

CHINESE–AUSTRALIAN JOURNEYS

*Records on Travel, Migration and
Settlement, 1860–1975*



Paul Jones

research
guide

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

Chinese–Australian Journeys

Records on Travel, Migration and Settlement, 1860–1975

Paul Jones

This guide is number 21 in the series of Research Guides published by the National Archives.

Guides include the material known to be relevant to their subject area but they are not necessarily a complete or definitive guide to all relevant material in the collection.

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Acronyms

| | |
|--------|---|
| AEAT | Authority to Enter Australia Temporarily |
| AIF | Australian Imperial Forces |
| AR | alien registration |
| ASIO | Australian Security Intelligence Organisation |
| AWM | Australian War Memorial |
| BPC | British Phosphate Commissioners |
| CEDT | Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test |
| CMF | Commonwealth Military Forces |
| CPA | Communist Party of Australia |
| NAA | National Archives of Australia |
| NEI | Netherlands East Indies |
| NG | New Guinea |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| NT | Northern Territory |
| PICAO | Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization |
| PNG | Papua New Guinea |
| PRC | People's Republic of China |
| Qld | Queensland |
| RA | registered aliens |
| RAAF | Royal Australian Air Force |
| RAN | Royal Australian Navy |
| SA | South Australia |
| SWPA | South-West Pacific Area |
| Vic | Victoria |
| Tas | Tasmania |
| USA/US | United States of America/United States |
| WA | Western Australia |

Introduction

The National Archives of Australia

The National Archives of Australia ensures that full and accurate records documenting Commonwealth Government activities are created and kept. From this massive body of information the Archives selects, cares for and makes available to all, those records of continuing value. This collection constitutes the archives of the Commonwealth Government, a vast and rich resource for the study of Australian history, society and people.

The collection spans almost 200 years of Australian history. Its main focus is on material documenting Commonwealth Government activity since Federation in 1901. The Archives also has significant holdings of nineteenth-century records about functions transferred by the colonies to the Commonwealth Government at the time of Federation and subsequently. The records described in this guide are a small but significant part of the collection.

Access to the National Archives' collection is provided free of charge in public reading rooms located in each capital city. Researchers are assisted by specialist reference staff and are provided with reference tools to help them identify and use the records in the collection. These reference tools include the RecordSearch and PhotoSearch databases, guides, publications and fact sheets. Researchers unable to visit a reading room may seek information and help by telephone, mail, facsimile or email.

RecordSearch and PhotoSearch provide information about agencies, persons and series, as well as descriptions of over 2 million individual items. They are available for online searching in reading rooms located in all offices of the National Archives, at the [Australian War Memorial](#) and on the National Archives' website.

The National Archives' website (www.naa.gov.au) provides extensive information about the Archives, its collection and the services it offers. A visit to the site will help researchers determine whether the Archives holds records relevant to their research. Fact sheets and online guides on various topics are also available on the Archives' website.

About this guide

This guide aims to facilitate researchers' use of the records relating to Chinese that are held in the National Archives. The guide describes records on policy developments and on the day-to-day administration of the travel and settlement by people of Chinese background from the mid-nineteenth century to the 1970s.

The records held at the National Archives' offices in each state and territory are extensive. Under the racially restrictive immigration policy in place for much of the period covered by the guide, Chinese settlers and visitors had frequent contact with Commonwealth officials charged with responsibilities for the management of immigration and settlement. In the decades after World War II, Australia's slow shift away from racially restrictive policies involved Chinese from places other than China in new and more inclusive immigration programs.

The documentary legacy of the management of the transnational movement and Australian residence of Chinese constitutes a rich record of individuals and the communities they developed, as well as the bureaucratic, legal and social processes to which they were subjected.

Most of the records referred to in this guide were created after Federation in 1901. However, various records created by the Australian colonial governments and transferred to the Commonwealth are also included here. At the time of publication, all records described in this guide fall into the ‘open’ period and are available for viewing. Please see page 10 for details on gaining access to items.

While the guide is concerned with Chinese in Australia, broad relationships between Australia and China are touched on, as numerous records concern definitions of national populations and minorities, and commercial and inter-governmental relations.

Many record series consist of a wide range of materials recorded over a long time, which can present the researcher with difficulties in retrieving information of interest. This guide contains concise descriptions of record series and examples of items within them that relate to various topics. Some series and items are referred to in chapters dealing with different themes.

In locating a document of interest and interpreting its contents, an appreciation of its contextual detail may be of assistance. The guide highlights some of the connections between a file and its creators – including who created it and why, the completeness of the record and how it relates to other items dealing with the same topic.

A note on Chinese names

The names of individuals referred to in this guide are reproduced in the form in which they were written in the record under discussion. An individual may be referred to by different names in different records. The variations in names reflect different conventions in both English and Chinese. In Chinese, the ‘family’ name (or clan or lineage name) is customarily placed before the given names. This was a point of confusion for the port officials and others responsible for recording personal details.

Further variations could arise when the name was recorded in English. Cantonese and many other Chinese dialects have no standard written-English form. Mandarin (the official language of the People’s Republic of China) has as its standard English equivalent the ‘pinyin’ system of phonetic spelling. Other systems, such as the ‘Wade-Giles’, were in use in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the English version of the name will differ according to the system adopted. Recording a name in English by its sound alone could also result in different spellings on different occasions.

Variations in Chinese names also arose with the adoption of new names at different life stages. For example, at the time of a marriage, the name of a child might be replaced by another, while some Chinese took on European names and used them in combination with, or as an alternative to, their Chinese names.

Chinese women who married customarily retained their family name, a further cause of confusion for officials used to married women adopting the man’s family name. Many records on European women who married Chinese show a Chinese family name. In the early period covered by the guide, ‘Ah’ was a popular prefix to short names for men.

Records that provide the Chinese characters for names or alternative romanised spellings appear throughout this guide.

The structure of the guide

The guide is divided into an introduction and seven descriptive chapters.

Chapter 1 ('Overview of Chinese Settlement in Australia') provides an introduction to settlement processes and related Commonwealth legislation and regulations. This chapter also introduces the different kinds of records created under the Commonwealth's developing administrative processes.

Chapter 2 ('Policy, Procedures and Precedents') lists records held in the National Archives' collection that illustrate developments in Australia's policy and practice of immigration restriction after 1901 and the gradual relaxation of legislative and administrative constraints on visitors and residents after World War II.

Chapter 3 ('Arrival, Settlement and Travel') describes the principal record series relating to Chinese in each Australian state and territory. The coverage extends from colonial records to selections of records on the expanding programs of student visits, refugees and family reunions from the 1950s.

Chapter 4 ('Naturalisation and Alien Registration') documents in detail items relating to naturalisation, which was a common basis to the benefits of Australian citizenship in the later decades of the twentieth century. These records include colonial, state and Commonwealth Government files held by the National Archives. Chapter 4 also describes the records of the Commonwealth's registration of 'aliens' during and after World War I, from 1939 to the 1960s.

Chapter 5 ('Wartime Experiences') describes the participation of Chinese residents in all major conflicts in which Australia was involved in the twentieth century. With a particular focus on World War II, Chapter 5 deals with records relating to military service, support roles and experiences on the home front. Records on the evacuation and return of Chinese residents from Papua New Guinea, the Pacific Island territories and other countries are also described.

Chapter 6 ('Community') illustrates the wide range of records relating to the social, economic and political dimensions of Chinese settlement.

Chapter 7 ('Chinese in Papua New Guinea and Pacific Island Territories') deals with the Pacific Island territories formally linked to Australia through obligations under international agreements and through commercial engagements. This chapter describes a range of records about Chinese settlement, including items on administration by other nations and the extension of Australia's restrictive immigration policies to its territories, notably New Guinea. The Commonwealth's involvement in these territories has left a rich legacy of documentation on the residence, work and communal life of Chinese there.

Particular expressions relating to immigration, settlement and archival practices are used throughout the guide. Please see Appendix 1 for an explanation of the most commonly used terms. A list of acronyms is on p. 6 of this guide. Appendix 2 is a concise chronology of Chinese settlement from the 1890s to 1975, while appendixes 3 and 4 respectively contain a bibliography and a list of guides to the National Archives collection.

Access to the records in the National Archives

Many series described in this guide are listed in RecordSearch, the National Archives' online catalogue, which is available in the reading rooms of all offices of the Archives, at the Australian War Memorial and on the Archives' website (www.naa.gov.au). Indexes and inventories, available in reading rooms, may also be useful. Reference staff can assist researchers to use these lists.

Access to archival records is governed by the *Archives Act 1983*, which gives a right of access to most Commonwealth Government records that are over 30 years old. Records over 30 years old are said to be in the 'open' period. In rare instances, the government may release records less than 30 years old, under the accelerated release provisions of the Archives Act.

Some records are exempt from these access provisions (eg court records, some parliamentary records and some records of governors-general). Researchers are able to access all other open period records, including those held by agencies, unless those records contain information that falls into certain categories, called 'exemption categories', which are defined in section 33 of the Act. There are 15 exemption categories, and information that falls within them is said to be 'exempt information'. Before the Archives releases records for public access, it examines them to ensure that they do not contain exempt information (see Fact Sheet 46).

Most records (97.5%) are wholly released for public access, while 2% are released with some exempt information deleted. Only 0.5% of records are wholly withheld because they consist entirely of exempt information. Most exempt information is withheld to protect personal privacy, but defence, security and intelligence sensitivities are the next most common reasons for exemption.

Officers of the Archives are delegated under the Act to examine records and make decisions about whether they can be released. This is done in consultation with departments and agencies. Examination of records may often take a day or less, but if they require referral to agencies or overseas, it may take weeks or months. The Archives informs its clients of delays in this process.

If a researcher applies to see a record that is exempt from public access, the Archives will provide a written statement of reasons identifying the exempt information, the exemption category that applies and why it applies. Details of all records containing exempt information are available on RecordSearch. The access status will show OPEN, OPEN WITH EXCEPTION, WITHHELD PENDING AGENCY ADVICE OR CLOSED, while the reason for restriction will show the category or categories under which the information is exempted.

A researcher may appeal against an exemption and the Archives will review its decision, but if it is confirmed, the researcher may then appeal to the independent Administrative Appeals Tribunal (see Fact Sheet 12). There is no charge for obtaining access or for applying to the Archives to review its decision, but an application fee applies for appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Regardless of the type of research they undertake at the National Archives, researchers will only be able to examine open period records (ie 30 years of age or older) that do not contain sensitive information or those released under the accelerated release provisions of the Archives Act.

RecordSearch and PhotoSearch

The National Archives has two principal electronic catalogues to assist researchers to access its collection. RecordSearch is the National Archives' collection database. It contains descriptions of 60 000 collections (called series) and 6 million record items as well as details of about 9 000 creators and depositors. The National Archives continues to add item entries to RecordSearch at a rate of several hundred thousand each year. The database currently describes only about 10% of all items in the collection, so to ensure that their search is comprehensive, researchers should also contact reference staff and search other finding aids. PhotoSearch is an online catalogue containing a selection of digital images from the National Archives' photographic collections. PhotoSearch currently contains more than 80 000 online images. Several thousand images are added to PhotoSearch each month.

Record descriptions

Each entry in this guide describes a group of records maintained together as a series. A series is made up of items, which are often individual files (sometimes volumes, sets of cards, photographs and other types of media), received into custody by the National Archives from a creating agency or person. Series usually consist of many items, but occasionally they may consist of just a few items or even a single item.

The description for each series gives its content and function. The entry concludes with a list of items selected from the series. Some series may not have items listed on RecordSearch. In many instances in this guide particular series have been found to contain material on different aspects of the Chinese in Australia, and they may be referred to several times in a specific chapter as well as in other chapters. The full description of each series is given only on its first appearance in each chapter.

The example on the following page demonstrates how a series and its items are typically described in this guide.



To obtain a Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test, Charles Soong Yocklunn was required to submit photographs of himself, c1932.
NAA: PP4/2, 1932/770

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890–1969 | A1 |
| 2 | Recorded by: 1901–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7) 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15) 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24) 1932–39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27) | |
| 3 | Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin) | |
| 4 | This is the principal correspondence record series of the Department of External Affairs and its successors. It covers a wide range of subjects, including migration, alien registration, passports and naturalisation, and various ‘external affairs’ matters. Most records deal with individual cases and inquiries. Series A31 contains selective indexes to A1. | |
| 5 | Relaxation of disabilities of Chinese in Australia - interview with Minister, 1903–18 | A1, 1918/14472 |
| 6 | This item includes correspondence and minutes from a meeting of Chinese community leaders from Sydney and Melbourne and their supporters with the Minister for Home and Territories (Patrick Glynn) in November 1918, and the Minister’s decisions on requests for relaxation of restrictive practices. | |

Key

- 1** This information gives the **series title** and the date range of the records that make up the series. The **series number** is shown on the upper right-hand side. Please note that most series and item titles in this guide have been edited for brevity, descriptive value and consistency.
- 2** This shows the person or government agency that created the series. It also shows the date range during which each series was created or recorded. This date range does not necessarily correspond to the contents date range of the records, which appears in the series title. The CP (Commonwealth person) and the CA (Commonwealth agency) numbers are unique identifiers allocated by the Archives to each person or agency. These numbers can be used to retrieve more information about the person or agency, and the records they created, from the Archives’ online database, RecordSearch.
- 3** This shows the total volume of records in the series. The state or territory office of the National Archives at which they are held is shown in brackets. If copies of records are held in other locations, this is indicated here.
- 4** This is a brief description of the series.
- 5** This shows the title given to the item by the person or agency that created it. The dates of the earliest and latest document on the file are shown. The item’s identifying number appears on the right-hand side of the description. This number **must be quoted** when requesting a copy of the record or access to it.
- 6** This describes the main contents of an item. Note that it **does not describe** every document on the file.

Wildcard searches and digitised records

RecordSearch allows users to search using wildcards. To search using wildcards, use the initial letters of the desired search term and add an asterisk (*). For example, 'Chin*' will search and retrieve all keywords beginning with the letters 'C-h-i-n', such as 'China' and 'Chinese'. Users can also search for items within series by using a wildcard – for example, a wildcard search on 'A1, 1916/*' will retrieve all items in series A1 starting with '1916/'.

More digital copies of records are being added daily to RecordSearch. Digital copies can be accessed from the RecordSearch item display screen by clicking on the 'R' icon. Item descriptions in this guide generally indicate whether a particular item was digitised at the time of the guide's publication.

Citing the records

The correct citation of archival records is important both when requesting them and when referring to them in written or published works. Using proper citations will not only help staff to locate records more readily, but will also help other researchers find cited material. The correct form of citation for records held by the National Archives of Australia is as follows: the name 'National Archives of Australia' followed by a colon, the series number followed by a comma, and then the item number. The name 'National Archives of Australia' may be abbreviated to 'NAA' provided the full name has been used in the first citation:

National Archives of Australia: A1, 1918/14472

NAA: A1, 1918/14472

Copyright applies to many records in the Archives' collection – see [Fact Sheet 8](#), available from National Archives' reading rooms or on the Archives' website (www.naa.gov.au, under 'Publications'). To obtain information about copyright permission in order to use these images, please contact the National Archives by telephone (1300 886 881) or email (copyright@naa.gov.au).

Charges for copies

Viewing records at any office of the National Archives is free, but various charges apply for copying items or photographs. For a list of these charges, please refer to [Fact Sheet 51](#) and [Archives Advice 22](#), both of which can be viewed online. An order form for obtaining images is also available online.

Locating further information

More information can be found by searching the National Archives' database, RecordSearch, which is available for online searching in reading rooms located in all offices of the National Archives, at the Australian War Memorial and on the National Archives' website. Reference inquiries can be made at any National Archives' office or by contacting the Archives' reference service by phone, fax or email. Contact details and addresses are shown in Appendix 5, while addresses for other archives are found in Appendix 6.

1.

Overview of Chinese Settlement in Australia

The first Chinese to settle and work in Australia after white settlement were probably the small groups of free settlers and domestic servants who arrived in the Australian colonies in the early nineteenth century.¹

In the late 1840s Chinese from Singapore were employed on indentured labour contracts in the colonies of Western Australia and South Australia. The Western Australian colonial government supervised the employment of more labourers between 1847 and 1898. Larger groups were brought from China to New South Wales and by the early 1850s, more than 3 000 Chinese were engaged to work as shepherds and in other pastoral and agricultural pursuits.²

By the time of the major gold discoveries of the 1850s, Chinese, both small groups and single men, were working in a range of rural occupations across the Australian mainland.

At the height of the gold rushes in New South Wales and Victoria, the Chinese population grew to 60 000. Chinese at Bendigo in Victoria made up more than a quarter of the local population. In 1861 some 3.3% of the population of the Australian colonies had come from China.

In Queensland, Chinese worked at various gold fields, but they were most numerous on the Palmer River goldfield, which flourished from 1873 to the end of wide-scale alluvial mining by 1882.

In 1877, a Chinese population of 17 000 formed some 90% of the total on the diggings. Gold was also mined in the Northern Territory in the 1870s, with the most significant finds at Pine Creek. Several hundred Chinese diggers worked under contract to European miners.



Tang Song, a long-term resident of Northern Australia, was issued with a CEDT in 1921. NAA: E752, 1921/52

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1. Concise introductory essays on the settlement of Chinese are included in James Jupp (ed), *The Australian People: An Encyclopedia of the Nation, its People and their Origins*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.
 2. Maxine Darnell in Chan, H, Curthoys, A and Chiang, N (eds), *The Overseas Chinese in Australasia: History, Settlement and Interactions: Proceedings*, Interdisciplinary Group for Australasian Studies and Centre for the Study of the Chinese Southern Diaspora, Taipei, 2001.

They were followed by others from southern China. By the 1880s they numbered more than 10 000. In Tasmania from the 1870s, Chinese arrived to work at tin mining in the north-east of the colony. Their population peaked at some 1 000, most of whom had left the industry by the early 1900s. When gold was discovered in Western Australia in the 1880s and 1890s, Chinese were barred from working the diggings.

By the time the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* was passed by the first Australian Federal Parliament and effectively banned further migration, the number of Chinese in Australia was in a steady decline. A majority of the predominantly male population of Chinese diggers on the goldfields of the 1850s had left Australia long before the 1901 legislation was passed, and the large-scale migrations of Chinese (and other nationalities) to other mining rushes had ended by the 1880s.

Furthermore, by the 1890s, the colonial parliaments had placed restrictions on the migration of ‘coloureds’ in general and Chinese in particular. Various ‘head taxes’ and limits on the number of Chinese on individual ships operated to slow the ‘floods’ and ‘influxes’ of popular and political mythology. The official Census figures show a contraction from 38 000 to 33 000 Chinese in Australia in the decade before 1901; of these, more than 95% were men.

In 1947 the Chinese population numbered some 12 000, more than one-third of which was female. Following the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, movement to and from China was most difficult. A small number of settlers arrived from China each year during the decades when Australia’s restrictive migration policy was gradually relaxed before its formal abolition in the 1970s. Most came from other countries – in the 1950s and 1960s, students and professionals arrived from South-East Asian countries and Hong Kong; in the 1970s and 1980s Chinese refugees settled in Australia in the wake of the Indo-China wars; and from the mid-1980s, when Australian immigration policy encouraged business migrants, Chinese settlers came from Taiwan and Hong Kong. By 1971 some 40 per cent of Australia’s 26 000 ethnic Chinese residents had migrated from places other than China and 45% were Australian-born. China again became a major source of immigration to Australia in the 1990s.

Settlement patterns

From Federation to World War II, Australia’s Chinese population displayed distinctive patterns of settlement and travel. First, most resided in the eastern mainland states of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, with smaller, close-knit communities in Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Among Western Australia’s population were the settlers from Singapore in the late colonial period, but most Chinese either came from, or traced their family roots, to China’s southern coastal province of Guandong (then known as Canton or Kwantung). Some 5% of the total were from the neighbouring province of Fujian (then Amoy). The pre-eminent communal organisations and family and social traditions were those of southern China, in all their variations. Many came from neighbouring districts, for example, the Sze Yup (‘four counties’), with its communal associations centred on Melbourne. At Sydney were many settlers from Zhongshan district, with its own distinctive dialect and community relationships. Other dialects included Hokkien, for example, or Hakka, which was spoken in northern Australia.

Second, as the Australian population at large was increasingly urbanised in the late nineteenth century, so too were Chinese residents. Between 1881 and 1901, the concentrations of Chinese in capital cities across Australia grew two- to threefold. Of the 7 500 Chinese in Victoria in 1901, 2 500 lived in Melbourne. Sydney was home to more than 3 500 of the 11 000 resident in New South Wales. A population of several thousand Chinese centred on Darwin in the Northern Territory outnumbered the European population for most of the first decade after 1901. Of the eastern mainland capital cities Brisbane alone had a relatively small population of Chinese – some 400 of the 8 000 resident in Queensland. Many lived in Queensland’s regional centres of Cairns (2 000), Townsville and other locations in the north. By 1947, the level of urbanisation of Chinese Australia-wide approached 90%.

‘Chinatowns’ were features of many regional centres and the metropolitan cities. Here were provided opportunities for business, employment and social life. Weekend schools were established, for example, and old and new communal associations found a home. Christian congregations were also set up and brought with them links to wider social and community networks. These concentrations of population were important for the support they offered to a declining population subject to an array of restrictive laws.

However, not all Chinese resided in or near Chinatowns. The shift to urban centres continued and Sydney even managed to maintain its population of Chinese between 1901 and 1947 as rural dwellers moved there. Yet a distinctive pattern of Chinese settlement in the first half of the twentieth century was the wide dispersal of the non-metropolitan population across Australia. Sizeable communities developed in some towns and declined in others. The Chinese population of the key mining centres of the mid- to late nineteenth century dwindled in succeeding decades. By the 1920s, some regional centres were home to populations of 200 to 400 Chinese. Many others lived singly or in small groups at the edges of country towns across the land.

Settlement and transnational circulation

The migratory movement of the Chinese population developed in another way. A pattern of regular, short-term visits to the home villages and towns of southern China marked out the life of the White Australia Policy. The formal restrictions on Chinese settlement expanded after 1901 as the Commonwealth legislated on the matters within its power and the states retained and further developed the restrictive laws of the colonial era.

By 1920 a dozen laws referred to Chinese in their restrictive sections. Other laws employed indirect wording, such as ‘aboriginal natives of Asia, Africa or the Islands of the Pacific’, while classifications that included place of birth, ‘colour’, ability with English language, parentage and nationality were variously applied to exclude Chinese and other ‘coloureds’ from legislated benefits ranging from the vote to the old age pension. Visits to China were undertaken in the colonial period, but national policies that barred family migration and curtailed Chinese entitlements on a broad front effectively entrenched a pattern of regular visits to China.

The instability of Chinese dynastic rule at the start of the twentieth century coincided with an expansion in communications among and between Chinese communities around the world. With Canton a centre for unrest, it was inevitable that developments on the Chinese mainland were of heightened interest to Chinese in Australia with family and

community links to southern China. These emotional links were given concrete form as formal associations developed among Chinese in Australia to support the imperial government, to reform it or to promote its overturn. In the first half of the twentieth century, a declining population travelled between Australia and China and China and Australia on more than 150 000 occasions. Assumptions of unchanging loyalties to the inscrutable traditions of the nineteenth century and earlier were more creations of Australia's racial exclusion project than a true reflection of the dynamics of travel and settlement by Chinese. Chinese settlement and affinities with both Australia and China were sustained by rather more complex institutional processes and networks.³

A racialised migration program that encouraged transnational lifestyles also helped shape local communities and their links to China. Merchants, for example, favoured by the migration bureaucracy for their 'standing', could introduce wives from China on temporary visits. Some managed to introduce assistants for their business, and alternates ('substitutes') for themselves when they visited China. These migratory gains were largely denied to most Chinese in Australia as permission depended on the annual turnover of a business and a commitment to international trade. Many Chinese residents shared similar experiences and traditions, yet, in important ways, this was a diverse community of shifting social and political affiliations.

Barred from naturalisation under Australian law after 1903, Chinese nationality remained important to settlement in Australia. Chinese diplomatic representation in Australia after 1909 provided a focus for campaigns for relaxations to restrictive laws. By 1912, for example, travel concessions for visitors had been won, and cooperation with consular staff saw further loosening of the restrictions on travel and residence, notably in the early 1920s and again in early 1930s as consular representation expanded. These were notable gains for a declining, ageing population. One recurrent appeal, for Chinese wives to settle in Australia, was flatly rejected.

The regulation of arrival, settlement and movement

Before the Commonwealth of Australia was formed on 1 January 1901, the various Australian colonies administered their own migration laws on Chinese. Queensland, for example, allowed the entry of wives and children of Chinese but obliged them to use separate travel certificates from those of their husband. Therefore, the entry of family was limited by the tonnage of the ship on which they travelled. New South Wales applied a £100 tax to Chinese who crossed into the state by land or sea.

Only after 1901 was a national racially informed immigration restriction put in place. The *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* took effect on 1 January 1902. While the Act made no mention of non-Europeans, it introduced a test of literacy – the 'Dictation Test'. The Act stipulated that any individual who was not able to write 50 words of dictation in the language specified by the Customs officer could be excluded from the country. This restrictive device was adopted to meet the concerns of Britain and Japan with more direct means of regulating immigration.

3. Adam McKeown, 'Conceptualising Chinese Diaspora, 1842 to 1979', *Journal of Asian Studies*, No. 58-2, May 1999, provides a detailed account of the dynamics of transnational lifestyles among Chinese.

Form No. 21. **COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.** No. *41/06*
DUPLICATE. *Immigration Restriction Acts 1901-1905 and Regulations.*

CERTIFICATE EXEMPTING FROM DICTATION TEST.

I, *Clayton Turner Mason* the Collector of Customs for the State of *West Australia* in the said Commonwealth, hereby certify that *Samuel Thomas Fong* hereinafter described, who is leaving the Commonwealth temporarily, will be excepted from the provisions of paragraph (a) of Section 3 of the Act if he returns to the Commonwealth within a period of *3 years* from this date.

Date *12th March 1906* *Clayton Mason* Collector of Customs.


DESCRIPTION

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Nationality <i>Chinese</i> | Birthplace <i>Geraldton W.A.</i> |
| Height <i>5ft</i> | Complexion <i>Dark</i> |
| Build <i>Medium</i> | Hair <i>Black</i> |
| Particular marks <i>None</i> | Eyes <i>Dark brown</i> |


(For impression of hand see back of this document.)

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Full Face: *HSK*



Profile: *HSK*



Date of departure *4th May 1906* Destination *Canton China*
 Ship *Sultan*

Date of return _____ Ship _____
 Port _____

Customs Officer

Sam Fong, born in Geraldton, WA, applied for a CEDT to allow him to re-enter Australia after travelling overseas in 1906. NAA: K1145, 1906/41

At the outset, the Dictation Test was given in any European language (subsequently altered to ‘any prescribed language’) and it could be administered within a year of arrival. This was extended to two years in 1910, to three years in 1920 and to five years in 1932. The test was probably used to greatest effect between 1901 and 1905, when port officers tested and refused entry to more than 700 newcomers and residents, or more than half the number excluded in this way. Legal contestation over the test and admission to Australia was marked in these years, and again in the late 1940s and 1950s, in actions in the High Court of Australia involving wartime refugees and others. Abandoned in 1958, the Dictation Test endures in popular historical memory as a cornerstone of the White Australia Policy.

Only with the passage of the constitutional requirement of free trade, commerce and other exchanges between the states did Commonwealth administration of migration law replace the laws of the former colonies. This was formalised on 21 October 1902. Then New South Wales abandoned its poll tax for Chinese who arrived by land. Seaborne arrivals were another matter. The tax remained for ships’ passengers for another six months and Chinese visitors were obliged to pay the New South Wales Government a bond of £100 in addition to the £100 bond demanded of them by the Commonwealth. The state law lapsed in mid-1903, before its legality could be contested in the newly established High Court of Australia.

Two amendments to the Immigration Restriction Act directly affected the travel rights of Chinese. The first amendment, passed in 1904–05, provided for visits by ‘coloured’ merchants, tourists and students, and was adopted for Chinese merchants and students from 1912. The second amendment changed the conditions of travel from and to Australia by ‘coloureds’. Section 3n of the 1901 Act permitted the entry of anyone ‘who satisfies an officer that he has formerly been domiciled in the Commonwealth or in any colony which has become a State’. Any person ‘domiciled’ in Australia who wished to leave temporarily could apply for a Certificate of Domicile. A related section, section 3m, allowed them to introduce their wives and dependants.

This section was suspended by proclamation in March 1903 and the Certificate of Domicile system was removed from the Act in December 1905. During the four-year life of the Certificate of Domicile, some 2 200 certificates were issued under the narrow interpretations of rights of travel and residency. Fewer than 120 wives and children of residents were admitted to Australia under this scheme.

A new system of certification of travel was established when the system of domicile certification was abandoned in 1905. Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDTs) were made available to residents of ‘good character’ (section 4b of the Act) who had lived in Australia for five years. A pattern of regular visits to China ensued. Some 120 approved journeys by Chinese in 1902 grew tenfold by 1905 and thereafter to several thousand in the following years.

Visitors to Australia travelled under a different scheme. Wives and dependant children, students, businessmen and others were admitted on a short-term basis on Certificates of Exemption.

The difficulties were more than those caused by the administrative transition to a nationwide restrictive regime. The Act presented successive governments with a slim basis on which to manage travel through the ports. Sections of the Act dealing with

residents also were brief. The Act merely noted the rights of the domiciled resident to travel and to re-enter the country. After the legislative changes of 1905, the further development of restrictive migration policy resided in the offices of the minister, senior public servants and the Cabinet room, and their work in promulgating rules for both residents and new arrivals proved to be an immense undertaking. Between 1902 and 1911 alone, the Secretary of the Commonwealth department that administered the Act circulated to Customs officers in each state in excess of 400 operational guidelines on ‘coloured’ immigration. Some provided clarifications of procedures following court actions by Chinese.

Chinese residents and visitors were of central concern – as participants in the circulation to and from China, as objects of surveillance of their movement through the ports and as protesters against the limitations imposed on them. This further policy development centred on the rights to use the official systems of travel. Definitions of approved merchant activity, the ages of students, the duration of their visits and so on were matters of ongoing development.

Categories of approved entry by merchants’ assistants, local traders’ assistants and substitutes, as well as short-term visits by wives and children, were subject to revision. The bureaucratic needs associated with Australia-wide systems were also matters of ongoing development. Systems of identification using photographs, handprints and character references were developed and refined, along with processes to record and verify movements through ports Australia-wide. Chinese who arrived at an Australian port in the first half of the twentieth century faced a shifting regulatory framework that influenced how long they could stay, whom they might bring with them, their employment or business prospects, and their rights to various political and social entitlements while in Australia.

Chinese settlement after 1940

World War II brought many Chinese to Australia. The formal allowance for visits by merchants and students effectively lapsed at the outset of the Pacific war and Chinese visitors in Australia on Certificates of Exemption or under other arrangements were permitted to remain under a special extension to 1942 and then to 1947. In 1942 and 1943 Chinese evacuees and refugees arrived from New Guinea, various Pacific Island territories and South-East Asian countries, and Hong Kong. Chinese merchant seamen stranded by the hostilities added to the numbers.

Most of the wartime arrivals left Australia at the war’s end. Following the war, the long-term decline in the population slowed and the numbers increased with the addition of new visitors, notably business substitutes and assistants and dependants of residents. Following a review of policy in 1947, visiting merchants’ wives and dependants were permitted to remain for seven years; local traders’ families, five years; and the families of temporary assistants on a case-by-case basis. The *War-time Refugee Removals Act 1949*, introduced to deport the remaining wartime arrivals, proved highly contentious. With a change of government (and the difficulties of deportation to China after 1949), some 800 wartime refugees were allowed to remain.

The marginal but dramatic changes to long-standing policies continued over the next decade. In 1956 the categories of approved work-related visits were again revised. Wives and families could remain for the duration of the spouse's residency, while residents of fifteen years' standing could apply for naturalisation. Long-term residents benefited, as did those caught up in uncertainties over the residency status of seamen and other wartime arrivals. In 1959 the *Migration Act 1958*, which replaced earlier immigration legislation, abolished the Dictation Test.

The classes of persons eligible to enter Australia were also expanded. 'Distinguished and highly qualified non-Europeans' could enter Australia on indefinite stays. Studies of these changes suggest that while the formal modifications had broadened the categories of acceptability, they had not appreciably improved the chances of admission. Decisions on entry were matters of ministerial discretion. One estimate suggests an average annual increase (exclusive of student visitors) of 150 Chinese residents between 1947 and 1966.⁴

In 1966 the Australian Government announced major changes to the rules of entry for non-Europeans. Dispensing with general notions of 'highly qualified' or 'distinguished', the new criteria referred to professional and technical qualifications and occupations, and residents of five years' standing could apply for naturalisation. In 1966 some 8 500 private Chinese students and another 4 000 sponsored under various government schemes were enrolled in Australian schools and universities. Most were from Hong Kong and South-East Asian countries. Many of them and their predecessors met the criteria set in 1966 and constituted permanent settlers who migrated in subsequent years.

The administration of immigration law

The implementation of the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* was the responsibility of the Department of External Affairs, whose minister enjoyed broad discretionary powers over admission and deportation.⁵ The Act also empowered Customs officers to administer immigration functions. This authority was later extended to include state police, but it was the 'Collectors of Customs' for each state and their officers who carried out the day-to-day work of managing movement through the ports, under the supervision of the Department of External Affairs and its successors.

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1902–16 | Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7) ⁶ |
| 1916–32 | Department of Home and Territories (CA 15) |
| 1928–32 | Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24) |
| 1932–45 | Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27) |

Many of the records of these departments are held in the National Archives office in Canberra. These records relate closely to the files recorded by the operational arms of the immigration bureaucracy in the states and the Northern Territory.

4. London, H, *Non-White Immigration and the 'White Australia' Policy*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1970; and Choi, C, *Chinese Migration and Settlement in Australia*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1975.

5. This agency was also responsible for diplomatic appointments, aliens' control and the administration of Australia's foreign territories.

6. The Department of External Affairs was under the direct control of the Prime Minister from 1903 to 1910; a separate Prime Minister's Office was established in April 1904.

For records relating to individuals or particular research themes, a wide-ranging search can reward effort as documents of interest may be found in more than one location. Before World War II, for example, Customs officers often submitted their recommendations on individual cases to the central administration of External Affairs (and its successors). The head offices of the Immigration authorities frequently retained and added to the contents of these files. So, too, as individuals shifted residence to another state, a new file on their travel or other activities of interest to the Commonwealth could be created, and so on. From time to time, re-arrangements of government records have seen some record series relocated to Canberra or Sydney. Therefore, it may prove useful for the researcher to widen the search beyond the last place of residence of the person.

While the best collection of policy files from the later decades of the twentieth century are located in the Canberra office of the National Archives, copies of instructions and policy advices issued to the state and territory branches of Commonwealth departments may be found in other offices of the National Archives. These records provide an overview of the governmental processes that guided travel and settlement.

The Department of Immigration was established in July 1945. Over the following 12 months departmental state offices took over immigration-related responsibilities from state and territory Collectors of Customs. ‘Case files’ are more clearly distinguished from policy files after 1945.

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1945–74 | Department of Immigration (CA 51) |
| 1974–75 | Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1775) |
| 1974–87 | Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I] (CA 1955) |

Many other government departments with important roles in the settlement and travel of Chinese in Australia are discussed in subsequent chapters of this guide. They include the Prime Minister’s Department, the Attorney-General’s Department, and the various intelligence and security services of the Commonwealth Government.



George and Hilda Quin Sing and their three children, 1920.

NAA: A1, 1920/6919

2.

Policy, Procedures and Precedents

This chapter introduces the formal policies and practices that applied to Chinese, emphasizing those relating to immigration. A nationwide policy program involved standardised rules for managing movement through the ports.

Also included in this chapter is an exhaustive listing of the formal travel documents that Chinese residents and visitors were obliged to use from 1902 to the 1960s. Students, businessmen and seamen constituted the largest groupings of Chinese visitors to Australia from 1901 to the 1960s. Indeed, settlement by students from South-East Asian countries and Hong Kong in the 1960s marks a fundamental shift in the history of Australian immigration. Records of visits by students and merchants are described in a separate section, as are records on policies for Chinese seamen in Australia.

The selections of records described below indicate the breadth of records created by Customs and Immigration officers and other government officials.

In this chapter, series and items are listed chronologically by location.

Canberra

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, c1850–1970

A981

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)

Quantity: 146.8 metres (Canberra)

This correspondence series, created by the Department of External Affairs in 1927 but containing material dating from around 1850, includes migration subject files. Topics are indicated by item prefixes, eg 'MIG' for migration.

Migration restrictions - Australia - policy and practice, 1919–39

**A981, MIG 52
part 2**

This digitised item is one of several in A981 that deal with restricted migration policy matters; it also includes some information about the history of the White Australia Policy.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF [THE] GOVERNOR-GENERAL (EXCLUDING WAR FILES), 1887–1937

A11804

Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)

Quantity: 29 metres (Canberra)

Records in this series contain communications between successive governors-general and British authorities, colonial administrators, state governors, prime ministers,

public institutions and members of the public. It also holds items on intergovernmental relations, often involving foreign consular staff such as the Consul-General of China.

Japanese and Chinese in Australia – laws affecting entry and residence, 1921–22

A11804, 1922/306

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890–1969

A1

Recorded by: 1901–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
 1932–39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin)

This is the principal correspondence record series of the Department of External Affairs and its successors. It covers a wide range of subjects, including migration, alien registration, passports and naturalisation, and various ‘external affairs’ matters. Most records deal with individual cases and inquiries. Series A31 contains selective indexes to A1.

Relaxation of disabilities of Chinese in Australia – interview with Minister, 1903–18

A1, 1918/14472

This item includes correspondence and minutes from a meeting of Chinese community leaders from Sydney and Melbourne and their supporters with the Minister for Home and Territories (Patrick Glynn) in November 1918, and the Minister’s decisions on requests for relaxation of restrictive practices.

Disabilities of aliens and coloured persons in the Commonwealth and its territories, 1920–21

A1, 1921/13034

This item contains a summary of legislative restrictions imposed by the Commonwealth and the states upon aliens and coloured persons. The summary was prepared by officers of the Pacific Affairs Branch, Prime Minister’s Department.

Chinese Nationalist Party of Australia – re. alleged discourteous treatment by Customs officials, 1926–27

A1, 1927/19951

This item includes correspondence from Loy Wong, President of the Australian branch of the Guomindang, to the Minister for Home and Territories, exhorting him to an ‘independent’ stance on Chinese matters. This item is digitised.

Restrictions on immigration and on aliens in Australia – policy, 1934

A1, 1934/45

White aliens or coloured persons paying short visits to Australia, 1934–36

A1, 1936/4434

This item includes a direction to port officers that allowed them wider discretion to approve short-term ‘coloured’ visitors.

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1892–1970 | | A659 |
| Recorded by: | 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27) | |
| | 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31) | |
| | 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51); subsequently by other agencies | |
| Quantity: | 103 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in Darwin and Melbourne | |
| | This series consists of correspondence files on departmental operational matters. | |
| | Chinese Government – reciprocity re. grant of visas, 1947 | A659, 1947/1/2496 |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1895–1905 | | A8 |
| Recorded by: | Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7) | |
| Quantity: | 8.28 metres (Canberra) | |
| | This series was recorded by the Department of External Affairs, one of the first seven Departments of State established at Federation in 1901. It includes many records about the implementation of legislation restricting immigration, including those created during the transition from colonial to Commonwealth law. | |
| | RecordSearch item titles may include names of Chinese people, so wildcard and name searches can be used to locate information about specific individuals. | |
| | Priority of Commonwealth to Tasmanian legislation re. Chinese immigrants to Tasmania, 1901 | A8, 1901/184/1 |
| | Validity of Chinese Restriction Acts of the various states, 1902 | A8, 1902/52/2 |
| | Customs officers to apply Immigration Restriction Act over Chinese Restriction Acts of the states, 1902 | A8, 1902/52/3 |
| | Proclamation in Chinese and Indian languages re. Immigration Restriction Act, 1902 | A8, 1902/52/140 |
| | Inquiry by Chairman [of the] Committee of the Chinese in Australasia re. Exemption Certificates, 1902 | A8, 1902/116/166 |
| | Immigration Restriction Act – state permits under Chinese Restriction Acts outstanding, 1902 | A8, 1902/116/250 |
| [PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1900–56 | | A462 |
| Recorded by: | Prime Minister's Department (CA 12) | |
| Quantity: | 49 metres (Canberra) | |
| | The series relates to a wide range of subjects that came to the attention of the prime minister of the time. | |
| | Proposed treaty of amity between China and Australia – information on status of Chinese, 1948–50 | A462, 612/2/2 |
| | This digitised item includes a survey of the states' restrictions on Chinese. | |

LETTER BOOKS OF OPINIONS – ATTORNEY-GENERAL, CROWN SOLICITOR AND SECRETARY OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, 1901–18**A8779**

Recorded by: Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)

Quantity: 0.9 metres (Canberra)

This series consists of four volumes of opinions of Crown solicitors, attorneys-general and secretaries of the Attorney-General's Department. It includes formal legal opinions and summaries of the correspondence that prompted the opinions.

BILL FILES, 1901–**A2863**Recorded by: 1901–70 Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)
1970 Office of Parliamentary Counsel (CA 2965)

Quantity: 449 metres (Canberra)

The series holds drafts of Commonwealth Bills, including a number of Bills dealing with immigration matters. The draft legislation for the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* is not held in this series.

Immigration Restriction Act, 1898–1910**A2863, 1910/10
part 1****Immigration Restriction Amendment Act, 1905****A2863, 1905/17****Immigration Restriction Act, 1908****A2863, 1908/25****FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1901–****A6006**Recorded by: 1976–81 Australian Archives (CA 1720)
1981–94 Australian Archives, ACT Regional Office
(CA 3196)
1994–98 Australian Archives, National Office (CA 7970)
1998– National Archives of Australia (CA 8550)

Quantity: 9.18 metres (Canberra); microfilm copies held in all state offices

A6006 is an artificial series created by the National Archives to accumulate papers placed before Cabinet during the 1901–38 period. No regular procedure for recording the decisions of Cabinet existed prior to 1925, and a systematic method for recording Cabinet submissions and decisions was not truly effected until 1941. This series contains copies of papers relevant to Cabinet that are not in any of the record series created by the Cabinet Office. These papers have been found in departmental files, personal collections and elsewhere.

A6006 item numbers are the date of the Cabinet meeting. In some cases, items have the same item number because they relate to the same meeting. When citing items from this series, the series number, item number and title need to be quoted. All items in the series are listed on RecordSearch, and the series is available on microfilm in all National Archives' reading rooms. The record in which the A6006 item was found is cited in square brackets.

A6006 includes many reports and other records on 'coloureds' that came to the attention of the Cabinet.

Presbyterian Moderator's request for Chinese missionary to enter Australia, 1921

The Cabinet decided that 'coloured' Christian clerics fell under the provisions of immigration restriction law

A6006, 1921/9/22
[A461, A349/3/4
part 1]

IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT PRECEDENT BOOK, 1902-11

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Canberra)

This series is a collection of short summaries of deliberations on migration policy issues that involved the Federal attorney-general, the prime minister and other senior government officers, as well as summaries of court cases on immigration won or lost by the Commonwealth. The series therefore provides an overview of the development of Australia's restrictive immigration policies and practices immediately following Federation and their implications for actual or prospective Chinese residents.

A20

REGISTER OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ACT, 1902-31

Recorded by: 1902-16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
1916-28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
1928-30 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Canberra)

The register in this series provides an overview of several hundred prosecutions under the Immigration Restriction Act. The summaries identify the individual, the section of the Act under which they were charged and the result of the court action. Some file references are included and refer to related records on individuals or companies held in other record series. A 'remarks' column includes detail on deportations, referrals to higher courts, refunds of fines and other outcomes.

A19

[HIGH COURT] FULL COURT CASE RECORDS (NSW), 1903-c1973

Recorded by: High Court of Australia (CA 1314)

Quantity: 22.86 metres (Canberra)

This series contains items dealing with appeals to decisions made in the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Donohoe, J T T v Wong Sau, L, 1924-25

The court case described in this item concerns the definition of 'migrant'. The case, which was decided in the Commonwealth's favour, settled the question of whether a person born in Australia could be considered a migrant and therefore subject to restrictions on their entry to Australia.

A10071

A10071, 1924/68

- [PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, OCCASIONAL 'G' (GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1903–** **A463**
- Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
 1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)
 1971 Department of the Vice-President of the Executive Council (CA 1402); subsequently by several other agencies
- Quantity: 27 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Darwin)
- Items in this series deal with an array of matters under the direct control of the prime minister of the day, including diplomatic relations, immigration and defence. There are also some items that deal with matters of nationality. Related 'classified' records are held in series A1209.
- Teaching of Asian languages at secondary and tertiary levels in Australia, 1964–68** **A463, 1965/1909**
- Establishment of diplomatic relations with [the] People's Republic of China – exchange of gifts, 1973** **A463, 1973/331**
- [HOME AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 'E' [ELECTORAL] PREFIX, 1904–** **A406**
- Recorded by: 1901–16 Department of Home Affairs [I] (CA 8)
 1916–18 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1918–73 Chief Electoral Office (CA 558); subsequently by other agencies
- Quantity: 130 metres (Canberra)
- Items in this series contain correspondence on arrangements for elections and referenda. Among the subjects dealt with in this series are posters and advertising and Aboriginal and migrant education.
- [Enrolment – status of ... Aboriginal natives of Asia ... Select Committee on Voting Rights of Aboriginals], 1929–61** **A406, E1957/1 part 2**
- This item is one of several detailing the restrictions on voting rights imposed on Chinese and other 'coloured' residents of Australia. All these items are digitised.
- PAPERS RELATING TO 'DEPARTMENTAL REPORT' (1901–06) TO THE MINISTER, 1906** **A517**
- Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)
- Quantity: 0.18 metres (Canberra)
- This series contains a folder of papers, among which is included a report that provides statistics on the early administrative development of immigration policy.
- Papers concerning External Affairs departmental report, 1906** **A517, 1**
- This digitised item includes a copy of a report on work by the Department of External Affairs from 1901 to 1906.

(1) IMMIGRATION BRANCH – BOOK OF PRECEDENTS; (2) RECORD OF PASSPORTS ISSUED IN CANBERRA, 1906–33**A1823**

Recorded by: 1912–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
 1932–33 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Canberra)

Material in the 'Book of Precedents' held in this series covers a wide range of migration issues. It includes extensive discussion of policy matters, eg court cases concerning Chinese from 1905, censuses of 'Asiatics' and other issues of concern to Australian immigration authorities.

[HOME AND TERRITORIES] PAPERS RETURNED BY ATLEE ARTHUR HUNT IN 1921, c1909–22**M4248**

Recorded by: Atlee Arthur Hunt CMG (CP 716)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Canberra)

The series comprises files from Atlee Hunt, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs (subsequently, the Department of Home and Territories) from 1901 to 1921. The files contain documents returned by Hunt to the department, after he had left it to become the first Public Service Arbitrator.

Inquiry into Chinese evasions – Mr R D Craig, 1909–10**M4248, 11**

The record includes reports on Chinese individuals by a secret agent employed by Atlee Hunt.

[TERRITORIES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1910–76**A452**

Recorded by: 1951–68 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60)
 1968–73 Department of External Territories [II] (CA 1284)
 1968 Territories Division, Department of the Interior, NT (CA 1286); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 916.41 metres (Canberra)

The files in this series originally related to the administration (general policy and staffing) of both the internal and external Australian territories, including the Northern Territory, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands.

Procedure for the entry into Australia of Chinese wives, minor children and fiancées from Hong Kong, 1963–64**A452, 1963/7846**

This item is digitised.

[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919–50**A433**

Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra)

Records in this series deal with various aspects of restricted immigration policy, including admission under

exemption, deportation, business visitors, ships' deserters and 'undesirables'.

Consul-General for China - representations re. [modifying] ... laws affecting Chinese nationals ..., 1929–33

[A433, 1946/2/4658](#)

This large item contains correspondence between successive Chinese consuls-general and Australian prime ministers and ministers about migration and settlement issues. The item also holds a report by Chinese Consul-General F T Sung, in which he notes the attendance of Australian Guomindang representatives at the Third National Guomindang Congress held in Nanking, China in March 1929. This report appears on pp. 311–12 of the digitised copy of this record, available online on RecordSearch.

Admission and facilities for Chinese - official submission through Consul-General, 1933–46

[A433, 1946/2/5023](#)

Sir John Latham - White Australia Policy and general immigration, 1941–45

[A433, 1945/2/5960](#)

This item is digitised.

White Australia Policy - Chinese criticism, 1947

[A433, 1949/2/8542](#)

This item is digitised.

Australian Natives Association - White Australia Policy, 1947–51

[A433, 1950/2/176](#)

This item is digitised.

Immigration policy (including the War-time Refugee [Removals] Act) - correspondence, 1949–50

[A433, 1949/2/10](#)

This item deals with legislative measures introduced after the end of World War II to deport wartime arrivals.

Replacement of 'Asiatic' by 'Asian' and prohibition of colour titles, 1950

[A433, 1950/2/2340](#)

This item deals with the use of offensive terms in immigration correspondence.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (POLICY MATTERS), 1922–68

A445

Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 28.81 metres (Canberra)

The series consists of general policy files relating to the assimilation, welfare and education of migrants. Subjects include conferences, refugees and restricted immigration policy.

Items directly concerned with nationality and citizenship enactments were removed and placed in series A446 (described on p. 33), but some material on naturalisations remains in this series.

Proposed future immigration policy - non-European and deportations, 1949–50

[A445, 236/16/20](#)

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|--|--------------------------|
| [SECURITY SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1923–56 | A373 |
| Recorded by: 1941–45 Security Service (CA 660) 1945–46 Investigation Branch (CA 747) 1946–48 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650) | |
| Quantity: 7.38 metres (Canberra) | |
| Included among records in this series are assessments of wartime and postwar issues that concern Chinese. | |
| [Status of Chinese merchants in Australia], 1946 | A373, 11676 |
| [IMMIGRATION] SECRET CORRESPONDENCE FILES – BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, ‘S’ (SECRET) PREFIX, c1930–80 | A6980 |
| Recorded by: 1972–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51); subsequently by other agencies | |
| Quantity: 74 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series contains material that documents departmental responses to sensitive immigration, visitor and citizenship issues. This series covers a wide range of topics, including opinions provided by various agencies on applications for immigration, temporary entry, citizenship or passports. This information was provided about various groups of aliens, with distinctions made between ‘political grounds’ and ‘security’. Similar material can be found in series A445 and A446. | |
| Non-Europeans – Cabinet decision [on] conditions governing admission of Chinese, 1947 | A6980, S250403 |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1933–71 | A1068 |
| Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) | |
| Quantity: 26.5 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series is a good source for information about policy shifts on migration to Australia after World War II. The contents of many items in this series extend beyond the date ranges suggested in their titles. | |
| Immigration of Chinese nationals to Australia – policy, 1947 | A1068, IC47/31/3 |
| This digitised item concerns a petition from the Chinese Consulate for a relaxing of the conditions imposed on Chinese nationals entering and residing in Australia. | |
| Political developments – immigration and immigration policy, 1947 | A1068, A47/2/1/10 |
| This item is digitised. | |
| Passports – policy and general, 1947 | A1068, T47/100 |
| CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES – FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES (WITH INDEXES), 1941–49 | A2703 |
| Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3) | |
| Quantity: 2.07 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney) | |
| This series contains typed minutes of Cabinet meetings and a small quantity of covering correspondence. | |

Minutes of meeting of full Cabinet ... 15 April 1947 **A2703, 154**
 This item concerns a Chifley Cabinet discussion on the admission of Chinese.

[PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (CLASSIFIED), 1944–

A1209

Recorded by: 1957–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
 1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)
 1971 Department of the Vice-President of the Executive Council (CA 1402); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 1 087 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series deal with general and policy matters handled by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Matters dealt with include political, social, cultural, economic, industrial, defence and immigration issues as well as honours, international conferences and diplomatic relations with other countries.

The items listed below are concerned with the many transitions in policy and procedures relating to non-European migration and settlement in Australia from the mid-1950s.

Non-European immigration – policy, 1955–71 **A1209, 1966/7143**
 This item is digitised.

Assistance for Chinese refugees in Hong Kong – policy, c1962 **A1209, 1962/538**

Australian immigration policy – Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, July 1964 **A1209, 1964/6584**

Immigration to Australia – policy, 1967–72 **A1209, 1967/7537**
 This item is digitised.

Immigration of non-Europeans – policy, 1970–74 **A1209, 1970/6502**
 This digitised item includes statements of major policy transition that affected Chinese migration in the early 1970s.

Immigration policy – brief for private discussions at Prime Ministers' Conference, Singapore, 1971 **A1209, 1971/9020**

[AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION, MALAYA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (SINGAPORE), 1946–57

A4968

Recorded by: 1946–56 Australian Commission, Malaya (from 1954, Commissioner for South-East Asia, Singapore) (CA 2950)
 1956–57 Australian Commission, Singapore, Brunei, Sarawak and North Borneo (CA 2951)

Quantity: 2.16 metres (Canberra)

This was the main correspondence series of the Australian Commission in the South-East Asia region. It contains items dealing with subjects such as the Colombo Plan, Australian foreign policy and immigration.

Australian immigration policy – deportation of 14 Malay seamen [and] Chinese, 1949

A4968, 25/10/2

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, 1953–

A446

Recorded by: 1953–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1775); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 3 422.37 metres (Canberra)

This is the main correspondence series for the Department of Immigration and its successors. It contains both individual case and policy files dealing with matters of interest to the department.

Admission of Chinese – policy – part 2, 1949–51

A446, 1966/45350

This digitised item is one of four in this series dealing with policy on the admission of Chinese to Australia (item nos A446, 1966/45349 to A446, 1966/45352).

Sydney

IMMIGRATION ACT – INSTRUCTIONS, 1914 (WITH ANNOTATIONS 1915–19), 1914–19

D3193

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains a small, printed volume that documents procedures for the day-to-day implementation of the Immigration Restriction Act. The volume has many handwritten annotations and loose-leaf updates.

[CUSTOMS AND EXCISE] BOARDING BRANCH RECORD OF FILES AND ORDERS, c1914–31

C4203

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Sydney)

This series contains two indexed registers of instructions on immigration administration for Customs boarding officers in New South Wales.

INVESTIGATION FILES (PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS), ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1921–46

C320

Recorded by: 1942–45 Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)
1945–46 Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)

Quantity: 4.5 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of correspondence files collated by the Security Service (later, the Intelligence Branch), New South Wales on 'suspect' activities. Items relating to Chinese individuals and organisations are identified by the prefix 'C', though other files may also be of interest.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Interview with Chinese Consul-General re. distinguishing badges for Chinese nationals, 1942 This record concerns a plan by the Chinese Consul-General to issue identification badges to Chinese in Australia.</p> | <p>C320, C27</p> |
| <p>[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1952–77</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1952–74 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, NSW (CA 1995) 1975 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NSW (CA 1968)</p> <p>Quantity: 38.7 metres (Sydney)</p> <p>This series contains case files as well as circularised instructions issued to Immigration officers in the decades before the end of racialised restrictions on migration and settlement. Additional material can be found in nominal indexes held in series SP1602/1 (1951–69), SP1689/1 (1960–75) and SP1729/1 (1976–79).</p> | <p>C3939</p> |
| <p>Admission of non-European amahs and servants, 1948–60</p> | <p>C3939, N1955/25/75039</p> |
| <p>Chinese wives and minor children, 1950–60</p> | <p>C3939, N1955/25/75032</p> |
| <p>Revised procedures for admission of Chinese from Hong Kong, 1962–67</p> | <p>C3939, N1962/75141</p> |
| <p>Nationality of wives and children of Australian-born Chinese, 1953–55 This item deals with procedures for determining nationality in the absence of relevant documentation, eg where a marriage had occurred, and the wife of an Australian-born Chinese would otherwise be deemed an alien.</p> | <p>C3939, N1955/25/75197</p> |
| <p>Admission of non-European members of religious orders, 1964–71</p> | <p>C3939, N1964/75138</p> |
| <p>Non-European admission of spouses, fiancées and minor children of Asians resident in Australia, 1965–66</p> | <p>C3939, N1965/75126</p> |
| <p>Admission of highly qualified and distinguished Asians, view to settlement, 1965–72 This item provides details of the definitions of 'well-qualified' and its extension, for example, to nurses and teachers.</p> | <p>C3939, N1965/75193</p> |
| <p>Non-European policy – admission of spouses, fiancé(e)s and minor children of Asians resident in Australia, 1965–73</p> | <p>C3939, N1966/75087</p> |
| <p>[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 25 (POLICY), 1953–55</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)</p> <p>Quantity: 0.54 metres (Sydney)</p> <p>Items in this series contain correspondence, papers, passports and photographs related to immigrants and</p> | <p>SP1655/1</p> |

emigrants entering or leaving Australia through the Port of Sydney or interstate ports. Matters dealt with include naturalisation, deportation, passports, landing permits and entry and re-entry.

Landing permits - procedural instructions, 1947-57

This is one of five items with the same reference number that deal with landing permits. This item includes procedures for European migration from China.

SP1655/1,
1955/25/75329 part 1

Melbourne

[CUSTOMS, VIC] GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, 1898-

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

B13

Quantity: 107 metres (Melbourne); 0.09 metres (Darwin)

This is the main correspondence series of the Collector of Customs, Melbourne after 1901. It holds a large number of records on individual Chinese and their movements, both inter- and intranational. General matters concerning immigration restriction and processes of identification are covered widely. Files created up to 1930 deal largely with immigration matters.

[Attorney-General's opinion on] whether a Chinese naturalised in Victoria may pass into NSW ..., 1902

In this item, the Federal Attorney-General clarifies the status of naturalisation outside the colony in which it was granted - that is, naturalisation under the law of a colony endowed British subjecthood in that colony alone, while the benefits that came with naturalisation were also a matter for the parliament of the colony or its successor.

B13, 1902/2793

Case: Donohoe v Lucy Wong Sau, 1925

This file concerns a case heard in the High Court of Australia that was significant in the development of definitions of migration. The case, which was decided in the Commonwealth's favour, settled the question of whether a person born in Australia could be considered a migrant and, therefore, be subject to restrictions on their re-entry to Australia from overseas.

B13, 1925/10281

POSTERS RELATING TO PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS, 1913-31

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

MP412/1

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Melbourne)

This series consists of a set of printed individual and group posters (dating from 1 August 1913 to 1931) containing photographs and descriptions (and in some cases thumb- or fingerprints) of 'prohibited' immigrants, mainly Chinese. From 1915, posters recorded the recovery of persons identified on earlier editions of the posters.

Brisbane

- [IMMIGRATION] CASE FILES, OCCASIONAL 'Q' (QUEENSLAND) OR 'QB' (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) PREFIX, 1908–** **J25**
- Recorded by: 1946–74 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Qld (CA 2148)
- Quantity: 1 092 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Perth)
- This series, the largest recorded on immigration matters in Queensland after World War II, holds case files on permanent and temporary residents (including students), and applications for citizenship and sponsorship of migrants. It also holds Immigration policy files from 1946 to 1983.
- Publicity – quota system for Asian migrants, 1958–63** **J25, 1958/7617**
- IMMIGRATION ACT – CIRCULAR INSTRUCTIONS, IAI SERIES, 1917–39** **BP170/5**
- Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)
- Quantity: 0.18 metres (Brisbane)
- This series contains two volumes of instructions issued as circulars by the Collector of Customs, Queensland to guide Custom officers in their work under the *Immigration Act 1912*. Matters referred to in the circulars include passports, Dictation Tests, deportation, prohibited immigrants and foreign crew members. Series K1013, described on the following page, deals with similar material.
- [CUSTOMS, QLD] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – IMMIGRATION AND PASSPORTS – 'SB' (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1924–45** **BP234/1**
- Recorded by: 1924–45 Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)
1945 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)
- Quantity: 2.16 metres (Brisbane)
- Items in this series contain correspondence and instructions on Chinese settlement in, and travel to, Australia.
- [Immigration Act information – circulars], 1937–38** **BP234/1, SB1937/2347A**
- This item contains Immigration Act information (IAI) circulars nos 1937/28 ('Mustering of Chinese passengers') and 1937/6 ('Chinese and other coloured passengers arriving or due by overseas ships: Permission to land at Australian ports of call').
- IAI (IMMIGRATION ACT INFORMATION) CIRCULARS, pre-1931–58** **BP384/20**
- Recorded by: 1931–45 Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)
1945–58 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)
- Quantity: 0.07 metres (Brisbane)
- The series is similar in content to K1013, described below. Three volumes contain roneoed copies of circulars issued to Customs officers in each state, to guide them in their immigration work. An index for the years 1926–47 is held in BP384/21.

*Perth***CIRCULARS, INSTRUCTIONS AND ASSOCIATED INDEX, 1926-47****K1013**

Recorded by: 1926-45 Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)
 1945-47 Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Perth)

This series comprises instructions and guidelines on immigration administration, most of which were circulated to state Collectors of Customs. Other material includes responses to inquiries from the Collector of Customs, Western Australia.

[CUSTOMS, WA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES [SUBJECT AND CLIENT], 'H' INFIX, 1926-50**PP6/1**

Recorded by: 1926-45 Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)
 1945-50 Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962)

Quantity: 36.54 metres (Perth)

This was the main correspondence series of the Customs service in Western Australia. Items in this series include records on immigration, shipping matters, naturalisation and Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDTs). Items in series PP227/2 to PP227/7, created during World War II, contain similar material.

Coloured servants - instructions, 1931**PP6/1, 1931/H/605**

This item documents the continued refinement of travel rules for Chinese.

*Adelaide***[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1871-1962****D596**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 53.86 metres (Adelaide)

This series was recorded by the Collector of Customs, SA. Transferred to Federal control, D596 continued until 1962. It covers a variety of matters related to Customs activities. Series D2248 serves as an index for the years from 1926 to 1933, while D5093 contains an index to outward letters from 1925 to 1928. Both D2248 and D5093 are held in Sydney.

D596 includes a wide range of operational files relating to Chinese travel and settlement.

Coloured immigration from 1 January 1901**D596, 1901/1063****Domicile Certificate, 1902****D596, 1902/647****[Extension of] Certificates of Exemption [from the] Dictation Test, 1908****D596, 1908/3415****Administration of Immigration Restriction Act, 1902-10****D596, 1910/157****Certificate of Extension - changing the text, 1911****D596, 1911/3468****Admission of persons of coloured races, 1922****D596, 1922/3941**

Deposits for admission of Chinese, 1936–52

D596, 1952/3296

REGISTER CONTAINING IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT AND RELATED CORRESPONDENCE, 1901–13**AP214/9**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Adelaide)

This series consists of a register of printed instructions on immigration matters dating from 1901 to 1913. It includes circularised instructions issued to port officers, copies of immigration legislation and samples of forms to be used. Many entries enlarge upon policy matters, eg an entry for March 1903 instructs officers about the end of Chinese wives and families joining their menfolk in Australia, and the transitional arrangements for Chinese and other persons of ‘colour’ who were absent from Australia at that time.

*Hobart***RESTRICTED IMMIGRANT FORMS [... ISSUED TO IMMIGRANTS PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING TASMANIA], 1909–23****P527**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816)

Quantity: 0.06 metres (Hobart)

This series contains volumes of the standard forms used in the administration of the Immigration Restriction Act.

[CUSTOMS, TAS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1909–**P437**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816)

Quantity: 94.68 metres (Hobart)

This series, a successor to P501 (see p. 113), documents a wide range of travel and settlement matters, including certificates issued and the wider operation of the Immigration Restriction Act. Series P502 and P508 both hold related letter books maintained by Customs officers in Tasmania.

Regulations – Chinese immigrants, 1920**P437, 1920/471****[Home and Territories] Circulars, 1925****P437, 1925/466**

This item contains circulars issued by the Department of Home and Territories. These circulars deal with various matters, including birth certificates of Australian-born Chinese and the matter of *Donohoe v Lucy Wong Sau*, which was appealed in the High Court of Australia.

Darwin**[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1949–****E37**

Recorded by: 1949–74 Department of Immigration, NT (CA 759)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, NT (CA 2110)
 1975–87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NT (CA 2111); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 251 metres (Darwin); 0.18 metres (Perth)

Most items in this Immigration series concern individuals and families. It contains policy files on the admission of Chinese and items that deal with deportation, naturalisation and alien registration after 1947.

Admission of non-Europeans – policy, 1949–58[E37, 1960/894](#)

This item is digitised.

Deportations – policy and procedures, 1964–80[E37, 1977/10440](#)

This item is digitised.

Asians – admission policy, 1967–71[E37, 1971/10040 part 5](#)

This digitised item is one of five items on admission policy for Asians and includes documents on central policy and administration in the Northern Territory.

Bureaucratic design – certificates of travel**CERTIFICATES OF DOMICILE**

The following table includes series related specifically to ‘Certificates of Domicile’. Created by Collectors of Customs throughout Australia, many of these records contain applications for, and certificates of, domicile. They include personal photographs and other documents, eg birth and naturalisation certificates and related correspondence.

The registers of Certificates of Domicile provide summaries of the certificates, with personal details, details of residency in Australia and details of travel. Some registers record file numbers that refer to case files located in related record series.

Further items on Certificates of Domicile are located in the general correspondence and other record series described in Chapter 3 of this guide.

Table 1: *Certificates of Domicile*

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|------------------------|---------|
| Sydney | | |
| Applications for Certificates of Domicile This series includes a request for the refund of the poll (head) tax, made by Ah Kee, a Chinese resident in New South Wales. | 1875–1910; 0.18 metres | SP11/26 |
| Certificates of Domicile and Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test | 1905–53; 8.46 metres | ST84/1 |

JEE and GAIN 5/1/06
DUPLICATE No. 06/16

Form No. 21.
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT 1901 AND REGULATIONS.

CERTIFICATE OF DOMICILE.

I, William Thomas Irving Collector of Customs
at the Port of Brisbane - Queensland in the said Commonwealth,
hereby certify that Wong Bow (Aloumba near Cairns)
hereinafter described, has satisfied me that he is domiciled in the Commonwealth,
and is leaving the Commonwealth temporarily.

W. T. Irving
Collector of Customs.

Date 26 of January 1906

DESCRIPTION.

Nationality Chinese Birthplace Canton
Age 34 years Complexion Sallow
Height 5ft 12 3/4 Hair Black
Build Small Eyes Dark Brown
Particular marks Several scars on forehead
(For impression of hand see back of this document.)

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Full Face:— Profile:—

Date of departure 13th February 1906 Destination Hong Kong
Ship Aloumba
References in Australia Dunn's Ship. Co. Ltd and Messrs. Griffiths & Cairns

By Authority, Form 21, 1904, Government Printer, Melbourne.

Wong Bow's Certificate of Domicile, 1906. NAA: J2482, 1906/16

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|------------------------|---------|
| Brisbane | | |
| Certificates of Domicile issued under the <i>Immigration Restriction Act 1901</i> and regulations Digital copies of 800 items are available on RecordSearch. | 1902–06; 1.8 metres | J2482 |
| Alien immigration files – applications [for] Certificates of Domicile, Certificates of Exemption from the <i>Chinese Immigration Restriction Act 1888</i> and Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test | 1899–1928; 0.72 metres | J3115 |
| Applications [for] Certificates of Domicile, Exemption from the <i>Chinese Immigration Restriction Act 1888</i> [Qld] and Exemption from the Dictation Test | 1900–24; 1.44 metres | BP342/1 |
| Register of Certificates of Domicile | 1903–08; 0.45 metres | BP384/3 |
| Register of Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test The volume for 1908–10 concerns Certificates of Domicile. | 1908–59; 1.95 metres | BP384/4 |

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION FROM THE DICTATION TEST

Table 2 (below) describes records created by Customs officers in each state and territory of Australia, including Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test. The CEDTs were issued to Chinese and other non-British travellers – for example, Italians in the 1920s or stateless refugees in the 1950s. State Collectors of Customs retained duplicates of certificates and the originals were taken from travellers upon their return to Australia.

The certificates documented their bearers' nationality, birthplace, age, complexion, height, build, colour of hair and eyes, particular marks, dates of issue and departure, ports of embarkation, destination, ship, date of return, ship and port, with a section for an 'impression of left hand' (often the handprint was placed on the reverse side of the form). Two photographs of the applicant (full face and profile) were attached to each form.

Related documentation, 'Form 32', a record of identity (with fingerprints, name and nationality), was created at the time of departure and return. Many of these forms include details of travel arrangements as well as photographs of the traveller. The record series of 'book butts' comprise sections of the printed books of certificates retained when a certificate was issued. The book butts record name, nationality, date of issue and a relevant file number.

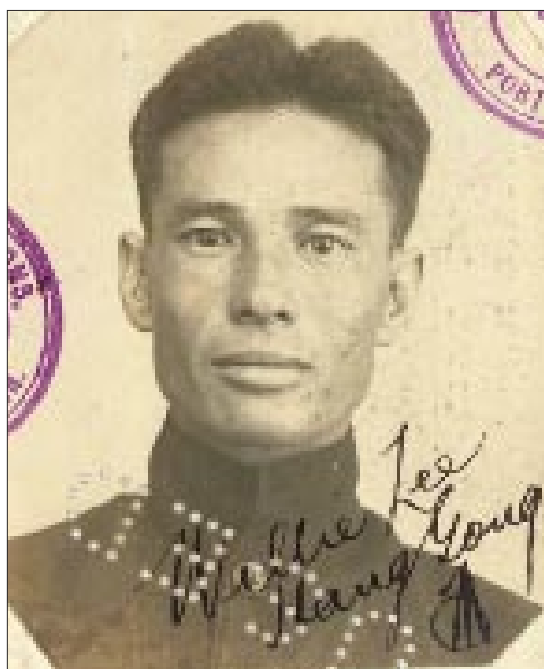
Registers of certificates were also created to provide Customs officials at the ports with a quick reference on travellers and their certificates. These registers include details such as the date of issue, name, vessel, date and ports of departure and return and, often, a file number in a related record series (for example, items in series D5036 refer to files located in the correspondence series D596). Some registers also record occupation, address, period of residence and other details.

While a record series may include the personal references and police and Customs officers' reports on 'character' required before a certificate was issued, the bulk of this information is located in related record series created by Customs and other Australian government agencies. These general correspondence and case file record series created in each state and territory are described in Chapter 3.

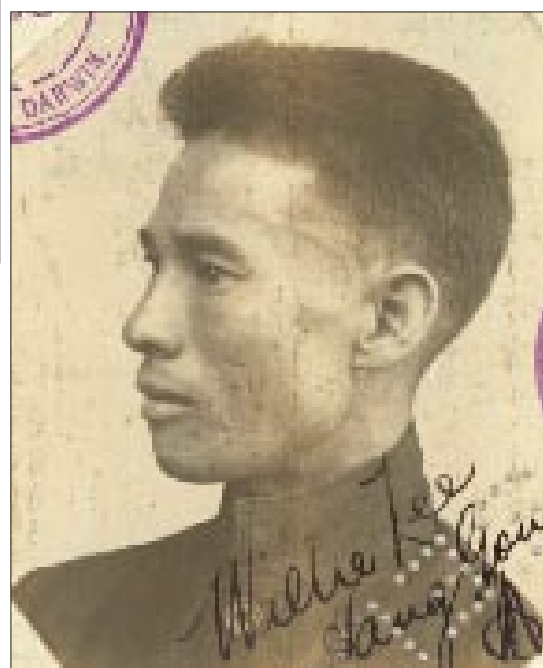
Table 2: Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|---|----------|
| Sydney | | |
| Folders – Certificates of Exemption [from the Dictation Test] and related papers for passengers arriving in Australia by ship | 1878–1943; 25 metres | SP115/1 |
| Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test (Forms 32 and 21) | 1902–46; 1.62 metres, 0.02 metres (Canberra) | SP11/6 |
| Immigration Restriction Act – Exemption Certificate register This series was recorded in South Australia. | 1902–57; 0.81 metres (original register), 0.04 metres (Adelaide, microfilm) | D2860 |
| Register – applications for Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test | 1902–59; 0.9 metres | SP726/1 |
| Certificates of Domicile and Certificates of Exemption from [the] Dictation Test | 1903–05; 8.46 metres | ST84/1 |
| Certificates [of Exemption] from [the] Dictation Test – book butts (Form 21) This series was recorded in South Australia. | 1906–35; 0.09 metres | D5036 |
| Butt book – Certificates of Exemption from [the] Dictation Test | 1941–59; 0.18 metres | SP605/8 |
| Receipts for Certificates of Exemption [from the Dictation Test] | 1947–51; 1.44 metres | SP115/9 |
| Melbourne | | |
| Registers of Certificates [of Exemption] from the Dictation Test (departures), Melbourne | 1904–59; 0.72 metres | B6003 |
| Files – applications for Certificates of Exemption from [the] Dictation Test | 1910–48; 0.36 metres | MT19/4 |
| Brisbane | | |
| Alien immigration files – applications – Certificates of Domicile, Certificates of Exemption from the <i>Chinese Immigration Restriction Act 1888</i> and Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test Items in this series include photographs, birth certificates and other historical documents. | 1899–1928; 0.72 metres | J3115 |
| Register of Certificates of Domicile Refer to the second part of the series. | 1903–08; 0.45 metres | BP384/3 |
| Certificates exempting [sic] from Dictation Test issued under the Immigration Restriction Acts 1901–05 and regulations (and amending legislation) | 1906–56; 20 metres | J2483 |
| Register of Certificates [of] Exemption from the Dictation Test | 1908–59; 1.95 metres | BP384/4 |
| Thumbprint impressions from Certificates [of Exemption] from [the] Dictation Test This series, from Townsville, includes records of identity and duplicate certificates. | 1915–17; 0.54 metres | BP343/14 |
| Alphabetical index to registers of Certificates [of Exemption] from the Dictation Test | 1916–24; 0.3 metres | BP384/5 |
| Thumbprint impressions from Certificates [of Exemption] from [the] Dictation Test | 1917–41; 4.32 metres | BP343/15 |
| Index to books of thumbprints taken from CEDTs | 1917–39; 0.09 metres | BP343/16 |
| ‘Black Book’ for reference to applications for CEDTs | 1931–46; 0.05 metres | BP384/22 |

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|--|------------------------|---------|
| Perth | | |
| Certificates of Exemption from [the] Dictation Test | c1901-55; 6.84 metres | K1145 |
| Applications for Certificates of Exemption from [the] Dictation Test (includes supporting documents) | 1903-47; 5.22 metres | PP4/2 |
| Registers of Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test | 1904-28; 0.54 metres | PP363/1 |
| Certificates of Exemption from [the] Dictation Test - book butts | 1938-53; 1.26 metres | PP4/10 |
| Darwin | | |
| Index to (1) Certificates [of Exemption] from the Dictation Test; (2) Passenger lists | 1889-1941; 0.02 metres | E754 |
| Portion of register of Certificates [of Exemption] from the Dictation Test | 1907-15; 0.09 metres | E753 |
| [Certificates of Exemption] from the Dictation Test An image from this series appears below. | 1915-41; 4.5 metres | E752 |
| Lists of [Certificates of Exemption] from the Dictation Test | 1916-37; 0.09 metres | E812 |



Photograph from William Lee Hang Gong's CEDT, Darwin, 1916. Handprints were also included on CEDTs. NAA: [E752, 1916/61](#)



CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION

Certificates of Exemption granted a visitor to Australia admittance for a limited period of time, often 12 months, and exempted the traveller from the provisions of the Immigration Restriction Act. A new certificate could be issued when the original period of exemption was extended. While most certificates were issued upon arrival in Australia some were issued by overseas diplomatic posts prior to the journey to Australia. Certificates of Exemption were in use up to 1959.

Book butts (Form 2) are the booklets containing the receipts or ‘butts’ from which the certificates have been detached and issued. The butt records the applicant’s name, certificate number, date and state of issue, nationality, age, ‘race’, particular marks, occupation, port of arrival, port of origin, ship name, date of arrival, period of exemption and reasons for exemption. Some certificates are annotated with details of departure from Australia.

Table 3: *Certificates of Exemption*

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|---|----------|
| Canberra | | |
| Register of Exemptions under [the] Immigration Restriction Act | 1925–31; 0.09 metres | A260 |
| Sydney | | |
| Immigration Restriction Act Exemption Certificate Register | 1902–57; 0.81 metres (original register), 0.04 metres (Adelaide, microfilm) | D2860 |
| Certificate of Exemption book butts | 1938–39; 0.46 metres (Sydney) | SP822/13 |
| Certificate of Exemptions – book butts | 1945–50; 2.7 metres | SP343/2 |
| Applications for Certificates of Exemption (Form 16) | 1948–49; 1.62 metres | SP115/2 |
| Certificate of Exemption Series contains book butts. | 1951–59; 3.78 metres | SP605/7 |
| Melbourne | | |
| Certificate of Exemption book butts | 1932–46; 0.54 metres | MP56/13 |
| Certificates of Exemption book butts – nominal rolls – Form 16 | 1945–51; 1.98 metres | MT65/3 |
| Brisbane | | |
| Applications [for] Certificates of Domicile, Exemption from the <i>Chinese Immigration Restriction Act 1888</i> and Exemption from the Dictation Test | 1900–24; 1.44 metres | BP342/1 |
| Register[s] of certificate of exemption | 1926–59; 3.15 metres | BP384/7 |
| Perth | | |
| Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test – book butts | 1938–59; 1.26 metres | PP4/10 |
| Hobart | | |
| Immigration permit butts (Form 21) issued to foreign nationals at Launceston and Burnie outposts | 1908–18; 0.06 metres | P526 |

TEMPORARY ENTRY PERMITS

The system of Certificates of Exemption ended in 1959 with the repeal of earlier Immigration Acts (from 1901 to 1949) and their replacement by the *Migration Act 1958*. CEDTS were effectively replaced by temporary entry permits. The 'Authority to Enter Australia Temporarily' (AEAT) forms, which were included in the passports of migrants, tourists and businessmen, authorised the bearer to enter and remain for a specified period. They were issued to persons who presented a valid visa or had obtained a form at an overseas post that did not have the authority to authorise entry to Australia.

Book butts (Form M38) for these permits include applicant names and nationality, place and date of birth, date and place of issue and entry, period of stay, authorised occupation, 'race', status (for example, 'spouse', 'student', 'employment') and remarks. Often a file number reference to a case file located in a related record series is included.

Table 4: *Temporary entry permits*

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|--|----------------------|---------|
| Canberra | | |
| Name index cards for entry permits issued | 1956-58; 0.18 metres | A1253 |
| Sydney | | |
| Authority to enter Australia temporarily butt books | 1952-60; 0.18 metres | SP605/9 |
| Authority to enter Australia temporarily (AEAT) - book butts | 1948-53; 0.18 metres | SP343/4 |
| Special authorities for passengers to land index book | 1949-57; 0.04 metres | D1980 |
| Butt books - temporary entry permits | 1959-60; 0.36 metres | SP605/1 |
| Perth | | |
| Entry permit/visa registers | 1965- ; 0.36 metres | K1148 |

RE-ENTRY PERMITS AND VISAS

Re-entry permits were issued to non-British holders of passports who wished to proceed overseas, enabling them to re-enter Australia. Most of these permits were issued to non-British European residents; some details of permits issued to Chinese are among these records. The book butts include the traveller's name and nationality, the date of issue and file number, and remarks on the person to whom the permit was issued.

Table 5: *Re-entry permits and visas*

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|----------------------|----------|
| Sydney | | |
| Boarding officers' reports on vessels and aircraft arriving at Sydney | 1936-58; 2.34 metres | ST875/2 |
| Re-entry permit butts | 1953-56; 1.44 metres | SP605/6 |
| Melbourne | | |
| Re-entry permit book butts | 1946-47; 0.18 metres | MP56/19 |
| Brisbane | | |
| Register of re-entry permits This series includes registers for re-entry permits and for New Guinea permits, with personal and travel details. | 1931-55; 0.9 metres | BP384/12 |

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Brisbane cont'd | | |
| Register of re-entry permits | 1955-58; 0.54 metres | BP210/8 |
| Perth | | |
| Re-entry permit book butts | 1934-58; 0.36 metres | PP50/2 |

RE-ENTRY VISAS AND ENDORSEMENTS

The re-entry visa replaced the 'Re-entry Permit' in 1958, the year in which Certificates of Exemption were phased out. (The old form - 'Form 43' - continued in use as an application for re-entry.) Records on Chinese are among the items listed in Table 6.

Re-entry visas were issued to residents, students and some foreign business people who left Australia by sea or by air. The re-entry permit was posted onto the passport. Details recorded on each 'butt' include the type of endorsement or visa, date of issue, expiry conditions and periods, special conditions, place of issue, dependants, and 'race' or nationality.

The 'Re-entry endorsements' described in the following table were issued where special conditions applied, generally to non-Europeans leaving Australia. These conditions varied in each case.

Table 6: *Re-entry endorsements*

| Title | Date and quantity | Series |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Sydney | | |
| Register of endorsements | 1937-50; 0.16 metres | SP1095/5 |
| Registers of passports renewals | 1937-50; 0.22 metres | SP1095/6 |
| Visa re-entry butts | 1958-63; 2.52 metres | SP605/4 |
| Re-entry endorsement butts | 1959-63; 0.18 metres | SP605/5 |

Regulation of students and merchants

Business visitors and students constitute the principal groups of Chinese visitors to Australia before World War II. Postwar students from South-East Asian countries and Hong Kong studied in Australia under a range of government-sponsored schemes and under private arrangements. Many migrated to Australia when Australian migration law changed in the 1960s.

The formal agreement that enabled visits by Chinese students and merchants (and tourists) on Chinese passports was struck by the Chinese Consul-General in 1912, and in 1914 the entry criteria for Chinese were first applied. The first regulations stipulated a minimum age of 17 for students and allowed for visits of up to six years. These criteria changed in succeeding decades. In 1920, for example, age restrictions were modified, while the requirements for £100-bonds were retained. Thereafter, the numbers of student visitors expanded. Chinese merchant visitors were also singled out for special supervision in 1920. Stock to the value of £500 was required and all applicants needed to establish that

their businesses involved overseas trade. They also had to demonstrate sufficient funds to ensure their independence from local Chinese, adequate skill in the English language and the capacity to participate in Australian commerce at large.

Chinese merchants arriving on passports endorsed by a British consulate could introduce their wives and also children who were less than 16 years of age. These criteria formed the basis for the management of approved visits by merchants for the next three decades, though the conditions were frequently modified.

A system of 'substitutes' or temporary alternates who took the place of a resident businessman for the duration of a visit to China was developed after 1910. The resident needed to be of 'good character', which was attested by European or Australian character witnesses and police reports. The business had to be viable. Applicants also needed a valid reason to visit China, but this was readily demonstrated by personal ill health, a lengthy absence from China, business interests or sick relatives in China. A 12-month Certificate of Exemption for the substitute could be extended, usually to three years. Small numbers of substitutes and also assistants for Chinese businesses were admitted, in particular after the mid-1930s.

Many of the records described below concern the elaboration of the rules for merchant and student visitors established in 1912. After World War II, the categories of approved visitors underwent significant revision. There was a marked change to the countries of origin of visitors. Under the terms of regional development schemes in which Australia participated, students arrived from South-East Asian countries and from Hong Kong.

The following descriptions illustrate the wide range and locations of records on policy and procedures that relate to the visits and settlement by Chinese. Other records on the travel of students and merchants are described in Chapter 3, while business and commercial activities are discussed in Chapter 6.

The following record series and items are listed chronologically by location.

Canberra

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF [THE] GOVERNOR-GENERAL (EXCLUDING WAR FILES), 1887-1937

A11804

Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)

Quantity: 29 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 23.

Chinese - special arrangements for admission into Australia for a period, 1919-27

A11804, 1924/425

This item describes the relaxation of rules for merchants to gain travel endorsements from British diplomatic officials in Canton (previously available at Shanghai).

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890-1969

A1

Recorded by: 1901-16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
 1916-28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1928-32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
 1932-39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin)

Please see series description on p. 24

Chinese temporary admission - notification to consular authorities overseas, 1932

A1, 1932/167

The file outlines ongoing negotiations with Chinese consular staff and the further elaboration of administrative procedures for temporary entry of Chinese.



Fifteen-year-old Sweeny Wing Chee's student passport was issued by the Chinese Consul-General, 1925. NAA: A1, 1933/3362

| | |
|--|--|
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1899–1939 | A458 |
| Recorded by: 1923–27 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) 1923–34 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) | |
| Quantity: 50 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series contains correspondence files created by the Department of External Affairs and the Prime Minister’s Department. | |
| Correspondence with consular representatives, 1929–30 | A458, U334/2 part 4 |
| This item contains copies of letters to the Chinese Consul-General, which illustrate that students also enjoyed more lenient terms of entry in the 1930s – eg wider limits on ages and English language proficiency. | |
| [PRIME MINISTER’S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1900–56 | A462 |
| Recorded by: Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) | |
| Quantity: 49 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 25. | |
| International scholarship and education facilities – admission of Asian and other non-European students, 1956 | A462, 768/3 |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50 | A461 |
| Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) 1934–50 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) | |
| Quantity: 146 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series consists of general correspondence files covering the wide range of subjects that came to the attention of the prime minister of the day. | |
| Asiatic students at Australian universities, 1941–49 | A461, AS340/1/1 |
| FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1901– | A6006 |
| Recorded by: 1976–81 Australian Archives (CA 1720) 1981–94 Australian Archives, ACT Regional Office (CA 3196) 1994–98 Australian Archives, National Office (CA 7970) 1998– National Archives of Australia (CA 8550) | |
| Quantity: 9.18 metres (Canberra); microfilm copies held in all state offices | |
| Please see series description on p. 26. | |
| Admission of Chinese students, 1924 | A6006, 1924/06/02 [A981, Immigration 52 part 1] |
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES [RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION], 1909–73 | A2998 |
| Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51) | |
| Quantity: 7.74 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series mainly consists of case files on non-European immigrants. Many files include passports, applications for Australian citizenship, statutory declarations, marriage | |

details, character references and medical examination forms.

Chinese merchants and students – conditions governing entry into Australia, 1911–26

A2998, 1951/2130

This large item records rules applied to applications made by merchants and students to visit Australia. It includes a list of Chinese students in Australia dating from around 1925, and details on the Chinese Consul-General's role in the relaxation of the rules.

Chinese merchants and students – arrangements governing entry into Australia, 1925–37

A2998, 1951/2129

The item documents the efforts of a delegation of Darwin Chinese who pressed the Minister for Immigration, when he visited the Northern Territory in 1921, to relax the regulation of Chinese visitors and residents.

Chinese merchants and students – arrangements governing entry into Australia, 1945–51

A2998, 1951/1739

Asiatic students – admission to universities in Australia, 1948–50

A2998, 1952/244

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1914–93

A1838

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs (CA 1382)

Quantity: 3 409 metres (Canberra)

This series comprises the main correspondence file series of the Department of External Affairs [II] and its successor. Material in A1838 deals with Australia's relations with other countries. It includes records concerning Chinese consular staff in Australia.

Education of Asian students – policy and procedure for admission, 1951–53

A1838, 2560/1/1B

[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919–50

A433

Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 29.

Consul-General for China – representations re. [modifying] ... laws affecting Chinese nationals ..., 1929–33

A433, 1946/2/4658

This digitised item contains correspondence between successive Chinese consuls-general and Australian prime ministers and ministers about migration and settlement issues. It documents extensive negotiations between the Chinese Consulate-General and the Australian Prime Minister on the terms of residence and visits by Chinese. As a result of these negotiations, the rules for entry by business assistants and substitutes for aged Chinese were relaxed.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Regulations governing Chinese students going abroad - issued by China Information Committee, 1944 | A433, 1944/2/5845 |
| [SECURITY SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1923-56 | A373 |
| Recorded by: 1941-45 Security Service (CA 660) 1945-46 Investigation Branch (CA 747) 1946-48 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650) | |
| Quantity: 7.38 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 31. | |
| [Status of Chinese merchants in Australia], 1946 | A373, 11676 |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1933-71 | A1068 |
| Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) | |
| Quantity: 26.46 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 31. | |
| Scholarships for Asiatic [sic] students, 1947-48 | A1068, PI47/13/2/4 |
| Immigration - entry into Australia of Chinese and Indonesians for educational purposes, 1947-50 | A1068, IC47/31/12 |
| CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES - FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES (WITH INDEXES), 1941-49 | A2703 |
| Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3) | |
| Quantity: 2.07 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney) | |
| Please see series description on p. 31. | |
| Minutes of meeting of full Cabinet ... 24 March 1942 | A2703, 21 |
| These minutes include discussion on the wartime waiving of restrictions on residence by visiting students, merchants, assistants and students, including the level of wages due to them and their flexibility in moving from one occupation to another. | |
| <i>Sydney</i> | |
| TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SCHEME (COLOMBO PLAN) POLICY AND PROCEDURAL FILES, 1948-55 | AP48/3 |
| Recorded by: Commonwealth Office of Education, Adelaide (CA 594) | |
| Quantity: 0.36 metres (Sydney) | |
| This series contains general correspondence on the 'Colombo Plan' policy and procedural matters, including Asian scholarship schemes. | |
| PHOTOGRAPHS OF FELLOWS AND STUDENTS UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN AND OTHER SCHEMES, 1949-63 | AP304/1 |
| Recorded by: Commonwealth Office of Education, Adelaide (CA 594) | |
| Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney) | |
| This series contains photographs of Fellows and students who trained in South Australia under the Colombo Plan and other schemes. Students are identified by information | |

on the verso side of the photograph. Photographs are held in packets by nationality, among which are included Malaysian and Indo-Chinese.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1952–77

C3939

Recorded by: 1952–74 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, NSW (CA 1995)
 1975 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NSW (CA 1968)

Quantity: 38.7 metres (Sydney)

Please see series description on p. 34.

Immigration – admission of Chinese students, 1955–61

**C3939,
 N1955/25/75034**

This item provides details about policies on the entry to Australia of Chinese students.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS' FILES, 'OS/S' PREFIX, 1959–84

D1899

Recorded by: 1968–74 Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, SA (CA 2319)
 1975–82 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], SA (CA 2327)

Quantity: 10.71 metres (Sydney)

Although now held in the Sydney office of the National Archives, this series contains the personal files of overseas students who studied in South Australia under the private overseas student program. The files contain papers and information relating to Immigration matters (eg applications for temporary entry, passenger movement verification, application for permission to enter Australia and termination of studies advice).

Melbourne

[CUSTOMS, VIC] GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, 1898–

B13

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

Quantity: 107 metres (Melbourne); 0.09 metres (Darwin)

Please see series description on p. 35.

Department of Interior, Canberra/Consul-General for China – re. bringing Chinese exemptions into line when employed by one firm, 1934

B13, 1934/12158

*Brisbane***[CUSTOMS, QLD] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – IMMIGRATION AND PASSPORTS – ‘SB’ (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1924–45****BP234/1**

Recorded by: 1924–45 Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)
 1945 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)

Quantity: 2.16 metres (Brisbane)

Please see series description on p. 36.

**Immigration Act Information circular No. 1937/7 –
 Chinese students attending state schools, 1937**

**BP234/1,
 SB1937/679***Perth***[CUSTOMS, WA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES [SUBJECT AND CLIENT], ‘H’ INFIX, 1926–50****PP6/1**

Recorded by: 1926–45 Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)
 1945–50 Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962)

Quantity: 36.54 metres (Perth)

Please see series description on p. 37.

Chinese students, 1937

PP6/1, 1937/H/328

In 1937 a procedure to direct Chinese primary school students to private schools after a residence of one year was lifted. Children younger than ten years of age who had previously been denied entry and whose mothers were on exemption could also enter the country for educational purposes.

*Adelaide***[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1871–1962****D596**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 53.86 metres (Adelaide)

Please see series description on p. 37.

**Chinese students and merchants – conditions under which
 ... admitted to the Commonwealth, 1912–13**

D596, 1913/268

**Chinese students – amended conditions of their temporary
 admission, 1920–26**

D596, 1926/10396

White wives of Chinese and their children, 1923

D596, 1923/4232

**Conditions governing the entry into Australia of Chinese
 for business purposes, 1939**

D596, 1939/2123**Regulation of merchant seamen**

The manning provisions of the Commonwealth's *Navigation Act 1912* came into effect in the early 1920s and effectively barred non-European crews from vessels engaged in Australian 'coastal shipping' (the movement of cargo or passengers from one Australian port to another). However, Chinese seamen constituted a substantial element of the manning of British and other deep-sea fleets that visited Australia.

The *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* explicitly acknowledged the seaman's traditional right of disembarkation when his ship was in port. Throughout the twentieth century, many tens of thousands of seamen of all nationalities deserted ships at Australian ports. The Commonwealth administration developed procedures to monitor the arrival and departure of Chinese seamen in particular. Records on the conduct of 'musters' of crew (identification parades) feature throughout the series described in this section, along with identification cards and audits of shipboard practices. Chinese crew numbers were factored into the calculations of the bonds that various shipping lines were obliged to lodge each year for 'coloureds' landing at Australian ports. The administrative procedures grew in complexity. In some years, musters, for example, were taken on each occasion that a ship with Chinese crew berthed at an Australian port.

The series described below illustrate the location and arrangement of files on the development of policy and procedures. Items on Chinese seamen are also to be found among a variety of shipping and general maritime records held by the National Archives. These series, located in all offices of the Archives, include crew lists for national and international shipping, selections of ships' logs and agreements, registers of substitutes for crews and registers of ships' deserters. For a description of records created under Australian laws and Australia's international obligations on crews of all persuasions, please refer to *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, compiled by Margaret Chambers, National Archives of Australia in association with Hale and Iremonger, 1998.

Record series relating to Chinese seamen stranded in Australia during World War II are discussed in Chapter 5.

The following record series and items are listed chronologically by location.

Canberra

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF [THE] GOVERNOR-GENERAL (EXCLUDING WAR FILES), 1887–1937

A11804

Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)

Quantity: 29 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 23.

Desertion of Chinese seamen in Australian ports, 1913–14

A11804, 1913/335

This item, which is digitised, concerns British shipowners' responses to Australian laws on travel to Australia by Chinese.

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890–1969

A1

Recorded by: 1901–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
 1932–39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin)

Please see series description on p. 24.

Naturalisation laws, 1902–06

A1, 1906/6974

This item is digitised.

- Coloured men, shipping as members of crews on Australia, and being allowed to land on their return, 1903–04** [A1, 1903/7606](#)
This item is digitised.
- Alien deserters – question of prohibited immigrants and powers of Customs officers, 1927** [A1, 1927/5760](#)
This item clarifies the terms under which a seaman who landed at an Australian port could be considered a prohibited immigrant.
- [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50** [A461](#)
Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
1934–50 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)
Quantity: 146 metres (Canberra)
Please see series description on p. 49.
- Employment of Asiatic [sic] crews, 1942** [A461, Y418/2/1](#)
This digitised item concerns crews on ships of the British Phosphate Commission.
- [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919–50** [A433](#)
Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra)
Please see series description on p. 29.
- Chinese seamen – inquiry and report by Mr Justice Ferguson re. rates of pay and employment, 1943–44** [A433, 1949/2/5473](#)
- CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES – FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES (WITH INDEXES), 1941–49** [A2703](#)
Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
Quantity: 2.07 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney)
Please see series description on p. 31.
- Minutes of meeting of full Cabinet ... 23 November 1943** [A2703, 53](#)
This item, along with several others in this series, concerns income taxation for Chinese seamen in Australia.
- MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES, ‘C’ (CABINET) PREFIX, 1949–85** [A4940](#)
Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
Quantity: 78 metres (Canberra)
This was the main series of Cabinet Office business records between 1958 and 1967.
- Illegal entry of Chinese into Australia – policy, 1962–66** [A4940, C3582](#)
This item is digitised. It includes statistics on desertion by Chinese and European seamen.

*Sydney***[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'SB' (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1928–51****D1976**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 11.16 metres (Sydney); 3.78 metres (Adelaide)

Items in this series were created by the Shipping Branch of the Customs Office at Port Adelaide. Matters covered include CEDTs and other travel exemptions, refusals of admission, departures of 'coloured' persons, and applications for passports and landing permits.

Immigration Act – mustering Chinese crew members, 1943**D1976, SB1943/431***Melbourne***[CUSTOMS, VIC] GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, 1898–****B13**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

Quantity: 107 metres (Melbourne); 0.09 metres (Darwin)

Please see series description on p. 35.

Arrangements – mustering of coloured crew on vessels of Ellerman and Bucknall Steamship Company, 1934**B13, 1934/9482**

The record concerns an exemption from conducting musters of Chinese crew members; the company provided a large bond that would be forfeited if crew absconded in Australia.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1949–81**MP1139/1**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, Vic (CA 961)

Quantity: 2 metres (Melbourne)

This series consists of correspondence about shipping and aircraft movement.

Chinese communists in Australia, 1953–54**MP1139/1,
53/38/1208**

This item concerns the views of the intelligence services about absconding Chinese seamen.

*Brisbane***[CUSTOMS, QLD] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – IMMIGRATION AND PASSPORTS – 'SB' (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1924–45****BP234/1**Recorded by: 1924–45 Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)
1945 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)

Quantity: 2.16 metres (Brisbane)

Please see series description on p. 36.

[Immigration Act information – circulars], 1937–38**BP234/1,
SB1937/2347A**

This item contains Immigration Act information (IAI) circulars nos 1937/28 ('Mustering of Chinese passengers') and 1937/6 ('Chinese and other coloured passengers arriving or due by overseas ships: Permission to land at Australian ports of call').

APPLICATIONS – REGISTRATION OF CHINESE ALIENS ENTERING ... QUEENSLAND, 'A' INFIX, 1941**BP9/2**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Brisbane)

Most of the records in this series concern Chinese crew who landed in 1941. The series consists of applications for alien registration (RA2 forms) for 'coloured' aliens, and provides copious personal and travel details – eg a detailed personal description, a passport-sized photograph and finger- and thumbprints. Many records include signatures in Chinese characters or marks.

*Adelaide***[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1871–1962****D596**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 53.86 metres (Adelaide)

Please see series description on p. 37.

Immigration Restrictions Act – readmitting Chinese and other aliens on birth certificates, 1903–05**D596, 1903/3824****Identification cards for Chinese crews, 1915–16****D596, 1916/781****Bonds furnished by shipping company to exempt mustering of non-European crews at intermediate ports, 1931–58****D596, 1958/5303****Certificates of nationality and identity for coloured seamen, 1932–33****D596, 1933/125****REGISTER CONTAINING IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT AND RELATED CORRESPONDENCE, 1901–13****AP214/9**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Adelaide)

Please see series description on p. 38.

REGISTER OF ALIENS, 1921–46**AP1097/4**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Adelaide)

This register relates largely to non-British seamen among the crews of ships visiting Australian ports. From 1939 details include registration number, full names, nationality, age, sex, occupation and where registered. From 27 August 1945 only alien seamen were recorded in this register.

Hobart

- [CUSTOMS, TAS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1909–** **P437**
 Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816)
 Quantity: 94.68 metres (Hobart)
 Please see series description on p. 38.
- Muster of coloured crews, 1922** **P437, 1922/432**
 This item deals with the complex timetable that had developed by 1922 for mustering the crews of ships that berthed at more than one Australian port. Special requirements applied to vessels with Chinese crew.
- Amendments to Immigration Act ... requirements for identification cards [for] Chinese ship crews, etc., 1924** **P437, 1924/466**
 This item describes the requirement for Chinese crew members to hold identification cards.
- PERSONAL CASE FILES, 'T' (TASMANIA) PREFIX, 1949–** **P3**
 Recorded by: 1951–74 Department of Immigration, Tas (CA 960)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Tas (CA 1839); subsequently by other agencies
- Quantity: 240 metres (Hobart)
- Items in this series deal with individual cases of British and alien migration to Tasmania, eg applications for re-entry, registration or admission of friends or relatives. The series also contains some non-personal records, which contain passenger lists of arrivals in Tasmanian ports.
- Seamen deserters – Chinese – Department of Immigration case file, 1961** **P3, T61/0984**
 This item includes details about a small number of Chinese merchant seamen deserters in 1961.

3.

Arrival, Settlement and Travel

Locating records of interest

The migration authorities raised files for individual Chinese visitors and for residents when they travelled abroad. Many of these files and associated records of other Commonwealth agencies include extensive details on both Australian residence and travel outside Australia over many years. An individual's file will usually be located in the record series that covers the date of their last contact with the relevant government authority, for example, a date of final departure from Australia or approval of naturalisation. After 1958, case files were created for each person who applied for naturalisation. The detail on file varies with the regulatory requirements in operation over the period for which the file was active.

Many record series have 'correspondence' in their title, which covers all manner of records arising from the administration of migration and related activities. Among these series may be found applications for certificates of travel, Certificates of Naturalisation or passports and supporting documents. They deal with the case histories of residents and people entering Australia temporarily, as well as repatriations or deportations. Interspersed with files on individuals are files on groups, for example, that travelled on the same vessel.

From the 1950s, 'case files' raised for individuals are generally more clearly identified in the series and record item titles. Many files were raised for Chinese from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Hong Kong who applied to re-enter Australia, or to enter for the first time, often as students. These include records relating to the entry (or re-entry) of single women, wives of Chinese and non-Chinese, and children of residents of Australia.

The administrative processes involved in vetting the arrival and movement of residents and visitors created a large body of information on individuals. Records relating to prosecutions under the Immigration Act make up a minor part of the records on Chinese. They include files on the acquisition of false papers, reports on officials complicit in assisting non-residents enter and remain, the smuggling of people on ships and the desertion of merchant seamen.

Port officers and other government officials created registers of various kinds to manage their records, to use in preparing reports on their work, and to manage their daily responsibilities (eg over travel) in a busy port office. Many registers provide details on Chinese or provide file numbers that can direct the researcher to the more detailed 'correspondence' record series. However, not all indexes record the final location of records 'top-numbered' to other series (see Appendix 1 for an explanation of 'top-numbering').

Records created by Australian colonial governments

In 1902 Commonwealth agencies took on responsibilities for migration and travel. Various record series created by the Collectors of Customs for the Australian colonies remained relevant to migration work – for example, files on individual histories of arrival and travel, records of naturalisation or surveys of the patterns of movement across the colonial and state borders. Furthermore, colonial and Commonwealth law operated in tandem for several years.

Many of these colonial records were incorporated into newly created Commonwealth record series. The colonial record series described in this section had been closed by 1903, but were retained by the Commonwealth. Record series relating to naturalisation under colonial law are discussed in Chapter 4 of this guide.

Table 7: Colonial records: Collectors of Customs for the Australian colonies

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|------------------------|----------|
| Canberra | | |
| Australian re-entry permits for non-Europeans Includes photographs of Chinese. | 1899–1902; 0.10 metres | A8362 |
| Sydney | | |
| Letter books, Secretary to the Treasury | 1858–59; 0.36 metres | A1013 |
| Outward letter books, notices and instructions to officers | 1859–88; 0.36 metres | A1015 |
| Outward letter books to the Under Secretary, Treasury | 1859–1901; 0.72 metres | A1014 |
| Outward letter books [general] | 1861–95; 0.9 metres | A1016 |
| Certificates exempting from the provisions of [the] <i>Influx of Chinese Restriction Act 1881</i> [NSW] Some signatures among items in this series are recorded in Chinese characters, along with details of age and occupation. | 1862–88; 0.72 metres | SP115/10 |
| Outward letter books – correspondence with country stations Items in this series include correspondence on the movement of Chinese across colonial borders. | 1864–74; 0.56 metres | A1017 |
| <i>A Handbook to the Customs' Law and Practice of NSW</i> This handbook, for use by Customs officers in New South Wales, contains details on dutiable imports. | 1882; 0.09 metres | C4381 |
| Outward letter books – correspondence with outposts Items in this series are concerned with the movement of Chinese between different regions of New South Wales. | 1884–1900; 0.62 metres | A1018 |
| Letter book (outward) – Collector of Customs, Sydney | 1884–86; 0.18 metres | SP1083/3 |
| Outward letter book and record of seizures | 1885–1901; 0.36 metres | A1019 |
| Monthly statistical register of arrivals and departures of Chinese | 1891–97; 0.46 metres | SP822/11 |
| Customs memoranda (outward letter books) | 1897–1900; 0.46 metres | SP822/5 |
| Instructions to officers | 1897–1901; 0.36 metres | A1024 |
| Melbourne | | |
| Photographs and negatives of Chinese entering Australia | 1900; 0.9 metres | B6443 |

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|--|------------------------|----------|
| Brisbane | | |
| Proclamations under the <i>Chinese Immigration Restriction Act 1888</i> and related correspondence Items in this series have been digitised and are available for viewing online on RecordSearch. | 1897–1903; 1.8 metres | J2481 |
| Chinese emigration permits | 1898–1902; 0.54 metres | J1694 |
| Adelaide | | |
| Register of Chinese immigration | 1882–1903; 0.36 metres | AP214/20 |

Commonwealth records

The series described below illustrate the breadth of record series on Chinese migration created by various Australian government departments (including Customs and Immigration) at both the state and national levels between 1900 and the 1970s.

Due to the volume of records ‘top-numbered’ into other record series, an insight into the development of migration-related series can assist in locating a record of interest.

From 1903 to 1938, most files relating to core migration functions resided in A1, a correspondence series created by the Department of External Affairs and continued by its successors. Series A433, created in 1941, was devoted to restricted migration matters, while naturalisation, passport and other general records were moved to series A435 and A659. There remained considerable overlap in contents of these series. From 1946, the Department of Immigration concentrated all migration-related records in A659. This series was replaced in 1951 and 1952 with a new range of record series – A2998 served as a correspondence series on restricted migration and a suite of series, organised alphabetically, was created for case files (A439 to A445). This management system was also short-lived. From 1953 a new general and ‘policy’ correspondence series – A446 – was established as an omnibus series for all records under the management of the central office of the Department of Immigration.

The following series and items are listed chronologically by location.

Canberra

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, c1850–1970

A981

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)

Quantity: 146.8 metres (Canberra)

This correspondence series, created by the Department of External Affairs in 1927 but containing material dating from around 1850, includes migration subject files. Topics are indicated by item prefixes, eg ‘MIG’ for migration.

Consuls – China – at Sydney, 1929–42

A981, CONS 81

Consuls – representations by Chinese Consul-General re. press articles, 1935–36

A981, CONS 314

China – Chinese – Seamen’s Association, 1942

A981, CHIN 10

| | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Consul – China – Melbourne, 1942</p> | <p>A981, CONS 76 part 3</p> |
| <p>[GOVERNOR–GENERAL] MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE – MAINLY LOCAL (NON-IMPERIAL) MATTERS, 1887–1912</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: Governor-General’s Office (CA 1)</p> <p>Quantity: 5.58 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>This series contains miscellaneous correspondence about Commonwealth issues or more local matters that engaged the attention of successive governors-general.</p> | <p>A6662</p> |
| <p>Petition for the right of Chinese residents to return to Port Darwin, 1904</p> <p>This digitised item highlights the role of leading Chinese merchants at Darwin, as well as the usual sorts of errors made in transcribing Chinese names in official correspondence.</p> | <p>A6662, 239</p> |
| <p>Chinese stowaways arriving in Australia from Hong Kong [and] Singapore, 1908–09</p> | <p>A6662, 1325</p> |
| <p>GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF [THE] GOVERNOR–GENERAL (EXCLUDING WAR FILES), 1887–1937</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: Governor-General’s Office (CA 1)</p> <p>Quantity: 29 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>Records in this series contain communications between successive governors-general and British authorities, colonial administrators, state governors, prime ministers, public institutions and members of the public. It also holds items on intergovernmental relations, often involving foreign consular staff such as the Consul-General of China.</p> | <p>A11804</p> |
| <p>Chinese – special arrangements for admission into Australia for a period, 1919–27</p> <p>This item describes the relaxation of rules for merchants to gain endorsement for travel from British diplomatic officials in Canton, hitherto available at Shanghai.</p> | <p>A11804, 1924/425</p> |
| <p>Alleged kidnapping of Chinese Duncan Lee, 1914</p> <p>This digitised item concerns an incident at Canton involving the son of an Australian-Chinese.</p> | <p>A11804, 1914/12</p> |
| <p>CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED BY SUBJECT ('SPECIAL PORTFOLIO'), 1888–1936</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: Governor-General’s Office (CA 1)</p> <p>Quantity: 11.62 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>The series holds subject files on matters of interest to successive governors-general in the decades after World War I.</p> | <p>A6661</p> |
| <p>Inquiries made re. two Chinese passengers on the Changsha – falsification of Exemption Certificates, 1902–04</p> <p>This item consists of three separate ‘files’ and contains an original Chinese passport.</p> | <p>A6661, 1194</p> |

Expenditure on the *Merrie England* [proposed substitution of a coloured crew for a white one], 1904 [A6661, 811](#)

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890–1969 **A1**

Recorded by: 1901–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
 1932–39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin)

This is the principal correspondence record series of the Department of External Affairs and its successors. It covers a wide range of subjects, including migration, alien registration, passports and naturalisation, and various ‘external affairs’ matters. Most records deal with individual cases and inquiries. Series A31 contains selective indexes to A1.

Chinese in NSW [compliance] with the Commonwealth and NSW immigration restriction Acts, 1902 [A1, 1903/2900](#)

This digitised item contains correspondence from a delegation led by Sydney merchant Mei Quong Tart protesting about the travel restrictions imposed on Chinese.

Applying education test to coloured persons [intending] to remain in the Commonwealth for a limited time only, 1903 [A1, 1903/3997](#)

This digitised item contains correspondence from the Secretary, External Affairs to port officers, after some 18 months of operation of the Dictation Test, reminding them that ‘it is not desirable that persons should be allowed to pass’ it.

James Tosh – inquiry re. steps ... to enable a Chinese who desires to [travel overseas] to return to Australia, 1903 [A1, 1903/7276](#)

This digitised item documents an inquiry on behalf of a Chinese and includes a reply signed by the Minister for External Affairs.

Influx of Chinese into Western Australia from Sydney, 1904 [A1, 1904/1799](#)
 This item is digitised.

Return[s]... number of Chinese and Japanese ... in the Commonwealth [who are] naturalised British ..., 1904–05 [A1, 1905/2173](#)

The returns are incomplete. This item is digitised.

NSW and Qld – Chinese admitted on naturalisation certificates since 1 January 1902, 1908–16 [A1, 1916/27219](#)

The file describes the ongoing review of usage of Certificates of Naturalisation as travel documents.

Jach Ah Chong and Kee Young – proh’d [prohibited] immigrants, 1909–19 [A1, 1913/11494](#)

This item describes a deportation contested by Ah Chong, who claimed long-term residence in Australia.

Alleged influx of Chinese at The Rocks, NSW, 1910 [A1, 1910/4147](#)
 This item is digitised.

- Consul-General for China re. legislation affecting Chinese in [the] NT, 1911** [A1, 1911/8882](#)
This item is digitised.
- Search for stowaways on tankers with Chinese crews, 1913** [A1, 1913/12593](#)
This item describes precautions taken in searching oil tankers for stowaways.
- Mr Gabriel’s inspection of CEDTs ... instructions re. issue of CEDTs, 1914** [A1, 1914/4445](#)
Customs officers were audited for their proper implementation of Immigration procedures. This item describes one investigation, and includes a critical report on Sydney port officers.
- Information for Mr Gabriel from [the] Factories Department, Victoria, 1914** [A1, 1914/6392](#)
Commonwealth officials liaised with state authorities in their efforts to track the movement of Chinese.
- Inspector of CEDT and naturalisation records, Tasmania, 1914–15** [A1, 1915/17139](#)
The file describes the use of naturalisation certificates issued in Tasmania and used for travel purposes.
- Dispensing with handprints re. issue of CEDT, 1914–17** [A1, 1916/970](#)
This item describes allowances made for individuals of ‘superior standing’ when handprints were taken by port officials.
- Si Too Tung [Si Tao Tung] – naturalisation certificate, 1914–25** [A1, 1925/11274](#)
- Taking thumbprints of Chinese on aliens registration forms, 1921** [A1, 1921/10043](#)
- Louey Kwong – Business Exemption Certificate, 1915–23** [A1, 1923/24211](#)
The file contains documents on Kwong, a former resident of the United States of America who applied to remain in Australia to replace an aged merchant, Way Sun of Little Bourke Street, Melbourne. Support for Mr Kwong came from the Chinese Consul-General and prominent Melbourne Chinese, including Cheok Hong Cheong and Louey Pang, the Government Interpreter from 1917.
- Examination of CEDT at various Customs houses by Inspector Gabriel, 1921** [A1, 1921/23960](#)
The file describes a routine check by a Home and Territories inspector on Chinese in and around Sydney, and the results.
- Yee Poy (or Jack Robust) – application for a CEDT, 1930–38** [A1, 1938/19316](#)
This item deals with the case of a Chinese permitted to remain in Australia, as he had been resident for more than 15 years.

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|---|----------------------------------|
| <p>Certificate of Naturalisation – use of photographs or thumbprints as means of identification, 1933</p> <p>This item is concerned with doubts about the utility of thumbprints on naturalisation certificates as an aid to identifying Chinese travellers.</p> | <p>A1, 1933/7139</p> |
| <p>White aliens or coloured persons paying short visits to Australia, 1936</p> <p>The file outlines the discretion available to port officers to admit visitors, particularly those with less than £50 in their possession.</p> | <p>A1, 1936/4434</p> |
| <p>Chinese stowaways entering Australia (circular to Customs), 1926–37</p> <p>This circularised instruction to port officers is one of many on the precautions to be taken in checking for stowaways.</p> | <p>A1, 1936/7665</p> |
| <p>Tsai Tsing-lan SP, 1936</p> | <p>A1, 1936/8240</p> |
| <p>[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1892–1970</p> <p>Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27) 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31) 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51); subsequently by other agencies</p> <p>Quantity: 103 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in Darwin and Melbourne</p> <p>This series consists of correspondence files on departmental operational matters.</p> | <p>A659</p> |
| <p>Admission of Chinese to Australia, 1917–38</p> | <p>A659, 1939/1/12207</p> |
| <p>Australian-born Chinese – issue of passports to, 1931–37</p> <p>This item is digitised.</p> | <p>A659, 1947/1/2134</p> |
| <p>[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1895–1905</p> <p>Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)</p> <p>Quantity: 8.28 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>This series was recorded by the Department of External Affairs, one of the first seven Departments of State established at Federation in 1901. It includes many records about the implementation of legislation restricting immigration, including those created during the transition from colonial to Commonwealth law.</p> <p>RecordSearch item titles may include names of Chinese people, so wildcard and name searches can be used to locate information about specific individuals.</p> | <p>A8</p> |
| <p>Particulars of coloured immigrants arriving in Victoria during the years 1896–1900, 1901</p> | <p>A8, 1901/142/1</p> |
| <p>Entry of Chinese officials into Australia, 1901–02</p> | <p>A8, 1901/135/2</p> |
| <p>Proclamation in Chinese and Indian languages re. Immigration Restriction Act, 1902</p> | <p>A8, 1902/52/140</p> |

- [PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1895–1926** **A2**
 Recorded by: 1904–11 Prime Minister's Office (CA 588)
 1911–20 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
 Quantity: 34.83 metres (Canberra)
 This series covers a range of subjects dealt with by the Prime Minister's Office (later, Department). Many items created during World War I concern 'aliens'.
Immigration restriction – Chinese in Queensland, 1918 **A2, 1918/2718**
- VOLUMES OF PAPERS ON 'EXTERNAL RELATIONS', 1900–23** **A2219**
 Recorded by: 1918–19 Director of Military Intelligence, Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)
 1919–21 Pacific Branch, Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
 1921–23 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
 Quantity: 2.34 metres (Canberra)
 The series contains volumes of documents on foreign affairs, which were collated from Commonwealth records by Edmund Piesse, Head of the Pacific Affairs Branch of the Prime Minister's Department. Many items refer to Chinese in Australia.
- [PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1900–56** **A462**
 Recorded by: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
 Quantity: 49 metres (Canberra)
 The series relates to a wide range of subjects that came to the attention of the prime minister of the time. It succeeds A461 (see p. 68).
Refugees from China under the auspices of the International Refugee Organisation, 1951–52 **A462, 612/2/5**
- [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–02** **A6**
 Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)
 Quantity: 3.43 metres (Canberra)
 This series contains a wide array of administrative documentation, including appointments of, and requests from, consuls; migration; official visitors; and 'coloured' labour policy.
 The series was created when the Prime Minister, Edmund Barton, was also the Minister for External Affairs (1901–03).
'The Chinese Question from a Chinaman's Point of View', reprinted from *The Register* of 1900, 1901 **A6, 1901/319**
Chinese Association – Way Lee (20 February to 15 August 1901), 1901 **A6, 1901/324**
 This item is digitised.

A PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency The Right Honourable CHARLES WALLACE
ALEXANDER MAYER, Baron Lamington of Lamington,
in the County of Lanark, in the Parage of the United
Kingdom, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished
Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor and
Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Queensland and
its Dependencies.

[L.S.]
LAWYER,
Governor,
Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Queensland and
its Dependencies.

1753
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Chun Chi Non

WHEREAS by "The Chinese Immigration Restriction Act, 1898," it is amongst other things provided that it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, from time to time, by Proclamation published in the *Gazette*, to declare that the provisions of the said Act shall not apply to any person or class of persons mentioned in such Proclamation, either generally or for any time fixed by such Proclamation: And whereas it is desirable that certain Chinese, viz., Hop Wah, Ah Oon, Kong Yuen, Wong Fong, Ah Dy, Ah Sam, Ah Jim, Kong Fye, You Guan, Loney Man, William Wong, Ah Yum, Sun Lee Cheong, Ah Yoak, Lam Chow Look, An Yee, Cheong Wah, Chun Jung, Chun Chi Non, Low On, Lee Bow, Fong Lum, Jang Lung, Fong Choo, Coo Bow, Jack Hing, Kong Yoak, Jimmy Goo Hung, Kien Sun Lee Cheong, and Joo Kan Sun Lee Cheong should be exempted from the provisions of the said Act for a period of two years: Now, therefore, I, CHARLES WALLACE ALEXANDER MAYER, Baron Lamington, the Governor aforesaid, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, do hereby declare that the provisions of the said Act shall not apply to the said Hop Wah, Ah Oon, Kong Yuen, Wong Fong, Ah Dy, Ah Sam, Ah Jim, Kong Fye, You Guan, Loney Man, William Wong, Ah Yum, Sun Lee Cheong, Ah Yoak, Lam Chow Look, An Yee, Cheong Wah, Chun Jung, Chun Chi Non, Low On, Lee Bow, Fong Lum, Jang Lung, Fong Choo, Coo Bow, Jack Hing, Kong Yoak, Jimmy Goo Hung, Kien Sun Lee Cheong, and Joo Kan Sun Lee Cheong for a period of two years from the date hereof.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Government House, Brisbane, this fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred, and in the sixty-fourth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By Command, ROBERT PHILLIP.


God Save the Queen!

W. W. Phillip
GOVERNOR

H. M. CUSTOMS, BRISBANE
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H. M. CUSTOMS, BRISBANE
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Occupation: Storeman
Height: 5 ft 3 in approx
Age: 25 years
Any other particulars useful for purpose of identification: I am on left eye right side of head
Left eye - Chingpa 2 1/2 in



*Returned in Australia
29/1/01*

Twenty-five-year-old storeman Chun Chi Non was one of a number of Chinese listed on this proclamation of exemption from the provisions of the Chinese Immigration Restriction Act [Qld: 1888], 1900 [extract]. NAA: J2481, 1900/167

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|---|----------------------------------|
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50 | A461 |
| Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) 1934–50 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) | |
| Quantity: 146 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series consists of general correspondence files covering the wide range of subjects that came to the attention of the prime minister of the day, including matters related to Chinese. | |
| Migration – Chinese, 1919–45 | A461, A349/3/4 part 1 |
| Part 2 of this item, which is also digitised, covers the period from 1945 to 1948. | |
| Passports – China, 1932–38 | A461, B349/4/2 |
| Industrial disputes – Chinese crews, 1942 | A461, AH351/1/4 |
| [ATTORNEY-GENERAL’S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 1901– | A432 |
| Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General’s Department (CA 5) 1958 Deputy Crown Solicitor’s Office (CA 832) | |
| Quantity: 1 994 metres (Canberra); 352 metres (Sydney) | |
| This is the main correspondence series for the Attorney-General’s Department after 1928. The department provided guidance to Commonwealth departments that sought opinions on administrative and policy matters, and in settling points of law. | |
| Power to exclude missionaries as prohibited immigrants ... missionaries to obtain permits ..., 1929 | A432, 1929/208 |
| This item contains the Attorney-General’s opinion on restrictions that might be applied to missionaries to New Guinea. | |
| Immigration Act, section g – re. deporting of [a] Chinese who is not a British subject, 1932 | A432, 1932/547 |
| Australian immigration policy – admission of non-Europeans, c1964 | A432, 1964/2182 |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘A’ SERIES [IMMIGRATION, NEW GUINEA AND NEW HEBRIDES], 1902–03 | A9 |
| Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7) | |
| Quantity: 2 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series mostly concerns applications for Certificates of Domicile and Exemption Certificates by aliens (a few files deal with British New Guinea and the New Hebrides). The following items illustrate the complexities experienced in administering the ‘domicile’ system of approved travel by Chinese. | |
| Chinese entering NSW without payment of [the] poll tax, 1902 | A9, A1902/35/3 |
| D Levy, MLA, 1902 | A9, A1902/35/7 |
| Certificates of Domicile were refused for two resident market gardeners of 20 years’ standing, Ah Chong and Ah Way, who were leaseholders rather than property owners. | |

In this case, they were supported by Daniel Levy, a New South Wales parliamentarian. By June 1902 the pattern of referral of approval of certificates to the Secretary of the Department of External Affairs was in place.

Nine applications for Certificates of Domicile [from Chinese at Bundaberg], 1902

A9, A1902/69/1

Queensland port officers quickly raised concerns about the work entailed in processing Certificates of Domicile and that the Commonwealth system would weaken the arrangements they had established for managing travel by Chinese.

Report from J T T Donohoe re. Chinese stowaways, 1902

A9, A1902/65/13

[Confirmation from Atlee Hunt - male holders of Domicile Certificates may bring wives and children], 1902

A9, A1902/69/25

In this item Atlee Hunt, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, notes that the allowance to bring in wives might be revoked at any time.

Chinese travelling from one state to another without hindrance, 1902

A9, A1902/75/27

OUTWARD LETTER BOOKS OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, 1903–10

A32

Recorded by: 1903–04 Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)

1904–10 Prime Minister's Office (CA 588)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Canberra)

This series consists of eight volumes of copies of correspondence from successive prime ministers to governors-general, which include records on immigration restriction.

Copies of outward correspondence with the Governor-General, 15 June 1908 to 26 May 1909

A32, 7

Among the material in this item is a report on the approval of a visit by a leading Chinese political reformist, Kang Yu-Wei.

OUTWARD LETTER BOOK OF CORRESPONDENCE, SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL, 1903–10

A34

Recorded by: 1903–04 Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)

1904–10 Prime Minister's Office (CA 588)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Canberra)

The series consists of a single volume of copies of outward correspondence from successive prime ministers between 1903 and 1910, all of a secret and confidential nature.

Correspondence from Prime Minister Alfred Deakin to the Governor-General, Lord Tennyson, dated 19 October 1903, provides a formal definition of 'domicile' in migration law.

- REGISTER OF DEPARTURE OF COLOURED PERSONS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH, 1903–35** **A38**
- Recorded by: 1903–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
 1932–25 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
- Quantity: 0.02 metres (Canberra)
- This series consists of a single register recording departure statistics of coloured people from Australia. The register is divided by the state from which departure occurred, with one page for each year between 1903 and 1935. The statistics are then arranged by month of departure and by nationality (including Chinese).
- [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL SERIES, 1903–44** **A1606**
- Recorded by: 1926–27 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
 1926–39 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
- Quantity: 6.03 metres (Canberra)
- This series contains items dealing with Chinese relations with the wider community.
- Sino–Japanese dispute – Chinese view of SS *Silksworth*, 1937** **A1606, D41/1**
- This item concerns a dispute at Newcastle, NSW that involved a Chinese crew and attracted nationwide attention.
- [PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, OCCASIONAL 'G' [GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS] INFIX, 1903–** **A463**
- Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
 1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)
 1971 Department of the Vice-President of the Executive Council (CA 1402); subsequently by several other agencies
- Quantity: 727 metres (Canberra)
- Items in this series deal with an array of matters under the direct control of the prime minister of the day, including diplomatic relations, immigration and defence. There are also some items that deal with matters of nationality. Related 'classified' records are held in series A1209.
- Chinese servants Lai Mok Wing, Lai Wing and Madam Ng – permission to reside permanently in Australia, 1971–72** **A463, 1971/2127**
- PALM-PRINTS OF ASIANS TAKEN ON ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA, 1904–07** **A2456**
- Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)
- Quantity: 0.06 metres (Canberra)
- This series comprises a small collection of handprint images, along with personal details and some photographs of Chinese travellers.

- [TRADE AND CUSTOMS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1905–** **A425**
 Recorded by: 1935–56 Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10)
 1956–75 Department of Customs and Excise (CA 62);
 subsequently by other agencies
- Quantity: 2 462 metres (Canberra); 254.52 metres (Sydney)
- This is the principal correspondence series created by the Department of Trade and Customs, and covers a broad range of subjects relating to Chinese.
- Investigation of alleged complicity by department officers in Chinese immigration offence, 1930** **A425, 1959/9730**
- Identification cards – Chinese – stowaways – control of entry into Australia, 1948–49** **A425, C1948/5757**
- Shipping passengers’ complaint ... treatment of Chinese passengers landing [in] Australia, 1947–48** **A425, 1950/4351**
- Collectors’ Conference – Item 18 [WA: Does maintenance of watch on Asian crews serve any purpose?], 1960** **A425, 1960/38967**
- OUTWARD LETTER BOOK CORRESPONDENCE – IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION, 1909** **A61**
 Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)
- Quantity: 0.02 metres (Canberra)
- This series holds copies of correspondence dealing with immigration restriction.
- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES [RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION], 1909–73** **A2998**
 Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)
- Quantity: 7.74 metres (Canberra)
- This series mainly consists of case files on non-European immigrants. Many files include passports, applications for Australian citizenship, statutory declarations, marriage details, character references and medical examination forms.
- Chinese crews on overseas vessels in Sydney, 1942** **A2998, 1951/2783**
- Number of full-blooded Chinese in Australia at date of Census [30 June 1947], 1947–51** **A2998, 1951/1343**
- Regulations governing entry of Chinese of British nationality ... inquiries by Chinese Embassy, Canberra, 1951–52** **A2998, 1951/3679**
- [TERRITORIES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1910–76** **A452**
 Recorded by: 1951–68 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60)
 1968–73 Department of External Territories [II] (CA 1284)
 1968 Territories Division, Department of the Interior, NT (CA 1286); subsequently by other agencies
- Quantity: 916.41 metres (Canberra)
- The files in this series originally related to the administration (general policy and staffing) of both the internal and external Australian territories, including the Northern Territory, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands.

From 1951 to 1956, the records relate to the Northern Territory.

Quarterly return of birth certificates issued to Chinese – Northern Territory, 1951–55

A452, 1955/253

Procedure for the entry into Australia of Chinese wives, minor children and fiancées from Hong Kong, 1963–64
This item is digitised.

[A452, 1963/7846](#)

PHOTOGRAPHIC COPIES OF PALM-PRINTS AND PROFILES OF ASIAN PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS, 1913

A2457

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Canberra)

The series, which succeeds A2456 (described on p. 70), holds a small collection of photographs, two of which are referred to in series A2455.

REGISTER OF ASIAN DESERTERS AND PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS [REWARD POSTERS FOR ARREST AND CONVICTION], 1913–18

A2455

Recorded by: 1913–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
1916–18 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Canberra)

This series consists of a register listing details about non-European deserters from ships' crews and 'prohibited immigrants'. The register entries consist of single numbers that correspond with numbered reward posters also found in the register.

Register of Asian deserters for whose apprehension and conviction a reward has been offered, 1913–18

[A2455, 1](#)

This is a digitised copy of the register, and can be viewed online on RecordSearch.

[PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'SC' (SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL) PREFIX, 1914–18

A2939

Recorded by: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series deal with various secret and confidential military and foreign affairs matters.

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1914–93

A1838

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs (CA 1382)

Quantity: 3 409 metres (Canberra)

This series comprises the main correspondence file series of the Department of External Affairs [II] and its successor. Material in A1838 deals with Australia's relations with other countries. It includes records concerning Chinese consular staff in Australia. It includes some 4 000 items on Chinese, mostly relating to the postwar period.

China – political relations with Australia – famine relief fund, 1945–50

A1838, 494/4/2

- Consuls in Australia – Chinese – Wu, Miss Y Y – Vice Consulate – Sydney, 1946–50** A1838, 1515/1/11/1
This item concerns the appointment of consular staff.
- China – Chinese nationality law, 1947–48** A1838, 491/3/2
This item includes a summary of Chinese nationality law.
- China – political relations with Australia – Chinese attitude to White Australia Policy, 1947–50** A1838, 494/5/4
This item includes reports in a selection of Chinese and Australian newspapers on the treatment of Chinese in Australia.
- Consular representatives – representatives in Australia – China – Liu, T W – Consul, Melbourne, 1950–56** A1838, 1515/1/11/9
- China – Chinese overseas – general, 1956–61** A1838, 3107/33/6
This item has eight parts (A1838, 3107/33/6 parts 2 to 9).
part 2
- Chinese Consulate, Perth – Chen, William C P – Consul, Perth, later Consul-General, Melbourne, 1968–71** A1838, 1515/1/11/30
- [AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION] PERSONAL FILES, 1915–** A6119
Recorded by: Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) (CA 1297)
Quantity: 78 metres (Canberra)
This series contains information assembled by ASIO or its predecessors on persons of interest, mainly since the end of World War II.
The material in this series is retained by ASIO. Access to items in this series is considered on the submission of applications by researchers.
- Chang Gar Lock – Volume 2 – also known as Arthur Locke, 1960–62** A6119, 2412
This item is one of several relating to Arthur Locke and his political activism. The file also includes an account of a public talk by William Liu, another leading public figure among Chinese in Sydney, on a visit to China.
- [AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION] SUBJECT FILES, 1915–** A6122
Recorded by: Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (CA 1297)
Quantity: 50.49 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney)
This series contains information assembled by ASIO or its predecessors on subjects of interest (groups, organisations and so on), mainly since the end of World War II. Some items in this series deal with Chinese employee and other community associations after 1945, which are described in Chapter 6.
The material in this series is retained by ASIO. Access to items in this series is considered on the submission of applications by researchers.

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| [INTELLIGENCE SERVICES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1916–60 | A8911 |
| Recorded by: 1916–19 Special Intelligence Bureau (CA 746) | |
| 1919–46 Investigation Branch (CA 747) | |
| 1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650) | |
| Quantity: 3.6 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Perth) | |
| This series is made up of items transferred by ASIO. The items came from a variety of record series, including A367, A369, A402, A6119 and A6122. Among the items in this series are reports on Chinese community associations, described in Chapter 6 of this guide. | |
| Chinese nationals in Queensland, 1943–44 | A8911, 297 |
| Chinese – Cairns District, 1944 | A8911, 93 |
| Chinese aliens – Ingham, 1944 | A8911, 264 |
| [SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR PREFIX (1916–27) AND ‘C’ PREFIX (1927–53), 1916–71 | A367 |
| Recorded by: 1916–19 Special Intelligence Bureau, Melbourne (CA 746) | |
| 1919–46 Investigation Branch, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747) | |
| 1946–53 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650) | |
| Quantity: 66.6 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series includes policy, precedent and case files created by the Commonwealth’s intelligence and investigation services into applications for naturalisation and the admission into Australia of friends, relatives and visitors of, and substitutes for, Chinese businessmen. | |
| Relief of Chinese interpreter, 1940 | A367, C50149 |
| [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919–50 | A433 |
| Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27) | |
| 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31) | |
| 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51) | |
| Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra) | |
| Records in this series deal with various aspects of restricted immigration policy, including admission under exemption, deportation, business visitors, ships’ deserters and ‘undesirables’. Some material has been placed in series A446, A445 and A2998. | |
| Quarterly return for Consul-General for China – arrivals and departures of Chinese ‘A’, 1913–47 | A433, 1945/2/2555 |
| Children born in Australia of coloured parents under exemption, 1916–28 | A433, 1948/2/4731 |
| Consuls-general for Italy and Denmark – Exemption Certificates for Chinese servants, 1930–42 | A433, 1940/2/393 |
| Yit Ho – Chinese student, 1932–37 | A433, 1947/2/4555 |
| This item is digitised. | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>University of Queensland – (1) admission of Chinese and Japanese lecturers; (2) admission of students, 1937–39 This item is digitised.</p> | <p>A433, 1939/2/2446</p> |
| <p>Population of Chinese in Australia, 1943–47 This item is digitised.</p> | <p>A433, 1949/2/8505</p> |
| <p>HQ MISCELLANEOUS FILES [MICROFILM OF INVESTIGATION BRANCH, COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATION SERVICE AND ASIO FILES], 1920–67 Recorded by: Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (CA 1297)</p> <p>Quantity: 24 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>This series consists of microfilmed files from various security intelligence agencies. The files date from 1920 to 1967 and cover a wide range of subjects and persons investigated by security intelligence agencies. Items in this series are representative of several series of records created during this time.</p> | <p>A9108</p> |
| <p>Allegations of gold smuggling by Chinese in Darwin, NT, 1953 This item, which is digitised, concerns unfounded allegations of large-scale gold smuggling and assumed associations of smugglers with communist organisations.</p> | <p>A9108, roll 17/30</p> |
| <p>[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (POLICY MATTERS), 1922–68 Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)</p> <p>Quantity: 28.81 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>The series consists of general policy files relating to the assimilation, welfare and education of migrants. Subjects include conferences, refugees and restricted immigration policy.</p> <p>Items directly concerned with nationality and citizenship enactments were removed and placed in series A446 (described on p. 81), but some material on naturalisations remains in this series.</p> | <p>A445</p> |
| <p>Re-entry permits – Chinese, 1948–49</p> | <p>A445, 236/2/34</p> |
| <p>Chinese – assistants for laundries, hawkers, herbalists and primary producers, part 1, 1948–51</p> | <p>A445, 236/2/5</p> |
| <p>Chinese seamen and amahs – arrangements for departure, 1949–50</p> | <p>A445, 236/2/35</p> |
| <p>Australian-born Chinese – recognition of status overseas, 1950 This item concerns a Chinese woman permitted to enter Australia.</p> | <p>A445, 236/2/12</p> |
| <p>Return of birth certificates issued to Chinese at Darwin, 1950–55</p> | <p>A445, 236/2/46</p> |
| <p>Entry to and stay of Chinese nationals in Australia [Immigration Advisory Council sub-committee report], 1951</p> | <p>A445, 236/2/15</p> |
| <p>Admission of Chinese fiancées [David J Adams], 1952–54</p> | <p>A445, 236/2/42</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| Statistics of non-Europeans residing in Australia [from 1881 to 1951], 1953 | A445, 236/16/4 |
| | |
| [SECURITY SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1923–56 | A373 |
| Recorded by: 1941–45 Security Service (CA 660) 1945–46 Investigation Branch (CA 747) 1946–48 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650) | |
| Quantity: 7.38 metres (Canberra) | |
| Included among records in this series are assessments of wartime and postwar issues that concern Chinese. | |
| Mails from China diplomatic bag, 1943 | A373, 6560 |
| Chinese activities, 1943 | A373, 7955 |
| Survey of Chinese nationals overseas, 1943–45 | A373, 10729 |
| Chinese Section (directive), 1944 | A373, 11380 |
| Aliens Control Regulations - registrations of Chinese in Australia, 1944–45 | A373, 8774 |
| This item outlines problems in recording Chinese names. | |
| Captured Chinese junk, <i>Bandoeng Maru</i>, 1945–46 | A373, 10127D |
| | |
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 6 (ALIENS REGISTRATION), 1923–57 | A437 |
| Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51) | |
| Quantity: 2.16 metres (Canberra) | |
| Despite its title, this series consists of files on migration and settlement as well as files about the registration of postwar aliens. | |
| Chinese – proposed check on Chinese unlawfully in Australia, 1947 | A437, 1947/6/104 |
| <i>Aliens Act 1947 - return of aliens registered for residence in Victoria, 1947–49</i> | A437, 1948/6/303 |
| This item holds monthly returns. | |
| | |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR PREFIX, 1927–45 | A989 |
| Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) | |
| Quantity: 30.69 metres (Canberra) | |
| Items in this series concern Australia's relations with other countries, specifically in the context of World War II, as well as records on the subjects of nationality and travel. | |
| Shooting of Chinese seamen by Dutch authorities, 1943 | A989, 1943/815/6 |
| This digitised item includes reports from the Australian Legation in Chongqing on overseas Chinese communities. | |
| Chinese migration and overseas Chinese, 1943–44 | A989, 1944/554/7/1 |
| Australia sub-committee No. (3b) – coloured immigration, 1943–45 | A989, 1944/43/554/2/11 |
| Chinese migration and overseas Chinese, 1945 | A989, 1944/43/554/7/1 attachment |

[IMMIGRATION] SECRET CORRESPONDENCE FILES – BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, 'S' (SECRET) PREFIX, c1930–80**A6980**

Recorded by: 1972–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51);
subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 74 metres (Canberra)

This series contains material that documents departmental responses to sensitive immigration, visitor and citizenship issues. This series covers a wide range of topics, including opinions provided by various agencies on applications for immigration, temporary entry, citizenship or passports. This information was provided about various groups of aliens, with distinctions made between 'political grounds' and 'security'. Similar material can be found in series A445 and A446.

Illegal Chinese immigration, 1956–63**A6980, S250357**

This item concerns the views of Immigration and security agencies on cases of illicit immigration prior to the relaxation of immigration restrictions in 1966.

Security vetting – refugees ex-China – serial advices to Hong Kong and Singapore, ASIO – part 5, 1960–61**A6980, S250281****[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1933–71****A1068**

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)

Quantity: 26.46 metres (Canberra)

This series is a good source for information about policy shifts on migration to Australia after World War II. The contents of many items in this series extend beyond the date ranges suggested in their titles.

Diplomatic privileges – general – Chinese Ministry of Communications – delegates to PICAQ Conference, 1947**A1068, IC47/11/8/1**

PICAQ was the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization (1945–47).

Deportations – Chinese stowaways on SS Yunan, 1947**A1068, IC47/27/2****Assistance to non-British – Chinese Say Dee and Seng U, 1947****A1068, IC47/120/1/1****PERSONAL STATEMENT AND DECLARATION BY ALIEN PASSENGERS (FORM A42), 1937–48****A12508**

Recorded by: 1937–39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
1945–48 Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 75 metres (Canberra)

This series consists of detailed personal statements by alien passengers, including Chinese, upon their arrival in Australia. It details their travel, personal and family particulars, intentions in Australia and so on. The first number in the item number indicates the country of origin or nationality of the individual. For items on Chinese, see '10/'. Items on 'Thai', 'Siamese' and 'Stateless' also may be relevant.

'THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION', 1937-71**A5954**

Recorded by: 1937-71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE
(CP 320)

1937-39 Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)

1939-42 Department of Defence Co-ordination (CA 37)

1942-71 Department of Defence [III] (CA 46)

Quantity: 201 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in other offices of the National Archives

Sir Frederick Shedden was the Secretary of the Department of Defence between 1937 and 1956. This series contains records he collected on the history of Australian defence policy from 1901 to 1945. It contains copies of departmental correspondence, files, reports, press cuttings and copies of War Cabinet and Advisory War Council records. Many items in this series have been digitised.

New Guinea and White Australia Policy - papers prepared for First Assembly of League of Nations, 1920

[A5954, 1203/2](#)

White Australia Policy, 1944-55

[A5954, 2122/2](#)

Immigration and White Australia, 1963-70

[A5954, 1119/8](#)**ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES - RESIDENTS OF [THE] ACT AND SURROUNDING AREAS, 1939-72****A1870**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 13.68 metres (Canberra)

Many items in this series relate to 'alien' international students and university postings to the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Most records relate to the period from 1948 to 1964.

Yu, Choy Chun - nationality: Chinese - arrived: Sydney per aircraft ..., 30 May 1962

[A1870, Yu C C](#)

Wang, Sing-Wu - nationality: Chinese - arrived: Sydney per aircraft ..., 22 October 1964

[A1870, Wang S](#)**[AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, CHINA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR SUFFIX, 1941-49****A4144**

Recorded by: c1945-48 Australian Legation, Republic of China
[Chungking/Nanking] (CA 1978)

1948 Australian Embassy, Republic of China
[Nanking] (CA 1979)

Quantity: 7 metres (Canberra)

This is the main correspondence series for the Australian Legation in China from its establishment in 1941 to the end of 1948. It also includes some material from the Shanghai Commercial Counsellor's Office and the Consulate-General.

Overseas Chinese - Australia, 1945-47

[A4144, 288/1947](#)

Australia - immigration - applications for entry by Chinese, 1946

[A4144, 148/1946](#)

Australia - immigration - Chinese servants - temporary entry, 1946-47

[A4144, 332/1947](#)

[COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF EDUCATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1941–62**A1361**

Recorded by: Commonwealth Office of Education (CA 590)

Quantity: 89 metres (Canberra)

This series contains correspondence files created by the Commonwealth Office of Education, whose responsibilities included the establishment and maintenance of liaison on education matters with other countries.

Magazine for Asian students – liaison – officers overseas, 1956–60

**A1361, 50/2/5
part 1**

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1942–53**A1067**

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)

Quantity: 29 metres (Canberra)

This is the main correspondence series of the Department of External Affairs for 1946, although it includes documents from 1942–53. The department was responsible for relations with overseas governments, including the protection of Australian interests and nationals abroad; treaties, international agreements and policy; nationality; status of aliens; immigration and emigration; and economic matters.

Landing permits: Chinese students – Fam Yueonn, Chia Teck, Winnie Teo and Lucy Chin, 1946

[A1067, IC46/3/14](#)

This digitised item concerns male and female students who were among the first students from Singapore after the end of World War II.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 15 (MIGRANTS O TO S), 1942–55**A443**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 9.54 metres (Canberra)

This series consists of individual case files dealing with naturalisation, resettlement, deportation and applications for passports.

[Steam Ship] *Japara* – 25 Chinese seamen under [exemption] [landed at Townsville, 1943–71

A443, 1951/15/243

Townley, A, MHR [Athol G; immigration; non-European; British], 1951–55

A443, 1951/15/4099

[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – NATURALISATION, 1944–50**A435**

Recorded by: 1939–45 Department of Interior [II] (CA 31)
1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 227 metres (Canberra)

This series includes individual case files on Chinese nationals, notably children, and also women who revoked their Chinese nationality acquired by marriage. This series is also discussed in chapters 4 and 6.

COUNCIL MEETINGS – VOLUMES OF AGENDA, NOTES AND MINUTES, 1947–58**A2169**

Recorded by: Commonwealth Immigration Advisory Council (CA 510)

Quantity: 0.92 metres (Canberra)

This series contains volumes of agenda, minutes and supporting papers for meetings of the Commonwealth Immigration Advisory Council between 1947 and 1958. The council provided advice to the Minister for Immigration on non-European immigration and naturalisation. Its membership included industrial union and employer groups, the Returned Servicemen's League and welfare bodies. Among the matters investigated by the council was the issue of Chinese nationals in Australia. Other documents produced by the council may be found in series A2170.

[AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, CHINA] VARIOUS MIGRATION PAPER[S] (HONG KONG), 1947–67**A12500**

Recorded by: Office of the Representative of the Australian Embassy in China/External Affairs Representative, Hong Kong (CA 1980)

Quantity: 6 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series concern approved and disapproved visa applications into Australia and applications for naturalisation.

Miscellaneous fingerprint submissions for criminal record checks by applicants ... for admission into Australia ..., 1959**A12500, 3/1/1959**

This digitised item concerns checks requested of the Hong Kong police on Chinese from Chungshan, Canton and Hong Kong.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 11 (MIGRANTS A–C), 1949–58**A439**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 6.66 metres (Canberra)

This is one of seven series of case files for individuals (A439 through to A445), which include documentation on naturalisation, passports and immigration matters.

Alien control under communism in Canton, China, 1950**A439, 1951/11/128****MIGRATION CASE FILES (HONG KONG), 1949–67****A1630**

Recorded by: Office of the Representative of the Australian Embassy in China/External Affairs Representative, Hong Kong (CA 1980)

Quantity: 33 metres (Canberra)

This series relates to applications for entry visas to Australia by various nationals, including Chinese, for short- and long-term visits, and extensions to visas. Most applications include spouses and children. An index to this series is held in series A1631.

NAME INDEX CARDS – ASIAN STUDENTS – TECHNICAL TRAINING UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN, 1953–75**B136**

Recorded by: 1953–72 Department of Labour and National Service (CA 40)
 1972–74 Department of Labour (CA 1480)
 1974–75 Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1769)

Quantity: 1 metre (Canberra)

The cards in the series title refer to Asian students receiving technical training under the Colombo Plan, either in Australia or outside Australia, through the Colombo Plan Correspondence Scholarship Scheme.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, 1953–**A446**

Recorded by: 1953–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1775); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 3 422.37 metres (Canberra)

This is the main correspondence series for the Department of Immigration and its successors. It contains both individual case and policy files dealing with matters of interest to the department.

Established immigration policy, 1963–67[A446, 1966/45348](#)

This item is digitised.

Rights of naturalised persons under Commonwealth and state laws, 1963–85[A446, 1978/78986](#)

This digitised item concerns restrictive migration laws, the relaxation of constraints on Asian entrants, and notions of social cohesion and ‘assimilative potential’.

[COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATION SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1953–**A1533**

Recorded by: 1953–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)
 1960–75 Commissioner, Commonwealth Police [II] (CA 736); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 8 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series contain correspondence on investigations relating to character checks, detailed inquiries into specified persons and security generally.

***Australia–Chinese Times* – foreign language newspaper, 1954–55**[A1533, 1954/4196](#)**Illegal entry of Chinese into Australia – ex-mv *Taiywan*, 1959–63**[A1533, 1959/1137](#)

OVERSEAS STUDENTS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING CASE HISTORY FILES, 1957–81**A5736**

Recorded by: 1957–67 Commonwealth Office of Education (CA 590)
 1967–69 International Education Branch, Department of Education and Science (CA 1318)
 1969–72 Department of Education and Science (CA 1196); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 2.43 metres (Canberra)

The series comprises case history files for students from Commonwealth countries or developing countries in Asia, Africa and the Pacific who were granted awards for a course of study or training in Australia under one of the Australian Government's development assistance programs.

[AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, CHINA] MIGRATION CASE FILES (HONG KONG), 1967–88**A2495**

Recorded by: Office of the Representative of the Australian Embassy in China/External Affairs Representative, Hong Kong (CA 1980)

Quantity: 362.25 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series contain applications for visas to enter Australia for tourism or business, together with receipts for any fees paid and other correspondence. The items relate to Asians and others. An index to A2495 is held in series A1631.

MIGRANT SELECTION DOCUMENTS, 'SD' PREFIX, 1971–**A2917**

Recorded by: 1973–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1775)

Quantity: 535.86 metres (Canberra)

This series consists of selection documents for assisted passage migrants and refugees from 1973. The record system adopted for this series reflects changes to government practices and policies that abolished all distinctions between British and non-British migrants. The phasing out of assisted passage began in 1981, and most of the selection documents after that time relate to refugees (other than Indo-Chinese) and some special assisted passage cases.

Sydney

For a detailed explanation of the recordkeeping systems used by Sydney branches of departments concerned with immigration matters, please refer to the National Archives research guide No. 1, *Chinese Immigrants and Chinese Australians in NSW*. This guide is available for viewing online (see www.naa.gov.au/publications).

Series SP42/1 and SP42/2 are two principal record series established by Collector of Customs at Sydney in the first half of the twentieth century. Other smaller series hold related correspondence and case files. For example, SP11/12 (1926–47) includes a small collection on Chinese travel, while SP83/7 contains details on Chinese who travelled on

two ships – the SS *Nellore* and SS *Taiping* in 1947. Another collection of records is held in SP11/27 – eight files relate to Chinese readmissions to Australia between 1923 and 1947. Series SP1655/7, created by the Department of Immigration, holds five case files on Chinese nationals, both male and female, which date from 1935 to 1972.

Registers and indexes

Port officers and other government officials created registers of various kinds to manage their records, to use in preparing reports on their work, and to manage their daily responsibilities (eg over travel) in a busy port office.

Many registers provide details on Chinese or provide file numbers that can direct the researcher to the more detailed ‘correspondence’ record series. Most statistical registers also include details about seamen and passengers, and their destinations.

Table 8: Series of registers detailing Chinese who arrived in and/or departed from Australia

| Title and notes | Series |
|--|----------|
| Outward registers – Immigration Act (coloured crews and passengers), for ports of Sydney and Newcastle], 1905–37 This series lists the numbers of passengers and crew entering and departing from Australia by ship. | SP143/3 |
| Inwards registers – Immigration Act [persons admitted, who passed the Dictation Test, refused, etc.], 1913–30 This series provides monthly statistics of all persons arriving by ship at Sydney and Newcastle (with details on individuals and their travel), and those who passed the Dictation Test. Remarks can be quite extensive and refer to file numbers in related record series. | SP143/4 |
| Registers of aliens’ arrivals, 1917–47 This series holds lists forwarded by Customs offices to the Commonwealth Investigation Service. | SP1084/1 |
| Statistical register of persons admitted under Immigration Act – [excluding] crews of vessels, 1919–24 | SP822/7 |
| Register of forms A.42, 1933–47 This series details landings at Sydney between 1933 and 1947. | SP444/1 |
| Register of Form 19 (inwards and outwards) – advice of departure from Sydney of coloured persons, 1937–54 | SP343/1 |
| Asiatic arrivals’ index cards (war period), 1939–45 This series contains individual cards that record personal details, alien registrations and CEDTs, often with photographs attached. | SP343/3 |
| Register of Certificates of Identity, 1939–55 This series records nationality and departure details for Sydney | SP607/4 |
| Particulars of coloured persons leaving the Port of Sydney (Form 19), 1948–50 | SP115/3 |
| Register of Form 19 (coloured) departures, 1954–56 | SP511/1 |
| Form 19 – advice of departure from Sydney of coloured persons, 1955–56 | SP443/2 |
| Registers of type ‘D’ permits and temporary entry permits, 1962–65 Although held in Sydney, this series is concerned with South Australian records. | AP530/6 |

Registers created following World War II indicate the changing travel arrangements available to Chinese. Some examples are listed in the following table.

Table 9: Registers of passport applications, issuances and renewals, and visas

| Title | Series |
|--|----------|
| Register of passports issued, 1919–70 | SP1653/1 |
| Registers of applications received for passports, visas, certificate of identity etc., 1946–51 | SP1095/2 |
| Register of visas issued, 1947–50 | SP1095/4 |
| Registers of official passports issued, 1948–52 | SP607/2 |
| Register of passport renewals, 1950–60 | SP607/3 |

‘Correspondence’ series and other records

The series described below illustrate the breadth of records created by Customs and Immigration and other government officials in New South Wales.

[CUSTOMS, NSW] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘B’ SERIES, 1862–1924

SP11/28

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series holds two files.

Birth and naturalisation certificates [for Chinese in Australia], 1883–1924

**SP11/28,
B1924/3564**

The title of this item has been edited for brevity. The documents were found in a drawer in the Revenue Detectives Branch, Customs and Excise Office in 1924.

Importation [of] 600 tins of opium by Sun Good Shing per *St Albans*, 1921–23

**SP11/28,
B1924/3563**

The title of this item has been edited for brevity. The item includes two electrotype printing blocks with the trademark ‘Lam Kee Macao Opium’, which were found in a packet in a drawer in the Revenue Detectives Branch, Customs and Excise Office in 1924.

[IMMIGRATION] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘N’ (NSW) PREFIX, c1897–1967

SP1122/1

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 2 372 metres (Sydney)

Items in this series contain correspondence, papers, documents, passports and photographs relating to immigrants and emigrants entering or leaving Australia through the Port of Sydney or interstate ports. Among the matters dealt with are naturalisations, deportations, passports, landing permits, assisted migration, and entry and re-entry. This series also contains a number of items dealing with Chinese arrivals and departures. Nominal indexes are available in three related series – SP1602/1 (1951–69), SP1689/1 (1960–75) and SP1729/1 (1976–79).

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Leung Lum Yow, 1921–51 This item contains correspondence from the Department of Immigration, along with papers relating to, and photographs of, Mr Leung's parents, James and Ming Sun. | SP1122/1, N1951/24/10 |
| Sun Sing Garden, 1950–54 This item contains correspondence about CEDTs for Wing Seng, Hing Fong, Tat Choy and Kwai Yuen (Kway Yin). | SP1122/1, 1952/24/1688 |
| Ip Sung [deserter, ex-Idomeneus; Immigration correspondence file] 1951–54 | SP1122/1, N1951/24/1035 |
| Yun Chee Won [editor of the <i>Chinese World's News</i> newspaper; Immigration file], 1950–52 | SP1122/1, N1952/24/410 |
| Rosie Wong/Swee Kwong [correspondence re. certificate of exemption], 1960 | SP1122/1, 1952/24/1754 |
| [CUSTOMS, NSW] CORRESPONDENCE – IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION AND PASSPORTS, 1898–1948 | SP42/1 |
| Recorded by: 1901–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785) 1945–48 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) | |
| Quantity: 51.12 metres (Sydney) | |
| Most of the records in this series are 'case files' on Chinese. They cover a range of immigration restriction matters, including CEDTs and passports. Some records concern shipping companies. Some papers are concerned with Chinese people and colonial migration law in New South Wales from 1898 to 1900. | |
| Pang Fong Chong [correspondence ... relating to immigration restrictions], 1903 | SP42/1, C1903/104 |
| Mrs Ng Kin and three children, Chinese, leaving for China [on the] SS <i>Tango Maru</i>...and Charlie Ng Kin, 1903–19 This item includes a number of photographs. | SP42/1, C1919/825 |
| [Chinese passengers] ex-Eastern en route to Hong Kong, 1905 | SP42/1, B1905/1395 |
| The title of this item has been edited for brevity. It includes the names of a number of Chinese people – Yee Sil, Ah Shue, Teddy Ah Gau, Nee Kim, Gee Way, Ah Soon, Kum Youey, Charlie Young, Ah Loong, Thomas G Louey, Gong Yuun, Joshua Fonng Jui, Chong Ah Fook, Chong Ah Shuig, Yeck Chung, Back Coocy, Ah Heu and Ah Know. | |
| Sidney Hing Lowe [correspondence ... relating to immigration restrictions and passports], 1910–34 | SP42/1, C1934/1013 |
| Una Chen (Ha Song) Sing, Mrs Choy Jack (nee Una Chin Ah Song), Ada Ruby, Arthur, Walter and Jack, 1913–46 This item includes photographs. | SP42/1, C1946/8842 |
| Lee Ping Tong ..., 1946 | SP42/1, C1946/8901 |

- CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION FROM DICTATION TEST (FORMS 32 AND 21), 1902–46** **SP11/6**
 Recorded by: 1902–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
 1945–46 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
 Quantity: 1.26 metres (Sydney)
 This series comprises travel certificates and some related files of correspondence.
Book of Certificates of Domicile ... miscellaneous passengers, 1909–26 **SP11/6, certificate domicile miscellaneous passengers 1909–1926**
Applications for admission into Australia of the Cumines family, 1911–39 **SP11/6, applic for admission into Australia of the Cumines family**
Correspondence - residential status of Chinese employees of Hong Yuen and Co., 1926–36 **SP11/6, C26/8740**
- REGISTER OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES, 1902–62** **SP726/2**
 Recorded by: 1913–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
 1945–62 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
 Quantity: 0.45 metres (Sydney)
 This series consists of a register of birth certificates of non-European travellers.
- OUTWARD LETTER BOOKS, CORRESPONDENCE [RE. THE] IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT, 1904–08** **A1026**
 Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
 Quantity: 0.36 metres (Sydney)
 This series contains three letter books of correspondence from the Collector of Customs, Sydney on all aspects of the administration of the Immigration Restriction Act. The series includes items on individual Chinese as well as advice to shipping companies on procedures for passengers in transit.
- [CUSTOMS, NSW] CORRESPONDENCE RE. ISSUE OF BONDS (SECURITIES) FOR PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS, 1904–48** **SP740/1**
 Recorded by: 1904–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
 1945–48 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
 Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)
 This series consists of a bound volume, providing an overview of the payment of bonds under the Immigration Restriction Act, for temporary stays in Australia by Chinese wives, students, merchants, deportees and passengers transshipping at Australian ports.
Lohmann and Company ... bond for £2 000 for transhipment of prohibited immigrants, 1909 **SP740/1, C1909/6554**

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Security for departure of transhipment passengers, Burns Philp & Co. Ltd, 1912-42 | SP740/1, C1942/2039 |
| General bond, transhipment passengers, 1919-48 This item is a folder of correspondence with shipping and airways companies. | SP740/1, C1948/2596 |
| Huddart Parker Ltd - security for landing Chinese passengers not exceeding 50 at any one time, 1924 | SP740/1, C06082 |
| Mrs Harry Way Yee, ex-Aldenhams ..., 1915-16 Puck Sing Young of Glen Innes and George Bew of Wing Sang and Company at Haymarket paid £100 as a bond for the wife of Harry Way Yee of Glen Innes to enter Australia for six months. | SP740/1, C1916/241 |
| [MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE] COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS RE. IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION AND PASSPORTS, 1907-48 | SP42/2 |
| Recorded by: 1907-45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785) 1945-48 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) | |
| Quantity: 6.12 metres (Sydney) | |
| This series is similar in content to SP42/1, which is described above. It also holds records on contraventions of Federal commerce regulations. | |
| Mu Kum Sing ..., 1915-23 This item includes photographs and thumbprints as well as correspondence. | SP42/2, C1923/3259 |
| Arrivals per SS Empire ..., 1911 | SP42/2, C1911/2313 |
| Mrs Tong Wee, Tung Wee and Henry Young Nooey ..., 1914 | SP42/2, C1914/4554 |
| Correspondence regarding Chinese consular visa fees, 1935-37 | SP42/2, C1936/6682 |
| Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand Ltd - circular regarding [the] Commonwealth Immigration Act, 1937 | SP42/2, C1937/488 |
| Chan Keung - Chinese deserter, ex-SS Automedon, Sydney, 1940-41 This item includes photographs and an identification card. | SP42/2, C1941/654 |
| [2 MILITARY DISTRICT, NSW] CORRESPONDENCE, 1912-64 | SP459/1 |
| Recorded by: 1912-21 2 Military District, NSW [I] (CA 6335); subsequently by other agencies | |
| Quantity: 64.5 metres (Sydney) | |
| This series contains correspondence relating to the administration, function and policy of the 2 Military District, NSW [I] and its successors. Matters covered include camps, casualties, deaths, war medals, offences and establishments, prisoners of war, inspections, property and releases. | |
| Aliens - seamen of Chinese nationality - returns to Deputy Director of Navigation, 1944 | SP459/1, 489/2/763 |

- INVESTIGATION FILES, 'N' (NSW) PREFIX, 1914–46** **ST1233/1**
 Recorded by: 1917–19 Special Intelligence Bureau, NSW (CA 909)
 1920–46 Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)
 1946 Commonwealth Investigation Service, NSW
 (CA 912)
 Quantity: 28.62 metres (Sydney)
 This series contains dossiers compiled by various Intelligence services about individuals, companies and organisations. Matters dealt with include suspected illegal immigration. Series SP1714/1 (described below) also contains dossiers, while related files handed to ASIO in 1949 are held in series ST2476/11.
James Ah Ching, 1928 **ST1233/1, N5770**
- INVESTIGATION FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1914–62** **SP1714/1**
 Recorded by: 1920–46 Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)
 1946–57 Commonwealth Investigation Service, NSW
 (CA 912)
 Quantity: 10.80 metres (Sydney)
 This series, like series ST1233/1, contains dossiers compiled by the Investigation Branch and, later, the Commonwealth Investigation Service on individuals and organisations. This series contains many records top-numbered from other series, eg SP26/1, Dossiers on internees. After 1949, many of these items were transferred to ASIO.
Immigrants and [the] White Australia Policy, 1946–54 **SP1714/1, N39875**
- [IMMIGRATION] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AND CASE FILES, 'N' (NSW) PREFIX, I–Z SERIES, 1915–75** **C437**
 Recorded by: 1956–74 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, NSW (CA 1995)
 1975 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NSW (CA 1968)
 Quantity: 1.44 metres (Sydney)
 Items in this series deal with individual migrants, general correspondence and policy matters, estimates, finance and staff. The series also contains some items dealing with Asians, including Chinese people. Nominal indexes are available for 1951–69 (series SP1602/1), 1970–75 (series SP1689/1) and 1976–79 (series SP1729/1). No individual items are listed on RecordSearch.
- INVESTIGATION FILES (PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS), ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1921–46** **C320**
 Recorded by: 1942–45 Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)
 1945–46 Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW
 (CA 904)
 Quantity: 4.5 metres (Sydney)
 This series consists of correspondence files on 'suspect' activities. Items relating to Chinese individuals and

organisations are identified by the prefix 'C', though other items may also be of interest.

Chinese visitors to Newcastle photographing seafront, 1940 C320, C10

Chinese and Japanese characteristics, 1941 C320, C11

TRAVEL FACILITIES (PASSPORTS/PERMITS) INDEX, 1925–47

D2249

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Sydney)

One of the sets of index cards held in this series gives file references for certificates of identity and various permissions to enter, leave and re-enter Australia and New Guinea.

[CUSTOMS, SA] IMMIGRATION INDEX CARDS, 1926–39

D2248

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Sydney)

This series contains index cards of Customs boarding inspections in South Australia between 1926 and 1933, which document the medical status of arrivals at Adelaide. The cards give details of the subject (file title) and the file registration.

[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'SB' (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1928–51

D1976

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 11.16 metres (Sydney); 3.78 metres (Adelaide)

Items in this series were created by the Shipping Branch of the Customs Office at Port Adelaide. Matters covered include CEDTs and other travel exemptions, refusals of admission, departures of 'coloured' persons, and applications for passports and landing permits. Many of the following items have not yet been examined and will require access clearance before they can be viewed by members of the public. Please see Fact Sheet 10, 'Access to records under the Archives Act' for more information.

Immigration Act - Howard A Torr - Chinese student's education, 1928–35

D1976, SB1945/819

Chinese - likely to enter Commonwealth, 1929

D1976, SB1940/344

Mrs May Kwa Kow, Chinese - under exemption, 1939–40

D1976, SB1940/208

Admission of Chinese into Australia, 1940

D1976, SB1940/479

Foo To - Chinese ex-member crew SS *Nemmon* ... repatriated SS *Taiping* ..., 1941

D1976, SB1941/71

Mary Parker - British-Chinese, aged 9 years - arrival, 1942

D1976, SB1942/246

Immigration Act - mustering Chinese crew members, 1943

D1976, SB1943/431

Immigration Act - Wan Po - Chinese deserter, SS *Kota Ageong* at Melbourne, 1943–44

D1976, SB1943/143

Immigration Act - Chinese [and] Malay seamen ex-*Cable Enterprise*, signing off ..., 1944

D1976, SB1944/685

- Immigration Act – Mrs Chin Sue – list of extensions of CEDTs for Chinese residents, 1947** D1976, SB1945/578
- Immigration Act – mv *Kina* – from Copenhagen via Aden ... East Asiatic Steamship Company ..., 1949** D1976, SB1949/52
- Admission of aliens resident in Iran, Iron Curtain countries, China or Israel, 1950** D1976, SB1950/428
- [CUSTOMS, NSW] IMMIGRATION CIRCULARS, 1931–47** C4239
- Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
- Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)
- This volume contains copies of typed correspondence produced by the departments of Home Affairs, Treasury, Interior and Immigration, with instructions on passport regulations for individuals of different nationalities, as well as landing permits, and an array of other records, including drug trafficking. Some copies have written annotations.
- BOARDING OFFICERS – REPORTS ON VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT ARRIVING AT SYDNEY ..., 1936–58** ST875/2
- Recorded by: 1936–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
1945–58 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
- Quantity: 2.34 metres (Sydney)
- This series contains reports compiled by Customs boarding officers documenting the issue of landing and re-entry permits to ‘restricted’ and ‘coloured’ passengers arriving in Australia. Items relate to particular vessels and aircraft. The reports detail the name, nationality and status (under the Immigration Act) of the passengers. No individual items are listed on RecordSearch.
- APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION (ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES), ALPHABETICAL SERIES – NON-NATURALISED ALIENS, 1940–47** SP11/3
- Recorded by: 1940–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
1945–47 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
- Quantity: 20.16 metres (Sydney)
- This series includes applications from short-term visitors (and a few long-term residents) who came to Australia as tourists, businessmen, students and dependants, or who died before 1947. When people became naturalised, their papers were moved to series SP11/5.
- All box 15 [Chao Lin Tong – An Chee Chey] – alien registration forms, c1939–by 1948** SP11/3, box 15
- [INFORMATION] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1945–46** SP109/3
- Recorded by: Department of Information (CA 34)
- Quantity: 8.5 metres (Canberra)
- This series contains items that reflect the role of the Department of Information following World War II. However, it does contain papers dating back to 1939, including some wartime items related to Chinese. Items in

this series generally bear headings such as ‘Censorship’, ‘Publicity’, ‘Rehabilitation’, ‘Exhibitions’, ‘Shortwave’ and ‘Photographs’.

Radio telephone service to India, China, Philippines and NEI [Netherlands East Indies], 1942–45

SP109/3, 340/22

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘S’ PREFIX, 1946–

D399

Recorded by: 1966–74 Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, SA (CA 2319)
 1975–87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], SA (CA 2327); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 577.44 metres (Sydney); 131 metres (Adelaide)

This series holds administrative and operational files as well as personal case files of migrants. The items contain details of various short-term exemptions and applications for naturalisation or immigration, eg migrant sponsorship. Other items document citizenship applications and deportation cases.

More series containing immigration case files are described at pp. 22 and 23 of *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, compiled by Margaret Chambers, National Archives of Australia in association with Hale and Iremonger, 1998.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘SA’ AND ‘S’ PREFIXES, 1948–65

D400

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)

Quantity: 236.43 metres (Adelaide); 114.12 metres (Sydney)

Items in this series document policy, administrative and operational aspects of immigration in South Australia. The series also contains case files.

Sym Choon family – CEDT, 1921–56

[D400, SA1956/9039](#)

This item is digitised.

Woo Chai Chen – prohibited immigrant, 1952

[D400, SA1952/11220](#)

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CHIEF MIGRATION OFFICER [ON] RESTRICTED MIGRATION, 1950

SP244/2

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 40.68 metres (Sydney)

This series contains items documenting suspected and actual contraventions of immigration law in NSW.

Lai Loy [deserter from SS *Lycaon*], 1947–51

[SP244/2, N1950/2/10263](#)

Lai Loy’s Chinese identity book for the Blue Funnel Line is included with this item.

Memorandum – Chinese wives of Australian-born Chinese, 1950

[SP244/2, N1950/2/7921](#)

Transshipment of 21 Chinese ex-*Taiping* to Fiji, 1950

[SP244/2, N1950/2/14092](#)

- Fong Hai Ching [Cheng], 1950–51** SP244/2,
A photograph of Fong Hai Ching and his identity card from N1950/2/2281
the China Union Lines Ltd is included with this item.
- Correspondence re. approval for Italian and Chinese nuns to enter Commonwealth to await passage to Italy, 1951** SP244/2,
N1950/2/16450
- Correspondence re. prohibited immigrants working in Chinese market gardens at Camden, 1951** SP244/2,
N1950/2/16653
- Anonymous note re. 10 Chinese deserters, 1951** SP244/2,
This is one of several items concerning anonymous N1950/2/17191
reports on seamen.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF FELLOWS AND STUDENTS UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN AND OTHER SCHEMES, 1949–63

AP304/1

Recorded by: Commonwealth Office of Education, Adelaide (CA 594)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains photographs of Fellows and students who trained in South Australia under the Colombo Plan and other schemes. Students are identified by information on the verso side of the photograph. Photographs are held in packets by nationality, among which are included Malaysian- and Indo-Chinese.

REGISTERS – NON-EUROPEAN STUDENTS – ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND CHANGES OF ADDRESS, 1950–62

AP415/1

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Sydney)

Although created in South Australia, this series is now held in Sydney. It consists of registers of details about non-European students resident in Australia. Information about the students includes name, gender, date of birth, nationality, date of arrival in Australia, changes of address while in Australia, place of education, CEDT number and date of departure from Australia. No individual items are listed on RecordSearch.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1952–77

C3939

Recorded by: 1952–74 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, NSW (CA 1995)
1975 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NSW (CA 1968)

Quantity: 38.7 metres (Sydney)

This series contains case files as well as circularised instructions issued to Immigration officers in the decades before the end of racialised restrictions on migration and settlement. Additional material can be found in nominal indexes held in series SP1602/1 (1951–69), SP1689/1 (1960–75) and SP1729/1 (1976–79).

Admission of non-European amahs and servants, 1948–60 C3939,
N1955/25/75039

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Chinese wives and minor children, 1950–60 | C3939, N1955/25/75032 |
| Immigration – statistics relating to non-Europeans (policy), 1952–77 This item holds schedules of applications for residence made by non-Europeans. | C3939, N1965/75034 part 2 |
| Nationality of wives and children of Australian-born Chinese, 1953–55 This item deals with procedures for determining nationality in the absence of relevant documentation, eg where the wife of an Australian-born Chinese would otherwise be deemed an alien. | C3939, N1955/25/75197 |
| Admission of Chinese students, 1955–61 This large item contains schedules of applications for residence from Chinese people. | C3939, N1955/25/75034 |
| Summaries and statistics of activities associated with illegal or prohibited Chinese immigrants in NSW, 1962–67 | C3939, N1962/75101 |
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 25 (POLICY), 1953–55 Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) Quantity: 0.54 metres (Sydney) Items in this series contain correspondence, papers, passports and photographs related to immigrants and emigrants entering or leaving Australia through the Port of Sydney or interstate ports. Matters dealt with include naturalisation, deportation, passports, landing permits and entry and re-entry. | SP1655/1 |
| Landing permits – procedural instructions, 1956–68 This is one of five items containing detailed instructions on the use of landing permits. It includes procedures for European migration from China. | SP1655/1, 1955/25/75329 part 2 |
| OVERSEAS STUDENTS' FILES, 'OS/S' PREFIX, 1959–84 Recorded by: 1968–74 Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959) 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, SA (CA 2319) 1975–82 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], SA (CA 2327) Quantity: 10.71 metres (Sydney) Although now held in the Sydney office of the National Archives, this series contains the personal files of overseas students who studied in South Australia under the private overseas student program. The files contain papers and information relating to Immigration matters (eg applications for temporary entry, passenger movement verification, application for permission to enter Australia and termination of studies advice). | D1899 |

REGISTERS – TYPE ‘D’ PERMITS AND TEMPORARY ENTRY PERMITS, 1962–65 AP530/6

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

Items in this series relate to permits issued from South Australia. Although created in Adelaide, the series is now held in Sydney.

[IMMIGRATION] CASE FILES, ‘N’ (NSW) PREFIX, 1968–**C321**

Recorded by: 1968 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957);
subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 5 669 metres (Sydney); 0.18 metres (Perth)

This series consists of case records on immigration, naturalisation, deportation, passports, landing permits and other migration-related issues. Related case file series are described on p. 22 of *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, compiled by Margaret Chambers, National Archives of Australia in association with Hale and Iremonger, 1998.

Fung Hin Cheong, Peter, 1952–69

C321, N1968/5633**Melbourne**

The following series illustrate the breadth of records created by Customs and Immigration officers and other government officials in Victoria.

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE HISTORICAL COLLECTION, ‘VIC’ (VICTORIA) PREFIX, by 1839–**B6139**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, Vic (CA 4586)

Quantity: 45.37 metres (Melbourne)

This series comprises a collection of historical records maintained by the Australian Customs Service. The collation items in this series began in 1985. Items include registers recording Customs seizures, shipping movements and cargo; books, documents and photographs; impounded objects; and items of equipment, clothing and other artefacts used by Customs officers.

Australian Customs – opium, cocaine and other dangerous drugs – unlawful importation, 1952**B6139, VIC475**

The posters in this item are printed in Chinese characters, to warn Chinese travellers of the prohibition of illicit opium importation into Australia after 1905.

[HOME AND TERRITORIES] MISCELLANY, c1880–1925**MP56/12**

Recorded by: Records and Passports, Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Melbourne)

This series contains several items concerning the immigration and naturalisation of ‘Asiatics’.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <p>Various documents – late 1880 to early 1900 [about] migrants, 1892–1921</p> <p>This item is an important, if incomplete, record of the early administration of Chinese travel. It contains samples of character reports along with passports and photographs. It also includes details of public protests after 1912 at the denial of residence for the wife of Poon Gooey [Gouey], a Victorian country resident.</p> | <p>MP56/12, 6</p> |
| <p>Samples of certificates of character to Asiatics, etc., 1905–16</p> <p>This item includes an account of a land transfer between Chinese at Nhill, Victoria in 1910.</p> | <p>MP56/12, 7</p> |
| <p>List of naturalisation papers held (Nos 1 467 to 4 684), 1912</p> <p>The record lists 19 cancelled certificates for Chinese.</p> | <p>MP56/12, 2</p> |
| <p>[CUSTOMS, VIC] GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, 1898– Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)</p> <p>Quantity: 144 metres (Melbourne); 0.09 metres (Darwin)</p> <p>This is the main correspondence series of the Collector of Customs, Melbourne after 1901. It holds a large number of records on individual Chinese and their movements, both inter- and intranational. General matters concerning immigration restriction and processes of identification are covered widely. Files created up to 1930 deal largely with immigration matters.</p> | <p>B13</p> |
| <p>Edward Chung Ah Gan (Chinese) ... departure for China in 1917 [with] Australian wife and children – application for readmission to Australia, 1917–34</p> <p>The British Colonial Secretary became involved in this case of a refusal of entry to Australia for a naturalised Chinese from Tasmania and his family. This item contains photographs of Chung Ah Gan and his family.</p> | <p>B13, 1933/22224</p> |
| <p>Charlie Cheong – permission to return to Australia – landed <i>Changte</i> on March 1929, 1926–29</p> <p>This record includes supporting references for a Chinese from the Reverend Paul Soong.</p> | <p>B13, 1929/7300</p> |
| <p>Investigation into allegations of Chinese students being employed as cafe assistants and market dealers, 1927</p> | <p>B13, 1927/17247</p> |
| <p>Re. prohibited immigrants' list No. 31/1, 1931</p> | <p>B13, 1931/11709</p> |
| <p>Circular – refunds of fines imposed on shipping companies in respect of deserters, 1930–31</p> <p>This item details the rules of deportation in 1931 and the responsibilities of shipping companies.</p> | <p>B13, 1930/22756</p> |
| <p>Arrangements – mustering of coloured crew on vessels of Ellerman and Bucknall Steamship Company, 1934</p> <p>The record concerns an exemption from conducting musters of Chinese crew members. The company provided a large bond that would be forfeited if crew absconded in Australia.</p> | <p>B13, 1934/9482</p> |

Chinese and other coloured passengers arriving/due by ship – permission to land at Australian ports of call, 1937
This item deals with rules of admittance for merchants and other overseas visitors.

B13, 1937/4670

[DEFENCE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–25

MP472/1

Recorded by: 1911 Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)
1911–15 Navy Office [I], Department of Defence [I] (CA 575)
1915–21 Navy Office [II], Department of the Navy [I] (CA 13)
1921 Navy Office [III], Department of Defence [II] (CA 2456)

Quantity: 60.22 metres (Melbourne)

This series contains items that deal with a broad range of naval matters, dating from before and after the creation of the Navy Office in 1911.

Chinese cooks and stewards on HMAS *Una* ... replaced by ratings and ... discharged at Rabaul, 1915

MP472/1, 5/15/3838

HMAS *Encounter* – assault by crew on Chinese while at Port Darwin – claims for compensation, 1916

MP472/1, 16/16/7135

REGISTER OF ADMISSION TO COMMONWEALTH – (1) JAPANESE (1904–09); (2) CHINESE (1915–18); AND (3) RE-ENTRY PERMITS FOR ALIENS, 1904–47

B5020

Recorded by: 1904–16 Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)
1916–27 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Melbourne)

This series consists of a single volume containing three lists, including one that records details about Chinese who were admitted to Australia on passports for educational or business purposes from June 1915 to March 1918.

HANDPRINTS AND THUMBPRINTS OF ASIANS ARRIVING AT AUSTRALIAN PORTS, 1910–25

B5541

Recorded by: 1910–16 Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)
1916–25 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Melbourne)

Items in this series contain not only records of handprints but also the personal details of Chinese who were routinely hand- or thumbprinted. For 1910, for example, information is provided on individuals' naturalisation as well as their travel arrangements and intentions.

PASSPORTS – MAIN FILE, c1912–16

MP56/6

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Melbourne)

This series contains items on policy relating to passports, along with samples of application forms used in the issue of passports.

[CUSTOMS, MELBOURNE] OUTPORTS RETURNS, 1912–23**MP171/4**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Melbourne)

This series contains a register of monthly migration returns from various Victorian outports (eg Geelong, Portland, Warrnambool and Gippsland). The register includes details on individuals who sat the Dictation Test.

POSTERS RELATING TO PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS, 1913–31**MP412/1**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Melbourne)

This series consists of a set of printed individual and group posters (dating from 1 August 1913 to 1931) containing photographs and descriptions (and in some cases thumb- or fingerprints) of 'prohibited' immigrants. From 1915, posters recorded the recovery of persons identified on earlier editions of the posters.

[INVESTIGATION BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1914–64**B741**

Recorded by: 1927–46 Investigation Branch, Vic (CA 907)
 1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service, Vic (CA 916)
 1960–62 Commonwealth Police Force [II], Vic (CA 955)

Quantity: 42.66 metres (Melbourne)

This is the main correspondence series of the Victorian branches of the Commonwealth's investigation agencies. It contains items dealing with criminal offences committed against the Commonwealth or its laws, or offences against state Acts committed on Commonwealth property. Some items also cover the design of processes of alien registration.

Law Sam or Mow Sing – a Chinese, 1925**B741, V/1958****Li Hong, Vice Consul for China in Melbourne – report on, 1929****B741, V/6686****PASSPORT REGISTERS (ALPHABETICAL), c1916–20****MP56/1**

Recorded by: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)

Quantity: 1.62 metres (Melbourne)

The registers held in this series list some Chinese names.

GENERAL AND CIVIL STAFF CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND ARMY PERSONNEL FILES, 1920–56**MP742/1**

Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)

Quantity: 162.48 metres (Melbourne); smaller quantities in Canberra and Darwin

The series consists of general and civil staff correspondence records as well as Army personnel files. Many files are 'top-numbered' from MP367/1, MP431/1 and MP508/1.

**Repatriation of Formosans – application by Chinese
Consul, 1945–46**

MP742/1, 255/2/811

[IMMIGRATION] CASE FILES, 'V' [VICTORIA] PREFIX, 1930–

B44

Recorded by: 1955–74 Department of Immigration, Vic (CA 961)
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and
Immigration, Vic (CA 1812)
1975–87 Department of Immigration, Local Government
and Ethnic Affairs [II], Vic (CA 6076);
subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 3 253 metres (Melbourne); 0.18 metres (Perth)

Items in this series deal with various migration and travel matters, including visits by students, merchants and others; CEDTs; employment applications and nominations; refugees; family migration; visa control and re-entry permits; and restricted migrants and deportations. Until 1975, Asian case files were registered separately.

Many items date from the 1930s, including some top-numbered from other series. Case files were 're-activated' – eg if a migrant applied for naturalisation – and then top-numbered into this series.

Related case file series are described at pp. 23 and 24 of *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, compiled by Margaret Chambers, National Archives of Australia in association with Hale and Iremonger, 1998.

Many records on Chinese are listed by individuals' names.

**MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION OF IMMIGRATION REGISTERS, INCLUDING
PASSPORTS, 1935–55**

MP487/1

Recorded by: 1935–38 Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)
1938–45 Immigration and Passports Office, Vic (CA 972)
1945–55 Department of Immigration, Vic (CA 961)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Melbourne)

This series consists of various types of registers maintained by the Immigration and Passports Office in Victoria. Information provided in the passport registers includes serial and passport numbers, names, ships travelled on, destinations, and the dates and places where fees were paid. Registers of renewals, endorsements and visas give serial numbers, names, details of issue and passport numbers.

REGISTER OF VISAS ISSUED, 1937–46

MP56/4

Recorded by: 1937–38 Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)
1938–45 Immigration and Passports Office, Vic (CA 972)
1945–46 Department of Immigration, Vic (CA 961)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Melbourne)

The register in this series lists the names of people issued with visas, among which are the names of Chinese people travelling to Hong Kong.

LISTS OF APPLICANTS FOR PASSPORTS, c1945–47**MP56/16**

Recorded by: 1945 Immigration and Passports Office, Vic (CA 972)
1945–47 Department of Immigration, Vic (CA 961)

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Melbourne)

Items in this series hold personal and travel details of applicants for passports, copies of which were forwarded to police and intelligence services as well as to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia for comment. Chinese names are listed after 1914.

NAME INDEX CARDS FOR ASIAN CASE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, c1952–75**B940**

Recorded by: 1952–74 Department of Immigration, Vic (CA 961)
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Vic (CA 1812)

Quantity: 2 metres (Melbourne)

This series of name index cards relates to case files raised by migration authorities at Melbourne for 'Asians'. They include details such as names and dates of birth, along with dates and subjects of correspondence.

[IMMIGRATION] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1952–53**MP484/1**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, Vic (CA 961)

Quantity: 60.84 metres (Melbourne)

Most items in this series relate to individual cases of naturalisation or of intention to apply for naturalisation. Some items deal with individual cases of non-Europeans entering Australia. A portion of this series is part of series B938, Asian case files, which has not been physically converted. These records should be called by the MP484/1 number.

[IMMIGRATION] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1954**MP601/1**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, Vic (CA 961)

Quantity: 16.38 metres (Melbourne)

Most of the items in this series relate to individual cases of naturalisation or of non-Europeans entering Australia. A few items relate to individuals rejected for security reasons before entry to Australia.

[COMMONWEALTH POLICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, 1963–**B743**

Recorded by: 1963–75 Commonwealth Police Force [II], Vic (CA 955)
1975 Australia Police, Vic (CA 3048)
1975–79 Commonwealth Police Force [III], Vic (CA 3049)
1979– Australian Federal Police, Melbourne (CA 3050)

Quantity: 5.4 metres (Melbourne)

This series contains material similar to that described in B741 (see p. 97).

Brisbane

The following series illustrate the breadth of records created by Customs and Immigration officers and other government officials in Queensland.

Registers and indexes

Port officers and other government officials created registers of various kinds to manage their records, to use in preparing reports on their work, and to manage their daily responsibilities (eg over travel) in a busy port office.

Many registers provide details on Chinese or provide file numbers that can direct a researcher to material held in a related series. The following series holding registers and indexes were created in Queensland.

Table 10: Registers and indexes created in Queensland

| Title | Series |
|--|----------|
| Particulars of persons subject to the Education Test under the <i>Immigration Restriction Act 1901</i> (Form 20), c1902–03 | BP658/3 |
| Particulars of coloured persons leaving Queensland (Form 18), 1903 | BP658/1 |
| Particulars of coloured persons leaving the Port of Townsville (Form 19), c1903–06 | BP658/2 |
| Birth certificate register – Chinese (Australian-born), c1904–59 | BP384/9 |
| Register of inwards and outwards Asian passengers, 1918–24 | BP749/2 |
| Arrivals register – coloured persons arriving in Queensland, 1924–59 | BP384/10 |
| Departures register – coloured persons leaving Queensland, 1924–59 | BP384/11 |
| Register of arrival of non-Europeans, c1923–45 | BP384/17 |
| Register of re-entry permits, c1931–55 | BP384/12 |
| Register of ship and aircraft reports – inwards – Townsville, c1934–40 | BP343/1 |
| Register of documents of identity, c1939–48 | BP384/15 |
| Register of certificates of authority to remain in Australia (Nos 7 001 to 115 213), 1949–57 | BP384/6 |

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDA FROM CUSTOMS AND EXCISE OFFICE, TOWNSVILLE, 1898–1927

BP343/34

Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs, Townsville (CA 801)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Brisbane)

This series is a small, miscellaneous collection of records on Chinese in Queensland between 1898 and 1927. The items listed below are confidential memoranda.

Large numbers of strange Chinese observed in north Queensland, 1918

BP343/34, 2

Alleged prohibited immigrants in Ayr District, 1923

BP343/34, 13

| | |
|--|----------------|
| GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FILES – PERMITS, EXEMPTION PASSES [ETC.], 1899–1933 | J3117 |
| Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792) | |
| Quantity: 0.36 metres (Brisbane) | |
| Items in this series were created from material in BP342/1. They provide a good overview of the earliest operation of Commonwealth immigration restriction legislation. | |
| Correspondence ... Tom Bing and Ah Bunn [re. applying for permits] to visit China and [re-enter] Queensland, 1900 | J3117, 13 |
| Correspondence [re.] changes in issue procedures for Certificates of Domicile ... hand impressions, 1902–03 | J3117, 31 |
| Correspondence ... Thorburn ... permits [for] ... Chinese wishing to visit China and return to Queensland, 1903 | J3117, 54 |
| Correspondence ... procedures [for] Chinese wishing to visit China and their return to Australia, 1903 | J3117, 48 |
| Correspondence ... [on ensuring] that handprints on Certificates of Domicile match [those] of persons returning certificates, 1903 | J3117, 79 |
| Correspondence ... Certificates of Domicile ... Hoo Hong, Foo You, Ah Cow and Sam Won, 1903 | J3117, 55 |
| Correspondence ... time aliens must reside in the C'wealth before eligible for a Certificate of Domicile, 1903 | J3117, 46 |
| IMMIGRATION RECORDS – INCOMING PASSENGERS AND DESERTERS ON VARIOUS SHIPS, 1899–1947 | J3116 |
| Recorded by: 1899–1945 Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792) 1945–47 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958) | |
| Quantity: 0.54 metres (Brisbane) | |
| Items in this series were created from material in series BP342/1. | |
| Alien immigration – correspondence [re.] Chinese on the SS <i>Chingtu</i> – Fong Lim Jan and Tom Wah Fay ..., 1902 | J3116, 8 |
| Alien immigration – correspondence [re.] Chinese immigrants ... Mrs Ah Len ... and Mee Die ..., 1902 | J3116, 10 |
| Alien immigration – correspondence [re.] SS <i>Taiyuan</i> – fourteen Chinese ... deported from the country, 1903 | J3116, 35 |
| Alien immigration – correspondence [re.] searching of vessels for Chinese stowaways, 1903 | J3116, 105 |
| APPLICATIONS [FOR] CERTIFICATES OF DOMICILE, EXEMPTION FROM 'CHINESE IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT 1888' AND EXEMPTION FROM THE DICTATION TEST, 1900–24 | BP342/1 |
| Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792) | |
| Quantity: 1.44 metres (Brisbane) | |
| Items in this series document Chinese travel. Among the material in this series are applications for certificates, circularised instructions and reports, proclamations of identity, photographs and other details on individuals. | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Richard Pomeroy ... correspondence [on] re-entry Qld ... Chinese Immigration Restrictive Act ..., 1900 This item is digitised. | BP342/1, 1221/464/1900 |
| Correspondence re. permission for a Chinese merchant to bring his wife into Queensland, 1903 | BP342/1, 10946/561/1903 |
| Correspondence re. application for Certificate of Domicile for wife of a naturalised Chinese citizen, 1903 | BP342/1, 11001/354/1903 |
| [CUSTOMS, TOWNSVILLE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1902–66 | J2773 |
| Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs, Townsville (CA 801) | |
| Quantity: 19.26 metres (Brisbane) | |
| Items in this series were created by the Customs Office in Townsville. They include both personal records about Chinese – eg CEDTs, passports and crew membership – and items on smuggling and ships’ deserters. | |
| Certificate for Exemption from the Dictation Test [CEDT] list, 1925 | J2773, 396/1925 |
| The title of this item has been shortened in this guide for the sake of brevity. On RecordSearch, the title also includes the names of many Chinese and Japanese individuals. | |
| Report re. Chinese and Japanese false CEDT claims, 1925 | J2773, 1340/1925 |
| Chinese ‘boys’ and watch smuggling, 1926 | J2773, 792/1926 |
| Chinese protest [re.] Chinese crew [of the] <i>Haimun</i>, and local support and action, 1927 | J2773, 856/1927 |
| Chinese and deckchairs on vessels from east, 1930 | J2773, 409/1930 |
| [IMMIGRATION] CASE FILES, OCCASIONAL ‘Q’ (QUEENSLAND) OR ‘QB’ (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) PREFIX, 1908– | J25 |
| Recorded by: 1946–74 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958) 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Qld (CA 2148) | |
| Quantity: 1 092 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Perth) | |
| This series, the largest recorded on immigration matters in Queensland after World War II, holds case files on permanent and temporary residents (including students), and applications for citizenship and sponsorship of migrants. It also holds Immigration policy files from 1946 to 1983. | |
| Chinese employed under CEDT by Hook Wah Jang and Co., Townsville, Queensland, 1926–50 | J25, 1949/2743 |
| The title of this item has been edited for brevity. It refers to the deaths of James Sue Sue; his wife, Wai Chun (or Wai Jun); and Mar Man Chiu and Mar Chor Kin. | |
| Chinese admitted under CEDTs – extensions to 1947, 1942–45 | J25, 1946/2549 |
| Ang, Tony (half-caste Chinese deportee) – re-entry to Queensland, 1945–50 | J25, 1949/12011 |

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| List of Chinese aliens resident in Queensland, 1951 | J25, 1951/5446 |
| [CUSTOMS, QLD] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – IMMIGRATION AND PASSPORTS – ‘SB’ (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1924–45 | BP234/1 |
| Recorded by: 1924–45 Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792) 1945 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958) | |
| Quantity: 2.16 metres (Brisbane) | |
| Items in this series contain correspondence and instructions on Chinese settlement in, and travel to, Australia. | |
| Chinese leaving Australia for China – passport regulations ... of the Republic of China, 1930 | BP234/1, SB1930/1620 |
| Passport circular number 1931/4 – British subjects travelling to China – visas, 1931 | BP234/1, SB1931/1042 |
| [IAI – circular No. 1937/12] – Australian-born Chinese – endorsement of birth certificates and issue of passports, 1937 | BP234/1, SB1937/1194 |
| [IAI – circular No. 1937/26] Boy Scouts Jamboree ... admission of ... foreign persons, 1937 | BP234/1, SB1937/2471 |
| [Immigration Act information – circulars], 1937–38 This item contains Immigration Act information (IAI) circulars nos 1937/28 (‘Mustering of Chinese passengers’) and 1937/6 (‘Chinese and other coloured passengers arriving or due by overseas ships: Permission to land at Australian ports of call’). | BP234/1, SB1937/2347A |
| [INVESTIGATION BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘Q’ (QUEENSLAND) PREFIX, 1924–71 | BP242/1 |
| Recorded by: 1924–42 Investigation Branch, Qld (CA 753) 1942–45 Security Service, Qld (CA 947) 1945–46 Investigation Branch, Qld (CA 753); subsequently by other agencies | |
| Quantity: 47.89 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Sydney) | |
| Most items in this series deal with aliens interned during World War II. | |
| Colonel Wang [Chinese Military Liaison Officer] ... Chinese matters [and the] White Australia [Policy], 1943–47 | BP242/1, Q30575 |
| PERSONAL STATEMENTS AND DECLARATIONS OF ALIENS ENTERING QUEENSLAND, 1927–47 | BP9/3 |
| Recorded by: 1927–45 Collector of Customs, Brisbane, Qld (CA 792) 1945–47 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958) | |
| Quantity: 2.34 metres (Brisbane) | |
| The personal statements included in this series record travellers’ names, place of birth, nationality, date of birth, marital status, passport particulars, occupation and intention to settle in Australia. The series is arranged alphabetically by nationality and then by the names of individuals. | |

'BLACK BOOK' FOR REFERENCE TO APPLICATIONS FOR CEDTS, c1931–46 **BP384/22**

Recorded by: 1931–45 Collector of Customs, Brisbane, Qld (CA 792)
1945–46 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)

Quantity: 0.05 metres (Brisbane)

This series consists of a reference book used when Chinese made further applications for CEDTs. It provides information about the recipients of CEDTs, including their names, whether they had committed any offences (eg possession of opium) and the number of the CEDT issued to them.

REGISTER OF ALIENS ALLOWED TO ENTER AUSTRALIA TEMPORARILY FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES, c1946–49 **BP384/24**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)

Quantity: 0.05 metres (Brisbane)

This series consists of a single volume listing people from overseas who were allowed into Australia for defined periods to study.

REGISTER OF NON-EUROPEAN STUDENTS, 1947–52 **BP384/16**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)

Quantity: 0.45 metres (Brisbane)

This series contains a single register of information about non-European students studying in Queensland. Details include their name, age, nationality, race, passport, port, vessel, school, course, and dates of extension and departure.

Perth

The following series illustrate the breadth of records created by Customs and Immigration officers and other government officials in Western Australia.

[CUSTOMS, WA] REGISTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE, 1901–42 **PP4/4**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Perth)

This series includes five registers of correspondence on 'coloured' departures, certificates of exemption and suspected prohibited immigrants and pearling in Western Australia. The registers provide summaries of the subject matter and a file number reference for a related record series.

RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS RELATING TO ASIATICS, 1902–22 **PP281/6**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)

Quantity: 2.88 metres (Perth)

This series consists of monthly reports on immigration (forms 13, 19 and 20) for Fremantle and outports, and an array of documents on restrictions on immigration, including copies of fingerprints and Dictation Tests.

- [INVESTIGATION BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1918–59** **PP302/1**
 Recorded by: 1919–46 Investigation Branch, WA (CA 908)
 1946–59 Commonwealth Investigation Service, WA
 (CA 917)
 Quantity: 47.88 metres (Perth)
 This series holds policy and individual case files, with a focus on naturalisation and other investigations undertaken by Commonwealth investigation services on behalf of government departments in Western Australia.
- Foreign language newspapers, 1923–57** **PP302/1, WA40468**
 This item contains lists of non-English language publications.
- IMMIGRATION RETURNS (FORMS 19 AND 20), 1923–42** **PP240/5**
 Recorded by: Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)
 Quantity: 0.9 metres (Perth)
 Items in this series include reports relating to alien immigration, prohibited immigrants and the results of Dictation Tests.
- PERSONAL STATEMENT AND DECLARATION FORMS [BY NATIONALITY], 1924–48** **PP246/4**
 Recorded by: 1924–46 Investigation Branch, WA (CA 908)
 1946–48 Commonwealth Investigation Service, WA
 (CA 917)
 Quantity: 1.62 metres (Perth)
 This series provides an alphabetical listing of arrivals at Western Australian ports, by surname, within country groups.
 Among these statements are records on Chinese, eg Elizabeth Jack, who was Scottish-born and designated as of British ‘race’ and ‘Chinese’ by marriage. She travelled on a Chinese passport issued by the Chinese Consul-General.
- [CUSTOMS, WA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES [SUBJECT AND CLIENT], ‘H’ INFIX, 1926–50** **PP6/1**
 Recorded by: 1926–45 Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)
 1945–50 Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962)
 Quantity: 36.54 metres (Perth)
 This is the main Customs correspondence series for Western Australia. It contains items dealing with a range of subjects, including immigration, shipping, naturalisation and CEDTs. Series PP227/2 to PP227/7, created during World War II, contain similar material.
 The following items document the continued refinement of travel rules applied to Chinese.
- Fifty Chinese stowaways, ex-*Almkerr*, 1927–29** **PP6/1, 1927/H/784**
- Issue of [CEDTs] to Australian-born Chinese applicants, 1931** **PP6/1, 1931/H/603**



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

NO. 107
11/10/08
S/M/S

Melbourne, 29th October, 1908.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that a Chinese named Kang Yu Wei contemplates visiting Australia shortly. He was formerly a man of considerable standing in China but is now exiled from that country. It is understood that he is at present in Ceylon. For various reasons some of which have regard to his moral reputation the Government have refused permission for him to land in Australia. I shall be glad, therefore, if you will issue instructions that in the event of this man arriving at Fremantle he is to be subjected to the dictation test which should be applied in such a manner as to ensure its efficiency. It is probable that Kang Yu Wei understands English. Inquiries should be made on that point, and your officers should be in readiness to apply the test say in Spanish or Italian.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Perkins J.P. 11/10/08 - 107/11

W. G. ...
Secretary

The Collector of Customs,

FREMANTLE.

Secretary.

Kang Youwei, Confucian scholar and a leading reformist under China's imperial system of government was, as Immigration authorities made clear, to be denied entry to Australia in 1908. NAA: PP4/4, book 1

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Coloured servants – instructions, 1931 | PP6/1, 1931/H/605 |
| Chinese members of crews of overseas vessels, 1937 | PP6/1, 1937/H/939 |
| Coloured amahs, 1942 | PP6/1, 1942/H/172 |
| Chinese seamen and amahs – monthly returns, 1948–49 | PP6/1, 1948/H/696 |
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES [SUBJECT], ‘W’ (WESTERN AUSTRALIA), 1937–60 | PP110/7 |
| Recorded by: Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962) | |
| Quantity: 0.72 metres (Perth) | |
| Items in this series deal with a variety of topics, including accommodation, assets, staffing, various migration schemes, the issue of dual passports, the employment of migrants on special projects and policies on the Dictation Test. | |
| Passports – Australian-born Chinese – endorsement of birth certificates, 1924–37 | PP110/7,W55/1888 |
| Dictation Test – general policy, 1937–59 | PP110/7,W1955/1523 |
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1949–86 | K451 |
| Recorded by: 1973–74 Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962) | |
| 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, WA (CA 2318) | |
| 1975–83 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], WA (CA 2328) | |
| Quantity: 19.44 metres (Perth) | |
| Items in this series contain correspondence on Immigration policy. They deal with both administrative and operational subjects. | |
| Alien registration – policy, 1968–71 | K451, 305/6 |
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1951–54 | K1078 |
| Recorded by: Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962) | |
| Quantity: 0.9 metres (Perth) | |
| Items in this series contain nominal rolls of ships’ complements, which were taken from boarding inspectors’ reports. | |
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘W’ PREFIX, 1955– | K47 |
| Recorded by: 1955–74 Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962) | |
| 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, WA (CA 2318) | |
| 1975–87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], WA (CA 2328); subsequently by other agencies | |
| Quantity: 910.62 metres (Perth) | |
| This series deals with immigration-related activity, including applications for immigration, sponsored and assisted immigration, naturalisation, seamen’s movements, deportations and overseas student activities. Related case file series are described on p. 24 of <i>Finding</i> | |

Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists, compiled by Margaret Chambers, National Archives of Australia in association with Hale and Iremonger, 1998.

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'W59' PREFIX, 1959–84 | K403 |
| Recorded by: Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962) | |
| Quantity: 22 metres (Perth) | |
| This series was created to hold Immigration policy and subject records created after 1958, as distinct from K47, the department's Perth case file series (see p. 107). | |
| [Immigration] Countries – China – Chinese arrivals and departures, 1943–49 | K403, W59/172 |
| This item includes listings of Chinese and their employment in Perth. Chinese characters are indicated for many of the names. | |
| | |
| <i>Adelaide</i> | |
| The following series illustrate the breadth of records created by Customs and Immigration officers and other government officials in South Australia. Some records originally created in South Australia are now held in the Sydney office, and these are described in both the Adelaide and Sydney sections. | |
| [CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1871–1962 | D596 |
| Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802) | |
| Quantity: 53.86 metres (Adelaide) | |
| This series was recorded by the Collector of Customs, SA. Transferred to Federal control, D596 continued until 1962. It covers a variety of matters related to Customs activities. Series D2248 serves as an index for the years from 1926 to 1933, while D5093 contains an index to outward letters from 1925 to 1928. Both D2248 and D5093 are held in Sydney. | |
| D596 includes a wide range of operational files relating to Chinese travel and settlement. | |
| Immigration Regulations Act – coloured passengers – doubt [re.] bona fides – examined at one port and disembarking at another, 1908 | D596, 1908/356 |
| Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test for Chinese – handprints on the back of, 1913 | D596, 1913/1901 |
| Goods exported to China in luggage of Chinese passengers, 1918 | D596, 1918/4070 |
| Chinese residents of Straits settlements – approval of passports, 1919 | D596, 1919/6095 |
| Coloured passengers of superior standing, 1920 | D596, 1920/5993 |
| Immigration Restriction Act – admission of Chinese student Suey Lang, 1927 | D596, 1927/3119 |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Regarding 'The unfortunate Chinese who were found on Dutch Ships, the victims of fiends in human form', 1927 | D596, 1927/9815 |
| Birth certificates – Australian-born Chinese, question of endorsement where parents under exemption, 1922–28 | D596, 1928/5341 |
| Wong Sun Tong – Chinese servant under exemption, 1932 | D596, 1932/1873 |
| Chinese members of crews of overseas vessels ... unlawful possession of opium – arrangements for deportation, 1937 | D596, 1937/7618 |
| Koo Li Cing – Chinese – crew [member] MT <i>Ahamo</i> – left in hospital at Port Adelaide, 1938 | D596, 1938/4618 |
| Miss Chuey Heong, Chinese amah accompanying ... Mrs A E Sharp [on the] SS <i>Nieuw Holland</i> ..., 1938–39 | D596, 1938/6242 |
| Immigration Act – transfer of three coloured seamen from SS <i>Narkunda</i> to SS <i>Strathaird</i> at Port Adelaide, 1939 | D596, 1939/218 |
| Two smuggled wristlet watches found in [heel cavity] of shoe worn by Chinese seaman, 1951 | D596, 1951/6524 |
| Chinese nationals landing in Australia in transit to another country, 1952 | D596, 1952/2070 |
| Prohibited immigrant – Shin Lai, Chinese stowaway <i>ex-Eastern Glory</i> , 1958 | D596, 1958/2737 |

REGISTER OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION, 1882–1903**AP214/20**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Adelaide)

This series consists of one bound register arranged chronologically. Information in this register includes date, number of tax warrant, name of vessel, port from whence arrived, name of Chinese, age, place of shipment, date of shipment and remarks. 'Remarks' may include comment against some individual names (eg 'deserter', 'naturalised', 'occupation').

ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, c1897–1976**D4881**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)

Quantity: 47.48 metres (Adelaide)

This series consists of alien registration cards that include numerous details about applicants for registration (eg personal description, address, date and place of birth, marital status and nationality).

Lui, Kee – nationality: Chinese – arrived Sydney per *Changsha*, 1959

D4881, Lui Kee

REGISTER CONTAINING IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT AND RELATED CORRESPONDENCE, 1901–13**AP214/9**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Adelaide)

This series consists of a register of printed instructions on immigration matters dating from 1901 to 1913. It includes circularised instructions issued to port officers, copies of

immigration legislation and samples of forms to be used. Many entries enlarge upon policy matters, eg an entry for March 1903 instructs officers about the end of Chinese wives and families joining their menfolk in Australia, and the transitional arrangements for Chinese and other persons of ‘colour’ absent from Australia at that time.

- INVESTIGATION CASE FILES, ‘SA’ (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) PREFIX, 1910–87** **D1915**
- Recorded by: 1919 Commonwealth Police Force (CA 2919)
 1919–46 Investigation Branch, SA (CA 905)
 1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service, SA (CA 914)
 1960 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, SA (CA 4716)
- Quantity: 29.88 metres (Adelaide); 1.62 metres (Canberra)
- Items in this series contain similar material to items in record series created by other state branches of Commonwealth security intelligence agencies (eg B741, located in Melbourne).
- D1915 includes ‘sensitive’ information on deportations, applications for naturalisation and other matters. It also includes case files on national security from World War I.
- Chinese aliens – cooperation with Customs re. registration, 1924–27** **D1915, SA1042**
- Sing, Ah – application to bring son from China, 1927** **D1915, SA1648**
- Functions of Investigation Branch, 1931–56** **D1915, SA870**
- This item provides an overview of operations of the Investigation Branch, SA between 1931 and 1956. It includes statistics, monthly returns, annual returns and annual reports.
- Chin, Loong Tang [and] Chin, Yok Hok, 1943–44** **D1915, SA22041**
- MONTHLY IMMIGRATION RETURNS, 1919–46** **D1986**
- Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)
- Quantity: 2.16 metres (Adelaide)
- This series includes some passenger lists up to 1925 and summaries of CEDTs issued between 1920 and 1946. Please note that lists of returns for some months no longer exist.
- STATEMENTS BY ALIEN PASSENGERS ON ENTRY TO AUSTRALIA [BY NATIONALITY THEN ALPHABETICALLY], c1923–48** **D4880**
- Recorded by: 1923–46 Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)
 1946–48 Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)
- Quantity: 1.62 metres (Adelaide)
- This series contains statements made by people arriving in Australia after travelling by either sea or air. The statements provide personal and travel details.

Chan Maglaya [Maglaya Chan], Fernando - nationality Chinese - arrived Port Adelaide per *Pioneer Glen*, 1947 **D4880, Chinese/Chan Maglaya**

TRAVEL FACILITIES (PASSPORTS/PERMITS) INDEX, 1925-47 **D2249**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Sydney)

One of the sets of index cards held in this series gives file references for certificates of identity and various permissions to enter, leave and re-enter Australia and New Guinea. This series is now located in Sydney.

[CUSTOMS, SA] IMMIGRATION INDEX CARDS, 1926-39 **D2248**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Sydney)

This series contains index cards of Customs boarding inspections in South Australia between 1926 and 1933, which document the medical status of arrivals at Adelaide. The cards give details of the subject (file title) and the file registration. This series is now located in Sydney.

[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'SB' (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1928-51 **D1976**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 11.16 metres (Sydney); 3.78 metres (Adelaide)

Items in this series were created by the Shipping Branch of the Customs Office at Port Adelaide. Matters covered include CEDTs and other travel exemptions, refusals of admission, departures of 'coloured' persons, and applications for passports and landing permits. The bulk of this series is now located in Sydney.

Immigration Act - Howard A Torr - Chinese student's education, 1928-35 **D1976, SB1945/819**

Chinese - likely to enter Commonwealth, 1929 **D1976, SB1940/344**

Mrs May Kwa Kow, Chinese - under exemption, 1939-40 **D1976, SB1940/208**

Admission of Chinese into Australia, 1940 **D1976, SB1940/479**

Foo To - Chinese ex-member crew SS *Nemnon* ... repatriated SS *Taiping* ..., 1941 **D1976, SB1941/71**

Mary Parker - British-Chinese, aged 9 years - arrival, 1942 **D1976, SB1942/246**

Immigration Act - mustering Chinese crew members, 1943 **D1976, SB1943/431**

Immigration Act - Wan Po - Chinese deserter, SS *Kota Ageong* at Melbourne, 1943-44 **D1976, SB1943/143**

Immigration Act - Chinese [and] Malay seamen ex-*Cable Enterprise*, signing off ..., 1944 **D1976, SB1944/685**

Immigration Act - Mrs Chin Sue - list of extensions of CEDTs for Chinese residents, 1947 **D1976, SB1945/578**

Immigration Act - mv *Kina* - from Copenhagen via Aden ... East Asiatic Steamship Company ..., 1949 **D1976, SB1949/52**

Admission of aliens resident in Iran, Iron Curtain countries, China or Israel, 1950

D1976, SB1950/428

ALIEN REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS, c1939–64

D4878

Recorded by: c1939–46 Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)
1946–64 Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)

Quantity: 72.63 metres (Adelaide)

This series contains applications for registration of aliens in Australia under the *National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations 1939*. The applications contain all personal particulars, including full name, date and place of birth, nationality, sex, marital status and address. Photographs and copies of fingerprints are also attached to the applications.

Boon, Kwong Kah – nationality: Chinese – arrived Sydney per *Naebk*, 1954

D4878, Boon K

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'S' PREFIX, 1946–

D399

Recorded by: 1966–74 Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, SA (CA 2319)
1975–87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], SA (CA 2327); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 577.44 metres (Sydney); 131 metres (Adelaide)

This series holds administrative and operational files as well as personal case files of migrants. The items contain details of various short-term exemptions and applications for naturalisation or immigration, eg migrant sponsorship. Other items document citizenship applications and deportation cases.

More series containing immigration case files are described at pp. 22 and 23 of *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, compiled by Margaret Chambers, National Archives of Australia in association with Hale and Iremonger, 1998.

The bulk of this series is now located in Sydney.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'SA' AND 'S' PREFIXES, 1948–65

D400

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)

Quantity: 236 metres (Adelaide); 114.12 metres (Sydney)

Items in this series document policy, administrative and operational aspects of immigration in South Australia. The series also contains case files. The bulk of this series is now located in Sydney.

REGISTERS – NON-EUROPEAN STUDENTS – ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND CHANGES OF ADDRESS, 1950–62

AP415/1

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Sydney)

Although created in South Australia, this series is now held in Sydney. It consists of registers of details about

non-European students resident in Australia. Information about the students includes name, gender, date of birth, nationality, date of arrival in Australia, changes of address while in Australia, place of education, CEDT number and date of departure from Australia. No individual items are listed on RecordSearch. This series is now located in Sydney.

REGISTERS – TYPE ‘D’ PERMITS AND TEMPORARY ENTRY PERMITS, 1962–65 AP530/6

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

Items in this series relate to permits issued from South Australia. This series is now located in Sydney.

Hobart

The following series illustrate the breadth of records created by Customs and Immigration and other government officials in Tasmania.

[CUSTOMS, TAS] LETTER BOOKS OF OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE, 1895–1911

P501

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816)

Quantity: 5.4 metres (Hobart)

The series consists of bound copies of outward correspondence on all aspects of Customs business. Each volume includes an alphabetical index.

[CUSTOMS, TAS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1909–

P437

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816)

Quantity: 94.68 metres (Hobart)

This series, a successor to P501 (above), documents a wide range of travel and settlement matters, including certificates issued and the wider operation of the Immigration Restriction Act. Series P502 and P508 both hold related letter books maintained by Customs officers in Tasmania.

Chinese admissions, 1911 P437, 1911/1746

Statement re. naturalisation of Chinese, 1911 P437, 1911/1952

Immigration Restriction Act – identification of Chinese, 1911 P437, 1911/2061

Chinese arriving from China en route to Tasmania, 1911–12 P437, 1911/2483

W Low – permission to visit Hobart, Melbourne and Sydney, 1911 P437, 1911/2583

This item documents the exemption from lodgment of a bond by a Chinese visitor of ‘superior’ standing from New Zealand.

Statement showing the number of coloured seamen, firemen, etc., comprising part of crew of vessels, 1913 P437, 1913/143

Coloured crew members of the *Mongolia* selling goods while in port, 1913 P437, 1913/642

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Ling Ki – Chinese deserter from the SS <i>Aymeric</i>, 1913 | P437, 1913/2207 |
| Mr Yee Gee – character and financial report – Commissioner of Police, 1914 | P437, 1914/909 |
| This item documents the close checking on the bona fides of applicants for ‘substitutes’ or alternates. | |
| Visit [of] Lan Tsun San to father Lew Hen Kee [includes CEDT and photograph], 1915 | P437, 1915/265 |
| This item documents the effective support of Senator Bakhap for an application for a visit by the son of a Chinese tin miner in Tasmania. | |
| Immigration Act – prohibited immigrants, 1919 | P437, 1919/466 |
| The record discusses a newly introduced regulation that permitted searches of premises where persons engaged in employment contrary to the terms of their admission to Australia. | |
| Certificate of exemption for Mon Guey whilst Moon Parn in China, 1919 | P437, 1919/1996 |
| Refusal of CEDT – Chinese, Chung Kee, 1919 | P437, 1919/2097 |
| Approval for Certificate of Exemption – Sun Him (Chinese), 1920 | P437, 1921/1642 |
| Coloured stowaway traffic, 1922–23 | P437, 1922/884 |
| Chinese passengers – arriving into port, 1922–25 | P437, 1922/2400 |
| Applications by Chinese for CEDT, 1924 | P437, 1924/32 |
| Ah Ham and Company ... permission sought to bring Chinese to Australia to work in business, 1925 | P437, 1925/2747 |
| PERSONAL CASE FILES – NON-BRITISH MIGRANTS – DECEASED, 1942–61 | P1182 |
| Recorded by: 1942–46 Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816) | |
| 1946–61 Department of Immigration, Tas (CA 960) | |
| Quantity: 0.36 metres (Hobart) | |
| This series consists of personal papers and photographs of individual migrants and aliens of non-British origin who died between 1942 and 1961. | |
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘T’ (TASMANIA) PREFIX, 1948–87 | P7 |
| Recorded by: 1973–4 Department of Immigration, Tas (CA 960) | |
| 1974–5 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Tas (CA 1839) | |
| 1975–83 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], Tas (CA 2048) | |
| Quantity: 1.08 metres (Hobart) | |
| This series consists of correspondence, known internally as ‘policy’ files, which document both operational and routine activities, including interpreter and education services; citizenship eligibility; students; seamen deserters; and suspected and actual breaches of immigration law. The series includes a range of files ‘top-numbered’ from series P6, described on the following page. | |

- PERSONAL CASE FILES, 'T' (TASMANIA) PREFIX, 1949 –** **P3**
- Recorded by: 1951–74 Department of Immigration, Tas (CA 960)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Tas (CA 1839)
 1975–87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [II], Tas (CA 2048); subsequently by other agencies
- Quantity: 240.03 metres (Hobart)
- This series holds case files on migrants and naturalisation in Tasmania after 1950. A register of applications for resident status (1965–92) can be found in P1947.
- Chung, Pak Koon (also known as 'Charles'), 1937–64** **P3, T61/1817**
- Chung Sing and Company (business file), 1947–65** **P3, T59/1330**
- HMS *St Bride's Bay* – nominal roll of Chinese civilians on board, 5 February 1960** **P3, T60/0275**
- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'T' (TAS) PREFIX, 1950–** **P6**
- Recorded by: Department of Immigration, Tas (CA 960)
- Quantity: 3.33 metres (Hobart)
- This series includes operational files on a range of migration matters, including migrant education, overseas students, seamen deserters, citizenship, refugees and prohibited immigrants. Some files were 'top-numbered' from previous series.
- P6 includes records on deportation processes and on alien registration processes.
- Deportation – custody of deportees [section 8c], 1947–67** **P6, 1958/3320**
- This item describes the powers of port officers and the various procedures involved in deportation.
- PRIVATE OVERSEAS STUDENTS, PERSONAL CASE FILES, 1968–79** **P119**
- Recorded by: 1968–75 Department of Immigration, Tas (CA 960)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Tas (CA 1839)
 1975–79 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], Tas (CA 2048)
- Quantity: 0.18 metres (Hobart)
- This series was established to keep the records on private overseas students separate from those sponsored students in Tasmania.

Darwin

The following series illustrate the breadth of records created by Customs and Immigration and other Commonwealth officers in the Northern Territory.

- [CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION] FROM THE DICTATION TEST, 1915–41** **E752**
 Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs, Darwin (CA 820)
 Quantity: 4.5 metres (Darwin)
 Items in this series are digitised and available for viewing online on RecordSearch.
- REGISTER OF ALIENS, c1916–21** **F113**
 Recorded by: Police Inspector's Office [I] (CA 1112)
 Quantity: 0.05 metres (Darwin)
 The register is digitised and available for viewing online on RecordSearch. As with alien registers created in the states, this register records personal details about applicants, including their last place of residence.
- [CUSTOMS, NT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'D' PREFIX, 1928–** **E141**
 Recorded by: 1928–68 Sub-Collector, Darwin (CA 820)
 1968– Collector of Customs (from 1985, Australian Customs Service), Darwin (CA 2109)
 Quantity: 2.34 metres (Darwin)
 This series contains items that deal with immigration functions carried out at Darwin.
Admission of Lang Sue, Tung Sue and Wing Nan Fang, wife and children of Fong Fan Young, 1931–35 **E141, D1935/645**
- [POLICE STATION, ALICE SPRINGS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – PORTION TRANSFERRED TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY ARCHIVES, 1928–45** **F68**
 Recorded by: 1937–42 Police Station, Alice Springs (CA 1103)
 1942–44 Police Branch, Office of Superintendent (CA 1138)
 Quantity: 0.18 metres (Darwin)
 This series was created by the Police Station, Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. After the Northern Territory became self-governing in 1984, items dealing with police administrative matters in the Territory were transferred into the custody of the Northern Territory Archives Service. Please see Appendix 6 for contact details of state and territory archives.
Census return of Europeans, Asiatics [sic], half-castes and others as at March 31, 1932 and 1939, 1932–41 **F68, C12**
 This item provides statistics collated by police districts in the Northern Territory.

- [CUSTOMS, BROOME] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'I' (IMMIGRATION) PREFIX, 1930–76** **E601**
 Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs, Broome (CA 810)
 Quantity: 3 metres (Darwin)
 This series, which is held in Darwin, relates to activities of Customs officers at Broome, Western Australia. It includes CEDTs and temporary travel permits for Chinese, many of whom were employed in the pearling industry in northern Australia.
- A S Male and Company – admission of Asiatic specialists, 1947–56** **E601, I1954/4**
 This item deals with the employment practices of a longstanding company in northern Australia.
- Ah Quan – Chinese indent – application for passport, 1950–51** **E601, I1951/3**
- Indentured laborers in the pearling industry, 1950–54** **E601, I1953/11**
 Chinese are included on the listing in this record.
- List of Chinese ... refused admission into Australia, 1952** **E601, I1952/35**
 This item relates to 28 Chinese students denied visas to attend a 'Youth Carnival for Peace and Friendship' at Sydney in March 1952.
- Chinese specialists from Hong Kong, 1954–55** **E601, I1955/5**
- Chinese pearling instructions – ministerial query [into] conditions, 1955** **E601, I1955/6**
- Yau Ma Sing [Chinese] – A S Male and Company, 1957** **E601, I1956/123**
- [CUSTOMS, DARWIN] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – IMMIGRATION, 1933–41** **E756**
 Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs, Darwin (CA 820)
 Quantity: 0.04 metres (Darwin)
 The series holds two files of correspondence on the entry of Chinese to Australia.
- Leung Kee – application to enter [the] Commonwealth – assistance [from] Fong Yuen Kee Bros, 1940–41** **E756, 63**
- FOLDER – (1) INDEX TO IMMIGRATION FILES; AND (2) MISCELLANEOUS UNREGISTERED CORRESPONDENCE, 1938–47** **E758**
 Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs, Darwin (CA 820)
 Quantity: 0.04 metres (Darwin)
 This series contains a small collection of case files on various applications for travel certificates submitted by Chinese, both male and female.
- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'NE' [NON-EUROPEAN] PREFIX, 1939–64** **A516**
 Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NT (CA 759)
 Quantity: 0.72 metres (Darwin)
 This series consists of personal case files of non-European residents and visitors. These items provide details

of nationality along with various official documents, including CEDTs and applications for passports and naturalisation.

[CUSTOMS, NT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – IMMIGRATION [UNREGISTERED SERIES], 1941–42

E757

Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs, Darwin (CA 820)

Quantity: 0.04 metres (Darwin)

This series consists of three records of applications for admission to Australia by Chinese.

Carey and Company – application [for] admission of Chinese assistant [George Gum], 1941

E757, 1

Chen Fei Har Ket and son Doong Soe Gee [Chinese under exemption], 1941

E757, 2

Chin Sack Yuen, 1941

E757, 3

MISCELLANEOUS IMMIGRATION REGISTERS, c1954–84

E1114

Recorded by: 1954–74 Department of Immigration, NT (CA 759)

1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, NT (CA 2110)

1975–84 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NT (CA 2111)

Quantity: 0.72 metres (Darwin)

Items in this series cover a wide range of travel, migration and settlement matters.

Register – non-European nominations, 1971–73

E1114, register 18

4.

Naturalisation and Alien Registration

Naturalisation

Some 5 000 Chinese were naturalised under the laws of the Australian colonies. Tasmania and Queensland continued to naturalise Chinese up to 1904, when the Commonwealth's first nationality Act, the *Naturalization Act 1903*, was proclaimed. This Act stipulated that persons naturalised in the colonies before the passing of the Act would be deemed naturalised under Commonwealth law. However, in common with various Commonwealth laws passed in the early years of Federation, section 5 of this legislation denied its benefits to 'an aboriginal native of Asia, Africa, or the Islands of the Pacific, excepting New Zealand'.

The *Nationality Act 1920* removed this discriminatory section. However, the Act gave the responsible minister the authority to approve or disapprove applications. Very few 'coloureds' were granted naturalisation between 1904 and 1956. Women feature among those of Chinese nationality who were granted naturalisation from the 1930s, when an amendment to the Act allowed women whose nationality had changed to that of their husband at the time of their marriage to apply to reclaim their British nationality.

Under the *Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948*, the minister had the power to grant or refuse an application, without giving a reason. Until 1956, a year in which the Australian Government announced mirror modifications to the policy on entry of non-Europeans, government policy with few exceptions was not to grant naturalisation to non-Europeans. Indeed, this was made explicit to applicants.⁷

The National Archives of Australia holds extensive records on naturalisation, including many records from the colonies of South Australia and Victoria, which were transferred to the Commonwealth in 1913. Subsequently designated 'cancelled', they were widely used to check the bona fides of Chinese travellers to Australia.

The following series and items, which illustrate the shifts in the formal constraints on Chinese naturalisations, are listed chronologically by location.

7. See, for example, NAA: D1976, SB1946/808, on p. 124 of this guide.

Canberra

[GOVERNOR–GENERAL] MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE – MAINLY LOCAL (NON-IMPERIAL) MATTERS, 1887–1912**A6662**

Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)

Quantity: 5.58 metres (Canberra)

This series contains miscellaneous correspondence about Commonwealth issues or more local matters that engaged the attention of successive governors-general.

Five Chinese request naturalisation papers, 1905**A6662, 637**

This item is digitised.

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890–1969**A1**

Recorded by: 1901–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
 1932–39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin)

This is the principal correspondence record series of the Department of External Affairs and its successors. It covers a wide range of subjects, including migration, alien registration, passports and naturalisation, and various 'external affairs' matters. Most records deal with individual cases and inquiries. Series A31 contains selective indexes to A1.

Returns ... number of Chinese and Japanese ... in the Commonwealth [who are] naturalised British ..., 1904–05**A1, 1905/2173**

The returns are incomplete. This item is digitised.

Mrs A Lin Foy – retention of British nationality, 1937**A1, 1937/14746**

Refer to Chapter 6 for further accounts of women and naturalisation.

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1895–1905**A8**

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)

Quantity: 8.28 metres (Canberra)

This series was recorded by the Department of External Affairs, one of the first seven Departments of State established at Federation in 1901. It includes many records about the implementation of legislation restricting immigration, including those created during the transition from colonial to Commonwealth law.

RecordSearch item titles may include names of Chinese people, so wildcard and name searches can be used to locate information about specific individuals.

Chinese naturalisation by State of Victoria and unhindered passage into New South Wales, 1901–02**A8, 1902/49/16**

This item includes the Attorney-General's opinion on the concurrent operation of state and Commonwealth immigration restrictions in 1902.

- [DEFENCE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1900–28** **A457**
Recorded by: 1915–23 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)
1921–23 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
Quantity: 18.27 metres (Canberra)
Items in this series contain correspondence on a wide range of subjects that were submitted for the attention of the prime minister of the day.
Nationality – Australian women married to Chinese, 1923 **A457, Q111/2**
This item is digitised.
- CITIZENSHIP INDEX ON MICROFICHE, ‘CIT’ PREFIX, c1903–** **A4722**
Recorded by: 1973–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51);
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1775)
1975–87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I] (CA 1955); subsequently by other agencies
Quantity: Microfiche in all National Archives’ offices
The microfiche in this series contain information about people who have applied for, and been granted, Australian citizenship. Entries record the file number, surname, first name(s), alias, address, date and place of birth, gender, former citizenship, arrival date in Australia, Citizenship Certificate number, and the date and place the oath or affirmation was taken.
- [TERRITORIES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1910–76** **A452**
Recorded by: 1951–68 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60)
1968–73 Department of External Territories [II] (CA 1284)
1968 Territories Division, Department of the Interior, NT (CA 1286); subsequently by other agencies
Quantity: 916.41 metres (Canberra)
The files in this series originally related to the administration (general policy and staffing) of both the internal and external Australian territories, including the Northern Territory, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands. From 1951 to 1956, the records relate to the Northern Territory.
Naturalisation of New Guinea natives and Asians resident in Papua New Guinea – policy, 1956–58 **A452, 1957/561**
- REGISTER OF DEFERMENTS AND REFUSALS OF CERTIFICATES OF NATURALISATION, 1921–39** **A245**
Recorded by: 1921–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
1932–39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
1939 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
Quantity: 0.18 metres (Canberra)
The series consists of a book of precedents for refusals and deferments of some 500 Certificates of Naturalisation for Chinese and other applicants.

- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (POLICY MATTERS), 1922–68** **A445**
 Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 Quantity: 28.81 metres (Canberra)
 The series consists of general policy files relating to the assimilation, welfare and education of migrants. Subjects include conferences, refugees and restricted immigration policy.
 Items directly concerned with nationality and citizenship enactments were removed and placed in series A446, but some material on naturalisations remains in this series.
Australian-born widows of Chinese – naturalisation of, 1934 **A445, 230/16/2**
- [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1933–71** **A1068**
 Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
 Quantity: 26.5 metres (Canberra)
 This series is a good source for information about policy shifts on immigration to Australia after World War II. The contents of many items in this series extend beyond the date ranges suggested in their titles.
Assistance to non-Britishers – Chinese Say Dee and Seng U, 1947 **A1068, IC47/120/1/1**
- [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – NATURALISATION, 1944–50** **A435**
 Recorded by: 1939–45 Department of Interior [II] (CA 31)
 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 Quantity: 227 metres (Canberra)
 This series includes individual case files on Chinese nationals, notably children and also women who revoked their Chinese nationality acquired by marriage. This series is also discussed in chapters 3 and 6.
Consul-General for China re. Asiatics not entitled to naturalisation, 1938 **A435, 1946/4/2286**
Coloured persons – policy re. naturalisation, 1943–45 **A435, 1944/4/793**
Yu Kerren Happuck [aka Carrie Yu] – born 1 July 1896 – Chinese, 1947 **A435, 1947/4/2768**
 An extract from this item appears on the next page.
Nationality of persons born in New Guinea whose parents are Chinese, 1950 **A435, 1950/4/1297**
- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, 1953–** **A446**
 Recorded by: 1953–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1775); subsequently by other agencies
 Quantity: 3 422.37 metres (Canberra)
 This is the main correspondence series for the Department of Immigration and its successors. It contains both

Form B. 3.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

STATUTORY DECLARATION
Referred to in Paragraph 1 of annexed Application.

1. Name in full. (Write clearly) I, Kerren Happuck known as Carrie Yu
do solemnly and sincerely declare that—

1. My name is Carrie Yu

2. My place of residence is at 12 Dover Street, Summerhill
in the State of New South Wales

3. My personal description is as follows:—
Age 50 Height 5 ft. 2 1/2 ins
Colour of Hair black Colour of Eyes Brown
Visible Distinguishing Marks Nil

4. My occupation is Domestic Duties in which capacity
I am at present and have been employed by _____
at _____
for a period of _____

5. I was born on the 1st day of July in the
year 1896 at Sydney in the
country of Australia

6. My nationality is Chinese
The nationality of my father was Chinese (Naturalized)
His full name was John Young Wai
The nationality of my mother prior to her marriage was Chinese (Naturalized)

7. I arrived in Australia from China (Returned)
on the 23rd day of December in the year 1937
per the S.S. Panda and disembarked at the port
of Sydney

8. Since my arrival in Australia I have resided at: _____

9. During the period of my residence in the Commonwealth of Australia
I have made the following journeys to other countries, viz.:—

| COUNTRY VISITED. | PERIOD OF ABSENCE | | OBJECT OF JOURNEY. |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|
| | From (date). | To (date). | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

10. After leaving the country of _____ and before
coming to Australia, I resided in the following countries for the periods stated

2240.

A statutory declaration made by Mrs Kerren Happuck Yu (Carrie Yu) as part of her application for naturalisation, 1947. NAA: A435, 1947/4/2768

individual case and policy files dealing with matters of interest to the department.

Lists of applications for naturalisation approved by the minister – Melbourne – part 9, 1966

[A446, 1966/45723](#)

This item, which is digitised, contains schedules giving details of Chinese whose applications for naturalisation were approved in 1966.

Sydney

[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'SB (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1928–51

D1976

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 11.16 metres (Sydney); 3.78 metres (Adelaide)

Items in this series were created by the Shipping Branch of the Customs Office, Port Adelaide. Matters covered include CEDTs and other travel exemptions, refusals of admission, departures of 'coloured' persons, and applications for passports and landing permits.

Immigration Act – Chang Koo Ah Dah – Chinese – approval not given for naturalisation, 1946

D1976, SB1946/808

This item is located in Adelaide.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION (ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES) (FORMS A1, B1 AND C), ALPHABETICAL SERIES – NATURALISED, 1940–47

SP11/5

Recorded by: 1940–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
1945–47 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 13.68 metres (Sydney)

This series contains the details of alien registration applications from people who subsequently became naturalised.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1952–77

C3939

Recorded by: 1952–74 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, NSW (CA 1995)
1975 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NSW (CA 1968)

Quantity: 38.7 metres (Sydney)

This series contains case files as well as circularised instructions issued to Immigration officers in the decades before the end of racialised restrictions on migration and settlement. Additional material can be found in nominal indexes held in series SP1602/1 (1951–69), SP1689/1 (1960–75) and SP1729/1 (1976–79).

Immigration – monthly list of Asians naturalised, 1957–62

**C3939,
N1957/75268**

*Melbourne***[CUSTOMS, VIC] GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, 1898–****B13**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

Quantity: 107 metres (Melbourne); 0.09 metres (Darwin)

This is the main correspondence series of the Collector of Customs, Melbourne after 1901. It holds a large number of records on individual Chinese and their movements, both inter- and intranational. General matters concerning immigration restriction and processes of identification are covered widely. Files created up to 1930 deal largely with immigration matters.

[Attorney-General's opinion on] whether a Chinese naturalised in Victoria may pass into New South Wales [regardless of] state Acts, 1902**B13, 1902/2793**

In this item, the Commonwealth Attorney-General clarifies the status of naturalisation outside the colony in which it was granted – that is, naturalisation under the law of a colony endowed British subjecthood in that colony alone, while the benefits that came with naturalisation were also a matter for the parliament of the colony or its successor.

*Hobart***[CUSTOMS, TAS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1909–****P437**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816)

Quantity: 94.68 metres (Hobart)

This series, a successor to P501 (see p. 113), documents a wide range of travel and settlement matters, including certificates issued and the wider operation of the Immigration Restriction Act. Series P502 and P508 both hold related letter books maintained by Customs officers in Tasmania.

Application for naturalisation of Chinese Ah Yow, 1920**P437, 1920/855****ALIEN REGISTRATION PAPERS, 1939–47****P2680**

Recorded by: 1941–45 Security Service, Tas (CA 748)

1946–47 Department of Immigration, Tas (CA 960)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Hobart)

All aliens arriving in Australia were required to complete an application for registration and present it to their nearest police station. Aliens were then issued with a Certificate of Registration of Alien (Form B1) which they had to retain until the certificate was cancelled due to naturalisation or leaving Australia. This series records the acquisitions of naturalisation by registered aliens.

Naturalisation records of the colonies and states

The titles of the various series in Table 11 reflect the stages in approval processes that variously involved colonial governors, colonial departments and, in some periods, the Supreme Court. The earliest of the colonial applications were forwarded to Queen Victoria for her consent, while many certificates bear the signature of the governor of the relevant colony.

The terms used in the series descriptions have particular meanings:

- the applicant usually petitioned the governor with a ‘memorial’ – in effect, the formal application
- ‘approval’ was commonly given by the governor
- ‘registration’ often occurred before the oath of allegiance was taken
- at the ‘enrolment’ stage, the memorial, and, on some occasions, a copy of the Certificate and the oath of allegiance were formally filed away (for the Colony of Victoria, ‘Letters Patent’ were issued by ‘enrolling’ the naturalisation in a register)

The administration and timing of each stage of approval varied from colony to colony.

Each certificate commonly recorded full name, place of residence, place (country) of birth, age, length of time in Australia, profession and date of certificate. Many records of ‘Memorials’ provide additional detail, including signatures in Chinese characters.

The series described in the following table are listed chronologically by their current location.

Table 11: *Naturalisation applications, certificates and related series*

| Title | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|---|--------|
| Canberra | | |
| Nominal index for pre-1904 South Australian naturalisations | 1848–1903; 0.64 metres (microfilm copies in other Archives’ offices) | A7419 |
| Naturalisation index, Victoria – register of patents with index | 1851–61; 0.26 metres (microfilm copy in Sydney) | A3977 |
| Letters received, letter prefix or infix | 1851–1903; 51.3 metres | A712 |
| Registers of Certificates of Naturalisation [volumes of enrolled certificates with index] | 1852–80; 0.99 metres (microfilm copies in other Archives’ offices) | A726 |
| Nominal index for pre-1904 Victorian naturalisations | 1852–1903; 1.18 metres (microfilm copies in other Archives’ offices) | A7796 |
| Cancelled Certificates of Naturalisation, Victoria | 1853–1903; 4.05 metres | A801 |
| Enrolled Certificates of Naturalisation and memorials | 1858–66; 0.22 metres (microfilm copies in other Archives’ offices) | A823 |
| Outward letter book for documents of the Victorian Chief Secretary’s Office and receipt book [Victorian naturalisation records] of the Department of External Affairs | 1860–1916; 0.37 metres | A84 |
| [1] Naturalisation index, Victoria [register of patents with index]; [2] naturalisation indexes, Victoria [registers and indexes to enrolled letters of naturalisation] | 1861–1903; 0.61 metres (microfilm copies in Sydney and Melbourne) | A728 |

| Title | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|---|---------------|
| Canberra cont'd | | |
| Volumes of enrolled letters of naturalisation | 1863-1903; 3.37 metres (microfilm copies in other Archives' offices) | A727 |
| Cancelled Certificates of Naturalisation, NSW | 1877-96; 0.54 metres | A806 |
| Cancelled Certificates of Naturalisation, South Australia | 1883-87; 0.45 metres | A805 |
| Cancelled Certificates of Naturalisation, Tasmania | 1883-1903; 0.36 metres | A804 |
| Melbourne | | |
| Register of patents and (from 19 February 1851) register of Certificates of Naturalisation [and] volume of enrolled certificates with index | 1847-52; 0.87 metres (microfilm copies in other Archives' offices) | A725 |
| Brisbane | | |
| Naturalisation ceremonies - list of candidates for naturalisation | 1964-71; 0.18 metres | BP399/4 |
| Perth | | |
| List of persons to whom Certificates of Naturalisation were granted by the Western Australian Government before and after Federation | 1871-1916; 0.18 metres | PP650/4 |
| Adelaide | | |
| Memorials of naturalisation, with enrolled or uncollected certificates | 1848-58; 12.15 metres | A821 |
| Books of enrolled Certificates of Naturalisation This series is closely related to series A731 and A734. | 1850-89; 0.78 metres (microfilm copies in other Archives' offices) | A729 |
| Naturalised aliens journals | 1848-88; 0.22 metres (microfilm copies in Canberra and Sydney) | A730 |
| (1) 'Index to Aliens', name index book to Certificates of Naturalisation [issued 1848-58; enrolled 1850-88]; (2) list of aliens registered This series is closely related to series A729 and A734. | 1850-76; 0.58 metres (microfilm copy in Sydney) | A731 |
| Journal and index, naturalised aliens | 1858-65; 0.2 metres (microfilm copies in other Archives' offices) | A732 |
| Oaths of Allegiance | 1858-89; 0.01 metres | A735 |
| Memorials and Certificates of Naturalisation (unenrolled or uncollected), for South Australia ... | 1858-65; 0.36 metres | A822 |
| Miscellaneous papers and correspondence relating to aliens | 1858-65; 0.09 metres | A824 |
| Quarterly returns for South Australia - aliens who have made application to be naturalised | 1860-64; 0.09 metres | A6549 |
| Memorials of naturalisation, unregistered | 1865; 0.09 metres | A825 |
| Journal and index, naturalised aliens | 1865-1903; 0.47 metres (microfilm copy in Sydney) | A734 |
| Volumes of enrolled letters of naturalisation | 1865-1903; 13 metres (microfilm copies in other Archives' offices) | A733 |
| Uncollected Certificates of Naturalisation | 1865-1903; 0.9 metres (microfilm copy in Canberra) | A826 |
| Memorials of naturalisation | 1865-1903; 7.74 metres | A711 |
| Hobart | | |
| Numerical register of Certificates of Naturalisation | 1951-88; 0.18 metres | P1948 |

Commonwealth naturalisation records

Table 12 lists some of the series concerned with post-Federation naturalisation held by the National Archives.

Table 12: *Commonwealth naturalisation records*

| Title | Quantity and location | Series |
|---|--|--------|
| Canberra | | |
| Citizenship index on microfiche, 'CIT' prefix Please see series description on p. 121. | 1903; microfiche in all National Archives' offices | A4722 |
| Volumes of duplicate Certificates of Naturalisation | 1904–17; 7 metres; microfilm copies in other Archives' offices | A40 |
| Register of persons and special cases (naturalisations) requiring Minister's decision | 1904–32; 0.18 metres | A43 |
| Name index cards, naturalisation | 1904–56; 8.82 metres | A1652 |
| Register of deferments and refusals of Certificates of Naturalisation The register includes a schedule of policy precedents. | 1921–39; 0.18 metres | A245 |
| Declarations of retention of rights of a British subject | 1937–48; 0.54 metres | A722 |
| Declarations of acquisition of British nationality | 1937–53; 2.88 metres | A721 |
| Name index cards, alphabetical series (registration of birth abroad) | 1949–78; 8 metres | A4130 |
| Naturalisation (citizenship) records | 1954– ; 50.58 metres | A7907 |

Alien registration during and after World War I and World War II

During World War I (1914–18), the registration of aliens was provided for by regulations under the *War Precautions Act 1914–18*. Following the war, and the lapse of the wartime legislation, the Aliens Registration Acts of 1919 and 1920 provided that 'non-British' Australian residents (that is, unnaturalised as British subjects or not born in Australia) should be registered as aliens. In fact, many naturalised or Australian-born Chinese were registered as aliens.

State police authorities were responsible for the day-to-day registration and movement of, and control over, aliens during the war. Other authorities involved in alien registration and monitoring activities included state branches of the Special Intelligence Bureau (c1917–19), the Commonwealth Investigation Branch (1919–22) and Customs officials at all Australian ports. Alien registration ended in 1922, but was revived in 1939 with the advent of World War II.

The *Aliens Registration Act 1939* and the associated *National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations 1939* required all 'aliens' to register at their nearest police station or, for those arriving from overseas, the port office.

From the outset, the Department of Customs and its officers at the ports and airports were involved in alien registration, along with state police authorities, which were responsible for the registration of resident aliens.

The Military Police Intelligence Section was similarly involved in alien registration operations; its functions were assumed by the Security Service (c1941), which was responsible for wartime security, and the Investigation Branch (c1946), which was later known as the Commonwealth Investigation Service.

With the creation of the Department of Immigration in 1945, the responsibility for the formal processes of registration fell to the Aliens Control Officers, although the records were physically controlled by state police departments until January 1948.

The Department of Immigration administered the *Aliens Act 1947*, which required all non-British nationals resident in Australia or entering Australia for more than 60 consecutive days to apply for registration within the state or territory in which they resided.

An alien was formally defined as someone over 16 who was not a British subject or had not made a declaration entitling them to all political and other rights, powers and privileges to which a natural-born British subject was entitled.

While the Act sought to ensure that the Government had knowledge of aliens within the community, it was less stringent than the wartime legislation. For example, the Aliens Act did not seek to restrict the movement of aliens. Registration of aliens officially came to an end in 1965, while the Aliens Act was repealed in 1984.⁸

The series listed in this section show the range of documentation concerned with, and the principal agencies engaged in, alien registration in the states and territories. Series and items are listed chronologically.

[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1871–1962

D596

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 53.86 metres (Adelaide)

This series was recorded by the Collector of Customs, SA. Transferred to Federal control, D596 continued until 1962. It covers a variety of matters related to Customs activities. Series D2248 serves as an index for the years from 1926 to 1933, while D5093 contains an index to outward letters from 1925 to 1928. Both D2248 and D5093 are held in Sydney.

D596 includes a wide range of operational files relating to Chinese travel and settlement.

Registration of aliens, 1921–22

D596, 1921/7753

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890–1969

A1

Recorded by: 1901–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
 1932–39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin)

Please see series description on p. 120.

8. Some RA 2 forms were completed by British authorities up until 1972 (see series details for SP1732/1 on p. 135 of this guide).

- Secret control of aliens in time of war, 1911–12** A1, 1913/6804
 This item documents discussions among Australian government departments on plans for the registration of aliens in the event of war.
- Consul-General, China – registration of Chinese under Aliens Registration Act, 1916** A1, 1916/24606
 This digitised item specifies the terms of registration of Chinese under Aliens Registration Regulations.
- [DEFENCE] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1898–1974** MP508/1
 Recorded by: 1939 Army Headquarters, Department of Defence [II] (CA 2671)
 1939–42 Department of the Army (CA 36)
 Quantity: 134 metres (Melbourne)
 Items in this series relate to the wartime administration of the military forces in Australia. Subjects dealt with include administration, compensation, defence and fixed defences, and medical and dental corps.
- Chinese crew – SS *Taiping*: Registration under National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations, 1939** MP508/1, 4/703/14
 Chinese crew members on board the SS *Taiping* were required to register as aliens on each occasion their ship docked at an Australian port.
- [IMMIGRATION] CASE FILES, OCCASIONAL ‘Q’ (QUEENSLAND) OR ‘QB’ (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) PREFIX, 1908–** J25
 Recorded by: 1946–74 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Qld (CA 2148)
 Quantity: 1 092 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Perth)
 This series, the largest recorded on immigration matters in Queensland after World War II, holds case files on permanent and temporary residents (including students), and applications for citizenship and sponsorship of migrants. It also holds Immigration policy files from 1946 to 1983.
- List of Chinese aliens resident in Queensland, 1951** J25, 1951/5446
- INVESTIGATION CASE FILES, ‘SA’ (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) PREFIX, 1910–87** D1915
 Recorded by: 1919 Commonwealth Police Force (CA 2919)
 1919–46 Investigation Branch, SA (CA 905)
 1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service, SA (CA 914)
 1960 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, SA (CA 4716)
 Quantity: 29.88 metres (Adelaide); 1.62 metres (Canberra)
 Items in this series contain similar material to items in record series created by other state branches of Commonwealth security intelligence agencies (eg B741, located in Melbourne).

D1915 includes 'sensitive' information on deportations, applications for naturalisation and other matters. It also includes case files on national security from World War I.

Chinese aliens – cooperation with Customs re. registration, 1924–27

D1915, SA1042

INVESTIGATION FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1914–62

SP1714/1

Recorded by: 1920–46 Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)
1946–57 Commonwealth Investigation Service, NSW (CA 912)

Quantity: 10.80 metres (Sydney)

This series, like ST1233/1, contains dossiers compiled by the Investigation Branch and, later, the Commonwealth Investigation Service on individuals and organisations. This series contains many records top-numbered from other series, eg SP26/1, Dossiers on internees. After 1949, many of these items were transferred to ASIO.

Old Chinese alien registration records, 1933

SP1714/1, N35700

[INVESTIGATION BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1914–64

B741

Recorded by: 1927–46 Investigation Branch, Vic (CA 907)
1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service, Vic (CA 916)
1960–62 Commonwealth Police Force [II], Vic (CA 955)

Quantity: 42.66 metres (Melbourne)

This is the main correspondence series of the Victorian branches of the Commonwealth's investigation agencies. It contains items dealing with criminal offences committed against the Commonwealth or its laws, or offences against state Acts committed on Commonwealth property. Some items also cover the design of processes of alien registration.

Suggested better use of our Chinese aliens registration records – Ah Ung and Ah Foo, 1921–25

B741, V/2961

The record concerns the use of photographs on certificates.

Applications by Chinese for CEDTs – particulars as to registration as aliens, 1924

B741, V/304

[SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR (1916–27) AND 'C' PREFIXES (1927–53), 1916–71

A367

Recorded by: 1916–19 Special Intelligence Bureau, Melbourne (CA 746)
1919–46 Investigation Branch, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)
1946–53 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)

Quantity: 66.6 metres (Canberra)

This series includes policy, precedent and case files created for investigations by the Commonwealth's intelligence services into applications for naturalisation and the admission into Australia of friends, relatives and visitors of, and substitutes for, Chinese businessmen.

- Old Chinese alien registration records in Sydney office, 1933** A367, C3075AE
- INVESTIGATION FILES (PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS), ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1921–46** **C320**
- Recorded by: 1942–45 Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)
1945–46 Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)
- Quantity: 4.5 metres (Sydney)
- This series consists of correspondence files on ‘suspect’ activities. Items relating to Chinese individuals and organisations are identified by the prefix ‘C’, though other items may also be of interest.
- List of Chinese nationals registered at Central Aliens Bureau, 1942–45** C320, C34
- [SECURITY SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1923–56** **A373**
- Recorded by: 1941–45 Security Service (CA 660)
1945–46 Investigation Branch (CA 747)
1946–48 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)
- Quantity: 7.38 metres (Canberra)
- Included among items in this series are assessments of wartime and postwar issues that concern Chinese. Some items outline difficulties in recording Chinese names.
- [National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations – registrations of Chinese in Australia], 1944–45** [A373, 8774](#)
- This digitised item includes discussion on the difficulties officers encountered in recording Chinese names.
- CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 6 (ALIENS REGISTRATION), 1923–57** **A437**
- Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)
- Quantity: 2.16 metres (Canberra)
- Despite its title, this series consists of files on migration and settlement as well as files about the registration of postwar aliens.
- Aliens who served in Australian Military Forces – alien control, 1945–46** A437, 1946/6/84
- Aliens Act – return of aliens registered for residence in Victoria, 1947–49** [A437, 1948/6/303](#)
- This item is digitised.
- Chinese – proposed check on Chinese unlawfully in Australia, 1947** A437, 1947/6/104
- REGISTRATION PAPERS FOR NON-BRITISH MIGRANTS, 1939–66** **P1184**
- Recorded by: Department of Immigration, Tas (CA 960)
- Quantity: 3.6 metres (Hobart)
- The series contains registration documents prepared by non-British migrants wishing to come to Australia. The information includes details about nationality, marital

status, distinguishing features, date of birth, passport number and other personal and travel details, along with photographs of the migrant.

**Registration papers for non-British migrants -
Chen, George [Chinese], 1914-62**

P1184, Chen

**Registration papers for non-British migrants -
Chung, Hon George [Chinese], 1925-48**

P1184, Chung

**ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES – RESIDENTS OF ACT AND SURROUNDING
AREAS, 1939-72**

A1870

Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 13.68 metres (Canberra)

Many items in this series relate to 'alien' international students and university postings to the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Most records relate to the period from 1948 to 1964.

**Wang, Sing-Wu - nationality: Chinese - arrived: Sydney
per aircraft ..., 22 October 1964**

A1870, Wang S

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'S' PREFIX, 1946-

D399

Recorded by: 1966-74 Department of Immigration, SA (CA 959)

1974-75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and
Immigration, SA (CA 2319)

1975-87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I],
SA (CA 2327); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 577.44 metres (Sydney); 131 metres (Adelaide)

This series holds administrative and operational files as well as personal case files of migrants. The items contain details of various short-term exemptions and applications for naturalisation or immigration, eg migrant sponsorship. Other items document citizenship applications and deportation cases.

Aliens' registration - general policy, 1947-50

D399, S1970/16717

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1949-

E37

Recorded by: 1949-74 Department of Immigration, NT (CA 759)

1974-75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and
Immigration, NT (CA 2110)

1975-87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I],
NT (CA 2111); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 251 metres (Darwin); 0.18 metres (Perth)

Most items in this Immigration series concern individuals and families. It contains policy files on the admission of Chinese and items that deal with deportation, naturalisation and alien registration after 1947.

Aliens registration - policy, 1947-52

E37, 1949/38

This digitised item concerns the introduction of new aliens registration legislation in 1947 and its application in the Northern Territory.

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 25 (POLICY), 1953–55 | SP1655/1 |
| Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) | |
| Quantity: 0.54 metres (Sydney) | |
| Items in this series contain correspondence, papers, passports and photographs related to immigrants and emigrants entering or leaving Australia through the Port of Sydney or interstate ports. Matters dealt with include naturalisation, deportation, passports, landing permits and entry and re-entry. | |
| AR [alien registration] certificates improperly issued to Chinese, 1953–55 | SP1655/1, 1954/25/75524 |
| | |
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'W59' PREFIX, 1959–84 | K403 |
| Recorded by: Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962) | |
| Quantity: 22 metres (Perth) | |
| This series was created to hold Immigration policy and subject records created after 1958, as distinct from K47, the department's Perth case file series (see p. 107). | |
| Aliens registration policy, 1957–63 | K403, W59/322 part 3 |
| Aliens registration shipboard, c1959–84 | K403, W59/20 part 3 |

Alien registration processes and related documentation

Wartime alien registration records hold a range of forms and related documents created to support the registration process. Peacetime registration, too, generated an extraordinary array of detailed documentation, with different 'RA' forms and statements for aliens entering and departing the country; notifications of change of address, occupation or marital status; naturalisation; death; replacements for lost certificates; and so on.

The main types of alien registration records held by the National Archives are:

- The certificates issued to aliens and returned when the bearers either became naturalised or departed the Commonwealth.
- The 'Register of Aliens' cards, which record the individual alien's name, date and place of birth, sex, marital status, height and other personal details, along with an attached photograph.

Records in the series described in the following tables variously include name, address, nationality, physical appearance, passport details, occupation, family connections, a photograph, details on Customs clearance, and arrival and departure details.

In tracking registration records, it should be borne in mind that records were withdrawn from the consolidated register at the time of naturalisation or departure from the Commonwealth, and were generally placed on individual immigration (or naturalisation) 'case files'. Registration forms for people who had left the Commonwealth or who did not take up naturalisation were held separately.

The tables on the following pages describe series containing alien registration records. Records about individual Chinese can be found throughout these series. Further information about these records can be found on RecordSearch.

Table 13: Alien registration series in Canberra

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| Correspondence files, single number series | 1923-56; 7.38 metres | A373 |
| Correspondence files, class 6 (aliens registration) | 1923-57; 2.16 metres | A437 |
| Aliens registration files - residents of ACT and surrounding areas | 1939-72; 3.68 metres | A1870 |
| Alien registration - 'dead' index cards (RA10, M98, M300) | 1945-71; 14.18 metres | A3944 |
| Alien registration index cards (M98, M300, M341) A summary of this series is included in the description of B6521 in Table 15. | c1948- ; 138.6 metres | A3335 |
| 'Dead' card index of registered aliens | c1948-51; 2.52 metres | A7109 |
| Central card index of registered aliens | 1948-52; 47.88 metres | A7110 |

Table 14: Alien registration series in Sydney

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|--|-----------------------|----------|
| Papers of the NSW Police Department, dealing with registration and contact of aliens | 1916-21; 0.18 metres | SP11/16 |
| Alien registration forms This series contains intelligence service records, including records about Chinese who applied for registration. | 1916-22; 26.1 metres | SP43/3 |
| Registers of aliens arrivals | 1917-47; 1.08 metres | SP1084/1 |
| Application for registration (alien registration files) - Chinese (alphabetical series) This series includes applications for registration from both resident Chinese and wartime refugees. Of note is the application made by Yen Kang Hwang, who visited Australia 'to establish the Bank of China in Australia'. | 1939-61; 1.26 metres | SP1732/4 |
| Aliens returns at 9 December 1939 | 1939-40; 0.18 metres | SP11/25 |
| Applications for registration (alien registration files) (Forms A1, B1 and C), alphabetical series by nationality | 1939-47; 39.96 metres | SP11/2 |
| Alien registration forms (A1 and A2) | 1939-47; 1.08 metres | C413 |
| Index to aliens registered under National Security Regulations in NSW (current portion) | 1939-47; 1.26 metres | SP267/1 |
| Index to aliens registered under National Security Regulations in New South Wales (non-current portion) | 1939-47; 3.42 metres | SP267/2 |
| Forms of application for registration for aliens resident in Australia (Form RA2) | 1939-48; 2.7 metres | SP1732/1 |
| Applications for registration of aliens Items held in this series were prepared for non-Europeans registered in New South Wales, including those who later died, left the state or were naturalised. Cards for non-Europeans were separated from cards for Europeans in 1959. | 1939-63; 3.06 metres | SP605/10 |
| Applications for registration of aliens | 1939-68; 359.4 metres | SP1121/1 |

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| Alien registration forms and personal statements of aliens visiting Australia Some items in this series contain applications submitted by Chinese in New South Wales. A small collection of items deals with people – mainly Chinese – who left the Commonwealth in 1966. | 1939–68; 8.1 metres | SP1732/5 |
| Applications for registration (aliens registration files), alphabetical series for non-naturalised aliens | 1940–47; 20.16 metres | SP11/3 |
| Applications for registration (aliens registration files) (Forms A1, B1 and C), alphabetical series – naturalised | 1940–47; 13.68 metres | SP11/5 |
| Aliens registers | 1940–71; 2.34 metres | SP1732/6 |
| Applications for registration of aliens (alien registration) Most documents in SP627/1 and SP829/1 concern Chinese and other non-Europeans. | 1941–54; 0.18 metres | SP627/1 |
| Nationality index cards to persons submitting forms of application for registration and change of abode This series hold items with details about Chinese nationals living in the Newcastle area of New South Wales. | 1942–45; 0.18 metres | C457 |
| Personal statements by alien passengers (Form A (No. 42) Items in this series contain personal statements made by Chinese landing at the Port of Sydney | 1945–47; 12.24 metres. | SP11/4 |
| NSW registration cards This series contains registration cards for ‘Asiatics’ arriving in New South Wales. These cards record personal details, including physical characteristics. | 1948–71; 48.68 metres | SP1470/1 |
| Alien registration cards (Form M341) This series contains reference cards for non-Europeans who had left Australia or had become naturalised. | 1950; 0.18 metres | SP1732/2 |
| Applications for registration of aliens (‘Asiatics’ only – alien registration documents) | 1960–64; 0.72 metres | SP682/2 |
| Applications for registration of aliens (alien registration documents), ‘Asiatics’ only Most documents in SP627/1 and SP829/1 concern Chinese and other ‘Asians’. | 1962–65; 2.34 metres | SP829/1 |

Table 15: Alien registration series in Melbourne

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| World War I intelligence section case files | 1914–23; 16.56 metres | MP16/1 |
| Forms for registration under the <i>War Precautions (Aliens Registration) Regulations 1916</i> and the <i>Aliens Registration Act 1920</i> (Forms A, A2 and E) | 1916–21; 35.55 metres | MT269/1 |
| Microfilm cassettes of alien registration cards, all states and territories | 1937–70; 0.68 metres | B6520 |
| Microfilmed lexicographical lists of registered aliens This series summarises series B6520 and A3335 (see Table 13). | c1937–72; 0.36 metres (microfilm) | B6521 |
| Alien registration cards | 1937–72; 41.7 metres | B77 |

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|--|------------------------|----------|
| Applications for registration of aliens under National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations | 1939-47; 8.37 metres | B6531 |
| Alien registration documents | 1939-72; 233.28 metres | B78 |
| Alien registration documents | 1948-71; 73.44 metres | MP1492/2 |

Table 16: Alien registration series in Brisbane

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|------------------------|----------|
| Register of foreign subjects and reservists reporting at Oakey Police Station | 1914-21; 0.4 metres | BP876/1 |
| Alien registration forms, alphabetical series by nationality | 1916-44; 12.78 metres | BP4/3 |
| Correspondence regarding aliens residing in Qld | 1917-21; 0.9 metres | BP230/9 |
| Registration books relating to deportations of aliens | 1919; 0.9 metres | BP230/10 |
| Register of notices of change of abode for naturalised persons and aliens, Mount Molloy [Queensland] | 1931-47; 0.4 metres | BP876/4 |
| Register of aliens, Oakey | 1939-47; 0.4 metres | BP876/2 |
| Registers of aliens, Mount Molloy [Queensland] | 1939-46; 0.4 metres | BP876/3 |
| Alien registration papers, alphabetical series by country of citizenship | c1939-85; 90.18 metres | BP25/1 |
| Applications for registration of Chinese aliens entering Queensland Most items in this series concern Chinese crew members who landed in 1941. The items provide copious personal and travel details, along with thumbprints and signatures. | 1941; 0.54 metres | BP9/2 |
| Application for aliens registration (Form M300) | 1947-84; 0.45 metres | J940 |
| Registers of certificates of alien registration issued at Brisbane | 1947-84; 0.54 metres | J944 |

Table 17: Alien registration series in Perth

| Title and notes | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|-----------------------|----------|
| Register of aliens maintained under <i>War Precautions (Aliens Registered) Regulations 1916</i> | 1916-19; 31.5 metres | PP14/3 |
| Alien registration documents, alphabetical series Microfilm of this series is located in Adelaide. | 1916-65; 56.7 metres | K1331 |
| Personal statement and declaration forms [by nationality] | 1924-48; 1.62 metres | PP246/4 |
| Registers of alien registration certificates issued | 1948-59; 2.25 metres | PP513/6 |
| Register of alien interstate movements, nationality changes and cancelled or deceased registrations | 1949-52; 0.45 metres | PP513/9 |
| Numerical registers to alien registration control cards | 1959-64; 1.26 metres | PP513/10 |
| Alien registration index cards | 1964-71; 35.46 metres | PP513/2 |

Table 18: Alien registration series in Adelaide

| Title | Date and quantity | Series |
|--|----------------------|----------|
| Register of aliens | 1921-46; 0.54 metres | AP1097/4 |
| Statements by alien passengers on entry to Australia | 1923-48; 1.62 metres | D4880 |

| Title | Date and quantity | Series |
|--|------------------------|--------|
| Alien registration documents, alphabetical series | c1939-64; 72.63 metres | D4878 |
| Morgue registers (non-active alien registration cards) | 1940-58; 0.18 metres | D1654 |
| Alien registration cards, alphabetical series | 1946-70; 47.48 metres | D4881 |
| Registers of alien certificates issued | 1948-80; 0.36 metres | D1652 |

Table 19: Alien registration series in Hobart

| Title | Date and quantity | Series |
|--|-----------------------|--------|
| Records of aliens | c1914-19; 0.18 metres | A401 |
| Alien registration - Chinese, Tasmania | c1916-21; 0.9 metres | A396 |
| Alien registration papers, single number series | 1939-47; 0.9 metres | P2680 |
| Registration papers for non-British migrants, lexicographical series | 1939-66; 3.6 metres | P1184 |

Table 20: Alien registration series in Darwin

| Title | Date and quantity | Series |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| Register of aliens | 1916-21; 0.5 metres | F113 |
| Correspondence file relating to aliens | 1939-40; 0.2 metres | E759 |
| Correspondence files relating to registration of aliens | 1939-46; 0.36 metres | E760 |
| Aliens registration cards, lexicographical series | 1948-71; 3.29 metres | E1129 |
| Miscellaneous documents relating to aliens | 1949-81; 0.9 metres | E1115 |
| Aliens registration files | 1949- ; 8.64 metres | E40 |
| Index lists to aliens files | 1950; 0.2 metres | E761 |



Paul Chung (Chang Pin Hsieh)'s photograph and fingerprints from his application for alien registration, 1939.

NAA: K1331, Chinese/Hsieh C P

5.

Wartime Experiences

Many Chinese-Australians saw active service in conflicts involving Australia, including the Anglo-South African ('Boer') War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. They served with all branches of the Australian Military Forces (AMF), while during World War II Chinese women enlisted in both the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force and the Australian Women's Army Service. Following World War II, Chinese served with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in its work in China and with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan.⁹

Before the late 1940s, most of these enlistments were 'unofficial'. The *Defence Act 1909* barred the recruitment of people not 'substantially of European origin or descent', and the rule could be enforced at the time of their medical examination. The 'blood rule' did not strictly apply to non-combatant duties and in early 1940, when the military authorities reconsidered enlistment of men and women of non-European background, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) admitted, at its discretion, 'coloureds' as ground crew based in Australia. However, this limitation was increasingly ignored after 1941. In February 1942, the National Security (Aliens Service) Regulations effectively overrode the Defence Act, and aliens (residents who were not British subjects) were compelled to register for service. The formal restrictions on enlistment by Chinese continued.

Commonwealth law was less restrictive on service in non-combatant units. Among the Chinese men and women working on the home front during World War II were those in Australia due to the dislocations caused by war - the refugees and evacuees from Papua New Guinea, the Pacific Islands Territories, Hong Kong and South-East Asian countries; crews from merchant ships stranded in Australian ports by the hostilities; and visitors from China who were in Australia at the outbreak of the war.

Following the first Japanese bombing raid on the Australian mainland on 19 February 1942, residents of Darwin and other northern settlements were evacuated to the southern states of Australia. In the ensuing chaos, many families - including close-knit Chinese families - were scattered. Some of these families regrouped in other places.

Chinese seamen, the largest group of wartime arrivals, were employed in a range of occupations during the war years. Along with Chinese from Nauru and Ocean Island, many seamen were conscripted into special Chinese labour corps and travelled to various towns and cities, and to remote locations, including mining sites in northern and central Australia. Seamen, along with evacuees from islands in the Pacific, were employed by United States (US) Army units based in Australia.

The record descriptions that follow relate to World War II and the experiences of Chinese on the home front, the flight from war of refugees and evacuees, internment and the

9. For introductions to this topic, see Morag Loh (with Judith Winternitz), *Dinky-Di: The Contributions of Chinese Immigrants and Australians of Chinese Descent to Australia's Defence Forces and War Efforts*, Australian Government Printing Service, Canberra, 1989, and Diana Giese, *Courage and Service: Chinese Australians and World War II*, Courage and Service Project, Marrickville, 1999.

wartime labour effort within Australia.¹⁰ Some items concern the legal challenges to the Commonwealth's *War-time Refugee Removals Act 1949*. The concluding sections of this chapter concern recruitment and service records for World War I and World War II.

Alien registration during wartime is discussed in Chapter 4. Other records on Chinese from Papua New Guinea are described in Chapter 7.

Inquiries about individual war service records in the open period (that is, more than 30 years old) should be directed to the National Archives' reference service (ref@naa.gov.au). Further information can be found in Fact Sheet 63, *Sources of information about military service*, which is available under 'Publications' on the National Archives' website and from all National Archives reading rooms.

The location and availability of service unit records vary depending on the period of the conflict and the service. Army records (war unit diaries) are held by the Australian War Memorial (AWM); Royal Australian Navy (RAN) records (ships' logs and reports of proceedings) are held by the National Archives and the AWM; and RAAF records (unit history sheets) are held by the National Archives.

The following series and items are listed chronologically by location.

The home front during World War II

Canberra

CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED BY SUBJECT ('SPECIAL PORTFOLIO'), 1888–1936

A6661

Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)

Quantity: 11.62 metres (Canberra)

The series holds subject files on matters of interest to successive governors-general in the decades after World War I.

Foreign orders – Chinese decorations for Australians, 1923–24

A6661, 65

[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1892–1970

A659

Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51);
subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 103 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in Darwin and Melbourne

This series consists of correspondence files on departmental operational matters.

10. For an introduction to the development of these labour units, see Wendy Rankine, 'Australia's Chinese Army Corps', in Ryan, Jan (ed.), *Chinese in Australia and New Zealand: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach*, New Age International Publishers, Wiley Eastern, New Delhi, c1995.

- National Security (Aliens Service) Regulations - application to Chinese, 1942-45** **A659, 1944/1/4331**
This item is digitised.
- [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901-50** **A461**
Recorded by: 1934-35 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
1934-50 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
Quantity: 146 metres (Canberra)
This series consists of general correspondence files covering the wide range of subjects that came to the attention of the prime minister of the day.
- Employment of Chinese, May 1942** **A461, AD351/1/7**
Special funds - Chinese relief fund, 1943-45 **A461, O350/1/6**
- [ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 1901-** **A432**
Recorded by: 1929- Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)
1958 Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office (CA 832)
Quantity: 1 994 metres (Canberra); 352 metres (Sydney)
This is the main correspondence series for the Attorney-General's Department after 1928. The department provided guidance to Commonwealth departments that sought opinions on administrative and policy matters, and in settling points of law.
- CORRESPONDENCE FILES [PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT], VARIABLE ALPHABETICAL PREFIX AND GENERAL PREFIX 'SC', 1914-50** **A1608**
Recorded by: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
Quantity: 41 metres (Canberra)
Records in this series reflect the way in which World War II impinged on all aspects of life, national security and policy-making.
- [INTELLIGENCE SERVICES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1916-60** **A8911**
Recorded by: 1916-19 Special Intelligence Bureau (CA 746)
1919-46 Investigation Branch (CA 747)
1946-60 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)
Quantity: 3.6 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Perth)
This series is made up of items transferred by ASIO. The items came from a variety of record series, including A367, A369, A402, A6119 and A6122. Among the items in this series are reports on Chinese community associations, described in Chapter 6 of this guide.
- Chinese ministers (visitor ... from Ministry of Information, Dr K L Chau - White Australia Policy), 1944-45** **A8911, 316**
- CORRESPONDENCE FILES [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS], YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1919-65** **A1066**
Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
Quantity: 31.5 metres (Canberra)
Items in this series deal with matters of diplomatic importance to Australia, such as international treaties and

agreements, and consular and foreign relations matters (eg the protection of Australian interests and nationals overseas).

**Diplomatic representatives of other countries in Australia ...
Chinese minister ... additional clothing coupons, 1945–48** A1066, IC45/4/7/8

**[AIR SERVICES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – MELBOURNE SERIES
(PRIMARY NUMBERS 1–323), 1922–60**

A705

Recorded by: 1922–39 Air Services Branch (CA 778)
1939–60 Department of Air (CA 35)

Quantity: 672 metres (Canberra); 14.4 metres (Melbourne)

This main correspondence series of the RAAF covers administration, technical and specialist areas.

Personnel – mustering of linguists (Russian, Chinese, Japanese), 1945–52 A705, 208/44/20

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR PREFIX, 1927–45

A989

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)

Quantity: 30.69 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series concern Australia's relations with other countries, specifically in the context of World War II, as well as records on the subjects of nationality and travel.

China–Japan – Chinese 5th anniversary of war with Japan, 1942 A989, 1943/150/13/1

Other items in this series record the same anniversary for other years.

Defence – subversive activities – A W Boon, HO/Chinese merchant, 1943 A989, 1943/235/4/16

China – Chinese ministers in Australia – naval and military liaison officer, 1943–44 A989, 1943/150/11

China – payment for carriage of Chinese Army personnel from Batchelor to Brisbane, 1943 A989, 1943/150/21/2

This item is digitised.

[SECURITY SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1923–56

A373

Recorded by: 1941–45 Security Service (CA 660)
1945–46 Investigation Branch (CA 747)
1946–48 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)

Quantity: 7.38 metres (Canberra)

Included among records in this series are assessments of wartime and postwar issues that concern Chinese.

[Chinese activities], 1943 A373, 7955

DEFENCE COMMITTEE – AGENDA, 1932–

A5799

Recorded by: Defence Committee [II] (CA 289)

Quantity: 23 metres (Canberra)

The agenda held in items in this series contain matters considered by the Defence Committee.

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Supply of anti-aircraft guns to China, 1941 | A5799, 28/1941 |
| Supply of munitions to China, 1941 | A5799, 76/1941 |
| Appointment of military attaché to China, 1947 | A5799, 98/1947 |
| 'THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION', 1937-71 | A5954 |
| Recorded by: 1937-71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320) | |
| 1937-39 Department of Defence [II] (CA 19) | |
| 1939-42 Department of Defence Co-ordination (CA 37) | |
| 1942-71 Department of Defence [III] (CA 46) | |
| Quantity: 200.98 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in other offices of the National Archives | |
| Sir Frederick Shedden was the Secretary of the Department of Defence between 1937 and 1956. This series contains records he collected on the history of Australian defence policy from 1901 to 1945. It contains copies of departmental correspondence, files, reports, press cuttings and copies of War Cabinet and Advisory War Council records. Many items in this series have been digitised. | |
| Exchange of ministers with China, 1941-44 | A5954, 436/9 |
| [STATE PUBLICITY CENSOR] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1939-45 | A11672 |
| Recorded by: State Publicity Censor, Melbourne (CA 8810) | |
| Quantity: 2.16 metres (Canberra) | |
| Items in this series contain general correspondence of the State publicity censors on censorship matters. Subjects covered in these items include the control of publication and news items, advertisements, films, broadcasting and so on, with due regard to national security concerns. | |
| China and Chinese, 1943 | A11672, 1/1/90 |
| WAR CABINET MINUTES WITHOUT AGENDA FILES, 1939-46 | A2676 |
| Recorded by: War Cabinet Secretariat (CA 1468) | |
| Quantity: 1.08 metres (Canberra); 0.9 metres (Sydney and Melbourne) | |
| Items in this series contain decisions made by the War Cabinet on matters discussed without the prior circulation of formal agenda. For example, the series contains a small amount of correspondence used as background information by ministers raising matters with the War Cabinet. | |
| Chinese crews of ships at Fremantle, 1942 | A2676, 1795 |
| This one-page item is digitised. | |
| CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES - FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES (WITH INDEXES), 1941-49 | A2703 |
| Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3) | |
| Quantity: 2.07 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney) | |
| This series contains typed minutes of Cabinet meetings and a small quantity of covering correspondence. | |

Minutes of meeting of Full Cabinet ... 24 March 1942 **A2703, 21**
 This item includes Cabinet discussion about the wartime waiving of restrictions on residence and occupations of visiting merchants, assistant and students.

Minutes of meeting of Full Cabinet ... 18 June 1945 **A2703, 107**
 The item deals with the wholesale extension of Certificates of Exemption for visitors – to 30 June 1945 and then to 30 June 1947.

Sydney

INVESTIGATION FILES (PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS), ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1921–46

C320

Recorded by: 1942–45 Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)
 1945–46 Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)

Quantity: 4.5 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of correspondence files on ‘suspect’ activities. Items relating to Chinese individuals and organisations are identified by the prefix ‘C’, though other items may also be of interest.

***Chinese Times* newspaper, 1941**

C320, C8

This item deals with the censorship of news from the China News Agency.

Melbourne

[DEFENCE] SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1894–1938

B197

Recorded by: 1906–21 Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)
 1921–36 Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)

Quantity: 5.2 metres (Melbourne)

Items in this series provide information on Australian foreign policy and defence schemes, and Australian society before and during World War I.

1. Private sale of arms and ammunition; 2. China arms embargo, 1900–35

B197, 1812/1/30

WORLD WAR I INTELLIGENCE SECTION CASE FILES, 1914–23

MP16/1

Recorded by: Headquarters, 3 Military District, Commonwealth (Australian) Military Forces – Intelligence Section, General Staff (CA 1841)

Quantity: 14.22 metres (Melbourne)

Among the items in this series are individual case files dealing with the registration of aliens; the apprehension, internment and repatriation of enemy aliens; offences against the war precautions regulations; and applications for naturalisation and passports.

Passports to aliens (Asiatics), 1916

'Asiatics' were excepted from the 1915 'Aliens Restriction Order' for the purposes of use of passports.

MP16/1, 1916/284

[RATIONING COMMISSION] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, c1942-50

B5661

Recorded by: Rationing Commission (CA 264)

Quantity: 39 metres (Melbourne)

This series consists of the general correspondence files of the Central Administration of the Rationing Commission from 1942 to 1950.

Items in this series cover a wide variety of topics, including rationing policy, the staffing and organisation of the commission, arrangements for rationing procedures, information about rationed goods, case files for applications for increased coupons, registration of traders, complaints, breaches of regulations, prosecutions and coupon losses, queries from relatives wanting coupons to send clothing to prisoners of war, problems associated with rationing, rationing in other countries and the winding down of the commission's operations after the war.

Rice ration cards for Chinese nationals, 1944-46

B5661, 1944/2600

This item documents an agreement struck with the Chinese Consul-General (L M Wang) and the Rationing Commission for a rice rationing scheme for Chinese, organised along the lines of the clothing rationing scheme.

*Brisbane***[IMMIGRATION] CASE FILES, OCCASIONAL 'Q' (QUEENSLAND) OR 'QB' (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) PREFIX, 1908-**

J25

Recorded by: 1946-74 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)
1974-75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Qld (CA 2148)

Quantity: 1 092 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Perth)

This series, the largest recorded on immigration matters in Queensland after World War II, holds case files on permanent and temporary residents (including students), and applications for citizenship and sponsorship of migrants. It also holds Immigration policy files from 1946 to 1983.

Chinese admitted under Certificates of Exemption - extensions to 1947, 1942-45

J25, 1946/2549

This item concerns the wholesale extensions of Certificates of Exemption granted by the Cabinet to visitors in Australia in 1942.

Non-European and restricted wartime arrivals ... eligibility to remain in Australia, 1946-65

J25, 1965/11767

This item contains a list of names of Chinese immigrants.

*Perth***[CUSTOMS, WA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'C' [CUSTOMS] INFIX, 1928–48** **PP227/6**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Perth)

The series contains files covering a broad range of departmental activities and functions during wartime. Included in the files are correspondence, reports, decisions, opinions, cablegrams and other documents relating to wartime restrictions. These included trading with the enemy, restrictions on communications with the enemy or enemy-held territories, exemptions from restrictions in certain cases, violations of Customs regulations and investigations into borderline cases of trading violations.

Exports to Chinese ports, 1941–46**PP227/6,
1941/C1231***Adelaide***CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'Z' (NATIONAL SECURITY REGULATIONS) PREFIX, 1939–50** **D1975**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Adelaide (CA 802)

Quantity: 6 metres (Adelaide)

This series contains files relating to trade, the export activities of firms, applications for licences to export and changes to the National Security (General) Regulations in World War II.

National Security Chinese Seamen Regulations, 1943**D1975, Z1943/2224***Hobart***[CUSTOMS, TAS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1909–** **P437**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816)

Quantity: 94.68 metres (Hobart)

This series, a successor to P501 (see p. 113), documents a wide range of travel and settlement matters, including certificates issued and the wider operation of the Immigration Restriction Act. Series P502 and P508 both hold related letter books maintained by Customs officers in Tasmania.

Exportation of arms and ammunition to China, 1924**P437, 1924/232**

*Darwin***[MINES BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SOME ALPHABETICAL PREFIXES, 1942–56****F320**

Recorded by: 1942–51 Mines Branch [I] – Delegate of the Controller of Mineral Production (CA 1119)
 1942–51 Mines Branch [I], Alice Springs – Director (CA 1139)

Quantity: 3.96 metres (Darwin)

Items in this series contain correspondence on mineral production, particularly for minerals used in armaments.

Remittance to China, 1943–44

F320, 1943/264**Flight from war – refugees and evacuees***Canberra***CORRESPONDENCE FILES [TERRITORIES], ALPHA PREFIX, 1899–1983****A518**

Recorded by: 1928–41 Territories Branch, Prime Minister's Department (CA 822)
 1941–51 Department of External Territories [I] (CA 42)
 1951–56 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60)

Quantity: 241.5 metres (Canberra)

This series, which holds material dating back to 1899, deals with the administration of external territories, including New Guinea, Papua, Nauru, Norfolk Island and New Ireland. Some aspects of the administration of the Northern Territory are also dealt with, including defence, security and postwar reconstruction.

Defence – Chinese evacuated to Australia from PNG and other Pacific areas, 1942–51

A518, EE16/2/1

Defence – Chinese, half-castes and other Asiatics rescued from Japanese, 1943–46

A518, FB16/2/1

Territories – miscellaneous – Kain, Henry – disposal of Japanese Army food supplies to Chinese community, 1944

A518, JK112/1

Immigration – policy – New Guinea – return of Chinese evacuees to the Territory, 1949

A518, CK822/1**[TREASURY] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–78****A571**

Recorded by: Department of the Treasury [I] (CA 11)

Quantity: 604 metres (Canberra)

This is the main correspondence file series of the Department of the Treasury [I].

Inquiries into Japanese atrocities and repatriation of Chinese from Rabaul, 1945–52

A571, 1945/3780

This item deals mainly with financial aspects of repatriation, including claims by the Department of the

Army against the Chinese Government for expenditure incurred.

- [ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 1901–** **A432**
 Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)
 1958 Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office (CA 832)
 Quantity: 1 994 metres (Canberra); 352 metres (Sydney)
 Please see series description on p. 141.
- Deportation – cases of, and appeals by, 38 Chinese – validity of the War-time [Refugee] Removals Act, 1945–50** [A432, 1949/1003](#)
 This item is digitised.
- Deportation – cases of, and appeals by, 38 Chinese – validity of the War-time [Refugee] Removals Act, 1949–50** [A432, 1949/1003, attachment](#)
- [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919–50** **A433**
 Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra)
 Records in this series deal with various aspects of restricted immigration policy, including admission under exemption, deportation, business visitors, ships' deserters and 'undesirables'. Some material has been placed in series A446, A445 and A2998.
- Question of evacuation of Chinese women and children from Hong Kong to Australia, 1940** [A433, 1940/2/1837](#)
 This item is digitised.
- Chinese and other coloured persons ... exemption [from Dictation Test], 1942** [A433, 1949/2/5470](#)
 This item is digitised.
- Chinese evacuees from Dutch East Indies, 1942** [A433, 1949/2/8516](#)
- Repatriation of Chinese evacuees from [the] Mandated Territories and Papua, 1948–49** [A433, 1950/2/6709](#)
- Immigration policy (incl. the War-time Refugee [Removals] Act) – correspondence file, 1949–50** [A433, 1949/2/10](#)
- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (POLICY MATTERS), 1922–68** **A445**
 Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 Quantity: 28.81 metres (Canberra)
 The series consists of general policy files relating to the assimilation, welfare and education of migrants. Subjects include conferences, refugees and restricted immigration policy.
 Items directly concerned with nationality and citizenship enactments were removed and placed in series A446, but some material on naturalisations remains in this series.
- Taxation clearances for Chinese repatriation cases, 1942–47** [A445, 236/2/41](#)

- Chinese residents in Australia – extensions of exemption ... 1942-48** A445, 236/2/44
- Chinese evacuated from British Solomon Islands ... employment in Australia, 1942-51** A445, 236/2/14
This digitised item deals with the employment of Chinese evacuees from the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.
- Chinese change of employment, 1949** A445, 236/2/11
- Repatriation of Chinese to Malaya, 1948** A445, 236/2/27
- Repatriation of Chinese – special arrangements re. departure, 1949** A445, 236/2/43
This digitised item concerns the repatriation of Chinese wartime arrivals, including arrangements for payment of taxation prior to departure.
- [SECURITY SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1923-56** A373
Recorded by: 1941-45 Security Service (CA 660)
1945-46 Investigation Branch (CA 747)
1946-48 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)
Quantity: 7.38 metres (Canberra)
Please see series description on p. 142.
- Chinese evacuees [from] New Guinea, 1942-45** A373, 1610
- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 6 (ALIENS REGISTRATION), 1923-57** A437
Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)
Quantity: 2.16 metres (Canberra)
Despite its title, this series consists of files on migration and settlement as well as files about the registration of postwar aliens.
- Chinese – proposed check on Chinese unlawfully in Australia, 1947** A437, 1947/6/104
- [INVESTIGATION BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'D' SERIES, 1925-47** A369
Recorded by: Investigation Branch (CA 747)
Quantity: 0.54 metres (Canberra)
This series contains material on internees from New Guinea.
- List of internees from New Guinea, 1942** A369, D4740
- [IMMIGRATION] SECRET CORRESPONDENCE FILES – BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, 'S' (SECRET) PREFIX, c1930-80** A6980
Recorded by: 1972-74 Department of Immigration (CA 51);
subsequently by other agencies
Quantity: 74 metres (Canberra)
This series contains material that documents departmental responses to sensitive immigration, visitor and citizenship issues. This series covers a wide range of topics, including opinions provided by various agencies on applications for immigration, temporary entry, citizenship or passports.

This information was provided about various groups of aliens, with distinctions made between ‘political grounds’ and ‘security’. Similar material can be found in series A445 and A446.

War Cabinet decision in regard to admission of Chinese and Malaysians [1942], 1942–48

A6980, S250606

‘THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION’, 1937–71

A5954

Recorded by: 1937–71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320)

1937–39 Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)

1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination (CA 37)

1942–71 Department of Defence [III] (CA 46)

Quantity: 200.98 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in other offices of the National Archives

Please see series description on p. 143.

Application for admission of Chinese and Eurasians from Malaya – War Cabinet Agendum No. 11/1942, 1942–48

A5954, 251/9

CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES – FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES (WITH INDEXES), 1941–49

A2703

Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

Quantity: 2.07 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney)

Please see series description on p. 143.

Notes of meeting of Cabinet ... 6 January 1942

A2703, 19

At this meeting, Cabinet considered the admission to Australia of Eurasian and Chinese women and children.

LIST OF NORTHERN TERRITORY EVACUEES, 1942

A7029

Recorded by: Department of External Territories [I] (CA 42)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Canberra)

This series contains lists of people evacuated from the Northern Territory in 1942 because of the possibility of invasion by Japanese forces. The lists include details about people evacuated from northern towns and ships sunk by the Japanese. They include many Chinese people and Indigenous Australians.

List of Northern Territory evacuees (copy 1), 1942

[A7029, 1](#)

This item is digitised.

Sydney

[2 MILITARY DISTRICT, NSW] CORRESPONDENCE, 1912–64

SP459/1

Recorded by: 1912–21 2 Military District, NSW [I] (CA 6335); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 64.5 metres (Sydney)

This series contains correspondence relating to a range of administration, function and policy matters of the 2 Military District, NSW [I] and its successors.

| | |
|--|---|
| Aliens – seamen of Chinese nationality – returns to Deputy Director of Navigation, 1944 | SP459/1, 489/2/763 |
| | |
| [CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'SB' (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1928–51 | D1976 |
| Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802) | |
| Quantity: 11.16 metres (Sydney); 3.78 metres (Adelaide) | |
| Items in this series were created by the Shipping Branch of the Customs Office at Port Adelaide. Matters covered include CEDTs and other travel exemptions, refusals of admission, departures of 'coloured' persons, and applications for passports and landing permits. The following items are held in the Adelaide office of the National Archives. | |
| Kam Sze Kwan – Chinese evacuee – Certificate of Exemption, 1942-45 | D1976, SB1944/739 |
| Mrs Leung See, wife of Chin Kwong, and child – Chinese under exemption – Darwin evacuee, 1943 | D1976, SB1943/598 |
| Sun Yina - Certificate of Exemption No. 1941/5 – Chinese evacuee from Darwin, 1944-45 | D1976, SB1944/4 |
| | |
| APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION (ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES) – FORMS A1, B1 AND C – ALPHABETICAL SERIES BY NATIONALITY, 1939–47 | SP11/2 |
| Recorded by: 1939–47 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785) 1945–46 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) | |
| Quantity: 40 metres (Sydney) | |
| This series contains various alien registration forms submitted to Customs and Immigration officers in Sydney. | |
| The forms are arranged alphabetically by nationality, and within each nationality are envelopes for letters of the alphabet (eg American A–B, American C, American D–E, and so on). | |
| Fang Lau [Chinese – arrived Darwin, 19 November 1942; evacuee from Timor], 1943–45 | SP11/2, Chinese/Lau F |
| | |
| CORRESPONDENCE – EVACUATION AND SUBSEQUENT RETURN OF NEW GUINEA RESIDENTS FOLLOWING OUTBREAK OF WAR WITH JAPAN, 1941–49 | SP350/2 |
| Recorded by: 1941–42 New Guinea Trade Agency (CA 620) 1943–49 Department of External Territories [I] (CA 973) | |
| Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney) | |
| Items in this series deal with the evacuation of Chinese from New Guinea, their residence in Australia and their return to New Guinea. Included are lists of evacuees (December 1945) and persons reported missing, believed captured by the Japanese or lost at sea (August 1945). | |
| Correspondence – Chinese return to New Guinea ..., 1945–49 | SP350/2, Correspondence: Chinese return to New Guinea file G 170 [Evacuees] |

INDEX TO CHINESE EVACUEES FROM NEW GUINEA DURING WORLD WAR II, 1942–45**SP423/3**

Recorded by: 1942 New Guinea Trade Agency (CA 620)
 1942–45 Department of External Territories [I] (CA 973)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

The cards in this series record personal, travel information and accommodation details of evacuees from New Guinea, along with information about their alien registration.

CORRESPONDENCE – EVACUATION – CHINESE NATIONALS AND ‘CASTE’ CHINESE ... FOLLOWING JAPANESE INVASION OF NEW GUINEA, 1942–56**SP350/1**

Recorded by: 1942–51 Department of External Territories [I] (CA 973)
 1951–56 Department of Territories (CA 974)

Quantity: 1.44 metres (Sydney)

Evacuees began arriving from New Guinea early in 1942. Items in this series contain personal details about the evacuees, and correspondence with and about them on compensation and debts to the Commonwealth, re-entry to New Guinea and other matters arising from the evacuation.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CHIEF MIGRATION OFFICER [ON] RESTRICTED MIGRATION, 1949–51**SP244/2**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 40.68 metres (Sydney)

This series contains items documenting suspected and actual contraventions of immigration law in NSW.

Chinese wartime arrivals for deportation ..., 1950**SP244/2,
N1950/2/6676**

The title of this item has been edited for brevity. It contains the names of a number of Chinese who were deported from Australia in 1950 – Dong Pas Wah, Wong Kum Cheong, Ngan Chew Lee, Hee Im Bor, Yee Cheong Mow, Ho Chung, Wong Man On, Hon Leong Kwong, Jear Mee Yin, Cheung Ping Shan and Wong Lock Wai.

*Melbourne***GENERAL AND CIVIL STAFF CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND ARMY PERSONNEL FILES, 1920–56****MP742/1**

Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)

Quantity: 162.48 metres (Melbourne); smaller quantities in Canberra and Darwin

The series consists of general and civil staff correspondence records as well as Army personnel files. Many files are ‘top-numbered’ from MP367/1, MP431/1 and MP508/1.

Chinese nationals recovered from enemy control – New Ireland, 1944**MP742/1, 115/1/193****Chinese nationals recovered from enemy control – New Guinea, 1944****MP742/1, 115/1/329**

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Rates and conditions – employment – Chinese in NG [New Guinea], 1944–45 | MP742/1, 65/1/332 |
| Care and control of Chinese nationals and half-castes of the Territory of New Guinea, 1945 | MP742/1, 5/3/32 |
| War crimes – atrocities against Chinese and natives, Nauru Island, 1945–47 | MP742/1, 336/1/49 |
| NAVY SERIES, 1939–50 | MP150/1 |
| Recorded by: 1939 Navy Office [III], Department of Defence [II] (CA 2456) | |
| 1939–50 Navy Office [IV], Department of the Navy [II] (CA 38) | |
| Quantity: 110.27 metres (Melbourne) | |
| This series contains general correspondence files covering a variety of topics. | |
| Repatriation of Chinese labourers from Western Samoa, 1948 | MP150/1, 674/201/3631 |
| This item concerns shipping assistance to New Zealand to ‘repatriate’ Chinese from Samoa to Hong Kong in 1948. | |
| <i>Brisbane</i> | |
| [IMMIGRATION] CASE FILES, OCCASIONAL ‘Q’ (QUEENSLAND) OR ‘QB’ (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) PREFIX, 1908– | J25 |
| Recorded by: 1946–74 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958) | |
| 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Qld (CA 2148) | |
| Quantity: 1 092 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Perth) | |
| Please see series description on p. 145. | |
| Chinese under exemption (includes file 1942/1273) ..., 1935–48 | J25, 1946/1383 |
| This item includes lists of Chinese evacuees, former employees of the British Phosphate Commission, who were evacuated from Ocean Island and Nauru on the SS <i>Trienza</i> in 1942. | |
| Wong Mow – Chinese evacuee ex-<i>Trienza</i>, Brisbane ... , 1944–48 | J25, 1948/172 |
| Non-European and restricted wartime arrivals – eligibility to remain in Australia, 1946–65 | J25, 1965/11767 |
| This item includes a list of names of Chinese immigrants. | |
| INDICES OF CHINESE EMPLOYED BY THE US ARMY AT BULIMBA AND REPATRIATED TO CHINA, 1945 | BP210/7 |
| Recorded by: Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958) | |
| Quantity: 0.09 metres (Brisbane) | |
| This series contains four volumes alphabetically listing Chinese employed by the US Army on ship-building projects who were repatriated to China in December 1945, leaving Brisbane on the SS <i>Cheshire</i> . | |

Internment

After 1940, many Chinese seamen stranded in Australia by the hostilities were interned before their release into the broader community. Dossiers were compiled for each person interned, initially by the state police and Military Police Intelligence Section and, after 1942, the Commonwealth Security Service.

The following selection of indexes and registers to internment dossiers can assist in the search for records about individual internees.

Table 21: *Internees: indexes and registers*

| Title and notes | Series |
|---|----------|
| Key to dossiers, 1939–45 This series provides a register to items held in C123, along with a guide to the movement of files from one series to another. | C124 |
| Investigation files, 'N' (NSW) prefix, 1914–46 This series contains internment dossiers. See p. 88 for more information. | ST1233/1 |
| Investigation files, 'N' (NSW) prefix, 1914–62 This series contains internment dossiers. See p. 155 for more information. | SP1714/1 |
| Nationality index cards to World War II security investigation dossiers, 1942–45 Items in this series contain details about Chinese internees, eg items in C126, Chile-Dutch. | C126 |
| Locational index cards to World War II security investigation dossiers, 1942–45 This is an index to places of residence of internees. For Sydney, the cards are arranged by district and street names. | C127 |
| Nominal index cards (by citizenship) to World War II security investigation dossiers, 1942–45 This index specifies the citizenship status of internees in New South Wales. | C125 |
| Nominal index cards to foreign seamen, 1942–45 This series relates to C455, Nationality index cards to foreign seamen registered at Newcastle, 1942–45. | C456 |

Canberra

[INTELLIGENCE SERVICES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1916–60 **A8911**

Recorded by: 1916–19 Special Intelligence Bureau (CA 746)
1919–46 Investigation Branch (CA 747)
1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)

Quantity: 3.6 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Perth)

Please see series description on p. 141.

Chinese captured at sea [POWs and internees], 1944–45 **A8911, 95**

Sydney

WORLD WAR II SECURITY INVESTIGATION DOSSIERS, 1938–48 **C123**

Recorded by: Security Service, NSW (CA 946)

Quantity: 100.26 metres (Sydney)

The series consists of dossiers compiled for persons investigated by the Security Service in New South Wales

during World War II. Dossiers, one for each person, were arranged numerically, with documents being placed in large envelopes.

Most dossiers refer to unnaturalised aliens, particularly 'enemy' aliens, and refugees. Dossiers on naturalised aliens and British subjects are also included in this series.

Wong, Hoi (Chinese), 1942-44 C123, 19800
Tam Dock (Chinese), 1942-45 C123, 20158
Chinese seamen internees, 1942-45 C123, 20328

[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'SB' (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1928-51

D1976

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 11.16 metres (Sydney); 3.78 metres (Adelaide)

Please see series description on p. 151.

Chinese nationals held in custody - position of employment during war, 1943 D1976, SB1943/534

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION (ALIEN REGISTRATION FILES) - CHINESE (ALPHABETICAL SERIES), 1939-61

SP1732/4

Recorded by: 1939-45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
 1945-61 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 1.26 metres (Sydney)

This series contains aliens registration files for Chinese nationals (including those born in Australia). Some items contain photographs and some relate to Chinese internees held at the Gaythorne and Tatura camps.

Chan Chong Chee [arrived Brisbane per *Anhui*, ... detained in Gaythorne Internment Camp] ..., 1943 SP1732/4, Chee, Chan Chong

Yen Liang Chen [arrived Melbourne on unknown vessel ... held at Tatura Internment Camp], 1944 SP1732/4, Chen, Yen Liang

Mei Kwak [arrived Broome per *SS Mandoeng Maru* ... detainee at Internment Camp, Gaythorne], 1944 SP1732/4, Kwak, Mei

[2 MILITARY DISTRICT, NSW] CORRESPONDENCE, 1912-64

SP459/1

Recorded by: 1912-21 2 Military District, NSW [I] (CA 6335);
 subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 64.5 metres (Sydney)

Please see series description on p. 150.

Release of Japanese (Chinese) prisoners of war, 1944-45 SP459/1, 489/3/3700

INVESTIGATION FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1914-62

SP1714/1

Recorded by: 1920-46 Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)
 1946-57 Commonwealth Investigation Service, NSW (CA 912)

Quantity: 10.80 metres (Sydney)

This series, like series ST1233/1, contains dossiers compiled by the Investigation Branch and, later, the

Commonwealth Investigation Service on individuals and organisations. This series contains many records top-numbered from other series, eg SP26/1, Dossiers on internees. After 1949, many of these items were transferred to ASIO.

Six Chinese prisoners of war, Bougainville, 1945

SP1714/1, N48815

Melbourne

DOSSIERS CONTAINING REPORTS ON INTERNEES AND PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN AUSTRALIAN CAMPS, ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, c1939–45

MP1103/2

Recorded by: Prisoners of War Information Bureau (CA 3055)

Quantity: 18 metres (Melbourne); 0.02 metres (Darwin)

This series contains dossiers kept on all prisoners of war or internees held in camps in Australia. The dossiers contain identification information.

German internees 1550–1755/2000–2215 ..., 1939–42

MP1103/2, box 41

This item also includes information about Chinese internees.

NOMINAL INDEX CARDS TO REGISTERS AND DOSSIERS – ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR AND INTERNEES, 1939–47

B3720

Recorded by: Prisoners of War Information Bureau (CA 3055)

Quantity: 7.56 metres (Melbourne)

The series comprises index cards to registers and dossiers containing reports on internees and prisoners of war who were held in camps in Australia and Papua New Guinea. The index cards on Chinese in this series describe their internee status during World War II.

REGISTERS – ‘SERVICE AND CASUALTY’ FORMS (FORM A112) OF ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR AND INTERNEES [AUSTRALIAN CAMPS], 1939–57

MP1103/1

Recorded by: Prisoners of War Information Bureau (CA 3055)

Quantity: 10.08 metres (Melbourne)

This series includes ‘Service and Casualty’ forms for internees and prisoners of war captured (dead or alive) by the AMF or by Allied forces.

Information recorded for each internee and prisoner of war includes identification number, name, date and place of capture, date and place of birth, occupation, religion, nationality, marital status, name and address of next-of-kin, colour of hair and eyes, and details of any distinctive marks.

Additional information recorded about internees and prisoners of war included the length of their internment, details about hospitalisations, disciplinary matters, transfers between camps, and their release and repatriation.

Prisoner of war/internee: Chau, Wing Kum; date of birth: 25 May 1914; nationality: Chinese, 1942-43 MP1103/1,
QC24006

Chau, a seaman, was interned at Brisbane in August 1942 and released in January 1943.

[Chinese internees N 1734 to NC 24417 - includes internees from Queensland and Western Australia], 1947

MP1103/1, 30

This record comprises detailed pro forma internee records on several hundred Chinese, most of them seamen interned at Brisbane in 1942 and released by December 1943, many '... into employment'.

GENERAL AND CIVIL STAFF CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND ARMY PERSONNEL FILES, 1920-56

MP742/1

Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)

Quantity: 162.48 metres (Melbourne); smaller quantities in Canberra and Darwin

Please see series description on p. 152.

Release of Chinese nationals held as prisoners of war, 1943-50

MP742/1,
255/19/392

This large file concerns Chinese whose war experiences included periods as prisoners of war under both Japanese and American commands. It includes many petitions by the Chinese Consul-General in Australia for the release of individuals.

Payment of Chinese prisoners of war, 1944

MP742/1, 92/1/246

This item deals with the payment of a daily 'unskilled' wage of 7½ pence to Chinese 'captured' in New Guinea and treated as prisoners of war until their status was determined.

[2 ECHELON, ARMY] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1942-54

B3856

Recorded by: 1939-48 2 Echelon, Army Headquarters (CA 2002)
1948-54 Central Army Records Office (CA 1999)

Quantity: 13.78 metres (Melbourne)

The items in this series relate to Australian prisoners of war, internees and persons who were missing overseas during World War II, and the administration of internment camps in Australia. Included among these items are five concerning Chinese prisoners of war and internees.

Chinese deaths - nominal roll of Chinese prisoners of war and internees casualties, 1945

B3856, 161/6/1

*Perth***REGISTERS OF INTERNEES AND PRISONERS OF WAR (1914–18 AND 1939–45 WARS), c1914–45****PP246/2**

Recorded by: 1914–17 Headquarters, 5 Military District [I],
Commonwealth Military Forces (CA 4811)
1917–19 Special Intelligence Bureau, WA (CA 911)
1919–45 Investigation Branch, WA (CA 908)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Perth)

This series contains a number of registers recording information about prisoners of war and internees for both World War I and World War II. Among these registers is one recording Chinese internments in Western Australia during World War II.

Registers of prisoners of war and internees ... Chinese, 1940–46

PP246/2, volume 5**INTERNEES AND PRISONERS OF WAR DOSSIERS (WORLD WAR II), 1926–50****K1171**

Recorded by: Investigation Branch, WA (CA 908)

Quantity: 4.5 metres (Perth)

This series, which contains a small number of items on Chinese, comprises dossiers on internees and prisoners of war taken captive or interned during World War II. The dossiers contain restriction orders, medical papers and other general correspondence.

Elvie May Arnold (Hoy Poy) ... [other members of the Hoy Poy family], 1943–44

K1171, Arnold E M

An Investigation Branch interview with Perth-born Doreen Yuen Hoy Poy reveals that she and her family were in Kowloon when war with the Japanese broke out. An extract from the transcript appears on the following page.

Wartime labour*Canberra***[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1892–1970****A659**

Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51);
subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 103 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in Darwin and Melbourne

Please see series description on p. 140.

Chinese employed by United States Army - exit permits, 1944–45

A659, 1944/1/2810

5-10-43

Capt. Tilly

As instructed, I called at 18, Claverton Street, North Perth, and interviewed Miss D.S. Yuen Hoy Poy.

Born in Perth on 11-5-1910. Spent 1 year at the Stotts College, Perth. She left W.A. in 1933, and proceeded to Hong Kong via Singapore. She had been employed as a clerk by the Charter Accountants until the outbreak of the Pacific War on 8-12-41. Her address was: 67, Kimberley Rd., Kowloon, staying with her younger sister. She stayed at home on 8-12-41, on Kowloon side, being unable to go to her office in Hong Kong as ferry was not in operation. They stayed at home until the surrender of Hong Kong on Christmas Day. During this interval, Miss Yuen said, they had some tinned food and a bag of rice which they had bought before the outbreak of war. All the shops on Kowloon side opened between air raids by enemy planes. 3 days after the war broke out, British and Indian troops were evacuated over to Hong Kong.

Miss
R. H. B.
C. B.

SECURITY SERVICE, W.A.
FREMANTLE OFFICE.

P.T.O.

Part of the transcript of a Security Service interview with Doreen (Hoy Poy) Yuen, 1943. Ms Yuen escaped from the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong; her sister was awarded the United States Air Force emblem for civilian service during World War II. NAA: K1171, Arnold E M

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919–50 | A433 |
| Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27) | |
| 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31) | |
| 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51) | |
| Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 148. The following items are digitised. | |
| Chinese labour battalion in WA, 1942–47 | A433, 1949/2/9033 |
| Chinese seamen – enquiry and report by Mr Justice Ferguson re. rates of pay and employment, 1943–44 | A433, 1949/2/5473 |
| [SECURITY SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1923–56 | A373 |
| Recorded by: 1941–45 Security Service (CA 660) | |
| 1945–46 Investigation Branch (CA 747) | |
| 1946–48 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650) | |
| Quantity: 7.38 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 142. | |
| Chinese Labour Corps, 1943–45 | A373, 7925 |
| Chinese employed by [the] USA – policy file, 1944–45 | A373, 9342 |
| WRITTEN RECORDS, 1939–45 WAR, c1926–92 | AWM54 |
| Recorded by: 1926–39 Department of Defence [II] (CA 19) | |
| 1942–93 Department of Defence [III] (CA 46) | |
| Quantity: 213.5 metres (Canberra) | |
| This is an artificial series of records transferred to the Australian War Memorial from the Military History Section of the Army. Most records were created by headquarters and units of the Second Australian Imperial Force. | |
| [Natives – labour] Project of importing Asiatic labourers into SWPA, 1943 | AWM54, 506/5/7 |
| This file contains memoranda from General Douglas MacArthur to Prime Minister John Curtin of Australia, proposing to import Asian labourers into the South-West Pacific Area. | |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR PREFIX, 1927–45 | A989 |
| Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) | |
| Quantity: 30.69 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see description on p. 142. | |
| Aliens – proposed importation of Chinese labour for work under US Army ... in New Guinea and Queensland, 1943 | A989, 1943/40/39 |
| This item is digitised. | |
| Australia – Chinese miners in the Northern Territory – request for exemption from income tax, 1943 | A989, 1943/80/1/52 |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <p>Treaties, Red Cross, prisoners of war – Chinese captured in New Guinea Campaign, 1943–44 This item includes material about the employment of the captured Chinese.</p> | <p>A989, 1943/925/1/24</p> |
| <p>Chinese seamen – conditions of employment, 1943–44</p> | <p>A989, 1944/43/40/20</p> |
| <p>[DEFENCE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – CLASSIFIED ‘301’, 1928–58 A816</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1935–39 Department of Defence [II] (CA 19) 1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination (CA 37) 1942–58 Department of Defence [III] (CA 46)</p> | |
| <p>Quantity: 89.2 metres (Canberra)</p> | |
| <p>This correspondence series records security-classified matters dealt with by the Department of Defence.</p> | |
| <p>Employment of Chinese in Australia during the 1939–45 war, 1943–49</p> | <p>A816, 19/306/206</p> |
| <p>Recruitment of non-Europeans (on temporary residence in Australia) in the armed services, 1951 The correspondence from the Army, Navy and Air Force held in this digitised item suggests the growing flexibility in recruitment policy after World War II.</p> | <p>A816, 72/301/26</p> |
| <p>‘THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION’, 1937–71 A5954</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1937–71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320) 1937–39 Department of Defence [II] (CA 19) 1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination (CA 37) 1942–71 Department of Defence [III] (CA 46)</p> | |
| <p>Quantity: 200.98 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in other offices of the National Archives</p> | |
| <p>Please see series description on p. 143.</p> | |
| <p>Chinese crews for ships on American account, 1942 This item is digitised.</p> | <p>A5954, 251/2</p> |
| <p>Employment of coloured labour by US Army Forces in Australia, 1942–44</p> | <p>A5954, 287/1</p> |
| <p>Use of Chinese labour ... increase tungsten output ... War Cabinet Agendum No. 126/1942, 1942–49</p> | <p>A5954, 251/10</p> |
| <p>WAR CABINET MINUTES WITHOUT AGENDA FILES, 1939–46 A2676</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: War Cabinet Secretariat (CA 1468)</p> | |
| <p>Quantity: 1.08 metres (Canberra); 0.9 metres (Sydney and Melbourne)</p> | |
| <p>Please see series description on p. 143.</p> | |
| <p>Chinese crews of ships at Fremantle, 1942 The digitised item concerns the Australian Government’s advice to US Army forces on placing Chinese on board ships.</p> | <p>A2676, 1795</p> |

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'W' [WAR] PREFIX, 1939–49**A472**

Recorded by: Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)

Quantity: 26 metres (Canberra)

This series consists of files on a range of wartime policy matters, including wartime legislation and National Security Regulations and their implementation.

National Security (Inquiries) Regulations – Chinese seamen – exhibits, 1942–43[A472, W9595 part 1 attachment 3](#)

The item, which is digitised, includes a report on wages and conditions applying to Chinese merchant seamen employed in Australia during World War II.

CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES – FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES (WITH INDEXES), 1941–49**A2703**

Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

Quantity: 2.07 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney)

Please see series description on p. 143.

Minutes of meeting of Full Cabinet ... 23 November 1943[A2703, 53](#)

This item contains discussion of taxation on the income of resident Chinese seamen. It is digitised.

*Sydney***[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'SB' (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1928–51****D1976**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 11.16 metres (Sydney); 3.78 metres (Adelaide)

Please see series description on p. 151.

Chinese employed by US Army at Bulimba, Brisbane, 1943**D1976, SB1943/375**

This item is held in the Adelaide office of the National Archives.

*Melbourne***GENERAL AND CIVIL STAFF CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND ARMY PERSONNEL FILES, 1920–56****MP742/1**

Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)

Quantity: 162.48 metres (Melbourne); smaller quantities in Canberra and Darwin

Please see series description on p. 152.

Claremont Showgrounds Camp, WA, 1942–44**MP742/1, 259/7/34**

Leave, miscellaneous – claim for subsistence and leave – 7 Australian Employment Company [Chinese...], 1945

MP742/1, 247/1/1219

[NAVY] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (GENERAL), 1923–50**MP1049/5**

Recorded by: 1923–39 Navy Office [III], Department of Defence [II]
(CA 2456)
1939–50 Navy Office [IV], Department of the Navy [II]
(CA 38)

Quantity: 57.89 metres (Melbourne)

This series consists of general correspondence files on a range of matters classified as 'Secret' by the Navy Office.

Conference to discuss proposals for wages and conditions to govern future employment of Chinese seamen], 1942

**MP1049/5,
1877/11/228**

Chinese labour corps, WA, 1942–43

**MP1049/5,
1877/12/105**

[ARMY] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, c1939–42**MP508/1**

Recorded by: 1939 Army Headquarters, Department of Defence [II]
(CA 2671)
1939–42 Department of the Army (CA 36)

Quantity: 144.3 metres (Melbourne)

Items in this series relate to the wartime administration of the military forces in Australia.

Recruitment of translators of Japanese language, 1941–42
Chinese were included in the recruitment program.

**MP508/1,
247/723/217**

Chinese aliens, 1942

This item deals with the employment of some 600 Chinese from Nauru and Ocean Island at the wolfram mines in central Australia in May 1942.

**MP508/1,
4/703/1255**

Potato digging at Harvey [Western Australia] - Chinese labour, 1942

**MP508/1,
240/714/31**

This item is concerned with the work of 50 Chinese and their replacements.

Chinese crews in 5 Military District [formed into 7 Labour Company (Chinese)], 1942

**MP508/1,
299/701/284**

This item deals with the deployment of the Chinese Labour Company, in consultation with the Chinese consulate.

Use of Chinese and other labour in Western Australia, 1942–43

**MP508/1,
240/714/45**

This item is concerned with the formal labour units established for some 465 Chinese and other 'aliens' in Western Australia. These labour units worked on the wharves and railways, constructed trenches, were involved in ammunitions ordnance and so on.

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| NAVY SERIES, 1939-50 | MP150/1 |
| Recorded by: 1939 Navy Office [III], Department of Defence [II] (CA 2456) | |
| 1939-50 Navy Office [IV], Department of the Navy [II] (CA 38) | |
| Quantity: 110.27 metres (Melbourne) | |
| Please see series description on p. 153. | |
| Chinese Camp, Lyons Street, Cairns, 1944 | MP150/1, 569/229/43 |
| This item contains a description (from late 1944) of the buildings of the former US forces Chinese camp at Cairns, Queensland, noting their dilapidated state. | |
| [LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE SECRETARIAT] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1940-50 | MP574/1 |
| Recorded by: Department of Labour and National Service Secretariat (CA 40) | |
| Quantity: 23 metres (Melbourne) | |
| This series deals with a wide range of topics, such as the administration of the National Security Regulations, industrial relations matters and wartime employment matters generally. | |
| Placement of labour - evacuees from Malaya, 1942 | MP574/1, 220/2/217 |
| [EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR AND SUBJECT SIGNIFICANT PREFIXES, 1942-46 | B551 |
| Recorded by: 1942-46 Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (CA 8869) | |
| 1942-46 Directorate of Manpower (CA 533) | |
| Quantity: 27.45 metres (Melbourne) | |
| The Labour Corps worked under the direction of the Directorate of Manpower, which was established in January 1942 to control and direct labour resources during World War II. | |
| Condition of Chinese employed at Mt Isa Mines, 1943-44 | B551, 1943/16/7442 |
| <i>Brisbane</i> | |
| [IMMIGRATION] CASE FILES, OCCASIONAL 'Q' (QUEENSLAND) OR 'QB' (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) PREFIX, 1908- | J25 |
| Recorded by: 1946-74 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958) | |
| 1974-75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Qld (CA 2148) | |
| Quantity: 1 092 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Perth) | |
| Please see series description on p. 145. | |
| Chinese employed by US Army at Townsville [24/12/1944], 1941-44 | J25, 1947/4384 |
| List of Chinese employed by US Army at Townsville [24/12/44], 1941-45 | J25, 47/4384 |

[PROPERTY AND SURVEY BRANCH] SURVEY PLANS, ALPHANUMERIC SERIES, 1940–68**J2780**

Recorded by: 1940–51 Property and Survey Branch, Brisbane (CA 3760)
1952–68 Chief Property Officer, Qld (CA 1062)

Quantity: 8.7 metres (Brisbane)

This series contains cadastral survey plans and engineering survey plans that provided client agencies with details of levels, contours, underground services and features.

Mount Isa – USA DCRE and Chinese labour camps (original plan plus 1 copy), 1943

J2780, ST170

This item is digitised.

*Perth***PERSONAL FILES OF MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL CONSTRUCTIONAL CORPS ENLISTED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1942–46****K1291**

Recorded by: Allied Works Council, WA (CA 8132)

Quantity: 12.42 metres (Perth)

This series consists of the personal files of members of the Civil Constructional Corps who enlisted in Western Australia. The files contain application forms, medical reports, compensation papers, medical examination at time of discharge, discharge certificates and other general correspondence.

The individual files are cross-referenced to items in series K1194, Nominal index cards (Civil Constructional Corps), 1942–45, and K1195, Personal record cards, Civil Constructional Corps, 1942–45.

Chong Wee, Jack [Civil Constructional Corps file], c1942–46

K1291, 1722*Darwin***[MINES BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'W' SUFFIX, 1942–43****F388**

Recorded by: Mines Branch [I], Wauchope Creek (CA 1174)

Quantity: 0.04 metres (Darwin)

This series includes items dealing with formal agreements on wages and the living and working conditions of Chinese evacuees on the mining fields in remote areas.

Agreement for Chinese employees – wages – rates and bonuses, 1942

F388, 1/W

Agreements for Chinese employees – labour and benefits, 1942–43

F388, 2/W

Agreement for Chinese employees – buildings, 1942

F388, 4/W

[MINES BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SOME ALPHABETICAL PREFIXES, 1942–56**F320**

Recorded by: 1942–51 Mines Branch [I] – Delegate of the Controller of Mineral Production (CA 1119)
 1942–51 Mines Branch [I], Alice Springs – Director (CA 1139)

Quantity: 3.96 metres (Darwin)

Please see series description on p. 147.

Ration sheets [and] messing costs [for] European [and] Chinese employees, Hatches Creek, 1942–43

F320, 1942/219

Army issue of rations to ... prospectors and Chinese [at] Alice Springs, 1942–44

F320, 1943/248

Chinese employees, 1942–48

F320, 1942/6

Chinese employees, Hatches Creek, c1943

F320, 1943/239

Shipping Chinese clothing, 1943

F320, 1943/291

Chinese employees, Alice Springs, 1943–44

F320, 1943/281

Chinese employees, 1943–44

F320, 1943/6

This item documents the concerns about working conditions for Chinese evacuees from Ocean Island and Nauru.

Recruitment and enlistment policies

The following series illustrate recruitment and enlistment policies for World War I and World War II.

*Canberra***[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1892–1970****A659**

Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 103 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in Darwin and Melbourne

Please see series description on p. 140.

National Security (Aliens Service) Regulations – application to Chinese, 1942–45

[A659, 1944/1/4331](#)

This item is digitised.

[TREASURY] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–78**A571**

Recorded by: Department of the Treasury [I] (CA 11)

Quantity: 604 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 147.

Chinese in Australia – service in AMF, 1942–44

A571, 1943/2204

The item includes war cabinet discussion papers on the role of Chinese during World War II.

- [INTELLIGENCE SERVICES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1916–60** **A8911**
Recorded by: 1916–19 Special Intelligence Bureau (CA 746)
1919–46 Investigation Branch (CA 747)
1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)
Quantity: 3.6 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Perth)
Please see series description on p. 141.
Jansun Stephen Jitts (NX141389 S/Sgt: British-born Chinese), 1944–45 **A8911, 182**
- [ARMY] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – CLASS ‘441’ [CLASSIFIED], 1925–66** **A6059**
Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)
Quantity: 25.12 metres (Canberra)
This series was established as part of the administration of the department’s functions of military defence and organisation, training and control of the military forces. Matters covered by items in this series include mobilisation and demobilisation, press and publicity, stores and equipment, and prisoners of war and internees.
Enlistment of natives, Asians and others in Papua New Guinea Volunteer Reserve, 1955–65 **A6059, 41/441/123**
- [DEFENCE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – CLASSIFIED ‘301’, 1928–58** **A816**
Recorded by: 1935–39 Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)
1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination (CA 37)
1942–58 Department of Defence [III] (CA 46)
Quantity: 89.2 metres (Canberra)
Please see series description on p. 161.
Enlistment of Chinese nationals, 1942–43 **A816, 19/306/158**
This digitised item includes a review of the official ban on enlistment by Chinese.
Employment of Chinese and Indian labourers in forward areas, 1943 **A816, 54/301/252**
Entry into the forces requirement ... candidates must be ... of European origin and descent, 1950–56 **A816, 72/301/23**
This item is digitised.
- THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION’, 1937–71** **A5954**
Recorded by: 1937–71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320)
1937–39 Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)
1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination (CA 37)
1942–71 Department of Defence [III] (CA 46)
Quantity: 200.98 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in other offices of the National Archives
Please see series description on p. 143.
Employment of Chinese in forward areas, 1943–49 **A5954, 251/11**
This item is digitised.

WAR CABINET MINUTES WITHOUT AGENDA FILES, 1939–46**A2676**

Recorded by: War Cabinet Secretariat (CA 1468)

Quantity: 1.08 metres (Canberra);
0.9 metres (Sydney and Melbourne)

Please see series description on p. 143.

Employment of Chinese in forward areas [related Defence file: No. 54/301/250], 1943**A2676, 2970**

The Australian Government advised US officials that it had no objection to the use of Chinese as labourers in the Pacific Islands, to release soldiers for active service. This item is digitised.

*Sydney***GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE [AUSTRALIAN SHIPS AND NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS], 1883–1957****SP339/1**Recorded by: 1913–20 Captain-in-Charge, HM Australian Naval Establishments, Sydney (CA 4335);
subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 14 metres (Sydney)

This series contains correspondence relating to the activities of the British Royal Navy and the RAN from 1883 to 1957. Files relating to ‘showing the Colours’ and arrangements for visits of royalty, governors and visiting fleets form a large part of the material.

Coloured recruits – British subjects applying for entry in RAN, 1924**SP339/1, 197/1/25****[CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘SB’ (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1928–51****D1976**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 11.16 metres (Sydney); 3.78 metres (Adelaide)

Please see series description on p. 151.

Immigration Act – Man Tin – Chinese evacuee from Nauru left to join USA Army – Townsville, 1945**D1976, SB1945/509***Melbourne***WORLD WAR I ‘CALL TO ARMS’ RECRUITING FORMS FOR VICTORIA, ARRANGED BY REASON FOR NON-ENLISTMENT, 1916****B6525**

Recorded by: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)

Quantity: 1.26 metres (Melbourne)

This series relates to a survey in 1915, known as the ‘Call to Arms’, sent to all male residents of military age to encourage their enlistment.

‘Call to Arms’ returns – subjects of China – reasons for not enlisting – category B, 1916**B6525,
Subject/China-B**

Responses to the ‘Call to Arms’ survey by 12 Chinese in Victoria contain answers ranging from ill health to the

neutral status of China. A nominal index is located in series B6526.

GENERAL AND CIVIL STAFF CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND ARMY PERSONNEL FILES, 1920-56

MP742/1

Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)

Quantity: 162.48 metres (Melbourne); smaller quantities in Canberra and Darwin

Please see series description on p. 152.

Chinese nationals in [the] AMF - conditions of service ..., 1942-44

MP742/1, 275/2/56

Remittances to Free China [on] behalf [of] Chinese members of the AMF, 1943

MP742/1, 105/13/4

War gratuity - Chinese nationals, 1947

MP742/1, 131/209

Aliens in the AMF, 1946

MP742/1, 115/1/315

This item includes (erroneous) advice to Arthur Calwell (Minister for Immigration and Minister for Information) that there were no alien nationals in the AMF in 1946.

[ARMY] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, c1939-42

MP508/1

Recorded by: 1939 Army Headquarters, Department of Defence [II] (CA 2671)

1939-42 Department of the Army (CA 36)

Quantity: 144.3 metres (Melbourne)

Please see series description on p. 163.

Exemption from military duty of Australian-born Chinese, 1940

**MP508/1,
115/701/55**

This item concerns the various legislative restrictions on Chinese enlistments.

[Compulsory training of Chinese youths of military age], 1940

**MP508/1,
323/723/408**

This item relates to a suggestion from a Chinese resident of Sydney for a separate Chinese military unit.

Re. position of certain Chinese crews who are at present in Australia, 1942

**MP508/1,
115/701/348**

This item deals with the 'enlistment' of Chinese seamen into work units at Sydney after residence of one month, in accordance with the National Security Regulations, as the rules were 'elastic enough'.

[Chinese units in Australian Military Forces - proposed formation of], 1942

**MP508/1,
240/701/158**

The Chinese Minister to Australia, Dr Hsu Mo, suggested the use of Chinese residents in the AMF.

Utilisation of Chinese nationals in Australia, 1942

**MP508/1,
275/705/10**

The record concerns the petitioning from Chinese for the release of all Chinese internees to assist the war effort.

[Exemption from military service of Chen Law, a Chinese student], 1942

The record concerns the formal exemption from military service granted to a Chinese student in Melbourne.

MP508/1,
323/735/2161

[ARMY] SECRET CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1937–60

Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)

Quantity: 17.31 metres (Melbourne)

This series comprises secret correspondence files maintained by Army Headquarters from 1945 to 1955. Items in this series relate to allowances, staff appointments, visits by senior staff, committees, personnel, establishment, orders of battle, corps movement overseas, media relations and equipment maintenance.

Enlistment of non-Europeans in the AMF, 1942–47

The record concerns the provision of post-service benefits to ‘coloureds’ who enlisted.

MP729/8

MP729/8,
41/431/139

*Brisbane***‘[PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘R’ PREFIX [PNG], 1958–73**

Recorded by: Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, PNG Defence Force (CA 8330)

Quantity: 1.08 metres (Brisbane)

This series contains correspondence files about the operation of the PNG Volunteer Rifles. Items contain general correspondence and a range of documentation on various subjects such as cadet training, enlistments, accommodation, displays and discipline.

Enlistments – indigenous and Asians mixed blood personnel – conditions and policy, 1964–67

J2810

J2810, R150/3/2

Service records**ANGLO–SOUTH AFRICAN (‘BOER’) WAR****BOER WAR DOSSIERS, LEXICOGRAPHICAL SERIES, 1901–84**

Recorded by: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)

Quantity: 1.8 metres (Melbourne)

This series consists of papers relating to individual servicemen who enlisted to serve in the Boer War during 1901 and 1902 (that is, after Federation). The dossiers contain attestation forms, some medical reports and later correspondence between Central Army Records Office and public inquirers.

Personal information recorded for individuals includes place of birth, age, nationality, occupation, marital

B4418

*Darwin***CITIZENS' MILITARY FORCES PERSONNEL DOSSIERS, 1939-47****B884**

Recorded by: 2 Echelon, Army Headquarters (CA 2002)

Quantity: 2 433 metres (Darwin); 6.48 metres (Melbourne)

The series comprises service documents for members of the Citizens' Military Forces. All items are listed on RecordSearch. Information includes name, age, birthplace, next of kin, movement and medical history and discharge details, and a photograph.

Chow Shing Moo [born: 1887, Hainaw, China; enlisted: Fremantle, WA; next of kin: Lim Choon], 1939-48

B884, W63802

Chang Hong [born: 1898, Canton, China; enlisted: Fremantle, WA; next of kin: Lo Kwei], 1939-48

B884, W63968

Sin Ah Jong [born: 1914, Canton, China; enlisted: Claremont, WA; next of kin: Lin Kim], 1939-48

B884, W92925

A photograph of Sin Ah Jong appears immediately below.



Sin Ah Jong, 1939. NAA: B884, W92925

status, next of kin, previous service in South Africa (where applicable), address, religion, height and chest measurements, complexion, eye and hair colour, distinctive marks, and, in some cases, weight. Some forms of rejected personnel are included in the series.

Tanko, William [Regimental No. 353] joined 18-1-1902 – Boer War dossier, 1902

B4418, Tanko W

WORLD WAR I

FIRST AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES PERSONNEL DOSSIERS, 1914–

B2455

Recorded by: Australian Imperial Force, Base Records Office (CA 2001)

Quantity: 3 624 metres (Canberra)

This series consists of service personnel dossiers for Australians who served in the military forces during World War I. These forces included the AIF, the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, the Australian Flying Corps and the Australian Army Nursing Services. Records of wartime service with the Royal Australian Navy are not included in this series. The dossiers in this series were kept essentially for administrative purposes and contain only the essentials of a person's wartime service. They do not contain an everyday account of the events in their military service.

Chew-Kee, Norman William Enoch: SERN DEPOT: POB Manilla NSW: POE Sydney NSW: ... c1914–c1920

**B2455,
Chew Kee N W E**

WORLD WAR II

Canberra

SERVICE CARDS FOR PETTY OFFICERS AND MEN, 1911–70

A6770

Recorded by: c1911–15 Navy Office [I], Department of Defence [I] (CA 575)

1915–21 Navy Office [II], Department of the Navy [I] (CA 13)

1921–39 Navy Office [III], Department of Defence [II] (CA 2456)

1939–70 Navy Office [IV], Department of the Navy [II] (CA 38)

Quantity: 124.11 metres (Canberra)

This series contains personal particulars and service history cards for Navy petty officers and ratings. The series also holds service cards for voluntary enlistees, including women (in the nursing services), naval dockyard police and reservists, and members on loan, duty or exchange from the Royal Navy.

**Gee Kee, Albert Ronald: Service Number – 26525
Next of kin: Gee Kee, Albert, 1939–48**

**A6770,
Gee Kee A R**

RAAF OFFICERS PERSONNEL FILES, 1921-48**A9300**

Recorded by: 1921-39 Air Services Branch (CA 778)
1939-48 Department of Air (CA 35)

Quantity: 363.24 metres (Canberra)

This series was created at the same time as the RAAF. It holds personal and service history information on individual RAAF officers, including personal history prior to appointment and following separation from the service.

Cheng, Lewis Chong Pong [born: 1923, Singapore; enlisted: Sydney; next of kin: Cheng Oisen], 1939-48

A9300, Cheng LCP

Ling, Thomas James [born: 1917, Wellington, NSW; enlisted: Melbourne; next of kin: Ling Sing], 1939-48

A9300, Ling T J

RAAF PERSONNEL FILES OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS, 1921-48**A9301**

Recorded by: 1921-39 Air Services Branch (CA 778)
1939-48 Department of Air (CA 35)

Quantity: 3 171 metres (Canberra)

This series was created at the same time as the Royal Australian Air Force itself. It holds personal and service history information (eg medical history and promotions) on individual RAAF members who were not officers, including personal history prior to appointment and at the end of their service.

Lim Joon, Adrian Daryl Wah [born: 1920, North Carlton, Vic; enlisted: Melbourne; next of kin: Lim Joon, Allan], 1939-48

A9301, 129675

SECOND AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES PERSONNEL DOSSIERS, 1939-47**B883**

Recorded by: 2 Echelon, Army Headquarters (CA 2002)

Quantity: 2 868 metres (Canberra); 11 metres (Melbourne)

This series contains service documents for people who served in the Second Australian Imperial Forces during World War II. Items generally comprise three documents – the attestation form, stating personal details such as name, age, birthplace and next of kin; the service and casualty form, containing complete details of the service person's movements and medical history; and the discharge form, which listed how many days the person had served in Australia and overseas. Service numbers consisted of a single number prefixed with an 'X' (to indicate an AIF enlistment) and an alphabetical indicator for the state or territory in which the enlistment took place (eg 'W' for Western Australia, 'Q' for Queensland, 'V' for Victoria).

Bing Chew, Peter [born: 1912, Croydon, Qld; enlisted: Townsville, Qld; next of kin: Bing Chew], 1940-47

B883, QX22220

Ying Sing, Herbert [born: 1920, Dubbo, NSW; enlisted: in the field; next of kin: Ying Sing], 1939-48

B883, NX155280

6.

Community

While many of the record series that relate to Chinese concern the monitoring and control of travel and settlement, many records created by Commonwealth agencies provide extensive details on individuals and communities.

This chapter illustrates the general range of documentary and photographic records of socio-communal life, business, the Chinese media, commerce and politics. Most Chinese in Australia in 1901 were men. However, there are extensive records on the growing number of women who identified themselves as Chinese, particularly from the 1930s, or who, as spouses of Chinese men, were identified as Chinese by the Australian Government. The chapter also illustrates the varied perspectives on Chinese communities developed by various arms of the Commonwealth government from 1900 to the 1970s.

Communal and cultural life

Canberra

[GOVERNOR-GENERAL] MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE – MAINLY LOCAL (NON-IMPERIAL) MATTERS, 1887-1912

A6662

Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)

Quantity: 5.58 metres (Canberra)

This series contains miscellaneous correspondence on both Commonwealth issues and local matters that engaged the attention of successive governors-general.

Warrants for release from prison of two Chinese opium smugglers, 1909

A6662, 1351

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890-1969

A1

Recorded by: 1901-16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
1916-28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
1928-32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
1932-39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin)

This is the principal correspondence record series of the Department of External Affairs and its successors. It covers a wide range of subjects, including migration, alien registration, passports and naturalisation, and various 'external affairs' matters. Most records deal with individual cases and inquiries. Series A31 contains selective indexes to A1.

Chinese in [the] Northern Territory, 1908

A1, 1908/1766

This item contains yearly Census figures showing a decline in the numbers of Chinese. It includes a report by a Customs officer, in which he speculates whether there

is a correlation between increased rice consumption and reduced opium usage.

Conditions under which aliens may hold freehold property in Australia ..., 1917 [A1, 1917/13223](#)

This item contains a summary of the rules of property ownership applicable to aliens in each state and territory.

Hong Kong Cafe - Exemption Certificate for a Chinese, 1924 [A1, 1924/18779](#)

Chinese Consul-General - domiciliary rights of children born of Chinese parents ..., 1930 [A1, 1930/9098](#)

Rules governing the registration of overseas Chinese, 1936 [A1, 1936/3365](#)

This item includes official Chinese policy on registration of 'overseas' Chinese in 1936.

Wah On Society - [application for] permission to discharge fireworks in Darwin, NT, 1938 [A1, 1938/2599](#)

[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1892-1970 [A659](#)

Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
1939-45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
1945-50 Department of Immigration (CA 51);
subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 103 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in Darwin and Melbourne

This series consists of correspondence files on departmental operational matters.

Chinese Needle Art Company - Exemption Certificates, 1937-40 [A659, 1939/1/6788](#)

Repatriation of Chinese from Darwin to Hong Kong, 1941 [A659, 1941/1/3100](#)

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901-02 [A6](#)

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)

Quantity: 3.43 metres (Canberra)

This series contains a wide array of administrative documentation, including appointments of, and requests from, consuls; migration; official visitors; and 'coloured' labour policy.

The series was created when the Prime Minister, Edmund Barton, was also the Minister for External Affairs (1901-03).

'The Chinese Question from a Chinaman's Point of View', reprinted from *The Register* (1900) 1901 [A6, 1901/319](#)

Chinese Association - Way Lee, 20 February to 15 August, 1901 [A6, 1901/324](#)

This digitised item includes a letter from Way Lee.

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901-50

Recorded by: 1934-35 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
 1934-50 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 146 metres (Canberra)

This series consists of general correspondence files covering the wide range of subjects that came to the attention of the prime minister of the day.

Pensions payable to certain Asiatics and British Indians, 1933-43

A461

A461, P382/1/1

Exhibition of Japanese and Chinese art in Australia, 1936

A461, M343/1/1

Special funds - Chinese relief fund, 1943-45

A461, O350/1/6



Advertisement for the Tientsin Cafe, Sydney, 1949.
 NAA: A433, 1949/2/8208

- UNREGISTERED PAPERS – TRADE AND GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE ..., 1901–56** **A9913**
 Recorded by: 1938–56 Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10)
 1956 Department of Trade [I] (CA 64)
 Quantity: 6.66 metres (Canberra)
 This series includes papers relating to general trade matters, including the formation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.
 ... [Green ginger and Chinese joss candles and sticks] Cabinet agenda, 1937 **A9913, 223**
- [TREASURY] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–78** **A571**
 Recorded by: Department of the Treasury [I] (CA 11)
 Quantity: 604 metres (Canberra)
 This is the main correspondence file series of the Department of the Treasury [I].
 Press telegraph rates - Australia - China, 1942–43 **A571, 1942/1885**
 This item documents the reduced telegraph rates for the media and government offices during the war.
- [ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 1901–** **A432**
 Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)
 1958 Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office (CA 832)
 Quantity: 1 994 metres (Canberra); 352 metres (Sydney)
 This is the main correspondence series for the Attorney-General's Department after 1928. The department provided guidance to Commonwealth departments that sought opinions on administrative and policy matters, and in settling points of law.
 Attorney-General's Department: Darwin Chinese Public Cemetery Ordinance, 1929 **A432, 1929/1790**
 Naturalisation of aged Chinese - eligibility of certain coloured aliens for old age pensions, 1935–44 **A432, 1943/181**
 Compassionate allowance to aged and invalid Chinese or Asiatic persons, 1935–44 **A432, 1943/211**
 Ransom demands on Chinese in Australia, 1951–52 **A432, 1952/1380**
- FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1901–** **A6006**
 Recorded by: 1976–81 Australian Archives (CA 1720)
 1981–94 Australian Archives, ACT Regional Office (CA 3196)
 1994–98 Australian Archives, National Office (CA 7970)
 1998– National Archives of Australia (CA 8550)
 Quantity: 9.18 metres (Canberra); microfilm copies held in all state offices
 A6006 is an artificial series created by the National Archives to accumulate papers placed before Cabinet during the 1901–38 period. No regular procedure for recording the decisions of Cabinet existed prior to

1925, and a systematic method for recording Cabinet submissions and decisions was not truly effected until 1941. This series contains copies of papers relevant to Cabinet that are not in any of the record series created by the Cabinet Office. These papers have been found in departmental files, personal collections and elsewhere.

A6006 item numbers are the date of the Cabinet meeting. In some cases, items have the same item number because they relate to the same meeting. When citing items from this series, the series number, item number and title need to be quoted. All items in the series are listed on RecordSearch, and the series is available on microfilm in all National Archives' reading rooms. The record in which the A6006 item was found is cited in square brackets.

A6006 includes many reports and other records on 'coloureds' that came to the attention of the Cabinet.

| | |
|---|---|
| Presbyterian Moderator's request for Chinese missionary to enter Australia, 1921 | A6006, 1921/9/22 [A461, A349/3/4 part 1] |
| Establishment of lectureship in Chinese – Sydney University Commonwealth subsidy, 1921 | A6006, 1921/3/17 [A981, Chin 18] |
| Chinese joss candles and joss sticks, 1937 | A6006, 1937/06/11 [A9913, 223] |

[PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, OCCASIONAL 'G' (GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1903–

A463

Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)
1971 Department of the Vice-President of the Executive Council (CA 1402); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 27 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Darwin)

Items in this series deal with an array of matters under the control of the prime minister of the day, including diplomatic relations, immigration and defence. There are also some items that deal with matters of nationality. Related 'classified' records are held in series A1209.

Social Service benefits for Asiatic residents, 1954–58 **A463, 1956/318**
This item, which is digitised, deals with the granting of pensions to Chinese on a compassionate, case-by-case basis, which was introduced in 1943.

[TRADE AND CUSTOMS] SECRET RECORDS, 1904–33

CP46/2

Recorded by: Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Canberra)

This series seems to be a collection of secret reports and memoranda on various Customs-related topics.

Opium traffic – use of postal mailbags, 1926 **CP46/2, 30**

- Report from Townsville re. possible opium smuggling
per SS *Changte*, 1926 CP46/2, 31
- Opium smuggling - Darwin, 1926 CP46/2, 38
- Report on investigations of opium smuggling - Cairns, 1926 CP46/2, 39

**[HOME AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 'E' [ELECTORAL] PREFIX,
1904-**

A406

Recorded by: 1901-16 Department of Home Affairs [I] (CA 8)
1916-18 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
1918-73 Chief Electoral Office (CA 558); subsequently by
other agencies

Quantity: 130 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series contain correspondence on arrangements for elections and referenda. Among the subjects dealt with in this series are posters and advertising and Aboriginal and migrant education.

**[Enrolment - status of Asiatic, Aboriginal natives of
Asia...], 1940-60**

[A406, E1957/1
part 1](#)

This item, which is digitised, discusses the electoral rights of a female Chinese national to vote under state and Commonwealth law in the mid-twentieth century.

**[ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT] SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES,
1905-51**

A467

Recorded by: Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)

Quantity: 32.5 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series deal with special topics and issues of ongoing interest to the Attorney-General and his department. The contents of these items range from correspondence to various publications, including newspaper cuttings and pamphlets.

**[Communism] Seditious literature - *Short Stories
from China*, 1936**

[A467, SF42/290](#)

[TRADE AND CUSTOMS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1905-

A425

Recorded by: 1935-56 Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10)
1956-75 Department of Customs and Excise (CA 62);
subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 2 462 metres (Canberra); 254.52 metres (Sydney)

This is the principal correspondence series created by the Department of Trade and Customs, and covers a broad range of subjects relating to Chinese.

**By-law: Drugs, etc. - plaster (Chinese goods) as a salve -
TD 35/391, 1935**

[A425, 1935/8320](#)

**Smuggling - opium reported on ship *Purnea* (Mokhlas
Rahman and Chinese carpenter), 1955-56**

[A425, 1955/6043](#)

Prohibited import - Chinese root (medicine) kolesong, 1960

[A425, 1960/18926](#)

**Importation of Chinese films - Chinese Masonic Club,
1961-65**

[A425, 1965/1224](#)

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES [RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION], 1909–73**A2998**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 7.74 metres (Canberra)

This series mainly consists of case files on non-European immigrants. Many files include passports, applications for Australian citizenship, statutory declarations, marriage details, character references and medical examination forms.

They demonstrate the controls placed on non-European migrants, students and visitors, including those whose immediate family had settled in Australia prior to Federation. They illustrate the impact of the White Australia Policy on domiciled Chinese from its inception until its demise.

Chinese National Alliance School, 1934–49**A2998, 1951/2055**

This item, which is digitised, concerns a Chinese school in Melbourne and its staff.

[TERRITORIES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1910–76**A452**

Recorded by: 1951–68 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60)
 1968–73 Department of External Territories [II] (CA 1284)
 1968 Territories Division, Department of the Interior, NT (CA 1286); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 916.41 metres (Canberra)

The files in this series originally related to the administration (general policy and staffing) of both the internal and external Australian territories, including the Northern Territory, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands. From 1951 to 1956, the records relate to the Northern Territory.

Northern Territory – Darwin Chinese Recreation Club ..., 1952**A452, 1952/158****Discrimination against Chinese in the holding of mining leases – general, 1957–58****A452, 1957/976****Procedure for the entry into Australia of Chinese wives, minor children and fiancées from Hong Kong, 1963–64****A452, 1963/7846**

This item is digitised.

PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES AND PRINTS, 'L' (LIBRARY) PREFIX, 1911–71**A1200**

Recorded by: 1945–50 Department of Information (CA 34)
 1950–71 Australian News and Information Bureau (CA 219)

Quantity: 83.75 metres (Canberra)

This series was created by the Department of Information, which was established in 1939 with responsibilities for news and information. A1200 contains images from earlier series.

A1200 is a significant collection of images of a wide range of aspects of Australian life, including unique

views of individuals and scenes. Each item in the series is categorised according to subject.

Festivals and celebrations – Chinese dragon in 1967 Waratah Festival, 1967 A1200, L66824

Festivals and celebrations – Dragon Festival at Bendigo – Easter Monday, 1970 A1200, L86491

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1914–93 A1838

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs (CA 1382)

Quantity: 3 409 metres (Canberra)

This series comprises the main correspondence file series of the Department of External Affairs [II] and its successor. Material in A1838 deals with Australia's relations with other countries. It includes records concerning Chinese consular staff in Australia.

China – social – Chinese social system and culture, 1954–70 A1838, 3107/12 part 2

[AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION] SUBJECT FILES, 1915– A6122

Recorded by: Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (CA 1297)

Quantity: 50.49 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains information assembled by ASIO or its predecessors on subjects of interest (groups, organisations and so on), mainly since the end of World War II.

The material in this series is retained by ASIO. Access to items in this series is considered on the submission of applications by researchers.

CP of A [Communist Party of Australia] – Victoria Chinese Branch, 1943–54 A6122, 619

Chinese Youth League of Australia – Volume 1, 1944–58 A6122, 1914
This item is digitised.

Australia China Society, New South Wales – Volume 1, 1952–55 A6122, 1920

CPA [Communist Party of Australia] (NSW) – direct branch (Chinese), 1953–54 A6122, 957

This item, which is digitised, includes details on membership.

Employee organisations – Australian Chinese Seamen's Union of Australia – ASIO file, 1952–66 A6122, 1850

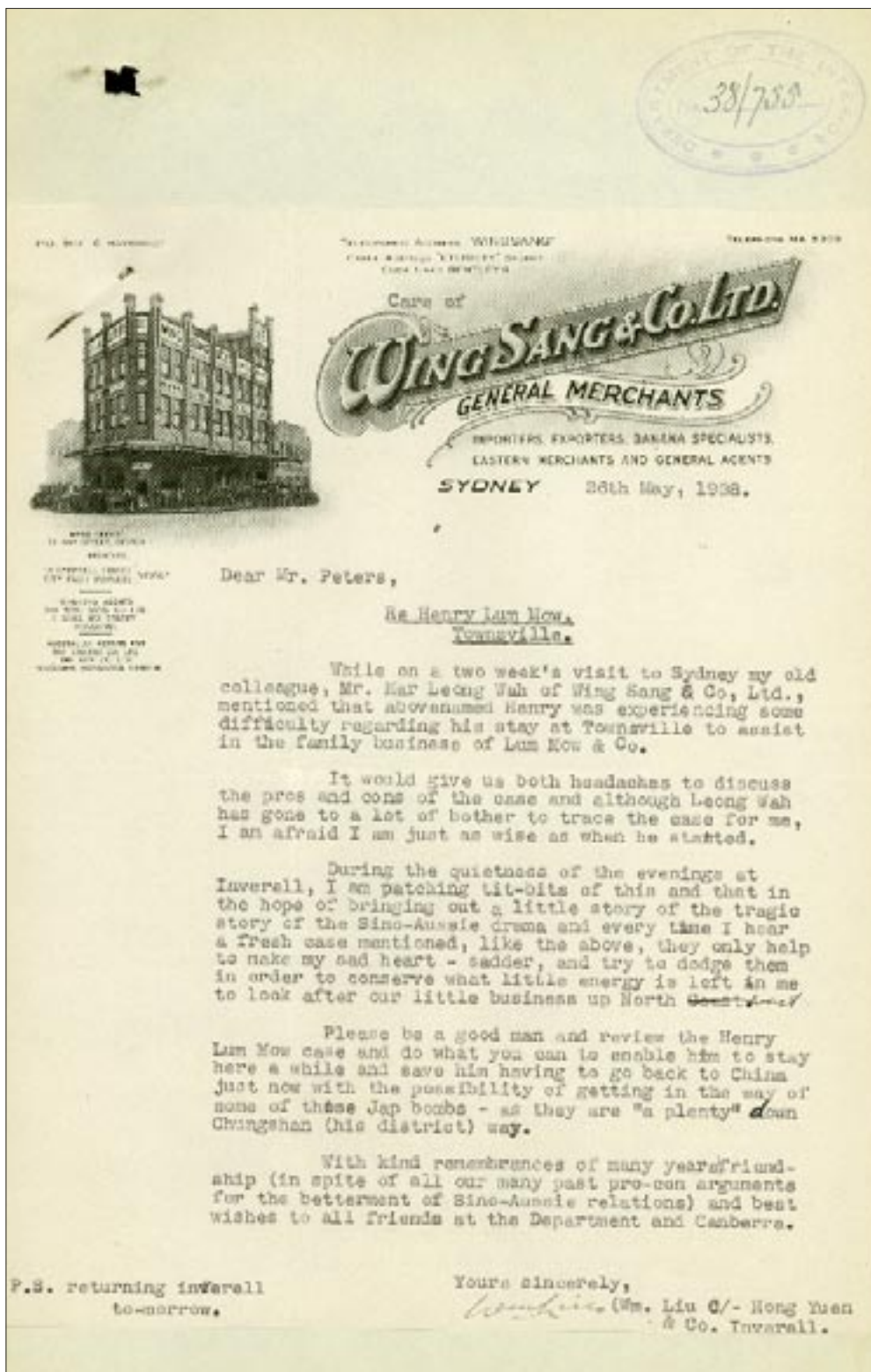
Associations – Individual Asian Students Federation, 1953–63 A6122, 1395

This item, which is digitised, includes details of several student organisations whose memberships included Chinese from more than one country.

CPA [Communist Party of Australia] activity [of] and interest in Chinese students in Australia ..., 1954–55 A6122, 264

- Chinese Unity Association, 1959–62** **A6122, 1410**
 This item details meetings of the Melbourne-based Chinese Unity Association, whose membership included long-term Chinese residents of Melbourne.
- Australia China Society, New South Wales – Volume 8, 1961–62** **A6122, 1982**
- [SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR PREFIX (1916–27) AND ‘C’ PREFIX (1927–53), 1916–71** **A367**
- Recorded by: 1916–19 Special Intelligence Bureau, Melbourne (CA 746)
 1919–46 Investigation Branch, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)
 1946–53 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)
- Quantity: 66.6 metres (Canberra)
- This series includes policy, precedent and case files created for investigations by the Commonwealth’s intelligence services into applications for naturalisation and the admission into Australia of friends, relatives and visitors of, and substitutes for, Chinese businessmen.
- Relief of Chinese interpreter, 1940** **A367, C50149**
- [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919–50** **A433**
- Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
- Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra)
- Records in this series deal with various aspects of restricted immigration policy, including admission under exemption, deportation, business visitors, ships’ deserters and ‘undesirables’.
- Children born in Australia of coloured parents under exemption, 1916–28** **A433, 1948/2/4731**
- Chinese Australian Association – inquiry, 1941** **A433, 1941/2/1444**
 This item is digitised.
- Australia–China Co-operation Association ... Chinese in Australia, 1944–47** **A433, 1946/2/1428**
 This item contains the progress, second and third reports of the Australia–China Association, along with a booklet produced by the association, *China and the White Australia Policy*.
- HQ MISCELLANEOUS FILES [MICROFILM OF INVESTIGATION BRANCH, COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATION SERVICE AND ASIO FILES], 1920–67** **A9108**
- Recorded by: Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (CA 1297)
- Quantity: 24 metres (Canberra)
- This series consists of microfilmed files from various security intelligence agencies. The files date from 1920 to 1967 and cover a wide range of subjects and persons investigated by security intelligence agencies. Items in this series are representative of several series of records created during this time.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Chinese societies and organisations, 1944–48 This item, which is digitised, includes a newsletter compiled by the Australia–China Association.</p> | <p>A9108, roll 4/14</p> |
| <p>Chinese communists – general activities in Australia, 1948–51 The item, which is digitised, deals with possible associations with communist organisations. It provides biographical profiles on many Chinese residents of Australia.</p> | <p>A9108, roll 20/45</p> |
| <p>Chinese clothing subscription list, 1952 This digitised item includes a list of subscriptions for charitable works in China. The names of the subscribers have both Cantonese- and Mandarin-romanised spellings.</p> | <p>A9108, roll 17/12</p> |
| <p>CORRESPONDENCE FILES – MELBOURNE SERIES (PRIMARY NOS 1–323), 1922–60</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1922–39 Air Services Branch (CA 778) 1939–60 Department of Air (CA 35)</p> <p>Quantity: 672 metres (Canberra); 14.4 metres (Melbourne)</p> <p>This main correspondence series of the RAAF covers administration, technical and specialist areas. Most of the extant records relate to the period after 1941.</p> | <p>A705</p> |
| <p>Personnel – mustering of linguists (Russian, Chinese, Japanese), 1945–52</p> | <p>A705, 208/44/20</p> |
| <p>Training of personnel – Oriental [Asian] languages policy, 1948–59</p> | <p>A705, 208/44/11 part 3</p> |
| <p>PAPERS RELATING TO THE OPIUM TRAFFIC, 1925–33</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: Department of Trade and Customs (CA 100)</p> <p>Quantity: 0.18 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>This series contains various papers relating to the trade in opium, including inside information, reports from agents and details of shipments.</p> | <p>CP46/3</p> |
| <p>Opium smuggling – Chinese mail, 1926</p> | <p>CP46/3, 69</p> |
| <p>[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR PREFIX, 1927–45</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)</p> <p>Quantity: 30.69 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>Items in this series concern Australia’s relations with other countries, specifically in the context of World War II, as well as records on the subjects of nationality and travel.</p> | <p>A989</p> |
| <p>Australia – teaching of Malay, Dutch and Chinese languages at Sydney University, 1942–43</p> | <p>A989, 1943/80/1/29</p> |
| <p>China – Chinese 6th Anniversary of war with Japan, 7 July 1943 Other items in this series relate to subsequent anniversaries of the war.</p> | <p>A989, 1943/150/13/2</p> |
| <p>China – foreign relations with Australia – Chinese publicity in Australia, 1944</p> | <p>A989, 1944/150/5/1/10</p> |



William Liu, a Chinese community representative, regularly corresponded with the government about the rights and problems of Chinese Australians. This letter, about Henry Lum Mow's difficulties, was directed to the Department of the Interior in 1938.

NAA: A433, 1949/2/7501

- [IMMIGRATION] SECRET CORRESPONDENCE FILES – BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, 'S' (SECRET) PREFIX, c1930–80** **A6980**
 Recorded by: 1972–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51);
 subsequently by other agencies
 Quantity: 74 metres (Canberra)
 This series contains material that documents departmental responses to sensitive immigration, visitor and citizenship issues. This series covers a wide range of topics, including opinions provided by various agencies on applications for immigration, temporary entry, citizenship or passports. This information was provided about various groups of aliens, with distinctions made between 'political grounds' and 'security'. Similar material can be found in series A445 and A446.
Exploitation of Chinese employees by employers, 1953–54 **A6980, S250311**
- [COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1935–56** **A609**
 Recorded by: 1948–56 Department of Commerce and Agriculture (CA 48)
 1956 Department of Primary Industry [I] (CA 63)
 Quantity: 194.13 metres (Canberra)
 This series concerns a wide range of agricultural policy and general economic developmental matters. It also deals with exports and assistance to various Asian countries, including China.
Rice allocations, 1947–54 **A609, 349/1/2**
 This item, which is digitised, contains petitions from the Chinese Consul-General (S Y Woo) requesting an increase in the allocation to China of Australian rice under Australia's postwar food distribution schemes.
- STOKES, JOHN – NORTHERN TERRITORY (B&W POSTCARDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS), 1936–58** **M105**
 Recorded by: John William Stokes (CP 89)
 Quantity: 0.09 metres (Canberra)
 This series consists of postcards and photographs taken by Mr Stokes during his service with the Northern Territory Police Force. Subjects of the postcards include Northern Territory scenes.
Celestial festival – Chinatown, Darwin, c1936–58 **M105, 14**
[Chinese dragon – probably Darwin], c1936–58 **M105, 15**
- CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES – FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES (WITH INDEXES), 1941–49** **A2703**
 Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
 Quantity: 2.07 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney)
 This series contains typed minutes of Cabinet meetings and a small quantity of covering correspondence.
Minutes of meeting of Full Cabinet ... 16 February 1943 **A2703, 40**
 This item contains a discussion about the old-age pension for Chinese.

Minutes of meeting of Full Cabinet ... 16 February 1943**A2703, 58**

This item deals with discussion of, and decisions made about, the old-age pension for Chinese.

[AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, CHINA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR SUFFIX, 1941–49**A4144**

Recorded by: c1945–48 Australian Legation, Republic of China
[Chungking/Nanking] (CA 1978)
1948 Australian Embassy, Republic of China
[Nanking] (CA 1979)

Quantity: 7 metres (Canberra)

This is the main correspondence series for the Australian Legation in China from its establishment in 1941 to the end of 1948. It also includes some material from the Shanghai Commercial Counsellor's Office and the Consulate-General.

China - relief - Melbourne fund, 1944**A4144, 133/1944****Cultural cooperation - Chinese students abroad - general file, 1944–45****A4144, 58/1945****IMMIGRATION PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE 1946–****A12111**

Recorded by: 1946–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
1974–75 Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1769)
1975–87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I]
(CA 1955); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: c36 000 photographs (Canberra)

The photographic collection of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs contains approximately 36 000 photographs and slides that document the arrival and settlement of postwar immigrants and refugees. Professional photographers, employed by the Department of Immigration, compiled the largest component of the collection in the early postwar period.

The photographs in the collection are catalogued by subject and were given a consecutive number with a year prefix.

Immigration to Australia - historical milestones - Chinese in Sydney, the *Sydney Mail*, c1860**A12111, 18/20A/5**

This digitised image consists of an article, with text and photographs, from the *Sydney Mail* newspaper.

Immigration to Australia - historical milestones - Chinese landing at Cooktown, Queensland, 1875**A12111, 18/20A/1**

This image, which is digitised, is of a painting depicting the landing of Chinese at Cooktown.

- PHOTOGRAPHIC COLOUR TRANSPARENCIES, 'K' (COLOUR) PREFIX, 1947-71** **A1500**
 Recorded by: 1947-50 Department of Information (CA 34)
 1950-71 Australian News and Information Bureau (CA 219)
 Quantity: 12 metres (Canberra)
 This is one of the major photographic series held by the National Archives. It contains colour transparencies depicting a range of Australian subjects, including individuals and scenic views of country and city life.
- Religion - places of worship - Chinese Buddhist temple or joss house - Brisbane, 1970** **A1500, K24482**
- ASIAN IMAGES, 'A' (ASIAN) PREFIX (NEGATIVES), 1953-76** **A1501**
 Recorded by: 1953-73 Australian News and Information Bureau (CA 219)
 1973-76 Australian Information Service (CA 1578)
 Quantity: 23.89 metres (Canberra)
 This is a significant series of images of Asia and Asian people. The images record scenic views and individuals, including overseas dignitaries visiting Australia.
- Chinese-born engineer is president of the Asian-Australian Families Association of Victoria, 1975** **A1501, A16226**
- AUSTRALIAN SUBJECTS (POLITICAL, ECONOMICAL AND SOCIAL), 'K' (COLOUR) PREFIX (TRANSPARENCIES), 1971-** **A6135**
 Recorded by: 1971-73 Australian News and Information Bureau (CA 219)
 1973-87 Australian Information Service, Canberra (from 1986, Promotion Australia) (CA 1578)
 Quantity: 25 metres (Canberra)
 This series of images deals with a variety of subjects, including Australian geographical sights, educational institutions, official visits, and government and private events.
- Festivals and celebrations - parade in Darwin Street - Germans and Chinese take part, 1974** **A6135, K14/11/74/44**
- Festivals and celebrations - Chinese dragon in procession at Bendigo, 1975** **A6235, K21/5/75/8**
- POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE (NEGATIVES AND PRINTS), 1971-** **A6180**
 Recorded by: 1971-73 Australian News and Information Bureau (CA 219)
 1973-87 Australian Information Service, Canberra (from 1986, Promotion Australia) (CA 1578)
 1987-94 Australian Overseas Information Service (CA 6785)
 1994- Department of Foreign Affairs (CA 5987)
 Quantity: 43.38 metres (Canberra)
 This series documents a wide range of Australian subjects and themes (eg the political, economic and social life of Australia and its people). This series contains a large number of images of China and Chinese.
- Festivals and celebrations - Chinese dragon in procession at Bendigo, 1975** **A6180, 21/5/75/10**

- Historical – buildings – old Chinese joss house ... re-enters Melbourne social and religious life, 1975** [A6180, 13/3/75/13](#)
This item is digitised.
- Historical – relics – Chinese temple bell, 350 years old, inside entrance to Garden Island, 1980** [A6180, 8/2/80/21](#)

*Sydney***[CUSTOMS, NSW] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'B' SERIES [1924], 1862–1924****SP11/28**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of papers found in a drawer at the Customs House, Sydney in 1924.

[Birth and naturalisation certificates ..., Customs and Excise Office...], 1883–1924**SP11/28,
B1924/3564**

This item includes certificates for Chinese in Australia.

Importation [of] 600 tins of opium by Sun Good Shing per St Albans..., 1921–24**SP11/28,
B1924/3563**

This item includes two electrotype printing blocks with the trademark 'Lam Kee Macao Opium'.

[IMMIGRATION] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'N' (NSW) PREFIX, c1897–1967**SP1122/1**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 2 372 metres (Sydney)

Items in this series contain correspondence, papers, documents, passports and photographs relating to immigrants and emigrants entering or leaving Australia through the Port of Sydney or interstate ports. Among the matters dealt with are naturalisations, deportations, passports, landing permits, assisted migration, and entry and re-entry. This series contains a number of items dealing with Chinese arrivals and departures. Nominal indexes are available in three related series – SP1602/1 (1951–69), SP1689/1 (1960–75) and SP1729/1 (1976–79).

Cheng Yin Ming (Philip Cheng), 1947–60**SP1122/1,
N1957/5016**

This item contains lists of Chinese employed in restaurants.

Yee Choon, 1951–56**SP1122/1,
N1952/24/548**

Mr Yee was employed by Kai Yuen and Company, a Chinese delicatessen.

Westminster Hotel Dining Room, Chinese cafe, 1953–60**SP1122/1,
N1953/24/211**

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|--|--------------------|
| INVESTIGATION FILES (PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS), ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1921–46 | C320 |
| Recorded by: 1942–45 Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946) 1945–46 Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904) | |
| Quantity: 4.5 metres (Sydney) | |
| This series consists of correspondence files collated by the Security Service (later, the Intelligence Branch), New South Wales on 'suspect' activities. Items relating to Chinese individuals and organisations are identified by the prefix 'C', though other files may also be of interest. | |
| Chinese Seamen's Club/Union, 1940–44 | C320, C9 |
| This item concerns the activities of a union established by Chinese merchant seamen. | |
| Chinese Legation, 1941 | C320, C3 |
| Confiscation of guns from Chinese gardeners, 1941 | C320, C12 |
| Experts in Japanese, Chinese and Arabic languages, 1941 | C320, J57 |
| Chinese community in Australia, 1941–42 | C320, C18 |
| PROGRAM RECORDINGS, 'SA' [SOUTH AUSTRALIA] PREFIX, c1933–70 | C1829 |
| Recorded by: Australian Broadcasting Commission, SA (CA 2639) | |
| Quantity: 0.99 metres (Sydney) | |
| The series comprises recordings of Australian Broadcasting Commission (later, Corporation) (ABC) radio programs broadcast in South Australia. The recordings, which are on gramophone discs, are of speeches, documentaries, plays and music. | |
| Chinese Joss House - Darwin, 1959 | C1829, SA31 |
| The title of this item has been shortened for brevity. The recording is of a report from ABC Darwin representative, Athol Emerton. It highlights the ceremony at the blessing and opening of the new Chinese temple in Darwin. | |
| VICTORY COMMEMORATION, 1945 | SP822/56 |
| Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785) | |
| Quantity: 0.02 metres (Sydney) | |
| This small series concerns commemorative activities conducted by Chinese in Sydney to celebrate victory over the Japanese in World War II. | |
| <i>Victory Commemoration - A Book to Commemorate a Common Victory ...</i> , 1945 | SP822/56, 1 |

Melbourne

- [CUSTOMS, VIC] GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, 1898–** **B13**
 Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)
- Quantity: 107 metres (Melbourne); 0.09 metres (Darwin)
- This is the main correspondence series of the Collector of Customs, Melbourne after 1901. It holds a large number of records on individual Chinese and their movements, both inter- and intranational. General matters concerning immigration restriction and processes of identification are covered widely. Files created up to 1930 deal largely with immigration matters.
- Notification of deportation of persons (including Chinese seamen) ... in illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, 1933–35** **B13, 1935/16209**
- [INVESTIGATION BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1914–64** **B741**
- Recorded by: 1927–46 Investigation Branch, Vic (CA 907)
 1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service, Vic (CA 916)
 1960–62 Commonwealth Police Force [II], Vic (CA 955)
- Quantity: 42.66 metres (Melbourne)
- This is the main correspondence series of the Victorian branches of the Commonwealth's investigation agencies. It contains items dealing with criminal offences committed against the Commonwealth or its laws, or offences against state Acts committed on Commonwealth property. Some items also cover the design of processes of alien registration.
- Chinese in Rabaul, 1932** **B741, V/9753**
 This item includes a response by the Consul-General, W P Chen, to media reports on Chinese communities in Australia and at Rabaul.
- [TEA CONTROL BOARD] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1941–55** **B5851**
- Recorded by: 1942–51 Tea Control Board (CA 169)
 1952–55 Tea Importation Board (CA 2262)
- Quantity: 3.6 metres (Melbourne)
- Items in this series relate to the control of tea, coffee and chicory. Among the topics dealt with are the registration of primary and secondary wholesalers, the distribution of supplies, insurance of stocks, general administration, policy files and the Empire scheme.
- The Tea Control Board was established in 1942 to ensure that adequate stocks of tea (and, later, coffee and chicory) were available during World War II.
- Tea for Chinese, 1942** **B5851, 1942/194**

*Brisbane***[CUSTOMS, QLD] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – IMMIGRATION AND PASSPORTS – ‘SB’ (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1924–45****BP234/1**

Recorded by: 1924–45 Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)
 1945 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)

Quantity: 2.16 metres (Brisbane)

Items in this series contain correspondence and instructions on Chinese settlement in, and travel to, Australia.

Australia–China Co-operation Association, 1943–44

BP242/1, Q30600*Perth***WESTERN AUSTRALIA – FINE ARTS COPYRIGHT FILES, 1896–1906****A1721**

Recorded by: Patent Office, WA (CA 1257)

Quantity: 1.09 metres (Canberra)

The series consists of files containing copyright registrations and, in most cases, an exhibit of each work lodged for copyright. Series K17 contains a register of items held in this series. Some items have notes on them referring to correspondence. The series consists almost entirely of photographs, though there are important sets of postcards as well as some engravings.

Chinese dragon in Milligan Street, Perth, photograph, Frederick Norman Cecil Adair, 1901

A1721, 40 photo

This item can be viewed on PhotoSearch, the Archives' online image database.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘W59’ PREFIX, 1959–84**K403**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962)

Quantity: 22 metres (Perth)

This series was created to hold Immigration policy and subject records created after 1958, as distinct from K47, the department's Perth case file series (see p. 107).

Chinese – general – family composition and disposition – local circular, 1965–69

K403, W59/1442*Adelaide***INVESTIGATION CASE FILES, ‘SA’ (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) PREFIX, 1910–87****D1915**

Recorded by: 1919 Commonwealth Police Force (CA 2919)
 1919–46 Investigation Branch, SA (CA 905)
 1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service, SA (CA 914)
 1960 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, SA (CA 4716)

Quantity: 29.88 metres (Adelaide); 1.62 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series contain similar material to items in record series created by other state branches of

Commonwealth security intelligence agencies (eg B741, located in Melbourne).

D1915 includes 'sensitive' information on deportations, applications for naturalisation and other matters. It also includes case files on national security from World War I.

Fong, Charles, Chinese interpreter, 1924

D1915, SA1165

Hobart

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT – TASMANIA – CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1883–1956

P234

Recorded by: 1893–56 General Post Office (also known as Post Office Department, 1867–1901; and Postmaster-General's Department, 1901–75), Hobart (CA 1033)
1906–56 Postmaster-General's Department, Tas (CA 9)

Quantity: 63.75 metres (Hobart)

This series contains general correspondence records, which deal with post and telegraph office administration.

Correspondence re. press rates from China, 1902

P234, 404/02

[CUSTOMS, TAS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1909–

P437

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816)

Quantity: 94.68 metres (Hobart)

This series, a successor to P501 (see p. 113), documents a wide range of travel and settlement matters, including certificates issued and the wider operation of the Immigration Restriction Act. Series P502 and P508 both hold related letter books maintained by Customs officers in Tasmania.

Opium – illegal usage by Chinese immigrants, 1915–16

P437, 1915/268

Narcotic drugs – import into Tasmania ... convictions of Chinese (Launceston), 1925

P437, 1925/266

PERSONAL CASE FILES – NON-BRITISH MIGRANTS – DECEASED, 1942–61

P1182

Recorded by: 1942–46 Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816)
1946–61 Department of Immigration, Tas (CA 960)

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Hobart)

This series consists of personal papers and photographs relating to individual migrants and aliens of non-British origin who died between 1942 and 1961.

Lee Fook, Fanny [Chinese], 1942–48

P1182, Lee Fook

Darwin

- CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO CHINESE BANNER, CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES, 1912-13** **E1352**
 Recorded by: William George Stretton (CP 19)
 Quantity: 0.09 metres (Darwin)
 The series includes correspondence from the Wah On Society on behalf of the Chinese community of Darwin to William Stretton, a senior Customs official, upon his retirement, to thank him for his conduct towards Chinese in Darwin.
- CHINESE BANNER, 1913** **E1244**
 Recorded by: William George Stretton (CP 19)
 Quantity: 1.45 metres (Darwin)
 This series contains a large cloth banner presented by the Wah On Society of Darwin to express their members' esteem and respect for, and admiration of, William Stretton.
- [OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1915-78** **F1**
 Recorded by: 1915-27 Office of the Administrator, NT (CA 1072)
 1927-31 Office of the Government Resident, North Australia (CA 197)
 1931-73 Administrator, NT (CA 1070); subsequently by other agencies
 Quantity: 366.2 metres (Darwin)
 This was the main policy and general series for the Northern Territory Administration.
- Employment of Chinese on pastoral stations, etc., 1943** **F1, 1943/122**
 This digitised item documents the efforts of pastoral stations to engage Chinese staff.
- Chung Wah Society - Darwin, 1946-77** **F1, 1977/764**
 This item documents the formation and general activities of the society.
- Compulsory acquisition ... land claim of trustees - Chinese community joss house ..., 1952** **F1, 1952/1092**
- [CROWN LAW] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'DP' [PREFIX], 1928-55** **E68**
 Recorded by: Crown Law Office, North Australia (by 1951, Northern Territory) (CA 885)
 Quantity: 8 metres (Darwin)
 The series appears to relate to land transfers and leases of Commonwealth land, both before and after World War II. Some items contain opinions and advice provided by Crown Law officers about Northern Territory Administration matters.
- Darwin Chinese Public Cemetery regulations and ordinance, 1929** **E68, DP327**

**Darwin land – compulsory acquisition 17/1/1946 ...,
Chinese Recreation Club, 1949**

E68, DP603

**[MINES BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SOME ALPHABETICAL
PREFIXES, 1942–56**

F320

Recorded by: 1942–51 Mines Branch [I] – Delegate of the Controller of
Mineral Production (CA 1119)
1942–51 Mines Branch [I], Alice Springs – Director (CA 1139)

Quantity: 3.96 metres (Darwin)

Items in this series contain correspondence on mineral
production, particularly for minerals used in armaments.

Shipping Chinese clothing, 1943

F320, 1943/291

Remittance to China, 1943–44

F320, 1943/264

This item describes an arrangement allowing Chinese in
Australia to remit funds to their families in China.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1949–

E37

Recorded by: 1949–74 Department of Immigration, NT (CA 759)
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and
Immigration, NT (CA 2110)
1975–87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I],
NT (CA 2111); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 251 metres (Darwin); 0.18 metres (Perth)

Most items in this Immigration series concern individuals
and families. It contains policy files on the admission
of Chinese and items that deal with deportation,
naturalisation and alien registration after 1947.

**Oriental Cafe, Darwin, NT – admission of Chinese cook,
1953–60**

E37, 1962/1065

**Department of Immigration – Gam Sing Cafe – now the
Green Jade Cafe, 1954–56**

E37, 1954/78

Women and families

Canberra

**APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF QUEENSLAND TRADE MARKS,
1885–1906**

A11708

Recorded by: Patent Office, Qld (CA 1246)

Quantity: 14.58 metres (Canberra)

This series consists of applications for registration of
trademarks in Queensland between 1885 and 1906.

Items include a copy of the trademark and details on the
applicant.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Application for trademark 'Paou-Chung, depicting Chinese women and tower in respect of tea ...', 1901 This record is one of several demonstrating the use of Chinese images.</p> <p>Application for trademark 'Paou-Chung, depicting Chinese women and tower in respect of tea ...', 1901</p> | <p>A11708, 3109</p> <p>A11708, 3110</p> |
| <p>[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890–1969</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1901–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7) 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15) 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24) 1932–39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)</p> <p>Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin)</p> <p>Please see series description on p. 174.</p> <p>Marriages between European women and non-European men, 1912–14 The item, which is digitised, concerns the legal status of marriages made between Christians and their partners belonging to other religious denominations.</p> <p>Australian-born Chinese [in] Darwin representations re. passport facilities and introduction of wives, 1920–32</p> <p>Status of Australian women who marry Chinese, 1923–25</p> <p>Chinese merchant on passport – admission of wife, 1927</p> <p>Domicile rights of Chinese women married to Australian-born, 1930</p> <p>Substitutes and wives of Chinese nationals admission on passports ..., 1933</p> | <p>A1</p> <p>A1, 1914/5188</p> <p>A1, 1931/8945</p> <p>A1, 1924/31745</p> <p>A1, 1927/6861</p> <p>A1, 1930/8231</p> <p>A1, 1933/6611</p> |
| <p>[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1892–1970</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27) 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31) 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51); subsequently by other agencies</p> <p>Quantity: 103 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in Darwin and Melbourne</p> <p>Please see series description on p. 175.</p> <p>Registration of Chinese woman under National Security Regulations, 1939</p> | <p>A659</p> <p>A659, 1939/1/13931</p> |
| <p>CORRESPONDENCE FILES [TERRITORIES], ALPHA PREFIX, 1899–1983</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1928–41 Territories Branch, Prime Minister's Department (CA 822) 1941–51 Department of External Territories [I] (CA 42) 1951–56 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60)</p> <p>Quantity: 241.5 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>This series deals with the administration of external territories, including New Guinea, Papua, Nauru, Norfolk Island and New Ireland. Some aspects of the administration of the Northern Territory are also dealt</p> | <p>A518</p> |

with, including defence and security and postwar reconstruction.

Admission of wives and families of Chinese at Nauru, 1952–55

A518, FK118/6

[DEFENCE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1900–28

A457

Recorded by: 1915–23 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1921–23 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)

Quantity: 18.27 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series contain correspondence on a wide range of subjects that were submitted for the attention of the prime minister of the day.

Nationality – Australian women married to Chinese, 1923

[A457, Q111/2](#)

The digitised item relates to advice from the Prime Minister's Department to port officers regarding the nationality status of non-Chinese women travelling to China with their Chinese husbands.

[ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 1901–

A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)
1958 Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office (CA 832)

Quantity: 1 994 metres (Canberra); 352 metres (Sydney)

Please see series description on p. 177.

**[Prohibited Import Regulations – review of publication] ...
*China in Defence of World Peace – Chinese Women in 1950, 1951***

[A432, 1951/375](#)

Adoption of non-European children, 1963

[A432, 1963/3187](#)

This item is digitised.

**[Migration Act and Marriage Act] – Chinese immigrants
... marriages of convenience with Australian girls, 1964–67**

[A432, 1964/2394](#)

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'A' SERIES [IMMIGRATION, NEW GUINEA, NEW HEBRIDES], 1902–03

A9

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)

Quantity: 2 metres (Canberra)

Most items in this series concern applications for domicile and Exemption Certificates by aliens. Some items deal with the desertion of crewmen from visiting ships. Other items deal with British New Guinea and the New Hebrides, covering the Native Labour Ordinance of 1900 and official appointments.

**[The persistent and successful application from] Fat Kee
[to bring wife and family from China], 1902**

[A9, A1902/69/65](#)

- [TERRITORIES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1910-76** **A452**
 Recorded by: 1951-68 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60)
 1968-73 Department of External Territories [II] (CA 1284)
 1968 Territories Division, Department of the Interior,
 NT (CA 1286); subsequently by other agencies
 Quantity: 916.41 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 180.
- Lam Man Yung ... and family - extension of permit to remain at Nauru, 1955-58** **A452, 1958/3484**
 Mr Lam was employed as an interpreter with the British Phosphate Commissioners on Nauru.
- Procedure for the entry into Australia of Chinese wives, minor children and fiancées from Hong Kong, 1963-64** **A452, 1963/7846**
 This item is digitised.
- [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1914-93** **A1838**
 Recorded by: 1948-70 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
 1970-87 Department of Foreign Affairs (CA 1382)
 Quantity: 3 409 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 181.
- China - relations with Australia - Family Reunion Agreement - Chinese migration to Australia, 1950-75** **A1838, 3107/38/9/2 part 1**
- China - relations with Australia - Chinese migration to Australia and Family Reunion Agreement, 1973-76** **A1838, 3107/38/9/2 part 3**
- [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES - RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919-50** **A433**
 Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
 1939-45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
 1945-50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 182.
- Owen, James (Chinese) - admission of wife and son, 1928-48** **A433, 1947/2/2466**
- Question of evacuation of Chinese women and children from Hong Kong to Australia, 1940** **A433, 1940/2/1837**
 This item, which is digitised, consists of correspondence about the rejection of a scheme for well-known Chinese in Hong Kong to evacuate to Australia.
- Chinese and Eurasian women and children from Malaya - admission, 1942** **A433, 1942/2/235**
 This digitised item contains correspondence on the conditions of evacuation of Chinese to Australia.
- Gooi, Edward J - admission of Chinese wife, 1945-57** **A433, 1947/2/1245**
 This item is digitised.

- HQ MISCELLANEOUS FILES [MICROFILM OF INVESTIGATION BRANCH, COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATION SERVICE AND ASIO FILES], 1920–67** **A9108**
 Recorded by: Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (CA 1297)
 Quantity: 24 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 182.
- Chinese community – Darwin, NT, 1953** **A9108, roll 17/33**
 This digitised item deals with the marriage prospects of Chinese men at Darwin in the 1950s, and marriages with women in Hong Kong.
- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (POLICY MATTERS), 1922–68** **A445**
 Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 Quantity: 28.81 metres (Canberra)
 The series consists of general policy files relating to the assimilation, welfare and education of migrants. Subjects include conferences, refugees and restricted immigration policy.
 Items directly concerned with nationality and citizenship enactments were removed and placed in series A446 (described on p. 200), but some material on naturalisations remains in this series.
- Australian-born widows of Chinese, naturalisation of, 1934** **A445, 230/16/2**
- Marriage of Australians to Chinese nationals – question of entry, 1945–46** **A445, 236/2/24**
 This item is digitised.
- Admission of Chinese fiancées [David J Adams], 1952–54** **A445, 236/2/42**
 This item is digitised.
- CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES – FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES AND AGENDA, 1941–49** **A2700**
 Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
 Quantity: 24.26 metres (Canberra); microfilm copies available in other offices of the Archives.
 This series contains Cabinet minutes and agenda together with associated documents. Each item relates to a subject discussed by the cabinets of the Curtin, Forde or Chifley ministries.
- Admission to Australia of [European and Eurasian Chinese] alien women and children, 1942** **A2700, 173**
 This item deals with Cabinet’s discussion of the admission of ‘Eurasian’ alien women and children.
- CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES – FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES (WITH INDEXES), 1941–49** **A2703**
 Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
 Quantity: 2.07 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney)
 Please see series description on p. 185.

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|--|----------------------------|
| <p>Minutes of meeting of full Cabinet held in Canberra [on] 15 December 1941 This item includes Cabinet's discussion of the admission of 'Eurasian' alien women and children in 1942.</p> | A2703, 18 |
| <p>Minutes of meeting of full Cabinet held [on] 18 June 1945, Parliament House, Canberra, 1945 This item, which is digitised, is concerned with the extension of Certificates of Exemption for visitors from 24 March 1945 to 30 June 1947.</p> | A2703, 107 |
| <p>Minutes of meeting of full Cabinet held at [on] 2 April 1946, Parliament House, Canberra, 1946 This digitised item contains discussion of the residency rights of children with Chinese fathers.</p> | A2703, 125 |
| | |
| [AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, CHINA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR SUFFIX, 1941-49 | |
| <p>Recorded by: c1945-48 Australian Legation, Republic of China [Chungking/Nanking] (CA 1978) 1948 Australian Embassy, Republic of China [Nanking] (CA 1979)</p> <p>Quantity: 7 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>Please see series description on p. 186.</p> | A4144 |
| <p>Australians - marriage with Chinese nationals, 1945-46</p> | A4144, 52/1946 |
| <p>Australia - immigration - Australian-Chinese - Lew Ang Way and family, 1946</p> | A4144, 35/1946 |
| | |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1942-53 | |
| <p>Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)</p> <p>Quantity: 29 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>This is the main correspondence series of the Department of External Affairs from 1942 to 1953. The department was responsible for matters related to nationality, the status of aliens and immigration and emigration.</p> | A1067 |
| <p>International Co-operation Division - marriages of Australians to foreign nationals - Chinese - general, 1945-46</p> | A1067, IC46/45/2/1 |
| <p>Chinese Legation - general - Mrs Y T Cheng and family [and] Mr C C Kao, wife and two daughters, 1946</p> | A1067, T46/521 |
| | |
| [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES - NATURALISATION, 1944-50 | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1939-45 Department of Interior [II] (CA 31) 1945-50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)</p> <p>Quantity: 227 metres (Canberra)</p> <p>This series includes individual case files on Chinese nationals, notably children, and also women who revoked their Chinese nationality acquired by marriage. This series is also discussed in chapters 3 and 4.</p> | A435 |
| <p>Lee Tong, Cissie - declaration under section 18A of the Nationality Act ... Chinese by marriage, 1942-48</p> | A435, 1948/4/3235 |

- Moon, Lily – declaration under section 18A of the Nationality Act ... Chinese by marriage, 1946** A435, 1946/4/412
- Goong, Peter Quon – born 10 July 1873 – Chinese, 1946–47** A435, 1946/4/4899
- Yu Kerren Happuck [aka Carrie Yu] – born 1 July 1896 – Chinese, 1947** A435, 1947/4/2768
- This item is digitised.

IMMIGRATION PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE 1946–**A12111**

Recorded by: 1946–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 1974–75 Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1769)
 1975–87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I] (CA 1955); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: c36 000 photographs (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 186.

- Immigration – migrants in employment ... Austrian husband and Chinese wife run Perth restaurant, 1969** A12111, 69/16/123
- Other images of this couple are found in items A12111, 69/16/124 to A12111, 69/16/126.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, 1953–**A446**

Recorded by: 1953–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1775); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 3 422.37 metres (Canberra)

This is the main correspondence series for the Department of Immigration and its successors. It contains both individual case and policy files dealing with matters of interest to the department.

- Chow, Chok (aka Engelbert Achok)...; Maria (nee Seeto Hang Leo) (wife) – Chinese, 1955–58** A446, 1958/61566
- Seeto, Wah Chieck...; Kwan Mee Sin ... (wife); Git Wan (aka Maria) – Chinese, 1958** A446, 1958/61048

MIGRATION CASE FILES (HONG KONG), 1949–67**A1630**

Recorded by: Office of the Representative of the Australian Embassy in China/External Affairs Representative, Hong Kong (CA 1980)

Quantity: 33 metres (Canberra)

This series relates to applications for entry visas to Australia by various nationals, including Chinese, for short- and long-term visits, and extensions to visas. Most applications include spouses and children. An index to this series is held in series A1631.

- Cheng, Chia Peng, born 21 December 1897; wife, born 2 September 1897; nationality – Chinese, 1952–58** A1630, 2195
- Pu, Chi-Hao, born 25 May 1922; [Yu] Chao-Ming (wife); nationality – Chinese, 1958** A1630, 4690 part 3

- POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE (NEGATIVES AND PRINTS), 1971–** **A6180**
 Recorded by: 1971–73 Australian News and Information Bureau (CA 219)
 1973–87 Australian Information Service, Canberra
 (from 1986, Promotion Australia) (CA 1578)
 1987–94 Australian Overseas Information Service (CA 6785)
 1994– Department of Foreign Affairs (CA 5987)
 Quantity: 43.38 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 187.
- [Wife of Chinese Ambassador makes friends] ... at**
Melbourne Royal Children's Hospital, 1973 **A6180, 16/7/73/10**
- Immigration – Indo-Chinese refugee family in Canberra,**
1979 **A6180, 3/7/79/20**
 This item is digitised.

Sydney

- [CUSTOMS, NSW] CORRESPONDENCE – IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION**
AND PASSPORTS, 1898–1948 **SP42/1**
 Recorded by: 1901–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
 1945–48 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
 Quantity: 51.12 metres (Sydney)
 Most of the records in this series are 'case files' on Chinese. They cover a range of immigration restriction matters, including CEDTs and passports. Some records concern shipping companies. A small number of papers are concerned with Chinese people and colonial migration law in New South Wales from 1898 to 1900.
- Mrs Ng Kin and three children... leaving for China [on the**
SS *Tango Maru* ... and Charlie Ng Kin, 1903–19 **SP42/1, C1919/825**
 This item contains correspondence of the Collector of Customs about immigration restrictions and passports, along with seven photographs.
- [CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'SB' (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX,**
1928–51 **D1976**
 Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)
 Quantity: 11.16 metres (Sydney); 3.78 metres (Adelaide)
 Items in this series were created by the Shipping Branch of the Customs Office at Port Adelaide. Matters covered include CEDTs and other travel exemptions, refusals of admission, departures of 'coloured' persons, and applications for passports and landing permits.
- Mrs Leung See, wife of Chin Kwong, and child – Chinese**
under exemption – Darwin evacuee, 1943 **D1976, SB1943/598**
 This item is held in the Adelaide office of the National Archives.

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION (ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES) – FORMS A1, B1 AND C – ALPHABETICAL SERIES BY NATIONALITY, 1939–47 | | SP11/2 |
| Recorded by: | 1939–47 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785) 1945–46 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) | |
| | Quantity: 40 metres (Sydney) | |
| | This series contains alien registration forms A1 ('Application for Registration'), B1 ('Certificate of Registration') and C ('Notice of Change of Abode'), submitted to Customs and Immigration branches in Sydney. Attached to most A1 forms is a photograph of the applicant. | |
| | Rosie ETTY YUM [Australian-born, Chinese by marriage...], 1942 | SP11/2, Chinese/ Yum R E |
| | Lily Beatrice Bing Fay [Chinese – born in Australia, wife of Bing Fay ...], 1939 | SP11/2, Chinese/ Fay L B B |
| | Sally Chan [Chinese – arrived Sydney per SS <i>Nellore</i> ... British nationality by marriage], 1948–53 The title of this item has been edited for brevity. | SP11/2, Chan, Sally |
| CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CHIEF MIGRATION OFFICER [ON] RESTRICTED MIGRATION, 1949–51 | | SP244/2 |
| Recorded by: | Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) | |
| | Quantity: 40.68 metres (Sydney) | |
| | This series contains items documenting suspected and actual contraventions of immigration law in NSW. | |
| | Memorandum re. Chinese wives of Australian-born Chinese, 1950 | SP244/2, N1950/2/7921 |
| [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1952–77 | | C3939 |
| Recorded by: | 1952–74 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, NSW (CA 1995) 1975 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NSW (CA 1968) | |
| | Quantity: 38.7 metres (Sydney) | |
| | This series contains case files as well as circularised instructions issued to Immigration officers in the decades before the end of racialised restrictions on migration and settlement. Additional material can be found in nominal indexes held in series SP1602/1 (1951–69), SP1689/1 (1960–75) and SP1729/1 (1976–79). | |
| | Chinese wives and minor children, 1950–60 | C3939, N1955/25/75032 |
| | Nationality of wives and children of Australian-born Chinese, 1953–55 | C3939, N1955/25/75197 |
| | Non-European admission of spouses, fiancées and minor children of Asians resident in Australia, 1965–66 | C3939, N1965/75126 |
| | Non-European policy [on] admission of spouses, fiancé(e)s and minor children of Asians resident in Australia, 1965–73 | C3939, N1966/75087 |

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|---|------------------------|
| APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF ALIENS ('ASIATICS' ONLY – ALIEN REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS), 1960–64 | SP682/2 |
| Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) | |
| Quantity: 0.72 metres (Sydney) | |
| This series contains documents for aliens registered in New South Wales. Items relate to non-Europeans, most of whom were Asian. | |
| Tang, Chung Chi [Chinese – arrived Sydney SS <i>Taiping</i> ... notification of marriage], 1958–63 | SP682/2, 1829 |
| APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF ALIENS (ALIEN REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS), 'ASIATICS' ONLY, 1962–65 | SP829/1 |
| Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) | |
| Quantity: 2.34 metres (Sydney) | |
| This series contains documents concerning aliens registered in New South Wales. Items relate to non-Europeans, most of whom were Chinese and other 'Asians'. | |
| Ma, Shih Tsun [Chinese ... details of accompanying wife and child, Helen and Kenney Ma, 1953–60 | SP829/1, 2997 |
| <i>Melbourne</i> | |
| [CUSTOMS, VIC] GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, 1898– | B13 |
| Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789) | |
| Quantity: 107 metres (Melbourne); 0.09 metres (Darwin) | |
| Please see series description on p. 190. | |
| Query – Is wife of Chinese who has been a resident allowed to join her husband?, 1902 | B13, 1902/4295 |
| Edward Chung Ah Gan (Chinese) ... application for re-admission to Australia, 1917–34 | B13, 1933/22224 |
| This item, which contains photographs, holds the application for re-admission to Australia of Edward Chung Ah Gan, who was naturalised in December 1891. He left for China in 1917, accompanied by his Australian wife and children. A photograph from this item appears on the following page. | |
| Wives and children of Chinese residents in Australia holding merchants' passports, 1922 | B13, 1922/359 |
| White wives of Chinese and their children, 1923 | B13, 1923/10770 |
| Mr W F Fincher, wife (Australian-born half-caste Chinese) and three children ..., 1923 | B13, 1923/8916, |
| The title of this item has been edited for brevity. Mr Fincher and his wife arrived in Melbourne on 13 May 1923, on board the SS <i>Yoshino Maru</i> . Their three children, who are named in the title of this item, accompanied the couple. | |
| Timothy Fay Loie (Chinese missionary), wife and family – permission to return to Australia, c1924 | B13, 1924/10761 |

Application by Mr Frank E Pousty to bring Chinese wife and child to Australia, c1925

B13, 1925/9993

So Sym Choon (Chinese woman) - ex-*Changte* ... Certificate [of] Exemption from Dictation Test, c1926

B13, 1926/25027

Circular - issue of travel facilities to China for white women married to Chinese, c1932

B13, 1932/17435

Kum Sow (Mrs Wong Yen) ..., c1935

B13, 1935/15192

The title of this item has been edited for brevity. Kum Sow was a Victorian-born Chinese (1888) who returned to Melbourne in August 1918. She journeyed to China with her family in April 1929 and again in July 1935. She returned from China in May 1939. Related items are B13, 1935/14637; B13, 14638; and B13, 14639.

Miss Chun Quoy Herng (Betty Herng) ... departed for China on board the *Nellore* ..., c1936

B13, 1936/23641

The title of this item has been edited for brevity. Miss Chun, a Chinese student, left Melbourne in September 1936, accompanied by Mrs So Sym Choon and Mrs Lily Sym Choon and their families.



Edward and Annie Gan presented this family photograph to Australian authorities on their departure from Melbourne for Hong Kong, 1917.
NAA: B13, 1933/22224

FORMS FOR REGISTRATION – WAR PRECAUTIONS (ALIENS REGISTRATION) REGULATIONS [AND] ALIENS REGISTRATION ACT ..., 1916–21**MT269/1**

Recorded by: 1916 Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)
 1916–19 Special Intelligence Bureau, Melbourne (CA 746)
 1919–21 Investigation Branch, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)

Quantity: 35.55 metres (Melbourne)

This series contains alien registration forms for non-British migrants resident in Australia during World War I. Items in this series are arranged according to nationality, within several broader categories, such as aliens registered within all states, aliens registered in the Northern Territory, cancellations of alien status (various subcategories) and uncertain nationalities.

King, Louisa: Nationality – Chinese by marriage; date of birth – 1 January 1887 ..., 1916**MT269/1, Vic/
China/King Louisa**

This is one of many 'Chinese by marriage' cases noted by alien registration officers.

Sze, Ho [wife of Lee Sing]: Nationality – Chinese; date of birth – 10 June 1900 ..., 1919–21**MT269/1, NT/
China/Sze Ho****APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF ALIENS UNDER NATIONAL SECURITY (ALIENS CONTROL) REGULATIONS, 1939–47****B6531**

Recorded by: 1939–41 Investigation Branch, Vic (CA 907)
 1941–45 Security Service, Vic (CA 949)
 1945–47 Department of Immigration, Vic (CA 961)

Quantity: 8.37 metres (Melbourne)

This series contains alien registration forms 1A and A2, predating the 1948 scheme for people arriving in Victoria. The forms are arranged alphabetically into various categories (eg 'Left Commonwealth', 'Deceased' and 'Naturalised'). The forms generally included a photograph of the person registered, along with information such as name, nationality, sex, date of birth, birthplace, address in Australia, occupation, marital status, and date and mode of entry to Australia.

Lee, Lily: Nationality – Chinese by marriage; date of birth – 16 August 1887; certificate number – 68 ..., 1939–40**B6531,
Deceased/1939–
1945/Lee Lily**

This item contains a black-and-white photograph.

Chew, Henrietta Emily Young: Nationality – Chinese by marriage; date of birth – 21 January 1898 ..., 1945–47**B6531, Left
Commonwealth/
1945–1947/Chew
Henrietta**

This item contains a black-and-white photograph.

ALIEN REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS, 1939–72**B78**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration, Vic (CA 961)

Quantity: 233.28 metres (Melbourne)

This series contains forms used in the registration of aliens. They are arranged by nationality and then alphabetically by surname. The forms contain details such as an alien's name, address, nationality, physical appearance, passport,

occupation and family details. Generally a photograph of the applicant is attached to the forms.

Tim, Lena Louisa – nationality: Chinese [by marriage] – born in Australia, 1948

B78, 1948/Tim L L

Brisbane

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FILES – PERMITS, EXEMPTION PASSES, [ETC.] 1899–1933

J3117

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Brisbane)

Items in this series were created from material in BP342/1. They provide a good overview of the earliest operation of Commonwealth migration restriction legislation.

Correspondence – Chinese women joining their husbands in Queensland without permits, 1900

J3117, 10

APPLICATIONS [FOR] CERTIFICATES OF DOMICILE, EXEMPTION FROM 'CHINESE IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT 1888' AND EXEMPTION FROM THE DICTATION TEST, 1900–24

BP342/1

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)

Quantity: 1.44 metres (Brisbane)

Items in this series document Chinese travel. Among the material in this series are applications for certificates, circularised instructions and reports, proclamations of identity, photographs and other individual details.

Richard Pomeroy ... correspondence [on] re-entry Qld ... Chinese Immigration Restrictive Act ..., 1900

**BP342/1,
1221/464/1900**

The title of this digitised item has been edited for brevity. The item contains correspondence relating to the Chinese Immigration Restriction Act, stating this did not apply to Mr Pomeroy or his wife.

Correspondence re. permission for a Chinese merchant to bring his wife into Queensland, 1903

**BP342/1,
10946/561/1903**

Correspondence re. application for Certificate of Domicile for [the] wife of a naturalised Chinese citizen, 1903

**BP342/1,
11001/354/1903**

[IMMIGRATION] CASE FILES, OCCASIONAL 'Q' (QUEENSLAND) OR 'QB' (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) PREFIX, 1908–

J25

Recorded by: 1946–74 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Qld (CA 2148)

Quantity: 1 092 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Perth)

This series, the largest recorded on immigration matters in Queensland after World War II, holds case files on permanent and temporary residents (including students), and applications for citizenship and sponsorship of migrants. It also holds Immigration policy files from 1946 to 1983.

**Chinese employed under Certificates of Exemption by
Hook Wah Jang & Co., Townsville, Qld ..., 1926-50**

J25, 1949/2743

The title of this item has been edited for brevity. Names referred to in the title are James Sue Sue and his wife, Wai Chun (or Wai Jun), and Mar Man Chiu and Mar Chor Kin.

**ALIEN REGISTRATION FORMS, ALPHABETICAL SERIES BY NATIONALITY,
1916-44**

BP4/3

Recorded by: Headquarters, 1 Military District, Commonwealth
(Australian) Military Forces (CA 1219)

Quantity: 12.78 metres (Brisbane)

This series contains application forms for registration of aliens. Under the *War Precautions (Alien Registration) Regulations 1916*, all non-British people arriving in Australia had to register with Australian authorities and notify those authorities of any change of address.

Items include personal particulars, details of arrival in Australia, and a signature, mark or thumbprint.

**Lee, Sue [housewife] ... Alien Registration Certificate No. 5
... Toowong, 1916**

**BP4/3,
Chinese Lee Sue**

**Day, Fong [housewife] ... Alien Registration Certificate
No. 10652 ... Thursday Island, 1921**

BP4/3, Day Fong

**INWARDS IMMIGRATION REPORTS - LEDGER OF CARBON COPIES OF
FORM M33, 1959-63**

BP343/9

Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs, Townsville (CA 801)

Quantity: 0.06 metres (Brisbane)

This series contains statistical reports on movements through the ports that specify the gender of the 'races'. The information outlined by Form M33 includes the name and nationality of each individual and the vessel on which they travelled.

**Immigration reports - inwards - Townsville (Form M33) ...,
1960-61**

BP343/9, 3

Perth

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION FROM THE DICTATION TEST, c1901-55

K1145

Recorded by: 1901-45 Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)
1945-55 Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962)

Quantity: 6.84 metres (Perth)

This series consists of certificates of exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDTs) issued under the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*.

Ah Shom (family) [Chinese], 1902

K1145, 1902/01

- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'W59' PREFIX, 1959–84** **K403**
 Recorded by: Department of Immigration, WA (CA 962)
 Quantity: 22 metres (Perth)
 Please see series description on p. 191.
- [Immigration Department] Chinese – general – family composition and disposition – local circular, 1965–69** **K403, W59/1442**

Adelaide

- [CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1871–1962** **D596**
 Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)
 Quantity: 53.86 metres (Adelaide)
 This series was recorded by the Collector of Customs, SA. Transferred to Federal control, D596 continued until 1962. It covers a variety of matters related to Customs activities. Series D2248 serves as an index for the years from 1926 to 1933, while D5093 contains an index to outward letters from 1925 to 1928. Both D2248 and D5093 are held in Sydney.
 D596 includes a wide range of operational files relating to Chinese travel and settlement.
- White wives of Chinese and their children, 1923** **D596, 1923/4232**
- Enquiry regarding Australian white girls marrying Chinese, 1932** **D596, 1932/7064**

Darwin

- [CUSTOMS, BROOME] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'I' (IMMIGRATION) PREFIX, 1930–76** **E601**
 Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs (from 1985, Australian Customs Service), Broome (CA 810)
 Quantity: 3 metres (Darwin)
 This series, which is held in Darwin, relates to activities of Customs officers at Broome, Western Australia. It includes CEDTs and temporary travel permits for Chinese in northern Australia, many of whom were employed in the pearling industry.
- Mary Fong Sam – Chinese – CEDT, 1935–37** **E601, I1951/34**
- [IMMIGRATION, NT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1949–** **E37**
 Recorded by: 1949–74 Department of Immigration, NT (CA 759)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, NT (CA 2110)
 1975–87 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NT (CA 2111); subsequently by other agencies
 Quantity: 251 metres (Darwin); 0.18 metres (Perth)
 Please see series description on p. 194.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Fong How and family – Chinese, 1917–30 | E37, 1967/265 |
| Lee Pak Chee and wife Nancy – Chinese, 1953–66 | E37, 1966/1125 |

Chinese–Australian newspapers

Twelve Chinese newspapers are known to have been published in Australia between the 1850s and 1950s. The first national paper, the *Chinese Australian Herald* (*Guang yi hua bao*), 1894–1923, was produced by a partnership of Chinese and Europeans.

The *Tung Wah News* (*Donghua xinbao*), 1898–1902, emerged in response to the defeat of China in the Sino–Japanese war. In 1902 Liang Qichao, a leading Chinese reformist thinker and writer recommended an editor for the *Tung Wah News* and thereafter it took on the name of the *Tung Wah Times* (*Donghua bao*), which was published between 1902 and 1940. This newspaper became the principal publication of Sydney merchant interests and the Empire Reform Association.

In 1902, the *Chinese Times* (under the Chinese names of *Mei-li-pin fu ai kuo pao*, 1902–07; *Aiguo bao/Jing Dong xinbao*, 1907–15; and *Ping bao*, 1917–49) also appeared in Melbourne. These enterprises were part of the expansion at the turn of the century of communications among and between Chinese communities worldwide. In the final decades of the imperial system of government, new political dialogues in China saw reformists, revolutionaries and others take up their causes in print.

Editorial positions changed along with ownership and the shifting interests of readers. The *Chinese Times* developed as the official organ of the Guomindang with its move to Sydney in 1922. Not all papers were politically aligned, however. The *Chinese Australian Herald*, for example, retained its appeal as a politically neutral, populist broadsheet throughout its 30-year life.

The papers covered local, national and international news and their weekly print runs of up to 6 000 circulated throughout Australia and the Pacific region. As commercial undertakings, the papers relied on block advertisements – the most powerful advertising medium in the first quarter of the twentieth century. European–Australian retailers and manufacturers placed many advertisements, and these were interspersed with news on shipping and other services that linked Chinese with China. Trade in books and general merchandise added to advertising and sales revenues.

As some papers closed, others replaced them and throughout the 1920s four papers were in press out of a total of nine non-English-language papers produced in Sydney. The *Chinese Weekly Press* (1923–27), the *Chinese Mail* (1923) and the *Chinese Australian Herald* were defunct by the late 1920s. The *Chinese Republic News* (*Minguo bao*) (1914–40) had emerged following the Chinese Republican revolution of 1911. The *Chinese World's News* (1921–42 and 1947–51) kept up its registration until the 1950s.

During the 1930s, two new publications emerged to promote trade and wider connections between China and Australia. However, the English-language *Sino–Australian Times* (1930–unknown) and the *Eastern Commercial News* (1931–unknown) appear to have lasted only a few years. The *Sino–Australian Times* was not the first English-language paper produced for a Chinese audience. The *English–Chinese Advertiser* (1856–58) was published by a European, and its mix of English and Chinese advertisements and government regulations for Chinese settlement circulated among the gold rush population at Ballarat,

Victoria. Following World War II, one new national paper was published, the *Australia–China Times* (1955–57). It was the last Chinese-language newspaper in print prior to the revival of newspaper production by new groups of Chinese settlers in the 1970s and 1980s.

Many records about Chinese newspapers derive from the administration of assimilation population policies in those decades when Australian governments closely monitored non-English-language publications as well as the movement of non-British settlers.

The records were created by Customs officials, police officers and the Investigation Branch of the Attorney-General’s Department and its successors. The records also hold responses by newspaper owners and editors. Many compositors and other employees were admitted on temporary permits under the agreement of 1912 but were allowed to reside in Australia as their skills were otherwise unavailable in Australia. The records hold extensive reports on the residents and long-term visitors involved in newspaper production.

A selection of items of interest is listed on the following pages.

Canberra

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, c1850–1970

A981

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)

Quantity: 146.8 metres (Canberra)

This correspondence series, created by the Department of External Affairs in 1927 but containing material dating from around 1850, includes migration subject files. Topics are indicated by item prefixes, eg ‘MIG’ for migration.

Publications – *Sino–Australasian Times* newspaper, 1930

A981, PUB 77

This newspaper was produced in English.

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890–1969

A1

Recorded by: 1901–16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
 1932–39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin)

Please see series description on p. 174.

Chinese Times Limited – Exemption Certificates for staff, 1924–33

A1, 1933/307

This item is digitised.

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50

A461

Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
 1934–50 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 146 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 176.

Newspapers printed in foreign language[s], 1934–50

A461, H390/10

The record provides a census of Chinese and other non-English-language newspapers in print.

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 14 (MIGRANTS L-N), 1901-92**A442**

Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 8.28 metres (Canberra)

This series contains individual case files dealing with naturalisation, resettlement, deportation and applications for passports.

Police Commissioners' Conference, Perth 1946 - resolutions re. foreign language newspapers, 1950

A442, 1951/14/322**FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1901-****A6006**

Recorded by: 1976-81 Australian Archives (CA 1720)
1981-94 Australian Archives, ACT Regional Office (CA 3196)
1994-98 Australian Archives, National Office (CA 7970)
1998- National Archives of Australia (CA 8550)

Quantity: 9.18 metres (Canberra); microfilm copies held in all state offices

Please see series description on p. 177.

Chinese newspapers, 1923

**A6006, 1923/8/30
[A437, 48/6/39]****GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE WAR OF 1914-1918 ['WAR FILES'], 1914-19****A11803**

Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)

Quantity: 16.56 metres (Canberra)

This series contains correspondence during World War I between the Governor-General, or his Official Secretary, and a range of high-level official entities in Australia and abroad. The series also includes correspondence with private citizens, business enterprises and institutions within Australia and abroad.

The wide range of subjects dealt with includes censorship, press control and propaganda.

Censorship - Chinese newspaper, 1918

This item is digitised.

A11803, 1918/89/618**[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1914-93****A1838**

Recorded by: 1948-70 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
1970-87 Department of Foreign Affairs (CA 1382)

Quantity: 3 409 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 181.

Publications [in] Australia of newspapers in foreign languages, 1949-53

A1838, 1465/2/4

- [SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR PREFIX (1916-27) AND 'C' PREFIXES (1927-53), 1916-71** **A367**
 Recorded by: 1916-19 Special Intelligence Bureau, Melbourne (CA 746)
 1919-46 Investigation Branch, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)
 1946-53 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)
 Quantity: 66.6 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 182.
Chinese newspapers [in] Australia ... alleged anti-White Australia Policy - Howes, W, Sydney, 1923 **A367, 1923/1824**
- [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES - RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919-50** **A433**
 Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
 1939-45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
 1945-50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 182. The following items are digitised.
Tung Wah Times - Exemption for compositor and editor, 1918-42 **A433, 1945/2/3557**
Chinese Republic News - exemption for staff, 1921-27 **A433, 1947/2/6297 part 1**
Chinese Times, 1933-42 **A433, 1950/2/6890**
- [SECURITY SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1923-56** **A373**
 Recorded by: 1941-45 Security Service (CA 660)
 1945-46 Investigation Branch (CA 747)
 1946-48 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)
 Quantity: 7.38 metres (Canberra)
 Included among records in this series are assessments of wartime and postwar issues that concern Chinese.
[Foreign language newspapers - policy], 1948-54 **A373, 11599B**
- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 6 (ALIENS REGISTRATION), 1923-57** **A437**
 Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 Quantity: 2.16 metres (Canberra)
 Despite its title, this series consists of files on migration and settlement as well as files about the registration of postwar aliens.
Publication of newspapers - enquiries, etc. - general file, 1948-50 **A437, 1948/6/471**

- [INFORMATION] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1945–46** **SP109/3**
 Recorded by: Department of Information (CA 34)
 Quantity: 8.5 metres (Canberra)
 This series contains items that reflect the role of the Department of Information following World War II. It contains documents dating from 1939, including some wartime items related to Chinese.
- Censorship – publication of newspapers in foreign languages, 1940–42** **SP109/3, 322/06 part 1**
- [COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATION SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1953–** **A1533**
 Recorded by: 1953–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)
 1960–75 Commissioner, Commonwealth Police [II] (CA 736); subsequently by other agencies
 Quantity: 8 metres (Canberra)
 Items in this series contain correspondence on investigations relating to character checks, detailed inquiries into specified persons and security generally.
- Australia–Chinese Times, foreign language newspaper, 1954–55* **A1533, 1954/4196**
- [IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, 1953–** **A446**
 Recorded by: 1953–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1775); subsequently by other agencies
 Quantity: 3 422.37 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 200.
- Foreign language newspapers – policy re. publication, part 2, 1946–64** **A446, 1958/66745**
- Sydney*
- GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘N’ (NSW) PREFIX, c1897–1967** **SP1122/1**
 Recorded by: Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
 Quantity: 2 372 metres (Sydney)
 Please see series description on p. 188.
- Yun Chee Won [editor of *Chinese World’s News*; Immigration file], 1950–52** **SP1122/1, N1952/24/410**
- [CUSTOMS, NSW] CORRESPONDENCE – IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION AND PASSPORTS, 1898–1948** **SP42/1**
 Recorded by: 1901–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
 1945–48 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)
 Quantity: 51.12 metres (Sydney)
 Please see series description on p. 201.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sidney Hing Lowe [correspondence ... relating to immigration restrictions and passports], 1910-34</p> | <p>SP42/1, C1934/1013</p> |
| <p>CORRESPONDENCE [ON] PUBLICITY CENSORSHIP (PC FILES), 1939-45</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1939 Department of Information (CA 34) 1939-45 State Publicity Censor, NSW (CA 8217)</p> <p>Quantity: 7.56 metres (Sydney)</p> <p>The files deal with censorship of published material, mostly newspapers and magazines. Items are arranged by subject and include correspondence, records of telephone conversations and instructions and decisions on censorship.</p> <p><i>Chinese Times, 1940-46</i></p> | <p>SP106/1</p> <p>SP106/1, PC295</p> |
| <p>APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION (ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES) - FORMS A1, B1 AND C - ALPHABETICAL SERIES BY NATIONALITY, 1939-47</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1939-47 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785) 1945-46 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)</p> <p>Quantity: 40 metres (Sydney)</p> <p>Please see series description on p. 202.</p> <p>Yuk Kwan Wong [Chinese - arrived Sydney per <i>Changte</i>, 3 Nov 1927], 1939</p> | <p>SP11/2</p> <p>SP11/2, Chinese/Wong Yuk Kwan</p> |
| <p>[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1952-77</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1952-74 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957) 1974-75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, NSW (CA 1995) 1975 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NSW (CA 1968)</p> <p>Quantity: 38.7 metres (Sydney)</p> <p>Please see series description on p. 202.</p> <p>Immigration: Australia - <i>Chinese Times</i> ['Australia-China Times'], 1955-58</p> | <p>C3939</p> <p>C3939, N1955/25/75449</p> |
| <p><i>Melbourne</i></p> | |
| <p>[DEFENCE] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1898-1974</p> | |
| <p>Recorded by: 1939 Army Headquarters, Department of Defence [II] (CA 2671) 1939-42 Department of the Army (CA 36)</p> <p>Quantity: 134 metres (Melbourne)</p> <p>Items in this series relate to the wartime administration of the military forces in Australia. Subjects dealt with include administration, compensation, defence and fixed defences and medical and dental corps.</p> <p>Publication of newspapers in foreign languages - regulations, 1939-41</p> | <p>MP508/1</p> <p>MP508/1, 52/702/41</p> |

WORLD WAR I INTELLIGENCE SECTION CASE FILES, 1914–23**MP16/1**

Recorded by: Headquarters, 3 Military District, Commonwealth
(Australian) Military Forces – Intelligence Section, General
Staff (CA 1841)

Quantity: 14.22 metres (Melbourne)

Among the items in this series are individual case files dealing with the registration of aliens; the apprehension, internment and repatriation of enemy aliens; offences against the war precautions regulations; and applications for naturalisation and passports.

Chinese Republic News, 1914–15

MP16/1, 1915/3/213*Perth***[INVESTIGATION BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1918–59****PP302/1**

Recorded by: 1919–46 Investigation Branch, WA (CA 908)
1946–59 Commonwealth Investigation Service, WA
(CA 917)

Quantity: 47.88 metres (Perth)

This series holds policy and individual case files, with a focus on naturalisation and other investigations undertaken by Commonwealth investigation services on behalf of government departments in Western Australia.

Foreign language newspapers, 1923–57

PP302/1, WA40468**Business and commerce**

The records descriptions that follow illustrate the wide range of sources on Australian-based business activity as well as the international trade in which Chinese engaged before the closure of China's borders in 1949.

Chinese from Australia initiated major businesses in China. Three consortiums of businessmen and investors enjoyed spectacular success when they drew on the management and marketing styles of Sydney businesses to establish businesses at Hong Kong, Shanghai and Canton, and employed Chinese from Australia to run them. The Wing On, Sincere and Sun companies developed as business empires throughout the northern Asian region. They survived beyond the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the demise of the White Australia Policy.¹¹

Most businesses operated on a smaller, local scale. These enterprises provided an important source of employment in the capital cities and in many country towns. By the 1950s and 1960s, the expanding numbers of small businesses such as retail shops and cafes were instrumental in extending the geographical spread of Chinese throughout the metropolitan areas.

Many records on businesses were created in the process of consideration of requests from residents to introduce business assistants from China, or for 'substitutes' for Australian-

11. Yong, C F, *The New Gold Mountain: The Chinese in Australia, 1901–1921*, Raphael Arts Pty Ltd, Richmond, 1977, pp. 55–58.

Chinese who visited China. The applicants or their sponsors variously were required to provide evidence of engagement in trade and the annual 'turnover' of their business. Many records provide extensive detail on business operations, both large and small. Many records on business and commerce may be identified on RecordSearch under the name of the individual or the firm that sought permission for an assistant or substitute. Also listed below are examples of records on trade development with China.

The following section describes general correspondence series. Series and items are listed chronologically by location.

Canberra

- APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF QUEENSLAND TRADE MARKS, 1885** **A11708**
 Recorded by: Patent Office, Qld (CA 1246)
 Quantity: 14.58 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 194.
Application for trademark titled 'Confucius Tea' ... by James Inglis and Company, 1894 **A11708, 1440**
 This trademark application contains an example of the iconic Chinese imagery featured in some European-Australian commercial advertising.
- CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED BY SUBJECT ('SPECIAL PORTFOLIO'), 1888-1936** **A6661**
 Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)
 Quantity: 11.62 metres (Canberra)
 The series holds subject files on matters of interest to successive governors-general in the decades after World War I.
[Special Conference on Chinese Tariff Questions] China ..., 1925-26 **A6661, 298**
- [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1890-1969** **A1**
 Recorded by: 1901-16 Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)
 1916-28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
 1928-32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)
 1932-39 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
 Quantity: 456 metres (Canberra); 1.05 metres (Darwin)
 Please see series description on p. 174.
Communications between Mr Yaw Way Lee and Sir John Forrest ... trade relations with China ..., 1902-03 **A1, 1903/4793**
 This digitised item contains correspondence from Way Lee, a prominent community leader in Adelaide, urging the Australian Government to establish a trade post in China.
H L Pang and Co. Ex/C's, 1914-40 **A1, 1938/381**
 The file describes a prominent Melbourne firm's relations with the Immigration authorities, including its attempts to bring in assistants and, in 1940, the relaxing of eligibility requirements for visits by wives.

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| Kwong Wing Chong and Co. – Exemption Certificates for staff, 1926–37 | A1, 1936/1148 |
| This item records the allowance for business assistants from China, including one to assist the President of the New South Wales Chinese Chamber of Commerce. | |
| C M Sang – street trading, NT, 1937 | A1, 1937/3017 |
| This item contains discussion on the regulation of street trading in the Northern Territory. | |
| [DEFENCE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1900–28 | A457 |
| Recorded by: 1915–23 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) | |
| 1921–23 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) | |
| Quantity: 18.27 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 196. | |
| Trade – Trade Commissioner, China: East Bulletins from Little, 1921–23 | A457, W306/3 |
| Trade – Board of Trade – Australian trade with the East, 1922 | A457, BQ306/6 |
| Trade – East – Commercial Agent NSW in the East, 1922–23 | A457, X306/3 |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50 | A461 |
| Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) | |
| 1934–50 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) | |
| Quantity: 146 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 176. | |
| Trade Commissioner for China in Australia, 1930 | A461, E323/1/8 |
| Alien communities, 1943–45 | A461, J349/3/1 |
| This item is digitised. It includes a survey of Chinese businesses in Brisbane. | |
| Visits – Chinese industrialists, 1945 | A461, 748/1/683 |
| UNREGISTERED PAPERS – TRADE AND GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE ..., 1901–56 | A9913 |
| Recorded by: 1938–56 Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10) | |
| 1956 Department of Trade [I] (CA 64) | |
| Quantity: 6.66 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 177. | |
| [Green ginger and Chinese joss candles and sticks] Cabinet agenda, 1937 | A9913, 223 |
| [TREASURY] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–78 | A571 |
| Recorded by: Department of the Treasury [I] (CA 11) | |
| Quantity: 604 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 177. | |
| Press telegraph rates – Australia – China, 1942–43 | A571, 1942/1885 |

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| [ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 1901- | A432 |
| Recorded by: 1929- Attorney-General's Department (CA 5) | |
| 1958 Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office (CA 832) | |
| Quantity: 1 994 metres (Canberra); 352 metres (Sydney) | |
| Please see series description on p. 177. | |
| E S Little, formerly Australian Trade Commissioner in China, 1923-29 | A432, 1929/733 |
| Eastern Extension and China Telegraph Co. Ltd - refund by C'wealth ..., 1931 | A432, 1931/403 |
| Trade Commissioners Act ... appointment of Assistant Trade Commissioner in China, 1935-44 | A432, 1937/861 |
| Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, 1935-44 | A432, 1939/138 |
| Asian Airlines - question by Mr Harrison, MP, 1948 | A432, 1948/676 |
| Trade Agreement with Republic of China (Taiwan), 1968 | A432, 1968/62 |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL SERIES, 1903-44 | A1606 |
| Recorded by: 1926-27 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) | |
| 1926-39 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12) | |
| Quantity: 6.03 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series contains items dealing with Chinese relations with the wider community. | |
| Chinese in NSW - alleged discriminations against, 1926-27 | A1606, V42/1 |
| Solomon Islands - issue of store trade licences to Chinese, 1927-33 | A1606, F27/1 |
| [PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, OCCASIONAL 'G' (GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1903- | A463 |
| Recorded by: 1956-71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12) | |
| 1971- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401) | |
| 1971 Department of the Vice-President of the Executive Council (CA 1402); subsequently by several other agencies | |
| Quantity: 27 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Darwin) | |
| Please see series description on p. 178. | |
| Trade agreement between Australia and the [People's] Republic of China, 1966 | A463, 1966/3726 |
| [TRADE AND CUSTOMS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1905- | A425 |
| Recorded by: 1935-56 Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10) | |
| 1956-75 Department of Customs and Excise (CA 62); subsequently by other agencies | |
| Quantity: 2 462 metres (Canberra); 254.52 metres (Sydney) | |
| Please see series description on p. 179. | |
| By-law classification of Chinese foods - main file, 1924-47 | A425, C1947/10534 |
| Tariff Board Report - raw Chinese feather-down, 1929-51 | A425, 1960/31775 |

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| Classification – Chinese goods – dates (so-called)... | 1934–36 | A425, 1935/11218 |
| Prohibition – indecent Chinese fireworks, | 1936–37 | A425, 1937/3924 |
| Communist China – trade mission of Chinese businessmen, | 1957–58 | A425, 1957/8069 |
| [Representation by Chinese Embassy] Inspection of goods imported by Chinese merchants, | 1964 | A425, 1964/859 |
| CORRESPONDENCE, AGREEMENTS AND REPORTS RELATING TO TRADE, SHIPPING, PAPER CONTROL, ETC., 1908–27 | | A11846 |
| Recorded by: Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10) | | |
| Quantity: 0.18 metres (Canberra) | | |
| The series includes correspondence, agreements and reports on trade with China, including a report on a special mission to China by Senator T J K Bakhap and reports by E S Little, the Commonwealth Trade Commissioner at Shanghai in the early 1920s. | | |
| GOVERNOR GENERAL'S CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE WAR OF 1914–1918 ['WAR FILES'], 1914–19 | | A11803 |
| Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1) | | |
| Quantity: 16.56 metres (Canberra) | | |
| Please see series description on p. 211. | | |
| Jute goods – export to China, | 1917 | A11803, 1917/89/451 |
| Exports to China, | 1917–18 | A11803, 1918/89/292 |
| Trading – China white list, | 1917–18 | A11803, 1918/89/14 |
| [INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919–50 | | A433 |
| Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27) | | |
| 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31) | | |
| 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51) | | |
| Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra) | | |
| Please see series description on p. 182. The following items are digitised. | | |
| Ah Ham and Co. – Exemption Certificate for Chinese, | 1923–40 | A433, 1940/2/222 |
| List of businesses ... Chinese in Queensland and their relatives and dependants under exemption, | 1939 | A433, 1941/2/683 |
| Chinese Fruit Merchants Pty Limited – Certificate of Exemption for assistant, Lew Sho, | 1940–41 | A433, 1940/2/2517 |
| [SECURITY SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1923–56 | | A373 |
| Recorded by: 1941–45 Security Service (CA 660) | | |
| 1945–46 Investigation Branch (CA 747) | | |
| 1946–48 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650) | | |
| Quantity: 7.38 metres (Canberra) | | |
| Please see series description on p. 212. | | |
| [Status of Chinese merchants in Australia], | 1946 | A373, 11676 |

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| [COMMERCE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1925–54 | | A601 |
| Recorded by: | 1935–42 Department of Commerce (CA 28) 1942–43 Department of Commerce and Agriculture (CA 48) | |
| | Quantity: 18.36 metres (Canberra) | |
| | This series comprises administrative and operational documentation on the promotion and marketing of commerce. It includes records on shipping services and trade delegations to China. | |
| | Trade with China and Hong Kong [because of] war emergency, 1939–41 | A601, 402/9/21 |
| | Australian for Trade Commissioner in China – issue of <i>Australian Weekly News Bulletin</i>, 1940–41 | A601, 174/A/9 |
| JOSEPH LYONS (LEADER OF THE UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY, ACTING TREASURER AND PRIME MINISTER), CORRESPONDENCE, 1932–34 | | CP30/3 |
| Recorded by: | 1932–34 The Rt Hon. J A Lyons PC, CH (CP 254) 1932–34 Hon. Dame Enid Muriel Lyons (CP 928) 1932–34 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12) | |
| | Quantity: 2 metres (Canberra) | |
| | This series deals mainly with Lyons’ first term as Prime Minister. It includes personal representations; papers on broadcasting, political associations, industry and pensions; and correspondence from community organisations, friends and political associations. Other items deal with the 1937 Imperial Conference, The Lodge and a tour of Queensland. Some files contain personal correspondence of Enid Lyons. | |
| | Notes of interview with Chinese Consul for Tasmania (V Kaw) [on] Chinese–Australian trade, 1924–34 | CP30/3, 63 |
| | This item is digitised. | |
| DEFENCE COMMITTEE – AGENDA, 1932– | | A5799 |
| Recorded by: | Defence Committee [II] (CA 289) | |
| | Quantity: 23 metres (Canberra) | |
| | The agenda held in this item contain matters considered by the Defence Committee. | |
| | Control of exports to China, 1950 | A5799, 48/1950 |
| [TRADE AND COMMERCE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ‘W’ (WAR) INFIX, 1939–50 | | A1539 |
| Recorded by: | Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10) | |
| | Quantity: 90.54 metres (Canberra) | |
| | Items in this series contain correspondence, reports, decisions, opinions, cablegrams and other material relating to wartime restrictions. | |
| | Three attested undertakings – sales of goods for non-enemy to China, 1940 | A1539, 1940/W/13141 |

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| Customs (Import Licensing) Regulations – Chinese goods, 1940–41 | A1539, 1940/W/17394 |
| Export of goods to China – inquiry by the Darling Downs Co-operative Bacon Association Ltd, Brisbane, 1941 | A1539, 1941/W/10728 |
| Import of Chinese medicines, 1942–46 | A1539, 1945/W/2158 |
| Mr C Quan Lee – imports and export trade between China and Australia, 1946 | A1539, 1946/W/2066 |
| This item contains correspondence from a Hong Kong businessman who wished to expand trade through Sydney. | |
| GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE (TRADE INFORMATION AND TRADE RELATIONS), 1939–56 | CP529/1 |
| Recorded by: 1939–56 Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10) 1956 Department of Trade [I] (CA 64) | |
| Quantity: 2.52 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series contains general correspondence, reports, decisions, statistics and other material relating to commercial policy, trade relations, economic conditions, currency controls and assistance and economic aid to various countries, including Asian nations. | |
| China – Chinese export commodities – cotton piece goods, 1935–38 | CP529/1, 58/D/2 |
| Australia/China – treatment of Chinese goods under import licensing regulations, 1939–46 | CP529/1, 58/B/2/A |
| Australia/China – Chinese goods – miscellaneous, 1940–41 | CP529/1, 58/B/2/AB |
| [AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, CHINA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR SUFFIX, 1941–49 | A4144 |
| Recorded by: c1945–48 Australian Legation, Republic of China [Chungking/Nanking] (CA 1978) 1948 Australian Embassy, Republic of China [Nanking] (CA 1979) | |
| Quantity: 7 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 186. | |
| China–Australia trade, 1939–43 | A4144, 200/1943 |
| Trade – Australia and China – Sun Way and Co., 1944 | A4144, 62/1944 |
| This item contains a request from a Shanghai firm for advice on the postwar development of trade. | |
| Trade – Australia and China – China Trading and Industrial Development Corporation, 1944–45 | A4144, 25/1945 |
| Trade – Australia and China – Chen Yen – purchase of ships, 1945 | A4144, 211/1945 |
| Trade – Australia and China – China Trading and Industrial Development Corporation, 1946 | A4144, 25/1946 |
| Trade – Australia – China – machinery, 1946 | A4144, 312/1946 |

DRAFT CABINET DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS, 'CAB' [CABINET] OR 'D' [DOCUMENT] PREFIXES, 1948-77**A10122**

Recorded by: 1948 Department of Supply and Shipping (CA 47)
 1948-50 Department of Shipping and Fuel (CA 53)
 1950-51 Department of Fuel, Shipping and Transport (CA 55); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 3.24 metres (Canberra)

This series contains Cabinet submissions, decisions and correspondence between the department and its minister asking for, or receiving, information on the department's position in relation to the submissions.

Cabinet documents - shipping services to China, 1973

A10122, CAB/335*Sydney***INVESTIGATION FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1914-62****SP1714/1**

Recorded by: 1920-46 Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)
 1946-57 Commonwealth Investigation Service, NSW (CA 912)

Quantity: 10.80 metres (Sydney)

This series, like series ST1233/1, contains dossiers compiled by the Investigation Branch and, later, the Commonwealth Investigation Service on individuals and organisations. This series contains many records top-numbered from other series, eg SP26/1, Dossiers on internees. After 1949, many of these items were transferred to ASIO.

The East Asiatic Co. (Australia) P/L, 1941-48

SP1714, N47073**[CUSTOMS, SA] INDEXES TO LETTERS DISPATCHED REGISTER, 1925-28****D5093**

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 1.35 metres (Sydney)

Although created in South Australia, this series is held in the Sydney office of the National Archives.

Series D5093 consists of indexes to letters on a range of topics, including prices of goods and commodities; excise and duties payable on items ranging from silk apparel to wire, rubber and wool felt hats; and Immigration matters such as CEDTs and applications for admission. The index refers to correspondence files found in series D596, which is described on p. 208.

[CUSTOMS, NSW] CORRESPONDENCE 'C' (MISCELLANEOUS) FILES, 1925-47**SP127/3**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)

Quantity: 2.52 metres (Sydney)

This series consists almost entirely of correspondence from the Comptroller-General dealing with the administration and breaches of the Commerce (Imports) Regulations and the *Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905*.

- [CUSTOMS, NSW] 'W' REGISTER CORRESPONDENCE, 1956–60** **SP832/1**
 Recorded by: 1956–59 Central Import Licensing Branch, NSW (CA 1610)
 1959–60 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
 Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)
 The register in this series relates to policy on import licensing and includes details on Chinese foodstuffs.
- Melbourne*
- [CUSTOMS, VIC] GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, 1898–** **B13**
 Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)
 Quantity: 107 metres (Melbourne); 0.09 metres (Darwin)
 Please see series description on p. 190.
- Application by Sun Kwong Sing and Co. ... to bring a Chinese to Australia to help with business – refused, 1924** **B13, 1924/19560**
- [Consul-General for China] ... bringing Chinese exemptions into line when employed by one firm, 1934** **B13, 1934/12158**
- Thomas Cook, Sydney/Malcolm Company ... consular undertaking covering exports to Shanghai, 1940** **B13, 1940/51152**

Brisbane

- [CUSTOMS, TOWNSVILLE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1902–66** **J2773**
 Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs, Townsville (CA 801)
 Quantity: 19.26 metres (Brisbane)
 Items in this series were created by the Customs Office in Townsville. They include both personal records about Chinese – eg CEDTs, passports and crew membership – and items on smuggling and ships' deserters.
- Chinese goods imports list, 1925** **J2773, 125/1925**
- Sang Chong Wah – Chinese meat imports, 1926–27** **J2773, 1625/1926**
- FIRM CARD, NON-EUROPEAN, c1946–52** **BP210/9**
 Recorded by: Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)
 Quantity: 0.36 metres (Brisbane)
 The descriptive cards in this series provide details on non-European firms in Queensland; most concern Chinese (and Indians).

Perth

- [CUSTOMS, WA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'C' [CUSTOMS] INFIX, 1928–48** **PP227/6**
 Recorded by: Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)
 Quantity: 0.36 metres (Perth)
 The series contains files covering a broad range of departmental activities and functions during wartime, including wartime restrictions and Customs regulations.

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| Mouth organs from China, 1941 | PP227/6, 1941/C1240 |
| Exports to Chinese ports, 1941-46 | PP227/6, 1941/C1231 |

Adelaide

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| [CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1871-1962 | D596 |
| Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802) | |
| Quantity: 53.86 metres (Adelaide) | |
| Please see series description on p. 208. | |
| Series D5093, described on p. 223, holds an index to correspondence relating to the Australian Trade Commission in China, 1921-23 | |
| Issue of carriers licences to Chinese, 1901 | D596, 1901/1068 |
| Chinese invoices - lack of, 1901 | D596, 1901/1713 |
| Commerce Act - Chinese goods, 1907 | D596, 1907/3947 |
| Illicit trade in spirits by Chinese merchants, 1913-17 | D596, 1917/2712 |
| Goods exported to China in luggage of Chinese passengers, 1918 | D596, 1918/4070 |
| PRICES REGULATION, ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLICY FILES, INVESTIGATION CASES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT/TRADING RESULT FILES, 1939-48 | AP5/1 |
| Recorded by: State Deputy Prices Commissioner, SA (CA 4772) | |
| Quantity: 29.34 metres (Adelaide) | |
| This series consists of letters, memoranda, applications and administrative directives related to the operations of the <i>National Security (Prices) Regulations 1939</i> in South Australia. Items in this series contain information about a variety of manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers in South Australia, including detailed trading reports. | |
| Financial statements - China Import Company Ltd, 1939-47 | AP5/1, 42/833 |
| Trading results - Gordon Sym Choon Nuts Ltd, 1939-47 | AP5/1, 43/1297 |
| [CUSTOMS, SA] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'Z' (NATIONAL SECURITY REGULATIONS) PREFIX, 1939-50 | D1975 |
| Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Adelaide (CA 802) | |
| Quantity: 6 metres (Adelaide) | |
| This series contains files relating to trade, the export activities of firms, applications for licences to export and changes to the National Security (General) Regulations in World War II. | |
| SA Farmers Co-op Union Ltd ... application to export goods to Indo-China, 1940 | D1975, Z1940/590 |
| Schedule of licences for exportation of goods to Japan, Chinese ports and Hong Kong, 1941 | D1975, Z1941/132 |

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| Mile and Co. Ltd, Adelaide – application for permission to export goods to French Indo–China, 1941 | D1975, Z1941/75 |
| Licence No. 5910 for 12 hogsheads vermouth to Chinese port, 1941 | D1975, Z1941/252 |
| Mail returns – exports to Indo–China, 1941 | D1975, Z1941/82 |

Hobart

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| [CUSTOMS, TAS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1909– | P437 |
| Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, Tas (CA 816) | |
| Quantity: 94.68 metres (Hobart) | |
| Please see series description on p. 192. | |
| Imports – tinned salmon – China or Japan, 1912 | P437, 1912/264 |
| Returns showing imports of Chinese and Hong Kong origin, 1913 | P437, 1913/270 |
| Practices in operation for importing Chinese wines, medicines and liqueurs, 1913 | P437, 1913/1202 |
| Return of goods imported from China and Hong Kong during the quarter ended 31 December 1913, 1914 | P437, 1914/789 |
| Instructions to look for import of Chinese and Siam [Thai] wolfram passing as Australian, 1916 | P437, 1916/1426 |

Politics

The records described in this section concern the engagement of Chinese consular staff in Chinese communal affairs and wider society as well as the development of political organisations among Chinese and the responses by Commonwealth agencies.

The first Chinese Consul-General took up his position in 1909. The complex political horizons of Chinese were somewhat widened in 1930 when the consular network was expanded with sub-consulates established in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania, in addition to the Consulate in Melbourne and Consulate-General in Sydney. A Sino–Australian society was established in Melbourne. In 1941, with the exchange of ministers by Australia and China, a formal Chinese Legation was established.

The following series and items are listed chronologically by location.

Canberra

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| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, c1850–1970 | A981 |
| Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) | |
| Quantity: 146.8 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 210. | |
| Consuls – China at Townsville, 1931 | A981, CONS 84 |
| Expanding consular networks of republican China sought to bring all overseas Chinese into the nationalist fold. | |

China – Australia, Visit of General Tsai Ting-Kai, 1934–35 [A981, CHIN 102](#)
 The digitised item discusses one of the many Chinese Government officials who visited Australian in the 1930s.

[GOVERNOR–GENERAL] MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE – MAINLY LOCAL (NON-IMPERIAL) MATTERS, 1887–1912

A6662

Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)

Quantity: 5.58 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 174.

Governor General's Office – correspondence – absence of Consul-General for China, 1909

[A6662, 1481](#)

This item is digitised.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF [THE] GOVERNOR–GENERAL (EXCLUDING WAR FILES), 1887–1937

A11804

Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)

Quantity: 29 metres (Canberra)

Records in this series contain communications between successive governors-general and British authorities, colonial administrators, state governors, prime ministers, public institutions and members of the public. It also holds items on intergovernmental relations, often involving foreign consular staff such as the Consul-General of China.

Chinese consular service, 1919–26

[A11804, 1926/370](#)

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1895–1905

A8

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)

Quantity: 8.28 metres (Canberra)

This series was recorded by the Department of External Affairs, one of the first seven Departments of State established at Federation in 1901. It includes many records about the implementation of legislation restricting immigration, including those created during the transition from colonial to Commonwealth law.

RecordSearch item titles may include names of Chinese people, so wildcard and name searches can be used to locate information about specific individuals.

Reverend D S Soong re. Chinese immigrants and the Immigration Restriction Bill, 1901

[A8, 1901/27/31](#)

Visit to Melbourne of Chinese Consul-General for Singapore, 1902

[A8, 1902/168/10](#)

Investigations into the conditions of Chinese in Australia by Lo Tsungyao ..., 1902

[A8, 1902/140/1](#)

- [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1899–1939** **A458**
 Recorded by: 1923–27 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
 1923–34 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)
 Quantity: 50 metres (Canberra)
 This series contains correspondence files created by the Department of External Affairs and the Prime Minister’s Department.
- Correspondence with consular representatives ..., 1929–30** **A458, U334/2 part 4**
 These copies of letters to the Consulate-General illustrate that students, too, enjoyed more lenient terms of entry in the 1930s, with wider limits on ages and English language ability of student applicants.
- [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50** **A461**
 Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
 1934–50 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)
 Quantity: 146 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 176.
- Exchange of diplomatic representatives with China - policy, 1940–43** **A461, K703/1/4**
 The record discusses the formal arrangements for the Australia–China exchange of diplomatic legations in 1941.
- [TRADE AND CUSTOMS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1905–** **A425**
 Recorded by: 1935–56 Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10)
 1956–75 Department of Customs and Excise (CA 62); subsequently by other agencies
 Quantity: 2 462 metres (Canberra); 254.52 metres (Sydney)
 Please see series description on p. 179.
- Representations – Chinese communist publication - China Reconstructs, 1965** **A425, 1965/834**
 All publications from China from 1949 to the 1970s were closely scrutinised by Customs and Intelligence Service officers.
- PERSONAL PAPERS OF COMPTROLLERS–GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, 1911–33** **CP46/1**
 Recorded by: 1911–13 Sir Nicholas Colston Lockyer CBE, ISO (CP 176)
 1913–22 Stephen Mills CMG (CP 171)
 1923–27 Robert McKeeman Oakley CVE, VD (CP 195)
 1927–33 Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10)
 Quantity: 0.18 metres (Canberra)
 These papers belong to a collection that accumulated in the Comptroller-General’s Office between 1911 and 1933.
- Chinese Consul-General – dismissal, 1930** **CP46/1, 18**
 This item contains speculation about the early end to the tenure of one Chinese Consul-General.

- GOVERNOR GENERAL'S CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE WAR OF 1914-18 ['WAR FILES'], 1914-19** **A11803**
 Recorded by: Governor-General's Office (CA 1)
 Quantity: 16.56 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 211.
Censorship - Chinese newspaper, 1918 **A11803, 1918/89/618**
 This item is digitised.
- [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1914-93** **A1838**
 Recorded by: 1948-70 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
 1970-87 Department of Foreign Affairs (CA 1382)
 Quantity: 3 409 metres (Canberra)
 Please see series description on p. 181.
Consuls in Australia - Chinese - Wu, Miss Y Y - Vice Consulate - Sydney, 1946-50 **A1838, 1515/1/11/1**
China - election procedure for Chinese nationals resident in Australia and New Guinea, 1947-48 **A1838, 1460/1**
 This digitised item concerns the election of Chinese from Australia as representatives to the Chinese National Assembly.
Territory of Papua and New Guinea - external relations - establishment of Chinese Consul at Rabaul, 1948-49 **A1838, 309/2/2**
- [AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION] SUBJECT FILES, 1915-** **A6122**
 Recorded by: Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (CA 1297)
 Quantity: 50.49 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney)
 Please see series description on p. 181.
Chinese Youth League of Australia - Volume 1, 1944-58 **A6122, 1914**
 This item is digitised.
CPA [Communist Party of Australia] (NSW) - direct branch (Chinese), 1953-54 **A6122, 957**
 This item, which is digitised, includes details on membership.
CPA - attitude to Asian students in Australia - Volume 2, 1955 **A6122, 248**
Employee organisations - Australian Chinese Seamen's Union of Australia - ASIO file, 1952-66 **A6122, 1850**
- [INTELLIGENCE SERVICES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1916-60** **A8911**
 Recorded by: 1916-19 Special Intelligence Bureau (CA 746)
 1919-46 Investigation Branch (CA 747)
 1946-60 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)
 Quantity: 3.6 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Perth)
 This series is made up of items transferred by ASIO. The items came from a variety of record series, including A367, A369, A402, A6119 and A6122.

Chinese ministers (visitor to Australia from Ministry of Information, Dr K L Chau: White Australia Policy), 1944–45 **A8911, 316**

[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919–50 **A433**

Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 182.

***Tung Wah Times* – exemption for compositor and editor, 1918–42**

[A433, 1945/2/3557](#)

The item, which is digitised, includes a note on the appointment of K T Loh to Australia as a ‘Commissioner for Overseas Affairs’.

Consul-General for China – representations re. modification of ... laws affecting Chinese ... in Commonwealth, 1929–33

[A433, 1946/2/4658](#)

This digitised item contains a report on attendance of representatives from Australian branches of the Guomindang at the Chinese Republic’s Third National Conference in March 1929.

White Australia Policy – Chinese criticism, 1947

[A433, 1949/2/8542](#)

This item is digitised.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS], YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1919–65

A1066

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)

Quantity: 31.5 metres (Canberra)

Items in this series deal with matters of diplomatic importance to Australia, such as international treaties and agreements, and consular and foreign relations matters (eg the protection of Australian interests and nationals overseas).

Consuls in Australia – China – Chinese Vice-Consul in Sydney – Liu Wei-Ping, 1945–47

[A1066, IC45/15/11/1](#)

After 1941, Chinese consular postings to Australia continued, but under the authority of the Chinese Minister who headed the diplomatic legation.

HQ MISCELLANEOUS FILES [MICROFILM OF INVESTIGATION BRANCH, COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATION SERVICE AND ASIO FILES], 1920–67

A9108

Recorded by: Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (CA 1297)

Quantity: 24 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 182. The following items are digitised.

Chinese communists – general activities in Australia, 1948–51

[A9108, roll 20/45](#)

Chinese Consulate – activities, 1950–51

[A9108, roll 20/46](#)

This item includes reports of the appointment of the first Chinese Ambassador to Australia.

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR PREFIX, 1927–45 | A989 |
| Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18) | |
| Quantity: 30.69 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 183. | |
| China ... request ... for songs played at official functions and ceremonies in Australia, 1944 | A989, 1944/150/5/1/11 |
| China - Chinese military mission to visit Australia, 1944 | A989, 1944/150/5/1/12 |
| | |
| [INFORMATION] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1945–46 | SP109/3 |
| Recorded by: Department of Information (CA 34) | |
| Quantity: 8.5 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 214. | |
| Complaints - complaint by Dr Cheng, Secretary of the Chinese Legation, re. articles published, 1942–43 | SP109/3, 342/20 |
| | |
| MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES, ‘C’ (CABINET) PREFIX, 1949–85 | A4940 |
| Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3) | |
| Quantity: 77.76 metres (Canberra) | |
| This is the main administrative series for Cabinet business during the Menzies and Holt Ministries. Items are arranged by subject, and include copies of submissions and supporting papers, along with circulation details; memoranda to interested ministers and departments, advising them of decisions; minutes of decisions; and related papers. | |
| Chinese communist national theatre group - policy, 1956 | A4940, C1711 |
| This is one of several items on the topic of a visit by a Chinese theatre group. | |
| | |
| <i>Melbourne</i> | |
| | |
| [DEFENCE] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1898–1974 | MP508/1 |
| Recorded by: 1939 Army Headquarters, Department of Defence [II] (CA 2671) | |
| 1939–42 Department of the Army (CA 36) | |
| Quantity: 134 metres (Melbourne) | |
| Please see series description on p. 215. | |
| List of diplomatic representatives in Australia, 1941 | MP508/1, 115/701/278 |
| | |
| [CUSTOMS, VIC] GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, 1898– | B13 |
| Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789) | |
| Quantity: 107 metres (Melbourne); 0.09 metres (Darwin) | |
| Please see series description on p. 190. | |
| Arrival of Chinese Consul-General and staff per <i>Changte</i> ... [and] Vic Consul-General per <i>Taiping</i> ..., 1929 | B13, 1929/8749 |

Chinese saloon passengers – representations by
Consul-General for China – facilities for landing, 1930 B13, 1930/17862

Department of Interior, Canberra – re. list of consular
representatives, 1932 B13, 1935/16210

**GENERAL AND CIVIL STAFF CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND ARMY
PERSONNEL FILES, 1920–56 MP742/1**

Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)

Quantity: 162.48 metres (Melbourne); smaller quantities
in Canberra and Darwin

The series consists of general and civil staff
correspondence records as well as Army personnel files.
Many files are ‘top-numbered’ from MP367/1, MP431/1
and MP508/1.

Repatriation of Formosans – application by Chinese
Consul, 1945–46 MP742/1, 255/2/811

Brisbane

[CUSTOMS, TOWNSVILLE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1902–66 J2773

Recorded by: Sub-Collector of Customs, Townsville (CA 801)

Quantity: 19.26 metres (Brisbane)

Please see series description on p. 224.

Complaint from Chinese Consul-General – treatment
of Chinese passengers, 1929 J2773, 616/1929

Adelaide

INVESTIGATION CASE FILES, ‘SA’ (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) PREFIX, 1910–87 D1915

Recorded by: 1919 Commonwealth Police Force (CA 2919)
1919–46 Investigation Branch, SA (CA 905)
1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service, SA
(CA 914)
1960 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, SA
(CA 4716)

Quantity: 29.88 metres (Adelaide); 1.62 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 191.

Williams, Sam – re. Chinese Nationalist League, 1924 D1915, SA1105

7.

Chinese in Papua New Guinea and Pacific Island Territories

Throughout the twentieth century, Australia was closely involved in the administration of Papua and New Guinea and other territories in the Pacific region.

In 1902 Papua – then called British New Guinea – was transferred to the newly created Commonwealth of Australia. By 1906, with the formalities of the proclamation finalised, the name ‘Papua’ was adopted. In 1914, shortly after the start of World War I, German New Guinea was surrendered to Australia. From 1921, Australia administered the ‘Territory of New Guinea’ as a League of Nations’ Mandated Territory. An administrator was appointed under the authority of the Governor-General.

At that time, the Chinese population of New Guinea, which included settlers from China and also South-East Asia, numbered some 1 500 people. The Chinese population of Papua probably numbered fewer than 100. From the 1920s, the Australian administration applied the restrictive provisions of the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*. During World War II Japan invaded and occupied many districts. From 1946, Australia administered both Papua and New Guinea, then home to more than 2 000 Chinese, under a United Nations trusteeship. The two territories were formally united as Papua New Guinea in 1949. Self-government was achieved in 1973 and independence in 1975.



Chinese labourers, Nauru, 1908–09. NAA: R32, Nauru 2/173

Australia was closely involved in the administration of various island territories with Chinese among their populations. In 1914 Nauru was occupied by an Australian contingent and administered by a British Colonial Office official. In 1920 the League of Nations issued a Mandate for Nauru in similar terms to that for New Guinea but under the joint control of Australia, Britain and New Zealand. The economy was entirely dependent on the mining and export of phosphate. Some 800 Chinese resided on the island in 1925. The Japanese occupied Nauru from 1942 to 1943. It gained independence in 1968.

Like Nauru, Ocean Island (Banaba) and Christmas Island were phosphate-rich. Ocean Island was annexed by Britain in 1900 and by 1925 formed part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, which was administered by the British Colonial Office. In 1919 Britain, Australia and New Zealand had jointly acquired the phosphate interest on the island. Some 800 Chinese indentured labourers (as well as island labourers) were engaged to work the mines. Christmas Island was occupied by Japan from 1942 to 1945. In 1948 the Australian and New Zealand governments took over the mining of phosphate, in partnership with the British Phosphate Commissioners (BPC). A large increase in population ensued.

In 1957 the Australian Government acquired the island from the Singaporean Government. Work and social conditions improved dramatically in the 1970s. Mining ended in 1987, with favourable redundancy provisions for employees. Provisions for Australian citizenship were extended to the population in the form of social service benefits and voting in Commonwealth elections.

Several other island territories are referred to in this chapter. The Commonwealth took over control of Norfolk Island from New South Wales in 1914. In 1955 the Cocos (Keeling) Islands were transferred to Australian sovereignty.

The selections of series descriptions in this chapter concern the travel, migration and community life of Chinese, their work and general conditions of residence in the various territories. Records on the wartime evacuation of Chinese to Australia are discussed in Chapter 5.

The following series and items are listed chronologically by location.

Travel and migration

Canberra

CORRESPONDENCE FILES [TERRITORIES], ALPHA PREFIX, 1899–1983

A518

Recorded by: 1928–41 Territories Branch, Prime Minister's Department
(CA 822)

1941–51 Department of External Territories [I] (CA 42)

1951–56 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60)

Quantity: 241.5 metres (Canberra)

This series, which holds material dating from 1899, deals with the administration of external territories, including New Guinea, Papua, Nauru, Norfolk Island and New Ireland. Some aspects of the administration of the

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Northern Territory are also dealt with, including defence and security and postwar reconstruction. | |
| Immigration – Papua and New Guinea – admission of Asiatics – policy, 1919–32 | A518, Q822/1A part 1 |
| This large item (and also subsequent items A518, Q822/1A parts 2 to 4, covering the period 1936 to 1950) provides a comprehensive overview of the terms of administration of Chinese residency from the prewar period. It includes the views of locals on official policy. Early documents outline successful protests by Chinese at Sydney at the ‘Control of Chinese Trade Order’ of 1917, and the constraints it placed on Chinese settlement. | |
| Immigration – Papua and New Guinea – issue of permits under the Immigration Ordinance Policy, 1921–47 | A518, AL822/1 part 1 |
| Nauru ordinances – regulations under the Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance, 1924 | A518, B846/2/8 |
| Nauru staff – administration – Chinese employees, 1930–55 | A518, U118/12 |
| Defence – Chinese, half-castes and other Asiatics rescued from Japanese, 1943–46 | A518, FB16/2/1 |
| Territories – miscellaneous – Kain, Henry – disposal of Japanese Army food supplies to Chinese community, 1944 | A518, JK112/1 |
| Immigration policy – New Guinea – entry of Chinese into Australia, 1946–48 | A518, BG822/1 |
| Immigration policy – New Guinea – importation of Chinese labour into the Territory of Papua New Guinea, 1947–49 | A518, BX822/1 |
| Administration – general – discrimination against Chinese and other Asiatics, 1947–51 | A518, BO800/1/1 |
| Chinese labour – British Phosphate Commission – Nauru, 1948–55 | A518, J118/6 part 2 |
| Immigration – policy – New Guinea – return of Chinese evacuees to the Territory, 1949 | A518, CK822/1 |
| Nauru – miscellaneous – disturbances and disaffection among Chinese labourers, 1949–51 | A518, B118/6 part 4 |
| ‘Disturbances’ of Chinese labourers dating back to 1921 are also covered in items A518, B118/6 parts 1, 2 and 3. | |
| Immigration – policy – admission of amahs and servants of non-European race into Australia, 1949–57 | A518, BZ822/1 |
| Papua and New Guinea – miscellaneous – visit of the Consul-General for China to the Territory, 1952–53 | A518, BQ836/4 |
| This item discusses the Consul-General’s visit and the imposition of Australian immigration restriction policies. | |
| Immigration – Papua and New Guinea – illegal entry of five Chinese – ex-Tientsin (China), 1953 | A518, EF822/1 |
| Immigration policy – travel documents – Chinese [in] Papua and New Guinea, 1956 | A518, FN822/1 |
| Employment of Chinese labour on Christmas Island, 1956 | A518, W112/6/5 |

- [PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1900–56** **A462**
 Recorded by: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
 Quantity: 49 metres (Canberra)
 The series relates to a wide range of subjects that came to the attention of the prime minister of the time.
Nauru – disturbance amongst Chinese employees of British Phosphate Commissioners, 1948–50 **A462, 195/1**
- [ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 1901–** **A432**
 Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)
 1958 Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office (CA 832)
 Quantity: 1 994 metres (Canberra); 352 metres (Sydney)
 This is the main correspondence series for the Attorney-General's Department after 1928. The department provided guidance to Commonwealth departments that sought opinions on administrative and policy matters, and in settling points of law.
Immigration Act ... power to exclude missionaries as prohibited immigrants [and to compel them] to obtain permits for their return to New Guinea ..., 1929 **A432, 1929/208**
 The record documents the Solicitor-General's opinion on restriction of travel to New Guinea by Christian missionaries.
Territory of Papua–New Guinea – policy in relation to entry and residence of Chinese, 1948 **A432, 1948/696**
 This item is digitised.
Papua and New Guinea – natives Asians and persons of mixed race – travel rights, etc., 1955 **A432, 1955/3705**
Nauru – Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance, 1959–61 **A432, 1959/3071**
Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance, Nauru, 1963 **A432, 1963/1314**
Native and Asiatic labour and rates of pay – territories of Papua and New Guinea, 1964 **A432, 1963/3314**
- FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1901–** **A6006**
 Recorded by: 1976–81 Australian Archives (CA 1720)
 1981–94 Australian Archives, ACT Regional Office (CA 3196)
 1994–98 Australian Archives, National Office (CA 7970)
 1998– National Archives of Australia (CA 8550)
 Quantity: 9.18 metres (Canberra); microfilm copies held in all state offices
 A6006 is an artificial series created by the National Archives to accumulate papers placed before Cabinet during the 1901–38 period. No regular procedure for recording the decisions of Cabinet existed prior to 1925, and a systematic method for recording Cabinet submissions and decisions was not truly effected until 1941. This series contains copies of papers relevant to Cabinet that are not in any of the record series created

by the Cabinet Office. These papers have been found in departmental files, personal collections and elsewhere.

A6006 item numbers are the date of the Cabinet meeting. In some cases, items have the same item number because they relate to the same meeting. When citing items from this series, the series number, item number and title need to be quoted. All items in the series are listed on RecordSearch, and the series is available on microfilm in all National Archives' reading rooms. The record in which the A6006 item was found is cited in square brackets.

A6006 includes many reports and other records on 'coloureds' that came to the attention of the Cabinet.

Recruiting of labour - Nauru, 1923

A6006, 1923/3/16
[A518, CA118/6]

Recruitment of native labour for Nauru, 1924

In 1924 Cabinet settled on a policy for further recruitment of labourers for Nauru.

A6006, 1924/03/13
[A518, CA118/6]

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL SERIES, 1903-44

A1606

Recorded by: 1926-27 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
1926-39 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Quantity: 6.03 metres (Canberra)

This series contains items dealing with Chinese relations with the wider community.

New Guinea - rights and interests of foreigners (with special reference to Japanese), c1920-21

A1606, B27/1

This record includes a review of Australian policy (c1920) prepared by the Pacific Affairs Branch of the Prime Minister's Department.

[TERRITORIES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1910-76

A452

Recorded by: 1951-68 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60)
1968-73 Department of External Territories [II] (CA 1284)
1968 Territories Division, Department of the Interior, NT (CA 1286); subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 916.41 metres (Canberra)

The files in this series originally related to the administration (general policy and staffing) of both the internal and external Australian territories, including the Northern Territory, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands. From 1951 to 1956, the records relate to the Northern Territory.

Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance - Nauru, 1923-66

A452, 1963/7418

Admission of Asiatics into Papua and New Guinea, 1950-60

A452, 1957/3922

Lam Man Yung ... and family - extension of permit to remain at Nauru, 1955-58

A452, 1958/3484

Mr Lam was employed as an interpreter with the British Phosphate Commissioners on Nauru.

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Asian labour – Cocos Island, 1955–60 | A452, 1957/636 |
| Admission of Asiatics into Papua and New Guinea – policy, 1955–62 | A452, 1962/8023 |
| W R Carpenter and Co. Ltd – transfer of plantations to Chinese – Papua and New Guinea, 1956 | A452, 1956/619 |
| Proposed assimilation of Chinese in Papua and New Guinea, 1956–57 This item is digitised. | A452, 1956/993 part 1 |
| Repatriation of Chinese from the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, 1957–60 This item is digitised. | A452, 1959/4753 |
| Natives, mixed bloods and Chinese – training as police officers – Papua and New Guinea, 1958 | A452, 1958/1137 |
| Application by K A Prentice for Chinese national and family to reside on Norfolk Island for two years, 1962 This item is digitised. | A452, 1962/3242 |
| Entry of Asians into Papua and New Guinea – B F Hsu and S Y Lai ... Chinese communist trade delegation, 1962 | A452, 1962/4173 |
| Strike of Chinese and Gilbert and Ellice Islanders employed by BPC, Nauru, 1967 | A452, 1967/2537 |
| Enquiry by Mr Whitlam re. migration of Papua New Guinea Chinese to Australia, 1970 This item is digitised. | A452, 1970/758 |

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1914–93**A1838**

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)
1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs (CA 1382)

Quantity: 3 409 metres (Canberra)

This series comprises the main correspondence file series of the Department of External Affairs [II] and its successor. Material in A1838 deals with Australia's relations with other countries. It includes records concerning Chinese consular staff in Australia.

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|--|-------------------------------|
| China – political relations with Australia – Chinese in New Guinea, 1947–53 | A1838, 494/5/6B |
| Territory of Papua New Guinea – relations with China – Chinese in Territory, 1947–57 | A1838, 309/2/1 |
| Immigration – policy in regard to Chinese in Papua New Guinea, 1948 | A1838, 1531/15 |
| Nauru – economic and financial – Chinese labour, 1948–58 | A1838, 311/3/3/1 |
| New Guinea – thumbprinting of Chinese nationals [nationals], 1949 This item is digitised. | A1838, 1486/2 |
| Nauru – entry and status of non-indigenous peoples – Chinese residents, 1949–53 | A1838, 311/7/2/1 |

[INTERIOR] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION, 1919–50 A433

Recorded by: 1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 12.6 metres (Canberra)

Records in this series concern various aspects of restricted immigration policy, including admission under exemption, deportation, business visitors, ships' deserters and 'undesirables'.

**Admission of Asiatics to New Guinea and Papua –
 L/C Immigration 'A', 1939**

A433, 1939/2/2015

Chinese evacuees from Dutch East Indies, 1942

A433, 1949/2/8516

**Repatriation of Chinese evacuees from Mandated
 Territories and Papua, 1948–49**

A433, 1950/2/6709

[IMMIGRATION] CORRESPONDENCE FILES (POLICY MATTERS), 1922–68 A445

Recorded by: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 28.81 metres (Canberra)

The series consists of general policy files relating to the assimilation, welfare and education of migrants. Subjects include conferences, refugees and restricted immigration policy.

Items directly concerned with nationality and citizenship enactments were removed and placed in series A446 (see series description on p. 200), but some material on naturalisations remains in this series.

Chinese – admission to Papua and New Guinea, 1948

A445, 236/2/26

Migration – non-Europeans to New Guinea, 1951–54

A445, 236/16/2

[SECURITY SERVICE] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1923–56 A373

Recorded by: 1941–45 Security Service (CA 660)
 1945–46 Investigation Branch (CA 747)
 1946–48 Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)

Quantity: 7.38 metres (Canberra)

Included among records in this series are assessments of wartime and postwar issues that concern Chinese.

Chinese evacuees – New Guinea, 1942–45

A373, 1610

**[IMMIGRATION] SECRET CORRESPONDENCE FILES – BLOCK ALLOCATIONS,
'S' (SECRET) PREFIX, c1930–80 A6980**

Recorded by: 1972–74 Department of Immigration (CA 51);
 subsequently by other agencies

Quantity: 74 metres (Canberra)

This series contains material that documents departmental responses to sensitive immigration, visitor and citizenship issues. This series covers a wide range of topics, including opinions provided by various agencies on applications for immigration, temporary entry, citizenship or passports. This information was provided about various groups of

aliens, with distinctions made between ‘political grounds’ and ‘security’. Similar material can be found in series A445 and A446.

Cabinet Decision 1963 – status of Asians resident in Papua and New Guinea, 1957–63

A6980, S250494

Admission of Chinese for employment on Nauru, 1957–67

A6980, S250263

[EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1933–71

A1068

Recorded by: Department of External Affairs [II] (CA 18)

Quantity: 26.5 metres (Canberra)

This series is a good source for information about policy shifts on migration to Australia after World War II. The contents of many items in this series extend beyond the date ranges suggested in their titles.

New Guinea – status of Chinese in the Territory of New Guinea, 1947

A1068, IC47/53/2

‘THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION’, 1937–71

A5954

Recorded by: 1937–71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320)

1937–39 Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)

1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination (CA 37)

1942–71 Department of Defence [III] (CA 46)

Quantity: 201 metres (Canberra); smaller quantities in other offices of the National Archives

Sir Frederick Shedden was the Secretary of the Department of Defence between 1937 and 1956. This series contains records he collected on the history of Australian defence policy from 1901 to 1945. It contains copies of departmental correspondence, files, reports, press cuttings and copies of War Cabinet and Advisory War Council records. Many items in this series have been digitised.

New Guinea and White Australia Policy – papers prepared for First Assembly of League of Nations, 1920

[A5954, 1203/2](#)

This digitised item includes official reports and supporting papers on Australian interests and engagements in the Pacific region, which were prepared by the Pacific Affairs Branch of the Prime Minister’s Department.

CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES – FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES AND AGENDA, 1941–49

A2700

Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

Quantity: 24.26 metres (Canberra); microfilm copies available in other offices of the Archives.

This series contains Cabinet minutes and agenda together with associated documents. Each item relates to a subject discussed by the cabinets of the Curtin, Forde or Chifley ministries. The following items are both digitised.

Territory of Papua–New Guinea – policy in relation to entry and residence of Chinese, 1948

[A2700, 1465](#)

Territory of Papua-New Guinea – policy in relation to entry and residence of Chinese, 1948

[A2700, 1465A](#)

CURTIN, FORDE AND CHIFLEY MINISTRIES – FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES (WITH INDEXES), 1941–49

A2703

Recorded by: Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

Quantity: 2.07 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains typed minutes of Cabinet meetings and a small quantity of related correspondence.

Minutes of meeting of full Cabinet held [on] 1 June 1948

A2703, 178

This record concerns Chinese entry to Papua New Guinea.

Minutes of meeting of Cabinet held [on] 28 June 1948

A2703, 181

The record concerns policies on the entry of Chinese to New Guinea under the German administration.

Sydney

TRAVEL FACILITIES (PASSPORTS/PERMITS) INDEX, 1925–47

D2249

Recorded by: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Sydney)

The two sets of cards that comprise this series are nominal indexes to 'travel facilities granted', and file references for documents on identity and permits to enter, leave and re-enter Australia and New Guinea.

FOLDERS OF NON-EUROPEAN EMPLOYEES WORKERS' COMPENSATION RECORDS, 1953–79

R165

Recorded by: British Phosphate Commissioners, Melbourne (CA 244)

Quantity: 0.72 metres (Sydney)

The series consists of two folders of documents on workers' compensation matters for non-European employees of the British Phosphate Commissioners on Ocean Island. Topical items include files on accidents and medical reports and workers' compensation for Chinese.

FOLDERS OF DOCUMENTS – NON-EUROPEAN WORKERS' LABOUR SERVICE, SEVERANCE AND REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS, 1975–80

R154

Recorded by: British Phosphate Commissioners, Melbourne (CA 244)

Quantity: 1.08 metres (Sydney)

The series consists of papers relating to severance and redundancy payments for non-European employees of the British Phosphate Commissioners. Related records are held in series R165 (above).

Melbourne

- COLLECTION OF ... PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS, PRINTS, NEGATIVES AND SLIDES OF ISLAND'S PHOSPHATE MINING OPERATIONS, 1887–1984** **R32**
- Recorded by: British Phosphate Commissioners, Melbourne (CA 244)
- Quantity: 28.37 metres (Melbourne); 1.08 metres (Sydney)
- The series includes an extensive collection of photographs on work and residence on Nauru.
- Nauru Island – special photographs ... by Thos J McMahon – Chinese shunting trucks in the phosphate fields, c1917** **R32, volume 121/10**
- Ocean Island – Chinese location – view taken from Coolie Theatre ... [taken 4 January 1946], 1938–46** **R32, Ocean Island 16/1588**
- Ocean Island ... details of photographic negatives ... Chinese theatre and recreation building, 1948** **R32, Ocean Island 17/1748**
- GENERAL AND CIVIL STAFF CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND ARMY PERSONNEL FILES, 1920–56** **MP742/1**
- Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)
- Quantity: 162.48 metres (Melbourne); smaller quantities in Canberra and Darwin
- The series consists of general and civil staff correspondence records as well as Army personnel files. Many files are 'top-numbered' from MP367/1, MP431/1 and MP508/1.
- Rates and conditions employment Chinese in NG [New Guinea], 1944–45** **MP742/1, 65/1/332**

Brisbane

- [IMMIGRATION] CASE FILES, OCCASIONAL 'Q' (QUEENSLAND) OR 'QB' (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) PREFIX, 1908–** **J25**
- Recorded by: 1946–74 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)
1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Qld (CA 2148)
- Quantity: 1 092 metres (Brisbane); 0.18 metres (Perth)
- This series, the largest recorded on immigration matters in Queensland after World War II, holds case files on permanent and temporary residents (including students), and applications for citizenship and sponsorship of migrants. It also holds Immigration policy files from 1946 to 1983.
- Chinese under exemption ... Chinese evacuees... from Ocean Island and Nauru on the SS *Trienza* 1942, 1935–48** **J25, 1946/1383**
- The title of this item has been edited for brevity.

[CUSTOMS, QLD] CORRESPONDENCE FILES – IMMIGRATION AND PASSPORTS – ‘SB’ (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1924–45**BP234/1**

Recorded by: 1924–45 Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)
1945 Department of Immigration, Qld (CA 958)

Quantity: 2.16 metres (Brisbane)

Items in this series contain correspondence and instructions on Chinese settlement in, and travel to, Australia.

Chinese evacuees from New Guinea on the *Duntroon* ..., 1943–44**BP234/1,
SB1944/5239**

The title of this item has been edited for brevity. This item includes a list of evacuees, boarding reports and personal statements and declarations.

REGISTER OF NEW GUINEA PERMITS, c1931–41**BP384/13**

Recorded by: Collector of Customs, Brisbane (CA 792)

Quantity: 1 volume (partial) (Brisbane)

The Register of New Guinea Permits shows various details about the people to whom permits were issued (eg their name, nationality, birthplace and occupation) as well as additional information about the permits issued (eg file and permit number, and remarks).

From 1939–45, no permits were issued. Series SP11/4, BP384/12 and D2249 may also hold useful information.

Community, work and residence*Canberra***CORRESPONDENCE FILES [TERRITORIES], ALPHA PREFIX, 1899–1983****A518**

Recorded by: 1928–41 Territories Branch, Prime Minister's Department (CA 822)

1941–51 Department of External Territories [I] (CA 42)

1951–56 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60)

Quantity: 241.5 metres (Canberra)

Please see series description on p. 234.

Chinese labour – British Phosphate Commissioners – Nauru, 1948–55**A518, J118/6 part 2****Labourers from New Guinea, 1921–24****A518, CA118/6**

The file concerns Australian Government views on the use of indentured Chinese labour under the conditions of the United Nations' Mandate. An early document notes the Australian Prime Minister's approval for recruiting of phosphate mine labour from the Japanese-held mandates.

Nauru ordinances – prohibition of sale to Chinese and natives of over-milled rice ..., 1925**A518, A846/2/39****New Guinea – Chinese proceeding abroad for educational purposes, 1929–39****A518, G822/1**

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| New Guinea – Chinese communistic organisations, 1930–37 | A518, L836/1 |
| New Guinea – reciprocal business arrangement between European and Chinese nationals, 1932 | A518, O836/3 |
| Nauru – subscription by Chinese to National Government, 1937 This digitised item documents the responses of indentured workers to the Japanese invasion of China. | A518, AM118/7 |
| Postwar reconstruction – general – Chinese nationals of New Guinea, 1944–51 | A518, O815/1/1 |
| Repatriation of Chinese from the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, 1946–55 | A518, MX112/1 |
| Chinese war graves in New Britain, 1948 | A518, GP16/2/1 |
| Non-European Officers Pensions Ordinance, 1948–54 | A518, A846/6/11 |
| Nauru – miscellaneous – unrest in Chinese location, 1949–52 | A518, EA118/6 |
| Defence and Security – Nauru war damage compensation to Chinese, 1949–57 | A518, Q16/2/2 |
| Trusteeship Council – petitions – Nauru – petition from Chinese community, 1950–51 | A518, 103/5/9 |
| Immigration ... Chinese evacuees – rehabilitation in the Territories – suggestion by Secretary for Foreign Missions, 1950–53 | A518, CJ822/1 |
| Trusteeship Council – petition from New Guinea Chinese Union, 1950–57 | A518, 103/5/2 |
| Wireless – Papua and New Guinea – Chinese broadcasts, Radio Australia, 1951–52 | A518, T926/1/6 |
| Gilbertese and Chinese children – education of, 1952–55 | A518, AD818/1/2 |
| Medical – Nauru – admission of Chinese mental cases to Nauruan hospital, 1952 | A518, AJ832/1/2 |
| Medical – Nauru – Chinese BPC employees – medical treatment in Australia and repatriation to China, 1952 | A518, AN832/1/2 |
| Admission of wives and families of Chinese at Nauru, 1952–55 | A518, FK118/6 |
| Allegations ... administration officers – acceptance of gifts from Chinese population at Rabaul, 1953–54 | A518, EH836/1 |
| Nauru – employment of Nauruans and Chinese by Administration, 1953–55 | A518, FS118/12 part 1 |
| Entry of Chinese into Australia from Nauru for holiday visit, 1955–63 | A518, CL118/7 |

[ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 1901–**A432**

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)
1958 Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office (CA 832)

Quantity: 1 994 metres (Canberra); 352 metres (Sydney)

Please see series description on p. 236.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Papua and New Guinea – Public Service ... payment of territorial allowance to non-Europeans, 1957 | A432, 1957/3175 |
| | |
| [PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, OCCASIONAL 'G' [GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS] INFIX, 1903– | |
| Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12) 1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401) 1971 Department of the Vice-President of the Executive Council (CA 1402); subsequently by several other agencies | A463 |
| Quantity: 727 metres (Canberra); 0.18 metres (Darwin) | |
| Items in this series deal with an array of matters under the direct control of the prime minister of the day, including diplomatic relations, immigration and defence. There are also some items that deal with matters of nationality. Related 'classified' records are held in series A1209. | |
| Asian participation in commercial enterprises in Papua and New Guinea, 1965–66 | A463, 1963/4251 part 2 |
| | |
| CLASSIFIED PRINTS OF PHOTOGRAPHS [MAINLY] PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA, 1904–54 | |
| Recorded by: 1941–51 Department of External Territories [I] (CA 42) 1951–54 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60) | A6510 |
| Quantity: 6.3 metres (Canberra) | |
| This is a photographic collection with wide topical and geographical coverage of Papua and New Guinea throughout the decades of Australian administration. | |
| Members of the United Nations Mission cheered by schoolboys and girls ..., 1904–54 | A6510, 1878 |
| This item is digitised. | |
| Chinese welcome ... the Governor-General to Chinatown, Kavieng – New Guinea, New Ireland, Kavieng, 1904–54 | A6510, 2067 |
| | |
| [TERRITORIES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1910–76 | |
| Recorded by: 1951–68 Department of Territories [I] (CA 60) 1968–73 Department of External Territories [II] (CA 1284) 1968 Territories Division, Department of the Interior, NT (CA 1286); subsequently by other agencies | A452 |
| Quantity: 916.41 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 237. | |
| Employment of Asiatics, mixed bloods and natives in the Public Service of Papua and New Guinea – policy, 1953–58 | A452, 1958/668 |
| Rates of pay – Asian and mixed blood employees – Papua and New Guinea, 1955–56 | A452, 1956/1410 |
| W R Carpenter and Co. Ltd – transfer of plantations to Chinese – Papua and New Guinea, 1956 | A452, 1956/619 |
| Naturalisation ... natives and Asians resident in Papua/New Guinea – policy, 1956–58 | A452, 1957/561 |

| | |
|---|--|
| Discrimination against Chinese in the holding of mining leases – general, 1957–58 | A452, 1957/976 |
| Repatriation of Chinese from the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, 1957–60 This item is digitised. | A452, 1959/4753 |
| Status of Asian residents in Papua New Guinea, 1957–63 | A452, 1971/973 |
| Issue of identity cards, citizenships and travel documents for Asians at Christmas Island, 1959–62 | A452, 1959/4265 |
| Appointment of indigenes, persons of mixed race and Asiatics to ... Papua New Guinea Public Service, 1959–70 | A452, 1967/4975 |
| Asian interests in commercial enterprises in Papua and New Guinea [Cabinet papers only] ..., 1963 | A452, 1963/7381 attachment |
| Recruitment of Chinese teachers ... Nauru [school], for children of indentured labour, 1963–68 | A452, 1964/6129 |
| Representation by A V Jennings Industries Australia Ltd ... importation of non-European (Asiatics) labour in Papua and New Guinea, 1964 | A452, 1964/5698 |
| PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES AND PRINTS, 'L' (LIBRARY) PREFIX, 1911–71 | A1200 |
| Recorded by: 1945–50 Department of Information (CA 34) 1950–71 Australian News and Information Bureau (CA 219) | |
| Quantity: 83.75 metres (Canberra) | |
| This series was created by the Department of Information, which was established in 1939 with responsibilities for news and information. A1200 contains images from earlier series. | |
| A1200 is a significant collection that illustrates a great variety of aspects of Australian life, including unique images of individuals and scenes. Each item in the series is categorised according to subject. | |
| Nauru ... [members of the] Chinese community with special dragon imported to help with the celebrations, 1968 Similar photographs are held (eg A1200, L69080 and A1200, L69081). | A1200, L69079 |
| [EXTERNAL AFFAIRS] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1914–93 | A1838 |
| Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [III] (CA 18) 1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs (CA 1382) | |
| Quantity: 3 409 metres (Canberra) | |
| Please see series description on p. 238. | |
| Territory of Papua and New Guinea ... establishment of Chinese Consul at Rabaul, 1948–49 This item is digitised. | A1838, 309/2/2 |

*Sydney***CORRESPONDENCE – EVACUATION AND SUBSEQUENT RETURN OF NEW GUINEA RESIDENTS FOLLOWING OUTBREAK OF WAR WITH JAPAN, 1941–49** **SP350/2**

Recorded by: 1941–42 New Guinea Trade Agency (CA 620)
1943–49 Department of External Territories [I] (CA 973)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

Items in this record series deal with the evacuation of Chinese from New Guinea, their residence in Australia and their return to New Guinea. Included are lists of evacuees (December 1945) and persons reported missing, believed captured by the Japanese or lost at sea (August 1945).

Correspondence – Chinese return to New Guinea ..., 1945-49

**SP350/2,
Correspondence:
Chinese return to
New Guinea file G
170 [Evacuees]**

[WAR DAMAGE COMMISSION] LEDGER CARDS, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1942–50**SP35/1**

Recorded by: 1942–48 War Damage Commission (CA 275)
1948–50 Sub-Treasury, NSW (CA 1001)

Quantity: 3.78 metres (Sydney)

This series comprises ledger cards on claims for damages from wartime aerial raids in areas under Australian jurisdiction during World War II. The cards, separated into Europeans and Chinese, record details of compensation paid.

CORRESPONDENCE – EVACUATION – CHINESE NATIONALS AND ‘CASTE’ CHINESE ... FOLLOWING JAPANESE INVASION OF NEW GUINEA, 1942–56**SP350/1**

Recorded by: 1942–51 Department of External Territories [I] (CA 973)
1951–56 Department of Territories (CA 974)

Quantity: 1.44 metres (Sydney)

Evacuees began arriving from New Guinea early in 1942. Items in this series contain personal details about the evacuees, and correspondence with and about them on compensation and debts to the Commonwealth, re-entry to New Guinea and other matters arising from the evacuation.

[AUSTRALIAN ARMY] CORRESPONDENCE [PNG–PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT], 1954–66**J2818**

Recorded by: Headquarters Papua and New Guinea Command, Australian Army (CA 8356)

Quantity: 5.4 metres (Sydney); 0.36 metres (Brisbane)

Items in this series contain general correspondence, instructions, maps, photographs, press clippings, reports and returns. Matters referred to include ceremonies, dress, establishment, intelligence, publicity, recruiting and works.

**Enlistment ... CMF [Citizen Military Forces] – Asiatics [and]
mixed race into Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, 1963–64 J2818, 150/3/2**

Melbourne

- COLLECTION OF ... PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS, PRINTS, NEGATIVES AND
SLIDES OF ISLAND'S PHOSPHATE MINING OPERATIONS, 1887–1984** **R32**
Recorded by: British Phosphate Commissioners, Melbourne (CA 244)
Quantity: 28.37 metres (Melbourne); 1.08 metres (Sydney)
Please see series description on p. 242.
- Cup presented ... to the Chinese community at Ocean
Island [to commemorate coronation] ..., 1935–38** **R32,
volume 124/1524**
- [DEFENCE] GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1898–1974** **MP508/1**
Recorded by: 1939 Army Headquarters, Department of Defence [II]
(CA 2671)
1939–42 Department of the Army (CA 36)
Quantity: 134 metres (Melbourne)
Items in this series relate to the wartime administration of
the military forces in Australia. Subjects dealt with include
compensation, defence and medical and dental corps.
- Chinese Auxiliary Ambulance Detachment, New Guinea,
1940** **MP508/1,
240/705/15**
The record concerns the proposal for a Chinese Auxiliary
Ambulance detachment as part of the New Guinea
Volunteer Rifles and its rejection by the Australian
Government as its members were not 'substantially of
European Origin'.
- [INVESTIGATION BRANCH] CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'V' (VICTORIA)
PREFIX, 1914–64** **B741**
Recorded by: 1927–46 Investigation Branch, Vic (CA 907)
1946–60 Commonwealth Investigation Service, Vic (CA 916)
1960–62 Commonwealth Police Force [II], Vic (CA 955)
Quantity: 42.66 metres (Melbourne)
This is the main correspondence series of the Victorian
branches of the Commonwealth's investigation agencies.
It contains items dealing with criminal offences committed
against the Commonwealth or its laws, or offences against
state Acts committed on Commonwealth property.
Some items also cover the design of processes of alien
registration.
- Chinese in Rabaul, 1932** **B741, V/9753**
- GENERAL AND CIVIL STAFF CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND ARMY
PERSONNEL FILES, 1920–56** **MP742/1**
Recorded by: Department of the Army (CA 36)
Quantity: 162.48 metres (Melbourne); smaller quantities
in Canberra and Darwin
Please see series description on p. 242.

**Care and control of Chinese nationals and half-castes
of the Territory of New Guinea, 1945**

MP742/1, 5/3/32

**War crimes – atrocities against Chinese and natives,
Nauru Island, 1945–47**

MP742/1, 336/1/49

**COPIES OF REPORTS – PHOSPHATE MINING AND OTHER ISLAND MATTERS,
1932–78**

R59

Recorded by: British Phosphate Commissioners, Melbourne –
Engineering Department (CA 244)

Quantity: 4.68 metres (Melbourne)

This series consists of reports on various investigations of matters on Nauru, Ocean Island and Christmas Island. Among the items are records on the evacuation of Chinese and Europeans in March 1942, salaries and conditions of employment, and postwar reconstruction.

Brisbane

**[PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES] CORRESPONDENCE FILES,
'R' PREFIX [PNG], 1958–73**

J2810

Recorded by: Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, PNG Defence Force
(CA 8330)

Quantity: 1.08 metres (Brisbane)

This series contains correspondence files about the operation of the PNG Volunteer Rifles. Items contain a wide range of documents, photographs and newspaper cuttings. The items deal with various subjects, including cadet training, enlistments, accommodation, displays, discipline and honours and awards.

**Enlistments – indigenous and Asians mixed blood
personnel – conditions and policy, 1964–67**

J2810, R150/3/2

Perth

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CHRISTMAS ISLAND ADMINISTRATION, 1947–

N7

Recorded by: 1958 Administrator, Christmas Island [I] (CA 1324)
1958–68 Official Representative, Christmas Island (CA 1325)
1968– Administrator, Christmas Island [II] (CA 1326)

Quantity: 24.66 metres (Perth)

This series contains correspondence files created by the Christmas Island Administration. Subjects covered in the files include citizenship, passenger lists, appointments and visits.

**[Christmas Island Administration] Chinese marriages
registration, 1968**

N7, 1968/72

Appendix 1 Glossary

alien

This term relates to a person residing in Australia, born in or belonging to another country who has not acquired naturalisation and is not entitled to the consequent political rights, powers and privileges.

Under the *Aliens Registration Act 1920* and its subsequent amendments and the *Aliens Act 1947*, an 'alien' was considered to be any person over the age of 16 years, other than a natural-born or naturalised British subject.

Certificate of Domicile

Under the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*, any person domiciled in the Commonwealth of Australia who wished to leave temporarily could apply to the Collector of Customs at the port of departure for a Certificate of Domicile. Holders of these certificates could introduce wives and children and could return to Australia without being required to sit the Dictation Test. Certificates of Domicile were replaced by Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test.

Certificate of Exemption

Certificates of Exemption were introduced by the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*. The 'exemption' referred to is exemption from the Dictation Test. Certificates of exemption were issued to non-Europeans (and to some Europeans) who temporarily entered Australia, in effect, as a form of entry permit. The issue of these certificates ceased in 1958 with the abolition of the Dictation Test.

Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test

Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDTs) were introduced in 1905 following a change to the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*. In effect, they replaced Certificates of Domicile. They allowed the bearer to re-enter the country without the requirement to sit the Dictation Test. The issue of these certificates ceased in 1958 with the abolition of the Dictation Test.

Commonwealth Record Series System

The Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) System is the archival control system the Archives uses to link records with the agencies which recorded them and the agencies which control them. It is based on the identification of series and associated agencies or persons. A separate registration is prepared for each organisation, agency, person and series and each is given a unique identifying number. Each registration is linked to related registrations through internal cross-references.

Dictation Test

Under the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* non-Europeans intending to enter Australia could be required to write out a dictated passage, not less than 50 words in length, in any European (after 1905 any 'prescribed') language. Those who failed to correctly write out the dictated passage could be declared a prohibited immigrant and refused permission to remain in Australia.

internee

This term refers to any person detained in an internment camp under National Security legislation and regulations. Internees were not prisoners of war.

naturalisation

In the nineteenth century, the Australian colonies passed laws to enable aliens to become naturalised British subjects, in line with current English law. The Commonwealth took over this authority and passed the *Naturalization Act 1903*. With the enactment of the *Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948*, naturalised persons were formally designated Australian citizens.

reference copy

A microfilm or other copy of a record or series made for reference use. The reasons for this may be to enable several copies to be available in different locations or to protect the original copy from damage.

substitutes

Persons permitted entry as replacement workers for domiciled persons who were absent overseas. Requests for substitutes or 'alternates', were considered on the basis of the type of business activity conducted by the applicant leaving Australia, with preference given to those engaged in overseas trade.

top-numbering

Top-numbering (also known as 'bringing forward/up', 'conversion', 'cancellation', 're-registration' or 'reclassification') is the process whereby the controlling number or symbol on a record item is cancelled and a new number or symbol is allocated. It is usually done when older items that are still useful are relocated among current items or when items are transferred from one record series to another.

Appendix 2 Concise Chronology of Chinese Settlement, 1890s to 1975

- 1894 *Chinese Australian Herald* (1894–1923), Australia’s first national Chinese-language newspaper published in Sydney.
- 1901 *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* is passed by the Australian Parliament and receives Royal Assent.
- 1903 Section 3m of the *Immigration Restriction Act*, which allowed the migration of wives and children of Chinese, is suspended by proclamation in March.
Naturalization Act 1903 is the first Commonwealth Act to use the phrase ‘aboriginal natives of Asia, Africa and the Islands of the Pacific’ to exclude non-Europeans from its benefits.
- 1905 The Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test is introduced as the principal means for approved travel by Chinese residents of Australia.
- 1909 The *Defence Act 1909* bars the recruitment of individuals ‘not substantially of European origin or descent’.
Australia’s first Chinese Consul-General, Liang Lian-hsun, arrives in Melbourne.
- 1912 Republican government established in China.
Merchants and students from China permitted to enter Australia under a formal agreement.
- 1920 *Nationality Act 1920* gives ministerial discretion over naturalisation.
Australian-born Chinese permitted to travel on Australian passports.
- 1936 Amendment to the *Nationality Act* allows women to apply for naturalisation independent of their husbands’ nationality.
- 1941 Australia and China agree to an exchange of ministers and a Chinese diplomatic legation is established in Australia.
- 1942–43 Arrival of wartime refugees and evacuees.
- 1949 Declaration of People’s Republic of China; the former government, the Chinese Nationalist Government, moves to Formosa (now known as Taiwan).
- 1956 Non-Europeans permitted to apply for naturalisation after fifteen years of residence. Wives could remain in Australia for the duration of their spouses’ residency.

- 1958–59 The *Migration Act 1958* is introduced, replacing earlier immigration legislation. The new Act takes effect from 1959.
- End of the Dictation Test and the introduction of an entry permit system for all immigrants.
- Limited entry for ‘distinguished and highly skilled’ non-Europeans.
- 1966 Expansion of the migrant categories under which non-Europeans could apply to reside in Australia.
- Residency requirement for naturalisation by Chinese reduced to five years.
- Australian embassy established in Taipei, Taiwan.
- 1972 Australian Government recognises the People’s Republic of China
- 1973 Australian Government adopts non-discriminatory principles for migrant selection.
- Residency requirement for naturalisation by non-British residents reduced to three years.
- 1976 Arrival of first groups of ‘boat people’ or refugees from Indo-China.

Appendix 3 Bibliography and Internet Resources

Select bibliography

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Internet resources

- www.amol.org.au/goldenthreads – *Golden Threads: The Chinese in Regional Australia, 1850–1950*
- www.chaf.lib.latrobe.edu.au – Website of The Chinese Heritage of Australian Federation Project
- www.ahc.gov.au/infores/publications/chineseheritage – *Tracking the Dragon*, produced by the Australian Heritage Commission
- www.purl.com/jca – *Journal of Chinese Australia*

Appendix 4 Guides to the National Archives Collection

The Archives creates and maintains guides to records in its collection to help researchers identify and locate records relevant to their research. The guides currently available and those in preparation are listed below.

Research guides series

- 1 *Chinese Immigrants and Chinese–Australians in New South Wales*, by Julie Stacker and Peri Stewart, revised 1997, 80 pp.
- 2 *Aboriginal Deaths in Custody: The Royal Commission and Its Records, 1987–91*, by Peter Nagle and Richard Summerrell, revised 1997, 92 pp.
- 3 *The Sinking of HMAS Sydney: A Guide to Commonwealth Government Records*, by Richard Summerrell, 3rd ed., 1999, 191 pp.
- 4 *Papua New Guinea Records 1883–42: Microfilm Collections*, by Peter Nagle, 1998, 136 pp.
- 5 *Royalty and Australian Society: Records Relating to the British Monarchy Held in Canberra*, by Kate Cumming, 1998, 140 pp.
- 6 *Parliament House, Canberra, 1927: Records Relating to the Design, Construction and Opening of the Provisional Parliament House*, by Gay Hogan, 1997, revised 2003, 74 pp.
- 7 *More People Imperative: Immigration to Australia, 1901–39*, by Dr Michele Langfield, 1999, 236 pp.
- 8 *Collections in Melbourne: A Guide to Commonwealth Government Records*, by Celia Blake, revised 2003, 76 pp.
- 9 *The Boer War: Australians and the War in South Africa, 1899–1902*, by Craig Wilcox, 1999, revised 2000, 94 pp.
- 10 *Citizenship in Australia: A Guide to Commonwealth Government Records*, by David Dutton, 1999, 114 pp.
- 11 *Good British Stock: Child and Youth Migration to Australia*, by Barry Coldrey, 1999, 220 pp.
- 12 *Safe Haven: Records of the Jewish Experience in Australia*, by Malcolm J Turnbull, 1999, 170 pp.
- 13 *Cockatoo Island Dockyard: A Guide to the Records*, by Margaret Chambers, 2000, 252 pp.
- 14 *Collections in Perth: A Guide to Commonwealth Government Records*, by Dan Midalia, 2000, 182 pp.
- 15 *Working for the Dole: Commonwealth Relief during the Great Depression*, by Don Fraser, 2001, 116 pp.
- 16 *Near Neighbours: Records on Australia's Relations with Indonesia*, by Karl Metcalf, 2001, 208 pp.

- 17 *Sound Recordings in the National Archives*, by Helen Cross and Margaret Chambers, 2001, 125 pp.
- 18 *A Nation's Imagination: Australia's Copyright Records, 1854–1968*, by Merilyn Minell, 2003, 147 pp.
- 19 *Australia in Focus: Photographs in the National Archives*, by Peter Nagle, 2003, 251 pp.
- 20 *Allies, Enemies and Trading Partners: Records on Australia and the Japanese*, by Pam Oliver, 2004, 275 pp.
- 21 *Chinese–Australian Journeys: Records on Travel, Migration and Settlement, 1860–1975*, by Paul Jones, 2005, 286 pp.

Australia's Prime Ministers guide series

Our First Six: Guide to Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers, by Susan Marsden and Roslyn Russell, National Archives of Australia, 2002.

Stanley Melbourne Bruce: Guide to Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers, by John Connor, National Archives of Australia, 2003.

Joseph Lyons: Guide to Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers, by Susan Marsden, National Archives of Australia, 2002.

Harold Holt: Guide to Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers, by Pennie Pemberton, National Archives of Australia, 2003.

John Curtin: Guide to Archives of Australia's Prime Ministers, by David Black and Lesley Wallace, a National Archives of Australia and John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library co-publication, 2004, 251 pp.

Other published guides

Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists, compiled by Margaret Chambers, National Archives of Australia in association with Hale & Iremonger, Alexandria, NSW, 1998, 344 pp.

Federation: The Guide to Records, compiled by Stephen Foster, Susan Marsden and Roslyn Russell, National Archives of Australia, Canberra, 1998, 377 pp.

My Heart Is Breaking: A Joint Guide to Records about Aboriginal People in the Public Record Office of Victoria and the Australian Archives, Victorian Regional Office, by Myrna Deverall and Ian MacFarlane, AGPS, Canberra, 1993, 191 pp.

Forthcoming guides (working titles)

Northern Territory Land Records, by Ted Ling and Vern O'Brien

Collections in Adelaide: A Guide to Commonwealth Government Records, by Peter Crush

Displaced Persons Settled in Australia, by Vince Burns

Postwar Migration to Australia: Records Held in Melbourne, by Esther Carey

Appendix 5 Contacting the National Archives

National Reference Service

All reference inquiries
(Overseas callers: 61 2 6212 3900)
TTY: (02) 6212 3689
Postal address:
PO Box 7425
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

Defence Service Records
PO Box 7425
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610
Fax: (02) 6212 3499
Email: servicerecords@naa.gov.au

Reading Room addresses

Canberra

Queen Victoria Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6212 3900
Fax: (02) 6212 3999
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 7425
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

Sydney

120 Miller Road
Chester Hill NSW 2162
Tel: (02) 9645 0110
Fax: (02) 9645 0108
Email: ref@naa.gov.au
TTY: (02) 9743 8419

Postal address:
Locked Bag 4
Chester Hill NSW 2162

Sydney Records Centre

2 Globe Street
The Rocks NSW 2000

Victorian Archives Centre

99 Sheil Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051
Tel: (03) 9348 5600
Fax: (03) 9348 5628
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 8005
Burwood Heights VIC 3151

Brisbane

16 Corporate Drive
Cannon Hill Qld 4170
Tel: (07) 3249 4226
Fax: (07) 3399 6589
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 552
Cannon Hill Qld 4170

Perth

384 Berwick Street
East Victoria Park WA 6101
Tel: (08) 9470 7500
Fax: (08) 9470 2787
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 1144
East Victoria Park WA 6981

Adelaide

78 Angas Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Tel: (08) 8409 8400
Fax: (08) 8409 8499
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 6536
Adelaide SA 5000

Hobart

Ground Floor
85 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000
Tel: (03) 6230 6111
Fax: (03) 6230 6134
Email: ref@naa.gov.au

Postal address:
GPO Box 309
Hobart TAS 7000

Darwin

Kelsey Crescent
Millner NT 0810
Tel: (08) 8985 0300
Fax: (08) 8985 0399

Postal address:
PO Box 24
Nightcliff NT 0810

Appendix 6 Contacting Other Archives

National archival institutions (ACT)

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Lawson Crescent
Acton ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6246 1111
Fax: (02) 6249 4285
Website: www.aiatsis.gov.au

Postal address:
GPO Box 553
Canberra ACT 2601

Australian National Maritime Museum

2 Murray Street
Darling Harbour
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: (02) 9552 7777
Fax: (02) 9552 2318
Website: www.anmm.gov.au

Postal address:
GPO Box 5131
Sydney NSW 2001

Australian War Memorial

Anzac Parade
Campbell ACT 2612
Tel: (02) 6243 4315
Fax: (02) 6243 4545
Email: info@awm.gov.au
Website: www.awm.gov.au

Postal address:
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601

National Gallery of Australia

Parkes Place
Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6240 6530 (Research Library)
Fax: (02) 6240 6273
Website: www.nga.gov.au

Postal address
GPO Box 1150
Canberra ACT 2601

National Library of Australia

Parkes Place
Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6262 1111
Fax: (02) 6257 1703
Website: www.nla.gov.au

National Museum of Australia

Lawson Crescent
Acton ACT 2612
Tel: (02) 6208 5000
Fax: (02) 6208 5099
Website: www.nma.gov.au

Postal address:
GPO Box 1901
Canberra ACT 2601

Noel Butlin Archives Centre

(incl. the University Archives)
Menzies Building 2
McDonald Place
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Tel: (02) 6125 2219
Fax: (02) 6125 0140
Email: butlin.archives@anu.edu.au
Website: www.archives.anu.edu.au

Old Parliament House

Parkes ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6270 8222
Fax: (02) 6270 8111
Email: info.oph@dcita.gov.au
Website: www.oph.gov.au

PictureAustralia

National Library of Australia
Parkes ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6262 1641
Fax: (02) 6257 1180
Email: pictaust@nla.gov.au
Website: www.pictureaustralia.org

ScreenSound Australia

(incl. the National Film and Video Lending Service)
McCoy Circuit
Acton ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6248 2000
Fax: (02) 6248 2222
Email: enquiries@screensound.gov.au
Website: www.screensound.gov.au

Postal address:
GPO Box 2002
Canberra ACT 2601

State and territory government archives

Australian Capital Territory**ACT Registry**

Department of Urban Services
Tel: (02) 6207 5788
Fax: (02) 6207 5800

Postal address
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601

New South Wales**State Records**

2 Globe Street
The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: (02) 9673 1788
Fax: (02) 9833 4518
Email: srecords@records.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.records.nsw.gov.au

Kingswood Search Room
143 O'Connell Street
Kingswood NSW 2747

Postal address
PO Box 516
Kingswood NSW 2747

Victoria**Public Record Office Victoria**

Victorian Archives Centre
99 Shiel Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051
Tel: (03) 9348 5600
Fax: (03) 9348 5656
Email: ask.prov@dpc.vic.gov.au
Website: www.prov.vic.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 2100
North Melbourne VIC 3051

(The PRO also has a search room at Ballarat)

Queensland**Queensland State Archives**

435 Compton Road
Runcorn QLD 4113
Tel: (07) 3131 7777
Fax: (07) 3131 7764
Email: info@archives.qld.gov.au
Website: www.archives.qld.gov.au

Postal address:
PO Box 1397
Sunnybank Hills QLD 4109

Western Australia**State Records Office**

Alexander Library Building
Perth Cultural Centre
Perth WA 6000
Tel: (08) 9427 3360
Fax: (08) 9427 3368
Website: www.sro.wa.gov.au

South Australia**State Records**

City Research Centre
26-28 Leigh Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Tel: (08) 8226 7750
Fax: (08) 8226 8002
Email: srsaPublicAccess@saugov.sa.gov.au
Website: www.archives.sa.gov.au

Gepps Cross Research Centre:
115 Cavan Road
Gepps Cross SA 5094

Postal address:
GPO Box 1072
Adelaide SA 5001

Tasmania**Archives Office of Tasmania**

77 Murray Street
Hobart TAS 7000
Tel: (03) 6233 7488
Fax: (03) 6233 7471
Email: Archives.Tasmania@education.tas.gov.au
Website: www.archives.tas.gov.au

Northern Territory**Northern Territory Archives Service**

25 Cavenagh Street
DARWIN NT 0800
Tel: (08) 8924 7677
Fax: (08) 8924 7660
Email: nt.archives@nt.gov.au
Website: www.nt.gov.au/dcis/nta

Postal address:
GPO Box 874
Darwin NT 0801

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CHINESE–AUSTRALIAN JOURNEYS

*Records on Travel, Migration and
Settlement, 1860–1975*

About this guide By the mid-nineteenth century many thousands of Chinese were living in the Australian colonies. Adaptable and hardworking, they and other ‘coloureds’ were considered interlopers in British Australia.

Exorbitant poll taxes and restrictive immigration legislation had served to significantly reduce the Chinese population by the 1890s. With Federation came the passing of the Immigration Restriction Act and the introduction of the Dictation Test. Under the White Australia Policy, Chinese who had lived in Australia for decades were unable to naturalise, and their lives became increasingly regulated. Photographed and fingerprinted, their travel and residence were open to bureaucratic scrutiny and restriction.

As *Chinese–Australian Journeys* so amply illustrates, the legacy of these practices and policies is a rich and diverse collection of records held in the National Archives. This guide is a valuable resource for genealogists, researchers and anyone interested in the history of Chinese in Australia.

About the author Paul Jones is a Melbourne-based researcher whose interests include histories of Australia, China and Japan, and the relationships between them. Paul has worked as an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow (2000–03) and in various research and teaching positions in Australia, China and Europe. He is an honorary Associate of the Department of History at the University of Melbourne.



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