

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

MATHILDE DEANE

Index to despatches relating to the colony of Victoria, 1851-60

Reel M440

**Public Record Office
Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1LR**

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

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mathilde Elizabeth Deane was the daughter of Henry Deane (1847-1924), the engineer-in-chief of the New South Wales Railways. In 1913 the family moved to Melbourne, following Deane's appointment as engineer-in-chief of the Commonwealth Railways. Mathilde Deane was employed by the *Australian Mining Standard*, mainly as an indexer. In 1917 she undertook a typing and shorthand course and then joined the Australian Furnishing Company. In 1919 she was engaged by the Public Library of New South Wales to transcribe despatches between the Governor of Victoria and the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the period 1851-60. They were held in the office of the Governor of Victoria and the Public library of Victoria. She also produced an index to the despatches.

In 1925, following the death of her father, Deane moved to London. Based in the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, she continued her work for the Public Libraries of New South Wales and Victoria, transcribing missing Victorian despatches and missing despatches to the Governor of New South Wales. She also produced indexes to some of the Colonial Office correspondence relating to New South Wales and other tasks assigned to her by Australian libraries. She gave up doing work of this kind in 1932.

As a young woman, Deane aspired to be an artist and she always had strong literary and cultural interests. She was also a keen follower of Theosophy. In her later years she lived in Reigate, Surrey.

The papers of Henry and Mathilde Deane are held in the National Library of Australia. (MS 610)

M.E. DEANE

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M.E. Deane. Index to despatches relating to the colony of Victoria 1851-60, 1925. (typescript, 365pp)

The index covers the following categories of despatches:

Secretary of State for the Colonies

Numbered despatches (B)
Military despatches (BM)
Separate despatches (B Sep)
Circulars (B Cir)
Confidentials (B Con)

Governor of Victoria

Numbered despatches (V)
Military despatches (VM)
Separate despatches (V Sep)
Confidentials (V Con)

The despatches were held in the office of the Governor of Victoria. The copies of the Victorian despatches did not include the enclosures. However, the Public Library of Victoria held a duplicate set of the Governor's despatches for 1851-55 and they did include the enclosures. Deane therefore worked from this set for the period 1851-55.

The index has a single alphabetical sequence and contains entries for individual people (by far the most numerous category); ships; towns, districts and countries; occupational and professional groups; companies, organisations and institutions; publications; general subjects. For each entry the volume and page numbers and the date are provided.

The general subjects, some of which have subdivisions, include Aborigines; arms and ammunition; Australian colonies; Ballarat riots; cables (submarine); coinage; convicts; crime and criminals; federation of the Australian colonies; gold mines and mining; immigration and emigration; lighthouses; Melbourne; mercantile marine; military; military pensioners; mines and mineral resources; New South Wales; Paris Exhibition 1855; police; postal service; railways; Royal Mint; shipwrecks and disasters; statistics; telegraph lines of communication; transportation; Victoria; volunteer forces; war.

Deane supplied copies of the typescript to the Public Library of Victoria, the Mitchell Library, the Commonwealth National Library and the Public Record Office in London. The copy in the Public Record Office was shelved with the Lists and Indexes, along with a copy of Deane's index to Colonial Office correspondence relating to New South Wales (C.O. 201).