



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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The Institute of Advanced Studies presents a free public lecture

Journeys of Enlightenment: Changing perceptions of *Terra Australis*

by Myra Stanbury, Curator, Department of Maritime Archaeology, Western Australian Museum

About this Lecture

The European intellectual movement of the 17th and 18th centuries known as the Enlightenment had a profound effect on the aims and objectives of European exploratory voyages to *Terra Australis* or *Terres Australes*. The era affirmed the ascendancy of Europe over the rest of the world and marked the beginning of a new phase in the history of oceanic exploration. Journeys were undertaken with clearly defined political, economic and scientific goals, political powers taking a hand in the organization and financing of the expeditions. A serious voyage was no longer conceivable without a group of scholars, specialists in diverse disciplines such as astronomy, mathematics, physics, natural sciences and so on.

This talk will focus on the journeys of 18th and 19th century French explorers, adventurers and scientists who undertook the first expansive studies of flora and fauna of *Terra Australis* or *Terres Australes*, and in particular Western Australia. The journeys will be placed in the context of the Age of Enlightenment with its emphasis on the study of the natural sciences and humanism, as well as the creation of the new sciences of ecology and anthropology. It will also seek to show how the political turmoil in France from the pre-revolution, revolution, Empire and return to the Republic impacted on these expeditions and the fate of the collections they took back.

Lecture Details

Date: Thursday, 11 June 2009

Time: 6-7pm

Venue: Webb Lecture Theatre, UWA

(formerly Geography Lecture Theatre 1)

**This lecture is free and open to the public,
no RSVP required**

This lecture is part of a symposium jointly sponsored by the ARC Network for Early European Research, the Perth Medieval and Renaissance Group, the UWA Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, and the Woodside Valley Estate.



Perceptions of *Terra Australis*

A symposium, 12-13 June, 2009, University Club

The name of *Terra Australis* goes back to early Greek philosophy, but the concept it represents may have a more diverse history. This symposium focuses on the concept itself and changes in the ways that *Terra Australis* has been understood over a period of many centuries.

Three keynote speakers will address themselves to aspects of this development. Dr Alfred Hiatt (University of Leeds), will consider the early period. Professor Mercedes Camino (University of Lancaster), will talk about the age of European exploration to the South. And Emeritus Professor Norman Etherington (The University of Western Australia) will focus on the British colonial period.

Selected papers from the symposium will be published in a refereed essay collection.

**For more information about the conference, or to register,
please visit:** <http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/conf/neer09>

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