



Special Collections

Research Guide – Introduction to Strategic Studies

This guide is an introduction to UNSW Special Collections manuscript and rare book sources relating to the strategic, political, diplomatic and military history of Australia.

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

Military personnel

MSS 183 - Papers of Lieutenant-General Sir Vernon Ashton Hobart Sturdee - [Finding Aid](#)

Two notebooks and a correspondence book written by Captain Vernon Ashton Hobart Sturdee at Gallipoli in 1915. Also included is a notebook of his father's Colonel Alfred Hobart Sturdee, ink sketches and photographs, who was also present at the landing.

MSS 184 - Papers of Lieutenant-General E. K. Squires - [Finding Aid](#)

British military officer appointed to the post of Inspector-General of the Australian Military Forces in 1938.

Example: Folder 1 Photocopies of diary volume 21, including a photocopy of a letter dated 18 May 1938, offering Squires the post of Inspector-General of the Australian Military Forces, 17/11/1937-24/12/1938

MSS 335 - Papers of Major D.C.L. Wilson – [Finding Aid](#)

Correspondence, diaries, newspaper articles, other publications and personal documents and effects pertaining to Major D.C.L. Wilson's education at the Royal Military College, the LHQ Tactical School, Staff School, Australia and participation in World War II, particularly in the Pacific. Also includes various military training documents relating to training practices, orders and maps.

Example: Box 11/Folder 60 Military Documents – Orders, Reports, Training Instructions, etc: Confidential/secret papers concerning New Guinea, New Britain military operations (September 1943-May 1944); General Headquarters South West Pacific Area, *Monthly Summary of Enemy Dispositions* [Top Secret], Copy No. 65, Serial no. 23 (September 1944)

MSS 359 - Papers of Lieutenant-General John Sanderson – [Finding Aid](#)

Documents Lieutenant General Sanderson's mission in Cambodia, when he was seconded to the Secretary of the United Nations to complete planning for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, 1992-1993.

Example: Box 1/Folder 6 Reports of meetings with: Mr Tep Khunnal (3 June 1992); General Son Sen (7 April 1992); Mr Soroj Chavahaviraj (12 May 1992), together with many other relevant primary sources through the collection

Journalists

MSS 190 - Papers of Michael Richardson – [Finding Aid](#)

Southeast Asia correspondent for *The Age* in the 1970s, comprising first-hand reports of the crisis, coup and invasion of Portuguese (East) Timor by Indonesia after the Portuguese withdrawal, 1970-2009.

Example: Box 16 Richardson's photographs of the Declaration of Independence, East Timor, 28 November 1975

MSS 374 - Papers of Peter Hastings – [Finding Aid](#)

Editor of the *Bulletin* (1962-64), foreign affairs writer for the *Australian* (1966-70), and the *Sydney Morning Herald* (1970-74, 1976-90). Hastings was banned from Indonesia for reporting on its military preparation for the 1975 invasion of East Timor and in 1984 for reporting on the death of anthropologist Arnold Ap in Irian Jaya.

Example: Box 9/Folder 9 Correspondence 1980s, including important first-hand accounts of the military intervention from a variety of informants

Historians

MSS 164 Papers of Anthony Brettell Lodge – [Finding Aid](#)

Manuscript papers and related material produced or accumulated by Brett Lodge for his book *The fall of General Gordon Bennett*, and 1987 PhD thesis 'Lieutenant-General Sir John Lavarack as military commander'.

Example: Box 6/Folder 24 Including: Lodge's working notes; Curtis Wilson papers 1: annotated typescript notes in diary form, possibly a semi-official diary kept for Lavarack, 2 January 1941 to 12 April 1943; War diary, 19 January to 14 March 1942, 5 p.

MSS 187 - Papers of Damien Fenton – [Finding Aid](#)

Source material accumulated by military historian Damien Fenton for his PhD thesis 'Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation and the defence of Southeast Asia 1955-1965', including a large number of NAA and PRO (UK) photocopied files.

Example: Folder 1 Photocopies of archival primary sources, 1956-1966: National Archives of Australia SEATO search results lists x 2; Series A703/138, Item 607/2/2, Department of Air, correspondence files, 1959-1974: Series A816/1, Item 11/301/1089 part 2; Item/301/1114; A816/43, Item 44/301/212; A816/56

MSS 321 - Papers of Dr Frank Cain – [Finding Aid](#)

UNSW academic with interests in Australian military and intelligence history, the Cold War, development of British missile technology, labour history, Jack Lang and the Great Depression, killings in Indonesia 1965, the French in Vietnam, Chinese Communist Party between the wars.

Example: Box 1/Folder 2 ASIO source materials, together with many other relevant items throughout the collection

MSS 355 - Papers of John McCarthy – [Finding Aid](#)

Comprising photocopies of Australian government documents relating to World War II and research material for various publications by the historian and academic John Malcolm McCarthy.

Example: Box 7/ Folder 31-32

Australian policy - general, includes manpower pre-1942, October 1939-December 1941

Box 8/Folders 35-37

Policy/UK. Demands for information, June 1939-December 1940

MSS 366 - Papers of John Coates – [Finding Aid](#)

Comprising research material used for *Bravery above blunder: the 9th Division at Finschhafen, Sattelberg and Sio* (1999), including photocopies of military archival sources held in Australia, the United States and Britain, detailing the Huon Peninsula Campaign in New Guinea in 1943-44; interviews with Japanese prisoners of war and, post-war Japanese commanders; audio cassette interviews with Australian commanders; and maps of the Huon Peninsula area.

Example: Box 1/Folder 2 Wartime translations of seized Japanese documents – Allied translator and interpreter section reports, 1942-1946. Indexes, pp. vii-xv; MacArthur archives record groups, 6p; US Army in Australia, WW II, a working bibliography of MHI sources, 2p.; Australian archives, ANGAM II, 16 April 1996, 15p.

MSS 371 - Papers of Professor Brian Beddie – [Finding Aid](#)

Papers and reference material assembled by Professor Brian Beddie relating to Australian defence policy and administration.

Example: Box 30/Folder 3 Lever arch file containing indexed Defence Committee minutes 1940-41 CRS A2031

Politicians

Papers of John Winston Howard – [Finding Aid](#)

National Archives Australia collection of personal papers and associated Commonwealth records (1974-). Custody transferred to Special Collections in a special partnership between the NAA and UNSW Canberra.

Comprising notes, personal papers, correspondence, early Commonwealth records, press clippings, transcripts of speeches and interviews, election pamphlets and other items covering the period 1974-1996.

Diplomats/Defence personnel

MSS 196 - Papers of Sir Arthur Tange – [Finding Aid](#)

Former Secretary of the Department of Defence 1970-1979 and External Affairs 1954-1965.

Folder 1 Typescripts: 'Defence and Australian society of the late 20th century'; 'The reorganisation of the defence group of departments - reflections ten years on'

Iraq War

MSS 366 – John Coates - [Finding Aid](#)

Box 12/Folders 64-65, Box 13/Folder 66 & 73, Oversize 6 & 9 – Material on the Iraq War

Nuclear warfare

MSS 346 - Papers of Herbert S. Johnson – [Finding Aid](#)

An American soldier and eyewitness to the aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing.

Folder 1 Text of 'Hiroshima witness: an American combat infantry soldier's story', correspondence, and photographs

MSS 374 – Peter Hastings - [Finding Aid](#)

Box 23/Folder 1 - Material on nuclear weapons including press clippings, news service reports, and excerpts from published material

Vietnam War

MSS 10 – Edward H. Rodwell - [Finding Aid](#)

Collection of newspaper cuttings relating to the Korean and Vietnam Wars compiled by Edward H. Rodwell

MSS 366 – John Coates - [Finding Aid](#)

Box 10/Folder 49, Box 11/Folder 58 & Box 13/Folder 72 - Material on the Vietnam War

Rare Books

Australian Diplomatic History

***Australia and peacekeeping* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Hugh Smith

Date: 1990

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (UA870 .A97 1990)

***Collected diplomatic documents relating to the outbreak of the European war: imperial document* - [Library Record](#)**

Date: 1915

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (folio JQ4520 .W37 C64 1915)

***Correspondence respecting the European crisis* - [Library Record](#)**

Date: 1914

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (D511 .C6)

Australian Military History

***Australian Imperial Force* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Australia. Army. Australian Imperial Force (1914-1921)

Date: 1914?

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (UA872 .A9 1914)

***Australians in war: with the Australian Regiment from Melbourne to Bloemfontein* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: W. T. Reay (William Thomas)

Date: 1900

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (DT932 .R6)

***Men of the A.I.F. and A.M.F.: official war photographs from the Department of Information, Commonwealth of Australia...* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: W. J Thomas (William J.)

Date: 1943?
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (D767.8 .M46)

***Soldiering fifty years ago: Australia in 'the forties'* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: George Jean De Winton
Date: 1898
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (U773.A8 D4 1898)

***War in New Guinea: official war photographs of the battle for Australia* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: George Silk
Date: 1943?
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (D767.95 .A9 1943)

Australian Political History

***25th anniversary of the Australian Communist Party* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: J. B. Miles
Date: 1945
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (folio JQ4098.C6 M5 1945)

***An atlas of political parties in Australia and the United States* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Everett M. Claspy
Date: 1944
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (folio JQ 4098 .A1 C5 1944)

***Now get ready for war* - [Library Record](#)**

Date: (1919)
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (JQ4092 .N6 1919)

***United Australia* - [Library Record](#)**

Date: 1890
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (JQ 4015 1890 .U6)

***What a Labour government has done in Australia* - [Library Record](#)**

Date: (1919)
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (JQ4092 .W5 1919)

Australian Independence

***Freedom and independence for the golden lands of Australia: the rights of the colonies and the interest of Britain and of the world* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: John Dunmore Lang 1799-1878
Date: 1852
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (DU135 .L25)

***The British overseas: exploits of a nation of shopkeepers* - [Library record](#)**

Author: C. E. Carrington (Charles Edmund)
Date: 1950
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (DA16 .C32 1950)

***The coming event: or The united provinces of Australia* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: John Dunmore Lang

Date: 1850?

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (JQ4584 .L3)

Napoleonic Wars

***History of Napoleon Bonaparte and wars of Europe from the Revolution in France to the termination of the late wars including anecdotes of the most celebrated characters that have appeared during and since the Revolution* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: W. B. Heweston

Date: 1823

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (DC151 .H49 1823)

***History of the expedition to Russia, undertaken by the Emperor Napoleon, in the year 1812* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Philippe-Paul Segur 1780-1873

Date: 1825

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (DC235 .S455)

***The manuscript of 1814: A history of events which led to the abdication of Napoleon. Written at the command of the emperor* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Baron Fain

Date: 1823

Description: A description - written at Napoleon's personal command - of his final months in power before his abdication and first exile to Elba. Contains an account of his final 'Campaign of France' during which he fought a battle every two days against the advancing Prussians.

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (DC203 .F35 1823)

***Northern campaigns from the commencement of the war in 1812, to the armistice signed and ratified June 4 1813...* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: John Philippart 1784?-1874

Date: 1813

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (DC235 .P55 1813)

***A study of the strategy and tactics of the Waterloo Campaign, illustrating the principles of war* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Tacticus

Date: 1927

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (DC242 .T3 1927)

Nuclear Warfare

***Brighter than a thousand suns: the moral and political history of the atomic scientists* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Robert Jungk

Date: 1958

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (QC773 .J813 1958)

***The nuclear barons* - [Library Record](#)**

Authors: Peter Pringle, James Spigelman

Date: 1983
Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (QC792.7 .P74 1983)

***Operations in a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear environment* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Australian Defence Force Warfare Centre

Date: 2005

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (UA870 .A97 O63 2005)

Vietnam War

***Conference to end the Vietnam War, August 1968: a collection of conference papers and reports* - [Library Record](#)**

Author: Conference to End Vietnam War (1968: Brisbane, Qld.)

Date: 1968?

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (DS557.3 .C66 1968)

***Dr. Cairns, Mr. Whitlam and Vietnam: an analysis of the background* - [Library Record](#)**

Date: 1975

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (folio DS 557.6 .D7 1975)

***Vietnam: background to the conflict* - [Library Record](#)**

Date: 1965

Canberra, Academy Library Special Collection (DS 557.6 .V5 1965)

Collated by Susan Thomas, Assistant Curator, Special Collections: Mar 2019
Updated: Aug 2020