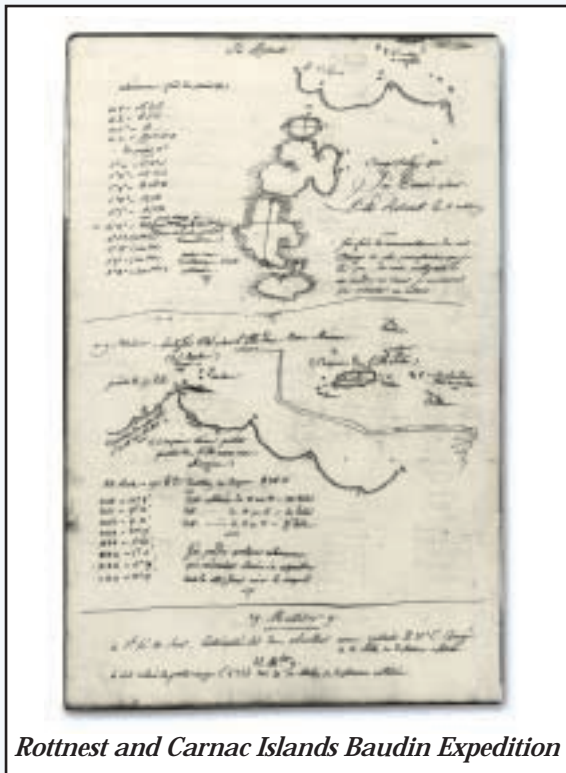


France Australe

Leslie Marchant



The French search for the
Southland and subsequent
explorations to found a penal
colony in Australia



Rottneest and Carnac Islands Baudin Expedition



Two Peoples Bay - Baudin Expedition

The History

This beautifully written and illustrated book is a must for students, teachers, research workers, scientists and general readers who want to be reliably informed, in a balanced way, about the European discovery and exploration of Australia. For, although Cook and Flinders, who made important contributions, have dominated in books of history, France did much more to unveil the secrets of the Fifth Continent.

The exciting story, which is hard to put down until finished, begins in the age dominated by Portugal and Spain when France rejected the Papal division of the world, claiming instead the freedom of the God-given seas. Gonneville, as a result, led an expedition in 1503, taking botanists and others to search for the Southland and the way to the riches of the East. This, and other foundations described in the book, led to Australia being targeted by France during the Enlightenment, which it led.

Between the first voyage of Cook, the only time he explored Australia in 1770, and the British occupation of the whole continent in 1828, France sent a series of eight expeditions. Scientists covering disciplines ranging through the alphabet from anthropology to zoology, investigated the natural history and environment of the coastal part of the continent and the Aboriginal inhabitants. French landscape and natural history artists have left a valuable visual record of what the Australian environment was like before settlement.

The story is not simply antiquarian. The records, which the author located in France and which are listed in the book, can be used by present day scientists to make comparative studies of climate, the weather, wildlife and the environment. Most importantly, they offer a valuable source for the retrieval of the lost cultures of Aboriginal society which French scientists studied before Europeans settled the land, and which their artists recorded.

The Author

Leslie Marchant, a well-known author, combines a unique variety of talents and a wealth of experience and research to make this classic book an essential reference and resource for every library and school in Australia. His years of academic training as a historian and his knowledge of languages have forged him into a skilled archival researcher.

Other materials published by Marchant include:
Books:

The Siege of Peking

France Australe

Legations:

The Turbulent Giant

Mainland China today, and

To Phoenix Seat

Studies and Biographies:

The French Discovery and Survey of Legendary North West Cape;

The French Opening of the Indian Ocean in the Age of Enlightenment;

The Bourbon Restoration Government's Proposal for a Colony in Western New Holland; and

The Race to Unveil Southern New Holland.

The author has presented on radio and television, is a literary judge for the prestigious Australian-based Todhunter Literary Award, and for his contribution to French studies, he was created Chevalier in the eminent *Ordre National du Merite*.

Recently he was elected as a foreign member of the Académie des Sciences d'Outre-mer specialising in the Pacific region for which he writes.

The Book

France Australe by Leslie R. Marchant
Perth, WA, 1998

2nd edition, revised, 8vo., 384 pages, pictorial boards, 91 maps, charts, botanical plates and text illustrations, most in full colour.

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