

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the publication of *Australia and the World: A Festschrift for Neville Meaney*, which recognises the major contribution of Neville Meaney to the development and evolution of Australian and American foreign relations history in this country.

This book emerged from a two-day conference, 'Australia and the World: A Conference Celebrating the Contribution of Neville Meaney', hosted by Historians of Australia's Foreign Relations and held at the Australian National University from 10–11 November 2011.

I attended and chaired one of the sessions at the conference and on the night of 10 November enjoyed a dinner in Neville's honour, which I felt privileged to attend and where I was able to observe the profound effect that Neville's scholarship and qualities as a teacher have had on a variety of colleagues, former students, friends and admirers.

My association with Neville began over forty years ago, when I was studying at the University of Sydney on a country teacher's scholarship. It was Neville who supervised my honours studies for three years and who suggested that I apply for a position in the then Department of External Affairs. But he did the same thing for many others, so there is a whole group of former students now in government who owe him so much. Indeed, I recall being in the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs in the mid-1990s when he gave me a ring to ask if I could help with a particular student who was from 'the wrong side of the street'. Neville's influence covers that timespan and more. Indeed, there will be people in government thirty years from now who owe as much to Neville Meaney as I do today.

I commend *Australia and the World* and its celebration of this great Australian scholar to you.

Dennis Richardson AO
Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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