

MARTIN PLACE OPENING, 10th SEPTEMBER, 1971





Carbon Monoxide Thwarted

or

The Triumph of Strategy over  
Rampant Ad-Hockery

An allegorical piece especially performed at the auspicious opening of Martin Place, September 10, 1971, for the edification and entertainment of the Citizens of Sydney.

The people of Sydney have become restless under the persecution of the **DEMON CARBON MONOXIDE**, and the depredations wrought by his grasping off-sider, **OBSESSIVE MONEY-MAD**.

See the dreadful duo thwarted in their dastardly attempt to enslave the newly liberated **SPIRIT OF MARTIN PLACE** and bend her to their vicious designs.

See them lose the first of many battles against the united and inexorable team of **ST. GEORGE OF STRATEGY** and his noble genius of a horse, **GOOD SENSE**.

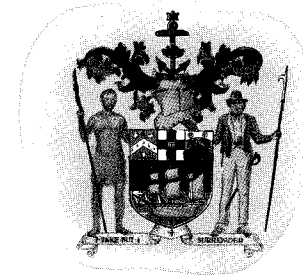
Written by MICHAEL BODDY.

Designed by JANET DAWSON. . . Directed by JOHN BELL.

Performed by THE NIMROD STREET THEATRE PLAYERS.

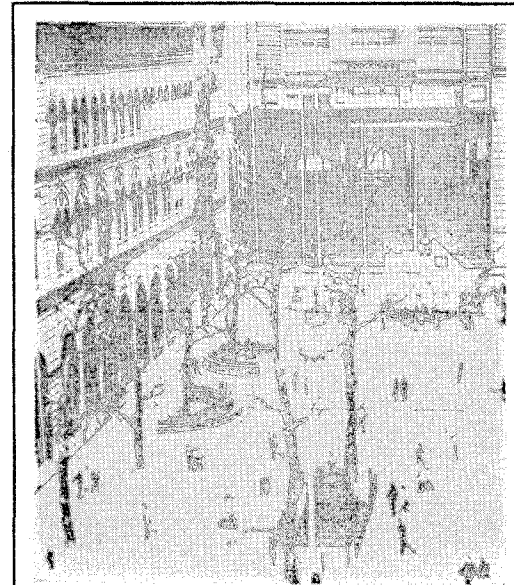


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# MARTIN PLACE OPENING

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME



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## MARTIN PLACE

Ever since the proposal in 1863 to construct the Sydney General Post Office on its present site, consideration has been given to providing public pedestrian access to its northern frontage. Originally this was to be achieved by the colonnade of the building itself, but this idea was expanded when the first section of the Post Office building was completed in 1874. By this time land to the north of the Post Office had been acquired and a contemporary print of the period showed pedestrians strolling in comfort in front of the General Post Office colonnades, a privilege which they continued to enjoy well into 1890.

During this period many schemes were produced to extend this public amenity and proposals such as the construction of fountains and gardens were considered from time to time. Following the great fire of Sydney in 1890, attention was given to the movement of vehicles and horses throughout the city and, in 1891, work commenced in constructing the roadway now known as Martin Place, in honour of Sir James Martin, the Chief Justice of N.S.W.

Following the completion of the road work in front of the Sydney General Post Office, Martin Place was extended, finally reaching Macquarie Street in 1935.

In 1966 Don Gazzard, in his book "Australian Outrage", supported the idea of creating a civic square in front of the G.P.O. As a result the Civic Reform Association of Sydney in association with Clarke, Gazzard and Partners, Architects and Planners, and Professor Denis Winston, submitted a definitive proposal to the City Commissioners.

This proposal was supported by the present Sydney City Council with the result that, following representations, the Minister for Lands, The Hon. Tom Lewis, M.L.A., closed Martin Place for a temporary period from the 1st July, 1970, and permanently by notification in the Government Gazette on the 18th December, 1970. Since then, work has proceeded to construct the civic square which is being officially opened today.

In preparing the final design Clarke, Gazzard, Architects, have considered both its use as a great ceremonial place with the Cenotaph at its centre, as well as the desire to make it a lively urban area that will be well used at other times.

Martin Place is undermined with a veritable spaghetti of city services as well as service tunnels and a vehicle tunnel connecting the General Post Office to Angel Place. Because of the need sooner or later to dig up these services, the paving has been conceived as a platform of pre-cast concrete slabs suspended above the existing road surface. Open joints are provided between the concrete paving slabs to allow drainage via the falls of the existing road surfaces and gutters beneath the paving. The paving slabs are 13' x 4' in area, the same proportions as the square itself, and weigh approximately two tons each. They are surfaced with flame exfoliated pink-brown granite from Tarana near Bathurst in New South Wales, and each is fitted with special screw fittings cast into the upper surface of the slab to enable lifting eyes to be inserted and the panels to be removed by mobile crane whenever access to the road surfaces or services below it, is necessary for maintenance. The present flower sellers and newspaper vendors will be housed in newly designed kiosks.

The Council of The City of Sydney is proud to have had the opportunity of providing this amenity for the Citizens of Sydney. The project has been under the control of the Martin Place Sub-Committee which consists of:

Alderman LEO PORT (Chairman)

Alderman ANDREW BRIGER,

Alderman NICHOLAS SHEHADIE, O.B.E. (Deputy Lord Mayor).

## PROGRAMME

### ARRIVALS:

Invited Guests.

The Town Clerk of Sydney, MR. J. H. LUSCOMBE.

The Rt. Hon, The Lord Mayor of Sydney, Alderman L. EMMET MCDERMOTT.

The Hon. J. G. BEALE, M.E., M.L.A., Minister for Environment Control, Representing the Premier.

### INTRODUCTIONS:

Alderman LEO PORT

Chairman, Martin Place Sub-Committee.

### OFFICIAL OPENING:

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Sydney, Alderman L. EMMET MCDERMOTT.

### FANFARE AND BALLOON RELEASE.

### ALLEGORICAL DRAMA:

The Nimrod Street Theatre Players.

### INSPECTION OF MARTIN PLACE.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Architects:* Clarke Gazzard Pty. Ltd., M.L.C. Building, Victoria Cross, North Sydney.

*Street Furniture Design:* Carl Nielsen & Associates, Eden Street, North Sydney.

*Structural Design:* City Engineer's Department, The Council of the City of Sydney.

*Contractor:* Loveridge & Hudson Pty. Ltd., Brown Street, Lewisham.

### CREDITS

The Council of the City of Sydney gratefully acknowledges the assistance given by—

No. 1 R.A.A.F. Regional Band & Band Officer Flying Officer M. A. Butcher, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., L.G.S.M.

The Tea Council of Australia

The Philatelic Section of the General Post Office, Sydney

Hammond Organ by Palings.

Many members of the public for their helpful suggestions both in relation to the civic square and the official opening.