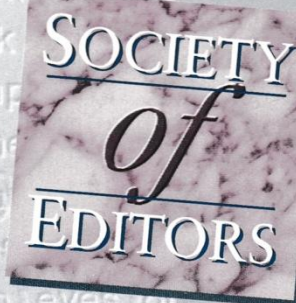


Why do you need an editor?

- ⇒ **edit** /'edat/ **1** a assemble, prepare, or modify (written material, esp. the work of another or others) for publication
- ⇒ **proofread** /'pru:fri:d/ read (printer's proofs) and mark any errors



www.socedvic.org



*The Society
of Editors
(Vic) Inc.*



40^{Years of} Style

1970
2010

Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc.

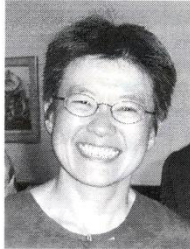
40th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday 9 December 2010

The Wheeler Centre, Melbourne

Editorial Office Set-ups for Dummies

May dinner meeting report by Barbara Selvay



Our networks are growing. Over 40 people, many new to the society and to editing, ventured out on a misty wintry evening to attend the May meeting. They were not disappointed since our very own *Newsletter* layout designer, Lan Wang, demystified setting up an editorial office in less time than it took to demolish Rhumbaralla's dinner selections. By presentation's

end we were no longer total technology dummies and all those who attended, including the most technologically challenged, had gained some IT know-how. What's more, Lan's presentation provided us with a comprehensive checklist to consult before making any further disastrous office purchases.

Lan took us through the major issues we should consider when setting up a freelance office. After all, she reminded us, time is money so we need to actually master and understand the technology we use if it is going to work well for us. It wasn't hard to hear the 'if only's' around the room as we considered past follies. Lan cautioned that we do get what we pay for. A golden rule to avoid purchasing a white elephant might be, 'Only buy equipment you are confident you can actually use now or that you are sure you can learn to use easily'. Once you do know how to use your latest pride and joy, it is just as important that you check that your latest whiz-bang computer comes with reliable after-sales service.

Using new technology has the added benefit of making our work look good. It's not, as Lan assured us, just about looking good for the sake of it. The better the job looks, the more professional you will look. That in turn means you can charge more too, so with any luck the equipment will soon pay for itself.

When buying a computer the first thing to consider is whether you want a desktop or a laptop. However, unlike when choosing a pet, the wrong decision doesn't have to live with you for the next 10 years or longer. Laptops can be made to work like desktops if you buy an additional monitor and keyboard. Desktops are cheaper though. But whichever way you decide to go you shouldn't fall for the old trick of buying a really cheap machine from an unknown vendor.

Windows or Macintosh is still an issue. Macs look great and are relatively virus free, but Windows is more widely used in business. Again, while you can get a very cheap Windows machine, you also generally get what you pay for, and Macs are known for their reliability and ease of use.

It's worth remembering, too, that no one has ever complained about having too much RAM – doubling a computer's memory will be a time-saver.

Purchasing a CD/DVD burner is essential for back-up since floppy discs are pretty much redundant. It's important to check that any software already installed on the computer has come on a CD, so it can be easily reinstalled after the inevitable glitch. And for those of us who work from different locations, connectivity is an issue to consider.

Although the quality of monitors has improved and fuzzy pictures are almost a thing of the past, it's still worth lashing out and buying the biggest monitor you can afford to improve your office working conditions. Once you have worked for a while on a 21" monitor you will find it very hard to go back to a small screen. You will also need to decide if an LCD or CRT monitor will best suit your needs. CRTs are certainly cheaper, but you need to consider all the features that an LCD offers.

When choosing a printer it's probably false economy to buy an inkjet printer – the cost of replacement toner cartridges will soon exceed the cost of the laser printer you didn't think you could afford. Laser printers are also far more reliable and faster.

Surge protection is a must and it may also be wise to purchase an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). This will allow you to keep on working, even by candlelight, and a little over \$100 does not seem very much to pay to ensure that all your documents are saved.

Although Lan kept a cracking delivery pace, time was running out on us. She still managed to cover spam filters, virus programs, the benefits of file utilities and software back-ups and to challenge the Internet Luddites to some new thinking about the comparative costs and benefits of broadband and dial-up connections. Broadband emerged as a cheaper option for many users (\$40 a month compared to \$50).

The remaining minutes were devoted to one of Lan's key themes – the need to invest plenty of time and effort into learning how to use the technology. She pointed us in the direction of user groups such as Melbourne PC Users group, IMUG (for Macs) and CAE courses. Her presentation notes spell it out very clearly. 'It takes time to learn, but saves you time in the long run – makes you more efficient, more effective and will allow you to finish the job early and sit out in the garden and read a book or take in more work so that you can retire early! Time is money.'

Not many presentations come with a freebie. It's a pity we can't offer Lan bonus points for something useful since her comprehensive notes, which also include areas we didn't have enough time to cover, are available from her website at <<http://www.wovenwords.com.au/resources/SocEdsTech.pdf>>

Happy shopping!

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1996

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 2

ISSN 0311 0907
Print Post 349050/00019

Published by
The Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc.
PO Box 176, Carlton South,
Victoria 3053 Australia

*News, comments, newsletters and
other material for publication,
review or mention in the Newsletter
should be addressed to the
Secretary and Newsletter Co-ordinator*

Elaine Miller, PO Box 176,
Carlton South, Victoria 3053
e-mail
muffy@melb.alexia.net.au

*Membership enquiries,
change of address*
Diane Carlyle
12/19 Dalgety Street, St Kilda 3182

Our next meeting

Tuesday 24 September

at the Metropolitan Cafe
36 Little LaTrobe Street, Melbourne
with

Kathy Mueller

***'What is Multimedia and how does it
affect editors?'***

Kathy Mueller has a background in film making as a writer, director and script editor, and is now working in multimedia as an executive producer, creative director and interactive script editor on various projects. She is a fully qualified teacher and is a national trainer with the Australian Film, TV and Radio School. She has just returned from the USA where she spent time negotiating with UCLA and MIT to set up international educational links in new technologies and new media exploration.

True to the interactive nature of the new media, Kathy has agreed to enlighten us about the mysterious world of multimedia in an interactive session. Starting with basic questions like 'What is multimedia?' she envisages a discussion on the implications of the new technology on publishing as we know it, and is hoping for active participation from everyone.

The evening will commence with a buffet dinner at 7.00pm, with the discussion taking place at around 8.15pm. Buffet, including drinks, costs members \$22 and others \$25. Please book with Mandy Stroebel (9481 3432) or Soni Stecker (9859 5956) by Monday 23 September. If you call during the day please leave a message on the answering machine.

Attention all freelancers

Make a date to tear yourself away from that fascinating manuscript (or that unnervingly empty desk, depending on the state of play) and get yourself down to the Vegie Bar in Brunswick St for some good food and empathetic company.

Don't be bashful. Don't make excuses. Just come, eat and talk. We'd especially like to see some of the new(er) members whose names keep cropping up in the 'Welcome' section of the newsletter. Some of you must be freelancers, so come and let us know how you're getting along.

Place The Vegie Bar, 380 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
Date Wednesday 18 September

cont'd p.2

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1996

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 5

ISSN 0311 0907
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Published by The Society of
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PO Box 176, Carlton South,
Victoria 3053 Australia

E-mail
s.keogh@mup.unimelb.edu.au

*News, comment, newsletters and
other material for publication,
review or mention in the
Newsletter should be
addressed to the editor*

John Bangsund, PO Box 1096,
Thornbury, Victoria 3071
(Telephone: 03 9470 4889)

*Membership enquiries,
changes of address*
Renée Otmar, PO Box 4188,
Richmond East 3121

Provisional meeting dates
28 March, 2 May
Newsletter deadlines
6 March, 10 April

Our next meeting

will be held at the Metropolitan Café, 36 La Trobe Street,
on Thursday 29 February — the first time the Society has ever
met on that date — and our guest speaker will be Bryony
Cosgrove. More about that next issue.

Freelancers lunch

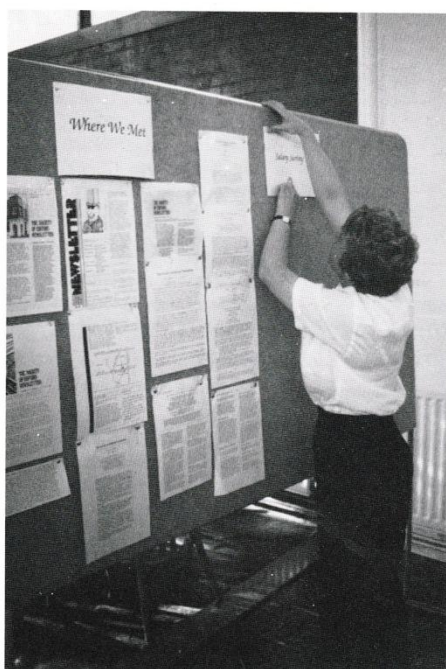
on Thursday 14 March, 1.00 p.m. at the Stokehouse Bistro,
30 Jacka Boulevard, St Kilda. RSVP Sue Harvey (9379 9595)
by 12 March.

Our Twenty-fifth Anniversary Dinner

was held at University House, University of Melbourne, on
Thursday 7 December 1995. About a hundred members and
friends attended, and by all accounts enjoyed themselves
hugely. Your reporter was crook on the night, not terminally,
nothing that reincarnation wouldn't fix anyway, but reading
Susan Keogh's heroic transcripts in this issue, and looking at
Martin Hooper's photos, two dozen of which are reproduced
here, made me feel very much present in spirit.

As people took their seats they discovered a fiendish
challenge devised for them by Susan: a quiz, no less. Each
table was to work on the quiz as a team, and each member of
the winning team was to receive as prize a copy of David
Crystal's *Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, kindly
donated by Cambridge Australia, a handsome prize indeed.
Our congratulations to the winning team: Jenny Craig, Sue
Harvey, Frith Pike, Fiona Robertson, Ian Robertson and
Wendy Skilbeck.

As you read this issue you will find references to 'John
Bangsund's quiz', and it is true that I provided Susan with
twenty-five questions, but Susan is an editor, and the
President, and she modified some questions and deleted
others, replacing them with questions of her own, so the quiz
that folk anguished over at the time must be regarded as a
collaboration. The version published here is authentic, but I
have taken the liberty of restoring five of my original
questions to worry you further. They appear in italic in
brackets, and are numbered 26 to 30. The answers to
questions 1–25, and Susan's comments on them, appear in
this issue. (A small prize — not an encyclopedia, sorry — is
offered for the first correct set of answers to questions 26–30
received by 6 March at Box 1096, Thornbury.)



Your hosts

Right
President Susan Keogh,
and the birthday cake

Below
Renée Otmar, and a view of
the central celebration area

Opposite
Margaret Trudgeon and
Andy Whyte on pin-up duty
(Margaret faces the camera
on p. 13, Andy p. 17); Mandy
Stroebe, Sue Harvey and
Emma Short, anthologising;
and Elaine Miller

Other committee members
Martin Hooper, who took
all the photos in this issue;
Debra Burgess; and
Jane Marks (see p. 11)

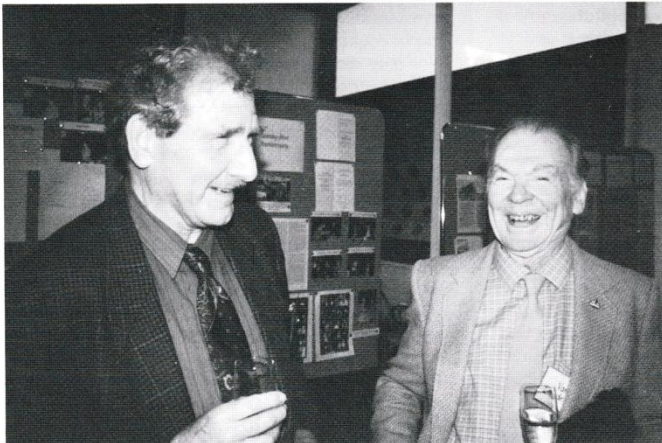




Nick Hudson,
Sally Milner



Janet Mackenzie,
Teresa Pitt



Basil Walby,
Vane Lindesay



Lee White,
Sue Ebury,
Teresa Pitt



Fran Church,
John Currey,
Marion Russell,
Jim Hart



Kerry Biram,
Ruth Siems,
Beryl Hill

Anne Godden,
Al Knight,
John Curtain



Anne Boyd,
Robin Appleton
(President, Society
of Editors (NSW))



Alison Forbes,
Jane Marks



Tess Moloney,
Max McMaster,
Marion Russell



Susie Kennewell,
John Curtain,
Margaret Trudgeon

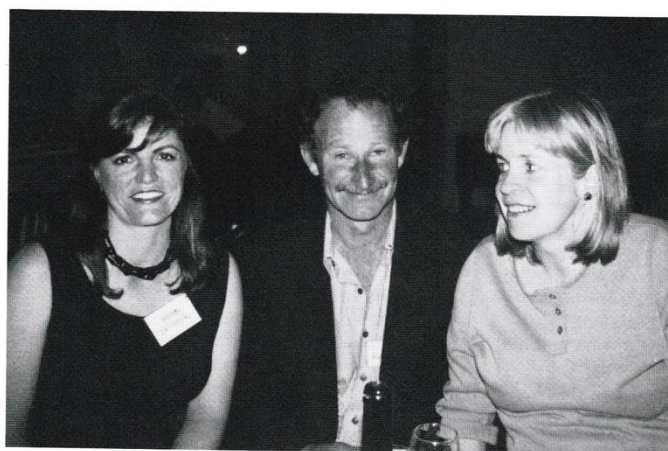


Sally Nicholls,
Roz Edmond





Marion Russell,
Ruth Dixon



Wendy Skilbeck,
Ian Robertson,
Fiona Robertson



Rena Pritchard,
Brenda Hamilton,
Soni Stecker

Sue Mitra,
Michelle de Kretser,
Diana Saad



Andy Whyte,
Marianne Hammat,
Rosie Adams



Andrew Watson,
Jean Dunn



THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS (VICTORIA) INC.

PO Box 176 CARLTON SOUTH VICTORIA 3053 AUSTRALIA

E-mail: s.keogh@mup.unimelb.edu.au

Newsletter: PO Box 1096 Thornbury Victoria 3071

COMMITTEE 1995-96

PRESIDENT Susan Keogh Melbourne University Press : 9344 6223

SECRETARY Elaine Miller Macmillan Education : 9699 8922

TREASURER Martin Hooper Melbourne University Press : 9344 6223

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Andy Whyte Freelance : 9690 0702

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Mandy Stroebel Chief Parliamentary Counsel : 9603 6736

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TRAINING Emma Short Freelance : 9803 2996

Margaret Trudgeon Longman : 9697 0638

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Basil Walby Wendy Sutherland John Bangsund Teresa Pitt Vane Lindesay

Beryl Hill Sally Milner Anne Godden Ruth Dixon Colin Jevons Nick Hudson

Frank Eyre (d.1988) Stephen Murray-Smith (d.1988) Beatrice Davis (d.1992)

Membership of the Society is open to anyone engaged professionally in any aspect of editing for publication, or who has had such experience in the past. Associate membership is open to anyone interested in the Society's activities; associate members may not vote or hold office in the Society.

Subscriptions: full membership \$60; associate membership \$60; distant membership \$35. Membership application/renewal forms are available from the Secretary.

Basil Walby

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Number 7

March 1978

MARCH MEETING

Date: Thursday 30 March
Place: John Curtin Hotel (upstairs)
29 Lygon Street
CARLTON

This month's speaker is TONY GRABROVAZ, Marketing Director of Rigby Ltd, who is coming to Melbourne specially for the meeting. Tony is well known for his innovative approach to marketing problems. He joined the book trade as a sales representative for an American publisher covering the southern States of Australia and New Zealand. He then spent four years as African Manager of Prentice-Hall in Johannesburg, returning to work with both Prentice-Hall and Holt, Rinehart and Winston in Sydney, before joining Rigby as General Manager of Octopus Books in 1973. He became General Manager, Marketing for Rigby in 1976 and Marketing Director as from December 1977.

DIARY NOTE

Remember that the last Thursday in each month is Editors Society Night. Mark the dates on your calendars NOW to ensure that that night is kept free. N.B. The May Meeting will take place at the Residential Seminar on 18th May. Details over page.

JOB SPOT

THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY JOURNAL seeks the services of a copy editor for a few hours monthly to assist in editing authors' MSS. and attending to authors' corrections on galleys. Conditions by arrangement. Applications to:
Dr K.L. Hughes, Honorary Editor, Australian
Veterinary Journal, 272 Brunswick Road, BRUNSWICK
VIC 3056 Tel.: 387 2982

WORK WANTED

English Honours graduate with Dip. Ed. and experience in secondary and tertiary teaching and public administration (but no specific editorial experience) is seeking an opening in the editorial side of publishing either full-time as a trainee or part-time under supervision. Competent typist. Contact: Ms Margaret Jay, 33 Stroud St, BALWYN VIC 3053 Tel.: 859 2540

SOCIETY OF INDUSTRIAL EDITORS

The Society of Industrial Editors are holding four workshops at the V.A.C.C., 7th floor, 464 St Kilda Road on April 4th, 12th, 19th and 27th from 4 pm on. The workshops will deal with the production of company magazines and journals in the following areas: (1) Layout and

RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR FOR EDITORS 1978

The residential seminary will be held at Glen College, La Trobe University from 16-19 May. The central theme of the seminar will be the financial side of publishing. The list of guest speakers has not been finalised but the program will be as follows:

Tuesday 16th: Alec Bolton talks on 'The Australian Book Trade'.
Evening

Wednesday 17th: THE FINANCIAL DIRECTION OF A PUBLISHING HOUSE

Morning Two sessions focusing on the financial principles operating in different kinds of publishing firms. A panel of four speakers will lead discussion on:

- * how a yearly publishing program is funded
- * how overheads are costed into the total program
- * the proportion of expenditure on 'creative' staff as distinct from accounting or service-ing staff
- * pricing, mark-up, discounts

Afternoon Three activity workshops, to run concurrently on the following sorts of book projects.

'The Political Quickie'
'The Children's Book'
'Reading Scheme/Major Projects' Publishing

Thursday 18th: FINANCIAL CONTROL OF A LIST

Morning Two sessions dealing with the publisher/managing editor's strategies in the financial control of a list. A panel of four speakers will lead discussion on:

- * how much scope they are given in which to operate
- * how they assess the viability of the whole list
- * the relevance of a backlist or overseas list
- * methods of control, whether monthly, quarterly, etc.
- * importance of the seasonal deadline
- * specific problems such as advances, choice of printer, etc.

Afternoon Three activity workshops, to run concurrently, on the following sorts of book projects:

'The Scholarly Sleeper'
'The Mainstream Educational Text'
'The Coffee Table Book'

Evening Dinner and then the Society of Editors Meeting with guest speaker.

Friday 19th: * Review of Seminar
Morning * The Future of Training for Editors

Fee (including full accomodation): \$100
(limited number for non-residential enrolments): \$50

Application forms from: Seminar Convenor, Society of Editors
P.O.Box 176, CARLTON SOUTH VIC 3053

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS *Basil Walby* NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Number 9

13 JUN 1978

June 1978

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Society of Editors will be held on Thursday 29 June at the John Curtin Hotel, 29 Lygon Street, Carlton, from 6.30 pm.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Committee reports
- 3 Election of new President and committee
- 4 Other business

As most of the present committee will not be standing for re-election, it is important that as many editors as possible attend the AGM and that members give some thought to the selection of a new committee. Nominations may be made in writing (to the Secretary) or at the meeting, both with a seconder please. Make sure first that your nominee is willing to stand.

1978 RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR

Although those who attended the seminar seemed to find it both profitable and enjoyable, the number of editors in attendance (especially of those living in) was disappointing. The committee would value feedback on the following points in order to avoid mistakes in the future:

- 1 **CONTENT** Was the subject of the seminar seen as dull, uninteresting stuff? If so, what subject areas are editors more interested in?
- 2 **PUBLICITY** Was advance information about the seminar inadequate or too late in arriving?
- 3 **TIME OF YEAR** Is May a bad month in that the Ed.Soc. seminar clashes with many others?

Comment on these, and other points, may be raised in item 4 of the AGM agenda. Again, advance notice in writing to the Secretary would be appreciated.

FREELANCE EDITORS' REGISTER

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Number 3

April 1978

RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR FOR EDITORS 1978

N.B. APPLICATION FORM overpage. PROGRAM attached.

APRIL MEETING: WRITERS, READERS AND REVIEWERS

STUART SAYERS, editor of the Age book review section, will talk about how he chooses books and reviewers, and the overall balance of the review pages. Not to be missed.

Date: Thursday 27 April
Place: John Curtin Hotel (upstairs)
29 Lygon Street
CARLTON
Time: 6.30 pm

A.J.A. BOOK EDITORS AWARD

A growing number of editors has expressed dissatisfaction with the terms of the current award. A group of Sydney editors will soon be submitting a revised log of claims to the NSW branch of the AJA. They are proposing, among other things, that the Senior Editor classification be equated with the A-grade journalist classification in the Metropolitan Daily award -- not with the B-grade classification as at present. Adjustments in salaries would be as follows:

	Current Salaries (with indexation)	Proposed Salaries
Senior Editor	13,452	15,500
Book Editor	11,055	13,400
Assistant Editor	9,630	10,700
Trainee Editor	8,939	9,000

The Sydney editors are eager to hear from editors in all States who have suggestions or complaints. Contact: (Sydney) Irina Dunn (02) 660 1457 or Jacqueline Kent (02) 516 2155.

A.B.P.A. SMALL PUBLISHERS COMMITTEE

A special A.B.P.A. committee has been appointed to assist small publishers seeking information and advice. The committee will also look at other ways of helping and interesting small publishers. John Ferguson will head the committee, other members of which will be Don Drummond (Primary Education), Garry Eastman (Dove Communications) and John Cody (Chatto, Bodley Head & Jonathan Cape - Australia). The committee will also co-opt John Reed who has special interests in this area.



APPLICATION FORM: RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR FOR EDITORS 1978

NAME: Mr/Ms _____ ADDRESS: _____

TEL.: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

JOB DESIGNATION: _____ EMPLOYER: _____

I would like to attend the Residential Seminar for Editors at Glenn College,
La Trobe University, from 16-19 May 1978 and enclose:

☐ \$30 deposit ☐ \$100 total fee

My preferences for the afternoon workshops are: (fill in boxes '1', '2', '3', etc.
in order of preference for each afternoon)

Wednesday 17th

- ☐ 'The Political Quickie'
- ☐ 'The Children's Book'
- ☐ 'Educational and Scheme Publishing'

Thursday 18th

- ☐ 'The Scholarly Sleeper'
- ☐ 'The Coffee Table Book'
- ☐ 'Educational and Scheme Publishing'

_____(signed)

Send to: Seminar Convenor
Society of Editors
P.O. Box 176
CARLTON SOUTH VIC 3053

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 Number 7

NEXT MEETING

28 MAR 1977

Following last month's most successful meeting at the JOHN CURTIN HOTEL (29 Lygon Street, Carlton), this month's meeting will have as its subject "The Year's Best Selling Education Books". Guests will include Ian Stevenson of L & S and Hugh Slattery of Campion. Other booksellers are being asked to join the audience to throw questions at our guests.

Please note the date: Thursday 31 March. If you intend to have dinner (\$3) would you please be at the pub no later than 6.45pm. We shall ask the guests to address us at 7.30pm sharp, as we have to be out of the pub at 10pm.

THE LOG OF CLAIMS

The log is still being negotiated but we are informed that the AJA and publishers have settled all but one point of the joint log.

Unless something unforeseen happens there should be a settlement shortly.

POSITION VACANT

Since the last newsletter, the following position has been nationally advertised. For more information write to the Publisher.

A H and A W Reed is seeking an experienced and imaginative editor for general books. The position involves developing a comprehensive publishing programme with a practical, leisure and natural history bias. Write to 53 Myoora Rd, TERREY HILLS, NSW.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have recently changed

REGISTER OF FREELANCE EDITORS

We are compiling a new register of freelance editors for 1977. This will be widely circulated to all Australian publishers, both ABPA members and the smaller independent publishers.

Please send us, as soon as possible, details of your background and experience and any specialised editorial work you wish to undertake, together with your name, address and telephone number.

Details should be sent to Anne O'Donovan, 12 Richmond Terrace, RICHMOND, VIC, 3121.

IMPRINT SOCIETY

All EdSoc members are invited to the next meeting of the Imprint Society to be held in the RMIT Staff Room from 6.30pm on Wednesday 6 April.

The guest speaker will be John McLaren, author, book reviewer and "wordsmith".

May's Imprint meeting should also be of interest as the guest will be Nidine Hansen, Senior Document Restorer, Melbourne State Library. May's meeting will be on Wednesday May 4.

file copy

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 number 2

August 1977

NEXT MEETING: 'The Realpolitik of Industrial Awards'

Gareth Evans, until recently Senior Lecturer in Constitutional Law at Melbourne University, and currently practising at the Melbourne Bar, has agreed to talk to us about industrial awards, how they are formulated and reviewed, and how the arbitration system works (or doesn't). This should be an excellent opportunity to clarify some of the more mystifying points in the progress of the AJA Book Editors Award and to find out what is the most relevant information to be gleaned from the next Salary Survey.

Date: 25 August 1977
Time: 6.30 p.m.
Place: John Curtin Hotel
29 Lygon Street,
CARLTON

REPORT ON JULY COPYRIGHT SEMINAR

The one-day Copyright Seminar held at Janet Clarke Hall on 28 July was an unqualified success with 33 attending, most of them for the full day. Peter Banki of the Copyright Council fielded a wide range of questions, from the more abstract ones on terms of contracts to the bread-and-butter business of copyright clearance. He was most interesting on the special problems of oral history, the distinction between 'substantiality' and 'triviality' in fair dealing cases, and on the non-status of publishers' disclaimers. He was on deck for the whole morning and was entertaining and informative throughout.

The afternoon session took on a more political tone with Peter Ryan (MUP) inveighing against the Franki Report on photocopying in a very convincing way. He argued that the Report was totally inadequate as a set of recommendations and that it was urgent for publishers, editors and all those in the book trade to lobby and alert politicians to the real dangers of allowing the Franki Report to be the basis of forthcoming legislation.

N.B. ALSO ABPA Director James Hall's response to the Franki Report is available from the Secretary on request and at the next meeting. Limited number available.

TRAINING COURSE

Latest negotiations with RMIT suggest that we won't have the course approved for 1978 - cutbacks in education funding are responsible for this rather than lack of interest. But it is vital that editors should lobby publishers and influential authors in order to get the course moving.

The delay means that a residential seminar in 1978 is doubly important. Planning for this has begun: now is the time to let the Committee have YOUR ideas about content, approach, speakers, workshop assignments, etc. What features of the 1976 seminar should be retained discarded, enlarged, etc.? Please bombard the Secretary with your responses.

CONGRATULATIONS

to an old friend of many Melbourne editors, Bruce Wilson of Griffin Press. He has just been promoted to Assistant Group Manager, Melbourne.

AJA BOOK EDITORS AWARD

The Agreement reached between the AJA book editors and the book publishers will go before the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission very shortly to be registered as an award of the Court retrospective to 1 May 1977. The High Court proceedings have been the main cause of delay and the award will be reviewed in May 1978.

WORK WANTED

Editor, experienced in Educational publishing, seeks freelance editorial work. Qualified in area of language arts, but prepared to edit or proof read a variety of material. Reasonable hourly rates. Quotes given. Tel: Maureen Webb, (03) 293036

THE BLACK SPOT If your newsletter bears

Basil Walby

27 SEP 1976

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 Number 3

You may be interested to hear that 80 per cent of Melbourne Book Editors now belong to the AJA? No, then how does a record EdSoc membership of 74 grab you?

And they said it couldn't be done!

THE US ANTI-TRUST DECISION
- if you are still confused.

The British Publishers' Association has now revoked the British Publishers' Market Agreement. The agreement reached in the Anti-Trust case preserves the principle of geographical exclusivity in the sale of rights and leaves each US publisher free to buy or sell exclusive publishing rights in any book in any country or group of countries which he likes.

But US publishers must not conspire, or even consult, with each other about what territorial rights to buy or sell to foreign publishers. British publishers are not subject to the jurisdiction of the US courts, but if they continue to consult together and maintain informally a collective bargaining position on the geographical division of rights, the US Dept of Justice could reopen the whole issue. The result then might well be that US publishers would be forbidden by law to sign any contracts giving any geographical exclusivity which would undermine all rights arrangements.

Quite simply, there is no longer any difference between the traditional British Commonwealth territories (which included us), the traditional US publishers' territories (ie, The Phillippines), and the traditional open market.

HELP!

We desperately require a cosy, congenial venue in which to hold our meetings. Ideally, it should be a pub that is happy to allow us a room, and serve meals and drinks at bar prices.

As an incentive, EdSoc will offer a bottle of wine, from an historic vineyard, to the person able to find a suitable location.

POSITIONS VACANT

.The Australian Road Research Board requires an Editorial Assistant for its Publications Section. The appointee will be responsible for the production of a quarterly journal on road research with duties including editing, proof reading, layout and administration of same. One-two years editorial experience would be preferred and a scientific background would be an advantage. Salary in the range \$8501-\$9615 per annum. Telephone (03) 233-1211 for more information.

.Thomas Nelson Australia Ltd is seeking an experienced and imaginative editor to work in the areas of children's books, general trade books and a new paperback list.

This is an opportunity to join a lively and successful Australian publisher in a position which offers responsibility and the potential for personal contribution to a rapidly growing list.

Apply in writing to: Robert Sessions, Thomas Nelson Australia Ltd, 19-39 Jeffcott Street, West Melbourne, 3003.

.William Collins (36-38 Clarence Street, Sydney) requires an experienced person with editorial and book marketing knowledge. The successful applicant will be responsible for co-ordinating and assisting in the development of a wide range of children's and leisure books suitable for

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 Number 2

AJA LOG OF CLAIMS: The State of Play

The following self-explanatory letter was recently sent to over 30 publishers on behalf of editors.

Lloyd O'Neil suggested in his open letter to the book industry that editors organize themselves into a group to meet with a 'group of publishers'. Book editors from Sydney and Melbourne have now met together and formed a body which can speak for us all. (More than thirty Australian publishing houses now have members of the Book Editors' Section of the AJA.) Unfortunately we can find no 'group of publishers' to meet.

We would welcome discussions with all or any publishers, whether litigants in the High Court case or not. Topics of mutual interest include items in the log of claims, suggestions for training programmes for editors, in-house relations between editors and publishers, and any other matters you, as publishers, may wish to discuss.

Informal discussions so far suggest that many publishers are as unhappy with the present situation as we are, and would like to reach an early agreement on the log of claims.

We are willing to confer with any

FINAL ACCOUNTS

The accounts of the Society of Editors for the financial year 1975-6 have been finalised and read as follows:

Opening balance	337.44
less final expenses 1975	<u>82.80</u>
	254.64
Income 1975-6	
subscriptions	<u>572.00</u>
	826.64
Expenditure 1975-6	
newsletter & postage	328.83
speakers' expenses	220.30
wine	80.30
post-box rental	27.00
bank fees	12.04
Tamani's Bistro	<u>63.40</u>
	731.87
Surplus 1975-76	94.77
Represented by:	
Assets (Cash at bank)	<u>\$94.77</u>

We are grateful to Robert Grundy for this statement and for his work as Treasurer last year. We deny the rumour that he was seen boarding a Paraguayan-bound jet last week armed with the Society's chequebook.

POSITION VACANT

In the last year Penguin Books Australia has published DEATH OF THE LUCKY COUNTRY by Donald Horne, DAMNED WHORES AND GOD'S POLICE by Anne Summers, CONFRONTING THE FUTURE by Charles Birch, LAW FOR THE PEOPLE and many other excellent books.

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Number 4

October 1975

RESIDENTIAL COURSE FOR EDITORS

The course will now be held in mid-February, and is for editors with basic experience in the industry and those who are involved in the management of part of a publisher's list.

Participants will be expected to involve themselves fully in the workshop sessions, which will be designed to give practical experience in a variety of publishing situations.

The course directors will be selected for their knowledge of particular aspects of the publishing process and will be able to deal with the various aspects and problems that occur in different types of publishing – educational, general, etc. Case studies will be used wherever possible.

Enrolment forms should be ready for distribution by 1 December 1975 and the cost of the course will be under \$100.

Programme

Day 1 (evening)

- 1 Registration and mixer

Day 2

- 2 The responsibilities of the editor. A panel discussion led by three publishers involved in different types of publications, on the place of the editor in the business framework.

- 3 Project Planning. Practical sessions dealing with definition and quantification of the market based on discussion of the project with the author, consideration of the competition, reaction of the sales department and relation of the proposed publication to the existing list.

- 4 The contract. Consideration of various types of contract. How to answer the author's questions and to ensure that neither side is left in doubt about such matters as royalty rates, subsidiary rights, payment for corrections, preparation of index, etc.

- 5 Subsidiary rights and copyright. Exploitation and control of published works.

Day 3

- 6 Finance and budgets. Rough estimation of extent and costs of production when the manuscript arrives, based on expected initial print run and selling price. Discussion of rate of return and estimation of demand curve over the life of the first printing. Control of a publisher's list.

- 7 Technical sessions. These will be devoted to dealing in some depth with the problems that arise in preparing and reorganising copy for the typesetter, e.g. reference lists, layout of tabular matter, sizing illustrations, etc.

NEXT MEETING

SOCIETY OF EDITORS CELEBRATES OZBOOKWEEK

Our next meeting will be held in the middle of the frantic excitement of Book Week; Thursday 23 October at Tamani's Bistro, Toorak Road, South Yarra. The Great Italian Patriots Room will be open from 6.00 p.m. and the meeting will commence at about 7.30 p.m.

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 Number 2

August 1975

WOMEN IN PUBLISHING: STRATEGIES FOR THE TAKEOVER

We have already had one meeting on the role of women in publishing.. It was generally agreed that women have a low standing in the industry, and it is now time to look at positive approaches to the situation. At our next meeting, several women who have achieved success will be talking of their careers and the problems they've had to overcome.. We have invited the following to make up our panel:

In the chair will be JOYCE NICHOLSON, Managing Director of D.W. Thorpe Pty Ltd, which publishes Bookseller and Publisher and Books in Print.. She is the author of several books. We feel that Joyce has the ideal overall knowledge of publishing to enable her to chair this meeting.

RUTH HAMILTON is the Marketing Manager of Jacaranda Press, Brisbane, with whom she has been for seven years. Before that she was working on materials development at A.C.E.R. It is interesting to note that after the Managing Director, the two most senior people at Jacaranda are women.

HILARY MCPHEE has been an editor at Penguin and Senior Editor at Heinemann.. Early this year she started her own company in partnership with Di Gribball. Hilary spoke at our last forum on women and it was generally felt that she had much more to offer than time allowed.. She is coauthor of Media She.

BARBARA KER-WILSON is well known as the former Children's Editor for Angus and Robertson, and has recently founded the successful children's list for Hodder and Stoughton (Australia). Her success in this field has been the envy of many editors.

TRAINING

A committee consisting of Sally Milner, Jim Hart, John Curtain, Bev Knowles and Basil Walby has been formed to organize a 2-3 day training course on the Business of Publishing. It is expected to be residential, to allow interstate members to attend.. The venue and date are not yet fixed, but present thinking is for early December at Melbourne University. An application is to be made to the Literature Board for some form of financial assistance.. The topics to be covered will include

-the market
-the contract
-copyright

At this stage plans are very fluid, but the course will be discussed at the September meeting.. So that this discussion can be as useful as possible, interstate members are asked to indicate as soon as possible to the secretary whether they would be interested in coming, any preferences as to dates etc., and comments on the sorts of things that should be discussed.. The secretary is Anne O'Donovan, 12 Richmond Terrace, Richmond Vic. 3121.

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

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July 1975

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held at Tamani Bistro on 19 June and the committee for the next year was elected.

The committee is:

Chairman	Sally Milner	Greenhouse	Speakers Secretary	Carol Bram	MUP
Secretary	Anne O'Donovan	Penguin	Other members	Annette Carter	Cheshire
Treasurer	Robert Grundy	Penguin		Liz Richmond	Longman
Newsletter editor	Laurie Martinelli	CSIRO		Basil Walby	CSIRO
Newsletter prod'n	Jim Hart	Himself		John Curtin	Lansdowne
Training and Press	Bev Knowles	RMIT		Liz Douglas	Hutchinson

Chairman's report

The retiring chairman, Basil Walby, reported to the meeting as follows:

The past year has been a full one for the Society. A wide variety of speakers has graced our upper room at Tamani's mainly due to the efforts of our Speaker Secretary Carol Bram. Only in December when we thinly joined the Book Trade Group for their annual Party and in January (the closed season) did we not have at least one visitor address us. Although it is invidious to select names from the list, I consider we were extremely fortunate to persuade Professor Manning Clark and Stephen Murray-Smith to visit us in March and April, respectively.

The year opened and closed with economic clouds surrounding editors and publishers alike. The salary survey was completed by Christmas when Stuart Sayers gave us some much needed publicity in *The Age*; a summary of the results appeared later in the February issue of *Bookseller and Publisher*. We now look forward with some trepidation to the effects of inflation on publishers' profits and their ability to contract enough books to keep editors in work.

Jackie Yowell organized three training sessions most efficiently - thus clearly showing that our members are really interested in improving their technical knowledge.

The Society made submissions to two Committees during the year. The first to the Attorney-General's "Copyright Law Committee on Reprographic Reproduction" evoked an invitation for us to appear before Mr Justice Franki in Melbourne. Jackie Yowell and I were grilled for over two hours by the Committee who questioned us closely on many aspects of copying and its effect on publishers' sales. Our written submission to the Victorian Committee on the Status of Women pointed to the marked

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 Number 8

March 1975

Recent days have brought cultural cataclysms that would strain even the strongest and healthiest nervous system, let alone one as delicate as my own. First there was the end of the dreaded daylight saving and not knowing whether one was ahead or behind, and the cows are confused and the hens are off the lay; this was compounded by the dreaded colour television which seemed to fluctuate every few seconds between a sepia-washed monochrome and a technicolour light show that would do credit to an off-register Women's Weekly social page; and if that wasn't all more than enough, god help us, we were blessed with all the fun of Moomba, dancing in the streets and the Herald outdoor art show. Is it any wonder that sales of Valium have reached an all-time record? The human brain was never meant to cope with this sort of assault.

Not surprisingly, the demands made on my neurones by these external influences quite beyond my control caused a temporary breakdown in the creative centres (such as they are) of the cerebrum — with the result that there is a paucity of information — a veritable dearth of diversions — in this month's newsletter. Fortunately my shortcomings have been offset to some extent by the arrival of a Contribution — a most welcome event for this undernourished publication. For some time I have felt that the newsletter should be a forum for the thoughts and opinions of editors on any subject that may be of relevance to their peers... but what

that publishing entails from commissioning to selling; Lloyd O'Neill sees the editor as the one who turns a vision into reality and therefore as one who should have an understanding of all the mechanics of such a corporatisation. In contrast, Anne Godden wants her editors to edit and leave such matters as design and production to designers and production managers. And Hilary McPhee was the voice of one who is her own editor and her own publisher (but the on-the-spot reporter was out buying yet another flagon at the time).

Of course, it all depends on what one means by editor. This problem of definition has been met before, but never resolved. Nevertheless there is obviously a difference between what one may call the 'managing editor' or perhaps 'commissioning editor' (being the overseer of a project and general entrepreneur) and the 'copy editor' or 'desk editor' who is more involved with the nitty-gritty of the manuscript, performing a function that in part is similar to that of a newspaper's sub-editor.

Hopefully, the evening gave each side a glimpse of the other. The question of what is expected of editors and what editors expect of their employers is a continuing one. Last month it was continued over coffee after the meeting, and no doubt it will be continued again. Stay tuned.

MEETINGS

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 Number 3

September 1974

HAVE YOU BEEN PAYING ATTENTION?

For some time now (nearly a year) the Society of Editors has been talking to itself about how hardly done by we all are. In fact there has been quite a bit of talking (but not to excess, mind you) and even some cautious tentative action in a restrained and discreet manner as befits a profession that makes a point of not drawing attention to itself.

There was, as you may remember, a questionnaire circulated earlier this year in which members were asked for a few details about what they do and what they get paid for doing it. This was intended as a preliminary study to give some quantitative idea of the existing situation and the high proportion of members who responded to the questionnaire suggested a correspondingly high level of interest in this area of editorial salaries.

Although most members seem to think editors' salaries should be improved, there is less agreement on what — if anything — the Society should do about it.

Regardless of the course finally taken, the committee now feels that more detailed information is required so we can try to establish some sort of job definition for editors. If there is to be any sort of recognised salary scale for editors it may have to be related to something more accurately defined than just 'copy editor', 'sponsoring editor', etc.

AND THAT IS WHY ...

With this newsletter there should be a questionnaire that asks all manner of personal details about what you do as an editor. Please do your best to answer it as accurately as possible; feel free to annotate or add further information if you think it relevant.

NEVERTHELESS

There is no point in the EdSoc committee working on things in which members are not really interested. The thoughts presented above assume that members want the Society to act — *inter alia* — as a union, helping to look after the financial well-being of its members.

Is this what members want? Thoughts on this will be welcomed, either vocally at meetings or in writing to the newsletter editor. Perhaps such activity should be specifically stated in the aims of the Society in the Constitution. Maybe now is the time for all good editors to stand up and be counted.

AND NOW TO CHANGE TO SUBJECT

Some members have expressed interest in the workshop sessions proposed recently. Those who wrote in will be informed in due course of what is being arranged.

COPYRIGHT LAW

Those present at last month's meeting learnt a lot about the Australian Copyright Council from David Catterns. The Society is now receiving the Council's information bulletins on a regular basis.

Our Chairman has written to the Attorney-General's Copyright Law Committee on Reprographic Reproduction expressing the Society's interest in the Committee's work. Your committee will discuss the value of our making a formal submission to Canberra at their next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

This great event will be held on Thursday 19 September when our guest will be Mr Tim Curnow from Curtis Brown (Australia).

Dave Walby

MAY 1974

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 3

Number 9

May 1974

THE STORY SO FAR...

Some months ago this newsletter made some initial rumblings about the state of editors' salaries. The point was made that in the absence of some recognised award or scale of salaries editors are dependent on the generosity/mercy of their publisher employers. As usual it is a case of every wo/man for h/self:* Publishers are motivated by profit not generosity so expecting the initial move to come from them is like waiting for Richard Milhouse to send you an LP of selected home conversations with expletives intact. Or like trying NOT to get a subscription to Reader's Digest Monthly Encyclopaedia of Macrame and Witchcraft at Home for Fun and Profit, but I digress.

Editors, by and large, are not of a militant/activist disposition usually associated with industrial action, preferring instead punctuation to negotiation, page proofs to power politics (alliteration to arbitration, even). Nevertheless with a bit of prodding here and there quite a lot of interest has been shown: the issues have been discussed, a questionnaire has been circulated with quite a good return and some people are beginning to say well what happens now?

From discussion at the meeting in March it was generally agreed that our best line of attack would be through an established body which already has an award and/or the machinery for initiating one. In particular it was resolved that the Australian Journalists Association should be approached.

NOW READ ON...

Inquiries to that body have now elicited the advice that the federal executive considers that publishing editors (for want of a better categorisation) are eligible to join the AJA and that the AJA would take up our cause if sufficient proportion of editors join. This is understood to mean at least fifty percent.

AT THE NEXT MEETING...

Sally White, vice-president of the Victorian branch of the AJA (and a member of

SEXIST ADVERTISING DEPT.

Longman's Sales and Promotions manager has requested that the newsletter publish the following advertisement which he believes may be of interest to people currently working in editorial capacities. The Newsletter's editorial policies do not extend to censorship of advertising and the editor withholds judgment in the interests of equanimity.

THIS COULD BE THE JOB FOR YOU (IF YOU ARE FEMALE)

Longman is establishing its very own sales operation and needs the services of a young lady to organize and operate the sales promotion effort under the guidance of the Sales Manager. If you have had experience in preparing copy for adverts, in the design and scheduling of ads, preparing and maintaining mailing lists - then you could be a candidate. The job will also involve dealing with both trade and school enquiries.

APPLICATIONS to be in writing only to Richard Taylor, Longman Australia Pty Limited, 427 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn East, Vic. 3123, to arrive no later than Monday, 27th May. Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

AND IN CONCLUSION

I know this has been a short newsletter, lacking in scandal and sensationalism, but nevertheless there lies behind its humble facade a wealth of well-meaning intensity, a veritable overflowing of loving devotion to the editorial ideal of saying no more than absolutely necessary. Correspondence and responsibility for election comment will be accepted by the newsletter's editor, Jim Hart, 188 Weston Street, East Brunswick 3057.

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 Number 6 December 1974

The Society of Editors recently conducted a survey among editors, both members and non-members, to determine current salaries in relation to duties and levels of responsibility. It was intended that this information would assist the Society in its efforts to improve editors' conditions. A summary of some of the results of the survey is given below. The small number of replies (55) prevents detailed analysis but nevertheless some interesting (and alarming) results emerge.

About 150 questionnaires were distributed; 55 were returned, of which 26 came from members.

Figures for salaries are subdivided according to function (managing editor, senior editor, copy editor) and workplace (commercial publisher or government body). These categories do not cover all respondents, obvious exceptions being trainee editors, freelancers and editors at university presses.

Classification	Mean salary	Range
<i>Managing editor</i>		
Commercial	\$8600 (8)	\$5000—\$15000
Government	12400 (4)	10300—16300
<i>Senior editor</i>		
Commercial	7700 (8)	6000—11100
Government	13600 (8)	11000—15000
<i>Copy editor</i>		
Commercial	6900 (7)	5500—9700
Government	10000 (5)	8000—10800
<i>All editors (except trainee or freelance)</i>	\$6950 (28)	\$11900 (19)

The obvious conclusion is that government editors are vastly better off than their commercial counterparts. In many professions today the highest salaries are found in the public service, but not 50 per cent above the salaries being paid in industry.

As well as salaries, the other purpose of the questionnaire concerned the role of the Society in improving conditions. Specifically respondents were asked should it seek to establish itself officially as a trade union? Replies to this were broadly divided into 23 for, 19 against and 13 undecided or don't

fore covered by other salary awards. And as the salary table shows, government-employed editors are doing all right without needing an editors' union.

Given that editors in commercial publishing are more likely to need a union it is not surprising that as a group they were more pro-unionization than their public-servant colleagues. Commercial editors (both members and non-members) came out 21 for, 10 against, 7 non-replies, compared with 2, 9, 6 from government editors (most of whom were non-members).

WHERE TO NOW?

The two main points to come out of the survey were the disparity between 'commercial' and government editors and the lack of conviction on unionization.

Even allowing for the view that all public servants are overpaid, the salaries in the commercial area do not look very impressive. Not only do they start very low with most editors still below \$6000 after two years' experience but the rise to around \$8000 for an editor with ten years' experience does not make the editorial career very attractive financially. By comparison many professions would pay at least \$6000 for a graduate with no experience who could expect \$8000 within two or three years.

As well as missing out on salary, most commercially-employed editors are also badly off in their conditions. None of these respondents received the benefit of National Wage Case decisions; annual leave is generally only three weeks with no loading (some have never even heard of the now-prevalent leave loading). Bonuses and perks of any sort are extremely rare.

Yet despite the unfavourable pay and conditions editors seem loath to act. The 26 members who replied to the questionnaire represent less than half the paid-up membership and the fifteen who said yes to unionization are not even a quarter.

If editors are dissatisfied with their lot they can either put up with it and suffer in silence or they can actively do something about it. But if the latter they should be prepared to make an ultimatum and put their jobs on the line to show that they mean what they say.

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 Number 2 August 1974

TRAINING

The role of the Society of Editors as a training body was raised again at the last meeting. It is sometimes forgotten that one of the stated aims of the Society is to maintain a high professional standard and with this aim in mind the committee has been considering the matter of training.

It was suggested to the meeting that occasional informal 'workshop' sessions might be of interest/value to members, most of whom are active 'practising' editors, to improve their appreciation of certain aspects of printing and publishing.

Initial response seemed sufficiently keen to warrant distributing a very brief form on which members could show their interest in any of the three proposed workshops — proof reading and corrections; photosetting; preparing artwork.

Three weeks later only two forms had been returned.

Obviously there are plenty of editors who either know about these topics already or else are not interested. But one would have thought — and the last meeting seemed to confirm this — that there are also quite a few who would like to know more without having to enrol in a complete course.

The following two paragraphs are from the screed given out at the meeting and summarize some of the committee's intentions on training courses.

The committee hopes to survey and prepare a report on the facilities that presently exist. Apart from the course at Caulfield, which the Society itself instigated, and which is about to flower into a much more substantial course, several other colleges

therefore, raised the possibility of the Society itself undertaking the arrangement of some informal training projects. These are visualized as short, small workshop-type sessions on specialized areas of the publishing process. What they will amount to is a group of half a dozen or so interested members meeting, probably after hours, to discuss with an 'expert' a particular aspect of publishing about which they would all like to know more.

In case you missed the last meeting the workshop descriptions and the form are enclosed with this newsletter.

All right, so it was just a suggestion and if you don't like it that's fine: the Society only exists to act in the interests of its members. But sometimes it is hard to find what those interests are.

It would seem that editors by nature are not generally disposed to acts requiring great personal motivation. The favourite response to any idea is usually 'Yes, good idea (clap, cheer) ... somebody should do something about it'.

And once again, EdSoc members appear to have favoured an idea in principle but failed to follow it through in practice.

THE NEXT MEETING

should be of great interest to editors and all people concerned with publishing.

That ever-present but little-understood topic of COPYRIGHT will be the main subject of the evening's discussions and flying in from Sydney for the occasion will be David Catterns, BA, LLB, who is legal research officer of the Australian Copyright Council Ltd. He will speak to the meeting on the case of Moorhouse vs University of NSW (the photocopying test case) and also on the general role of the Council.

26 APR 1974

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 3

Number 8

April 1974

"Good, Watson, good. But not, I fear, good enough."

Who said these words and why? Choose one:

- (a) Sherlock Holmes to Dr Watson in the case of the spotted band.
- (b) James Crick to an unnamed colleague concerning the structure of DNA.
- (c) EdSoc Chairman Trevor Barr to Watson Smith (EdSoc newsletter reporter) speaking about the response to the Society's questionnaire.

Score 10 points if you answered (c).

Score -10 if you have not returned your questionnaire yet.

With the last newsletter editors should have received a questionnaire on salaries and related matters, designed to help the Society's efforts to improve the lot of its members. So far response has been quite good but (you guessed it) not good enough. Because the questionnaire was anonymous we cannot tell who has replied, therefore another questionnaire is included with this newsletter. If you have already replied please ignore it, but if not please return it as soon as possible. This is your last chance - I don't want to have to tell you again.

Melanie Magee

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 3

Number 4

November 1973

ONCE MORE . . .

Like the infant moon rising ahead of the sun into the snowy dawn on high Parnassus, the EdSoc newsletter bursts forth (gently) into November with the grace and élan of a worried armadillo to recall the majesty of the preceding darkness and harbinger the exploding glories of the day.

(This newsletter will soon be released as a movie of the same name in cinemascope and technicolour, directed by Stanley Kubrick, theme music by Richard 'Also Sprach' Strauss).

ANOTHER EDITORIAL

In the last newsletter the function, purpose and direction of the society was questioned. No correspondence was received (sob) but there have been clandestine mutterings among some members.

One of the original *raison d'être* of the society was to act as a professional body representing the interests of members, in particular in establishing and maintaining salary scales for editors. Little seems to have been done however except for a survey of salaries a couple of years ago which showed that, among the small sample who replied to the questionnaire, the salaries were as diverse as the respondents' duties and responsibilities with a few doing quite all right (usually those in or near management/decision-making areas) and rather more doing not so all right.

A number of people now feel that something should be done about generally improving editors' salaries. At present, there being no recognised award or base level, publishers seem to determine editors' salaries by an ad hoc process based on what one managing director calls 'current market rates' - i.e. whatever other publishers are paying. While this method may be defended in terms of supply and demand it also means that apart from minor adjustments such as the national wage case decisions and across-the-board company salary reviews, increases will only occur with staff replacement when an employer usually has to offer a prospective employee a bit more than s/he is already

Henry James was a commaputter

CAROL BRAM

Commas can be overdone a bit and an editor is helpless to do anything about it when it is put (mercifully?) in quotation marks and rendered 'untouchable'. What to do? Pepper it with [sic]s or just hand it to the printer with a groan? The item is by the illustrious Henry James who in the preface to The Portrait of a Lady wrote as follows in reference to character:

Trying to recover here, for recognition, the germ of my idea, I see that it must have consisted not at all in any conceit of a 'plot', nefarious name, in any flash, upon the fancy, of a set of relations, or in any one of those situations that, by a logic of their own, immediately fall, for the fabulist, into movement, into a march or a rush, a patter of quick steps; but altogether in the sense of a single character and aspect of a particularly engaging young woman, to which all the usual elements of a 'subject', certainly of a setting, were to need to be superadded.

Perhaps there are compensations to being an editor in the twentieth century.

Last word

The much maligned comma sometimes comes in useful, though ...

'I have now been in bed with this same doctor for two months and if my health continues to deteriorate as a result of his inadequate treatment I shall feel compelled to call a second doctor and perhaps even a specialist.'

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 Number 12 FEB - MAR 1973

Because of the busy schedule of our guest speaker this month, the regular meeting date of the Society has had to be postponed. Members will be advised of the time and date of the meeting as soon as arrangements have been completed, and before the next issue of the Newsletter.

EDITOR OF THE YEAR

Janet McKenzie, formerly of Melbourne University Press, is the winner of this year's Barbara Ramsden Award.

The prize, awarded jointly to the author and editor of the 'outstanding work of quality writing and presentation', was given for The Making of the Australian Constitution by Professor J. A. La Nauze, and published by M.U.P.

Janet was one of the 'founders' of the Society and was its first Chairman. Unfortunately she was not able to be present at the award dinner given by the organisers, The Fellowship of Australian Writers: she is at present in England, where she went two years ago, working as a freelance editor.

THE TREASURY

The Honorary Treasurer's report for February indicates that the Society

BOOK PUBLISHERS MEET

The annual conference of the Australian Book Publishers Association will be held in Melbourne this year from Tuesday, March 27 to Thursday, March 29. The conference will be held at the Hotel Windsor.

RENT AN INDEXER

The Society of Indexers advises that it is able to provide a panel of 'registered indexers' and publishers can be supplied with the names of indexers with specialist knowledge. Anyone interested should contact Mr H. Godfrey Green, Corresponding Member in Australia for the society, at 25 Rosedale Road, Glen Iris, Victoria, 3146.

EDITING COURSE

So many applications were received for this year's course in editing and publishing at Caulfield Institute of Technology that the organisers have decided to repeat the course later in the year. The course, Words Into Print, provides a basic grounding in the processes involved in the preparation of material for the various print media.

Enquiries should be made with Margaret Scott at C.I.T.

IMPRINT SOCIETY

13 APR 1973

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

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SISTER SOCIETY

The committee of the Society of Editors has had informal talks with the Society of Industrial and Scientific Editors to see if closer links can be established between the two groups.

Unlike the S.O.E., the membership of the S.I.S.E. is predominantly male -- a fact which (seriously folks) could be one good reason for closer ties.

S.I.S.E. members are mainly employed on house journals, periodicals and in publicity, and most of the members belong to the Australian Journalists Association. However, one of the objects of their society is to act as a 'central source of information on the science of communications for members and non-members' and to 'provide a forum for the exchange of views on the techniques of editing'.

Obviously the two groups have much in common and we hope to have a guest speaker from the ranks of the S.I.S.E. at a forthcoming meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER

The well-known writer and author Rennie Ellis will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the Society on Thursday, April 26. Among other things he will speak about the relative rewards of writing and photography.

Time: 8 p.m. Place: Tamani Bistro, Toorak Road, South Yarra. Date: Thursday, April 26.

The meeting will be the first to be held at what is hoped will be our new regular meeting-place, the upstairs room at Tamani's. Members who wish to have a meal beforehand are asked to

THE CENSORSHIP QUESTION

The annual conference of the Australian Book Publishers Association, held in Melbourne this month, instructed its executive to send telegrams to the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria protesting at proposed new 'anti-pornography' legislation at present being introduced in both States.

The step is seen as especially significant, since in the past the A.B.P.A. has generally felt that censorship was a matter for individual members. The association is particularly concerned that the legislation will cause hardship to publishers of 'books of genuine literary merit', and that in cases where prosecutions are launched the right of trial by jury may be denied.

(At present, in Victoria, all publishers are required to register themselves under the Police Offences Act; in the event of a conviction their registration (i.e., ability to publish anything) may be withdrawn, and such convictions are classified as criminal, not civil, offences - Ed.)

In Victoria, the 'R-certificate' system proposed by the Chief Secretary, Mr Meagher, has caused particular controversy. Because of the great interest in the question, the Society of Editors has invited Mr Meagher to address a forthcoming meeting of the Society. Mr Meagher has indicated that he is willing to do this as soon as a convenient time can be arranged. In the meantime he is sending the Society an outline of his proposed legislation. This will be summarised for the information of members in the Newsletter.

BOOK SALES

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SISTER SOCIETY

The committee of the Society of Editors has had informal talks with the Society of Industrial and Scientific Editors to see if closer links can be established between the two groups.

Unlike the S.O.E., the membership of the S.I.S.E. is predominantly male -- a fact which (seriously folks) could be one good reason for closer ties.

S.I.S.E. members are mainly employed on house journals, periodicals and in publicity, and most of the members belong to the Australian Journalists Association. However, one of the objects of their society is to act as a 'central source of information on the science of communications for members and non-members' and to 'provide a forum for the exchange of views on the techniques of editing'.

Obviously the two groups have much in common and we hope to have a guest speaker from the ranks of the S.I.S.E. at a forthcoming meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER

The well-known writer and author Rennie Ellis will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the Society on Thursday, April 26. Among other things he will speak about the relative rewards of writing and photography.

Time: 8 p.m. Place: Tamani Bistro, Toorak Road, South Yarra. Date: Thursday, April 26.

The meeting will be the first to be held at what is hoped will be our new regular meeting-place, the upstairs room at Tamani's. Members who wish to have a meal beforehand are asked to arrive at 6.30 p.m. BYOG.

utive to send telegrams to the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria protesting at proposed new 'anti-pornography' legislation at present being introduced in both States.

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Society
of Editors

NEWSLETTER

SUPPLEMENT TO THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

LAST CHANCE TO RENEW

A few members have still not yet renewed their subscriptions for the current financial year. If your copy of this Newsletter carries a red cross in the space below, we will, regretfully, have to cancel your membership and your subscription to the Newsletter unless your cheque is received this month.

Cheques (\$7.50 full membership; \$5.00 associate membership) should be made payable to The Society of Editors, and sent to Heather Kelly, Treasurer, C/- F. W. Cheshire Publishing Pty. Ltd., 346 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne 3004.

RED CROSS INDICATES WE
ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE
SENDING NEWSLETTER UNLESS
YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS RENEWED

EDITORIAL VACANCY

Cheshire Publishing will have a vacancy for a house editor in November. A responsible, well-organised person, preferably with experience in book editing, is sought. Details from Mr. Trevor Barr, Publishing Manager, Cheshire Publishing Pty. Ltd., 346 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 Number 8 September 1972

Our apologies to readers who were mystified by the numbering of last month's issue of the Newsletter. It was the August issue and we're still on Volume Two.

And on the subject of the Newsletter, the programme for the next meeting of the Society will in future always appear at the foot of this column.

The Society's booking for The Godfather on September 4 produced a rather lukewarm response and the outing was cancelled. Instead, plans are under way for a theatre night. Social Secretary Sally Milner will have the details in a couple of weeks.

A course in indexing is being offered by Mr H. Godfrey Green, corresponding member in Australia for the Society of Indexers. This society, Mr Green tells us, was founded in London in 1957, and has been successful in having more books and periodicals provided with indexes, the status of the indexer raised and the quality of indexes improved.

The Society has members in 15 countries and is seeking to increase its membership in Australia. A training course in indexing will begin early in 1973, but in the meanwhile Mr Green is offering personal lessons. These are described as 'supplementary to the Society's training course' and there is a charge of \$20 for ten evening lessons. Further details from Mr Green, Tel. 25 3314.

NEXT MEETING

Mr Roger Seddon, the Production Manager of Lansdowne Press, will explain how publishers cost their books, at the next meeting of the Society.

Time: 8 p.m. Place: Cheshire Pub-

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

The traditional anonymity of book editors has been a topic of discussion in the profession for a long time, but at the moment the advocates of 'credit for editors' seem to be increasing.

It may be that the formation of the Society has stimulated the discussion of this and other traditions of publishing and editing; in any case, the debate promises to become more lively. At the moment, the 'anonymous' camp is not particularly vocal - the main argument for editorial anonymity being that one of the editor's prime functions is to transmit rather than re-shape the author's creation.

But some books require a greater degree of editorial participation than others (the editors of anthologies are invariably given greater prominence on the title page than the contributors) and the trend in the future could well be to give house editors acknowledgement on certain kinds of books where they have played a significant part in rebuttal. In the meantime, readers may ponder the fact that our correspondent wishes to remain

LIGHTS UNDER A BUSHEL

By a correspondent

The other day a historic event occurred. An author recognised that, despite their constant nagging, prompts, enthusiastic encouragement and not so diplomatic discouragement, threats and sighs, editors had made a valuable contribution to his book.

Dear sweet thing - he mentioned it in his acknowledgements. It was with considerable chagrin that I applied that delete sign and obliterated with one firm stroke those few rare kind words. We all know that it is simply not done, in publishing, to mention any names. It is quite in order, of course, to credit consultants, illustrators, designers, printers and, within the preface, to thank all and sundry, including the typist and the mates who give moral support - but never, under any circumstances, must

Carol

Society of Editors

May 1972

NEWSLETTER

Next meeting

When? Thursday 18 May at 8.00 p.m.

Where? Cheshires, 346 St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

Who's speaking? Barry Oakley, the well-known author, short-story writer, and playwright. When he is not doing his own thing, such as the acclaimed 'Feet of Daniel Mannix', Barry works professionally as a creative writer for the Department of Trade and Industry. He has published with a number of different publishers but prefers not to mention any names on the grounds that he might incriminate them. The title of the talk itself rather suggests an indictment: 'The Problems of Being Provincial' or 'Being an Author in Australia'. We are hoping Barry will join us for our usual nosh and natter at Tamani's in Toorak Road before the meeting. Sounds like an entertaining evening.

Last meeting

Since that unmentionable small scarlet text, it has probably been more essential than ever for Don Chipp to have a good public relations team. Judging by the guest speaker at the last meeting, Mr G.W. Sheldon from the Department of Customs and Excise, Don's senior officers do a pretty good job themselves. What's more, one got the distinct impression that Mr Sheldon really meant what he was saying and a number of us who had started out with completely closed minds on the issue of censorship being justifiable even considered reconsidering it.

Like his boss, Mr Sheldon was frank, and did not evade questions. He emphasized Mr Chipp's policy that there should be no secrecy about censorship. The public should know what is being censored, by whom, and for what reasons.

The Department will soon be publishing regular lists of prohibited materials. Why is a publication prohibited? When it is 'blasphemous; places undue emphasis on sex, horror, or violence; or is likely to deprave or corrupt'. Who says it does? Apparently, the 'obvious rubbish' is tossed straight into the garbage can by junior officials. Erring on the generous side (Mr Sheldon hastened to add), they pass anything which is not obvious rubbish through the upward filtering process. (Promotion in Customs and Excise has its drawbacks - you miss out on all the really juicy stuff!) Those publications which could infringe the regulations in one respect yet have merit in another are passed on to the National Literacy Board of Review who make a decision on whether to release or ban it. The decisions of the Board - as of the Department as a whole - are usually, if not always, accepted by the public.

THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 Number 6 JULY 1972

SOCIETY'S NEW CHAIRMAN

Miss Bridget Everett has been elected Chairman of the Society of Editors. She succeeds Peter Hammond who has resigned. The annual general meeting of the Society on June 15 also elected a new committee: Merril Yule (Secretary); Heather Kelly (Treasurer); Sally Milner (Speaker Secretary); Marilyn Brouwer (Publicity Officer); Ruth Dixon (Training Officer), and John Currey (Newsletter Editor). Marion O'Shea, Hedley Finger, Jackie Yowell and Ellen Davies have resigned.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Editorial and production changes have made this issue of the Newsletter rather lean. From necessity, it also contains an unusually high proportion of 'service information'. Next month's issue will be more substantial.

In its role as a professional journal, the Newsletter is an ideal vehicle for a discussion of the practical day-to-day problems of the editor's craft. From next issue we will carry a Letters To the Editor column which can serve as a forum for members' views on these problems (correspondents' names will be withheld from publication if this is requested). If possible, letters should be kept to 250 words: articles can run to about 500 words. If you have any thoughts, please ring the Editor, 26-2680, or send material to P.O. Box 49, South Yarra, Victoria, 3141.

EDITORIAL POSITION VACANT

Cassell Australia Limited is seeking a senior editor to work on general

Australia Limited, P.O. Box 32,
North Melbourne 3051. Tel. 329-8577.

INCOME TAX RETURNS

Sorry, but we can't report that most editors can expect to claim anything special in the way of income tax deductions. Members of the Society can, of course, claim for their annual subscriptions. You may also be able to persuade the Taxation Commissioner to accept as deductions subscriptions to trade journals such as The Bookseller and Publishers' Weekly; depreciation on a typewriter and on a personal reference library. In the latter cases, however, it may be necessary to prove that your employer requires you to do some work at home - in which case you may also be able to make further claims arising out of the use of your home as an office.

It is often worthwhile to have your return prepared by a taxation consultant. He will charge you about \$25, but will almost certainly save you more than that, and his fee is a legitimate deduction. Alternatively you can use the evening telephone advisory service at the head office of the Taxation Department in all States.

Freelance editors can claim a much wider range of deductions, including a proportion of car expenses, rent, heating and power, telephone, office furniture, travel and entertainment. Freelancers who don't already know the lurks should definitely use a taxation consultant.

AWARD FOR EDITING

The Barbara Ramsden Award for the author and editor of the outstanding work of quality writing and presentation will be made again this year. (It was won last year by Michael Canon and Sue Bevan). Entries close

Next meeting

When? Thursday 22 April at 7.45 p.m.
Where? Cheshire Publishing, 346 St Kilda Road (opposite the Shrine)
What? A subject of vital importance to editors - 'Libel'
Who? Mr Peter Ryan, Director of Melbourne University Press
Who else? Anyone in publishing who is interested enough to come along
We hope to see you there

P.S. In future meetings are to be held on the third Thursday in each month, so plan to keep this night free.

A PLEA FROM OUR TREASURER

Would all those who have not claimed their receipts for fees please see the Treasurer, Sue Beavan, at the next meeting. (Note: contributions will be tax deductible.) Would the generous person who handed over \$1 at the November meeting but did not give ~~their~~ name also please see Sue.

YOUR INTERIM COMMITTEE

Chairman: Peter Hammond
Treasurer: Sue Beavan
Secretary: Janet McKenzie
Speakers Secretary and Publicity: Hedley Finger
Training Officer: Ruth Dixon
Newsletter: Di Goodall

This voluntary committee is acting in a temporary capacity and it is proposed that a permanent committee should be elected in the near future. Please consider helping on this committee - those who attend meetings are already aware of the benefits of the Society. A business meeting will be arranged soon to discuss this and the development of our future plans.

Postscript:

A designer or manufacturer who keeps his nose glued to his own grindstone will have some difficulty in keeping his ear to the ground at the same time.

For a moment he stood there looking into her eyes. Between them was a bowl of hyacinths.

He gets every anonymous letter that is sent in and sees to it that the writers are answered.

The first essential in the treatment of burns is that the patient should be removed from the fire.

PANTASTICALLY IMPORTANT MEETING

The SBE is about to undergo the most important event in its young life. At the meeting at Thursday, 20 May, the constitution (enclosed with this newsletter) will be discussed and, we hope, adopted.

Think about the wording. Decide if this is the shape you want the society to take. Be prepared to put your views.

Change of venue

The committee felt that the room at Cheshire's was too small for the huge throng of enthusiastic editors we are expecting. It has been decided to hold the meeting in opulence and truly-Oriental-splendour at Macmillan's, 107 Moray Street, South Melbourne.

Impecunious editors can catch a No. 12 tram in Collins Street to York Street. Hungry editors can gorge themselves on tea and bikkies. Punctual editors can arrive at 7.45 p.m.

Elections

Some members of the committee are unable to stand for re-election. Here is your chance to organize a bloodless coup. Seize power, achieve fame. Otherwise the society will founder before it is founded.

Remember -

Thursday, 20 May 1971 at 7.45 p.m.

Macmillan Co. of Australia, 107 Moray Street, South Melbourne

WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE MARCH MEETING

Mr Bill Kerr, Director of Longman Australia, gave an iconoclastic talk called 'Charting one's ignorance; or, priorities in publishing'.

He listed five priorities in order of importance.

The Imprint

The imprint is like an umbrella or, to use a nasty modern word, an image.

It conveys to the public the quality of the publisher's reputation in his chosen field. It is conveyed partly by the style of design and production, and the care taken in these fields. More importantly, it is formed by the 'domestic ethos' of the firm: the kind of people who are employed, their relations with others in the firm and with people outside it, their ambitions and attitudes. At best, they will be united in a common concern for the product, and will be scrupulous in producing it; they will be committed to the belief in the enterprise of the imprint.

The power of a good, established imprint should not be underestimated: it is both an entree card and a powerful draw.