

## CITATION HUGH ANDERSON

A Fellow of the Australian Centre at the University of Melbourne, Hugh Anderson is an historian of prodigious productivity and a distinguished scholar of folklore and folksong in Australia. He has made outstanding contributions to the fields of Australian folklore studies, literary history, bibliography and local history. His international reputation in Australian folklore scholarship is unrivalled. Since 1953 he has written more than twelve scholarly monographs; edited, introduced and annotated some seventeen collections of primary sources; compiled eight bibliographies of Australian authors; published more than fifty articles in national and international journals; and completed twenty-two school textbooks. For more than fifty years his work has shaped multiple fields of scholarly investigation in this country, not least the historical study of popular culture and literature. His chief innovation was to treat 'folk' materials as literary texts, identifying the individual authors and using standard methods of literary and historical analysis. Many of his books, such as *Colonial Ballads*, and *Folk Songs of Australia* (with John Meredith), were frequently reprinted and remain authoritative. Remarkably, Mr Anderson established himself as a major scholar with few formal academic qualifications and little institutional support.

Educated at the Bendigo School of Mines, Melbourne Teachers' College, and the University of Melbourne, Hugh Anderson committed himself to research and writing in the time left over from teaching. Dedicated to scholarship, he wrote unremittingly, though he lacked the conventional structures of support and mechanisms of reward of the scholar.

The Australian government recognized Hugh Anderson's pre-eminence in folklore studies in 1986 with his appointment as Chair of the Committee of Inquiry into Folklife in Australia. The report of that Committee strongly influenced the efforts of other nations to comprehend and preserve their folk materials. Additionally, Mr Anderson was a founding member of the editorial board of *Australian Folklore*; a member of the committee of management of the Australian Society of Authors; and Councillor and Vice-President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, which made him a Fellow in 1974.

A friend of Bernard O'Dowd, E J Brady, P R 'Inky' Stephensen, Robert D Fitzgerald and Eleanor Dark, Hugh Anderson personally connects our contemporary university scholarship to an older Australian literary tradition. When A Grenfell Price wrote his survey of the humanities in Australia in the late 1950s, he drew attention to Hugh Anderson as a promising younger scholar: now he is one of the few surviving scholars mentioned in that survey. These days, few others can claim having published in *Meanjin* and *Southerly* in the 1940s and in the old *Bulletin*, written for the *Realist Writer* before it became *Overland*, and received support from the Commonwealth Literary Fund.

The University of Melbourne seeks to honour the breadth of scholarly achievement in our community and to recognise excellence in research wherever it is found. The University therefore bestows this award on Hugh Anderson, who has done more than anyone to make the study of folklore and popular culture a scholarly enterprise in Australia.