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NEW SOUTH WALES

You are invited to a special talk with author, Heather Rossiter to hear the story behind her latest book.

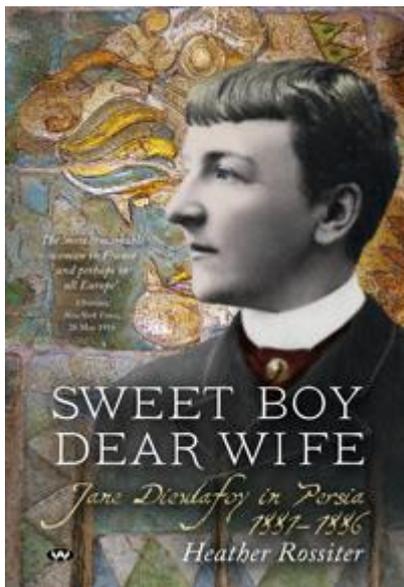
Finding Jane Dieulafoy

Researching and writing *Sweet Boy Dear Wife Jane Dieulafoy in Persia 1881-1886*

6.00pm, Tuesday 15 March 2016

Friends Room, State Library of New South Wales (enter via the Mitchell Vestibule)
Please RSVP to Alice Tonkinson, 02 9273 1488 or foundation@sl.nsw.gov.au by Tuesday, 8 March 2016

Research scientist in the US and UK, teacher and vine-grower in Australia, Heather Rossiter's books, *Lady Spy*, *Gentleman Explorer The Life of Herbert Dyce Murphy* and *Mawson's Forgotten Men*, chronicle Australians who explored the freezing wastes of Antarctica. Her new book *Sweet Boy Dear Wife Jane Dieulafoy in Persia 1881-1886* moves to the burning deserts of Iran.



Heather's interest in Middle Eastern art and architecture began when she studied Eastern and Oriental Art in Oxford and Islamic monuments at UCLA. She has travelled extensively in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, visiting archaeological sites and Islamic cities. When she 'found' Jane Dieulafoy at the buried city of Susa in Iran, Heather felt compelled to tell her story.

But that was not so simple. "The most remarkable woman in France and perhaps in all Europe", the *New York Times* 28 May 1916 obituary claimed. How had they come to that conclusion? Where was the material to support the view? Most of it would be in French and in France. So began a tricky navigation through libraries here and overseas, Louvre archives, British and German museum collections, return visits to Susa, while simultaneously continuing to build a reputation in Antarctic scholarship.

Sweet Boy follows the courageous adventurer as she rode through Persia and Iraq dressed as a boy. Jane Dieulafoy explored Persian decorative arts and architecture and was captivated by enamelled bricks and tiles used in Islamic buildings. Her discovery of 2500-year-old enamelled-brick friezes at Susa, now the pride of the Louvre, was unexpected and momentous.

This evening offers an opportunity to meet and listen to Heather discuss her travels, the years of research and the sly manoeuvres that were necessary to access some French material and which finally enabled her to tell Jane's fascinating story of risk and achievement.