

Bibliography of the Mining History of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

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The 2003 edition of the listings was a much-expanded version of the 1997 compilation, *A Bibliography of Australian Mining*, both in terms of some 2,000 additional entries to the original work and for the inclusion of new sections on New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Since 2003 further additions have been made, though this expansion has not been carried on in a systematic way because of time constraints. Hopefully, as time goes on, any omissions will be placed in the bibliography.

As in the original publication, acknowledgment is again made to the Australian Heritage Commission for granting permission to extract the framework of the accompanying mining history bibliography from the work of Peter Donovan & Associates, *A Mining History of Australia, Part 1*, 1995 (which work was carried out with the assistance of funds made available by the Commonwealth of Australia under the 1990-91 National Estate Grants Program), although the framework has been modified in this current bibliography.

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For the New Zealand section, particular reference has been made to A.G. Bagnall (Comp.), *New Zealand National Bibliography to the Year 1960*, Karen Pollitt (ed.),

New Zealand National Bibliography, 1983-1993, National Library of New Zealand, Wellington, 1994, and Simon Ville, *A Select Bibliography of the Business History of New Zealand*, University of Auckland Library, Bibliographical Bulletin 19, 1993. For Papua New Guinea, some information has been gleaned from *Papua New Guinea National Bibliography*, National Library Service of Papua New Guinea, Waigani, editions 1986 to 1995.

PREFACE

To help the mining history researcher, the Australian section of the bibliography is divided into a General Australian Mining history list for those works that examine subjects on an Australia-wide basis, and into sections that concentrate on detail from specific States/Territories. Hence: New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory; Northern Territory; Queensland; South Australia; Tasmania; Victoria, and Western Australia (including Christmas Island). Each of the above geographic areas and the sections covering New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, is then sub-divided into categories: a General category; various Minerals (e.g., copper,; gold); Energy Sources (coal, petroleum products, uranium); Precious Stones; Associated Social and Economic History (including general and local history, mining law, etc.); Equipment, Structures, Processes & Transport ('Processes' was treated as a separate section in the 1997 edition of the bibliography); People & Organisations; Heritage Surveys, Archaeology & Environment. But a word of warning, while an attempt has been made to place each entry into a specific department, this has been a matter of individual interpretation and there is no guarantee entries will be placed where the reader would expect to find them. Some entries cross boundaries and while an attempt has been made to accommodate readers by placing these entries in more than one section if thought appropriate, it is necessary to look broadly if seeking texts or articles on specific areas.

It should also be pointed out that the bibliography has focused primarily upon published books and journal articles. An important source for the researcher will be reports by government agencies; 'Blue-Book' entries; reports in Parliamentary Papers, etc. These have in the main, been omitted from the lists, as have documentary sources held in various archives. Readers will be reminded that valuable research information might be garnered from organisations such as the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in Melbourne, the Australian Mineral Foundation in Adelaide, the Australian Petroleum Exploration Association in Canberra or from various State Government agencies or business agencies such as Chambers of Mines which exist in all States. The current list might be criticised for being light on unpublished theses and dissertations, but that is a weakness that it is hoped will be rectified over time.

The difficulty in compiling a bibliography is much related to the interpretation of 'what is history?' While some entries fall easily into the definition, others, such as, for example, information on technology or on mining laws may not, but where such entries are included this has been done on my own measure of what a researcher might find useful. It would be easy to extend the lists by entering the field of geology and mineralogy but only rarely will you find reference in the lists herein, unless there is some reference to wider historic detail. Another area where selective referencing has been made relates to mining processes. This selection has been contained to those areas that might help the historian identify the development of mining practice that has had major impact on the development of mining (as example, the history of development of the cyanide process or flotation process that has been indispensable for the development of gold mining). The same argument applies to economics, which is a field that is also dealt with lightly, though attempts have been made to include items associated with economic history. It should be kept in mind that economic statistics and interpretation might help mining historians to make more meaningful analysis but it was felt that in general, other bibliographical sources could be used to obtain such material.

A surprise to the compiler was the vast amount of mining publication material printed on New Zealand – on a per capita basis, New Zealanders must be the most prolific contributors to mining history in the world! On the other hand, the list for Papua New Guinea tends to be slim, and indicates the great scope that exists for further research in this area.

It is realized that there will be omissions from the lists, though it is believed that this will only be true for some minor works that have slipped through the net. However, should the reader come across any item that could be usefully inserted, or if there are updates for newly published materials, then it would be appreciated if you could contact the AMHA secretary at the following address with the details.

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