Early descriptions of South Australia

Compiled by Brian Samuels

The following lists of sources are designed to assist authors and researchers to locate useful background material on South Australia. The nineteenth-century list was carefully chosen to include what I believe to be the most useful works. Note, however, that they cover the whole State and hence many localities receive only a few lines, and some none at all.

The regional listing is not comprehensive, but comprises a selection of less widely known pamphlets and books. The majority of these works can only be consulted in the Mortlock Library of South Australiana. Brackets around an author’s name indicate that author-ship has been attributed. An asterisk denotes a work containing substantial historical as well as descriptive material.

These lists formed the basis for the chapter entitled “Bibliography of Descriptive Works” in Andrew Peake’s Sources for South Australian History (Tudor Australia Press, Adelaide, 2nd edition, 1998), although some of the citations here are a little fuller and the sizes of the regional works are indicated.

### NINETEENTH-CENTURY WORKS

1839* [J. Stephens]: The Land of Promise London [Facsimile edition 1988]
1843* J. F. Bennett: Historical and Descriptive Account of South Australia London & Edinburgh
1858 [F. Algar]: A Handbook to the Colony of South Australia by the Editor of the Australian and New Zealand Gazette, London [Facsimile edition 1981]
1862 F. Sinnett: An Account of the Colony of South Australia Adelaide [Facsimile edition 1979]
1862 W.R.H. Jessop: Flindersland and Sturtland London
1866* A. Forster: South Australia, Its Progress and Prosperity London
1875 R. & F. Hill: What We Saw in Australia London
1876* W. Harcus (ed.): South Australia, Its History, Resources and Productions London
1883* J.P. Stow: South Australia: Its History, Productions and Natural Resources Adelaide [2nd considerably expanded edition, 1884]
1886 J.F. Conigrave: South Australia: A Sketch of Its History and Resources Adelaide
1887 H.J. Scott: South Australia in 1887 Adelaide
1890* W.F. Morrison: The Aldine History of South Australia Sydney & Adelaide
1890* J. Smillie (pub.): Descriptive Australia and Federal Guide Extended edition, Adelaide
1893* E. Hodder: The History of South Australia London
1894* J.D. Woods: The Province of South Australia Adelaide
1894* [W.E. Ford?]: Ford’s York Hotel Guide to Adelaide, South Australia and Broken Hill, N.S.W. Adelaide

### REGIONAL DESCRIPTIVE WORKS

Barossa News Ltd: The Barossa District Angaston & Tanunda, 1911. 120 pp. [Facsimile edition 1983]
E.H. Hallack: Our Townships, Farms, and Home-steads, Southern District of South Australia Comprising a series
of 25 articles written for the *South Australian Register* and *Adelaide Observer* Adelaide, 1892. 101 pp.
[C. Proud]: *The Murray and Darling Trade in 1883* Being a series of articles written by a special reporter of the *South Australian Register* and *Adelaide Observer* and reprinted from those papers. Adelaide, 1883. 33 pp.
[C. Proud]: *The South-Eastern District of South Australia in 1880* Being a series of articles written by a special reporter of the *South Australian Register*, and reprinted from that paper, with an official map of the district. Adelaide, 1881. 67 pp.
E. Ward: *The South-Eastern District of South Australia: Its Resources and Requirements* Reprinted with emendations and additions from letters written expressly for the *South Australian Advertiser and Weekly Chronicle* and Mail newspapers. Adelaide, 1869. 95 pp. + 64 pp. of advertisements.
E. Ward: *The Vineyards and Orchards of South Australia* Being a series of articles written expressly for the *South Australian Advertiser and Weekly Chronicle* and now reprinted from those journals. Adelaide, 1862. 78pp. [Facsimile edition 1979]
E. Whittington: *The Story of the Drought through the North and North-East* Reprinted from the *South Australian Register*. Adelaide, 1897. 33 pp.
E.M. Yelland (ed.): *Colonists, Copper and Corn in the Colony of South Australia 1850-51* Melbourne, 1970. [A compilation of a series of articles by ‘Old Colonist’ which originally appeared in the *South Australian Register* in 1851 as ‘Sketches of the Present State of the Colony of South Australia’] 212 pp.
O. Ziegler (pub.): *Souvenir of Berri, Lyrap and Waikerie* Adelaide, 1921. Unpaged.
O. Ziegler (pub.): *Souvenir of the Nearer South-East of South Australia* Embodying Bletchley, Murray Bridge, Monarto and Monarto-South, Palmer, Woodchester, Callinton, Mannum, Mt. Barker, Strathalbyn, Mount Pleasant, and environs: the garden of agriculture, grazing, dairying, etc. Adelaide, 1924. 110 pp.