

# The art of travel celebrated in Travellers' Art

Two hundred of the most compelling early Australian travel images ever made are brought together in Travellers' Art, an exhibition at the National Library of Australia which runs until 21 September 2003.

The importance of the images and journals relates to their creation by the artists whilst on the journey. The images illustrate first encounters through travel, vividly capturing the intricacies of the moment, as well as the accompanying danger, excitement and sightings of exotic people and places.

At the core of Travellers' Art are groups of images, which chronologically describe four major journeys:

- John Webber and William Ellis on Captain James Cook's third voyage of discovery around the Pacific (1776–1780): from Adventure Bay in Tasmania to Hawaii, the Northwest coast of America and the Russian Peninsular of Kamchatka.

- Watercolours and pencil drawings by William Westall completed during Matthew Flinders' first circumnavigation of Australia (1801–1802) onboard the Investigator, showing the progress of the journey and an intriguing glimpse into 19th century perceptions of Terra Australis.

- Augustus Earle's highly personal watercolours completed in the 1820s during his extraordinary journey around the world: from the Mediterranean through to the United States, South America, Tristan d'Acunha, Van Diemen's Land, New South Wales, New Zealand, India and Mauritius.

- S.T. Gill's paintings of the vast inland of South Australia and the Flinders Ranges which aimed to give an accurate picture of his adventures while on the ill-fated Horrocks expedition in 1846.

Travellers' Art also contains superb works by pre-eminent travel artists, dia-

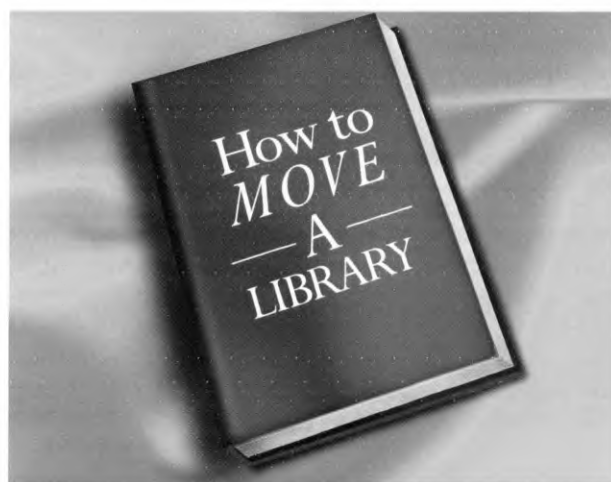


Augustus Earle (1793–1838)  
A native on the island of Tucopea c. 1827  
watercolour on paper; 24.8 x 22.2cm  
Pictures Collection, Rex Nan Kivell Collection  
National Library of Australia

rists and explorers.

The exhibition concludes with examples of 19th and 20th century landscape and exploration photography by Nicholas Caire, Paul Foelsche, Charles Bayliss and Frank Hurley.

Travellers' Art, 12 June – 21 September Exhibition Gallery, National Library of Australia Open Daily from 9:00am–5:00pm, free. ■



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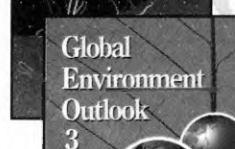
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