

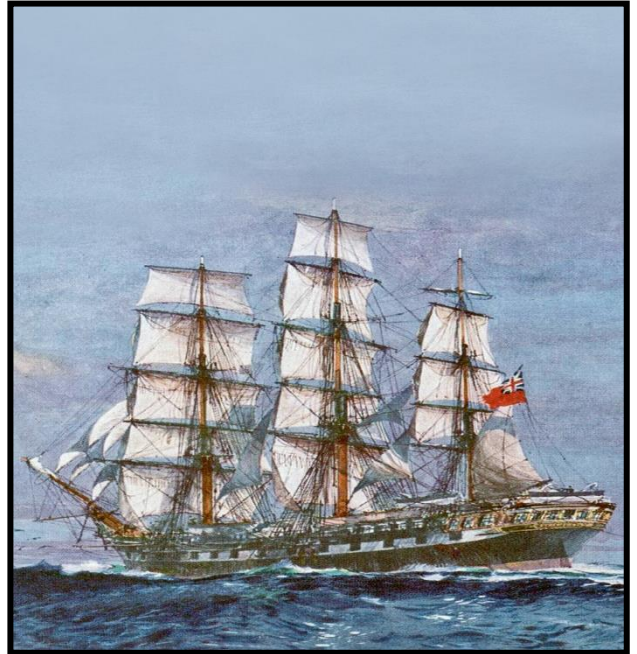
SURGEONS AT SEA – An Index to the filmed Surgeons’ Journals on the Convict Ships to Australia with some strays.

(2015)

Edited by Ken Shilling

This publication is available on CD only: \$50.00 + p&p

As a result of the examination NFHS has made of the filmed Surgeons’ Journals, some conclusions about the convict transports and the people who managed them can be made. Some early voyages were horrific but these events brought about radical changes ensuring that many subsequent sailings were accomplished without loss of life. The surgeon-superintendents who managed the health and welfare of those aboard the transports were in the main highly competent Royal Navy surgeons.



The CD is arranged in sections:

‘The People’, is the main database listing the convicts, their children, soldiers, crew, free settlers and their families and even colonial officials recorded in the journals. In total there are 52,244 entries. Each shows, where possible, the status and age of each individual and their medical condition or punishment. Their ship and year of arrival are recorded, together with the name of the surgeon and the number of the film.

‘The Strays’ lists those aboard ships other than convict transports that were included on the films.

‘The Ships’ lists the names of the 670 ships whose surgeons’ journals were transcribed. Unfortunately not all journals have survived. The year, port of arrival, the name of the surgeon and the film reel reference are recorded for each ship.

‘The Surgeons’ lists all those surgeons whose journals were transcribed with their ship and year of arrival.

A total of 436 medical conditions mentioned in the journals have been described using 19th century medical dictionaries.

A major part of the CD, ‘Their Stories’, has transcribed the surgeons’ own notes and records that give an idea of what the journey under sail to Australia on a transport ship was like. In this section will be found some details of treatments and the methods used by the surgeons to ensure the health of their charges and maintain discipline under often quite trying circumstances.