



GORDON GREENWOOD

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1913-1986

Emeritus Professor Gordon Greenwood, CMG, MA, PhD, FAHA, FASSA, historian and political scientist, died in Brisbane on 4 November 1986. Born in South Australia in 1913, he was educated at Knox Grammar School, Wahroonga, and at The University of Sydney, where he gained the Degrees of Bachelor of Arts (1935) and Master of Arts (1937), both with the highest honours. At the University of London as Woolley Travelling Scholar from Sydney he worked with Harold Laski, then at the height of his academic distinction. On returning to Australia he was Lecturer in History at New England University College, then a College of The University of Sydney. After two years at the College, he worked in the Sydney Department of History with his old teacher, S. H. Roberts. In February 1949, Greenwood was appointed to the McCaughey Chair of History and Political Science at the University of Queensland. He became McCaughey Professor of History, following departmental rearrangement, in 1965.

Greenwood took to Queensland a reputation both as an pioneering historian, won through his book *Early American-Australian Relations* (1944), and as a political scientist, established in his far-reaching book *The Future of Australian Federalism* (1949 and 1976). Before leaving Sydney he had planned a large composite history of Australia, which appeared in 1955 under the title *Australia A Social and Political History*. Greenwood edited the book and also contributed to it. For more than a generation it was the standard undergraduate textbook. His influence on the writing of Australian history was strengthened further when he founded the journal that he edited for twenty-seven years. *The Australian Journal of Politics and History* stands as a monument to Greenwood's breadth of interest and unceasing search for quality. Volume 29, No.2, published in 1983, was a special issue in his honour.

His old friend Norman Harper collaborated with Greenwood in editing and contributing to the first four volumes of *Australia in World Affairs*. With John Laverty Greenwood was responsible for the book *Brisbane 1859-1959: A History of Local Government* (1959). With Harrison Bryan, also an old friend, he edited and contributed to a splendid study of libraries in Australia, entitled *Design for Diversity* (1977). With his former Sydney student and later Queensland colleague, Charles Grismshaw, he edited *Documents on Australian International Affairs, 1901-1918* (1977).

Greenwood was a prolific author and editor, writing articles, giving speeches, attending conferences. As a Professor he reconstructed his Department in

Brisbane, served as a member of the Senate of the University of Queensland and took a large share in university administration.

Recognition came his way. He was a Foundation Fellow of the two non-scientific academies in Australia. He was made CMG in 1982. His magnificent services to libraries in this country earned him the Library Association of Australia's Redmond Barry Award in 1984. The friends who knew him as a convivial person, the students who learned so much from him gave him another kind of recognition. Greenwood was a man of friendship and principle, of courage and integrity. Two of the major social science disciplines in this country are heavily in his debt.

J. M. Ward