

Interview with Colin Dennison
 25th August 2018
 University of Tasmania Morris Miller Library
 Interviewer - Ben Ross
 www.oralhistorycompany.com
 Hobart Tasmania

Interview concerns Colin's lifetime of collecting photographs, postcards, stamps and other historical resources. He donated the collection to the University of Tasmania.

00:00	Introduction
00:20	Birth in 1941. Birthplace. Exploring old houses as a child started his interest in Tasmanian history. Collecting bus and tram tickets.
01:39	Man living nearby worked for 'Visual Aids Department' transferred glass plates to 35mm [film] negatives. Gave copies to Colin. Colin took them to school. Principal told him to get rid of them, and 'find the written word'. Motivated Colin to collect more [images]. Photos were hard to get.
03:30	First photograph collected. Has a tin full of rolls of 35mm negatives, given to him by the man living nearby.
04:15	Tried to separate the collection into sections. Kept them in shoe boxes.
04:36	Started collecting in 1950. Interested in buildings and place names. First book called <i>Where in Tasmania</i> . Went to auctions and markets to buy items.
05: 50	Stored collection under his bed in shoeboxes. People told him he was wasting his time and that there was no money in history.
06: 24	Father left school at 12. Worked at Cascade Brewery for 27 years.
06:55	Always interested in 'Tasmaniana'. Knew every street in Hobart as a child.
07:22	Started stamp and postcard collecting. Trading postcards. Valuable. Collection of over 5000 postcards. Worked at Boyer. Scanned the postcards.
9:00	Not much interest from other people in his collection. School students were interested though. Went to Macquarie Street State School. Noticed and photographed the ceilings at the school. Had a Box Brownie camera.
10:23	Around 1956. Item in newspaper about the last private house in Princes

	Wharf was due to be demolished. Went to town to take photos of it.
11:24	When a building is pulled down its character in the area is destroyed. It's a shame.
12:30	Made friends with historian Geoff Sewell [sp?] working in the library on Tasmaniana. Conversation with taxi driver about a secret cell under a building.
15:24	Displays of the collection. In libraries, shopping centres. Makes 'picture shows' in PowerPoint. Doing one now on shopping in the 1930s. Shopping was the same until 1950s.
16:45	Documented Hobart and suburbs. Retired now. Heart problems. Doing book for Glenorchy. Has written six books.
18:06	Can give the story of any picture in his collection. 120,000 pictures in the collection.
19:09	Particularly memorable picture in the collection: One of a site at the Zinc Works. Possible site of a place the Governor lived before moving to Governor's House.
20:40	Has photos of Inshallah. Henry Hopkins named it. Interested in the mystery surrounding the house.
21:30	Building on Spring Hill. Old London Inn.

22:28	An old Hall, previously Kings Hall in Bathurst Street. Concert in 1890s. John Phillip Sousa performed at Kings Hall. Has photos of the hall. Hall's ceiling, cornices.
24:42	Stamp collecting and Tasmanian postmarks. Scanning. Selling pictures. Worked at Boyer and Hydro Tasmania. Learnt about computers, electronics.
28:17	People over 40 more interested in history than younger people. Family history.
29:38	West Coast of Tasmania. Historians.
30:55	Worked as a diver on Tasman Bridge.
32:32	Has given the collection to University of Tasmania (UTAS). Awarded Order of Australia medal.
34:10	Given the collection to UTAS. Helps preserve Tasmanian history. Comments on how history is recorded, told.

