

Basic Detail Report



00006919

Title

Heart shaped pin cushion 'Think of Me' : HMAS SYDNEY (I)

Date

c 1915

Medium

Cloth, plastic, silver gelatin print on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 80 x 240 x 235 mm, 550 g

Name

Pincushion

History

Beaded and embroidered keepsakes like this were made by sailors in the navy during the nineteenth century, as love tokens for girlfriends and fiancées; the image of the pierced heart was a popular one. The HMAS SYDNEY pin cushion is apparently a late example of what must have been a dying custom by the time it was made. The photograph on it shows the ship in 1913, newly built. This is probably a commercial postcard, since the same photograph appears in Jose's First World War official history. It seems reasonable to assume that the pincushion was made by a sailor in HMAS Sydney in 1913, or soon afterward, when both the ship and the RAN were new. Many Royal Naval sailors transferred into the new Australian force, bringing their traditions with them.