



THE FOUNDATION OF CULTURE IN ADELAIDE. A STUDY OF
THE FIRST COLONISTS' TRANSPLANTATION OF IDEAS AND
ART : 1836 - 1857

by

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary	iii
Statement	v
Acknowledgements	vi
Abbreviations	vii
Introduction	viii
CHAPTER I PLANNED TRANSPLANTATION	1
CHAPTER II THE GUARDIAN OF CULTURE - EDUCATION	39
CHAPTER III THE PRINTED WORD FROM BRITAIN	72
CHAPTER IV THE LOCAL PRINTED WORD	103
CHAPTER V INTELLECTUAL THOUGHT	174
CHAPTER VI THE CREATIVE ARTS - IMAGINATIVE WRITING	227
CHAPTER VII THE CREATIVE ARTS - PAINTING	293
CHAPTER VIII THE ENTERTAINMENT ARTS - MUSIC AND THE THEATRE	340
Conclusion	402
Appendices	412
Bibliography	417

SUMMARY

Taking the word "culture" to refer to the complex of intellectual and artistic activities, this thesis sets out to examine whether such activities were transplanted from Britain to Adelaide in the first twentyone years of settlement, how they were transplanted, and how far that transplantation succeeded.

To do this, the thesis considers the colonists' deliberate attempts to provide for the transplantation of culture, and the success with which they established the educational system and media of contact necessary for its preservation. It then goes on to describe the activities which made up the colonists' cultural life. Their import and production of books, periodicals and newspapers, their creative and appreciative participation in intellectual thought, imaginative writing, painting, music and the theatre, are described and evaluated, from both the point of view of continued involvement with the culture of Britain, and of response to the challenges and inspirations of the colonial environment.

It is concluded that, although early Adelaide produced no significant creative artists or thinkers, culture was indeed transplanted to colonial South Australia, since Adelaide before 1857 included a wide community of people who continued an active involvement with the culture of nineteenth century Britain, and some who made some first significant responses to the colonial environment. It is insisted, moreover, that such a mainly spectator involvement is a worthy indication of continuing cultural life, despite its obvious inferiority to the front rank of creative activity; and that the culture of colonial Adelaide was probably as active as that of the smaller

British provincial towns, to which it is more sensibly compared than to the vast cultural communities of London, or of Britain as a whole.

It is further contended that the successes and inadequacies of continuing cultural life in early Adelaide were primarily determined more by the forces of size and interest deciding which men of what interest and ability, would settle in Adelaide before 1857, than by the colonists' attempts at deliberate transplantation, or by the practical and material pressures of colonial life. Above all, they were determined by the powerfully continuing influence of culture itself, once it has been established in the lives of individuals.

STATEMENT

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any University. To the best of my knowledge, it contains no material previously published or written by another person, except when due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

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ABBREVIATIONS

A.N.L.	Australian National Library, Canberra
Mitchell Library	Mitchell Library, Sydney
N.G.S.A.	National Gallery of South Australia
S.A.A.	South Australian Government Archives
S.L.S.A.	State Library of South Australia
<u>Adelaide Chronicle</u>	<u>Adelaide Chronicle and South Australian Advertiser, and subsequently, Adelaide Chronicle and South Australian Literary Record</u>
<u>Mercury</u>	<u>Mercury, and South Australian Sporting Chronicle</u>
<u>Monthly Almanac</u>	<u>Monthly Almanac and Illustrated Commentator</u>
<u>Morning Chronicle</u>	<u>Adelaide Morning Chronicle</u>
<u>Observer</u>	<u>Adelaide Observer</u>
<u>Register</u>	<u>South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register, and subsequently, South Australian Register</u>
<u>Register/Mining Journal</u>	<u>South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register, which subsequently became the South Australian Gazette and Mining Journal</u>
<u>Weekly Despatch</u>	<u>South Australian Weekly Despatch</u>