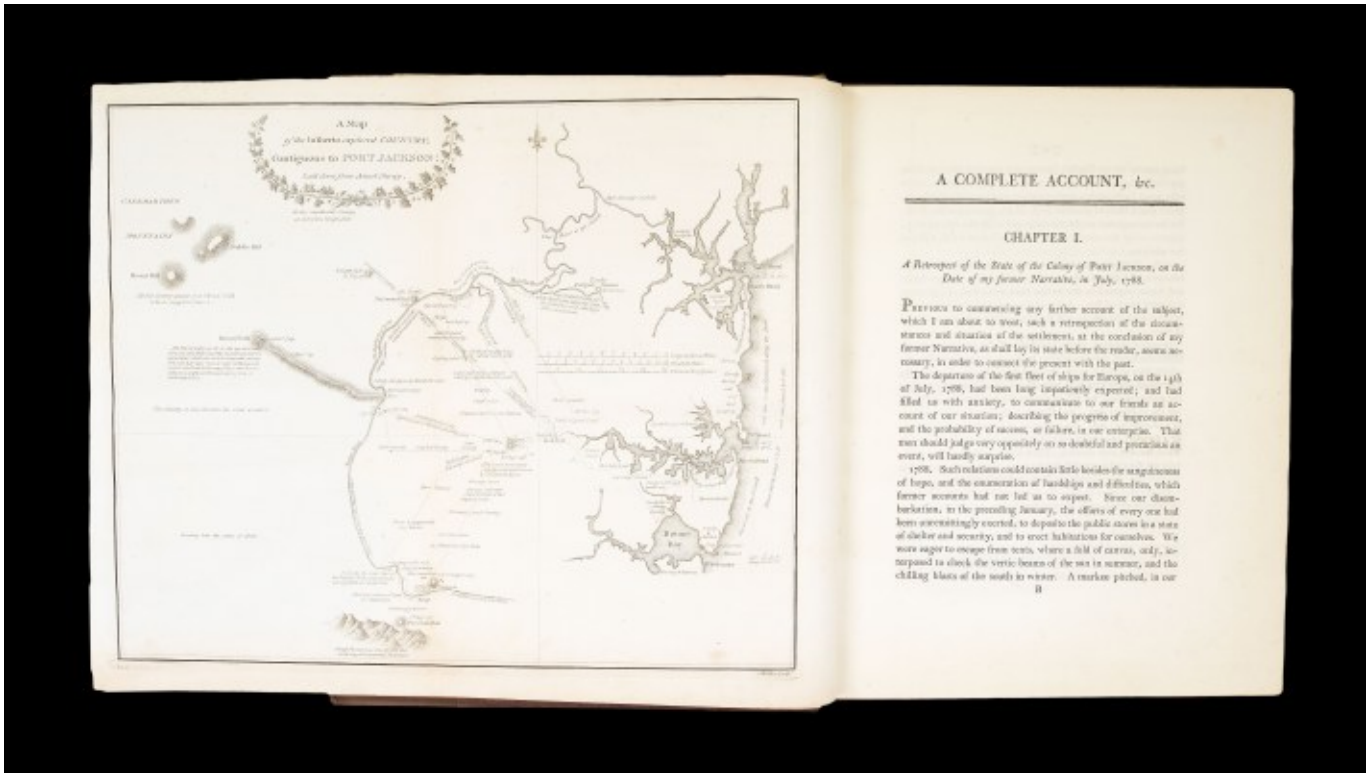


First edition. Quarto (275 by 215mm), xvi, folding engraved map, 212pp., nineteenth century half tan calf, maroon cloth, gilt, worn.

“AT ONCE THE MOST PERCEPTIVE AND THE MOST LITERARY” (FITZHARDINGE)

A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson, in New South Wales, including an Accurate Description of the Situation of the Colony; of the Natives; and of its Natural Productions: Taken on the Spot, by Captain Watkin Tench, of the Marines.

Author
TENCH, Watkin

Publication date
1793.

Publisher
Sold by G Nicol, Pall-Mall; and J. Sewell, Cornhill,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
First edition. Quarto (275 by 215mm), xvi, folding engraved map, 212pp., nineteenth century half tan calf, maroon cloth, gilt, worn.

Dimensions

Notes
In 1786, the young Wtakin Tench (c1758-1833) volunteered for three years’ service in the coloney of

Botany Bay. In two books, of which this is the second, he described the “voyage to and the early years of the settlement in New South Wales, at once the most perceptive and the most literary of the contemporary accounts. Less detailed than David Collins, less matter of fact than Arthur Phillip or John White, Watkin Tench was the first to mould Australian experience into a work of conscious art. To a sound eighteenth-century style—he had read Voltaire and Gibbon—he added an interest in the novel, the picturesque and the primitive which foreshadows romanticism. His eye ranged over the convicts and the Aboriginals with a mixture of shrewd common sense and sympathetic tolerance, and his reaction to the country itself shows the same qualities. His notes, made while the events were fresh, were no doubt polished at leisure and were then selected and arranged to bring out the main themes, and his writing combines the freshness of immediately recorded experience with more elaborate set pieces and reflections” (Fitzhardinge for ADB online).

Bibliography

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 23352

© Daniel Crouch Rare Books Ltd | 2025