

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

**NAME OF COLLECTION:** CUMPSTON, John Stanley

**ACCESSION NO:** 103/90

**CATEGORY:** Other, individuals  
**ACTIVITY:** Sportsmen

**DATE RANGE:** 1926 - 1931

**SIZE OF COLLECTION:** 0.05 metres

**DATE OF TRANSFER:** 7 Oct 2003

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** Open

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** John Stanley Cumpston (1909-1986) graduated BA Hons, University of Melbourne in 1930, with further degrees of LLB (1932), Diploma of Public Administration (1939) and Litt D (1949). Taking Articles, he practiced as a solicitor for a short time before joining the Commonwealth Public Service in Sydney, working in law. He transferred to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra and early on was involved in critical background preparation for the mapping of Antarctica. With a keen interest in sporting shooting Cumpston served in the volunteer military service. He transferred to the Diplomatic Corps with his first posting in Chile, followed by New Zealand, New Caledonia and a short-term posting in Dili. He retired as departmental historian.

While in New Zealand Cumpston developed an strong interest in maritime history that resulted post-retirement in a position with the ANU's Pacific Manuscripts Bureau where he made two extensive trips around the Australian east coast filming whaling ships' logs. While in New Zealand he had developed a method of photographing historical records. He was the author or compiler of a number of works on maritime history including *Shipping Arrivals and Departures Sydney 1788-1825*.

John Cumpston married Helen, daughter of William Dunbar, who was the first female law graduate in Tasmania.

**DESCRIPTION:** Book of newspaper cuttings relating to Citizens Forces Rifle Association, Cadet Trainees, Melbourne University Rifle Club, Inter Varsity rifle matches, "Blues" awards and Cumpston's other miscellaneous interests.

**LISTED BY:** T J Hart  
**DATE:** 29 Oct 2003

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<b>Box No.</b>	<b>Series Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
	1/1	Rifle Club Scrapbook	8 Nov 1926 – 20 Mar 1931