



HISTORY ROOM

NEWS



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by Anthony Presgrave

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THE GOOLWA LIBRARY AUSTRALIANA COLLECTION.

By Anthony Presgrave

In the Goolwa Library History Room housed in the glass cabinets there is a collection of around 50 volumes on subjects relating to the early settlement of South Australia and the exploration of Australia.

In 1962 the Principal Librarian of the Public Library (now State Library) Mr. Hedley Brideson, presented a proposal to the Libraries Board to publish a series of facsimile editions of rare books on early South Australia. He had recently returned from a visit to the United States of America where he had seen the reproduction of documents by the Xerographic process. A printing house in Adelaide had installed one of these machines and he had 20 copies of William Light's *A Brief Journal (1839)* produced as a sample for the Board.

In March 1962 the Library, to coincide with the second Adelaide Festival of Arts, published facsimile editions of seven "rare South Australian books of historical interest". These were

SA 1 Brief Journal – William Light

SA 2 Aborigines of South Australia – Christian Gottlieb Teichmann

SA 3 Colonization of South Australia – Robert Torrens

SA 4 Explorations McDouall Stuart – John McDouall Stuart

SA 5 South Australia – Sir John Morphett

SA 6 Plan of a Company for Founding a Colony in Southern Australia – Edward Gibbon Wakefield

SA 7 South Australia – George Palmer

The Xerographic process printed the books from a microfilm copy which did not allow for the touching or cleaning of the original image so those early copies have a muddy or streaky appearance to the text.

The books came from the Xerox printer in roll form and the pairs of pages were cut from the roll by hand then folded to form a book and bound. They were sold for the cost of printing plus fifteen shillings for binding. Some print runs were very limited, for example 282 copies in total of Light; 355 copies in total of Teichmann; and 526 copies in total of Stuart were produced, but only 57 of Torrens; 66 of Morphett; 56 of Wakefield and 22 of Palmer were produced.

By June 1963 29 titles had been produced in the South Australiana series and four in the Australiana series. The first four Australiana editions were;

A 1 Journal of Exploration – John McKinlay. (This was the Burke relief expedition)

A 2 Explorations by John McKinlay – Duncan Whyte

A 3 Eureka Stockade – Raffaello Carboni

A 4 Two Expeditions into Southern Australia 1828 – 31, 2 Volume set – Charles Sturt

By this time the printing process had been improved and the originals were copied by process camera transferred on to paper offset masters and printed as for a normal book. Later again metal offset masters were used.

The masterpiece of the collection in the Goolwa Library has to be the large volumes; *Voyage to Terra Australis – Matthew Flinders*, a 2 volume set with a matching volume of charts. (A 37 in the catalogue of titles).

In all there were 92 titles planned in the South Australiana series but in fact only 65 titles were published and in some instances only 1 copy was produced.

In the Australiana series 209 titles were planned but as with the South Australiana series only 82 titles were published.

The remainder were either never published or published by other printing houses.

The project was discontinued in the mid 1970s. There were several reasons for this;

1. The number of other publishing houses producing facsimile editions
2. Problems with equipment breakdowns and staff losses.
3. "Belt tightening" within the library funding. The project was regarded as non essential and when funds became tight the purchase of books took precedence.

In 1992 30 years after the project began a checklist of the titles planned and published was produced, compiled by Barry Peade and edited by Valmai Hankel. It gives details of the numbers printed, the styles of binding used and the original selling price of each title.

The collection is available for reference in the History Room but not available for loan.

The following is a list of the titles held in the collection.

A Brief Journal of the Proceedings of William Light, SA 1, Adelaide 1962.

A Lecture on South Australia, SA 17, Adelaide 1962..

A Visit to the Antipodes with some reminiscences of a sojourn in Australia, SA 22, Adelaide 1962.

A Voyage to Terra Australis A 37, Adelaide 1966.

Aborigines of South Australia; SA 2, Adelaide 1965.

An Address to the Inhabitants of the Colonies, A 22, Adelaide 1963.

Australia Twice Traversed, A 13, Adelaide 1964.

Captain Cook's Journal during the first voyage Round the World A 188. Adelaide 1968.

Engineering in South Australia.; SA 46, Adelaide 1963.

Extracts of Letters from Arthur Phillip Esq. A 15. Adelaide 1963.

Instructions for the Interior Survey of South Australia. SA 32, Adelaide 1962.

J. McDouall Stuart's Explorations across the continent of Australia. SA 4, Adelaide 1963.

Journal of an Overland expedition in Australia from Moreton Bay to Port Essington A 16, Adelaide 1964.

Journal of Explorations in the Interior of Australia. (Burke Relief Expedition). A 1. Adelaide 1962.

Journal of Landsborough's expedition from Carpentaria, A 17, Adelaide 1963.

Journals of Expeditions of Discovery into Central Australia, and Overland from Adelaide to King George's Sound A 7. Adelaide 1964.

Journals of two Expeditions into the Interior of New South Wales A 6. Adelaide 1964.

Journals of Two Expeditions of Discovery in North – West and Western Australia, A 8. Adelaide 1964.

Journey of Discovery to Port Phillip, New South Wales A 12. Adelaide 1965.

Manners and Customs of the Aborigines of the Encounter Bay Tribe, South Australia, SA 20. Adelaide 1963.

Narrative of an Expedition into Central Australia A 5. Adelaide 1965.

Narrative of an Expedition undertaken under the direction of the late Mr. Assistant Surveyor E. B. Kennedy, A 9. Adelaide 1965.

Observations on the Coasts of Van Diemen's Land, A 66. Adelaide 1965.

Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land A 19. Adelaide 1967.

Plan of a Company to be established for the purpose of founding a colony in South Australia, SA 6. Adelaide 1962.

Questions relating to Nicholas Baudin's Australian Expedition, 1800 – 1804. A 26. Adelaide 1963.

Report of the Speeches Delivered at a Dinner Given to Capt. John Hindmarsh, R.N. SA 8. Adelaide 1962.

Sketch of Explorations by the Late John McKinlay in the Interior of Australia, 1861 A 2. Adelaide 1962..

South Australia, Correspondence and evidence before a select committee of the House of Commons, SA 7. Adelaide 1962.

South Australia. Latest information from this colony, contained in a letter written by Mr. Morphett SA 5. Adelaide 1962.

Thatcher's Colonial Minstrel; un-numbered.

The Bigge Reports, A 68 – 70 Adelaide 1966.

The Booandik tribe of South Australian Aborigines; A 63. Adelaide 1965.

The Burke and Wills Exploring Expedition; A 10. Adelaide 1963.

The Catholic Mission in Australasia. A 24. Adelaide 1963.

The Customs and Traditions of the Aboriginal natives of North Western Australia, A 91. Adelaide 1965.

The Eureka Stockade; A 3. Adelaide 1962..

The Working Man's Handbook to South Australia. SA 21. Adelaide 1962.

Three Expeditions into the Interior of Eastern Australia A 18, Adelaide 1965.

Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia, A 4. Adelaide 1963.

Genealogy help may be available by appointment, to guide you through your research. Please phone the Library on 8555-7000 as Dr. Peter Barclay may be available.

Volunteers are in the Goolwa Library History Room on Thursdays 10 -5 to help with enquiries.*

For comments, suggestions or to receive this newsletter – apply through the Council website or email history.goolwa11@gmail.com

Back copies of this newsletter can be sourced on the Alexandrina Council website and our wiki <http://alexhistory.pbworks.com>