



AUSTRALIAN CLASSICS – 50 GREAT WRITERS AND THEIR CELEBRATED WORKS
JANE GLEESON-WHITE,
ALLEN & UNWIN, \$26.95

This is a book that readers have been waiting for: the one that sends you scurrying off for a re-read or a belated discovery; or pleurably furious argument at book group.

Gleeson-White frames her study around 50 works by writers who straddle 100 years of novels, poetry, short stories, children’s literature, histories and memoir.

She has invited other writers to comment but her own choices are more interesting.

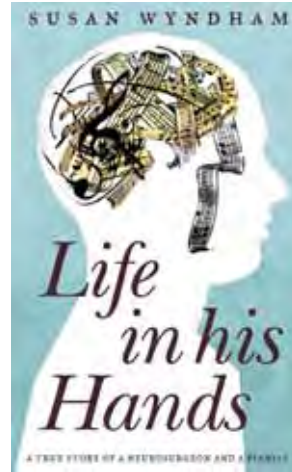
TRUCELESS WAR – CARTHAGE’S FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL 241-237BC
DEXTER HOYOS, BRILL, \$100.00/\$US149.00

Associate Professor Hoyos, of the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, has made an absorbing study of contemporary and later sources in analysing this most savage period of Mediterranean history.

Greek historian Polybius, writing a century later, left the most vivid account and he is the foundation for Hoyos’s exploration of the struggle for supremacy in what is now Libya and Sardinia. Along the way he brings in characters such as Hamilcar Barca, father of Hannibal and, piquantly, Flaubert, whose novel *Salammbô* was inspired by Polybius.

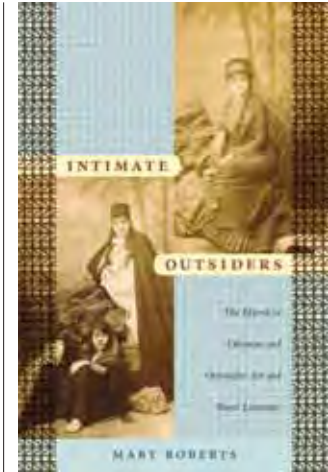
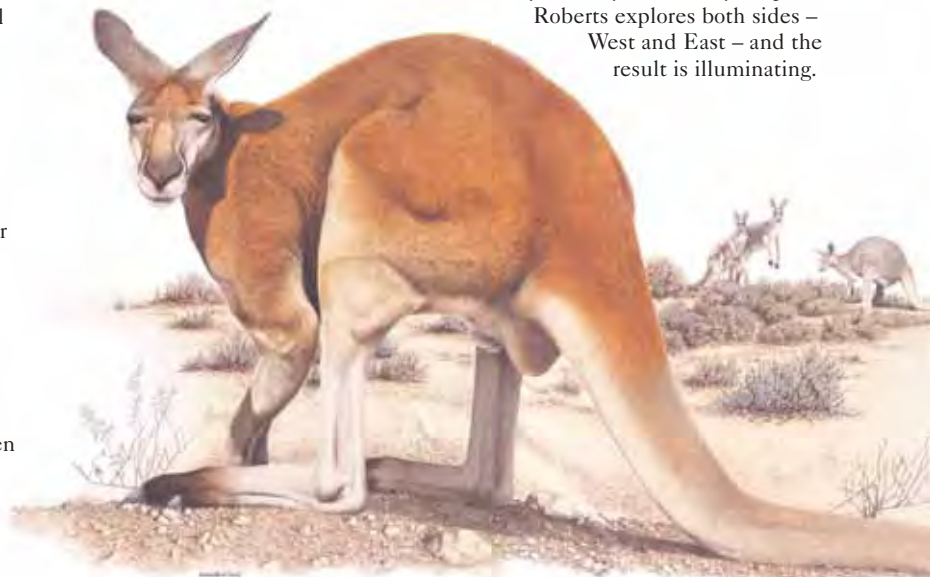
PS *Einstein’s Gospel* by Kenneth Garven may be ordered through wildandwoolley.com.au. The ISBN is 9781740184267. \$29.95 including postage.

Illustrations:
 Rosemary
 Woodford Ganf



LIFE IN HIS HANDS – THE TRUE STORY OF A NEUROSURGEON AND A PIANIST
SUSAN WYNDHAM,
PICADOR, \$32.95

Sydney alumna and distinguished *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist Susan Wyndham (BA Hons ’80) has taken her time getting into (book) print, but the story of Aaron McMillan and Charlie Teo proved irresistible. In 2001 McMillan was a concert pianist with a brilliant future when he was diagnosed, aged 24, with a rare brain tumour and given weeks to live. Maverick surgeon Teo had other plans, he operated and within months McMillan had resumed his career, playing around the world and inspiring others with his courage and grace. He died in 2007 and Wyndham charts the unique relationship between the pair of hands – the musician and the surgeon.

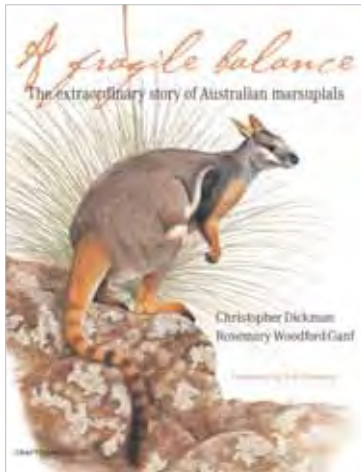


INTIMATE OUTSIDERS – THE HAREM IN OTTOMAN AND ORIENTALIST ART AND TRAVEL LITERATURE
MARY ROBERTS,
DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS, \$23.95

Mary Roberts is the John Schaeffer Associate Professor in British Art at the University of Sydney and this book is a welcome “other” look at a genre of art and body of writing which have long been the territory, primarily, of the male gaze. Not that there’s anything wrong per se with that gaze – viz the full colour reproductions in the book of luscious depictions of harem life and ladies by painters ranging from Delacroix to Frederic Leighton, William Holman Hunt and the great haremist himself, John Frederick Lewis – but there is another way of seeing.

Inevitably, the female point of view is different, if historically ignored or hidden. This applies particularly to the Ottoman women themselves who were not the exotic languid lilies so loved by the Royal Academy chaps.

Roberts explores both sides – West and East – and the result is illuminating.



**A FRAGILE BALANCE: THE
EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF AUSTRALIAN
MARSUPIALS
CHRIS DICKMAN, ILLUSTRATED BY
ROSEMARY WOODFORD GANF
CRAFTSMAN HOUSE, \$85**

Professor Chris Dickman's work at the University is renowned in his fields of ecology, conservation and management of mammals. He is the author or editor of more than 15 books and is actively engaged in all aspects of wildlife research and conservation. In this magnificent book he examines the lives and worlds of 150 wondrous creatures and they are brilliantly supported by Woodford Ganf's exquisite illustrations. The book is a treasure trove of visual and textual delights and so much more: it is also a wake-up call for all armchair naturalists and environmentalists.

"Half of the mammal extinctions over the last two centuries have been in Australia," Dickman says, adding that many of these are because of our lax attitude to land-clearing. As well, of course, feral animals are terribly destructive and he has some startling ideas on how to counter the scourge.

A Fragile Balance is not doom and gloom, however, rather Dickman and Woodford Ganf celebrate the unique and intricate ways of marsupials and also highlight their vital place in Australia's biodiversity. This is a book to savour and cherish – along with the northern hairy nosed wombat and her pals.

