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Single & Free: Female migration to Australia, 1833-1837

Elizabeth Rushen

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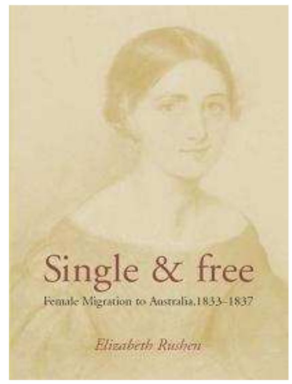
Between 1833 and 1837, around 2700 women received assisted passage to Australia under a British government initiative financed by the sale of crown lands in the colonies. This book reveals the organisation of the London Emigration Committee, under which the scheme operated, as well as examining the lives and experiences of the enterprising women who sought to 'better their condition' in the colonies. It has an easily-searchable index of names of all the women who emigrated under this scheme.



The greatest strength of this volume lies in its meticulous and wide-ranging research on every possible aspect of the lives of these women that might conceivably be traced through the voluminous records of colonial Australia. … Yet this book is by no means a dry catalogue of statistics, for Rushen has used her material to reconstruct a host of life histories, garnished by those whose personal testimonies have survived.

Rushen has written a book of interest to historians of colonial Australia and to genealogical researchers alike.

Dr Kirsten McKenzie, University of Sydney
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