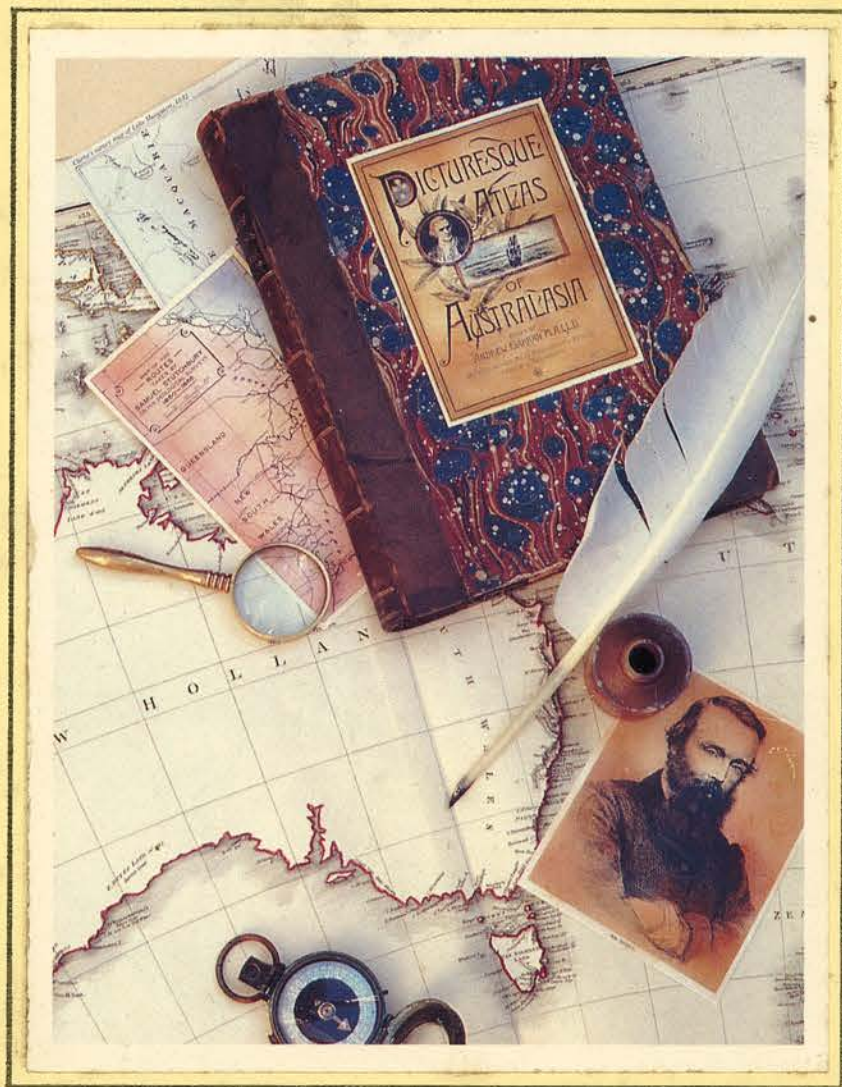


AUSTRALIANS

A HISTORICAL ATLAS



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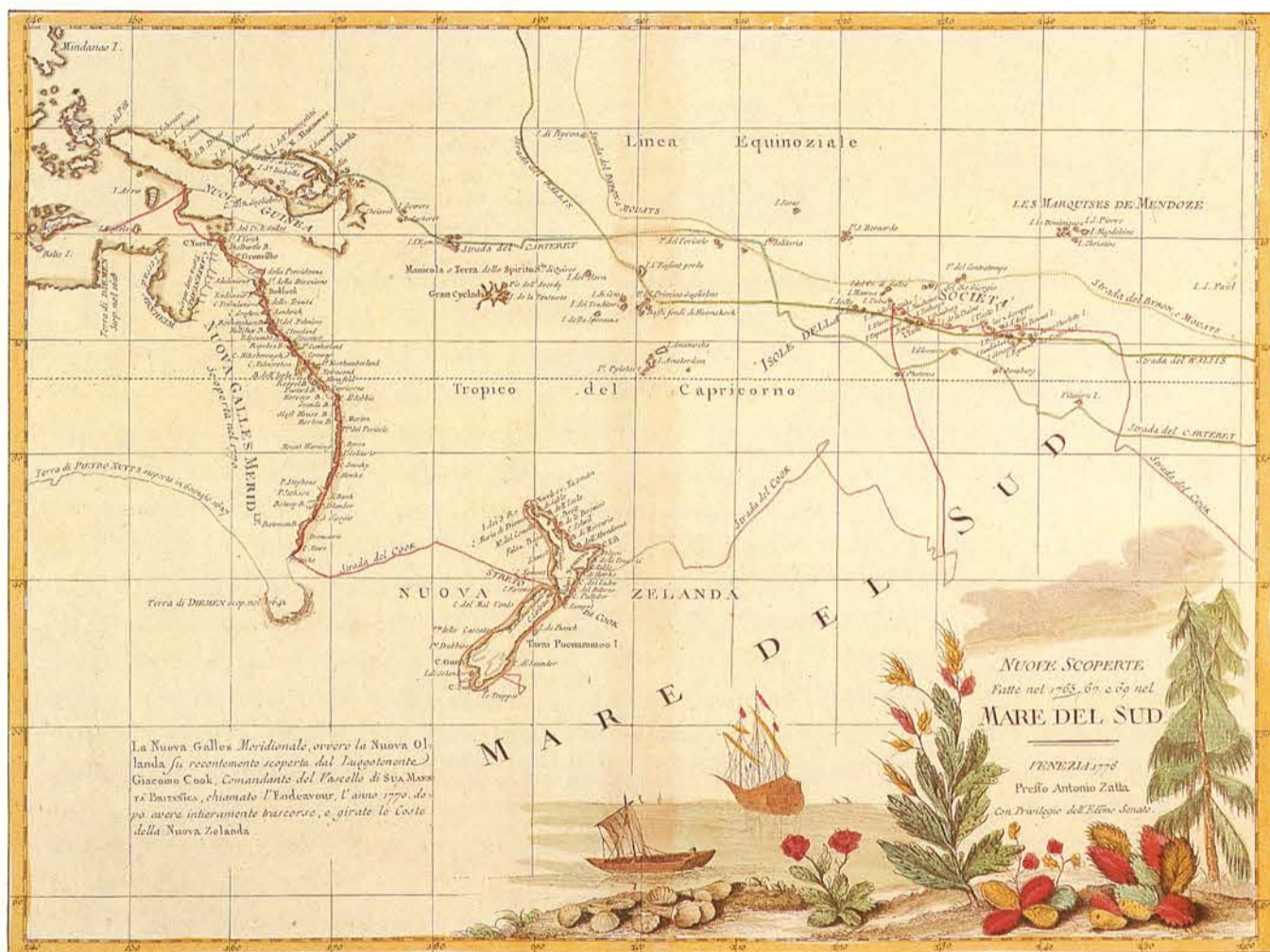
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Mare del Sud (the South Sea) published by Antonio Zatta, a Venetian printer, publisher and bookseller, in 1776. The description on the map reads: New South Wales or New Holland was recently discovered by Lieutenant James Cook, captain of His Britannic Majesty's Ship called the Endeavour, in the year 1770 after having circumnavigated and explored the coast of New Zealand. The map also charts the voyages of the British navigators Philip Carteret, John Byron and Samuel Wallis in the 1760s.

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FOREWORD

THIS BOOK and its ten companions have been ten years in the making. They have been created to mark the bicentenary of European settlement in this country, and they are the outcome of collaboration on a scale never before attempted in the writing of Australian history. Hundreds of people in and beyond universities have joined together to re-create the experience of people living in Australia since 1788 and to place that experience in the wider context of a human occupation that began tens of thousands of years ago.

The editors and contributors have worked in a variety of modes: from slicing into the past at fifty-year intervals (*Australians 1838, 1888 and 1938*) to laying out, in terse chronology, events as they happened year by year (*Events and places*), and from portraying processes and movements on maps of the country (*A historical atlas*) to briefing readers for explorations of their own (*A guide to sources*). The authors represent diverse approaches, in terms both of occupation – historian, economist, archaeologist, geographer, librarian, journalist – and of outlook. We have sought the best person for each part of the job, and not altered or muffled anybody's voice. We have also tried to make the work of scholars readily accessible to general readers.

In this aspiration we have been strengthened by a close working relationship with the publishers. From early days the project has benefited from continuous consultation with representatives of Fairfax, Syme & Weldon about its form and presentation. Their confidence in our enterprise has heartened us throughout the long journey.

Together, we and they present *Australians: a historical library* to the people of Australia as an offering for 1988 and beyond.

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PREFACE

HISTORIANS are professionally interested in the passing of time, and in 1977 a few historians in Canberra began to think about 1988 as a year offering a special opportunity to their craft. That year, we guessed, would inspire a larger and more general commemoration than Australians had organised at the end of any previous half-century. The coming occasion was sure to be more *national* than those others, for advances in central government, transport and communication had accelerated the transformation of states that had once been separate colonies into provinces of a single polity, whose people travelled about as never before, talked to each other on STD, watched all over the continent the same prime ministerial news conference and the same cricket match. Moreover, Australian history itself was gaining a new popularity, as Stuart Macintyre comments at the end of the first chapter in *Australians: a guide to sources*. The names of Manning Clark and Geoffrey Blainey were better known than those of any scholarly historian in earlier times; historical and genealogical societies were burgeoning, and tourists flocked to Ballarat to see gold-rush days reconstructed at Sovereign Hill and to Old Sydney Town to see convict floggings re-enacted. Television viewers switched on to Australian costume dramas; and cinema audiences were offered, in 1977 alone, eight feature films based on life in the remote and recent Australian past.

All in all, it appeared likely that public and private enterprise would make 1988 a year for intense consciousness of Australian history. What might historians contribute? Individually, of course, whatever scholarly article or biography or general history an author was moved to attempt. Collectively? The Canberra group, consulting widely, found some antipathy towards the very idea of collaborative enterprise — 'history by committee' — and some particular doubts about proposed approaches. But it also found much interest and enthusiasm, and eventually enough support to embark on the project that has become *Australians: a historical library*.

The makers of these books do not see them as official history in any sense. The project has had no money from the Australian Bicentennial Authority. Money for general administration and for research on different volumes has been provided from universities (especially the Australian National University and the University of New South Wales), and from the Australian Research Grants Scheme. General and volume editors have taken on the job as part of their work in universities and colleges of advanced education. With few exceptions, contributors are also unpaid. Royalties will go into a fund to support Australian studies. Some advance royalties paid years ahead of publication, have been ploughed into research for the books.

That was a source of funds unforeseen when we began. Some potential publishers told us that they would need a subsidy; Fairfax,

Syme & Weldon asked for no subsidy, anticipated larger sales than any other publisher we approached, and encouraged us to plan without any inhibitions the size of the books and the quantity and quality of illustrations. The scale on which the publishers have been willing to undertake the project has helped us keep two early resolutions: to write for general readers, addressing them with respect but without assuming prior knowledge and to illustrate the books richly, not for mere decorative effect but to integrate visual material with text.

Historians had long lamented the absence of a set of reference books that would deliver essential information about Australian history to students, authors and browsers. The *Australian encyclopaedia*, first published in 1925 and revised three times since, included much information about Australia's past, but its focus was not primarily historical. Many reference works were devoted to particular subject areas, from A. McCulloch's *Encyclopaedia of Australian art* and E. M. Miller and F. T. Macartney's *Australian literature* to C. A. Hughes and B. D. Graham's *A handbook of Australian government and politics* and the official histories of Australia's part in two world wars.

Taken together, such books made up a valuable reference library. Few people, however, possessed them all; and those who did still found large gaps in their library's historical coverage. The committee planning this project had an impressive precedent in the *Australian dictionary of biography*, a multi-volume enterprise which draws on scholars throughout the nation.

Australians lacked an atlas of their history and a convenient compilation of historical statistics. Information about other aspects of the past was scattered and hard to come by. We decided, therefore, that the series should include five reference volumes, presenting our past in an accessible and inviting format. This is the purpose of *Australians: a historical atlas*, *Australians: events and places*, *Australians: a historical dictionary*, *Australians: a guide to sources* and *Australians: historical statistics*.

These five volumes build on earlier generations of reference works, including encyclopaedias, colonial, state and commonwealth yearbooks, census reports, *Who's who*, the *Australian dictionary of biography* and atlases. Our editors, writers and researchers have also used many books published about aspects of Australian life and unpublished material in libraries, government and private archives and museums. We have drawn on the expertise of the staff of such institutions and of individual researchers across the nation.

Each reference book approaches the past in different ways. *Events and places* combines a chronology and a gazetteer, providing a reference that is both historical and geographical in approach. In the *Events* section we set out what we consider to be the most important

and interesting happenings in Australian history. We intend *Events* to have many uses: for example, to settle arguments about who was the first to do what; to help a reader imagine Australia in the year in which he or she was born or when a parent, grandparent or great-grandparent first arrived. The *Places* section provides a summary history of more than seven hundred cities, towns and geographical features. Some of the towns, especially those founded near goldfields, now scarcely exist. There are 32 regional essays in *Places* which put the localities in a wider historical and economic framework.

Australians: a historical dictionary has over 1000 entries on people, movements, ideas and institutions which have shaped Australia's past. Readers will find short biographies on such prominent Australians as Dame Nellie Melba, Jack Lang, Judith Wright and Rupert Murdoch. Historical developments including land settlement schemes and the spread of the railway system are explained, as are terms such as 'peacocking' and 'cabbage tree hat'. Readers can discover information on such diverse topics as the creation of Vegemite and the invention of the combine harvester.

Australians: a historical atlas is the most ambitious of all the reference volumes. Such a book has never been attempted before, as cartography is an expensive enterprise and requires contributions from people with a great variety of skills. Nine cartographers and a large number of scholars including geographers, economists, archaeologists and historians have worked to produce the atlas. Most of the maps and diagrams have been created for it. The atlas traces the evolution of the landscape from earliest times to the present, assessing the impact Australians have had on this landscape. Also shown are the origins and distribution of the population and the course of major events, such as wars and the Great Depression.

Australians: a guide to sources is the most wide-ranging of the reference books, directing readers to information sources. It opens with an account of the writing of Australian history, and a description of the principal repositories of information about Australia, including libraries, archives and museums. Our emphasis is on printed material, particularly books, because books provide readily accessible information, and those listed in *A guide to sources* are usually to be found in major libraries in every state. We do not ignore the computer revolution, for the creation of on-line databases is transforming the way we send and receive information.

In *Australians: historical statistics*, we offer long chronological runs of figures on a wide variety of topics, from public and private finance to sporting results and public opinion. Not all forms of human endeavour lend themselves to enumeration, just as in the atlas not all subjects lend themselves to presentation on a map or a diagram. *Historical statistics* covers the major aspects of Australian life, including economics, education, politics and religion.

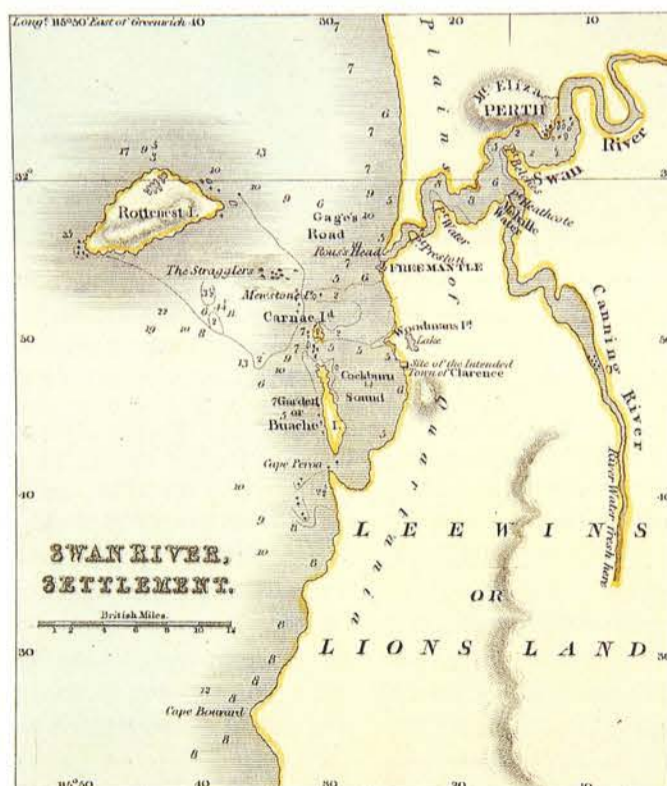
These reference books are more than compilations of facts. The facts are sometimes disputed, as in the events leading up to the Eureka stockade in 1854 or the dismissal of the Whitlam Labor Government in 1975. Historical processes, such as the growth and decline of cities, the gradual adoption of equal pay for men and women or the political fortunes of premiers, do not lend themselves to presentation as a series of discrete facts: they can be understood only in the social, political and economic climate of their time. It is here that historians have a special role to play, explaining such developments and pointing out where and why differing interpretations of the same process or event may arise. These volumes do not shy away from the need to exercise scholarly judgment.

The books complement one another. They serve best those readers who become familiar with them all. Someone wishing to learn about the gold rushes, for example, will find in the atlas maps of the major discoveries; in *Events and places*, a record of events on the goldfields and details about gold-rush towns; in the dictionary, entries on numerous subjects related to gold and on people whose lives were affected by the rushes; in *Historical statistics*, a tabular account of the economic impact of gold; and in the guide to sources, an indication of where to go for more information. A guide and index leads the reader to such information in all of the volumes, as well as providing a guide to the series as a whole.

Like every work of reference published, these volumes draw on original sources and the knowledge of researchers and specialists. Often original sources that might confirm a detail no longer survive, and often those that do survive cannot be relied on. There will be experts on particular topics, localities and events who will dispute our knowledge, unearth new facts and disprove old ones. We are keen to receive such information for additions or corrections to future printings.

Together, these five books provide the most extensive reference library ever produced on Australian history.

PETER SPEARRITT



Swan River Settlement, drawn by John Dower and published by Henry Teesdale in March 1831, less than two years after the settlement was founded. The map is an inset in a map of the colony of New South Wales.

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Canberra's growth was slow until after World War II. The federal government did not take up residence in the city until 1927 and the relocation of government departments from Melbourne was slowed by the Great Depression. From the mid-1950s, however, Canberra began to grow rapidly. Its current population is 250 000, ten times the population originally anticipated. This aerial photograph was taken in 1983. The ornamental lake, named in Griffin's honour, was built in the 1960s. Some seventy years after Griffin planned Parliament House on Capital Centre, construction of the new building is under way. Once maligned as the 'bush capital', Canberra is now Australia's largest inland city.

INTRODUCTION

THIS IS THE FIRST historical atlas of Australia. Although atlases have been produced in Australia and about Australia since the nineteenth century, and range from the school atlas to the weighty reference book, none contains more than a few pages devoted to Australia's past. Geographers, archaeologists, anthropologists, historians and other specialists have worked for six years assembling the information on which the maps are based. The maps themselves have been produced by a team of cartographers working at the Division of National Mapping in Canberra.

The atlas presents an overview of Australia's historical geography, frequently using case studies, drawn from around Australia, to illustrate national patterns and processes. The first section of the volume, 'Place' examines the environment, landuse and economic activity. The second section, 'People', examines aspects of Australia's social history. The third section, 'Landscapes', shows the impact of European settlement on both city and country landscapes. Maps and associated graphs are the main sources of information. A wide range of cartographic techniques has been used, including pie charts, computer mapping and flow line maps. Facsimiles of nineteenth and twentieth-century maps have also been included, not only to convey information but also to show how cartographic styles and techniques have changed. Relief shading, for example, has replaced the 'hairy caterpillars' commonly used on early maps to show mountain ranges.

An atlas of this nature and scope, which draws on the skills of people in a number of fields, has never been attempted before in Australia. Information is not as readily available to those producing a historical atlas as it is to cartographers who map present-day patterns and distributions, and compiling the necessary facts to produce even the simplest maps involved extensive research. A map of Australia showing the development of railways, for example, was compiled from seven different sources. For some topics, the available sources did not mention placenames, which are critical for mapping. Compounding these problems, numerous placenames have changed in the last two hundred years. Police reports on bush-ranger activity, for example, make liberal use of placenames now obsolete, and in South Australia many German placenames were changed during World War I. The routes of roads have also changed over the last two hundred years. Constructing a map of a region in the 1880s involved establishing the exact location of roads, and the placenames then current, to ensure the map's historical accuracy.

The sources traditionally used in researching Australia's past were important in overcoming these problems: statistics collected by government bodies during the nineteenth century, documents, official reports, government gazettes and manuscript material held in both official institutions and private hands. But the most important and valuable source used was Australia's rich heritage in maps.

Europeans first learned about the existence of the Australian continent not only from written accounts but also from the maps drawn by the early Dutch navigators and those who followed them. These maps illustrate the gradual revelation of the Great South Land. The image of a featureless landmass, placed by God in the southern hemisphere to balance the landmass of the north, was refined to the familiar outline of the Australian continent mapped by Matthew Flinders in 1803.

The first maps of the inland were drawn by European explorers. Some were simply lines showing a route against a barely suggested physical background. Others were meticulously detailed observations of flora, fauna, topographical features and geology. But mapping was not solely the preserve of explorers. During the nineteenth century a surveyor-general's department was established in every colony. Surveyors began to map the continent in detail, laying out towns and roads, plotting mountain ranges and the courses of rivers. Despite their efforts, and those of government mapping bodies since, parts of central Australia are yet to be mapped in as much detail as the more settled areas of the continent.

As the nineteenth century progressed, the range of subjects mapped expanded to include railways, goldfields and mineral deposits, ports and harbours, the growth of cities and the provision of water and sewerage facilities. In the early decades of the twentieth century, schools, hospitals, outbreaks of disease such as the plague, the provision of electricity and of recreational facilities and national parks were also mapped by government bodies. Such maps contain a wealth of historical information, but they have often been overlooked as a historical resource. So, too, have the atlases produced since the early nineteenth century. The compilers of this atlas have used these resources extensively as a means of obtaining and checking information.

This volume is a beginning and an exploratory step. Our aim has been to produce an atlas that depicts Australian history in a new way. We are sure that the volume will stimulate new interest in a hitherto neglected way of looking at Australia's past.

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