

ARTS & BOOKS

[On Amitabh Bachchan, the newly revised Australian art "bible" and the relics of the Clash in Cleveland.](#)

[Happy Birthday, Mr Bachchan !](#)

By Eric GILLAUX

On 11th October, a few days before his 64th birthday, Amitabh Bachchan, the internationally renowned Indian producer and actor, was informed that the President of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac, had bestowed upon him the official title of *Officier de la Légion d'Honneur*. Awarded the prestigious rank of Officer, very honoured but very surprised, "Big B" was described as being "so far not aware about this". The official ceremony is due to take place in Mumbai or New Delhi.

Sources: "Bachchan gets French gift on b'day," *The Times of India* 12 October 2006.
"Legion d'Honneur for Amitabh," *Times Now* 11 October 2006 (*Times Now* is a 24-hour English news television channel based in Mumbai and Dehli).

[A revised edition of the Australian art bible](#)

By Pauline LAVAGNE d'ORTIGUE

Alan McCulloch began work on his mammoth Encyclopedia of Australian Art in the 1940s. The first edition came out in 1968, and has not been out of print since. This reference work provides most valuable information on all things relating to Australian and Aboriginal art, including but not limited to artists, dealers, critics, collectors galleries, museums, and libraries.

The fourth revised and updated edition has just been released under the title *McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art*. Mr McCulloch's work has been continued by his daughter Susan McCulloch, and her own daughter, Emily.

Source: « A bigger and better bible, » *The Australian* 27 October 2006.

[Relics of the Clash on display in Cleveland](#)

By Pauline LAVAGNE d'ORTIGUE

The "Revolution Rock: The Story of The Clash" exhibition has opened at the Cleveland museum and features various relics of the world-famous band, including Simonon's greatly celebrated smashed bass guitar —an iconic image which was immortalised on the cover of *London Calling*—, as well as stage clothing, various memorabilia and original manuscripts. The exhibition runs through April 2007.

Sources: « Rock museum hails the sound of Clash, » *The LA Times* 27 October 2006.