

BRIAN CON PENTON (1904-1951)

A BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Compiled by Ross Smith and Cheryl Taylor*

I. PUBLICATIONS

A. EDITIONS [Monographs]

Novels

1. *Landtakers: the story of an epoch*. Sydney: Endeavour Press, [July] 1934. [For Jacques Kahane].  
Second Impression August 1934, Third Impression October 1934.  
Reprinted 1963.  
New edition. London: Cassell, 1935.  
Swedish edition.  
*Det nya landet: historien om en brytningstid*. Stockholm: Fahlcrantz, 1938.  
"One day you will get murdered" [extract from *Landtakers*].  
R.S. Byrnes and Val Vallis, eds., *The Queensland Centenary Anthology*. London & Melbourne: Longmans, 1959, 280-88.  
The escape; Bushed!; Gurseys returns [extracts from *Landtakers*].  
Colin Roderick, arr. *The Australian novel (an historical anthology)*. Sydney: William Brooks and Co. Limited, 1945, 269-86.
2. *Inheritors: a novel*. Sydney: Angus and Robertson Limited, 1936. [For Cecil Mann].
3. *Giant's stride*. London: Cassell and Company Limited, 1936. [Title of the English edition of *Inheritors*].

Non-Fiction: Polemics

5. *Think — or be damned: a subversive note on national pride, patriotism, and other forms of respectable ostrichism practised in Australia*. Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1941.  
Reprinted 1944, 1945.

6. *Advance Australia — where?* London: Cassell, 1943.
7. *Censored!* Being a true account of a notable fight for your right to read and know, with some comment upon the plague of censorship in general. Sydney: Shakespeare Head Press Pty. Ltd., 1947. [Censorship of Australian newspapers during World War II (1939-45), and the suppression of newspapers in Sydney, in April 1944].

#### Manuscript

8. Letter (October 29, 1924) to F.W. Robinson, seeking a subscription to *Pagan*. F.W. Robinson Collection, Fryer Library.
- B. SHORT STORIES, POEMS, ARTICLES, FOREWORDS, INTRODUCTIONS**
9. Foreword to Jack Lindsay, tr., *Miniambs of Herondas*. Decorated by Alan Odle. London: The Fanfrolico Press, 1926.
  10. Moonstruck [poem]. NEW TRIAD 2, No. 2, February 1, 1928, 46.
  11. Hardy and realism [ article, with comments on Nettie Palmer's article, "Thomas Hardy" (*Bulletin* 25.1.28)]. BULLETIN February 29, 1928, 2.  
J.M. Edwards replies to Penton's article "Hardy and realism" (*Bulletin* 29.2.28) in his article "Hardy and the mud-puddle". BULLETIN March 21, 1928, 2, 5.
  12. Hardy and life [ article — reply to J.M. Edwards (*Bulletin* 21.3.28)]. BULLETIN April 18, 1928, 5.
  13. Interview [short story]. LONDON APHRODITE No. 4, February 1929, 289-97.
  14. Talk [short story]. LONDON APHRODITE No. 5, April 1929, 346-52.
  15. England to-day [article]. BULLETIN April 24, 1929, 2, 5.
  16. Note on the form of the novel [article]. LONDON APHRODITE No. 6, July 1929, 434-44.

17. Moonstruck [poem]. LONDON APRHODITE No. 6, July 1929, 463.
18. A flight into order [article]. BULLETIN July 31, 1929, 2.
19. For the love of fight [article on D.H. Lawrence]. BULLETIN April 30, 1930, 2, 5.
20. Epstein at home [article]. BULLETIN March 11, 1931, 2, 5.
21. The grey ones [article]. BULLETIN November 4, 1931, 2, 5. [“All must become grey, ordinary, expected. It is the day of the grey ones, as Lawrence called them”] [London, September].
22. Through muddle to “half-death” [review of Vivian Crockett, *Mezzomorto*]. BULLETIN October 10, 1934, 2, 5. [Under pseudonym “Conn Bennett”].  
Stephensen V. The Bulletin and Penton [report of court case. Penton wrote an article for *The Bulletin* (using the pseudonym “Conn Bennett”) which is claimed to have adversely affected the sale of the novel *Mezzomorto*, published by P.R. Stephensen and Co. Ltd., resulting in that company’s having to go into liquidation]. BULLETIN November 4, 1936, 5.
23. Introduction to Sydney Ure Smith, ed., *The Art of William Dobell*. Sydney: Ure Smith, 1946. (Present day art in Australia series).
24. Article on Henry Handel Richardson, based on his personal acquaintance with her. SYDNEY DAILY TELEGRAPH March 30, 1946.
25. Emma [short story]. H. Heseltine, sel., *Australian idiom: an anthology of contemporary prose and poetry*. Melbourne: Cheshire, 1963, 11-17.

## II. BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL MATERIAL

### A. GENERAL REVIEWS, ARTICLES

26. “Towards the Great Novel” [article]. BULLETIN January 22, 1936, 2.

27. These neglectful Australians [anonymous article on a comment in the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, that many well-known Australian novelists "were almost overlooked by book-buyers, although Brian Penton's *Landtakers* and *Inheritors* sold well over the Christmas season."]. *BULLETIN* January 13, 1937, 9.
28. Brian Penton [article]. Colin Roderick, arr., *The Australian novel (a historical anthology)*. Sydney: William Brooks and Co. Limited, 1945, 264-68.
29. More key men leave the *Telegraph* [article condemning Penton]. *TRIBUNE* February 8, 1945, 7.
30. Just between you and me. J. McC. [article]. *TRIBUNE* May 31, 1945, 5.  
Same, dated July 3, 1945, 8.
31. Pentonian absurdities [editorial]. *TRIBUNE* July 19, 1945, 3.
32. Calwell refuses Penton a passport [article] *TRIBUNE* December 14, 1945, 6.
33. "Why doesn't the Communist Party go and recruit Mr Penton?" [Letter to the editor, by S.C. (East Sydney)]. *TRIBUNE* August 19, 1947, 5.
34. "Penton awoke me to Marx" [Letter to the editor, by Renegade]. *TRIBUNE* April 14, 1948, 5.
35. The *Sydney Daily Telegraph* won't print reply to Penton on Marx [article, by L.L. Sharkey]. *TRIBUNE* May 5, 1948, 7.
36. L.J. Blake. *Australian writers*. Adelaide: Rigby Limited, 1968. Paragraph on p. 145 deals briefly with *Landtakers* and *Inheritors*, and mentions the pamphlet *Think — or be damned*. "An exponent of historic realism".
37. L.T. Hergenhan. Brian Penton's 1930s novels: the 'roots of the new psyche'. Essay in Bernard Smith, ed., *Culture and History*. Sydney: Hale and Iremonger, 1984, 72-88. See also p. 66.

## SPECIFIC REVIEWS

### *Landtakers*

38. A Queensland epic. J.D. BULLETIN July 4, 1934, 2, 5.
39. Advertisement, containing a review, and a piece by the author. BULLETIN July 4, 1934, 49.
40. CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HERALD July 5, 1934, 12.
41. COURIER-MAIL July 7, 1934, 20.
42. A nation in the making. QUEENSLANDER July 26, 1934, 20.
43. Birth pangs of Australia. TO-DAY August 1, 1934, 6.
44. "A book and a bittock". W.M.B. Laycock. BULLETIN August 1, 1934, 5.
45. Another view of "Landtakers". E.V. Barton. BULLETIN August 22, 1934, 5.
46. Dark view of past [paragraph]. AUSTRALASIAN September 8, 1934, 6.
47. Brief discussion, with caricature of the author. BULLETIN October 17, 1934, 2.
48. B.R.M. HERMES 40, Trinity Term 1934, 20-21.
49. CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HERALD November 22, 1934, 14.
50. TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT April 4, 1935, 226.
51. A novel of fiery Australians: Brian Penton's *Landtakers*. Illustrated. C.H. Grattan. *New York Times Book Review*. June 16, 1935, 5.
52. CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HERALD June 27, 1935, 14.
53. [Australian Pocket Library edition]. A.G. Mitchell. SOUTHERLY 6, No. 2, 1945, 16-18.

54. Symbolic fallacy [ review article by J.C.H. on *Landtakers*]. BULLETIN June 16, 1954, 2.
55. Penton's realism. Clement Semmler. SYDNEY MORNING HERALD February 1, 1964, 13.
56. Brian Penton's acceptance. Geoffrey Dutton. NATION February 8, 1964, 21-22.
57. CAIRNS POST March 21, 1964, 8.
58. AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW 3, No. 5, March 1964, 110.

*Inheritors*

59. Sequel to "Landtakers": Brian Penton's fine work. AUSTRALASIAN September 19, 1936, 5.
60. Penton's *Inheritors*. Norman Lindsay. BULLETIN September 30, 1936, 2.
61. NORTH QUEENSLAND REGISTER November 7, 1936, 97.
62. CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HERALD, December 3, 1936, 17.

*Giant's Stride*

63. TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT November 14, 1936, 927.

*Think — or be damned*

64. Write — or be damned! [anon. article]. BULLETIN February 19, 1941, 2.
65. Recent Australian books. COURIER-MAIL March 15, 1941, 6.
66. NORTH QUEENSLAND REGISTER March 15, 1941, 25.

*Advance Australia — where?*

67. Is Australia drifting? Firmin McKinnon. COURIER-MAIL February 26, 1944, 4.

68. Comments on Penton's introduction to *The Art of William Dobell*, in anon. article, "Appraisal of Dobell". BULLETIN October 30, 1946, 2. [See Item 23.]

#### PORTRAITS, PHOTOGRAPHS

69. Photographic portrait. QUEENSLANDER July 26, 1934, 20.
70. Caricature. BULLETIN October 17, 1934, 2.
71. Cartoon [on Penton's anti-communist stance as editor of the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*]. TRIBUNE December 14, 1944, 6.

#### Biographical

72. Biographical note. CAIRNS POST March 21, 1964, 8.  
["a Brisbane journalist who moved to Sydney and became editor of the 'Sydney Telegraph'."] [See Item 55.]
73. See Meg Stewart: *Autobiography of my mother* (Ringwood, Victoria: Penguin Books Australia, 1985), p. 190.  
Brief description of appearance, personality, and literary and journalistic career. Mentions *Landtakers* and *Inheritors*.