



Submissions for the 2027 Archives Fine Books national prize for young Australian book collectors now open!

The Archives Fine Books prize for young Australian book collectors is an annual prize with a combined value of over \$1500 awarded for an outstanding book collection conceived of and built by an Australian collector to the age of 35. The purpose of the prize is to unearth and celebrate current book collecting passions and practices among young Australians so that every curious collector can play their part in invigorating existing traditions whilst they develop knowledge and build expertise.

The winning collection must have been started by the contestant, and all items in the collection must be owned by them.

The prize, valued at over \$1500, is comprised of:

- A domestic return airfare to EITHER the Melbourne Rare Books Fair (late July 2027, dates tbc) OR The Sydney Rare Book Fair (late October 2027, dates tbc);
- \$750 cash prize;
- A \$250 voucher to spend with any ANZAAB member (valid for 12 months);
- A \$250 Archives Fine Books Voucher (valid for 36 months);
- A one-year subscription to the Bibliographic Society of Australia and New Zealand (BSANZ);
- A two-year membership with The Book Collectors' Society of Australia (BCSA).

Submissions close midnight, Thursday December 31, 2026. Please see our website for terms and conditions. For more information, please write to the founder and convenor of the Prize, Dawn Albinger: dawn@archivesfinebooks.com.au

The judging panel for the 2027 prize:



Simon Farley is the Fryer Librarian at the University of Queensland's Fryer Library. His previous appointments have included archival and curatorial roles at the Queensland State Archives and the State Library of Queensland's John Oxley Library. Simon is immediate past President of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand and editor of the Fryer Library's journal *Fryer Folios*. Simon has been on the judging panel since the inception of the prize.



Professor Emeritus Chris Browne is a retired medical researcher and academic who spent most of his working life in the Faculty of Medicine at Monash University. He enjoyed reading from an early age, became a serious book collector in 1970, and has put together a personal library of around 15,000 books. His main interests are English literature and juvenilia from 1780 to 1940, fine illustrated books, and the history of English publishing and printing. He is currently the Program Director of Melbourne Rare Book Week. Chris joined the judging panel in 2026.



Jerelynn Brown retired as Manager of Collection Development and Acquisitions at the State Library of New South Wales after 27 years. Her work included formulating policy and strategy for collection development and acquisitions, managing the collection budget, valuation of the collection and working with depositors and donors of collection material. During that time Jerelynn served on the selection panel for the Kibble and Dobbie awards for women's life writing for five years, two as Chair. Jerelynn's bookselling career included three stints at James Bennett Library Services. As someone deeply interested in developing collections it is a joy for her to read submissions for the Archives Fine Books Rare Book Collecting Prize. Jerelynn joined the judging panel in 2026.



Hamish Alcorn is owner of Archives Fine Books and collector of works by Murray Bookchin; twentieth century social theorist, author, orator, historian, and political philosopher. Hamish has been on the judging panel since the inception of the prize.



With thanks to our partners in the prize the Bibliographic Society of Australia and New Zealand and the Book Collectors' Society of Australia