



The Royal Australian Historical Library Collection

OVERVIEW OF COLLECTION

Our library specialises in NSW local history and contains an extensive collection of both written and pictorial resources on all aspects of Australian history.

Our computer databases list over 61,000 items including:

- Books: comprises of books including items held in our Rare Books Room; reference collections; ephemera including souvenir programs, pamphlets and brochures; bibles; maps; directories; newspaper clippings; CDs/DVDs; microfilm/microfiche sources.
- Photograph Collections.
- Manuscripts: items from the collections of Captain James H. Watson, Frank Walker, and many other sources.
- Glass Slides and the Frank Walker Glass Slide collections.
- Press Clipping: 66 volumes comprised of newspaper clippings; souvenir booklets; small monographs; postcards and photographs from the collections of Mrs Ethel Foster and Captain Watson gathered between 1880s and 1930s.
- RAHS Journal, History Magazine & RAHS Conference Proceedings: comprehensive index to the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, which has been publishing scholarly articles on Australian history since 1906, contains entries from Vol 1, Pt 1 (1901) to Vol 106, Pt 2 (Dec 2020); complete *History* magazine index to current (No. 146 Dec 2020) including its predecessor, the *Newsletter* and an index of proceedings from RAHS Conferences 1964 – 1995.

These databases can be accessed inside History House with the assistance of the librarian. They are currently unavailable online, but we are working to resolve this issue.

PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

The society has recognised the importance of photographic collections for documenting history since it was formed in 1901. The first items of note to be acquired by the RAHS were a series of negatives from Sarah Christina Bayliss, the widow of the photographer Charles Bayliss. The images included the 1879 Panorama of Sydney taken from the central tower of the International Exhibition's Garden Palace. Other image collections include: 1930's Adastral Aerial Survey and Osborne collections of Sydney CBD and regional towns of NSW.

The Glass Slide collections includes the donations of Captain James H Watson, Percy W Gledhill, AW Pearse WW1 images, Else Rae-Mitchell and Mr A G & Mrs J E Foster's rare images of the Devonshire Street Cemetery taken as it was being demolished in 1901 and the Bloxham collection from 1890s - 1930s documenting locations Sydney CBD, the Central Coast, Illawarra, New England and Riverina areas. Early library custodian Frank Walker's contribution of approximately 2,000 slides taken as he cycled 22,562 miles around NSW between 1896 – 1905 provides an important snapshot of the country and its towns at this period.

Many of these image collections can be viewed on the **RAHS Flickr** page.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/royalaustrianhistoricalsociety/albums>

POPULAR RESOURCES

- Sands Sydney Directories 1858 – 1931; other assorted directories from early to mid-nineteenth century
- Cemetery records from around NSW
- Historical Records of Australia / Historical Records of NSW
- Consolidated index to the Minutes of the proceedings and Printed papers / New South Wales Legislative Council
- Who's Who in Australia 1922 – current
- NSW Statistical Registers 1849 – 1954
- Australian Dictionary of Biography
- Rare Books room collection, many published prior to 1900