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Documents that Shaped Australia

By Thompson, John

Murdoch Books, 2010. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 21 x 27 cm. Spanning more than 400 years, from the first documented sighting of the Southern Cross in 1516 to the Rudd Government's national apology of 2008, this anthology presents in chronological form a richly varied spectrum of 100 historical documents that, like pieces in a mosaic, contribute to a broad understanding of some of the key moments in Australia's history. John Thompson's diverse and eclectic selection, illustrated with facsimile documents, portraits, maps and photographs of related events, draws on a range of historical texts: journal and diary entries; official commissions; charters and proclamations; speeches of various kinds; letters and cables; newspaper editorials, press announcements and despatches written by journalists; petitions; Acts of Parliament; court judgements; and manifestos. While some key documents are linked to major historical events . the landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli or the Australian declaration of war against Germany in 1939 . others are a more personal response to some larger issue or event, such as an 1852 letter from a miner on the goldfields. Among many other treasures, the reader will also find an early version of the greatly loved words of Dorothea Mackellar's poem 'My...



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