

Basic Detail Report

00042681

Title

Discovery and Settlement of Port Phillip

Date

1856

Primary Maker

James Bonwick

Medium

Leather, Ink on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 205 x 145 x 20 mm

Name

Book

History

James Bonwick was born near London, England in July 1817 and was educated at the Borough Road School in Southwark before becoming a teacher and later a Headmaster at a number of local primary schools. Deeply influenced by a Baptist clergyman he became a strict non-conformist, married Esther Beddow the daughter of a Baptist minister, and pledged himself to the Temperance movement. In 1841 James and Esther Bonwick were selected to manage the proposed Normal School in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land - the chief school of Sir John Franklin's new Board of Education. The Bonwicks arrived in Hobart on 10 October 1841 and ran the school for almost two years before resigning because of poor conditions at the school. They established their own school at Hobart in 1843, moving it to Glenorchy in June 1847. In 1847 (or 1846) he wrote "Introduction to Geography for the Use of Australian Youth" the first of over 60 accredited publications. In 1850 the Bonwicks moved to Adelaide in South Australia, where they opened a private school and he became a lecturer at the first Australian branch of the Young Men's Christian Association and the founder of Australia's earliest teachers' association. Heavily in debt for building expenses associated with the school, Bonwick left for the Victorian goldfields in February 1852. After a brief stay they moved to Melbourne where, based on his experiences at the diggings James Bonwick wrote a number of guides on Victorian gold mining, as well as producing and editing a monthly magazine. In 1853 Bonwick opened a land agency and toured the diggings for a while as a lecturer for the Colonial Reform Association, an agency pledged to unlock the land before settling down to full time writing, producing 'Discovery and Settlement of Port Phillip' in 1856 and many other works. Between 1859 and

1881 the Bonwicks travelled extensively before he took up an appointment as an immigration agent, then a lecturer and historian with the Queensland Colonial Government and later archivist for the Government of New South Wales. He died at Brighton, England in 1906.