

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

JANET D. HINE

Index to Royal Navy ships, 1955-56

Reel M417

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London WC2B 4LA**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed:

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Janet Dora Hine (1923-2012) was born in Sydney and educated at North Sydney Girls High School and the University of Sydney, graduating with a BA (Hons) in 1947. She joined the Public Library of New South Wales in 1941 and worked for about ten years in the Mitchell Library, before moving to the cataloguing department. In 1954 she was appointed the Library's first liaison officer in London, based at the office of the New South Wales Agent-General. She travelled widely in Britain, acquiring many valuable records for the Mitchell Library. In addition, she worked closely with the National Library's liaison officer in London identifying records that might be filmed by the Australian Joint Copying Project. In particular, she spent a great deal of time examining Admiralty records at the Public Record office in Chancery Lane. She later wrote about her experiences in her article 'The Public Record Office', *Archives and Manuscripts*, no. 6, Nov. 1959, pp 1-9.

Hine returned to the Public Library of New South Wales in 1957 and was succeeded in London by Phyllis Mander-Jones (later the first Australian Joint Copying Project Officer). From 1958 to 1964 she was in charge of the Dixson Library and was the William Dixson Foundation Officer. She returned to the cataloguing department in 1964 and in 1968 succeeded Jean Arnot as the Head Cataloguer. She was active in the Library Association of Australia and was well-known as an indexer. She retired in 1982.

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Janet D. Hine. Index of Royal Navy ships, 1698-1861, compiled in 1955-56.

In 1955 the National Library of Australia and the Mitchell Library, the AJCP partners, considered the question of microfilming Admiralty records at the Public Record Office in London. While records of the famous exploring voyages were easily located, there was no easy way of identifying all the Royal Navy ships that visited Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Janet Hine therefore undertook the formidable task of examining the huge collection of ships' logs in the Public Record Office and noting down the routes of the voyages or the stations or ports where the ships were based. Her index contains entries for all the ships that she examined, and not just the ships that actually came within the scope of the AJCP.

The index is arranged alphabetically by the names of the ships. The entries were typed on cards, with some extending to two cards. There are also a few handwritten cards and some typed entries have handwritten annotations.

Most of the entries contain the following details: the name of the ship, the name of the commander, the precise date range of the voyage, any changes in command, ports or places visited, and the Public Record Office references to the log or logs of the ship. The places visited are generally noted selectively and much more detail is provided if the ship spent long periods in Australian and New Zealand waters rather than just making a short visit. For instance, the entry for the sloop *Bathurst* in 1821-22 (Capt. P.P. King) lists 80 places visited, while the entry for HMS *Beagle* in 1831-36 (Capt. R. Fitzroy) lists 22 places visited. If a ship did not come within the AJCP area at all, only a few places are listed. Some entries are based on published reference works rather than ships' logs and in such cases they usually contain just a sentence or two about the voyage. Convict transports fall into this category.

Each card is marked with a tick or a cross. They were almost certainly added later, when the AJCP staff in London were preparing to microfilm ships' logs and other records. In 1958 the AJCP partners decided to extend the geographical coverage to include the Dutch East Indies, Malaya, the Philippines and other parts of South East Asia. One result of this decision was that the ticked entries include many ships of the Royal Navy's East Indies Station which sailed to Penang, Malacca, Batavia, Hong Kong, Manila and elsewhere, but which never visited Australia or New Zealand. In addition, some of the ships of the Pacific Station were mostly based on the west coast of Mexico, Peru and Chile and did not sail as far as the South West Pacific.

Most of the references on the cards are to ships' logs in the following classes:

Adm. 51 Captains' logs, 1740-1849

Adm. 52 Masters' logs, 1698-1836

Adm. 54 Supplementary logbooks: masters' logs, 1837-56

Adm. 55 Supplementary logbooks: explorations, 1757-1861

The logs microfilmed by the AJCP, along with many other Admiralty records, are listed in Part 7 of the *Australian Joint Copying Project Handbook* (1993).

Note: The index cards were filmed from right to left on the reel, with the first entry (HMS *Acheron*) appearing at the end of the reel.