

Finding aids

The *AJCP Handbook, Part 8*, pp. 62-63 and a detailed inventory containing an index to collectors. The *Guide to Manuscripts in the British Isles Relating to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific*, by P. Mander-Jones (Canberra: ANU Press, 1972), pp. 511-18 has a detailed description, notes publications and a wide range of topics.

Research value

This collection is essential for research relating to early New Zealand botanical studies, plant collection, taxonomy and exploration. Many of our nineteenth century botanical collectors were corresponding with, and sending specimens to, Kew.

GREAT BRITAIN. BOARD OF LONGITUDE Micro MS Coll 16
Records, 1714-1830. 28 reels.

Provenance

The original records are at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, London. Selected records were filmed as part of the AJCP and were received with microfilm of Admiralty records (Micro MS Coll 5).

Contents

The Board of Longitude appraised methods of establishing longitude and improving navigation. The collection deals with accounts and minutes of meetings of the Board, at which arrangements were made for the sending out of astronomers on various expeditions, notably those of Captain Cook. The confirmed minutes record detailed accounts and astronomical and navigational observations from expeditions to the Pacific. Lists of chronometers and other measuring and navigational instruments taken on Cook's second and third voyages are included, as are instructions to astronomers and copies of log books. Various astronomical, mathematical and navigational theories of varying validity were submitted for consideration.

Some papers are in German and French.

Finding aids

An inventory, detailing the major contents on each reel, copied from the *AJCP Handbook, Part 6*, pp. 11-12 and 52-53 is available, together with information on the activities and scope of the records of the Board.

Research value

The collection is of particular value to those interested in the scientific aspect of exploratory voyages, the development of navigation and navigational instruments and the history of science in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

3. Missions

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY Micro MS Coll 2

Minutes and selected records relating to Australia and the South Pacific, 1795-1923. 182 reels.

Provenance

The originals are located at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. The collection was microfilmed through the Australian Joint Copying Project as part of the Miscellaneous (M) Series.

Contents

The Missionary Society was founded in 1795 by a group of Anglican and Nonconformist clergy in London. It later became known as the London Missionary Society and was supported largely by the Congregational Church, especially after the formation of similar societies, such as the Methodist Missionary Society, which diverted funds and personnel away from the LMS. The LMS pioneered mission work in many parts of the world, including Australia, the East Indies, the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea.