

Foreword

The Hon IDF Callinan

Only the best speeches, of which Mark Antony's Oration and the Gettysburg Address are high examples, read as well as they must have sounded when they were first spoken. Public speaking in its many forms tends to be its own art. That is not the case with the eulogies, obituaries and after dinner speeches which are included in *Heydon: Selected Speeches and Papers*, some of which I had the pleasure of hearing when they were spoken. In all of the papers, their author combines the arts of the essayist, historian, orator, obituarist, reviewer, critic, teacher and advocate.

Any reader of the papers will be struck by the depth and width of the author's scholarship. There is not one of the papers that is not rich in unaffected literary, historical and legal allusion. They are a mine of interesting facts and intelligent fresh insights.

Many of the papers have a legal theme or relevance. They are not, however, of interest only to lawyers and law students. All, whether prepared for a particular occasion or about a particular person, legal or otherwise, are no narrow or dry dissertation. Human affairs and institutions can only be understood in context, and no one could understand and explain that better than Dyson Heydon does in this diverse and reflective collection. Each of the papers, from "Catholic Resistance to German State Persecution: Lessons for Modern Australia" to "The Public Life of John and Nancy Stone", is redolent of learning and humanity. In the former, Heydon recalls that Lord Acton refused to write until he had read profusely from his library of 60,000 volumes. The reader should be grateful that Heydon did not postpone his compositions for quite as long as that. In the latter of the two papers, he pays a deserved and elegant tribute to Nancy Stone's own fine work as well as her contribution to the public life of her husband, without in any way diminishing his stature as one of the nation's most eminent public officials and invaluable controversialists.

The papers can and should be read by all law students, and, I think, with profit, by all practising lawyers and judges. To others, they offer the charm of the best essayists, of works that can be either read intermittently in spare hours on long journeys, or continuously in a few sittings. It is to be hoped that there will in due course be a second volume of papers.

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