

The Peaks of Lyell



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GEOFFREY BLAINEY

This successful and absorbing story of Mt Lyell was a landmark in Australian industrial history when first published in 1954. The book is the story of the copper-field in the wild mountainous north-west of Tasmania, of the men who found the mines, floated them, worked them, and died in them. It is also the story of the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company—now without its railway—the first, the last, and the dominant company on the field, and the first company in Australia to make available all its records for historical research.

Geoffrey Blainey spent a considerable amount of time examining the records and exploring the field, following the routes of many explorers and prospectors, seeking out old workings, and checking early charts and plans. He met and talked with some of the men who had blazed and cleared the trail, and recalls with particular pleasure sharing many reminiscences with old Jimmy Elliott, who was prospecting in the forest before there was a Lyell and whose pick cracked open the bonanza at Lynchford that led to the discovery of the field.

This third edition has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date; the new final chapter deals mainly with the take-overs of the 1960s. The book has been re-set and re-designed, and there are seven new illustrations.

FROM REVIEWS OF THE FIRST EDITION

The volume's interest and value as a concise, clear and colorful account of an important copper-mining company—a company whose experiences are of a significance which extends far beyond its operating environment.

—*Business History Review* (U.S.A.)

An unusual and fascinating story . . . few who begin to read will be willing to put it down unfinished—*Chemical Engineering and Mining Review*.

He has written superb social history, the best we have for any region of Australia . . . history which is both scholarly and interesting—*Economic Record*.

The most stimulating contribution we have to our industrial history, more exciting reading than many historical novels.

—*Historical Studies, Australia and New Zealand*.

For realism, pathos and the vicissitudes of a mining company this work has no equal in the history of Australian mining . . . very readable, well put together and authentic . . . the author has done a difficult job extremely well—*Age* (Melbourne).

There is a need for more books of this kind in Australia . . . well-produced . . . illustrated by many photographs and maps—*Sydney Morning Herald*.

Interesting, well written and worth-while . . . crammed with facts and drama.

—*Pacific Historical Review*.

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