



THE EDITORS

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NEXT MEETING ... NEXT MEETING ... NEXT MEETING ...

The next meeting will be held at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesday, 26 October, at 6.30pm. Guest speaker is:

Myra Lee, Manager of Children's Book Club of Ashton Scholastics, who will speak on trends in children's books and the effects of other media on children's reading.

It is important for our caterers to know how many will be staying for dinner. Please contact Monica Ardill, 406-4288 by Monday, 24 October, if you are attending.

LAST MEETING

The meeting on 7 September was something of a surprise package. Clashing as it did with an ABPA function(?), it did not attract the usual large gathering. But, for those who did turn up, it was well worth the effort.

The scheduled speaker, Paul Bick, failed to appear but we were very fortunate to have Lynne Spender among the guests. Lynne has just written a book about women in publishing called "Intruders on the Rights of Men", and she agreed to step into the breach and tell us how the book came into being.

Studying English Literature, Lynne had become aware of the male emphasis in literature and the scarcity of women of letters to relate to. Even the topic for her Master's thesis had to be altered to fit in with a male-oriented assessment of what constituted a suitable subject for study.

Living in Canada for two years with no work permit, Lynne decided to research and write a book on women writers. Anne Finch, Duchess of Winchelsea (1661-1720) provided the spur:

Alas, woman that attempts the pen
Such an intruder on the rights of men.

It's still not quite acceptable for women to write about women, especially when what they say is different from what men write about women.

Lynne was impressed by Elizabeth Barrett Browning's great epic poem Aurora Leigh, now unpublished for 80 years.

A woman has to write for a male-dominated publishing industry and these are three sure ways to get published :

- be wealthy
- be a name already
- sleep with the publisher

While researching in Canada, Lynne was rebuffed by male publishers who wouldn't be interviewed about how a woman writer could get published. Two feminist presses in Toronto welcomed her, and she also spoke to a lot of women in traditional houses (but not at top managerial level).

Lynne began to understand the connections between what came into a publishing house, what stayed and for how long, and what was "lost" by definite decision - by men. She felt that women's lives bore men.

She couldn't discover the secret behind getting an MS accepted. Doubleday (US) got 10000 unsolicited MSs every year, and published none. Lynne's book was finally published by Pandora Press, a feminist imprint by Routledge & Kegan Paul (UK). Her sister works at RKP and Lynne was able to meet their editor (it's who you know that matters). It was decided that her book would be a good one to launch PP.

One chapter in the book deals with "gatekeeping" - men are our cultural gatekeepers and decide what is published. Other chapters deal with The Publishing Mystique, A Heritage of Harrassment, An Obstacle Race, etc.

Why are there no courses in publishing? This helps to keep women out and in inferior positions. Often a woman in a managerial position in a publishing firm is only there as a token gesture.

Female reality differs from male reality and it is important to present more than one truth in the dissemination of information.

There were more women's presses, banks, activities, etc., in 1920s than now, associated with suffragettes. There are several women's presses in London at the moment but a feminist label frightens many Australian women.

Pandora Press will also do children's books, and one of four short stories by Elizabeth Gaskell. They hope to publish 20 titles a year, of which Lynne hopes four will be Australian.

Lynne didn't speak for very long before the audience began to react. Quite a heated discussion developed with (mainly two) men who felt they couldn't relate to what she was saying. Other questions and comments followed, and there was a really good discussion, with Lynne fielding difficult questions with great skill and composure. She was an extremely interesting person, thoroughly in control of her subject, and took over as speaker with quite enviable composure. We were very lucky she was there.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Circle Friday, 2 December, in your diary! That is the night we have booked a private function room at the Bridgeview Hotel, Willoughby. Details will be sent later.

WORKSHOPS

Many thanks to Jeremy Fisher and Alan Walker for the workshop on Indexing. These workshops have been very much appreciated and we hope to continue in 1984.

Copy-edited manuscripts from the Copy-editing Workshops will be available at the next meeting.

SEMINAR:

A seminar on ethics and scholarly publishing has been proposed for 17 November at the Hilton Hotel. It follows from the successful meeting of medical and biological editors in Albury-Wodonga some two years ago and the international "Scholarly Publishing Around the World" conference held in Philadelphia earlier this year.

Unlike previous meetings, this one will be confined to Australasian delegates (quite a few New Zealanders are expected to attend), and will have a wider scope. It is expected that people involved in all aspects of scholarly publishing, and from both the Sciences and the Humanities, will benefit from the Seminar.

The aim of the seminar is as much to bring together a disparate group of people as it is to discuss the ethical responsibilities of scholarly editors and publishers. While there is no intention of limiting the number of people attending, it is felt that the seminar will be of particular benefit to people involved in medical, legal, academic and scientific publishing, be it through books, journals or electronics.