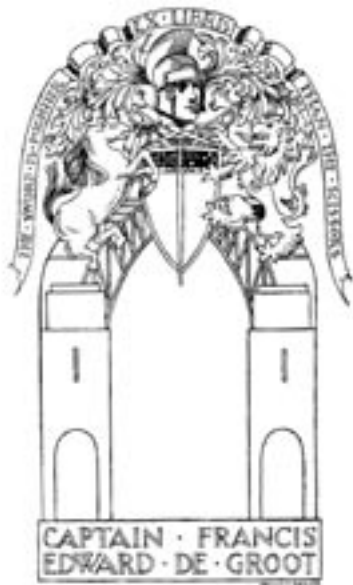


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Pen and ink design by  
Phyllis Shillito for  
Capt Francis de Groot, 1932

**CONTENTS**

The New Australian Bookplate Society website relaunched	1
The storage of bookplates	1
Bookplate exchanges – a great way to collect	2
Report from the Auckland Ex Libris Society, November 2006, part two	2
Notes and happenings	2
Editorial	3

**The New Australian Bookplate Society website re-launched**

Members with internet access will be pleased to know that, with the support and hard work of Ian Dalkin and Elisabeth Bastian of Stop Laughing This is Serious Gallery, Blackheath, the Society's website has been re-launched. During 2006, the Stop Laughing website was wrecked by computer hackers and had to be completely rebuilt using new software, whilst all the content, which had been lost, had to be reloaded.

The Society's website, hosted by Stop Laughing Gallery, can be found at [www.stoplaughing.com.au/bookplatesociety](http://www.stoplaughing.com.au/bookplatesociety)

The site, which is naturally a work in progress, currently consists of three pages: the home page provides a report on the inaugural meeting of the Society held in October 2006; an article on James Ashton's Academy of Arts in Adelaide, illustrated with a portrait of Ashton and with an image of the Academy's *fin de siècle* prize bookplate; and access to archived issues in pdf format of the Society's *Newsletter* (excepting the most recent issue).

If you wish to contribute an article or note to the website, or have suggestions for some extra work that the Editor might do in this regard, please do not hesitate to provide these ideas to the Editor (details at top left).

**The storage of bookplates**

By Nichola Parshall, Collection Preservation Branch, and Mark Hildebrand, Reader Services, State Library of New South Wales

The State Library of New South Wales has a substantial collection of bookplates and these are stored in a variety of ways. Bookplates are stored loose between acid-free tissue, in acid free enclosures or in made-up albums as received from a collector or bookseller. In these albums

the bookplates are either hinged or they may be completely adhered to the page.

The Library's approach to storing bookplates is to look at the safety of the item when issued to a reader and the archival quality of the enclosure in which it is stored.

Some of the older albums of bookplates received from collectors or booksellers are not acid free. They were made up by the collector and as such have relevance as an object in themselves. In this case we interleave the album pages with acid free paper. Where old glassine paper or stamp hinges have become detached we attach the bookplate with a lightweight Japanese paper and a weak wheat starch paste. This work is done by conservators as often the lightweight papers that are characteristic of bookplates are prone to cockling and distortion when moisture is applied.

For the collector, however, there are a number of simple options available that do not involve hinging their bookplates. Sourcing high quality, archival paper albums can be a costly enterprise, and with the inherent problems of hinging the bookplate with the risk of distortion, there are simpler storage solutions available. Never repair or hinge bookplates with sticky tape or any self-adhesive tape, even those marked as 'magic, invisible mending tape' as these will cause harm in the long term.

Store bookplates flat and unfolded in acid-free folders, interleaved with acid-free tissue, or use polypropylene or polyester bags. These can then be placed in boxes. Often polypropylene bags come as divided pocketed sheets made for folders, and these provide an excellent way of looking through a collection without touching the surface of the bookplate.

The environment in which a collection is kept is paramount to its longevity.

Try to provide as stable conditions as possible in the storage area. The optimum storage conditions are 18-22°C and 45-55% relative

humidity. Keep storage areas clean and well ventilated so that pest attack and mould growth are minimised. Avoid using an attic or basement as a storage area as conditions in these areas fluctuate greatly. Keep light to a minimum, by avoiding strong light sources and direct sunlight as these will accelerate the degradation and fading processes.

Finding a supplier for archival materials is made easier by obtaining a fact sheet from the Collection Preservation Branch of the State Library of New South Wales. Conservation staff may be contacted on 02 9273 1683 and they will be happy to send a copy to you electronically or through the mail.

[Members outside of NSW may wish to contact conservation staff in their state or national libraries. The State Library of Victoria has information at [www.slv.vic.gov.au/services/conservation/index.html](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/services/conservation/index.html) or provides telephone advice on 03 8664 7359 or toll-free 1800 999 735 – Ed.]

## Bookplate exchanges – a great way to collect

A useful, time-honoured and sociable way of collecting bookplates is to swap them, assuming of course that you have your own bookplate design (or spares of someone else's). The Society is planning to produce and circulate a *Directory of Members* which will indicate next to each member's name whether he or she desires to exchange. In the meantime, if you wish to let others know that you wish to swap, please email or phone the Editor with your contact details, for publication in future issues of the *Newsletter*. The following members, who have a bookplate(s) designed by Telma Dufton (featured of course in *Newsletter* no. 2) are keen to exchange bookplates:

Claude Dany  
[claude@lamaisondulivre.com.au](mailto:claude@lamaisondulivre.com.au) or  
tel: 02 4784 3360

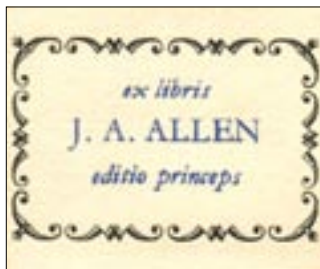
Roy Howard  
[sawadee@aapt.net.au](mailto:sawadee@aapt.net.au) or tel: 02 9362 0246

## From the Auckland Ex Libris Society, November 2006, part two

By Ian Thwaites and Rie Fletcher, Auckland

On 12 November, members were among those who attended the launch of *The Gentle Griffin*, Ann Bradfield's affectionate tribute to her late brother, the typographer, printer and bibliophile Ronald Holloway (1909-2003). An Auckland Ex Libris Society member herself, 89-year-old Ann has assembled a charming selection of memories and anecdotes about Ron, enhanced by facsimiles of correspondence, and beautifully printed by John Denny at his Puriri Press in an edition of 100 copies. Bookplates, especially of the typographic variety, were dear to Ron's heart, and his total of over 100 designs ranks second in New Zealand only to the 130 plus ex libris produced by Hilda Wiseman. Ronald's bookplates first featured in the booklets published by the New Zealand Ex Libris Society in the 1930s. His beautiful and harmonious label for J A Allen, found in the Society's *Brochure* No. 4, 1937, is illustrated (see below). It was designed specifically to complement the title page typography of Longman's edition of Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of St Luis Rey* (London, Longmans, Green and Co, 1929).

Further to the previous report of the Bethunes@Webb's Rare Books auction held on 22 November 2006, an interesting plate to come up at the sale was an armorial design for Thomas Kinder (1782-1846). The bookplate appears in an 1802 edition of *Oraisons funebres* by Jacques Bossuet, 17th



Typographic bookplate by Ronald Holloway for John Allen, 1937



Armorial bookplate for Thomas Kinder

century French historian, controversialist and also Bishop of Meaux. Thomas Kinder is an interesting figure in his own right. Possibly one of the first Englishman to venture into business in Central and South America, he also at one time supplied provisions to both the British Army and Royal Navy during the Peninsular Wars. His ownership of the book is not surprising, given that the family lived in Dieppe for some years in the 1840s. Thomas's son was the Reverend Dr John Kinder, pioneer nineteenth century theologian and teacher, who arrived in Auckland in 1855. He was Headmaster of the Church of England Grammar School in 1855-1872 and Master of St John's College in 1872-1880, and is now celebrated as one of New Zealand's most gifted watercolour landscape painters and photographers. This book with its bookplate (illustrated above) was purchased for Kinder House, Parnell, Auckland and will be on display there.

## Notes and happenings

Melbourne bookplate exhibition

In late breaking news, we have just heard from Robert Littlewood, the president of the previously quiescent Australian Bookplate Society (please see the Editorial

in this issue of the *Newsletter* to read about the friendly rivalry between our two Australian bookplate societies) concerning some exciting bookplate events coming up in Melbourne in August. Robert writes:

*The Keith Wingrove Memorial Trust in conjunction with The Australian Bookplate Society will launch the 2007 Keith Wingrove Bookplate Design Award at an exhibition of Australian and International Bookplates on 28 August 2007 at Delsban Art Gallery, 1185 High Street, Armadale, Victoria. The exhibition will hang for a two week period.*

*A first prize of \$7,500 is offered for the best Bookplate design, making the 2007 Keith Wingrove Bookplate Design Award the richest Bookplate design prize in the world.*

*On display will be hundreds of bookplates from the early period of the Australian bookplate movement as well as contemporary work by well known artists together with a selection of the best designs submitted for the 2007 Keith Wingrove Bookplate Design Award including primary and secondary school students, emerging artists & designers and established fine artists. Also on show will be some books about bookplates featuring a special display of books and printed ephemera from the early period. Many of the Bookplates exhibited will be offered for sale.*

*The Keith Wingrove Memorial Trust exists to promote the development of Bookplate collecting and Bookplate design in Australia. Only Australian citizens are eligible to enter the 2007 Keith Wingrove Bookplate Design Award. Further details regarding 2007 Keith Wingrove Bookplate Design Award may be obtained on [www.keithwingrove.com](http://www.keithwingrove.com)*

*Prior to the exhibition, an illustrated catalogue will be available free-of-charge to bookplate collectors. Register your name & postal address now to receive this attractive keepsake.*

More information will be provided in the June issue of the *Newsletter*.

Unique Unk White bookplate on the market

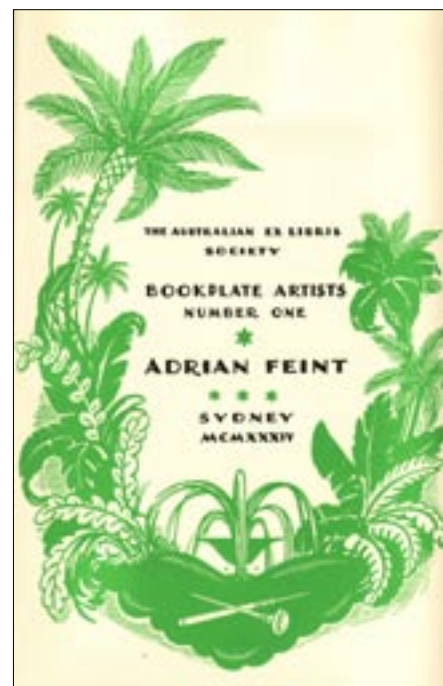
As Australian collectors of works on paper will know, the Josef Lebovic Gallery of Paddington, Sydney, has for many years issued themed Collectors' lists. List no. 121, c. September 2006, entitled *The Art of Water* included as item 122 a universal bookplate by Australian cartoonist and artist Unk White (1900-1986). It is an original pen and ink drawing depicting a well armed pirate (illustrated below). An interview with Mr Lebovic revealed that he had no information on the design's provenance. He spoke of the popularity of the pirate theme in the early part of the twentieth century, citing its use by Australian artists such as James Flett and the Lindsays. White is known to have executed a small number of personal bookplates.



Pen and ink bookplate by Unk White

President to speak on bookplates at the 9th World Congress on Art Deco, Melbourne, April 2007

Your President/Editor has interests of art deco and printing history, as well as bookplates, and has successfully submitted a proposal to the Congress organising committee to speak on the topic of 'At home in the library – book arts in Australia



Title page from *The Australian Ex Libris Society Bookplate Artists, Number One* by Adrian Feint, 1929

between the wars'. This talk, which is part of the session 'It's all around us' will range over book and magazine typography and design, as well as bookplates and the beautiful books on bookplates produced by P Neville Barnett and Adrian Feint (illustrated above), among others, in the 1920s and 1930s. Information on the Congress may be found at [www.artdeco.org.au/artdeco\\_pages/artdeco\\_congress.html](http://www.artdeco.org.au/artdeco_pages/artdeco_congress.html)

## Editorial

This issue brings us to one year's worth of the Society's *Newsletter*, and I am, as always grateful to contributors, and also to readers, when I hear from them. Not long ago our Treasurer and Membership secretary, Ronald Cardwell, suggested that bookplate collectors may benefit from advice concerning the ways of keeping bookplates. Member Mark Hildebrand, of the State Library of NSW, kindly responded to my request for assistance, and he and colleague Nichola Parshall have written a brief article on 'Storage of bookplates', which draws attention to the readily available archival

quality materials that are most suitable for storage of our rather fragile works on paper. In this issue we have also introduced some small innovations: Mary Keep has trawled the internet to provide some websites where bookplates are given the importance they undoubtedly deserve; in a section entitled 'Bookplate exchanges' I have also provided the contact details of members who wish to swap bookplates – please contact them.

Members will probably be puzzled by the title of our Society as well as by the existence of the Australian Bookplate Society, so I should start by reassuring you that the two Societies exist in harmony with each other. Some years ago Robert Littlewood and Edwin Jewell formed the Australian Bookplate Society. Robert had already produced a number of important books documenting the bookplate work of some Australian artists. Their plan was to promote bookplates in a number of ways including running an Australian bookplate design competition. My feeling was that a Society was also needed which would directly engage collectors and others interested in bookplates who would be kept in touch with each other through regular newsletters, a members' directory and possibly meetings. Thus The New Australian Bookplate Society came into being in 2005-2006. You will have seen from the item in 'Notes and happenings' that the Australian Bookplate Society will be very active in 2007 with an exhibition and design competition. The two Societies are engaging in complementary activities, and both Robert Littlewood and I feel that people interested in various aspects of bookplates in Australia should benefit from the existence of both.

On a sad note, lovers of bookplates may be aware of the recent death in London of Brian North Lee (1936-2007), co-founder of the Bookplate Society (UK) and the most eminent and prolific writer on bookplates, over the past three decades, in the English-speaking world. Although he had a number of other collecting interests, Lee's passion for bookplates and scholarship was unbounded,

and a large proportion of the Bookplate Society's annual members' books came from his pen. Judging from tributes which can be seen on the various bookplate websites, he was also a helper and mentor for less experienced bookplate collectors. When I was working on my thesis on Australian bookplate history, I found some of his works of seminal importance to understanding the British bookplate tradition, in particular his *Bookplate collecting in Britain* (London, Bookplate Society, 1991). He was more than happy to correspond with me to help answer some of the questions I had about the early period of Australian bookplate collecting. Links to his obituary in *The Independent* may be found on the Bookplate Society (UK) website at [www.bookplatesociety.org](http://www.bookplatesociety.org)

We have chosen to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Sydney Harbour Bridge by reproducing on page 1 the bookplate presented by P Neville Barnett to Francis de Groot to mark his slashing the ribbon at the Bridge's opening. The motto shown on the bookplate is 'The sword is mightier than the scissors'.

## FOR SALE

**B**ooks and periodicals from the Bookplate Society (UK). A member has reluctantly decided to sell his Bookplate Society material. Available are: an almost complete run of 46 issues of the Journal from volume 1, number 1 (March 1983) to the end of 2005, for **\$240**; an almost complete run of 80 issues of the Newsletter from September 1984 to December 2005, for **\$160**; and 15 members books, for **\$300**.

Please phone the Editor on 02 9428 2863 or email [m.ferson@unsw.edu.au](mailto:m.ferson@unsw.edu.au) with information on bookplates for sale

**Any bookplate designer wishing to be the subject of a Designer profile or to have work reproduced in the Newsletter should contact the Editor on 02 9428 2863 or by email.**

## BOOKPLATE WEBSITES

Below are a number of websites of interest to bookplate collectors and artists.

[www.stoploughing.com.au/bookplatesociety](http://www.stoploughing.com.au/bookplatesociety)

*Our own website dedicated to reviving the lost art of bookplates.*

[www.bookplatesociety.org](http://www.bookplatesociety.org)

*Founded in 1972, The Bookplate Society is the direct descendant of the world's first such organisation, the Ex Libris Society, and its creation and successor, the Bookplate Exchange Club. The Society is based in London*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ex\\_libris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ex_libris)

*Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia gives an overview of the origin and history of bookplates.*

<http://bookplatejunkie.blogspot.com/>

*Confessions of a bookplate junkie; random thoughts from a passionate bookplate collector. The website of a blogger in Philadelphia, it also has links to other relevant websites.*

<http://www.bookplate.org/>

*Website for the American Society of Bookplate Collectors and Designers. Has a bookplate gallery, articles of interest and books for sale.*

<http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/librarylocations/main/bookarts/prestianni.htm>

*A webpage from the San Francisco Public Library detailing a collection at their Book Arts & Special Collections Center. The library houses the Richard Harrison Collection of Calligraphy and Lettering. It is also the repository of the Robert Grabhorn Collection on the History of Printing and the Development of the Book.*

[http://www.chgs.umn.edu/Visual\\_Artistic\\_Resources/Precarious\\_Legacy/precious\\_legacy.html](http://www.chgs.umn.edu/Visual_Artistic_Resources/Precarious_Legacy/precious_legacy.html)

*Website from an exhibition in 2001 of the extensive collection of bookplates of an attorney Dr Fritz Stransky, who died at Auschwitz. His daughter took the collection to Vancouver and eventually donated it to The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota and the Weisman Museum of Art.*

If you have bookplate-related website suggestions, please email the Secretary: [marykeep8@hotmail.com](mailto:marykeep8@hotmail.com)