

PREFACE

This is the second volume of *Bridging Australia and Japan: The writings of David Sissons, historian and political scientist*. This volume is the third and final publication in the series of Sissons' writings, which started with *Breaking Japanese Diplomatic Codes: David Sissons and D Special Section during the Second World War*, edited by Desmond Ball and Keiko Tamura in 2013. The first volume of *Bridging Australia and Japan*, with a focus on Sissons' writings on Australia–Japan relations, was released in 2016. For this volume, the editors chose his work on the Pacific War, war crimes trials and investigations, and Japanese politics in the 1950s and 1960s. Sissons' previously unpublished work in this volume was selected from the Papers of DCS Sissons (MS 3092) at the National Library of Australia (NLA) in Canberra.¹

An idea of a publication project was discussed soon after David Sissons' death in 2006. Right from its outset, its main goal has always been to make his writings available to a wider readership. Sissons dedicated his life to research and writing, and his articles are often cited by succeeding researchers due to their high-quality content backed by meticulous research. In recent years, however, some articles became difficult to access. In addition, Sissons left unpublished research papers in the NLA collection. We selected those articles that we consider seminal in the fields of studies in which Sissons was involved. All three books are now available in digital format through ANU Press, and we hope a wide circle of readers and researchers are able to learn from his writings for years to come.

This volume starts with Georgina Fitzpatrick's chapter on her experience of encountering and engaging with Sissons' manuscript at the NLA while she was carrying out research on Australian war crimes trials. Chapter 2 covers the Japanese intentions towards Australia, particularly on the contentious issue of whether or not Japan had a plan to invade Australia. Sissons' research clearly demonstrates that Japan did not have any plans to invade Australia many years before the issue

1 To review the finding aid for this collection, go to nla.gov.au/nla.obj-337994618/findingaid.

attracted a big controversy.² Sissons' thorough research is showcased in Chapter 3 in his detailed account of the Cowra breakout. As a young recruit, he joined a search party at Cowra soon after the breakout. Although his personal experience is not included, his writing is riveting and sheds new light on the incident. Sissons' essay in Chapter 4 on the Australian war crimes trials and investigations is a significant contribution to the field of war crime research. This paper was uploaded on the internet after Sissons' death, but did not have a secure hosting website. We are happy to provide a permanent home for this significant work in this publication.

The following two chapters include Sissons' writing and correspondence on his research on war crime trials. Readers will appreciate the depth and rigour of his questioning in his observations and the extent of his efforts to reach out to informants. Contemporary researchers might carry out a similar level of enquiry, but it would be much more difficult to capture their efforts in the digital era.

The last two chapters cover Sissons' writings in political science at the early stage of his academic career. As Stockwin's introduction indicates, these papers, which were written 50 years ago, still have some relevance in contemporary research.

The last chapter by Keiko Tamura discusses Sissons' legacy and records the project's history. A selected bibliography of Sissons shows the breadth of the field in which Sissons carried out his research and writing.

Many of the writings that were included in these publications were originally produced decades ago. It is obvious that some new research results have appeared, and some of Sissons' writings might require updating and revision. Yet, the essence of his enquiries and the references that he recorded are still relevant to contemporary scholars to learn from and be inspired by. Were that to happen, our efforts in bringing this project to a conclusion are worthwhile.

² About public controversy on this issue, see Peter Stanley, *Invading Australia: Japan and the battle for Australia, 1942* (Camberwell, Victoria: Viking, 2008), Chapter 11.

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