

Basic Detail Report



00037256

Title

Regatta Waltzes - Advance Australia

Date

1855

Primary Maker

Charles Louis Napoleon d'Albert

Medium

Ink on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 344 × 257 × 3 mm

Name

Sheet music

History

Sheet music offers an insight into popular culture and

social values at the time of their production. The widely distributed pieces were sold fairly cheaply, making them popular purchases with the general public. Music was an integral part of people's social life in the home and at public events such as balls, recitals, concerts and theatre shows. In the mid-19th century many middle class families owned a piano, an important part of their social entertainment and recreation at home. Music sheets featuring waltzes, quadrilles, galops, polkas and mazurkas were everyday favourites. The music covered a range of themes including travel, plays, public events and literature, with the launch of a ship being a common reason for composing a piece. Charles D'Albert was a French composer who migrated to England. He produced at least 300 pieces of work during his career, including 81 quadrilles, 76 waltzes, 64 polkas and 48 galops. His musical scores were made for piano duets, orchestral arrangements and military bands. He is known to have composed a number of pieces around famous ships of his time. The Anniversary Regatta was first held in 1837 after a group of citizens from Sydney decided to celebrate the landing of the First Fleet on 26 January 1788. The regatta consisted of rowing and sailing races and always had a flagship, usually a merchant ship or passenger liner. This social and sporting event was very popular with the public who would take picnic refreshments to the foreshore and attend balls and recitals in the evening.