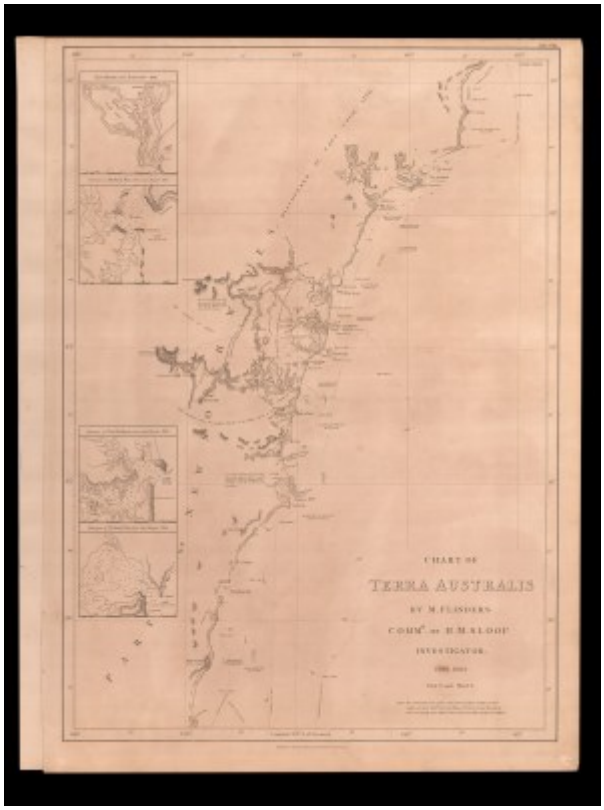


Double-page engraved chart, old folds.

FLINDERS'S SURVEY OF CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES

Chart of Terra Australis. Sheet I, East coast by M. Flinders, Commr. of H.M. Sloop Investigator, 1798-1803.

Author
FLINDERS, Matthew

Publication date
1814 Jan. 1.

Publisher
Published as the Act directs by G. and W. Nicol,

Publication place
[London],

Physical description
Double-page engraved chart, old folds.

Dimensions
624 by 446mm (24.5 by 17.5 inches).

Notes
Plate VIII from the atlas to: 'A voyage to Terra Australis by Matthew Flinders' (1814), the first true atlas of Australia (Clancy).

A chart of the central coast of New South Wales, from Barmouth Creek to Cape Hawke, showing

southward tracks of ‘Francis’ and ‘Norfolk’ in 1798, that of the ‘Norfolk’ northward in 1799, and tracks of ‘Investigator’ in 1802 and 1803. With insets: ‘Port Hunter, from Mr. Barrallier 1801’, ‘Entrance of Broken Bay, from Capt. Hunter 1789’, ‘Entrance of Port Jackson, from Capt. Hunter 1788’, ‘Entrance of Botany Bay, from Capt. Hunter 1789’. With a note beneath the title: “The unshaded parts of the coast, and surroundings written at right angles, are from Capts. Cook and Hunter. Mr. Bass &c. and the inland parts are mostly from Mess.rs Grimes, Bass, Barrallier, Cayley, and Mehan”.

Flinders “surveyed the entire south coast from Cape Leeuwin to Bass Strait, the east coast, and the Gulf of Carpentaria. In the course of its survey, the ‘Investigator’ encountered the French exploratory vessel ‘Geographe’, commanded by Nicolas Baudin. On his return voyage to England, Flinders was commanded to put in to Mauritius for repairs and was made a prisoner for several years by the French governor. Upon returning to England, he devoted the remainder of his life to preparing this work of the press, and he died shortly before its publication. His account is one of the great works of Australian discovery” (Hill). It took Flinders three years to produce the sixteen folding charts which were destined to become the basis of the British Admiralty’s folio of Australian hydrographic charts.

The mapmaker
Matthew Flinders (1774-1814) sailed from England on 18 July 1801, and during the next two years surveyed the entire coast of Australia from Cape Leeuwin to Bass Strait. He returned to Port Jackson in 1803 having completed the first circumnavigation of Australia, thus establishing that it was a continent. However, Flinders received little formal training in surveying, but his achievements on this voyage, working under very difficult circumstances, established him as one of the greatest of all coastal surveyors. His natural ability, allied with the great pains he took to insure the accuracy of the printed results, have ensured that the present work is of monumental cartographical significance and that it should be “the centerpiece of any collection of books dealing with Australian coastal discovery” (Wantrup).

On his return voyage to England, Flinders was forced by the state of his ship to seek assistance at the French island of Mauritius. There, despite his passport that instructed all French officers to render him assistance, the French Governor, General De Caen, arrested Flinders, accusing him of spying, and impounded his papers. Ignoring numerous official protests and disregarding even a direct order from Napoleon, De Caen held Flinders prisoner on Mauritius for the next six and a half years, finally releasing him on 14 June 1810. Although mortally ill, Flinders spent the last years of his too-short life preparing a detailed record of the ‘Investigator’ voyage.

Bibliography
Literature: Clancy, ‘The Mapping of Terra Australis’, 1.14; Hill, ‘The Hill Collection of Pacific Voyages’, 614; Tooley, ‘The Mapping of Australia’, 577.

Provenance

Price: £2000

Inventory reference: 23020

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