

The Editors

Newsletter

P.O. Box 567, Neutral Bay Junction, 2089

MEETING MAY 7 1986 Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre

Speaker: Dr George Paxinos. George is author of *The Rat Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates* which was published in Sydney but has sold over 4000 copies in the USA, and more in Europe. His latest book, the two-volume *Rat Nervous System* is the current scientific best-seller in the States. Once again, it was published in Sydney. George is now preparing the 2nd edition of *The Rat Brain* (this was recently featured in *The Bulletin*). George will talk to us on the joys and tribulations of being an internationally successful author, being published from Sydney.

\$12 for dinner; \$3 for drinks and cheese. RSVP to RITA 888 3655 by Monday May 5.

ACCOUNTS

Copies of the Accounts were presented at the Annual General Meeting. Members wishing to inspect them may contact the Treasurer, Maureen Colman.

AGM

Retiring committee members at the Annual General Meeting included Bruce Champion, who has served as Secretary since the foundation of The Editors in 1979. Bruce was also a prime mover in canvassing the concept of The Editors, 1977, when he was struck by the extraordinary range of skills expected of editors as well as their isolation in many organisations where staff were predominantly involved in marketing.

In 1977, the Galley Club offered a friendly forum for production people, while the AJA book editors group met surreptitiously in hotels discussing (unhappily) their pay. There was a clear need for a structure geared specifically to editors, addressing a basic need to get together. On the guiding principle of the employers' belief that editors can do anything, Bruce believed they could organise their own society.

After an interim committee formed, a phone-around led to a gathering in Julie's Swiss Restaurant which spilt over into the side rooms. This was followed by the first meeting at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre which had been recommended by an A.S.A. friend. The Editors then began with a program aimed at reinforcing editors in their professional context, to keep them in the swim of cultural events, with talks by authors, publishers etc., and evenings which focused on issues such as copyright.

Margaret Olds also reported on the editors' course she is presenting for TAFE. The proposed course is for people working in the publishing industry.

Facing the impossible task of teaching all there is to know in twelve weeks, with great fortitude, Margaret will be focusing on the role of the editor, aiming at cross-fertilisation from people working in different areas. She will be offering guidelines in decision-making from paste-up to dye-line; picture research and selection; briefing photographers and style consistency. Support from specialists in areas such as computers and production will be welcome.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last year has provided a good run of entertaining and interesting speakers. John Collins shared with us some of his anxieties about educational publishing. Stephen Foster nobly stood in for Manning Clark at the last moment and entertained us with his struggles to achieve uniform style with 400 authors on the Bicentennial History Project. Tom Thompson, National Publications Co-ordinator for the Australian Bicentennial Authority, whetted our appetites for all the editing that will need to be done between now and 1988. The endless battle to achieve a course for editors brought together a TAFE representative, Ray Bennett, and the teachers of the TAFE course, Jacquie Kent, Pam Brewster and Patrick Coyle, to discuss their experience of the course. For a little bit of nostalgia we asked Colonel Alex Sheppard who proved to be a most stimulating speaker. Professor Leonie Kramer spoke to us about the objectives and editorial principles behind the *Oxford Anthology of Australian Literature* and Brian Johns stirred some interesting discussion with his comments on publishing in general.

Education

As usual The Editors provided a one day workshop for freelancers which concentrated on the practical aspects of a freelancer's life. Maureen Colman spoke about how to draw up a budget. Jacquie Kent spoke on the difficulties of fixing a quote and Pam Clements from the NSW Women's Unit talked about general conditions for part-time workers.

This year we feel we made some progress in providing editorial courses apart from the weekend day courses which the society had provided and which had been taken up so enthusiastically. TAFE conducted a pilot course in the last half of 1985 which, while it had some administrative problems, gave us some invaluable experience in structuring the course. The TAFE course is to be repeated in the first half of this year and the second part of the course will be offered for the first time in the second half of the year. Margaret Olds is teaching the course for 1986. We still see this as a preliminary to establishing a diploma course at a CAE or an Institute.

The Freelance Register

The Freelance Register was produced with the minimum of fuss — thanks to Jutta Sieverding. 800 were printed and distributed so that only about 50 copies remain which are gradually disappearing as requests come in. Jutta has prepared the Register for the last two years so we are all very sorry that the pressure of other commitments has forced her to drop out of the Committee this year.

General Arrangements

As everyone can tell we have continued to conduct meetings at Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre. It is a venue that seems to work well for us. Our new caterers have provided interesting meals for us — and particularly fine desserts.

The Old and the New

This year on the old committee we see appearing for the last time as Secretary, Bruce Champion.

Back in 1978 Bruce had the good idea that an editors' society would be a good idea, as editing was a lonely occupation, and so he hailed up Barbara Kerr Wilson and asked to be President. A committee was then rounded up and the society was away. Since then Bruce has ensured that no editor is lonely, or attends a meeting at which there is no food or drink. He has kept track of them all, knows their latest addresses, and possibly even their preferences for red or white. We will be very sorry to see him dropping this role and imagine that several committee members will be needed to replace him. But in view of his close relationship with the society and to pay tribute to the amount of generous work he has put into supporting it, I would like to propose that we make him an honorary life member. (*This proposal was seconded, and passed unanimously.*
CONGRATULATIONS LIFE MEMBER BRUCE!!!)

I would also like to thank all the members of the committee who have worked so hard to make The Editors a success. In particular I would like to thank another committee member who will not be returning in the new committee, Jo Rudd who has taken responsibility for the newsletter for three years. I would also like to wish the new committee — and the new President — the best for the year ahead.

COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Australian Bookseller and Publisher (March, 1986) issue had 2 relevant items on copyright. One showed that Copyright Agency Limited is filing a \$173 000 claim for copyright fees from Macquarie University. Expanding this to all tertiary institutions in Australia shows an estimated \$2.64 million owed to publishers.

The second item was concerned with amendments to the Copyright Act to combat piracy of books, and audio and visual material. The amendments increase penalties by a figure of five. Penalties for breaches have increased to \$7500 for the first offence; subsequent offences carry penalties of imprisonment and fines. Companies convicted of piracy face fines of up to \$15 000 for each conviction.

VALE! OLGA ZIMOCH

It is with regret that we note the passing of one of our long-time members, Miss Olga Zimoch, who passed away on February 10, 1986, after a long fight against cancer. Olga, until illness forced her retirement, spent the last few years as Chief Copy Editor of *The Medical Journal of Australia*. Before that, she had worked on *Choice*, and at McGraw-Hill and John Wiley. She was an excellent scientific editor.

Olga came to Australia as a displaced person after World War II, never to return to her native Poland. Her life had many hardships, but her last years were characterised by their calmness and general content.

Her companion of many years, Jack Adams, predeceased her by some eighteen months.

We are glad to have known her.

CO-AUTHOR SOUGHT

Completed Typescript — some 500 pp. A4 biographical novel. A worm's-eye view of 1939-45 war and within it subjects include, the war effort through the Mediterranean Area and the author's progress in his love-life, starting in the early 1930s and continuing throughout the war in the 1940s.

Post-war, the author progresses from his latent sexuality to middle-age then back to latent sexuality and this is related fairly explicitly; as is its connotations. The novel ends in 1980.

Informed opinion acclaims it as a marvellous story, but demanding high-level uninhibited editing, which an editor cannot afford. A keen author is therefore invited to share the effort and the returns, both of which would be quite expansive.

Any interested persons are invited to phone 682 7254 at any time (contact): Michael Adams, 3/8 Ostend St, Granville, N.S.W. 2142

WARNING

Whilst not intending any reflection on the above request for a co-author, the President advises that some people listed in the freelance register have been receiving calls of a most unsavoury nature. Please inform the Committee of any such calls. Blowing a whistle down the phone is an excellent deterrent.

FREELANCE COPY EDITORS

Cambridge University Press is extending its file of freelance subeditors/copy editors available to work on its expanding list of academic books, reference works and tertiary textbooks. Details of experience, availability and subject areas of interest should be sent to: Dr Robin Derricourt, Editorial Director, Cambridge University Press, 93 Albion Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010. (telephone (02) 211 0604).

Research into Paid Work at Home: Questionnaire

The Women's Directorate in the Department of Industrial Relations is conducting research into paid work done by women at home. In consultation with the Ethnic Affairs Commission a questionnaire has been developed and translated into twelve community languages in order to gain an understanding of the kind of paid work women do at home, the conditions they work under and the needs of women doing such work.

Although the project was originally developed with the experiences of outworkers in the clothing industry and other manufacturing areas as its major focus, the Directorate is also extremely interested in the situation of women in freelance and similar areas of employment working from home. For this reason we would be grateful if people in such a position would fill in the questionnaire enclosed with this newsletter and return it in the reply paid envelope provided.

The questionnaire is confidential. (You will note the name of the person filling it in is not required.) The results of questionnaires will be used by the Directorate to achieve a greater understanding of the reasons why women take up this kind of work with a view to formulating women's employment policy, particularly in the area of child care provision and in training and retraining. The aim will also be to gain a much broader understanding of the kinds of paid work being done in the home and the range of conditions under which that work is undertaken.

The Women's Directorate was established within the New South Wales Department of Industrial Relations in late 1984 as a result of the state government's recognition of the particular needs of women in the workforce. The Directorate's role is to provide advice to the Minister for Industrial Relations on policies, programs, services and reforms needed to improve the status of women in the workforce in New South Wales.

President, Jeremy Fisher, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 8883655
Committee

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