Professor Richard Selleck’s

**FINDING HOME**

*The Masson Family*

...to be launched by

Professor Stuart Macintyre

Master of Ceremonies

Professor Kate Darian-Smith

4pm, Tuesday, 30 July

Dulcie Hollyock Room,

Baillieu Library

*(Ground floor, far left end when you enter the front door.)*

The University of Melbourne

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Richard Selleck has written widely on the history of Australian and English education as well as completing biographies of James Kay Shuttleworth and Frank Tate – leading figures in the development of government schooling in England and Victoria respectively. His most recent book, *The Shop*, was *a history of The University of Melbourne* (foundation–1939). He discovered the significance and intriguing relationships of the Masson family in the course of writing that book.

This is the story of the highly talented Masson family, whose contribution to the intellectual and social life of Melbourne was quite exceptional. David Orme Masson came to Australia in the late 1880s as the Professor of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne, and he did much to advance Australian science, especially though his work in the establishment of the CSIRO. His wife Mary was well-known in the social life of the University and the city of Melbourne. Their son Irvine, a scientist, had a notable career in English universities. His sister Marjorie, ‘Marnie’ Bassett, was a pioneering woman historian. The youngest child, Elsie, sought to improve the working conditions of nurses and married the controversial anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski. She travelled widely as he developed his career, often at her expense, and died young. Success and sadness were never far apart in this family’s life.