



First edition. Quarto (350 by 265mm), engraved frontispiece portrait, double-page engraved map, and 27 numbered plates, including a map; contemporary tree calf, gilt, hinges split.

“KANGAROO” IN PRINT FOR THE FIRST TIME

A Journal of a Voyage to the South Seas in his Majesty's Ship, The Endeavour. Faithfully transcribed from the Papers of the late Sydney Parkinson, Draughtsman to Joseph Banks, Esq. on his late Expedition, with Dr Solander, round the World. Embellished with Views and Designs, delineated by the Author, and engraved by capital Artists.

Author

PARKINSON, Sydney

Publication date

1773.

Publisher

Printed for Stanfield Parkinson, the Editor:... MDCCLXXXIII

Publication place

London,

Physical description

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Dimensions

Notes

As a young man, Sydney Parkinson left his native Edinburgh to seek his fortune in London. There he

came within the orbit of Joseph Banks, who chose him to be one of his select “scientific gentlemen”, as botanical draughtsman, to accompany him and James Cook on a voyage to the South Seas in HMB ‘Endeavour’. During the voyage Parkinson made more than 1000 drawings. Sadly, on the return journey, when the ‘Endeavour’ disembarked at Batavia in 1771 for repairs, Parkinson was one of many who contracted dysentery and died at sea.

In England “later that year a dispute arose between Banks and Parkinson’s brother, Stanfield. Banks had paid the latter £500 for balance of salary due and for Parkinson’s papers and drawings. The papers were later lent to Stanfield Parkinson, who contrary to agreement had them transcribed for publication and was restrained by an injunction from doing so until the official account of the voyage had appeared. His book was published later in the same year, 1773 [as here], entitled ‘A Journal of a Voyage to the South Seas’, with a second enlarged edition in 1784. A result of the squabble was that although Hawkesworth, who edited the official account of the voyage, used Parkinson’s papers and drawings freely he did not acknowledge them. Only two of Parkinson’s illustrations in these books are of Australian subjects. His own contains a study of the two Aborigines who opposed Cook at Botany Bay, and Hawkesworth has a view of the Endeavour River (Cooktown, Queensland). A third of a kangaroo, formerly attributed to Parkinson, is now known to have been from a painting by George Stubbs. Parkinson was the first European artist to set foot on Australian soil, to draw an authentic Australian landscape, and to portray Aborigines from direct observation. A great quantity of his work survives” (Rienits for ADB online).

Bibliography

Literature: Hill, ‘The Hill Collection of Pacific Voyages’, 1308.

Provenance

Provenance: The Robert and Mary Anne Parks collection, Hordern House 2007.

Price: £18000

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