

Basic Detail Report

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Title

Inauguration du monument eleve par l'Astrolabe a La Perouse a Vanikoro

Date

1833

Primary Maker

Louis Auguste de Sainson

Medium

Ink on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 550 x 745 x 45 mm

Name

Lithograph

History

The ASTROLABE, commanded by Dumont d'Urville, left France in April 1826 on a scientific expedition to the Pacific by way of the Cape of Good Hope and Australia. After a short stay in Port Jackson the ASTROLABE sailed to New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji, New Ireland, New Britain and northern New Guinea before heading south to Hobart where it spent Christmas 1827. In January 1828 the ASTROLABE sailed back to the tropics, heading for Vanikoro island where the Franco-Irish trader Peter Dillon had found evidence of the La Perouse expedition a few months earlier. The La Perouse expedition had sailed from France in 1785 to survey and explore the Pacific, but disappeared without trace after leaving Botany Bay in March 1788. Arriving at Vanikoro in February, Dumont d'Urville remained at the island for almost a month. During this stay, the expeditioners found evidence indicating that La Perouse's ships BOUSSOLE and ASTROLABE had been wrecked on the reefs at Vanikoro. Amongst the objects recovered were cannon and anchors which Dumont d'Urville later took back to France where they were incorporated in a memorial to La Perouse. The expedition also erected a monument to La Perouse on the shore at Manieve Bay. The lithograph entitled 'Inauguration du monument eleve par l'Astrolabe a La Perouse a Vanikoro' by Sainson shows the crew of Dumont d'Urville's ASTROLABE saluting the memory of La Perouse during the inauguration of the monument on 14 March 1828.