

A. Leveil Fecit

VIEWS IN AUSTRALIA  
OR NEW SOUTH WALES, & VAN DIEMEN'S LAND  
DELINEATED,

*In Fifty Views, with descriptive Letter Press,*

Dedicated by Permission, to  
*The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Earl Bathurst, &c. &c.*

BY J. LYCETT.

*Artist to Major General Macquarie, late Governor of those Colonies.*



View 1

View 2



# LYCETT, Joseph.

## Views in Australia...

*Oblong folio, a tall copy with the pictorial lithographed title untrimmed, 48 coloured aquatint views after drawings by Joseph Lycett, the colouring generally very bright and of notably high quality, two engraved maps (one folding), with descriptive letterpress text, later neat owner's signature; an excellent copy in a very attractive Riviere binding of full tan polished calf gilt, in a matching full fine calf leather case, ornately gilt. London, J. Souter, 1825.*

### A PIVOTAL WORK IN AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE ART BY GOVERNOR MACQUARIE'S ARTIST

First edition of the great Australian plate book, a landmark in the development of Australian illustrated books: this is a most attractive copy. Lycett's charming, highly-coloured views of New South Wales and Tasmania are justly famous today, and the book as a whole provides a remarkable visual record of Macquarie's Australia. Not only does it provide an historical snapshot of New South Wales and Tasmania in the early decades of settlement, but especially from the point of view of colonial architecture, it is a collection of remarkable importance. Lycett's incomparable plates record some of the colony's most important houses and country seats, and provide an invaluable contextual record of many lesser-known buildings and indeed building types.

Lycett had arrived in New South Wales as a convict in 1814. Trained as a portrait and miniature painter in Staffordshire, his services as a professional artist were much in demand and he was soon working for the publisher Absalom West. He was appointed artist to Major-General Macquarie, the governor of New South Wales. Impressed with Lycett's talents, Macquarie sent three of his drawings to Earl Bathurst, Secretary of the Colonies (the dedicatee of the *Views*) who, it is supposed in payment, granted a pardon to the artist.

Little is known of Lycett after the publication of the *Views*, which - with Wallis' *Historical Account* - marks the end of an era in the publication of Australian illustrated books. Macquarie's departure and the deaths of both Lewin and Lycett meant that the illustrated books to follow would be on a rather less ambitious scale. 'As far as we know Lycett produced

no more work after the completion of his *Views* in 1825. In the Advertisement to the complete work, issued with the first part in July 1824, Lycett announced that... he intended to publish 'in the same size and manner, the Natural History of Australia'. It is not known what became of this project. In 1825 Lycett was in his early fifties and still, no doubt, the incurable alcoholic Commissioner Bigge reported him to be a few years before; it is probable that he did not live long enough to complete the project... The death, or at any rate, the silence of Lycett after 1825 marked the end of an era in Australian plate books. The lavish productions of Wallis and Lycett celebrated the expansiveness and the buoyancy of the Macquarie age. With Macquarie gone, Lewin dead and Lycett departed, artistic life in the colony was less robust in the 1820s. Australian plate books were still being published, but they were in most cases more humble productions than those of the preceding decade' (*Australian Rare Books*).

**\$74,500**

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*Ferguson, 1031; Wantrup, 218b.*

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