TALL TALES AND TRUE: Journeys real and imagined
Introduction

Since the beginning of time, tales of travel, both real and imagined, have been created in order to make sense of the world. Upon each new geographic discovery, imaginations have been sparked and have given rise to stories of the weird and wonderful. From the Age of Discovery to today, travellers have published their accounts for eager audiences of scientists and ‘armchair travellers’, and writers have used these as springboards for fictional works. In Australia, many of the books we hold dear recount journeys throughout the land in order to gain understandings of nation and self.

This exhibition takes viewers on a journey through a range of historical accounts, travel books and literary works from the Rare Books Collection of Monash University Library. The collection began with the purchase, in the 1960s, of David Woolley’s valuable collection of books by Jonathan Swift. Since then, it has grown to be large and varied, but has maintained a collecting emphasis on Swift’s works and those of his contemporaries such as Daniel Defoe and Alexander Pope. In recent years these have been joined by works of science fiction, artists’ books, children’s literature and poetry, many of which offer new ways of exploring physical worlds as well as those of the mind.

June 2017 to December 2017
The Gallery, Ground Level,
Sir Louis Matheson Library,
Clayton Campus, Monash University

Curators: Stephen Herrin and Clare Williamson
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CASE 1

AGE of DISCOVERY

During the Age of Discovery from the 15th to the 18th centuries, explorers took to the oceans to seek trade routes, wealth and new lands for their sponsoring monarchs. The published accounts of these ventures, by Commelin and Dampier for example, read like adventure stories of far-off peoples and places and were read widely by audiences at home in Europe. These audiences included subsequent generations of writers, who drew on these works in order to create fictional accounts of unknown civilisations and fantastical beasts via the relatively new form of literary endeavour — the novel. Some stories, such as Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*, are located on remote, uncharted islands but based on real events; others, such as Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels*, reference newly charted lands such as New Holland, whose interiors were shrouded in mystery to European audiences at the time.

Jonathan Swift
1667–1745

Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World: In four parts
London: B Motte, 1726, 2 vols, volume 1 displayed

In his most popular work, now known as *Gulliver’s Travels*, Jonathan Swift uses his protagonist’s adventures in far-off lands to satirise European politics and society. The imaginary places explored by Gulliver were inspired by Herman Moll’s world map, published only a few years before Swift was writing (1716), a copy of which is also held by Monash. Towards the end of his travels, Gulliver visits New Holland (Australia). This copy is a first edition, first state, and was previously in the library of the Duke of Kent.

Edward Bawden is one of the best-known English book illustrators of the 20th century. Most illustrated editions of Gulliver’s Travels have been created for children, but this Folio Society edition offers an adult audience a refreshingly new and colourful interpretation of Swift’s classic.

Image courtesy of the Estate of Edward Bawden
Daniel Defoe

c. 1660–1731

The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner: Who lived eight and twenty years all alone in an uninhabited island on the coast of America — With an account how he was at last as strangely deliver’d by pyrates


Robinson Crusoe was first published in April 1719. It proved so popular that by December, the book had gone through four editions. In the first edition Crusoe was given as the author and the public received the book as a true narrative. It may in fact have been inspired by the real-life story of Alexander Selkirk, a seaman marooned in 1704 after Dampier left him at his own request. Defoe was one of the earliest writers in the genre of ‘realistic fiction’.

Charles-Louis de Secondat, baron de la Brède et de Montesquieu

1689–1755

Das Herrn von Montesquiou Persische Briefe

Frankfurt and Leipzig: Auf Kosten des Uebersetzers, 1759

Montesquieu was a social philosopher who played a part in the first phase of the French Revolution. His Lettres Persanes was first published in 1721 and quickly circulated throughout Europe. The German edition is shown here. The work was written as a series of letters from two Persians, Usbek and Rica. During their journey through France, they critique French society, politics and religion. Like Swift, Montesquieu utilised travel narrative to comment upon and satirise contemporary society.

Isaac Commelin

1598–1676

Begin ende voortgangh, van de Vereenighde Nederlantsche geoctroyeerde Oost-Indische Compagnie: Vervatende de voornaemste reysen, by de inwoonderen der selver provincien derwaarts gedaen ...

[Amsterdam], 1646, 2 vols, volume 1 displayed

Commelin’s two-volume work is an account of 42 voyages made by the Dutch East India Company. The book contains many illustrations depicting the scenery, people and animals encountered during these travels. Shown here is the Queen of Patani in a triumphal procession with elephants. These strange and exotic beasts fascinated Europeans. The voyage to Indonesia described in this part of the volume took place in June 1600 under Jacob van Neck.
CASE 2

COOK and HIS CONTEMPORARIES 1

While colonial or economic interests continued to inform exploration, many 18th-century expeditions, such as those of La Pérouse and Captain James Cook, were primarily undertaken for scientific endeavour. These voyages had elements of adventure and danger, as all journeys do, but the overarching inspirational elements for writers of fiction during this period were the descriptions of people encountered and places visited. These journeys, and their resulting publications, paid close attention to the charting of land masses, the documentation of flora and fauna, and descriptions of local cultures. Even in this new age, not all the world had been charted and writers could still locate fantastical civilisations in places such as the Great South Land.

John Hawkesworth c. 1715–1773
An Account of the Voyages Undertaken by the Order of His Present Majesty, for Making Discoveries in the Southern Hemisphere, and Successively Performed by Commodore Byron, Captain Wallis, Captain Carteret, and Captain Cook...
London: Printed for W Strahan and T Cadell, 1773

This was Captain James Cook's first voyage, undertaken during the years 1768 to 1771. Cook's brief was to travel to the South Seas to observe the transit of Venus from Tahiti and to chart the waters between Cape Horn and New Holland. He circumnavigated New Zealand and charted some of the east coast of Australia. This account proved so popular that it ran to two editions in 1773; however, Cook was criticised by Alexander Dalrymple for not searching out the Great South Land.
Sydney Parkinson c. 1745–1771

A Journal of a Voyage to the South Seas, in His Majesty’s Ship, the Endeavour

London: Printed for Stanfield Parkinson, the editor, 1773

Parkinson was a draftsman assigned to Joseph Banks on the Endeavour voyage. He is the first published account, but it was unauthorised. The book is remarkable for the quality of its engravings and the first mention of the kangaroo by name. Parkinson died from dysentery on the return voyage to England and an unfortunate dispute ensued between his brother, Stanfield, and Banks over the ownership of specimens and drawings from the voyage, a situation alluded to by the Gomeldon additional included in this copy. Some copies of Parkinson’s account have hand-coloured plates, but it is unlikely that these were part of the original publication.

Arthur Phillip 1738–1814

The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay: With an account of the establishment of the colonies of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island...

London: Printed for John Stockdale, 1790, 2nd ed.

On 18 January 1788, Governor Phillip arrived at Botany Bay with the First Fleet. This published account of the foundation of Australia was not official, although it was compiled from the governor’s journals and papers. As well as descriptions and engravings of Indigenous peoples and natural history, the names of more than 700 First Fleet convicts are included.

Zaccaria Seriman 1709–1784

Viages de Enrique Wanton a las tierras incognitas australes, y al pais de las Monas...

Madrid: Por Don Antonio de Sancha, 1778

Viages de Enrique Wanton was first published in Venice in 1749. This copy is the expanded Spanish translation by Joaquin de Guzman y Manrique that first appeared in 1764. The book claims to have been translated from an English manuscript, but it never appeared in English. The story shows influences of Swift, revealing his impact on the continent. It begins as a satirical commentary on Venetian society but the later two volumes also satirise Spanish manners and customs.

The Life and Singular Adventures of Charles Henry Copeland...

Chatham: Printed by C and W Townson, for Langley and Belch, London, 1808

Langley and Belch published many writing blanks and chapbooks in the early years of the 19th century, primarily “for the instruction of youth.” This chapbook, the Life of Charles Henry Copeland serves as a didactic narrative, warning young men of the dangers of seeking adventure on the seas. Each time he ventures out, he meets with failure, first shipwrecked on his way to Guinea and then taken prisoner by French privateers on route to the Coast of Calabar. He finds happiness and success when he returns home.
As the 18th century progressed, fictional works based on real exploration turned their focus on the characters of the explorers themselves as well as on the inhabitants of foreign lands. Published accounts of journeys such as that of La Billardière focused on romanticised Enlightenment ethnographic notions of the ‘noble savage’ and ‘native beauty’ rather than on adventures on the high seas. Writers now explored the possibilities of what might have happened to lost explorers such as La Pérouse or imagined the purported romantic relationship of Joseph Banks with the Queen of Tahiti.

Jacques-Julien Houtou de La Billardière
1755–1834
Relation du voyage à la recherche de La Pérouse: Fait par ordre de l’Assemblée Constituante pendant les années 1791, 1792 et pendant la 1ère. et la 2de. année de la République française
Paris: Chez HJ Jansen, Imprimeur-Libraire, 1800, 2 vols, atlas displayed
The disappearance of Jean-François de Galaup, comte de La Pérouse, and his crew in 1788 was one of the great mysteries of the 18th century. This lavish book is the account of the voyage led by Joseph-Antoine Bruni d’Entrecasteaux to search for him and further explore the southern Australian coastline and the South Pacific region. They failed to find La Pérouse. La Billardière was the naturalist on board and his account of the voyage was the first to be published because of the revolution in France, when d’Entrecasteaux found himself on the wrong side politically.

John Bysh
Active 1829–1861
Bysh’s Edition of the Voyages and Adventures of La Pérouse: To which is added The Life of Hatem Tai, or, The generosity of an Arabian Prince
London: John Bysh, 1829
This chapbook is representative of a cycle of plays and narratives that speculated on or augmented the life of La Pérouse after his disappearance. Bysh’s edition is a juvenile version based on The Life of La Pérouse, the Celebrated and Unfortunate French Navigator (1801). It tells the local people to be friendly and helpful, a point that Keate remarked on, suggesting that ‘it is solely to the benevolent character of their inhabitants, we owe the safe return of our countrymen’. The engraved portrait of one of King Abba Thulle’s many wives, Ludee, reinforces the popular late 18th-century notions of the ‘noble savage’ and ‘native beauty’.

George Keate
1729–1797
An Account of the Pelew Islands, Situated in the Western Part of the Pacific Ocean: Composed from the journals and communications of Captain Henry Wilson, and some of his officers, who, in August 1783, were there shipwrecked, in The Antelope
London: Printed for Captain Wilson; and sold by G Nicol, 1788, 2nd ed.
A popular 18th-century book concerning the Pacific, Keate’s Palau Islands accounts for the shipwreck of the Antelope and the survival of Captain Henry Wilson and his officers. Wilson found that the local people were friendly and helpful, a point that Keate remarked on, suggesting that ‘it is solely to the benevolent character of their inhabitants, we owe the safe return of our countrymen’. The engraved portrait of one of King Abba Thulle’s many wives, Ludee, reinforces the popular late 18th-century notions of the ‘noble savage’ and ‘native beauty’.

Major John Scott
1747–1819
An Epistle from Oberea, Queen of Otaheite, to Joseph Banks, Esq.
London: Printed for J Almon, 1774
Cook’s voyages spawned a number of imaginary travelogues and supplements, including this epistle parodying Joseph Banks’ purported romantic adventures with Oberea, Queen of Tahiti. This imaginary letter from Oberea to Banks fondly recalls their amorous encounters. It has been styled on Ovid’s Heroides, where Ovilia, as Calypso, laments her abandonment by Ulysses. Such parodies were greatly enjoyed by the public.
CASE 4

JOURNEYS of TRANSPORTATION

Journeys of convict transportation are stories linked to colonisation. When the First Fleet set out to colonise Australia, several of those involved carried agreements to publish accounts that would relate what they found to those at home. The First Fleet journals of Tench, White and others are first-hand accounts of these journeys. They document the events of the journeys and the new lands experienced, the geographical features there, Indigenous peoples encountered, and the flora and fauna witnessed. In fictional works, transportation was usually a finality or ending rather than the main story. Some, however, such as Marcus Clarke’s *For the Term of His Natural Life*, attempted to describe the experience of convicts in greater depth.

John Hunter 1737–1821

*An Historical Journal of the Transactions at Port Jackson and Norfolk Island: With the discoveries which have been made in New South Wales and in the Southern Ocean since the publication of Phillip’s voyage, compiled from the official papers…*

London: Printed for John Stockdale, 1793

Hunter was second captain under Governor Phillip aboard the HMS *Sirius*. This journal offers a firsthand account of the First Fleet’s voyage, exploration and settlements at Port Jackson and Norfolk Island. The *View of the Settlement on Sydney Cove, Port Jackson, 20th August, 1788* is the first known published view of Sydney. Philip Gidley King’s rendition of an Indigenous family was engraved by William Blake.

John White 1756–1832

*Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales: With sixty-five plates of non descript animals, birds, lizards, serpents, curious cones of trees and other natural productions…*

London: Printed for J Debrett, 1790

White was the chief surgeon for the First Fleet. He was also a keen naturalist. His observations on exotic animals and birds presented in this work are significant as some of the earliest descriptions of Australian species. The sketches were carried out by him and by a convict artist named Thomas Watling, who was assigned to him. The plates were engraved in England by leading artists of the day. The book also presents a detailed account of the journey, including descriptions of Rio de Janeiro, Cape Town and Norfolk Island.
Watkin Tench
1786–1833
A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson, in New South Wales: Including an accurate description of the situation of the colony; of the natives; and of its natural productions
London: Sold by G Nicol ... and J Sewell, 1793
Captain-Lieutenant Watkin Tench was responsible for two of the six published First Fleet journals, the second being *A Narrative of the Expedition to Botany Bay* (1789). His accounts offer a vivid portrayal of the journey, arrival and first four years in the fledgling colony. He makes sympathetic observations of daily activities, convict life and interactions with Indigenous Australians. This copy is bound in its original blue boards.

Marcus Clarke
1846–1881
His Natural Life
Melbourne: George Robertson, 1874
Purchased with Friends of the Library funds from the estate of Theodore Alexander Scheps, in memory of Ida Scheps
Later known as *For the Term of His Natural Life*, this work is a fictional account of a convict's transportation to Van Diemen's Land, his imprisonment at Port Arthur and his ensuing escape, which results in his untimely death. Clarke undertook extensive research in order to weave both fictional and factual elements into the narrative. This copy includes the bookplate of Bernard Gore Brett, a major Australian collector, and a tipped-in signature of the author.

Ramayana
Bali, late 19th century
The gift of Andrea di Castro, in memory of Fabio Formichi, Italian antiquities dealer
Shown here is a lontar, or palm leaf manuscript. The text is in Kawi, old Javanese, and the manuscript dates from the late 19th century. Javanese examples of the Hindu *Ramayana* date from the 9th century, but the Sanskrit epic is far more ancient in India. The story of the exiled Prince Rama has been passed down over time through the shadow puppet tradition as well as palm leaf manuscripts into the 20th century.

**CASE 5**

**RELIGIOUS JOURNEYS**

Stories of religious journeys can be found in all cultures of the world. Often inspired by a desire to explain human existence, they have taken the form of cosmological and historical accounts as well as literary works such as epic poems and allegories. A central motif in many religious stories is the pilgrimage, via which devotees journey to a sacred mountain or site, such as Mt Fuji, a great cathedral or temple, or the birthplace of a saint. Epic poems such as *Paradise Lost* and the *Ramayana* have elevated religious journeys to canonical status, while allegorical tales such as *The Pilgrim’s Progress* have sought to help people understand the ways of God and the world ‘which is to come’.
Sebastian Brant
1458–1521
Stultifera Nauis: Narragonice perfectionis nunqu[ue] satis laudata nauis
Basel: Johann Bergmann, de Olpe, 1497
The Ship of Fools was first published as Narrenschiff in 1494. This is the Latin version with illustrations created by Albrecht Dürer when he was an apprentice. It is an allegorical journey of fools bound for a fools’ paradise.

Dante Alighieri
1265–1321
Inferno, Purgatory and Paradise
London: Cassell, 1903–04
Gustave Doré’s illustrations of Dante’s epic poem have become so synonymous with the work that, even now, they evoke our visual and sensory imagination of the Divine Comedy. Lost in a gloomy wood, Dante is guided by Virgil through Inferno and Purgatory. When he journeys through celestial Paradise, he is guided by Beatrice, the object of his affection in real life. The poem’s narrative functions as an allegory of the soul’s journey towards God.

Geoffrey Chaucer
c. 1342–1400
The Works of our Ancient and Learned English Poet, Geffrey Chavcer: Newly printed...
London: George Bishop, 1602
Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales is one of the most significant works in English literature. The tales are presented within the frame of a storytelling contest between a group of pilgrims travelling together from London to Canterbury Cathedral to visit the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket. Chaucer’s narrative focuses more upon the stories and the characters narrating them than it does upon the spiritual quest of the pilgrims or details of the pilgrimage.

John Bunyan
1628–1688
The Pilgrim’s Progress from This World to That which is to Come: The second part, delivered under the similitude of a dream...
London: Printed for M Beddington, 1719
Written in a Bedfordshire jail, The Pilgrim’s Progress was a foundation text for the budding working-class movement of 18th-century England. It was lauded by Swift, Johnson and Walpole. The first part of Bunyan’s religious allegory follows Christian on a journey to salvation from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. The frontispiece illustrates the second part of his work, with Christian dreaming of his wife and children embarking on their own dangerous journey.
John Milton
1608–1674
Paradise Lost: A poem in twelve books
Birmingham: Printed by John Baskerville for J and R Tonson in London, 1760

Paradise Lost dramatises the Biblical story of the Fall of Man, including Satan’s temptation of Adam and Eve and their eventual expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Like Aeneas and Odysseus, Satan travels between Hell and Earth alone.

This edition is significant for Baskerville’s close attention to typography in order to create visual appeal rather than the volume being embellished with illustrations.

Hermann Hesse
1877–1962
Wanderung
Berlin: S Fischer, 1922

Written as fiction but ostensibly to be read as autobiography, Wanderung or ‘hike’, reflects on the human condition and the complexity of reconciling the active life to the contemplative life. It is a precursor to Hesse’s novels of spiritual journeying, Siddhartha and Steppenwolf, for which he won his Nobel Prize.

CASE 6
STORIES of MIGRATION

Throughout history, migration has occurred during periods of both peace and war. An individual’s decision to leave their homeland may be for reasons of religious freedom, to flee persecution, or to make a better life. When European colonisation of Australia began with the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788, Indigenous peoples had been living here for more than 50,000 years. Since the 19th century, Australia has witnessed the arrival of numerous waves of migrants, including those seeking fortune during the Gold Rush, those fleeing war-torn Europe after the Second World War and refugees from Vietnam, Africa and the Middle East. Works held by the Library range from emigrant guides and passenger log books to pamphlets and artists’ books.

Alderbury Poor Law Union
Emigration to Australia
Manuscript, c. 1850–59

English poor law unions and workhouses, as portrayed by Charles Dickens in Oliver Twist, were by-products of the growing economic problems for the lower classes in Victorian England. This four-page letter appeals to the able-bodied labourers of the Alderbury Poor Law Union in Hanham, England, to find ‘independence’ in what is described as a ‘rapidly rising colony’. The wages and rations outlined in the letter would have been very attractive to the poor. As a companion piece to this letter, there is in the collection a pamphlet from 1841, Dietary of the Union Workhouse: Order of the poor-law commissioners... for the Alderbury Union, that shows the meagre subsistence experienced in the workhouse.
The 1851 discovery of gold in the colony of New South Wales gave rise to a large influx of prospectors, merchants and labourers to Australian shores. Lang believed that Australia would be a great empire within a few decades and that all that was needed was a “…population—and not population merely, but a highly intelligent, enterprising, energetic, British Protestant population”. The title is misleading as Lang tries to deter people from going to the goldfields and dedicates more pages to cotton growing. This copy is from the second thousand printed, with an appendix: ‘The cotton and gold fields of Australia’.

Ralph Hargrave
Log Book of the Ship Joseph Tarratt
Manuscript, 1856-57

Travelling to the new colony with his father John Fletcher Hargrave, who was soon to become solicitor-general for New South Wales, Ralph Hargrave boarded the ship Joseph Tarratt in 1856. This personal account of emigrant life includes poetry, a traveller’s code of conduct, maps, geographic coordinates, cabin arrangements and seating plans. Having established himself in Sydney, John Hargrave sent his son back to Greenwich for his wife and remaining children. One of these children, Lawrence, would become the renowned aeronautical engineer and explorer after whom, in part, the Hargrave-Andrew Library at Monash University is named.
As stated by the artists: ‘Europa to Oceania looks at the migration of the artists’ families from Europe to Australia and the culture they brought with them. Themes include the voyage to Australia, who they are through documentation, religion, entertainment and food. The author both responds to the images and illustrates his own family’s migration and assimilation.’

Peter Lyssiotis’s family migrated to Australia from Cyprus in 1963. Lyssiotis is a photographer, artist and writer with longstanding ties to Monash University Library. Much of his work centres on issues around identity and the immigrant experience. In this work he uses the imagery of suitcases to represent his family’s departure from postwar Europe and their arrival in their adopted country.
Paul Theroux has said that perhaps the oldest form of storytelling is that of travel. One can imagine the need very early on to relay information amongst a group in order to describe where food, shelter, water and danger were, by one who had been beyond and seen. Literary journeys can be traced back to early beginnings with the Epic of Gilgamesh, the works of Homer and the Bible. Tales of travel developed into stories of enlightenment and self-discovery, with the journey motif as its framework. In the 20th century a new kind of personal journey arose, expressed by Jack Kerouac in his statement that ‘the road is the journey.’

Homer
The Odyssey of Homer: Translated from the Greek
London: Printed for Henry Lintot, 1732, 5 vols
Translated by Alexander Pope

Pope’s translations of Homer did not mark the first appearance of the Greek bard in English, but they made a significant impression. Pope’s Iliad was published in 1715–20 and was a huge financial success. In 1725–26 he issued The Odyssey. Two Greek scholars, William Broome and Elijah Fenton, were responsible for more than half the translation, a fact that Pope tried to hide from the public. When it became known, his reputation was severely damaged.

James Joyce
1882–1941
Ulysses
New York: The Limited Editions Club, 1935
Limited ed. of 1500 copies, signed by the artist, Henri Matisse

The Limited Editions Club edition of Ulysses is an example of collaboration between an author and an artist. Different versions of the story record different reactions by Joyce to Henri Matisse’s illustrations. Ulysses is a modern-day journey through Dublin. The fact that Matisse chose to provide illustrations of the classical Odyssey instead of Joyce’s contemporary novel has led to speculation that he may not have read the book. Copies signed by both author and artist are rare. Joyce having signed only 250 of the 1500 copies.

Patrick White
1912–1990
Voss: A novel
London: Eyre & Spottiswoode and The Book Society, 1957

Dust jacket by Sidney Nolan

Voss is loosely based on the failed 1845 expedition of Ludwig Leichhardt to inland Australia. The narratives of Leichhardt’s exploration journals are of the adventure, the landscapes and observations of Indigenous Australians. In contrast, Patrick White’s novel Voss is more an exploration of the man and of the love he left behind. The cover illustration is by Sidney Nolan. Nolan and White were friends and Nolan designed at least eight covers for White.

John Steinbeck
1902–1968
The Grapes of Wrath
New York: The Viking Press, 1939

This is a story of a family’s journey along Route 66 during the Depression era. The Joad family is forced from their Oklahoma farm and decide to travel to California, mistakenly imagining it as a land of plenty. Everything the family owns is invested in the journey. The book was controversial when released because of its negative depiction of Californian farmers and its references to workers’ rights. Copies were burned by those who viewed it as socialist propaganda. The dust jacket is by Elmer Hader.
The disgruntled and restless postwar youth found its voice through the Beat Generation of the 1950s. This was defined by *On the Road*, Jack Kerouac’s fictionalised account of his journeys across America with fellow Beats Neal Cassady, William S. Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg. To Kerouac, the journey itself was the experience, rather than the reaching of a destination.

*The Songlines* has been regarded as one of the great examples of postmodernist travel writing. It was written following Chatwin’s travels to central Australia in the early 1980s with his friend Salman Rushdie. Chatwin tracks the travels of Indigenous Australians along songlines or dreaming tracks across the land. *The Songlines* is a philosophical musing on how people have interacted with the land over thousands of years.

*The Sick Bag Song* began during his 2014 US music tour and includes notes, musings and poetry written on various airplanes sick bags throughout the extensive 22-city tour.

*Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*: A savage journey to the heart of the American dream
New York: Random House, [1972]

Fear and Loathing first appeared in *Rolling Stone* magazine in 1971. Thompson claimed that it was primarily written over 36 hours while alone in a room on a farm outside Las Vegas. Similar to Jack Kerouac’s writing of *On the Road*, it is a social commentary on 1960s America as well as being a journey of personal experience. The New York Times claimed it was "by far the best book yet on the decade of dope." It is illustrated by the English artist Ralph Steadman.

*Nick Cave*
b. 1957

*The Sick Bag Song*
Edinburgh: Canongate, 2014

Nick Cave attended the Caulfield Institute of Technology, now Monash Faculty of Art and Design. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by Monash in 2008 for his contribution to Australian artistic endeavour. In addition to his music, Cave is a writer and actor. The *Sick Bag Song* began during his 2014 US music tour and includes notes, musings and poetry written on various airplanes sick bags throughout the extensive 22-city tour.
As in the imaginary fiction based around the Great South Land, which conjured up fantastical beasts, utopian societies and strange people with eyes in their chests, science fiction has set stories in the heavens or other unknown worlds. Stories of journeys to the moon, such as that of Cyrano de Bergerac, go as far back as the 18th century. Jules Verne told his adventure stories as journeys inside the earth and up into the heavens. Journeys of the fantastic have abounded too, mainly for young readers, as with the works of CS Lewis (who also wrote science fiction), but also for adults, such as those by JRR Tolkien.

Jules Verne
1828–1905
A Journey to the Centre of the Earth: A story of wonderful and marvelous adventure
London: Henry Vickers, 1870

Jules Verne’s Voyage au Centre de la Terre first appeared in 1864. Its introduction to English readers was the serialised version in The Boy’s Journal. The novel appeared over 12 instalments from January to December 1870 and contains many more illustrations than the first English edition that followed.

HG Wells
1866–1946
The First Men in the Moon
London: George Newnes, 1901

HG Wells’ ‘fantastic stories’ were highly influential on many writers of science fiction. In this story the science is highly suspect, whereas other writers of science fiction pride themselves on their references to true science. Wells recounts travel to the moon without a ship and describes the moon as being inhabited by a colony of advanced insect-like creatures.

Cyrano de Bergerac
1619–1655
A Voyage to the Moon: With some account of the Solar World: A comical romance
Dublin: Printed by R James, 1754
Translated by Samuel Derrick

English readers have a false impression of Cyrano de Bergerac due to Edmund Rostand’s play of 1897; he did, however, have a rather large nose. Cyrano was a 17th-century satirist who was critical of religion and politics. The novel was first published in French as Histoire Comique des États et Empires du Soleil in 1662. It is a satirical attack on cosmological beliefs that viewed man and the world as the centre of creation.
Amazing Stories began in April 1926. It was the first of many science fiction magazines and is considered by many to mark the true start of science fiction as a genre. Its early issues reprinted stories by established authors rather than featuring new and original fiction. Stories by HG Wells, Jules Verne and Edgar Allan Poe appear in this issue.

Robert Heinlein 1907–1988

Have Space Suit – Will Travel

London: Gollancz, 1970

Robert Heinlein was one of the first science fiction writers to break into the mainstream. He was an author of ‘hard science fiction’, in which scientific plausibility is key. Stories of journeys to the moon and into space appeared well before the 20th century, but these were not couched in the realism presented here. This copy belonged to Irene Booth, the sister of Ada Booth whose Slavic collection has come to Monash University Library.

JRR Tolkien 1892–1973

The Hobbit: Or there and back again


The Hobbit, first published in 1937, grew out of Tolkien’s philological studies. Before the story formed he had developed an entire language for elves. He then created a mythology and storyline to frame the language within. The Hobbit is a fantastic journey through ‘Middle Earth’. Tolkien and CS Lewis, along with other Oxford professors and students, belonged to the Inklings, a reading group where members encouraged each other’s fantasy fiction endeavours.

Oskar Kokoschka 1886–1980

Die Traumenden Knaben

Vienna: Wiener Werkstätte, 1908

This is the first of Oskar Kokoschka’s many books. It was commissioned as a children’s book but Kokoschka developed it into a dream narrative and a journey through sexual awakening. His illustrations of a world of forests and oceans are depicted in his signature expressionist style. The publisher stopped production of the book, so the first edition shown here is quite rare. The book is dedicated to his friend and fellow artist Gustav Klimt. It was reprinted in 1918.
CS Lewis 1898–1963
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: A story for children
London: Geoffrey Bles, 1950
Illustrated by Pauline Baynes

This is the first of seven books in CS Lewis’s Narnia series. It can be read as either a fantasy adventure for children or a Christian allegory. In both cases, the motif of the journey as a vehicle for self-discovery lies at the centre of the book. When it was released in 1950, fantasy literature for children was considered corruptive and ailed to comic books and pulp fiction. Lewis’s publisher asked him to consider the risk to his reputation, however the book proved to be immensely popular. Pauline Baynes was also the illustrator for the works of Tolkien and Richard Adams’ Watership Down.

Colin Holford, artist
When in Australia— Fly TAA. Fly Viscount with Trans-Australia Airlines
Sydney: Trans-Australia Airlines, c. 1960s

With the expansion of commercial airline travel in the latter half of the 20th century, holiday travel became accessible to many more people. Posters such as this one were created with much artistic flair in order to entice a broad range of travellers.

Nino Gregori, artist
Flora di Trieste 1951–24.vi–l.vii
Genoa: ENIT [Ente Nazionale Italiano per il Turismo], 1951

This poster was produced by the Italian tourism board for a trade fair in Trieste. Trieste is a major seaport and trade centre.

Ente provinciale per il turismo Gorizia, Estate Goriziana, Luglio-Settembre 1950
Udine: ENIT, 1950

This poster was produced by the Italian tourism board. The border city of Gorizia, between Italy and Slovenia, has had a long disputed history of possession between the two countries. Following WWII it came into Italy’s possession in 1947. It continues to be a popular tourist destination.

Walter Goetz, artist
1911–1995
London in the Season
London: Baynard Press, 1938

The Baynard Press was established in 1894. The firm printed many posters by leading artists for London Transport, including this one by Walter Goetz.

Jean Cocteau, artist
1889–1963
Salons de la TWA, Exposition Nice-Cote d’Azur
Paris: Printed by Mourlot, 1954

Jean Cocteau designed this poster for an exhibition in the rooms of American airlines TWA in Paris. Cocteau was a writer, artist and filmmaker, and a key figure in the Parisian avant-garde art world.

Pierre Fix-Masseau
1905–1994
Centenaire de l’Orient-Express 1883–1983
France: Printed by l.p.a., 1983

This travel poster was produced in 1983 to celebrate the centenary of the Orient Express train service. The Orient Express ran from Paris to Istanbul, although in the early years the last leg of the journey was completed by boat. Through much of the 20th century, the Orient Express was synonymous with luxury train travel. The victim of high-speed trains and low-cost flights, it ceased to operate in 2009. The privately owned Venice Simplon Orient Express now operates a luxury service between London and Venice, using carriages purchased from the original service.
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