

FIRST FLEETERS



The Official Journal of the
Fellowship of First Fleeters,
Issued Quarterly — Vol. 1, No. 2
April, 1969

50c

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

1788 A.D.



*"To live on in the hearts and minds of
Descendants is never to die!"*

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FIRST-FLEETERS

Official Journal of the
FELLOWSHIP
OF FIRST FLEETERS
21 Phillip Street, Sydney 2000
Phone: 27 6759, 27 3424
Published Quarterly
Editor: John K. Lavett

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	If picked up	If Posted	
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Historical Societies, Universities and Schools	35c	40c	\$1.50
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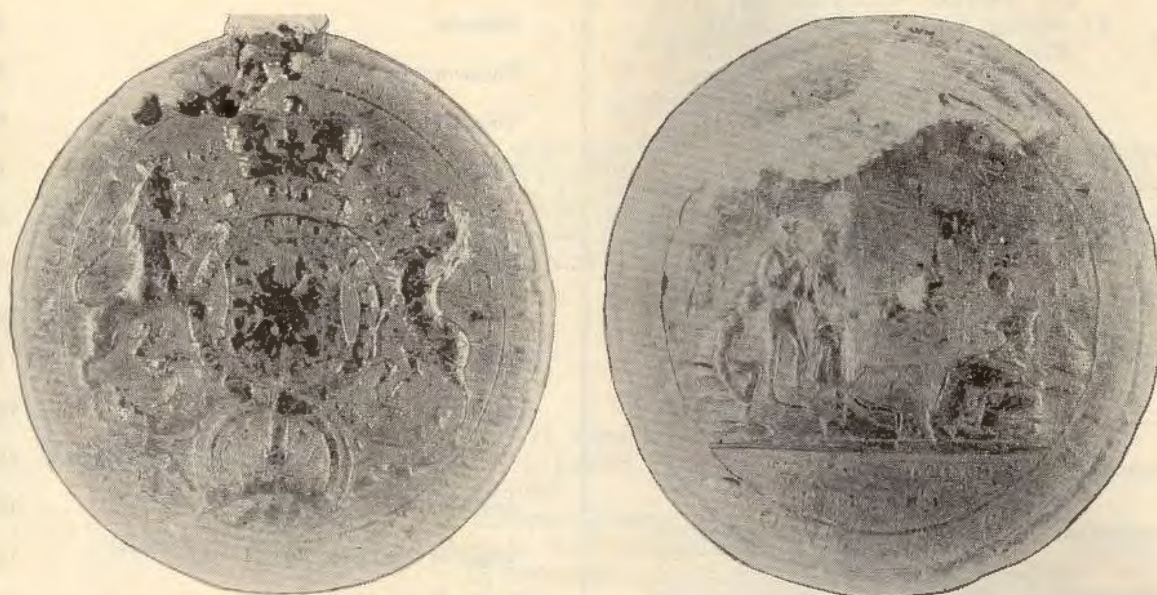
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Office Bearers, Objects and	
Membership Inside Front and Back Covers	

The front-cover design (symbolising the arrival of the Second Fleet) and headings to articles in this Journal were specially drawn for the Fellowship of First Fleeters by Mr. ARTHUR S. MENDEL, of 53 Henry Street, Five Dock.

THE FIRST GREAT SEAL OF THE COLONY



Photocopy from the original, attached to deed of grant of land to Edward Varndell (22nd February, 1792), in the Mitchell Library.

On the 21st September, 1791, H.M.S. Gorgon arrived in Port Jackson with the Great Seal of the Colony.

On the obverse of this Seal is the King's Arms and on the margin the Royal titles. On the reverse is a representation of convicts landing at Botany Bay, received by Industry, who, surrounded by her attributes — a bale of merchandise, a pick-axe and shovel — is releasing the convicts from their fetters and pointing to oxen ploughing and a town rising on the summit of a hill, with a fort for its protection. The masts of a ship are seen in the Bay. In the margin are the words: "Sigillum Nov. Camb. Aust." (Seal of New Wales, Australia), and for a motto: "Sic fortis Etruria crevit" (Let Etruria grow stronger) — no doubt a quotation from Virgil.

The original Seal was made of silver and weighed 40 ounces. (A new Territorial Seal arrived in the Colony on the 14th November, 1817.)

EDITORIAL

THE TRUE GLORY!

As is made clear elsewhere in this Journal, it is quite useless, and utterly pointless, to "hide one's head in the sand" and pretend to ignore our lowly beginning.

Why should we be ashamed of our convict ancestors? The Australian nation was, unquestionably, firmly settled through the efforts of quite a big proportion of such people, most of whom toiled and sweated under conditions of which we can have little conception.

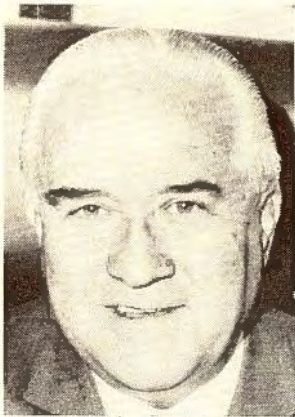
The practical results of the efforts of the original First Fleeters and those who followed them in their new country, and the degree of triumph over past personal errors (where such existed), should determine our present-day appraisal of their worth — for all purposes.

Our forefathers did marvellously well and handed us a noble heritage.

Today, we must ask ourselves whether *we* are are doing our part or whether *we* are falling short of what we might do to hand on to *our* children an upbringing and a heritage as adequate for their time as that handed on to us for our time and generation.

In the words of Sir Francis Drake, before action:—

"O Lord God: When Thou givest to Thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished which yieldeth the true glory."



The Hon. R. W. Askin, M.L.A.,
Premier and Treasurer of N.S.W.



Premier of New South Wales

I read with great interest the first issue of "First Fleeters", and I compliment the editor of the journal and members of the Fellowship on an excellent production.

The magazine will provide an important community service by reminding us of our duty to honour our pioneers and recalling historical facts with which many of us are not as well acquainted as we should be.

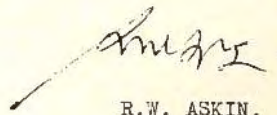
I am not one of those who think that reflecting upon the past is an idle pursuit.

My view is in line with that of the English statesman Edmund Burke, who wrote: "People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backwards to their ancestors."

The pioneers of the First Fleet occupy a unique place in our history and our affections, particularly in N.S.W.--the First State.

With the First Fleeters came much of the faith and courage, the tenacity and endurance that has transformed, in the space of 181 years, an unknown land into a great nation with a boundless future.

I warmly support the Fellowship's aims and objectives and I wish it well.


R.W. ASKIN.



"THIS LAND of WONDER"

By ALEC CHISHOLM, O.B.E.,
F.R.Z.S., former President Royal Australian Historical Society and a noted
Historian and Zoologist.

prove of the smallest use or advantage", so that the best thing to do was to close down the settlement and withdraw all its people — "at least, such as are living".

Now, when considering White's "execration and curses", two things have to be said in his favour. One is that when he wrote his note of desperation the settlement was, and had been for quite a while, in a state of near-famine, and that fact, combined with overwork and the paucity of congenial company, made him sick at soul. Furthermore, and this point certainly eases the "execration", the surgeon-general later retracted his drastic criticism of the country: he emphasised that it had been written in a time of severe stress and he added a favourable prediction concerning Australia's future.

In any event, as I have mentioned in the editorial introduction to the modern edition (1962) of White's "Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales", there is ample reason to excuse his outburst, and perhaps that of Ross as well, on scenic grounds. For, in their day, the environs of Port Jackson must have seemed not only unfriendly, but distinctly forbidding. Here, instead of the green and orderly landscape to which they had been accustomed in Britain, were masses of gnarled sandstone fashioned into a multitude of ridges and gullies, backed to westward by a mountain range of a similar nature; and upon all the ridges there grew, not grass and trees like oaks and elms, but numerous strange shrubs and, in particular, a curious smooth-barked tree that came to be known as *Angophora*, the "Sydney redgum".

All that was, as I say, singularly uninviting. Indeed, some parts of the landscape, within easy distance of what is now a great city, are apt to bewilder people of today — as, for example, when they are taken into a deep gully to view the nest of a lyrebird. It is

During 1788, that year of throb in Australian records, two eminent men of the First Fleet set down their opinions, in forthright and indeed pungent fashion, of the surroundings of Port Jackson.

"I do not scruple to pronounce that in the whole world there is not a worse country than what we have yet seen of this." So wrote Deputy-Governor Robert Ross. And for good measure he added, "All that is contiguous to us is so very barren and forbidding that it may with truth be said here Nature is reversed."

That pronouncement, expressed in a letter to the Under-Secretary of the Home Department (Nepean), was more or less typical of Ross; for he was a peevish and disgruntled fellow at all times and was bedevilled by thoughts of his "very small tho' numerous family" in England. Surprisingly, however, sentiments in accord came from the Surgeon-General, John White, who in fact got around a good deal and displayed some interest in natural history.

"This," White declared tersely, "is a country and place so forbidding and hateful as only to merit execration and curses." And after unburdening himself of that blast he allowed it to be known that there was "not a single article in the whole country that could

sufficiently understandable that naturalists, with their special interest in plants and birds, are more or less at ease in such places, but some of the uninitiated — including those fellows who boast, unjustifiably, "I know my Sydney" — are apt to share in lonely spots the opinions of both Ross and White.

Incidentally, maybe it was fortunate for those First Fleeters that the landscape they encountered was not the same as that presented by the region some thousands of years earlier. Then the general aspect was even more "forbidding", and it was equipped with huge birds and mammals, including a giant emu and another outsize bird termed *Genyornis*, together with strange beasts such as the diprotodon, the thylacoleo, and the nototherium. Life would have been more exciting for early settlers had those massive inhabitants of Australia lived on into modern times.

As matters were, of course, any keen eyes among the First Fleeters and their immediate successors were able to see a wide variety of curious plants, birds, and mammals not known elsewhere. Surgeon-General White developed considerable interest in this flora and fauna as he became more experienced. So did various others of the period, notably an acting-Governor of 1794, William Paterson. But the man who, most of all, manifested appreciation of the local nature scene was not an officer but an exile.

That man was Thomas Fyshe Palmer. A clergyman, Palmer was one of the "Scottish martyrs", a group of men who were banished to New South Wales for expressing views out of harmony with the ideas of men then ruling Britain. Being under duress, the exiled parson may well have been expected to be, in general, thoroughly disconsolate. Instead, he found much to interest him, and, writing from his flimsy hut in Sydney on 15th December, 1794, to a friend in England, he said so quite emphatically.

"To a philosophic mind," Palmer wrote, "this is a land of wonder and delight. To him it is a new creation; the beasts, the fish, the birds, the reptiles, the plants, the trees, the flowers are all new — so beautiful and grotesque that no naturalist would believe the most faithful drawings, and it requires uncommon skill to class them."

What a fanfare that was! Clearly enough, although the expelled Thomas F. Palmer may have been considered a martyr, he was now, under the spell of Sydney's distinctive scene.

Thomas in Wonderland!

We need not doubt that many people in Britain had their ideas concerning New South Wales changed by the Palmer enthusiasm: changed to a realisation that although the environs of Port Jackson may have seemed formidable, they had a character and an interest all their own. Doubtless, too, a further statement from the same source made a deep impression — a statement to the effect that both the climate and the soil of the new colony were very pleasing, to which was added the opinion that, "by a little longer continuance of good sense, transportation here will soon become a blessing".

Along the years, of course, lots of Palmer-minded Australians have arisen, and many of them are continuing, even now, to find that the country near Port Jackson is still, in effect, "a new creation". Moreover, it is perhaps appropriate to add that when Angus and Robertson, the Sydney publishers, assembled in 1964 an anthology of Australian nature writings, from the days of Joseph Banks onward, they drew upon the letter of the good Thomas Palmer and called their book *LAND OF WONDER*.

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SYDNEY TOWN

As it was in the beginning — and 10 years later



A view of the Settlement on Sydney Cove, Port Jackson, 20th August, 1788. — From J. Hunter's "An Historical Journal of the Transactions at Port Jackson and Norfolk Island."



A direct south view of the town of Sydney, taken from the brow of the hill leading to the flagstaff, drawn ten years after the above illustration was executed. — From D. Collins' "An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales" — 1798.

—Both illustrations by courtesy of the Mitchell Library.

The First Fleeters

By ALFRED C. WOOD, B.A., author
of short plays: "Ship from Home" (re
Captain Tench), "No Turning Back"
(re Gregory Blaxland), etc.

Short time ago we crowded to the rail,
Scanning the tree-filled shore and glad to see
The firm earth resting in the dappled shade.
The ridge of free-stone beckoned and we
yearned

To tread the unfamiliar land. But now,
Aching for softer skies, we long to quit
This too-familiar close that walls us in
With boredom and with bitter loneliness.

We thought our yesterdays had sunk below
The many dim horizons that our ships
Spurned as they strained towards the southern
seas

Till they cast anchor here; but now we find
To-days are emptier than any dream,
While sterile hope produces no to-morrows,
And only visions of our yesterdays
At home in England keep our hopes alive.

We find no manna in this wilderness —
This strange and strident land, where raucous
birds

Shatter our sleep with laughter in the dawn;
Where shrill cicadas hidden in the leaves
Drown all our senses in a mighty flood
Of exultation, as they draw the sun
Towards the tree-tops; where the heat swoops
down

And tyrannously holds the silent noon
All breathless, gasping; where the gates of
night

Close ere the twilight scarcely has begun
To enter; and when to the heavens we gaze,
Even the constellations have been changed!

And yet some days we find ourselves surprised
By sudden beauty flashing out: the leaves
Glinting pure silver in the dewy light;
And there the Cove, a jewel slanting back
The sunbeams that it catches, while the sky
Remains a radiance of stainless blue,
And shadows shyly mould the leafy trusses
That round the tree-tops at the forest edge.

Then as we contemplate the fierce resolve
That drives the Governor, the prayer is born:
God grant that men in some more fruitful
year

May yet be grateful that he laboured here,
And planning, striving with a steadfast hand,
Compelled obedience from this wayward land.



Descendants of Convicts

By A. G. L. SHAW, Professor of History,
Monash University, Victoria.

Once upon a time, as the story books would say, many Australians tried to conceal their convict ancestry. Now they are rather proud of it. How many Australians are so descended? Since most people disbelieve in the inheritance of acquired characteristics, to seek the answer is a matter of curiosity rather than utility, but since purely utilitarian investigations are not the only ones of any interest, the reflections which follow may be not entirely unjustified.

A hundred or so years ago, when convict transportation was still a hot political question, was being continued to Western Australia, and had only recently after much controversy been stopped to Tasmania and even to Moreton Bay, and when "exclusive" conservatives wanted to abuse their more radical political opponents, the allegation of a convict "taint" was thought a provocative insult and might lead to trouble.

In fact this "taint" is probably a myth, like so many other national legends, and is little more applicable to Australians than to any other "civilised" community. Law-breakers exist everywhere, and they commonly have children. What distinguished Australia in the early days was that owing to the enormous male predominance in the population, so few

of them did so. In the 1830's the crime rate in Australia might be nearly three times as high as in the United Kingdom (though the standard of measurement, convictions per head of population in non-summary trials is admittedly somewhat unsatisfactory), and the proportion of the population who had at some time been convicted of a criminal offence might be nearly ten times as great; but the number of males in the population varied between two and three times the number of females, instead of being approximately equal.

How many male convicts then remained unmarried? This we cannot say accurately. If they were to represent the average in the community the answer would be nearly two-thirds, but this would be probably too low. Presumably, when they have a choice, brides prefer a groom without a criminal record to one who has, and up to 1860, or even later, Australian brides were in a position to be exceptionally choosy. Hence we may expect the proportion of unmarried male convicts and emancipists to be far higher than the proportion of all unmarried males. How much higher is the unknown factor, but it seems clear enough that, owing to the masculinity of the population, the proportion of the community sired by felons would be only about twice as high in Australia as it was in the United Kingdom, even though the proportion of criminals in the community was much higher. Of course the children of every female convict necessarily had convict blood; but only about fifteen per cent of the convicts were women — 25,000 in all; many had no children, and many who did marry had convict husbands.

We know that in New South Wales in 1848 there were 17,000 persons, at least one of whose parents had been a convict. There would by then be a small number of people whose **parents** had been free, and so who would not have been included in this total, even though their **grandparents** had been convicts. There would also be born, after 1848, a number of children to ex-convict parents — so that in 1850 there might be about 20,000 people, or possibly a few more, descended from transported felons.

In Van Diemen's Land transportation continued longer. In all, about 12,500 women criminals were sent out there. It is certain that some male convicts married free women, but for the reason already mentioned in relation to New South Wales, most free women, since they had a choice, would have preferred a free-born husband, and if we reckon, as perhaps we might, that the number of male convicts who married free women approximately equal to the number of convict women who were childless we could ignore both. This leaves us to count the female convict mothers, and if on the average each had two children who survived past adolescence, there would be some 25,000 in Tasmania to hand on their convict heredity.

This gives a total for the two convict colonies of rather less than 50,000 people, and though such an estimate very clearly is uncertain — so uncertain that some would describe it as worthless — it gives at least some idea of the order of magnitude involved. In 1850, on the eve of the gold rush, the total Australian population was about 400,000. Nearly 150,000 were inhabitants of the then non-convict colonies of South Australia, Western Australia, and the about-to-be-separated Port Phillip district (Victoria); about 130,000 were free immigrants, whether assisted or not, who had arrived since 1830, to which their progeny must be added — say 50,000. Adding in the 70,000 still under sentence in Van Diemen's Land, we get confirmation of the figure of about 50,000 free people then in Australia of convict descent.

What has happened a century later? How many descendants are there in Australia of this 50,000 say four generations later? Some will have emigrated, some inter-married, some died childless, some multiplied enormously. But presumably there is some sort of "average" family. Taking this at two (though this is

an arbitrary figure) the descendants increasing in geometric progression would in four generations number about 800,000 (and incidentally nearly 10,000 from those who came in the First Fleet). This means that the order of one in fifteen of today's population is descended from a convict transported from the United Kingdom — not many more, one would suspect than descendants of those who have brushed with the law since their forebears arrived here in any capacity, nor proportionately many more than those similarly situated in any other community.

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA, FAIR!

* "There must be some sort of engine pushing things along. Perhaps not one engine but a great many engines; not just the Government or a few leaders or one section of the people, but the whole lot of us, every grown man and woman, putting a bit of thrust into the country. That's the only way to get a nation moving in the right direction because the right direction is always — at least a little — uphill!

* "Australia has in the coming year, as in the past, a great part to play in her own interest, not only in assuring her own vital security, but in buttressing, morally, economically and even militarily that of her still free neighbours.

* "We can't have an Australia that is good for some of us and bad for the rest of us; one part prosperous and another wretched. In the end it will be good for all Australians or good for none.

* "The common object of all Australians must be something bigger than the individual, something bigger than any of us. It is the unity, strength and prosperity of Australia and the freedom and happiness of all its people. By that we should judge."

—Extracts from an address by Field Marshall Sir William Slim, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., G.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., when he was Governor General of Australia.

THE CONVICTS



A Government jail gang. — From A. Earle's "Views in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land" — 1830.



A gang of convicts carrying bundles. — From "Sketches of Australian Life and Scenery" (no date).

—Both of the above illustrations are reproduced by courtesy of the Mitchell Library.



Governors of N.S.W. 1788 — 1846

(A regular form of Government was established on the 7/2/1788)

Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N., from 26th January, 1788 to 10th December, 1792.

Major Francis Grose (Lieutenant-Governor), from 11th December, 1792 to 12th December, 1794.

Captain William Paterson, New South Wales Corps, (Lieutenant-Governor), from 13th December, 1794 to 1st September, 1795.

Captain John Hunter, R.N., from 7th September, 1795 to 27th September, 1800.

Captain Philip Gidley King, R.N., from 28th September, 1800 to 12th August, 1806.

Captain William Bligh, R.N., from 13th August, 1806 to 26th January, 1808.

During Governor Bligh's suspension, the Government was successively administered by:

Major George Johnston,

Major Foveaux and

Colonel William Paterson,

all of the N.S.W. Corps (afterwards 102nd Regiment) from 26th January, 1808 to 28th December, 1809.

Major-General Lachlan Macquarie, from 1st January, 1810 to 1st December, 1821.

Major-General Sir Thomas M. Brisbane, K.C.B., from 1st December, 1821 to 1st December, 1825.

Colonel W. Stewart, 3rd Regiment of Buffs (Administrator), from 6th December, 1825 to 18th December, 1825.

Lieut.-General Ralph Darling, from 19th December, 1825 to 21st October, 1831.

Colonel P. Lindesay, C.B. (Administrator), from 22nd October, 1831 to 2nd December, 1831.

Major-General Sir Richard Bourke, K.C.B.,



Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N., the first Governor of New South Wales.

from 3rd December, 1831 to 5th December, 1837.

Lieut.-Colonel K. Snodgrass (Administrator), from 6th December, 1837 to 23rd February, 1838.

Sir George Gipps, from 24th February, 1838 to 11th July, 1846.

Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell (Administrator), from 12th July, 1846 to 2nd August, 1846.

THE GRAVES

OF OUR EARLY AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

(The first of a series)

*"I like that ancient Saxon
phrase which calls
The burial ground God's Acre!"*
—Longfellow.



**Lieutenant-Colonel
George Johnston**

Soldier and farmer, George Johnston was born in Annandale, Scotland on the 19th March, 1764.

Becoming a Second-Lieutenant in the 45th Company of Marines in 1776 (!), he served at New York and Halifax and in 1781 saw action against the French in the East Indies, where he was badly wounded.

Johnston sailed in the "Lady Penrhyn", with the marine detachment, arriving in Sydney Cove on the 26th January, 1788.

When the marines were relieved in 1790, Johnston, now a Captain-Lieutenant, was chosen by Governor Phillip as the "most deserving" marine officer to raise a company that would be annexed to the incoming New South Wales Corps.

He was promoted to Brevet-Major in 1800. Other positions of responsibility held by him included being Phillip's Adjutant of Orders, Hunter's Aide-de-Camp and Commanding Officer of the Corps during the long absences from Sydney of Lieut-Colonel Paterson.

The critical point in Johnston's colonial career was his decision on the 26th January, 1808, to assume the Lieutenant-Governorship and to arrest, and depose, Governor Bligh. Johnston subsequently returned to England, and (in June, 1811) was court-martialled, found guilty and suffered the mild penalty of being cashiered.

Continued on page 23



—The two photographs accompanying this article were taken by Mr. Charles Sweeney.

Within the last few years, Mr. Sweeney has performed the outstanding and painstaking task of photographing over 300 graves of our country's pioneers.

Quite a lot of his work has found its way into the Mitchell Library, National Trust, Royal Australian Historical Society and the Society of Australian Genealogists.





ARABANOO AND HIS PEOPLE

Article and Illustration by DOROTHY MONTY

"Large numbers of Indians," reported Captain Cook after his visit to Botany Bay. Governor Phillip also spoke of many "Indians" at the Bay and around Port Jackson. As exploration parties made their way along the coastline, up the Hawkesbury River and into the country around Parramatta, they met with many more groups of Aborigines hunting and fishing. As evening fell on the settlement at Sydney-town, wisps of smoke from many native campfires could be seen in every quarter.

What happened to all these Aborigines? Why did they disappear? The sad fact is that they were decimated by smallpox.

Smallpox is still described as "one of the world's most dreaded plagues". Prompt diagnosis is of the highest importance to prevent its spread throughout a community. Enlightened sanitary practices, vaccine and refrigeration for keeping that vaccine with speedy transport to infected areas for doctors to administer the vaccine, have all helped reduce this scourge.

In 1949, there were no cases of smallpox reported in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, but the rest of the world was not so fortunate. Africa had the most cases of smallpox: in Nigeria alone, 14,790 cases were notified and of these 2,224 proved fatal.

Contagion, from contact direct or indirect with a preceding case causes the spread of smallpox. There are no animal carriers or natural propagation of the virus outside the human body. But there were no cases of smallpox among the passengers arriving in the first fleet, in fact no case of smallpox occurred after the vessels sailed from England. "The virus may be carried passively by a third person, himself immune, from a sick person or from a corpse." Apparently it was such a carrier amongst the first fleeters who introduced smallpox to Sydney-town's Aborigines.

The arrival of the first white men in Australia was not welcomed by the indigenous natives. Because of their uncertain behaviour and petty warfare with the colonists, Gov-

ernor Phillip decided to capture some of these "Indians". He wanted to show them that they would meet with no harm at the hands of the white men, if only they would be friendly. On December 31, 1788, two boats were sent down the harbour to Manly Cove, where two aborigines were seized. So desperate were their struggles that one escaped. The other, fastened by ropes to the thwarts of the boat, set up the most piercing and lamentable cries of distress.

Brought to the settlement, all Sydney-town flocked to gaze at their "first" native. An eye-witness tells us: "His voice was soft and musical; to our ladies he quickly became extraordinarily courteous — a sure sign that his terror was wearing off. He dined at a side-table at the Governor's; and eat heartily of fish and ducks, which he first cooled. He would drink nothing but water. On being shewn that he was not to wipe his hands on the chair which he sat upon, he used a towel, which was gave to him, with great cleanliness and decency". His name was Arabanoo. He quickly became resigned to his fate and even enjoyed his notoriety. He appreciated the plentiful food given to him and amazed the colonists with the quantity he could put away — "eight fish, each weighing about a pound constituted his breakfast".

Arabanoo soon developed a very real affection for Governor Phillip. He was taken two months later by the Governor down the harbour to farewell the Supply. Arabanoo became terrified, fearing that he would be

shipped away to some unknown land. He plunged overboard and struck out for the nearest shore. Attempting to dive, he found his new clothes too buoyant and was soon recaptured. When the farewelling party started back to Sydney and Arabanoo discovered he was going back too, his joy was unbounded.

By April of 1789 reports of sickness among the natives began filtering into the colony. Then bodies were found floating in the harbour. The doctors confirmed: it was small-pox.

Under the Governor's orders, sick Aborigines received all care and attention. Arabanoo soothed and reassured them and assisted in every way possible. In recognition of this behaviour, he was freed from restraint and the fetter removed from his leg. He made no attempt to escape.

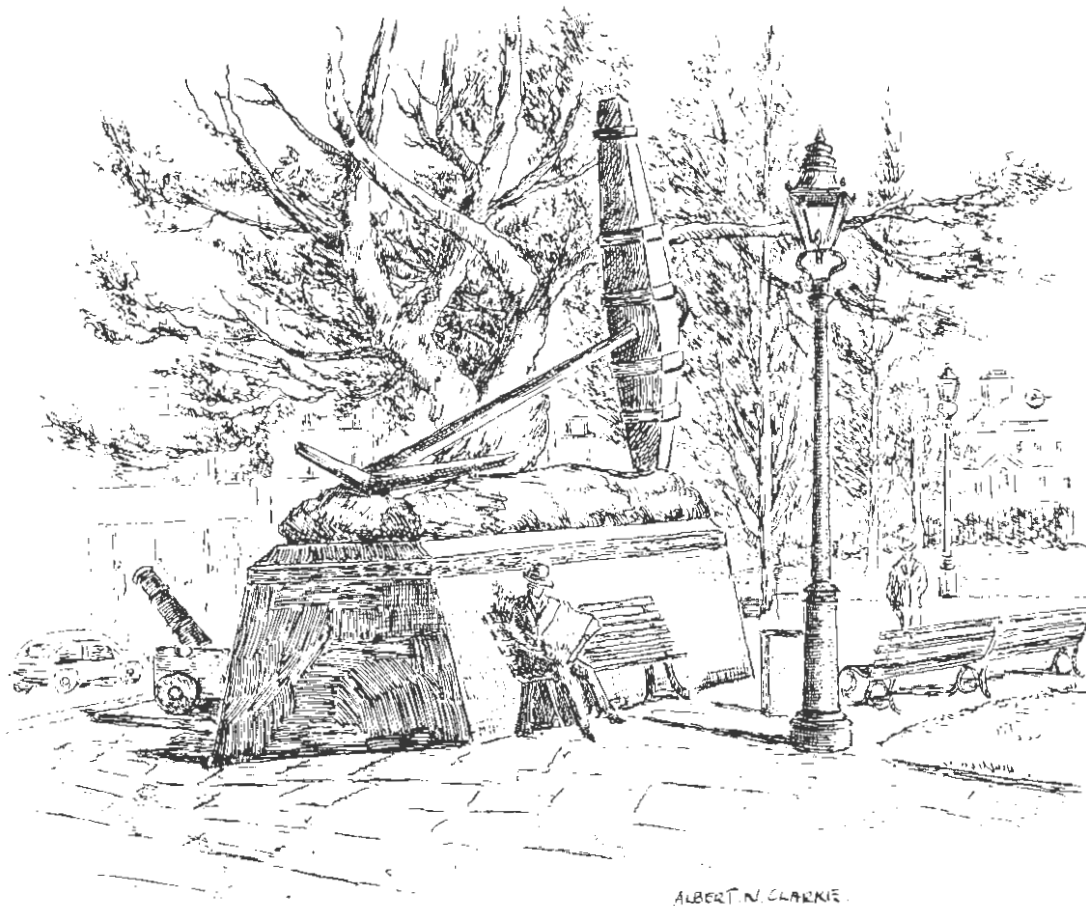
Unfortunately, Arabanoo contracted small-pox and died on May 18, 1789, after languishing for six days. Everything possible had been done for him during his illness and his complete confidence in his erstwhile captors was touching. "Although a stranger to medicine, and nauseating the taste of it, he swallowed with patient submission innumerable drugs, which the hope of relief induced us to administer to him. The governor, who particularly regarded him, caused him to be buried in his own garden, and attended the funeral in person."

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THE FIRST FLEET . . .

When the First Fleet sailed into the English Channel on the 13th May, 1787, it was made up of the following ships:—

	Tons	Commander
Sirius, H.M.S. (Ex Berwick)	520	Phillip
Supply (armed tender)	170	Ball
TRANSPORTS		
Alexander	452	Sinclair
Charlotte	335	Gilbert
Friendship	274	Walton
Lady Penrhyn	333	Lever
Prince of Wales	350	Mason
Scarborough	430	Marshall
STORE SHIPS		
Borrowdale	275	Hobson
Golden Grove	375	Sharp
Fishburn	378	Brown



THE SIRIUS

—Drawing by Albert N. Clarke, author of "Pen Points of Old Sydney", "Historic Sydney and N.S.W.", etc.

A few steps from the flag-pole illustrated on page 15 of the January issue of "First-Fleeters" stands, in a small triangular park — known as Macquarie Place — the anchor of H.M.S. "Sirius" (ex "Berwick", 520 tons), a relic of the epic voyage of the eleven ships of the First Fleet.

The "Sirius" was wrecked at Point Ross, Norfolk Island, on the 19th March, 1790, but it was not until 1907 that the anchor was recovered and erected in Macquarie Place.

A Diary

(Continuing from the previous issue of "First-Fleeters", a chronological account of interesting happenings in the early days of our Nation.)

**How many Australians know on what day of the week the 26th January, 1788 fell?
It was a Saturday!**

3rd February: It is generally thought that the first Christian Service was conducted by the Reverend Richard Johnson (first Chaplain to the Colony) on the Sunday following the raising of the Union Flag by Captain Phillip on the 26th January, 1788. This would make the first Sunday the 27th January.

As general disembarkation did not occur until *from* the 27th January, it is safe to assume that there was too much activity taking place on that Sunday to permit a Church Service being even considered.

It can accordingly be taken that the first Service was held, under a tree on the western side of Sydney Cove, on Sunday, 3rd February, 1788.

February weather: In the weeks following the 26th January, 1788, the weather was fairly stable, but the days then became very hot, with tremendous claps of thunder, lightning and heavy rain occurring on many of the evenings.

On one such storm, lightning struck a tree, under which a shed had been erected for the sheep. Five of the animals were killed.

The heavy rains emphasised the necessity of arranging adequate shelter for the people in the settlement as soon as possible.

With only 15 carpenters available from the ships and 12 convicts who knew something about the trade (and several of these were ill), the erection of buildings started off at a serious disadvantage. One hundred convicts were inducted as labourers, but despite every effort it was found impossible to complete either the barracks for the men, or the huts for the officers as soon as was desired. As late as the middle of May, these buildings were still unfinished, as well as the hospital and the storehouse for those provisions still on board some of the ships.



The Governor, himself, at that time was lodged in a temporary "house of canvas" which was not perfectly impervious either to wind or weather.

11th February: The first sittings of the Court of Criminal Jurisdiction in Australia were held.

One prisoner was sentenced to receive 150 lashes and another was confined on Rock Island ("Pinchgut") for a week on bread and water. A photocopy of the original record of this case will be found on page 26.

14th February: A party, under the command of Lieutenant Philip Gidley King, left Port Jackson on the "Supply" to settle on a small island to the north-west of New Zealand, discovered and much commended by Captain Cook and by him named Norfolk Island, in honour of the noble family to which that title belongs.

The establishment was required by the "Home Authorities" to prevent it being occupied by the subjects of any other European power.

16th February: Settlement of the then Government Farm, called Rose Hill — a name to be changed to Parramatta on the 14th June, 1791.

Late February: A criminal court was convened, in which six convicts were sentenced to death. One, who was the head of the gang, was executed the same day, one was pardoned and the rest were reprieved and banished to Pinchgut — on bread and water.

These men had frequently robbed the Government stores and fellow-convicts.

March: The first bricks were made in Australia, at Brickfield Hill.

An emu ran through the Settlement and was shot. It stood 7 ft. 4 in. high.

2nd March: Governor Phillip, with a long-boat and cutter, proceeded to examine the broken land mentioned by Captain Cook and located about eight miles to the northward of Port Jackson and named Broken Bay.

9th March: Phillip returned to Port Jackson, "having gained some useful knowledge of the country and maintained an intercourse with the natives without departing from his favourite plan of treating them with the utmost kindness".

10th March: The French ships, the "Boussle" and the "Astrolabe", sailed from Botany Bay, where they had been anchored from the 25th January.

Although the French and English had been too busy to indulge in "parties of pleasure" by visiting each other, Captain Clonard did find time to wait on Governor Phillip, with letters which he desired should be forwarded to the French Ambassador. A few English officers had gone over to Botany Bay by land about the same time. Both parties were received with politeness and hospitality.

Some convicts, hoping the French might assist them to escape, absconded from the Settlement and sought to be taken aboard the French ships, but they were, "with great propriety", rejected.

15th March: A terrible squall of wind, accompanied by thunder, lightning and rain. The thermometer then fell from 80 degrees to 50 degrees.

25th March: The transports "Charlotte", "Lady Penrhyn" and "Scarborough" having been cleared of their stores, were discharged from Government service and were left at liberty to proceed to China, which course they took on the 5th, 6th and 8th May, to take in a cargo of tea (at Canton) for the East India Company.

The first convicts to escape from Port Jackson by sea were taken away by the "Charlotte".

6th April: A female convict, detected stealing a flat-iron, tried to hang herself to the ridge pole of her tent, but was cut down, alive.

1st May: At this date, the Colony mustered 1 stallion, 3 mares, 3 colts, 2 bulls, 5 cows, 29 sheep, 19 goats, 74 pigs (49 hogs, 25 sows), 5 rabbits, 18 turkeys, 29 geese, 35 ducks, 122 fowls and 87 chickens.

6th May: The "Supply" tender sailed for Lord Howe Island in the hope of catching some turtles to help check scurvy in the Colony, 200 persons at the time being rendered unable to work by this complaint. No turtles were caught and the "Supply" returned to Port Jackson on the 25th May.

15th May: The first stone of a building to be used as a temporary Government House was laid.

30th May: Two men who had been employed in collecting rushes for thatch and beds for the horses (at some distance from the camp — Rushcutters Bay,) were found dead. One had four spears in his body.

This tragedy was brought on by the men who had, despite adjurations from the Governor, interfered with the natives by taking a canoe from one of their fishing places.

4th June: To celebrate the King's birthday, the 4th of June became a "day of remission from labour and of general festivity throughout the Settlement". At sunrise, the "Sirius" and the "Supply" each fired a salute of 21 guns, which was repeated at 1.00 p.m. and again at sunset.

Large bonfires were lit and the whole camp "afforded a scene of joy".

That there might not be any exception to the happiness of the day, the four convicts who had been reprieved from death in February were given a full pardon and brought back to the camp to bear their part in the general exultations.

In a report at the time, "The Governor, in his letters, with that humanity which so strongly distinguishes his character, says he trusts that on this day there was not a single heavy heart in this part of his Majesty's dominions. His own house was the centre of conviviality to all who could be admitted to that society, nor was anything neglected which in such a situation could mark a day of celebrity, consistently with propriety and good order."

Perhaps no birthday was ever celebrated in more places, or more remote from each other, than that of his Majesty on this day.

It was on this day that it was proposed Albion should take the place name of Sydney.

22nd June: The first earthquake was recorded. It only lasted two or three seconds and was felt by most people in the Settlement.

The Governor reported that he had heard a noise to the south, when the tremor took place, which he took at first to be the report of guns fired at a great distance. Someone with imagination has left us with the further report that "the earth teemed with a sulphurous odour for some time after".

24th June: A convict who had absconded on the 5th June, having been guilty of a robbery, returned to the camp in a starved condition. He had hoped to subsist in the bush!

June: Through the negligence of a convict, the whole of the horned cattle in the Settlement (then two bulls and four cows) strayed into the bush and were lost.

30th June: A Return, covering the Settlement at this date, compiled by Surgeon White, disclosed this information:

Under medical treatment:

Total belonging to the battalion (including wives and children of marines) 36
Convicts and their children 66

Convicts unfit for labour, from old age, infirmities, etc. 52

Deaths:

Total marines dead (including wives and children) from time of embarkation to the 30/6/1788 8

Total of convicts dead (males and females and children of convicts) from time of embarkation to landing at Sydney Cove 45

Deaths of convicts and their children between 26/1/1788 and 30/6/1788 .. 36

9th July: Some 20 natives armed with spears, came down to the spot where men from the Settlement were fishing and violently seized the greater part of the fish, still in the nets.

14th July: Lieutenant Shortland, in the "Alexander" transport, left Port Jackson in company with the transports, "Friendship" and "Prince of Wales" and the store ship "Borrowdale". A gale sprang up soon after they cleared Sydney Heads and the "Borrowdale" and "Prince of Wales" were separated from the other two vessels and driven to the southward. They then squared away and made for Rio de Janeiro, via Cape Horn. By the time they reached the vicinity of Rio, the crews were in such a state of

extreme debility and exhaustion that only the timely appearance of a frigate enabled them to work the ships into port.

Meanwhile, the "Alexander" and "Friendship" were making their way towards Batavia. Scurvy broke out on board both ships and so many men died it was decided to take the survivors on board the "Alexander" and then scuttle the "Friendship". This was done off the island of Borneo on the 28th October. By the time the "Alexander" reached Batavia only one man was able to go aloft.

30th September: The provisions remaining in the Government Stores, Sydney Cove, at this date consisted of:

Flour: 414,176 lbs, equal to 62 weeks' ration.

Rice: 51,330 lbs, equal to 15 weeks' ration.

Beef: 127,608 lbs, equal to 43 weeks' ration.

Pork: 214,344 lbs, equal to 128 weeks' ration.

Butter: 15,450 lbs, equal to 49 weeks' ration.

Pease: 2,305 bushels, equal to 58 weeks' ration.

Number of persons victualled:

Men 698

Women 193

Children 42

933

2nd October: With the food supply in the Settlement running low, the "Sirius" left Port Jackson for Cape Town, intending to reach the Cape via the western route.

Roaring westerlies forced Captain Hunter to change his mind and proceed via Cape Horn. The "Sirius" reached Cape of Good Hope on the 2nd January, 1789.

November: The storeships "Fishburn" and "Golden Grove" sailed for England.

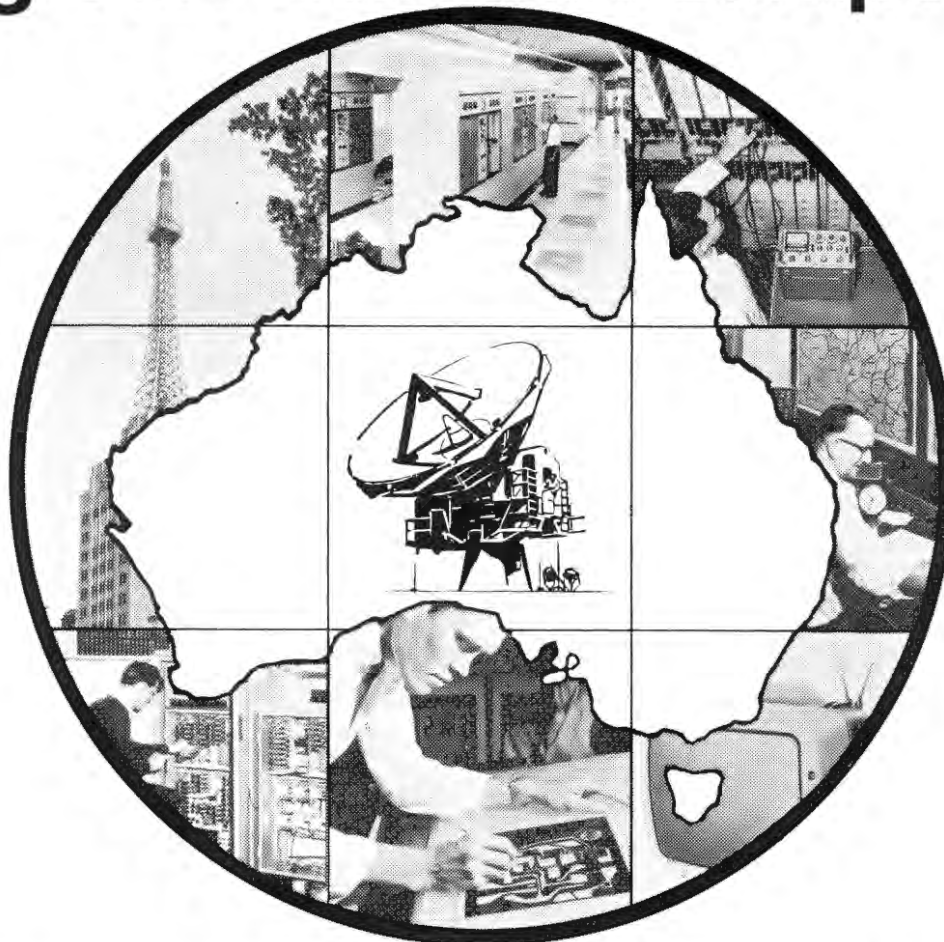
At this time, the officers in the Settlement were all domiciled in separate houses and the whole detachment comfortably lodged, though the barracks were not yet finished.

30th December: The keel of the first ship built in the Colony was laid. It was launched in September, 1789, and named the "Rosehill Packet".

Towards the end of 1788, the Port Jackson aborigines were not seen in such numbers as formerly. The reason, when discov-

Continued on page 29

a great Australian Company



At the annual meeting of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, the Chairman said: "As a principle, the board has considered it important to establish and foster in a proper way the Australian ownership of the company, which is now well over 90 per cent."

"Your board has consistently adopted the policy of building an industry which will provide three things: good return to the shareholders, good service to the public, good employment conditions."

This is the policy that has made AWA a great

Australian company — a company which competes successfully with large overseas corporations in all fields of electronics.

AWA is not only heavily engaged in manufacture, but has service obligations to defence, aviation, marine, space tracking and other authorities. It is also active in sound and television broadcasting, and in technical training.

The position which AWA enjoys in these fields is due, in no small measure, to the fact that it is Australian-owned and controlled.

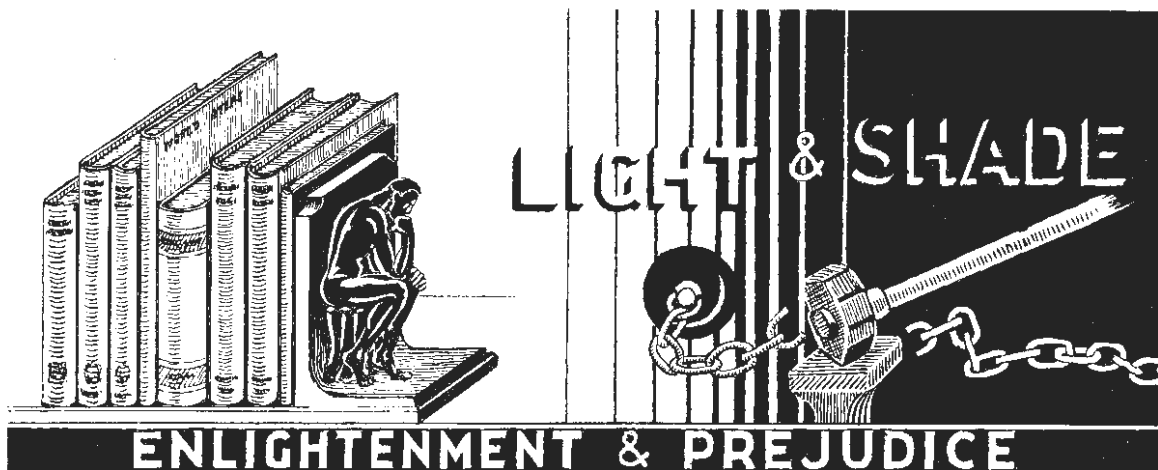
Every day in some way



you too are helped by AWA

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"Opening the Moomba book awards presentation, the Victorian Chief Secretary, Sir Arthur Rylah, said yesterday that there was a tendency for Australians to hide the past of the nation."

—The Australian, 1/3/69.

Whilst engaged in establishing the Fellowship of First Fleeters, the founder — John K. Lavett — became the target of quite a lot of antagonism and on occasions abuse.

Here is a typical letter, of many, received by Mr. Lavett, with a reply by Mr. T. Lawrence Wright — whose previous article: "The First Footprint", January, 1969 issue of "First Fleeters", has received considerable commendation.

"Well intentioned as your motives might be, you are evidently quite unaware of the great disservice you are doing this country which you profess to love. Quite obviously you fail to appreciate that however proud you may be of your forebears' associations with Australia's beginnings this is a stigma which, outside Australia, does us the greatest harm and it is something we will never live down while you and your Fellowship keep it alive.

"Australia's origins, starting with the sweepings from the prison hulks and other of Britain's overcrowded prisons, are nothing to be proud of, and while it is a fact that only a comparative few of us are descended from the First Fleeters, or the ships that followed, either as freemen or convicts, we all suffer from the stigma which the criminal element attaches to our history.

"If you have ever been overseas — even as far as New Zealand — you must know how damaging the stigma is to Australia and Australians. The only hope that the taint will eventually pass from us is by trying to forget it and to hope that with the passing of the years and the eventual watering down of the convict element by continued immigration our dubious origins will eventually be forgotten.

"That will never happen while your Fellowship continues to keep the stigma alive. As for the idea that descendants of convicts (or freemen) should be identified through your Fellowship taking part regularly year by year with Australia Day celebrations — that would be the greatest disservice you could do for Australia.

"I suggest that instead of being proud of your First Fleet forebears, you should try to realise just how damaging the stigma is to Australia, and because of it, to quietly disband your organisation. I personally can't imagine why you don't feel the urge to keep your associations with the First Fleet dark, rather than to advertise the fact."

The freedom to express our views is a democratic right won at great price, and its exercises have been, and for ever shall be, an instrument of progress. If Australia can move forward, under her own flag, for a thousand years, whatever the National circumstances may then be, let us hope this constitutional gift will still be a feature of life.

Out of history, its suffering and its progressive movement, emerged the freedom that a person may, and did, write his view, and was critical of the founder of the Fellowship of First Fleeters for his part in promoting the Fellowship.

The same precious freedom concedes me the right to answer and oppose the views so advanced.

The human race had its beginning somewhere . . . Scripture gives us the Garden of Eden. Millions upon millions of people accept this and in so doing accept the sin that accompanied our beginning. Should we be ashamed of this? If it were possible should

beings paying us a visit from another planet lay the mantle of shame upon us because of Eden?

If, on the other hand, evolution is the theory upon which our belief rests, should we be ashamed of those descendants from common ancestors who look at us from the cages of a zoo?

Should we be proud of the fact, whatever our origin, that we possessed the capacity, built from constant endeavour, to rise beyond a state belonging to the past?

When Moses decided to lead his people out of bondage, he commenced a task that as a facet of history will live forever. Through him, we have the Ten Commandments, and upon them have been based many of our laws of today. When he interpreted those laws to his followers, the reason was plain — there was the need because of human behaviour. We must accept this, and because criminal acts called for such law, are we to carry this shame forward to the race that gave so much wisdom, culture, art and science to our world?

The greatest Christian philosopher of all time was Jesus. He suffered the indignity of a searching enquiry before a tribunal, not graced by human feeling, and was handed over to the mob, where the finer feelings were almost absent. He was executed on a cross between two criminals. In all the suffering no bitterness marred His mind, and He forgave them, as He did His executioners. From it all emerged the beauty of a faith that will endure for ever. Must we carry the shadow of this tragedy forward and lay it upon Roman and Jew alike? Let us rather remember, millions of the descendants of those guilty people have faithfully tried to form a world state where such an injustice cannot happen. Partly, they have succeeded. Some day we will fully succeed.

Empires have risen on human butchery, piracy and general savagery. They fell because of sin, debauchery and greed. Should we feel ashamed of those who descended from those of that era? Should we honour them for the peaceful principles of today?

The stigma involved belongs to history, to a point in time that could only be attached to the present by an unfair mind.

If in the future, 100 years from now, a young man stands before a dignitary to receive an award of national importance, and the audience mightily applaud him, it could

be a happy occasion. If in a reply to this gesture, he were to say "My great-grandfather was a Convict", or "he was executed at Nuremberg as a war criminal, and I felt that I should study and perform to help build a better world, and I shall always try", should he be made to feel ashamed?

Should we be asked to believe that a convict sent to Australia for stealing a loaf of bread to relieve hunger, or poaching a rabbit from a private field, or a fish from a stream, did NOT pay clearly for his lapse?

If a convict with a spirit a little more venturesome than others risked an escape into the bush, and was captured or returned to the settlement, voluntarily, to endure the severe flogging that was the punishment, was his sin or breach of discipline more than the man who ordered the flogging? Personally, I should prefer the convict to the other as a distant relative.

I feel I am no better as a man because I am related to neither. Suppose one were related to a convict, whatever his crime, it is possible his parents were highly respectable people.

In disowning the one, the others would have to be disowned as well. Would that be fair or just? Would one expect criticism from the parents? Or condemnation of themselves for something on which they stood guiltless?

If we have no answer to this, I think little doubt exists as to the correct answer 200 years later.

If someone feels ashamed of a blood-tie with a convict and can find no one in the family line with a criminal record for say 100 years back from today, then I say that person is over sensitive. No Government department would deny one employment on that record. No stigma should reach so far, and no form of human analysis can support a theory that does.

If anyone, over-sensitive, feels that the convict element in the beginning of our history has damaged our prestige, then that person knows little about Australians.

If he feels we are lower in the social order than his country — because of this, then he knows less of his homeland than an intelligent person should.

Admitting that convicts were among our earlier settlers, is it to be inferred that we got all the criminals from any land? Or did we get just a small percentage. The convicts were

NOT Australians. If the few are a stigma on our history, what of the race of this British Isles where people, perhaps 95% of these criminals, were retained?

Should any citizen of any country believe we are less than they are because of our beginnings, then I advise a closer observation of their own history. Can it be suggested that there is ONE country on earth, without a percentage of criminals or ex-criminals? Can it be said that there is a city in the world where the entire population is free of a blood tie with criminals to some degree?

Will anyone suggest that it was ONLY in Australia that ex-criminals married and produced children?

Surely no one can seriously believe Australians alone are carrying the so-called stigma from wrong-doers. We must, if logical, realise that criminal acts are NOT confined to any one place or race.

The "First Fleeters" were injected into a new environment, but NOT into a society new to them, because apart from the Aborigines — there was NONE. There was no one for them to corrupt. Many years indeed, elapsed before the first mature real white Australians existed. Few of the "First Fleeters" would have survived to see even the first Australian full-grown white man. Within 40 years the first memories of the first settlers would have faded; by then the expanding colony had reached a point where individual characters would be forming — free of convict influence. Rather would I suggest that later convicts were being influenced by a society then maturing in this new world, and there is ample evidence that this was so.

The Fellowship of First Fleeters was not formed to pull humanity back to the time when convicted men and women walked side by side with a brutality and discipline inflicted upon them, often in a manner far more humiliating to the thinking person than the presence of convicts.

The Fellowship of First Fleeters will reveal the truth and by so doing bring a feeling of pride to many, as it tells the world of a greatness that grew upon so humble a beginning.

Because of what was, our Nation encouraged an intellect and a human understanding that humanitarian principles be insisted

upon, that no one must again be treated as so many were in by-gone days. This facet of history is not a thing to be covered up. It is not something to be pushed into a dark hole for our safety. If this were to be our attitude, to tell ourselves we never knew of this shadow, then we would not be sincere.

If we are to bring forgetfulness of this kind of thing to humanity, we must tear up all history and destroy all flags, so that future generations may live upon a plane of falseness.

If we have not the courage to look back, we will not have the courage to look forward. If our children never know the beginning, they will not appreciate the gulf between then and now, and the heroic effort that went into the bridge that spanned the points of time. Life, and all that lives, emerged from the mists of a humble beginning. That which some may regard as our weakness, to me seems a strength, bearing us still forward to greatness among the nations of the world.

Continued from page 13

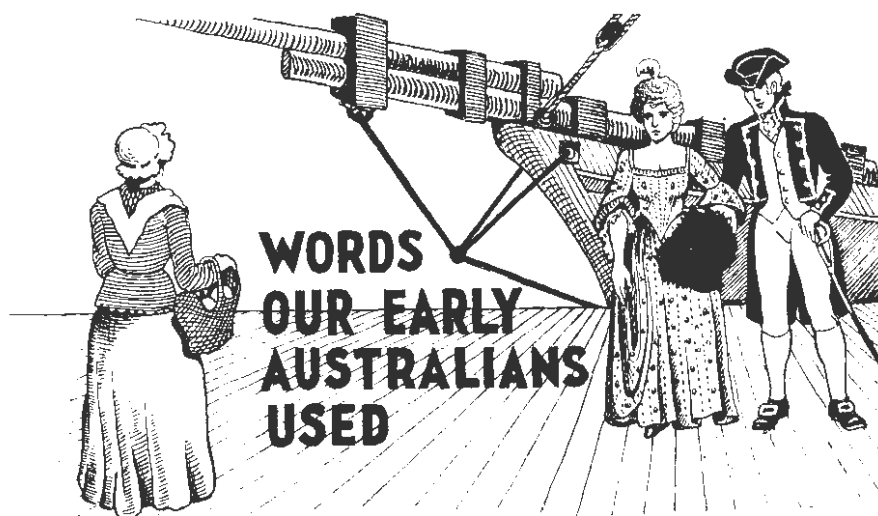
Based on Johnston's appeals and strongly supported by Hunter, the Colonial Office provided the cashiered officer with a return passage to New South Wales, where he arrived on the 30th May, 1813 with a direction that Macquarie treat him as he would "any other ordinary settler".

Esther "Julian" (nee Abrahams), a convict girl who had come in the same First-Fleet vessel as Johnston, lived with him from the time of their arrival in Sydney and presented him with a large family. Deeply devoted to Johnston and their family, Esther remained "through evil and through good report the faithful wife and companion".

Johnston died in 1823 (aged 58) and Esther followed in 1846 (aged 75).

Governor Macquarie ordered Francis Greenway to design Johnston's tomb, which was first erected at Annandale, but later moved to the Waverley Cemetery, where it may now be seen about the centre of the northern boundary.

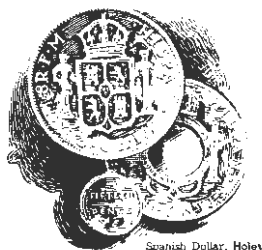
The inscriptions on Johnston's tomb enable the family to be traced almost to the present time, the most recent interment being in 1963.



DUMP: This was a small coin used in Australia in the country's early days.

In the 14th December 1822 issue of the "Hobart Town Gazette", the following Government Public Notice appeared, "The Quarter Dollars, or 'Dumps' struck from the centre of the Spanish Dollar and issued by His Excellency the Governor Macquarie, in the year 1813, at One Shilling and Threepence each, will be exchanged for Treasury Bills at Par or Sterling money."

In a January 1823 issue of the "Sydney Gazette" it is reported that: "The small colonial coin denominated dumps have all been called in. If the dollar passes current for five shillings the dump lays claim to fifteen pence value still in silver money."



HOLY DOLLAR: This was a running name given to a dollar out of which the Dump mentioned above had been punched.

In this form, the silver coin was variously called a holy (holey) dollar or a ring dollar, with a value of five shillings.

D. Bunce, writing in his "Australasiatic Reminiscences" (1857), clearly indicated the state of the country's early currency. He

said: "We were more particularly struck with the character and various kinds of currency. Our first change for a pound consisted of two dumps, two holy dollars, one Spanish dollar, one French coin, one half crown, one shilling and one sixpence."

JACK THE PAINTER: This reference to a very strong bush-tea was so-called because of the mark it left around the drinker's mouth.

In 1855, G. C. Mundy, in his book, "Our Antipodes", says: "Another notorious ration tea of the bush is called 'Jack the Painter' — a very green tea indeed, its veridity evidently produced by a discreet use of the copper drying-pans in its manufacture."

POST AND RAIL TEA was the name given to another doubtful beverage enjoyed (?) by our early Australians. It received its name from the appearance of the tea, which to someone with imagination resembled the posts and rails of the wooden fence seen so frequently in this country.

Again quoting G. C. Mundy ("Our Antipodes") . . . "A hot beverage in a tin pot, which richly deserved the colonial epithet of 'post-and-rail tea', for it might well have been a concoction of 'split stuff', or 'ironbark shingles', for any resemblance it bore to the Chinese plant."

CORNSTALK: A young man or a girl born and bred in New South Wales was called a cornstalk, especially if he or she was tall and big.

P. Cunningham, in his "Two Years in New South Wales" (1827) wrote: "The colonial-born, bearing also the name of cornstalks

(Indian corn), from the way in which they shoot-up".

LOGS: This was the "lock-up", or prison, originally (in the early days) a log hut, but it kept the name when the place was made more secure. Sometimes, when there was no lock-up, the prisoners were chained to heavy logs of trees. In 1802, G. Barrington recorded in his history of New South Wales:

"The Governor resolved on building a large log prison both at Sydney and Parramatta, and as the affair cried haste, a quantity of logs were ordered to be sent in by the various settlers, officers and others . . . the inhabitants of Sydney were assessed to supply thatch for the new gaol, and the building was enclosed with a strong high fence. It was 80 feet long, the sides and ends were of strong logs, a double row of

which formed each partition. The prison was divided into 22 cells. The floor and the roof were logs, over which was a coat eight inches deep of clay."

CABBAGE TREE: A term given to a large, low-crowned, broad-brimmed hat made out of the leaves of the Cabbage Tree (*Livistona*). G. Barrington tells us ("History of New South Wales, 1802"):

"This hat, made of white filaments of the cabbage-tree, seemed to excite the attentions of the whole party."

SHANGHAI-SHOT: Meant a short distance, or, as we would say now, a stone's throw.

In 1874, Garnet Walch in his book, "Head Over Heels", wrote:

"His parents . . . residing little more than a Shanghai-shot from Romeo Lane, Melbourne."

The New South Wales State Archives

By R. F. DOUST, B.A., F.L.A.A.,
Senior Archivist in the Archives Office
of New South Wales.

It is said that among the many more or less essential items which were accidentally left behind when the First Fleet set sail for Botany Bay were the lists of convicts, usually known as the Convict Indents. If this is so, they must have followed on the Second Fleet, for the originals are now among the State archives in the Archives Office of New South Wales. They are among the very earliest of the official records of the State which are preserved there, along with over 30,000 feet of valuable and important official documents.

Archives are records created as part of an administrative or executive transaction: the State archives of New South Wales are those, from among public records made or received by a public office and being no longer in current use in that office, which have been deposited for permanent preservation in the Archives Office of New South Wales.

The disposal of public records (loosely referred to as the records of government departments) in New South Wales is governed by the Archives Act of 1960, which provides that a public office wishing to dispose of any

of its records must first refer them to the Archives Authority of New South Wales, which may authorise destruction or may require all or some of them to be transferred to the Archives Office as State archives.

The Archives Authority is a statutory corporation of nine members set up under the Act to have the custody, management and control of the State archives. The membership of the Authority, prescribed by the Act, is fairly widely representative of the needs of both administration and research. It consists at present of a Judge of the Supreme Court, a member nominated by the presiding officers of Parliament, one nominated by the Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales, one nominated by the Public Service Board, one nominated by the Premier to represent public offices which are not within the scope of the Public Service Act, the Deputy Director-General of Education (who is the chairman), and three other members nominated by the Minister for Education to represent the Universities of Sydney, New South Wales and New England, and "such other his-

Record of the first Court proceedings in New South Wales, 11th February, 1788. — From the original in the Archives Office of N.S.W.

(Handwritten text, likely a transcript of the first Court proceedings in New South Wales, 11th February, 1788. The text is written in cursive and includes names like "Judge Advocate" and "Attorney General".)

torical and archival bodies as the Minister sees fit".

Because the State archives are, by definition, those permanently valuable records of public offices no longer required by them for current administrative purposes, they are a most valuable documentary source for historical, economic, social, scientific and other research, including local history and genealogy. There is scarcely any area of public or private life where the central government of the State has no interest, and its records reflect its concern with people, with places,

and with public and private institutions throughout New South Wales.

The State archives are, in general, "open" for research use thirty-five years after the records were created, and may be used, with the co-operation of the Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales, in the Mitchell Library Reading Room of the Public Library, by approved persons who are holders of a reader's ticket.

Readers' tickets are not at present issued to persons wishing to undertake research into their own family histories, to avoid very heavy

wear and tear on fragile documents which would lead to their early destruction, with consequent loss of unique information. However, the Archives Authority has embarked on a large scale project of copying this class of records, and in due course photographic copies of them will be available for use.

It should be pointed out in this connection that it is usually impracticable to make a genealogical search except by starting at the present time and working backwards, so that use of the very early original documents may be necessary only comparatively rarely; and in any case lists of the convicts on the First Fleet are fairly readily available in published works, in the Mitchell Library and elsewhere.

Various guides, lists and indexes serve as finding aids to the State archives and may be consulted in the Archives Office, but in general, because of the nature and quantity of the material involved, detailed indexing or cataloguing of individual documents has not been and will not be attempted.

Used either by themselves, or in conjunction with the wealth of manuscripts, pictures, printed books and other materials in the Mitchell Library, the State archives are a mine of information for historians and other students. Within reasonable limits the staff of

the Archives Office is able to assist readers with their inquiries, mostly by suggesting appropriate series of records to search; detailed searching of the records for specific pieces of information cannot, of course, be undertaken. On the other hand certain series of records are indexed, and the staff will advise on their use, and on any other problems in the use of the records.

Archives are not necessarily, old, although they may be; nor are they always handwritten documents. Books, plans, pictures, photographic negatives, cinematograph films, sound recordings, as well as loose documents may all be archives. Records of more than 100 past and present public offices are held in the State archives: they cannot be listed here, but include the archives of such offices as the Colonial or Chief Secretary, the Treasury, the Department of Lands, and the Department of Education, all of which, with others are major sources of research material. In many fields investigation without reference to the State archives would be incomplete, while in some they are the only source of information. They are, of course, mostly unique documents and therefore cannot be made available to all and sundry: the needs of serious research workers must be paramount.

LT. WILLIAM LAWSON Pioneer Explorer

By WILLIAM BEARD, author of several books of historical interest, including 12 verse narratives.

January the 26th is the most important date in the Australian calendar, for it was on that day in 1788 that Captain Arthur Phillip and his rather forlorn band of fettered and free landed and established the first British settlement in this country.

Phillip, our first Governor, was a man of great courage and vision, and it would be a fitting reward could he, by some magic means, take a present-day view of the wonderful city of Sydney. This second largest, and surely the fairest city in the Commonwealth of Nations, has a proud record of growth and achievement since that notable, historic event. Since those arduous days of its birth, it has developed into the Queen City of the Pacific. Few others match its beauty, and fewer communities enjoy so rich a heritage.



This Australian heritage, however, did not just happen. Whilst nature was generous to us, due credit for its enrichment must be given to the early navigators, explorers, pioneers, industrialists, skilled labourers, statesmen and reformers, who down the years



"Veteran Hall" — Lawson's home at Prospect, was so-named, following his association with the New South Wales Veterans Company. The building (with its 500 acres of land) was a 40-room mansion, erected in the early colonial style. The premises were demolished in 1929 to make way for Sydney's rapidly-growing water needs. Taken about 1911, the above photograph depicts a group of members of the Metropolitan Water Board, following an inspection of the property.

have contributed so much to its development.

A number of the former gave their lives whilst exploring the unknown parts of this great land, which, hitherto, had been the lone domain of dark-skinned natives and kangaroos, but which now produces vast quantities of food, wool and minerals — sustenance for those at home and for countless others who live in less-well-favoured countries.

Amongst that honoured band of explorer-pioneers whose services have not been sufficiently recognised, is one Lt. William Lawson.

Lawson, scion of an old Scottish family, was born at Finchley, Middlesex, England, on the 2nd of June, 1774. He was educated in London and later qualified there as a surveyor. In 1799 he bought a commission in the New South Wales Corps for £300 and the following year arrived in Sydney as an ensign. Not long after his arrival, he left for Norfolk Island, where he remained six years serving in that capacity.

Whilst there he married Sarah Leadbeater, of whom we know little save that she was reputed to be beautiful and vivacious. She bore him eleven children, four of whom died in infancy. The two eldest, John and William, were born on the island, while the third, Nelson, was born in the ship which carried them to Sydney. Soon after his return, Lawson's thoughts turned to farming. He secured a farm at Concord, on which he grazed a number of cattle given him by the Governor in part payment for services rendered. Early in 1808, soon after the Bligh Rebellion and the self-appointment of Major George Johnston as Lieutenant-Governor of the colony, the latter made Lawson a lieutenant, a magistrate, and his aide-de-camp. About the same time he was made Commandant at Newcastle.

In 1810 Lawson went to England to attend Major Johnston's trial; he returned in 1811, however, before the trial commenced. In 1812, Governor Macquarie, who had succeeded Bligh, made him an officer in the Veteran Corps, which was composed of officers in the now redundant New South Wales

Corps, who wished to remain in the colony. Lawson was also given a grant of 500 acres at Prospect and put in military command at Liverpool. On this property he built a home which he named Veteran Hall, a home which later he enlarged and improved into one of the fine mansions of the period. Unfortunately, it was demolished in 1929 by the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, and so another historical gem disappeared.

It was from this home in May, 1813, that he set out to join William C. Wentworth and Gregory Blaxland at the Nepean River, where they commenced their famous journey over the Blue Mountains, the success of which was largely due to Lawson's knowledge of surveying.

In November of that year, acting on the instructions of Governor Macquarie, Deputy-Surveyor George William Evans, following the tracks of the famous trio, went on to discover the Bathurst Plains and the Macquarie River, both of which he named. In this way he threw wide open the doors to a wonderful land to the west. During the next eighteen months Paymaster William Cox built a road from Emu Plains to the Plains of Bathurst, after which the tide westward began.

Lawson, who had elected to take his 1,000 acres grant at Bathurst, was made first Commandant of the district where, in addition to exercising military control, he farmed and grazed his fertile acres. He made several notable journeys exploring the country far to the west and north-west of Bathurst. He discovered the Goulburn, and other rivers, teeming with fish, and found some magnificent country, some of which he described as equal to a gentleman's park in England. He was also the first man to take horned cattle over the mountains, first to discover western coal, and was credited with finding copper, tin and other metals. Lawson and Constable Blackman were the first white men to traverse the Mudgee area, and he well deserves to be called the father of Mudgee.

In 1824, he resigned as Commandant of Bathurst and devoted his energies to pastoral pursuits. By 1828, in addition to his large holdings at Prospect and Kurrajong, he owned 150,000 acres in the Bathurst-Wellington-Mudgee area, on which he grazed

84,000 sheep, 14,700 cattle and 100 horses, some of which comprised his famous stud. At this period Lawson was the third-largest producer of sheep and wool in the colony.

Although his larger holdings were west of the mountains, from 1828 Lawson spent most of his time at Prospect. In 1843 he became one of the first elected members of the New South Wales Legislative Council, and continued to serve in that office until his death seven years later, aged 76.

Lawson must have been physically strong, for it is recorded of him that in his latter years, when known as "Old Ironbark", he sometimes walked from Prospect to Sydney in a day, returning the same way a day or two later.

More than any other man, he deserves to be called the Laird of Prospect. His wife, Sarah, predeceased him by twenty years. His remains, and those of several other members of his family, repose in the old neglected cemetery of St. Bartholomew's on Prospect Hill.

Lawson's blood flows rich in the veins of some of Australia's most honoured and esteemed citizens. Sir Adrian Knox, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, 1919-30, married one of his great granddaughters, and Sir Kenneth Street is a great-great grandson. Other illustrious Australian citizens, particularly in the legal and architectural field, have descended from that great pioneer.

Persons interested in Lawson might with profit pay a visit to the top of Prospect Hill. From there they may see the Blue Mountains, which he loved and conquered. The scene is not much different from what it was in his day, and in spirit they might well see Old Ironbark himself.

Continued from page 19

ered, was most disconcerting. During March, 1789, a number of them were found dead and others were seen to be suffering from smallpox — imported into Australia by those in the First Fleet or on La Perouse's French ships — there is no certain evidence of which expedition provided the carriers.

NO MUSE OF FIRE...!

By SIR CHARLES McDONALD, Chancellor, The University of Sydney.

The Australia Day Movement (sponsored by the Fellowship of First Fleeters) gives promise of awakening in all of us an Australian national sentiment. Too many of us witness the drama of our national life with what seems dogged indifference. We are reluctant to give expression to pride in our achievement even when we feel it. How many of us, outside architects, appreciate the greatness of Greenway or of Blacket or know the triumphs of Australian architectural design in the decade before the outbreak of the last war and in the last few years as this land has moved to economic affluence? Who of us know the part played by our great lawyers in the foundation of our Commonwealth and in the writing and interpretation of our constitution? Farrer and Lawrence Hargrave, though English by birth, made their discoveries here; but how many Australians have ever heard of them? Who knows the part played by Australian doctors in the conquest of malaria which did far more to defeat the Japanese in the last war than the dropping of an atom bomb on Hiroshima? And so the rhetorical questions could go on. It is often said that we have never produced a great poet or a great writer of prose; but literature is rooted in the soil, and only national pride can bring it to full efflorescence.

We need expression of our Australian national sentiment. A few of our newspapers publish from time to time records of our progress in primary production and secondary industries and in education, literature and art. But there is no concerted attempt by Press or Radio to kindle in Australian minds the dormant flame of their national pride. In a vast country like Australia, where there is a wide dispersal of the rural population and even the overcrowded cities are far apart, some strong force is needed to make us a more unified nation. As it is, we are beset by interstate jealousies and torn by political and industrial rivalries. The "rugged individualism" of the Australian may be a valuable asset in the outback or even in the field of war, but carried to extremes in populated areas it breeds dissension and strife. We lack the Englishman's deep respect for his history and institutions, and we have not yet developed his full pride of race. These qualities, latent within us, need the ferment of publicity to animate them. Here is a splendid opportunity for our newspapers, our broadcasters and indeed this new Movement. They need no muse of fire to tell the story of our country's achievement.

I wish the Australia Day Movement every success.

AN INTERNATIONAL FUNCTION ON A NATIONAL OCCASION



On Sunday, 26th January, 1969, the Fellowship of First Fleeters combined with Qantas and Aid Retarded Persons N.S.W., in a most unusual event.

This was to pay a tribute to the country's National Day — Australia Day — and to launch the Mary and John \$100,000 Hostel Appeal on behalf of A.R.P.

The function was held in the Littler Hall, 21 Phillip Street, Sydney and was attended by over 70 representatives of the organisations mentioned — including the UNICEF Executive Officer for Australia and several International ground-hostesses from Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vienna and Australia. Flags of all the countries concerned (and a replica of the Union flag flown by the original First Fleeters on the 26th January, 1788), decorated Littler Hall and an Australia Day cake was cut as part of the proceedings.

Well-known artists, whose participation was arranged by the Royal Philharmonic Society of Sydney, rendered Australian ballads.

It was a very happy affair and was truly an International function on an important National and humanitarian occasion.



It is our pleasure to record some of the many commendations received by the Fellowship of First Fleeters on the publication of the initial issue of its Journal:

From the Official Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General:

"His Excellency compliments you and your colleagues on the production of this magazine."

From the Press Secretary to the Prime Minister:

"Mr. Gorton was most interested to see your publication and wishes you success in this venture."

From the Hon. the Premier of N.S.W.:

"I read with great interest the first issue of 'First-Fleeters', and I compliment the editor of the journal and members of the Fellowship on an excellent production."

From the Editor of "The Etruscan", Bank of New South Wales:

"We found the magazine most interesting and we would like to congratulate you on its production."

From Ansett Transport Industries Ltd.:

"Congratulations on your new magazine. I found it most interesting."

From General Motors-Holden's Pty. Ltd.:

"This first issue contained some most interesting material and we feel sure that your journal will become a great success."

From Dunlop Australia Ltd.:

"We offer our congratulations on the excellence of the publication."

From Tooheys Ltd.:

"Please be assured of our interest in both the Fellowship and the Journal."

From the Rural Bank of N.S.W.:

"We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you on the production of the first issue of the journal."

and the following letter, from England, also has its special interest:

"I felt bound to write and wish you and all your members success when I read in the Sunday Express (England) of the formation of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. Congratulations. "My husband and I lived in Sydney for nearly four years and we would still be there except for the fact that my doctor suggested my return to the U.K. However, whilst in Australia I did come to the conclusion that there was a certain inferiority complex about the original 'First Fleeters', so that when an Australian friend said to me: 'You English people think we all come from convicts,' my reply was: 'If Australia as she is today was founded by convicts, then I would be proud if they were my ancestors!'"

"Again, congratulations and wishing you every success in your thrilling venture."

Mrs. LAURA EVERETT,
1 St. Johns Road,
Hadleigh, Benfleet,
ESSEX, ENGLAND.

CAPTAIN PHILLIP'S ROYAL COMMISSION

"The 7th of February, 1788 was the memorable day which established a regular form of Government on the coast of New South Wales. For obvious reasons, all possible solemnity was given to the proceedings necessary on this occasion. On a space previously cleared, the whole colony was assembled; the military drawn up, and under arms; the convicts stationed apart; and near the person of the Governor, those who were to hold the principal offices under him. The Royal Commission was then read by Mr. D. Collins, the Judge Advocate." *

The following abridged version of the Com-

mission (compiled by Mr. K. R. Cramp, O.B.E., M.A.) will be found useful for inclusion in the proceedings associated with local re-enactments of early historical events, civic and school functions, etc.:—

George the Third by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith of our Trusty and well-beloved Arthur Phillip, Esquire.

We, reposing especial trust and confidence in the prudence, courage and loyalty of you, the said Arthur Phillip of our special grace,

have thought fit to constitute and appoint you to be our Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over our territory called New South Wales, extending from the Northern Cape or extremity of the coast called Cape York in Latitude 10°37' to the southern extremity in latitude 43°39' south, and all the country westward to the 135th degree of East Longitude, including all the islands adjacent in the Pacific Ocean within the latitude named.

Our will and pleasure is that you take the oath for the due execution of the office and trust of our Captain General and Governor in Chief for the due and impartial administration of justice.

And we do hereby authorise and empower you to keep and use the public seal for sealing all things whatsoever that shall pass the Great Seal of our said territory and its dependencies. We further give and grant unto you full power and authority to administer and give oaths to every such person or persons as you shall think fit and to constitute and appoint justices of the peace, coroners, constables and such other necessary officers for the better administration of justice; to pardon offences and remit fines and forfeitures; to levy, arm, muster, command and employ all persons whatsoever residing within the said territory and its dependencies for the resisting of all enemies, pirates and rebels, both at sea and land; to execute martial law in time of invasion or at other times when by law it may be executed; to erect, raise and build

so many forts and platforms, castles, cities, boroughs, towns and fortifications as you shall judge necessary; to constitute and appoint captains, lieutenants, masters of ships and other commanders and officers; to punish, convict and execute offenders at sea or during their time of abode at ports, harbours and bays.

We likewise give and grant you full power and authority to grant land, to control commerce, to appoint fairs, marts and markets.

And we require and command all officers and members civil and military and all other inhabitants to be obedient, aiding and assisting you the said Arthur Phillip in the execution of this our Commission, and in case of your death or absence out of the said territory to be obedient, aiding and assisting to such person as shall be appointed by us to be Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief.

Witness ourself at Westminster on the 2nd day of April in the twenty-seventh year of our reign.

By writ of Privy Seal.

AND FOR SO DOING, THIS SHALL BE YOUR WARRANT. GIVEN AT OUR COURT AT ST. JAMES THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF MARCH 1787. IN THE TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF OUR REIGN.

To Our Attorney or
Solicitor General

By His Majesty's
Command
SYDNEY

** Extracted from "The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay," published in 1789.*

THE VOYAGE

The arrival and departure dates (where known) of the First Fleet on its epic 15,000 miles voyage to Sydney Cove were:—

	ARRIVED	DEPARTED
Spithead	—	13 May, 1787
Teneriffe	3 June, 1787	—
Rio de Janeiro	5 Aug., 1787	4 Sept., 1787
Cape Town	13 Oct., 1787	12 Nov., 1787
Botany Bay	18, 19, 20 Jan., 1788	25 & 26 Jan., 1788
Sydney Cove	25 & 26 Jan., 1788	—

CORRIGENDUM

On page 15 of the January, 1969 issue of "First-Fleeters", it is stated that the flag-pole depicting the approximate site where the Union flag was raised on the 26th January, 1788, is to be found in Young Street, Sydney. This should, of course, read Loftus Street. Sorry!



*"Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us . . .
There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises
might be reported.*

And some there be, which have no memorial . . ."

—Ecclesiasticus 4:4.

Fellowship of First Fleeters

Aims, Objects and Membership

OBJECTS:

- (a) To honour and be loyal to our Country — Australia.
- (b) To disseminate a deeper knowledge and create a greater awareness of the part played by those Pioneers who arrived in Sydney, N.S.W., with the First Fleet on the 26th January, 1788.
- (c) To ensure that the Country's National Day (Australia Day — 26th of January each year) is celebrated in a manner and on a scale befitting the important event.
- (d) To encourage an Australian patriotism and to strengthen the bonds of loyalty by all people living in Australia, irrespective of their birthplace or origin, creed or party.
- (e) To maintain Australian traditions and ways of life and to defend our National interests.
- (f) To welcome and extend hospitality to migrants and visitors from overseas.
- (g) To foster a love of Australia and of Australian Literature, History, Drama, Art and Music.
- (h) To do any or all of those things, conformable to law, which are in the opinion of the Fellowship considered beneficial to the Nation and its future development and well-being.
- (i) To encourage and assist the younger generation in Australia to play a worthy part in maintaining and fostering the above-mentioned objects.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Fellowship consists of —

- Members — with proof of their ancestors having arrived in Sydney with the First Fleet on the 26th January, 1788, and who have attained the age of 18 years.
- Associate Members — possessing the proof mentioned above and who are under the age of 18 years. Associate Members automatically become ordinary Members when they attain the age of 18.
- Life Members — Life Membership may be conferred by the Fellowship (in General Meeting) on any Member who has, in the opinion of the Fellowship, rendered signal service to the Nation or the Fellowship.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS is non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit-making. The Badge of the Fellowship is a map of Australia (in blue) with F.F.F. imposed thereon in gold letters. Its motto is:

"To live on in the hearts and minds of descendants is never to die!"



Photocopy by courtesy of Mitchell Library.

"Hope encouraging Art and Labour, under the influence of Peace, to pursue the employments necessary to give security and happiness to an infant settlement." — Vignette published in England in 1789 and reproduced from a medallion modelled in clay, taken from Sydney Cove in 1788.

F.F.F.



CENTRAL PRESS, SYDNEY