

FOOTNOTES

Footscray Mechanics' Institute Inc. Library Newsletter

#5 JULY 2022

*The enduring captivation of
EMILY BRONTE's
classic novel
WUTHERING HEIGHTS*



Welcome to issue #5 of FOOTNOTES newsletter

The cover artwork today is a stirring scene from Emily Bronte's classic gothic novel *"Wuthering Heights"*, which was published in 1847, and which has been re-added to the FMI library's expanding collection of classic fiction books for loan.

It was to be Emily's only novel, and is ranked by many as the best work from any of the talented Bronte sisters.

There have been many film and stage adaptations over the years, and it was the inspiration for legendary UK singer Kate Bush's debut single *"Wuthering Heights"*, which was a worldwide #1 hit in 1978.

Thanks to all our members, both returning and our newest members, for your continuing support of the FMI Library. 2022 being unaffected by Covid lockdowns has seen our membership grow, and our loan statistics increasing.

To this end we are always adding new books to the collection, and some of the latest additions will be briefly reviewed in this issue.

This issue also sees the inclusion of a new column "FROM THE ARCHIVES - FMI", which will be contributions from FMI Committee, detailing some of the amazing history from the Footscray Mechanics' Institute Inc, since its formation in 1856.

Thank you also for the positive feedback on the revitalisation of our historic inner-city library, and your valuable feedback on suggested titles for both reading and purchase.



Click here for link to Kate Bush's classic debut single - *"Wuthering Heights"*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BW3gKKiTvjs>

Editor: Cameron Borg

Contributions: Neil Farren, Elizabeth Balfour (c) FMI Inc. 2022

FROM THE ARCHIVES - FMI

A short article on information gleaned from looking through the archives of the FMI. The records of the institute ie the annual reports from 1890 to 1899 are held on hardcopy file at the FMI. Browsing through them there are several communalities. Finances, Meetings, Events and the Library are all constants.

The librarian was paid by commission not a salary. The librarian changes several times in the decade. A Mrs Ferguson is first mentioned and is replaced by John Ferguson in 1890. In 1891 Ferguson is replaced by a Mr. Charles Rippon. Rippon is replaced in 1889 by Mr. Robert Johnston. The commission that each librarian was paid in lieu of salary was recorded annually, for example Mrs Ferguson received 23 pounds 6 shillings and 9 pence and Mr John Pearson received 9 pounds 12 shillings and 6 pence to a total of just over 32 pounds. These sums of money can be seen in context of total receipts and expenditure of 231 plus pounds of receipts and approximately same in expenditure, with subscriptions being approximately 62pounds and monies spent on newspapers and books 88 pounds.

At the beginning of decade for the 1890's, the library held 2,200 books in its collection. *[Ed note: We currently hold over 15,000 books in our collection]*

The library varied opening hours to try evening opening as well as Saturday opening to facilitate access to varying degrees of success. Unfortunately, reports do not detail time and days of institute being open to members. A special effort is made to attract female members with opening of the Ladies reading room in 1897.

In the early parts of decade, the development of the Institute takes up considerable energy of the dedicated members of the committee. Many committee meetings are held. The meeting number ranges from 23 to 25 per annum in the decade. The number of attendees is tallied and included in the reports. Names such as Sincock and Collins, who hold roles of treasurer and secretary respectively, appear with Mssrs. McDonald, Gallant, et al appearing and attending 20 plus meetings in 1890. Natural changes occur with death, illness and resignation playing its part till one sees Willis Johnson as President, with DT Barnet Hon. Secretary in the year ending 1898, with Barnet attending 22 meetings and Johnson 16. Names such as Mssrs. Jones and Young et al appear in this annual report.

Finance and audits pay key part in records when taken with development of new building could be subject of whole article. Suffice to say well managed Institute with income ranges of 230 pounds to 128 pounds over decade. Large debentures were raised with government supervision as well as sections of land being developed in the decade. Major undertakings in any terms.

In part, as a money raising exercise, many events were held dances and other entertainment were part of the normal cycle. Cribbage tournaments are held as well as chess competition. The award for the chess competition was given by Mayor of Footscray at the time. **'Smoke and Pound'** nights are held, and in 1898 **'Mrs Jarleys Waxworks show'** was held.

The ladies committee in connection with the proposed entertainment on behalf of the "Book Fund" of the Mechanics' Institute met on Thursday evening, and finally decided that a concert and the sketch, "Mrs Jarley's Wax works," should be given on Wednesday, the 26th inst. A number of items from vocalists and others of note have been promised.

That's all for this time folks - watch this space for more from the archives in coming editions of 'Footnotes'

[Submitted by FMI Committee]

[Independent \(Footscray, Vic. : 1883 - 1922\)](#)
[Sat 15 May 1897](#) [Page 2](#)

Intrigued by these facts, a lil further research was called for. **"Smoke nights"** were identified as a colonial Australian institution, and according to wikipedia:

"The smoke night or smoke social was a predominantly Australian form of male only social event in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Australasia.

Large groups of Australian men gathered in a venue to smoke tobacco together in what they termed a smoke night. These lasted until the early 1940s.

These events were socially significant, and often coupled with a formal dinner, an annual general meeting or a musical revue. While the full spectrum of Australian men participated in smoke socials—from Parliamentarians through to Port Kembla workers—the smoke night held an allure of classy behaviour and social respectability for participating men.

Smoke socials were run by football clubs, charitable organizations, civic organizations, trade unions, and governments."

It seems the FMI was no exception. Still on the sleuthing trail, what was the enigmatic **"Mrs Jarley's Wax Works"** that was hosted by the FMI in 1897 & 1898?

"Performances of "wax works" like this play were popular during the mid nineteenth century, and were a precursor to modern cinema. Mrs. Jarley was the proprietor of a travelling wax works show which had displays of life-size figures made of wax and dressed as famous people. Local people impersonated the wax figures on stage to provide the 360 effect one might say.

Before being known as Mrs. Jarley's Wax Works it was known as Ferguson's Wax Works, founded by that gentleman in 1832 or 1833. In the Twilight Zone episode "The New Exhibit" one of the curator's is curator of murderers' row in Ferguson's Wax Museum. There were characters of King George III; Mr. Grimaldt, as clown; Mary, Queen of Scots, and even the "virgin maid" Queen Elizabeth."

[Source: <https://lindaseccaspina.wordpress.com/>]

Some images of Mrs Jarley's Wax Works
(credit: <https://lindaseccaspina.wordpress.com>)



ARTOTYPE,

BIERSTADT, N. Y.

Mrs. Jarley's Wax Works as given at the Prospect House, Blue Mountain Lake.
ADIRONDACKS, N. Y.



THE FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE INC. LIBRARY

<https://www.footscraymechanicsinstitute.org.au>

Our official website with links to FMI Library's online catalogue

<https://www.facebook.com/FootscrayMechanicsInstituteLibrary/>

The FMI facebook page. News, book reviews, events. Please follow us online.

https://www.instagram.com/fmi_library/

FMI Secretary Liz Balfour posting photos, and documenting the visual events and changes within the FMI.



The Footscray Mechanics Institute Inc. c. 1927 (c) FMI Archives

The western side facing us has now been blocked by the addition of a new building, now hosting the TUKO Cafe. The picket fence was replaced by a low stone wall in the years since, and in this photo, there is no Trustees Building looming in the background. Apart from these minor changes, the building retains its original charm and prominence in Nicholson Street, Footscray.

THE RELAUNCH OF THE HISTORIC FMI BILLIARDS ROOM - 12th April 2022
Officially renamed as the Doug Clymo Billiards Room
Presentation given at opening of renovated FMI billiard room on 12th April 2022



Mr Doug Clymo - Life Member of FMI and Billiards champion (Pic: Liz Balfour)

As of 2022, the billiard room has been under renovations since 2019 by the members. Directed by Neville, who put in uncounted hours of work, ably assisted by Liz with style guidance and logistics, and with a monthly work bee of 2 to 3 hours per time attended staffed by various committee members particularly Robert and Neil; the room is returned to its original glory.

The Footscray Mechanics Institute (FMI) has had 3 locations since 1856. The playing of billiards and snooker has long history at the (FMI). The institutes current premises were established in 1913 as one can see from plaque at front of our building. Records held in archives show planning of new building began in 1891, when debentures were raised.

Gaps in records from 1899 to 1913 make it difficult to know use of billiards tables exactly, however records show that this activity was popular then. Early records concerning the playing of billiards indicate that the previous building had 4 small tables on which members enjoyed themselves. There are mentions in annual reports of receipts for the use of these tables. Reports from 1912 show the receipt of 73 pounds 12 shillings and 7 pence for the use of the tables. Four tournaments were played that year.

The move to current location saw the sale of 4 small tables for 40 pounds, and the purchase of 4 full size Alcock tables. Two of which remain in use today. This was done for the cost of 283 pounds 2 shillings and 11 pence. Two were paid for by cash, with two on terms, with balance due of 35 pounds and 13 shillings etc. By 1914 records show annual receipt of 79 pounds 12 shillings and 9 pence. In the 1920 new balls were purchased. By the 1930s 200 plus pounds were being raised in receipts per annum. This continued into the 1940s where billiards and snooker still popular in a room 'warm in winter and cool in summer' which continued to attract players, with receipts of 170 pounds per annum common.



Mr Doug Clymo's opening break of the relaunched Billiards Room, renamed in his honour
(pic - Liz Balfour)

From the 1950s things are a little different and by 1959 two tables are removed and part of room converted to rental space. That said though numbers of active participants had reduced from previous years, the room continued to be active space for the members. Inter Mechanics Institute competitions were held with records of regular competitions with Cheltenham Mechanics Institute. Long term member and player JW Whinney donates cups for snooker and billiards. In 1959 Footscray win both cups.

Into the 1960s there are some good years with the manager Johnstone winning regular inter institute competitions held, and in the late 1960s Church of England cross membership and tournaments played. For example, in 1968, the year old building destroyed by fire incidentally, Cheltenham wins both cups. Also, notably in the mid-1960s table bowls introduced and by end of era women are included in table bowls nights!



Mr Whinney and Mr Clymo on night of relaunch - FMI Billiards (12 April 2022)
(pic - Liz Balfour)

As we move into 1970s we have active participants of the time still in our midst. More young members come onboard. The lady's involvement in table bowls continues and numerous cups are competed for. Church of England group all FMI members are headquartered in FMI in mid 1970s.

Cups such as the R Johnstone Perpetual cup for snooker and the E Johnstone Memorial cup for billiards are competed over, with KG Lee and RJ Clarke trophies for highest breaks in snooker and billiards's in place . Names such as Walmsley, Clarke and Whinney are regularly mentioned . Social exchange continues in late 70s with the Olympic social group guests in competitions. Exchange competitions with local RSL are held also. The FMI places teams in the Victorian Billiard and Snooker Association (V. B&S Comp.) a top competition of the time in late 70s and plays well. The tables at FMI described as some of best in that competition in 1977.

In the 1980 club competitions continue with in house trophies being played for. The opening of room in 1983 at weekends seems to have paid off with the Footscray team doing well in V B&S Comp. In 1981 having got to first semi-final in billiards losing to Green Cloth and in 1983 runners up to Prahran in new format of combined snooker and billiards with one Footscray member making highest break. Names such as Bajowski, Walmsley, Clarke, Dusting, Grundy and couple of the Whinneys appear routinely as mainstays of competitions. The end of decade sees final competitions in VB&S Comp. with various team formats attempted. There also appears in the annual reports first mentions of a Western Suburbs Elderly competition (WSED) held at FMI. This was for people over seventy years of age.

Into the 1990s there is a slide in interest with so many options for entertainment becoming available. The advent of television had a major impact from 1970 on, but the nineties see interest wane further; that said competitions in house continue as does Elderly competition. It also sees a rising star in one of the current legends of today's FMI as Doug Clymo get mentioned as cup winner for highest breaks. In 1990 a snooker and billiard championship contest was held with Wilkinson winning snooker and Dusting runner up, and Dusting winning billiards with Wilkinson runner up, a reversal of results so to speak. D Clymo made most breaks in snooker tournament billiards. In 1991 Wilkinson was winner of both billiards and snooker tournaments with best break in both competitions; obviously a 'gun' player. Our esteemed member Doug Clymo was runner up in billiards as well as winning JW Whinney Memorial trophy for highest billiards break. WSEC also victorious in both snooker and billiards comp, with Dusting runner up in billiards and Doug Clymo runner up in snooker.

Trophies

With the 80th anniversary held it is recorded that Wilkinson passes Smiths D and E honorary members for 25 plus years. Billiards and snooker now in played in afternoons. Doug Clymo wins at billiards. The WSEC continues to be held. This was clearly end of an era with key members failing in health. In 1994 no competition held for billiards or snooker held, whist members continue to use rooms as records shows \$122 receipts. WSEC again use room for their competitions.

In 1995 no members competitions held owing to "lack of interest" as annual report has it. The room used for practise on daily basis by members. WSEC tournament held in March with trophies provided. Records show \$166 in receipts and use of room by WSEC continues.

1996 Sid Dusting memorial trophy for WSEC is held for first time and room used by few members for practise on daily basis, it generates \$193 generating 18% of income. The mention in annual report of the Billiard room activity ceases here with change format of reports. Clearly though activity continues into 1997 with records in accounts of receipts of \$290 for year. Frank Brown mentioned as organiser of WSEC. In 1998 only \$15 recorded in accounts, though a Vern Thomas wins WSEC Dusting Memorial trophy in competition held in senior's week. The following year see oldest competitor win memorial trophy which is presented by the widow of Dusting.

The new millennia saw little use of the billiard room, fees collected were negligible though WSEC continued. This was the case ongoing though there is record of small expenditure in 2009 on room maintenance. Around this time Frank Brown organiser of WSEC goes into aged care and all activities in billiard room cease. After three years the new manager of the time forms a social group which plays intermittently to 2016. Thereafter records show only regular use is Steve Wilson and his pal until renovations begin.

So now that the room is fully renovated and ready for use as they say "come on down"



Information for FMI Members for hire of the Doug Clymo Billiards Room

Membership of the FMI includes not only library membership, with loan privileges, use of Reading Room and in-house wifi, but also access to the historic Billiards Room for social playing or solo practice.

Currently fees are set by FMI Committee at the rate of .50c per person per half hour for FMI members

Please phone the Librarian on 9687 1935 for bookings of the room and further information

NEW ACQUISITIONS TO FMI LIBRARY LOANS COLLECTION

We are pleased to present the following titles of new books for loan to members from our developing library collection.

The Divergent Trilogy

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of Divergent with a special edition of the internationally bestselling series that inspired a series of major motion pictures starring Shailene Woodley. This edition features exclusive content from Veronica Roth and beautiful reimagined cover art from award-winning illustrator Victo Ngai. In the world of Divergent, society is divided into five factions - Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful) and Erudite (the intelligent). Every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives.



The Pre-Raphaelites

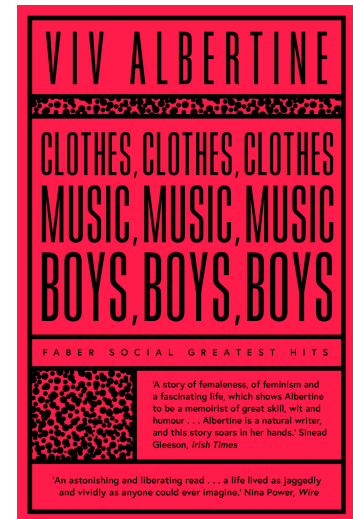
The Pre-Raphaelite Movement began in 1848, and experienced its heyday in the 1860s and 1870s. Influenced by the then little-known Keats and Blake, as well as Wordsworth, Shelley and Coleridge, Pre-Raphaelite poetry 'etherialized sensation' (in the words of Antony Harrison), and popularized the notion of 'art pour l'art' - art for art's sake.

Viv Albertine - Clothes Music Boys

Sunday Times Music Book of the Year
Rough Trade Book of the Year
Mojo Book of the Year

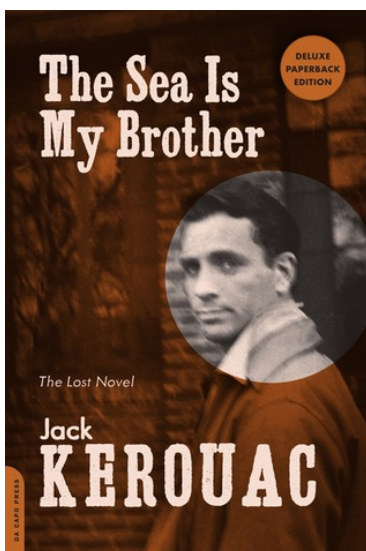
In 1975, Viv Albertine was obsessed with music but it never occurred to her she could be in a band as she couldn't play an instrument and she'd never seen a girl play electric guitar.

A year later, she was the guitarist in the hugely influential all-girl band the Slits, who fearlessly took on the male-dominated music scene and became part of a movement that changed music.



Penguin Book Of Japanese Verse

The Penguin Book of Japanese Verse contains over 700 poems from the third century to the twentieth, including both tanka ('short poem') and haiku, and covering such classic themes as nature, love, partings and time.



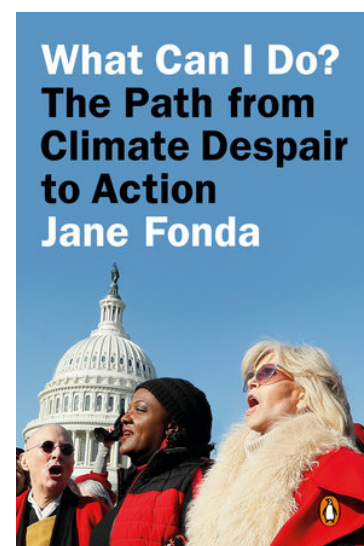
Jack Kerouac - The Sea is My Brother

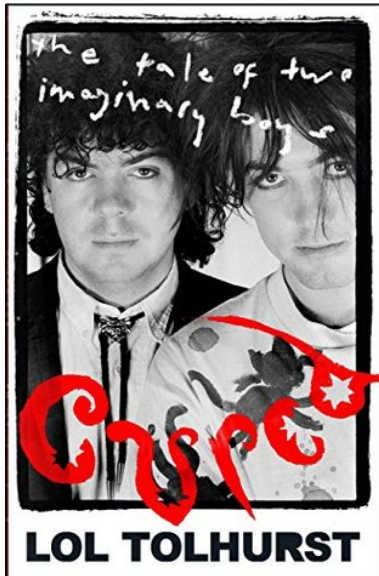
In the spring of 1943, twenty-one-year old Jack Kerouac set out to write his first novel. Working diligently day and night to complete it by hand, he titled it The Sea Is My Brother . Nearly seventy years later, its long-awaited publication provides fascinating details and insight into the early life and development of an American literary icon.

A clear precursor to such landmark works as On the Road , The Dharma Bums , and Visions of Cody , it is an important formative work that hints at the hallmarks of classic Kerouac: the search for spiritual meaning in a materialistic world, spontaneous travel as the true road to freedom, late nights in bars engaged in intense conversation, the desperate urge to escape from society, and the strange, terrible beauty of loneliness.

What Can I Do?: by Jane Fonda

A call to action from Jane Fonda, one of the most inspiring activists of our time, urging us to wake up to the looming disaster of climate change and equipping us with the tools we need to join her in protest This is the last possible moment in history when changing course can mean saving lives and species on an unimaginable scale. It's too late for moderation. Our climate is in a crisis.



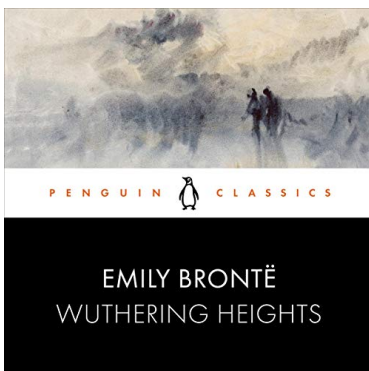


CURED by Lol Tolhurst

Coming of age in Thatcher's Britain in the late 70s and early 80s was really tough, especially if you lived in Crawley. But against the grinding austerity, social unrest and suburban boredom, the spark of rebellion that was punk set alight three young men who would become one of the most revered and successful bands of their generation. The Cure. CURED is a memoir by Lol Tolhurst, Lol threads the genesis of The Cure through his friendship with Robert Smith, the iconic leader of the group, and the band's most successful era in the 1980s. He takes us up to the present day, a riveting forty years since the band's inception. The band's journey to worldwide success is woven into a story not only of great highs and lows but also of love, friendship, pain, forgiveness

CRUEL STARS by John Birmingham

With a ruthless sect of humanity intent on wiping out their species, five intrepid heroes must think like their enemies in this epic sci-fi adventure. They thought the Sturm were dead. They were wrong. Centuries after their defeat, the enemy has returned with an overwhelming attack on the fringes of human space. On the brink of annihilation, humankind's only hope is a few brave souls who survived the initial onslaught: Commander Lucinda Hardy, commander of the Royal Armadalen Navy's only surviving warship; Booker3, a soldier of Earth, sentenced to die for treason; Alessia, a young royal forced to flee when her home planet is overrun and her entire family executed; Sephina L'trel, the leader of an outlaw band. And, finally, retired Admiral Frazer McLennan, the infamous hero of the first war with the Sturm, who hopes to rout his old foes once and for all - or die trying. These five flawed, reluctant heroes must band together to prevail against a relentless enemy and near-impossible odds. For if they fail, the future itself is doomed.



WUTHERING HEIGHTS by Emily Brontë

In a house haunted by memories, the past is everywhere ... As darkness falls, a man caught in a snowstorm is forced to shelter at the strange, grim house Wuthering Heights. It is a place he will never forget. There he will come to learn the story of Cathy - how she was forced to choose between her well-meaning husband and the dangerous man she had loved since she was young. How her choice led to betrayal and terrible revenge - and continues to torment those in the present. How love can transgress authority, convention, even death.

OTHER NEW TITLES FOR LOAN

James Bond Forever and a Day

Horowitz continues the James Bond series in this praised addition to the espionage genre and the Bond legacy

Leather Soul - The Bob Murphy Story

Footscray Bulldogs legend and an inspiring sports biography

Wedding Feast - Alex Delaware

More renowned crime fiction in this popular series

The Suspect

2019 award winning crime fiction

Cleopatra

The Egyptian Queen who challenged Rome and conquered eternity

Anna Karenina

Frankenstein

Crime & Punishment

Vanity Fair

Dracula

Five important additions to our classic fiction collection

The Spy Who Tried to Stop A War

The true story of Katherine Gunn, now being filmed with Keira Knightley in the lead role

Joy Division - The oral history

UK rock book of the year - by renowned UK music writer Jon Savage

Empires Infiltration

This groundbreaking collaboration between two Gollancz authors tells of the invasion of Earth by two different alien races - at the same time.

Rise of The Vampire

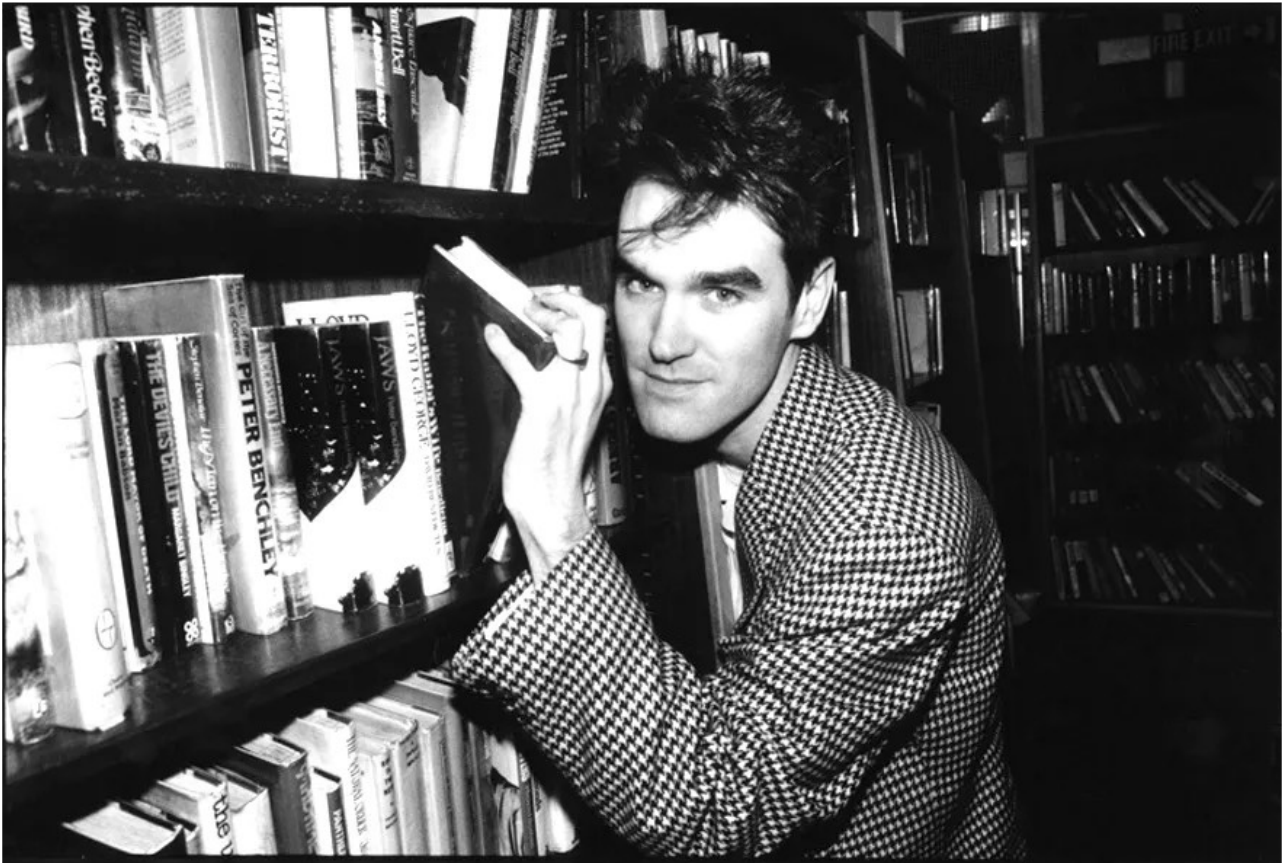
Non fiction study of history and mythology of Vampires and their influence on modern culture

Cuba Rewind

Beautiful pictorial travel and information book about modern day Cuba

Morrissey Alone and Palely Loitering

Renowned rock photographer Kevin Cummins traces Morrissey in pictorial form from his beginnings fronting The Smiths, to his hero worship in the States as a solo artist by groups as diverse as latinos, bikies, rockabilly devotees, gang members, and Mexicans sporting Morrissey tattoos



*"There's more to life than books, but not much more" - **Morrissey***



PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A CONSUMER

MORRISSEY

**THE
SMITHS**

RECORDS

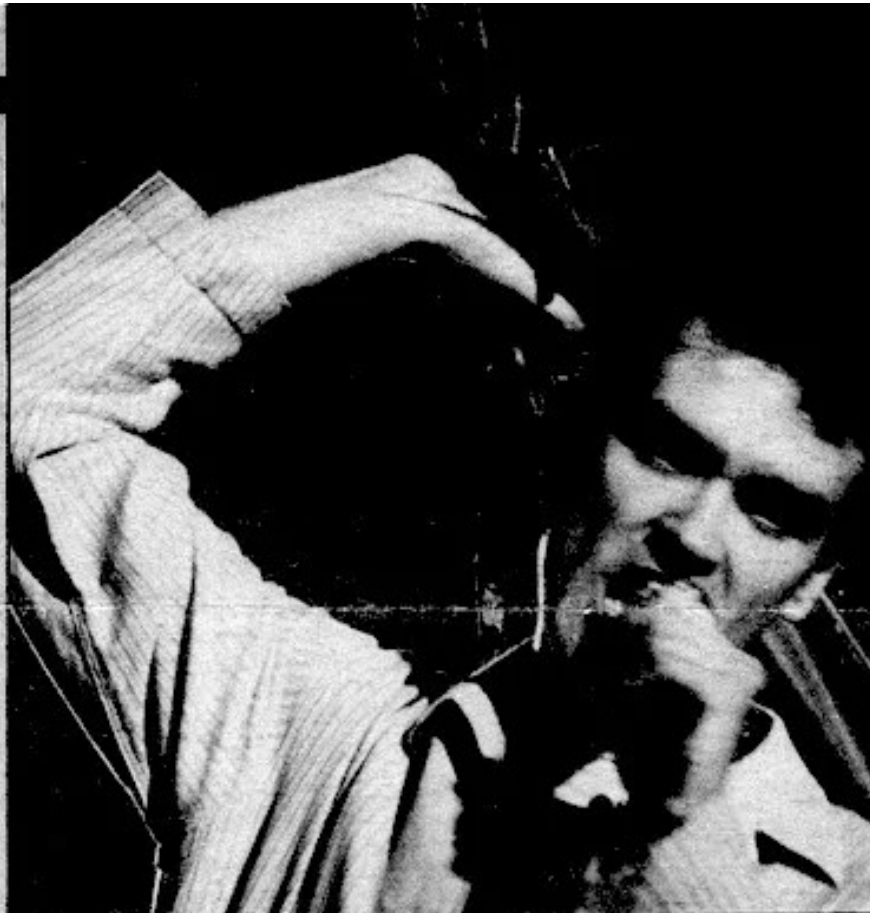
'Stop Before You Start' – Sandie Shaw
 'The Right One Is Left' – Cilla Black
 'Heart' – Rita Pavone
 'Insult To Injury' – Timi Yuro
 'Paper Boy' – The Marvelettes
 'How Does That Grab You, Darlin'?' – Nancy Sinatra
 'Be Young, Be Foolish, Be Happy' – The Tams
 'Johnny Remember Me' – John Leyton
 'I'll Never Quite Get Over You' – Billy Fury
 'I Want A Boy For My Birthday' – The Cookies

BOOKS

Complete Works of Oscar Wilde
 Popcorn Venus – Marjorie Rosen
 From Reverence To Rape – Molly Haskell
 Beyond Belief – Emyln Williams
 The Lion In Love – Shelagh Delaney
 Against Our Will – Susan Brownmiller
 The Angel Inside Went Sour – Esther Rothman
 Men's Liberation – Jack Nichols
 The Murderer's Who's Who – Gaute & Odell
 The Handbook Of Non-Sexist Writing – Miller & Swift

FILMS

The Man Who Came To Dinner (1941)
 A Taste Of Honey (1961)
 Christmas In Connecticut (1945)
 The Killing Of Sister George (1969)
 A Kind Of Loving (1962)
 Hobson's Choice (1953)
 Mr Skeffington (1944)
 Bringing Up Baby (1938)
 The Member Of The Wedding (1953)
 The World, The Flesh And The Devil (1959)



Pic Joëlle Dépont

SYMBOLISTS

Oscar Wilde
 Sandie Shaw
 Hillaire Belloc
 Shelagh Delaney
 Beatrice Arthur
 Pauline Kael
 Clifton Webb
 Dorothy Parker
 Ronald Searle
 Viv Nicholson

Morrissey "Portrait of the Artist as a Consumer"

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FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE INC. LIBRARY

FOOTNOTES newsletter

#5 - JULY 31st 2022

Contact: (03) 9687 1935

info@footscraymechanicsinstitute.org.au

Librarian: Cameron Borg

Website: <https://www.footscraymechanicsinstitute.org.au>

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https://www.instagram.com/fmi_library/

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