

2025 AUHE Prize for Literary Scholarship (edited collections and critical editions)

Judging panel: Claire Knowles, Margaret Henderson and Chris Danta (chair)

Winner: Dashiell Moore and Philip Morrissey (eds.), *Lionel Fogarty in Poetry and Politics* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025).

This collection of essays, poems, and interviews on the poetry and politics of Yoogum and Mununjali poet, Lionel Fogarty fairly crackles with revolutionary energy. *Lionel Fogarty in Poetry and Politics* is a landmark book—a collection that seeks, in the words of senior editor Philip Morrissey, to be “a material sign of what is now, in a sociological sense, a field of study.” Taken as a whole, the essays in this volume—universally of a very high quality—present the reader with a vision of a ‘Forgartian’ poetics that centres the poet’s radical engagement with matters of language (Arlie Alizzi’s chapter on swearing is a particular highlight), transnational solidarity, love and (often state-sanctioned) violence. The panel was particularly impressed by both the originality and the generosity of the approach taken in this collection. Moore and Morrissey bring together the voices of indigenous scholars and settler scholars, senior figures in the field alongside those who are just emerging. This is a highly readable and accessible book that seeks to begin a dialogue between critics and poets; between countries and cultures; and between languages, both indigenous and non-indigenous.

Shortlisted: Jumana Bayeh, Helen Groth, and Julian Murphet (eds.), *Writing the Global Riot: Literature in a Time of Crisis* (Oxford University Press, 2023).

We commend the editors for this collection of essays: it is highly topical, ambitious, and engagingly written. The range of essays and consistency of scholarship are impressive, making the collection a substantial contribution to literary studies and to broader fields of scholarship on riots. Essays range across historical periods, literary genres, nations and places, and methodologies. We have, for instance, a comparative analysis of Shakespeare, Brecht, and contemporary representations of riots; a discussion of the riot as featured in post-1960s American poetry; a keywords type approach to unpacking the vexed term, “the mob”; examinations of contemporary political protest in Moroccan, Egyptian, Hong Kong, and Lebanese writing; careful historical scholarship that unpacks the sounds of Georgian riots; and a fascinating account of teaching *Ulysses* in a South African context. The diverse contents make the collection a genuinely global account of riots and political dissent in literature and extends our understanding of literatures beyond the West and the contemporary.

Shortlisted: Paul Eggert and Chris Vening (eds.), *The Letters of Charles Harpur and His Circle* (Sydney University Press, 2023).

A landmark publication, this is the first collection in print of the letters of one of the most important poets of the Australian colonial period: Charles Harpur. Meticulously researched, edited, and annotated by Paul Eggert and Chris Vening, this selection of two

hundred letters of Harpur and his circle show Harpur pursuing the vocation of the poet in the colonial New South Wales of the early nineteenth century. A kind of textual biography by proxy, Eggert and Vening are as much interested in the productive instability of Harpur's texts as they are in his intellectual and cultural circles. Harpur was a thoroughgoing revisionist of his own poems and would offer his revised works for republication in the periodicals of the day. His understanding of the contemporary print culture meant that this culture in turn shaped his practice as a poet. As Eggert and Vening note, "the letters perform something like a geological cross-section through Australian colonial culture." This book and its attendant digital apparatus are invaluable resources for anyone interested in Australian print culture of the early nineteenth century, a time when the literary form of poetry exerted greater cultural influence than it does today. Whether you come to it wanting to learn about the political machinations of the publishing circles of the period or about the facilitating role of Sydney newspapers in the colonial project, or just to read a colonial job reference, this is your book.