

BOUND FOR GLORY

*EXQUISITE BOOKS OF
FRENCH PACIFIC VOYAGES*

IN THE PICTURE GALLERY



State Library
of New South Wales

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**A free exhibition from
23 October 2006 to 25 February 2007**

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Exhibition opening hours: 9 am to 5 pm weekdays, 11 am to 5 pm weekends

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Preservation project leader: Steve Bell
All photographic and imaging work is by Kate Pollard,
Imaging Services, State Library of New South Wales.
Printer: Finsbury Green Printing
Paper: RedConnect Lotus Artboard 260 gsm (cover), RedConnect Nordset 140 gsm (text)
Print run: 7000
P&D-2172-10/2006

ISSN 1448-2622
ISBN 0 7313 7172 0

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The backgrounds to the images have been enhanced to remove the tonal variations in the paper in the originals.

INSIDE FRONT AND BACK COVER: The interior of a Timorese House, Kupang (detail), hand-coloured engraving *from* Louis de Freycinet, *Voyage autour du monde ... Atlas Historique ...* [by] J Arago, A Pellion ... Paris, Pillet aîné, 1825 DL F82/1

TITLE PAGE: Green and golden bell frog, hand-coloured engraving *from* Louis Isidore Duperrey, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire naturelle, Zoologie, Atlas*, Paris, Arthus Bertrand, 1826 09 F990A/23

Foreword



Welcome to the exhibition
Bound for Glory: Exquisite Books of French Pacific Voyages.

The early nineteenth century saw a number of French scientific voyages to Australia and the Pacific. The official publications recording the results of these voyages were exceptionally comprehensive and exquisite in the quality of their artwork. The French Government employed scientists, artists and engravers, working from the recently established Natural History Museum in Paris, to produce these multi-volumed accounts. These books are now rare, copies of them having been broken up over time so that the fine illustrations could be sold separately.

The State Library holds a complete collection of these publications. Selected volumes from the following four voyages have been chosen for exhibition:

- Nicolas Baudin (1800–1804)
- Louis de Freycinet (1817–1820)
- Louis Isidore Duperrey (1822–1825)
- Jules Dumont D'Urville (1826–1829).

Page turnings of the volumes on display will occur on 23 November and 23 December 2006 as well as 23 January 2007.

Of course, in an exhibition, only one volume opening can be displayed at any one time. In order to give a better idea of the magnificence of these volumes, we have digitised one volume in its entirety for you to scroll through in the exhibition. This is the volume from the Freycinet voyage, published in 1825, which illustrates the people and places encountered on that expedition.

A votre plaisir!

Regina A. Sutton
State Librarian & Chief Executive

Bound for Glory: Exquisite Books of French Pacific Voyages

One of the beneficent outcomes of the French Revolution was the government funding, in 1793, of a natural history museum open to the public without charge — the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. Natural history collections and the knowledge of the world which resulted from their study were now to be made known to all, not limited to an élite. Items collected on French voyages of discovery in the early nineteenth century were considered public property to be lodged in the museum and the French Government funded publication of the scientific results of these voyages. By contrast, in Britain, there was no regular government funding of the results of scientific voyages. Collections were dispersed — the British Museum's collections of natural history, such as they were, were in a parlous condition.

From 1800 to 1840, there were 10 major French voyages to Australia and the Pacific. The main purpose of these was scientific, although some had additional considerations. For example, Louis Isidore Duperrey in 1822 was instructed to investigate possible sites for a penal settlement. Commercial opportunities were also a consideration.

In addition to the vast collections of specimens and scientific data they brought back, these voyages are distinguished by the publication of the most sumptuous volumes, which recorded their proceedings and results in both words and exquisite images. Scientists, artists and engravers attached to the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, and paid by the government, worked over many years on the multi-volumed publications recording each voyage.

Selections from the publications of four of these voyages have been chosen for exhibition.

These splendid volumes were issued either in paper wrappers or in boards and the purchaser would bind them to suit his — and it was almost always his — taste. The contents were truly now bound for glory — for the glory of those who took part in the voyages, for the glory of those scientists and artists who prepared the volumes, for the glory of the owners of the volumes, and for the glory of France.



Butterflies, hand-coloured engraving from Louis Isidore Duperrey, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire naturelle, Zoologie, Atlas*, Paris, Arthus Bertrand, 1826 09 F990A/23

The voyage of Nicolas Baudin, 1800–1804

While Nicolas Baudin (1754–1803) had the idea for the expedition before Napoléon came to power, it was Napoléon who authorised the voyage. Napoléon was genuinely interested in science and undoubtedly saw the expedition as bringing international lustre to his reign and also, perhaps, first-hand information about the British presence in Australia. Nicolas Baudin was ordered to make a reconnaissance of Australia and, especially, to investigate whether there might be a channel dividing the west from the east.

From May 1801 to June 1803, the expedition, with two ships, *Géographe* and *Naturaliste*, charted the west and south coasts and part of the north coast of the mainland and the east coast of Tasmania. Five months were spent in Sydney in 1802. Baudin died at Mauritius, on the way home, on 16 September 1803. The expedition arrived back in France in March 1804 with a treasure trove of botanical and zoological specimens (for example, almost 1000 bird specimens) as well as 100 living animals and 70 cases of living plants.

However, it took over two years before Napoléon authorised the publication of the results of the voyage. The Emperor's horizons had shrunk since 1800 and, particularly after the crushing defeat of his navy at Trafalgar in October 1805, Australia must have seemed somewhat peripheral.

Work was commenced by the expedition's naturalist, François Péron (1775–1810), and, following his death, continued by Louis de Freycinet (1779–1842), the expedition's cartographer. The publication appeared from 1807 to 1816 and comprised three volumes of text and two atlas volumes (one in two parts) containing in total 86 engraved charts and plates, 23 of which were hand-coloured. Freycinet had prepared the charts and the plates were based on the original artwork of Charles-Alexandre Lesueur (1778–1846) and Nicolas-Martin Petit (1777–1805). The publication includes the first complete map of Australia, published in 1811.

There is some reason to believe that the Napoleonic nomenclature on the charts (for example, Terre Napoléon on the south coast; Golphe Bonaparte and Golphe Josephine for Spencer Gulf and Gulf St. Vincent respectively) was an attempt to hold Napoléon's interest in the project. Flattery is not without its pitfalls and news of Napoléon's divorce from Josephine in 1810 came too late to change the name of the Gulf in the published chart, though there is no evidence that Napoléon was nonplussed.



Canda, a young girl of Timor, hand-coloured engraving from François Péron & Louis de Freycinet, *Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes ... Atlas ...* [by] Lesueur [&] Petit [Paris, Imprimerie Impériale, 1807] ML MRB/F18



Bats, Timor, hand-coloured engraving from François Péron & Louis de Freycinet, *Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes ... Atlas ...* [by] Lesueur [&] Petit [Paris, Imprimerie Impériale, 1807] ML MRB/F18



Emus, Kangaroo Island, hand-coloured engraving from François Péron & Louis de Freycinet, *Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes ... Atlas ...* [by] Lesueur [&] Petit [Paris, Imprimerie Impériale, 1807] ML MRB/F18



Ouriaga, an aboriginal man of Bruny Island, Tasmania, hand-coloured engraving from François Péron & Louis de Freycinet, *Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes ... Atlas ...* [by] Lesueur [&] Petit [Paris, Imprimerie Impériale, 1807] ML MRB/F18

The voyage of Louis de Freycinet, 1817–1820

Louis XVIII was restored following Napoléon's final defeat in 1815. Louis de Freycinet, who had just completed the publication of the results of the Baudin expedition, proposed another voyage. It was to be a scientific expedition concerned with magnetic and meteorological observations, air pressure, sea temperature and with collecting information on the various cultures and natural history. The time was ripe for a scientific endeavour which would raise the prestige of France as a great power.

The expedition left France in September 1817 in the *Uranie*. Sailing via the Cape of Good Hope and Mauritius it reached Shark Bay, Western Australia, in September 1818, thence to Timor, making visits to both Kupang and Dili. Sailing north-east, they arrived at the Indonesian island of Waigeo (off the north-west coast of West Papua), then east and north through the Caroline Islands to Guam (March 1819) where they stayed for 11 weeks.

Sailing across the Pacific, they reached the Hawaiian Islands. They then sailed south and south-west to Sydney — arriving on 18 November 1819 and leaving on Christmas Day — from which they headed for Cape Horn, sailing via the south of New Zealand. The Horn was rounded in early February 1820 but *Uranie* struck a reef at the Falkland Islands on 14 February and was beyond repair. They spent 73 days at the Falklands before they were rescued, reaching France on 13 November 1820.

Eighteen cases of specimens had been lost when *Uranie* was wrecked. However, 900 rocks, 3000 botanical specimens, 1300 insects, 164 fish, 45 reptiles, 313 birds, 25 mammals and 30 skeletons (including one human — a Papuan) safely reached France. Freycinet spent the rest of his life preparing the published account of this voyage. It was published over 20 years (from 1824 to 1844) in 10 volumes of text and four folio atlases.

As well as the expedition narrative, Freycinet wrote volumes on navigation and hydrography, terrestrial magnetism, and meteorology. There were specialist volumes on zoology by Jean-René Quoy (1790–1869) and Joseph-Paul Gaimard (1793–1858), surgeons on *Uranie*; and on botany by Charles Gaudichaud (1789–1854), pharmacist on *Uranie*. An atlas with 112 plates (40 in colour) engraved from drawings by the artists, Jacques Arago (1790–1855) and Alphonse Pellion, recorded the places and people encountered. There were separate atlases to accompany the volumes on zoology (96 plates, 77 in colour), botany (120 plates), and hydrography (22 plates).



A New Zealander, hand-coloured engraving from Louis de Freycinet, *Voyage autour du monde ... Atlas Historique ...* [by] J Arago, A Pellion ... Paris, Pillet aîné, 1825 DL F82/1



Lobster, Hawaiian Islands, hand-coloured engraving from Louis de Freycinet, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire Naturelle: Zoologie ...* Paris, Pillet aîné, 1824 ML DSM X980/22



Parrot, Timor, hand-coloured engraving from Louis de Freycinet, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire Naturelle: Zoologie ...* Paris, Pillet aîné, 1824 ML.DSM.X980/22

The voyage of Louis Isidore Duperrey, 1822–1825

Louis Isidore Duperrey (1786–1865) had been second lieutenant under Freycinet and now proposed his own voyage. Its purpose was again scientific, with an emphasis on natural history, meteorology and magnetism.

Coquille left France in August 1822. Sailing down to the Falkland Islands, it rounded Cape Horn and called at Chile (late January) and Peru, then proceeded into the Pacific to Tahiti (May 1823), New Ireland (August 1823), Waigeo Island (September), and Ambon (October). Sailing through the Indian Ocean and south of Tasmania, *Coquille* arrived in Sydney on 17 January 1824, staying until 20 March. They then sailed to New Zealand (April) and north, through Kiribati, and west to the Carolines (June), then to New Guinea and through the Indonesian islands to Surabaya, Java (late August). Returning via Mauritius, *Coquille* arrived back in France on 24 March 1825 without loss of life.

The expedition brought back 300 geological samples, 1200 insects, 288 fish, 63 reptiles, and 264 birds and animals. The official account of the voyage, published between 1828 and 1838, had nine volumes of text with a further four volumes of charts and plates.

Duperrey prepared the narrative part of the voyage. However, it was never completed. The one volume issued — probably in 1830 — was without a title page, which only brings the voyage up to the stay in Chile. The volume actually ends — quite dramatically — in the middle of a word, publication having been interrupted by the 1830 Revolution. The atlas to accompany this had been issued in 1826 and contains 60 engraved plates, 59 of which are coloured.

Duperrey also prepared two volumes on hydrography, both of which were published in 1829. The accompanying atlas, containing 55 maps and charts, was published in 1827.

The zoological section — prepared by René Primevère Lesson (1794–1849), and Prosper Garnot (1794–1838), surgeons on *Coquille* — was published in two volumes (in four) from 1828 to 1838. The accompanying atlas, with 157 coloured plates, was published in 1826.

The section on botany was published in two volumes in 1828 and 1829, though the text for the latter was not completed. The first volume was written by Bory de St. Vincent and the second volume by Adolphe Brongniart (1801–1876). The accompanying atlas was also uncompleted. It contained 106 plates (25 coloured) and the title page was dated 1826 (though some plates are dated 1827).



Sea anemones, hand-coloured engraving from Louis Isidore Duperrey, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire naturelle, Zoologie, Atlas*, Paris, Arthus Bertrand, 1826 09 F990A/23



Portuguese man-of-war jellyfish, hand-coloured engraving from Louis Isidore Duperrey, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire naturelle, Zoologie, Atlas*, Paris, Arthus Bertrand, 1826 09 F990A/23



Inhabitants of Waigeo Island, north-west coast of West Papua, hand-coloured engraving from Louis Isidore Duperrey, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire du Voyage, Atlas*, Paris, Arthus Bertrand, 1826 09 F990A/26



Inhabitants of New Ireland, hand-coloured engraving from Louis Isidore Duperrey, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire du Voyage, Atlas*, Paris, Arthus Bertrand, 1826 09 F990A/26

The voyage of Jules Dumont D'Urville, 1826–1829

Jules Dumont D'Urville (1790–1842) had been second in command on Duperrey's voyage and was passionate about scientific investigation. The expedition he commanded left France in April 1826 on the *Astrolabe* (Duperrey's *Coquille*, renamed after La Pérouse's ship). Relics of La Pérouse had reportedly been found in the Pacific and Dumont D'Urville was to investigate. He was also to examine any possible sites for a French penal settlement.

From the Cape of Good Hope *Astrolabe* sailed across the Indian Ocean, arriving at King George Sound, Western Australia, in October 1826. They sailed along the south coast to Westernport and then along the east coast to Jervis Bay, arriving on 26 November and then on to Sydney (2 December). On 19 December they sailed for New Zealand (10 January – 19 March 1827) and then to Tonga, Fiji, Loyalty Islands, Louisiade Archipelago (June 1827), New Ireland, New Guinea, and Ambon (24 September). Leaving Ambon on 10 October, D'Urville sailed to Hobart, arriving in December 1827.

In Hobart he learnt that relics of the La Pérouse expedition had been discovered at Vanikoro (Santa Cruz Islands). On 6 January 1828 he left to investigate, arriving in mid February at Vanikoro, where a memorial was erected to La Pérouse in March. Sailing on 17 March via Guam, Ambon, Celebes (Sulawesi), Batavia (Jakarta) and Mauritius, Dumont D'Urville arrived back in France in March 1829.

The expedition brought back 900 geological specimens, 1600 botanical specimens, 500 insects and 3350 drawings of 1263 animals.

Dumont D'Urville oversaw the voyage's official account, which was published between 1830 and 1835, and comprised 13 volumes of text with five folio atlases containing over 530 plates and charts. D'Urville wrote the majority of the text volumes and there were specialist volumes on zoology by Jean René Quoy and Joseph-Paul Gaimard, on entomology by Jean de Boisduval (1799–1879), and on botany by Pierre Adolphe Lesson (b. 1805) and A Richard (1794–1852). The five atlases illustrate with stunning lithographs the people and places of the voyage and the botanical and zoological results.





Mollusc, hand-coloured lithograph from Jules Dumont D'Urville, *Voyage de la corvette l'Astrolabe ... Atlas [Zoologique]*, Paris, J Tastu, 1833 RF 990A/44



Fish from New Guinea, New Ireland, Vanikoro, and Sundra Strait, hand-coloured lithograph from Jules Dumont D'Urville, *Voyage de la corvette l'Astrolabe ... Atlas [Zoologique]*, Paris, J Tastu, 1833 RF 990A/43

Item list

All items are from the collections of the State Library of NSW.

Page turnings will occur on 23 November 2006, 23 December 2006 and 23 January 2007.

Péron, François & Freycinet, Louis de, *Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes* ... Paris, Imprimerie Impériale, 1807–1816

There are three volumes of text and two atlases (one in two parts). Most of the volumes are bound in contemporary papered boards with printed paper spine labels. One of the atlases has been rebound recently in similar materials.

Purchased Heritage Bookshop, Los Angeles, 2005
MRB/Q2-Q5; MRB/X1

Péron, François & Freycinet, Louis de, *Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes* ... *Atlas* ... [by] Lesueur [&] Petit [Paris, Imprimerie Impériale, 1807]

Folio atlas. Special presentation copy on large paper, bound in contemporary crimson morocco, with gilt edges and blue moiré silk endpapers.

Purchased Hordern House, Sydney, 2006
MRB/F18

Freycinet, Louis de, *Voyage autour du monde ... Atlas Historique* ... [by] J Arago, A Pellion ... Paris, Pillet aîné, 1825
Library of Sir Adrian Knox. Presented by Colonel AE Knox, 1959
ML ZX980/20A

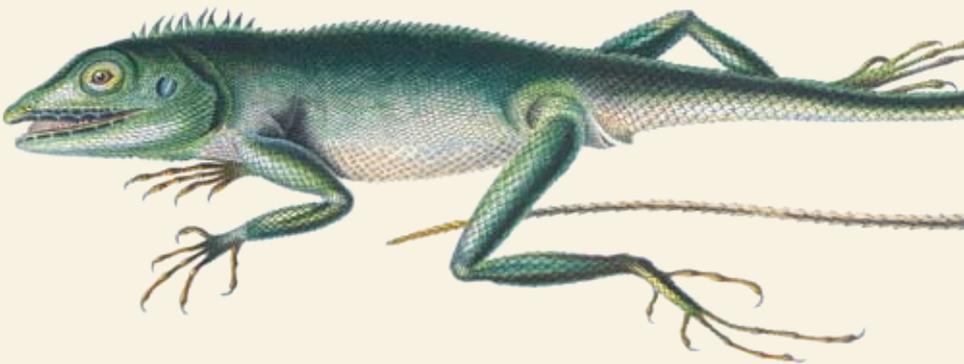
Freycinet, Louis de, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire Naturelle: Zoologie* ... Paris, Pillet aîné, 1824
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907
DSM X980/22

Duperrey, Louis Isidore, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire naturelle, Zoologie. Atlas*. Paris, Arthus Bertrand, 1826
Rare Books Collection, purchased 1884
09 F990A/23

Duperrey, Louis Isidore, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire du Voyage, Atlas*, Paris, Arthus Bertrand, 1826
Rare Books Collection, purchased 1884
09 F990A/26

Dumont D'Urville, Jules, *Voyage de la corvette l'Astrolabe ... Atlas [Historique]* Paris, J Tastu, 1833
Bequest of Sir William Dixson, 1952
DL F83/3

Dumont D'Urville, Jules, *Voyage de la corvette l'Astrolabe ... Atlas [Zoologique]*. Paris, J Tastu, 1833
Rare Books Collection, purchased 1884
RF 990A/44

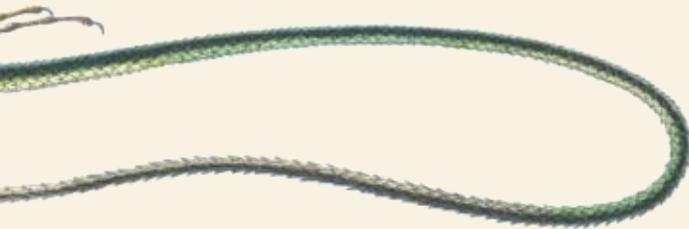


Pellion, Alphonse, Preparatory drawings and etchings at various states for the plate 'Nlle Hollande. Port-Jackson. Sauvages des environs de la riviere Nepean', 1819–1825

The plate was published as plate 100 in Freycinet, Louis de, *Voyage autour du monde ... Atlas Historique ...* [by] J Arago, A Pellion ... Paris, Pillet aîné, 1825
Purchased Christie's, London,
September 2002
ML PXD 923/2-5

Pellion, Alphonse, Preparatory drawings and etchings at various states for the plate 'Nlle Hollande: Port Jackson. Sauvages des Montagnes Bleue', 1819–1825

The plate was published as plate 101 in Freycinet, Louis de, *Voyage autour du monde ... Atlas Historique ...* [by] J Arago, A. Pellion ... Paris, Pillet aîné, 1825
Purchased Christie's, London,
September 2002
ML PXD 923/6-10



LEFT: Green Crested Lizard, hand-coloured engraving from Louis Isidore Duperrey, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire naturelle, Zoologie, Atlas*, Paris, Arthus Bertrand, 1826 09 F990A/23

ABOVE: Cicada, hand-coloured engraving from Louis Isidore Duperrey, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire naturelle, Zoologie, Atlas*, Paris, Arthus Bertrand, 1826 09 F990A/23



Crabs from Mariana Islands and Shark Bay, Western Australia, hand-coloured engraving from Louis de Freycinet, *Voyage autour du monde ... Histoire Naturelle: Zoologie ...* Paris, Pillet aîné, 1824 ML.DSM X980/22



