

The Making of a Statue: Charles Joseph La Trobe

By John Drury

Published by the C J La Trobe Society, Melbourne, December 2010.

Fully Illustrated. Hardback. 76pp. ISBN: 9780646541792.

\$59.95AUD. Postage/Packaging in Australia: \$9.50.

Available from: C J La Trobe Society Inc, PO Box 65, Port Melbourne, Victoria 3207, Australia.

Email: jsdrury@optusnet.com.au

One of the most Victorian of cities along with Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester, Melbourne, Victoria in the south-east of Australia, is endowed with many fine memorials to those forebears who had a lasting influence on the development of a 19th century British colony into what has become one of the most liveable and most cultured modern cities in the world. Surprisingly, no public memorial to the visionary first Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, Charles Joseph La Trobe, who laid the foundations of this modern state, appeared before the La Trobe Society commissioned a larger-than-life bronze sculpture, installed in 2006.

In this superbly designed and beautifully produced volume, the creativity and technical skill of renowned Australian sculptor Peter Corlett are highlighted every step of the way. The complete process of creating a sculpture, from the clay original to the finished, mounted bronze – from studio to foundry - is revealed in fascinating detail.

Of course, for Australians and, more particularly, for Victorians, this book describes in interesting detail the way in which Melbourne's most recent publicly-commissioned statue of perhaps our most eminent forefather came about, and how its position on the forecourt of Victoria's State Library was selected.

John Drury's clear though informative text is eminently accessible, and it is enhanced by the superb photographs of Susan Gordon-Brown, one of Australia's leading documentary photographers.

This is a beautiful guide to the process of creating a sculpture. It can be heartily recommended to anyone contemplating the commission of a sculpture who would like to know more about the process, to any sculptor who has never been directly involved in casting their own work, to art students everywhere to broaden their knowledge of the sculptural process, especially any artist thinking of becoming a sculptor, and all those interested in the creative arts.



LA TROBE

