

# Anon...

Oxfam Books Adelaide Quarterly News / Spring 2021

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*So often a visit to a bookshop has cheered me, and reminded me that there are good things in the world.*

*Vincent Van Gogh*

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## Welcome

*Welcome to the spring edition of Anon. It's been a difficult winter for many but thankfully here in SA we have had a relatively covid free winter - now we prepare ourselves for the summer! Now, as we are nearing the end of the year we are also coming to the end of the literary 'awards season' - in this edition we look at the more common prizes our donated books have been awarded and list a few of the less common international awards you may wish to keep an eye out for. Discover what our desk volunteers do and whether you suffer from tsundoku. Our*

*three wise men talk religion and find out what's coming up in the bookshop. A bumper issue - Enjoy!*

*E.B Editor*

## What's happening in the shop

We are getting ready for our annual Christmas offering of 'Kris Kringle' surprise fiction. All you know when you buy the book is the genre. This year again we have 'Crime Fiction and 'Light Fiction', just right for the post-Christmas Summer-holidays reading binge - one of our very favourite times of year.

For only \$6, these as-new copies are an excellent surprise gift option for friends - or buy one for yourself and perhaps discover an author you had never thought of reading!





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## From Nobel to the Shorty's, what's in a prize?

***No matter how many awards you've won or how many sales you've got, come the next book it's still a blank sheet of paper and you're still panicking like hell that you've got nothing new to say.***

***Author - Ian Rankin***



The display area closest to the front desk is reserved for 'prize winning authors' and is one of our most popular displays. But how to sift through the plethora of literary prizes offered around the world? - What are they for and how prestigious are they? We take a look at the more common prizes our donated books have been awarded.



The Daddy of them all – the Nobel. First awarded in 1901, the Nobel Prize for Literature is awarded to the person *'who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction ...'* (Excerpt from the will of Alfred Nobel) and is recognised more for a body of work rather than an individual piece. The youngest winner was Rudyard Kipling, age 42, who was also the first English speaking winner. You may be surprised to learn Winston Churchill won the prize in 1953, *"for his mastery of historical and biographical description as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values."* (<https://www.nobelprize.org/>) And, interestingly, since the mid 70s the candidate for the prize must be alive at least before the announcement to receive the prize.

Nobel prize winning authors regularly seen in the shop include Orhan Pamuk, Doris Lessing, Gabriel Garcia Marquez and V S Naipaul.



The Booker Prize has gone through some minor name changes depending on sponsorship and since 2013 is open to all writers in the English language who are published in the UK and Ireland. In addition the International Booker Prize recognises the best internationally published fiction translated into English. (Both the author and the translator share the prize money).

2018 saw the first graphic novel on the longlist and the first crime novel. Robin Robertson also made the shortlist with the first novel in verse to be nominated. Several Booker winners have been adapted for film including Schindler's Ark, The Remains of the Day, The English Patient and the Life of Pi.

Booker Prize winners regularly seen in the shop include Margaret Atwood, Richard Flanagan, Hilary Mantel, Alan Hollinghurst, Eleanor Catton and Yann Martel.



The CWA awards (the UK Crime Writers Association - not to be confused with the Country Women's Association) award several 'Daggers' each year. As well as the Gold Dagger, there is the 'Dagger in the Library' (for an author who has been writing crime novels for over 10 years, is popular with library users and who in turn supports libraries), the Ian Fleming Steel Dagger for thrillers and Daggers for crime fiction in translation and first time authors. Recognition of sustained excellence and a significant contribution is the criteria for the prestigious Diamond Dagger.

CWA Dagger award winners regularly seen in the Bookshop include the Australian Michael Robotham (the 2021 Ian Fleming Steel Dagger winner), Jane Harper, Henning Mankell, Fred Vargas, Robert Harris and Peter May



*Miles Franklin*

Australia has many literary awards, the best known are the Miles Franklin Award and the Ned Kellys. **The Miles Franklin Literary Award** was established through the will of My Brilliant Career author, Miles Franklin and is awarded each year to 'a novel or play of the highest literary merit and presents Australian life in any of its phases'. She believed that, 'without an indigenous literature, people can remain alien in their own soil.' It was first awarded in 1957 - to Patrick White for Voss.

Miles Franklin winners include Ruth Park, Thea Astley, Tim Winton, Peter Carey and Michelle de Kretser.

**The Ned Kelly Awards** honour crime fiction and true crime writing. They have been awarded since 1996 and read like a who's who of Australian crime writers.

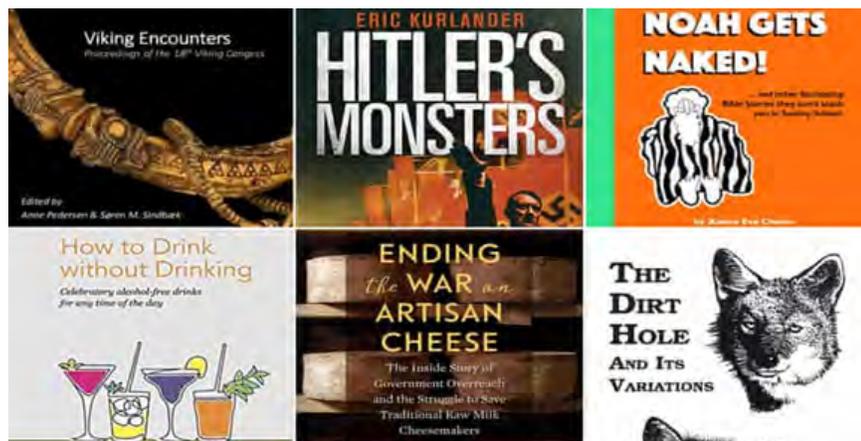
While some winners (books not authors) come into the shop reasonably regularly (eg Jane Harper, Peter Temple, Shane Maloney, Candice Fox) keep your eye out for others that come in only occasionally (eg Alan Carter, Marshall Browne, Gary Disher and Dervla McTiernan)

And of course, we can't fail to mention the **Diagram Prize** for the Oddest Title. Previous winners include:

*How to Avoid Huge Ships,*

*The Joy of Water Boiling,* and

*Greek Rural Postmen and Their Cancellation Numbers.*



*(the nominations for the 2019 Diagram Prize)*

## **And the Shorty's?**

What would Alfred Nobel have made of this? The Shorty's (Short Impact Awards) honours the best of the short form attention grabbing style on Twitter and various other social media platforms. They can be awarded to a person, company, or brand. Who knows – one day we may see award winning tweets on display ....

Resources:

<https://www.freelancewriting.com/feature-articles/weirdest-literary-awards-for-writers/>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nobel-Prize>

<https://thecwa.co.uk/the-daggers>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/nov/01/ending-the-war-on-artisan-cheese-begins-battle-for-oddest-book-title-prize>

<https://www.perpetual.com.au/milesfranklin>

<https://www.austcrimewriters.com/hed-kelly-awards>

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## Life Cycle of an Oxfam Book: 5. Selling



*Illustration by E. Browne*

Up to now in the series we have seen how books are sorted, priced and put on the shelves. We now look at the

desk volunteers and their role in selling our donated books  
- pivotal to the success of the bookshop.

The Bookshop currently has about 53 desk volunteers. Shifts are split into 2 of 3 hours each which, in our current mask wearing age, is just about enough! Desk volunteers have several jobs during their shift including opening up/ closing the shop, keeping the trolleys filled and the shelves tidy. But their most important job is to help customers find the book they are looking for or recommend books they may enjoy.

Desk volunteers occasionally get some unusual requests - not all our customers buy books to read. Some buy our books for all manner of art projects, wallpapering, drama sets for plays, real estate sales, house decoration and office "ambience". Customer requests are many and varied, sometimes volunteers are called upon to 'find the blue book I saw at the front last week' or are asked for advice on similar books to one they have enjoyed in the past. They have also provided information on where the nearest bank is, where to get the best coffee nearby or to redirect lost delivery drivers. The volunteers are there to help you with finding that 'right' book so please don't hesitate to ask them - they love a challenge!

If you are over 18 and interested in becoming a volunteer the best thing is to come into the shop, pick up a form and have a chat with the desk volunteers about the job. Or send us a request via our email and we'll send you a form to complete and send back. We will let you know when there is a vacancy that matches your availability.



*(We're ready to help.....)*

(For a fairly exhaustive list of the range of subject areas you will find on the Bookshop shelves, visit this list on our website: [www.oxfambooksadelaide.com/a-z-subject-shelves/](http://www.oxfambooksadelaide.com/a-z-subject-shelves/) )

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## Spotlight in the Shop – Religion

The religion section of the shop (opposite crime fiction, stop before you get to biography) encompasses a range of material across the religious and spiritual spectrums. The religion team can usually be found on Friday mornings sorting through donations and refreshing the shelves before they nip out for a well earned coffee. Their work can be summed up in this short ode:

### **THE THREE WISE MEN**

## Sorting Religion

There is some GOLD in all faiths

FRANKINCENSE, The sweet aroma of spirituality

MYRRH, Facing up to suffering and death.

Surplus BIBLES go to South Pacific School Aid.

Heavy TOMES offered to Theological Colleges

SADLY, some books become HOLY cardboard.



*(the three wise men in action)*



A recent 'Recent Acquisitions' shelf.

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## The Art of Tsundoku

*AE Newton wrote, "Even when reading is impossible, the presence of books acquired produces such an ecstasy that the buying of more books than one can read is nothing less than the soul reaching towards infinity ... We cherish books even if unread, their mere presence exudes comfort, their ready access reassurance."*



[www.bizarro.com](http://www.bizarro.com)

If you have a habit of picking up books, stacking them somewhere at home and never quite get round to reading them then you could be unwittingly engaging in tsundoku.

Tsundoku is a Japanese word for the practice of buying a lot of books and keeping them in a pile because you intend to read them and haven't done so – it can also be used to describe the pile itself. Perhaps surprisingly it is not a new term and was first referred to in print in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

If this sounds like you, send us a picture of your tsundoku – we'd love to see them!



*Editor's current tsundoku*

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## The Literary Quiz

This edition of the quiz is about international literary awards – can you guess the country that matches the award?

- A. Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Novel**
- B. Hammett Prize**
- C. Shamus Award**

- D. Akutagawa Prize
- E. Jnanpith Award
- F. Concurso Literaria de la Felguera
- G. Yi Sang Literary Award
- H. Riverton Prize
- J. Prix Goncourt

Scroll Down.....

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## Quiz Answers

**A - UK** (crime fiction, named after a beer!)

**B – US and Canadian Citizens** (best crime writing, named after Dashiell Hammett)

**C – US** (awarded by the Private Eye Writers of America (PWA) for the best detective fiction genre novels and short stories of the year).

For racing buffs – Shamus Award is also the name of a racehorse who made history by being the first maiden to win a Cox Plate

**D – Japan** (awarded semiannually for the best work of fiction by a promising new Japanese writer.)

**E – India** (the oldest and the highest Indian literary award presented annually to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature".)

**F – Spain** (until 1955 as a poems competition, since then as a tales or short stories competition).

**G – South Korea** (Short and medium-length novels published in major literary magazines are eligible for the prize).

**H – Norway** (awarded for best crime story)

**I – France** (the UK Man Booker prize was established as a counterpart to the Prix Goncourt. The monetary prize is 10 euros, however the winner is expected to increase their sales by hundreds of thousands))

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## And Remember!

Don't forget to come in and pick up some Kris Kringles - an ideal present for your book club, friends, stocking filler or just for you. Come for the Kringles, stay for a browse!

**Before.....**



After...



**We hope you enjoyed our newsletter and thank you for your ongoing support of the Oxfam Second Hand Bookshop!**

**Stay well.**

[MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

***Every book bought makes a difference!***

The Oxfam Second Hand Bookshop is 100% volunteer run, with all profits dedicated to supporting the work of Oxfam Australia fighting worldwide poverty, hunger and social injustice.

**OXFAM**  
SECOND HAND  
**BOOKSHOP**  
**ADELAIDE**



**Current Opening Hours:**

Tuesdays to Saturdays 10am - 4pm

**2021 Christmas Closure:**

(Inclusive) Friday 24th Dec. - Saturday 1st Jan.  
First day open in 2022: Tuesday 4th January!

Tel: (08) 8122 5870

5-7 Hutt Street / Adelaide 5000



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