Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association (NSW)

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PHANFARE

Big Christmas Stocking Issue





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Contact

Phanfare GPO Box 2437 Sydney 2001

Enquiries email phanfare@phansw.org.au

Phanfare 2008-09 is produced by the following editorial collectives:

Jan-Feb & July-Aug: Roslyn Burge, Mark Dunn, Shirley Fitzgerald, Lisa Murray

Mar-Apr & Sept-Oct: Rosemary Broomham, Rosemary Kerr, Christa Ludlow, Terri McCormack

May-June & Nov-Dec: Ruth Banfield, Cathy Dunn, Terry Kass, Katherine Knight, Carol Liston

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Contents President's Report Historic Australian Newspapers Premier's History Awards 8 History Advisory Panel 9 10 Playing with PIXEL Insights - Cambodia & Vietnam 13 19 What's On 22 Oral History Workshop Night with the Fellows 23 Culture.gov.au 24 'Jewels in the Crown' launch 26 **Exhibiting History** 27 Thorpe-Bowker 29

This issue was produced by the Hills District Group consisting of Ruth Banfield, Cathy Dunn, Terry Kass, Katherine Knight, and Carol Liston.

President's Report

Dear Members

I hope you will all be joining us, the executive committee, at our Christmas party on Thursday 11 December between 5-8pm at History House, 133 Macquarie Street.

This year is a special occasion as PHA (NSW) is about to award its first prize for the best project or essay relevant to public or applied history submitted by a second or third year undergraduate in a history course.

One of PHA's objectives is 'to promote the concept of professional history and the status of professional historians in the community'. Accordingly the committee decided to make an award to promote

awareness of public history among undergraduates and to encourage them in this field. It is good to know that the prize has already created ripples of interest among staff and students at University of New South Wales where it was offered.

There has been a decline in courses in public history over the last decade in NSW and some other states. Of course if professional history is to be practised it needs to be taught. It is hoped that this prize and its impact will help to keep public history alive in the universities.

I'd like to thank both Susan McClean who has done most of the work to make the prize happen, and Zoe Pollock, who has assisted her. Thank you as well to all the committee for their support and efforts over the last few months. We will be planning some strategies early in February, particularly looking at: the national history curriculum, consideration of members' contracts, assistance organisations who wish to commission histories and members continuing professional development. If you have any particular ideas or issues you would like considered please let me know by the end of January 2009.

That brings me to the New Year! It has been a good to see during 2008 several members gaining scholarships or research grants and others commissioned work through the PHAES employment bulletin. I hope that all professional historians continue to flourish in 2009 and that before then you all enjoy a relaxing break over Christmas and the holiday season.

With very best wishes
Virginia Macleod
president@phansw.org.au

Historic Australian Newspapers, 1803 to 1954

Bookmark this page!!!! http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/

The Australian Newspapers Beta service allows access to historic Australian newspapers digitised as part of the Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program (ANDP), launched on 25 July 2008. It currently contains 370,000 out of copyright newspaper pages from 1803 onwards.

The free online service features full-text searching of newspaper articles. Included are newspapers published in each state and territory from the 1800s to the mid-1950s, when copyright applies. Researchers can easily tag issues of newspapers with their own reference topic, plus make corrections to text.

The digitisation of the *Sydney Morning Herald* out-of-copyright editions has been undertaken with the support of \$1 million from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, to date 500,000 pages have been scanned which will be released in 2009.

An email announcement service is also available to keep up to date with progress and new release. Email sympa@nla.gov.au with the subject 'subscribe andp-announce'.

There is a basic text search facility and a uncomplicated navigation system for users. Researchers can also include their own options such as:

- Searching within their basic results
- Searching within a specified date range
- Searching within specified newspapers
- Restrict to search to illustrated articles only
- Change the order that the results are sorted
- Content can be copied as plain text, or saved as images or pdfs, which also give the citation reference
- Additional search tips http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/searchTips

Some users have completed over 30,000 text corrections to the automatically extracting text from scans of the old newspapers by the Optical Character Recognition software used with the project.

Popular search requests and issues that have been tagged by uses include Suicide, Murder, Ticket of Leave, Norfolk Island 1st Settlement, Ulladulla, Advertising, Bendigo and others. The automatic updated tag list is at http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/tag

What a "gold mine" is the best description of the Historic Australian Newspapers system, which runs from the entire *Sydney Gazette* (1803 – 1842) to the *Canberra Times* of the 1940s.

MARRIED On Wednesday ian, at St. John's Church, Parramatet, Lawrence Brady, baker, to M. Peat, ipinher. See is the first young woman married in the Orphan House.

The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, Sunday 4 September 1803, page 4. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article625764

Mary Peat was born in England 1790. She arrived on the *Royal Admiral* 1792, with her parents, her father William being a carpenter under contact to work on Norfolk Island. Her mother Mary died at Parramatta soon after arrival in the Colony, whilst William died in 1795 on Norfolk Island. The above marriage notice records her as "the first young woman married from the Orphan House". The Female Orphan School was set up by Governor King to house destitute young girls. The Schools was initially located in George Street, Sydney in the former residence of Lieutenant Kent next to James Underwood's home, opening on 17 August 1801 with 31 girls aged between the ages of 7 and 14 in residence. In 1818 the School was moved Parramatta. There are currently 88 tagged references from the *Sydney Gazette* to the Sydney Female Orphan School with the Historic Australian Newspapers online collection.

But it is not just access to early colonial history, with the current range and availability of upcoming newspaper editions, that the Historic Australian Newspapers online collection has given us. It provides an additional approach to research with its great search facilities, and has reminded us all of the importance of newspapers in research. It is also easier on our eyes than reading microfilms. ANDP website http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp

Examples of content from the Historic Australian Newspapers online collection.



The Argus, Saturday 17 December 1932, page 8 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article4514825

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¹ Agency Details, Female Orphan School, cited 2 November 2008, http://investigator.records.nsw.gov.au/entity.aspx?path=%5Cagency%5C398

SYDNEY CELEBRATES

SYDNEY, Thursday, Empire Day was celebrated with the customar, enthusiasm. Addresses appropriate to the occasion were delivered in practically all the public schools.

A big demonstration attended by over 5000 people was held in Martin Place. Sir Dudley de Chair, addressing the sathering, said:—

"We meet here to bring before you once again, and to impress upon you more forcibly than ever, the significance of our great Empire and the duty we all owe to it, not only been me Australia is a portion of it, but because a great part of the Empire is playing and will



Sir D. de Chair,

play in governing the destiny of the whole of mankind. The basis and guiding principles of our Empire are justice and fair play, and an equal opportunity to all to secure their own happiness, and to help others to attain theirs. The British Empire is also the cleanest that has ever appeared in history, and we all each to be thankful that we have the good fortune to be born in it. The Empire must go forward, and each of us in our own small way can make the Empire better than we found it. Let this be our object in life. (Cheers.)

Addressing school children at Botany. Lady do Chair said, "Try to carry on the splendid traditions of your Anzacs. In history you will never find better men nor greater fighters than they were."

Sydney Celebrates Empire Day *The Canberra Times*, Friday 25 May 1928, page 6
http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article1231662

Australian Periodical Publications 1840-1845

The Australian Cooperative Digitisation Project has also created a digital library of Australian journals, newspapers and novels published in the period 1840-1845, providing web access to digital copies of Australian serials first published between 1840 and 1845. The digitised copies were produced from microfilm. In most cases, new microfilm was produced so that a suitable digital image could be produced. Fiction published during the same period has also been

digitised. These titles are available as searchable text from the University of Sydney's SETIS site at http://setis.library.usyd.edu.au/oztexts/acdp.html.

Stop Press!!

11 Nov 2008: The Australian Newspapers beta service now contains 367,000 newspaper pages from 26 different newspaper titles dating from 1803-1954, providing access to over 3.5 million newspaper articles. The National Library is currently undertaking a procurement process to establish a panel of digital scanning and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) contractors for ongoing newspaper digitisation activites. During this period no additional content will be added to the Beta service.

Cathy Dunn

CORRECTION - CORRECTION - CORRECTION

Judith Godden's book, *Lucy Osburn, a lady displaced Florence Nightingale's envoy to Australia* has been nominated by **an unknown person** for the William H. Welch Award which is given by the American Association for the History of Medicine for the best history of medicine book published in last 5 years.

NB The American Association for the History of Medicine was not the nominator.

CORRECTION - CORRECTION - CORRECTION

NSW Premier's History Awards

The Professional Historians Association of NSW was represented by three Committee members at the recent Premier's Awards, held on Monday 27th October 2008 at the Justice and Police Museum. PHA President Virginia Macleod was accompanied by Rosemary Kerr and Susan McClean. The evening proceeded smoothly, following several welcomes including one from the Premier of New South Wales Nathan Rees who, during the evening assured historians that the funding for the cultural program was to continue – a very agreeable message in these difficult times. A lively Indigenous welcome was also offered.

The announcement of the Fellowship winners made a fitting appetiser for the meal. To our great delight, our own Christine Cheater won the 2008 NSW History Fellowship. The 2008 Indigenous History Fellowship was won by Suzanne Ingram. Warmest congratulations Christine and Suzanne. A delicious meal ensued, with an entrée – a choice of duck or pork followed by an equally tasty main course of either roast beef or fish, and then dessert. During the meal, the 2008 NSW Premier's History Awards Address, *Refreshing Literary History*, was presented by Professor Nicholas Jose of UWS, soon to be in Harvard as joint Chair of Australian Studies, 2009-20010. Prof Jose made a plea for greater attention to literary history by contemporary historians.

The presentation of prizes by Premier Nathan Rees continued after the meal. The Australian History Prize went to Paul Ham for his *Vietnam: the Australian war*, published by HarperCollinsPublishers Australia P/L. The Community and Regional History category was won by Dianne Johnson, in collaboration with the residents of the Gully and their descendants for their *Sacred Waters: the story of the Blue Mountains Gully Traditional Owners*, published by Halstead Press. A second PHA member, Max Solling's work *Grandeur and Grit: a History of Glebe*, (also published by Halstead Press), was short-listed for this prize.

Other categories and winners were announced to many congratulations:

The General History Prize went to *The Politics of War: Race, Class and Conflict in Revolutionary Virginia* by Michael A. McDonnell, University of North Carolina Press,

The Audio/Visual History Prize was awarded to Tony Wright, Paul Rudd, Matthew Thomason and Wain Fimeri for their film *Captain Cook: obsession and discovery*, produced by Film Australia, Cook Films, Ferns Productions, South Pacific Pictures, December Films and the ABC.

The Young People's History Prize was awarded to Robert Lewis and Tim Gurry for their CD-ROM *Australians in the Vietnam War, published by* Ryebuck Media P/L.

The John And Patricia Ward History Prize was won by Christina Twomey for her book Australia's Forgotten Prisoners: civilians interned by the Japanese in World War Two, published by Cambridge University Press.

Your PHA members were in distinguished company. Sitting at our table was prizewinner Michael A. McDonnell of Sydney University, author Emeritus Professor Brian Fletcher, who was short-listed for the John and Patricia Ward Prize and Rosemary Block of the State Library. Rosie was one of the six judges who, between them, ably judged the 268 entries, a mammoth task!

Warmest congratulations to all entrants, judges and especially to all winners. More information can be found on < http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au/NewsPublications>

Susan McClean

History Advisory Panel of Heritage Council of NSW

Meeting 20 November 2008

The following matters were dealt with:

Heritage Act.

The current advice is that a revised Heritage Act will be before the NSW parliament early in 2009.

Thematic overview histories for the 2008-2010 SHR listing programme on the selected Themes - Lachlan Macquarie; Convicts; and World Wars One and Two, prepared by Terry Kass were reviewed and amended.

Website pages for the 2008-2010 SHR listing programme were reviewed and suggestions for changes made.

Macquarie thematic workshop.

The arrangements of a workshop for an expert group of professionals to identify sites associated with Governor Lachlan Macquarie (2008-2010 SHR theme) were discussed.

A convict research project proposed to be run jointly by the University of Western Sydney and the Heritage Office, which has been proposed to aid the Convict theme was explained at the meeting.

SHR listing programme for 2010-2012.

Possible themes to be the subject of the next SHR programme for 2010-2012 were discussed in order to select suitable themes and to ensure whatever work needs to be commenced to prepare for them is underway. The suggested themes included:

Gold 1851 Crossing the Blue Mountains 1813 Post-World War Two Migration Unlock the Lands' 1861 or the Robertson Land Acts

Further discussion and consideration will be given to these themes and other suggestions in following meetings.

Terry Kass

Playing with PIXEL – A New Source for Historians

By now, most historians should be familiar with the digitised copies of earlier editions of town and parish maps as well as pastoral property maps available from the Lands Dept web-site. The ability to view a range of scanned copies of historic maps has opened vast new areas for historical research as well as making significant data freely available. But, just when you thought you knew it all, there has been an equally exciting recent initiative by the Department of Lands.

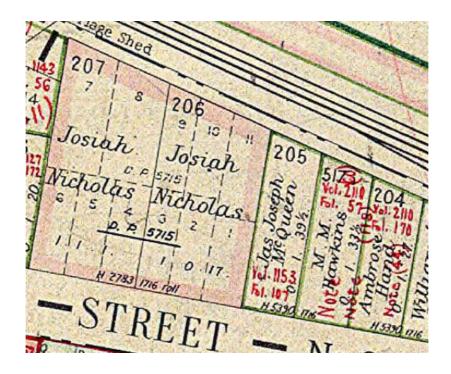
Recently the Department launched its SIX viewer. Most historians are probably not aware that the Department has made available digitised copies of its charting maps, through this medium, (those available in the Plans Room on open access) as online copies. These maps include the LTO Office Charting Maps, the Crown Lands Regional Charting Maps and the Crown Lands Status Branch Charting Maps, all of which are now longer updated. As the entry page for these sources states, these are for 'historical reference purposes only'. Like bees to a honey pot, historians should be flocking to this bounty.

To gain access you need to go to the Lands Department website and then to the 'Survey and Maps' drop down menu and then to 'Maps and Imagery' on the sidebar. Click on 'Accessing SIX', which takes you to the portal for entry to PIXEL, or just go straight to PIXEL at http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/. Once on the search page, you have a choice of options for searching. At the moment, there are only maps on this site, though there are plans to add other records.

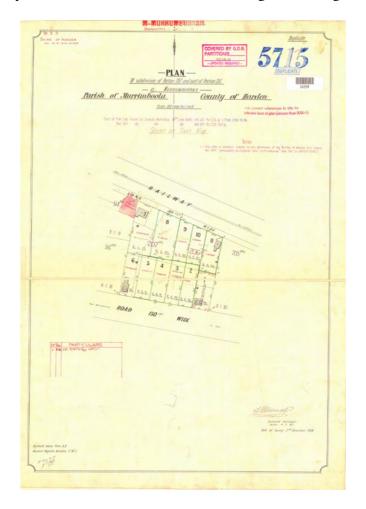
You can search for the current office copy of the parish, town or county maps (from the LTO, and from the Crown Lands Regional Charting Maps and the Crown Lands Status Branch). In addition, the LTO charting maps open to search in the Plans Room such as main charting maps like the Sydney Section Maps, the Valuer-General sheets, and the CMA sheets are all available, though only the ones which were in use when marking up of them ceased. These are basic sources used to locate title or map information for individual sites and would be familiar to all who have undertaken research at the LTO.

But, in addition, there are other digitised maps, which take us directly to the data we need. Some of the Deposited Plans have been scanned plus other series such as the Armstrong, Norton and Wells series and Litho Plans. Not only can you access charting maps such as the charting copies of town maps or the CMA maps which give title references or the number for maps you might be interested in. In some cases, once you have the plan number, you can go directly to digitised copies of the maps you need. But **beware**, whilst all of the main charting maps have been scanned, only some of the Deposited Plans and Litho Plans have been digitised, since most were not Charting Maps.

For example, for the town of Murrumburrah-Harden, the town map of Murrumburrah shows this image from the LTO Charting Map (note that the CT references are written across each town allotment, a handy start to research at the LTO)

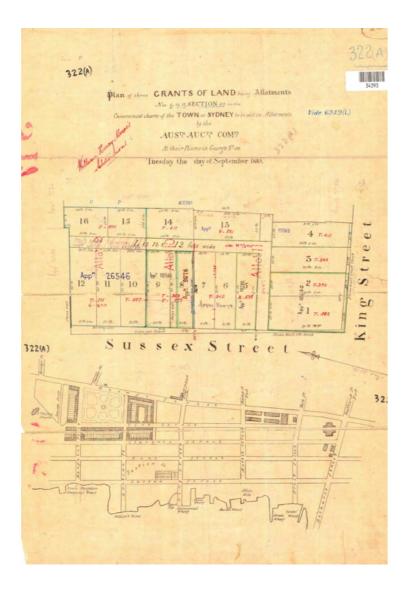


If I needed to look at a copy of DP 5715 shown on Portions 207 and 207, I can search for them on PIXEL. Fortunately, it has been scanned so I am able to get this image:



However, since most Deposited Plans have not been scanned, you will currently be less successful in researching other areas.

Valuable historic maps can be found using this site:



Excited?

There are a few matters to keep in mind. To use PIXEL you need an up to date Internet browser. You can also print all or part of the map, though the success of this depends on your Internet browser as some browsers handle printing from this site better than others.

Happy hunting.

Terry Kass

History insights in Cambodia and Vietnam

If you have a choice, an armchair is certainly no substitute for travel in person. Television programs certainly hadn't prepared me for the scale of ancient Angkor cities and temples on a tour of Cambodia and Vietnam in October. Whereas Angkor Wat is the name people usually give to the sites visited, Angkor Wat is only one of many Khmer sites in the Angkor region of Cambodia.



Ta Prohm – the encroachment of jungle in the centuries following the collapse of Angkor civilisation, has now been significantly cleared, but sometimes removal may do more harm than good.



A Devata, or female deity, carved into stucco on the walls at Ta Prohm.

Angkor is derived from a Hindu word meaning city and Wat from Sanskrit via Thai Buddhism meaning temple. Certainly, "Angkor Wat was not only the grandest and most sublime of all the Khmer temples, but also a city in its own right."

"The scale of Angkor Wat enabled the Khmer to give full expression to religious symbolism. It is, above all else, a microcosm of the Hindu universe. The moat represents the mythical oceans surrounding the earth and the succession of concentric galleries represent (sic) the mountain ranges that surround Mount Meru, the home of the gods. The towers represent the mountain's peaks "² This symbolism appears in various forms in all the Angkor temples.

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¹ Michael Freeman, Claude Jacques, Ancient Angkor, River Books Ltd, Bangkok, 2003, p.47.

² Ibid., p.48.



Bantey Srei – the god Shiva Naturaj in the dance of the rhythm of life on an east facing pediment. At his feet are a drummer, right, and on the left, an emaciated disciple. On the lintel below is carved the Churning in the Sea of Milk.

The Angkor period in the history of the Khmer people is most commonly described as extending from the ninth century to the 15th. Trade with India brought Hinduism and then Buddhism to the Khmer and the cities grew in strength as a succession of kings resisted the expansionary interests of the Chinese in the north and the Cham people on what is now the central coast of Vietnam.



The Bayon, built between the late 12th century and the 13th century. It passed through "different religious phases from Pantheon of the Gods, Hindu worship and Buddhism".¹

As one king succeeded another, it was not uncommon for them to relocate their cities for greater strategic advantage and build new temples. Angkor Wat was built between about 1113 and 1150 and marks the peak of Angkor power. But there were many others – bigger and more

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¹ Ibid, p.28.

extensive. Angkor Thom is one of the largest of the Khmer cities and The Bayon, "one of the most enigmatic and powerful religious constructions in the world".

At first, construction was done with brick, sometimes carved directly, but otherwise covered in stucco and decorated. Later, stone and laterite became the fundamental materials with decorated stucco. Art and architecture were highly sophisticated. Our itinerary took us to Ta Prohm temple, Angkor Wat, Banteay Srei and Prerub temples, Angkor Thom, The Bayon temple, Terrace of Elephants and the Leper King Terrace.



The Bayon – along the colonnades are intricately carved wall panels telling the stories of historic subjects and every day life. Here, elephants process as the whole community is on the move, while in the lower foreground, a woman kneels to blow a small cooking fire into life against the wheels of a bullock cart.

No, we didn't ignore more recent history, but genocide and killing fields are much harder to write about. The Pol Pot regime was in power only from 1975 to 1979, but it seems as if recovery didn't really begin until Pol Pot's death in 1998. According to our guides, under Pol Pot the population was reduced from seven million to little more than four by murder, disease and starvation. Now, there are 14 million people with about 50% under the age of 18.

While it's not hard to see evidence of difficulties still facing the country, signs of social and economic recovery are everywhere. Tourism is critically important as a source of income and opportunities provided by the world's interest in Angkor ruins have led to a recent focus on their conservation. The nearby town of Siem Reap is expanding dramatically to cope with the flood of international visitors. As our Cambodian guide explained, everyone always knew the ruins were there; there just weren't the resources to protect them.

Vietnam has now spent more than 30 years recovering from the 20th century impacts of civil war, the American war in their country and the preceding battles with the French. If the global

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¹ Ibid, p.78.

financial upheavals don't affect developing countries as much as the developed world, Vietnam will continue on the path of economic growth. Again, tourism has a vitally important part to play, though there is clearly a very big risk that some popular sites will be over developed and loved to death.



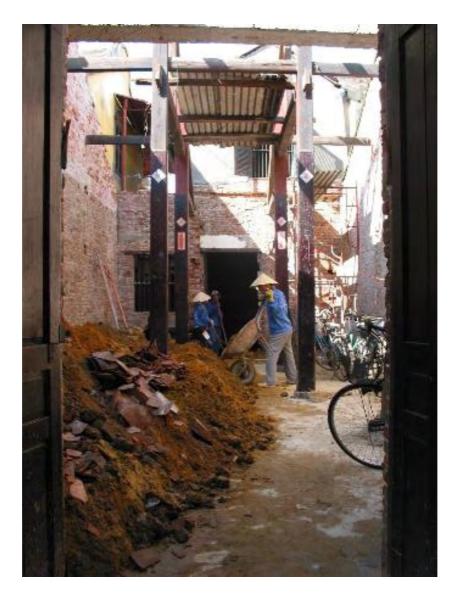
Hoi An – Tran Phu Street of old houses with shops that opened directly to the street. They were mostly built in the late 18^{th} century.

The complex of monuments at Hue, the ancient town of Hoi An and My Son Sanctuary are all UN listed cultural World Heritage sites. Another currently seeking a natural World Heritage listing is Halong Bay, north of Hanoi. Tourists, including lots of Australians, pour into the old river trading port of Hoi An, eager to purchase the tailored silk clothing that has helped make it famous.

The central Vietnamese town was a base for the ocean silk route during the Champa period from the second to the 10th centuries. From the 15th to the 19th centuries, Japanese and Chinese traders, Indian, Filipino, Indonesian and European ships all came to Hoi An. Eventually there were permanent Chinese and Japanese quarters of the town, which now give charm and character to entire streets.

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¹ http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/vn



Hoi An – complete restoration of old buildings continues.

An hour's drive from Hoi An, is an ancient site of Cham temples, My Son, in a beautiful valley setting. Now badly damaged by American bombs, My Son nonetheless draws thousands of tourists daily. As with the great Angkor ruins, European archeologists, architects and researchers have been engaged in conservation efforts since the 19th century. "Today, Vietnamese authorities are attempting to restore as much as possible of the remaining sites."

Although Vietnamese people have made extraordinary efforts to overcome the consequences of war, discreet reminders are evident. Around the city of Hue, many small fishing boats are made with metal from American B52 bombers. A traditional conical hat maker heats material on an American bomb fragment. In Hanoi, there seemed an unusual number of people with only vestiges of upper limbs – presumably the consequence of Agent Orange.

PHANFARE No 233 - Nov-Dec 2008

17

¹ N. Ray, P.Dragicevich, R. St Louis, *Vietnam*, Lonely Planet, 9th edition, 2007, p.264.



A local fishing boat built with aluminium panels from a B52 bomber moored below a village house sleeping deck.

People work enormously long hours and families help each other keep businesses running from seven in the morning to 10 o'clock at night. Schools operate in shifts and streets buzz with the high energy of motor bikes, bikes and cars from early morning till late at night. No matter how poor, virtually everyone has work of some kind.

Travel in Cambodia and Vietnam was an illuminating experience. History came to life. Far better than any armchair equivalent.



Hang Ma, Hanoi – just as I was about to take a photo of the colourful street of paper votive offerings for ancestors, a woman arrived with her baskets of chickens and settled in the midst of traffic to prepare them for sale.

Story and photos, Katherine Knight

What's On

by Christine de Matos

December 2008/ January 2009

Exhibitions

'Frank Hurley: Journey into Papua'. Until 22 January 2009. Venue: Australian Museum.

'Great White Fleet: US Sea Power on Parade 1908'. Until 30 January 2009. Venue: National Maritime Museum.

'David Mist: Swinging Sydney'. Until February 2009. Venue: Museum of Sydney.

'Rebellion: "the ever memorable 26 January 1808". Until July 2009. Venue: Museum of Sydney.

'Citizen soldiers: The New South Wales Volunteer Rifles, 1854–85'. Until September 2009. **Venue:** Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

'Irish Orphan Girls'. Until 30 October 2010. Venue: Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

December Events

- Every Wednesday: Walking tour. 'SAW 01 Sydney'. HHT. Meeting venue: Museum of Sydney Time: 10.30am-12.30pm Cost: \$25, mems/conc \$20 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9251 5988; web: http://www.hht.net.au/whats_on/event/walking_tours/saw_01_sydney2.
- Every Saturday: Walking tour. 'SAW 02 Utzon'. HHT. Meeting venue: Museum of Sydney Time: 10.30am-1pm Cost: \$25, mems/conc \$20 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9251 5988; web: http://www.hht.net.au/whats_on/event/walking_tours/saw_02_utzon.
- **Symposium.** 'Visualising the Past: a symposium', Monash University. **Enquiries:** web: http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/historical-studies/news-and-events/index.php
- **3-5 Conference.** 'Re-Orienting Whiteness', Melbourne. **Enquiries:** email: reorienting whiteness@gmail.com.
- **8-11 Conference.** 'Work, Work Work!: Work and the History of Education', University of Sydney. Enquiries: web: http://www-faculty.edfac.usyd.edu.au/projects/anzhes/work/.
- 11 'PHA Christmas Party', Venue: History House Time: 5-8pm Cost: free Enquiries/RSVP: ph: 9252 9437; email: secretary@phansw.org.au
- **11-13 Conference.** 'Law & History Conference', University of Adelaide. **Enquiries:** web: http://www.hss.adelaide.edu.au/historypolitics/conferences/anz/.
- **11-13 Workshop.** 'Church and State from Old to New Worlds', University of Newcastle. **Enquiries:** email: Troy Duncan, <u>Troy.Duncan@newcastle.edu.au</u>.
- Walking tour. 'SAW 03 Harbourings'. HHT. Meeting venue: Museum of Sydney Time: 10.30am Cost: \$25, mems/conc \$20 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9251 5988; web: http://www.hht.net.au/whats-on/event/walking-tours/saw-03 harbourings4.

January Events

- Every Wednesday: Walking tour. 'SAW 01 Sydney'. HHT. Meeting venue: Museum of Sydney Time: 10.30am-12.30pm Cost: \$25, mems/conc \$20 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9251 5988; web: http://www.hht.net.au/whats on/event/walking tours/saw 01 sydney2.
- Every Saturday: Walking tour. 'SAW 02 Utzon'. HHT. Meeting venue: Museum of Sydney Time: 10.30am-1pm Cost: \$25, mems/conc \$20 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 9251 5988; web: http://www.hht.net.au/whats_on/event/walking_tours/saw_02_utzon.
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18 &

Talk. '19th-century "ladies"'. HHT. Venue: Rouse Hill Estate Time: 10am-12n Cost: \$15, mems/conc \$12 Bookings essential: ph: (02) 8239 2211; web: http://www.hht.net.au/whats_on/event/lectures/19th-century_ladies.

Upcoming Conferences

- *'Evolution-The experience'* the impact of Darwin and Darwin's ideas on society, 8-13 February 2009, Melbourne Convention Centre. **Enquiries:** http://evolution09.com.au/index.php
- 'Legacies 09' Public Memory conference, 13-14 February 2009, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba. Enquiries: Dr Brian Musgrove, ph: (07) 46 311043; email: musgrove@usq.edu.au OR Dr Lara Lamb, ph: (07) 46 311069; email: lamb@usq.edu.au
- 'The Pacific Connection: Trade, Travel and Technology Transfer Conference', 19-21 February 2009, University of Melbourne. Enquiries: web: http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/conferences/conferences-zero-nine/the-pacific-connection.html.
- 'Museums Australia National Conference 2009', 17-20 May 2009, Newcastle NSW. Enquiries: ph: (02) 4973 6573; email: ma2009@willorganise.com.au
- 'The Eleventh National Labour History Conference', 8-10 July 2009, Perth. Enquiries: email: bobbie.oliver@curtin.edu.au; web: http://www/asslh.org.au/perth.
- 'Work, Globalisation and Democracy', 9-10 July 2009, University of Wollongong. Enquiries: web: http://www.geocities.com/peaconference/
- 'ACHS Conference: 'Catholics in Australian Public Life since 1788', 12 September 2009, Catholic Institute of Sydney, Strathfield. Enquiries: web: http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au/

'21st International Congress of Historical Sciences' (CISH/ICHS), 22-28 August 2010, Amsterdam. **Enquiries:** web: http://www.ichs2010.org/.

Call for Papers

'XVIIth Biennial Conference of the Australasian Association of European Historians (AAEH): Europe's Expansions and Contractions', 6-9 July 2009, Flinders University. Enquiries: web: http://www.theaaeh.org/.

'Local histories, global heritage, local heritage, global histories: Colonialism, history and the making of heritage', 16-17 May 2009, German Historical Institute London. Abstracts of 150-200 words due by 7 December 2008. Enquiries: email: Indra Sengupta, isengupta@ghil.ac.uk.

'Cultures of Violence and Conflict The Second Conference of the International Society for Cultural History', 20-23 July 2009, University of Queensland. Proposals up to 300 words due by 19 December 2008. Enquiries: web: http://www.arts.ug.edu.au/index.html?page=82751.

'The Talk about Town: Urban Lives and Oral Sources in 20th Century Australia', 27-28 August 2009, State Library of Victoria and Melbourne Museum. Abstracts of 200 words due by 31 December 2008. Enquiries: web: http://arts.monash.edu.au/public-history-institute/conferences/2009-talkabout/index.php

'Constructing the Past: AHA Regional Conference', 30 June-3 July 2009, University of the Sunshine Coast. Abstracts of 200 words plus short bio due 6 February 2009. Enquiries: web: http://www.theaha.org.au/conference%202009/flyer.pdf

'Network for Research in Women's History Conference: The Girl in History', 1 July 2009, University of the Sunshine Coast. Abstracts due 6 February 2009. Enquiries: ph: (07) 3346 7410; email: m.bellanta@uq.edu.au.

To contribute to What's On, send details of your event to cdm@uow.edu.au.

Note: 'What's On' on the web temporarily unavailable due to new ACPHA site.

CPD Workshop – Saturday 11 October 2008 - Oral History at the City of Sydney – Dr Margo Beasley

Only a small group of members met on Saturday morning, 11 October 2008, at the Royal Australian Historical Society for the workshop conducted by Margo Beasley titled *Oral History at the City of Sydney*. Really it was a perfect number and made for an informal workshop. Margo described her role at the Council and its Oral History Collection she inherited as well as interviews she has recorded. These projects are on the Council website and Margo related some of the travails involved in getting projects to that point. It was an interactive session, with plenty of time for questions and expansive answers, and everyone had opportunities to relate their experiences of some of the particularities and peculiarities of their own oral history practice. The morning was invaluable for learning about Margo's work and the exchange of ideas among practitioners.

Councils are significant commissioning agents of oral history projects. The City of Sydney's Oral History Collection can be found on Council's website (www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) under the tab "History and Archives". Its place as the fourth item on the pulldown list (ahead of transport and parking) on the first button, 'About Sydney', reinforces the important role of history at this Council where its oral history collection is in frequent demand by the Council Historian, Councillors, staff and the public, each with their different requirements.

From her oral history projects on the Surry Hills Branch Library and Neighbourhood Centre and Meals on Wheels Margo has produced a series of publications - Sydney Stories, with another planned about her project celebrating the role of Horses in Inner Sydney. Transcriptions of each interview, together with the audio recording and a brief extract, can be found on the City of Sydney website. The reminiscences of Otto Kruger, Edda Boyd and Allan Gillham in Horses in Inner Sydney describe these great creatures and their presence on Sydney's streets - now gone forever. They remember the warmth and smells and the affection people felt for the horses as they worked the city and its perimeter suburbs.

Margo discussed some of the contemporary digital equipment issues that practitioners of oral history are increasingly encountering. Sourcing recording equipment that was portable, readily available for spontaneous interviews and didn't dominate the interviewing space was important and Margo utilised Beth Robertson's *Oral History Handbook* [Oral History Association of Australia (South Australian Branch) Inc 2006] for advice on equipment and other issues. Editing recordings and use of downloadable software such as Audacity and Goldwave were also discussed generally. Margo provided a brief list of oral history websites where oral history recordings and transcripts are available; issues relating to the practice of oral history are discussed; or people tell their stories. These are but a small sample.

Australia - Fairfield City: The Way We Were - www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au
Baulkham Hills Council - www.baulkhamhills.nsw.gov.au/external/hillsvoices/index.htm
UK - Ports of Call www.portsofcall.org.uk

USA - Boulder Public Library Maria Rogers Oral History Collection www.boulder.lib.co.us/carnegie/collections/mrohp.html (particularly its interviews in relation to the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant project)

Baylor University Institute for Oral History www.baylor.edu/oral_history NZ - Te Ara Encyclopaedia of New Zealand www.teara.govt.nz

Roslyn Burge

A Night with the Fellows

On Wednesday, 12th November the State Library of NSW hosted a function for its 2007 Research Fellows, giving four of them the opportunity to talk to a wider audience about their projects. Two of these were PHA members, both of whom held National & State Libraries Australasia Honorary Fellowships.

Laila Ellmoos has been examining the writings of prisoners incarcerated in NSW gaols during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and she presented four case studies on this occasion. Michael Davis is studying the papers of Australian Museum anthropologist F.D. McCarthy. The other two speakers were Eileen Chanin, the 2007 C.H. Currey Fellow, who worked on the contribution of D.S. Mitchell to Australian cultural development, and the 2007 Nancy Keesing Fellow, Amanda Card who has been exploring the writings of dance critic Jean Garling in postwar Sydney. Jean Garling was also a major benefactor of the Mitchell Library.

It was pleasing to see a number of other PHA members present at this function.

For 2008 the State Library has been able to award additional fellowships, thanks to some generous bequests. Three of this year's fellowships have been received by PHA members. Michael Davis won the inaugural David Scott Mitchell Fellowship to enable him to carry out further research into the history of European representations of Aboriginal art and heritage based on the writings of Fred McCarthy. Peter Tyler, the immediate past president of PHA has become the inaugural Merewether Scholar, and will be writing the history of the Royal Society of New South Wales, with particular reference to its cultural significance and intellectual influence as the first scientific organisation in Australia. PHA vice-president Christine Cheater received a National & State Libraries Australasia Honorary Fellowship to place Arthur Upfield's 'Bonaparte' crime novels into an historic context. Then, to finish her busy year on a high note, Christine last month received the NSW History Fellowship awarded by the State Government, to prepare a history of the Central Coast!

Other Fellowships have been awarded by the Library Council of NSW this year to people working in such diverse fields as religious history, environmental management, ANZAC diaries, animal protection, and Australian travel to Asia.

PHA members who are individual practitioners have little chance to receive Australian Research Council grants, which normally go to established researchers within universities. However the various scholarships, fellowships and awards that are available each year from various State agencies are not so restrictive in their eligibility criteria. Naturally if you are applying for one of the State Library awards it is desirable to base your project on documents held by the Library. Although it is still a competitive field, the benefits are substantial, and not only in direct monetary terms. If you are not able to develop a suitable topic yourself, consider working in conjunction with a community organisation that is contemplating the preparation of a history.

Peter J. Tyler

CULTURE.GOV.AU

. Culture and Recreation Portal · Connecting you with Australian culture and recreation online

The Australian Cultural Network provides access to over 4,000 websites and 2.5 million pages about Australia's culture and recreation. Readers are able to search the content of the websites they index using any combination of text, category, location or audience.

A main component of the portal is the Australian Stories section which aims to encourage access to evaluated online resources about Australian culture. http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/stories/

The development of Australian Stories is an iterative and on-going process. In the next twelve months they propose to continue to develop Stories in identified gap areas as well as popular categories, similar to those categories identified in the Portal's Website Collection Policy, which includes maintaining a database which collects Australian culture websites. The database aims to reflect the 'interwoven elements' of collections that together document, interpret and contribute to Australia's history, identity and culture.

They are committed to publishing accurate and relevant Australian Stories, publishing Australian Stories authored both in-house and on a commissioned basis. Tendering and selection of authors is undertaken with procedures that are compliant with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, 2005. As part of the PHA Employment Service to date no call for commissioned writing has been seen for the Australian Cultural Network. They rely on their readers to alert then to newly published research and online resources to help keep the Portal's Australian Stories up-to-date. The Portal does welcomes contributions from readers about existing Australian Stories, as well as ideas for new Australian Stories.

The Australian Cultural Network website is easy to navigate. Some of the categories in the Australian Stories include:

- · History colonial, war and modern
- Identity
- · Indigenous arts, culture and heritage
- Language and literature
- Natural environment
- · Publishing and broadcasting
- Political system and institutions

On reviewing some of the articles in the Australian Stories, Melbourne Cup jumped off the page. The Australian Stories provided a fairly good brief of the Melbourne Cup with appropriate images with full citations which were good to see. The story made available additional links to resources. It took me three clicks from the article to locate on the net that Archer was the first winner of the Melbourne Cup in 1861 & 1862. Something I was already aware of, Archer was walked to Melbourne from the De Mestre farm at Terara Nowra, to start in the race.

Wikipedia, actually gives readers more general and historic information about the Melbourne Cup including hyperlink references to the editorial. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne Cup

Ned Kelly was next viewed at Australian Cultural Network, followed by the Women Convicts in Port Jackson article which lead me to The International Centre for Convicts Ships, a transnational and multi-disciplinary consortium of scholars engaged in research on penal transportation and convict experience within the British Empire from 1600 -1940. After exploring this site, one will find it difficult to return back to the Australian Cultural Network. Maybe the links should open in a new web browser.

The articles are a general overview of topics, offering further links for more information and resources. From a historic research and academic prospective, the stories only provide a broad outline and a generic introduction to the topics, with links to repositories and other online secondary resources.

As the computer and internet access today is available in every library and most homes, the Australian Cultural Network is creating increased awareness and access to Australian History and culture online.

Cathy Dunn

"It is the nature of historical revision to have no end: revisions of revisions are no doubt taking place even now. That is the norm for the historical profession."

John Burrow, A History of Histories, Allen Lane, 2007, p.493

"The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind."

Livy (c.59BC-AD17), The History of Rome from its Foundation

Jewels in the Crown

The romantically named *Jewels in the Crown: A History of the Bridge Street Plan Room and Crown Plans* by Terry Kass was launched in the Lands Department building on 24 November by Minister for Lands, Rural Affairs and Regional Development Hon Tony Kelly MLC. Warwick Williams, Director General NSW Department of Lands, Surveyor General and Registrar General, also spoke.

For the historians present, the highlight of this occasion was a visit to the plan room situated on the third floor of the Lands Department building under the dome. Built between 1888 and 1893 with the second phase of the building's construction, the plan room had a skylight – now closed – to assist the cartographers crafting the plans and those examining them. We visitors were thrilled to be allowed behind the counter where we saw at first hand a wealth of resources stacked tidily into shelves and pigeonholes. Some of us frequented this room in days gone by when it was possible to obtain photocopies of the crown plans stored there, a process that threatened to destroy them. Now that experience is relegated to the dim dark past, to a time before microfilm, when students of history also had free access to hard copies of newspapers in both the Mitchell and Fisher Libraries.

Described by its author as a coffee table book, *Jewels in the Crown* has an impressive design. The reproductions of plans are superb as are the photographs of the Lands Department building, plan storage spaces and cartographers' tools. The book's message is emblazoned on translucent fly sheets front and back – 'A picture is worth a thousand words. A map is worth a thousand pictures.'

To historians the most admirable feature of this publication is 'All about Crown Plans'. This part covers such subjects as Mitchell's directions to surveyors in 1836; depicting topography; protecting the interests of squatters; correct labelling; portion numbering; drawing road plans; Survey Regulations of 1864, 1882, 1891 and 1913; closer settlement plans; and tinting. Those fortunate PHA members who have attended workshops held by Terry Kass are familiar with much of this information but it is wonderful to have a printed version with the clearest possible examples in colour. However, *Jewels in the Crown* needs to be read in a well lighted place as the designer has used small, pale lettering to display the plans and photographs to maximum effect. The publication marks the launch of a project to record digital copies of Crown Plans in colour and make them available online. When this work is completed, the originals will be archived by State Records.



This detail of a plan of the town of Malongulli provides a good example of the use of tint on Crown Plans.

Rosemary Broomham

Exhibiting History

Over the past year I have had the opportunity to collaborate with Parramatta Heritage Centre on an exhibition about convict women and the Female Factories. This was my first extended involvement with a museum exhibition. I had written critical reviews of exhibitions in the past and I wanted to understand more of the process from idea to object selection, display structure and assembly.

Whether historians are familiar with the potential contents for an exhibition depends a little on the field of history and the topics they investigate through their normal research and writing activities. Two-dimensional resources such as documents are the staple of traditional historical research (though the digital historian of the future might need an alternative).

We live in a visual world but I know from my work as editor of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* that many historians do not think visually and do not routinely include with their articles the illustrations that might enhance their writing and their audience's understanding of their topic. Historians who work in heritage are familiar with the importance of sourcing maps, plans and illustrations and have usually had contact with physical three-dimensional objects through on-site associations with archaeologists or architects.

This casual association with visual resources and objects is an inadequate preparation for the investigative processes needed to locate the large number of things needed to make up an exhibition. Historians are good wordsmiths but exhibitions are about seeing things not reading about them.

Exhibitions need more than two or three iconic objects that define the theme of the exhibition — if you are lucky enough to find such things. Where historians might use paragraphs to put together a narrative, the museum curator needs linking images and things that enable the story to move from one theme to another, to acquaint the visitor with a new time, space and concept. From the start I knew this would be a challenging exhibition because it was about convict women. Neither as convicts nor as working class women were these people likely to have owned many things. A check of the major museums and their holdings revealed the paucity of objects surviving from the convict period. Working class items from the early nineteenth century were almost as rare. Beautiful and unusual things survived from this period (though not as many as I had expected) but things used by or owned by those who lived through the convict system were missing from public collections.

As the search expanded, slowly pictures and objects emerged from the shadows – from the family collections of mostly female genealogists who had done the detailed work and discovered that great-great grandma had arrived as a convict woman. As Babette Smith's recent book, *Australia's Birth Stain*, documents, our collective social reticence about our convict origins has produced an historical amnesia that is strikingly apparent in the holdings of public museums. Time has erased the people, most of their places and many of their belongings. The only glimmer of light is the possibility of objects surviving within the families of descendents who have not yet connected the lines of their genealogies and belongings back to the convict past.

Faced with such challenges I was surprised by the variety of materials that the curator, Gay Hendriksen, and her team of casual assistants and museum volunteers were able to track down.

On-line catalogues for museums, art galleries and libraries were valuable tools, but the interesting part was seeing how the different disciplines and approaches worked in approaching these resources. The historian's specific knowledge was a hindrance rather than a help, as the necessary key words were much more general.

I had been keen that the exhibition reflected the specific details of the convict women at the Female Factories. One way was finding photographs of the women in the family albums. The last convicts arrived in New South Wales in 1840, just as photography was being invented. For those convict women able to establish a family in Australia, some lived long enough to be photographed as older women with their children and grandchildren. Finding these faces from the past gave us the first glimpse of the real convict women.

Work at the Female Factories involved making textiles, sewing clothing and washing, so fabrics were an essential part of understanding the lives of these women. The members of the Guild of Spinners and Weavers took up the challenge and produced replica fabrics from spun wool and linen. Here was something tangible that could be touched, and production techniques could be explored that reflected the daily work of the women.

Replica clothing provided another tangible collection of objects. I had had little exposure to the world of historical reproduction and the details of the construction of the hand-sewn garments were amazing. Using a list of uniform clothing at the Parramatta Female Factory in 1824, appropriate fabrics were identified; authentic patterns were constructed from contemporary workbooks, and the shifts, petticoats, jackets, aprons, caps and even straw bonnets were hand-sewn by a team of volunteers.

Even though I had worked on the exhibition from the historical documentation and 'knew' about the convict women, in the reality of the exhibition I found I learnt much about aspects of convict life I had not previously considered, whilst the objects collected and made for the displays provided insights and raised questions that will now send me back to the documents seeking answers to new questions.

The exhibition, 'Women Transported. Life in Australia's Convict Female Factories' is now travelling around the country and I hope that more photographs and more objects will emerge from family collections as visitors consider whether their ancestor might have been in one of the Female Factories.

Carol Liston



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