



### Virtual Voyages

Travel Writing and the Antipodes 1605-1837

Paul Longley Arthur

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### Description

**A fascinating account of the European discovery of the elusive 'great south land' told through the literature of 'imaginary voyages'.**

'This excellent study, illustrated with a wealth of detail, shows how generations of Europeans saw this distant world, transplanting their fears and desires in equal parts and shaping the space in ways which continue to mark it even into the present.'

—Gareth Griffiths, *Winthrop Professor of English and Cultural Studies, University of Western Australia*

Written at the height of the era of European maritime exploration, the literature of 'imaginary voyages' of discovery to the elusive 'great south land' are bizarre and captivating tales, whose wildly imaginative visions of antipodean inversion and strangeness reveal a hidden history of attitudes to colonization. By exposing the relationship between myth and reality in the antipodes, *Virtual Voyages: Travel Writing and the Antipodes 1605-1837* casts new light on the power of fiction to influence history.

*Virtual Voyages* offers a fresh perspective on of transcultural representations by focusing on the often neglected period of Australia and the Pacific in the eighteenth century, while also breaking new ground by being the first to approach the genre of the imaginary voyage from a post-colonial perspective. In addition to the new insights into European colonialism that it offers, this volume illustrates many broader themes in eighteenth-century history and thought, including connections between the rise of science and modern imperialism; the development of narrative history and fiction and the influence of romanticism; the evolution of the early novel in Britain and France; and the role of mythology in the development of national identity.

**Readership:** Scholars working across a wide range of fields, including travel writing, eighteenth-century and early modern studies, post-colonial studies, history of the novel, British and French colonial history, transnational history, Australian studies, Pacific studies, romanticism, realism, mythology, and utopian thought.

### Contents

List of Illustrations; Acknowledgements; Editorial Note; Introduction; Chapter 1 - Real and Imaginary Voices; Chapter 2 - Blank Spaces for the Imagination; Chapter 3 - Exoticism and Romanticism; Chapter 4 - Finding Paradise and Utopia in the Specific; Chapter 5 - Australia's Mythic Inland; Conclusion; Index

### About the Author

Paul Longley Arthur studied at the University of Western Australia and was a research fellow at Murdoch University and Curtin University before taking up a position in the History programme at the Australian National University. He has held visiting fellowships at research centres in Europe, North America and Australia, and has published widely on the history of technology, media, travel and empire.

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