





**Object number:**  
**00001263**  
**Title:** A Collection of  
Voyages, Volume 2

**Object number:**  
**00001265**  
**Title:** A Collection of  
Voyages, Volume 4



**Object number:**  
**00001262**  
**Title:** A New Voyage Round  
the World, Volume 1



voyages, volume 2

**Date:** 1729

**Primary Maker:** William Dampier

**Medium:** Ink on paper, marbled boards, leather, gilt

**Name:** Book

**History:** William Dampier (1651-1715) was an English seaman and explorer who took part in a number of privateer voyages along the coasts of Central America. In 1683, he joined a group of buccaneers on their way to the Pacific and three years later joined the privateer ship CYGNET, under the command of Captain Charles Swan. The ship was operating as a private warship under the authority of the British government to attack foreign shipping such as Spanish and French merchant vessels. CYGNET careened on the north-west Australian coast in 1688 near King Sound. Over a period of six weeks while the ship was being repaired Dampier compiled descriptions of Australia's flora, fauna and landscape. He collected at least 24 known plant specimens and produced sketches of the continent. In 1697, Dampier published his account 'A New Voyage Round the World' detailing his adventures. His descriptions of the continent and the Aboriginal people were less

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Aboriginal people were less than favourable. He recorded that 'New Holland is a very large tract of land. It is not yet determined whether [sic] it is an island or a main continent but I am certain that it joins neither to Asia, Africa nor America' and 'The land is of a dry sandy soil, destitute of water, except you make wells; yet producing divers sorts of Trees; but the woods are not thick, nor the trees very big'. The work became one of the most widely read narratives written by a sailor in the 17th century. Dampier's privateer expeditions and narrative helped cement his reputation as a seaman and navigator with the British Admiralty. In January 1699, Dampier was elevated to the rank of Captain and given command of HMS ROEBUCK. ROEBUCK reached the west coast of New Holland in July 1699 and began charting the area around Shark Bay. Dampier moved north away from the continent and reached Timor in December 1699. He charted several islands of New Guinea and then turned south and was close to reaching the east coast of New Holland when ROEBUCK developed a serious leak. Dampier attempted to return to England but with the ship

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