



May Friends

Examining *Gulliver's Travels*

Read *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift and join Dr Ian Higgins for a discussion of this satirical classic.

Date: Tuesday 27 May

Time: 6.00 – 8.00 pm

Venue: Friends Lounge

Cost: \$10 Friends, \$15 non-members

Bookings: (02) 6262 1698 or
friends@nla.gov.au

For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:

Friends of the NLA

National Library of Australia
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Email: friends@nla.gov.au

Website: www.nla.gov.au/friends

This month, in lieu of the regular monthly book club, the Friends will be hosting a book club lecture on the satiric classic *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift.

Gulliver's Travels (officially entitled *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World, in Four Parts, by Lemuel Gulliver*) holds an unusual place in English literature. Modelled on the 'travellers' tales' literary sub-genre, it provides a penetrating and at times hilarious analysis of early modern society and its follies and failings.

Swift saw satire as a 'sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own'. *Gulliver's Travels* was completed in 1725, and as it was a transparently anti-Whig satire, was published anonymously, in 1726. The book was an instant success and the first print run was sold out in less than a week. The ongoing popularity of the book can possibly be attributed to the fact that it can be seen as many things to many people—children's story, Menippean satire, proto-science fiction, and forerunner to the modern novel.

On Tuesday 27 May, you are invited to join the Australian National University's Dr Ian Higgins and a group of fellow book lovers to examine aspects of this satiric and parodic masterpiece. Dr Higgins has written two books on Swift, was an editor of the Oxford World Classics *Gulliver's Travels* edition and is a general editor of the

Cambridge Edition of the *Works of Jonathan Swift*, currently in progress.

He will discuss *Gulliver's Travels* as a mock voyage book, relating it to other literary hoaxes which Swift perpetrated on the reading public, and discussing the composition, publication, and reception of the *Travels* and also some of the satire's targets. The lecture will conclude with attention given to the nagging problem of the meaning of Gulliver's fourth voyage to the country of the horses. Following this, participants will break into small groups to discuss the issues further over a glass of wine.

Tickets are just \$10 for Friends and \$15 for non-members, including light refreshments. I recommend you book early for this event to avoid disappointment. Bookings can be made by calling the Friends office on (02) 6262 1698 or email friends@nla.gov.au.

If you are unable to attend the lecture, don't forget that the Friends Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month, from 7 – 8.30 pm in the Friends Lounge. This is an informal club, where the members take turns in leading the group each month. For more information, please contact the Friends office on (02) 6262 1551 or friends@nla.gov.au.

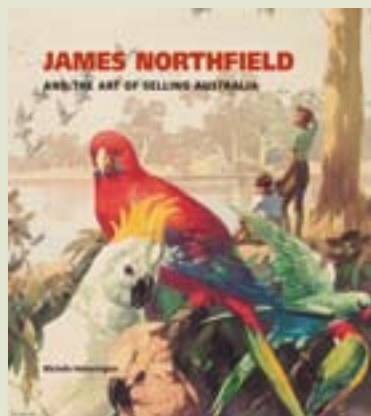
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Donald Friend (1915–1989)

Shoppers at Night, Bondi Junction Mall
(detail)

From 'Ayam-Ayam Kesayangan'

Manuscripts Collection MS 5959, Item 2

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

A DELICATE MISSION THE WASHINGTON DIARIES OF R.G. CASEY, 1940–42

EDITED BY CARL BRIDGE



ISBN 978-0-642-27662-9
pb, 250 x 171 mm, 272 pp, b&w illus.
RRP \$34.95

'My diary was started as purely a personal record ... but ... has developed into some sort of a running record which ... may ... reflect to you and to the Department the day to day course of affairs here.'

Thus Casey wrote to Australia's Minister for External Affairs, on 27 November 1940. This book, with its illuminating introduction and notes, traces the evolution of Casey's 'delicate' role as Australian Minister to the United States during a critical time in Australia's history. It reveals Casey treading a fine diplomatic tightrope for America's support of Britain and Australia in the war, without risking aggravation of America's many powerful isolationists.

The diary records his daily duties and strategies: making American diplomatic, political and military contacts; engaging with a wide range of prominent individuals and interest groups; and speaking on a broad range of topics all essentially aimed to 'sell Australia' and woo America to the Commonwealth's war cause. The diary mixes meetings with Roosevelt and Churchill, broader social commentary, and records encounters with personalities ranging from Eddie Cantor to J.M. Keynes. In tone, the entries range from business-like and analytical, to humorous and caustic.

Publishing Australia's Stories



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National Library of Australia Treasures Gallery

Treasure of the Month

During his three South Pacific voyages, Captain James Cook collected the 70 samples of bark cloth, or tapa, contained in this book. Tapa was traditionally made throughout the islands of the South Pacific from the bark of trees such as the paper mulberry or breadfruit tree. Decorated with distinctive designs, it was used to make clothing, bed covers, mats and garments for ceremonial purposes. Each sample in *Patterns of South Sea Cloth* measures about 5 cm x 9.8 cm and a list corresponding to the samples includes place of origin, methods of manufacture, the likely wearers and the uses of the cloth.



James Cook (1728–1779)
Patterns of Cloth Made and Wore [i.e. worn] by Natives of the South Sea Islands Being Part of the Collection Made by the Celebrated Circumnavigator Capt. James Cook in His First, Second and Third Voyages
reproduced from *Patterns of South Sea Cloth*, 1768–1774
Manuscripts Collection, MS 4299g
nla.ms-ms4299g

Help us build our Treasures Gallery

The National Library's collection has been growing since its foundation in 1901, and contains many items of national importance. To make these more accessible to the public, the Library is planning a Treasures Gallery to showcase them, with accompanying interpretation and the highest standards of preservation. Telling the stories of Australia's history and culture, the Gallery will be a must-see destination for all Australians. Each month, *National Library of Australia News* will feature an item to be displayed in the future Gallery.

Your donation to the Treasures Gallery Appeal will help us realise our goal.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

To find out how you can donate, call the Development Office on 02 6262 1141 or email development@nla.gov.au.
Alternatively, visit our website to download a Treasures Gallery donation form at www.nla.gov.au/supportus.