
**THE BRITISH WORLD:
RELIGION, MEMORY, SOCIETY, CULTURE**

**REFEREED PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE
HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
QUEENSLAND, TOOWOOMBA, JULY 2ND -5TH, 2012**

**EDITED BY MARCUS K. HARMES, LINDSAY
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Acknowledgments

We thank all of the speakers at the British World conference for their contribution to this conference. For those whose work passed blind peer review, we thank them for their contribution of their scholarship to this volume.

We are grateful for the support of the Faculty of Arts and the Australian Digital Futures Institute towards the conference.

The conference was enriched by plenary addresses by Christopher Haigh (Oxford), Alison Wall (Oxford), Peter Goodall (USQ), Lynette Olson (Sydney) and Helen Farley (ADFI/USQ). We were delighted to have the conference enhanced by the scholarship of these presenters, which opened up to delegates the latest research by these leading academics. The wider community in Toowoomba also experienced Christopher Haigh deliver the 2012 Faculty of Arts Dean's Lecture.

The papers presented in this volume have benefitted from the expert judgment and recommendations of anonymous reviewers at a number of different universities, whom we thank for their contribution.

Introduction

The following essays are a selection of the papers delivered at the comprehensive and stimulating conference, 'The British World: Religion, Memory, Society and Culture', held at the University of Queensland from July 2nd-5th, 2012. Each of the following essays has been subject to double blind peer review and they represent a selection of the papers delivered orally over the four days of the conference.

For many years now, it seems as though British studies have been withering on the vine at Australian universities. Whereas once it seemed no History Department at an Australian university was complete without a Tudor and Stuart specialist, and British history and literature were enshrined as axiomatically important parts of the curriculum, a reverse of a cultural cringe and an engagement with Asia has seen British studies decline.

This conference was therefore something of an experiment, and the conveners were delighted to see the range of the papers which emerged and the diversity of universities and disciplinary fields from where scholars, by no means all of them consciously or clearly working in any field associated with 'British studies', emerged to offer papers.

In this volume we present papers which address various aspects of the history, literature, religion and identities of the British world, not simply in the British Isles themselves, but a wider world stretching across both hemispheres. In terms of chronology the earliest paper in this collection deals with the Anglo-Saxon Church; the latest with the impact of war trauma on British journalists in the 21st century. Between those two come a diversity of papers addressing facets of the British world, including the exercise of supernatural power in the Renaissance, the persecution of witches, the writing of literature in 'outposts' such as New Zealand, the Jack the Ripper killings and the possibility of devolution within the United Kingdom.

The purpose of the conference was to push the boundaries of what we now think of or recognise as the 'British World', doing so mostly but by no means exclusively from Australian perspectives. Certainly the papers which follow suggest the complexity of claiming a British identity, or even of defining its space and borders. The papers also give an sense of the some of the latest research being conducted by scholars into British studies, the pathways they are taking and the conclusions they are reaching.

List of Contributors

Jessica Hudepohl has recently completed her Honours in Medieval History at the University of Queensland, where her thesis examined accounts of preternatural events in Anglo-Saxon and Carolingian writings. She is now completing an MPhil at the same university.

Dr Kim Wilkins lectures in writing in the School of English, Media Studies, and Art History at the University of Queensland. She researches primarily in the fields of medieval studies and writing pedagogy. She is also a published and award winning novelist of more than twenty titles across a range of genres.

Dr Geoffrey A.C. Ginn teaches modern British history, urban history and heritage studies at the University of Queensland. He is a member of the Board of the Queensland Museum, and until recently served as a judge for the History section in the Queensland Premiers Literary Awards. His biography of J.S.M. Ward, *Archangels & Archaeology*, was published by Sussex Academic Press in March 2012.

Dr Amy Antonio is a Research Associate with the Digital Futures Institute and is currently working on a major project relating to the National Broadband Network. She is a graduate of Deakin University, where her PhD examined the figure of the *femme fatale* in English Renaissance drama, including in *Arden of Feversham*, *The Insatiate Countess* and *The Changeling*. She is currently working on adapting her thesis into a series of journal articles.

Charlotte Millar is a PhD Candidate in History at the University of Melbourne. Her research interests include witchcraft, early-modern English society, print culture and visual culture. Her article, "The Witch's Familiar in Sixteenth-Century England" has been awarded the Don Yoder Prize in Religious Folklife and the University of Melbourne Fellows' Prize. She is currently being supervised by Prof. Charles Zika and Dr. Jenny Spinks.

Laura Saxton is a third year PhD candidate studying history at Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Melbourne, supervised by Professor Shurlee Swain and Dr Peter Sherlock. Her thesis, entitled 'The unblemished concubine: representations of Anne Boleyn in the English written word, 2000 – 2010', offers a postmodern analysis of twenty-first-century representations of Anne Boleyn in various forms of historical writing, including

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Dr Ursula Potter is an Honorary Associate with the Department of English, University of Sydney, whose research has covered education and parenting issues in early modern drama, and more recently the medical condition of green sickness (the disease of virgins). In collaboration with the Department of Clinical Psychology at Sydney University, and currently working as an Associate Investigator with the Centre for the History of the Emotions, her research looks at possible parallels between modern and early modern adolescent anxieties. Related publications include an article in *Australasian Psychiatry* Vol 17, No. 5 2009, and a forthcoming article in *SEL*, Spring 2013.

Professor Emeritus Sybil M. Jack is a graduate of Oxford University and is former Dean of Arts in the University of Sydney. She is a leading authority on Tudor economic history and publications in this field include *Trade and Industry in Tudor and Stuart England* and *Towns in Tudor and Stuart Britain*, as well as many articles in *Parergon*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Huntingdon Library Quarterly* and the *Journal of Religious History*.

Irena Larking graduated from the University of Auckland with Master of Arts (Hons) in History in 2004, with an emphasis on English religious history. Her research portfolio looked at English religious dissenters, namely the Lollards, Quakers and also community dissenters and the doctrine of neighbourhood during the sixteenth century. She started her PhD in 2009 and is currently in her final year. Her thesis is a continuation on the broad theme of English religious history. She has adopted material culture as a methodology to explore how the Reformation became embedded in parish communities within the diocese of Norwich, c.1450-1662.

Dr Marcus Harmes is a lecturer in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Southern Queensland. His major field of research is the episcopate of the Church of England in seventeenth-century England and he has published a number of studies in this field.

Associate Professor Laurie Johnson lectures in English Literature at the University of Southern Queensland and serves on the executive of the Australian and New Zealand Shakespeare Association and the Australian Universities Languages and Literature Association. His studies range from early modern literature to psychoanalysis. Major

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Dr Judith Bonzol has recently completed a PhD in the history department at the University of Sydney (2011). Her thesis is entitled, “‘The other sort of witches’: cunning folk and supernatural illness in early modern England’. She has written a book chapter, ‘Afflicted Children: Supernatural Illness, Fear, and Anxiety in Early Modern England’, in *Diseases of the Imagination and Imaginary Diseases in the Early Modern Period*, published this year by Brepols, as well as journal articles on demonic possession, witchcraft, medicine, and cunning folk in *Parergon* and *Renaissance and Reformation*. She is currently working on contributions for *Medicine, Alchemy, Science and the Occult in European Thought*, to be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing and an upcoming book on magic and witchcraft, edited by Lisa Hopkins and Helen Ostovich.

Ana Stevenson is a research higher degree student at the University of Queensland, undertaking her PhD with the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics. Her doctoral thesis, ‘The Woman-Slave Analogy: Rhetorical Foundations in American Culture, 1830-1900,’ is based around an investigation of the significance of the woman-slave analogy within the cultural products of the antislavery and women’s rights movements and beyond. Ana’s research interests are based upon the understandings of race and gender in the nineteenth century, particularly in regard to social movements and their cultural products, as well as the relationship between history and literature.

Dr Barbara Harmes is a lecturer in the Faculty of Arts in the University of Southern Queensland. Her doctoral research examined pornography and sexual perversion in *fin de siècle* England and discourses of surveillance and confession. Previous research concerned the early novels of George Eliot.

Dr Julie-Ann Robson completed her PhD on Oscar Wilde at the Australian National University. She has published numerous articles, and co-edited *Ireland in the Asia-Pacific* (Colin Smythe) with Peter Kuch. She has taught at UNSW, Macquarie University, the University of Sydney and is currently teaching in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts at the University of Western Sydney.

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