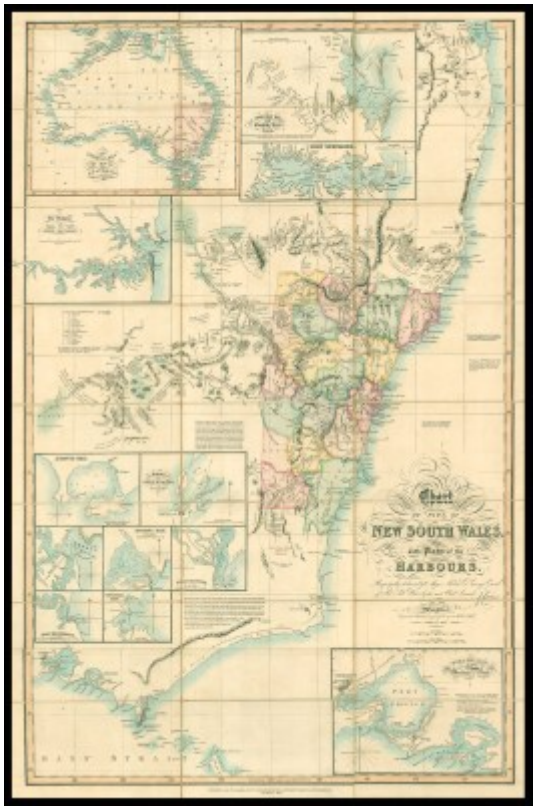


Engraved map with contemporary hand-colour in outline, dissected and mounted on linen, original green cloth slipcase with publisher’s label.

HALF A TENT IS BETTER THAN NONE...

Chart of Part of New South Wales, with Plans of the Harbours. Respectfully dedicated to Major Mitchell, Surveyor General of New South Wales by his most Obedt. Servant J. Cross.

Author
CROSS, Joseph

Publication date
18th March, 1834.

Publisher
Engraved and published by Cross, 18 Holborn (opposite Furnivals Inn),

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Engraved map with contemporary hand-colour in outline, dissected and mounted on linen, original green cloth slipcase with publisher’s label.

Dimensions
940 by 610mm (37 by 24 inches).

Notes
A map of the colony of New South Wales. The various inset maps show ports and harbours around the territory: Port Philip and Western Port, Botany Bay, Jervis Bay, Port Hunter, Broken Bay, Port

Macquarie, Twofold Bay, Port Stephens, Morton Bay and Brisbane River, Port Jackson, and one larger map of the whole continent.

New South Wales was the site of the first British settlement in Australia. It started life in 1788 as a convict colony, but immigration rocketed in the early nineteenth century after early settlers found that the land was perfect for cultivating meat and wool, and after the British government's decision in 1831 to sell crown land in the colonies instead of granting it to convicts. By the 1830s the main exports were wool, fish oil, and whale products. Text at the right hand side records that "The Coast of N.S. Wales is the resort of Black Whales, at all periods of the Year, and in the winter season the Spermiceti Whales repair to the N.E. Coast".

The annotations on the map reflect the gradual progress of the exploration of the Australian interior. The note near Botany Bay records that it is "celebrated for the first landing of Captain Cook and Sir Joseph Banks" in 1770. 60 years later, when this map was published, huge swathes of the interior remained unknown. An inscription on the south coast records the expedition of Alexander Hamilton Hume and William Hovell, who aimed to find new grazing grounds and follow the paths of westward flowing rivers to see where they finished. The Australian Hume and Englishman Hovell were at odds with each other from the beginning, racing each other to each new landmark and quarrelling over who should name them. Their animosity came to a head when they disagreed on which direction to take, resulting in the split of the expedition. While dividing up the supplies, which even included cutting their single tent in two, Hume and Hovell ended up tussling over a frying pan: each left with half (Bonwick). After their return some glorious mudslinging ensued in the Australian press, with Hovell accusing Hume of "paltry vanity" and "morbid egotism" (Hovell).

The Brisbane River, shown in the inset map at the upper edge, had only been discovered nine years before, and named after the Commissioner at the time, Sir Thomas Brisbane. The map also records the lands held by the Australian Agricultural Company, formed in 1824, the largest business of its kind. The shareholders were granted one million acres of land in New South Wales on which to raise sheep and cattle, and were wildly successful. The Company was headed at the time by the polar explorer Sir William Parry.

It is dedicated to Sir Thomas Mitchell, who became Surveyor- General of New South Wales in 1828, holding the position until his death. Mitchell's long career included four expeditions into Australia's interior to map uncharted territory, which earned him a knighthood in 1838. He was also the last man in Australia to challenge anyone to a duel. His opponent was Stuart Donaldson, who had refused to retract a public criticism of the expenditure of Mitchell's government department. Three shots were exchanged without injury (although one went through Donaldson's hat) and Donaldson went on to become the Premier of New South Wales.

Joseph Cross (died c1865)
Cross appears to have had a keen interest in emigration to the Australian colonies, having published several works related, including: Atkinson's 'An Account of the State of Agriculture and Grazing in New South Wales', 1826; 'Chart of Van Dieman's Land', 1826; 'Chart of Part of New South Wales…', 1827 – 1839; Wakefield's 'A Letter from Sydney, the Principal Town of Australasia. Edited by Robert Gouger. Together with the Outline of a System of Colonization', 1829; Busby's 'Authentic Information Relating to New South Wales, and New Zealand', 1832; but most famously, "the earliest work relating to the inland exploration of Western Australia" (Wantrup): 'Journals of Several Expeditions Made in Western Australia During the Years 1829, 1830, 1831 and 1832: Under the Sanction of the Governor, Sir James Stirling', 1833.

We have only been able to trace three institutional examples of this edition, in the University of Cambridge Library, the State Library of New South Wales, and the National Library of Australia.

Bibliography

James Bonwick, ‘Discovery and Settlement of Port Phillip: Being a History of the Country Now Called Victoria, Up to the Arrival of Mr. Superintendent Latrobe’ (Melbourne: George Robertson, 1856), 21-23; Thomas Henry Braim, ‘A History of New South Wales from its Settlement to the Close of the Year 1844’, vol.2, (London: Richard Bentley, 1846), 56; William Hilton Hovell, ‘Reply to ‘A Brief Statement of Facts, in connection with an Overland Expedition from Lake George to Port Phillip, in 1824’ (Sydney: Thomas Daniel, 1855), 23; H.S., ‘The Discovery of the Murray’, in The Argus (Melbourne), 19 April, 1924, 7; ‘The Late Hamilton Hume, The Explorer’, in ‘The Sydney Morning Herald’, 24 April, 1873.

Provenance

Price: £5000

Inventory reference: 11821

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