Migration to New Worlds

Discover the movement and memories of millions across two centuries of mass migration

“Understand, perhaps for the first time, the individual, personal and local stories which underlie the impersonal, statistical and global history of migration.”

Andrew Linn
University of Westminster
Set against a backdrop of colonial expansion, industrial progress and global conflict; Migration to New Worlds tells the stories of individuals and families who risked everything to build new lives in North America and Australasia between 1800 and 1980.

Unique primary source diaries, correspondence, photographs, oral histories and journals narrate the vivid realities of ocean travel and life in adopted homelands.

Organisational correspondence, government proceedings, shipping company papers and records of advocacy groups provide key context to migrants’ everyday struggles, both for those who crossed the seas willingly and those forced from their homes.

Grouped by key themes for ease of navigation, this essential multi-archive collection allows students and researchers to conduct in-depth social, political and humanitarian study into all aspects of migration through the ‘century of immigration’ and into the modern era.

**Interactive Research**

**Essential for classroom engagement,** Migration to New Worlds is enhanced by a number of unique research and teaching tools:

- Analyse records for over 16,000 British and Irish convicts transported to New South Wales between 1785-1820
- Discover how migration to the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand changed over time using the interactive migration map
- Tour two New York Tenement Museum apartments
- Explore a Victorian emigrant ship through the Star of India interactive deck plans
- Learn about the importance of Grosse île quarantine island to Canada’s immigration story
**Highlights**

- Rare printed books, pamphlets and correspondence on Chinese and Japanese immigration to the United States
- Oral histories describing life in the United States and Canada for new migrants
- Government correspondence from The National Archives, UK, charting British emigration to the United States, Australasia and Canada and the movement of indentured Asian labourers
- Full-sized rigging, deck, sail and cabin plans for emigrant ships
- Letters and organisational papers charting the rise and fall of the New Zealand Company
- Colonel Wakefield’s letter books on British colonial settlement in New Zealand
- Personal and official papers from Stephen F. Austin discussing the American settlement of Texas
- Organisational papers and press releases from the Immigration and Refugee Services of America and others emphasising the plight of displaced persons
- Papers of Graham Taylor, founder of Chicago Commons settlement house
- Thomas Sedgwick scrapbooks documenting juvenile migration to New Zealand and Canada
- Pamphlets, government reports and ephemera encouraging Australian immigration

**Source Archives**

- American Antiquarian Society
- Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin
- British Library
- California Historical Society
- Cambridge University Library
- Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
- Glenbow Museum
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- Immigration History Research Center Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries
- Library and Archives Canada
- Liverpool Record Office
- Maritime Museum of San Diego
- Maritime Museum of Tasmania
- Museums Victoria, Australia
- National Archives of Australia
- National Library of Ireland
- National Museums Liverpool: Maritime Archives & Library
- Red Star Line Museum, Antwerp
- Senate House Library, University of London
- Special Collections & University Archives, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Tenement Museum, New York
- The National Archives, UK
- The Newberry Library
- The Robert Opie Collection
- University of Melbourne Archives
- University of Sussex
This digital collection provides unique primary source material documenting the movement of peoples from Great Britain, Ireland, mainland Europe and Asia to the New World and Australasia from 1800 to 1980. Key themes include:

- Colonisation and private enterprise
- Shipping line involvement with the emigration boom
- Conditions at sea
- Opportunities for (and exploitation of) immigrants
- Experiences of refugees and displaced persons
- The effects of government legislation on migration
- Reactions to immigration from local and indigenous populations
- The employment and repatriation of Indian and Chinese indentured labourers
- Religious, ethnic and community relations
- Onward journeys and the challenges of settlement
- Motives for migration
- How emigration ports were organised and departures arranged

**Module I: The Century of Immigration**

Documenting the period from 1800 to 1924, this module focuses on the British colonisation of Canada during the early nineteenth century, Chinese and Japanese immigration to the United States and the movement of indentured Asian labourers to plantations in the West Indies.

**Module II: The Modern Era**

Beginning with the activities of the New Zealand Company during the 1840s, this module focuses on the growth of colonisation companies, activities of immigration and welfare societies, and the plight of refugees and displaced persons after the Second World War.