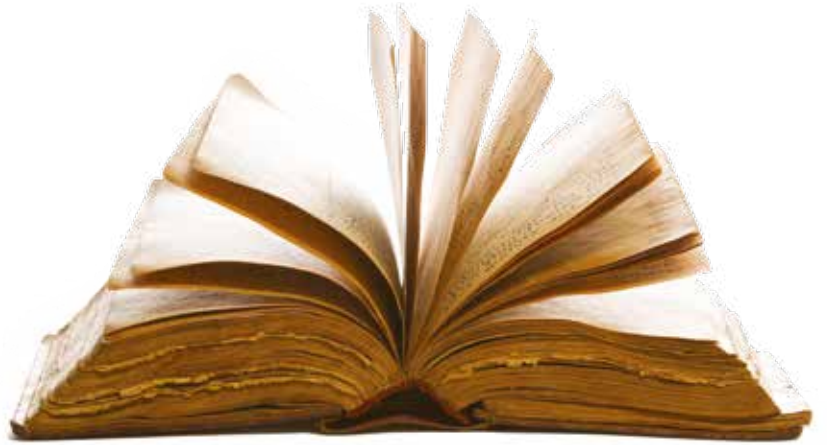


melbourne RARE BOOK WEEK



Winter in Melbourne usually calls for certain fundamentals: deconstructed turmeric lattes, several unaffordable varieties of smashed avo on toast, a carbon-neutral open fire, and, of course, a good book. 'For the love of books' is the appealing catchcry for Melbourne Rare Book Week. As one of 20 UNESCO Cities of Literature, it was destiny that Melbourne would become the catalyst for the creation of the first rare book week, a concept that has since been adopted by cities like New York and Boston. Now in its sixth year, the 2017 Melbourne Rare Book Week has become a juggernaut of literature, culture and our love of all things books.

Boasting over 40 bookish events this year, Melbourne Rare Book Week gives bibliophiles the opportunity to unite to learn about conservation of materials, expose themselves to the deeply rich State Library Victoria collections, discover treasures from the National Gallery of Victoria, engage in stimulating conversations about science fiction, the future of rare books, children's literature, sports books, comics, law books and, of course, wine. This year's event coincided with the 200-year anniversary of the death of beloved author Jane Austen. The Library at the Dock exhibited *By a lady: The World of Jane Austen*, celebrating the great author's work with intriguing and well-designed multimedia installations.

A fascinating 14th century French Bible from The Kerry Stokes Collection was on display at the Baillieu Library. Patrons were lucky enough to see in great detail a series of stunning illuminations from *The Clumber Bible*.

Of course, there is more to Melbourne Rare Book Week than just rubbing shoulders with international and local literati. For the organisers it's about 'promoting the value of books and the written word, educating the public on the value and place of books and other printed material in our society, and contributing to the preservation of the culture of the written and printed word.'



Alissa Duke, official sketcher for MBRW, captured some of the highlights of the week.



A fascinating 14th-century French Bible from the Kerry Stokes Collection was on display at the University of Melbourne's Baillieu Library. Patrons saw a series of stunning illuminations from *The Clumber Bible* in great detail.

Melbourne Rare Book Week is growing at a rapid rate. Enthusiastic book collectors, booksellers, antiquarian booksellers, academics and, of course, librarians turned up in a veritable 'stack' of bibliophiles. This was evident in the week's crescendo with the 45th Australian Antiquarian Book Fair, attracting big name international sellers like Peter Harrington and Jonathan Hill. 🌟

DANIEL WEE

Librarian
Hargrave-Andrew Library
Monash University
Clayton Vic
daniel.wee@monash.edu