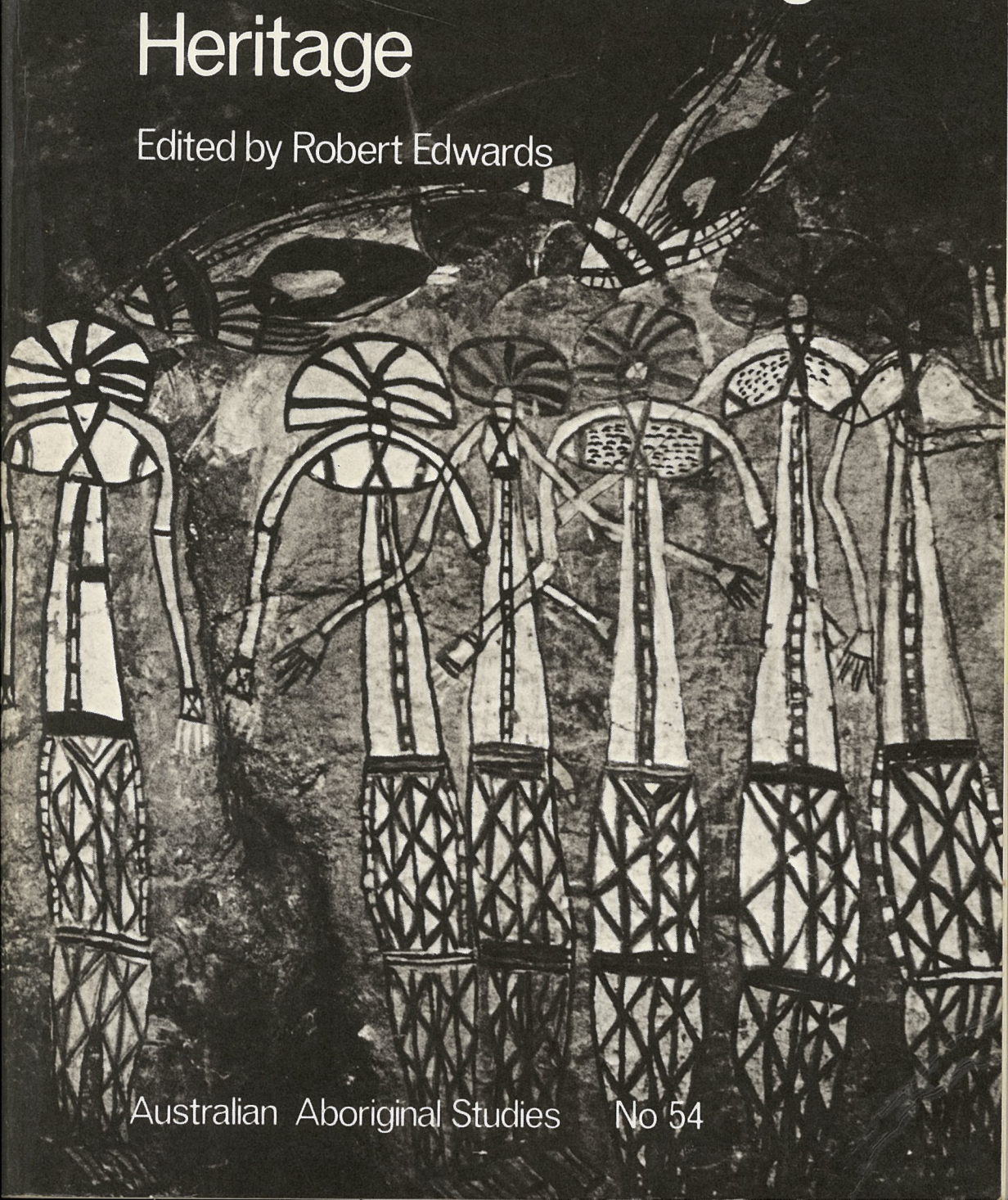


The Preservation of Australia's Aboriginal Heritage

Edited by Robert Edwards



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Introduction

Every nation in whose territory there are monuments, antiquities and sites of national importance has an obligation to safeguard this part of mankind's cultural heritage and to ensure that it is preserved for future generations. The study, understanding and protection of monuments, antiquities and sites in the various states of the world are conducive to greater human understanding among all people.

Embodied in the recommendations on the preservation of monuments, antiquities and sites made by UNESCO to Member States are the following principles:

- (i) that any action for the preservation and protection of monuments, antiquities and sites of national importance be accompanied by the scientific, historical and aesthetic research basic to their proper understanding and evaluation;
- (ii) that there should be adequate provision for recruitment and training of qualified personnel, in particular laboratory specialists, archaeologists, architects, engineers and others, whose responsibility it will be to plan conservation programmes and supervise their execution;
- (iii) that between local, regional and national agencies there should be continuing communication with the object of defining the inter-related aspects of the complex problems involved;
- (iv) that monuments, antiquities and sites be maintained in good repair at all times to ensure they are properly preserved in perpetuity.

Throughout Australia there is an ever growing concern for the preservation of Aboriginal monuments, antiquities, and sites many of which are of international importance.

The National Seminar, attended by over 100 experts from all parts of Australia, was held in direct response to a UNESCO recommendation that all state agencies should be made aware of the problems involved in the preservation of monuments, antiquities and sites. The proposals that follow are fully in accord with the policies being implemented by member nations of the international community to whom the UNESCO recommendation was made.

ROBERT EDWARDS
Seminar Convener