Religion, Literature and the Arts Project

Conference Proceedings

Australian International Conference 1994

Sponsored by

School of Arts and Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Australian Catholic University

School of Studies in Religion, Faculty of Arts,
University of Sydney

Institute for Theology and the Arts, Sydney

For further information on these conference proceedings and on further conferences and publications please contact:

Dr Michael Griffith
Department of Literature and Languages
Australian Catholic University
179 Albert Road, Strathfield, New South Wales, Australia 2135
Phone: (02) 739.2192 Fax: (02) 739.2105
PREFACE

These conference proceedings are the outcome of the first International Australian Conference in Religion, Literature and the Arts (RLA Project) held in 1994.

The conference was the result of a collaboration between the Department of Literature and Languages, Australian Catholic University (Sydney), the School of Studies in Religion, University of Sydney, and the Institute for Theology and the Arts, Sydney.

Those closely involved were Dr Michael Griffith and Mr Ross Keating of the Australian Catholic University, Associate Professor Jim Tulip of the University of Sydney, and the Reverend Rod Pattenden of the Institute for Theology and the Arts.

This venture places artists and academics alongside each other and creates a space where theory and practice may be considered together. This venture is part of a world-wide movement in Religion, Literature and the Arts as seen in the United Kingdom, Europe and North America.
CONTENTS

I.

Doug Adams
TRANSCENDENCE AND THE VISUAL: SEEING BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF CONTEMPORARY ART 1

Veronica Brady
ABORIGINAL SPIRITUALITY 11

Kevin Hart
AUSTRALIAN RELIGIOUS POETRY 23

David Jasper
ART AND THE BIBLICAL CANON 37

II.

Robert Baines
THE INTERRELATION OF LITERATURE, ART AND RELIGION: THE ADVENTURES OF THE ARCHEGOS 53

Hedda Ben-Bassat
BEYOND MULTICULTURALISM: PROPHETIC FOUNDATIONS IN CONTEMPORARY AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURAL DISCOURSE 54

Roland Boer
THEOLOGY AND CULTURAL STUDIES 68

Carol Brewer
WHERE IS SHE? 69

David Bunyan
‘IN THE WORD IS ITS BEGINNING’: A LACANIAN CONNECTION BETWEEN MYSTICISM AND POETIC LANGUAGE 78

John Cohen
THE JUDGES 87

Matthew Del Nevo
DESERT LITERATURE, DESERT LANGUAGE 102
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Enstice and Janeen Webb</td>
<td>FREE LIBRARIES AND OBJECTIONABLE BOOKS</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry Gazzard</td>
<td>ART AND THE ACTIVITY OF CONTEMPLATION</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Giffin</td>
<td>FREEDOM AND NECESSITY IN THE CULTURE OF INTERPRETATION</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Gome</td>
<td>19TH CENTURY AUSTRALIAN HYMN PUBLICATIONS AS A SOURCE FOR RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL HISTORY</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Greaves</td>
<td>MATHEMATICS AS COMPLEMENT TO THE ARTISTIC AND THEOLOGICAL EXPRESSIONS OF OUR WORLD</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Halse</td>
<td>AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND IDENTITY: (WILL THE REAL REVEREND GRIBBLE PLEASE STAND UP?)</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Harris and Maureen Strugnell</td>
<td>HOME - PHILOSOPHICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND LITERARY PERSPECTIVES</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Jensen</td>
<td>TRANSLATION AND THEORY - THE GENEVA BIBLE AND JAUSS' &quot;HORIZON OF EXPECTATIONS&quot;</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Joly</td>
<td>THE ALCHEMY OF TIME IN NERVAL, RILKE AND BLAKE'S WORKS</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Keating</td>
<td>FRANCIS BRABAZON: A NEW MEASURE IN MODERN AUSTRALIAN POETRY</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Kennedy</td>
<td>VINCENT VAN GOGH: AN INSPIRED PERSON</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noelene Kidd</td>
<td>THEOLOGY AND CHARACTER IN THE QUEST FOR SALVATION IN PIERS PLOWMAN AND THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roderic Lacey</td>
<td>PATHWAYS TO 'DREAMING': EXPLORATIONS IN STORYTELLING</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ranna-Lesley Lachlan
WEST MEETS EAST: ARTS ENCOUNTER OF A METAPHYSICAL KIND 212
Rosmané Lawson
SPIRITUAL VOICES IN ROSEMARY DOBSON'S POETRY 213
Anne Lear
RENAISSANCE POETRY AND THE PSALMS: INFLUENCES AND PROBLEMS 227
Elaine Lindsay
NOT THE DESERT EXPERIENCE: SPIRITUALITY IN AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S FICTION 239
Robert Lumsden
POETS, POSTSTRUCTURALISTS, AND THE NUMINOUS 252
Jane Magon
SHAMANIC MOTIFS IN THE EARLY WORK OF DALE FRANK 272
John Murray
INHERITING THE LAND? - SOME LITERARY AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN THE USE OF INDIGENOUS MATERIAL BY AN AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S WRITER, 1960-1990 279
Annalisa Orselli-Dickson
VOCATION AND EVOCATION: FAITH AND POETRY IN FATHER DAVID MARIA TUROLDI, ITALY'S FOREMOST RELIGIOUS POET 289
Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli
THE "REAL VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY": AUTO/BIOGRAPHY, REFLEXIVITY AND SPIRITUAL JOURNEYING 298
Rod Pattenden
IMAGES OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE IN RECENT AUSTRALIAN ART 310
V.R.N. Prasad
THE INCREDIBLE GODMEN AND THE INDIAN LITERARY RENAISSANCE 318
Patricia Prociv
HOME, GROWING UP CATHOLIC 334
Douglas Purnell  
**DOING THEOLOGY THROUGH EXPRESSIVE ART:**  
A SERIES OF PAINTINGS INFORMED BY THE  
THEOLOGY OF PAUL TILLICH  
339

Zane Ms Rhea  
**SECULAR POSTMODERNITY AND BUDDHIST MODERNISATION: AUSTRALIA AND THAILAND**  
340

George Shaw  
**RELIGION AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVE: CLARK'S CONTRIBUTION TO AUSTRALIAN EXPERIMENTAL LITERATURE**  
347

Diane Speed  
**THE MAGI IN WESTERN ART AND LITERATURE:**  
FORMS AND MEANINGS  
359

Barry Spurr  
**POETRY OF RESURRECTION: PETER SKRZYNECKI'S EASTER SUNDAY**  
364

Peter Stiles  
**FROM DISCREET CHAPEL TO GOTHIC OSTENTATION:**  
DEVELOPMENTS IN 19TH CENTURY UNITARIAN ARCHITECTURE AS A PARADIGM FOR THE PROBLEMATIC NATURE OF ELIZABETH GASKELL'S FICTION  
373

John Strugnell  
**READING AND BELIEF: OR CAN ONE STILL BE GOD-PROPPED ON MR SAMMLER'S PLANET?**  
380

Geoffrey Sykes  
**(RE)DEEMING THE MODERN: THE ENIGMA OF HENRY MOORE AND ST. STEPHEW WALBROOK**  
386

Nicolas Sykes  
**THE WRITTEN RECORD OF THE SPOKEN WORD OF GOD: ORAL VERSE IN RELIGIOUS LITERATURE**  
395

Margaret Tomlinson  
**FROM NO-THING TO NEW NAMING**  
396

Walter Tonetto  
**BEYOND THE BONE-HARD CONFINES OF THE MIND; DENKDICHTUNG AND THE RECLAMATION OF ETHICS**  
397
Penny van Toorn
DIALOGIZING THE SCRIPTURES: A BAKHTINIAN READING OF RUDY WEIBE'S PEACE SHALL DESTROY MANY 407

Terry Veling
EDMOND JABÊS: RABBI-POET OF THE BOOK 419

Chris Watson
ROBERT LOWELL: SECULAR, PURITAN, AND AGNOSTICAL 420

David Watson
DUBIOUS SYMPATHIES, LUST AND MISREPORTED KISSES: A READING OF CANTO V OF DANTE'S INFERNO 430

George Watt
PATRICK WHITE: NOVELIST AS PROPHET 431

Tony Way
MUSIC AND THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: DIFFERING MUSICAL RESPONSES 439

Patrick West
POWERS OF HORROR: JEWISH LAW AND THE EPISTLE OF BARNABAS 448

Raymond Aaron Younis
EPHIPHANIES: RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, MODERN FICTION AND THE AESTHETICS OF THE SACRED 457