

## **JACK LINDSAY AND THE POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE**

A Symposium to be held at the  
**University of Technology, Sydney**  
**Date: Friday, 11 April 2014**  
**Convenor: Anne Cranny-Francis**

For Jack Lindsay political commitment was not an attitude or mannerism to be adopted as the occasion demanded but was the touchstone for his whole life – his family, his relationships, his writings, his publishing, and his work as a cultural activist. This symposium explores the work of Jack Lindsay and of others like him, who have led and sometimes goaded their contemporaries to examine what constitutes knowledge; how orthodoxies develop and are used to discipline thought, and how they operate as shields against new or different ways of knowing.

Lindsay's commitment to socialism as a means to a more inclusive and generous society meant that his thinking and writings came under criticism from a range of establishment forces. It also meant that he was subject to continual surveillance by the secret service. Like compatriots such as Randall Swingler, Lindsay's life was directly impacted by this surveillance, which included a covert direction to the BBC to stop employing him. Contemporary revelations about surveillance technology, along with access to the secret service files on figures such as Lindsay, demonstrate how certain kinds of knowledge are suppressed by those in a position of political power or with the protection of that power. This symposium, therefore, will explore the many different aspects of the politics of knowledge, and invites contributions on all related topics, for example:

- The political and/or cultural legacy of Jack Lindsay
- The nature of knowledge
- Knowledge, disciplines and the academy
- Knowledge, politics and activism
- Knowledge and culture
- Knowledge and surveillance
- The history of surveillance
- Surveillance and the formation of public opinion
- Political activists under surveillance
- The social legacy of surveillance regimes

