THE OXFORD COMPANION TO AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

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potential of this expansionary phase attracted Rupert Murdoch, who saw huge profits in cable television rights to an international competition under private management. In 1994–95 he began to engineer his breakaway Super League, which eventually opposed the ARL competition in 1997. ARL chief Ken Arthurson lamented in *Arko: My Game* (1997) that 'greed and corporate ambition' dismantled the game he loved. But money had been talking in rugby circles for a long time. Even Rugby Union finally turned professional in 1996. And in the end, money motivated a peace deal between the ARL and Super League in December 1997, which provided for a united competition in 1998. From barbarians, gentlemen, and players, to 'products', the sport had moved deep into an age of control. Ian Heads has written a history of the NSW Rugby League, *True Blue* (1992), and David Headon and Lex Marinos edited *League of a Nation* (1996). Andrew Moore's *The Mighty Bears!* (1997) is an accomplished study of the North Sydney team.

DAMIEN CASH

Rum Rebellion refers to the uprising in Sydney by members of the **New South Wales Corps** on 26 January 1808. Power in the colony rested largely with the military and wealthy settlers, John **Macarthur** prominent among them, who together amassed large profits from their control of the rum trade. When William **Bligh** was appointed governor in 1805, he confronted Macarthur and took action to end the corrupt trade in rum. In 1808 he refused Macarthur bail when he faced trial on a commercial matter. Macarthur's military colleagues immediately reversed the situation, arresting Bligh and releasing Macarthur from detention. The senior officer George Johnston became nominal commander while Bligh was held captive until June 1808 at Government House. In December 1809 Governor **Macquarie** brought with him his own troops and sent the NSW 'Rum Corps' home to England. H.V. **Evatt** put the case for Bligh as a champion of the small settler in *Rum Rebellion* (1938), while M.H. **Ellis's** 1955 biography of Macarthur is the most robust defence of the rebels. Ross Fitzgerald and Mark Hearn reconsidered *Bligh, Macarthur and the Rum Rebellion* (1988).

HD

Rusden, George William (1819–1903), educationist and civil servant, wrote the most ambitious nineteenth-century history of Australia. He was one of a large family of an English clergyman that emigrated when George was in his teens (his brother Henry became a leading Melbourne rationalist). George tried pastoralism and trade in China before he became agent for the establishment of government schools in NSW. Following the separation of Victoria, he became a government official there and from 1856 to 1882 was clerk of the Legislative Council. He retired to England until 1893, when he returned to Melbourne. His substantial papers are held by Trinity College, University of Melbourne.

He had already published literary and educational works as well as works on the settlement of Victoria. In 1883 his *History of Australia* and *History of New Zealand*, both in three volumes, appeared in London. Each was a long, highly literary, digressive, and polemical account of the failure of the colonists to make good their British patrimony. Drawing on his involvement in the Victorian constitutional crises, Rusden condemned both countries for democratic excess. One part of his arraignment was the mistreatment of the indigenous inhabitants. A suit for libel brought by a NZ minister for native affairs brought heavy damages and forced a retraction. Australian historians are more sympathetic to Rusden's criticism of the injustices to Aborigines. A.G. Austin, *George William Rusden and National Education* (1958), assessed him favourably.

SM

Russian–Australian relations began in 1807 when the naval ship *Neva* visited Port Jackson. During the period 1807–35 there were 17 naval visits, described by Glynn Barratt in *The Russians and Australia* (1988). Until the 1830s relations were harmonious and Russian perceptions of the colonies were enthusiastic. Australian hostility towards Russia emerged in the 1830s and intensified during the Crimean War, 1853–56. Australia experienced scares of Russian invasion and espionage in 1863, 1871, 1878, 1882, and 1885. Popular mythology still associates the Australian coastal defence system with fears of Russian invasion.

In 1857 Russian honorary consuls were appointed to Melbourne and Sydney. In 1894 the first regular consular representation, headed by career diplomat Aleksei Putiata, was established in Melbourne. Putiata and his successors championed direct Russian–Australian trade, leading to the creation in January 1917 of the Russian–Australian Bureau of Commerce and Information. Russians contributed much to the study of Australia. Considerable collections of Aboriginal artefacts were gathered by the early naval visitors and by Aleksandr Iashchenko in 1903. The Russian scientist and anthropologist Nikolai **Miklouho-Maclay**, whose life has been explored by E.M. Webster, *The Moon Man* (1984), lived in Australia from 1878 to 1886, founding the first biological station in Sydney. He also championed an increasing Russian presence in the Pacific and provided information about Australia for the Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The visitors praised new, democratic, 'un-English', as they believed, features in the emerging nation. Russian attitudes appeared especially enthusiastic at the beginning of the twentieth century, when Australia was perceived by Russian writers and visitors as an example for Russia—a 'Workers' Kingdom' distinguished by social reforms and respect for the working man. This interpretation was contested by Russian revolutionaries who found exile in Australia after 1905.

The first ethnic Russian to settle in Australia was a convict, Constantine Milcow, who arrived in 1816. Initially immigrants from Russia were mainly of Jewish, Finnish, and Polish descent. Ethnic Russians began to arrive in considerable numbers in the early twentieth century, mainly from the Far East. By 1917 they numbered at least 2000. Political refugees numbered around 500 and they organised the

Union of Russian Workers led by Bolshevik Artem. Early immigrants were sympathetic to Australian conditions to the extent that in 1912 the federal government sent Russian delegates—Leandro Illin and Constantine Vladimirov—to the NT to explore the possibilities of establishing a Russian colony there. The economic and political situation of the Russians deteriorated during World War I simultaneously with an increase in the influence of Russian radicals, which made the Russian community one of the most radical by 1919, when the **Red Flag riots** occurred. The history of pre-revolutionary attitudes and contacts is explored by Elena Govor in *Australia in the Russian Mirror: Changing Perceptions 1770–1919* (1997).

After the Russian Revolution of 1917 the imperial consul resigned in 1918 and Soviet consul Petr Simonov, unrecognised by Australia, held office 1918–21. Australian troops served in a British force which intervened in the Civil War. Russians participated in the creation of the Communist Party of Australia. The association of Russia with **communism** during the period between the two world wars gave rise to extreme support and opposition by Australians. Popular Australian attitudes to Russia were also influenced by Russian cultural achievements, especially in the performing arts, which were highly praised in Australia following the visits of the Russian Ballet with Anna Pavlova and singer Fedor Chaliapin in 1926. Russian migrants between the wars were mainly White Russians who had fought the revolutionary Russian forces.

During World War II, when the USSR and Australia were allies, both official and popular attitudes became more sympathetic, and in 1942 diplomatic relations were established. The Cold War period was marked by the **Petrov Affair**, which led to a breach in diplomatic relations between 1954 and 1959. In the period of *détente*, and especially under the **Whitlam** government, Russian–Australian contacts strengthened, to be followed by further confrontation until *perestroika*. Since *perestroika* and the collapse of the USSR, diplomatic relations have steadily improved. Now that Russia and Australia consider themselves to be part of the Asia–Pacific rim, further *rapprochement* and deeper contacts between the Russian Far East and Australia are developing, although current economic difficulties in Russia prevent significant growth of economic relations.

After World War II Australia accepted many Russian displaced persons from Europe as well as Russians from China. Although Soviet propaganda depicted working-class hardships and blackened Australian capitalism, popular Russian attitudes remained sympathetic. This was reflected in the aspiration of many Russian Jews to emigrate to Australia from the early 1970s. In contrast to Stalin's period, since the late 1950s Russian academics have made contributions to the fields of Australian ethnography, history, literature, and natural sciences. Over 1000 works of Australian fiction have been translated into Russian. The Russian community in Australia—recently studied by Maria Frolova, *Russians in Australia* (1996, in Russian), and Artem Rudnitsky, *Another*

Life and Land So Far Away (1991, in Russian)—numbers at least 45 000 people. Different aspects of Russian–Australian relations are explored in the collection *Russia and the Fifth Continent* (ed. John McNair and Thomas Poole, 1992). Elena Govor has annotated Russian writings on Australia in *Bibliography of Australia* (1985 and 1989, in Russian) and *Russian Sources on Australia* (ed. Poole et al., 1993).

ELENA GOVOR

Ryan, Edna Minna (1904–97), the godmother of late twentieth-century Australian feminism, is most famous for her work to improve conditions of work for women. Her greatest achievement was the submission by the **Women's Electoral Lobby** on the National Wage Case in 1973, in which she advocated a uniform minimum wage for women and men, after which the Arbitration Commission extended the minimum wage to women.

Born in Sydney, the tenth of 12 children, she pursued her education through adult education classes and activism, with her husband Jack Ryan. Both were leading members of the **Communist** Party of Australia in the 1920s; he was expelled in 1930, she subsequently refusing to denounce him. She became prominent in the **Australian Labor Party**, campaigned for election to the Senate in 1953, and from 1956 to 1965 served as an ALP councillor and alderman in local government. In 1962 she was elected the first woman president of the clerical branch of the Municipal Employees Union, and when she retired from the workforce in 1972 she became an active member of the Women's Electoral Lobby.

Ryan was, with Anne Conlon, the author of *Gentle Invaders: Australian Women at Work* (1975), a ground-breaking and influential study of women's work and wages since 1788. Her second book, *Two-Thirds of a Man* (1985), examined the origins of compulsory arbitration and its disadvantageous effects on women workers. Her achievements were recognised by the award of honorary doctorates by the University of Sydney in 1985 and Macquarie University in 1995, and life-membership of the ALP, her union, and WEL. A book of essays about her appeared in 1997.

SUSAN MAGAREY

Ryan, Thomas Joseph (1876–1921) was admitted to the Queensland Bar after a childhood in rural Victoria. He became an expert in trade union law and joined the Labor Party. In 1909 he won a seat in state parliament; six years later he became premier when Labor was swept to power. Ryan proved a popular and successful premier with a strong team of ministers. During World War I his anti-conscription views brought him into conflict with W.M. **Hughes**, the bellicose prime minister, and as the only premier opposed to **conscription** he played an important role in the referendums. He was drafted into federal politics in 1919 and was widely expected to assume the Labor leadership, but died of bronchial infection two years later. Denis Murphy has written a biography (1975).

KT