

Acknowledgements

This book had its origins in 2011, in a proposal by the two co-editors for a panel session at the then forthcoming 2015 Congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences in Jinan, to be entitled ‘Biographies and Autobiographies of Historians: Their Historiographical Importance’. It turned out for the better that our proposal did not make the cut for the congress. We promptly turned to Professor Melanie Nolan – one of the proposed Jinan panelists – to see if the National Centre for Biography (NCB) at The Australian National University (ANU) would be willing to host a workshop based on the idea of the panel but expanded to become a more ambitious undertaking with a published collection of essays now to be the ultimate goal. She responded graciously and positively, and the intensive two-day workshop in Canberra on 4–5 July 2015 proved to be a firm foundation for the book. By common consent, it was a memorable gathering. The participants gelled and the exchange of ideas flowed back and forth.

Accordingly, we are very grateful to Melanie and all at the NCB – and especially Karen Ciuffetelli, who took care of key organisational matters – for being our hosts at the workshop. A number of ANU scholars attended and contributed notably to the discussions; in particular, Malcolm Allbrook, Frank Bongiorno and Chris Wallace were kind enough to chair sessions. Ann Curthoys and Stuart Macintyre were unable to attend the workshop, but provided behind-the-scenes support. We also thank Tom Griffiths, who presented a paper on Eleanor Dark that could not appear in the collection because it was already committed elsewhere, but that added greatly to the workshop.¹ Funding support came from the NCB itself, and from the Gorsebrook Research Institute of Saint Mary’s University (Halifax, Nova Scotia).

1 Tom Griffiths, ‘The Timeless Land: Eleanor Dark’, in Griffiths, *The Art of Time Travel: Historians and their Craft* (Melbourne: Black Inc., 2016), 16–41.

As the collection made its way from workshop to book, we again received valued support from a number of quarters. As we have noted in the dedication, the presence of Geoffrey Bolton was a highlight of the workshop, and we are very grateful to Carol Bolton for giving us the editorial freedom to prepare his now posthumous essay for publication. For helpful comments on the collection and on the specific essays, we thank warmly the two peer reviews and the members of the Editorial Board of the ANU.Lives Series in Biography. As editors, of course, we are deeply grateful to all of the contributing authors, not only for their fine essays but also for being receptive to our suggestions and dealing with them so expeditiously. An especial role was kindly taken by Barbara Caine, who provided the closing commentary at the workshop and then also contributed the Concluding Reflections to the book.

Finally, the publication process through ANU Press was smooth and expeditious, and we especially thank Geoff Hunt for his expert copy-editing.

Our profound gratitude to one and all!

Doug Munro
John G. Reid

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