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0521574048 - Nation and Commemoration: Creating National Identities in the United States and Australia

Lyn Spillman

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What do people think when they imagine themselves as part of a nation? *Nation and commemoration* answers this question in an exploration of the creation and recreation of national identities through commemorative activities. Extending recent work in cultural sociology and history, Lyn Spillman compares centennial and bicentennial celebrations in the United States and Australia to show how national identities can emerge from processes of “cultural production.” She systematically analyzes the symbols and meanings of national identity in these two “new nations,” identifying changes and continuities, similarities and differences in how visions of history, place in the world, politics, land, and diversity have been used to express nationhood. The result is a deeper understanding, not only of American and Australian national identities, but also of the global process of nation-formation.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521574044

© Lynette P. Spillman 1997

First published 1997

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Spillman, Lynette P.

Nation and commemoration : creating national identities in the United States and Australia / Lyn Spillman.

p. cm. – (Cambridge cultural social studies)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 57404 8 (hc) – ISBN 0 521 57432 3 (pbk)

1. Nationalism – United States – History. 2. Nationalism – Australia – History. 3. United States – Centennial celebrations, etc. 4. Australia – Centennial celebrations, etc. 5. American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776–1976. 6. Australian Bicentenary, 1988. I. Title. II. Series.

E188.S73 1997

320.5'4'0973 – dc20 96–3024 CIP

ISBN-13 978-0-521-57404-4 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-57404-8 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-57432-7 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-57432-3 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2005

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For Pat and John Spillman

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Acknowledgments

My warm thanks go to many people whose support contributed to this work.

Librarians at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, the National Library of Australia in Canberra, the Mitchell and Dixson Libraries in Sydney, and the libraries of the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Queensland, and the University of Notre Dame made this research possible. They preserve rich records of human action, and the importance of this work – and even the excitement it sometimes generates – deserves wide and public appreciation.

The Graduate Division of the University of California at Berkeley provided early support for the research. The Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame, was helpful at two crucial junctures in the project. The University of Notre Dame Faculty Research Program and a University of Queensland travel grant also helped make some of the research possible. And acknowledgments are due to the Human Sciences Press for permission to reprint parts of chapter 4 which have appeared previously in *Qualitative Sociology*.

Members of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Queensland made a welcoming scholarly environment for some of the work. My colleagues in sociology at the University of Notre Dame deserve recognition for their appreciation of the time demanded by research of this sort. Thanks go too to Sung-Chang Chun, Dave Brunsma, and Beth Schaefer Caniglia: their hard work developing parts of the book has been much appreciated. Neil Smelser, Ann Swidler, Michael Rogin, and Kim Voss all read early versions and made the ultimate product better. Beyond their comments and support, I have been sustained by Neil Smelser's consistent responsiveness, and Ann Swidler's talent for encouraging accessible presentation. Toward the end of the project, I have

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appreciated very much Catherine Max's work at Cambridge University Press, and the fine copy-editing of Karen Anderson Howes.

Among the many other people who have commented on parts of this work, or contributed in other important ways, are Jorge Ardití, Alasdair Bowie, Doris Bermingham, Sam Blazer, Dorothy Capoletto, Mark Chaves, Nina Eliasoph, Rosemary Frederick, Anita Garey, David Glassberg, Ted Goode, David Greenberg, Karen Hansen, Jean and Marge Harrison, Kim Hays, Peter Hoffenberg, Rich Kaplan, Desmond Kennard, Clive Kessler, Paul Lichterman, Wendy McCarthy, Patrick Miller, Denis O'Brien, Timothy Phillips, Jennifer Pierce, Arvind Rajogopal, Ron Ramsay, Marc Rothenberg, Eli Sagan, April Schultz, Phil Smith, Ken Spillman, Chuck Stephan, Terry Strathman, Kathleen Taperell, Marge Terrafranca, Samuel Valenzuela, and Pam Wright. I've appreciated what they've done. I'd especially like to record the value of the intellectual communities provided in Berkeley in the late Leo Lowenthal's seminar and in the Culture Club.

Three people may justifiably consider the book theirs as well as mine. Pat and John Spillman have always valued scholarly inquiry and supported mine, and I thank them for that and immeasurably more. It's also difficult to truly acknowledge the contributions of Russell Faeges without sounding unduly effusive: but as a scholar and a companion, he has done more than I can say toward this book. I'm often stimulated by his theoretical wisdom, impressed by his wide knowledge, startled by his unusual intuition, and thankful for his constant encouragement.