



Australian Government



**NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
OF AUSTRALIA**

Records Authority

2017/00154405

Transfer of custody and ownership

Department of Finance

*Records relating to Japanese companies seized under
Trading with the Enemy Act 1939*

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2017



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INTRODUCTION

This authority gives the Department of Finance permission under the *Archives Act 1983* to transfer the custody and ownership of specified Japanese company records seized during World War II to the National Archives of Japan. The records predominantly document business-related processes and personal records of employees of Japanese companies trading in Australia, dating from approximately 1899 to 1941, and seized by the Australian Government in 1941 under the *Trading with the Enemy Act 1939*.

The records (as described in Schedule 1) have been evaluated by the National Archives of Australia and are not considered to be part of the archival resources of the Commonwealth as defined under section 3(2) of the *Archives Act 1983*. These records are historically significant to Japan.

This records authority is issued with agreement from the Department of Finance.

APPLICATION OF THIS AUTHORITY

1. This authority is to be used to determine the custody and ownership of Commonwealth records, covering records controlled by the Department of Finance and applies only to the records or classes of records described in Schedule 1.
2. The Department of Finance agrees that the National Archives of Australia will enter into agreements with the National Archives of Japan and make arrangements for the actual transfer of the records to the National Archives of Japan.
3. Any records that are not records created or owned by a Japanese Company at the time of their seizure by the Australian Government in 1941 and are inadvertently transferred to the National Archives of Japan remain the property of the Commonwealth and are to be returned to the National Archives of Australia.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For assistance with this authority or for advice on other information management matters, please contact National Archives' [Agency Service Centre](#).

AUTHORISATION

RECORDS AUTHORITY 2017/00154405

Person to whom notice of authorisation is given:

Ms Rosemary Huxtable, PSM
Secretary
Department of Finance

Purpose:

Authorises arrangements for the disposal of records in accordance with Section 24(2)(b) of the *Archives Act 1983*.

Application:

Japanese company business records, being company-related material and personal records of company employees seized by the Australian Government in 1941 under the *Trading with the Enemy Act 1939*, listed in Schedule 1.

This authority gives permission for the transfer of custody and ownership of the records described. This authority will apply only with the consent of the agency currently responsible for the records described.

Authorising Officer

Anne Lyons
Assistant Director- General
National Archives of Australia

Date of issue:

27 April 2017

JAPANESE COMPANY RECORDS

Class No	Description of records	Disposal action
62310	Records described in Schedule 1 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="395 338 1091 398">• are records owned or created by Japanese companies trading in Australia up to and including 1941, and<li data-bbox="395 405 1123 465">• were seized by the Australian Government in 1941 under the <i>Trading with the Enemy Act 1939</i>, and<li data-bbox="395 472 1027 501">• are not archival resources of the Commonwealth.	Transfer custody and ownership to National Archives of Japan

JAPANESE COMPANY RECORDS

Schedule 1

Records that document business-related processes and personal records of employees of Japanese companies trading in Australia, dating from approximately 1899 to 1941, and seized by the Australian Government in 1941 under the *Trading with the Enemy Act 1939*.

Series Accession	Title	Quantity identified in 1957
SP1096/1	Records of Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha Pty Ltd (Melbourne Branch) - pre 1941 records	97 boxes – 60 cubic feet
SP1096/2	Records of Mitsui Pty Ltd (Melbourne) - pre 1941 Records	18 boxes – 11 cubic feet
SP1096/3	Records of John Mitchell & Co (Kotoh-Melbourne) - pre 1941 records	18 boxes – 11 cubic feet
SP1096/4	Records of Iida & Co (Melbourne) - pre 1941 records	31 boxes – 22 cubic feet
SP1096/5	Records of Mitsui Bussan Kaisha Pty Ltd (Melbourne Branch) - pre 1941 records	47 boxes – 34 cubic feet
SP1098/4	Records of Mitsui - pre 1941 records	320 boxes & 15 parcels – 262 cubic feet
SP1098/7 *	Records of Araki - pre 1941 records	440 boxes & 19 parcels – 362 cubic feet
	* excludes 22 boxes – records of Heinrich Lanz AG – Lanz Tractor Company factory representative in Australia, Hans Tronser; box numbers 117 (partial), 118-135 inclusive, 315, 317 and 322	
SP1098/8	Records of Yamashita - pre 1941 records	366 boxes & 9 parcels – 307 cubic feet
SP1098/9	Records of Okura - pre 1941 records	46 boxes & 1 parcel – 36 cubic feet
SP1098/10	Records of Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha - pre 1941 records	112 boxes – 110 cubic feet
SP1098/11	Records of Yano and Joko - pre 1941 records	65 boxes – 61 cubic feet
SP1098/12	Records of Nosawa - pre 1941 records	14 boxes – 18 cubic feet
SP1098/13	Records of Japan Cotton Trading Company - pre 1941 records	170 boxes & 1 parcel – 134 cubic feet
SP1098/15	Records of Kiku Gumi - pre 1941 records	8 boxes – 8 cubic feet
SP1098/16	Records of Iida - pre 1941 records	44 boxes – 43 cubic feet
SP1098/17	Miscellaneous records	1 box – 1 cubic feet
SP1099/1 to SP1099/247 *	Records of Yokohama Specie Bank - pre 1941 records	1050 boxes – 912 cubic feet
	* excludes SP1099/100, SP1099/178, SP1099/185, SP1099/220, SP1099/227 and SP1099/245	
SP1101/1	Records of Mitsui Bussan Kasha Pty Ltd - pre 1941 records	475 boxes – 393 cubic feet