

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A painting by a young Australian artist, Sidney Nolan, has been purchased by the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York City, and is now on view in an exhibition of "Recent Acquisitions." Mr. Nolan's painting, called After Glenrowan Siege, is one of a series the artist has painted based on the exploits of Ned Kelly, the bushranger.

Mr. Nolan was born in Melbourne and heard stories of the Kelly Gang from his grandfather who had taken part as a police officer in the Siege of Glenrowan when the famous Kelly was finally captured. The painting is based on the raid which took place on the night of June 28, 1880. Kelly, who might have escaped to safety, attempted to fight his way through the police lines to rejoin his band of three outlaws besieged in the small country hotel at Glenrowan. At first the police bullets ricocheted off the heavy iron helmet and body armor which he had forged from ploughshares. Finally he was brought down by four shots in the legs and a few months later, at the age of 26, was hanged in Melbourne Jail after a dramatic trial. One of his men was killed early in the siege, the other two committed suicide when the police set fire to the hotel. Nolan's picture is a composite of the charred beams and cheap wallpaper of the hotel and, rising like an apparition, Kelly in his square helmet, flames reflected in his eyes.

The painting was purchased in London, where the artist now lives.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York City, Circle 5-8900

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