Jim Specht follows a long and illustrious line of heads of Anthropology who put pen to paper since Anthropology, or Ethnography as it was initially known, first existed at the Australian Museum in 1872.

The first to publish on anthropological matters at the Museum was Robert Etheridge Jnr. In 1887 he was an Assistant in Palaeontology, eight years later a Curator, and in 1917, Director of the Museum. However, he always had an abiding and broad interest in ethnography, writing on such topics as “An Aboriginal knife”, *Records of Australian Museum*, 1902, 4: 207–208 and “A remarkable rock shelter in the Milton district, N.S.W.”, *Records of Australian Museum*, 1904, 5: 80–85. In 1900 W.W. Thorpe, labourer, watchman and gallery attendant, became assistant to Etheridge, and in 1906 a separate department of Ethnology was created with Thorpe, then 26 years old, as head. He received all his training from Etheridge (himself not an anthropologist or archaeologist) and stayed until 1932, eight years before Jim was born.


Following McCarthy’s departure in 1963 to become founding Principal of the then Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in Canberra, Doug Miles came and went after a short stay (1963–1964). David Moore became Curator of Anthropology in 1965 and in 1967 Dr Peter White joined the department as Assistant Curator. Then,

Following the resignation of White in 1970 to take up a lectureship in the University of Sydney, an Englishman, Dr James Specht, was appointed Assistant Curator of Anthropology. (*Rare and Curious Specimens*, ed. R. Strahan, Australian Museum, Sydney, 1979: 94).


Jim Specht’s bibliography includes all published works as well as several unpublished reports, some of which are referred to in the following papers.


Full-text PDF of each one of the works in this volume are available at the following links:

http://dx.doi.org/10.3853/j.0812-7387.29.2004.1483

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