

THE HOOD COLLECTION

Samuel J. Hood (1872-1953) began his career as a photographer in the 1880s. He ran a successful business in ships portraits (these negatives are now held by the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney) and portraits of people in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. The State Library has little representation of this period. In 1918 he acquired the Dalny Studio at 124 Pitt Street, and began to expand his business into press photography, providing photographs for the *Sydney Mail*, *Australasian*, *Daily Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph Pictorial*, *Labor Daily*, *Sun*, *Daily News* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Press photography increasingly came to dominate his business, and in 1934 he joined the *Labor Daily* for a short time as a full-time photographer, engaging other staff to look after his studio.

By the mid-1930s most newspapers employed their own photographers, and Hood's commissions from the papers began to decline. He sought other kinds of commissions, and won a number of long term advertising and commercial contracts. He also contributed a number of photographs of Sydney buildings and streets to *Building*, *Construction* and *Australasian Engineer* during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Hood had extensive contacts in the entertainment industry, and was regularly called upon to document celebrity events and stars, as well as theatre advertising. Throughout his career he also worked at the stock-in-trade for commercial photographers: portraits, weddings and even funerals. A number of photographers worked for Dalny Studio, including his children Gladys and Ted.

The State Library of New South Wales first purchased a large collection of negatives from Gladys Hood in 1972. This collection (which included nitrate negatives which have subsequently been copied) at DG 0N4 & NCY 28-61 was transferred to a videodisc in 1991 and each image indexed individually. Ted Hood assisted with the indexing; images were also identified using surviving studio registers. The videodisc, known as the Home & Away disc (or simply the Hood collection) was digitised in 1996, and mounted on the Internet, with upgraded index records, via the online catalogue in December 1998. Another collection from Sam Hood's studio was purchased in 1993 from Gladys Hood's descendants. This comprised 7300 photo prints (PXE 789) and ca. 12000 negatives (ON 204). Digitisation of important photographs in PXE 789 began Mar 2002, but ON 204 has not been digitised and must be viewed at the Library.

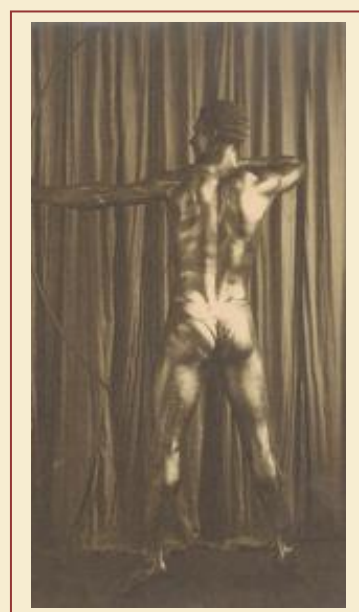
Hood Collection Part I: Sydney streets, buildings, people, activities and events, ca. 1925-1955

Hood Collection part II: Negatives, photographic prints, registers, appointment diaries and family motion pictures, 1916-ca.1955

For detailed biographical information about Sam Hood see: Alan Davies. *Sydney Exposures: Through the Eyes of Sam Hood and his Studio, 1925-1950*. Sydney: State Library of New South Wales, 1991.

For further information and access to some of the items held in the collection go to:

<http://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/item/itemdetailpaged.aspx?itemid=395018>



Clockwise from above: Sonny Clay Band ca. 1928; unidentified chorus girls; artistic poser (in gold paint); tango dancers (1920s).

Courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

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