

**2007**

**Ian Jack**

*The Pastoral Legacy*

Grazing by cattle and sheep over the last two centuries has changed the face of the Australian landscape. Throughout the diversity of the countryside, there is tangible evidence of the many faces of pastoralism. This evidence has importance to the historian no less than the leases, reports, surveys, maps and assessments preserved in public archives, no less too than the station records still to be found on many properties or in local historical societies' collections. Vernacular buildings, innocent of an architect's intervention, have a beauty born of functionality and the patina of old wood or corrugated iron: as a result, there is an aesthetic value alongside the historical. Shearing-sheds have for long been icons of the wool-industry: now redundant, many are vulnerable and require recording and interpretation, for there are significant differences among them.

Stockyards scattered strategically over extensive runs have stories to tell about stockmen and their mustering practices, but can tell their stories only when they are analysed and plotted on a map. The sheer size of many country properties has allowed early homesteads and early out-buildings to co-exist alongside their newer replacements, so there is a dynamic of time in this pastoral legacy. The lecture will examine the implications of this evidential and aesthetic diversity, with illustrations drawn from Ian Jack's experiences on pastoral properties throughout Australia .

**BIOGRAPHY**

Ian Jack has retired from the Department of History at the University of Sydney , where he served as Head of Department and Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Co-founder of the courses in Historical Archaeology and coordinator of public history education at the University, he has been increasingly involved in the heritage of rural vernacular buildings and industrial archaeology, was a long-serving member of the NSW Heritage Council and is currently President of the Royal Australian Historical Society. He is the author or co-author of numerous books, including the two volumes of Australian Pioneer Technology, Australia 's Age of Iron and Regional Histories of New South Wales.