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(Australian Aboriginal Village -- The Earliest Printed Landscape Image of Western Australia) A Deserted Indian Village in King George III Sound, New Holland

Stock#: 91654
Map Maker: Vancouver
Date: 1798
Place: London
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG+
Size: 9.125 x 6.25 inches (not including title)
Price: \$ 975.00



Description:

One of the Earliest Engraved Images and The First Published Landscape of Western Australia

Fine late 18th Century image of a deserted Aboriginee's Village in Australia.

In September, 1791, George Vancouver dropped anchor in south-western Australia, at an inlet which he renamed King George III Sound, to honor the King of England. The image, as captured by John Sikes and engraved by William Alexander, shows a 'village' in the Sound which Vancouver found deserted. He recorded locating "about two dozen miserable huts", evidence of prior fires, but and absence of "shells, bones, nor any other relics" which might explain why the villagers had left the area.

In hopes of currying favor with the inhabitants, Vancouver left a selection of "beads, nails, knives, looking glasses and medals" in one of the huts to "induce" the local populous "to favour us with a visit".

The original drawing for this illustration is credited as having been drawn on the spot by John Sykes, Vancouver's midshipman. Sykes' sketch was then reworked for publication by William Alexander, who had been the official draughtsman for Britain's first embassy to China in 1792.

Detailed Condition: