



### Angus & Robertson and the British Trade in Australian Books, 1930-1970

The Getting of Bookselling Wisdom

Jason D. Ensor

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*This book is also available as an ebook.*

#### Description

**A unique look into the history of Australia's largest publisher, Angus & Robertson, and its role in the development of Australia's export book trade.**

*'Jason Ensor's meticulously researched book provides a publishing history of unprecedented depth, and also demonstrates how transnational Australian literature has always been. The book is also absorbing on a narrative level, as Ensor provides quirky anecdotes about the challenges of producing books that will resonate even today.'*

—Nicholas Birns, Eugene Lang College, The New School for Liberal Arts

*'A comprehensive, well-researched and finely grained study that adds significantly to our understanding of the contemporary Anglo-Australian book trade history. Much can be learned perusing its pages.'* —David Finkelstein, University of Dundee

*'Jason Ensor's absorbing study of Angus & Robertson's UK publishing ventures in the mid-twentieth century is a valuable addition to the story of Australian cultural history. It is also a timely contribution to the newly transnational and worldly understanding of what is usually thought of as an iconically nationalist institution, Angus & Robertson. We know that the empire wrote back, but Ensor's study shows us how the empire also published back.'* —Philip Mead, University of Western Australia

**Angus & Robertson and the British Trade in Australian Books, 1930-1970** traces the history of the printed book in Australia, particularly the production and business context that mediated Australia's literary and cultural ties to Britain for much of the twentieth century. This study focuses on the London operations of one of Australia's premier book publishers of the twentieth century: Angus & Robertson. The book argues that despite the obvious limitations of a British-dominated market, Australian publishers had room to manoeuvre in it. It questions the ways in which Angus & Robertson replicated, challenged or transformed the often highly criticised commercial practices of British publishers in order to develop an export trade for Australian books in the United Kingdom. This book is the answer to the current void in the literary market for a substantial history of Australia's largest publisher and its role in the development of Australia's export book trade.

**Readership :** This book will benefit book and publishing historians as well as academics and postgraduate students studying Australian studies, Australian literary and cultural history, or postcolonial studies.

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Dramatis Personae; Preface; Acknowledgements; Chapter 1: The Company that Loved Australian Books; Chapter 2: The Overseas Books in Australian Publishing History; Chapter 3: Triangles of Publishing and Other Stories; Chapter 4: The World is Made of Paper Restrictions; Chapter 5: The First Salesman in London; Chapter 6: The Getting of Bookselling Wisdom; Chapter 7: Preparing for 'Operation London'; Chapter 8: The Shiralee in the North; Chapter 9: A Commercial and Cultural Relationship; Chapter 10: Tomorrow, When London Publishing Ended; Chapter 11: A House is Rebuilt; Chapter 12: The Hidden Parts of Publishing Fortune; Chapter 13: Learning from a Distance; Figures and Tables; Notes; Bibliography; Index

#### About the Author

**Jason D. Ensor** holds a BA and MA in Australian studies and a PhD in communication studies from Murdoch University. <http://jasonensor.com/>

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