

Basic Detail Report

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Title

Banks' Florilegium title page. Part VII, Australia, plates 136 - 157

Date

1982

Primary Maker

Alecto Historical Editions

Medium

Ink on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 737 x 573 mm

Name

Title page

History

One of the greatest achievements of the voyage of the ENDEAVOUR (1768-1771) was the extensive collection of botanical specimens that had been assembled by Sir Joseph Banks. Gathered on shore expeditions, after returning to ship they were drawn quickly by the artist Sydney Parkinson, and scientifically classified by Banks. While the specimens survived shipwreck at Endeavour Reef, Parkinson died in Batavia. Banks's intention had been to publish the botanical results of the voyage but after only a few plates were engraved, he seems to have realised the scale of the undertaking and it came to a halt. Only in our own era was a decision made to bring the project to fruition, and in one of the great feats of publishing, Alecto Editions issued the entire Florilegium in a limited number of parts in the 1980's . The Australian National Maritime Museum holds the Australian component of the collection, consisting of 337 prints in fifteen folios. These are the results of Banks's collecting on the east coast of the continent, particularly at Botany Bay and Endeavour River. The Banksia itself is appropriately one of the most distinctive and attractive of these specimens .