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Two marine medallion bookplates

By Michael Taffe, Ballarat

Many are the bookplates that carry wonderful maritime images and most bookplate enthusiasts will have such examples in their collections. The work of Geoffrey C Ingleton is especially noteworthy; however, I wish to highlight two in *Hymettus* library collections that are not only of maritime interest but of numismatic interest.

The Charlotte medal bookplate

Last year the Victorian Branch of the Book Collectors' Society of Australia lost long-time popular member and committee member Dr John Chapman (1928-2020). Ed Jewell provided a wonderful tribute in the September 2020 issue of the Book Collectors' Society's journal *Biblinews* and so some will be familiar with John's bookplate. Over the years, I like many others have enjoyed the hospitality and sharing of John's home and collection both of his books and medals. One of John's proud possessions was his Charlotte medal that he later sold through Stokes in 2008. He used an image of this medal for his bookplate. The bookplate therefore tells of John's passion not only for his book collecting but his numismatic collection. It also links to our history as the medal commemorates the voyage of the convict transport Charlotte, and the plate depicts the image of the ship.

The three masted barque was chartered in 1786 and was one of the eleven ships in the First Fleet bound for New South Wales. Convict Thomas (sometimes James) Barrett is believed to have produced the Charlotte Medal and it depicts the vessel at anchor in Botany Bay on the day of arrival in January 1788. Barrett, who even on that first voyage was forging coins, was the first person to be executed in the colony only a month after landing. Another famous person on board was Mary Broad/Bryant whose

escape from the colony in 1791 is another notable historical and maritime event in the European saga of Australia.

The Admella medal bookplate

A far cry from a small barque of the First Fleet, the steamship Admella departed Adelaide on 5 August 1859 and the following morning was wrecked off Cape Northumberland near the South Australia-Victoria border. Survivors clung to the wreck for over a week as one rescue attempt after another failed. Of the 113 on board only 24 were finally rescued, making this one of the worst maritime disasters in Australian history.

Captain James Fawthrop (1804-1878), the Portland harbourmaster, led his lifeboat crew and after several attempts eventually managed to rescue the twenty-four survivors in the rough seas. Three gold medals were issued to key people involved in the rescue, one being Fawthrop who commanded the lifeboat crew in executing the rescue. Following the public shock and reaction at the news of the disaster



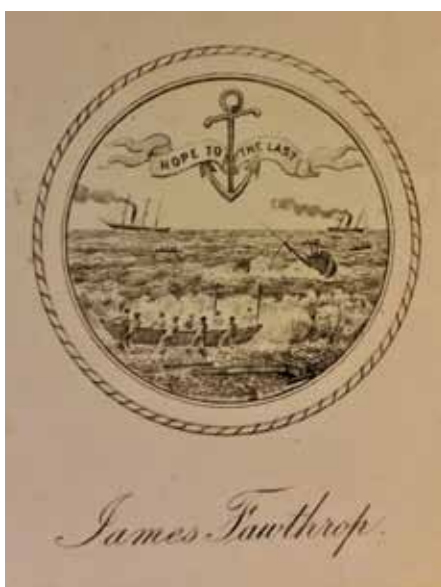
Design by John Chapman for himself

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the Admella Shipwreck Reward and Relief fund was established and among other disbursements 3 gold and 39 silver medals were commissioned from Brush, Macdonell, and Co. of Sydney to be awarded to those involved in the rescue efforts. In June 1860 the medals were presented by Victorian Governor Sir Henry Barkly at an impressive ceremony at the Exhibition Building in Melbourne.

James Fawthrop was a collector of maritime exploration books and his bookplate features an image of his medallion depicting the rescue of the survivors of the Admella. Fawthrop collected Hakluyt publications on marine exploration and other books on maritime subjects and his books are identified by his bookplate featuring the medal with his name in script beneath it.



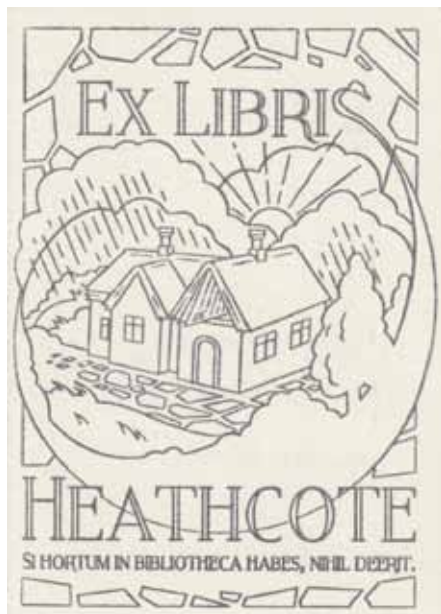
Engraved bookplate for James Fawthrop, c. 1860s

Ex Libris Heathcote

By Richard Heathcote, Adelaide

Downsizing a library is an emotional affair but, recently retired, I felt there was no excuse for this long-delayed project.

My career has been in the world of museums, art and gardens requiring a large library of reference books and catalogues most representing something of my professional journey. I have always found powerful memories arise from releasing loved books back into the river of readers



Rubber stamp bookplate by Aaron Reardon for Richard Heathcote, 2021

or when disposing of unwanted volumes. Add to this our two adult children's warning — they did not want their father's library should I have to be moved into aged care!

To tackle the reductive process creatively, I decided on two steps to ease the pain: to identify the two hundred most significant books from my shelves and to have a bookplate designed to identify them.

Aaron Reardon had designed an ex libris for his father, a close friend of mine, and I had greatly admired it (featured in *Newsletter* no. 24, March 2012) He agreed to take the commission and my brief to this talented artist/designer included the following: it should include a rebus, a Latin quote, reflect my three interests and be monochrome.

COVID-19 struck Victoria hard where he resides but in the digital age things progressed through 2020 with the final design delivered at the beginning of 2021. I was delighted both by the design and the beautifully created kit supplied in a fake book with the 200 book plates, the stamp, paste and spare blanks of the bespoke paper. Although Aaron examined the full range of mediums and techniques for making the plate, he selected the rubber stamp as it delivered the most consistent quality of the line drawing.

The first volume to receive the Heathcote

bookplate was my oldest book, a 1760 copy of the *Book of Common Prayer* (printed by John Baskerville for the University of Cambridge). I proudly pasted my ex libris on the inside board with inscriptions and plates of previous owners.

The Heathcote ex libris contains the following symbols for those who wish to decode it:

- ❖ *Heathcote* is a Derbyshire surname meaning 'cottage on the heath'. The heath is represented by windblown rain, clouds and the sun's rays.
- ❖ *Gardening* is represented by the crazy slate paving, a feature of Carrick Hill, Adelaide. I am a former Director of this wonderful house museum, art collection and historic garden.
- ❖ *Books* are represented by the roofs of the cottage and although it's a generic ex libris for Heathcote, the first line of the page begins with an 'R' to represent me.
- ❖ *Garden history and art* are represented by the tyre swan (Australia's only indigenous garden ornament) which commences with the final 's' of Ex Libris and loops around the whole design.
- ❖ *The Latin quote* is from Cicero and roughly translates to: *If you have a garden and a library you lack for nothing.*

The Society's May 'Show & Tell'

Gathered at the home of Jean Anderson and Terry Hartmann on 24 May 2021 were Bronwyn Vost, Mary Keep, Jess Le, Alex Rosser, Brenda Heagney and Mark Ferson.

Jean kicked off with a plate 'To commemorate the Crowning of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey', 1953, pasted in a copy of *The romance of Canterbury Cathedral* by Margaret Babington, as well as a small leaflet — which, we were assured, had, at some time in the past, fallen out of a book — serving as a 'Memento of the visit of Their Royal Highnesses Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, and the Duke of Edinburgh', [1952], presented to John M Brochie of the Armidale School.

Jess Le has rebranded her graphic design business to largely focus upon the production of beautifully printed universal

bookplates, examples of which were shown around. Jess reports:

Earlier this year in February I rebranded my illustrated stationery business to 'Fleur & Fable' — with a focus on designing and printing premium universal bookplates. All designs feature gold metallic ink and are packaged in a custom designed string tie envelope. I was dissatisfied with the lack of bookplate options in bookstores so I set out to wholesale to as many stores as I can. So far I have retailers around Australia including the National Gallery of Australia's gift shop, bookstores in rural Victoria and even a caravan park in far north Queensland!

Recently in May I've been collaborating with an Australian manufacturer of rubber stamps to create made-to-order rubber stamp bookplates. These feature a more typographic rather than illustrated approach and are made with Australian Jarrah wood, oiled to a red-brown finish. The personalised feature makes it a popular gift!

My hope is that through my e-commerce site and wholesale I'll reach people unaware of bookplates and so share the art, history and love of books having bookplates facilitates. To learn more visit www.fleurandfable.com.au

I also undertake commissions for personal bookplates.

Mary Keep has reached the milestone of 90 bookplates, starting with a linocut made in 1989 after she took a linocut course. Mary circulated the album in which she keeps as a record a copy of each of her bookplate designs. We are eagerly awaiting the announcement of bookplate 100, which will be a cause for great celebration.

[Examples of Mary's and Jess's designs can be found on the Artists' gallery page of the Society's website at <http://www.bookplatesociety.org.au/index.php/artists> — Ed.]

Alex Rosser, who recently joined the Society, is looking for someone to design a bookplate for him. He recently had a design done by Kathryn Lovejoy featuring a unicorn and recording in words his wide-ranging interests. Alex was kind enough to provide a copy to each of those present on the evening.



Members attending the Show & Tell on 24 May 21 view the Eirene Mort Collection albums: (l-r) Bronwyn Vost, Jean Anderson, Mary Keep, Jess Le, Brenda Heagney, Alex Rosser, Mark Ferson (photo: Terry Hartmann)

A very dainty miniature French book on the *Declaration of the rights of the woman* was shown by Brenda Heagney with its equally dainty miniature bookplate, a gift to Brenda from Mary Keep (featured in *Newsletter* no. 46). Brenda also showed a book on Australian literature with the bookplate of Harold Oliver appropriating a Norman Lindsay drawing. Oliver was Professor of English at the University of Sydney when Brenda was studying there.

Mark Ferson related how member Zora Regulic had drawn his attention to the



Bookplate in pen-and-ink by John B Gadsdon for Kenneth J Carruthers, 1976

Kenneth J Carruthers bookplate in the NSW Law Courts Library, and Zora had suggested that Mr Carruthers might be interviewed about his bookplate. Mark found Mrs Beverley Carruthers but sadly, Ken had been admitted to a nursing home and could not remember the bookplate. Beverley was very pleased for Mark to have some of his books with the bookplate, to give to members attending the Show and Tell. The bookplate is marked by the monogram of Sydney economist and bookplate designer John B Gadsdon and dated 1976. Gadsdon wrote a number of articles promoting bookplates, including in the *NSW Law Society Journal* in 1974, and it seems likely that Ken Carruthers, a prominent barrister specialising in maritime law, and interested in all things nautical, had the idea of commissioning a Gadsdon bookplate after reading the article.

Presentations culminated in Bronwyn Vost showing off the beautifully rehoused albums of the Eirene Mort Bookplate Collection, gifted to the Society by the artist's descendents in 2018. The Society was most fortunate that the work was carried out last year by expert conservator Kay Soderlund as her last task prior to retirement. Each page, on which are mounted a number of bookplates, has been inserted into an individual mylar sleeve, all of which have been fitted into tailored ring binders. As a result the fragile pages can now be turned without damaging them and the protected bookplates are a delight to view.

Bibliography 2020

GEOFFREY BURKHARDT. Collecting nineteenth century school textbooks. *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, no. 406, Jun. 2020; pp. 59-67
Reproduces prize plates from Sydney Grammar School to S Badgery, 1927, and Scotch College to R G Howarth, 1915

MARK FERSON. 2019 Show & tell meeting in Sydney. *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, no. 406, Jun. 2020; pp. 75-6
Relates an anecdote of the NSW Southern Highlands concerning bookplate collector Garry Barnsley and media mogul/philanthropist John Fairfax, showing the latter's wood-engraved calligraphic book label by Leo Wyatt, 1975

MARK FERSON. H Peden Steel and the Cronulla School of Arts. *Useful Knowledge* (Mechanics' Institute of Victoria), no. 52, Spring 2020; pp. 11-12
Discusses the donation of books from his library by solicitor H Peden Steel to the Cronulla School of Arts, depicting his armorial bookplate and the bookplate marking books he presented to Cronulla School of Arts

Mark J Ferson. The art of the bookplate. *Blume Illustrated*, no. 4, [August] 2020; pp. 49-50
Focuses on the bookplate work of A Feint, full-page reproduction of design for Ethel Turner/Curlewis; also public domain illus. bookplates of John Kobler, Dan Piepenbring and universal design by Edward Gorey

MARK J FERSON. Appropriation, bookplates and the Lindsays. *Imprint*, vol. 55, no. 3, Spring 2020; pp. 40-42
Article giving a range of examples where other artists have replicated bookplates by Norman and Lionel Lindsay or used their graphics as elements in new bookplates; designs by the two Lindsays as well as Halcyon Evans

JANE GIBIAN. A nice little business. *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, no. 407, Sep. 2020; pp. 119-23
Reproduced from *SL Magazine*, August 2020; includes images of 11 lending library bookplates, mostly from Sydney suburbs.

MATTHEW GLOZIER. Sir Richard Broun, 8th Baronet of Colstoun (1801-1858). *St John History*, vol. 20, 2020; pp. 41-57
Focuses on the elements of Broun's armorial bookplate (reproduced) that refer to his role in the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

MARK HOWARD. Personalised books. *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, no. 405, Mar. 2020; pp. 53-6
Refers to a book presented in 1898 by Presbyterian Ladies College, Melbourne, as first prize for Euclid to Eugenie Paula Hartkopf and the coloured ex libris which she hand-painted into it sometime afterwards.

ED JEWELL. Vale: Dr John Chapman FRNS 29 May 1928 – 30 June 2020. *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, no. 407, Sep. 2020; pp. 135-8
Reproduces Chapman's bookplate for the John M Chapman Collection

MICHAEL RICHARDS. Veritas: a memory of exile. *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, no. 406, Jun. 2020; pp. 68-73
Gives the background to the wood-engraved bookplate designed by George Buday for Imre (Emery) Barcs, c. 1936-7

CHARLES STITZ. James Errol Scarlett 1932-2019. *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, no. 405, Mar. 2020; pp. 42-6
Image of Scarlett's bookplate by his niece Marian Scarlett, and a description of its design

CHARLES STITZ. James Meagher and his remarkable translation of Ovid's *Ars Amatoria*. *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, no. 407, Sep. 2020; pp. 103-13
Includes reproduction of Norman Lindsay's pen-and-ink bookplate for Harry Chaplin, 1948

GEORGE SWINBURNE. Tarnagula Mechanics' Institute library remnant. *Useful Knowledge (MIV Magazine)*, no. 51, Summer-Autumn 2020; p. 21
Brief outline of the Institute's history and reference to the fact that in the 1950s and 1960s many of its books were sourced from other commercial libraries; shows bookplates from Variety Library Service (Vic.) and The Redan Book Club (Vic.)

STEPHEN SZABO. From Gentleman to Bailiff Grand Cross. The evolution of the arms of Sir John McIntosh Young. *St John History*, vol. 20, 2020; pp. 38-40

MICHAEL TAFFE. Downsizing/upscaling and the Windsor Press. *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, no. 405, Mar. 2020; pp. 23-31
Includes the title page of P Neville Barnett's *Armorial bookplates* (1932), which had been designed by the Johnson brothers at the Windsor Press.

Notes and happenings

Publications
'Remnant libraries'. *MIV Magazine*, no. 54, Autumn 2021; p. 15
Shows the bookplate of Melbourne Mechanics Institute, dating prior to 1873, part of the Philip Candy Archive at MIV

LEILA BARLOW. *Living stones. Convent of the Sacred Heart Rose Bay 1882-1982.* Sydney: Convent of the Sacred Heart, 1982
The front cover includes a version of A Feint's bookplate for the Convent [thanks to Garry Barnsley for drawing this to my attention, May 2021]

ROSS EDMONDS. Mrs Geddes goes to Hollywood — almost. *Biblionews and Australian Notes & Queries*, no. 409, Mar. 2021; pp. 12-4
Shows the pictorial design for Nora Austin Geddes by BR (I suspect this artist to be Norbertine Bresslern-Roth)

GARY WERSKY. *Picturing a nation: the art & life of A H Fullwood.* Sydney: NewSouth Publishing, 2021; pp. 288-9
A paragraph referring to A H Fullwood's bookplate work illustrated by his etched design for son Geoffrey Barr Fulwood, 1929 [Thanks to Jürgen Wegner for this information]

Editorial

Just a brief note to allow me to thank two members for their fascinating contributions: Dr Michael Taffe for his record of two bookplates featuring historical nautical medallions; and garden historian and art writer Richard Heathcote for the description of his newly commissioned rubber stamp bookplate. It was a joy to attend one of the Society's irregular Sydney Show and Tell sessions last month and to share bookplates and their stories. I would like to record my gratitude to Bronwyn Vost for organising the meeting and to our hosts Jean Anderson and Terry Hartmann for offering their home and providing delicious catering. You will find inserted in this issue a *FISAE Newsletter* in which art historian Dr Kornélia Tóth Vas relates the story of bookplate societies in Hungary over the past century.

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