

Academy Fellowship expands

At the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, held in Perth on 4 November 2000, fifteen Australian scholars were elected Fellows of the Academy in recognition of their distinguished contributions to research in the Humanities in Australia. **Professor Ien Ang**, an internationally renowned leader in Communication and Cultural Studies, has made a pioneering contribution to the development of interpretive media audience studies.

Professor Johann Arnason is a distinguished scholar whose research is centred upon the investigation of the cultural presuppositions of the modern world's self-understanding, especially in Western, Central and Eastern European cultures.

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Executive Director

Dr David Bennett

Dr Lawrence Warner

Address

3rd Floor, Garden Wing
University House, ANU

Postal Address

GPO Box 93, Canberra
ACT 2601

Phone +61 2 6248 7744

Internal ANU x 2130

Fax +61 2 6248 6287

E-mail aah.office@anu.edu.au

URL www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/aah/

Professor Virginia Blain has established an international reputation in the area of nineteenth-century English literature with a special emphasis on poetry written by women, and is noted for scholarly editing, biographical research and textual re-evaluation from a feminist perspective.

Associate Professor Stewart Candlish is a philosopher who has made notable

contributions in the philosophy of mind and in the history of twentieth-century philosophy, especially Wittgenstein, Bradley and Russell.

Professor Simon During is internationally acknowledged as one of the founders of postcolonial literary criticism and is an eminent literary and cultural critic. He is one of the leaders in Cultural Studies in Australia.

Associate Professor Gerhard Fischer is noted for innovative work in redefining German studies in the Australian context, opening them up to the fields of Australian history, German-Australian theatre, intercultural studies, migration history and multiculturalism.

Professor John Fitzgerald is an outstanding Chinese linguist and an internationally acknowledged scholar of twentieth-century China. He is recognised as a leading authority on nationalism in China and the intellectual origins of the modern Chinese state.

Professor Stephen Garton enjoys a notable position in Australian historical studies, which he has established through his wide-ranging and penetrating analyses of medical history, of the history of poverty, and of the



Professor Jaynie Anderson (University of Melbourne), elected in 1999, signs the Charter Book at the Perth Symposium and AGM.

mental and physical ailments of ex-servicemen.

Dr Thomas Griffiths has established a reputation as an incisive and innovative thinker who has opened up new areas of Australian intellectual history, embracing the history of science, Aboriginal Australia, heritage and landscape values, and issues related to the ecology and environment.

Dr Roslynn Haynes is a leading scholar of the intersection between literature and science, having written extensively on such topics as the impact of technology on the arts, the scientist in

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Honorary Fellows 2000

Sylvia Lawson, academic, journalist and writer.

Emeritus Professor Bruce Mansfield, Foundation Professor of History, Macquarie University.

Richard Meale, Australian music pioneer.

Emeritus Professor George Seddon AO, distinguished scholar.

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New Executive Director: Dr Lawrence Warner

On December 1, a month after meeting many Fellows at the invigorating 'Cultures of Peace' symposium in Perth, I happily assumed the position of Executive Director of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

The *Symposium* newsletter offers a good opportunity to tell the Academy's Fellowship and friends about the roads that brought me to University House. Having grown up the son of two academics in North Carolina—in the shadows of both Duke University and our kindred body, the National Humanities Center, the latter of which welcomed as its first Australian Fellow our own Ralph W. V. Elliott—I headed

north to Yale, where I graduated with honours in English in 1991. During the following year, the First Senior Vice-President of Duke hired me as an assistant, where I gained invaluable experience in overseeing budgets, grant writing, and the workings of university administration.

From 1992-97 I was Benjamin Franklin Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, winning the English department's prize for best dissertation for my study of the use of the legends of Cain and Nimrod in medieval literature, from Abelard to Chaucer. I spent the 1996-97 academic year in London, where I met my future



New Academy Executive Director, Dr Lawrence Warner

wife (and Australian citizen). We moved to Canberra earlier this year, where I became Visiting Research Fellow at the ANU.

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Cultures of Peace - The Academy's 2000 Symposium in Perth

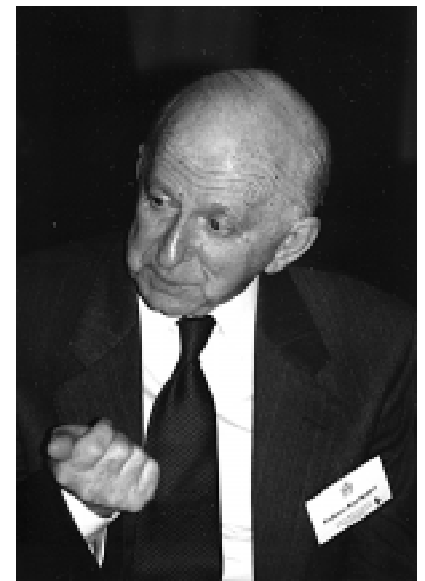
From 2 to 4 November 2000, the Academy held its Symposium and Annual General Meeting in Perth, the first time that city has served as host. Fellows, members of the public, and Humanities 'interns' attended the Symposium, which addressed issues related to the theme of UNESCO's International Year for a Culture of Peace: reconciliation, tolerance, respect, cooperation, and sharing.

Organisers Professor Frank Broeze, of University of Western Australia, and Associate Professor Ken McPherson, formerly of Curtin University, brought together an invigorating program with papers from a wide variety of perspectives. They ranged from a very graphic exposition on violence in Indonesia, presented by Dr Abdullah Saeed, Head of Islamic Studies at the University of Melbourne, to a measured description of where reconciliation now stands in Australia, by Dr Evelyn Scott, Chairperson of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, to an analysis of historical lessons from South Africa, by Professor Deryck Schreuder, Vice-Chancellor of UWA and former President of the AAH.

Mr Bruce Davis, Director General of AusAID, gave the Keynote Address on the role of Australia's aid program in Africa, Asia and the Pacific as it relates to fostering a climate conducive to tolerance and the reduction of disruptive conditions of life.

Associate Professor David Christian, a 1999 Fellow, gave the Annual Lecture on 'big history'. He took history from the big bang to the present, illustrating that a number of important historical events and themes are not confined within national boundaries, nor is history limited to the last 60,000 years or so.

The Academy is most grateful to the University of Western Australia and Curtin University, which generously sponsored the Symposium and provided valuable on-the-ground administrative assistance. Both campuses were venues for segments of the Symposium. Sadly, Professor Broeze was too ill to attend a very successful Symposium. Minutes of the 2000 AGM have been circulated to Fellows.



Outgoing Secretary Professor Paul Weaver



The Australian Academy of Humanities' Four Executives: President and three generations of Secretaries. Graeme Clarke, John Mulvaney, and Paul Weaver with Malcolm Gillies in Perth.

ARC Special Projects Funding Scheme

The Australian Research Council (ARC) seeks expressions of interest in its Special Projects Funding Scheme for projects that capitalise on the Academy's unique capabilities, assist programmes of research undertaken by institutions, may be expected to have results of broad benefit for research in the humanities, and are areas of

demonstrable national importance. Among the endeavours recently funded by the this scheme, for instance, is the Australian National Placenames Survey, a long-term national project involving collaborators from the fields of history, archaeology, linguistics, anthropology, and geography.

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Every Eight Seconds: AIDS Revisited

The National Academies Forum and the National Library came together on 29-30 November to host this public symposium, held at the Library as part of AIDS Awareness Week. The program was organised by a committee drawn from the Science and Humanities Academies and the AIDS Action Council of the ACT. Major sponsors were the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care and Queensland Health.

AIDS, an unknown acronym two decades ago, has now carried off more people than the Black Death or the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918-19. Some thirty-five million people live with the disease today or are HIV-positive, with the greatest concentration in southern Africa. The situation in the Asia-Pacific region is, however, also rapidly deteriorating. In Papua New Guinea, for instance, geographical, linguistic and cultural barriers often conspire to prompt the infection to spread more quickly than the message..

After an opening by Michael Moore, ACT Health Minister, the Symposium viewed AIDS in four contexts: global, medical, social and human. Among speakers in the global section, Chris Puplick pointed out how Australia's fortunate position in containing the disease had been the result of a fine balance and partnership among particular people and circumstances in the 1980s. Nona Bennett, from AusAID, graphically depicted the quiet tragedy being played out behind the headlines in communities across southern Africa — a terrible tragedy compounded by extreme poverty and the breakdown of social infrastructure.

The medical questions discussed by a panel of eminent scientists included

the protective effects of circumcision (Roger Short), mechanisms for overcoming viral resistance to anti-AIDS therapies (Jenny Martin) and the development of vaccines (Ian Ramshaw).

Among the social questions raised were legal and official issues, presented by Julie Hamblin and co-author of the *Australian HIV/AIDS Legal Guide*, a practical demonstration of how spatial information systems can assist the planning of preventative strategies (Graeme Hugo), and overviews of adolescent and gay sexual practices (Doreen Rosenthal and Susan Kippax).

The final session focussed on the individual human experience of living and dying with AIDS. David Pear commenced with a review of AIDS in the Arts, especially in recent Australian novels, which led into the testimonies of positive people from varied walks of life, and a final critique of Australia's National AIDS/HIV Strategy by Peter Canavan (People Living with HIV/AIDS), Bill Whittaker (Federation of AIDS Organisations) and John Matthews (Head, National Centre for Disease Control).

A highlight of the Symposium was a public debate between George Pell, Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, and Ian Rankin, who has lived with HIV for fourteen years. Their topic of private morals and public policy drew to the Library's Theatre an audience of 150, which engaged in lively debate on questions of which private behaviours require public action to maintain public health, should churches seek to influence public policy, and, most essentially, can "saying no" really work.

Malcolm Gillies
President, AAH and NAF

John Hajek awarded Max Crawford Medal



Crawford Medalist John Hajek

At its Annual Dinner on Friday, 3 November 2000, the Academy awarded the Max Crawford Medal to Dr John Hajek. The Crawford Medal is presented biennially to an Australian-based scholar whose publications are in the disciplines represented by this Academy, with preference given to scholars in the early stages of their careers. R. M. (Max) Crawford, Foundation Fellow of the Academy, endowed the Medal in 1992.

After his first degree in French and Italian at the University of Melbourne, and two years as a Research Scholar at the Universities of Florence and Padua, John Hajek became Dingwall Junior Research Fellow at Christ Church, Oxford, where he earned his D.Phil. in 1992. His training in Romance linguistics is grounded on an expertise in phonology, phonetics, language universals, and typology, all of which he has taught at the University of Melbourne, where he has returned as Associate Professor in the Department of French and Italian Studies. The sound systems of South East Asia have been the focus of Dr Hajek's recent work.

His impressive publications list is highlighted by the monograph *Universals of Sound Change in Nasalization* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997); a wide audience has also enjoyed his frequent contributions to ABC Radio on such topics as how your accent stereotypes you and the policies of the *Oxford English Dictionary's* editors. These qualifications amply confirm the Academy's citation of John Hajek as a "truly well-rounded scholar and tireless researcher and advocate for the study of language in all its forms".

Dr Lawrence Warner

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The year has seen me hard at work on a book manuscript entitled *The Crusading Ethos in Medieval Historical Consciousness*, now in its final stages. Fellows of the Academy of the Humanities, I am happy but unsurprised to report, have had a large impact upon my research. The first three chapters of *The Crusading Ethos* centre upon the eschatological fervour that marked the early crusading era, a topic that new Fellow John Ward of Sydney University covers admirably in a recent essay I came upon last winter. Chapter four, on Dante's condemned Ulysses (which has appeared as well in the 1998 volume of *Dante Studies*), cites the "magisterial essay"—certainly the best ever written—on this fascinating sinner by John Scott of UWA. The scholarship on medieval English literature by Past President Margaret Clunies Ross, Foundation Fellows Ralph Elliott and George Russell, and Overseas Fellow David Lawton has long informed my study of this field, most recently focused on Chaucer and Langland. When the position of Executive Director presented itself, then, I eagerly took advantage of the chance to work with the Academy's Fellowship on a variety of initiatives to promote the study of the humanities in Australia.

In addition to my scholarly and administrative background, I bring to this position a keen awareness of, and interest in, many of the issues that the Academy has identified as crucial to humanistic scholarship of the 21st century, especially in *Knowing Ourselves and Others*. For instance, medievalists are acutely aware of the problems of small enrolments. I still remember that the Penn English department's specialist on Keats and Shelley enrolled officially in the course I took on Dante's *Commedia*, precisely to ensure that a numbers-crunching dean (no offence intended, Malcolm!) would not close it down for under-enrolment. So, too, has the issue of access to materials, whether in manuscript, print, or electronic form, become more urgent as budgets and the value of the dollar decline. We are

fortunate to live in an age in which there are exciting approaches to these problems, many of which are being implemented by the National Scholarly Communications Forum, chaired by Angus Martin, with which the Academy has a strong relationship. In her interview with Bruce Bennett in this issue, Prof. Margaret Manion speaks eloquently about the impact of electronic media on medieval manuscript studies, but also about the unique value of seeing ancient texts first-hand. I fully concur on both counts, and look forward to working with the Fellowship on this and the many other issues canvassed in *Knowing Ourselves and Others*.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the new e-mail address of aah.exdir@anu.edu.au, or by the more traditional means of phone or post (numbers and addresses included on the front page).

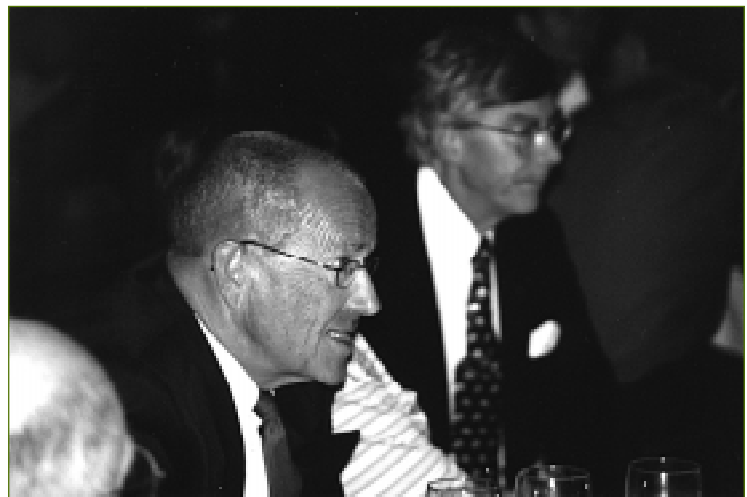
Lawrence Warner
Executive Director

Special Projects

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Fellows who are interested in pursuing a Special Projects grant are asked to submit a brief (no more than 3 pages) expression of interest to Dr. Lawrence Warner, Executive Director of the AAH, by 5 March 2001. They should summarise the project and its planned outcomes; explain the ways in which the project supports the objectives of both Government and the Academy; briefly outline the activities involved and its planned milestones; and indicate the proposed budget. They should also show any other sources of funding and how they will be spent, as well as any income which the project can be expected to generate.

We would also welcome information about other worthwhile programmes that might be eligible for funding. The Academy will submit approved expressions of interest to the ARC by 26 May 2001, which will invite short-listed projects to submit full applications by 28 July 2001.



Professor Angus Martin, Chair of the NSCF, caught in the throes of the Perth Symposium, with Fellow Deryck Schreuder, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, in the background.

National Cultural Heritage Forum

The first meeting of the Forum in over two years, chaired by Senator Robert Hill, took place at Parliament House on 9 November. The Academy was represented by John Mulvaney and Malcolm Gillies, who touched upon several issues: the valuation and preservation of exhibits in Australia's nearly 2000 archives; the need for more emphasis on the heritage concerns of rural and regional Australia; the all-embracing nature of heritage, to encompass all forms of cultural endeavour as well as the built and natural environments; and the need for the Federal Government to draw on a wider, and more formalised, body of expertise in developing heritage policy.

New Fellows 2000

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literature, Australian astronomy, and the desert in the Australian literary imagination.

Associate Professor Brian Jones is a leading international scholar in the field of early Roman imperial history, particularly with regard to the Flavian Dynasty. He has published five major books on the Emperors Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian.

Professor Benedict Kerkvliet is the world authority on village-level politics in the Philippines and on Vietnamese rural politics and state-society relations, his work drawing on the disciplines of history and anthropology as well as political science.

Dr Timothy Rowse has made a prolific contribution to Australian public debate in the areas of Australian Cultural History and Australian Indigenous Studies. His work combines the fields of political history, social anthropology, public policy, political science, and colonial studies.

Dr Roger Scott is an internationally recognised figure in the field of early and middle Byzantine history, his work concentrating on this period's crucial historical sources, especially Malalas and Theophanes.

Dr Alan Watchman has pioneered the application of advanced scientific methods in geology and mass spectrometry to a range of important archaeological questions in prehistory; in particular, he has a world-wide reputation in the dating of rock art, not only in Australia but also in North America, Mexico, South Africa, Egypt, and Portugal.

Fellows' Web entries

The Academy's Website <http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/aah/> now has a full List of Fellows' 'biographical' entries with address, academic and electoral section information. Could you please check your entry which can be found on the home page under 'List of Fellows'. Please take the opportunity to embellish your entry with further biographical information, or inform the Academy office of any changes by e-mail, fax or post.

Margaret Manion Profile continued

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history at the University of Melbourne in 2001. This will help to keep open the possibility of continuing to develop specialist expertise in this field. Associate Professor Bernard Muir, English Department, The University of Melbourne, also continues to contribute significantly to the area through his pioneering work on the teaching of palaeography (the history of handwriting) through the electronic media.

What impact has the development of the electronic media on manuscript studies?

This is good news for medieval manuscript studies. Material, very difficult of access, is gradually being made available by libraries and art museums on the internet. Bernard Muir has already successfully demonstrated the values of new digital techniques for the study of script. Such techniques can also be applied to ornamentation or illumination.

What do you think are the lasting influences of an exhibition like 'The

Book of Kells and the Art of Illumination'?

New methods for studying this material are to be welcomed, but nothing can replace the experience of seeing one of the greatest books of all time at first hand. This is what art museums or galleries do best. Not only scholars but the general public were appreciative of the beauty of the Book of Kells and of that of the manuscripts on display with it. In terms of attendance, the exhibition was a great success, attracting over 81,000 people, about twice the number budgeted for. The study of illuminated manuscripts brings together the literary and the visual, and raises almost endless questions about the relationship between text and image. This is a vigorous field of scholarship today to which Australia is making a serious contribution. It is also an area that is relevant beyond the walls of academia, with the potential to enrich the lives and experience of those interested in exploring the achievements of other cultures and other periods.

Honorary Fellows 2000

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Sylvia Lawson has made a unique contribution since the 1950s to the writing of Australian cultural history and to Australian literary, film and media studies, as an academic, as a journalist, and as a freelance writer and researcher. Her lifelong and distinguished commitment to the development of the arts and humanities in Australia has been recognised by the Academy.

Emeritus Professor Bruce Mansfield is one of Australia's most distinguished academics, having been Foundation Professor of History at Macquarie University and later Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at that university. He has an outstanding international reputation in the field of religious history, having established *The Journal of Religious History*, now a world-leading publication, and written two much-acclaimed volumes on the Renaissance scholar Erasmus.

Richard Meale stands in the first rank of Australian musical pioneers of the 1960s with a series of avant-garde compositions. More recently he has composed, among many other notable works, the operas *Voss*, to a libretto by David Malouf/Patrick White, and *Mer de Glace*, also to Malouf's libretto. He has served on the Music Board of the Australia Council, and the UNESCO Arts Advisory Board.

Emeritus Professor George Seddon is one of Australia's most versatile and distinguished scholars. His academic career has embraced English, Philosophy, Geology, History and Philosophy of Science, Environmental Studies, and Architecture and Town Planning; he has held posts of professorial rank in 6 different fields. He is the author or editor of 29 books and monographs, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Technological Sciences, and a Member of the Order of Australia.

Profile: Margaret Manion

Professor Margaret Manion AO, formerly Herald Professor of Fine Arts, University of Melbourne, has been a Fellow of the Academy since 1986. Internationally acclaimed for her work on the Book of Kells and other illuminated manuscripts, Professor Manion talks to Academy Editor Bruce Bennett about her life and work.

What was your involvement in the exhibition of the Book of Kells held at the National Gallery of Australia from February to May 2000?

I was a scholarly adviser and guest curator. In this capacity I worked with the staff of the National Gallery of Australia and with a team from the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. I contributed to the overall concept of the exhibition. It is rare for the Book of Kells to be shown independent of other Celtic/Anglo-Saxon manuscripts or Celtic art objects. We had to devise a fresh context.

What makes the Book of Kells such a special work of art?

The Book of Kells is an extraordinary example of Celtic illumination at the peak of its development. The rich, largely non-figurative vocabulary of early medieval Celtic/Anglo-Saxon art consists of abstract and organic linear patterns of marvellous intricacy and vigour. These have been inherited from a culture many thousands of years old and enriched by Scandinavian motifs of animal interlace. By the time of the execution of the Book of Kells, probably around 800 A.D., Celtic art had also absorbed certain classical influences from contact with the Carolingian Empire. One of the marvellous aspects of the Book of Kells is that it demonstrates how the Christian Celts adapted forms and patterns, originally designed for the decoration of stone and metalwork, to the medium of parchment and the leaves of a book. They appropriated, too, ancient motifs, characteristic of Celtic culture, to communicate the message of Christianity. The Book of Kells had now been bound in four volumes. It was a wonderful privilege for Australia to be able to display one volume, containing the Gospel of St Mark, for several months and so provide many Australians with the opportunity of seeing this great masterpiece at first hand.



Professor Margaret Manion (left), Sister Deidre Brown, and the Governor-General, Sir William Deane, at the Kells launch.

How did the illuminated manuscripts in Australian and New Zealand collections come to form part of the exhibition?

We decided to celebrate two major aspects of the Book of Kells particularly relevant to the millennium:

1) Kells and the Gospels. The Gospel writings enshrine not only the deeds of Christ but the beliefs of Christians handed down from one generation to another. Over the last two thousand years they have had a great influence on western art.

2) Kells and the history of the illuminated codex. The book in the codex form—the shape as we know it today—appeared in the first century A.D. and gradually replaced the papyrus roll. Ornamentation or illumination of the script was an important feature of many hand-written books or manuscripts before the advent of printing, and developed into a rich art form. In the Gospel Book of Kells the words of the text itself are the basis of the decoration so that the visual and the literary are interwoven. Figurative illustrations, such as evangelist portraits or images of Christ and the Virgin, also have a special emphasis when presented in close association with the Gospel text. We decided to focus on these features of the Book of Kells by displaying 56 illuminated manuscripts from Australian and New Zealand collections, dating from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries, which highlighted the legacy of Kells in these two areas: Gospel Texts and Images; and Text and Decoration in Medieval Book Illumination.

What is the significance of the contribution of the late Keith Sinclair to medieval manuscript studies in Australia?

Professor Keith Sinclair, a distinguished Fellow of the Academy, published a

comprehensive catalogue of the Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in Australian collections in 1969. This pioneering work of meticulous scholarship has formed the basis for all later research in the area.

What was your role in making the illuminated manuscripts in Australian and New Zealand collections better known?

Professor Sinclair was primarily a textual scholar. In 1984, building on his work and in collaboration with Dr Vera Vines, I published a catalogue on the illuminated aspects of the manuscripts in Australian collections. This sought to place each manuscript as precisely as possible in its artistic context and to identify its illuminators. In 1989 we published a further volume in collaboration with Dr Christopher de Hamel, on the manuscripts in New Zealand. Dr de Hamel contributed much of the material on the texts. He also made a substantial contribution to the study of the illumination.

How important are the manuscripts in these collections?

Australia and New Zealand have nearly three hundred illuminated manuscripts or fragments thereof. All have an interesting story to tell, and several are outstanding products of particular cultures or periods. Among the most splendid or rare examples one can read about in the catalogues I just mentioned are a Byzantine Gospel Book, ca.1125; a number of portable missals, Books of Hours, Breviaries, and calenders; and beautifully illuminated humanist manuscripts.

How strong is the study of illuminated manuscripts in Australia?

Thanks in no small measure to the continuing support of the ARC (formerly ARGS) over the last twenty-two years, Australia has developed an internationally recognised specialist expertise in this area. Our collections are well known; and ten doctoral theses in this area have been successfully completed at Melbourne University, with more at the Masters and Honours level. Publications and contributions at conferences have also steadily increased and have been well received internationally. Professor Nigel Morgan, formerly of La Trobe University, and a leading medievalist, especially in English Book Illumination, will return briefly from Europe to teach an undergraduate course in medieval art