



### Thomas Keneally's Career and the Literary Machine

By Paul Sharrad

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#### An examination of Thomas Keneally's work and reception

Booker Prize winner and Living National Treasure, Thomas Keneally still divides critical opinion: he is both a morally challenging stylist and a commercial hack, a wise commentator on society and a garrulous leprechaun. Such judgements are located in the cultural politics of Australia but also linked to ideas about what a literary career should look like. 'Thomas Keneally's Career and the Literary Machine' charts Keneally's production and reception across his three major markets, noting clashes between national interests and international reach, continuity of themes and variety of topics, settings and genres, the writer's interests and the publishers' push to create a brand, celebrity fame and literary reputation, and the tussle around fiction, history, allegory and the middlebrow. Keneally is seen as playing a long game across several events rather than honing one specialist skill, a strategy that has sustained for more than 50 years his ambition to earn a living from writing.

#### Contents

Acknowledgements; Introduction; 1. Beginnings; 2. The Collins Years; 3. To the Booker; 4. Afterwards; 5. Republic and Beyond; 6. Histories and Refugees; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index.

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Paul Sharrad, Senior Fellow in English, Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts, University of Wollongong, Australia, has published widely on postcolonial literatures.

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