

Dr Doyle by Mr Gill

A fine book will launch an exciting new series



The Mitchell Library Press (the limited edition imprint of the State Library of New South Wales) and the Centaur Press (a private press associated with Messrs Berkelouw, Antiquarian Booksellers since 1812) are jointly publishing fine limited editions selected from material held in the State Library's vast Collection. Each book will be of the highest quality using rag paper printed with letterpress text, and will be hand-bound; only one edition will be produced. The State Library of New South Wales guarantees that on completion all plates will be destroyed, the type dispersed and no further copies made for a minimum of fifty years.

ST Gill's *Dr Doyle's Sketches in Australia* is the first of these limited editions. The book is strictly limited to 105 copies of which 100 numbered copies are for sale at \$3750. Each copy, having been verified perfect, is hand-numbered consecutively and signed under the

colophon by the author, Dr Sasha Grishin. The text is set in Monotype Bell, a facsimile of a typeface cut for John Bell in 1788, and printed letterpress on Saunders Waterford paper made at St Cuthbert's Paper Mill in Somerset. The forty-five water drawings are reproduced to their original sizes on 360x480mm pages, printed in fine-screen colour lithography on archival Mohawk Superfine, and tipped in by hand on the text paper. The book has been designed by Alison Forbes and is quarter-bound by hand in goatskin with specially designed hand-marbled paper boards and leather corner tips, by Bibliopegus.

Elizabeth Imashev, Curator of Pictures at the Mitchell Library comments: Artist and adventurer ST Gill produced vivid impressions and sharp visual statements about life in Australia in the mid-nineteenth century. He accompanied explorers, portrayed squatters and Aborigines, and captured the tu-

mult of life on the goldfields.

The collections of the State Library of New South Wales include a wide range of the phenomenal artistic output of ST Gill. One of the most interesting examples of all his efforts, and certainly the most intriguing in terms of its creation is the 'Doyle' sketchbook in the Mitchell Library. The sketchbook, containing forty-five watercolours produced as a set probably in 1862 and 1863, was intended as a joint publishing venture with Dr JT Doyle, an Irish surgeon and entrepreneur. However, the work was never published and little is known of Doyle after this time. The quality of Gill's work deteriorated in his later years as his income diminished and his intake of alcohol increased. He died of a heart attack on the steps of the Melbourne Post Office in 1880.

Now 130 years later, Dr Doyle's sketches by ST Gill are available in the form that their creators originally intended.