

ster from 1945, did not wish 'to buy with the States' about it. In 1973 the of Adelaide's department of adult published the main text, with fifteen ries, as *The Vision Splendid*. The ek Whitelock, introduced it as 'the ta of Australian adult education', d that it was 'the most substantial, isive and thoughtful document on tion in this country'.

Duncan moved, by invitation, to the story and political science at the of Adelaide. The department was d and, when the professor of his- l in 1954, Duncan became head of t without change of title for some use the premier, (Sir) Thomas v.), forbade the university to have of politics. Besides his depart- x and teaching, he chaired (1957- 68) the university's board of adult. He gave the Australian Broad- nmission's 1962 Boyer [q.v.13] ublished as *In Defence of the m*. He retired in 1968, but in 1973 commissioned centenary history rsity of Adelaide that had been left y R. A. Leonard.

l, Duncan had thought that his inated and diminished his father, should beware of 'bossy' women. ead [q.v.], a fellow student at the f Sydney, fell in love with him. He rly to her from London, but when rived, uninvited, he did not make . She wrote to her sister: 'He has oing indignation for (what he con- all forms of oppression, depres- sion, repression, suppression, and (irrational self-) expression, l forms of everything which does nt (what he conceives to be) ustice'. Long afterwards she pub- ge portrait of him as Jonathan r *Love Alone* (1944). Duncan isrepresentation that confirmed ctations of women.

se expectations, on 27 Septem- the district registrar's office, Sydney. Duncan had married y Anderson, a lecturer whom he gland. Dorothy was a submis- in their marriage. They were telligently helpful to colleagues ed or admired. Duncan died on 1987 in North Adelaide and was ving no children, the Duncans heir estates to a trust fund for ts. Bequests of \$87 000 in 1987, t Dorothy's death in 1990, grew in 2003, with the fund's income red or more distressed students

H. Rowley, *Christina Stead* (1993); *Adult Ed News*, May 1988, p 19; *NLA News*, Aug 2003, p 7; N. K. Meaney, taped interview with G. W. K. Duncan (1986, NLA); personal knowledge.

HUGH STRETTON

DUNCAN-KEMP, ALICE MONKTON (1901-1988), author, was born on 3 June 1901 at Charleville, Queensland, second of four children of Scottish-born William Duncan, station-manager, and his wife Laura [q.v. Supp.], née Davis, daughter of a Sydney solicitor. Alice's father appears to have been well educated, with interests in comparative religion and anthropology. After their marriage the Duncans had bought the lease for Mooraberrie, a cattle property of 340 square miles (881 km²) west of Windorah, south-west Queensland. In 1903 their eldest child and only son died. After William's death in 1907 his widow, with her three daughters, stayed on in the isolated desert country, raising 'baby beef' Shorthorn cattle. Her help came from local Aborigines and hired stockmen, and from her daughters as they grew older. Alice's friends were the Aborigines who lived on the station. Her mother described her as "mad" on horses, and fairly "cracked" on the blacks'.

Mostly educated at home, Alice boarded for a few years at Spreydon College (from 1917 Fairholme Presbyterian Girls' College), Woodwoomba. On 12 November 1923 at St Andrew's Church of England, Longreach, she married Frederick Clifford Kemp, a New Zealand-born grazier. They were to have five children. Her husband soon became a manager with the Bank of Australasia, and while they moved around country towns, mainly in Queensland, they retained interests in pastoral properties, with Alice actively involved in stockwork and management.

Writing under the name Alice Duncan-Kemp, she published a memoir, *Our Sandhill Country* (1933). She drew on her childhood experiences, her father's diaries and day books, and information from a Karuwali man named Moses to cover the usual themes of bush life—droughts and floods, musters and race meetings, pastoralists and stockmen—all interwoven with lyrical and knowledgeable descriptions of landscape, flora and fauna. Her open mind and observational skills led her to beliefs then rarely accepted in Queensland: that Aborigines were the true owners of the land and a moral community whose culture was based on obedience to an elaborate and unwritten system of law; that the introduction of cattle had brought severe food shortages to Black communities, leading them to spear stocks and that pastoralists could not have established themselves without Aboriginal labour and advice. Duncan-Kemp saw pas-

toralists and Aboriginal clans as equal protagonists in the management of a cattle station. The operational needs of the property adapted to and, in turn, forced changes on Aboriginal values and social responsibilities. She discussed the importance of women's ceremonies and women's country, the cultural differences between language groups, and the techniques employed to increase the natural stock of available food.

In 1947-58 Duncan-Kemp corresponded with Dr L. P. Winterbotham [q.v.16], providing him with detailed descriptions of Aboriginal cultural practices as she remembered them. Her later books—*Where Strange Paths Go Down* (1952), *Our Channel Country* (1961) and *Where Strange Gods Call* (1968)—contained the same themes as in *Our Sandhill Country* but had a less systematic structure and an uncertain time-frame. Despite reflecting her generally liberal attitudes, they were not free of Imperial rhetoric. Although Duncan-Kemp stood in contrast to her times, she was still a woman of them. In retirement she lived at Oakey. She died there on 4 January 1988 and was cremated. Predeceased by her husband, she was survived by two of her three sons and one of her two daughters.

P. L. Watson, *Frontier Lands and Pioneer Legends* (1998); *Jnl of Austrn Studies*, no 67, 2001, p 37; Y. Steinhauer, A. M. Duncan-Kemp: Her Life and Work (MA thesis, Southern Cross Univ, 1998); L. P. Winterbotham papers (SLQ).

PAMELA LAKIN WATSON

DUNK, SIR WILLIAM ERNEST (1897-1984), public servant, was born on 11 December 1897 at Morgan, South Australia, fifth of six children of Albert Landseer Dunk, clerk, and his wife Winifred Jane, née Gibbs, whose grandfather, Thomas Young Cotter [q.v.1], had been South Australia's first colonial surgeon. Bill's childhood was spent in this small, busy river port until, supported by his elder brothers, he moved from the local two-room school to Kapunda High School. In 1914 he took the Commonwealth Public Service clerical entrance examination and was appointed to the Commonwealth Auditor-General's Office in Adelaide.

As a junior customs clerk, Dunk endured the tedium of bureaucracy. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 26 April 1918 and served in Egypt from November. Back in Australia, he was discharged in May 1919. Marriage to Elma Kathleen Evans, great-granddaughter of George Fife Angas [q.v.1] on 20 April 1922 at St Matthew's Church of England, Kensington, Adelaide, brought fresh ambition. In 1924 he completed a correspondence diploma in accountancy with the Federal

Institute of Accountants and in 1928 secured appointment as government auditor for the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. Intended to enhance Dunk's prospects of promotion, this experience exerted an enduring influence, impressing on him the challenge (as he later put it) of achieving 'self-respect all round' in colonial and Indigenous development.

On his return to Adelaide in 1930, exposure to the strains of economic depression stimulated Dunk's expanding interests in the role of government. Frustrated by a lack of advancement, in 1934 he was transferred to the London office to audit the Commonwealth Bank. Often assisting that shrewd negotiator, the Australian high commissioner S. M. (Viscount) Bruce [q.v.7], Dunk was also unravelling the residual financial legacy of World War I and auditing an extensive registry of public borrowing. When, in 1938, he returned to the bank's central office in Sydney, his friends included the young economists Leslie Melville and H. C. ('Nugget') Coombs.

Recruited to the Treasury in 1939, Dunk moved to Melbourne in September to assist the Board of Business Administration in bringing the expertise of senior consultants (initially Essington Lewis, (Sir) Norman Myer and Sir George Pearce [qq.v.10,15,11]) to bear on defence expenditure. Given the lack of clear procedures, and the need to adjudicate shifting, competing demands and to wage war 'on the cheap', this work required endurance and versatility. Dunk's adaptability, which impressed J. B. Chifley [q.v.13] when he became treasurer in 1941, led to his appointment to the defence division of Treasury, as liaison officer overseeing expenditure in the Department of Defence.

With the entry of the United States of America into World War II, the support of Allied operations in the Pacific added to these responsibilities. In 1942 Dunk was appointed director of reciprocal Lend-Lease finance, managing the cash-free supply of American munitions, equipment, machine tools and fuel in exchange for food, clothing, ammunition and facilities. Overall, Lend-Lease achieved an effective division of labour of which Dunk was proud, but he was also aware of its implications for future balances of economic power. Observing meetings in Ottawa and Washington in 1944, Dunk marvelled at the skill of Baron Keynes in gaining support for British and Commonwealth reconstruction from legalistic and competition-minded Americans. He was soon to engage in similar wrangling with US officials, who required strict accounting for any equipment remaining in Australia at the end of the war.

Dunk insisted that the war economy offered opportunities to pursue aggressive policies of national development, denouncing as 'dangerously soporific' any focus on 'juggling

budgets' when ventures in industry, trade and population expansion beckoned. Surprised to be offered the job of secretary of the Department of External Affairs in 1945 by its minister, H. V. Evatt [q.v.14], he hoped to advance linked economic and diplomatic initiatives. Instead he felt cast as the 'glorified staff manager' for a rapidly expanding and strained department, attending to personnel questions and marginalised from Evatt's clique of policy advisers. Tensions with his choleric minister increased, but Dunk twice declined the offer of appointment as chairman of the Commonwealth Public Service Board, only accepting it in March 1947 under personal pressure from Chifley—and immediately questioning his decision when offered a more lucrative executive position in Vacuum Oil Co. Pty Ltd.

Having come up 'through the ranks' of the public service, Dunk was highly qualified for the chairmanship. Most recently, at External Affairs he had become concerned that the privileges of training accorded to diplomatic cadets should be extended to officers in other departments similarly charged with expanding the charters of government (but not all, presumably, to be invited to the Sunday teas Elma hosted for new cadets). Equally, having shared an austere flat in Canberra with Coombs, or camped in Evatt's house while the minister was travelling, Dunk also insisted that the quality of government would only improve with the conditions under which its 'servants' lived and worked in the 'bush capital'. He soon advised Chifley that the national bureaucracy was 'run down and out of date', showing the strains not only of war, but of the Depression and even World War I before that. 'Civilisation is management' was a brash aphorism, but it expressed Dunk's priorities for the board: recruitment to address generational and skill imbalances; advanced training methods; salaries to attract and hold the 'sound, plain-speaking intelligent man'; improvement of allowances and amenities; and, overall, efficiency and economy.

Dunk promoted modern methods such as the use of film in training and 'geometric' office design. Beyond these ideals, he was soon dealing with harder political and industrial constraints. Scrutiny of the size of the public service intensified after the change of government in 1949 and in response to the inflationary pressures of the early 1950s. With no consultation, in 1951 Prime Minister (Sir) Robert Menzies [q.v.15] announced the retrenchment of ten thousand Commonwealth employees 'as an example', just as departmental heads complained of understaffing and as under-represented groups, such as women, gained employment, often in temporary positions. These pressures also emerged in marginal wage claims, leading to bitter disputes and, in 1956, crippling stoppages. While Dunk

sought to be open, consultative and devolutionist in style, he was uncomfortable with strong unionism and faced departmental resistance to change. Confidentially, he feared 'institutional protection' was replacing 'individual responsibility'; publicly, he held firm to a lean diet of 'standards', striking the gruff pose of balancing conflicting interests.

These demands aside, Dunk remained committed to introducing competitive entry and promotion opportunities, enabling the best candidates to advance to senior administrative positions. By 1959 the report of the Boyer [q.v.13] committee of inquiry into public service recruitment consolidated arguments that Dunk had made through each of his three terms of appointment—although still encountering suspicions of creating an elite. Reservations had also met Dunk's advice to Menzies in 1955 on departmental amalgamations, following his dictum on 'the maximum use of firm unbroken lines' in policy. The creation of an 'embrasive' Department of Trade in 1956 was, however, a source of satisfaction, as was the increasing recognition of Canberra as the appropriately planned and developed centre of national government.

A conscientious chairman, Dunk admitted to sometimes feeling 'tensed-up' but prided himself in never using leave entitlements and took comfort from the prestige of the job. Stocky, brisk in manner and clipped in speech, he lacked the prominence of other senior public servants but exerted considerable influence through personal networks. In 1948 he advised, with Coombs, on the restructuring of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to address security concerns; into the 1950s he regretted the polarisation of Cold War politics, feared nuclear annihilation, and urged Sir Percy Spender [q.v.] to strengthen the ANZUS alliance through pre-positioning American weaponry in Australia. He lobbied hard for ambitious mining and pastoral development in the Northern Territory, declaring it 'crazy' that Aboriginal reserves should interfere with mineral exploration. Conversely, he pestered (Sir) Paul Hasluck, as minister for territories, to transfer 'the main elements of government to the natives' of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea as soon as possible. He noted the decline of Labor policy into 'soft social service philosophy' but worried that Liberal governments lacked the imagination for ambitious public works programs.

In 1959 Dunk announced his intention to retire and began grooming the steely (Sir) Frederick Wheeler as his successor. When he left the board at the end of 1960 its status was enhanced, and the public service in general transformed, relative to 1947. Appointed CBE in 1953, knighted in 1957, and flattered to be nominated to the Melbourne Club by Lord

Casey and W. S. Robinson [qq.v.13,11], Dunk declared 'Australia is my hobby'. Having retired to Toorak, Melbourne, he became chairman of Sitmar Line (Australia) Pty Ltd and of General Television Corporation Pty Ltd, and Australian representative (1962-70) on the British and Christmas Island Phosphate Commissions. Always self-conscious about his 'grim visage', he remained active, playing bowls, savouring cigars, and publishing characteristically laconic memoirs, *They Also Serve* (1974). Survived by his wife and their daughter and son, he died on 12 January 1984 at Prahran, Melbourne, and was cremated.

Nation (Sydney), 20 June 1959, p 9, 4 July 1959, p 14; B2455, item Dunk W E (NAA); M. Pratt, interview with W. Dunk (ts, 1971, NLA); Dunk papers (NLA).

NICHOLAS BROWN

DUNPHY, MYLES JOSEPH (1891-1985), architect and conservationist, was born on 19 October 1891 in South Melbourne, eldest of seven children of Irish-born Myles Arthur Dunphy, draper, and his wife Margaret Mary, née Johnson, who was born in Tasmania. The family moved frequently through Victoria and New South Wales in search of new business opportunities. Myles's education was disrupted but his formative schooling occurred at Kiama Superior Public School from 1903 to 1906. When the family moved to Annandale in 1907, he attended evening classes in architecture at Sydney Technical College, and worked by day as an office-boy and messenger with the Art, Painting & Decorating Co. The burden of work and school was made more difficult by the fact that his father left the family home. Dunphy continued at Sydney Technical College in 1912-13; his meritorious passes in 1912 earned him a scholarship in model-drawing. While maintaining his studies, he took jobs with W. C. Penfold [q.v.11] & Co. and the architectural firm of H. E. Dakin, before working as a draughtsman (1912-22) for a civil engineer, Arthur Hart.

A temporary assistant teacher of trades drawing in 1915-16 and of constructional drawing from 1916, Dunphy was appointed a full-time teacher of architectural engineering at Sydney Technical College in 1922. He was registered formally as an architect in 1923, but never practised professionally, although he did design his own home forty years later. In 1916 he had been engaged to be married to Hazel Matheson but she died of tuberculosis in that year. He married 21-year-old Margaret Tinsley Peet, a clerk, on 19 December 1925 at Manly Methodist Church. They lived at Mortdale before settling at Oatley. His skill as a teacher marked his contribution to the field of architecture. He taught at the college until 1953, the

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