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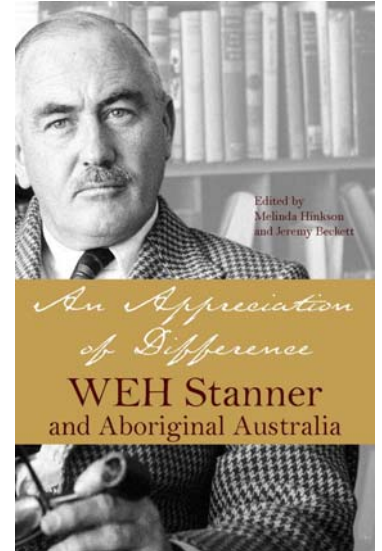
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# An Appreciation of Difference

## WEH Stanner Aboriginal Australia

### Edited by Melinda Hinkson & Jeremy Beckett

Publication date	<b>November 2008</b>
Format	<b>230 x 152 mm, pb, 258pp, b/w illustrations throughout</b>
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BOOKSHELF CATEGORIES	<b>Anthropology, Aboriginal Affairs, Australian History, Biography</b>
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WEH Stanner was a public intellectual whose work reached beyond the walls of the academy, and he remains a highly significant figure in Aboriginal affairs and Australian anthropology. Educated by Radcliffe-Brown in Sydney and Malinowski in London, he undertook anthropological work in Australia, Africa and the Pacific.

Stanner contributed much to public understandings of the Dreaming and the significance of Aboriginal religion. His 1968 Boyer Lectures, *After the Dreaming*, continue to be among the most widely quoted works in the field of Aboriginal studies. He also produced some exceptionally evocative biographical portraits of Aboriginal people. Stanner's writings on post-colonial development and assimilation policy urged an appreciation of Indigenous people's distinctive world views and aspirations.

Hinkson and Beckett have drawn together some of Australia's leading academics working in Aboriginal Australia to provide an historical and analytical context for Stanner's work, as well as demonstrating the continuing relevance of his writings in the contested field of Aboriginal affairs.

Melinda Hinkson is a lecturer in socio-cultural anthropology in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Australian National University. Jeremy Beckett is Emeritus Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology, Sydney University.

### SELLING POINTS

- Stanner's 1968 Boyer Lectures remain the most quoted work in Aboriginal Studies.
- Demonstrates continuing relevance of his work in the contested field of Aboriginal affairs.
- Stanner's work is framed in relation to current debates and proposed legislative reform.
- Stanner's support for Indigenous people's aspirations was ground-breaking.
- He coined the term the 'Great Australian Silence' later used by historians like Henry Reynolds. Stanner played an important role in establishing the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, AIATSIS. (Inga Clendinnen attended the conference this book derives from and said it was the best conference she'd ever attended.)