

Contents

Preface	vii
One The European Shadow 1829 to 1857	1
A few colonial characters	3
Local, political, sectarian, or immoral	18
Two A Golden Age 1850 to 1880	41
Squatters and gold diggers	43
Chaos to splendour	57
Ahem! Censored!	74
Three Old World and New World 1865 to 1885	87
Colonial experience	89
Scenes local and sensational	100
Vultures of the bush	108
Racy of the soil	117
Four A Local or Rather National Character 1886 to 1900	139
An attractive outrage	141
A quart of colonial beer	167
The ironclad bushranger	181
Five A Kind of Folk-Theatre 1900 to 1929	193
Wild days in the bush	195
Bush fever	217
A saving sense of restraint	231
Farce-bucolical	247
Six More Australian than Aristotelian	263
All there when wanted	265
The best stage traditions	275
All so startlingly familiar	280
The dim hieroglyphic stage	286
Epilogue 1929	289
Mellow old dramatic vintages	
Notes	290
Select Bibliography	300
Acknowledgements	301
Index	302