
Editorial

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With this issue — Vol. 18, No. 1 — *Queensland Review* begins an exciting new collaboration with the School of Humanities at Griffith University and Australian Academic Press, a Brisbane-based publisher of scholarly journals and books founded by Stephen May in 1987. The University of Queensland Press, which established *Queensland Review* and sustained it for seventeen years, has decided to move out of journal publishing and facilitated our move to Australian Academic Press. We thank UQP's successive managing directors, Laurie Muller and Greg Bain, for their support and encouragement over the years.

Under the dynamic leadership of Stephen May, Australian Academic Press offers us the possibility of continuing to produce *Queensland Review* in print, while at the same time enabling us to reach new readers through an expansion of our electronic offerings. The look of the journal is different, but our mission is unchanged. *Queensland Review* remains the only multi-disciplinary journal of Australian Studies to focus on the history, literature, culture, society, politics and environment of the state of Queensland. We are delighted that our new publisher is a Queensland press that is recognised as being at the forefront of innovation in publishing, not just in Australia but worldwide.

At a time when there is much discussion about the future of books and reading, it is fitting to open this issue with an article on the role that the Queensland Bush Book Club played in promoting literary culture in early twentieth-century Queensland. The author, Robin Wagner, is Library Director at Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania. During 2008, she was granted research leave to visit Australian libraries, archives and public record offices, where she examined the correspondence and surveys associated with Ralph Munn and Ernest Pitt's 1934 report into the state of libraries in Australia. From 1922 until its decline during World War II, the Queensland Bush Book Club was the only book-lending service available in remote areas of the state, and at its peak supplied 25,000 books a year to country readers. "A Blood-Stained Corpse in the Butler's Pantry": The Queensland Bush Book Club' looks at the Queensland Bush Book Club as an organisation as well as at the readers who used the service.

In 'Harmonising the City: Music, Multiculturalism and *The Muses' Magazine* in Brisbane', Patrick Buckridge examines an urban cultural initiative of the 1920s. He argues that in response to the turbulent politics of civil disorder in Brisbane during and after World War I, the active creation of a liberal polity in Brisbane in the 1920s balanced a high level of inter-class cohesion and social harmony with a significant degree of ethnic and religious diversity. He identifies three key figures — Professor Joseph Jeremiah Stable, Henri Alexis Tardent and Luis Amedeo Parés

— as the orchestrators of this cultural harmonisation program. Stable founded the Queensland Authors and Artists Association in 1921, Tardent and Parés established the Hall of the Muses in 1925, and Parés founded *The Muses' Magazine* in 1927. Parés also organised three performances of the '1000 Violins Ensemble' in the then Exhibition Hall (now the home of the Queensland Youth Symphony Orchestra) in September 1927. Radio station 4QG broadcast one of the concerts, and Parés's bold initiative attracted the attention of British, French and US music journals.

The musical theme continues with an article by Peter Roennfeldt on the local musical advocates whose persistency in pressing the cause of music education eventually led to the establishment of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music at South Brisbane in 1957. Beginning in the 1920s with organist George Sampson, Roennfeldt identifies many well-known and lesser-known individuals who made significant contributions to the push for a music school in Brisbane. 'The Power of Persistence: Musical Advocates North of the Tweed' thus offers a snapshot of the Queensland musical community (both musicians and music lovers) during the early twentieth century. Peter Roennfeldt's forthcoming monograph on the history of the Queensland Conservatorium will be published by Australian Academic Press.

When it opened in 1957, the Conservatorium was housed in the former South Brisbane Town Hall on Vulture Street, next to Somerville House and opposite the South Brisbane Memorial Park. In 'South Brisbane Memorial Park: A Memorial to What?' historian Bill Metcalf — a long-time resident of the area — asks, 'What is this park memorialising? If a war, then which war, and why is it not known as South Brisbane *War* Memorial Park?' Answering these questions opens up complex and forgotten aspects of local history, and ultimately Metcalf proposes that we think of this incomplete park on a small triangle of land as a memorial to the old city of South Brisbane, and the changing fortunes of the area.

Lara Cain Gray's article, 'Magic Moments: Contextualising Cinema Advertising Slides from the Queensland Museum Collection', draws on the collections of the Queensland Museum to elucidate the history of slide technology and its use for advertising purposes in mid-twentieth century Queensland cinemas. Cinema advertising slides were descendants of 'magic lantern' slide shows, and thus the article begins with a brief history of the magic lantern. The slides in the Museum's collections include advertisements for films, products and events, and provide a snapshot of life in regional Queensland in the 1940s. They shed light on technological change, social mores, the changing nature of audiences and the evolution of different forms of entertainment.

This issue concludes with Alana Piper's article, 'All the Waters of Lethe: An Experience of Female Alcoholism in Federation Queensland'. This case study of a middle-class alcoholic, Annie Rodgers, suggests that female drunkenness in Australia has been under-researched, and challenges the prevailing assumption that the excessive drinking of a minority of women has little to contribute to our understandings of the history of femininity in Australia. Piper shows that there was considerable anxiety about alcohol abuse by women in Queensland in the Federation era, but that attempts to use the institutions of marriage, medicine and the law as tools of reform proved unsuccessful. Annie Rodgers' experience of divorce, loss of custody of her son, committal to an institute for inebriates, impris-

onment and destitution — while better documented than similar cases — appears to be typical of the middle-class female alcoholic in Federation Queensland.

Coinciding with the anniversary of Labor's return from the political wilderness under Wayne Goss in December 1989, and at a time when Labor seems destined to lose power at the next state election, the second issue of *Queensland Review* for this year will be devoted to a review of Labor's 21-year dominance of Queensland politics. Political commentator Paul Williams will be a guest editor of the issue.