

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND COMPANY

Records, 1824-1930

Reels M337-64, M585-89

**Van Diemen's Land Company
35 Copthall Avenue
London EC2**

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

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HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1824 a group of woollen mill owners, wool merchants, bankers and investors met in London to consider establishing a land company in Van Diemen's Land similar to the Australian Agricultural Company in New South Wales. Encouraged by the support of William Sorell, the former Lieutenant-Governor, and Edward Curr, who had recently returned from the colony, they formed the Van Diemen's Land Company and applied to Lord Bathurst for a grant of 500,000 acres. Bathurst agreed to a grant of 250,000 acres. The Van Diemen's Land Company received a royal charter in 1825 giving it the right to cultivate land, build roads and bridges, lend money to colonists, execute public works, and build and buy houses, wharves and other buildings.

Curr was appointed the chief agent of the Company in Van Diemen's Land. He arrived in May 1826 and travelled north with the surveyor Henry Hellyer. They selected land at Circular Head, the Surrey and Hampshire Hills and Woolnorth. Eventually they were granted six parcels of land in the north-west of the colony, amounting to over 350,000 acres. The Company established its base at Highfield House at Circular Head and in 1829 began renting land to tenants. Only after 1840, however, did settlers begin to arrive in small numbers. Much of the land was found to be barren and large-scale sheep farming was abandoned. The Company's main income came from the sale of breeding stock. Curr was on bad terms with the colonial government and the directors in London were dissatisfied with the slow progress of the Company. He was dismissed in 1840.

James Gibson became the manager in 1841. He completed a survey of the Company's lands and arranged for convict gangs to build roads, schools and churches. The towns of Stanley at Circular Head and Burnie at Emu Bay were surveyed. He sought to convert the Company into a real estate company and in 1851 all its land, stock and plant were advertised for sale. The attempt failed. Gibson moved his office to Launceston in 1856 and was dismissed three years later.

The Company's fortunes improved after James Norton Smith became general manager in 1869. He moved back to Circular Head and in 1875 established the Company's headquarters at Burnie. The Company was to be the dominant presence in the town up to the 1950s. Norton Smith established a stud of Hereford cattle at Woolnorth and improved the quality of the Company's stock. The discovery of rich tin deposits at Mount Bischoff in 1871 led him to construct a tramway from Waratah to Emu Bay, which was replaced by a railway in 1884. The Emu Bay and Mt Bischoff Railway Company was a subsidiary of the Van Diemen's Land Company until 1897.

Norton Smith retired in 1903 and was succeeded by Andrew McGaw, who held the post until 1947. By that time, the Company owned about 91,000 acres at Circular Head, the Hampshire Hills, Woolnorth and Burnie. It continued to breed cattle and sheep. By 1970 its holdings were limited to about 50,000 acres at Woolnorth.

The records of the Van Diemen's Land Company are held at the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (formerly the Archives Office of Tasmania), 91 Murray Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND COMPANY

Reel M337

Minutes of the Court of Directors of the Van Diemen's Land Company, 1824-1904

Vol. 1	May 1824 – August 1830
Vol. 2	September 1830 – December 1833
Vol. 3	December 1833 – May 1841
Vol. 4	June 1841 – September 1852

Reel M338

Vol. 5	September 1852 – July 1858
Vol. 6	July 1858 – May 1866
Vol. 7	June 1866 – December 1874
Vol. 8	January 1875 – June 1881

Reel M339

Vol. 9	June 1881 – July 1886
Vol. 10	July 1886 – August 1895
Vol. 11	August 1895 – December 1904

Reel M340

Outward Letter Books, 1825-1902

Private letter book, 1825-44

The letters were written by James Inglis, James Bischoff, John Jacob, Brice Pearse, John Gurden, William Burnie and other directors and George Tucker (secretary). The recipients included Stephen Adey, Edward Curr, James Gibson, Henry Hellyer, J. & C.S. Henty, John Kerr and Henry Reed.

Vol. 1	September 1825 – March 1831
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The letters were written by James Inglis, James Bischoff, Stuart Donaldson, Brice Pearse and other directors and George Tucker (secretary). The recipients included Stephen Adey, Edward Curr, John Kerr, Joseph Milligan and the Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, Colonel George Arthur.

Vol. 2 March 1831 – August 1835

The letters were written by James Bischoff (managing director), John Jacob, William Burnie, Brice Pearse, Thomas Sheppard and other directors and Samuel Ewen (clerk). They were mostly written to Edward Curr and the other recipients included J. & C.S. Henty, J.J.C. Hutchinson, John Kerr, Henry Reed, Richard Jones & Co. (Sydney) and Colonel George Arthur.

Reel M341

Vol. 3 August 1835 – November 1851

The letters were written by John Cattley (governor), William Burnie, Brice Pearse, Joseph Bond, Jacob Montefiore, George Rougemont and other directors and Samuel Ewen (secretary) and George Howell (secretary). They were mostly written to Edward Curr, James Gibson and J. & C.S. Henty.

Vol. 4 March 1852 – December 1871

The letters were written by John Cattley (governor), Brice Pearse (governor), Valentine Knight (governor), Thomas Hughes and other directors and Henry Cattley (secretary). They were mostly written to James Gibson (Circular Head, Launceston), Charles Nichols (Launceston) and J.W. Norton Smith (Circular Head). Other recipients included Allport & Roberts (Hobart), James Henty (Melbourne), John L. Archer, Rev. Robert Crook (Stanley), Green, Cleveland & Co. (Launceston) and Ronald C. Gunn (Launceston).

Vol. 5 January 1872 – December 1873

The letters were mostly written by Thomas Hughes (deputy governor), James Brickwell (chairman) and W. Brooker (clerk) and were mostly written to J.W. Norton Smith (Circular Head).

Reel M342

Copy book, January 1874 – April 1880

The letters were written by James Brickwell (chairman) to J.W. Norton Smith (Circular Head, Emu Bay).

Copy book, May 1880 – February 1885

The letters were written by James Brickwell (chairman) and W. Brookes (secretary) to J.W. Norton Smith (Emu Bay, Burnie).

Copy book, February 1885 – February 1891

The letters were written by W. Brookes (secretary) to J.W. Norton Smith (Burnie).

Reel M343

Copy book, February 1891 – October 1898

The letters were written by W. Brookes (secretary) and Alfred Studholme (secretary) to J.W. Norton Smith (Burnie).

Copy book, October 1898 – October 1902

The letters were written by Alfred Studholme (secretary) and J. Halford (acting secretary) to J.W. Norton Smith (Burnie).

Note: Each of the five copy books has a subject index.

Reel M344

Outward Letter books (Inland), 1839-78

Vol. 1 April 1839 – April 1853

The letters were written by the Secretary of the Company to correspondents in Britain.

Vol. 2 November 1853 – December 1878

The Letters were written by the Secretary of the Company to correspondents in Britain. They included Bischoff, Coxe & Bompas (London), M. & F. Davidson (London), James Gibson (Torquay), William Norman (London), Sir Edward Poore (Salisbury), George Rooper (London, Watford), Charles Trotter (London), S. Wood (London), H. Woodfall (Birkenhead) and S.A. Youl (London).

Reel M345

Inward despatches and letters, 1833-99

Parcel 1 January 1837 – April 1840

Numbered despatches from Edward Curr (Circular Head) to the Governor and directors of the Company. Attaches to the despatches are copies of correspondence, accounts, newspaper cuttings, returns of stores, provisions and clothing, and other documents.

Parcel 2 May 1833 – August 1848

Letters from J. & C.S. Henty (Launceston) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Parcel 3 February 1842 – October 1843

Numbered despatches and attachments and private letters and despatches from James Gibson (Circular Head, Hobart) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Reel M346

Parcel 4 December 1843 – September 1846

Numbered despatches and attachments from James Gibson (Circular Head, Hobart, Launceston) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Parcel 5 September 1846 – October 1847

Numbered despatches and attachments from James Gibson (Circular Head) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Reel M347

Parcel 6 February 1848 – December 1850

Numbered despatches and attachments from James Gibson (Circular Head) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Parcel 7 January 1851 – October 1859

Numbered despatches and attachments from James Gibson (Circular Head, Hobart, Launceston) to the Governor and directors or the Secretary of the Company.

Reel M348

Parcel 8

Document entitled 'Summary of despatches received from Mr Gibson', submitted to a Special General Meeting, 25 Aug. 1842.

Exercise book containing rough indexes to despatches, 1877-79.

Exercise book containing rough indexes to despatches, 1880-84.

Parcel 9 October 1869 – December 1875

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Circular Head, Emu Bay, Launceston) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Parcel 10 January 1876 – December 1878

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Emu Bay) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Reel M349

Parcel 11 January 1879 – December 1880

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Emu Bay) to the Governors and directors of the Company.

Parcel 12 January 1881 – December 1882

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Emu Bay, Circular Head) to the governors and directors of the Company.

Parcel 13 January 1883 – November 1884

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Emu Bay) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Reel M350

Box 1 January 1885 – August 1887

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Emu Bay, Burnie) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Box 2 August 1887 – January 1891

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Burnie, Woolnorth) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Reel M351

Box 3 February 1891 – May 1893

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Burnie, Woolnorth) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Box 4 June 1893 – August 1895

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Burnie, Stanley, Woolnorth) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Reel M352

Box 5 August 1895 – September 1897

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Burnie, Woolnorth) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Box 6 October 1897 – December 1899

Numbered despatches and attachments from J.W. Norton Smith (Burnie) to the Governor and directors of the Company.

Reel M353

Letter books (Van Diemen's Land), 1826-48

Vol. 9 March 1826 – January 1828

Copies of letters from Edward Curr, Henry Hellyer and Joseph Dixon (Hobart, Circular Head) to correspondents in Australia. The recipients include Stephen Adey, Thomas Archer, Colonel George Arthur, Walter Bethune, John Burnett, George Cartwright, Joseph Dixon, Edward Dumaresq, Joseph Fossey, Alexander Goldie, Jorgen Jorgenson, Alexander McNab, T.C. Simpson and Archibald Thomson. (534pp)

Vol. 10 February 1828 – April 1829

Copies of letters from Edward Curr (Circular Head, Launceston) to correspondent in Australia. The recipients include Stephen Adey, Colonel George Arthur, Campbell & Co. (Sydney), George Cartwright, Joseph Dixon, Joseph Fossey, Alexander Goldie, Henry Hellyer, J.H. Hutchinson, John Kerr, Samuel Reeves, Archibald Thomson, Thomas Watson and Thomas White. (531pp)

Reel M354

Vol. 11 April 1829 – September 1830

Copies of letters from Edward Curr (Circular Head) to correspondents in Australia. The recipients include John Burnett (Hobart), Campbell & Co. (Sydney), Richard Connor, Joseph Fossey, Alexander Goldie, Henry Hellyer, J.H. Hutchinson, John Kerr, James Rankin (Launceston), Samuel Reeves, Thomas Reiby (Entally) and George Robson. (514pp)

Vol. 12 September 1830 – January 1832

Copies of letters from Edward Curr (Circular Head) to correspondents in Australia. The recipients include Adam Beveridge (Launceston), Campbell & Co. (Sydney), Henry Hellyer (Emu Bay), John Kerr (Hobart), James Rankin (Launceston), Henry Reed (Launceston), Samuel Reeves (Woolnorth), William Tremlett (Launceston) and Thomas Watson (Emu Bay). (536pp)

Reel M355

Vol. 13 January 1832 – April 1833

Copies of letters from Edward Curr (Circular Head, Launceston, Hobart) to correspondents in Australia. The recipients include Colonel George Arthur, Adam Beveridge, T.H. Bolger, Campbell & Co. (Sydney), Cartwright & Allport, George Cartwright, William Chitty, J. & C.S. Henty, Alfred Horne, J.H. Hutchinson, John Kerr, James Rankin, Henry Reed, Samuel Reeves, George A. Robinson, George Robson, Adolphe Schuyer and William Tremlett. (526pp)

Vol. 14 April 1833 – June 1835

Copies of letters from Edward Curr and J.H. Hutchinson (Circular Head) to correspondents in Australia. The recipients include Adam Beveridge, E.E. Bolger, T.H. Bolger, Cartwright & Allport, William Chitty, Lewis Gillen, J. & C.S. Henty, Alfred Horne, John Kerr, Henry Reed, Samuel Reeves, Adolphe Schuyer and George Scott. (506pp)

Reel M356

Vol. 15 June 1835 – November 1836

Copies of letters from Edward Curr (Circular Head) to correspondents in Australia. The recipients include Cartwright & Allport, Ronald C. Gunn, Henty & Co., J.H. Hutchinson, John Kerr, Joseph Milligan, Henry Reed, Samuel Reeves, Adolphe Schuyer, George Scott, M.L. Smith and John Underwood. At the beginning of the volume is a register of letters, Sept. 1825-April 1826. (334pp)

Vol. 16 November 1836 – December 1839

Copies of letters from Edward Curr (Circular Head) to correspondents in Australia. The recipients include John L. Archer, Samuel Dyer, Henry Emmett, Sir John Franklin, Ronald C. Gunn, Alexander Maconochie, Joseph Milligan, Adolphe Schuyer and John Underwood. (537pp) Loose sheets inserted in the volume cover the period Dec. 1839-April 1840. (114pp)

Reel M357

Vol. 17 May 1840 – October 1841

Copies of letters from Edward Curr (Circular Head) to correspondents in Australia. The recipients include John L. Archer, Samuel Dyer, Ronald C. Gunn, Henty & Co., Joseph Milligan, William Romaine, Adolphe Schuyer and John Underwood. (347pp)

Vol. 18 October 1841 – July 1844

Copies of letters from Edward Curr and James Gibson (Circular Head, Hobart) to correspondents in Australia. The recipients include H. D'Arch, John L. Archer, John Chambers, Samuel Dyer, Henry Emmett (Adelaide), Rev. Thomas N. Grigg, Henty & Co. (Launceston), John Jacobs, N. Kentish, Hugh Mackay, William Mill, J.H. Munce, Robert Power, Thomas H. Power (Melbourne), William Romaine, George Rouse and J.D. Willshire. (408pp)

Reel M358

Vol. 18 July 1844 – June 1848

Copies of letters from James Gibson (Circular Head, Hobart) to correspondents in Australia. The recipients include John L. Archer, John Cannan, James Davie, Samuel Dyer, Henry Emmett, Glendon & Henty, Richard Green, Rev. Thomas N. Grigg, Henty & Co., James Henty (Launceston), C.H. Marshall (Woolnorth), William Mill, J.H. Munce, Thomas H. Power (Melbourne), George Small (Sydney), Robert Small and William Younghusband. (510pp)

Miscellaneous papers

Volume 1 Copies of various letters and agreements, 1838-59

The documents include the rules and regulations to be observed by the Company's servants (1839), agreements with Douglas Scott and William Romaine (1839), a list of men, women and children to be shipped to Circular Head on the *Thomas Laurie* (1839), powers of attorney to James Gibson and Patricius Welsh (1841), agreements with William Fuller, Rev. Thomas N. Grigg, John Chambers and James Gibson (1841), a list of men, women and children to be shipped to Circular Head on the *Emu* (1841), rules and orders to be obeyed by the Company's servants (1841), rates of pay (1842), a draft lease for tenants, rates of pay (1844), the Company's Royal Charter (1847) and an agreement with James Gibson (1855).

Reel M359

Volume 2 Copies of instructions, 1825

The documents comprise copies of instructions to Edward Curr (Chief Commissioner and Resident Agent) and Stephen Adey (Second Commissioner and Superintendent), Aug.-Sept. 1825, and an abstract of instructions to Alexander Goldie, Agriculturalist, 14 Sept. 1825.

Volume 3 Copies of addresses and various agreements and memoranda, 1832-38

The documents include an address from the Company to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Council on the establishment of a savings bank (n.d.), an address to the Bishop of London (1832), a list of men in the service of the Company shipped on the *Thomas Munro* (1833), rules and orders to be observed by servants of the Company (1833), a list of persons in the service of the

Company (1833), a list of ships by which the Company's goods, passengers and despatches have been sent (1832-33), a memorandum by Dr Hutchinson on taking charge at Circular Head (1833), a memorandum on the establishment of a Council in Van Diemen's Land (1834), a memorandum to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the exchange of some of their lands (1834) and estimates of the colonial expenditure of the Company (1834).

Volume 4 Statistics of wool imports

The documents comprise John Macarthur. *Statement of the improvement and progress of breed of fine woolled sheep in New South Wales*, 16 July 1803 (2pp) and statistics of sheep and lamb wool imported into Britain, 1800-36.

Reel M360

Parcel 1 Letters from the Colonial Office on the foundation of the Company, 1825-31

The letters were written to James Inglis, James Bischoff, Brice Pearse and Edward Curr. The correspondents include Lord Bathurst, R.W. Hay, Horace Twiss, William Huskisson, Edward Stanley, Sir George Murray and Lord Howick.

Parcel 2 Van Diemen's Land Company Acts and Bills, 1825-77

Copies of the Van Diemen's Land Company Acts of 1825 and 1847 and the Van Diemen's Land Company Bills of 1847, 1863 and 1877.

Parcel 3 Reports on the affairs of the Company, 1825-86

The reports and documents include the minutes of the intended arrangements between Lord Bathurst and the proposed Van Diemen's Land Company (11 May 1825), *Minutes of the Van Diemen's Land Company* (Hobart, 1826), reports made to the yearly general meetings (1826, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1845, 1857), a report by Alexander Goldie of his journey from Georgetown to Cape Grimm and the western coast (1826, typescript copy), a report of the Committee of Management (1827), a report of Sir Edward Poore to a special meeting of the proprietors of the Company (14 July 1859), a report of James Bailey (Auckland) to the Company (188?) and a report of Capt. James Rowe (1888).

Parcel 4 Miscellaneous papers from the London Office, 1839-1910

The papers include copies of letters from passengers on the *Thomas Laurie* (1839), miscellaneous letters from British correspondents (1847-56), a statement of assets (1840-48), an account from Bischoff & Co. (c. 1849), notes summarising reports from Henty & Gunn (1851), papers on the sale of forfeited Company shares (1849, 1853), a draft agreement with Charles Ritchie (1853), extracts from despatches concerning Roman Catholics at Circular Head (1849-54), a report of a committee appointed to negotiate with James Gibson (1853), papers concerning Australian postal services (1854-56), papers and cuttings concerning Australian gold discoveries, including a letter of George Howell in Sydney (1856-62), the case against James Gibson (1860-63), a paper by James McCall on

Tasmania's resources read to the Royal Colonial Institute (1909, printed) and a copy of *Van Diemen's Land Company: Tasmanian timber*.

Parcel 5 Miscellaneous papers from the Tasmanian Office, 1840-1903

The papers include returns of tenants and stock (c.1840-57), conveyances for land at Circular Head and Emu Bay (1848-50), agreements and indentures, the parties including James Gibson (Circular Head), John Lucas (Circular Head), Henry Emmett (Circular Head), James Grant (Launceston), Agnes Stirling (Burnie) and James Stirling (Burnie), a petition from the inhabitants of Burnie to the Company concerning a recreation ground, an extract from a letter from N. Simenons to Charles Nichols (n.d.), a memorandum about the Company's property (June 1888), and the report of the directors of the Emu Bay Butter Factory Company (26 Sept. 1896, printed).

Parcel 6 Papers concerning emigration, 1823-59

The papers include the terms on which the Company could lease or sell land in Van Diemen's Land (Jan. 1842), the draft of an address on emigration, proposals for the encouragement of emigrants as tenants to the Company (1833, printed), draft leases, a copy of a pamphlet by F. Boucher, *Authentic information regarding the British colony of Tasmania and the Van Diemen's Land Company* (1859, 22pp), instructions for the sale of land at Emu Bay, and a letter (29 April 1847) from Patrick Brennan (Fall River) to his sister Alice Brennan (Stoneyford, Ireland).

Reel M361

Parcel 7 Emu Bay Railway Company papers, 1883-1915

The papers comprise correspondence (1897-1914), miscellaneous papers (1883-1912) and annual reports of the Emu Bay Railway Company (1899-1915). The correspondents include J.S. Reid and W.B. Arnold (Emu Bay Railway Co., Melbourne), E. Habben (Emu Bay Railway Co., London), J.W. Norton Smith (Burnie) and Bischoff, Coxe & Bompas (London). The miscellaneous papers include a report on the western and north-western mining districts of Tasmania (1892), prospectus of the North Western Tasmanian Railway, Lands and Mining Company (1896), a report by A. Montgomery, geological surveyor (21 Aug. 1896), a report by J.W. Norton Smith on the Waratah and Zeehan Railway Act (29 Aug. 1896), the prospectus of the Emu Bay Railway Co. (1897), the memorandum and articles of association of the Emu Bay Railway Co. (1900), newspaper cuttings on the Emu Bay Railway Purchase Bill (1912), and an agreement between the Emu Bay and Mount Bischoff Railway Co., the Emu Bay Railway Co., and Charles Hanson and Frederick Gordon (25 March 1915).

Reel M362

Note: The records on this reel were filmed from right to left, with the first item, the despatch from Edward Curr, appearing at the end of the reel.

Miscellaneous reports, valuations and letters, 1840-85

The papers include a despatch from Edward Curr (Circular Head) to the Governor and directors of the Company (31 July 1840), an extract from a despatch of James Gibson (26 Jan. 1843), a report by John Cannan on Emu Bay and the Hampshire and Surrey Hills (1 Sept. 1846), a letter from Charles H. Marshall (Woolnorth) to James Gibson (27 Jan. 1849, copy), a memorandum by James Gibson forwarded to Bishop Francis Nixon (22 April 1851, copy), a letter from J. McNutty and Ronald C. Gunn (Launceston) to the Company (1 Aug. 1852), a letter from James Grant (Launceston, 20 May 1855), a document on the Hampshire Hills, a letter of instructions to Sir Edward Poore on his proceedings as Commissioner in Tasmania and a letter from Poore (Salisbury) to the Governor (28 July 1858), a letter from James Grant to James Gibson (10 Sept. 1858, copy), a report by Thomas Barrett (Stanley) on the Surrey Hills, Hampshire Hills and Middlesex Plains (2 March 1861?), a rent-roll (1867), two reports on timber at Emu Bay (1877), a list of allotments at Burnie (1885), and a conveyance of forest land at Circular Head from the Company to Jonathan House (n.d.).

Reel M363

Note: The records on this reel were filmed from right to left.

Invoice book (1825-34) kept in Van Diemen's Land containing copies of invoices for goods and stock purchased in England and shipped to Van Diemen's Land and wool shipped from Van Diemen's Land to England.

Reel M364

Note: The records on this reel were filmed from right to left, with the maps and drawings appearing at the end of the reel.

1. Maps, plans and drawings, c. 1827-32

The drawings (1830-32) of the settlement at Circular Head are mostly unidentified, apart from a drawing of Highfield House, the residence of Edward Curr. The maps include a panoramic sketch by Henry Hellyer from the summit of St Valentine's Peak (14 Feb. 1827), a map by Henry Hellyer of the coast from Table Cape to Blithe River (May 1827), a map by Joseph Fossey of a tour from Launceston to the western marshes and Table Cape (May 1827), a map by Henry Hellyer of the interior discoveries made by the Van Diemen's Land Co. (Sept. 1828), a map by Henry Hellyer of the Hellyer River, Surrey Hills (Aug. 1830), a map by Henry Hellyer of the Surrey Hills (23 March 1831), an undated map of the north-west coast of Van Diemen's Land, and undated charts of Emu Bay. Each of the maps and drawings were filmed at several settings.

2. Annual reports and reports to special meetings of the Van Diemen's Land Company, 1856-1922

Annual reports nos. 31 (1856), 48 (1873), 53 (1878) and 97 (1922) and reports to special meetings held on 23 Nov. 1854 and 19 Oct. 1881.

3. List of maps, plans and sketches of the Van Diemen's Land Company.

The list (9pp) is divided into the following nine categories:

- A. Exploration charts and plans
- B. General maps of the Company's properties
- C. Estate maps
- D. Geological plans
- E. Sketches and photographs
- F. Railway plans
- G. Agricultural plans
- H. Tasmanian stock maps
- I. Non-Tasmanian stock maps

Reel M585

1. Documents relating to the incorporation and rights of the Van Diemen's Land Company, 1825-77 (1 volume)

Van Diemen's Land Company Act, 1825

Charter of incorporation of the Van Diemen's Land Company, 10 Nov. 1825 (ms, 58pp)

Van Diemen's Land Company Act, 1847

Van Diemen's Land Company Bill, 1847

Van Diemen's Land Company Act, 1863

Van Diemen's Land Company Act, 1877

2. Minutes of annual general meetings of the proprietors of the Van Diemen's Land Company, 1826-1908

Volume 1 Minutes of annual general meetings, March 1826 - March 1854

Volume 2 Minutes of annual general meetings, March 1855 - March 1878

Volume 3 Minutes of annual general meetings, April 1879 - May 1908

Reel M586

3. Accounts, 1833, 1838-55

The documents comprise annual abstracts of colonial balances, annual receipts and disbursements in London (1850-53, 1856-58) and annual receipts and disbursements in the colony (1854-57).

4. Account book, 1840 (341pp)
5. Invoice book, Jan. 1841 - Dec. 1845
6. Pay orders and drafts

Volume 1 Pay orders, March 1844 - March 1852

Volume 2 Office cash orders, March 1842 - March 1851

7. Audited accounts, 1880-89

Annual accounts, comprising general revenue account, balance of London and colonial ledgers, a balance sheet, revenue account, dividends unclaimed, railway traffic account and other documents.

Reel M587

8. Tasmanian letter books, 1848-59

Volume 1 May 1848 - August 1850

Copies of letters from James Gibson (Circular Head), mainly to correspondents in Australia. (887pp) The recipients include John L. Archer, John Cannan (Emu Bay), H.J. Emmett, Rev. Thomas Grigg (Stanley), James Henty (Launceston), Manning Bros. (Hobart), C.H. Marshall (Woolnorth), William Mill, Thomas Power (Melbourne), George Rouse (Emu Bay), George Small (Sydney), Underwood & Eddie, and Younghusband & Co. (Adelaide). The legibility of the volume is poor.

Volume 2 May 1848 - July 1859

Copies of letters from James Gibson and the accountants William Flaxman and Joseph Hurley (Circular Head), mainly to correspondents in Australia. (c. 867pp) Most of the letters in the first half of the volume are from the accountants and relate to financial transactions, while the later letters were mostly written by Gibson and deal with a wider range of subjects. The recipients include John Dowling (Table Cape), H.J. Emmett (Circular Head), John Ferguson (Circular Head), Rev. Samuel Fookes (Circular Head), F.W. Ford (Circular Head), Rev. Thomas N. Grigg (Stanley), James Henty (Launceston), J. Henty & Co. (Melbourne), John House, George James (Emu Bay), William Mill (Emu Bay), Charles O'Connor and John Whitbread. The volume appears to be in poor condition.

Reel M588

Tasmanian letter book, volume 2 (contd.)

Copies of letters for the period July 1850 - July 1859. (pp 401+).

9. Conveyances, 1851-1930

Volume 1 January 1851 - October 1872

Copies of conveyances relating to properties of the Van Diemen's Land Company at Burnie, Circular Head, Emu Bay, Port Maldon, Stanley and Woolnorth.

Volume 2 May 1873 - May 1909

Copies of conveyances relating to properties of the Van Diemen's Land Company at Burnie, South Burnie, Circular Head, Circular Head Forest, Emu Bay Estate, Emu Bay Forest, Hampshire Hills, Stanley and West Montagu.

Reel M589

Volume 3 May 1909 – November 1916

Copies of conveyances relating to properties of the Van Diemen's Land Company at Burnie, South Burnie, Circular Head Peninsula, Emu Bay Estate, Hampshire Hills Estate, Ridgley, Stanley and Surrey Hills Estate.

Volume 4 November 1916 – May 1930

Copies of conveyances relating to properties of the Van Diemen's Land Company at Burnie, South Burnie, Circular Head Peninsula, Emu Bay Estate, Hampshire Hills Estate, Ridgley, Stanley and Surrey Hills Estate.

10. Correspondence concerning the Emu Bay Breakwater, Oct. 1886 – Dec. 1889

Correspondence of J.W. Norton Smith with Tasmanian Government ministers concerning the proposed extension of the breakwater at Emu Bay. The correspondents include Nicholas Brown, Edward Braddon, Andrew Inglis Clark, and Alfred Pillinger.

11. Miscellaneous letters and documents, 1871-82

Correspondence, telegrams, newspaper cuttings and other documents mainly relating to the Mount Bischoff Tin Mining Company, the Mount Bischoff Tramway, and to land at Circular Head. Most of the letters are addressed to J.W. Norton Smith (Emu Bay), while a few are addressed to W. Brookes or the directors of the Van Diemen's Land Company (London). The correspondents include H. Bland (Launceston, Melbourne, Reading), T. Bland Garland (Reading), S.B. Emmett (Circular Head), R.W. Ford (Circular Head), Joseph Harman (Circular Head), Thomas Hughes (Melbourne), Mary Morris (Emu Bay), Henry Ritchie (Launceston), William Ritchie (Launceston) and James Smith (Circular Head).

12. Indexes to despatches

Index to despatches, nos. 1-842

The main subjects include accounts, blackwood, brickyards, income tax, London business, myrtle timber, palings, sawmilling, shipments and timber.

Index to despatches, nos. 1-989a (subjects and persons)

The main subjects include annual accounts, accounts monthly, Bank of Australasia, Burnie, South Burnie, Circular Head, Circular Head Forest, conveyances, Emu Bay, Emu Bay Mount Bischoff Railway Company, farming, Hampshire Hills, land sales, mortgages, prospecting, remittances, Ridgley, sawmills, scrubbing, Stanley, Surrey Hills, timber, Woolnorth.

There are no dates in the two indexes, but references to Federal income and land taxes suggest that they refer to despatches dating from after 1910.