

## September 2022 issue highlights



Clockwise from top left:  
James Curran,  
Tara McEvoy,  
Sheila Fitzpatrick,  
Michael Hofmann, and  
Kieran Pender

- ◆ **James Curran on Australia's fraught relations with China** In the wake of Nancy Pelosi's controversial visit to Taiwan in August, it seems the tentative rapprochement between the Albanese government and China may have stalled. James Curran looks at the 'unrealistic' expectations some commentators had for an 'immediate reset' following the Australian election and considers the possible shape of future relations between the two countries. James Curran is Professor of Modern History at Sydney University and author of *Australia's China Odyssey* (NewSouth, 2022)
- ◆ **Tara McEvoy on Seamus Heaney in Australia** Visiting Irish academic Tara McEvoy looks at celebrated Irish poet Seamus Heaney's relationship with Australia and examines some of the 'poetic cross-currents' between Australia and Ireland during his lifetime, including his friendships with Vincent Buckley, Les Murray, and Chris Wallace-Crabbe.
- ◆ **Sheila Fitzpatrick on a new biography of Vladimir Putin** Former BBC foreign correspondent in Moscow Philip Short has set himself on the path to try and understand Vladimir Putin by 'grasping how Putin himself sees the world he is operating on', writes historian Sheila Fitzpatrick in her review of Short's measured biography of the Russian president. Fitzpatrick's most recent book is *The Shortest History of the Soviet Union* (2022).
- ◆ **Kieran Pender on Andrew Quilty's new book on Afghanistan** Nine-time Walkley Award winning journalist Andrew Quilty's memoir of America's chaotic departure from Afghanistan in August 2021, *August in Kabul*, is 'compelling, vivid, and distressing all at once' writes Kieran Pender, an Australian writer and lawyer.
- ◆ **Michael Hofmann on Elizabeth Hardwick** Poet-critic Michael Hofmann revels in a new collection of unpublished essays by the 'joyously quotable' writer Elizabeth Hardwick (edited by Alex Andriess) and reflects on the gifts that Hardwick's writings bring readers.

### Further information:

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