



Special Collections

Research Guide – Naval Architecture

This guide is an introduction to UNSW Special Collections manuscript and rare book sources relating to naval architecture, shipbuilding and marine engineering.

It is a selective list of resources to get you started – you can search for additional manuscripts using our [Finding Aid Index](#) and for rare books in the [Library Catalogue](#) (refine your search results by Collection > Special Collections to identify rare books).

If you would like to view Special Collections material or have any questions, please submit your enquiry via the AskUs [online enquiry form](#) and we will be happy to help you.

Please refer to the [Special Collections](#) website for further information.

Manuscripts

[MSS 126 - Papers of the Doug Robertson Maritime and Naval History Collection](#)

A comprehensive collection of notebooks, research notes, newspaper clippings and plans – together with an extended sequence of 70,000 photographs and slides - compiled and collected by Australian ship expert and naval historian, Doug Robertson (1923-1984). The material documents naval history from the 17th -20th centuries, with an emphasis on merchant and naval ships in the period 1860-1974. Includes sail, steam, diesel and nuclear-powered ships of many types, such as tugs, lash vessels, cargo ships, tankers, ferries, lighthouse tenders, liners, destroyers, anti-submarine vessels, mine-sweepers, clippers, schooners, ketches and barques, amongst others.

Examples: Box 8/Folder 35 - Notebook entitled 'Sloops: WWI construction: Flower class; 24 class and KIL class (85)', c. 1915-1959; Box 16/Folder 86 - *War vessels silhouette identification book*, c. 1935-1943; Box 50/Folder 299 - Notes on model ship construction, including authentic specifications for USS Detroit (American light cruiser, 1923-46); Box 54/Folder 322 - Handmade illustrated book of ships, c1951; Box 79/Folder 436 - Pasted newspaper clippings and photographs; Box 145 AV - Ship photographs: C

Ships' plans - Australian, British, Italian, Japanese and US vessels, including:

- OS4 - USS North Carolina
- OS5 - Benedetto Brin & Regina Margherita
- OS6 - Dante Alighieri
- OS7.1 - USS Olympia
- OS7.2 - Harbour tug
- OS7.4 - HMAS Warramunga
- OS7.5 - HMAS Perth
- OS7.6 - HMAS Sydney
- OS8.1 - MTBs 347-364
- OS8.2 - IJNS Nachi & IJNS Nagara

OS8.3 - HMS Magicienne
OS8.4 - Armament plans
OS9 - Royal Australian Navy
OS12 - Seven colour illustrations of World War II

[MSS 222 – Papers of G.K. Dickson](#)

Folder 1: Journal kept by G.K. Dickson while serving on *HMS Euryalus* from 1 June to 31 December 1905. Seventy-one pages with seventeen coloured maps and diagrams showing equipment and the routes taken by the *Euryalus* through Australian waters in the summer of 1905, and her journey to Gibraltar that autumn. Including 17 coloured maps and diagrams showing equipment and routes taken.

[MSS 271 – Papers of H.D. \(Henry Douglas\) Wilkin](#)

Folder 1: Personal leather-bound journal compiled by midshipman (later Vice-Admiral) Henry Douglas Wilkin (1862-1931) whilst serving on various British Navy ships from 28 January 1878 to 14 February 1883 (including the *Duke of Wellington*, *Tourmaline*, *Pegasus*, *Charybdis*, *Himalaya*, *Crocodile*, *Cruiser*, *Superb* and *Penelope*). The journal incorporates decorative coloured title pages and pencil & ink drawings of ships and other vignettes (anchors, local peoples, Christmas decorations), weather charts, harbour plans and maps (some foldout).

[MSS 284 – Papers of Histories of Commissioned Ships in the Royal Australian Navy](#)

Photocopy and carbon typescript drafts relating to Commissioned Ships serving in the Royal Australian Navy. The collection provides technical ship data together with a brief service history of between one to seventeen pages for each vessel from launching to disposal from 1866 to 1983. This information was collected for The Australasian Military History Database (MIHILIST), produced by the Academy Library, UNSW Canberra, Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra.

Example: Box 7/Folder 234 HMS Warrnambool (I); Box 7/Folder 235 HMAS Warrego (I); Box 7/Folder 236 HMAS Warrego (II); Box 7/Folder 237 HMAS Watcher; Box 7/Folder 238 HMAS Waterhen

Rare books

***Australia's ships of war* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: John Bastock

Date: 1975

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (VA713.B37)

***The Bombay dockyard and the Wadia master builders* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: A.R Wadia (Ardeshir Ruttonji)

Date: 1957

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (VM 299.7.I4 W3 1957)

***Brassey's naval and shipping annual* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: T. A Brassey (Thomas Allnut)

Date: 1886-1948?

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (V 10.B73)

***British warships: the Royal Navy completely illustrated and described* - [Library Record](#)**

Date: 1940?

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (folio VA456.B75 1940)

***Histoire de la Marine française* - [Library Record](#)**

Authors: Charles M. de La Ronciere, G. Clerc-Rampal

Date: 1934

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (folio DC50.L33)

***The history of American sailing ships* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Howard I. Chapelle (Howard Irving)

Date: 1935

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (VM23.C53 1935)

***An history of marine architecture including an enlarged and progressive view of the nautical regulations and naval history, both civil and military, of all nations, especially of Great Britain* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: John Charnock

Date: 1800-1802

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (folio VM15.C52 1800)

***The history of the American sailing Navy: the ships and their development* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Howard I. Chapelle (Howard Irving)

Date: 1949

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (VA56.C43 1949)

***A manual of naval architecture: for the use of officers of the Royal Navy, officers of the Mercantile Marine, shipbuilders and shipowners* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: W. H. White

Date: 1877

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (VM 145.W5 1877)

***Navy Australia, an illustrated history* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: George Odgers

Date: 1989

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (VA713.O34 1989)

***The protection of merchant ships against moored mines: a handbook for the use of captains of vessels fitted with the Otter installation* - [Library record](#)**

Date: 1917

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (V 856 .P76)

***The Royal Australian Navy: the first seventy-five years* - [Library Record](#)**

Authors: Phillip Belbin, Ross Gillett

Date: 1986

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (folio VA713.B45 1986)

***The sailing Navy list: all the ships of the Royal Navy - built, purchased and captured - 1688-1860* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: David Lyon

Date: 1993

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (VA456.L95 1993)

***Souvenir: 36 views illustrative of the American Fleet's visit to Australia, 1908* - [Library Record](#)**

Date: 1908

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (VA59.A8)

Teikoku gunkan shashin to shijitsu - bakumatsu iko = [Photographs of, and historical facts about, Imperial warships - since the end of the Tokugawa shogunate] - [Library Record](#)

Author: Hitoka Hirose

Date: 1935

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (VA653.P67 1935)

Warships - [Library Record](#)

Author: Basil Gingall

Date: 1968

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (V750.G5)

Warships of World War II - [Library Record](#)

Author: J. J Colledge

Date: 1962-1963

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (D771.L46 1962)