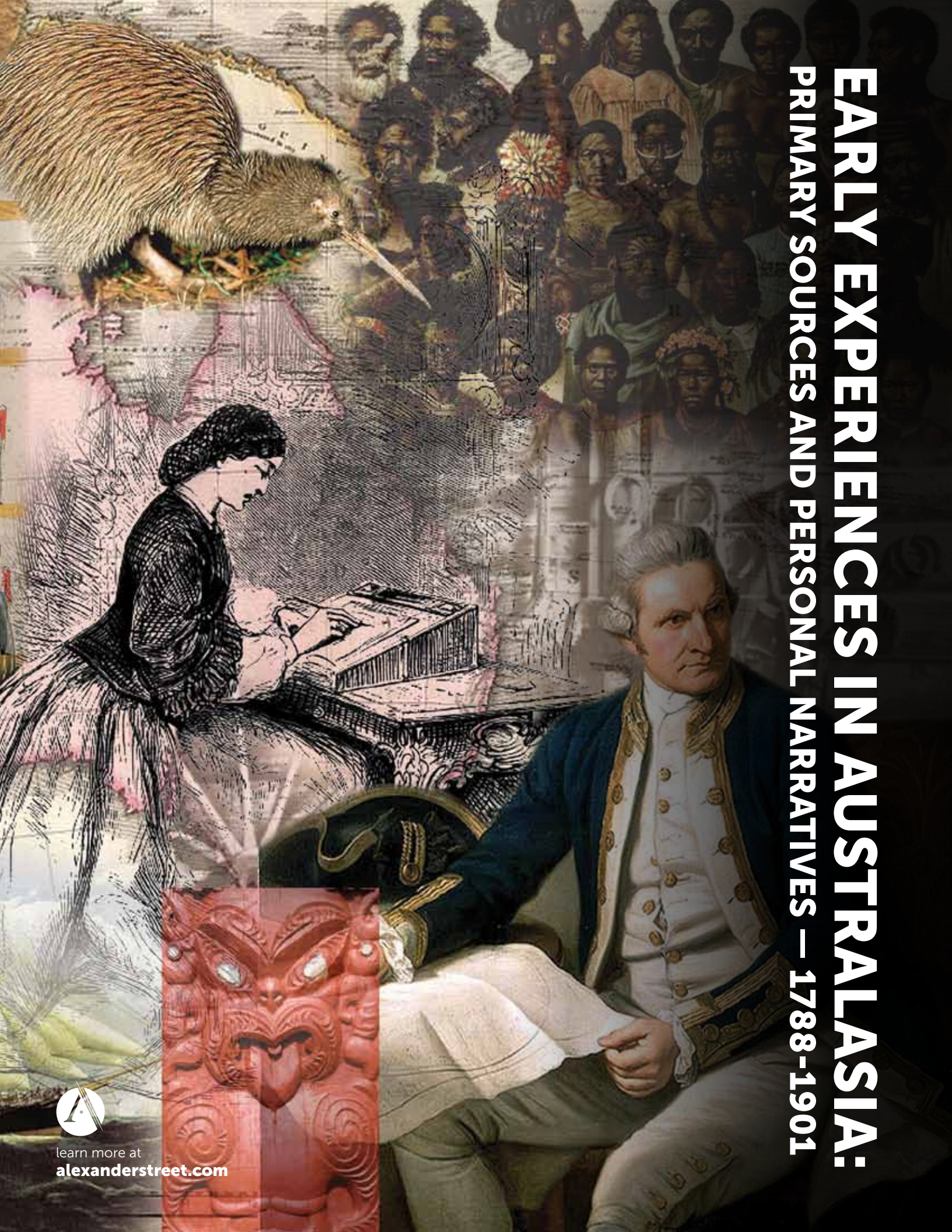


EARLY EXPERIENCES IN AUSTRALASIA: PRIMARY SOURCES AND PERSONAL NARRATIVES – 1788-1901



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Early Experiences in Australasia: Primary Sources and Personal Narratives 1788–1901

Early Experiences in Australasia: Primary Sources and Personal Narratives 1788–1901 provides a unique and personal view of events in the region from the arrival of the first settlers through to Australian Federation at the close of the 19th century. Through first-person accounts, including letters and diaries, narratives, and other primary source materials, the collection shares the voices of the time and fosters an enhanced understanding of the experiences of those who took the great challenge in new lands.

From the earliest settlers to convicts and free settlers and those who later answered the call of the Gold Rush, these letters and diaries describe life on ships and in settlements in a particularly intimate way.

This content promotes new, deeper understandings of events of the time:

- Female immigrants were frequently assisted and encouraged to emigrate by the British government and third-party groups. The writings between those women and their correspondents offer another viewpoint on history.
- Those who played an important role in the political formation of the region help us understand the rationale behind some of the decisions made and the environment in which they were operating.
- The correspondence of people working the land contrasts with those in more settled areas.
- We can view interactions among groups, including encounters with native populations, in a contemporaneous context, rather than as isolated events.

Scope

Alexander Street Press has collaborated with libraries across the region to source materials, and special care has been taken to curate a collection that represents a cross-section of ideas and experiences. These unique primary-source materials, drawn from archives, have been difficult to access before now. Scholars and students not only gain new access to the items sourced, but can for the first time cross-search personal writings from the time. More than 90 percent of the collection is previously unpublished, fulfilling Alexander Street's goal of bringing important material to light and "making silent voices heard."

The experiences of men and women, settlers and indigenous peoples, explorers, soldiers, and officials can now be discovered through Alexander Street's deep Semantic Indexing, letting users explore content by writer, region, audience, personal and historical event, environmental features including fauna and flora, and more. Supporting material such as images, maps, and photographs supplement the first-person narratives and provide additional context.

Incorporating 100,000 pages of letters, diaries, and other narratives, along with additional contextual material, and covering over 100 years of history, *Early Experiences in Australasia* is a rich resource to support research, teaching and learning in a wide range of disciplines, including history, ethnology, anthropology, literature, genealogy, local studies, women's studies, and comparative studies.

Key features

- Thousands of unique documents including letters, diaries, and photographs, covering the early Australasian experience.
- Detailed Semantic Indexing that allows the sources to be browsed and searched in a variety of ways, including by date, person, subject, and more.
- Sources spanning over 100 years of Australasian history from repositories located across Australia and New Zealand.

Early Experiences in Australasia is a natural complement to other Alexander Street historical letter-and-diary collections, including *Early Encounters in North America*; *North American Women's Letters and Diaries*; *British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries*; and *North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries, and Oral Histories*.

Publication details

Early Experiences in Australasia: Primary Sources and Personal Narratives 1788–1901 is available on the Web, either through annual subscription or as a one-time purchase of perpetual rights. No special setup is required—all you need is an internet browser. For more information or to request a trial or price quote, please email sales@alexanderstreet.com.



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