



# Photographs and Works of Art

State Library of Queensland holds the largest collection of pictorial material relating to the social and cultural history of Queensland. The collection includes photographs and works of art held by the John Oxley Library. Selected images are available online through the State Library's *Picture Queensland* website at [www.pictureqld.slq.qld.gov.au](http://www.pictureqld.slq.qld.gov.au). The State Library also offers a photographic copying service for images held in the collection.

## Why does State Library collect photographs?

The invention of the daguerreotype in 1837 and its announcement two years later opened a world of visual documentation undreamt of by previous generations. For the first time people, isolated in one part of the globe, could accurately see the complex modes of life of other communities many thousands of miles away. The photograph completely changed man's perception of history. Historical documentation was now frozen in time, encouraging in depth study and often a different slant on its interpretation.

## What does the photographic collection include?

The John Oxley Library holds a comprehensive collection of photographs relating to the history and continuing development of Queensland. The collection contains over 1.5 million images including copy prints, original photographs, glass plate negatives, celluloid negatives and albums.

The earliest dates of images in the collections coincide with 1859, the year Queensland was proclaimed a separate state. The photographs provide a unique visual record of the growth of Queensland almost from inception. The first known townscape photograph was taken around 1859/1860 and is a view of Queen Street looking south from Edward Street.

The photographs in the William Boag (d. 1878), Richard Daintree (1832-1878) and Harriet Brims (1864-1939) collections are considered to be some of the most important work of early Queensland photographers. The clarity of the pictures is a remarkable testament to their persistence and creativity in a period when the technology of photography was in its infancy.

Over 35,000 images from the collections are now available on the State Library's website *Picture Queensland*, [www.pictureqld.slq.qld.gov.au](http://www.pictureqld.slq.qld.gov.au), which showcase themes both historical and contemporary. The Gale Collection, the work of professional photographers Ron and Ngaire Gale, is a colourful and comprehensive record of the tourist experience in North Queensland in the 1980s. Many of the images are accessible through *Picture Queensland*.

The Australian Library of Art also holds several collections of photographs, forming part of archival collections such as the Johnstone Gallery Archive and the papers of Kathleen (1916-2002) and Leonard Shillam (1915-2005).

## What does the art collection include?

The John Oxley Library contains a large collection of original paintings, sketches and artists' prints, primarily acquired for the purpose of documenting the history of the people and places of Queensland. The works range from Henry Boucher Bowerman's (1789-1840) *View of the Penal Settlement at Moreton Bay*, executed in 1835, to drawings by contemporary Queensland artist Davida Allen (1951-). There are paintings by Conrad Martens (1801-1878), Oscar Fristrom (1856-1918), John Campbell (1855-1924) and Robert Rayment (1839-1893) and significant holdings of original cartoons by Hal Eyre (active c1890), Wilson Cooper (1912-1998), Stewart McCrae (1919-) and Alan Moir (1945-).

Other highlights include several hundred works by artist James Wieneke (1906-1981) a former director of the Queensland Art Gallery. He produced illustrations for the *Queenslander* and for the book *Sixth Division Sketches*, which records his wartime service in New Guinea. The collection also includes illustrations by William Bustard (1894-1973) for the books *Robinson Crusoe* (1948) and *Treasure Island* (1956).

The Australian Library of Art also has a collection of artworks including paintings and drawings by Queensland born William Rubery Bennett (1893-1987), original designs for bookplates by Norman Lindsay (1879-1969) and Adrian Feint (1894-1971), and maquettes for sculptures by Leonard and Kathleen Shillam.

## What services are on offer?

The State Library offers a photographic reproduction service for images from the collections. Visit [www.slq.qld.gov.au/about/act/pres/photo/commercial\\_photography](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about/act/pres/photo/commercial_photography) for details.



## How do I access these services and facilities?

Visit the State Library at South Bank, Brisbane to access:

- The State Reference Library's general collection, journals and serials on level 2
- Video recordings, DVDs, and newspapers on level 3
- The John Oxley Library and the Australian Library of Art on level 4.

For opening hours details go to [www.slq.qld.gov.au/home/hours](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/home/hours)

Log on to the State Library's website at [www.slq.qld.gov.au](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au) to:

- Access Picture Queensland and Manuscripts Queensland online finding aids at [www.slq.qld.gov.au/oh](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/oh)
- Browse the online catalogue and databases at [www.slq.qld.gov.au/find](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/find)
- Browse the digital Queensland Heritage Collections at [www.slq.qld.gov.au/oh](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/oh)
- Fill in an online enquiry form at [www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry)

See Info Guides on *How to search the catalogue* and *How to request an item* for more information.

### Need further information?

State Library of Queensland, Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank

Reference Services: 07 3840 7810

John Oxley Library: 07 3840 7880

[www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry)

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