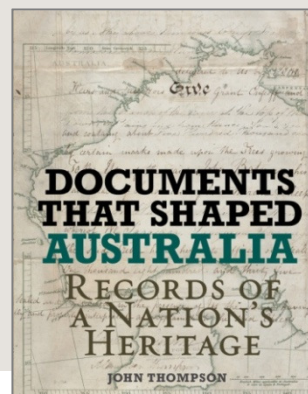


Title	Documents That Shaped Australia
Author	John Thompson
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Extent	376 pages
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Category	History



Description

Spanning more than 400 years, from the first documented sighting of the Southern Cross in 1516 to the Rudd Government's national apology to the Stolen Generations, this anthology presents in chronological form a richly varied spectrum of 100 historical documents that, like pieces in a mosaic, contribute to a broad understanding of some of the key moments in Australia's history.

John Thompson's diverse and eclectic selection – illustrated with facsimile documents, portraits, maps and photographs of related events – draws on a range of historical texts: journal and diary entries, official commissions, charters and proclamations, speeches of various kinds, letters and cables, newspaper editorials, press announcements and despatches written by journalists, petitions, Acts of Parliament, court judgements and manifestos. While some key documents are linked to major historical events – the landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli or the Australian declaration of war against Germany in 1939 – others are a more personal response to some larger issue or event, such as an 1852 letter from a miner on the goldfields.

Among many other treasures, you will also find an early version of the greatly loved words of Dorothea Mackellar's poem 'My Country' (written originally as 'Core of my Heart'); a letter written by the young Miles Franklin to the Bulletin editor J.F. Archibald in 1901 on the publication of her novel *My Brilliant Career*; and an edited extract from Ned Kelly's Jerilderie letter.

Sales Points

- The documents contained in this book are meticulously researched by an academic expert in history and curator of manuscripts
- The content ranges from politics, art and literature, to pivotal figures and sporting events
- The selection of documents is diverse and eclectic
- A stunning package with a textured hardcover and beautiful internal design

Author Profile

John Thompson completed his PhD at the ANU in 2004 with a study of the public career of the distinguished Australian historian Geoffrey Serle. He was Curator of Manuscripts in the State Library of Victoria and subsequently worked in various positions in the National Library of Australia including Director and Australian Collections. He has written and compiled a number of books, among them the National Library's *Faces of Mandurama*, *The Oxford Book of Australian Letters* (co-edited with Brenda Niall) and *The Patrician and the Bloke: Geoffrey Serle and the Making of Australian History*. He has contributed a number of review essays to *Meanjin* and is a frequent reviewer for *Australian Book Review* and *Art Monthly*.