

**BLAND'S THREE-PART ATTACK ON JAMES MACARTHUR :  
A FERGUSON REVISION**

DR WILLIAM BLAND issued anonymously in 1838 two unfinished parts of his *New South Wales*, but the third part of this work was not printed until 1906.

Reference to Ferguson 2447 and 2717 shows that the descriptions of all items considered require amendment and the notes in these entries also require reconsideration.

Bland's work was issued in reply to the publication by James Macarthur of his *New South Wales; its present state and future prospects* (London, 1837), Ferguson: 2304. The recorded pagination of that work should be amended to read: Pp. [vii], p.viii, [9]–296, folding coloured map opposite p.181; 344 (Appendices 1–58, folding Appendix No.24 numbered p.162a).

The following is an amended description of Ferguson 2447, with a dissection of the three-part issue:

NEW SOUTH WALES. | – | EXAMINATION | OF | MR. JAMES  
MACARTHUR'S WORK, | "NEW SOUTH WALES, | ITS PRESENT  
STATE | AND FUTURE PROSPECTS." | – | NEW SOUTH WALES: |  
PRINTED BY ABRAHAM COHEN, GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY. | – |  
1838.  
209 x 139mm.

1. Pp. [ii] (title-page, verso blank), [1]–48 [B–D<sup>8</sup>] (issued March 1838; no copy of the first Notice dated March 1838 has been sighted);
2. Pp. 49–80 [E–F<sup>8</sup>] (issued November 1838), [ii] (recto: Notice and Second Notice, verso blank; sometimes found bound after title-page);
3. Pp. 81–90 (originally in 3pp. galley, but reproduced by photo-lithography by the N.S.W. Government Printer for the Public Library of New South Wales in 1906), [ii] (Notice and Second Notice, reset, verso blank).

It is possible that the first Notice, dated March 1838, was printed separately with the publication of pages 1–48, but no copies have been sighted; nor has any such single section been sighted, but they could have been "married" to the second part issued in November 1838. The leaf containing both notices was printed at least twice, in November 1838 and 1906. The 1838 leaf has a rule under "NOTICE", the text of the Second Notice is set in 11 lines, and its address and date occupy two lines. In the 1906 print there is no rule under "NOTICE", the Second Notice is set in 10 lines, and its address and date occupy one line. The November 1838 notice leaf reads:

**NOTICE.****EXAMINATION OF MR. JAMES MACARTHUR'S WORK, "NEW SOUTH WALES, ITS PRESENT STATE AND FUTURE PROSPECTS."**

THE subjoined portion of a work now in progress, under the above title, is sent in its present unfinished state, from the obvious necessity of furnishing as early a reply as possible to the many erroneous statements, as well as opinions, contained in Mr JAMES MACARTHUR'S Work. The sequel will be forwarded with as little delay as possible — when, very probably, the name of the Author will be disclosed.

*Sydney, March, 1838.*

**SECOND NOTICE.**

The continuation (from page 48 to page 80) of the "Examination" of Mr JAMES MACARTHUR'S Work, entitled "New South Wales, its Present State and Future Prospects," is now forwarded, with many apologies for its late (as well as still incomplete) appearance — circumstances which, the author begs to state, have arisen partly in endeavours to obtain access to documents which the subject seemed to require for its full elucidation, and partly from a series of ill-health, together with the almost unremitting occupation in which he has been otherwise unavoidably engaged.

*Sydney, New South Wales }  
November, 1838.*

The first line of the Second Notice should read: "... (from page 49 to page 80) ..."; "a" has been duplicated in the eighth and ninth lines.

Five copies of this work are listed in the Mitchell Library catalogue. Two of these have the original 80 pages only. One of these copies [991/33A2] is sewn with title-page and 80pp; the second copy is bound in the "Papers of the Australian Patriotic Association" [342.91/10A1], with Pp. [ii] (title-page), [ii] (notice leaf), 80.

The following stencilled note is inserted with two copies [991/33A1 and 342.91/11A1]:

This pamphlet was published in an incomplete form, ending abruptly in the middle of a sentence on page 80. No perfect copy of it has ever been found. In May, 1906, the galley

proofs of the remainder of the pamphlet were discovered among a large lot of odds and ends belonging to the estate of the late B.C. Rodd [A.D.B. 6:52], who had been intimately acquainted with Dr. Bland, the author of it. These pages are a photo-lithographic reproduction of the galley proofs now in the possession of Mr. J. Arthur Dowling. Certified by H.C.L. Anderson, Principal Librarian. Public Library of N.S.W. 12th June, 1906.

Item [991/33A3] comprises 37 copies of pages 81–90 only, a set of galley proofs (possibly those referred to in Anderson's note) and a further copy of the stencilled note.

Three Mitchell copies [991/33A1, 342.91/11A1 and /11A2] are bound with pp. 81–90. One of the Ferguson copies in the National Library of Australia and the McLaren copy also have this section, accounting for 42 copies of these additional pages. The Mitchell Library order to the N.S.W. Government Printer dated 16 May 1906 was for 50 copies of pp. 81–90 "... to be set up in pages so as to correspond exactly with the original pamphlet. ...".

Ferguson gave the pagination of F.2447 as Pp.[iv], 90,[2] (recto—notice mentioned hereunder, verso blank). He apparently included the notice leaf twice: in the preliminaries and at the end. His inclusion of the notice leaf in the preliminaries could have followed the binding sequence of the Mitchell Library copy [342.91/10A1], or included both the 1838 and 1906 notice leaves.

The Alfred Lee copy in the Mitchell Library [991/33A1] has the following pencil note:

This attack on Macarthur's book was distributed in parts. . . Pp. 81–90 were printed in page form, but I have no evidence that they were ever distributed. When Mr. H.C.L. Anderson was Principal Librarian a complete copy was shown to him and a few facsimile copies of pp. 81–90 were made at the Government Printing Office in order to complete the copy possessed by the Public Library and the copy in Mr. A. Lee's possession. Hugh Wright/8 Oct. 1925.

It is unlikely that there was a "complete" 1838 copy, as has already been shown.

There are two copies of the Bland pamphlet in the Ferguson Collection in the National Library of Australia. The first is uncut [220 x 145mm] with Pp. [ii], 90, [ii] (notice leaf). It is finely bound by Morrell. The second copy, in wrappers [209 x 139], is in original state, with cut edges. It contains the two sections of 48 and 32 pages respectively and the notice leaf. The plain stiff white wrappers are sewn, with title-page and text, pp. [1]–80, [ii] (Notice and Second Notice, verso blank). The copy is signed on the title-page "Henry Carmichael", and contains a note by Ferguson, similar to his reference note in F.2447:

Found among Carmichael [Henry A.D.B. 1:210] Papers, Porphyry, Seaham, N.S.W. 1st.Aug. 1938. Copies in original wrappers and sewing like this are very rare. J.A.F.

Bland published further remarks on the same subject in *The Australian* in 1839; these were re-printed in pamphlet form [ML342.9/11A1 and /11A2; F.2717]:

NEW SOUTH WALES. | – | REVIEW | OF THE | EXAMINATION | OF |  
 MR. JAMES M'ARTHUR'S [sic] WORK, | "NEW SOUTH WALES, |  
 ITS PRESENT STATE, | AND | FUTURE PROSPECTS." | FROM THE  
 "AUSTRALIAN" NEWSPAPER, | By A MEMBER OF "THE  
 AUSTRALIAN PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION." [caps & smalls] | – |  
 SYDNEY: | printed by TROOD, IN KING STREET. [caps & smalls] |  
 1839.

202 x 130mm Pp. [ii] (title-page, verso blank), [3]–[64] (last colophon only).

It would appear that the printed apostrophe "s" in "M'Arthur's" was inserted, probably by hand impression, after the printing of this pamphlet. This work describes (p.51) the original publication, F.2447, as "unfinished", and states in the introduction (p.[3]):

A critical examination of Mr. James Macarthur's work, written and printed in this Colony, has just been put into our hands by a gentleman lately arrived from England. The work is not yet complete, but appears to have been printed and sent home, in parts, in order (as explained in notices attached to it) to furnish a reply there, with as little delay as possible, to the many erroneous facts and opinions contained in the work of Mr. Macarthur. This will account for its not having yet made its appearance before the public in this Colony.

This observation was written by Bland about his own previous anonymous work. The two parts were sent separately to England for distribution during 1838 but Bland apparently found no necessity to have the third part finally printed, either because the first two parts had been distributed or because his views could be better stated in the 1839 pamphlet, F.2717.

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 Melbourne.

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