



Image: courtesy of Sarah Salter

Alison Glen (Sally) Salter (1933 – 2023)

Sally Salter died peacefully at Regis Aged Care in East Malvern on Friday, 29 December 2023, aged 90 years. During the last thirty-five years of her diverse life, she had developed an interest in archaeology and a passion for Cyprus. She was involved with archaeological excavation, collections management, publication and benefaction. After some initial frustration with the Australian Institute of Archaeology (the Institute) and its careless registration of Cypriot artefacts, she became a fellow traveller as we sorted through the many anomalies that had been created over the years. I am indebted to Sarah, Sally's daughter, for her Eulogy, and for checking this tribute.

Sally was born Alison Glen Stevenson in Melbourne on 17 December 1933 to parents with a Scottish heritage, James Glen Stevenson (1898–1957) and Irene Celia McCaw (1897–1978). James had taken over the management of a sheep station called *Benduck* from his father. It was located on the Murrumbidgee River near the Riverina town of Hay. His father, Alexander Glen Stevenson (1857–1932) was born at Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland and arrived in Melbourne from Glasgow aboard the *Loch Ness* in December 1875. After gaining pastoral experience in southern NSW, he acquired the lease over *Benduck*, and in 1893 married Isabella Ayre (1867–1947)

at the station. They had a family of eight children, many of whom went to live on other properties in the Riverina, as a result, Sally had many cousins nearby (in the Australian outback sense).

She grew up with her sister, Virginia, at *Benduck*. They were taught by a governess and survived the mischief that farm dwelling children are inclined to get up to. At sixteen she went to Clyde School, now Braemar College, Mount Macedon Campus, Victoria, where she and her sister matriculated, and then went to Janet Clarke Hall, a residential college of the University of Melbourne, for a short time. Interestingly, prior to World War II Melbourne archaeologist Veronica Seton-Williams also went to Clyde School, before going to Janet Clarke Hall with Nancy Champion de Crespigny from Adelaide. They both completed degrees at University of Melbourne and then left Australia to study archaeology in England, where they became Australia's first female archaeologists. Sally's archaeological interests and adventures were still well in the future.

Sally returned to *Benduck* and worked as a governess in the Hay district. In 1957 she married a Sydney man, Irvine Christopher Salter, in Melbourne and returned with him to live at Killara, a suburb of Sydney. Her

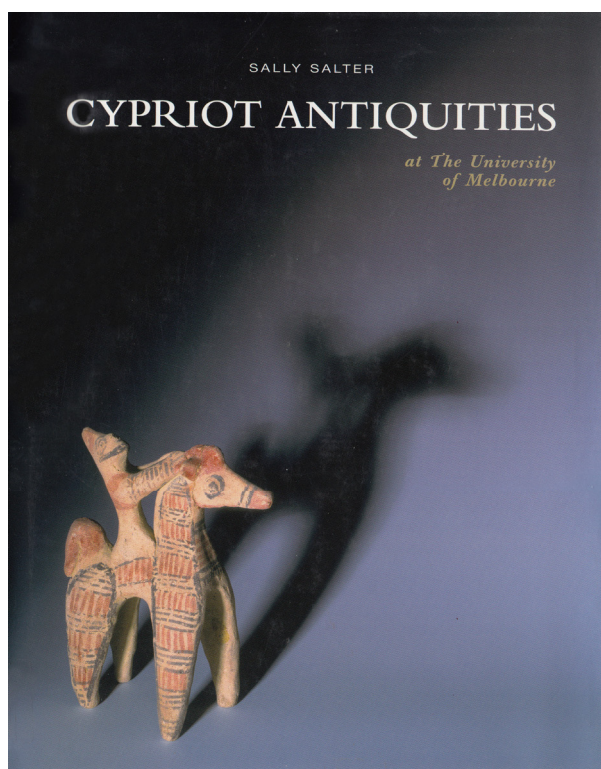


Figure 1: The cover of Sally Salter's *A Catalogue of Cypriot Antiquities at the University of Melbourne and in the Ian Potter Museum of Art* (Melbourne: Macmillan Art Publishing, 2008). It has 271 pages, a size of 325x250mm, and colour throughout.

daughter Sarah was born there. It was a short marriage, and mother and daughter returned to Melbourne to live in Mentone, and then in Glen Iris/East Malvern, where Sally lived for the rest of her life. Sally turned to teaching and soon after enrolled at Monash University, where she completed a degree in French, Anthropology, Sociology, and History, and a Dip. Ed. With these credentials she was able to work as a fully qualified teacher, mainly at private schools, including St Michael's Grammar School and the Methodist Ladies College.

In 1988, Sally retired from teaching and promptly set about a new venture by enrolling in a Bachelor of Letters at the University of Melbourne to study Classics, the Ancient Near East, and archaeology. She completed the bachelor degree, excavated at archaeological sites in Tasmania, Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, and Eastern Türkiye, and assisted with the curating of the University's archaeological museum collection, some of which had

been acquired from the Institute. At the suggestion of Professor Tony Sagona, Sally focussed on the cataloguing of the University's Cypriot collection. This work developed into a publication, *A Catalogue of Cypriot Antiquities at the University of Melbourne and in the Ian Potter Museum of Art* (Melbourne: Macmillan Art Publishing, 2008). It is unlikely that Tony expected that it would be produced in such a lavish coffee-table style (Figure 1). Dr Robert Merrillees wrote the introduction to the book, which featured large studio images of the pots with detailed descriptions and commentaries. Some objects from Cyprus, held by the Institute, were included in the book to illustrate the discussion of the typologies.

Sally had a broad range of interests, and she was never a passive member of the associations to which she belonged. On several occasions she invited me to talk to a discussion group at the Lyceum Club that she helped organise. She regularly attended Janet Clarke Hall alumni events and was involved in documenting its history. She became a frequent international traveller, visiting many countries in Europe and the Middle East. Paris was a favourite because she could apply her French language skills there.

Sally retained a sharp intellect until the end. I saw her about a month before she died and we talked about Australian politics with some dissatisfaction, amongst many other matters; but I sensed that I was diverting her from Scrabble, which she played regularly with her friends. She could discuss most subjects with current information derived from newspapers and journals. She had a deep interest in education, especially religious instruction in schools, and a commitment to conservation and liberal politics in the true sense. Sarah remembers her mother trooping off to the Melbourne Town Hall in 1977 to attend Don Chipp's launch of the Australian Democrats. Her funeral service was held at St James Anglican Church, High Street, Glen Iris, where she had been an active member for many years. Sally gave sound advice and was generous, contributing to many archaeological activities at the University of Melbourne and the Institute. Unfortunately, well-educated and capable enthusiasts like Sally are becoming less common in archaeology.

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