, then bound into the Chinese book. The technology of Chinese book-binding made it a simple matter to incorporate additional pages, and different paper types and sizes. It also means headaches for the researcher, because illustrations can vary between extant copies of the same “edition” of a work.

Later in the century, some missionary publishers were sending to Japan for collotype and electrotype prints, and were eager to add the technology to produce these in-house to their printing establishments. Young John Allen (林樂知), the editor and publisher of the influential periodical *Wanguo gongbao* 萬國公報, was particularly interested in this issue, and corresponded about it with colleagues in India and London as well as his home base in the USA.

My paper will explore the variety of illustrations used in Protestant publications in Chinese from the 1840s until the end of the Qing dynasty in 1911. The paper will discuss the types of illustration, relation between illustration and text, the technological options for the production and inclusion of illustrations, and the transnational and translanguing networks on which missionary publishers drew in illustrating their texts.

Professor Paul Eggert

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Colonial Reading Experience: A First Report from the Colonial Newspapers and Magazines Project

This paper will describe the CNMP's aims, its newspaper-indexing methodology, and point to its likely effects in the future on our understanding of the literary and book history of the period. The chronological-slice approach that the project is taking, together with the decision to record reading of both Australian and non-Australian literary material, should have a clarifying effect. Brave generalisations about the functioning of Australian literature in the colonial period based on anecdote and sample, and bibliographically restricted to book publication, as in the past, should become progressively less necessary.

Dr Helen Groth

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Automatic Reading and Acoustic Registration in Henry James

To describe Henry James as a psychological novelist is to repeat a critical commonplace. His intricate, closely observed analyses of his characters' minds have been the subject of endless critical analysis. While acknowledging this critical tradition, this paper engages with more recent work by Vanessa L. Ryan and Nicholas Dames that has been more concerned with the formal implications of James' engagement with contemporary nineteenth-century theories of unconscious or involuntary response. Focusing on James' prefaces to *The American* and *The Portrait of a Lady*, this paper examines the way James uses the interplay between sound and silence to capture the involuntary dimensions of novelistic mediation.

Dr Hyun-ho Joo

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The Shenbao's Transnational Envisioning

The *Shenbao*, a British-owned Chinese-language newspaper published in Shanghai beginning in 1872, was one of the most popular newspapers in China in the late nineteenth century. Though it was under the foreign ownership of the British businessman Ernest Major, the editorial management was largely in the hands of its Chinese editors, who were traditionally educated but at the same time open-minded toward Western civilization. Their simultaneous tradition-orientation and Western-inclination embodied a strong transnational hybridity. This hybridity was not only a unique characteristic of the *Shenbao* editors, but it also directly reflected the nature of the city of Shanghai as a culturally hybrid 'contact

zone' that lay at the overlapping boundaries of the Chinese and Western civilizations. The cultural hybridity of Shanghai facilitated a transnational envisioning that went beyond national boundaries, and the Shenbao, as a hybrid cultural product of the British and Chinese, played a significant role in Shanghai's transnational envisioning.

This paper sheds light on the hybridity of this British-owned Chinese-language newspaper's pursuit of both Chinese tradition and Western modernization in the late nineteenth century by examining its complicated view of Korea, by far the most devoted tribute-paying country of Qing China. I specifically examine the Shenbao's seemingly contradictory view that supported Korea's pursuit of the Western path of modernization and at the same time wanted Korea to remain a faithful tribute-paying country to China. I also investigate the ways in which the Shenbao tried to justify China's non-tributary practical needs of the present time by invoking and redefining age-old traditional/tributary ideas, which evidently shows the interplay of the tradition-oriented mindset and Western-inclined thinking. The Shenbao's traditional/tributary attitude, which co-existed with a pro-Western attitude, deepens our understanding of the tension between tradition and modernity and further between national and transnational visions.

Dr Mei-fen Kuo

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Becoming Chinese Gentlemen between Two Empires: charity, community and Chinese Australian newspapers in Late 19th Century

The Chinese press was the largest foreign-language press in Sydney during the late nineteenth century, and the only one to publish without interruption from the 1890s into the 1920s. This paper discusses and compares the two leading Chinese newspapers, Chinese Australian Herald and Tung Wah News of this period.

Both were consequences of the urbanisation of Australia and the transformation of Chinese Australian identity. The networks of editors and founders show how these two Chinese newspapers shaped their readerships and circulated its publications to national and international levels. The presence of two Chinese newspapers also gives us a window to understand Chinese community and their print culture in the late 19th Century. It is argued that the adoption of modern newspapers helped to shape the Chinese diaspora community in the Pacific. As these two newspapers mobilized Chinese residents in the name of the Chinese community, they expanded the vision of their Chinese readership and enlarged the scope of public discussion to embrace national political systems and international networks – in one case that of the British empire, the other that of the Chinese empire.

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Local readers and mass markets: travelling fiction in the library

In *The Sentimental Education of the Novel* Margaret Cohen argues that canonical writers can only be understood in the context of the literary field as a whole, much of which constitutes, in her terms, 'the great unread.' This paper presents an approach to understanding the circulation of the body of 'great unread' popular fiction across the turn of the twentieth century by starting in the library - not the research library, but the local libraries which for people living outside of metropolitan cities provided a key point of access to books and periodicals.

This paper tracks some patterns of library purchase and borrowing in five regional Australian libraries across the turn of the 20th century. These libraries were purchasers as well as lenders of books and periodicals, and patrons and library committees were actively involved in suggesting, purchasing and donating items. Libraries

are indicative of the ways in which local communities of readers participated in broader networks of the circulation of print in this period. Because of their temporality, and their capacity to connect gender, class, location and reading practices, library loans are also one of the best means by which to understand how fiction travelled, and in what company. This paper finds that in a period marked by the expansion and consolidation of ‘mass audiences’ for English-language popular fiction, physical isolation from metropolitan centres of literary culture did not have to entail cultural isolation from contemporary literature, especially in communities with a recent colonial history. These regional readers – many of whom were themselves dislocated from their country of origin – used the library as a site of engagement with the latest fiction from Britain, the US, and Australia, especially fiction which itself thematized transit between the metropolis and elsewhere.

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The Founding of the Australian Chapter of the Baohuanghui Retold from the Tung Wah News

The Chinese Empire Reform Association, or Baohuanghui (保皇会), was a widely spread transnational organisation founded by Kang Youwei, who engineered the 1898 Wuxu Reform, a short-lived modernisation movement enacted by young Emperor Guangxu, but halted by the conservative Empress Dowager Cixi. Subsequent to a palace coup that forced the emperor into seclusion, Kang went into exile and continued his political endeavour by mobilising the Chinese overseas. This paper explores the emergence of the Baohuanghui in Australia through re-examining the Tung Wah News (东华新报), a Chinese-language newspaper published in Sydney between 1898 and 1902.

Existing, but rather scant, research that touches upon the Australian chapter of the Baohuanghui has primarily used this

newspaper as a source of references. This author reads it differently. Approaches of media studies and Chinese Diaspora studies conceptualise this new research, which will be centered on an extensive content analysis of news reports and commentaries in the Tung Wah News for the period prior to Liang Qichao, Kang's most famed disciple, making his historic visit to Australia. The research seeks an alternative path to look into the transnational operation of the Baohuanghui, and so Chinese reformers' thoughts and their activities in China, in Australia and beyond, within the context of a retrospective on the fall of the Qing Empire.

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Reading at Sea and Oceanic Print Cultures

Among the collections at the Hocken Library, Dunedin, are a number of late nineteenth-century catalogues of ships' libraries. The catalogues form part of the archives of the New Zealand Union Steam Ship Company. Based in Dunedin, the USSCo operated a number of trans-Tasman and trans-Pacific routes, servicing ports in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Hawaii along the way. These catalogues, variously printed or hand-written, some annotated and containing notes of 'books missing' and 'requiring repair', offer a glimpse into reading practices and cultures at sea, in a period marked by high mobility. Books and texts circulated across the seas; readers equally traversed across space and cultures. Ships' libraries constitute one of the moments and spaces when readers and books travelled simultaneously, and when reading formed part of travel.

Scholars in the history of reading have convincingly argued that reading practices are firmly situated and specific to time and place. Most studies of common readers and their reading cultures are locally, regionally or nationally grounded. When histories of reading are trans-national or comparative, the places of comparison and connection are usually static and exclusively land-based. But what

happens when reading practices are situated within the mobile space of shipboard culture and form part of the experiences of travel? How is reading shaped and transformed by mobility? Does reading at sea differ to reading practices anchored in particular landscapes and within particular national boundaries? Drawing on nineteenth-century ships' libraries catalogues and evidence derived from personal archives, and bringing scholarship of the history of reading into dialogue with maritime history and oceanic studies, this paper offers a first exploration of these questions.

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Reading and Writing Communities in the Trenches 1914-1918

38 years ago Paul Fussell, in *The Great War and Modern Memory*, examined the literary dimensions of the First World War for British combatants. Fussell was primarily concerned with the officer class, a well-read and articulate elite whose war experience did not necessarily reflect that of other ranks. Other historians have sometimes dismissed the literary culture of ordinary soldiers as offering little interest or originality or as being (allegedly) inaccessible. Professor Lyons does not forget the officer elite, but seeks to broaden the focus to include the reading and writing of ordinary people during the war years. In drawing evidence from French and Italian soldiers, he also refers to prisoners of war.

Professor Lyons argues that the trenches constituted a reading community, where soldiers shared similar values, and similar expectations of and appetites for reading. Collective reading, rare among the officer class, was however common amongst the infantry. They devoured newspapers while paradoxically maintaining a healthy cynicism towards their exaggerations and falsehoods. They read for information, for recreation and for clues to understand their own involvement in the war. A few drew on their past reading

for literary models which shaped their experience and influenced their own writing.

At the same time, the trenches were also writing communities in which soldiers plunged into an epistolary frenzy of bulimic proportions. They wrote for similar purposes, in similarly laconic prose and they sometimes wrote, just as they read, in common. Reading and writing were closely interconnected and Professor Lyons suggests that we should not treat them in isolation from each other if we seek a rounded vision of cultural history and of literacy practices.

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At the End of the Chain: Knowledge Networks and Books in Australia in the 1820s

Reading has often been constrained by the scarcity of books, even when their production increased. This situation was especially acute in the early decades of Australian settlement, as the work of scholars such as Elizabeth Webby has shown. In the 1820s, Australia was at the end of a long chain of networks devoted to ‘improvement’, a network that had come into being, especially after 1760, via clubbing together over books across the English-speaking world. These clubs rarely conceived as themselves simply as repositories for books, but sought to circulate and discover knowledge through the collision of mind with mind as part of the extended process of reading and interpretation. The question of what conditions best conduced to such exchange continued to bedevil these networks, clogging them in various ways even as they expanded. Using the partial archives at the State Library of New South Wales, this paper looks at two examples from Sydney in the 1820s at a period when books were still very scarce. The select company of the Australasian Philosophical Society (1821-2) came together to share books and knowledge via a series of papers

each others homes. The Useful Book Society (1828-31?) was a more democratic but in many less egalitarian group, primarily concerned with the dissemination of knowledge beyond a 'literary' elite. Both offer perspectives on key questions in the expansion of reading not just in New South Wales but in networks of improvement as they rose, fell, and reformed themselves across the English-speaking world in the early nineteenth century.

Dr Benjamin Penny

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Print-faith; or How to Do Things with Tracts

In December 1843, Walter Medhurst (1796-1857) of the London Missionary Society and his medical colleague Dr William Lockhart (1811-1896) arrived in Shanghai to establish the first protestant mission in that city. When they rented a house a primary concern was that it "could be used as a printing office and bindery". Publishing was clearly a priority for the new mission and indeed Medhurst – who had been apprenticed as a printer - had his presses and other equipment shipped from Batavia where he had previously been stationed. Only a few months after their arrival they were producing tracts and other religious material in vast quantities. Even though the products of missionary publishing in China can be comfortably classified as "cheap print", immense resources were invested in publishing them. The sheer bulk of text emanating from the LMS and the other mission presses that came later is staggering, and was clearly regarded as a measure of success in itself. This paper examines the printing endeavours of the mission presses in Shanghai, and elsewhere in China, and explores the motivations behind the expenditure of so many resources and so much energy.

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Military Journals, Wartime Reading and the *Edinburgh Review*

Journals were one of the most important and pervasive literary forms to have emerged by the end of the eighteenth century, playing a key role in the formation of modern print culture. Given their prominence, it is unsurprising, therefore, that we should find the appearance in these years of military periodicals. In this paper, I want to consider the proliferation of military periodicals in Britain around 1800 and the ways in which war came to be linked with the rapid expansion of print culture at this time. Periodicals such as *The Monthly Military Companion*, *The Soldier's Pocket Magazine*, *The British Military Journal* and *The Naval Chronicle* represent forms of writing that were instrumental in the development of a European military enlightenment that consolidated modern, scientific approaches to war. Yet although primarily concerned with military science, the journals coincided with widespread attempts in Britain to mobilise the nation against threatened invasion from France. Thus, while military journals mark the appearance of a more clearly defined disciplinary identity for the military, they nonetheless appealed to both military and civilian audiences and utilised a range of emotional strategies that could facilitate national mobilisation for war. I argue that the journals played a role in the shifting nature of Romantic periodical culture around 1800, in particular that they foreshadowed the subsequent development of the *Edinburgh Review* and its efforts to shape the opinions of British reading audiences.

Professor James Raven

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The Industrial Revolution of the Book: Cheap Print and New Readers

Unlike the coming of print (woodblocks in second-century East Asia and thirteenth-century Europe; moveable type in eleventh-century China and fifteenth-century Europe), the second mechanized, industrial revolution in book production was experienced worldwide in one century. It was, nonetheless, hugely variable in its regional adoption and impact. This nineteenth-century transformation has been identified with publishing capitalism, and yet its history is many-faceted, with complicated antecedents. In Britain, Australia and, a little later, China, technological bravura led the revolution, its products sometimes dismissed as industrial literature. Thomas Carlyle in Britain and cultural pessimists around the globe denounced the new machinery as spitting out mechanised minds, devaluing literature and learning, and replacing craftsmanship (in writing as well as in publishing) by the robotic and the mass produced. The unprecedented cheapness of industrially printed materials encouraged more to read but also developed a greater sense of the indeterminacy and anonymity of the reading public.

Professor Gillian Russell

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The Reading Communities of Collecting: Sale catalogues, Sociability and Ephemerality, 1676-1862

Book sale auctions were an innovation of the late seventeenth century, the first catalogue of the sale of a private library, that of Lazarus Seaman, being published in London in 1676. Such texts continue to be regarded and classified by librarians as ephemera, their main role being as sources of bibliographical information. For seventeenth and eighteenth century men and women, sale catalogues were the only means of finding out about the existence of books and related fugitive literature, their possible obtainability, and their provenance in terms of the history of their previous ownership. But they represented much more than this: catalogues

were texts in their own right, with their own particular textual and typographic conventions, and were capable of being read for purposes other than the acquisition of bibliographic 'facts', purposes such as undirected curiosity and pleasure. Sale catalogues documented the sociability of book-collecting, a function they performed in two senses: firstly as the advertisement or invitation to an event in a particular place, making them analogous to tickets or playbills (hence their distribution for free in the coffeehouses of cities such as London and Oxford) and secondly as records or souvenirs of that event, capable of constituting an archive. This history might represent an individual's attendance at a particular auction or was a means of virtual participation in the homosocial networks being created and sustained by the print trade. As a record of an individual's collecting, the sale catalogue could thus function as a form of quasi-biography. By amassing numerous examples of these texts, collectors of printed matter were able to contextualise their own practices in relation to those of others, creating a virtual reading community that could affirm for them that they were not alone.

The role of the sale catalogue as a testimony of a life's collecting and reading was such that it became a central genre of late Georgian 'bibliomania'. Book and ephemera collectors acquired catalogues in the knowledge that their own collecting -- including those very catalogues -- were likely to be publicized in the form of a catalogue after their death. The catalogue was a record of the integrity of a library or a collection, the most likely fate of which was dispersal and fragmentation (even destruction) after the owner's death. An ephemeral text in its own right, the sale catalogue could be the only record that a collection had ever existed. In acquiring the sale catalogues of others, collectors were thus doing what hoped others would do for them after their death. The ephemeral status of the sale catalogue, its embeddedness and recirculation within other collections, therefore enacted, in a particularly acute way, the tension between loss and preservation, memory and forgetting, that governed collecting and the discourses and practices associated with ephemerality as a whole.

This paper will explore the ephemeral genre of the sale catalogue as a source of evidence for reading communities and the sociability of reading matter in the long eighteenth century, with reference to some notable collectors and attendees of book auctions such as the actor Charles Mathews, the antiquarian and autograph collector William Upcott, and the antiquarian and historian of public culture, John Joseph Ashby Fillinham.

Professor Lydia Wevers

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Reading Dickens

What is a reading community? Is it the same thing as a literary community (Republics of Letters Kirkpatrick & Dixon, 2012) and does it always evidence literary sociability? In my study of the reading history of a New Zealand farm (Reading on the Farm 2010) the idea of a reading ‘community’ seemed easy to establish, since all the people who lived within the physical bounds of the station could access the subscription library (if they paid the subscription). Did they exhibit literary sociability? Fitzpatrick and Dixon define this as ‘various forms of community that facilitate and sustain writing and reading’ and ‘the kinds of communal identities that are formed by the practices of writing and reading’ (v). I argued in that book that the library was the ground in which social and cultural status was asserted and social norms averred, and it still seems to me that reading, and particularly the performance of reading, however that might be displayed, is always inflected with registers of discrimination which play out across other sociabilities. But the question I want to ask in this paper is about how ‘community’ might be manifested in readers who do not meet in a library collection or any other way, and whose communal identity is formed around a writer’s works-I refer of course to Dickens. This paper will examine evidence of reading Dickens in disseminated networks across New Zealand in the nineteenth century.

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Books without Borders: Transnational Networks of Publishing and Bookselling between China and Britain in the 19th Century

This paper examines the development of the transnational networks of publishing and bookselling between China and Britain in the 19th century. It is divided into three parts. The first part explores the early attempts of transnational joint-publishing between China and Britain since Robert Morrison, the first Protestant missionary in China, published his various works in the early 19th century, including his formidable Chinese-English dictionary, which was printed in Macao and published in London. Second, it investigates the book collection, circulation, and distribution of imported English books in public and private hands on the China coast until 1870s when a number of treaty ports were opened following the Nanking Treaty. Third, it analyses the formation of transnational publishing and bookselling from the early 1870s because of the burgeoning demand for imported books driven by the rapid increase of foreign population and the expansion of readership. The reading public experienced a fundamental change in the book market innovated by the Shanghai-based-and-Hong-Kong-registered British publishers booksellers Kelly & Walsh, which on the one hand regularly imported new books by English, American, and European mails and advertised the titles in the North-China Daily News, the most popular English-newspaper in China, and on the other hand frequently joint-published China-related books written by consul-sinologists and missionary-sinologists in China with eminent publishers and booksellers, such as Trübner, in London. Drawing extensively on the catalogues and advertisements of Kelly & Walsh and their frequent involvement in and close connection to various literary and social establishments, it argues that the publishers and booksellers were among the most important agencies actively engaged in transnational networks of publishing and bookselling between China and Britain in the 19th century.

Biographical Details

Dr Helen Bones

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Helen Bones is currently employed as a History tutor at UWS and UTS in Sydney, in 2011 she completed a doctorate in History at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. Her thesis, entitled 'A Dual Exile? New Zealand and the Colonial Writing World 1890-1945' employs empirical methods to question the dominance of cultural nationalist thinking in New Zealand literary history.

Professor Pat Buckridge

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Pat Buckridge recently retired and is now Adjunct Professor of Literature in the School of Humanities, Griffith University. Over the last twenty years he has published and presented widely on aspects of the history of reading in Australia, and is currently writing a history of Australia's reading culture between the Wars. He is also working on a history of the publishing firm of George G. Harrap & Co.

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Shih-Wen Sue Chen is a Lecturer in Literary Studies in the School of Communication and Creative Arts at Deakin University. She was previously a post-doctoral fellow at the Australian Centre on China in the World, Australian National University, Adjunct Assistant Professor in Tamkang University, Taiwan and has also lectured in National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan. She is the author of *Representations of China in British Children's Fiction, 1851-1911* (Ashgate, 2013).

Dr Ryan Dunch

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Ryan Dunch earned his BA in Asian Studies at ANU (Hons, 1987), MA in History at the University of British Columbia (1991), and his Ph.D. in History at Yale University (1996). Since 1998 he has been on the faculty of the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, where he is now Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies. He is the author of *Fuzhou Protestants and the Making of a Modern China, 1857-1927* (Yale University Press, 2001), as well as articles and book chapters related to the past and present of Christianity in Chinese society. His principal current research focus is missionary publishing in Chinese before 1911. He serves as one of the editors of H-ASIA, an international discussion network for specialists in Asian history and studies.

Professor Paul Eggert

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Paul Eggert is an Australian Research Council professorial fellow based at University of New South Wales, Canberra, and is current president of Society for Textual Scholarship. His book *Securing the Past* appeared in 2009 and *Biography of a Book* in 2013. The latter is complemented by an edition of the original newspaper versions of Henry Lawson's short-story collection *While the Billy Boils*. Paul's present project is the Charles Harpur Critical Archive. He served as general editor of the Academy Editions of Australian Literature and his editions of various works by D. H. Lawrence, Rolf Boldrewood, Henry Lawson and Joseph Conrad have appeared over the years. p.eggert@adfa.edu.au

Dr Helen Groth

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Helen Groth is Associate Professor in the School of Arts and Media at the University of New South Wales. She is the author of three books: *Victorian Photography and Literary Nostalgia*

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Dr Hyun-ho Joo

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Hyun-ho Joo is an Assistant Professor in EastAsia International College at Yonsei University, Korea, after he received a Ph.D. degree from the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago in 2010. His research interests lie in modern Chinese history and the history of Sino-Korean relations. His recent publications include “The Jingbao as Late Qing China’s News Medium and Its Reports on Korean Affairs,” *Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies* 13.2 (October 2013).

Dr Mei-fen Kuo

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Mei-fen Kuo is a research fellow in the Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Investment and Philanthropy at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne. From 2010 to 2013 she was an Australian Post-doctoral Fellow for an ARC Linkage project in the School of Social Science at La Trobe University. Recently she just published two books: *Making Chinese Australia: Urban Elites, Newspapers and the Formation of Chinese-Australian Identity, 1892–1912* (Monash University Publishing, 2013) and *Unlocking the History of the Australasian Kuo Min Tang 1911-2013* (with Judith Brett, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2013). She is currently working on an ARC discovery project about Chinese diaspora philanthropy from 1850 to 1949 with Professor John Fitzgerald.

Dr Julieanne Lamond

The Australian National University

Julieanne Lamond is a Lecturer in English at the Australian National

University. She has published essays on Australian writers including Rosa Praed, Barbara Baynton, Steele Rudd, Miles Franklin and M. Barnard Eldershaw, as well as on gender and literary value, the history of reading in Australia, and Australian literary and reading culture around the turn of the twentieth century. She is currently working on a collaborative project with the School of Computer Science, using library loans records to describe Australian readerships around the turn of the century, as well as continuing my research into the readership and careers of Australian women writers in the period, particularly Rosa Praed. I am currently reviews editor for Australian Literary Studies.

Dr Phoebe H. Li

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Phoebe H. Li received her PhD in 2010 from the University of Auckland, and is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of History at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Her research interests include the Chinese Diaspora in Australasia, modern Chinese history, and mass media. She is the author of *A Virtual Chinatown: the Diasporic Mediasphere of Chinese Migrants in New Zealand* (Brill: 2013).

Dr Susann Liebich

James Cook University

Susann Liebich is a Postdoctoral Fellow at James Cook University, where she is working with Dr Victoria Kuttainen on a project exploring travel and mobility with Australian and New Zealand popular magazine culture in the interwar period, especially in relation to the Pacific (www.transportedimagination.com). Her PhD project examined the interconnected histories reading practices and communities across the British Empire (1890 to 1930), and she has published on aspects of the history of reading as well as bookselling in New Zealand. In addition to research on magazine culture, she currently works on a project on reading and writing at sea, and is developing her interest in applying Digital Humanities methods to questions in the history of reading.

Professor Martyn Lyons

University of New South Wales

Professor Martyn Lyons was born in London, took his D.Phil. at Oxford University and has been at UNSW since 1977. He is a former head of the history school, and was the Faculty's Associate Dean for Research and Postgraduate Affairs from 2002-7. He is currently Professor of History and European Studies in the School of Humanities. His main research interests are in two distinct fields: French revolutionary and Napoleonic history and the history of books, reading and writing in Europe and Australia. He has produced sixteen books, including 'A History of Reading and Writing in the Western World' (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010), and more recently 'The Writing Culture of ordinary people in Europe, c. 1860-1920' (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

He is currently working on an ARC-funded project to investigate the writing practices of uneducated and semi-literate peasants in France, Spain and Italy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Professor Jon Mee

University of York

Jon Mee is Professor of Eighteenth-Century Studies in the English Department at the University of York, U.K.

His most recent monograph is *Conversable Worlds: Literature, Contention, and Community 1762-1830* (Oxford University Press) based on research funded by a Phillip J. Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship. It will be published in paperback in October 2013. During the course of working on the book, he held fellowships at the University of Chicago (2008), the Yale Centre for British Art (2009), and the Australian National University (2009). He has also recently published *The Cambridge Introduction to Charles Dickens* and an essay on 'Popular Radical Culture' in *The Cambridge Companion to British Literature of the French Revolution in the 1790s*. Other forthcoming work includes the 15000 word plus omni-review of work in the early nineteenth-century for the journal *Studies in English Literature*. He is a series co-editor for Pickering & Chatto's series 'The Enlightenment World'.

He has just completed an AHRC fellowship to write a book on the print culture of popular radicalism in London in the 1790s. He is also currently the Principal Investigator a Leverhulme Major Project Grant to form a group to work on 'Networks of Improvement: Literary Clubs and Societies, 1760-1840. The project is interested in the circulation of ideas of all kinds through various networks (regional, national, colonial) in the period and also the construction of ideas of the 'literary' in relation to such networks.

Dr Benjamin Penny

The Australian National University

Benjamin Penny is a historian of religions in China who has worked on medieval China, the nineteenth century and contemporary times. His most recent book is *The Religion of Falun Gong* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012) and he is currently working on a monograph concerning expatriate scholarship in Shanghai after the first Opium War, as well as co-editing *East Asian History*. After studying at the Universities of Sydney, Cambridge, Peking and the ANU, Penny held a post-doctoral fellowship also at the ANU before moving to the Humanities Research Centre. Between 1999 and 2005, he worked as the first Executive Officer of the Herbert and Valmae Freilich Foundation, and in 2003 and 2004 also held a research fellowship at the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research. Penny was appointed to the Division of Pacific and Asian History in October 2005 and in January 2010 became the Deputy Director of the new School of Culture, History and Language in the ANU's College of Asia and the Pacific. In July 2010 he was appointed to the Deputy Directorship of the Australian centre on China in the World. He is also Chair of the ANU China Institute.

Penny's research interests include religious and spiritual movements in modern and contemporary China, in particular Falun Gong and the qigong boom; the interpretation of Chinese religions by westerners; Medieval Religious Daoism; the history of the religions of the Australian Chinese.

Dr Neil Ramsey

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Dr Neil Ramsey is a Lecturer in English Literature and an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow from 2010-2013. He is currently working on the ARC-Funded project “War, Literary Culture and Masculinity in Romantic Period Britain, 1750-1850”, which examines the formative role played by Romantic period military and naval war writing in the development of a modern war culture of war. He has published on the literary and culture responses to warfare during the eighteenth century and Romantic eras, focusing on the representations of personal experience and the development of modern war literature. His first book, *The Military Memoir and Romantic Literary Culture, 1780-1835*, was published by Ashgate in 2011.

Professor James Raven

Magdalene College, University of Cambridge; and University of Essex

Professor James Raven MA (Cantab) MA (Oxon) PhD LittD (Cantab) FSA FRHistS is a Fellow of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge and Professor of Modern History, University of Essex, and a Vice-President of the Bibliographical Society. He is Director of the Cambridge Project for the Book Trust and Director of the Centre for Bibliographical History, University of Essex. In 2010 he gave the Panizzi Lectures at the British Library. Among his books are *Bookscape: Geographies of Printing and Publishing in London before 1800* (forthcoming, June 2014), *The Business of Books* (2007), *London Booksellers and American Customers* (2002), *The English Novel 1770-1829* (2000) and *Judging New Wealth* (1996).

Professor Gillian Russell

The Australian National University

Gillian Russell is Professor of English in the School of Cultural Inquiry, in the College of Arts and Social Sciences in The Australian National University where she has taught since 1991. She holds a BA Hons from The Queen’s University Belfast and a PhD from the

University of Cambridge. Her first monograph, *The Theatres of War: Performance, Politics and Society 1793-1815*, came out with Oxford University Press in 1995 and she has published widely on such diverse topics as military camps in the eighteenth century, gambling by upper-class women, adultery in Jane Austen's fiction, and the behaviour of servants in the Georgian theatre. She was an associate editor of *An Oxford Companion to the Romantic Age* (gen.editor Iain McCalman, Oxford, 1999) and co-editor, with Clara Tuite, of *Romantic Sociability: Social Networks and Literary Culture in Britain, 1770-1840* (Cambridge, 2002). Her monograph *Women, Sociability, and Theatre in Georgian London* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2007. Since 2010 she has been working as an Australian Research Council professorial fellow on a project concerning print culture and sociability in Romantic period Britain and Australia.

Professor Lydia Wevers

Victoria University of Wellington

Professor Lydia Wevers has taught at the universities of Sydney, New South Wales and Georgetown but most of her career has been at Victoria University of Wellington. She is currently engaged on a large project on the history of reading in New Zealand and Australia, the first part of which is about Dickens. This work draws from my last book *Reading on the Farm* described as 'superb' (Australian Historical Studies) and a 'real advance in the historiography of reading' (New Zealand Journal of History).

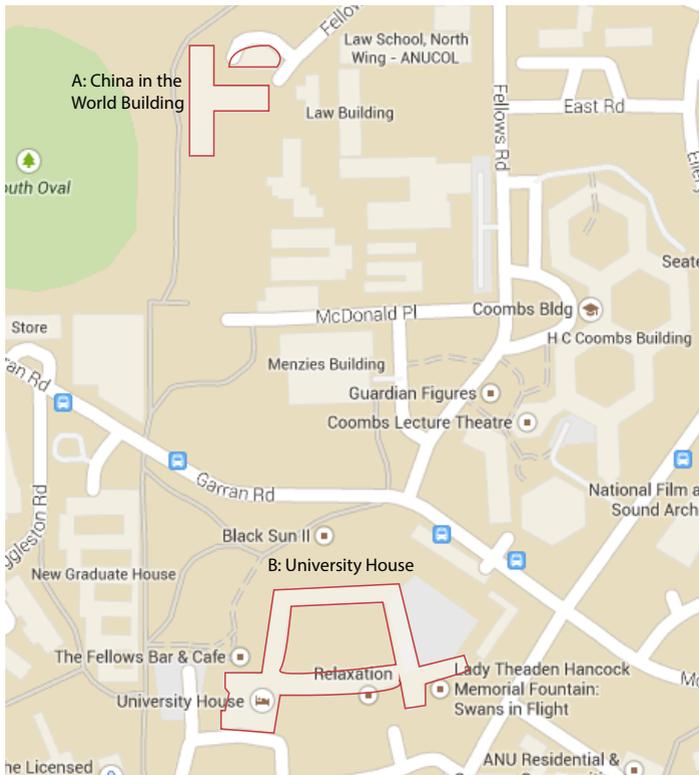
Mr Hoi-to Wong

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Hoi-to Wong is an instructor of Chinese Civilisation Centre, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. Educated at the University of Hong Kong for his BA and MPhil in Chinese History and the University of Manchester, UK, for a MA in Cultural History, he is currently working towards his doctoral dissertation at the University of Edinburgh on the international book trade in East Asia in nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Asia with a special focus on Kelly & Walsh. His research interests are cultural

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Map



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Dinners (Invite only)

Tuesday 22 April
A. Baker

Wednesday 23 April
Red Chilli

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