

'New Albion' was the name given by Governor Arthur Phillip to the colony he founded in 1788 on the shores of Port Jackson, Australia. The settlement acquired the name 'Sydney' shortly afterwards, a designation it has kept to the present day. I was intrigued, nevertheless, by the power of that first name to invoke in my mind visual and sonic images of an alternative, purely speculative Sydney, with its own history and culture. My response to this impetus was to write *Dolmen for New Albion*, which is both a celebration of, and an elegy for that world that never was.