

Ron Boland Newspaper Reading Area Exhibition



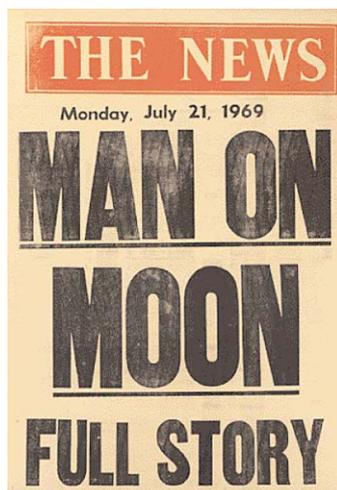
STATE LIBRARY

South Australia

The news in print Primary School



Government of South Australia



The Ronald Boland Newspaper Reading Area exhibition and website can be studied and used to support many aspects of the curriculum, particularly in the learning areas of Society and Environment, English, Media and Design and Technology.

Themes and Topics

<p>Technological change Social change Hand scribes and illumination Development of printing Making of a newspaper Careers in journalism Key stories of the 20th century</p>	<p>Communication Critical literacy Media in context Students develop a sense of identity and connectedness with others Analysing points of view in text Researching to extract information Advertising Personal viewpoints</p>
--	--

There is a series of pre and post visit activities for primary school classes visiting the exhibition, an exhibition worksheet and library activity.

The exhibition comprises two sections:

1. *A life in print* celebrates Ron Boland's career in the newspaper industry.
2. *The news in print* focuses on the making of a newspaper and events recounted by newspapers.

The news in print exhibition/website

Fast Facts

Printing

- Johann Gutenberg (ca. 1399 - 1468) is generally regarded as the inventor of the moveable type printing press. The press became known as the Gutenberg Press. The first book to be printed is the Bible (known as the Gutenberg Bible), on 14 August 1456.
- The *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* was South Australia's first newspaper. The first edition of the *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* was actually published in England before South Australia was settled and arrived with the first settlers in 1836.
- The second edition of the *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* was printed in 1837 on a Stanhope press, the first kind of press to be made of iron, not wood.
- This Stanhope press was the first printing press to come to South Australia. It was brought from England in 1836 as part of ballast (any heavy material placed on a ship to assure stability, to avoid capsizing) on the ship *Africaine*. Some of the first items to be printed were:
 - *The Proclamation of South Australia*
Proclamation by His Excellency John Hindmarsh ... Governor and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Province of South Australia: in announcing to the colonists ... the establishment of the government.
 - The second copy of *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* vol.1, no.2, 3 June 1837 (online at: www.slsa.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=369).
- In the 1860s, newsprint was made entirely from rags and consequently many newspapers from this era are in excellent condition despite their age.
- By the 1890s, increased demand for newspapers meant that the paper had to be made from wood pulp, which deteriorates more rapidly. So newspapers from this period are not in such good condition.
- All news was received by ship until a telegraph line was constructed between Melbourne and Adelaide in 1858. In 1872 the Overland Telegraph Line was completed and linked Adelaide to Darwin, then by submarine cable to Asia and from there to London. News from London reached Adelaide first before being conveyed to the other Australian capital cities.
- The first pictures in newspapers were woodcut illustrations and lithographs (fine pen and ink drawings). The first photographs to be used in Australian newspapers appeared in 1887 in the Adelaide newspaper *The Pictorial Australian*.
- By 1900 there were 13 newspapers printed regularly in Adelaide.
- The Intertype typesetting machine was the principal competitor of the Linotype machine. The Linotype was invented by Ottmar Mergenthaler and demonstrated in New York in 1886. The first Intertype did not make its appearance until after some of the original Mergenthaler patents had expired.

Regular manufacture began in 1890, and in 1891 the first Linotypes appeared in Britain.

The machine was revolutionary because it required only one operator, and has three main parts:

1. Composing machine in which matrixes are assembled in lines;
2. Casting mechanism with which lines are justified and cast as slugs;
3. Distributing mechanism, which returns the matrices after casting to the matrix magazine.

The development of the first Intertype model began in 1911 by the International Typesetting Machine Company of New York. The name is an amalgamation of International and typesetting (Intertype). The Intertype is similar to the Linotype as it is a machine for setting matrices and casting type in continuous lines known as slugs - basically it means you can print one continuous line of text at one time.

- Colour photographs first appeared in *The Advertiser* in 1992.

Learning activities in the exhibition

Newspapers can give us information about ourselves and other people, as well as about places and events which took place in South Australia and the world, so:

- Find a copy of *The Observer*, *The Register*, *The Advertiser*, or *The Chronicle* newspaper on microfilm for this month 100 years ago.

Write down two events that took place, then write a little about each.

What interested you most about these events?

- Find *The Advertiser* on microfilm for the year, but not necessarily the month, you were born. Write down:
A movie that was showing in the cinema
A programme on television
How much a television cost
- Find *The Advertiser* on microfilm for the year someone in your family was born.
Now write down an interesting piece of information you would like to tell that person in your family.

Why did you choose as you did?

Advertising in newspapers

- Look through advertisements in newspapers
- Identify their target audience
- Key selling points - highlight words that persuade consumers to buy
- Each student could select an advertisement from each decade and compare eg. A car or women's fashion advertisement.

Personal viewpoints

- Letters to the Editor
Locate a letter to the Editor.

Learning activities in the classroom

Find out more about the history of printing

The development of books in the Western World was largely the work of monks of the Christian Church in Medieval times. During the Dark Ages from the 5th - 12th century, while common people were kept in ignorance, and even nobles and kings were hardly able to read or write, the Western World was dependent upon the work of monks to keep their records and to preserve valuable learning of the past. The making of books became almost exclusively a monastic function. At first, monks spent most of their time copying the Bible and other religious works, but eventually began devoting more time to the copying of the ancient classics.

Monastic scribes did their work in a large room in the monastery known as a 'Scriptorium'.

Many early books were highly illuminated with large coloured initials and artistically decorated headbands and borders. Kings and princes often employed scores of scribes and illuminators to copy and prepare the books of the highest quality.

- Hand scribes and illuminations
Have a look at the Antiphonal, an example of a 13th century illuminated manuscript, in the State Library's Treasures Wall exhibition or digitised on the State Library's website:

<http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=369>

<http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/antiphonal>

The invention of movable type

Writing by hand and preparation of woodblocks were found to be too slow and costly; this led to the invention of movable type. There has been much controversy, and almost every country in Europe has laid claim to the invention of printing. However, the greatest weight of evidence points to Johann Gutenberg as the inventor of movable type. He is credited with printing what is regarded as the world's first printed book, the Gutenberg Bible, on 14 August 1456.

- Johann Gutenberg (ca. 1399 - 1468), the inventor of printing from movable type.

Suggested website:

<http://www.Gutenberg.de/English>

Suggested Picture Fiction reading:

Wheatley, Nadia. *The greatest treasure of Charlemagne the king*. Sydney: Scholastic, 1997.

Willard, Nancy. *Gutenberg's Gift: a book lover's pop-up book*. Carlton: Moondrake Vic, 1995.

Newspaper terms used in the exhibition

Discuss with your class what some of these terms mean:

- **Reporter's room**
The area where the writer of news stories works.
- **Manuscript copy**
A typewritten or handwritten version of an article, especially the author's own copy, prepared and submitted for publication in print.
- **Classifying advertisements**
Categories of products or services for promotion by advertising.
- **Handsetting**
The setting and arrangement of type by hand.
- **Jobbing**
"Jobbing" printing was the printing of small inexpensive items meant to be thrown away after their use. Such items would be programs of performances, fliers for business, or tickets to events.
- **Linotype**
A trademark used for a machine that sets type on a metal slug, operated by a keyboard.
- **Linoroom**
The room where the Linotype is kept.
- **Engineer's room**
An area for the staff who operate the engine which powers the printing machine.
- **Slug**
A single line of type cast by a hot-metal line-casting machine (Intertype, Linotype)

- **Reading Room**
Area designated for reading of the newspapers.
- **Dirty proof**
A copy obtained from inked type, plate, block or screen for checking purposes.
- **Chase**
A metal frame in which metal type and blocks (engravings) are locked into position to make up a page.
- **Stereoplate**
A letterpress plate cast in molten metal from a matrix or mould
- **Stereoroom**
The room that houses the Stereoplate.
- **Paper store**
The area for storing the paper used to print the newspaper.
- **Papermaking**
The process or craft of making paper.
- **First rotary press**
A printing press consisting of curved plates attached to a revolving cylinder that prints onto a continuous roll of paper.
- **Printing machines room**
The area where the printing machine is housed.
- **Printer's devil**
An apprentice in a printing establishment.
- **Publishing**
To prepare and issue (printed material) for public distribution or sale.
- **Runners**
The deliverer or distributor of newspapers.

Back in the classroom

The class could identify an issue in the community they feel strongly about and draft their own letter to the Editor.

Papermaking activity

In a craft session explore making your own paper.

Printing activity

Select found objects that can be used for printing eg. variety of vegetables, sponges, cardboard and cartons etc.