Gerald Murnane
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Another World in This One

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# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Murnane: A Chronology</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Anthony Uhlmann</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Scenes from Gerald Murnane's Golf Club</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tristan Foster</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 To the Eye Untrained</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Luke Carman</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Truth, Fiction and True Fiction</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Shannon Burns</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 “Images and Feelings in a Sort of Eternity”: Gerald Murnane’s Ideal</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Reader</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Samantha Trayhurn</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Retrospective Intention: The Implied Author and the Coherence of the</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oeuvre in Border Districts and The Plains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Emmett Stinson</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Stream System, Salient Image and Feeling: Between Barley Patch and</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Brigid Rooney</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Gerald Murnane’s Plain Style</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Mark Byron</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Landscape within Landscape: The Intertwining of the Visible and the Invisible in Gerald Murnane and Henry James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Suzie Gibson</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Memory, Image and Reading Traces of the Infinite: <em>A History of Books</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Arka Chattopadhyay</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Reporting Meaning in <em>Border Districts</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Anthony Uhlmann</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>What Kind of Literary History Is <em>A History of Books</em>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ivor Indyk</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Still-Breathing Author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Gerald Murnane</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contributors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Index</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This book was produced as part of a project funded by the Australian Research Council’s Discovery Program, called “Other Worlds: Forms of World Literature” (DP170101002), and the ARC is gratefully acknowledged here. Further work related to this project can be found on the project website (formsofworldliterature.com). We would like to thank other members of the project who assisted with elements of this book, in particular the project manager Melinda Jewell, Ivor Indyk (and Giramondo Publishing), Alexis Wright and Samantha Trayhurn, who contributed to the conference “Another World in This One: Gerald Murnane’s Fiction” in Goroke in 2017. We would like to acknowledge the following: Gerald Murnane, who gave his blessing to the small conference in his home town of Goroke, and other members of the Goroke community who welcomed us on the day, fed us marvellous home-cooked cakes, and opened Goroke Golf Club to us; the support of the Writing and Society Research Centre and the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, and the Dean, Peter Hutchings, at Western Sydney University; Michael Heyward of Text Publishing (Murnane’s other publisher) who offered advice and encouragement and attended the day; Andre Sawenko, who filmed and took photos on the day; and Melinda Jewell, again, this time for the work she put into the production of the manuscript. Finally, we would like to thank Robert Dixon, Susan Murray, Agata Mrva-Montoya, Denise O’Dea and the team at Sydney University Press for overseeing the book and its design.

We are grateful to The Paris Review for allowing us to reprint Tristan Foster’s article in this collection, and to the Sydney Review of Books and its editor, Catriona Menzies-Pike, who published a slightly different version of Gerald Murnane’s “The Still-Breathing Author”, which also reappears here.
Gerald Murnane: A Chronology

This chronology draws upon and updates work done by Imre Salusinszky in his monograph Gerald Murnane (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1993), and Gerald Murnane: An Annotated Bibliography of Primary and Secondary Sources (Melbourne: Footprint, 1993).

1939 Birth of Gerald Murnane, Coburg, Melbourne, 25 February. His mother is Gwenneth Alberta Murnane (née Rooke) and his father is Reginald Thomas Murnane.

1944 Family moves to Bendigo.

1948 Family moves to the Western District.

1949 Family returns to Melbourne.

1956 Completes high school at De La Salle College, Malvern, a Catholic school founded in 1912 and run by the De La Salle Brothers, an order based on the teachings of Saint Jean-Baptiste de la Salle (1651–1719).

1957 February–May, studies for the priesthood at St Pius X Memorial College among the Passionist Fathers, an order mixing spiritual contemplation with missionary work, in St Ives, Sydney.

June, abandons his studies for the priesthood, returns to Melbourne and works as a temporary clerk in the Royal Mint.

1958 Attends Toorak Teachers’ College to begin training as a primary teacher.


1963 Begins annual duties as an honorary lecturer in General Education at the Victoria Racing Club’s Apprentice Jockeys’ School.
1965 Begins a part-time BA (majoring in English and Arabic) at the University of Melbourne.

1966 Marriage to Catherine Mary Lancaster, 14 May.

1969 Graduates from the University of Melbourne. Family moves to the Melbourne suburb of Macleod. Begins work as Publications Officer, then Assistant Editor, in the Publications Branch of the Education Department of the Victorian government.

Birth of the Murnanes' first son, Giles Francis Murnane, 16 January.


1973 Resigns from the Education Department to concentrate on his writing with his wife's support. Until he is employed full time again (in 1980) he works as a freelance editor, and receives some grants from the Australia Council for the Arts to support his writing.


1976 A Lifetime on Clouds published by William Heineman Australia.

1980 Begins work as a lecturer in fiction writing at Prahran College of Advanced Education (later Victoria College, later Deakin University).


Landscape with Landscape published by Norstrilia Press, Melbourne.

1987 Made an honorary member of the Victoria Racing Club. Receives tenured position at Victoria College. Convenes the judging panel for the Fiction Award in the Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards.

1988 Inland published by Heinemann, Melbourne.

Inland published by Faber, London.

Is writer-in-residence at La Trobe University. Appointed fiction consultant for literary journal Meanjin.


Writer-in-residence, the University of Newcastle, NSW.

1991 Appointed to the Literature Advisory Panel of the Victorian Ministry for the Arts.


1999 Awarded the Patrick White Award for writers who have not necessarily received adequate recognition for their work.

2001 First major conference on Gerald Murnane's work held at the University of Newcastle, NSW, organised by Imre Salusinszky. Murnane presents a paper entitled “The Breathing Author”. Ivor Indyk is present and asks to publish the essay in *Heat* magazine, leading to Murnane publishing with Indyk's imprint, Giramondo Publishing, a few years later.


2007 Special Award for Lifelong Achievement, New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards.


2009 *Barley Patch*, a hybrid work of essayistic fiction confronting the question “Must I write?”, published by Giramondo Publishing. *Barley Patch* awarded the Adelaide Festival Literature Award for Innovation. Murnane awarded the Melbourne Prize for Literature for lifetime achievement.

Following the death of his wife Catherine, Murnane moves to Goroke in rural Victoria to be near one of his sons.


2013 *A Lifetime on Clouds* reissued by Text Publishing in the Text Classics series.
Inland reissued in a new edition by Giramondo Publishing.


2016  *Landscape with Landscape* republished by Giramondo Publishing.

Awarded Victorian Premier’s Literary Award for non-fiction for *Something for the Pain*.

*A Million Windows* published in the United States by David R. Godine, Publisher.


“Another World in This One”, a one-day symposium on Murnane’s work held in Goroke, Victoria, 7 December.

2018  Mark Binelli publishes the feature article “Is the Next Nobel Laureate in Literature Tending Bar in a Dusty Australian Town?” in the *New York Times Magazine*.

*Border Districts* published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York.


Wins Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Fiction for *Border Districts*.

*Collected Short Fiction* published by Giramondo Publishing.

*Grenzbezirke (Border Districts)* published by Suhrkamp Verlag, Germany.

*Border Districts* shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award.

2019  *Green Shadows and Other Poems* published by Giramondo Publishing.

*Border Districts* published by And Other Stories in the UK.

*Tamarisk Row* published by And Other Stories in the UK.

*A Season on Earth* (the full version of Murnane’s second work of fiction, from which *A Lifetime on Clouds* was excerpted by his 1976 publisher) published by Text Publishing.

*Border Districts* shortlisted for the New South Wales Premier’s Award for Fiction.