


The Brontë Thunderer

An outline map of Australia is positioned behind the text 'Thunderer', with the letters 'h' and 'u' overlapping the map's outline.

THE JOURNAL OF THE
AUSTRALIAN BRONTË
ASSOCIATION



VOLUME 2
2005

THE BRONTË TH(UNDER)ER

From 2004 the Australian Brontë Association has had two levels of publications. The *Newsletter* appears twice a year, generally in June and December, and contains ephemera, book reviews and news of topical interest. Longer items, including the text of talks given at our meetings, appear at the end of each year in this journal-type publication.

The reasons for the name of this journal are as follows. For a start it clearly contains the name “Brontë”, so readers will not be left in any doubt as to the purpose of the publication. Secondly, the name *Thunderer* would have been well known to the Brontës as a nickname for the respected newspaper *The Times* of London.

Then the Greek word for “thunder” is βροντη, or Bronte. So in Greece Charlotte might be known as “Charlotte Thunder”. How she came by this name is interesting, since her father was born Patrick Prunty, or Brunty.

The town in Sicily, near the volcano Mount Etna, was named “Bronte”, no doubt because of the thunderous noise given out by the volcano during an eruption. Then, because he won an important victory at this place assisting the King of Sicily, he received the title “Duke of Bronte”.

Patrick Prunty, or Brunty, was a young Irishman attending Cambridge University and, having a high regard for Nelson, he adapted the spelling of his name in the university register to Bronte. To add further distinction he experimented with various accents for the “e” before finally settling on Brontë.

The final reference in the name is the fact that the word “thunderer” contains the word “under”, reflecting the fact that this journal represents the Brontë followers “down under”.

THE AUSTRALIAN BRONTË ASSOCIATION

In 1986 Fergus McClory was appointed the Australian Representative of the Brontë Society, serving the members of that society who lived in Australia, and meetings were held in Sydney. Then, in 1998 the Australian Brontë Association was formed as an independent but complementary organization, in order to expand the local Brontë activities. Our patron is the distinguished Brontë scholar Christine Alexander, professor of English at the University of New South Wales. We currently meet on certain Saturday mornings in the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street Sydney. This institute was founded shortly after the Keighley Mechanics Institute, of which Patrick Brontë was a member.

The 2005 committee is as follows:

Patron: Professor Christine Alexander
President: Dr Christopher Cooper
Secretary: Geraldine Rawlings
Membership Secretary: Brigitte Lucey
Treasurer: Ann Lock
Publicity Officer: Annette Harman

We maintain a web site at:

www.maths.mq.edu.au/~chris/bronte/aba.htm

Enquiries can be made to the president

Christopher Cooper
31 Epping Ave
EASTWOOD
NSW 2122

Phone: (+612) 9804-7473

Email: chris@maths.mq.edu.au

THE BRONTË TH(UNDER)ER

VOL 2, 2005

CONTENTS

KURT LERPS:	1
<i>Wuthering Heights</i> on Stage	
BERYL WINTER:	9
What Might Jane Austen Have Thought of the Brontës?	
CATHERINE BARKER:	10
What Jane Would Have Thought of Jane	
CHRISTOPHER COOPER:	19
A Recently “Discovered” Letter from Jane Austen in Her Later Years	
CHRISTOPHER COOPER:	22
Was Heathcliff a Brownie?	
Charlotte Brontë and the Kay-Shuttleworths of Gawthorpe Hall, (based on notes by Stephen Whitehead)	27
CHRISTOPHER COOPER:	33
Emily Brontë – Architect	
LOUISE OMMUNDSON:	45
The Vernacular Architecture of Yorkshire	
The Haworth Parsonage	55
(adapted from the book by Jocelyn Kellest)	
LOUISE OMMUNSON and CHRISTOPHER COOPER:	62
What Was <i>Wuthering Heights</i> Really Like?	