AUSTRALIAN PLATES IN JOHN ARROWSMITH’S LONDON ATLAS OF UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHY

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The study involves surveying the Australian content of a number of copies of this Atlas to determine for what areas Arrowsmith had data on the newly settled continent.

From a modest beginning of three plates Arrowsmith progressed to eight plates in one of the copies surveyed, possibly a commissioned copy. Each plate is examined in detail to discern differences between the copies located in order to build up a history of its publication. In all Arrowsmith published twelve plates on Australia in the London Atlas but some of the earlier plates were superseded by later productions.

The life of plates outside their inclusion in the Atlas is also traced. Similar studies for other countries would strengthen the knowledge of Arrowsmith’s modus operandi. It should also alert users of his maps to the care required in taking bibliographic statements on the map at face value. Too often the map content contradicts these.

INTRODUCTION

The early nineteenth century cartographic scene in Britain is one of increasing governmental map making activities. The Hydrographic Office of the British Admiralty was established in 1795 and the Ordnance Survey finally became an official body in July 1791, its surveying activities having previously been under the auspices of the Royal Society. In the early days of these bodies expertise was used as available, in the case of the Hydrographic Office the Walker family gave long and continuous service, while serving officers of the Royal Regiment of Artillery were appointed as key personnel in the Survey. Contemporary with these government map making bodies commercial cartographers existed plying their trade. If one enquires into the subject fields that such commercial firms targeted for their activities it becomes clear that publishing maps in English of foreign countries, particularly British colonies, could be a fruitful niche in which to specialise. This was a time of intense geographical exploration in many parts of the world. For British adventurers in particular the Arctic, Africa, Asia and Australia called for sustained exploration and recording. Maps were required to accompany accounts of voyages and expeditions, and to illustrate reports by colonial governors to the Colonial Office. The general public also had a thirst for new information that was fed to them through the collections of voyages that were issued in parts rather like a current day serial. The Arrowsmith firm was one of a number of map makers in London, upon whom fell the requirement to supply this illustrative material in the form of up to date maps incorporating the very latest information. Although in the early days, the 1790s, when the firm came into existence their output was more varied, Aaron the founder producing multi sheet maps of the world and Pacific among others in addition to local material to illustrate Parliamentary Reports on roads, canals and railways that were increasingly becoming elements in the landscape of the Britain. John Arrowsmith’s work was almost exclusively on non British mapping, apart from the few maps produced for Parliamentary reports on railways and canals in Britain.

This study involved locating over thirty copies of John Arrowsmith’s atlas in libraries around the world and identifying what Australian plates each of these atlases contained. The date span of the copies located covered the entire period of Arrowsmith’s output of the atlas from 1834 to 1858. During the study copies of various of the Australian plates were also located in works other than the London Atlas and were also found to exist in their own right as part of Arrowsmith’s map stock available for purchase independently of the atlas. See Figure 1.

As Francis Herbert tells us John Arrowsmith obviously had hoped to issue his atlas of 50 maps in 1832 but it did not appear until 1834. In this first issue Australia is represented by three plates, namely, Discoveries in Australia (Plate 35), Discoveries in Western Australia (Plate 36) and Van Diemen’s Land (Plate 37). These three maps in effect show the extent of British exploration in the southern part of the Australian continent after almost 50 years of their occupation.
MAP OF THE DISCOVERIES IN AUSTRALIA

This was the first map devoted to Australia which Arrowsmith prepared for his London Atlas. It shows at a scale of almost 1:3 000 000 the south eastern portion of the continent now occupied by the states of New South Wales, Victoria, the area of Queensland south of Brisbane and the portion of South Australia eastwards of the Eyre Peninsula. The area was seen at that period of settlement as the most salubrious for Europeans, with its cooler climate and soils more suited to cultivation than the waterless and sandy coasts of southwest Western Australia. The map shows the routes of the explorers, topographical features and place names. The relief is indicated by hachures, the drainage pattern attempts to show the erratic nature of the water supply by broken drainage lines indicating seasonal variation in flow. There are also notes on the nature of the vegetation and the soils and rock types. The main thrust of exploration was also in this region as the title suggests so this was to become a pivotal area in the development of the continent.

The map has a large inset of The Colony of Western Australia at the same scale as the main map at the top left, while at the bottom left there is a smaller inset of Australasia showing the position of Australia and the parts of the continent shown in the main map and larger inset. The map had a short life of two years, in which it went through five states of which only two added further information to the map. It also appeared in Charles Sturt’s two editions of his expedition into the interior. Arrowsmith quickly recognised that because of the amount of information becoming available the scale of the map would not be sufficient for him to utilise it. Although the earliest state found carries the imprint ‘15 Feb 1832’ this state is obviously published much later than that as it shows the journey of Sir Thomas Mitchell the Surveyor General of New South Wales in January and February of 1832. In the table of Routes of Explorer’s printed above the title Mitchell’s name is omitted which suggests it is a later addition made after the map was completed. If this turns out to be the case the first state of this map is yet to be found. However as we know from Francis Herbert’s work Arrowsmith had this plate ready to publish in 1832. The alternative explanation might be that the information about Mitchell’s journey came to hand shortly before he went to press and although he added this information he neglected to update the imprint and the table of explorers’ routes.

At this stage with not having committed too much in terms of labour and engraving time, Arrowsmith decides to produce a new map. He abandons this map and produces a new one at a larger scale of 1:2 660 000 in contrast to the previous scale of 1:3 000 000. The title of this replacement map is The South Eastern Portion of Australia, compiled from the Colonial Surveys and from details furnished by Exploratory Expeditions.
DISCOVERIES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Herbert tells us that when Arrowsmith realised he was not going to be able to release his atlas in 1832 as he had planned he decided to insert more plates. The Discoveries in Western Australia plate of 1833 (plate 36) was one of these. It was inserted before the plate on Van Diemen’s Land of 1832, which was the original plate ‘36’ and thus became plate ‘37’.

Discoveries in Western Australia was designed on the same principles as that just described. Six states have been distinguished. This map shows the area in the extreme south west of the continent south of Perth the present state capital at a scale of almost 1:1 000 000. It had five inset maps on the left hand side of the main map. These were for the towns of Guildford, Augusta, Kelmscott, Perth and Fremantle. Then at a later state a sixth inset was added centre right of the Perth region.

The Discoveries plate had a life of six years during which time no change was made to the internal information on the map only the imprint was updated as time passed and finally in 1838 the map was used in a Parliamentary report. The original dedication to R. W Hay was erased as was the plate number (although the latter not very effectively as on some copies this can still be discerned). A second imprint statement appears beneath the bottom neat line showing it was printed for parliamentary use. An additional marginal title appears top right outside the neatline which reads Statistical Report on Western Australia 1837.

This title also appears combined with two charts of Cockburn Sound and King Georges Sound on one sheet. This is one of those plates which exhibits the confusion that characterises early printings of Arrowsmith’s plates as he moved premises from 33 East Street to 35 Essex Street some time in 1834 one would surmise, but yet issues have been found with the address of 35 Essex Street issued in May 1833. It is suggested that he omitted to alter the date of these particular examples, in any case, it didn’t really matter as there was no change to the internal content.

So why did Arrowsmith lose interest in his original map of Western Australia? One possibility is that he realised early on that he had not allowed sufficient space on the plate to permit a northward as well as an eastward extension of the map.

VAN DIEMEN’S LAND
The third map Van Diemen’s Land at a scale of 1:633 360 shows the present state of Tasmania an island to the south of the mainland which was discovered and named by the Dutch in 1642. It was one of the earliest Australian plates to feature in Arrowsmith’s first issue of his London Atlas and has been found in six states. In the very early issues of the Atlas it is shown as plate 36 and with the imprint ‘15th Feb. 1832’ and this first state also appeared in James Bischoff’s Sketch of the History of Van Diemen’s Land ... published in 1832. The author James Bischoff, was listed as a business man of Tasmania and London. He became Chairman of the Van Diemen’s Land Company in 1828 and Managing Director from 1832 until 1833.

At this stage Arrowsmith had only prepared two maps of Australian interest for his atlas. When however he decided to introduce a third map and placed it before the current plate 36 Van Diemen’s Land the plate number for that had to be changed to ‘37’.

The sources Arrowsmith gives for his map are the original manuscript surveys held in the Colonial Office and information from the Van Diemen’s Land Company which occupied offices at 55 Broad Street, London. Although Arrowsmith reissued the map through until the year 1842 he made no change whatsoever to the information contained in the map itself. The various states identified therefore are a record only of reissues of the original map.

After this most inauspicious beginning Arrowsmith virtually started all over again with his treatment of the cartographic portrayal of the Australian continent by producing a new title to replace Map of the discoveries in Australia, refashioning his Discoveries in Western Australia and abandoning his third map Van Diemen’s Land only reissuing it with an updated imprint but adding nothing to the information originally presented in 1832.

THE SOUTH EASTERN PORTION OF AUSTRALIA
By 1838 Arrowsmith had produced one of his replacement maps, The South Eastern portion of Australia, compiled from the Colonial Surveys and from details furnished by Exploratory Expeditions.

This map covers almost the same area as Arrowsmith’s ‘Discoveries in Australia’ that is, from the Brisbane region south to Spencer Gulf in South Australia, but at the larger scale of 1:2 660 000. Two degrees of longitude are lost at the left of the map with the result that the Eyre Peninsula of South Australia is not included in this map. The map takes the same plate number ‘35’ in the London Atlas indicating that it was meant to replace the ‘Discoveries’ map. An inset of the continent replaces that of the ‘Colony of Western Australia’ in the ‘Discoveries’ map. There is no inset showing Australia’s regional setting. It appears that Arrowsmith realised early in the life of the ‘Discoveries’ map that it would be insufficient for the detail he wished to incorporate. The abandoning of the earlier title supports this view.
This new map had a life of 20 years from 1838 until 1858 and in this time it went through twelve states. The principal changes are the defining of the major river systems of the south east region of Australia, and the development of settlement through the southern part of New South Wales which in 1851 became the colony of Victoria. The coastal areas of New South Wales proper are explored and settled but the hinterland remains undeveloped. The changes in the south east area of South Australia are minimal and confined to the coastal areas of the Fleurieu Peninsula. This map also appeared in two different states in the Parliamentary Papers of 1852 and 1853 where the map was updated to show the location of Gold Fields in New South Wales.

COLONY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Colony of Western Australia at the scale of just under 1:1 000 000, was the map which replaced the Discoveries in Western Australia plate. It took the same plate number, i.e. 36. It included the original five inset maps found in the Discoveries in Western Australia map but all updated and added one further inset of the Perth region at the centre right of the map. The map was printed from 1839 until 1863 in seven states one of which extends the size of the map.

This title like the Discoveries title which preceded it was issued with two charts of Cockburn Sound and King George Sound. It may be found as two maps on one sheet, i.e. Cockburn Sound and King Georges Sound (Plate 35a) with one map on one sheet, i.e. The Colony of Western Australia (Plate 36). A further example of Arrowsmith employing additional map space is his use of an extension plate this time to extend the map to the east to record the most recent exploration. A comparison of the plate sizes of the Discoveries title with its successor The Colony of Western Australia shows that the Discoveries plate measured 51.5 x 64 cm. and the Colony plate 55 x 64 cm. This 3.5 cm allowed Arrowsmith to extend his map northward as he additionally utilised the upper margin in order to acquire sufficient room to add the eight new counties north of Perth. The framework co-ordinates of the map were also adjusted by 3 minutes of a degree of latitude from S31° to S30°57’ thus providing this required northward extension. At the same time the longitudinal extent was enlarged by 2 minutes and the map’s western longitude became E113°43’ while the easternmost value became E120°03’. In the Discoveries map these values were E 113° 53’ and E120° 15’ . Once the plate was adjusted the map went through a further seven states, being the most important map available of this area supplying such a wealth of detail. These alterations made the map extendable until Roe’s 1848-49 explorations to the east along the south coast when the new information could only be shown by enlarging the orginal map by employing an extension plate to record the new detail east of E120°, from E120° to E123°40’. In this last state Arrowsmith had virtually retired and the map is issued in an unfinished condition from his last address at 35 Hereford Square. In this state only the lower neatline has been drawn while the right hand and top neatlines are non existant. The longitudinal values are also missing from the top edge of the map. This extension plate gives a further 36 centimetres of width, the entire map measuring 98 centimetres in width.

It appears that this map was most probably first issued in a book by Nathaniel Ogle which appeared in late 1839. Although the map in Ogle has the plate number ‘36’ no issues of the London Atlas with an 1839 title page have been discovered. If such an issue is proved to exist this statement may need to be revised, but in the meantime it can be said that the map appears in the London Atlas for the first time first in the 1840 issue.

It is clear that Arrowsmith had access to more material than he could utilise within the confines of his Atlas dimensions. This map is also the only one among the Australian plates where he uses nautical data that was available to him from the Hydrographical Office of the British Admiralty to produce his own chart. The plate 35a referred to above comprised two charts, the top one being John Septimus Roe’s chart of Cockburn Sound the entry point for access to the Swan River Settlement as amended by Arrowsmith from information supplied Sir James Stirling the Governor. The lower chart is an amendment of Matthew Flinders original of King George’s Sound, the entry to the port of Albany.

By the time Arrowsmith’s atlas title page records ‘1838’ the new and revised Australian plates are appearing. To the original three plates for the continent maybe added a further three, namely Australia from surveys made by order of the British government combined with those of D’Entrecasteaux, Baudin, Freycinet &c., &c., the Eastern Portion of Australia and The Maritime Portion of South Australia. The first issues of all three record 1838 as the first date of issue, the west and east halves of the map of Australia being issued on the same date, viz ‘1st May 1838’ while the Maritime portion of South Australia appeared on ‘5th June 1838’.

AUSTRALIA FROM SURVEYS MADE BY ORDER OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COMBINED WITH THOSE OF D’ENTRECASTEAUX, BAUDIN, FREYCINET &C., &C.,

This title together with the Eastern Portion of Australia forms a map of Australia at the scale of 1:5 000 000. The western sheet has an inset of the Eastern Hemisphere lower right while the eastern sheet has two insets, one of the Torres Strait top right and lower right, Van Diemen’s Land. It is a cunningly contrived presentation which permits both sheets to be independently published but at the same time allows the publisher to issue a one sheet map of the continent carrying the above title. The map is found in two formats, as a single sheet map made up of two sheets joined and as a
two sheet version where each sheet is issued separately with its own title. In this latter format the right hand sheet has title Eastern portion of Australia by John Arrowsmith while the left hand sheet remains as Australia from surveys etc. These two plates appeared for the first time as plates [52] and [53] in an expanded version of Arrowsmith’s Atlas issued in 1838 which had an extra four plates not identified in the contents listing nor given a plate number by Arrowsmith. By the time Arrowsmith produces an 1858 issue of his atlas these plates are actually numbers [65] and [66] as new plates are inserted before them. However issues have been found where the plate numbers added mostly on the verso of the plates in hand are [52], [58], [59], and [65] for the west half sheet and [53], [59], [60] and [66] for the eastern half.

The plates for this map were prepared with each plate including the area from E130° to E137°. When the sheets were joined to make a single sheet map the joining line was E134°. So the extreme right of the west plate, i.e. E134° to E137°, and the extreme left of the east plate, E130° to E134°, were not updated as these were the discarded portions of each sheet. In these areas only outline information is included and very little detail. When using the loose two sheet version one needs to be aware of this fact particularly if one has access to only one of the sheets.

These two sheets issued at a scale of 1:5 000 000 were the most important Australian sheets in the atlas, the east sheet being published in 17 states and the west sheet in 13 states. In the one sheet format seventeen states have been identified. They were issued from 1838 until 1862 about which time Arrowsmith was on the point of retiring. The last issues carry the Hereford Square address.

These sheets virtually record the exploration and development of Australia, fifty years after British settlement in 1788, from 1838 until 1862. During the next twenty five years the eastern part of the continent had developed to the stage of having five independent colonies of New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania, while in the west the great deserts continued to present formidable barriers to both exploration and development. Only the south western corner of the continent developed to any extent as water supply remained the determining factor in the expansion of agriculture and settlement.

EASTERN PORTION OF AUSTRALIA

The Eastern Portion of Australia forms the right hand sheet of the map of Australia as described above and was issued in conjunction with Australia from surveys from 1838 until 1862. Of all the maps which Arrowsmith published on Australia this one records the most change, particularly in the south eastern part of the map which was the area which had a climate most suited to European agricultural methods and crops. The map records the discoveries and routes of exploration of a multitude of explorers, describes the natural features, soils and vegetation encountered. Gradually the inland river systems are mapped and any hope of a vast inland sea fades as explorers penetrate the harsh and arid interior. The changes through which the Colony of New South Wales passed are there to see, having initially formed the eastern half of the continent but by the last stages recorded by Arrowsmith hugely reduced in size having spawned the colonies of South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and Northern Australia during those twentyfive years. It also records the appearance of administrative as well as political divisions showing the counties into which each colony was divided and later the pastoral divisions in each colony.

THE MARITIME PORTION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In Arrowsmith’s 1838 atlas issue the fourth plate to be added to the existing 50 was the Maritime Portion of South Australia which if it had been numbered would have been plate [54]. It has an apt title for a map that features only part of the coastal fringe of a most arid area. The main map Arrowsmith based on Flinders’ coastal survey but at a reduced scale. It extends from the Nuyts Archipelago at 133° east to 141° east the border with the present day state of Victoria. The focus of the map is the two gulfs of Spencer and St Vincent and the Fleurieu Peninsula east of St Vincent’s Gulf. The empty ocean space south of the main map was filled with a number of inset maps showing a town plan of Adelaide, the capital city, and an inset of its immediate hinterland. Two further insets of harbours on the south east coast at Encounter Bay and at Nepean Bay on Kangaroo Island complete the map. Encounter Bay was the point where the chance meeting between the two commanders of voyages of discovery, Matthew Flinders, the British commander and Nicholas Baudin the French commander occurred. The map was issued between the dates June 1838 and June 1841, a span of only three years. However any issues later than February 1840 have no additional information added to the map and are mainly reprints. Six states of the map have been distinguished. The fifth and sixth states were also used in Parliamentary Reports produced by the Select Committee on South Australia. This map appears in issues of the London Atlas until 1858 when it is replaced by a new map of South Australia entitled, South Australia shewing the division into counties of the settled portions of the Province from the surveys of Captin. Frome, Rl. Engrs., Surveyr. Genl. of the Colony. The map is also found in the positions of plates [60], [61] and [67].

Less than two years passes before Arrowsmith produces a new title page dated 1840. The copy held by the Library of Congress appears to be unique (G1019.A8 1840) no other like copies having been found. One wonders whether or not it could have been a specially commissioned gathering. This particular copy has three extra Australian maps making a
total of nine. They are two maps on one sheet, namely, Cockburn Sound and King Georges Sound with plate number 35a. The third map is The District of Adelaide, South Australia: as divided into country sections from the trigonometrical surveys of Colonel Light, 1839, unnumbered but appearing as [55] following the Maritime Portion of South Australia.

Cockburn Sound
Cockburn Sound by J. S. Roe, Esqr., Survr. Genl. of the Colony of Western Australia has been found in three states, the first of which is a separately published map. In this format it has beneath it the chart of King Georges Sound. From its appearance it has the hall marks of an Arrowsmith issue although the particular copy seen had no attribution. (National Library of Australia NK 11133). Cockburn Sound provides the approaches to the Swan River, the infant settlement established in 1826 on the west coast of Australia. One can assume that this chart along with that of King Georges Sound was to provide nautical information concerning the two most important settlements at that period, namely Perth on the south west coast and Albany on the south coast of Western Australia. Before his appointment as Surveyor General of Western Australia John Septimus Roe had been a naval hydrographer serving with the British Admiralty and was given leave by the Admiralty to take up the position of Surveyor General. One of his first tasks was to make this survey of Cockburn Sound after arriving in the settlement in June 1829. The Hydrographic Office original of this survey is dated August 1st 1831.

In the second state this chart is found with King Georges Sound and the map Discoveries in Western Australia on one separately issued sheet with the plate number ‘36’. It has not been seen in this physical format in the Atlas and must have been produced from two plates placed alongside each other, or perhaps, joined by some other unknown agency after publication. The imprint is ‘London, Pubd. 31st May 1833 by J. Arrowsmith, 33 East Street, Red Lion Square’ for the two charts, but for the Discoveries map the imprint reads ‘35 Essex Street, Strand’ with the same date. These two charts of Cockburn Sound and King Georges Sound are also found as a later issue dated ‘May 31st 1840 … 10 Soho Square’ but this exemplar is of a separately issued sheet, with the plate number ‘35a’ which is found as a loose sheet in the atlas. This state has considerable amendments to the internal information on the charts. The plate 36 in this example is of The Colony of Western Australia and was issued ‘Oct. 1st 1839 from 10 Soho Square.’

King Georges Sound with its Harbours: From Flinders’ Survey (1802) Improved by Documents in the Colonial Office to 1833
As mentioned above this chart is combined on one sheet with the Cockburn Sound chart, being the lower chart of the two. From its title it can be assumed that the missing imprint must have been some time in 1833, probably May 31st, as Arrowsmith was for the most part in the habit of leaving unchanged the day and month in his imprints and altering only the year, a sensible idea as it reduced the amount of change needed to the plate.

This chart shows the harbour and town of Albany on the south coast of Western Australia and the survey made by Matthew Flinders in 1802 of King George’s Sound the principal body of water but also of Princess Royal Harbour and Oyster Harbour which are extensions to the main harbour. Flinders’ track and soundings are retained. The additions mentioned in the title relate to the development of the settlement on the north shore of Princess Royal Harbour and there is a further large scale inset of the town and environs.

In state two of this chart scales have been added to the chart and inset and there is an imprint which reads ‘London, Pubd. May 31st, by J. Arrowsmith, 33 East Street, Red Lion Square’. In the third state seen the title of the chart has been moved to the top left and there is an additional inset map of Peel Harbour by J.S. Roe dated 1838. The chart has been considerably amended with new information and is dated ‘May 31st. 1840.’

The District of Adelaide, South Australia: As divided into Country Sections from the Trigonometrical Surveys of Colonel Light 1839
The creation of the Province of South Australia took place in 1836 after many years of negotiation with the Colonial Office, the first proposals having been made by Edward Wakefield as early as 1829, and other proposals made later by the National Colonization Society and the South Australian Land Company. Eventually the South Australian Association’s members managed to persuade Parliament to pass the South Australian Act. Authority for the new province was to be shared between the Colonial Office and the Colonization Commission. The surveying and allotment of land was achieved by March 1837 but the first ballot for country sections was delayed until May 1838. This is the subject matter of Arrowsmith’s map of Adelaide which shows the allotment numbers and names of buyers.

This map was first issued in February 1839 and again in February 1840. Both these states are also found with additional parliamentary imprints in Parliamentary reports of one kind or another. It is also found at the end of Robert Kearsley
Dawson's *Report on surveying.* The map was issued over a period of just over two years and is found in eight states. The map is one of those extra plates inserted after the original fifty and in the Library of Congress issue is plate [55].

By the middle eighteen forties it was normal to find six Australian plates in Arrowsmith's atlas, these were *The South Eastern portion of Australia, The Colony of Western Australia, Van Diemen's Land, Australia from surveys made by order of the British Government, Eastern Portion of Australia and the Maritime portion of South Australia.* The last Australian plate to figure in Arrowsmith's atlas is the replacement map for *The Maritime portion of South Australia.*

SOUTH AUSTRALIA SHEWING THE DIVISION INTO COUNTIES OF THE SETTLED PORTIONS OF THE PROVINCE, FROM THE SURVEYS OF CAPTN. FROME, RL. ENGRS., SURVR. GENL. OF THE COLONY, 1842

This is the last map title which Arrowsmith produced concerning Australia replacing the previously published *Maritime portion of South Australia.* It is a more focussed production, excluding a degree of longitude to the east and three to the west but it extends further north by a degree to almost S31°. The map appears to have been produced firstly for a paper to Parliament and can be found in both Commons and Lords publications. It then appears almost three years later refashioned to show the newly discovered mineral localities mainly in the hinterland and to the south of Adelaide. In this state two inset maps have been added in the top right and left of the map. The first is an inset of Australia showing the position of South Australia and the second is a plan of Port Adelaide. The latter shows proposed building allotments and proposed road south. This map was used in Dutton's *South Australia and its mines* issued in March 1846.

However there is a considerable lapse of time before it actually appears in Arrowsmith's *London Atlas,* 1858 being the earliest date found. It is hard to say why this occurred. Arrowsmith was still using his *Maritime portion of South Australia* as the principal map of the Colony although it was never updated after 1840. Copies of this map are found in atlases with titles pages of 1853 and if one studies these atlases it will be observed that once the two half sheets of the continent appeared, i.e. *Australia from surveys... and Eastern portion of Australia,* they along with the *South Eastern portion of Australia* and *The Colony of Western Australia* were updated more frequently than any of the other plates. In fact it would become increasingly obvious which plates were not updated. Is this why Arrowsmith perhaps changed his imprint statement on his *Van Diemen's Land* map from the beginning without making any changes whatsoever to the plate.
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DOROTHY F. PRESCOTT

Dorothy Prescott’s career has been as a Map Curator working in libraries. She was born in Great Britain and took an an Honours degree in Geography from the University of Durham in 1952. She then went on to gain qualifications in Librarianship. In 1953 she married fellow geography student John Robert Victor Prescott and moved to Nigeria in 1955 where her husband was appointed to the Geography Department of the University of Ibadan (then known as University College, Ibadan). The University Librarian invited her to set up a map collection for the University Library which she did in the next 4 years. In 1959 she then worked in the Geography Department’s map collection organising its arrangement. In 1961 the Prescotts left Nigeria and emigrated to Melbourne, Australia with their family where her husband took up a post in the Department of Geography at the University of Melbourne.

Dorothy took out qualifications in librarianship and became an Associate of the Library and Information Association of Australia. She was also a foundation member of the Society of Indexers in Australia and became a Registered Indexer. In 1964 she became Map Librarian at the University of Melbourne Library where she established a map collection for the University Library. In 1977 she was one of three authors producing Frontiers and Boundaries of Asia and South East Asia (MUP) and in 1979 she published a chapter in her husband’s work on Australia’s Continental Shelf (Thomas Nelson). In 1979 she was appointed Map Curator of the National Library of Australia in Canberra. In 1980 she became a member of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Committee for Cartographic Materials which has published two editions of Cartographic materials: a manual of interpretation for AACR2. In 1980 she also became an Associate Member of the Australian Institute of Cartographers and then a Member of the same Institute which later became the Mapping Sciences Institute of Australia. Dorothy represented Australia on the ICA’s Commission F History of Cartography from 1982 onwards. The last piece of work carried out for the Commission was a Bibliography on the History of Australia’s National Topographic Mapping Agencies.

In 1983 she resigned from the National Library and returned to Melbourne to set up her own business in Map Information and Research and Map Library Management. In 1997 this became part of Prescott Associates consulting on maps and boundaries. In 1996 she published with Dr. Thomas Perry A guide to maps of Australia in books published from 1780 to 1830. (National Library of Australia). Dorothy became an Approved Valuer of cartographic material for the Commonwealth Government’s Taxation Incentives Scheme in 1987. In this year she was also invited to serve on the Surveyors Board of Victoria as the community representative. In August 2000 she was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Institution of Surveyors for a ‘continuing commitment to the profession of surveying’. In September 2003 she resigned from this Board. In June 2003 she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for services rendered to Map Librarianship and Cartobibliography and in December 2003 the award, ‘Eminent Spatial Scientist of the year 2003’, was conferred on her by the Spatial Sciences Institute of Australia, Victoria Region.

Although retired (1996) she still maintains her involvement with the International Cartographic Association through the Working Group on Colonial Cartography and until very recently on the Anglo-American Cataloguing Committee for Cartographic Materials. Since retiring her chief interest has been map history and cartobibliography. She has this year been appointed to the Geographic Names Board of Victoria.