

## SOURCE CARD 5.

### **Snowy Mountains Scheme, 1950 (commemorative vase)**

**Australian History Museum: AHM0074**

This vase was made in Western Germany and celebrates the achievements of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. This was a large undertaking by the Australian government to provide energy and irrigation to a large portion of eastern Australia. It also served as an opportunity to provide the large number of migrants arriving from war-torn Europe with an occupation to help them with their integration into Australia. Through the Displaced Persons Scheme, Australia was one of the first countries to welcome migrants who had lost their homes and livelihoods as a result of World War II. The Snowy Mountain Scheme had a great influence on Australia's ability to provide housing and work for these migrants and the large demand for skilled workers in order to complete the mammoth task provided the justification that Prime Minister Curtin needed to convince parliament to allow such large number of migrants into Australia. Over the three years from 1948 Australia accepted 170,000 settlers, with the majority of these going to work on the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

