

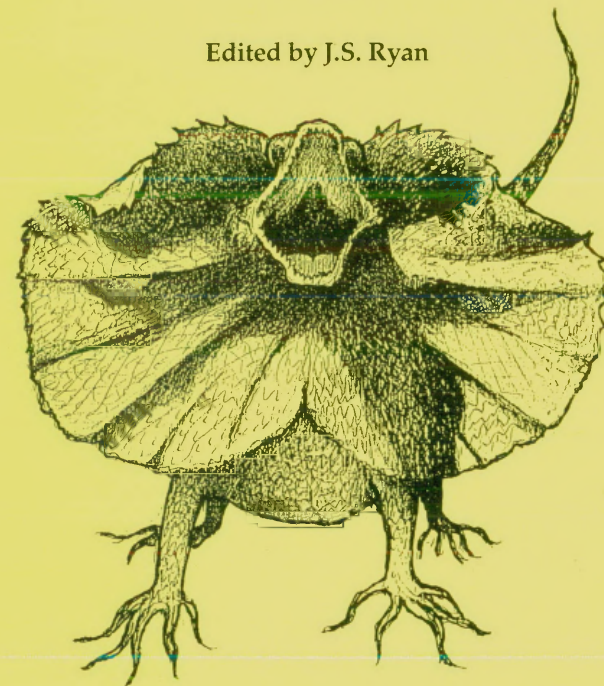
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CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE
AND LITERATURE STUDIES
(CALLS)

YEARBOOK No. 4

Edited by J.S. Ryan



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The University of New England
ARMIDALE, NSW
AUSTRALIA
July, 1993



Shirley Walker (Director of Centre) and
Russell McDougall (Editor) at the July 1992
launch of *Henry Kendall*

Membership of CALLS

Full membership of the Centre at a cost of \$10 per annum will be open to all who teach or research in Australian language, literature or drama at a tertiary level. Associate membership will be available to anyone else who is interested, on payment of \$8 per annum. These fees may be revised later. Honorary membership, either for a limited time or for life, will, from time to time, be offered to individuals who have made an important contribution to Australian letters or to the advancement of the Centre's interests. There is provision in the constitution for the election of a patron or patrons, and of honorary life members, and for affiliation with other centres with similar interests, both in Australia and overseas.

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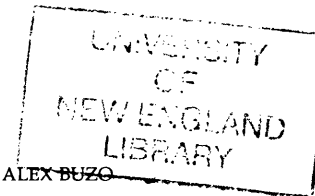
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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1992

THE CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE STUDIES (CALLS)

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Group at the Armidale launch of <i>Australian Folklore</i>	Inside Back Cover

During 1992 the Centre has maintained its service to the University of New England, as well as extending its regional, national and international affiliations. It has also initiated a publishing programme which will become an annual feature of CALLS activities.

The work of the Centre has only been possible because of the dedication of its executive. Thanks are due to the successive Heads of the Department of English and Communication Studies, Alan Sandison and Julian Croft (who was also Secretary of CALLS during 1992), to Michael Sharkey (Deputy Director), Leonie Rutherford (Treasurer), John Ryan (Publications Officer), Steve Hooper (Publicity Officer), as well as Jeff Siegel (Linguistics), Launt Thomson (Theatre Studies), Gwen Kelly and Helen Fraser.

At the Annual General Meeting the Director extended special thanks to Professor Alan Sandison, who is leaving the Department of English and Communication Studies. During his long period as Head of Department, Alan was steadfast in his work for and promotion of CALLS. Indeed, without his support within the wider community of the University, there would have been no Centre. He has also assiduously fostered the financial affairs of the Centre, seeking and obtaining grants from the University and from the Department. A sincere vote of thanks to Alan was recorded at the A.G.M. and an appropriate book - a compendium of Australian humour - was presented.

The CALLS Dinner for 1992 was held at Wright College, the speaker being Dr Peter Pierce of Monash University, who spoke on 'Tropes of Absence in Australian Literature and Art'. CALLS will publish this lecture as a monograph in 1993.

By far the most important event of the year was the launch of the first in the CALLS series of scholarly publications in the field of Australian Literature: *Henry Kendall: The Muse of Australia*. This was in many ways a co-operative effort by CALLS members. Thanks are due to Russell McDougall, who so ably and enthusiastically edited and collated the volume, no small task considering the number of people involved in the project. Michael Sharkey was in charge of the publishing process and designed the layout and cover; six of the twelve articles in the volume were contributed by CALLS members Robert Dingley, Carmel Gaffney, John Ryan and Ken Stewart; John Ryan was responsible for the inclusion of Kendall's writings on Grafton and the Clarence River; and Russell worked closely with Michael Ackland and Ken Stewart on Kendall's Melbourne journalism and the satirical poetry and prose from *Humbug*. The volume was launched almost simultaneously at ASAL'92, at UNE Armidale and at the Clarence River Historical Society in Grafton. The launch in Armidale was a great success and, thanks to our publicity officer, Steve Hooper, brought valuable local publicity to CALLS, while the Grafton launch fulfilled one of the aims of CALLS, that of providing a regional focus for research in the field of Australian Literature. The reviews have been excellent and CALLS is already well on the way to recovering the costs of publication. Another successful launch sponsored by CALLS was that of *Australian Folklore* No.7, edited by John Ryan.

We look forward to the two publications planned for 1993: John Ryan's edition of Rolf Boldrewood's *Australian Grazier's Guide*, to be published in association with the Department of Animal Science at UNE Armidale, and *The Campbell Howard Annotated Index of Australian Plays 1920-1955*, compiled and edited by Jack Bedson and Julian Croft.

Our other major initiative for 1992 was the provision of a course of lectures in Australian Literature to the students of the Australian Studies Centres at Beijing Foreign Studies University in China. The enthusiastic work of Michael Sharkey was greatly appreciated by the students and staff at BFSU, and CALLS is indebted to his efforts. CALLS and Michael (on his own behalf) also supplied a number of important literary and critical texts to BFSU, and CALLS hopes to continue to contribute to their holdings in Australian Literature. In response to a further request from BFSU, a lecturer in Australian History will be presenting a course at BFSU in 1993. Professor Hu Wenzhong from the Australian Studies Centre at BFSU has been invited to speak at the CALLS Annual Dinner for 1993, and Professor Yu Zhiyuan has been invited as a Visiting Scholar in 1993/94. It is hoped that these initiatives will lead to a formal exchange agreement between the two Centres, and between the University of New England and Beijing Foreign Studies University.

An important change to the constitution of CALLS in 1992 saw the inclusion of Australian Film in the areas of activity of the Centre. This reflects the Department's interests and takes account of the academic links between Australian language, literature and film.

We look forward to a good year in 1993, with further publishing ventures coming to fruition, with a series of excellent speakers and with a further strengthening of our national and international friendships.

Dr Shirley Walker,
Director, CALLS.

UNDERGRADUATE PRIZEWINNER

The 1992 CALLS prize awarded to the best undergraduate student, whether internal or external, in the Australian Literature course at the University of New England, was won by Mr Tim Suttor.

*

THE PUBLICATION OF CALLS' FIRST BOOK

RUSSELL McDUGALL, *Henry Kendall: The Muse of Australia*, Centre for Australian Language and Literature Studies (CALLS), Department of English and Communication Studies, UNE-ARMIDALE, 1992. Paperback. 443pp. Recommended Retail Price \$29.50

This is a wonderful collection of essays and writings. The first publication in a series undertaken by CALLS, the book collects some of Kendall's most interesting prose writing and verse. Beside the editor, three of the book's contributors are associated with the Centre for Language and Literature Studies.

Much of the original writing by Kendall appears for the first time since its initial publication. The amount of research and preparation involved in gathering the work is impressive. Kendall's lectures and travel writing from his Grafton period (1861-63), and satires, literary essays and travel writings from his time in Melbourne (1869-70) provide the background to new and quite radical interpretations of the nineteenth century cultural scene and Kendall's literary achievement.

Critics like Michael Ackland, Elizabeth Perkins, Ken Stewart, Carmel Gaffney and Robert Dingley supplement commentaries by Donovan Clarke, A.D. Hope and A.C.W. Mitchell.

Readers who have browsed in Kendall's poetry (or who can only recall one or two poems from far-off primary school) will find many of their assumptions about his melancholy image altered by the lively essays of Ken Stewart and Michael Ackland. Stewart's account of Kendall's hard-up Melbourne years gives us illuminating insights into the wider cultural background.

Kendall's criticism was often vivacious and incisive: describing the celebrated lecturer Frank Fowler, Kendall observed 'at first sight he might have appeared brilliant, but . . . the brilliancy was like that of broken bottles'. Michael Ackland, one of the most stimulating writers on nineteenth century Australian culture, persuasively argues that Kendall succeeded in his aim to produce 'admonitory, revelatory work of national import'. This aspect of Kendall's life - his determination to keep before his audience the 'paradisial possibilities' of the individual and the land itself, will recommend the book to general readers who might imagine the collection appeals only to specialists.

Other appealing essays include Kendall's accounts of Antarctic Discovery, visits to the Pacific Islands, a colonial literary dinner party in Sydney, life on the Clarence River and a superb essay on early explorers of New Guinea. Robert Dingley's essay on Kendall's view of Aboriginal Australia is revelatory: he points to the 'tactful' evasion of references to genocide, and the tense balancing act which Kendall sustains in some of his notorious 'lampoons' of Black Australians.

The book will, needless to say, appeal to students and teachers of Kendall's poetry. It opens up rich areas of Australian history and culture which many late-twentieth century readers may be abysmally unaware of. The tone of the whole book is one of stylish engagement with the subject. The collection is, I think, a credit to the Centre and to its numerous enthusiastic contributors.

The book is available from the Department of English and Communication Studies, University of New England, Armidale 2351.

Michael Sharkey