

ZIMMERMANN'S AUSTRALIEN IN HINSICHT, 1810
(FERGUSON 509)*

IN ENTRY 509 in his *Bibliography of Australia* Sir John Ferguson describes Eberhardt August Wilhelm von Zimmermann's *Australien in Hinsicht der Erde =, Menschen = und Produktenkunde* (Hamburg, Friedrich Perthes, 1810) thus:

2 vols. 8vo. Vol. I: pp. xxviii, 418, [2] (errata, last blank), one folding map; Vol. II: pp. x (last blank), 419-966.

This description is not incorrect, but ideally it should take account of:

- (i) a cancel leaf,
- (ii) a pre-publication state, reflecting a belated decision to divide the text into two volumes between 'Dritte Zone' and 'Vierte Zone', and
- (iii) a post-publication state (if that is the correct classification), involving the addition of a dedication to George III.

As an aid to discussion it is useful to amplify Ferguson's statement of pagination with a conventional collation formula:

Vol. I: $\pi^8 *4 2\pi_1 3\pi_1 [1]^8 2-26^8 \times 27^2$; pages [I-III] IV-XXVI [2] [1-3] 4-418 [2];

Vol. II: $2 \times 27^8 27^8 (-27_1-4) 28-60^8 61^2 [62]_1$; pages [I-III] IV-VIII [2] [419] 420-966.

In Vol. I the 'Vorrede' ends on $2\pi_1^v$, and the 'Inhalt' [Contents], which refers to both volumes, occupies $3\pi_1$. At the foot of $3\pi_1^r$ is the printed instruction, 'Dieser Inhalt ist hinter die Vorrede der ersten Abtheilung zu binden', and this is where it always does appear, though it was actually imposed with 62_1 (see below).

(i)

The collation given above should in fact be that of an ideal copy, and therefore should take account of the fact that 9_1 was intended to be cancelled — i.e. it should read . . . $2-8^8 9^8 (\pm 9_1) 10-26^8$ In the majority of exemplars known to me¹ the cancellandum of leaf has been excised and the cancellans correctly inserted, but there are two aberrant exemplars which have the cancellandum intact.² In the Monash exemplar, which is unopened and unsewn, the cancellans is tipped in before gathering 9, in which — of necessity, in view of the method of 'binding' — the cancellandum is an integral part. In the National Library exemplar the cancellandum is again present at 9_1 , but the cancellans follows, and is conjugate with, $2\pi_1$. Since $2\pi_1$.cancellans 9_1 were imposed together the decision to cancel was presumably made prior to publication.

The reason for the cancellation was to remove 'Rocca Partida' from among the doubtful islands ('Die ungewissen Inseln'), the subject of the chapter beginning on 88^v . The island had been discovered by Juan Gaetano in 1542, and in the

*I am particularly indebted to Mrs. Joan Kirsop for her assistance in translating and elucidating the German.

original text Zimmermann refers to the fruitless search for it in May 1786 recorded in the German edition of Dixon's *Voyage*.³ There it is 'concluded, and with reason, that there must be some gross mistake in their [the Spaniards'] chart.' (p.49). The cancellation was effected in order to take account of Chapter 8 of Colnett's *Voyage*,⁴ where it is recorded that on 24 September 1793 Colnett arrived off 'Rocka Partida', following a Spanish manuscript chart. (Roca Partida is part of the Revilla Gigedo group belonging to Mexico, in the Pacific Ocean about 475 miles west of Manzanillo.)

(ii)

The Monash exemplar is unusual in other respects than the presence of both cancellans and cancellandum 91. The two volumes are now 'bound' together in a blue paper wrapper from the late nineteenth century: on its verso is an advertisement for Gressner & Schramm of Leipzig, dated not before 1882. The sheets are not only unopened but also unsewn, being held together merely by the glue between the gatherings, so that the bolts cannot be cut and the only way the text can be read is by opening out the sheets. Curiously, gathering 57 is inserted wrong way round, being held in place by the fore-edges of leaves 1-4. I wonder whether this form of temporary 'binding', which I have not encountered before, is a sport or peculiar to a particular place or time.

More significantly, the Monash exemplar affords evidence that the decision to divide Volume I (the only one published) into two *Abtheilungen* was belated:⁵ presumably at least gathering 28 had been set. As first set, gathering 26 was followed by 27⁸, with the 'Vierte Zone' beginning on 271^v (p.418) after the concluding two lines of the 'Dritte Zone'. The decision to divide the text at this point required the cancellation of not only the first leaf (271) but also the following three leaves, so that the difference of a page caused by shifting the beginning of the 'Vierte Zone' from a verso to a recto could be made up. The four leaves intended for cancellation are present in the Monash exemplar, slashed as a guide for the binder. (Slashing cancellanda is a familiar eighteenth-century English practice, but I have not established whether it was typical of German book-making at the turn of the century.)

Vol. I in the second state ends with a two-leaf gathering signed '27', made up of: x271, reset pages 417 and 418, now with six lines of text on p.418; x272, 'Verbesserungen' [Errata], verso blank. This gathering is present in the Monash exemplar.

The second new gathering (signed '27' on 5^v), which opens the second *Abtheilung*, is made up thus:

5^r section half-title to 'Vierte Zone', verso blank.

6^r-8^v (pp.[419] 420-424) text, corresponding with pp. 418-424 of the original setting.

2^x278^v ends at the same point as the original 274^v, the reduction of one page being managed by telescoping the text.

Binders have coped with the beginning of the second Abtheilung in various ways. The cancellation of 271-4 results in four disjunct leaves, and these are sometimes left disjunct, sometimes mounted on guards to form the equivalent of a half sheet, which is then sewn between 276 and 277. But the signing of 2^x27 on 5^r appears to have confused some binders,⁶ who have broken 2^x27 into separate leaves and then mounted 2^x275-8 and 275-8 on guards to form an eight-leaf gathering signed '27' on the first recto (i.e. 2^x275^r), in the process creating a different sequence of disjunct leaves, 2^x271-4.

(iii)

As noted above, 2π1 and cancellans 91 are conjugate in one of the National Library exemplars. The Monash exemplar, being totally uncut, also enables it to be shown with some confidence that 3π1 and 621 were once conjugate, and indeed that the eight leaves 2π1.cancellans 91, 3π1.621, 2^x271.2 and 611.2 were imposed together as a regular sheet. The deckles, torn edges and watermark/countermark are consonant with the eight leaves having been imposed together thus (one side of the sheet illustrated, not the type pages):

271 ^r	272 ^v	61 ^r	27 ^v
611 ^v	612 ^r	621 ^v	3π1 ^r

(iv)

It is curious that there should be an added dedication to George III in both the British Library exemplars, 302.i.18–19 (dedication in Vol.I) and 982.d.23–24 (from Sir Joseph Banks's library; dedication in Vol.II), but in none of the Australian exemplars. Both the British Library exemplars are divided into two volumes and in both the cancellation of 91 has been effected.

The dedication occupies a complete unsigned 8-leaf gathering, reading on $\chi 1^r$ 'Seiner Majestät Georg dem Dritten Könige von Grossbritannien und Irrland, Herzoge zu Braunschweig und Lüneburg und Churfürsten'; $\chi 1^v$ is blank; the text of the dedication occupies $\chi 2^f$ – 8^v and is signed by Zimmermann at 'Braunschweig, den 3ten Jan. 1814.'

There is the obvious link in George's being Duke of Brunswick, but the bulk of the dedication is devoted to fulsome praise of the King for his contributions to exploration, colonisation, science, trade, and so on, culminating in this:

The limitless trade through which Great Britain now outweighs all the rest of the earth, did it not climb to this scarcely credible height through all the advances of the arts and sciences touched on here? and does not the Kingdom owe this principally to the expert efforts and wise leadership of George the Third? ($\chi 7^r$)

The panegyric then goes on to provide what may be the occasion for the dedication in referring to George's placing 'the crown on this glorious monument' through 'victory in the most terrible battle against the enemy of the entire human society'. ($\chi 7^v$) The enemy, which England now hurls to the ground, is likened to a hydra,

which threatened to devour all cultivated mankind, and thus foresight vouchsafes to the longstanding indefatigable and most vigorous efforts of your royal majesty and your highness's illustrious heir to the throne the highest possible reward that it could give: *the salvation of Europe!*

The salvation of Europe in 1813 can only refer to the defeat of the Napoleonic forces, but there is some doubt whether a particular battle is referred to. The most decisive recent battle had been at Leipzig in October 1813, but British forces had not been involved. Perhaps the reference is a general one to the Peninsular War, which had reached its climax with Wellington's victory at Victoria, in June 1813.

Whatever the military occasion, there remains the question why *this* work should be provided with a dedication in 1814 and without an accompanying change to the title page. Perhaps the answer lies in the personal condition of Zimmermann at the time, though this is something about which I am uninformed. (Another question to which I have no answer is the basic one why the work was

terminated prematurely and the original first volume divided into two parts.)

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¹ La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria SLt 919Z6 copy 1 (bound in one volume by J. Pownceby, 16 Lonsdale St. East), copy 2 (2 volumes, in a contemporary German half-leather binding) and Buesst Collection; National Library of Australia E.A.P. 919.4 (F509); British Library 302.i.18-19 and 982.d.23-24 (Sir Joseph Banks); State Library of South Australia; Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. I am grateful to Mr M.R. Talbot, Deputy Reference Librarian, State Library of South Australia, and Mr C.G. Sheehan, John Oxley Librarian, for supplying details of the exemplars in their custody.

² Monash University *919.4 Z73A; National Library of Australia P11486-7.

³ George Dixon, *A Voyage round the World; but more particularly to the North-West Coast of America: performed in 1785, 1786, 1787, and 1788, in the King George and Queen Charlotte, Captains Portlock and Dixon*. London: published by Geo. Goulding. 1789.

⁴ James Colnett, *A Voyage to the South Atlantic and round Cape Horn into the Pacific Ocean, for the purpose of extending the Spermaceti Whale fisheries, and other objects of commerce. Undertaken and performed by Captain James Colnett, of the Royal Navy, in the ship Rattler*. London: printed for the author, by W. Bennett, Westminster. Sold by A. Arrowsmith; Stockdale; Edgerton; Elmsley; and White. 1798.

⁵ Or alternatively perhaps, that the original decision was initially overlooked.

⁶ I have assumed that it was not the printers' intention that ²27 be so divided, and that the signing on 5^r is accidental, since any leaf after the first was available for signing.

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