

## **Statement of significance for Roslyn Russell's album of historical and contemporary postcards (draft)**

**Prepared by Susan Marsden, as part of the 'Significance assessment of collections workshop', Canberra, 28-29 November 2011**

This small collection of approximately 105 historical and contemporary postcards was assembled from the 1970s and mainly from the 1990s by a Canberra-based professional historian, (Dr) Roslyn Russell. These mass-produced postcards have a date range of around 100 years (c1905-c2005). They illustrate the collector's particular historical interests and purposes, ie images of botanic gardens, public buildings, streetscapes and rural scenes, wartime (WWs 1 and 2), museum displays, and contemporary/recent social, environmental and political issues. Most of the postcards are Australian, but there are also some of places in the UK (and London in particular) and, more recently, of the Asia/Pacific.

The collection is significant mainly due to its association with an important Australian professional historian, Dr Russell, whose PhD thesis (awarded in 2011) includes images from this album, as does some of her commissioned historical work.<sup>1</sup> The collection may have some significance also for its research potential, not only for the images but for the original notes written on some of them. Further research on individual postcards may indicate the historical significance of some relative rarities, or, perhaps, information concerning Avantcard, the free postcards. In terms of comparative criteria, however, there are many other large postcard collections held in Australia, including at the National Library and the National Museum.

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<sup>1</sup> PhD: 'Travel writers, museums and reflections of empire, 1770-1901' (2011).