ABORIGINAL LIFE
IN OLD AUSTRALIA
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being an Enhanced Facsimile of

Field Sports, &c. &c.
of the Native Inhabitants
of New South Wales;
With Ten Plates.

First published in 1814,
and now faithfully reprinted by

Edition Renard
I first became interested in John Heaviside Clark's *Field Sports &c. &c. of the Native Inhabitants of New South Wales* as a result of the possible attribution of the plates to John William Lewin, a noted colonial artist of natural history subjects in whom I have long had some interest. As I came to study the work more closely it became apparent to me that this hypothesis was most unlikely, but several things about the book began to intrigue me, not least its relative obscurity as an Australian plate book.

The work was published both as an integral *New South Wales Supplement* to a larger work “*Foreign Field Sports*” and as a stand-alone work, i.e. a small illustrated treatise on the Australian Aboriginal.

It is barely recognized that this book is the first known work solely devoted to the Aboriginal people of Australia. All earlier information on the indigenous inhabitants of our continent is contained either in appendices to larger, more general works, or as incidental remarks in travel narratives or historical recitations. How much of the content of this book is original is very much open to conjecture. It clearly owes a debt, at least in part, and in common with many if not most other works of the preceding period, to David Collins’ *Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, published fifteen years earlier. The fact remains however, that it is the first published work with the Australian Aboriginal as its sole focus, and some at least of the material appears to come from unpublished sources.

Earlier commentators have tended to concentrate, not surprisingly, on the illustrations; it is, after all, a “plate book”, but for the reasons given in my notes at the end of this volume, I think the text is at least equally important. These notes also include a fuller discussion of the publishing history of this intriguing work.

Julien Renard.
FIELD SPORTS,
&c. &c.

Of the Native Inhabitants

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES;

WITH TEN PLATES,

BY THE AUTHOR.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION, TO

Rear Admiral Bligh,

LATE CAPTAIN GENERAL, & GOVERNOR IN CHIEF, IN & OVER HIS MAJESTY'S

COLONY OF

NEW SOUTH WALES AND ITS DEPENDENCIES.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED AND SOLD BY EDWARD ORME, BOND STREET, CORNER OF BROOK STREET,
PRINTSELLER AND PUBLISHER TO HIS MAJESTY AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE PRINCE REGENT.
PRINTED BY J. F. DOVE, 22, ST. JOHN'S SQUARE, CLERKENWELL.

1813.
TO

REAR ADMIRAL BLIGH,

Late Captain-General, and Governor-in-Chief, in and over His Majesty's Colony of New South Wales, and its Dependencies.

SIR,

IT is presumed, this slight Sketch of the Manners of the Natives of New South Wales, may assist in keeping alive the recollection of a distant spot, where your exertions for your country, and for the benefit of mankind, have been so eminently displayed.—It also affords an opportunity for me to express my very sincere respect.

I am, SIR,

Your much obliged and humble Servant,

John Heaviside Clark.
SKETCH
OF THE
MANNERS, PURSUITS, &c.
OF THE
Natives of New South Wales.

Parts of the vast Continent of New Holland have been discovered as early as 1616, by Dutch adventurers; but the Eastern, the part to which this Sketch refers, was first known to the celebrated British navigator, Cook, in 1770, since which it has been called New South Wales. It extends from the north point of New Holland in latitude 10 deg. 37 min. to the south, in latitude 43 deg. 39 min. and from the 135th degree of east longitude from Greenwich. The climate of New South Wales is temperate and healthy, the soil is various, and abounds with sand or clay in different ranges in the colony. The scenery has a sameness of character; and, except in the smaller evergreens, little to delight the eye. The general appearance of the woods is sombre, although the forest trees shed their bark annually, which for a time gives their immense trunks a whitish hue. On quitting the parts where the European cultivator has commenced his work of industry, the forests appear an im-
passable barrier of lofty trees, whose trunks are closely interwoven with shrubs and underwood, and cover immense hills, interspersed with breaks, where the fire of the natives has occasionally ravaged. The precipices are frightful; but, where the rude hand of nature has, for ages, been forming the ravine, the prospects are tremendous.

The aboriginal inhabitants differ, in several characteristics, from any other people hitherto known. They are slight, and tolerably well made; instances of deformity being very rare. They are from 5 feet 4 to 5 feet 9 inches high; the women are not so tall, or so well formed, as the men; they have, generally, projecting brows, broad noses, wide mouths, and thick lips, but preferable to the African negro in proportion, as the countenance approaches the European form. Their hair is short, strong, and curly, but not woolly; and, as they have no method of cleaning or combing, it becomes thick, matted, and filthy. Their skin is smeared with the fat of animals, and covered with dirt of every description; indeed, they are such strangers to every idea of cleanliness, that the true colour of their skin is rarely to be seen. It is, however, of a rich chocolate colour, some of the females being considerably lighter than others. Many of their ceremonies are falling into disuse; such as punching out the two foremost teeth on the right side of the upper jaw of the males, at the age of puberty, and the amputation of the little finger of the left hand of the females at the birth. These mutilations were never general, and it remains yet to be discovered for what they were practised. Scarifications are not in such high repute as formerly, though they seem to be considered ornamental. The principal scars are made by cutting two lines through the skin, parallel to each other, with a sharp
shell, and afterwards stripping off the intermediate skin. This painful operation is repeated, till the wounded flesh rises considerably above the surrounding skin, and it is then suffered to heal. These scars are not common among the women; yet some of them are marked on the arms, breasts, and back.

Making love among them is always prefaced by a beating, and is apparently received by the females as a matter of course, preparing them for the barbarity with which they are treated after becoming wives. Instances have occurred where enraged natives have speared their wives for an imaginary infidelity, and have left them to perish; nor, on such occasions, has the least concern been shown by any of the tribe.

Their pursuits are very confined, the chief employment of their lives being to procure sufficient sustenance. They seldom travel far, and fear to make inroads on the neighbouring tribes. Wherever the colonists establish themselves, the natives resign that part of the country. They occasionally visit the farmers on friendly terms, and are comparatively social: generally speaking, the natives have lost much of their savage ferocity; many of them speak English well, as far as the use of monosyllables will permit; yet it should be remarked, that, since the establishment of the colony, no change has taken place, either in their means of obtaining food, or of adding in the least to their comforts. So much do they abhor restraint, that nothing can incite them to habits of industry: no reward can induce them to prefer domestic enjoyment to roving in their native woods and wilds. They can be haughty, and abject, alternately; their partiality to bread prompts them to become
mendicants; but their pride will permit them to witness the craving of their hungry children, rather than bruise the corn, which may have been given to them. This indolence is equalled only by their carelessness; at night they will supplicate for a blanket, or a covering of any description, and disregard it immediately the sun has risen. They possess great taciturnity, but are excellent mimicks; even the peculiarities of the leading men in the colony are, among them, subjects of mirth and derision. The idea of their being the original possessors of the country has, long since, ceased to be acted upon; yet that they retain a remembrance of it, the following anecdote will place in a light tolerably clear: A respectable settler, in the neighbourhood of Parramatta, early one morning observed a chief, of the name of Harry, and several of his tribe, passing with their fire rather too near his stacks of corn; the settler went to them, and remonstrated on the impropriety, saying, the fire might easily be communicated to the loose straw, thence to the stacks; and, however unintentionally, cause the destruction of his property. The chief calmly replied, “You know we must have our fire; the country is ours, you must take care of your corn.”
SMOKING OUT THE OPOSSUM, &c.

The Opossum, Kangaroo Rat, Flying Squirrel, and various other animals, which inhabit the woods, frequent the hollows of decayed trees. As soon as such a tree is discovered, the natives commence an attack with the most certain means of success; one of the party ascends the tree to the upper outlet, at which the animals could escape, and there waits, with his club raised, while others below apply burning reeds, or dried grass, to the lower opening; by which the hollow of the tree becomes so filled with smoke, as to render it untenable to the inhabitants, and they are dispatched in their attempt to escape. Natives, who live in the woods, are often driven to harder extremities than those who inhabit the coast, or the borders of rivers, notwithstanding there are such varieties of animals which furnish excellent food; for, except in the method by smoking, they are taken with great difficulty. The disappointed hunters are frequently compelled to substitute a species of worm, or grub, found in the body of the dwarf gum tree; or to content themselves with yams, fern root, or even berries, so wretched and uncertain is their means of subsistence.
The Kangaroo is found in great plenty on the S. and S. W. side of New Holland, and in the inland parts of the colony. They have been known to weigh one hundred and a half, affording to the native hunters a sumptuous repast, when they are fortunate enough to take one. The Kangaroo feeds on vegetable productions, and is discovered lurking in the high grass; but so remarkably timid, that the natives find great difficulty in approaching near enough to throw a spear with effect. The animal is surprisingly powerful in the hind quarters; it is enabled to spring twenty, or even thirty feet forwards, and over bushes ten feet high. It can lash its tail with such force, as to drive the native dog from the pursuit of it. The shortness of the fore legs renders them useless in running; indeed, they appear to be used only to convey food to the mouth.

The natives have no idea of providing for the morrow; eating at every opportunity, as long as there remains any thing to eat, and then stretching themselves in the sun to sleep, where they remain until hunger, or some other cause, calls them again into action.
THROWING THE SPEAR.

The Spear, which affords the chief amusement, as well as the means of defence, to the natives of New South Wales, is made from the yellow gum plant, which grows in a low tuft, with long grassy leaves, from the centre of which shoots up a stem, twelve or fourteen feet in height, and admirably adapted to the use to which it is appropriated. The natives are choice in the selection of these stems, and careful in the preparation, polishing, and attaching the barbs. Some of their Spears are armed, seven or eight inches from the point, with several bits of sharp stone, shell, or bone, which render them very formidable weapons; and, so particular are the owners in executing this part, that the Spear can be recognized even among the neighbouring tribes. Their expertness is truly surprising; they rarely fail to hit a mark at fifty or sixty yards. The Spear is impelled with greater velocity by the use of a throwing-stick, having the end a little hooked, to fit a hollow formed at the base of the Spear. This stick is held firm in the right hand, the finger and thumb supporting the Spear in a line above it; the left hand directs the proper elevation; and, as the aim is instantaneously taken, it rushes like lightning on its object. Each variety of Spear has its name, from those which are pointed only to those with a number of barbs. Birds, the beauty of whose plumage is no protection to them against the hungry native, occasionally furnish out a poor repast.
CLIMBING TREES.

The blue gum tree, in the branches of which the opossum and flying squirrel frequently take refuge, will measure from forty to sixty feet in one smooth shaft, up which the natives mount with surprising agility, by means of notches cut in the bark. The first and second notches are cut as they stand on the ground; the rest as they ascend, at such distances from each other, that, when both feet are in the notches, the left foot is raised as high as the middle of the right thigh. When they are going to rise a step higher, the hatchet is held in the mouth, in order to have the use of both hands; and, while cutting the notch, the weight of the body rests on the ball of the great toe. The fingers of the left hand are also fixed in a notch, when the size of the tree does not admit of its being conveniently grasped. The branches being gained, the animals are taken, or driven from the tree, and speared by those below.

A branch of a species of fir is always carried by one of the party lighted, from which a fire is readily kindled. The animals, which may have been taken, are hastily roasted, or rather scorched, and eagerly devoured.

This fir stick possesses the property of retaining the fire, after having been lighted a great length of time.
FISHING.

Catching Fish with the hook and line is, generally, the employ of the females. The lines are manufactured from the tough inner bark or rind of various trees, which is beaten with a stone until it becomes fibrous. The finer strings are then twisted into strands, and the line, which usually consists of two strands, is made to any length. The hooks are made with infinite labour from the pearly part of shells, but not barbed. The canoes are constructed of bark, securely lashed at the extremities, and cemented with yellow rosin, which renders them perfectly water-tight. They have stretchers to regulate the width, and are sometimes large enough to contain four persons. The natives who inhabit the coast are excellent swimmers, and manage the canoe very dexterously. The men fish with the spear or fish-gig, which instrument can be increased, by joints, to any manageable length, that the depth of the water may require, and are armed with two, three, or four points, or prongs, each barbed with bits of shell or fish bone. In fine weather, it is usual for the natives to lie across the canoe, with their heads beneath the surface of the water, and the spear raised, in readiness to strike the Fish which may chance to glide within their reach; this they do with such certainty, as rarely to miss their aim. When a Fish is speared too large to be conveniently taken into the canoe, they proceed, with the greatest caution, to the shore, where the necessary assistance can be obtained. A heap of weed at one end of the canoe enables them to preserve their fire, even at sea.
DANCE.

Except in the Kangaroo Dance, which is an imitation of the actions of that animal, the natives do not appear to be regulated by steps appropriate to any particular expression, but the activity of their motions seems rather the result of hilarity, and the singing is similarly produced. Their songs are commenced at the top of the voice, the modulations lowering as long as the breath will permit; the lungs are then inflated with considerable noise, the song continuing during the respiration, after which the voice rises again to its utmost height; and, with some variation of tone, again descends, and is repeated till the subject is ended. When a number of the natives are assembled, on some particular ceremonies, an individual will start from the circle, leaping, and bounding, and throwing his arms about, in a variety of antic positions, till he is completely tired; meanwhile others have been singing, and beating time with sticks; indeed, the hoarseness of the singer, and the fatigue of the dancer, seem to produce the concluding movement. On these occasions the natives ornament themselves with red and white clay, in stripes, on the forehead, circles round the eyes, waving or straight lines on the breasts and arms; and, at times, the figure to the waist will be covered with white. The fashion of these decorations is, doubtless, regulated by the taste of the individual, although some of them, when ornamented in a manner that must have required a considerable portion of their time and abilities, will look perfectly horrible. A principal ornament is a bone, or reed, thrust through the septum of the nose, which was humorously called, by Cook's sailors, their spritsail yard.
WARRIORS.

Though each of the different tribes of natives has its own chief, yet, on occasions of war, or rather of revenge, the party put themselves under the guidance of the most expert and daring individual, without regard to seniority or rank. They are equipped with their best spears and shields; they decorate, or rather disfigure, themselves, making their hair stiff and projecting with grease, and covering it with down, feathers, shells, &c. till they have the appearance of mops. The body they stripe with white or red clay across the breast and ribs, and with a line down the centre of each arm and leg, which gives them, at a distance, the appearance of so many skeletons. On their warlike expeditions, they practise the greatest cruelties, retaliating their injuries on the unoffending. They are also capable of the greatest dissimulation: standing with the appearance of being unarmed, while the spear is lying by their side, and moved with their feet as they alter their situation; but, on the slightest opportunity of advantage, it is raised by the toes to the hand, and thrown with the best effect. Indeed, the management of the spear and shield, and the dexterity in throwing the clubs, are their greatest acquirements. Agility, either in the attack or the defence, and the fortitude with which they endure sufferings of every description, appear to confer superiority, and to rank first among their concerns of life.

The shield is cut from the gum tree bark, or formed of solid wood, and hardened in the fire.
TRIAL.

The ideas of equity, or of justice, among the natives, appear to be extremely confused; although the shedding of blood is always followed by punishment, the party offending being compelled to expose his person to the spears of all who choose to throw at him. If he escape unhurt, he is permitted to mix again with the tribe, as though nothing had happened; but if any one should kill him on this occasion, he who did so, notwithstanding he was executing what the law seemed to demand, must be placed in a similar situation, and defend himself against a like fate.

Injury or insult, is invariably resented in the degree in which it was received; hence the selecting of wives, or rather the stealing of women, is well calculated to keep the natives in endless disputes. After a native has determined on taking a wife, which is generally from a different tribe, he observes the greatest secrecy; and stealing upon her when she is unprotected, he stupifies her with blows, drags her violently to a place of security within the precincts of his own tribe, and the marriage is consummated. This outrage is retaliated, in a similar act, by the relatives of the female on the first opportunity.

In their single combats the strictest attention to the point of honour is observed, and animosity ceases when satisfaction is obtained.
REPOSE.

The natives can hardly be said to have any fixed place of residence, although each family derives its name from some particular spot. They frequently repose in parties, occupying twelve or fourteen huts, each constructed of one piece of bark simply bent in the middle, and confined on the sides with pegs, forming an angular covering, little more than three feet in height and six in length. The natives invariably burn fires at the front of each hut throughout the night, for darkness is dreaded as the parent of horror; yet they sleep remarkably sound: on which account they are much attached to the English dog, as being their best guardian through the silent hours of rest. In fine weather they sleep wherever night chances to overtake them. In the rainy season they retire into cavities, or under projecting rocks, and occasionally heat the hollow, by burning such quantities of dried grass, that the warmth is retained until the morning. If accident deprive them of their fire, one of the party places between his knees a flat piece of wood, having a hollow in it fitted to the point of a stick, which he whirls with the palms of his hands as rapidly as possible, and is relieved by others until, by continued friction, a flame is produced. Their most extended expeditions are made within a circle, the diameter of which seldom exceeds twenty miles. The only cause for removal seems to be the hope of a better supply of food, although succeeding generations have passed away without their having
seen the opposite side of the mountain to that which they would call their home. With very few exceptions, they are superstitious, jealous, cunning, and revengeful; at the same time they are susceptible of sorrow and of friendship, and possess no small degree of true courage; and, though the general character of the natives of New South Wales is a compound of inconsistencies, there is no reason to despair of their becoming, at no very distant period, useful members of society.
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

AND

PUBLISHING NOTES.
The first edition of this book, which has been faithfully reproduced in the preceding pages, was ostensibly first published in 1813, as shown by the date on the title-page, however there are some interesting facts which suggest that it may not in fact have been issued to the public in any “book” form until 1814. This book was intended as a part, or Supplement, to a larger work which was first issued in 1814 and may be described bibliographically as follows:

Clark, John Heaviside; & others: FOREIGN FIELD SPORTS, FISHERIES, SPORTING ANECDOTES, &c. &c. from Drawings by Messrs. Howitt, Atkinson, Clark, Manskirch, &c. Containing One Hundred Plates. With a Supplement of New South Wales. London: Published and sold by Edward Orme, Printseller and Publisher to His Majesty and His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, Bond Street, Corner of Brook Street. Printed by J. F. Dove, No. 22. St. John's Square, Clerkenwell. 1814.

Demy 4to, First Edition; ff. [2](half-title & title-page, versos blank), ff. [78](text to main work); ff. [2](separate title-page to Supplement, and Dedication to Rear Admiral Bligh, versos blank), [7](text to Supplement); f. [1](Index to both main work and Supplement; recto & verso); 110 hand-coloured aquatint plates (100 in the main work, 10 in the Supplement).

This work, which I will refer to as Foreign Field Sports, or as the “main work”, was commonly issued in a publisher’s binding of full dark-coloured roan of various shades such as purple, burgundy, brown, green and probably others, impressed with a grain to imitate straight-grained morocco (roan being a cheaper and softer leather), fully gilt on the spine, borders and dentelles, and with gilt edges to the leaves. Neither text nor plate leaves bear any numbering or pagination, either in the main work or in the Supplement. The earliest issues bear the watermark date 1810 on some of the text leaves (both main work and Supplement) and 1811 on some plates, however the work continued to be issued throughout the second decade of the nineteenth century and watermark dates as late as 1818 are found on the plates of some copies. I have not however found any watermark dates later than 1810 on the text leaves. A new edition was published by H. R. Young, London, in 1819. This edition, in larger format (large quarto or small folio), contains the same plates as the first edition (usually on unwatermarked paper), but the text leaves are entirely reset and are now numbered. Both the separate title-page to the New South Wales Supplement and the Dedication to Bligh were omitted, but the New South Wales plates were still included at the end of the work (Plates 101-110). This edition was issued in a similar binding of full straight-morocco-grained roan, elaborately gilt. Another edition, in similar format, was issued by the original publisher.
(Edward Orme), but printed by Howlett and Brimmer, Printers, Frith Street, Soho (from title-page verso) in the 1820’s (1823 or later). It is undated (except by watermarks on some of the paper) and was unknown to Ferguson1.

The plates of Foreign Field Sports all bear the date of engraving centred below the image (“Published & Sold [Date] by Edwd. Orme, Bond St. London”) together with the artist’s name on left (“[Name] Del.”) and the engraver’s name on right (“[Name] sculpt.”). These dates range from Jan. 1st, 1813 to Oct. 1st, 1813 with one plate in the main work (No. 59 Kamtschatka Bear Hunting) dated without the month (“_.. 1st, 1813”) so it is probable that the frames and imprints were drawn up in advance, perhaps by junior engravers, with the dates filled in when the images were completed. All the plates in the New South Wales Supplement are dated Oct. 1st, 1813 which is the latest date found on any of the 110 plates, only two others bearing this date (Plate 10 African Buffalo, drawn by Howitt, and Plate 15 Taking Vipers drawn by J. H. Clark)2. It thus seems probable that the plates in the New South Wales Supplement were indeed the last ones to be engraved. The date on the title-page to this Supplement is 1813 and clearly the publisher hoped to issue it in this year, but the main work was not issued until 1814. It is important to note that the main work, when complete, always includes the Supplement, as is noted on the main title-page, and that there is no record of it having been issued before 1814. The New South Wales Supplement was however also issued separately, but copies in original binding are extremely elusive and I have been able to locate only one such copy. This copy3, is uncut and undisturbed, sewn in its original wrappers, and appears to be the original source of all bibliographical references to a separate issue in original wrappers. The wrappers are highly instructive and in view of their importance have been reproduced in the present edition (the inner sides of the wrappers are blank). The front wrapper is dated 1814, and the rear wrapper carries, inter alia, an advertisement for the main work, available either in boards, at £11 11s. or as separate numbers, each of Ten plates with descriptive

1. - Ferguson, John Alexander. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AUSTRALIA. Volume I, 1788-1830. Sydney, Angus and Robertson, 1941. The first edition is Ferguson 551; the Young edition is Ferguson 739 (error in number of plates). There is in addition to the second Orme edition noted above, a curious French publication, also unknown to Ferguson: TABLEAUX DES CHASSES LE PLUS INTÉRESSANTES: représentées en gravures coloriées, pouvant servir d’études de lavis et d’aquarelle exécutées d’après les dessins de MM. Howitt, Atkinson, Clark, Manskirk; accompagnées d’un texte puisé dans les écrits des meilleurs naturalistes modernes. Paris, Chez A. Nepveu, Libraire, 1819. This contains thirteen plates rather roughly copied from Orme’s publication, of which three, namely Throwing the Spear, Climbing Trees and Hunting the Kangaroo, are from the New South Wales Supplement and are accompanied by a more extensive text than in the English editions.


3. - PAM Q81/35 in the Dixson Collection, Mitchell Library, Sydney.
NEW
SOUTH WALES.
SUPPLEMENT
TO
THE WORK
OF
FOREIGN FIELD SPORTS.

London:
PUBLISHED BY EDWARD ORME, BOND STREET,
CORNER OF BROOK STREET.
PRINTED BY J. F. DOVE, ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.
1814.
LIST OF SPORTING SUBJECTS,
PUBLISHED BY
EDWARD ORME, BOND STREET.

BOOKS.
A NEW WORK OF FOREIGN FIELD SPORTS, AMUSEMENTS, SPORTING ANECDOTES, &c. &c. from Drawings by Messrs. Howitt, Atkinson, Clark, Manskeirch, &c. The work consists of Ten Parts or Numbers, each Number containing Ten highly-finished Plates, in Colours, with descriptive Letter-presses,—And a SUPPLEMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES. Price, in Boards, £1 11s. or £1 18s. each Number.

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PRINTS.

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letterpress, at £1 1s. each. Other advertisements are for separate prints or small collections of prints of Horses, Dogs, Fox-hunting, etc.

From this wrapper a number of deductions would seem to follow: Firstly, the Supplement was probably not issued separately before the main work, or until 1814, in spite of the date on its title-page. Secondly, eleven separate numbers, each of ten plates and accompanying text, encompassing in total the entire main work and Supplement, were available in wrappers. (That few, if any, others of these have survived intact is not particularly surprising given the activities of the print trade in the intervening nearly two centuries and the fact that they were originally sold essentially as collections of Prints). Thirdly, the advertisement refers only to “highly-finished Plates, in Colours”, however copies of Foreign Field Sports were also issued uncoloured, with tinted backgrounds only. These were presumably issued later, at a cheaper price. They are not common; whether the New South Wales Supplement was also issued separately in uncoloured form is unknown to me and difficult to verify. Apart from the complete Foreign Field Sports, I have seen only disbound copies probably extracted from the main work. As can be seen from the reproduction opposite, the various miscellaneous prints of Horses, Dogs, etc. were offered both coloured and plain. Another point of possible significance is that this copy of the Supplement in its original wrappers has all the plates bound in after the text, as issued. All other copies of which I am aware have the plates interleaved by the appropriate text as reproduced here.

My conclusion is that the Supplement may have been intended to be issued as a separate work in 1813, as indicated by the date on its title-page, but it is likely that in fact it was not issued until 1814, concurrently with the main work of Foreign Field Sports. In the absence of unequivocal evidence for the availability of either the Supplement or one of the part issues of the main work in 1813, it seems to me most probable that the true date of publication is 1814.

Another very useful reference with a full description of the main work is: Abbey, J. R.: TRAVEL IN AQUATINT AND LITHOGRAPHY 1770-1860 from the Library of J. R. Abbey. [Edited by Michael Oliver]. Volume I : World, Europe, Africa. Volume II : Asia, Oceania, Antarctica, America. A Bibliographical Catalogue. London, Privately Printed at the Curwen Press, 1956. Abbey’s No. 2 describes the first edition and No. 3 the Young edition, and the later Orme edition is mentioned in passim. Abbey states that the New South Wales Field Sports was issued separately in 1813 before being used as a Supplement to Foreign Field Sports, citing the English Catalogue, and there is indeed an entry in the catalogue for 1813, however the matter is not as clear-cut as this would seem to imply. The English Catalogue was originally compiled from publisher’s circulars as books were published and most entries for the period (see footnote 6 on following page for an example) include both a month and year of publication, but significantly the entry for Clark’s “Field Sports ... New South Wales,” specifies only the year, suggesting that the information may have come from an announcement only. It may also be significant, and possibly strengthens the case for a publisher’s announcement or a compilation from other sources (such as the obvious date on title-page), that there is no entry for the main work in 1813, 1814 or otherwise (as is also noted by Abbey). I am acutely conscious however, that unequivocal evidence for the availability in 1813 of just one copy of the Supplement (or indeed another, different wrapper dated 1813) will be sufficient to demolish my theory, but to date no such evidence has been forthcoming.
Source of the Work.

It is noteworthy that the subjects of the New South Wales plates are somewhat different in character from those in the main work. In the New South Wales Supplement many aspects of the whole lives of the Aborigines are treated, not just their “Field Sports,” i.e. hunting, fishing, bird-catching and the like. Even if one includes other, more recreational, pursuits such as, for example, Spanish Bull-Fighting, for which there is a series of thirteen plates in the main work, it is apparent that the Supplement is more comprehensive in its coverage. It is clear that the Supplement was intended as a small illustrated treatise on the New South Wales Aborigines, the first such work to be published, it should be noted. The importance of the Supplement as the first separate work on the Australian Aborigines is not generally recognised, and even The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia contains no mention of it. While the text is somewhat spare, as is to be expected in a “plate book”, it is unusually descriptive and quite informative, giving a vivid picture of the mode of life of the Aborigines, from events shortly after the birth, to marriage, recreations, warfare, justice, habitations, nomadic existence, territorial range, etc. A surprising amount of detail is compressed into a few short pages.

This raises the intriguing question of authorship of the work, a conundrum of two parts, firstly what is the source of the images, and secondly, who wrote the text? The ostensible author is John Heaviside Clark, although he is not quite explicitly identified as such. Clark almost certainly never visited Australia, and there is some evidence for his living and working in London at all relevant times. He was a highly competent commercial artist, the author of a probably influential work on the colouring and painting of landscapes in watercolours, and the artist for many “plate books” of the period including a series of depictions of the Battle of Waterloo from which he acquired the sobriquet “Waterloo Clark”. His only identifiable connection with Australia, apart from the present work, is his involvement with another series of plates of New South Wales, the four plates of Sydney views drawn by John Eyre and engraved by Clark, first published separately in 1810 and subsequently re-issued in 1811 with David Mann’s Present Picture of New South Wales.

5. - Horton, Dr. David; General Editor. THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander History, Society and Culture. (Canberra), Aboriginal Studies Press for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Studies, 1994.

6. - Clark, J. H. A PRACTICAL ESSAY ON THE ART OF COLOURING AND PAINTING LANDSCAPES, WITH ILLUSTRATIONS. London, 1807. This work is listed in the London Catalogue for February, 1807 (see footnote 4 on preceding page for remarks on the possible significance of this). Clark wrote another book of a similar nature, published in 1827, and another work by him: A Practical Illustration on Gilpin’s Day, with thirty designs, was published in 1824.

The dedication of the Supplement to Rear Admiral Bligh is very curious, arousing the suspicion that he was the proximate source of the original material. From his associations with Bligh, and the fact that Bligh was known to have in his possession other work by this artist, it has been suggested by Wantrup, following Rienits, that the original artist for the New South Wales Supplement was John William Lewin. Lewin, whose works on the Lepidopterous Insects and Birds of New South Wales are now well-known, also painted pictures of the Aborigines (for example the original for the portrait of a Native Chief of Baturst [sic] in Oxley's *Journals of Two Expeditions*, 1820), but unfortunately few of these have survived. It is very difficult to reconcile the style of the pictures in the Supplement with the styles apparent in Lewin's surviving work and the various errors in the depiction of natural history subjects (possums, kangaroos, birds, foliage, etc.) are particularly difficult to explain. Few scholars now give the Lewin hypothesis much credence.

Clearly John Heaviside Clark had no detailed personal knowledge of the subject, and therefore must have obtained his material, both images and text, from some other source or sources. Could William Bligh have been a source? With respect to the plates, watercolour drawings of other subjects by Bligh do survive. These are obviously of great historical and evidentiary significance, and show Bligh as not without talent, but they are not of a high artistic standard. The drawings of an accomplished artist of Lewin's calibre would probably not usually be extensively modified by a commercial artist when preparing a work for publication, but in the case of an original artist of lesser talent, one might expect a much greater degree of “artistic licence” on the part of the publisher's draughtsman. This might explain the obvious errors in the depictions, such as the strange shapes and unnatural poses of the kangaroos and the rather European look of the bark shelters, foliage, etc. Whether or not Bligh was the ultimate source for the images it does seem unlikely that the original artist possessed both great talent and first-hand experience of the subjects.

Another possibility which seems not to have been canvassed without being rather summarily dismissed, is that the images in the Supplement are simply compilations by Clark from an amalgam of material previously published. The more closely one examines the pictures, the more likely it seems that they were derived, by imagination, *from the text* by someone (presumably Clark himself) who had no personal knowledge or observation of the New South Wales aborigines or their environment. The pictures depict very closely what is

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described in the text, and no more, in fact there are details in the text which are not apparent in the pictures. It therefore seems clear to me that the plates, at first glance so obviously the focus of the volume, are in fact almost incidental to the text, and that the text is the foundation for this work. The principal question then becomes—What is the source of the text?

Might Bligh have contributed to the text? For this idea, there is not a shred of positive evidence, but the content of the text had to come from somewhere and the wording of the dedication is at least mildly suggestive of some sort of contribution from Bligh. It is “this slight Sketch of the Manners of the Natives of New South Wales” which is dedicated, “Sketch” here clearly referring to the text or to the whole work, rather than to the pictures only. Bligh is not known to have had a particular interest in the Australian Aborigines, although he did earlier show some interest in the natives of other parts of the Pacific. But if Bligh was not the source of the text, could it have been derived from published sources?

A survey of works published in English before 1814 suggests only a few possibilities: Cook (i.e. Hawkesworth, also Parkinson’s account); the First Fleet journals, including those of Tench, Phillip, White, Hunter, Collins, and the various anonymous accounts by “An Officer”; the accounts of voyages which touched at Port Jackson such as Mary Ann Parker’s account of the Gorgon, Peron’s account of Baudin’s voyage (the first volume was translated into English and published in 1809), and the voyages of La Perouse, Grant, Broughton, Tuckey, and Turnbull. In addition there are the various works by Adams (Ferguson 146), Bond (Ferguson 427), and Paterson (Ferguson 522 or 523); those several works ostensibly written by George Barrington but in reality having little or nothing to do with him; and perhaps most intriguingly, David Mann’s Present Picture of New South Wales, 1811, for which Clark had earlier engraved the views of Sydney drawn by John Eyre. This last, which might have been a satisfying source, does indeed have a number of pages devoted to the manners and customs of the Aborigines but the text has little or no correspondence to that in the Supplement. The various voyage accounts, from Cook onward, each have remarks on the native inhabitants, varying from very brief to quite full and informative, but the content is sufficiently different to rule these out as a source. Likewise, the First Fleet accounts, with the exception of David Collins’ Account of the English Colony in New South Wales, do not appear to be a likely source, and neither do Adams, Bond or Paterson referred to above. This leaves Collins’ Account, which includes extensive and detailed remarks on the Aborigines including much of the content of the Supplement, some of it expressed in generally similar terms (see for example Collins’ section on Courtship and Marriage), quite suggestive as a source, but perhaps at some remove. One peculiarity which suggests a rather early source is the fact that there is no mention, textually or pictorially, of the boomerang. The natives of the Port Jackson region did not use the boomerang, and it was
not until Francis Barrallier’s journey to the Blue Mountains in 1802 that this implement was known to be used in New South Wales. In a book devoted to the special particularities of hunting, etc. of the peoples of different parts of the world this seems a significant omission.

There is, however, one rather striking and sometimes quoted passage in the preliminary text of the Supplement, attributed to a native chief: — “You know we must have our fire; the country is ours, you must take care of your corn.” This passage, and the anecdote leading up to it, do not appear in Collins, nor in any of the other works. A quite distinctive and interesting story, it can hardly have been invented by the author of the Supplement. I had thought that one of the Barrington works might prove to be the proximate source, as these, while not authoritative, were replete with anecdote, extremely popular, often reprinted, and widely available in their time, but unfortunately a thorough search failed to turn up more than passing resemblances attributable most likely to a common original source in Collins’ Account. In fact a very noticeable feature of all the works examined was the repetitious and derivative nature of much of the remarks on Australia’s Aboriginal inhabitants. The anecdote about the corn however, appears to be quite original and an unequivocal source for this would be very useful, but unfortunately I have drawn a blank, so the matter must, at least for now, remain shrouded in mystery. If I can point a finger out of the obscurity it must be in the direction of the connection, whatever that is, with William Bligh.

**Production Notes.**

My general approach in producing this book was similar to that employed with our first book, John White’s *Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales*. The plates were scanned at 600 dpi and cleaned-up, adjusted and colour-corrected using Adobe Photoshop 6.0. Printing of the text was done on a Xerox Phaser 7300, an LED printer, and the plates were printed on the Tektronix Phaser 780, a laser printer, both using toner technology. Modern toners react differently to light than do old watercolours, so for colour fidelity, the plates are best viewed under natural light—under artificial light the images tend to appear a little “warmer” (i.e. more red or magenta) than the originals. The paper used is an archival quality, acid-free sheet, Soft White Mohawk Superfine, 148 gsm.

11. - See, for example, Berzins, Baiba. *The Coming of the Strangers*. Life in Australia 1788-1822. (Sydney) ; Collins Australia in association with the State Library of New South Wales; (1988). On page 39, this anecdote is attributed to a settler “in 1809”, which is the date of the Young edition of *Foreign Field Sports*, but its first occurrence in print was in the first edition. See also the notes on John Heaviside Clark by Elizabeth Ellis in *Significant Others* (an exhibition at the S. H. Ervin Gallery in the old military hospital, The Rocks, Sydney, September-October, 1998)
Why have I described this new edition as an “enhanced facsimile”? For the text I have adopted an approach which, to the best of my knowledge, is entirely new. Rather than photograph or scan the letterpress to produce a facsimile essentially as a photograph of the original as has traditionally been the method, at least for the last century or so, I have scanned each individual character and recreated the original fonts which I have then used to reset the text, line for line, reproducing the original layout, punctuation and spacing. The advantage of employing this admittedly labour-intensive method is that the type can be rendered in a sharp, clear and attractive form, faithful to the original in style, layout and appearance, but much more readable, without any of the blemishes of originally worn or broken type, poor inking or poor impression, or any of the ravages of time, whether foxing, soiling, creased or torn pages, or the serious markings inflicted by libraries or other former owners.

I have carefully followed the original; alert readers will note a couple of instances of dropped punctuation and incorrect sizes or sorts of type used. I have retained these from the original in the interests of authenticity. There are also some oddities to the typefaces, such as inconsistencies in the angle of italics and in the thicknesses of various strokes. I have resisted so far as possible the temptation to “improve” these. For the tricky process of replicating the original typesetting, I have used Adobe InDesign 2.0 but have had to employ some unconventional settings to achieve the desired result—an as nearly as possible exact match to the original. The differences between modern systems of type measurement and those used for letterpress in 1814 result in somewhat strange sizes for the type used in the main text. It is set in 13.3 point type leaded by 5.7 points, i.e. 13.3 on 19 point. I have used my versions of the types derived from the original work also for the typesetting of the cover, half-title and modern title-page, and for these notes, which are set at 12 on 14.4 pt.

The designs for the border used on the cover and title-page are derived from the unique surviving original wrapper reproduced herein. The border is constructed from square type-blocks of two designs (a corner block and a medial block) which by rotation produce the eight different pattern types required for the complete floral part of the border design. The inner and outer rectangular frames to the border are constructed separately. The aboriginal motif used on cover and title-page is taken from the plate “Climbing Trees.”

The binding has been executed to my design by Abbercrombie Hatch & Sons who also printed the cloth used on the boards and devised the method for sewing the Large Paper copies. The spine leather is from the leg of the Emu and was specially commissioned for this edition; the fore-edge strips are of Kangaroo.

Preliminary work for the plates in this volume was commenced in August 2000, however most of the work on both fonts and plates was done between March and September 2003. Printing of the final production copies commenced on 16th October, and the first copies were delivered to the binder on 21st October, 2003.
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As with my first book I received considerable help and valuable suggestions from a number of people with whom I discussed my ideas for this work.

I should particularly like to thank the following people:

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Thank you all.

Julien Renard,

This edition of John Heaviside Clark's *Field Sports, &c. &c. of the Native Inhabitants of New South Wales* is the second publication under the imprint *Edition Renard.*

The edition comprises Two Hundred and Twelve copies, printed using toner-based led and laser technology on 148 gsm Soft White Mohawk Superfine and hand-bound in Australian Emu and Kangaroo leathers.

Two Hundred copies, numbered 1 to 200 are for sale, and Twelve copies lettered A to M are for presentation, legal deposit and other purposes.

Copies numbered 76 to 200 contain the original text and 10 coloured plates reproduced from the hand-coloured originals.

Copies numbered 1 to 75 are printed on large paper, and contain, in addition, 10 tinted monochrome plates reproduced from an original example of the rare uncoloured issue.

Copies numbered 1 to 15 are housed in a double slip-case and are accompanied by an additional suite of the 20 plates enlarged by 25% and in unbound form suitable for framing.

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