

What have you got? Is it historically significant and what does it say?

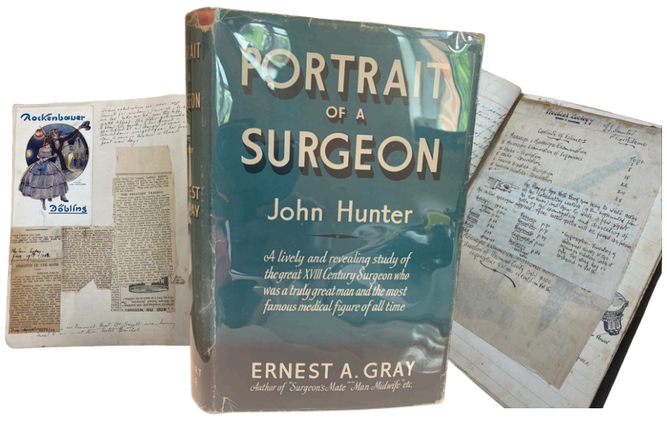
What Does Historical Significance Mean?

Items of historical significance capture and preserve the story of Hunter New England Health — its evolution, culture, achievements, and community impact — and can include:

- books,
- manuscripts
- documents
- photographs
- records
- personal memorabilia
- medical instruments and equipment
- artefacts/artworks

If staff are unsure whether an item is suitable, **the Library team is available to help assess its historical value and relevance.**

Examples:



Books/Manuscripts



Medical Instruments



Artworks/Artefacts

What it is not:

- Items with no identifiable origin, purpose, or connection to HNELHD
- Ephemera with temporary operational value only
- Broken, incomplete, or unsafe objects with no historical link
- Old textbooks (unless first edition)
- Common, mass-produced items with no HNELHD connection
- Routine administrative paperwork

The Importance of Provenance

Provenance refers to the documented background or origin of an item — where it came from, who created or owned it, and how it has been used or stored over time.
Understanding an item's provenance is crucial because it verifies its authenticity and connection to HNELHD, provides context for future researchers, enhances its historical value, and ensures it can be accurately catalogued, archived, and preserved.
Good provenance helps ensure that valuable pieces of our organisational history can be preserved and understood for years to come.

Actionable Steps

Contact HNE Health Libraries
Reach out to discuss the item you wish to donate. The library team can provide advice on suitability, provenance details, and next steps.

or

Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)
This assists the library in evaluating the item and determining the best approach for archiving or preservation.

Still not sure

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