

Notes and Notices

The 1998 Conferences of the Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics, jointly with the Australian and New Zealand Association for Literature and Aesthetics, will be June 18–19 and October 1–2. Both will be held at the University of Sydney.

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The SSLA/ANZALA October 3rd–4th, 1996 Conference included:

Dr Christopher Allen, 'The Parts of Painting'.

Jennifer Evans, 'Aesthetics, Judgment and Art in Mary Brunton's *Self-Control*'.

Associate Professor Michael Griffith, 'William Blake and his Impact on Literature and the Arts in Australia'.

Dr Rob Jackson, 'The "Secret Motion" in *Middlemarch*'.

Heather Johnson, 'Modernism and Spirituality in Early Twentieth-Century Australian Art'.

Dr Suzanne Kiernan, 'Reflections on the Lipogram'.

Margaret King-Boyes, 'Substance and Shadow: Aboriginal Art and its Philosophy'.

Associate Professor Mabel Lee, 'Gao Xing Jian: On Fiction'.

Dr Peter Poiana, 'Narrative Identity'.

Dr Diane Speed, 'Marginal Perspective in Gothic Art: The Case of Chaucer's *Miller*'.

Jennifer Towndrow, 'Architectural Aesthetics of Sydney'.

Dr Peter Williams, 'The Aesthetics of Surfaces in the Poetry of Wallace Stevens and Elizabeth Bishop'.

Papers given to SSLA/ANZALA July 1996 to June 1997 evening sessions included:

David Rumsey, 'Bach and Numerology: Dry Mathematical Stuff?', 4 September 1996.

Pacific Rim Conference in Transcultural Aesthetics

The University of Sydney, 18–20 June 1997

On 18-20 June this year, the Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics hosted the Pacific Rim Conference in Transcultural Aesthetics at the University of Sydney. The Society co-convened the conference with Richard Woodfield (Nottingham Trent University), Honorary Vice President of the British Society of Aesthetics and Executive Member of the International Association for Aesthetics, and Professor Grazia Marchiano (University of Siena), President of the Italian Association for Aesthetics and Second Vice President of the International Association for Aesthetics. Other co-conveners were: Dr Denis Dutton (University of Canterbury), New Zealand Aesthetics Association; Dr David Novitz (University of Canterbury), New Zealand Aesthetics Association; Dr Paul Redding (University of Sydney), Executive Member of the Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics; Associate Professor Mabel Lee (University of Sydney), Executive Member of the Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics; and Professor Garry Trompf, Professor of the History of Ideas (University of Sydney), Executive Member of the Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics. The conference was opened by Professor Bettina Cass, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, the University of Sydney. Grazia Marchiano welcomed the delegates and Catherine Runcie read a welcoming fax from Richard Woodfield, who was unable to attend. Here is an excerpt from Richard Woodfield's welcome speech:

I am very sorry that I am unable to be here at the first Pacific Rim Conference on Aesthetics. The idea for it emerged following the XIIIth International Congress on Aesthetics in Madrid, when it struck me that the Japanese delegates were quite right to comment that Western delegates were loathe to consider travelling East. I was hardly in a position to suggest that they should mobilise themselves to mobilise us! It did, however, occur to me that as a significant number of members of the British Society of Aesthetics lived in the Pacific Rim area, I could invite them to organise an Eastern Hemisphere event. I contacted Catherine Runcie and we started to make our plans, taking as a suitable subject 'Transcultural Aesthetics'. Well, my absence today indicates that the best laid plans can go astray. I had to go into

hospital in 1995 when I was supposed to link up with friends and colleagues in the XIIIth International Congress in Lahti, Finland. At that point I invited my good friend Grazia Marchiano to take my place in collaborating with Catherine: as she has an intense interest in comparative aesthetics, she was an ideal candidate. So I would like to thank Catherine and Grazia for organising this conference.

I hope that this will be the first of many such events. There is no reason why there cannot be a Pacific Rim Standing Conference, which would meet on a yearly basis.

One thing which will help efforts to network will be the use of the Internet. So I have suggested that the conference proceedings be prepared electronically in the first place and then downloaded on to a Web Site so that we can hotlink connections across the world. This will be the first aesthetics conference to proceed in such a manner.

I would like to wish you well with your proceedings and hope that one day in the not too distant future I will be able to meet you all in person. Which, I suppose, is rather archaic in a new age of virtual reality; but it is still very necessary for the most effective human communication. Thank you all for coming and I will be thinking of you in the next few days.

The three-day Conference was very packed, and to maximise debate and discussion, several resolutions were put to the conference. The Conference unanimously passed the following resolutions:

- (1) to put the disk of Proceedings of the Pacific Rim Conference in Transcultural Aesthetics on the World Wide Web;
- (2) to invite rejoinders, revisions and/or wholly new papers arising from the conference interests; and to add those papers missing from the first edition of the Proceedings, all of which material will be edited by Dr Rick Benitez on to a disk with a new ISBN as the second edition of the Proceedings of the Pacific Rim Conference in Transcultural Aesthetics; and to put this on the Web;
- (3) to work towards another such conference in transcultural aesthetics in the near future.

As co-ordinator of the Conference, I would like to thank Professor Margaret Harris for supporting a grant from the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Arts for the grant. I would like to thank all the participants and those who assisted 'behind the scenes'. Dr Rick Benitez edited the Proceedings (see below); and Dr Paul Redding put these Proceedings on the World Wide Web and attended to all the Conference's Web Site needs. The SSLA Executive and co-conveners were totally supportive.

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Dr Denis Dutton and Dr David Novitz helped with many suggestions. Dr Yasuko Claremont, Barry Claremont and Emma Runcie organised Registration, book sales, journal sales; and Barry balanced the books, looked after security and made sure the tea and coffee flowed perpetually. Patricia Rovik tested equipment. Veronica Leahy, Secretary of the Philosophy Department, helped Rick Benitez with heating arrangements.

Professor Arnold Berleant, President of the International Association for Aesthetics, and Professor Ales Erjavec, Secretary of the International Association for Aesthetics, were unable to come but sent their best wishes.

Last but not least the Society wishes to thank Richard Woodfield and Grazia Marchiano who were thoughtful, hard-working, innovative, and inspiring mentors to this first Pacific Rim Conference in Transcultural Aesthetics.

All the papers were truly in accord with the conference's motivation—to attempt transcultural understanding with both deep knowledge and generosity of spirit.

*Catherine Runcie
President
Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics*

The Proceedings

Twenty papers from the Pacific Rim Conference have been published as proceedings in electronic form, and are available on disk and on the internet. These papers display the wide range of fields and perspectives represented at the conference. The papers can be read independently, though in many cases an issue or theme of one is discussed in one or more of the other papers. This is especially so with the aesthetics papers that deal with the issue of transculturality.

The disk version of the proceedings is listed in the National Library of Australia catalogue under ISBN 0-646-28504-1. The proceedings are presented as a single Microsoft Word file (approximately 850kb) on one high density diskette, available in either Macintosh or PC format. The Macintosh version uses Microsoft Word 5.1a. The PC version uses Microsoft Word 6.0 for Windows '95. Diskettes are

available upon order from the Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics. Address inquiries to:

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The proceedings are also available on the SSLA internet site managed by Paul Redding. The location is:

<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/Arts/departs/philos/ssl/#conf>

A second edition of the proceedings is planned for November-December 1997. This edition will include wholly new and revised papers, as well as dialogue between the paper presenters and other participants. Our hope is that this will reflect the dynamic and thoughtful interchanges that took place informally at the conference. Some papers that were not included in the original proceedings will appear in the second edition.

The full titles of all the papers, with authors and session chairs, are listed below. Papers already contained in the first edition of the proceedings are marked by an asterisk.

- * Professor Grazia Marchianò (Siena): 'Let a hundred flowers bloom, the problem of weeds, birds and crabgrass notwithstanding—Some auspicious and realistic views on transcultural aesthetics'. Chair: Dr Stephen Gaukroger (Sydney).
- Djon Mundine OAM (Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art): 'The second crime: Identity, Authenticity and Copyright in Aboriginal Art'. Chair: Dr Wilfried Van Damme (Ghent).
- * Professor Eliot Deutsch and Prof. Marcia Morse (Hawaii at Manoa): 'Face to Face: Crossing the Boundaries Of Gender and Culture'. Chair: Associate Professor Adrian Mitchell (Sydney).
- * Professor Ruiqing Du (Xian): 'Primitivism in Zhang Yimou's Films'. Chair: Dr Catherine Runcie (Sydney).
- * Dr Ron Goodrich (Deakin): 'Taxing the Tale: Goodman on Narrative East and West'. Chair: Dr Will Christie (Sydney).
- Neil James (Sydney): 'An Asian Experiment: Angus and Robertson in Singapore'. Chair: Dr David G. Brooks (Sydney).
- Professor Leith Morton (Newcastle): 'The Notion of Romantic Love in Japanese Letters 1895-1905'. Chair: Professor Hugh Clarke (Sydney).

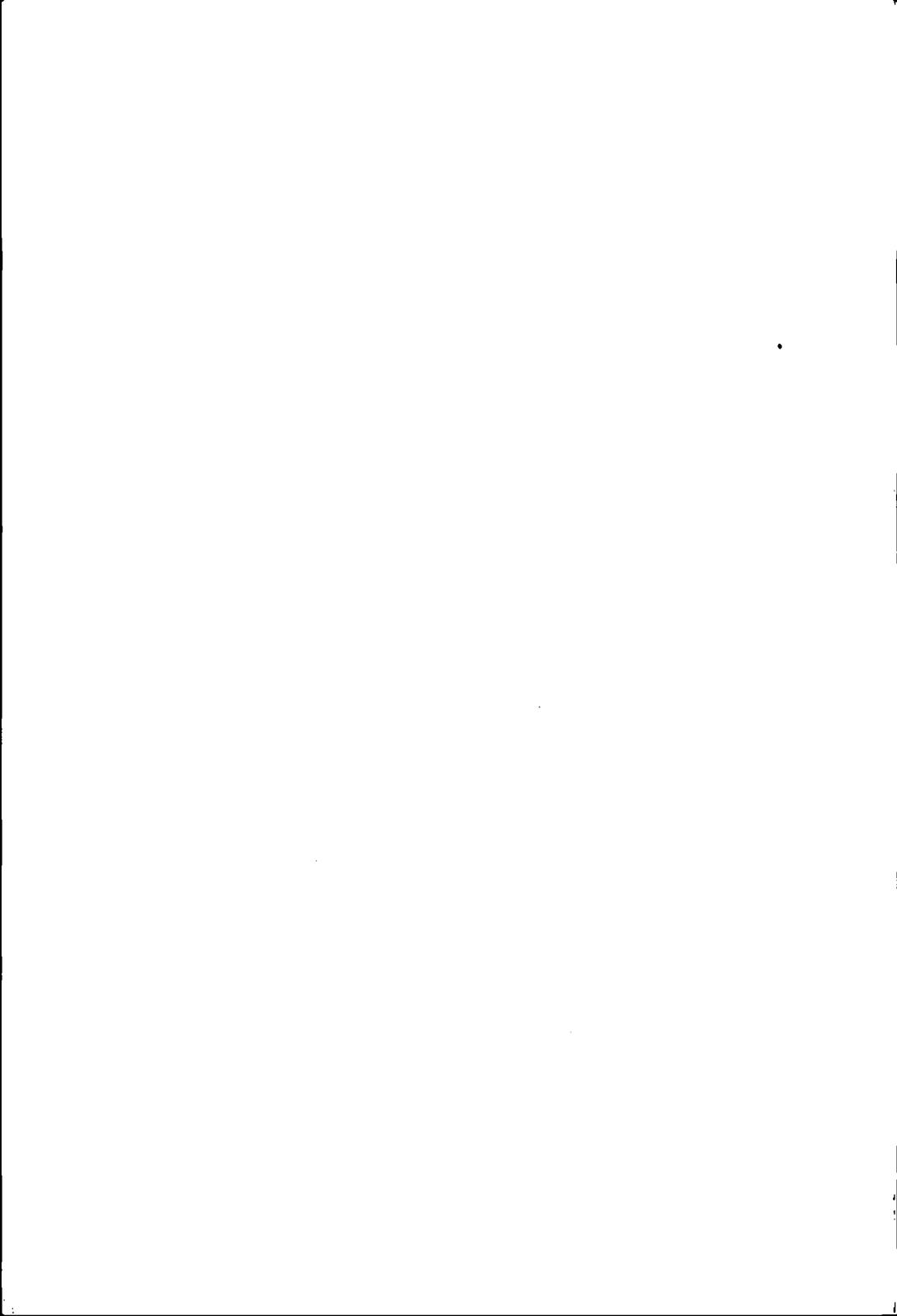
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- Patricia Rovik (Sydney): 'Directionality in art and dance: Australia and Greece'. Chair: Dr Jennifer Nevile (New South Wales).
- * Dr Yasuko Claremont (Sydney): Japan's First Modernist Poet: Nishiwaki Junzaburo (1894–1982). Chair: Professor Leith Morton (Newcastle).
- * Dr Sonja Servomaa (Helsinki): 'Sounds of Stones; Reflections in Art'. Chair: Dr Michael Nelson (Sydney).
- * Professor Julius Moravcsik (Stanford): 'Art and Art Worlds; A Cross-Cultural Approach'. Chair: Dr Stephen Gaukroger (Sydney).
- * Dr David Novitz (Canterbury): 'Art by Another Name: The Identification of Art Across Cultures'. Chair: Dr Eugenio Benitez (Sydney).
- * Professor Kathleen Higgins (Texas at Austin): Music and the Ten Thousand Things: Musical Metaphysics in China'. Chair: Richard Toop (Sydney Conservatorium).
- * Dr Wilfried van Damme (Ghent): Do Non-Western Cultures Have Words for Art? An Epistemological Prolegomenon to the Comparative Study of Philosophies of Art'. Chair: Dr Paul Redding (Sydney).
- Dr Denis Dutton (Canterbury): 'Art and Universality'. Chair: Dr David Brooks (Sydney).
- * Pamela Bell (Curator, University of Sydney Collection): 'A. L. Sadler (1882–1970) Professor of Oriental Studies at the University of Sydney 1922–1947: His Ideas and Influence'. Chair: Professor Hugh Clarke (Sydney)
- * Dr Patrick Hutchings (Melbourne): 'Others' Art & Others' God/Gods'. Chair: Dr Albert Moore (Otago).
- * Professor Garry Trompf (Sydney): "'Grabbing Your Own Story": Meaning in Oral and Written Narratives of Melanesia'. Chair: Dr Albert Moore (Otago).
- * Paul Kennelly (Sydney): 'Realism in Kabuki of the Early Nineteenth Century A Case Study'. Chair: Professor Leith Morton (Newcastle).
- * Professor Hou Weirui (Shanghai): 'Bamboo Or Mushroom: Imagery In Chinese Poetry And Its Translation'. Chair: Dr Catherine Runcie (Sydney).
- * Dr Albert Moore (Otago): 'Tane's Traumatic Transformations: From Local to Universal in Interpreting Pacific Arts'. Chair: Dr Patrick Hutchings (Melbourne).
- * Professor Robert Solomon (Texas at Austin): 'Racist Humor: Notes Toward a Cross-Cultural Understanding'. Chair: Dr Eugenio Benitez (Sydney).
- Richard Toop (Sydney Conservatorium): 'Asian Dialogues? An End of the Century Report on the Asian Factor in Australian Art Music'. Chair: Dr Paul Redding (Sydney).

- * Dr Paul Redding (Sydney): 'Truthing Troubles: Idealism, Hermeneutics and the Aboriginal Art of the Western Desert'. Chair: Dr Dennis Dutton (Canterbury).
- Dr David G. Brooks (Sydney): 'The Scheherazade Motif and Transcultural Poetics'. Chair: Mr David Brooks (Sydney).
- * Associate Professor John Clark (Sydney): 'Sovereign Domains: Kuki Shuzo's *Structure of Iki*'. Chair: Professor Leith Morton (Newcastle).
- * Associate Professor Sakuko Matsui: 'Some Editorial Problems of the *Structure of Iki*'. Chair: Professor Leith Morton (Newcastle).

I must add my agreement to Catherine Runcie's remark about the spirit of the conference. The conference brought us unimaginable variety; the participants brought us ways to hold that variety in view, and to think about where things fit and where they do not.

Eugenio Benitez
Secretary
Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics



LITERATURE and AESTHETICS

Edited by W.H.Christie and G.L.Little



Literature and Aesthetics is the Journal of the Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics. Each issue includes creative work as well as critical discussion. In line with the objectives of the Society, the Journal aims to promote the study of all the arts. It encourages such study from philosophical, psychological, sociological, scientific, historical, critical and educational standpoints.

The Society invites membership applications
and/or Journal subscriptions:

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c/- Dr C.A. Runcie, Dept of English,
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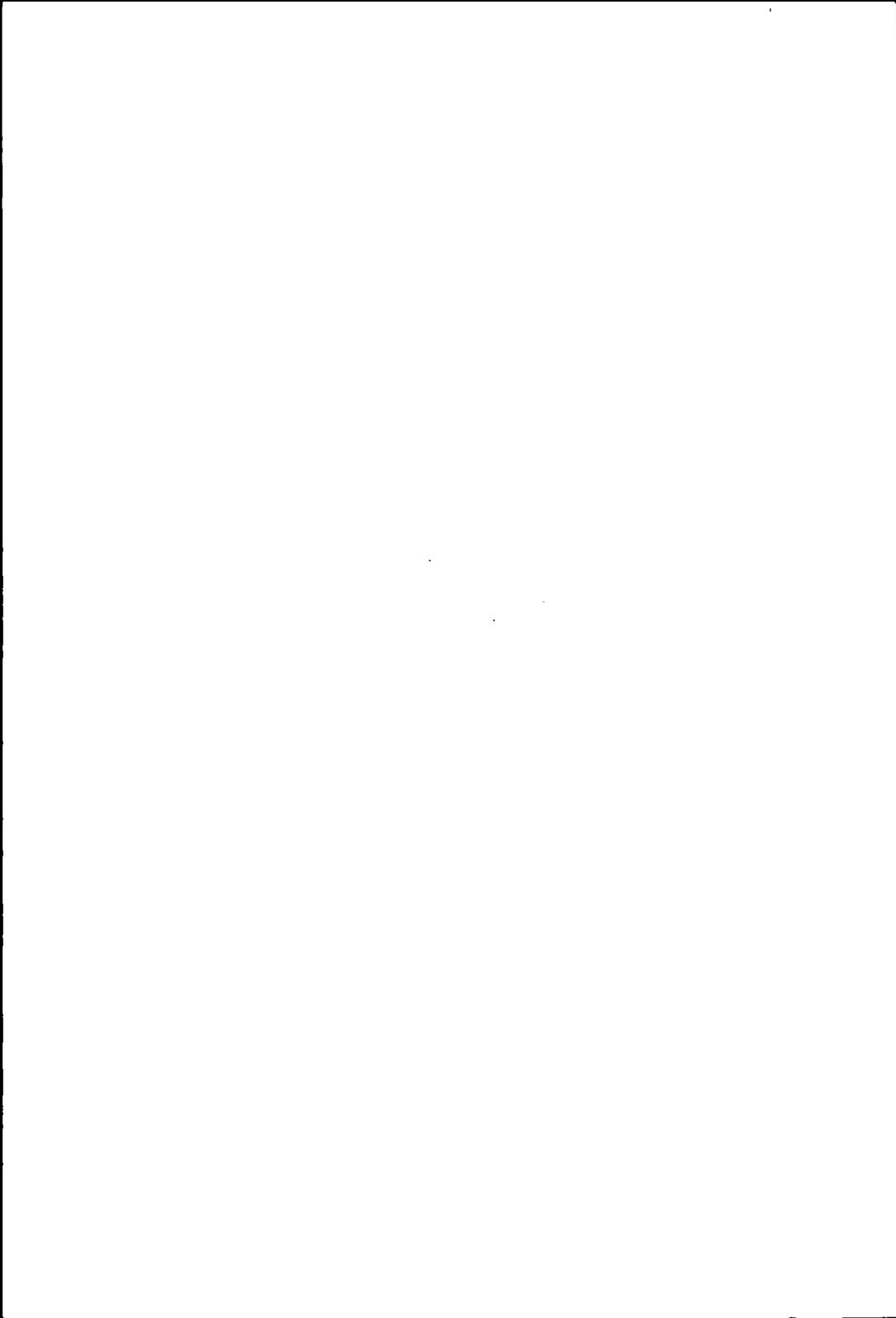
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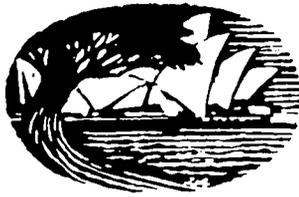
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