



## Maps

State Library of Queensland's Maps Collection consists of topographic, cadastral, hydrographic and orthophoto sheet maps, globes, atlases, rare and unique historical maps and early estate maps. A major emphasis of the collection is Queensland and early Australian exploration and discovery, as well as the current mapping of Australia and the world.

### What does it include?

#### General maps collection

The general maps collection comprises over 45,000 sheet maps and approximately 300 atlases, gazetteers, globes and other map-related resources. The main focus is on current commercial mapping of Queensland, Australia, and the world with an emphasis on countries with historical or geographical significance to Queensland. The collection includes topographic, orthophoto, hydrographic and cadastral mapping, and has material of interest to local and family historians, students, tourists and the general public.

#### Historical maps collection

The historical maps collection is one of the State Library's many treasures. It comprises approximately 300 original maps, primarily of Australia and the Australasian region, dating from the sixteenth to the early twentieth centuries. A small number of the maps show regions in other parts of the world.

The maps in this collection are mainly European in origin. The earliest map in the collection dates to the mid-1500s, and shows most of Asia. It was made by the German cosmographer Sebastian Munster who produced it as part of his revised version of Ptolemy's second century AD atlas, the *Geographia*. Prior to the early 1600s, the space on maps that Australia now fills would have been occupied by mythical creatures such as a whale-like fish or a two-tailed mermaid.

#### John Oxley Library

Historical maps of Queensland are held in the John Oxley Library collection. This collection contains published maps from early Brisbane and Queensland with many showing cadastral or property boundaries, early street maps, early town and parish cadastral mapping and the development of Queensland from its discovery and expansion.

One of the strengths of this collection is the early estate maps and plans created by real estate firms. It comprises more than a thousand estate maps ranging from the 1850s to the mid-1900s, and covers areas throughout Queensland, but is predominantly from Brisbane and the south east corner of the state.

### What services are on offer?

A photographic service is available for items held in the John Oxley Library.

Experienced librarians are available to help you with your enquiries. Ask at one of the Information Desks, phone 07 3840 7810, ask a question using the online enquiry form at [www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry), or contact us on the State Library's instant message service, **Ask SLQ**.

### 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
- Family history resources, 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:

- 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)

A number of John Oxley Library estate maps and other historical maps of Queensland are available from the State Library's *Picture Queensland* website at [www.pictureqld.slq.qld.gov.au](http://www.pictureqld.slq.qld.gov.au)

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

### How do I borrow maps?

Items from the State Library's map collections are not available for loan. Due to their rare and fragile nature, it is best they are viewed online or onsite at the State Library.

#### 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)

Visit [www.slq.qld.gov.au/find/infoguides](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/find/infoguides) to access all Info Guides