

BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>**Dictionary of Australian Biography**

Dictionary of Australian Biography, by Percival Serle. Pub. 1949 in two volumes by Angus and Robertson, Sydney.

The book contains 520 pages in Volume 1 covering surnames A to K and 524 pages in Volume 2 covering L to Z. In all 1030 biographies, almost all well known people. The preface of the book gives totals as follows:

Army and Navy	10
Artists, including architects, actors and musicians	130
Governors and administrators	50
Lawyers	69
Literary men and women	137
Notorieties	17
Pioneers, explorers, pastoralists, men of business	161
Politicians	174
Scholars, philosophers, clergymen	.76
Scientists, including physicians, surgeons, engineers	140
Social reformers, philanthropists, educationalists	.53
Sporting men (cricketers and athletes)	.13

BDA has cross indexed all persons mentioned in the biographies resulting in a total of 6580 people named.

Each biography is followed by the author's sources and sometimes his comments, e.g.

C. Bischoff, *The Hard Road, the Life Story of Amalie Dietrich*, 1931. C. Bischoff was her daughter and this volume is a translation of the life of her mother published in Germany in 1909; *Meyer's Lexikon*, vol. 3. This gives 1823 for the year of birth but the probabilities are in favour of the earlier year.

The compiler, Percival Serle, died 16 December 1951 at Hawthorn, Victoria.

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