



# ANZAAB

## THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS LIMITED

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**President:** Douglas Stewart **Vice-President:** Roz Greenwood **Secretary:** Jörn Harbeck **Treasurer:** Sue Treloar  
**Board Members:** Dawn Albinger, Jonathan Burdon AM (Immediate Past President), Margaret Dunstan,

## Statement on culturally sensitive materials

### For general circulation

ANZAAB members sell antiquarian material, which by definition contains content of an “antiquated” nature. Books, photographs, manuscripts and other historical materials are a physical record of earlier times, when social views and cultural values were different to those of today. They are valuable resources in all fields of research and enquiry.

ANZAAB members are aware that while some of the material we sell is collected for its literary, aesthetic or nostalgic interest, some is also collected for its unique historical perspective. It is unavoidable that the content of antiquarian material could be found, by some, to be anachronistic or offensive, especially when assessed by today’s standards.

The ANZAAB Code of Ethics draws attention to this issue, and advises members to be sensitive in handling certain materials:

16. *Members should be mindful that some material they handle may be culturally sensitive and should be catalogued and displayed in an appropriately sensitive manner.*

The manner in which members observe this will depend on the nature of the material, and circumstances of its presentation.

Antiquarian material is collected by libraries, galleries and museums to document how our knowledge and values have evolved. Antiquarian booksellers are essential to this process.

ANZAAB members discover, catalogue, and sell this material in a public and open manner.

We deal with historical materials, including those that are culturally sensitive, so that history can be documented as broadly as possible. It is only by preserving evidence of the past, we can show respect for our history and learn from it.

ANZAAB Board  
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