

OFFICIAL OPENING



All PMI members are invited to the:

Opening of the new PMI Library

by the Mayor of the City of Stonnington, Cr Melina Sehr
and the President Cr John Chandler OAM

2.00pm, Saturday 30 May

at the Moss Room, PMI, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran

Refreshments will be served.
Please RSVP by Friday 22 May 9510 3393 or library@pmi.net.au

COMING UP

Annual General Meeting!

2.00pm on Sun 31 May
Details p. 3.



BOOK SALE!

10am-12pm, Sat 13 Jun

Mason Room
(ground floor, 39 St Edmonds Road)

Hardbacks \$2
Paperbacks \$1

PMI Members Only



Volunteering to help with the sale entitles you to FIRST DIBS. Contact Ursula 9510 3393 or ursula@pmi.net.au

EXHIBITION

On the Home Front: WW1 in Caulfield and Beyond



An exhibition from the Glen Eira Historical Society Explore a display featuring everyday life for those at home and the role of the community in supporting the war effort.

On show in the William Moss Room, PMI

ON NOW until Tue 26 May

This is a FREE exhibition and is a National Trust Heritage Week event.

ALL WELCOME!



INSIDE

Around the Library 2
Writing History:
 Bryan Francis 5
Books Etcetera 6
Historic Happenings 7

ABOUT THE PMI

39 St Edmonds Road
Prahran VIC 3181
ABN 1316 4635 256
Sec. Lib.: Tim McKenna
Pres: Cr John Chandler

CONTACT

P 03 9510 3393
E library@pmi.net.au
W www.pmi.net.au

OPEN: M-F 9.30am-4.30pm
Sat 9.30am-1.00pm
excluding public holidays.

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AROUND THE LIBRARY



Above left: Helen Doyle conducting the first lecture in the Moss Room see p.2
Above right : First visit to the new library by a historical group : members of Carisbrook Historical Society.
Below: First volunteer function at the Moss Room with PMI President Cr John Chandler OAM on far left.



Make sure you visit Glen Eira Historical Society's exhibition in the Moss Room before it finishes (last day will be 26 May) and don't forget to sign the visitors' book.



AROUND THE LIBRARY

MEMBER NEWS

New Members

Welcome to the following new members who joined Mar-Apr:

Financial Donors

Thank you to the following members who made financial donations to the library Mar-Apr:

*Ron & Ruth Cameron
Philippe De Gail
Katrina Goddard
Margaret Hicks*

*Jadzia Lemieszek
Michael MacGeorge
Ian Matthews
Jennifer Matthews
Cecile Rees
Keith Rogers
Philippa Strang
George Swinburne*

Book Donors

Thank you to the following people and groups who donated books to the library Mar-Apr:

*Fran Bader
B.M. Thomas
Barbara Brown
Judith Buckrich
Cinema & Theatre
Historical Society
Sally Edwardes*

*Jim Ellwood
Graeme Fischer
Fergus Gibson
Robin Grow
Holy Trinity Church
Balaclava
Stuart Smith
Sir Ninian Stephen
Yarra Plenty Regional
Library
Ursula Zamecnik*

GENERAL NEWS

AGM and Official Opening

Accompanying this newsletter should be your notice of the PMI's Annual General Meeting to be held Sun 31 May 2015 in the Moss Room.

Refreshments provided - please RSVP by Monday 25 May so we can make seating arrangements.

Reports will be provided on RSVP.

There is one committee position up for re-election. If you wish to nominate for the committee, nomination forms are available from the Secretary Librarian.

Nomination forms must be received by 4.30pm Sat 23 May.

Because we'll be holding library opening and the AGM on the same weekend, there will be no lecture on AGM day this year. Still we hope to see good attendance at our first AGM at St Edmonds Road. ■

McCalman Lecture

Thank you very much to Helen Doyle for conducting the Laurie McCalman Lecture on 28 March (pic p.2). It was very interesting to hear about and see so many fantastic

GENERAL NEWS

images of the local area of that time. Helen's book *Suburbs at war : the cities of Malvern and Prahran during the Great War* was launched on 30 April and we look forward to acquiring a copy for the PMI Library.

The McCalman Lecture was in hiatus while we prepared for our move, so it was great to resume presentation of this event with the Prahran Historical & Arts Society. This was a very fitting first lecture at our new premises. ■

Catalogue

If have the old Civica catalogue bookmarked or favourited on your computer, please change this link to <http://library.pmi.net.au> as the old catalogue is no longer being updated and will soon be closed.

Some work is still being carried out on our new catalogue and we appreciate your patience as this work progresses. In the meantime, if you experience any hiccups we would be pleased to assist - christine@pmi.net.au or 9510 3393.

To log into the catalogue and view your record :

- click 'catalogue' on the right in the main menu across the top
- type in your email address and password (until you change it your default password will be your surname all in lower case) and click 'log in', your name should appear
- the input boxes should then be replaced by a 'welcome ... [your name]' message
- then hover your mouse over 'catalogue' in the main menu and amongst your alternatives should be 'My Details', 'Loans & Reservations' and 'Change Password'. You can even have a go at saving searches and recording your areas of interest - more about these (functions) in the next newsletter. ■

Student Engagement

From Monday 25 May to Friday 12 June we will be joined by Erica Cooper, a placement student from the School of Information Studies at Charles Sturt University. Erica will be learning about the role and services of the PMI library, our users and their needs, our collection and other information resources, cataloguing, classification and indexing and our library system.

An information management student from Monash University Information Management, Linda De Fina visited the PMI on 29 April to interview Christine for an information service investigation. Topics included objectives, policy, technology, user education and information access.

The PMI has always enjoyed interest from students, particularly of history and of library and information studies, but our capacity to assist with assignment work and professional experience placements was limited in the past by a lack of space and resources. We are confident that our new library gives us a far greater capacity to engage with tertiary students and education providers. The PMI benefits by increasing our profile within this sector and by our being able to draw upon the up to date knowledge students can bring to their placements.

Congratulations to Susanne Jones (one of our volunteers and also a Masters of Information Management student) who has found full time work as a school librarian.

AROUND THE LIBRARY

GENERAL NEWS

Members might remember that Susanne also filled in for staff leave last year, and she's also helped us with some collection management duties on a weekly basis for the past 14 months.

Susanne joins a growing list of our volunteers who have succeeded in finding employment in libraries and though we miss them we are very pleased to see them using their developing skills and experience to transition to the employment they seek in the field. ■

Newsletter

Thank you very much to those members who have converted the way they receive the newsletter from posted hard copy to email.

If you currently receive the newsletter in hard copy, but have an email address and would be happy to receive the digital version, we'd very much appreciate it.

Let us know: christine@pmi.net.au ■

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Volunteer Function

Our volunteers had a chance to kick back in the Moss Room on the day of our annual volunteers function (see pic, p.2). Postponed because of our move, we were pleased to be able to finally thank all those hardworking people who have contributed so much to the library over the past year. After an introduction by Christine Worthington about the year's volunteer contribution, PMI President Cr John Chandler OAM thanked the volunteers on behalf of the committee. He then presented each with a letter of thanks and gift. The catering costs for the day were covered by a City of Stonnington Community Grant, and we're very grateful for Stonnington's continued support for our volunteer program.

2014 Volunteer Statistics

In 2014, 18 volunteers contributed 953 hours' work in the library (including book care, archives, newsletter mailing, collection administration support and assistance with the move) and 8 book indexes (covering Apsley, Dennington, Avenel, Baranduda, Mittyack, Queenscliff, Seville, Maldon, Tarrangower, and Wandiligong).

At our new premises we are seeing the results of volunteer efforts including a well cared for collection, security system up and running and even more people finding our holdings on Trove.

Member Book Sale

If you have a couple of hours to spare on the morning of Saturday 13 June Ursula would appreciate help with the member book sale.

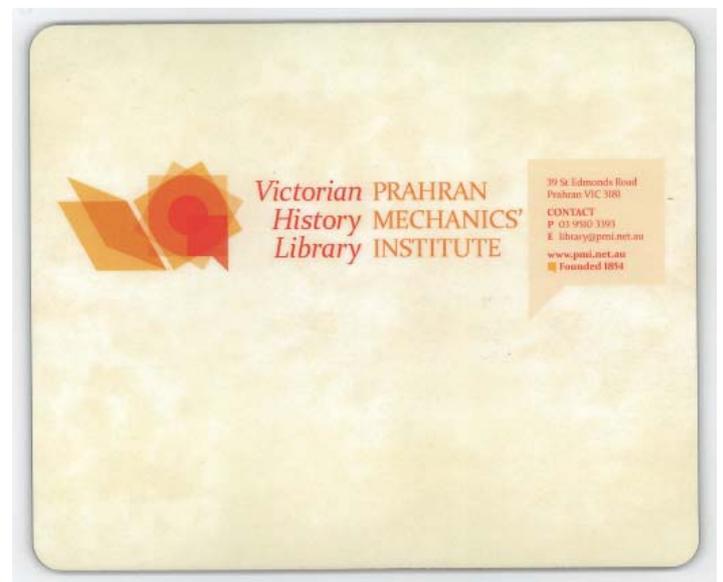
If you are interested in volunteering at the PMI in 2015, please contact Ursula Zamecnik (Volunteer Coordinator) on 9510 3393 or ursula@pmi.net.au

Get your

PMI Mouse Mat
today!

Only \$4

Available at the loans desk
while stocks last.
DON'T MISS OUT!



SHORT HISTORY PRIZE 2015

The PMI invites you to participate in the 2015 Short History Prize.

Prize: \$1,000 – \$500 for the author(s) and \$500 for the associated historical group.

Topic: A historical essay, article or work of a place or an aspect of a place in Victoria, Australia, or a person associated with a place in Victoria, written by a member or members of a Victorian historical society or similar organisation.

Closing Date: Friday 28 August 2015

A panel from the Professional Historians Association judges the prize.

Further information and a copy of the entry form can be found at www.pmi.net.au/prize



**Short
History
Prize
2015**

WRITING HISTORY

SHORT HISTORY PRIZE 2014

This issue of 'Writing History' is contributed by Bryan Francis of the Balnarring & District Historical Society. Bryan was a joint recipient of the PMI's 2014 Short History Prize for his entry

Bright Eyed and Bushy Tailed : A recollection of childhood adventures living at Balnarring Beach.

Excerpts from the work:

I was encouraged by my children and grandchildren to write an account of my early years living at Tulum in the 1940s. Looking back over seventy-six years, the memories and images are just as evocative, vivid and poignant today. A group of loyal friends, left alone to enjoy a pristine environment of bush and hinterland virtually to ourselves. I suspect that there are few children nowadays with the opportunity to experience as we did such a vibrant and interesting locale.

Growing up at Balnarring Beach was one of the happiest and most memorable periods in our lives. It was an idyllic location for young boys. Close your eyes and imagine going back in time and being there with us: in a sleepy coastal community with sandtracks, no sealed roads and only a handful of permanent residents. It was a spectacular and unspoilt environment with extensive bushland, beautiful beaches, rock pools, fishing and swimming. How we looked forward to exploring the hinterland, letting our imaginations run rife. The summer school holidays with the sand between our toes. The warm moonlit nights with a light breeze whispering in the tea tree scrub. The ringtail possums and eastern barred bandicoots; and spur wing plovers calling above the sand dunes. We absorbed the very essence of the area and have retained a lifelong affinity for the sea and enduring affection for Balnarring Beach.

I had two particular friends of my own age with whom I shared many adventures. Peter 'Googsie' Edwards [he was fond of boiled eggs] who lived at 'Cabarita' just down the lane, and David 'Donkey' De Winne [he could wiggle his ears] who resided at the 'Cheerio' café. I lost touch with both after leaving school, but remember them with fondness and regard.

One day, Googsie and I decided that we would make our fortunes as 'rabbits.' Our strategy to achieve wealth and financial freedom lay with 'Mickey', Googsie's ferret, which he pampered and doted on feeding him milk and bread daily. Googsie swore that Mickey's pedigree was unsurpassed and that he came from a long line of 'gun' rabbiting ferrets; but there must have been a hiccup in the breeding program as Mickey's performance left much to be desired. We soon discovered that he lacked our drive and enthusiasm preferring an underground snooze to chasing rabbits requiring efforts to smoke or dig him out. Despite these setbacks we did enjoy some success and Googsie's mum could always be relied upon to dress and cook the bunnies.

A regular pastime of ours was playing cricket with a tennis ball outside the café. An old banksia on the edge of the road in front of the shelter shed served for the stumps. On one occasion I was batting, Donkey was

bowling and I hit the ball towards the café just as Gus Hansen came out the door carrying a loaf of bread. The ball struck him on the leg. He picked it up and walked over to where we had gathered together. We looked sheepish and felt guilty and apprehensive, but need not have feared retribution. Gus returned the ball with a smile, remarked that we must enjoy playing because he had seen us there often, and enquired whether we enjoyed fishing. Do birds fly? Of course we liked fishing. Armed with our rods we met him by arrangement on the beach at the end of Hansen's Lane the following morning. He arrived with a jam tin of shelled mussels. Casting an eye over our gear he insisted that we change to smaller hooks and lighter running sinkers. "After all, the idea is to catch fish, not to stone them to death." We were then taken half way out on the rocks on the left hand side and cast our lines on to the sand beds on the incoming tide. We had several bites then suddenly Googsie landed a whiting. A WHITING!! We had never caught a whiting ever. This sure beat fishing for 'leatheries' off the point. Our excitement was palpable and infectious with Gus enjoying the moment as much as the trio of elated boys. He chuckled and smiled and praised our skill as fishermen.

One had to be vigilant when occupying the 'John' on Thursdays when the night cart called. On more than one occasion I beat a hasty retreat as the nightman's truck pulled up in front of the house. For two or three seasons, the nightman played for the local cricket club. I saw him regularly at training. He would drive his laden truck into the ground, hop out, hang the leather shoulder protector over the fence, then join his team mates for practice. An off spinner he would lick the first two fingers of his hand before each delivery.

I have clear and vivid memories of the war years. Ration books, cases packed ready for a quick evacuation up Stumpy Gully or Coolart Roads. My most poignant and abiding memory however, is the day the Pacific War ended-August 15, 1945. It was a raw, winter day with a bitter, stiff southerly blowing off Bass Strait. The locals were undeterred and a large celebratory bonfire was lit on the Balnarring Back Beach. The whole district attended, singing, drinking, roasting potatoes and enjoying the euphoria of the day. I was particularly impressed as it was my birthday and I thought that they were all invitees. I never had another birthday quite like the one in 1945.

A wonderful, embracing and inclusive community spirit was evident among the populace at that time. People saw themselves not just as individuals, but as a supportive community always coming together for communal projects and on social occasions. Perhaps this was enhanced by the termination of the War, which had brought in its wake loss and privation to many families. The Balnarring and Tulum of my childhood memories are now part of local history. In their stead however, has evolved a vibrant and thriving community. ■

To order a copy of *Bright Eyed and Bushy Tailed*, please contact BDHS, PO Box 183, Balnarring VIC 3926 or balhist@optusnet.com.au

BOOKS ETCETERA (Notes from publishers' blurbs)

AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE

A time of secrets / Deborah Burrows 2015

Hello beautiful! : scenes from a life / Hannie Rayson 2015

To name those lost / Rohan Wilson 2014

Winner, Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Fiction Prize, 2015. Summer 1874, and Launceston teeters on the brink of anarchy. After abandoning his wife and child many years ago, the Black War veteran Thomas Toosey must return to the city to search for William, his now motherless twelve-year-old son. He travels through the island's northern districts during a time of impossible hardship - hardship that has left its mark on him too. Arriving in Launceston, however, Toosey discovers a town in chaos. He is desperate to find his son amid the looting and destruction, but at every turn he is confronted by the Irish transportee Fitheal Flynn and his companion, the hooded man, to whom Toosey owes a debt that he must repay.

To Name Those Lost is the story of a father's journey. Wilson has an eye for the dirt, the hardness, the sheer dog-eat-doggedness of the lives of the poor. Human nature is revealed in all its horror and beauty as Thomas Toosey struggles with the good and the vile in himself and learns what he holds important.

NON-FICTION

Madeleine : a life of Madeleine St John

This is the first, and the definitive, biography of one of Australia's most significant writers.

At the age of fifteen Madeleine saw herself as a painter and pianist, but Ms Medway peered down at Madeleine during her entrance interview in 1957 and announced: 'You know dear, I think you might write.'

Madeleine would write. But not for some time. *The Women in Black*, a sparkling gem that belied the difficulties that had dogged her own life, was published when Madeleine St John was in her fifties. Her third novel, *The Essence of the Thing*, was shortlisted for the 1997 Booker Prize,

NON-FICTION

and she continued to write until her death in 2006.

Helen Trinca has captured the troubled life of Madeleine St John in this moving account of a remarkable writer. After the death of her mother when Madeleine was just twelve, she struggled to find her place in the world. Estranging herself from her family, and from Australia, she lived for a time in the US before moving to London where Robert Hughes, Germaine Greer, Bruce Beresford, Barry Humphries and Clive James were making their mark. In 1993, when *The Women in Black* was published, it became clear what a marvellous writer Madeleine St John was.

Emporium : selling the dream in Colonial Australia Edwin Barnard 2015

A new wonder cure....the latest fashion...a revolutionary gadget.... few can resist the siren song of advertising, and our colonial ancestors were as susceptible as we are. Perhaps that electric hair brush really could help to cure baldness, and wouldn't it be wonderful if those strange new cannabis cigarettes did relieve asthma? Advertisements appeared in the first issue of Australia's first newspaper in 1803, as unscrupulous manufacturers and retailers vied with each other in making more and more outrageous claims. *Emporium* explores the highways and byways of this neglected aspect of nineteenth-century life in a book that takes readers on a fascinating journey into the hearts and homes of colonial Australians. Advertisements for condoms? It was just a matter of knowing what to look for. Humorous - quirky - fascinating - you will find this book compulsive!

Warning : the story of Cyclone Tracy / Sophie Cunningham 2014

The sky at the top end is big and the weather moves like a living thing. You can hear it in the cracking air when there is an electrical storm and as the thunder rolls around the sky... When Cyclone Tracy swept down on Darwin at Christmas 1974, the weather became not just a living

thing but a killer. Tracy destroyed an entire city, left seventy-one people dead and ripped the heart out of Australia's season of goodwill. For the fortieth anniversary of the nation's most iconic natural disaster, Sophie Cunningham has gone back to the eyewitness accounts of those who lived through the devastation—and those who faced the heartbreaking clean-up and the back-breaking rebuilding. From the quiet stirring of the service-station bunting that heralded the catastrophe to the wholesale slaughter of the dogs that followed it, Cunningham brings to the tale a novelist's eye for detail and an exhilarating narrative drive. And a sober appraisal of what Tracy means to us now, as we face more—and more destructive—extreme weather with every year that passes. Compulsively readable and undeniably moving.

ancestry library edition

You can access Ancestry Library Edition on any of the new public computers at the library, or bring your own laptop.

New records include:

■ WWI Service Records, 1914-1920
This unique collection includes service dossiers for Australians who served in the First World War in the following units:

Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF)
Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train (RANBT)

Australian Flying Corps (AFC)
Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS)

■ Imperial Force Burials At Gallipoli, 1915 - The Gallipoli Campaign of World War I is often seen as a defining moment for Australian and New Zealand national consciousness. This collection includes records of soldiers of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) who died at Gallipoli in WWI. You'll find a digital database of service records, plus digital images of portraits, headstones, and memorials.

Updated records include:

■ Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839-1923
■ Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1980

HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

Friends of Kew (Boroondara) Cemetery

2.00pm, Sun 24 May - Tour- Retail Therapy

Talking about some retailers who are literally household names in each and every Australian home. You will hear about the lives of those who made their name in retail in early Melbourne but whose legend lives on.

\$15/\$10 (seniors)/\$8 members. Further information and bookings contact Pauline info@fobkc.org or call 9817 1829 and leave a message.

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

2.00pm, Sun 17 May - Tour - Law Week : Coroners, Constabulary and Crime

Come and join the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery for an insight into the history of Coroners in Victoria, Unusual deaths, murder investigations, Victoria's most noted forensic pathologist and crime in 19th century Melbourne. There is much to discover in this tour led by Elizabeth Hore.

Further information and bookings: 9531 6832 or info@foskc.org

History Victoria Support Group

All day, Sat 16 May - Seminar - Tool Box Topics

A day of practical skills development on information technology, caring for indigenous artefacts, tips for treasures, websites and Facebook.

See more at: <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au/events/whats-on/seminars-and-workshops>

National Trust (Vic.)

Apr-May - Heritage Festival

In 2015 Australia commemorates the Centenary of ANZAC. For many Australians, the battle of Gallipoli is inextricably linked with our national identity. But how else does conflict and compassion shape our nation? From our Indigenous history to the centenary of World War I, the 2015 National Trust Heritage Festival, Conflict & Compassion will explore the human side of war, rebellion, sacrifice and endurance, and the extraordinary stories of courage and compassion that come from the horror of conflict and strife.

Find out more at: <http://www.nationaltrustfestival.org.au>

Public Record Office

1pm, Tue 26 May - Information session - Researching Education Records

Be taken through the vast array of education records in the PROV collection from photographs to plans and school files.

1pm, Thu 18 Jun - Information session - Introduction to the PROV Online Catalogue:

An introductory session to get you started on researching the PROV collection, taking a look at simple and advanced searching methods, searching within a series, searching the online indexes, the basics of ordering records and what you can view online. The searching processes are related to an overview of the PROV and its functions and evolving collection of records. Basic computer skills are required.

Information session are preceded by a tour of the

archives.

Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Sheil St, North Melbourne. Further information and bookings, visit <http://prov.vic.gov.au/whats-on/events-calendar>.

St Kilda Historical Society

3.00pm, Sun 21 Jun - Talk - An afternoon at Christ Church

An afternoon at Christ Church, Acland Street, where church member Elisabeth Newman will tell us about the church and its place in the community. Dr Bronwen Hughes, an acknowledged stained glass expert, will talk about the windows in the church and we may hear the recently restored organ played. Christ Church, 14 Acland Street.

2.30pm, Sun 9 Aug - AGM & Talk - May Robson

The AGM will commence at 2.30pm followed at 3.00pm by a presentation by Stephen Rattle, and independent film historian who will introduce us to the Australian actress May Robson. May had a long acting career and in the 1930s she was the oldest actress to be nominated for an Academy Award. Community Room, St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle Street.

Members free, non-members \$5.

Further information and bookings: secretary@stkildahistory.org.au

Stonnington History Centre

10am, Wed 24 Jun - Talk - Selling South Yarra

Local history enthusiast Philippe Batters grew up in South Yarra and has spent his working life selling properties in the area.

Stonnington History Centre, 1257 High Street, Malvern. Free entry, bookings through <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/> or libraryevents@stonnington.vic.gov.au or 8290 1360.

YOU'RE WELCOME

- If your historical group has an event coming up in Sep, Oct or Nov send the details to christine@pmi.net.au by 30 Jul for inclusion in our next newsletter.
- If you would like to make a short contribution to our newsletter about a project your historical group has been working on, send 150-300 words to christine@pmi.net.au
- If you are interested in volunteering to assist with a book sale at the library contact ursula@pmi.net.au
- If your historical group would like to use our facilities for a meeting or other activity contact tim@pmi.net.au
- If your historical group would like to visit the PMI for a short talk, tour, morning/afternoon tea and assisted research, contact christine@pmi.net.au

- Inside:**
- Official Opening of the new library
 - Annual General Meeting
 - Book sale
 - Exhibition: 'On the Home Front: World War 1 in Caulfield and Beyond'
 - Writing History Feature: 2014 Short History Prize recipient Bryan Francis



PMI Committee

Cr John Chandler (President)
Mr Chris Michalopoulos (Vice President)
Mr Ben Quin, CPA (Treasurer)
Dr Judith Buckrich
Mr Steve Stefanopoulos
Cr Claude Ullin (City of Stonnington representative)
Mr Peter Wolfenden

PMI Staff

Tim McKenna (Secretary Librarian)
Christine Worthington (Librarian)
Ursula Zamecnik (Library Technician)

Members Only Book Covering Service

Protect your books from wear and tear and extend their life.

Hardbacks (with or without dust covers)
\$2.50 each
Paperbacks \$1.50 each

Maximum 5 books at a time.