

# Chinese immigrants

and Chinese-Australians  
in New South Wales



This guide is number 1 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.

The National Archives reviews its collection to confirm the value of records for research, evidential and other purposes or to identify, in consultation with agencies, records for destruction. At the time of publication all the records described in this guide were present in the Archives collection. However, it is possible that some of the records may be destroyed if they are reviewed and considered not to be of enduring value. If this occurs, the guide will be revised accordingly.

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Front cover image Hin Gee and family, c1908-15. National Archives of Australia: SP115/1, box 15.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AEAT	Authority to Enter Australia Temporarily
ASIO	Australian Security Intelligence Organization
CEDT	Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test
CIS	Commonwealth Investigation Service
NAA	National Archives of Australia
NSW	New South Wales

# INTRODUCTION

## **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 activities since Federation in 1901. However, the Archives has significant holdings of nineteenth-century records about functions transferred by the colonies to the Commonwealth government at the time of Federation and subsequently.

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.

The National Archives' website ([www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)) provides more information about the Archives, its collection and the services it offers. A visit to the site will help you determine whether the Archives holds records relevant to your research. Fact Sheets on various topics are also available on the Archives' website.

## **About this guide**

The aim of this guide is to make records relating to Chinese immigration and settlement and Chinese–Australians in New South Wales more accessible to family and academic historians and other researchers interested in Chinese–Australian history. This guide brings together descriptions of numerous series of records held in the Sydney office of the National Archives.

Certain terms relating to immigration and citizenship used in this guide and in the records have specific meanings that are explained at Appendix 1. These terms are italicised when they appear in the text for the first time.

Because the National Archives is the custodian of records created by Commonwealth government agencies, most records listed in this guide were created after Federation in 1901. There is, however, a small but significant body of nineteenth-century records created by the Collector of Customs, Sydney, which passed to the Commonwealth government at the time of Federation, along with responsibility for administration of the Customs functions.

The records listed in this guide include those which deal solely or mainly with Chinese people in New South Wales, and records which contain a significant proportion of information about Chinese immigrants, often along with immigrants of other nationalities.

In most cases, records created in New South Wales relating to Chinese and other immigrants, usually non-naturalised, relate to the day-to-day administration of entry and arrival in Australia, documentation for travel outside and return to Australia and war-time security measures such as the registration of *aliens*. Policy development, and often decisions on individual cases, generally took place in the central office of the agency responsible. Records held in the Sydney office of the National Archives should therefore be used in conjunction with records of the relevant central administration, usually held in the National Archives in Canberra. Reference staff can assist in identifying relevant records listed on RecordSearch and PhotoSearch.

Most Commonwealth government agencies have offices in each State and Territory, so records about Chinese immigrants may be found in other offices of the National Archives. For example, if a person moved from New South Wales to another State and continued to have contact with a Commonwealth government agency, both State offices may have created records about him or her.

## The structure of the guide

This guide is divided into an Introduction and five chapters. The Introduction gives background information about government legislation and its relevance to the subject of Chinese immigrants and settlers in Australia.

Chapter 1 outlines the administrative history of the major agencies responsible for the administration of laws and regulations that affected Chinese immigrants and settlers and Chinese–Australians, and it looks at the interrelationship between the administrative process and the records.

Chapter 2 describes the pre-Federation records held by the National Archives, created mainly by the Collector of Customs, Sydney while it was still an arm of the New South Wales' colonial government. The responsibilities of the Collector included the collection of Customs and Excise duties, the regulation of imports and the control of vessels entering and leaving ports in New South Wales. A small group of cancelled New South Wales' naturalisation certificates are also described.

Chapter 3 deals with the major record series created as a result of the administration of immigration by several agencies. The records document arrivals in Australia, applications for residence documents or for extensions, re-entry permits, *naturalisation*, deportation and deserters from ships' crews. There are also applications from people outside Australia for re-entry permits, extensions to entry or re-entry permits or for passports (if they were born in Australia).

Chapter 4 covers documents and associated forms required for entry or re-entry to Australia, in series that are usually arranged numerically, chronologically or by ship name. These documents include *Certificates of Domicile*, *Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test* and a variety of other temporary entry and re-entry documents. People who did not leave or re-enter the country will not normally be documented in these records; however, if they applied for family members to join them or to bring out a business assistant, *substitute* or worker to Australia, information about them may be found as a sponsor of the immigrant.

Chapter 5 deals with records relating to wartime (World War I and World War II) security matters, the registration of aliens as a national security measure and files maintained by the security services on a wide range of people, including some Chinese nationals. Records covering the evacuation and eventual return of Chinese residents of New Guinea during World War II are also included.

Below is a sample of how records appear in this guide.

- |   |  |                         |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| ❶ | APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION (ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES) (FORMS A1, B1 AND C), 1939–47  | SP11/2                  |
| ❷ | Recorded by: 1939–47 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)<br>1945–46 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)  |                         |
| ❸ | Quantity: 39.96 metres (Sydney)  |                         |
| ❹ | This series contains applications for alien registration form, which are arranged alphabetically by nationality, then alphabetically by surname. Sometimes the forms give a date of departure from Australia and other personal details. |                         |
| ❺ | Gah Ah (Chinese, arrived Sydney per <i>Nellore</i> , 1941), 1941–43  | SP11/2,<br>Chinese/Ah G |
| ❻ | This item contains a photograph of Mr Gah.   |                         |

### Key

- ❶ 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 right-hand side.
- ❷ 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 CA (Commonwealth agency) number 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.
- ❸ 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.
- ❹ This is a **brief description of the series**.
- ❺ 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.
- ❻ This describes the **main contents** of an item. Note that **it does not describe** every document on the file.



## Record descriptions

Each entry in the guide describes a group of records maintained together as a series. A series consists of items, which are often individual files (sometimes volumes, sets of cards, photographs, etc), 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. In many instances, particular series have been found to contain relevant material on multiple aspects of Chinese Immigrants in New South and have been referred to several times. The full description of each series is given only on its first appearance. As a general rule, this guide identifies rather than analyses the records. Researchers should make their own assessment of the value of information in an item.

## Access to the records

Many series described in this guide are listed in RecordSearch (the National Archives' database), which is available in the reading rooms of all offices of the Archives, at the Australian War Memorial and on the Archives' website. 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 and does so 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 they 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 are no longer considered to contain sensitive information or those released under the accelerated release provisions of the Archives Act.

## **Control records**

Control records are created and maintained by a recordkeeping agency to help identify and retrieve records in a specific series. Agency control records include such registry tools as file registers, movement registers, subject indexes and name indexes. In this guide, control records are listed as the 'control series' of a series.

## **Citing the records**

The correct citation of archival records is important both when requesting records and when referring to them in written or published works. Using proper citations will not only help Archives staff to locate records more readily, but will also help other researchers to find them.

The correct form of citation for records held by the National Archives of Australia is expressed as follows: the name 'National Archives of Australia' followed by a colon, the series number followed by a comma, and then the item number. For example:

National Archives of Australia: A1027, volume 1

The name 'National Archives of Australia' may be abbreviated to 'NAA' provided the full name has been used in the first citation.

## **Locating additional information**

More information can be located by conducting searches on RecordSearch. Appendix 2 contains a bibliography of additional sources of information.

## 1. CHINESE IMMIGRANTS AND SETTLERS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Chinese immigrants arriving in New South Wales in the nineteenth century and much of the twentieth century faced a changing regulatory framework that affected how long they could stay, whether they could bring their families or become naturalised, whether they could work and for whom, and their opportunities to employ others.

### Laws in the Colony of New South Wales

Before the Commonwealth of Australia was formed on 1 January 1901 the New South Wales colonial government administered its own immigration laws, several of which were directed specifically at restricting the number of Chinese immigrants entering the Colony. While the New South Wales Legislative Council had rejected an 1858 Bill to restrict the number of Chinese immigrants into the colony, in 1861 it passed the Chinese Immigration Regulation and Restriction Act. This Act, which has been tied to the influx of Chinese gold-seekers, was repealed in 1867 once the gold rushes had petered out.<sup>1</sup>

New South Wales later reintroduced legislation restricting the number of Chinese entering the Colony. The *Influx of Chinese Restriction Act 1881* applied an entrance tax of £10 and a limit on each ship of one Chinese passenger per 100 tons of ship's tonnage. This Act was amended in 1887, raising the poll tax to £100 and the tonnage to one Chinese passenger per 300 tons. In 1898 New South Wales enacted another restrictive law aimed at excluding all non-Europeans, including British subjects. This Act included a dictation test and retained the tonnage limits against Chinese immigrants introduced in the earlier legislation.<sup>2</sup>

### Federal regulations

The Federal Immigration Restriction Act became law in December 1901,<sup>3</sup> with its practical administration probably commencing early in 1902. The title of the Act indicates its purpose – to restrict entry of immigrants into Australia – and the Act specified the method by which this exclusion would be accomplished: by use of a dictation test in any European language (later amended to any 'prescribed' language).<sup>4</sup> The intention of the Act – to exclude all non-Europeans – was not expressed in the legislation, but in its implementation and in the policy behind it, which became known as the 'White Australia Policy'.

The Act provided a broad framework for the administration of immigration policy, but because the restrictions on the entry of non-Europeans were not articulated in the statute, formulation of immigration policy moved out of the public realm of Parliament and into the Cabinet room, the Minister's office and government agencies. Changes to policy and its implementation were therefore often more important than changes to the legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> C Y Choi, *Chinese Migration and Settlement in Australia*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1975, pp. 21 and 23.

<sup>2</sup> Choi, pp. 26 and 27.

<sup>3</sup> A C Palfreman, *The Administration of the White Australia Policy*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1967, p. 5.

<sup>4</sup> Palfreman, p. 82.

Legal challenges to the powers of Parliament and the Administration to deny entry to Australia and to determine the format of the dictation test were a feature of the early years of the Act. Some immigrants successfully completed the test, which was '...a phenomenon certainly not envisaged by the parliament.'<sup>5</sup> Other immigrants, many of them Chinese, challenged the provisions of the Act in Court, sometimes with success.<sup>6</sup> Lobbying for easing the restrictions came from a number of sources, including Chinese immigrants and their representatives in Australia, and later the Chinese Government, which led to some changes to entry requirements.<sup>7</sup>

The *Naturalisation Act 1903* provided that persons naturalised in the colonies before the passing of the Act would be deemed naturalised under this Act. It excluded the future naturalisation of any alien who was '...an aboriginal native of Asia, Africa or the Islands of the Pacific, excepting New Zealand'...<sup>8</sup> When the 1903 Act was replaced in 1920 with the *Nationality Act*, these discriminatory provisions were removed from the statute, but authority was reserved for the Governor-General '...to give or withhold a certificate of naturalisation with or without assigning a reason'.<sup>9</sup> The *Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948* gave the Minister power to grant or refuse an application, again without giving a reason.

Until 1956, when the government announced modifications to the policy on entry of non-Europeans, with a few exceptions, it was government policy not to grant the naturalisation of non-Europeans.<sup>10</sup> The statutory and policy discrimination against the naturalisation of non-Europeans means that between 1901 and 1956 Chinese nationals were unlikely to have been naturalised.

From 1916 until registration was suspended in 1926, non-naturalised aliens over 15 years of age were required to register under the War Precautions (Aliens Registration) Regulations 1916, later replaced by the *Aliens Registration Act 1920*. Commonwealth investigation of suspected persons and organisations also commenced in 1916, with some persons subsequently interned. At the beginning of World War II the *Aliens Registration Act 1939* and the National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations of the same year once again required aliens to register with the authorities. In addition to the registration of aliens as a wartime measure, the agencies responsible for administering immigration also recorded alien arrivals, for their own purposes and for the security services, before formally assuming responsibility for alien registration under the *Aliens Act 1947*.<sup>11</sup>

The *War-time Refugee Removals Act 1949* was directed at aliens and British subjects who had entered Australia during the war and had not departed by 1949. It allowed the Minister for Immigration to sign orders for deportation. A number of Chinese refugees who had been ordered to be deported challenged the orders<sup>12</sup> and while the High Court of Australia recognised the validity of the Act, criticism of the policy and the election of a new government in December 1949, along with the possible dangers for refugees in

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<sup>5</sup> Palfreeman, p. 82.

<sup>6</sup> See, for example: *Mann v Ah On*, (1905) 7 Western Australian Law Reports 182; *Chia Gee v Martin*, (1905) 3 Commonwealth Law Reports 649; *Ah Sheung v Lindberg*, (1906) Victorian Law Reports 323.

<sup>7</sup> Palfreeman, pp. 6–7 and 27.

<sup>8</sup> Palfreeman, p. 104.

<sup>9</sup> Palfreeman, p. 105–6.

<sup>10</sup> Palfreeman, pp. 26 and 106.

<sup>11</sup> Australian Archives, *Relations in Records: A Guide to Family History Sources in the Australian Archives*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1988, pp. 67 and 131.

<sup>12</sup> *Koon Wing Lau v Calwell*, (1949) 80 Commonwealth Law Reports 533, cited in Palfreeman, A C, *The Administration of the White Australia Policy*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1967, p. 103.

returning to China, led to the granting of limited residence rights for wartime refugees 'of good character'.<sup>13</sup>

The *Immigration (Restriction) Act 1901–49*, remained in force until replaced by the *Migration Act 1958*, which came into operation in 1959 and which is still Australia's principal immigration statute. An increasingly complicated system of exemptions operated under these statutes. In 1966 the government announced major changes to apply to the entry of non-Europeans to Australia. Eligibility criteria included persons with specialised skills not available locally, high attainment in arts or sciences, recognised professional qualifications, business people and other executives and technicians, and dependants of immigrants and of Australian citizens.<sup>14</sup>

## Entry into Australia under Federal regulations

### Returning residents and naturalised citizens

Clause 3n of the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* permitted the entry of:

...any person "who satisfies an officer that he has formerly been domiciled in the Commonwealth or in any colony which has become a State".<sup>15</sup>

The rights of non-European immigrants naturalised or holding rights of domicile under the laws of the colonies were initially acknowledged by the Federal Act, and any person domiciled in Australia who wished to leave temporarily could apply for a *Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test* (CEDT). In December 1905, this clause was repealed and replaced by section 4B, which provided for the issue of the CEDT only to those of good character who had resided in Australia for five years.<sup>16</sup> It is possible, however, that Chinese immigrants who were able to provide evidence of previous domicile at the port of entry were permitted to land even after the statutory provisions for allowing entry to them had been repealed, because they held valid re-entry permits.<sup>17</sup>

### New arrivals

After 1901, arrivals of new immigrants (rather than re-entry of those naturalised or with rights of domicile) were usually persons exempted from the dictation test for a specified period only. Wives and dependant children, students, assistants and temporary substitutes were admitted as temporary residents, and settler arrivals were very few.<sup>18</sup>

Several other categories of Chinese immigrants were exempted from the dictation test – students and merchants entered from 1901 on temporary exemption certificates and, after 1912, on passports. The arrangements for the entry of merchants' assistants, local traders' assistants, substitutes, chefs and cafe workers were formalised in 1934, allowing admission on CEDTs for specified periods depending on the value of the business and its annual turnover. From 1940, market-gardeners' assistants were also admitted on CEDTs.

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<sup>13</sup> Palfreeman, p. 36–39.

<sup>14</sup> Palfreeman, p. 26; Choi, p. 115.

<sup>15</sup> Palfreeman, p. 6.

<sup>16</sup> Choi, p. 39.

<sup>17</sup> Palfreeman, p. 6.

<sup>18</sup> Choi, p. 44.

Most of the categories for workforce arrivals were amended again in 1956, and abolished in 1966 when new entry criteria were established for the entry of non-Europeans.<sup>19</sup>

### **Entry of wives, children and dependants**

The 1901 Act permitted the entry of wives and children of immigrants who were not themselves prohibited (under clause 3m). The operation of clause 3m was, however, suspended by proclamation in March 1903 and repealed in December 1905. After 1905, wives and dependants of established, domiciled persons were admitted for periods of six months with one possible renewal. By 1913 family members were allowed to enter on CEDTs for one to three years; by 1947 merchants' wives and dependants were allowed to remain seven years; local traders' families, five years; and assistants' families on a case-by-case basis. By 1956 the provisions allowed families to remain as long as their sponsors were exempt.<sup>20</sup>

### **Wartime arrivals**

In 1947, the conditions of each category were clarified in a letter from Mr Arthur Calwell, the Minister for Immigration, to the Charge d' Affairs for the Republic of China, 22 April 1947, 'Setting Out the Conditions of Entry and Residence for Chinese'.<sup>21</sup> The request for clarification had come in the wake of the entry of Chinese refugees into Australia during World War II and the confusion about their status. The government's responsibility for its external territories also led, in 1942 and 1943, to the evacuation of Chinese residents from New Guinea and some of the Pacific Islands. These people were landed in Sydney, to remain in Australia for the duration of the war.

### **The dictation test**

Initially the dictation test could be administered in the first year after arrival (clause 5.2). The dictation test seems to have been used between 1902 and 1913, mainly against Chinese arrivals – 'After that, few Chinese attempted to come to Australia unless confident of admission...'.<sup>22</sup> The period within which the test could be applied was later extended to two years after arrival in 1910, three years in 1920<sup>23</sup> and five years in 1932.<sup>24</sup> This practice of extending the period within which the dictation test could be used to have an immigrant declared 'prohibited', suggests that it was intended to '...give the immigration authorities a much greater time allowance to find and deport immigrants...' who were not covered by other sections of the Act, rather than to prevent entry.<sup>25</sup> The dictation test was replaced in the *Migration Act 1958* with ministerial discretion as the method of exclusion and immigration policy remained virtually unchanged.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Choi, pp. 113–15.

<sup>20</sup> Choi, p. 39 and 114.

<sup>21</sup> Choi, p. 41; Palfreeman, pp. 153–57.

<sup>22</sup> Barry York, 'Admissions and Exclusions: 'Asiatics' and 'Other Coloured Races' in 'Australia: 1901 to 1946', *Studies in Australian Ethnic History*, Number 9, Centre for Immigration and Multicultural Studies, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra, 1995, p. 13.

<sup>23</sup> Commonwealth of Australia, Acts, No. 51 of 1920, s.6.

<sup>24</sup> Choi, p. 39; Commonwealth of Australia, Acts, No. 26 of 1932, s.4.

<sup>25</sup> Palfreeman, p. 84.

<sup>26</sup> F Hawkins, *Critical Years in Immigration: Canada and Australia Compared*, McGill-Queens University Press, Montreal-Kingston, 1989, p. 15.

## Administration of immigration in New South Wales

Many government records generated by this interaction were created by Federal agencies responsible for trade and the movement of people in and out of the country for much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Collector of Customs, Sydney was responsible for administering immigration policy in New South Wales, under the colonial government until 1901 and then under the Federal government until the Department of Immigration was created in 1945.

When in 1901 the Federal government took over responsibility for Customs and Immigration policy from the colonial New South Wales government, the Collector of Customs and many of the administrative records were also taken over to allow administration to continue. In some cases the same letter books were continued once the Federal government took over since there was continuity in the duties of the Collector and staff, despite changes in the legislation.

Sydney was the central point for the administration of customs and immigration matters in New South Wales under both the colonial and Federal governments, and the records created by both the Collector of Customs and, later, the Department of Immigration, New South Wales branch include applications and correspondence from Chinese immigrants and settlers from all over the State, and also for people leaving and entering New South Wales from or for other States.

Most records relating to the inward and outward movement of people and goods in New South Wales relate to the Port of Sydney (both for shipping and later for air travel) as the major international port, although there are also a few series of records that originated in Newcastle. File records include some policy and procedural information, and instructional circulars that were issued federally. While staff in New South Wales handled the immediate issue of arrivals and the day-to-day administration, decisions on individual cases where applications were submitted were usually made by the central administration.

These policies and the associated administrative procedures were disseminated by the central office of the department responsible, and implemented in each State by Customs and Excise staff until 1945, and then by the Department of Immigration staff in that State. The Act gave broad, discretionary powers over admission and deportation to the relevant Minister. It also gave the Administration power to apply the dictation test to all entrants other than Australian citizens.<sup>27</sup> Because the Act in itself did not prescribe the people to be admitted or excluded, policymakers and officers at the port of entry had considerable discretion.

The following Federal government departments were responsible for the central administration of the *Immigration (Restriction) Act 1901–49* and the *Migration Act 1958* for the period covering the records described in this guide. The records of these central administrations, held in the National Archives in Canberra, complement the records held in the Sydney office of the Archives, and include records on immigration policy, as well as case files on individuals where decisions were made by the central administration. These files sometimes provide additional information about people living in New South Wales.

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<sup>27</sup> Palfreeman, p.86.

1902–16	Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)
1917–32	Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)
1933–45	Department of the Interior [I], Central Administration (CA 240)
1946–74	Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)
1974–75	Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Central Office (CA 1775)
1975–87	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], Central Office (CA 1955)

In New South Wales the agencies administering immigration were as follows:

1901–45	Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)
1945–74	Department of Immigration, New South Wales Branch (CA 957)
1974–75	Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Regional Administration, New South Wales (CA 1955)
1975–87	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], Regional Administration, New South Wales (CA 1968)

Because people were often quite mobile in their search for work or business opportunities, it is possible that individuals may be documented in the records of more than one State branch of a Federal department. This means that for any given individual, there may be Customs and Immigration records in other States that parallel those described in this guide for New South Wales.

### Other records for Chinese–Australian history

The agencies mentioned in the preceding outline are the major government agencies that controlled functions that most significantly affected the lives of Chinese–Australians. However they are not the only agencies. Further information about other agencies, the records of which are listed in this guide, can be found on RecordSearch, which can be viewed online through on the Archives' website ([www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)).

Other record series held by the National Archives that deal with people in government service and administration may provide further information about individual Chinese–Australians, including service records for those who served in Australia's defence forces.<sup>28</sup> Reference staff in each Archives' office can provide information about other family history sources.

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<sup>28</sup> For further information about Chinese–Australians in the defence forces, see Morag Loh & Judith Winternitz, *Dinky-Di: The contributions of Chinese immigrants and Australians of Chinese descent to Australia's defence forces and war efforts, 1899–1988*, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1989.



**Records on Chinese immigrants and settlers in other archives**

The Archives Office of New South Wales holds records created by New South Wales' colonial and State government agencies. Records of agencies such as the Office of the Colonial Secretary, which had responsibility for a wide range of colonial government functions including naturalisation, may include information about Chinese immigrants. Records of companies, bankruptcies and miners' licences are other possible sources. Write to:

The Archives Office of New South Wales  
2 Globe Street  
The Rocks  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9237 0254  
Fax: (02) 9237 0142  
Internet: [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)  
Email: [aonsw@records.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aonsw@records.nsw.gov.au)

The Sydney City Council Archives holds records relating to the area administered historically as the City of Sydney. Information about Chinese residents of the Sydney area, especially about businesses and housing, can be found in assessment books, city maps and in council correspondence and photographs. Write to:

The Sydney City Council Archives  
GPO Box 1591  
Sydney NSW 2001

Tel: (02) 9700 9233  
Fax: (02) 9700 9047

Internet: [www.archivenet.gov.au/home4.html](http://www.archivenet.gov.au/home4.html)

## 2. NEW SOUTH WALES PRE-FEDERATION RECORDS

OUTWARD LETTER BOOKS [GENERAL], 1861-95

A1016

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

Quantity: 0.9 metres (Sydney)

This series contains letter books of copies of outgoing correspondence, in chronological order, on a variety of general administrative matters. Letters are addressed to officials in the colonial administration and in London, Collectors of Customs in other colonies and to private companies. Many of the letters are addressed to Chinese immigrants or residents, but some concern policy and procedures relating to immigration.

At the front of each volume is an alphabetical index that gives the subject of the letter or name of the addressee and the corresponding folio (page) number. Some of the indexes are incomplete as letters continued to be sent but were not included in the index.

Volumes 1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 17 are missing and some of the existing letter books cover only part of the year(s) indicated below.

<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1861-63</b>	<b>A1016, volume 3</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1861-65</b>	<b>A1016, volume 4</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1866-68</b>	<b>A1016, volume 5</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1868-70</b>	<b>A1016, volume 6</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1871-73</b>	<b>A1016, volume 7</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1876-78</b>	<b>A1016, volume 9</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1878-79</b>	<b>A1016, volume 10</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1879-79</b>	<b>A1016, volume 11</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1883-84</b>	<b>A1016, volume 14</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1886-87</b>	<b>A1016, volume 16</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1888-89</b>	<b>A1016, volume 18</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1889-91</b>	<b>A1016, volume 19</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1891-92</b>	<b>A1016, volume 20</b>
<b>Outwards Customs letter book, general, 1892-95</b>	<b>A1016, volume 21</b>

OUTWARD LETTER BOOK, CORRESPONDENCE WITH COUNTRY STATIONS,  
1864-74

A1017

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

Quantity: 0.56 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of copies of outward letters, in chronological order, from the Collector of Customs to country Customs stations. Some of the letters relate to the movement of Chinese people across NSW borders. The letters are addressed to Customs officers and sub-collectors throughout NSW (eg, at Albury, Moama, Swan Hill, Corowa, Wentworth, Tocumwal, Howlong, Euston and Wagga Wagga). There is an alphabetical subject index that records the year, the subject of the letter and the page number on which the letter can be found.

CANCELLED CERTIFICATES OF NATURALISATION, NSW, 1877-96

A806

Recorded by: Registrar General's Office (CA 1274)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Canberra)

This series is held in the National Archives' Canberra office but is included here because it relates only to Chinese immigrants in NSW.

These certificates were issued mainly to Chinese people naturalised in NSW between 1877 and 1896, and were subsequently cancelled by the Commonwealth government.

The *Naturalisation Act 1903* provided that persons naturalised in the colonies before the passing of the Act would be deemed naturalised under this Act. It is possible that these certificates were surrendered for Commonwealth naturalisation documentation.

OUTWARD LETTER BOOKS, CORRESPONDENCE WITH OUTPOSTS,  
1884-1900

A1018

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

Quantity: 0.62 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of four volumes of outward letter books of correspondence with outposts. The letters are addressed to the Customs sub-collectors, Customs lockers and Customs and preventative officers in the various outposts, sometimes concerning Chinese people arriving in or leaving the area. In all volumes the indexes are alphabetical with the letters arranged chronologically under the name of the outposts receiving the letter. Each page records the year the letter was sent, the subject of the letter and (occasionally) a folio reference.

## OUTWARD LETTER BOOK AND RECORD OF SEIZURES, 1885–1901

A1019

Recorded by: 1879–1901 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of an outward letter book dating from 1885 to 1901. The New South Wales' office of the Archives holds a second letter book that covers the years 1879 to 1885 and includes an alphabetical subject and name index at the front, which has a few entries. Seizures of goods were probably related to attempts to avoid payment of duty. Some seizures of opium are recorded, as are seizures of 'Chinese tobacco' and cigars, some associated with Chinese men.

## CERTIFICATES EXEMPTING FROM THE PROVISIONS OF 'THE INFLUX OF CHINESE RESTRICTION ACT 1881', 1862–88

SP115/10

Recorded by: 1884–88 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)

Quantity: 0.72 metres (Sydney)

These certificates were issued to individuals under the *Influx of Chinese Restriction Act, 1881* (NSW). The certificates are arranged in numerical order from 0 to 2 969) and record the name of applicant and date of issue. The recipients signed the certificates, sometimes using Chinese characters. The reverse of the certificate may be signed and annotated with additional details such as age and occupation.

This series includes two Certificates of Residence and four receipts for certificates issued to individuals under the *Chinese Immigration Regulation and Restriction Act 1861* (NSW).

## MONTHLY STATISTICAL REGISTER OF ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF CHINESE, 1891–97

SP822/11

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

Quantity: 0.46 metres (Sydney)

This volume is a handwritten monthly account of Chinese arrivals and departures through the Port of Sydney. Details recorded for arrivals include year, date, name of ship, port from, number of passengers ('a' for Sydney, 'b' en route), crew and remarks. Details given for departures include date, name of ship, port (where bound), number of passengers ('a' from Sydney, 'b' original en route) and crew. Arrivals and departures are recorded in chronological order on facing pages of the register.

## 'A HANDBOOK TO THE CUSTOMS' LAWS AND PRACTICE OF NEW SOUTH WALES, 1882'

C4381

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

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Sydney)

The full title of this publication is *A Handbook to the Customs Laws and Practice of New South Wales, comprising the Customs*

*Regulation Act 1879; together with Rules, Regulations, General Management, and Forms thereunder; also Customs Statistics for 1881, with tables and schedules of dutiable articles. Compiled by direction of the Colonial Treasurer.*

The contents of the handbook include a list of officers employed in the department and Acts of Parliament relating to Customs, including Acts relating to Chinese immigration.

### 3. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DOMICILE, 1875-1910

SP11/26

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

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

These records are applications made by foreign nationals under the Immigration (Restriction) Act, mostly by Chinese immigrants, for Certificates of Domicile, to exempt them (as residents) from the Act. The files also contain requests for refund of the NSW poll tax. These files deal with cases where State and Federal immigration laws with different provisions were operating at the same time.

**William Ah Bow, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, A1

This item contains four photographs.

**Ah Mung, Fong Tung, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, A2/69

This item contains four photographs.

**Ah Kee, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1901-02**

SP11/26, A4/74

**Ah Chong, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, A5/54

**Ah Gow, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, A6/24

**Ah Chee, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, A7/26

**Ah Shore, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, A8/30

**Billy Loong Sing and Sam Fong Sing, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, B2/76

This item contains seven photographs.

**Bedi Joseph, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, B3/85

**Barket Ali, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, B4/55

**Chat Wing Mar Hong, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902-04**

SP11/26, C11

This item contains four photographs.

**Jimmy Young, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, J9/78

This item contains four photographs.

**Jimmy Chuck, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, J10

**James Keem Yee, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902-03**

SP11/26, J14

This item contains three photographs.

**Kum Mock, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, K2

This item contains four photographs.

**H W G Ky Ling, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, K3

**Kay Yee, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902**

SP11/26, K5

<b>Loo Foon, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902</b>	<b>SP11/26, L2/35</b>
<b>Lee Shing, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902</b>	<b>SP11/26, L9</b>
<b>Low Kum, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902</b> This item contains four photographs.	<b>SP11/26, L12</b>
<b>Soo Fow, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902–03</b>	<b>SP11/26, S9</b>
<b>Tung Hack, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902</b>	<b>SP11/26, T3/47</b>
<b>Walter Ah Wing, son of Chin Ah Song, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902</b>	<b>SP11/26, W4</b>
<b>Charlie Way, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902</b>	<b>SP11/26, W</b>
<b>Wong Lee, application for Certificate of Domicile, 1902</b> This item contains four photographs.	<b>SP11/26, W11/52</b>

## GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'B' SERIES, 1862–1924

SP11/28

Recorded by: 1924 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

Items in this series deal with import licensing policy, including the licensing of Chinese foodstuffs, special quotas, the setting of history cards and so on.

**Sun Good Shing per St Albans – importation of tins of opium, 1921–24**

SP11/28, B1924/3563

This item includes two electrotpe printing blocks with the trademark of 'Lam Kee Macao Opium' found in a packet in a drawer in the Revenue Detective's Branch, Customs and Excise Office.

**Birth and naturalisation certificates found in the Revenue Detective's Branch, Customs and Excise Office, 1883–1924**

SP11/28, B1924/3564

This item includes certificates for Chinese persons in Australia.

## 'W' REGISTER CORRESPONDENCE, 1956–60

SP832/1

Recorded by: 1956–59 Central Import Licensing Branch (CA 1610)  
1959–60 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

These files relate to policy regarding import licensing. Subjects covered by the files include Chinese foodstuffs.

**Correspondence and case records**

Correspondence and case files on individuals relating to immigration, temporary entry and re-entry to New South Wales, and naturalisation of residents of New South Wales are contained in four main series of records created by the agencies responsible for immigration from 1901 to 1987. These agencies were the Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785); the Department of Immigration, New South Wales Branch (CA 957); the Immigration Group, Department of Labor and Immigration, Regional Administration, New South Wales (CA 1769); and the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], Regional Administration, New South Wales (CA 1968).

Some of the record series described below were used by more than one of these agencies.

1901–48	Correspondence relating to immigration restriction, 'C' prefix
1948–50	Correspondence and individual case files, with a 1–6 infix
1951–55	General correspondence and case files, with a 20–25 infix
1955–75	General correspondence and case files, block allocation with 'N' (New South Wales) prefix

In this section each main series is identified and some of its records described, followed by a description of any relevant registers and indexes. Apart from indexes to the earliest correspondence in letter books, and the nominal index cards for the later correspondence series – SP1602/1, SP1689/1 and SP1729/1 – and the microfiche index to naturalisation files in A4722, the name and subject indexes for the files appear to be of limited use.

Because the indexes were created annually rather than as consolidated indexes to all existing files, the file or folio number listed for one year may not be the final number given to the file. Active or reactivated files were often top-numbered into subsequent systems and this change in numbering does not seem to have been reliably recorded on the earlier indexes. The indexes also give no indication of the final fate of the files – whether they were transferred to the National Archives or destroyed or retained by the department.

In general, the correspondence records identified in this section contain information about individual immigrants and residents of Chinese descent and, less frequently, about Australian-born Chinese. The types of records on any file vary with the administrative and regulatory requirements in operation over the period the file was active and also on the immigration status of the person in question.

A file was usually raised when a person applied for a re-entry permit with the intention of leaving Australia temporarily. A file for an individual will usually be located in the series covering the date when the person would have had their last contact with the department. This may mean that they left Australia (either voluntarily or through deportation) and did not return, that they became naturalised, that they died or that they overstayed their CEDT or visa if they were in Australia temporarily but were never located. When a person made only one trip outside Australia, the file may cover just that application; if they made several trips outside Australia over their lifetime, the file may span many years.

The correspondence record series also contain some general files covering policies and procedures affecting Chinese immigrants and residents, but the main policy material can be found in records held in the Canberra office of the National Archives.

### **Correspondence relating to immigration restriction, 'C' prefix, 1901–48**

Correspondence record series with a 'C' prefix comprise several groups of records transferred to the National Archives at different times, usually when the files were no longer required by the department. The records in each transfer are similar, but the dates and extent of each differ. The majority of the files are located in SP42/1 and SP42/2, which are correspondence series relating to immigration restrictions and passports. Related series generally comprise records that appear to have been separated from the main series for administrative reasons.



The 'C' prefixed correspondence series covers the period between 1945 and 1948 when the Department of Immigration was becoming established, and some of the files which were separated from the main series may relate to the handover of the Immigration function from the Collector of Customs, Sydney.

Correspondence records in this series cover all matters arising from the administration of the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*, including applications for passports, CEDTs, entry permits and certificates of naturalisation. The series also contains files on residents, people entering Australia temporarily, repatriation and deportation, illegal immigrants and deserters from ships.

Most files relate to one person or to a group of people who arrived on the same vessel. Many individual files were raised for immigrants, usually men, from China; later they were raised for 'overseas' Chinese (that is, from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia or Hong Kong) applying for entry or re-entry to Australia, often as students. There are also, less frequently, files relating to the entry or re-entry of women, including wives (both Chinese and non-Chinese) and children of immigrants already in Australia, and Australian-born Chinese wanting to return to Australia.

Some policy and procedure files are interspersed with the individual case files. These general files often contain copies of instructions and circulars sent from the Secretary or the central office of the department, some of which have local office annotations.

At the time the 'C' prefixed series were in operation, Customs also maintained correspondence systems with 'A' and 'B' prefixes. The 'A' series covered general Customs matters (and possibly policy) and the 'B' series covered staff, general administrative and accounting matters. In the early years of the operation of these series, it seems that these divisions were not strictly adhered to; however, the small quantity of surviving 'A' and 'B' prefixed files, with the exception of two files relating to opium in SP11/28 and listed in the previous section, have not been included in this guide as they relate to general administration and importing.

OUTWARD LETTER BOOKS, CORRESPONDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH 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 outgoing correspondence, in chronological order, covering all aspects of the administration of the Immigration (Restriction) Act.

Correspondence is from the Collector of Customs to applicants for Certificates of Exemption and Certificates of Domicile; to shipping companies about procedures for passengers in transit; general enquires about entry requirements under the Act; and covering letters that accompanied the certificates issued. Many of these matters relate to Chinese immigrants.

File numbers on the folios indicate that the incoming correspondence was included in Customs' 'A', 'B' and 'C' correspondence series. Only item A1026, 2 has an alphabetical index in the front, the other volumes are not indexed. There may have been earlier volumes in this series, but their location is not known.

**[Outwards letter book 1], 1904–08**

**A1026, Outwards  
letter book 1**

**[Outwards letter book 2], 1904–08**

**A1026, Outwards  
letter book 2**

**[Outwards letter book 3], 1904–08**

**A1026, Outwards  
letter book 3**

INDEX BOOKS TO CORRESPONDENCE [REGARDING] THE IMMIGRATION  
RESTRICTION ACT, 1905–13

A1027

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

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Sydney)

The first volume in this series is an index to the folios in volume 1 in series A1026. The second volume falls outside the date range for A1026, but may have been an index to parts of the series that no longer exist. The indexes are alphabetical, mostly by name of the recipient of the letter.

**[Volume 1], 1905–13**

**A1027, Volume 1**

**[Volume 2], 1905–13**

**A1027, Volume 2**

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS RELATING TO  
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)

This series mostly contains records about individuals or ships' files relating to the re-entry of Chinese immigrants, although there are occasional files that deal with procedural matters.

A small group of papers dating from 1898 to 1900 deals with immigration under New South Wales' colonial law and includes papers on Chinese immigrants. These papers are not part of the 'C' series but are arranged by a year prefix and single number as part of the NSW Customs Service filing system (1898/1379–1900/3056).

**Mrs Ng Kin and three children, Chinese, leaving for China  
by SS *Tango Maru*, 2.2.1919, and Charlie Ng Kin, 1903–19**

**SP42/1, C1919/825**

**Una Chen (Ha Song) Sing; Mrs Choy Jack (nee Una Chin  
Ah Song), Ada Ruby, Arthur, Walter and Jack, 1913–46**

**SP42/1, C1946/8842**

CORRESPONDENCE (MISCELLANEOUS) – COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS [ON]  
IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION AND PASSPORTS, C1907–48

SP42/2

Recorded by: 1907–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945–48 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 5.4 metres (Sydney)

This series contains the same type of records as SP42/1, but has a higher proportion of records dealing with matters other than immigration, including general administrative records

and records dealing with contraventions of Federal commerce regulations. The portion of records relating to Chinese immigrants has been identified, but perhaps not exhaustively, and each of these files is listed by name on RecordSearch.

**Arrivals per SS *Empire* [correspondence relating to immigration], 1911**

SP42/2, C1911/2313

**Mrs Tong Wee, Tung Wee and Henry Young Nooey [circular on possible use of CEDT], 1914**

SP42/2, C1914/4554

**Mu Kum Sing – application for CEDT, 1905–23**

SP42/2, C1923/3259

This item contains an application for a CEDT under the Immigration (Restriction) Act 1901 to 1912. It includes left and right thumbprints and photographs.

**Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand Ltd: Circular regarding Commonwealth Immigration Act, 1937**

SP42/2, C1937/488

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO ISSUE OF BONDS (SECURITIES) RE 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)

Most files in this series were extracted from the main series of 'C' files and kept together, apparently as a guide to the procedures and regulations covering the payment of bonds under the Immigration (Restriction) Act.

Papers relate to bonds paid for the temporary stay in Australia of immigrants designated as 'prohibited' under the Act or for their transshipment in Australia. Several files relate to Chinese arrivals, including one man's application for the entry of his wife and others where bonds have been paid for the release of prisoners convicted of being 'prohibited' immigrants under the Immigration (Restriction) Act.

**Immigration Act, Mrs Harry Way Yee x Aldenham, 1915–16**

SP740/1, C1916/241

**General Bond, transshipment passengers, 1919–48**

SP740/1, NN

This item contains copies and original correspondence about the administration of bonds for passengers, including Chinese passengers, in transit through Australia. Transshipment seems to have been most common for passengers from China to New Zealand and on the return journey.

CORRESPONDENCE RE CHINESE (FOLIOS FROM COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'C' SERIES), 1911–47

SP11/12

Recorded by: 1901–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945–48 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

The files in this series relate to passports and CEDTs. The folios appear to have been removed from files in the 'C' series and made into new files, possibly in 1946 for transfer to the

Department of Immigration when that department became responsible for Immigration.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'C' SERIES, 1923-47

SP11/27

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

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

These files deal with requests for entry documentation for a variety of people entering NSW, and with departures and deportation. Eight files relate to Chinese immigrants.

**[Issue of passport to Mrs Kathleen Loie, nee Katie Chen See], 1945**

**SP11/27, C1945/8118**

DOCUMENTS [RE] CHINESE PASSENGERS ON THE SS 'NELLORE' AND SS 'TAIPING', 1947

SP83/7

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

Quantity: 0.06 metres (Sydney)

Files in this series seem to have been removed from the main 'C' series. They include CEDTs for passengers arriving in NSW on the SS *Nellore* and the SS *Tai ping*. The files are numbered from C1947/1031 to C1947/2244. Chinese names mentioned in the files include Willie Lin Sing, King Tong, Ah Mutt, Ah Tong, Gee War, Wah Goon, Young Hing, Chin Shue Bong and George Wing Dann.

## Registers and indexes to correspondence and case files, 1920-48

[ALPHABETICAL NAME AND SUBJECT] INDEX TO 'C' SERIES CUSTOMS FILES, 1920-45

SP220/1

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

Quantity: 12.42 metres (Sydney)

Apart from the indexes to the letter books listed in A1026 and A1027, the indexes in this series are the earliest available indexes to SP42/1 and SP42/2.

This card index was created annually. The cards for each year are divided into several groups: A-Z (name index); Passports, A-Z; Interstate (matters in other States); and Administration (operational and policy file subject headings such as Audit, Government Printer, Navigation, Registrar-Shipping, etc).

Each index card includes information about the number of the file to which the paper was connected; the folio registration number; the date registered; the date of the letter; who from; and subject (a one-line precis of the letter).

FILE MOVEMENT AND FOLIO REGISTERS, 'C' SERIES CORRESPONDENCE (IMMIGRATION MATTERS), 1932-48

SP143/1

Recorded by: 1932-45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945-48 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 2.25 metres (Sydney)

The bound volumes in this series appear to be folio registration books. As incoming correspondence was received, it was given a number. The register records the number (of folio); folio (name of sender – person or business); to whom referred; and remarks (initials, date(s) and file number). The file numbers given often have a 'W' prefix, which may indicate associated correspondence in a series not yet identified.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO 'C' SERIES CORRESPONDENCE AND FILE MOVEMENT REGISTERS (SERIES 1), 1940–48

SP143/2

Recorded by: 1940–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945–48 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 0.45 metres (Sydney)

This series contains a number of bound registers of alphabetical indexes, arranged principally by subject of each incoming piece of correspondence. Each volume contains entries entered chronologically in the appropriate alphabetical section. Each entry records the date of the entry, the file (folio) number, the name of person or the subject of file and remarks regarding folio numbers.

NAME INDEX TO 'C' SERIES CORRESPONDENCE, 1946–48

SP563/1

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

Quantity: 1.08 metres (Sydney)

This series contains a nominal card index to the files that was created annually. The cards for each year are divided into several groups: A–Z (name index); Passports (A–Z); Interior Immigration; Boarding Inspector; Interior Passports (A–Z); and Consuls. Each index card includes information on the connection (the number of file to which the paper was previously connected, and the previous folio or file number); the folio registration number; the date of registration; the date of the letter; whom it was from; and the subject (a one-line precis of the letter).

## **Correspondence and individual case files, with 1–6 infix, 1948–50**

After its inauguration in New South Wales in 1946, the Department of Immigration took over the 'C' prefix file series from the Collector of Customs and in 1948 introduced a new filing system. The new numbering system comprised an annual single number with a single number infix of six sections. The infix represented the administrative sections of the department, as follows:

1. Passports Section
2. General Immigration
3. Landing Permit
4. Naturalisation
5. Assisted Passage

## 6. Alien Registration

A file number – for example, 1950/2/1999 – consists of the year the file was created ('1950'), the relevant departmental section that created the file ('2', General Immigration) and the individual file number ('1999'). This file registration system was used for only three years, to the end of 1950, when it was superseded by another system.

These files deal with matters arising from the administration of the Immigration (Restriction) Act and cover subjects such as application for exemptions, deportation, landing and searches for stowaways.

Files that contain information on Chinese people are those with infix '/1/', which includes correspondence relating to seamen and ship's crews, and '/2/', which includes restricted immigration correspondence. There may also be references to Chinese immigrants in files from the '/3/' and '/4/' groups. Files with the '/6/' infix relate mainly to European immigrants who changed their names.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CHIEF MIGRATION OFFICER RELATING TO  
RESTRICTED MIGRATION, 1950

SP244/2

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

Quantity: 16.20 metres (Sydney)

Most items in this series have the general immigration infix ('/2/') and seem to deal with applications for permanent residence, CEDTs or landing permits, mainly for European immigrants. Some items contain applications for permanent residence from people born in Hong Kong.

Some items in this series relate to policy formulation and contain correspondence between the Commonwealth Migration Officer and the Secretary, Department of Immigration concerning the application of the provisions of the Immigration (Restriction) Act to various groups of immigrants, such as coloured theatrical artists and wrestlers.

### **SS *Soochow* arrived Sydney 3 January 1950, 1949-50**

SP244/2, N1950/2/693

Passengers onboard the SS *Soochow* include Ah Loo, Ah Wing, Ah Hook, George Tom, Get Chong, Ah Sue, Allan Lum., Lee Hing Yen, Mavis Wong, Kathleen Wong, Gee Yen Ming, Lai Fong, Kwan Hoi Chu, Ho Yook Wai, Sue Quan, Shue Kee, Chia Chien Tang, Chia Chien Tang, Chia Chen, Chia Fu, Ma Yu Ting, David Lau and Grace Wong Lau.

APPLICATIONS FOR LANDING PERMITS [MIGRANT SELECTION  
DOCUMENTS], 1950

SP244/3

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

Quantity: 2.16 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of files containing applications for landing permits. It includes applications by Australian citizens for relatives or friends to enter Australia. This series is not listed at item level on RecordSearch.

NOMINAL INDEX TO GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE (SECTIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 AND 6), 1948–50

SP364/1

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

Quantity: 5.76 metres (Sydney)

This series contains a nominal card index for 1948 to 1950. The cards for each year are divided by administrative section, and then alphabetically by name and subject, under the following headings:

1. Passports Section
2. General Immigration
3. Landing Permit
4. Naturalisation
5. Assisted Passage
6. Alien Registration

Each card records the file number to which the paper was connected (where a relevant file exists); a registered number (folio number); the date registered; the date of the letter and its number (only the date is used); whom the letter was from; and the subject of the letter. This is a complete index for the 1948–50 correspondence series. Most items in this series have not yet been examined and are not listed on RecordSearch at item level.

### General correspondence and case files, 1951–55 and 1956–75

Between 1951 and 1975 the Department of Immigration used two different file-numbering systems, which have come to be treated as one, with files from both numbering systems sometimes being transferred together into archival custody. In both systems the file number begins with the year prefix, so the files maintain chronological order within each transferred consignment even when the consignment consists of items from both numbering systems.

In 1951, the Central Office of the Department of Immigration issued identification symbols for State registration for use as infixes. The numbers allocated to NSW were '20–30', of which only 6 were used:

Number infix	Files covered	Colour of file covers
20	A–F	Purple
21	G–L	Green
22	N–R	Black
23	S–Z	Blue
24	'Asiatics'	Red
25	Policy and procurement	Plain

In 1956 the numbering system was changed again. Blocks of numbers were allocated along the same lines as in the previous series:

<b>Block number range</b>	<b>Files covered</b>	<b>Colour of file cover</b>
1-10 000	'Asiatics'	Red
10 001-30 000	A-F	Purple
30 001-45 000	G-L	Green
45 001-60 000	N-R	Black
60 001-75 000	S-Z	Blue
75 001-	Policy and procurement	Plain

Files with the '/24/' infix (1951-55) and in the block number range 1-10 000 (1956-75), grouped by the agencies as 'Asiatics', relate to all non-Europeans, including Chinese immigrants, residents and, occasionally, to Australian-born Chinese and naturalised Australians of Chinese descent.

The subjects covered by the files vary, particularly with the date range of the file, as documentation varies over time depending on the regulations in place. Records cover matters such as landing permits, hostel accommodation, assisted migration, assimilation inquiries, migrant education, naturalisation, deportations, issue of passports, social work, restricted entries and repatriation.

The series includes files relating to the entry of wives and children of residents and students, and applications for the entry of workers as substitutes for residents leaving the country or for business assistants. Some files cover families or businesses or all passengers arriving on a ship or aircraft.

A file for an individual generally relates to immigrants and emigrants either entering, resident in or departing Australia, and often remains active until the person leaves the country permanently, dies or becomes naturalised. Some files cover only one year, others cover 50 years or more, and some have been top-numbered from the previous series so they may include papers dated prior to the 1956 commencement of this series.

Files may include correspondence, documents, application forms for visas or re-entry permits, testimonials as to the applicant's good character, reports by departmental officers on the applicant's employment or business, passports and photographs of the applicant.

The general administrative records cover topics such as sponsorship, admission, accommodation procedures, instructions and reports. Policy files may also contain information relevant to Chinese immigration and settlement.



CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 24 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION) INFIX, 1952-75

SP1655/7

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

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This small correspondence series contains four files relating to Chinese immigrants. The files seem to relate to unusual cases or cases of particular complexity or public interest.

**Stanley Leung, 1952-54**

SP1655/7, 52/24/3855

**Choy On, 1937-57**

SP1655/7, 53/24/3574

**Cheng Teh Chuan/ Cheng Te Tsuan (Brother Antonin), 1955**

SP1655/7, 53/24/4736  
part 2

**Gwenda Goulding (Mrs) (nee Sook You/Gwenda Yee), 1935-54**

SP1655/7, 54/24/3362

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 25 (POLICY), 1953-55

SP1655/1

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

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Sydney)

This group of policy files has been separated from a larger series. A number of files relate to Chinese immigration.

**Alien registration certificates improperly issued to Chinese, 1953-55**

SP1655/1, 1955/25/75524

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE [AND CASE FILES], 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, by 1897-1967

SP1122/1

Recorded by: 1951-67 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 2 375.76 metres (Sydney)

Items in this series contain correspondence, papers, documents, passports and photographs of individuals entering, resident in or departing Australia through the Port of Sydney or interstate ports. Matters dealt with in this series include naturalisation, deportation, passports, landing permits, hostel accommodation, accommodation inquiries, assisted migration, and entry, re-entry and restricted entry.

This series is an amalgamation of earlier 'C' files from the Department of Trade and Customs with files from the Department of Immigration.

**Rosie Wong/Swee Kwong, correspondence relating to Certificate of Exemption, 1960**

SP1122/1, 1952/24/1754

**Sun Sing Garden - correspondence on Certificates of Exemption for Wing Seng, Hing Fong, Tat Choy and Kwai Yuen/Kway Yin, 1950-54**

SP1122/1, 1952/24/1688

**Leung Lum Yow - correspondence relating to his parents, Mr James and Mrs Ming Sun, 1921-51**

SP1122/1, N1951/24/10

This item contains photographs.

**Ip Sung – deserter ex *Idomeneus* – Immigration  
correspondence file, 1951–54**

SP1122/1, N1951/24/1035

**Teo Choo Siong – student, 1951–52**

SP1122/1, N1951/24/1610

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1952–75

C3939

Recorded by: 1952–74 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)  
 1974–75 Immigration Group, Department of Labor and  
 Immigration, NSW (CA 1995)  
 1975–77 Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs  
 [I], NSW (CA 1968)

Quantity: 38.70 metres (Sydney)

Items in this series cover landing permits, hostel  
 accommodation, assisted migration, assimilation inquiries,  
 migrant education and repatriation. Other matters dealt with  
 in the records include sponsorship, admission,  
 accommodation procedures, instructions, reports,  
 procedures, policy and procurement.

**Chinese wives and minor children, 1950–60**

C3939/2, N1955/25/75032

**Admission of Chinese students, 1955–61**

C3939/2, N1955/25/75034

**Nationality of wives and children of Australian-born  
Chinese**

C3939/2, N1955/25/75197

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AND CASE FILES, 'N' (NSW) PREFIX, 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)

This series contains correspondence files dealing with  
 individual migrants, general matters, policy, estimates, staff  
 and finance. Items are not listed on RecordSearch.

**Registers and indexes to general correspondence and case files, 1951–55  
and 1956–75****Nominal index cards**

These cards are arranged alphabetically by name, with each card recording some or all of the following information: surname, first name, date of birth, address (suburb only when given), date of arrival, number (file number), indexed (date), description (Immigration form or code numbers or category), and remarks, (for example: 'app for temp resid', 'tourist visa for one year' and 'amnesty granted').

There are no lists giving the range of cards in each box. Please consult Reference staff for further information.

## NOMINAL INDEX CARDS TO CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1951–69

SP1602/1

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

Quantity: 40.14 metres (Sydney)

This series contains nominal index cards to individual immigrants' files. Most of the items in this series have not yet been examined.

## NOMINAL INDEX CARDS TO CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1960–75

SP1689/1

Recorded by: 1970–74 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: 31.86 metres (Sydney)

The nominal index cards in this series cover file numbers from about 1960, possibly earlier, but most date from 1970–1975. Most of the items in this series have not yet been examined.

## NOMINAL INDEX CARDS TO CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1976–79

SP1729/1

Recorded by: Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], NSW (CA 1968)

Quantity: 35.28 metres (Sydney)

This series contains nominal index cards to individual immigrants' files. Each card records a surname, given names, date of birth, address, date of arrival, file number, date indexed and a precis of the file's contents. The cards were microfilmed in 1977–78.

## 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, sex, former citizenship, arrival date in Australia, Citizenship Certificate number, and the date and place the oath or affirmation was taken.

## 4. ARRIVALS, RESIDENCE AND DEPARTURES

### Arrival and entry – registers and certificates

REGISTER OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES, c1902-59

SP726/2

Recorded by: 1902-45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945-62 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 0.45 metres (Sydney)

This series contains a register of birth certificates presumably presented by Australian-born non-Europeans on or before leaving Australia to ensure their re-entry. There is an alphabetical index at the front of the volume.

The record for each individual includes their name, number of certificate, application number, date of issue of certificate, where issued, where born, date of birth, remarks concerning departure (sometimes includes nationality, but departure details are often incomplete), vessel and date of return, by whom examined, landed or rejected, general remarks and file number ('C' or 'N' file).

An extract from the register appears on the following page.

INWARDS REGISTERS [PERSONS ADMITTED; WHO PASSED DICTATION TEST; PERSONS REFUSED PERMISSION; PROHIBITED MIGRANTS; PERSONS EN ROUTE FROM SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE], 1913-30

SP143/4

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

Quantity: 4.5 metres (Sydney)

The registers in this series are arranged chronologically and are a monthly statistical account of the arrival of all persons in order of arrival of ships at the ports of Sydney and Newcastle.

Details for each arrival include the month and date of arrival; name of vessel; country whence immigrants arrived (each country or 'race' given); nationality; number of persons passing dictation test; remarks; prohibited immigrants en route to other ports, States, etc); remarks; and file numbers.

**Inwards - registers - Immigration Act, 1913-17**

**SP143/4, Vol1**

**Inwards - registers - Immigration Act, 1917-21**

**SP143/4, Vol2**

**Inwards - registers - Immigration Act, 1921-24**

**SP143/4, Vol3**

6

name	no. of applications original no.	date of issue of passport	where born	date of birth	Remarks concerning departure to
Amey Ung Juey	3429 Original	15/12/91	19 Bengel Sydney	17/10/91	Left for China with father mother and 2 brothers.
Uma Chin Lee	13 Original	15/2/94	Tingha	29/12/93	Left for China when two months old, with family. Father, was holder of 45500/1126; He has made two trips since he took the infant girl Uma to China.
Charles Hoy Kee	7443 Original	8/6/91	55 Stanning Sydney	1/5/91	Left Australia when 10 months old with parents and three infant children <del>and three infant children</del> Fall
Charlie Ung Juey	7442 Original	23/11/94	79 Bengel Sydney	10/11/94	Birth certificate was given to owner on 14/11/11.
Roger Chew Kee	184 Original	25/6/08	Inverell	8/5/08	Left for China with parents.
Maudie Chew Kee	1904/2 Original 1903	16/3/04	1904/2 Tingha	18/5/03	Left for China with parents.
Ruby Chew Kee	363 Original 19/1904	29/7/04	Tingha	19/6/04	Left for China with parents.
Henry Chew Kee	544 Original	29/8/06	29/8/06 Bourke Tamworth	22/7/06	Left for China with parents.

Vessel and Date of Departure Guthrie, about twelve years ago.	Vessel and Date of Return Eastern 31/12	By whom examined Mr. Paganore Mr. Barry Mr. Donohoe	Landed or Registered Landed	General Remarks Attended old people	7
	Eastern 31/12	Mr. Rawson Mr. Barry Mr. Donohoe	Landed	Settled in Gunnedah Settled in Gunnedah One brother dead. Father, Mother and 2 girls in China. Here, with them, complete family. Certificate issued. Redone.	C 5910 C 5910
	Eastern 31/12	Mr. Rawson Mr. Barry Mr. Donohoe	Landed	Father died in China. Mother alive in China. One brother, George, still in China. Photo stamped 2/1/12 on back of Certificate.	C 5910
	Eastern 31/12 (Previous date Eastern)	Messrs. McManus & Donohoe	Landed	Handprint on Birth Certificate. Brother of Amy (Page 6)	C 09 4171 C 5910
St Albans 28/8/12	Eastern 31 10 13	Messrs. McManus & Donohoe	Landed	Photo stamped 23/12/12 and handprint on Birth Certificate.	C 5910 C 5910
St Albans 28/8/12	Eastern 31 10 13	Messrs. McManus & Donohoe	Landed	Photo stamped 23/12/12 and handprint on Birth Certificate.	C 5910 C 5910
St Albans 28/8/12	Eastern 31 10 13	Messrs. McManus & Donohoe	Landed	Photo stamped 23/12/12 and handprint on Birth Certificate.	C 5910 C 5910
St Albans 28/8/12	Eastern 31 10 13	Messrs. McManus & Donohoe	Landed	Photo, stamped 23/12/12 and handprint on Birth Certificate.	C 5910 C 5910

## ASIATIC ARRIVALS' INDEX CARDS (WAR PERIOD), 1939-45

SP343/3

Recorded by: 1939-45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Sydney)

This series contains index cards for Asian arrivals during World War II. The cards are arranged alphabetically by name and include address, file number ('N' and some 'C' files), registration number, Certificate of Exemption (number), age, date of issue and expiry or extensions, when arrived by ship, and other information about occupation, whereabouts, marital status and children. Photographs are attached to the cards.

## ALIENS REGISTERS, 1940-71

SP1732/6

Recorded by: 1940-45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945-71 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 2.34 metres (Sydney)

The items in this series were transferred by the Entry and Control Section, Department of Immigration and seem to be arrivals' registers. Entries are arranged by number and entered chronologically. Each entry records name, registration number, nationality and date. Most of the items in this series have not yet been examined.

### **Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test, Certificates of Domicile and associated forms**

Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDTs) and Certificates of Domicile were issued to immigrants who were leaving Australia temporarily and allowed their return within a specified time. Clause 3n of the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* permitted the entry of any person previously domiciled in the Commonwealth. This clause was repealed in December 1905 and replaced by section 4B, which allowed the issue of a CEDT to people of good character who had resided in Australia for five years.

The books of certificates contain triple copies – one issued to the person departing to be presented on re-entering Australia, one probably retained at the port of departure for comparison with the certificate presented on re-entry for verification of identity and validity of the certificate, and the book butt, which recorded details of the certificate issued. The two certificates usually have two photographs of the applicant attached. The book butts do not include photographs.

Form No. 32 ('Customs Officers' certification of receipt of CEDT and verification of identification of holder') is sometimes attached to the CEDT. A copy of the applicant's fingerprints was usually placed on the back of Form 32, probably to compare with those placed on the CEDT.

REGISTER OF APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION FROM THE  
DICTATION TEST, 1902-59

SP726/1

Recorded by: 1902-45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945-59 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 0.9 metres (Sydney)

This series contains registers listing people already resident in NSW who were applying for CEDTs, to permit them to re-enter Australia after going abroad.

For each individual, the registers list the certificate number, date of issue, name (of applicant), vessel, date and port of departure, vessel and date and port of return, officer who examined, file number (mainly 'C' or 'N' files), and remarks (usually details regarding the certificate or renumbering of the file).

Volume 4 may be an adjunct to the main registers. In chronological order by date of application, entries in volume 4 record the file number, number of times the person had applied for a Certificate of Exemption (ie first, second, third, etc), name and date of application.

**Register of applications for Certificate [of] Exemption  
[from the] Dictation Tests, 1902-59**

SP726/1, register 2

**Register of applications for Certificate [of] Exemption  
[from the] Dictation Tests, 1902-59**

SP726/1, register 3

## CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION FROM THE DICTATION TEST, 1905-51

ST84/1

Recorded by: 1905-45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945-51 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 8.46 metres (Sydney)

This series includes both CEDTs and Certificates of Domicile. The certificates are arranged numerically and are often annotated with re-entry details such as the date of re-entry and name of ship. The earliest Certificates of Domicile date from 1904.

Each certificate describes the applicant's nationality, age, height, build, particular marks, birthplace, complexion, (colour of) hair and eyes. Photographs and hand, thumb or fingerprints of the applicant are attached to the certificate. Examples of a certificate and associated papers appear on the following page.



Form No. 21. **COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.** *08/477*  
**DUPLICATE.** *No.* *08/477*  
*Immigration Restriction Acts 1901-1905 and Regulations.*

**CERTIFICATE EXEMPTING FROM DICTATION TEST.**

I, *John Bassett* *actg* the Collector of Customs  
for the State of *New South Wales* in the said Commonwealth,  
hereby certify that *Go Gee. (wife of Hin Gee)*  
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 Com-  
monwealth within a period of *Three years* from this date.



Date *28 Aupt 08* *actg* *Collector of Customs.*

**DESCRIPTION.**

Nationality <i>Chinese</i>	Birthplace <i>Canton</i>
Age <i>26 years</i>	Complexion <i>Dark</i>
Height <i>—</i>	Hair <i>Dark</i>
Build <i>Medium</i>	Eyes <i>Brown</i>
Particular marks <i>—</i>	

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

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Date of departure *August 08* Destination *China*  
Ship *Compass*  
Date of return *5. 6. 15* Ship *Eagles*  
Port *Sydney* *W. J. Donohoe*

NAA: ST84/1, Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test, p. 44

**IMPRESSION OF LEFT HAND.**

*Leaving Sydney with Husband  
(Hin Gee.) and Four Children  
Photo of Family attached hereto  
see file 648.609.1192.*

*W. J. Donohoe*  
*28/9/08*

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: 1.62 metres (Sydney)

This series comprises copies of forms 32 and 21 arranged chronologically by ship of re-entry. These certificates were probably copies issued to people departing Australia, which were presented on their return.

Details on the certificates include a physical description and two photographs of the person exempted. Most of the certificates were issued to Chinese immigrants or residents. Examples of a certificate and associated papers appear below.

The easiest way to locate individual records in this series on RecordSearch is to enter the name of the ship of re-entry (if known) in the 'Keywords' box in the 'Search' screen. Archives' reference officers will also provide assistance.

**Chinese passengers per SS *Changte* at Sydney, 4 January 1928**

SP11/6, NN

**Chinese passengers per SS *Tanda* at Sydney, 25 December 1927**

SP11/6, NN

FOLDERS – CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION AND RELATED PAPERS FOR  
PASSENGERS ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA BY SHIP, 1878–1943

SP115/1

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

Quantity: 24.84 metres (Sydney)

This series contains folders of copies of forms 21 and 32, arranged chronologically by ship of re-entry, which were probably issued to people departing Australia and presented on their return.

Details on the certificates include a physical description and two photographs of the person exempted. Most of the certificates were issued to Chinese immigrants or residents. Some give the related 'C' file number.

**[SS] *Tanda*, 22 September 1939**

SP115/1, box 76

BOOK BUTTS OF CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION FROM DICTATION TEST,  
1941–59

SP605/8

Recorded by: 1941–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945–58 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains book butts of certificates issued for NSW by the Sub-Collector of Customs, Sydney and the Commonwealth Migration Officer, Sydney. Each book contained 100 certificates, the butts of which record the number of certificate, name (of applicant), nationality, date of

issue, ('C' or 'N') file number, and fee (paid). The book numbers covered are 564–567, 571, 572, 576 and 587.

## Book butts

### Certificates of Exemption

The series listed in this section contain book butts of Certificates of Exemption issued to people arriving in Sydney and applying for entry to Australia or applying for extensions to previous certificates. In 1938 and 1939 most of the certificates seem to have been issued on arrival. The certificates granted admittance for a limited period of time and exempted the certificate holder from certain provisions of the Immigration (Restriction) Act. The records in these series are booklets containing multiple copies of receipts or butts from which CEDTs were detached and issued.

Each butt records the number of the CEDT, the State in which it was issued, who it was issued to and the person's name, nationality, age, race and particular marks. Other details were their occupation, their port of arrival, the port they left from, the vessel they travelled in and the date of their arrival. Information about the certificate itself included the period of exemptions, reasons for exemption (eg wartime arrival) and the date of issue. The certificates were issued for a specified time, entitling persons to enter or remain in the Commonwealth without being subject to any of the provisions of the Act that restricted entry into or stay in the Commonwealth. The butts contain information about the persons for whom they were issued and are sometimes annotated with the advice that the person for whom the certificate was issued had left the country, giving the date and name of the ship. If the person applied for an extension and it was granted, the new certificate number was recorded. Some of the butts from 1951–59 may have been issued by overseas posts prior to the applicant leaving for Australia.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION BOOK BUTTS, 1938–39

SP822/13

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

Quantity: 0.46 metres (Sydney)

This series contains the book butts of certificates issued in 1938–39 for NSW.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION – BOOK BUTTS, 1945–50

SP343/2

Recorded by: 1945 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945–50 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 2.7 metres (Sydney)

The certificates are numbered consecutively within each year from 1945/2506 to 1950/29806.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION, 1951–59

SP605/7

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

Quantity: 3.78 metres (Sydney)

The certificates in this series are numbered consecutively within each year from 1951/1 to 1959/1999.

**Temporary entry**

The series listed in this section contain butts of 'Authority to Enter Australia Temporarily' (AEAT) forms. The authority attached to the butt was given to persons entering NSW (mainly the Port of Sydney), probably on presentation of a valid visa, or issued to overseas posts for intending immigrants, if the post delegation did not include the authorisation of entry to Australia.

Each butt records the authority number, date of issue, valid until (date), issued to (name), nationality, race, status (eg, student, occupation, wife of 'X'), number of persons, age and file number.

AUTHORITY TO ENTER AUSTRALIA TEMPORARILY - BOOK BUTTS, 1953-54

SP343/4

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

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

These butts are numbered from 1 801 to 2 800 and from A2501 to A2600. A blank copy of the form is attached to form number A2501.

AUTHORITY TO ENTER AUSTRALIA TEMPORARILY - BOOK BUTTS, 1952-60

SP605/9

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

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

These butts are numbered from 401 to 2 900. Some numbers are repeated and there are gaps in numbering.

BOOK BUTTS - TEMPORARY ENTRY PERMITS, 1959-60

SP605/1

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

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Sydney)

This series contains book butts of temporary entry permits (Form M38), which are numbered from 1959/1100 to 1960/3288. The permits were issued to immigrants, tourists, businessmen (many of them Chinese) and authorised holders to enter Australia for specified periods of time or remain here for additional time. The first book contains an example of a cancelled certificate.

Details recorded on the book butts include the permit number and the recipient's name, nationality, race, place and date of birth and date of entry. Other information includes the date of the permit was issued, the period of authorised stay and authorised employment, along with 'remarks' (usually file number).

TOL 80881 550  
 EXAM No 550  
 Mr. Wilson.  
 PL.  
 COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
 PLEASE ADDRESS ONLY: "COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS"  
 BOX 5, R.F.D., SYDNEY  
 AND NUMBER 2, G'46/6302.  
 CUSTOMS HOUSE, SYDNEY  
 15th May, 1946.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your communication of 9/5/1946, I desire to inform you that New South Wales Certificate Exempting from the Dictation Test under the Immigration Act No. 565/063 issued in favour of Chee Tong or Gock Chee Tong at Sydney on 3/6/1941 has been extended for a period of three years up to 4/6/1947 by the issue of New South Wales Certificate Exempting from the Dictation Test No. 565/38, which document is being retained in this office.

Chee Tong or Gock Chee Tong will be permitted to re-enter the Commonwealth after being satisfactorily identified, provided he returns on or before 4/6/1947.

This letter should be forwarded to Chee Tong or Gock Chee Tong in China to facilitate his obtaining a passage to Australia and must be produced by him on his return.

Yours faithfully,

*J. Darcy*  
 (J. Darcy)  
 A/g. Collector of Customs, N.S.W.

VT NO 10466 OF 26 1946  
 E-21. (One Pound)  
 WEALTH OF AUSTRALIA. No 063  
 ion Act 1901-1935 and Regulations.  
 EMPTING FROM DICTATION TEST.

*Ashton Mitchell* the Collector of Customs  
 for the State of NEW SOUTH WALES in the said Commonwealth,  
 hereby certify that *Chee Tong or Gock Chee Tong*  
 hereinafter described who is leaving the Commonwealth temporarily, will be exempted  
 from the provisions of paragraph (a) of Section 3 of the Act if he returns to the Com-  
 monwealth within a period of *THREE YEARS* from the date of departure  
 shown below.


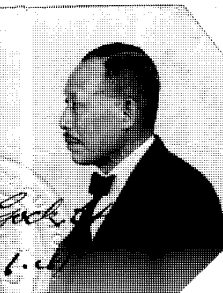
Date *3.6.1946*  
*Geo. H. A. Mitchell*  
 Collector of Customs.

DESCRIPTION.

Nationality <i>Chinese</i>	Birthplace <i>Canton</i>
Age <i>37 years</i>	Complexion <i>Dark</i>
Height <i>5 ft 6 inches (100 cm)</i>	Hair <i>Black</i>
Build <i>Medium</i>	Eyes <i>Brown</i>
Particular marks <i>Long scar right side neck 2.6.1946</i>	

(For thumb prints, see back of this document.)

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Full Face:  Profile: 

Date of Departure *2.6.1946* Port of Embarkation  
 Ship *Taipei* Destination *China*  
 Date of Return *3 OCT 1946* Ship *"NELLORE"*  
 Port *Sydney*

INTERIOR ADVISED OF ARRIVAL  
 26/1/1946  
 Customs Officers.

Extended for 3 years by C.D.T.  
 No. 265/38. Records No. 246/6302  
 Collector of Customs

Mr Chee's Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test, 1946.  
 NAA: SP11/6, Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test, p. 44

### Re-entry visas and endorsements

These are triplicate copies of re-entry endorsements and re-entry visas. Re-entry visas were issued to permanent residents, students and some foreign business persons, all leaving Australia by sea or by air, through the Port of Sydney. Re-entry endorsements were issued where special conditions applied regarding the validity of passports, generally for non-Europeans leaving Australia. Conditions, however, varied in each case.

VISA RE-ENTRY BUTTS, 1958–63

SP605/4

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

Quantity: 2.52 metres (Sydney)

This series contains visa re-entry butts. Details recorded on each butt include the number of visa, name of person to whom it was issued, type of visa (eg, re-entry), date of issue and expiry, conditions and periods, special conditions, fee, signature of issuing officer, place of issue, names of dependants, nationality and file number. The butts are filed numerically from 501 to 73 700 (with gaps).

RE-ENTRY ENDORSEMENT BUTTS, 1959–63

SP605/5

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

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains re-entry endorsement butts that record an endorsement number, the type of endorsement (eg, re-entry), date of issue and expiry conditions, period of stay outside Australia and special conditions, signature of issuing officer, position, place of issue, dependants, race and file number. The butts are roughly numerical from 1 to 7 300 (with gaps).

REGISTER OF ENDORSEMENTS, 1937–50

SP1095/5

Recorded by: 1937–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945–50 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 0.16 metres (Sydney)

This volume chronologically records details about the endorsement of applications for travel documents. Each page of the register records the number (of endorsement), date, name, warrant number and remarks (eg 'wife added', 'child added', file cross-reference).

REGISTER OF PASSPORT RENEWALS, 1937–50

SP1095/6

Recorded by: 1937–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945–50 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 0.22 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of a register that seems to record the issue of extensions to visas. Entries are arranged chronologically and record the number (of the visa extension), date, name, warrant number and date, and remarks (eg, file number and information on the number of past renewals).

**Registers of departures – Form 19 ('coloured') departures**

These bound registers, which are arranged chronologically, record the date of departure, the name of the ship, its destination, coloured crew (ie, number onboard on arrival and number onboard on departure), European alien crew (as for the coloured crews), the signature of the clearing officer, the Form 19 number, remarks concerning crew, nationality, particulars of emigrants as per Form 19 and remarks concerning passengers.

OUTWARD REGISTERS IMMIGRATION ACT (COLOURED CREWS AND PASSENGERS), PORTS OF SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE, 1905–37

SP143/3

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

Quantity: 4.5 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of registers recording the number of coloured or Asian crew members or passengers entering and departing from Australia at the ports of Sydney and Newcastle between 1905 and 1937. All boats departing from these ports are listed (chronologically by date of departure) and the number of coloured passengers and crew aboard the boats at their arrival and departure is recorded. These registers form a fairly comprehensive listing of boats departing from Sydney and Newcastle during this period.

**Outward register, Immigration Act (coloured crews and passengers), ports of Sydney and Newcastle, c1905–15**

SP143/3, volume 1

**Outward register, Immigration Act (coloured crews and passengers), ports of Sydney and Newcastle, 1916–20**

SP143/3, volume 2

**Outward register, Immigration Act (coloured crews and passengers), ports of Sydney and Newcastle, 1920–23**

SP143/3, volume 3

REGISTER OF FORM 19 (INWARDS AND OUTWARDS) – ADVICE OF DEPARTURE FROM SYDNEY OF COLOURED PERSONS, 1937–54

SP343/1

Recorded by: 1937–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945–54 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 5.4 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of chronologically arranged registers that show particulars of crew and passengers. The registers record the date of departure, the name of the ship, its destination, coloured crew (ie, the number onboard on arrival and the number onboard on departure), European alien crew (as for the coloured crew), the signature of the clearing officer, the Form 19 number, remarks about the crew, nationality, particulars as per Form 19 and remarks concerning the passengers.

**Register of Form 19 (coloured) departures, 1940–42**

SP343/1, volume 2

**Register of Form 19 (coloured) departures, 1942–44**

SP343/1, volume 3

REGISTER OF FORM 19 (COLOURED DEPARTURES), 1954-56

SP511/1

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

Quantity: 1.8 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of bound registers that list details of departures of coloured individuals from Australia. Details include date of departure, ship, information about the coloured crew and the European alien crew, the signature of the clearing officers and remarks.



## 5. ALIENS, EVACUEES AND INTERNEES

At the beginning of World War II the *Aliens Registration Act 1939* and the associated National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations detailed requirements for the registration of individuals designated as 'aliens' to be submitted to Aliens Registration Officers. These registrations included a variety of forms, such as the 'A1 Application for Registration - Residents' (for people already in Australia), 'A2 Application for Registration - Entry', 'B1 Certificate of Registration', and 'C Notice of Change of Abode'. Each form has a passport size photograph of the applicant attached.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION (ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES) (FORMS A1, B1 AND C), 1939-47

SP11/2

Recorded by: 1939-47 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945-46 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 39.96 metres (Sydney)

This series contains applications for alien registration form, which are arranged alphabetically by nationality, then alphabetically by surname. Sometimes the forms give a date of departure from Australia and other personal details.

**Gum Wah (Chinese, arrived Sydney, 1897), 1939-42**

**SP11/2, Chinese/Wah Gum**

**Chong Hen (Chinese, arrived Sydney), 1939-46**

**SP11/2, Chinese/Hen Chong**

**Gah Ah (Chinese, arrived Sydney per *Nellore*, 1941), 1941-43**

**SP11/2, Chinese/Ah G**

This item contains a photograph of Mr Gah.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION (ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES) - 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 contains the registration papers for non-naturalised aliens living in NSW. Under wartime National Security Regulations, all aliens in Australia were required to register with the local police or military authorities. As this series relates to non-naturalised people only, persons included within it are generally those who entered Australia for only a short period of time - ie, tourists, business people, ships' crews and missionaries. Among the registration forms, however, are forms for other groups of people, such as members of the Russian ballet and for the German internees transported to Sydney aboard HMT *Dunera*.

The main registration form (the 'Form of application for registration for alien resident in Australia') contains detailed information about individuals, including their full name, nationality, birthplace and date of birth, and the date, manner and place of their arrival in Australia. A personal description and, usually, a photograph of the individual and a set of their

finger-prints is included with the form. Once a person became naturalised their papers were moved to series SP11/5, a description of which appears below.

**[Chao Lin Tong – An Chee Chey], c1939–by 1948**

**SP11/3, box 15**

**Chan ah Chhat – Joe Chong, c1939–by 1948**

**SP11/3, box 16**

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION (ALIENS REGISTRATION FILES) (FORMS A1, B1 AND C) – 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 same forms as series SP11/2 and SP11/3, but includes only papers of 'aliens' naturalised before 1947, which were extracted from the other two groups of papers. These forms are arranged alphabetically by name. The State police notified naturalisation of the individual and the papers were then removed from the 'non-naturalised' series, joined with the notification and placed in this series.

REGISTER OF FORMS A42 [PERSONAL STATEMENTS BY ALIEN PASSENGERS], 1933–47

SP444/1

Recorded by: 1933–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945–47 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 0.54 metres (Sydney)

This series contains bound volumes of letters are arranged chronologically. They are copies of letters to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, to 27 July 1945 and to the Secretary of the Department of Immigration after that date, which deal with the forwarding of Form A42. In some cases particulars of 'aliens' arriving at other ports in Australia, when their final destination is Sydney, are included. The letters contain name, nationality, nature of visit, the type of permit, landing permit number, name of vessel and date of arrival.

**Register of forms A.42 obtained from aliens arriving at the Port of Sydney, 1939**

**SP444/1, 1939**

PERSONAL STATEMENTS BY ALIEN PASSENGERS (FORM A. 42), 1945–47

SP11/4

Recorded by: 1945 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945–47 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 12.24 metres (Sydney)


Non-British passengers arriving by ship or aircraft in Australia at Sydney completed the forms held in this series. Each form records the name of the vessel or flight number, class travelled, date of arrival, port of landing and personal particulars (eg, name, date and place of birth, nationality, family accompanying, occupation, description, reasons for visit and military training). Each form is counter-signed by a Customs Officer.

Some of the papers relate to people of Chinese nationality, but not all items are listed on RecordSearch. Statements are arranged alphabetically by name within nationality.

**COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.**  
*National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations*

**Form of Application for Registration**  
*(For Alien resident in Australia.)*

This form is to be filled in (except as to signature and finger print) in person, with the triplicate forms, before the member of the Police Station nearest to his usual place of abode, and in his presence to sign the impression of his finger print to be taken if required.



Name (in full) WONG Matilda Hor.  
(Surname to be underlined.)

Nationality Chinese. Sex Female.

Birthplace Cooma N.S.W. Date of birth 11/2/1887

Place of abode 194 Botany Road, Alexandria.

Place of business (if any) -----

Occupation Domestic Duties. Married } Strike out the term that does not apply.  
XXXXXX Single }

Date of entry into Australia -----

Name of ship ----- Port of debarkation -----

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Height 5 ft. 4 in. Colour of eyes Brown

Colour of hair Black Build Stout

Notable marks Hole between eyes and two moles left side of nose.

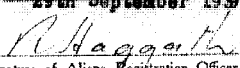
Remarks: a native of New South Wales married to a Chinese.

Date of Application 29th September 1939

(THIS SPACE FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.)

Certificate issued—No. 32913 REMARKS: -----



Date 29th September 1939

  
(Signature of Aliens Registration Officer.)

Constable I/Class Redfern,  
(Police Station.)

**FINGER PRINT.**  
(Impression to be made, if required, in presence of Aliens Registration Officer.)

(LEFT HAND) (RIGHT HAND)

Mrs Matilda Wong's application for registration, 1939.  
NAA: SP11/5, Applications for registration (aliens registration files), p. 56

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION (ALIEN REGISTRATION FILES) – CHINESE,  
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). Attached to each A1 ('Application for Alien Registration') form is a photograph of the applicant.

There are two distinct batches of files within this series. The first consists of files related to people who left Australia, which mostly date from 1947 onwards. The second batch of files dates mainly from World War II. Some files in this series also relate to internees of the Gaythorne and Tatura internment camps.

The series also contains applications by Chinese people who, despite arriving and living in Australia before World War II, were required to register as aliens. It also contains applications completed by Chinese people who arrived in Australia as refugees.

**Ah Fong, 1939**

SP1732/4, Ah Fong [1]

Ah Fong was born in July 1867 and arrived in Sydney sometime in 1889. The name of the ship he travelled in and the exact date of his arrival are unknown.

**Georgie Gee, 1939**

SP1732/4, Gee, Georgie

Georgie Gee arrived in Sydney, but the exact date of his arrival and the vessel he travelled in are unknown.

**Chan Fu, 1947**

SP1732/4, Fu, Chan

Chan Fu arrived in Australia on the SS *Taiping*, but the port he arrived at and the date he arrived are unknown.

**Applications for 'alien' registration**

Following the passage of the *Aliens Act 1947*, the Department of Immigration assumed responsibility for alien registration. Documents for each person registered usually included forms RA, RA1 and RA2 (applications for registration under the Aliens Act). Form RA2 replaced form A42 in the transition of control under the National Security Regulations to the Department of Immigration. District or locality card, notification of marriage and change of address details may be attached to the forms.

These series include, in the terminology of the agency, 'dead' applications, which were applications that did not require further action because the applicant had become naturalised, died, permanently departed from Australia or moved to another State.

## APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF ALIENS (ALIEN REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS), 1939–63

SP605/10

Recorded by: 1939–45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
 1945–63 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 3.06 metres (Sydney)

This series contains the documents of aliens registered in NSW. The material relates to 'non-Europeans' and the series has over 700 items related to Chinese individuals. The documents include Incoming Passenger Cards and forms RA, RA1 and RA2. They may also include district or locality cards and marriage and change of address notices.

**Poy, Ah [Chinese - arrived Sydney per SS *Taiping*], 1950**

SP605/10, 149

**Lee, Ah Lan [Chinese - arrived Sydney per SS *Nieuw Holland*], 1952**

SP605/10, 787

**Wong, York Wing [Chinese - arrived Sydney per SS *Taiping*], 1960**

SP605/10, 805

## APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF ALIENS (ALIEN REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS), 1948–64

SP627/1

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

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains documents relating to aliens registered in NSW. The documents include Incoming Passenger Cards and forms RA, RA1 and RA2. They may also include district or locality cards and marriage and change of address notices.

**Wing Hong Lau [Chinese - arrived per SS *Tjiwangi*], 1961**

SP627/1, 1739

**Ing Pan [Chinese - arrived Sydney per SS *Tjiwangi*], 1963**

SP627/1, 1702

**Anne Yiu Fung Ying [Chinese arrived Sydney per Qantas Airways VH EBG], 1962–63**

SP627/1, 1719

## 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)

These applications are numbered from 1 800 to 2 200.

This series contains documents relating to aliens registered in NSW. The documents include Incoming Passenger Cards and forms RA, RA1 and RA2. They may also include district or locality cards and marriage and change of address notices.

**Lam, Sai Kit [Lam, Alfonso] [Chinese - arrived Sydney per SS *Tjiluwah*], 1961**

SP682/2, 1824

**Pang, Chau Mui [Chinese - arrived Sydney per aircraft VH EBD], 1963**

SP682/2, 2091

## APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF ALIENS (ALIEN REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS) – ASIANS ONLY, 1962–65

SP829/1

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

Quantity: 2.34 metres (Sydney)

This series contains documents relating to aliens registered in NSW. The documents include Incoming Passenger Cards and forms RA, RA1 and RA2. They may also include district or locality cards and marriage and change of address notices.

**Pang, Woon Leang [Chinese – arrived Sydney per *Changte*], 1950**

SP829/1, 2735

**Koo, Lung Yue, alias Dennis [Chinese – arrived Sydney per *Orsova*], 1961**

SP829/1, 2995

**Alien registration cards**

## ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS, 1948–71

SP1470/1

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

Quantity: 46.62 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of registration cards for aliens arriving in NSW. Details recorded on each card include name, citizenship, occupation, date and place of birth, marital status, address and physical characteristics.

## ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS (FORM M341), 1950

SP1732/2

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

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains registration cards for non-European ‘deads’ – ie, those who had become naturalised, died, permanently departed from Australia or moved to another State.

Details recorded on each card include name, nationality, date and place of birth, sex, conjugal status, vessel, date of arrival, port and file number. The cards included a stamp, if the registrant had become naturalised. Items in this series are not listed on RecordSearch.

**Alien registers**

These series originated with the New South Wales’ Police Department, which was responsible for alien registration until this function was passed to the Federal government in 1947. The indexes may have been linked to records created by the Police Department, but the related series are not held by the National Archives. These cards may be the only complete record of all aliens registered in New South Wales between 1939 and 1947.

INDEX TO ALIENS REGISTERED UNDER NATIONAL SECURITY REGULATIONS  
IN NSW (CURRENT PORTION), 1939-47

SP267/1

Recorded by: 1939-45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945-47 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 1.26 metres (Sydney)

This series contains index cards for aliens registered under wartime security regulations in NSW. Each card records name, nationality and registration number. Some cards may contain more specific information, such as gender, date and place of birth, occupation, marital status and details about the subject's arrival in Australia. It is best to search this series by name.

**Ping, Choi Mon (Chinese), c1939-47**

SP267/1, NN

**Tran An (Chinese), c1939-47**

SP267/1, NN

INDEX TO ALIENS REGISTERED UNDER NATIONAL SECURITY REGULATIONS  
IN NSW (NON-CURRENT PORTION), 1939-47

SP267/2

Recorded by: 1939-45 Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)  
1945-47 Department of Immigration, NSW (CA 957)

Quantity: 3.42 metres (Sydney)

This series contains index cards for aliens registered under wartime security regulations and resident in NSW who had either left Australia or moved interstate. Each card records the person's last address in NSW, their proposed address in another State or whether they had left Australia, the date of departure and their name, nationality and registration number.

## ALIENS RETURNS, NSW [FOR 9 DECEMBER 1939], 1939-40

SP11/25

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

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains statistics on the number and nationality of aliens throughout NSW, which were collected by police patrols as a result of a request by the NSW Commissioner of Police on 7 December 1939. These statistical returns are in duplicate and arranged by geographic area - eg, 'Metropolitan A-C' and 'D-Z', 'Northeastern' (Newcastle), 'Northern', 'Western', 'South' and 'Riverina'. The items in this series are not yet listed individually on RecordSearch.

## ALIENS REGISTRATION FORMS, 1916-22

SP43/3

Recorded by: 1916-17 Special Intelligence Bureau, Melbourne (CA 746)  
1917-19 Special Intelligence Bureau, NSW (CA 909)  
1919-22 Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW  
(CA 904)

Quantity: 26.1 metres (Sydney)

This series contains aliens' registration forms collected by the Intelligence services. Items in this series are not listed individually on RecordSearch.

## REGISTERS OF ALIENS ARRIVALS, 1917-47

SP1084/1

Recorded by: 1917-19 Special Intelligence Bureau, NSW (CA 909)  
1919-46 Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW  
(CA 904)  
1946-47 Commonwealth Investigation Service, NSW  
(CA 912)

Quantity: 1.08 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of registers of copies of lists compiled by the Collector of Customs and forwarded at various intervals to the Commonwealth Investigation Service (CIS). The lists show the names of ships or aircraft arriving in NSW, their dates of arrival, the names of the aliens onboard, their nationalities and remarks concerning the reason for their visit. There are relatively few references to Chinese immigrants.

**Aliens' arrivals, 1938**

SP1084/1, 25

**Aliens' arrivals, 1942**

SP1084/1, 30

**Correspondence and dossiers**

Records in the following series consist of dossiers compiled by the Intelligence services about individuals, companies and organisations under investigation. Matters dealt with include illegal immigrants, bankrupts, internees, prisoners-of-war and fraud against the Commonwealth of Australia.

The dossiers were extensively top-numbered, with files from other series (especially series SP26/1, *Dossiers on Internees*) included. A large number of dossiers were apparently handed over to the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) when it was established in 1949. A list of these dossiers is held in series ST2476/11, *Record of files transferred from Commonwealth Investigation Service to Australian Security Intelligence Organization*, described below.

## RECORD OF FILES TRANSFERRED FROM COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATION SERVICE TO [ASIO], 1949-50

ST2476/11

Recorded by: Commonwealth Investigation Service, NSW (CA 912)

Quantity: 0.09 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of transfer authorities detailing files transferred to ASIO from the CIS in 1949-50. It includes a list



of files on individuals, which is ordered by the CIS dossier number.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION FILES, 'N' PREFIX (NSW), 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 consists of case files compiled by the Investigation Branch and, from 1946, the CIS. Matters dealt with include illegal immigrants, bankrupts, internees, prisoners-of-war and fraud against the Commonwealth. Dossiers were compiled for individuals, companies and organisations. It is not known precisely when this series commenced, but it believed to have been about 1920, with material from older series top-numbered into it.

**Old Chinese alien registration records, 1933**

**SP1714/1, N35700**

**Six Chinese prisoners-of-war, Bougainville, 1945**

**SP1714/1, N48815**

CORRESPONDENCE RE NATURALISATION AND INTERNEES, 'N' (NSW) PREFIX, c1914–46

ST1233/1

Recorded by: 1917–19 Special Intelligence Bureau, NSW (CA 909)  
1920–46 Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)  
1946–57 Commonwealth Investigation Service, NSW (CA 912)

Quantity: 28.62 metres (Sydney)

This series contains correspondence files on naturalisation and internees, and contains over 3 000 items. This series is best searched using the name of the subject.

WORLD WAR II SECURITY INVESTIGATION DOSSIERS, 1938–48

C123

Recorded by: 1942–45 Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)

Quantity: 78.12 metres (Sydney)

This series contains dossiers compiled for people investigated in NSW during World War II. Dossiers, one for each person, were arranged numerically, with all papers placed in large envelopes. Most of the dossiers refer to unnaturalised aliens, particularly enemy aliens and refugees. The Military Police Intelligence Section, New South Wales State Police compiled the dossiers until 1942 when responsibility for this role was handed over to the CIS.

After World War II many dossiers were top-numbered into criminal investigation files compiled by the CIS.

**Wong, Hoi (Chinese), 1942–44**

**C123, 19800**

**Chan, Kan (Chinese), 1943**

**C123, 20994**

## INVESTIGATION FILES (PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS), 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 containing information regarding suspect activities of certain people or organisations. The contents include passport applications; investigations of known or suspected enemy sympathisers during World War II; notices of departures and arrivals in Australia of people with suspected enemy sympathies; material related to the release of internees; a nominal register; indexes and photographs of members of Fascist organisations in Australia; and information about Japanese business interests

Items in this series are arranged alphanumerically, with prefixes indicating the nationality group of the organisation or individual. For example, 'C' = Chinese, 'CIV' = Commonwealth Investigation Branch, 'F' = French, 'IC' = Indo-Chinese and so on. A number of items in this series deal with Chinese nationals and organisations, such as the *Chinese Times* and the Chinese Seamen's Union.

**Harry Young Ho (or 'Ho Young Hoy'), 1938–41**

C320, C14

*Chinese Times* newspaper, 1941

C320, C8

**[List of Chinese nationals registered at the Central Aliens Bureau], 1942–45**

C320, C34

### Indexes and registers to dossiers on internees

These records comprise registers and a variety of indexes to the dossiers concerning internees in C123, which is described above. Some dossiers may be found in the later series SP1714/1, *Criminal Investigation Files* and ST1233/1, *Correspondence re Naturalisation and Internees*, both of which are described above.

## KEY TO DOSSIERS, NUMERICAL REGISTER, 1940–45

C124

Recorded by: 1941–45 Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)

Quantity: 0.36 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of a singled register, titled 'Key to Dossiers, numerical order', which was used for registering the dossiers of internees that are held in C123. Each entry records the dossier number and internee's name, along with a file number if the file was top-numbered into a later series. Dossiers numbered from 1 to 21 772 are covered by this register. The main index cards are in three sets, arranged according to the location (address of the internee), name and nationality of the internee. Not all files listed in the indexes or registers have been transferred to the National Archives.

## NATIONALITY INDEX CARDS TO WORLD WAR II SECURITY INVESTIGATION DOSSIERS, 1942-45

C126

Recorded by: Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)

Quantity: 1.08 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of nominal index cards to World War II security investigation dossiers. The cards are arranged alphabetically by nationality, and then alphabetically by name within each nationality. Each card records a name and dossier number. Individual items in this series are not listed on RecordSearch.

## LOCATIONAL INDEX CARDS TO WORLD WAR II SECURITY INVESTIGATION DOSSIERS, 1942-45

C127

Recorded by: Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)

Quantity: 1.62 metres (Sydney)

This series contains location index cards that are arranged alphabetically within geographical sets (eg, 'City of Sydney - Agar Street to Yurong Street', 'Inner City Suburbs - Bancroft Square' and 'Kings Cross to Yurong Street'). Individual items in this series are not listed on RecordSearch.

## NOMINAL INDEX CARDS (BY CITIZENSHIP) TO WORLD WAR II SECURITY INVESTIGATION DOSSIERS, 1942-45

C125

Recorded by: Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)

Quantity: 0.81 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of nominal index cards to World War II security investigation dossiers. These cards are arranged in three sequences - Australian subjects, British subjects and naturalised British subjects. The cards are arranged alphabetically within each sequence. Individual items in this series are not listed on RecordSearch.

## NATIONALITY INDEX CARDS TO PERSONS SUBMITTING FORMS OF APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AND CHANGE OF ABODE, 1942-45

C457

Recorded by: Commonwealth Security Service, Newcastle, NSW (CA 3563)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series consists of nominal index cards, arranged by nationality, and then alphabetically by name, for aliens submitting registration forms for residency or change of address in the Newcastle area of NSW. Cards for Chinese nationals living in the Newcastle area are included. The cards record details such as name, address, date of birth and occupation. Individual items in this series are not listed on RecordSearch.

NOMINAL INDEX CARDS TO FOREIGN SEAMEN, 1942-45

C456

Recorded by: Commonwealth Security Service, Newcastle, NSW (CA 3563)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains index cards to foreign seamen arriving in Newcastle. The precise reason for the creation of this series is unknown, but it may have been part of the system of security checks undertaken on foreign merchant seamen. Some Chinese seamen are included. Individual items in this series are not listed on RecordSearch.

## Evacuation and return of residents of New Guinea during World War II

CORRESPONDENCE RE: EVACUATION OF CHINESE [PEOPLE] TO AUSTRALIA  
FOLLOWING JAPANESE INVASION OF NEW GUINEA, 1942-56

SP350/1

Recorded by: 1942-51 Department of External Territories [I], Office of  
the Official Representative, Sydney (CA 973)  
1951-56 Department of Territories, Office of the Official  
Representative, Sydney (CA 974)

Quantity: 1.44 metres (Sydney)

Items in this series deal with Chinese people evacuated from New Guinea following the Japanese invasion. These evacuees began to arrive in Australia in early 1942 and immediately upon arrival in Australia, under the supervision of the Officer of the New Guinea Trade Agency, they completed a personal details form.

Items in the series contain this form and correspondence with and about the evacuee. The correspondence covered matters such as claims queries, debts to the Commonwealth, re-entry to New Guinea, war compensation and any other personal matters arising from evacuation. The files are titled with the person's name but the arrangement does not appear to be strictly alphabetical.

CORRESPONDENCE RE 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], Office of  
the Official Representative, Sydney (CA 973)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series comprises eight folders of correspondence mainly about the evacuation of Chinese residents from, and their return to, New Guinea. The series contains a list of all Chinese residents evacuated as at December 1945 and a list of New Guinea residents reported missing, believed captured by the Japanese or lost at sea, which was compiled in Sydney in August 1945.

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], Office of  
the Official Representative, Sydney (CA 973)

Quantity: 0.18 metres (Sydney)

This series contains index card to Chinese evacuees from New Guinea. The cards arranged alphabetically by name, with each card also recording the evacuee's name; sex; next of kin; place of birth; any reference to other cards in the index and relationship to other names; accommodation; address; date of arrival and follow-up of movements within Australia; final address; and their exemption or registration number under the *Aliens Registration Act 1939*.

## 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 three sets of ledger cards:

Personal ledger cards arranged alphabetically by surname, which are separated into Europeans and Chinese and list claim numbers.

Cards arranged by a single number within a district (eg Central, Eastern, Bulolo).

Cards titled 'Details of purchases and impressments and payments effected by the Department of the Army', which include forms WB 54216 or WB 58800. These forms are arranged alphabetically by name of individual or organisation and include Army master control cards.

These cards probably relate to claims for damages resulting from the war in areas under Australian jurisdiction.

## APPENDIX 1      GLOSSARY OF IMMIGRATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY TERMS

### **alien**

Term relating to a person residing in Australia, born in or belonging to another country who has not acquired citizenship by naturalisation and is not entitled to the political rights, powers and privileges of a citizen.

Under the *Aliens Registration Act 1920–1939* and the *Aliens Act 1947*, an ‘alien’ was defined as ‘any person over the age of sixteen 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 were permitted to re-enter the country without being required to sit the dictation test. Certificates of Domicile were replaced by Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDTs).

### **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 both Europeans and non-Europeans entering Australia temporarily. The certificates were a form of entry visa or permit. Issue of the 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 were introduced as a result of 1905 amendments to the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*, replacing Certificates of Domicile. Like the Certificates of Domicile, they were essentially re-entry permits, allowing holders of the certificates to re-enter the country without being required to sit the dictation test. Issue of the certificates ceased in 1958 with the abolition of the dictation test.

### **citizen**

A member, native or naturalised, of a state or nation, owing allegiance to a government and entitled to its protection.

### **citizenship**

Having the status of a citizen, by birth or declaration of allegiance, of a state or nation with entitlement to full political rights and privileges.

### **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 fifty words in length, in any European (after 1905, any ‘prescribed’) language. Those who failed to correctly write out the dictated passage could be refused entry.

**internee**

Term referring to any person detained in an internment camp under National Security Act regulations. Internees were not prisoners-of-war.

**naturalisation**

The admittance of 'aliens' to the status and rights of citizenship, allowing them to enjoy the political rights and privileges of native-born subjects.

In the nineteenth century, the Australian colonies passed legislation enabling people to be naturalised according to the provisions of the current English law. After 1903 the passing of legislation relating to naturalisation and the right to confer citizenship became a Commonwealth government responsibility. The *Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948* created the status of Australian citizenship. Prior to the passing of this Act, natural-born British subjects and persons naturalised in the United Kingdom had been entitled to citizenship status in Australia.

**substitutes**

Persons permitted entry as replacement workers for domiciled persons travelling overseas for extensive periods of time. Requests 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.

## APPENDIX 2      BIBLIOGRAPHY

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York, Barry, "Admissions and exclusions: 'Asiatics' and 'Other Coloured Races' in Australia: 1901 to 1946", *Studies in Australian Ethnic History*, No. 9, Centre for Immigration and Multicultural Studies, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra, 1995.



## APPENDIX 3 GLOSSARY OF ARCHIVAL TERMS

### **archives**

There are three different uses of the term 'archives':

1. Those non-current records that are identified as having enduring value and so are suitable for permanent retention;
2. The place (building/ room/ storage area) where archival material is kept. Also referred to as a repository;
3. An organisation (or part of an organisation) responsible for the care and control of archival material.

### **case file**

A file that deals with a specific action, event, person, place, project or other subject.

### **citation**

In the Archives' context, the recording of information about records in a standard format. For example, 'NAA: A461, 1953/221' is the standard format for referring to item 1953/221 of series A461.

### **closed period**

As determined by the Archives Act, Commonwealth records are not made available for public access until 30 years has elapsed since the last day of the year in which they were created. For example, records created in 1968 are available after 31 December 1998 (ie from 1 Jan 1999). The period before they are available is referred to as the closed period. See also **open period**.

### **finding aid**

Any descriptive media created by an archival institution to assist staff and users to find records and the information within records. Basic finding aids include guides (general, repository, subject or topical), inventories or registers, location registers, card catalogues, special lists, shelf and box lists, indexes, calendars, and for electronic records, software documentation. The National Archives' primary finding aids are the RecordSearch and PhotoSearch online databases.

### **guide**

A finding aid describing archival holdings relating to a particular subject, period, geographical area, record format or records created by a particular agency.

### **item**

An item is the smallest discrete unit that has been incorporated into a recordkeeping system and forms part of a series. An item may be a group of folios fastened together, such as a file, or a single volume, card, map, plan, photograph, film, sound recording, computer tape or other document which exists as a discrete entity.

**item list**

A list of items within a series compiled for the purpose of control and information. It usually contains such information as item number, item title, item date range and occasionally, item size. It is also referred to as an 'inventory'.

**item number**

A control symbol allocated by the creator of the record item (eg, file numbers). As far as possible, the control symbol allocated to an item by an agency is retained for archival purposes. In the absence of original control symbols, they may be allocated by the National Archives to enable retrieval.

**jacket**

Obsolete name for a file.

**National Archives of Australia**

A Commonwealth government organisation established by the *Archives Act 1983*. Its purpose is to preserve for posterity the most important records created by all Commonwealth government administrations.

**open period**

As determined by the Archives Act, Commonwealth records are made available for public access after 30 years has elapsed since the last day of the year in which they were created. The open period (ie available for public access) begins on the first day of the calendar year after they reach the age of 30 years. For example, records created in 1967 came into the open period after 31 December 1997 (ie from 1 January 1998). Also referred to as the open access period. See also **closed period**.

**PhotoSearch**

The Archives' online image database.

**privacy**

The right of living people to be secure from the unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, information contained in records and archives of a private or confidential nature about themselves or their immediate family.

**public access**

The public right to consult records that are in the open period (ie, records more than 30 years old) subject to access examination to identify exempt information.

**quantity**

A measurement of the amount of records. In the National Archives this is a linear measurement expressed as the number of metres of shelving occupied by the records.

**reader's ticket**

A numbered pass issued to researchers to facilitate access to reading rooms. Researchers' details are linked to this number, thereby making it possible to create an audit trail and see which records are being used by whom. By signing a reader's ticket, the researcher agrees to abide by reading room rules.

**reading room**

A room or area set aside for the supervised consultation of archives by researchers. In the National Archives there are both public and official reading rooms. Also known as search rooms in other archival institutions.

**RecordSearch**

The Archives' online records database. It contains information about:

- all record series in the National Archives' custody and Commonwealth records in the custody of the Australian War Memorial;
- the agencies or persons who created or control those series; and
- records still in agency custody.

**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.

**reference service**

The facilities and services that enable researchers to use the Archives and its records once access to them is approved. This includes assistance in using finding aids and the provision of facilities to view and copy records.

**research agent**

A person employed to do research on behalf of another, usually for a fee.

**researcher**

A person who consults records held by the archives, usually in a reading room. Also referred to as a 'user'.

**series**

A series consists of a group of records that have resulted from the same accumulation or filing process (with the same numerical, alphabetical, chronological or other identifiable sequence) or which have a similar format or information content. Records in a series are usually kept together because they result from the same activity. Series may include files, indexes, magnetic recordings, photographs, films, plans and so on. The series is the basic unit of control used by the National Archives.

**top-numbering**

The renumbering and intersorting of items into a more recent series or their integration into another agency's recordkeeping system.

## APPENDIX 4 OTHER GUIDES TO THE 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 2004, 70 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 Marilyn 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, 288 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.

### **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.

## APPENDIX 5      CONTACTING THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### National Reference Service

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#### All reference inquiries

(Overseas callers: 61 2 6212 3900)

TTY: (02) 6212 3689

Email: [ref@naa.gov.au](mailto:ref@naa.gov.au)

Website: [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

Postal address:

PO Box 7425

Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

#### Defence Service Records

PO Box 7425

Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

Email: [servicerecords@naa.gov.au](mailto:servicerecords@naa.gov.au)

### Reading Room addresses

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#### Canberra

Queen Victoria Terrace

Parkes ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6212 3900

Fax: (02) 6212 3999

Email: [ref@naa.gov.au](mailto:ref@naa.gov.au)

Postal address:

PO Box 7425

Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

#### Victorian Archives Centre

99 Sheil Street

North Melbourne VIC 3051

Tel: (03) 9348 5600

Fax: (03) 9348 5628

Email: [ref@naa.gov.au](mailto:ref@naa.gov.au)

Postal address:

PO Box 8005

Burwood Heights VIC 3151

#### Adelaide

78 Angas Street

Adelaide SA 5000

Tel: (08) 8409 8400

Fax: (08) 8409 8499

Email: [ref@naa.gov.au](mailto:ref@naa.gov.au)

Postal address:

PO Box 6536

Adelaide SA 5000

#### Sydney

120 Miller Road

Chester Hill NSW 2162

Tel: (02) 9645 0110

Fax: (02) 9645 0108

Email: [ref@naa.gov.au](mailto:ref@naa.gov.au)

TTY: (02) 9743 8419

Postal address:

Locked Bag 4

Chester Hill NSW 2162

#### Brisbane

16 Corporate Drive

Cannon Hill Qld 4170

Tel: (07) 3249 4226

Fax: (07) 3399 6589

Email: [ref@naa.gov.au](mailto:ref@naa.gov.au)

Postal address:

PO Box 552

Cannon Hill Qld 4170

#### Hobart

Ground Floor

85 Macquarie Street

Hobart TAS 7000

Tel: (03) 6230 6111

Fax: (03) 6230 6134

Email: [ref@naa.gov.au](mailto:ref@naa.gov.au)

Postal address:

GPO Box 309

Hobart TAS 7000

#### Sydney Records Centre

2 Globe Street

The Rocks NSW 2000

#### Perth

384 Berwick Street

East Victoria Park WA 6101

Tel: (08) 9470 7500

Fax: (08) 9470 2787

Email: [ref@naa.gov.au](mailto:ref@naa.gov.au)

Postal address:

PO Box 1144

East Victoria Park WA 6981

#### Darwin

Kelsey Crescent

Millner NT 0810

Tel: (08) 8985 0300

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Email: [ref@naa.gov.au](mailto:ref@naa.gov.au)

Postal address:

PO Box 24

Nightcliff NT 0810