

S.A.'s GREATS

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NORTH TERRACE PLAQUES

EDITED BY JOHN HEALEY

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Contents

Preface	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
List of Contributors	ix
List of Illustrations	xi
Imperial/Metric Conversions	xvi
S.A.'s GREATS:	
Angas -- Wright	1
Pioneer Vignerons	149
Winners of the Victoria Cross and the George Cross	156
Further Reading	168

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We also acknowledge a debt to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volumes 1-15 (Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1966-2000), which has proved extremely useful for the checking of details and for supplementary information. It should be noted that some contributors to *S.A.'s Greats* have also written biographies for the *A.D.B.* and their entries necessarily draw upon the same material.

Preface

In 1986, South Australia's sesquicentenary year, the Jubilee 150 Board decided to honour a selection of men and women who have made significant contributions to the State's progress. Bronze plaques were laid in the footpath of North Terrace, Adelaide, stretching from King William Street to Frome Road. They feature the names, dates and occupations of 169 eminent South Australians, many of whom gained national or international recognition for their work.

The plaques attract a good deal of attention from passers-by but until now there has been no single publication summarizing the lives of these men and women. It is fitting that in 2001, the centenary of Federation, the Historical Society of South Australia should publish a book of concise biographies of the people who have enriched our culture and improved our way of life. Each entry contains an account of the person's life, career, pursuits and major achievements, together with insights into their character and their legacies to South Australia.

No attempt has been made to alter the list of names. We have accepted it as it stands.

The order of the entries in *S.A.'s Greats* varies in a few instances from that of the plaques on the footpath. The book adheres to an alphabetical listing by correct surname. For example, Robert Barr Smith appears under 'Smith', Bejah Dervish under 'Dervish', and Archibald Grenfell Price under 'Price'. In addition, to avoid confusion in the alphabetical order, the V.C. and G.C. recipients are placed at the end of the book, although their plaques are situated, appropriately, in front of the War Memorial, between 'Gibb' and 'Gibson'.

Some differences in spellings and dates may be noticed between this book and the plaques themselves. In each case, the facts have been checked, usually from primary sources, and *S.A.'s Greats* is correct. Similarly with discrepancies between this book and the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

John Healey