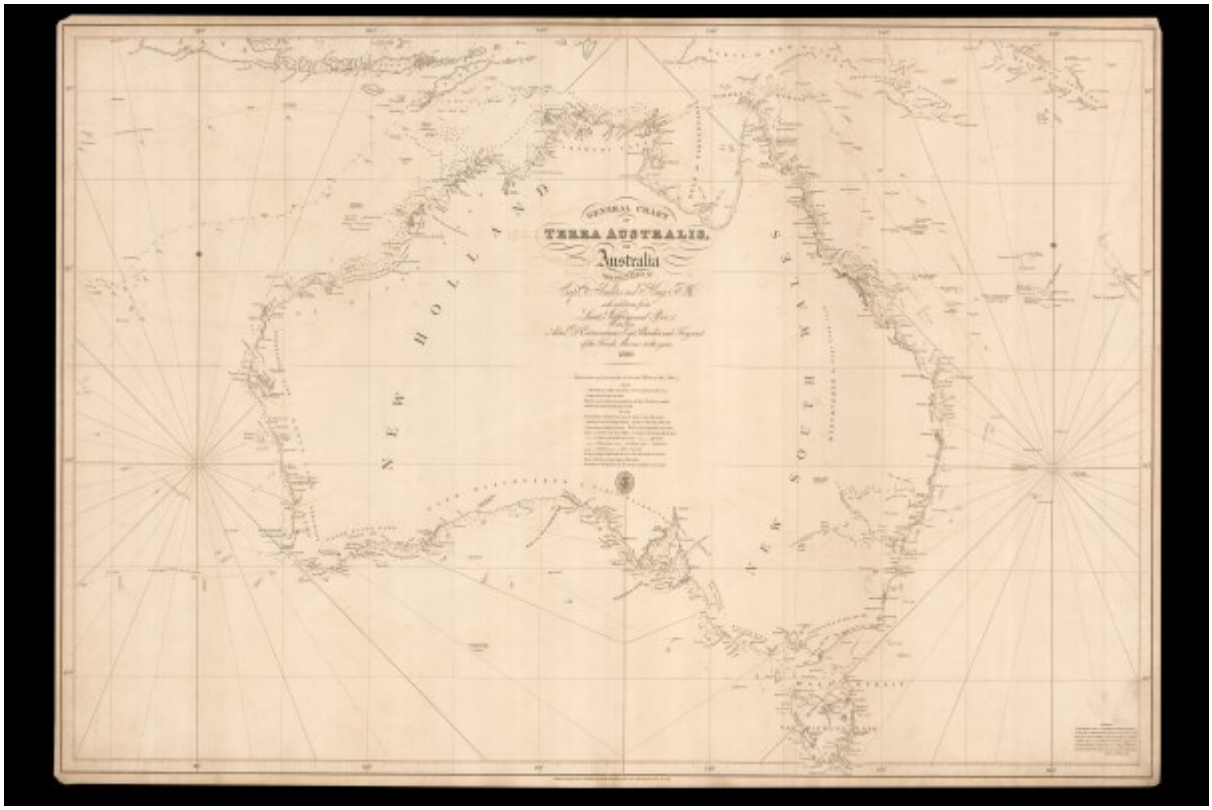


Revised. Double-page engraved chart, on 2 joined sheets.

NAMING “AUSTRALIA”

General chart of Terra Australis, or Australia: from the surveys of Capts. Flinders and King R.H. ; with additions from Lieuts. Jeffreys and Roe ; also from Adml. D’Entrecasteaux, Capts. Baudin and Freycinet of the French Marine, to the year 1829.

Author
FLINDERS, Matthew

Publication date
1814 Jan.y 1st to 1829.

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

Publication place
[London],

Physical description
Revised. Double-page engraved chart, on 2 joined sheets.

Dimensions
645 by 944mm (25.5 by 37.25 inches).

Notes
Plate I from a later, probably 1835, edition of Flinders’s atlas to: ‘A voyage to Terra Australis by Matthew Flinders’ (1814), the first true atlas of Australia (Clancy).

Flinders began work on “his map of Australia in 1804, during his detention in Mauritius. With the first ‘fair drawing’, known as Y46-1, he made the decision to apply the name ‘Australia’ to the continent which up until then had generally been referred to as ‘New Holland’… In 1811, while Flinders was still engaged in preparing his charts, maps and journal for publication, Louis Claude de Saulces Freycinet published what was to be the first full map of Australia, ‘Carte generale de la Nouvelle Hollande'” (NLA).

The current edition of Flinders’s map is greatly updated to complete the coastline, and include many for coastal and inland placenames, and discoveries that were previously only included in the regional maps from the Atlas, in addition to the subsequent discoveries of King, and reflect those of their French counterparts and rivals. Rhumb lines have been added, as has the seal of the Hydrographical Office of the Admiralty. 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’, 9.5; Hill, ‘The Hill Collection of Pacific Voyages’, 614; National Library of Australia, Gerritsen, ‘Mapping our World’, 225; see Tooley, ‘The Mapping of Australia’, 570 and 602.

Provenance

Price: £10000

Inventory reference: 23024

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