a wallet, a list, a collection

An exploration of the silent, hidden and unseen contributors within a museum collection

The following report documents the research strategy and process undertaken as awardee of the 2022 Miegunyah Student Project Award and is the result of independent research conducted by Yvette Walker.

abstract

Can the vision of a collector ever be realised? Is their vision and ambition captured in their life, their collection, or what is unfulfilled? Lists of ingredients are vital for any chemist, but for Russell Grimwade, a list, contained in his wallet for 25 years, presents an opportunity to consider, what is concealed and revealed within the collection?

This work unfolds the emergent habits, wonderings and traces discovered, and invites the public to speculate how museums facilitate radical inclusivity for both human and non-human collaborators.



A wallet, a collection. An intimate space where professional and personal inhabit. unfolding his wallet, unfolding his lists, a symbol of power, enabling, acquisitions, values, desires, ambitions, achievements, a place to keep things he loves, things he wants, folding his lists, folding his wallet, into his pocket.

introduction

Encountering and unfolding Russell Grimwade's wallet in the reading room of University of Melbourne, was an intimate experience. The object, a symbol of power, being preserved for generations to come, presents an opportunity to explore the values, desires and ambitions held by its owner. Unfolding Russell's wallet, coincides with questions for the museum sector more broadly as a re-evaluation, re-assessment and reimaging takes place by museums globally.

What have we learnt from the reterritorialization of practice online during pandemic lockdowns? In what ways can we co-create transdisciplinary collaborations with humans and more than humans, to support the sectors shift toward distributive museum practice?

Working with Grimwade's wallet and list within, presents an opportunity to work with a collector's colonial mindset, to disrupt, to re-assess bias, assumptions and trained ways of knowing, as the industry strives for radical inclusivity, radical access and radical pedagogies. So, how do we unfold these layers?



Russell Grimwade's wallet and contents, 1955 Leather, paper, gelatin silver photograph 21.5 x 17.2 sm (wallet, open) UMA (1975.0089.00183 "No country has been so violently disturbed in its age old rest, and consequently in no country does the responsibility of preserving a knowledge of the past rest quite so heavily upon its people."

- Sir Russell Grimwade, 1954

the list

Concealed alongside the personal treasures in his wallet, is a folded, flimsy paper, a list, that has generated thinking for this project. It is a list titled, *West's Engravings 1813-1814 Missing Numbers*. It lists the unacquired plate numbers (from Grimwade's collection) that form the complete set of 24 plates of the *Views of New South Wales*, published by Absalom West and dedicated to the New South Wales Governor, Lachlan MacQuarie. The artist contributors were a combination of; Walter Preston (engraver); John Eyre (draughtsman); Philip (Sligo) Slaeger (engraver) and Richard Browne (draughtsman).

It is presumed that Grimwade's list remained in his wallet from the date on the bottom right corner, May 1930, for the remaining 25 years of his life, until his death in 1955. The constant presence of the list on Grimwade's body, folded within Grimwade's wallet, raises questions about how prominent the missing numbers occupied Grimwade's cognitive space, or, perhaps the act of writing the list was a method to reduce cognitive load, unburden the thinking of a collector's mind while contemplating other acquisitions? But there are no hints of other acquisitions folded within his wallet. Did Grimwade, as preserver and collector of new ways of knowing on this land, feel burdened by the possibility that his list may never be complete?

Wesls Engravings 1813 - 1814. hum bers 6. 32 14.6.32 13 14 17 18 21 22 23 24 may 11930

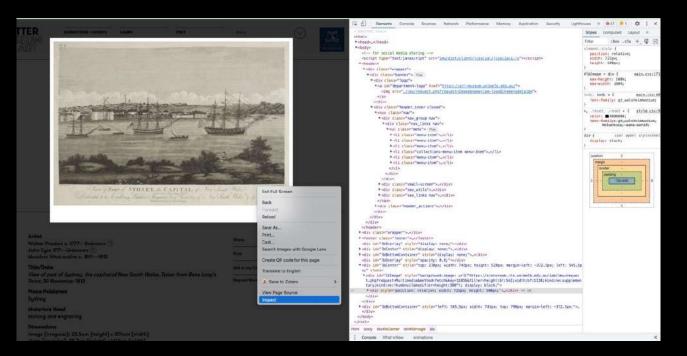
Grimwade's list was discovered, folded within Grimwade's wallet, in 2017, by curator Alisa Bunbury.

metadata list, as collection

The project opened wonderings about the way we think with our list making habits; the compulsion to write a list; the need to cross off a list; to complete a list; to feel the sense of accomplishment when 'finishing' a list.

What do lists reveal about our thinking? What does this list reveal about Grimwade, as collector of the records of colonial occupation?

It becomes aparent when looking at the digital Miegunyah collection, that Grimwade has lists in his collection that are much more extensive than the one discovered in his wallet. These lists sit silently hidden within the digital collection, waiting to be 'inspected' by curious digital audiences, and, when revealed, the list presents as equal prominence on the screen, or equal value. The list, moves our eye from top to bottom of the screen, following a colourful snaking shoreline of letters, colours and symbols. Seeing the metadata lists, sharing space on the screen with the artefact, attunes an interest in the metadata lists as undervalued sources and descriptions of culture.



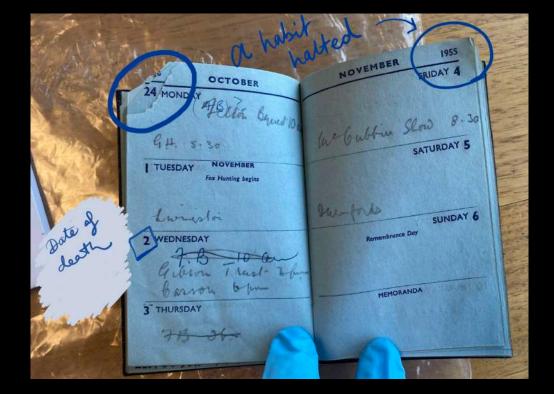
Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of part of Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. Taken from Bene Long's Point 30 November, 1812 etching and engraving 27.5 x 39.0 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0696.000.000

wonderings

In what ways might we think *with* these lists? What relationship do we foster between text and image within museums? Who is in charge of the choice of language, the description of image and in what ways does this inform, direct, and influence the encounter with these works? What informs the decisions around language used within the metadata? Could we use the metadata to inform new imaginings?

A habit halted

"...we like all the things that we assume have no limits and, therefore, no end. It's a way of escaping thoughts about death. We like lists because we don't want to die"



- Umberto Eco, 2013

Grimwade's 1955 Diary University Of Melbourne Archives Unit 21, 1975.0089.00238

techniques and methodology

The initial stages of the project was a period of immersion within the collection, gathering habits discovered and moving the works digitally into *Procreate* to see them in new ways.

It is through following the emergent themes encountered within the digital 'Miegunyah' collection, and documented objects in the reading room, that opeend a re-imagining *with* artefact 'layers' in order to explore multiple ways of knowing, being and learning *with* the 'Miegunyah' artefact/s.

Tracing the digital artefacts within *Procreate*, became method. Working computationally, as visual digital a/r/togr,apher on an iPad Pro (11 inch, 3rd generation), enabled tracing marks seen, to form transparent layers, that became traces of the colleciton themselves; traces of thinking; processing and marking new knowledge.

Procreate's layering allows for looking and thinking *with* mark making and their interchangable presentaations, opens alternative ways of seeing while making.

Grimwade's forever lists: Grimwade's digital collection

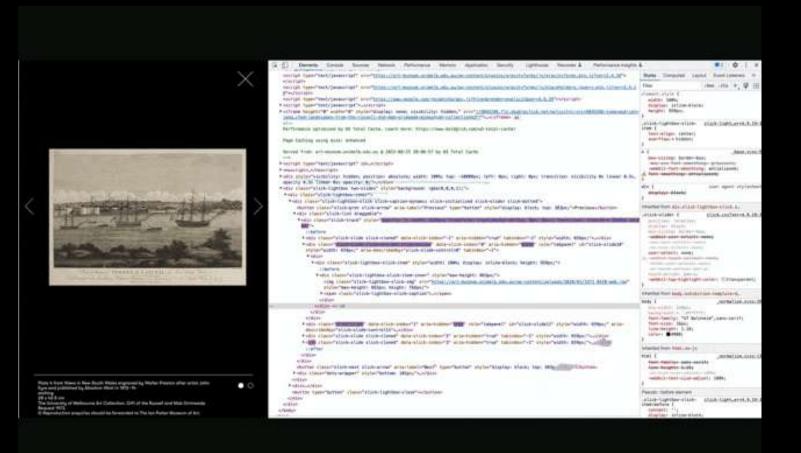
process works exploring the relationships between metadata text and image





GIF displaying the Metadata Views of New South Wales, 1812-1814-2022 Miegunyah collection, Museums and collections, University of Melbourne, 2022 GIF made using PicGIF Lite GIF of process layers of Metadata Views *of New South Wales,* 1812-1814-2022 An exploration by Yvette Walker in collaboration with the Miegunyah collection, Museums and collections, University of Melbourne, 2022 Created with IPad Pro (11-inch, 3rd generation), IPad pen and 'Procreate' GIF made using PicGIF Lite

thinking with process works



GIF of process layers of Metadata Views of New South Wales, 1812-1814-2022 An exploration by Yvette Walker in collaboration with Walter Preston and John Eyre, 2022 Created with IPad Pro (11-inch, 3rd generation), IPad pen and 'Procreate' GIF made using PicGIF Lite

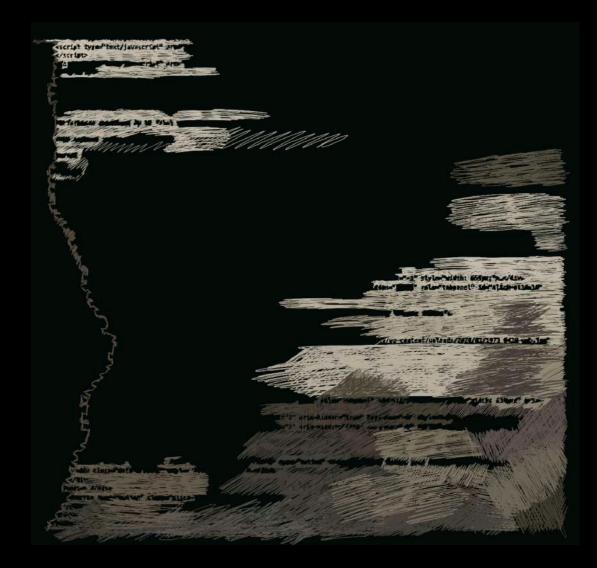
Original Work :

Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of part of Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. Taken from Bene Long's Point 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 27.5 x 39.0 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0696.000.000

thinking with process works

Metadata Views of New South Wales, 1812-1814-2022 An exploration by Yvette Walker in collaboration with Walter Preston and John Eyre, 2022 Created with IPad Pro (11-inch, 3rd generation), IPad pen and 'Procreate' Original Work : Walter Preston (engraver)

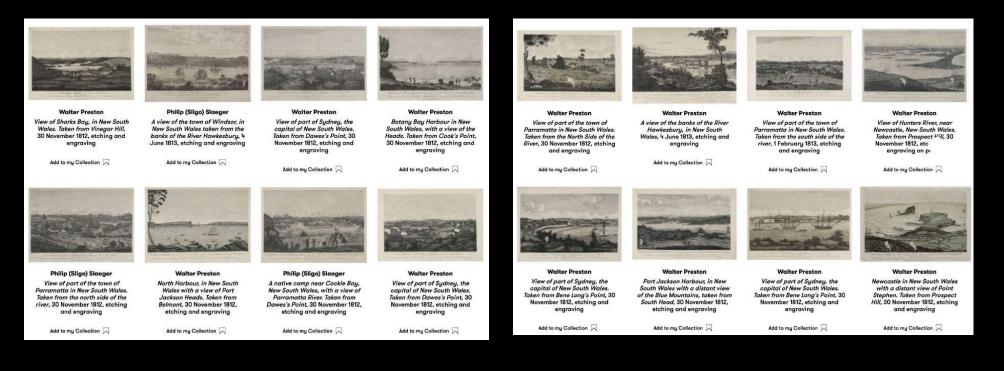
John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of part of Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. Taken from Bene Long's Point 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 27.5 x 39.0 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0696.000.000



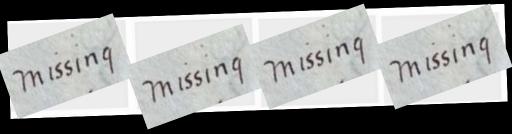
The list is the origin of culture.
 It's part of the history of art and literature.
 What does culture want?

- Umberto Eco, 2009

Views of New South Wales, published by Absalom West, Sydney, 1812-14 etchings. The University of Melbourne Art Collection, Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest 1973.

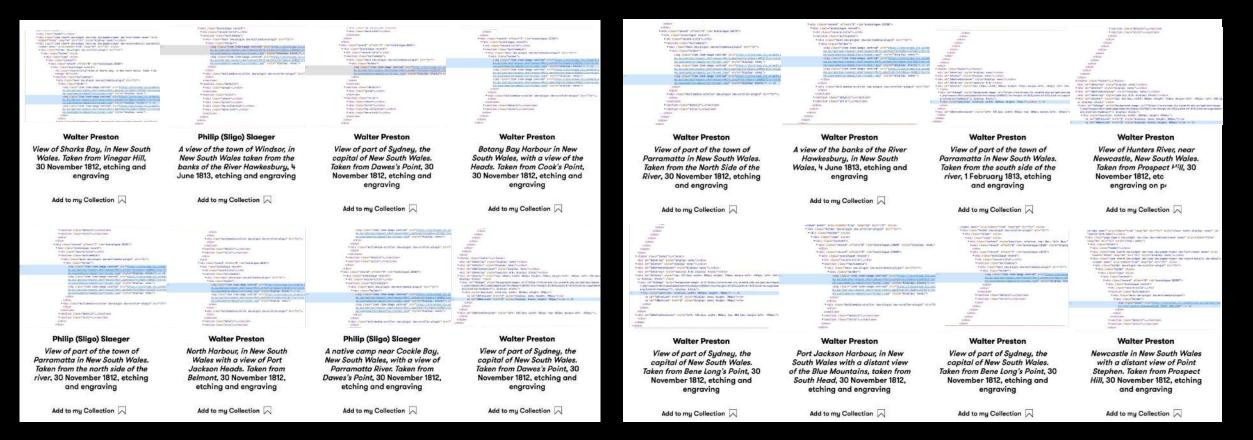






Alternative Views of New South Wales

Views of New South Wales, published by Absalom West, Sydney, 1812-14 etchings. The University of Melbourne Art Collection, Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest 1973.



DALL.E as digital collaborator, a collaboration of discomfort

A series of iterations following multiple directions occurred, to imagine, the 'what might be' of Grimwade's unfinished list.

After experimentation, DALL.E was chosen as the collaborator for the final works. Collaborating with DALL.E, a generative artificial intelligence, has been a collaboration of discomfort and curiosity. DALL.E places value upon the relationship between text and image pairing and the generative process. The process of using a diffusion model, presents an *other* way of thinking with image and text. Every search prompt provides four differing variations determined by the descriptive language prompts.

wonderings

What was the print edition of West's engraving and how many still exist? Could DALL.E discover the 'missing engravings' in its sourcing of images online? What patterns emerge from the descriptive prompts in the Miegunyah metadata collection? Could DALL.E use digital metaddata from works existing in the collection, to inform new works? Is it possible to use the titles of West's Missing engravings to form a new collection? Is it possible to generate a collective collection of new imaginations?

artwork collaborative outcomes

Three directions emerged from these wonderings to form the final outcomes of the research explorations as seen on the digital slides.

- metadata informing collection, a playful exploration using existing Miegunyah metadata text as the DALL.E prompt, to explore what visual response occurs when prompted by museum metadata language.
- the unfinished list, a series of alternative imaginings of the 'Missing Engravings' generated by prompting DALL.E with the titles of the eight 'missing' titles of the *New Views of New South Wales* collection. These works are alternative landscapes for Grimwade's unacquired works and showing four variations of the same text prompt.
- an invitation to the audience to participate and think with their own lists as prompts for DALL.E. These works become a collective collection of public lists and artwork as list.

experimenting with Metadata list to inform new collections

Walter Preston

View of Sharks Bay, in New South Wales. Taken from Vinegar Hill, 30 November 1812, etching and engraving



Prompt:

<div class="image"><img class="centred" src="http s://storeroom.its.unimelb.edu.au/ipm/imu/request.php reque st=Multimedia&method=fetch&key=11865&filt er=height:bf:200;width:bf:200;kind:ne:supplementary&m odifier=format:jp

> DALL.E AI Digital Collaborator https://openai.com/dall-e-2/

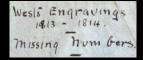


Metadata retrieved from:

https://storeroom.its.unimelb.edu.au/ipm/?page=search#view=list&id=046c&terms=%5B%22and%22%2C%5B%5B%22and%22%2C%5B%5D%5D%2C%5B%22keywords%22%2C%22sharks%20bay%22%5D%5D%5D yvette walker, 2022

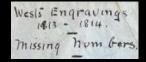
the unfinished list

to collect or to create? Do the 'missing works' still exist? Creating a new, public collection, using descriptive text, with my digital collaborator, DALL.E



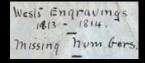


Missing work, no.13, (4 views) Yvette Walker and DALL.E, 2022 Prompt: 'Woollomoolla House, near Sydney, 1813, etching', DALL.E/ Courtesy OpenAl GIF made using PicGIF Lite



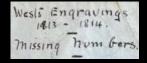


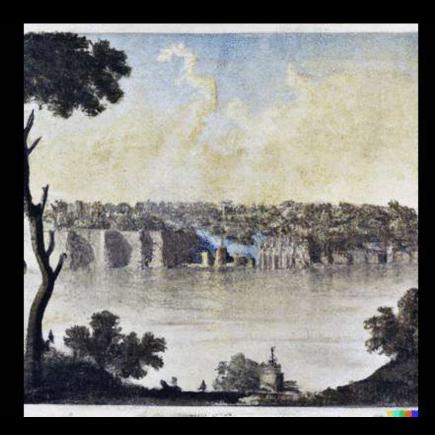
Missing work, no. 14 (4 Views) Yvette Walker and DALL.E, 2022 Prompt: 'An etching Ultimo House, near Sydney, 1812', DALL.E/ Courtesy OpenAl GIF made using PicGIF Lite



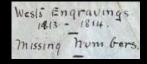


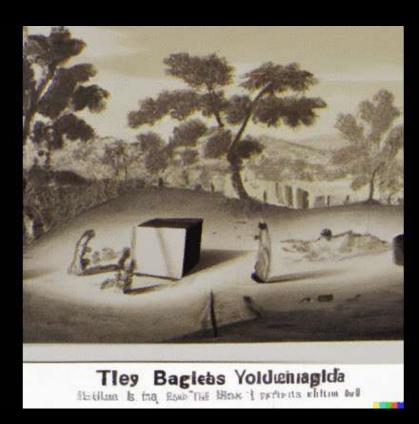
Missing work no.17 (4 Views) Yvette Walker and DALL.E, 2022 Prompt: 'An etching of the first part view of the River Sydney, taken from the Church Yard of St. Philip, Sydney, 1811', DALL.E/ Courtesy OpenAl GIF made using PicGIF Lite



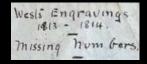


Missing work, no. 18 (4 Views) Yvette Walker and DALL.E, 2022 Prompt: 'An etching of the second part view of the River Sydney, taken from the Church Yard of St. Philip, Sydney, 1811',DALL.E/ Courtesy OpenAl GIF made using PicGIF Lite



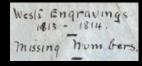


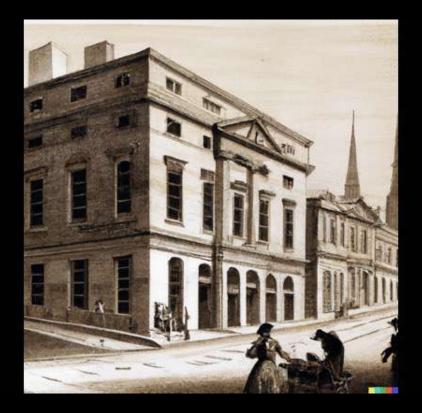
Missing Work, no. 21 (4 Views) Yvette Walker and DALL.E, 2022 'A view of the native burial of Baggara, a native of New South Wales with remarks thereon, 1812, etching', DALL.E/ Courtesy OpenAl GIF made using PicGIF Lite





Missing work, no. 22 (4 Views) Yvette Walker and DALL.E 'A view of the Blue-Mountain Pheasant. 1812, etching, New South Wales', DALL.E/ Courtesy OpenAl GIF made using PicGIF Lite





Missing work, no. 23 (4 Views) Yvette Walker and DALL.E, 2022 A view of Campbell and Co's Mercantile House, Sydney 1812, etching, DALL.E/ Courtesy OpenAl GIF made using PicGIF Lite



Missing work, no. 24 (4 Views) Yvette Walker and DALL.E, 2022 Prompt: 'A view of the Red-House Farm, Windsor, 1812, New South Wales, etching', DALL.E/ Courtesy OpenAl GIF made using PicGIF Lite

an invitation:

to share : What's on your list?

and build a collective collection exploring:

[[

What does culture want?"

- Umberto Eco, 2009

the audience's list, made December 6, 2022, at Grainger Museum, University of Melbourne.

a magic wand to stop the climate crises, coloured engraving, A quiet place, to think and listen, nature, photo realistic oil painting, all the stolen artworks finding their way back to their original peoples, A bigger house, a big back yard, space to be by myself through the end of a pair of binoculars, an original emphemeral artwork, cockatoo on a branch, relief carving holding a gumnut, bathers, rug, mulch, dahlias, irrigation, milk, cheese, butter, eggs, icing sugar, strawberries, post modern art, oil painting, contemporary figurative painting, oil from a pot of honey, illuminated painting, monk manuscript, mermaids riding on birds, engraving, undue success, oi painting, cathedral of misery and broken dreams, oil painting, exi angst, oil painting, rugged bushman riding a horse to the moon, tintype, a good idea, watercolour painting of old shearing shed in NSW, at river scene with red river gums, watercolour painting, colour lithograph of mountain range, engraving of two dark haired men photographing a painting on the floor using photometric stereo, engraving of man on unicycle juggling apples, ornate carving school of fish in a desert, curated learning, scary ghost horse in the great barrier reef, wonderful fun time playland, william blake on a tricycle, illuminated manuscript, fury, oil painting, king henry viii playing the violin, oil painting, snail playing a banjo, black and white photograph, australian flowers eucalpytus wattle painting, moog moular being played by walrus on double decker bus cubism, cat choir in the style of basquiat, teddy bears shopping for groceries, one-line drawing, display cabinet, staring up in the st dark sky, dark haired man receiving degree in the style of neoclassical painting, Romantic, financial and spiritual fulfillment, other people's input.

What's on your list? What does culture want?, 2022 A collaboration between Yvette Walker, DALL.E, and Miegunyah Student Award presentation audience. Courtesy OpenAI GIF made using PicGIF Lite





conclusion

Grimwade's list attunes our awareness to an unfulfilled collection, but perhaps the work of a collector is never fulfilled. Grimwade's list of desired acquisitions, has opened ways of thinking about the collection that is rarely experienced or *felt*. The outcome of the collaborative artefacts, present openings for ways of thinking with collections that offer alternative pedagogies as the industry moves towards its quest for radical interdisciplinary thinking, while navigating the intersecting relationships between material/visual cultural objects, digital/physical encounter, human and non-human intra-actions (Barad, 2014, p.168) and the liminal spaces in/between. This work continues to ask, 'what is next?', for museum education.

Image Credits:

Researcher, photographed items from University of Melbourne Archives:

Title: Wilfrid Russell Grimwade

1975.0089.00183 . *Monogramed Wallet and Contents - W.R.G.* (Previous Control Number: Object 641. Previous Control Number: 25/05)

Unit 21, 1975.0089.00238. *Diary for 1955*, University Of Melbourne Archives

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Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of part of Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. Taken from Dawes's Point 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 28.0 x 42.5 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0427.000.000

Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of Sharks Bay, in New South Wales. Taken from Vinegar Hill 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 27.8 x 41.0 cm (plate) 48.1 x 63.4 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0448.000.000

Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of part of Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. Taken from Bene Long's Point 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 28.7 x 40.1 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0428.000.000

Philip (Sligo) Slaeger (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) A native camp near Cockle Bay, New South Wales, with a view of Parramatta River. Taken from Dawes's Point 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 27.5 x 41.0 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0449.000.000

Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) **Botany Bay Harbour in New South** Wales, with a view of the Heads. Taken from Cook's Point 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 27.2 x 40.2 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.4 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0429.000.000

Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of part of Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. Taken from Dawes's Point 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 28.8 x 43.0 cm (plate) 48.1 x 63.4 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0450.000.000

Philip (Sligo) Slaeger (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of part of the town of Parramatta in New South Wales. Taken from the north side of the river 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 26.6 x 41.2 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0430.000.000

Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of part of the town of Parramatta A view of the banks of the River in New South Wales. Taken from the North Side of the River 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 28.5 x 41.9 cm (plate) 48.1 x 63.4 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0451.000.000

Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) North Harbour, in New South Wales with a view of Port Jackson Heads. Taken from Belmont 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 28.3 x 41.2 cm (plate) 48.1 x 63.4 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0447.000.000

Walter Preston (engraver) John William Lewin (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) Hawkesbury, in New South Wales 4 June 1813 etching and engraving 24.5 x 39.6 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0452.000.000

Image Credits

Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of part of the town of Parramatta in New South Wales. Taken from the south side of the river 1 February 1813 etching and engraving 28.4 x 42.2 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0453.000.000

Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) **Port Jackson Harbour, in New South Wales with a distant view of the Blue Mountains, taken from South Head** 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 27.5 x 40.6 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0698.000.000 Walter Preston (engraver) Richard Browne (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of Hunters River, near Newcastle, New South Wales. Taken from Prospect Hill 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 27.7 x 51.0 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0454.000.000 Walter Preston (engraver) John Eyre (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) View of part of Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. Taken from Bene Long's Point 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 27.5 x 39.0 cm (plate) 48.2 x 63.5 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973. 1973.0696.000.000 Philip (Sligo) Slaeger (artist engraver)
Absalom West (publisher)
A view of the town of Windsor, in New South
Wales taken from the banks of the River
Hawkesbury 4 June 1813
etching and engraving
24.2 x 38.8 cm (plate)
48.2 x 63.9 cm (mount)
The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Gift of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Bequest, 1973.
1973.0697.000.000

Walter Preston (engraver) Richard Browne (draughtsman) Absalom West (publisher) Newcastle in New South Wales with a distant view of Point Stephen. Taken from Prospect Hill 30 November 1812 etching and engraving 22.7 x 37.4 cm (plate) 43.5 x 64.3 cm (mount) The University of Melbourne Art Collection. Purchased through the Russell and Mab Grimwade Miegunyah Fund, 2018 2018.0228.000.000