

# ASP NEWSLETTER

May 2021

NEW TITLES BY AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARLY, ARCADIA, ARDEN & TANTANOOLA



## Guy Griffiths

The Life & Times of an Australian Admiral

PETER JONES

*From country boy to gold-braided admiral, Guy Griffiths has led a richly-textured life of service to the navy and the nation. As a teenage midshipman he survived the disastrous sinking of the battlecruiser HMS Repulse off Malaya in 1941 and went on to fight at sea with distinction in another two wars: Korea and Vietnam. It is an unmatched record of courage, dedication and achievement. This is the enthralling biography of a remarkable sailor and a genuinely great Australian.*

Mike Carlton AM, bestselling author of  
*Flagship & First Victory*



*Above*

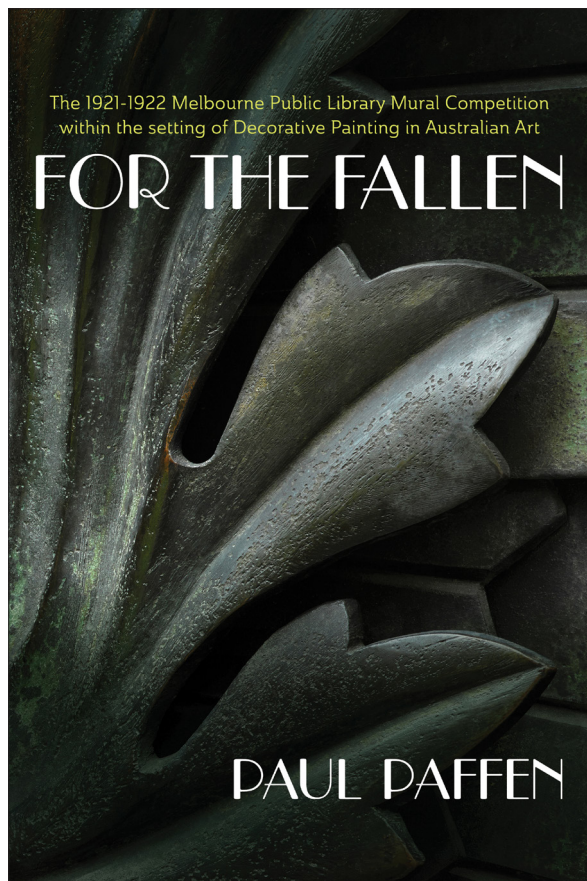
The battlecruiser HMS Repulse. (PA Images)

*Right*

HMAS Hobart on 'Gunline' off the Vietnamese coast. (RAN)



FORMAT **Paperback** PAGES **344** ISBN **978-1-922454-68-3** RELEASED **27 May** PRICE **\$39.95**



## For The Fallen

The 1921-1922 Melbourne Public Library Mural Competition within the setting of Decorative Painting in Australian Art

PAUL PAFFEN

*'At the beginning of the [eighteen] nineties, a war cry rang from one studio to another: "Away with easel pictures! ..." Painting was to come again into the service of all the arts, and not be an end in itself. "The work of the painter begins where that of the architect is considered finished. Hence let us have walls, that we may paint them over. No more perspective! The wall must remain a plain surface, and must not be broken by the presentation of limitless horizons. There are no paintings, but only decorations."*

Dom Willibrord Verkade (1930)

In December 1921 the Melbourne Public Library launched an historic mural competition seeking to obtain a fifty-foot-long wall decoration to honour those who gave their lives in the Great War. Lindsay Bernard Hall – the National Gallery of Victoria's formidable Director and strict disciplinarian Painting Master of the Gallery's prestigious Art School – conceived the idea, overseeing it along every step of its unpredictable course.

The competition collapsed controversially in August 1922 with no outright winner declared. New Zealand-born artist Harold Septimus Power was approached to proceed with the design he had entered, which was only accepted by the narrowest of margins by the institution's Board of Trustees on the advice of three judges.

This major, ground-breaking study brings to life the vast cast of the art world involved in the controversial competition. Myriads of relevant connections and inter-relationships spanning decades are navigated to feature the significant place that decorative painting occupied within Australian art, when it successfully challenged the dominance of staid academic realism, being an alternative, creative, way for the contemporary artist to manage pictorial space.



E. Hilda Rix-Nicholas, *Pro humanitate* (middle panel), (c.1918), photograph of oil on canvas [destroyed by fire in 1930], National Library of Australia, Canberra, E. Hilda Rix-Nicholas Papers, MS9871.



**'a tremendously engaging and highly informative level of art historical revisionism ...'**

From the Foreword by Gerard Vaughan, AM



H. Septimus Power as 'Decca', [oil sketch, left side section (representing the Western Front theatre of the Great War) of the complete mural design submitted by H. S. Power in the 1921–1922 Melbourne Public Library mural competition], (1922); oil on canvas on board, 31.0 × 185.0 cm (complete), State Library of Victoria, Melbourne. Purchased with funds from the Sybil Craig Bequest, 2002, H2002.83.



*Above*

E. Hilda Rix-Nicholas, *In Picardy*, (c.1914), oil on canvas, 61.2 × 51.1 cm, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Felton Bequest, 1918 (888-3).

*Right*

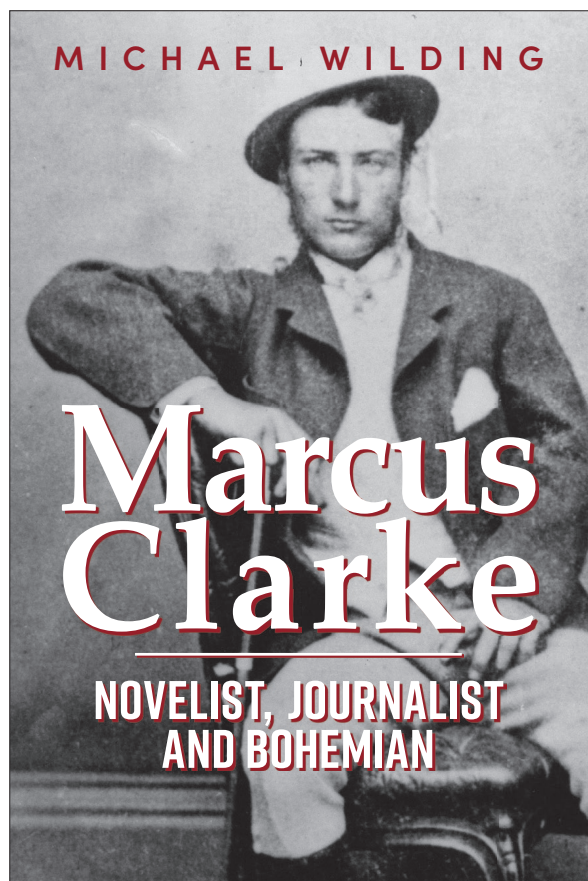
Elizabeth Thompson, *The 28th Regiment at Quatre Bras*, 1875, oil on canvas, 97.2 × 216.2 cm, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Purchased, 1884, (p.309.9-1).

*Below*

Unknown photographer, *Public Library, Museum and National Gallery*, Melbourne, (c.1911), collotype postcard, 8.8 × 13.7 cm, The Valentine & Sons Publishing Company Pty, Ltd, Melbourne and Sydney, printed in Great Britain. Collection of the Author.







## Marcus Clarke

Novelist, Journalist and Bohemian

MICHAEL WILDING

Michael Wilding's essays on Marcus Clarke's life and works, from his schooldays at Highgate with Gerard Manley Hopkins to membership of the Melbourne Bohemian Yorick Club with Adam Lindsay Gordon and Henry Kendall, and his associations with the Chief of Police Captain Frederick Standish, the Irish nationalist politician and political prisoner Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, and the President of the Melbourne Public Library Sir Redmond Barry.

*'This is scholarly and very entertaining.'*

*Sydney Morning Herald*

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