

Johnson on Friendship

In 1755 Johnson said that “A man must keep his friendship in good repair” This paper will explore the ways in which Johnson understood and practised friendship

Paul Tankard is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. He is publications editor for the Johnson Society of Australia. He teaches writing (essays and creative non-fiction) and his scholarship on Johnson and Boswell, and Tolkien and Lewis – and other matters – has been published in dozens of journals and essay collections.

Johnson Society of Australia Inc

Annual Seminar

Saturday 8 June 2024

Cost: \$35 members \$40 Guests

Includes light lunch, tea and coffee

Booking essential for catering

Book by Monday 3 June to

Donna Williams: donna46@live.com.au and specify any dietary requirements.

Pay at door—cash or cheque only—or by direct deposit to JSA Account:

We prefer payment by Bank Transfer to our Westpac account:: BSB 033 000

Account Number 414 335 .

Ensure you include your surname and ‘Seminar’ on your transfer.

Payment can be made on the day (by cash only) and correct money preferred,

About us

The Johnson Society of Australia was formed in Melbourne in 1993 and currently has members in most Australian States but and also in Britain, the United States and New Zealand.

Our aim is to combine the study of the works of Samuel Johnson, his circle and the Eighteenth Century in general, with enjoyment of the same.

For more information/inquiries go to the Contact Page on the website:

www.johnson society.com.au

Johnson Society of Australia



2024 Annual Seminar

Saturday June 8th 10:30—4:30

Multipurpose Room 1

Kathleen Syme Community
Centre

251 Faraday Street, Carlton

Price: Lunch and refreshments

\$35 Members \$40 Guests

Outlines and Presenters

PROGRAM

10:30 Registration. Tea/Coffee

11:00 Welcome: *Barrie Sheppard, President*

11:10 *The 'unclubbable' Hawkins. A defence of Sir John* *Peter Hardie*

11:50 A reading of a letter from Johnson to Hester Thrale *Barrie Sheppard*

12:10 Isham and the Boswell papers: a sample *John Byrne*

Lunch 12:25—1:30

1:30 Oliver Goldsmith: a member of the Club *Dennis Dorwick with Bronwen Hickman*

2:30 On the survival of slanguage *Kate Burridge*

3:00 Johnson on Friendship *Paul Tankard*

4:00 Closing remarks: President

4:15 Finish

Optional follow up at the Queensberry Hotel

The Unclubbable Hawkins

Sir John Hawkins had published a biography of Samuel Johnson four years before Boswell's publication. Peter Hardie will present a lawyerly review of the justification for Dr Johnson's epitaph for Sir John as an 'unclubbable' man. It will involve a reassessment of the evidence for the condemnation of Sir John; the influence of the rivalries of Boswell and Burney on that condemnation, and the part played by Edmund Burke?"

Peter Hardie is practising New Zealand Lawyer and also a Johnsonian. He regularly makes the trip across the Tasman to take part in our Seminar. He previously presented a paper on Giuseppe Baretta and his trial.

A letter of Johnson to Hester Thrale

Johnson was a frequent visitor to the home of Henry Thrale, a brewer and politician, and his wife Hester. Barrie will read a letter Johnson wrote to Hester on her husband's death..

Barrie Sheppard was a Senior Lecturer and is a long standing member of the Society. He is the current President of the Society and also an Official Guide at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Isham and the Boswell Papers

In 1927 Ralph Isham, an American Collector found 5000 manuscripts of Boswell's papers at Malahide Castle in Ireland. Perhaps the most important of these was the manuscript of the Tour of Scotland. John Byrne will show his copies and discuss their publication.

John Byrne was a lawyer and has one of the best private collections of rare books about Johnson and his world.

Oliver Goldsmith - hard working writer or just a foolish Irishman?

Johnson said of Goldsmith "No man was more foolish when he had not a pen in his hand, or more wise when he had." Typically, Johnson's cutting assessment 'hits the mark'. An Irishman arriving in London without 'connections' faced daunting challenges. Goldsmith persisted and found a place at the table with the first nine members of The Club.

Dennis Dorwick is a musician, teacher, and a member of a 'Crime Fiction' group, one of many other interests beyond 18th Century England. He and his wife Cath live in a small house south of Sydney with a wilding veggie garden, two large trees, and a massive choko plant. *Bronwen Hickman* is a founding member of the society, an educator and scriptwriter.

"Survival of the fittest" — the shelf-life of slanguage in Johnson's Dictionary

A puzzling feature of slang is its life cycle. As the branded words in Johnson's Dictionary show, most slang expressions are "the mayflies of language" — vibrant but short-lived (e.g. nifty 'simpleton'). In this talk, I'll attempt to account for the few success stories among Johnson's "low bad words". Why did these ones survive?

Kate Burridge is Professor of Linguistics at Monash, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia. Her research interests include the history of English, popular attitudes to language and the ins and outs of language change — with a current focus on slanguage.

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