

# ANME *News*

Newsletter of

**ANME** | AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
MUSEUM OF EDUCATION

[www.anme.org.au](http://www.anme.org.au)

**Editor: Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt**

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**From the Director: Dr Beazley AM**

## **Life Continues at ANME During Pandemic**



We hope you have survived the COVID-19 crisis and are now energized to resume a normal routine. The ANME was very fortunate to have had a number of highlights, prior to the onset of the pandemic. These included the Annual Excursion, the Steiner Education Australia Exhibition and the Spring edition of *ANME News*.

While the ANME is closed temporarily, activity has continued. Following the digitization of our three-dimensional objects by one of our Work Integrated Learning Students, Ms Maren Innes, ANME Curator, Alex Stalker-Booth has published over 260 of these images. They can be found on the ANME site, located on the eHive Collections Management System. These are now accessible to people throughout the world. Alex is about to embark on a daunting task of publishing the details of our hundreds of Nineteenth Century textbooks. Dr Burkhardt and I have been working on a paper for the University Museums Association Conference 2020 in September, at The University of Sydney, which has now been cancelled. The abstract was acknowledged by the UMA Committee, which has advised of plans to use all abstracts in some way towards the end of this year. Furthermore, we have been selecting possible items from the collection for a major display in 2021 to celebrate ANME's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Board Member Victoria Redfern has been preparing a draft for a special annual excursion in 2022. Yes 2022! Dr Burkhardt has continued to research further distinguished educators to augment our current online gallery and just to add to the workload

of our Collections Manager, Mrs Coralie Amos, more donations have been arriving each month and Web Manager Peter Fock has never stopped.

The ANME Annual Lecture has been postponed until later in the year as has our Conservation Workshop, planned for July. Details of the new dates will be posted on our website, as information comes to hand, as will the date of our reopening to students and visitors.

## Teachers who were Authors of School Textbooks: James Bonwick



Although James Bonwick has long been recognized as a renowned colonial scholar, author and historian, he is also regarded as Australia's first school textbook author. Being one of the earliest Australian colonial authors of school textbooks suitable for the emerging primary and secondary Australian school curriculum, his contribution to the history of Australian schooling is most significant.

Detailed biographical accounts of Bonwick, as a teacher, journalist and historian, may be found in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. It is sufficient here to mention that Bonwick, a teacher in England, arrived in Tasmania in 1841 where he took charge of a school and after a couple of years in Hobart Town, he established his own school until he moved to Adelaide in 1850 and later in that decade to Victoria where he served as a school inspector for a time. What is most significant about his time in Hobart is his authorship, in 1845, of what is now regarded as the first school textbook published in the Australian Colonies. It is titled, *Geography for the Use of Australian Youth*, published by S.A. Tegg, Hobart Town, in 1845. This popular book was reprinted and revised a number of times during the following decades.

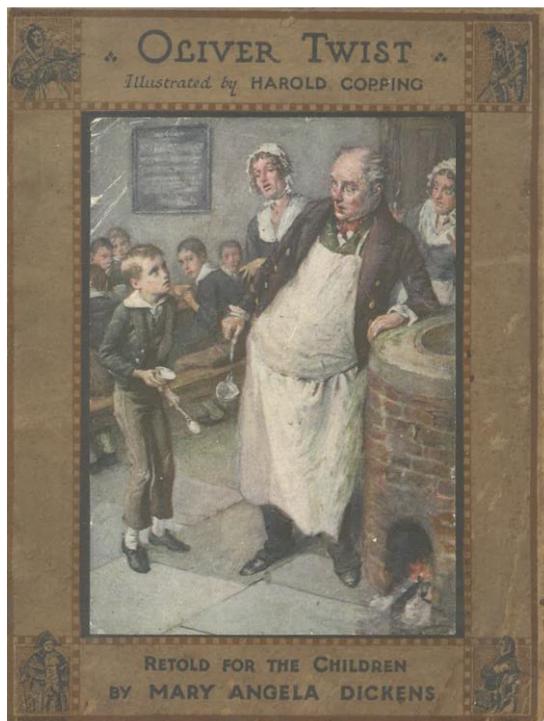
Bonwick is credited with having written at least 12 school textbooks, some specifically for primary school level, such as *How Does a Tree Grow, or Botany for Young Australians*, 1857) and *First Grammar For Young Australians* (1866) but the majority were more suitable for the senior grammar school curriculum, these included *Grammar For Australian Youth* (1851), *Reader for Australian Youth* (1852), *Astronomy for Young Australians* (1864), *Early days of England* (1857) and *Early Days of Melbourne* (1857). The majority of Bonwick's school textbooks were written when he was Inspector of Denominational Schools, Victoria, during the 1850s.

At the time of Bonwick's initial school textbook authorship in the 1840s and 1850s, the local Australian market for school textbooks was dominated by

English, Scottish and Irish publishers such as Longmans, Collins, Blackie and Chambers. However as the Australian population increased rapidly following the gold rushes in NSW and Victoria in the 1850s, the demand for schooling in these colonies increased significantly. In both these colonies their respective governments began to establish “National Schools”, which soon outnumbered the church owned denominational parish schools. Commensurate with the increase in available schooling, there was also a demand for school textbooks written for Australian conditions. James Bonwick was one of the most active authors attempting to meet this growing demand.

Bonwick’s first school textbook titled *Geography for the Use of Australian Youth*, was published in Tasmania, and the title page adds, “sold by S.A. Tegg, Hobart Town, James Dowling, Launceston and at Sydney, W.A. Colman, 1845”. The book contains 204 pages, with three maps including a frontis folding map of Australia and also a map of Van Diemen’s Land and a map of New Zealand. This textbook, written for secondary school level students, is essentially a physical geography, which introduces and defines geographical terms, and goes on to the descriptive geography of Tasmania, Europe, Africa, America, and Asian countries.

## Recent Acquisitions



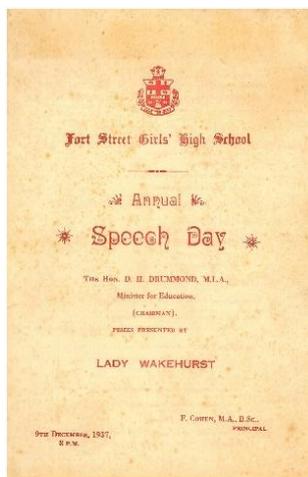
ANME is pleased to acknowledge the donation of a number of items from Ms Erica Jolly, which includes published items from the Wilderness School, The Australian Science and Mathematics School, Adelaide, and St Peter’s Girls’ School also in Adelaide. We also received another batch of documents from Mr Kevin Barnes, which included items relating to the International Correspondence School and Business Education course material. A 2012 Year Book of St Patrick’s College, Campbelltown together with a commemorative key ring, marking the school’s 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was received from Ms Claire Stalker-Booth. Further rare items have been received from Dr Geoffrey

Burkhardt, one (pictured) being a retelling for children of *Oliver Twist* by Mary Angela Dickens, the oldest grandchild of Charles Dickens.

## ANME's Research Collection of Printed School Ephemera

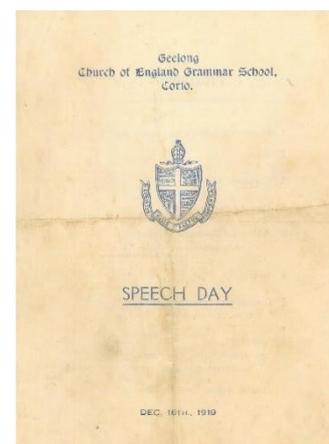
The Australian National Museum of Education has a relatively large collection of printed ephemera relating to Australian schools, schooling and education generally. The School Ephemera Collection is designed to provide a research and information source for history of education researchers, students, biographers and family historians. In addition to servicing the research needs of the above categories of inquirers, the ANME Ephemera Collection is extensively used as a source of supplementary illustrative material in the preparation of ANME displays and exhibitions. John Pemberton's definition of printed "Ephemera" is:

"Ephemera consist of documents which have been produced in connection with a particular event or item of current interest and are not intended to survive the topicality of their message."



Examples of school and education ephemera include the following: school speech day programs, school concert programs, school prospectuses, official invitations to school events, school sports events, interschool visits programs, school award certificates, school student academic progress reports (although these latter contain some hand written material), university annual graduation programs, school principals' newsletters, parents' and citizens' association newsletters, notices and reports, school excursion notices and programs for student tours, programs for "education week", programs for the opening of schools and school buildings, school "Open Day"

programs, menus for official school and university formal dinners, school centenary programs, school reunion programs, and "Back-to-School" programs, Old Boys' and Old Girls' Associations' printed items, School Anzac Day Order of Service documents and School Empire Day celebration programs, and printed school timetables. The ANME's School Ephemera Collection includes a wide variety of approximately 2000 printed items, mostly of one or two sheets of paper, although some items such as Education Week programs of events may run to five or six pages. Among the earliest items are parliamentary reports on the condition of teachers in the Colony of Victoria during the 1860s, documents relating to Sydney Grammar School in the late 1850s, and a "Licence to Teach" dated 1879 from the Education Department of the Colony of Victoria.



Other examples include an Annual Speech Day program for Fort Street Girls' High School in 1937 and a Geelong Grammar School Speech Day program for 1919.