

Basic Detail Report



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Title

Nouvelle Hollande: Baie des chiens-marins, presqu' ile Peron: entrevue avec les sauvages

Date

1825

Primary Maker

Jacques Etienne Victor Arago

Medium

Ink on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 405 mm, 0.65 kg

Name

Engraving

History

Louis de Freycinet left France in 1817 for an expedition to the Pacific with the purpose to "circumnavigate the globe and conduct research into the shape of the earth, meteorology and terrestrial magnetism". His ship was the URANIE and Jacques Arago was one of the artists aboard. It was Freycinet's second voyage south after having completed an earlier expedition with Nicolas Baudin in 1801 as a cartographer /surveyor. Freycinet was highly skilled and became the first European to publish a full outline map of Australia, known as the 'Freycinet Map', in 1811. His expedition in 1817 took in Australia again and this time Freycinet moored off Shark Bay in Western Australia on September 12th 1818. Rose Freycinet, Louis' wife who had secretly accompanied him on the voyage, talks of an encounter ashore with the local Indigenous population: "21 September ... The natives, no doubt frightened off by the number of people coming ashore, had retreated on the day we first saw them. The previous day, after much hesitation, they had come up to the men in the first camp and had exchanged their weapons for tin, glass necklaces and so on." Jacques Arago, the illustrator of this image in the Australian National Maritime Museum, has recorded an encounter similar to that in Rose's memoir, possibly the same one.