

Australia in another time . . . (from top left) a timber-getter in Tasmania; Clockey Travis, deaf watchmaker and lamplighter in Pemberton, Western Australia; poet Dorothea Mackellar; (main image) Palm Island Aboriginal dancers and; (below) the Harbour Bridge under construction, all taken in 1930

# Lost treasures brought home

**E. O. Hoppe's Australia**  
Customs House  
Photography

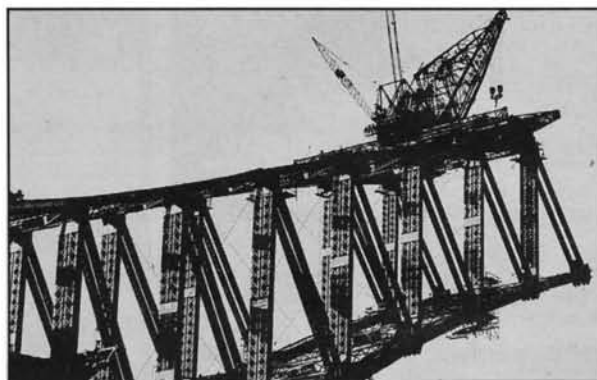
These images of 1930s Australia are the first portraits of our nation as a whole. Mixed among the rediscovered archive are portraits of well-known Australians—including poet Dorothea Mackellar—along with miners, timber-getters, farmers, city workers, beach-goers and Aborigines.

Taken by German-born, British photographer Emil Otto Hoppe, the images were lost in one of London's oldest photo libraries, the Mansell Collection, for more than 50 years.

Hoppe published *The Fifth Continent*, in the 1930s; the first photo-book to cover the entire nation. Some of the images will be on show for the first time in *E. O. Hoppe's Australia*, which opens at Customs House on Tuesday. Hoppe, then a world-famous portrait photographer, spent nearly a year travelling around our continent.

Exhibit curator, Australian-born, Los Angeles-based Graham Howe, says Hoppe's work is a national treasure.

"He thought the real Australia was in the country," says Howe. "After coming from



high-society London, and after watching Nazism take hold in Germany, he really appreciated the sense of freedom here.

"His photographs also show the fabric of Australian life and values, such as friendliness, camaraderie and how people in the bush help each other out."

"I think being in Australia changed him."

It took Howe more than a decade to uncover all the photos from the library to which Hoppe had sold his work in the 1940s. Filed under subject, they were among 1.2 million other works.

"It was like looking for a

needle in a haystack," says Howe. Because the photos were hidden, the once world-famous Hoppe was largely forgotten after his death in 1972.

"Selling his work to a picture library wasn't a good idea," says Howe. "People didn't really start collecting photographs until the 1970s. They didn't know his work existed. So I'm hoping to give him back his place in history."

Alfred St, Circular Quay. Daily from Wednesday, 10am-3pm, 9242 8595

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