

J S Battye Library of West Australian History Private Archives – Collection Listing

MN 2146
Acc. 5907A

FREYCINET COLLECTION

"Freycinet – Our French Collection" includes 18 items purchased at auction at Christie's in London in September 2002.

The role played by the French in the exploration and charting of Australia's coastline has sometimes been neglected while Dutch and English navigators are somewhat better known. The Australian coast is rich in French nomenclature. Esperance, Geographe Bay, and Cape Naturaliste are some familiar West Australian names.

Materials in the collection date from the voyage of Nicolas Baudin, 1800-1804, and that of Louis de Freycinet, 1817-1820. From the earlier voyage came the first detailed chart of the Swan River, created by Francois Boniface Heirisson in June 1801. The Swan River chart is over one metre long and shows depth soundings taken from the mouth at Fremantle up to the Helena River entrance.

Another spectacular image dates from Louis de Freycinet's visit to Shark Bay on the Uranie in 1818. This is a beautiful watercolour of the observatory set up on the beach of the Peron Peninsular. Shown seated outside her tent is Rose Freycinet, who was an unofficial member of the expedition.

The Papers

The collection was purchased from Christie's Auction House, London, UK by the State Library Custodians in September 2002 and received by the Battye Library on 6 December 2002 (Acc 5907A).

Holdings = 0.30m

Access

The J S Battye Library provides access to original material. In some situations, this may not be possible and alternative formats such as microfilm, microfiche, typescripts or photocopies are supplied for researchers' use. Where alternative formats are available, these must be used.

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Summary of Classes

ARTWORKS EXHIBITION INFORMATION GREETINGS CARDS PHOTOGRAPHS			
ACCESSION	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
		ARTWORKS	
5907A/1	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>FACSIMILE: Charts</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 014003d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297501P</p>	<p>1801 Chart of the Swan River by Francois-Antoine Boniface Heirisson, 1801</p> <p>This hitherto unrecorded chart of the Swan River was drawn by Francois-Antoine Boniface Heirisson of the Naturaliste from direct observation after his journey by long boat along the course of the Swan River from 17-22 June 1801. Heirisson has included on the chart soundings along the entire length of his journey up the river, and comments on the singular topography of the mouth of the river (the bar), making reference to several features seen along its course.</p> <p>No other mapping of the area had been carried out until the arrival of the Baudin expedition when Sub-Lieutenant Heirisson and the mineralogist Bailly led a small party to explore the Swan River with orders to chart the river as far as possible, to establish whether the river could be used as a convenient port of call for vessels and to search for sources of fresh water.</p> <p><i>Format: Autographed manuscript on four sheets of thick laid paper pasted together, ink, pencil and watercolour, grid in red, compass and scale in black, soundings in pencil, references to features such as shallow waters, rocks, waterfall in pen, approximately 14 x 40 1/8in. (35.5 x 102 cm.), June 1801.</i></p>	Original, facsimile, digital

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5907A/2	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>FACSIMILE: Charts</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013978d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297502P</p>	<p>1801 Chart of the north and northeast coast of Garden Island by Henri de Freycinet after a survey by his brother Louis. June-July 1801.</p> <p>The chart depicts details of part of the coast of Garden Island, almost certainly the first mapping of any part of the island. The chart provided some details for the Baudin Atlas. The positions recorded allow calculation of where the <i>Naturaliste</i> was anchored when Heirisson set out in the long boat to traverse the Swan River.</p> <p>Chart inscribed 'Plan d'une partie de L'Ile Bauche sur la côte de la Nouvelle-Hollande Levé en Messidor an 9. [June-July 1801] par Lis Freycinet Enseigne de Vau Latitude 32°.15', Sud Longitude 112°17' Orientale', with contemporary editorial annotation in another hand 'position rattachée au Mouillage de Naturaliste, fixer pr les observations qui u ont été faite' [positions recorded are relative to the anchorage of the <i>Naturaliste</i> at the time]. The name 'L'Ile Buache in the title was originally written 'L'Ile StCaich' but this has been corrected to 'Buache'.</p> <p><i>Format: Ink and watercolour on paper, scale, captions and border in ink. (30.5 x 24.5 cm)</i></p>	Original, facsimile, digital
5907A/3	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>FACSIMILE: Charts</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013990d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297503P</p>	<p>1801 Ile Depuch Chart Chart of Ile Depuch showing also Sable Island and coastline by François-Michel Ronsard. July 1801.</p> <p>Chart made by Ronsard, who sailed on the <i>Geographe</i> with Baudin, after his visit to the island (off the Pilbara coast and Bulla Bulla) on 27-28 July 1801 at which time he established that it was volcanic – the first geological evidence the French explorers had found of volcanic activity on the Australian continent.</p> <p>The island was named after Louis Depuch, a mineralogist on Baudin's expedition. Neighbouring Ronsard Island was named for the cartographer.</p> <p><i>Format: Pen, pencil and watercolour on paper (30.1 x 45.2 cm)</i></p>	Original, facsimile, digital

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5907A/4	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>FACSIMILE: Charts</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013983d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297504P</p>	<p>1818 Watercolour and ink drawing of Shark Bay, showing Rose de Freycinet, as observed from the Uranie, by J. Alphonse Pellion</p> <p>Baie des Chiens-Marins, observatoire de L'Uranie Shark Bay observed from Uranie by J Alphonse Pellion 1818</p> <p>Pellion depicts the <i>Uranie</i> encampment at Shark Bay with the fresh water distillery set up in the centre and Rose de Freycinet seated with her mulatto companion by her tent on the right (the first representation of a white woman in Western Australia). Rose de Freycinet, the commander's wife, had stowed away at Toulon, and should not have been there at all. When this drawing was published in the official account of the voyage Rose had been removed from the picture.</p> <p><i>Format: Watercolour and ink on wove paper (35.6 x 48.2 cm)</i></p>	Original, facsimile, digital
5907A/5	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013984d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297505P</p>	<p>1817 – 1820 Engraving of Shark Bay, as observed from the Uranie, by J. Alphonse Pellion</p> <p>Baie des Chiens-Marins, observatoire de L'Uranie Shark Bay observed from Uranie by J Alphonse Pellion 1818</p> <p>Engraving of item 4 published in the official account of the voyage showing various changes including the removal of image of Rose de Freycinet</p> <p><i>Format: Engraving</i></p>	Original, digital

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5907A/6	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>FACSIMILE: Charts</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013974d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297506P</p>	<p>1818 Pencil drawing of a birds' nest found on Dirk Hartog Island, by Jacques Arago, 1818 Nid d'Autour trouve a L'Irk Birds' nest found on Dirk Hartog Island, September 1818</p> <p>This image from Shark Bay is that of a giant osprey nest found on Dirk Hartog Island. The original pencil drawing by Arago.</p> <p><i>Format: Graphite Pencil on wove paper (26.3 x 34.2 cm).</i></p>	<p>Original, facsimile, digital</p> <p>Images 6 & 7 reproduced on one facsimile</p>
5907A/7	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>FACSIMILE: Charts</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013989d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297507P</p>	<p>1818 Engravers brown wash drawing of a birds' nest found on Dirk Hartog Island, by Jacques Arago, 1818. Nid d'Autour trouve a L'Irk</p> <p>Birds' nest found on Dirk Hartog Island, September 1818</p> <p>An engraver's brown wash drawing by Marais. Arago, who truthfully sketches his own admittedly dishevelled appearance on the West Australian coast, is moved and smartened up on Freycinet's orders for the official plate.</p> <p><i>Format: Engraver's brown wash</i></p>	<p>Original, facsimile, digital</p> <p>Images 6 & 7 reproduced on one facsimile</p>
5907A/8	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013996d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297508P</p>	<p>1817 – 1819 Watercolour, pencil and ink drawing of molluscs (plate no.5), by Jacques Arago, 1817-1819. Voyage de l'Uranie Mollusques pl no.5</p> <p>Drawing of molluscs by Arago</p> <p><i>Format: Watercolour and ink on wove paper.</i></p>	<p>Original, digital</p>

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5907A/9	ORIGINAL: Security Stack DIGITAL COPY: 013994d NEGATIVE: 297509P	1817 – 1819 Watercolour and ink drawing of molluscs (plate no.1), by Jacques Arago, 1817-1819. Voyage de l'Uranie Mollusques pl no.1 Drawing of molluscs by Arago <i>Format: Watercolour, pencil and ink on wove paper.</i>	Original, digital
5907A/10	ORIGINAL: Security Stack DIGITAL COPY: 014001d NEGATIVE: 297510P	1817 – 1819 Ink drawing of crustaceans (plate no.2), by Jacques Arago, 1817-1819. Voyage de l'Uranie Crustaceaes pl no.2 Drawing of crustaceans by Arago <i>Format: Ink drawing.</i>	Original, digital
5907A/11	ORIGINAL: Security Stack DIGITAL COPY: 013998d NEGATIVE: 297511P	[1820] Drawing of lobster larvae, 1820. Lobster Larvae Drawing of lobster larvae (identification by WA Museum staff) <i>Format: Drawing</i>	Original, digital
5907A/12	ORIGINAL: Security Stack FACSIMILE: Charts DIGITAL COPY: 013988d NEGATIVE: 297512P	1820 Watercolour and ink drawing of the volute Ethiopienne drawn from a specimen brought back from Shark bay, by A. Prevost, 1820. Anatomie De la volute Ethiopienne A drawing by A.Prevost of the volute Ethiopienne drawn from a specimen brought back from Shark Bay. <i>Format: Watercolour and ink on wove paper</i>	Original, facsimile, digital

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		<p>The following six artworks were created in the Falkland Islands.</p> <p>The <i>Uranie</i> had sailed from New South Wales in 1819 and reached the Falklands in February 1820. The hull of the ship was damaged on rocks off the islands and the expedition stranded on the islands for 73 days before Freycinet managed to acquire another ship for the journey home to France. 3 of them were done by Arago.</p>	
5907A/13	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013981d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297513P</p>	<p>1820 Drawing of the camp in the Falkland Islands, 1820. [3 people at lower left corner] Le camp Des Malouines</p> <p>The camp in the Falklands.</p> <p><i>Format: Drawing</i></p>	Original, digital
5907A/14	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013976d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297514P</p>	<p>1820 Drawing of the camp in the Falkland Islands [2 people at lower left corner] Le camp Des Malouines</p> <p>The camp in the Falklands</p> <p><i>Format: Drawing</i></p>	Original, digital
5907A/15	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013987d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297515P</p>	<p>1820 Drawing of ruined buildings in the Falkland Islands, 1820. Ruines d'un etablissement aux Malouines</p> <p>Ruined buildings on the Falklands</p> <p><i>Format: Drawing</i></p>	Original, digital

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5907A/16	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 014000d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297516P</p>	<p>1820 Drawing of an inland view from French Bay in the Falkland Islands, taken from a high point near the ruins of an old settlement, 1820.</p> <p>Une vue de l'interieur de la baie Francaise (Iles Malouines) prise d'un hauteur situe des Ruines de l'ancien etablissement)</p> <p>A view inland from French Bay (Falkand Islands) taken from a high point near the ruins of an old settlement</p> <p><i>Format: Drawing</i></p>	Original, digital
5907A/17	<p>ORIGINAL: Security Stack</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013977d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297517P</p>	<p>1820 Drawing of the camp in the Falkland Islands and the wreck of the Uranie, by J. Alphonse Pellion, 1820.</p> <p>Le Camp de L'Uranie aux Malouines</p> <p>Drawing of the camp and the wreck of the Uranie by J A Pellion</p> <p><i>Format: Drawing</i></p>	Original, digital
5907A/18	<p>ORIGINAL: Secuirty Stack</p> <p>DIGITAL COPY: 013995d</p> <p>NEGATIVE: 297518P</p>	<p>1820 Engravers wash of the camp in the Falkland Islands and the wreck of the Uranie, by Pierre Antoine Marchais, 1820.</p> <p>Camperment de L'Uranie</p> <p>Engraver's wash of the camp and the wreck of the Uranie. Engraving by Marchais</p> <p><i>Format: Engraver's wash</i></p>	Original, digital
		EXHIBITION INFORMATION	
5907A/20	CHARTS	Text and images from the exhibition, 'Freycinet: Our French Collection', which was held in the State Library of Western Australia during February-March 2003	
5907A/22		Media file compiled by Mills Wilson Media Consultants, containing copies of press releases, articles and notices about the exhibition	

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		PHOTOGRAPHS	
5907A/19	CHARTS NEGATIVES: 256,000P – 256,035P	Proof sheets of images used in the Freycinet Exhibition in the State Library of Western Australia 21 February 2003 – 31 March 2003	
		GREETINGS CARDS	
5907A/21		Set of 6 greetings cards, plus one post-card size card which shows the six images and sponsors of the exhibition 1. Nid d'Antour trouve a L'Ile d'Irk=hatighs, September 1818, by Jacques Arago 2. Ile Depuch nommee d'abord Ile des Amiraux by Francois-Michel Ronsard, 1801 3. Baie des Chiens-Marins, observatoire de l'Uranie by J Alphonse Pellion, 1818 4. Riviere des Cygnes by Francois-Antoine Boniface Heirisson, 1801 5. Volute Ethiopienne by A Provost, 1820 6. Plan d'une partie de L'Ile Buache sur la cote de la Nouvelle-Hollande by Henri de Freycinet, 1801	2 sets

11 January 2005