

## AUSTRALIAN COLLECTIONS

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### THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S PAPERS 1788-1825

The Colonial Secretary of New South Wales was the main medium of communication between the Governor and the people and vice versa. These records therefore reflect all aspects of Colonial life in New South Wales. New South Wales was the founding colony of Australia and covered the whole of the eastern half of the Australian continent and Tasmania. That makes this collection of records an unparalleled source for Australian history. These Papers cover administration by the civil and military authorities, the granting and settlement of land, the operation of the convict system, the exploration of the interior and the coast, interaction with the Aboriginal population and the commercial and maritime developments of the Colony. The many petitions and memorials from settlers, emancipists and convicts provide a vivid picture of the life of the ordinary people in the Colony, as well as the more prominent historical figures. These papers, which constitute the largest and most comprehensive collection of public records relating to the early years of European settlement in Australia, were published as part of the New South Wales State Government's Departmental Programme for Australia's Bicentenary.

The papers are copied onto 72 reels of 35mm vesicular roll film and 312 diazo microfiche. Two publications -- an index, comprising 63 microfiche and a Handbook, and Information Leaflet No. 40, a guide to the microforms -- complete the package.

### PROBATE INDEX - VICTORIA

This index covers the period 1841 to 1991 and includes names, surnames, occupation, date of death, late residence and a reference number used to retrieve papers from the Probate Office or Public Record Office of Victoria as appropriate. Can be purchased as complete set of 500 microfiche or in small date ranges.