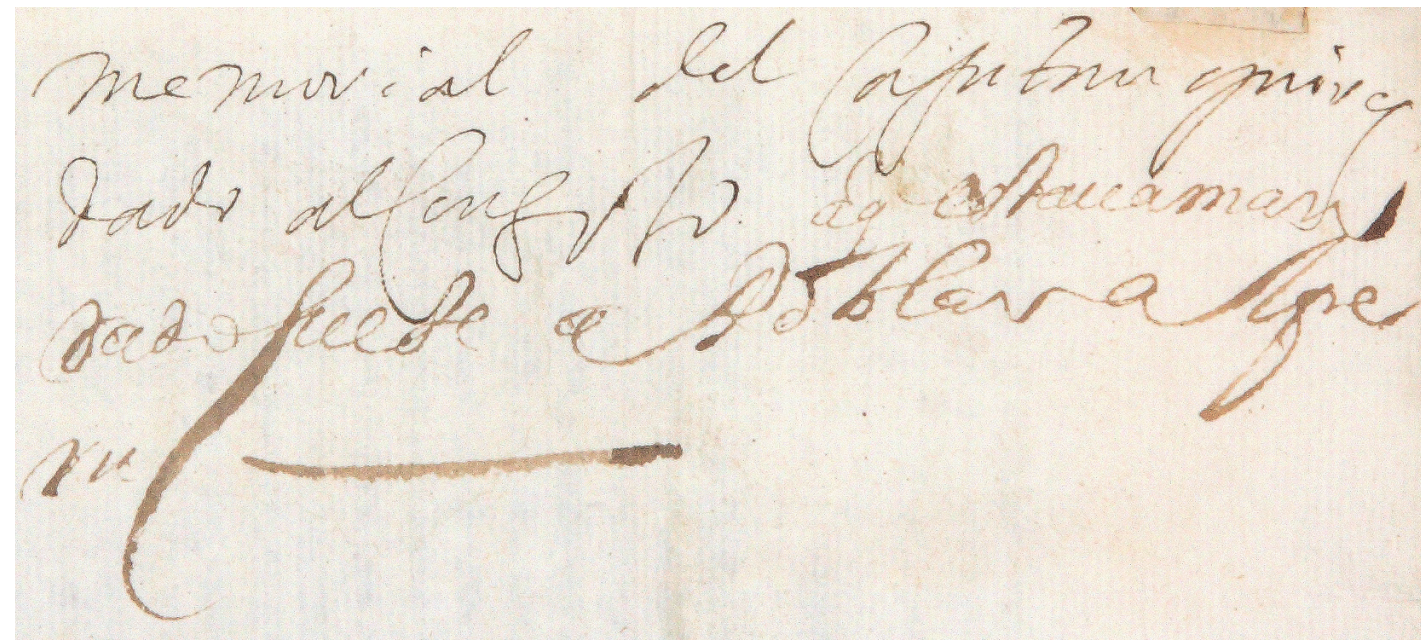


# HORDERN HOUSE

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THE QUIROS MEMORIAL OF 1611

Señor.

**L** Capitan Pedro Fernandez de Quiros. Cincuenta meses ha que estoy en esta Corte, suplicando a V. M. se sirva mandar, me vaya a poblar las tierras que V. M. me mandò descubrir. Dixe las grandezas dellas, sus muchas, y diuersas gentes, y riquezas de muchos generos, bien necessarias a España. Y como la parte es capaz de poder auer en ella, dentro de las dos Zonas, Torrida, y Templada (dexo la Frigida) muchas mas tierras, gentes y riquezas, de lo que al parecer se alcança, y lo prometen las muestras, las noticias, y los discursos.

Mostrè los peligros que corren de presente y defuturo, así en lo que toca a la doctrina Euangelica, como a la parte de V. M. Adverti, que si los enemigos que con escuadras de doze y mas naos van y vienen a Terrenate, distancia cincuenta leguas del remate dellas, pueblan primero, que o V. M. los ha de echar dellas, o dexar en ellas, y que lo vno ha de costar gran suma de barras de plata y de hombres, y lo otro la perdida de todas ellas.

Dixe, que con solos quinientos mil ducados, gastados por vna vez en el Piru, V. M. ganara y asegurara todos los bienes de ambos generos que contiene este gran caso, y escusara todos los males, daños, perdidas y escandalos que en el mismo puede auer, y del pueden proceder, y estenderse por las dos Indias del Oriente y Occidete, y llegar hasta España, y durar muy largos tiempos, y quiza siempre, todo, o parte.

Dixe lo mucho que importa hazerle aquella poblacion con toda presteza, y a costa de hazienda Real, y no de agena. Di por razon, que la persona que gastare quinientos mil ducados, tomara para si vn millon de renta, y dara principio a cien millones de males sin remedio: y que si este gasto le hizieren quatro, o mas, cada vno querra tomar otro tanto, y quiza todos obligaran a V. M. gaste en templar codicias y crueldades, en humillarlos digo, muchas vezes mas dinero y hombres, que pido se gaste por vna vez en toda la obra.

Dixe, que aunque aquellas tierras se estiendan tanto como prometen, V. M. no dè en ellas, como da en las Indias, salario alguno, a ministros de gouierno espiritual y temporal, ni de justicia, hazienda y guerra, ni a soldados y marineros, ni a otros, a quien V. M. lo suele dar: y el como no se gaste hazienda Real, en fundar, leuatar y adornar Iglesias, Conuentos, Colegios, Seminarios, Hospitales, Casas Reales y Castillos, ni en el sustento de todos quantos los habitaren y situieren, y como todas estas, y otras fabricas de tierra y mar de la obligacion de V. M. seran muchas, bien obradas, y mas presto hechas, y lo mismo las del comun.

Dixe, que con los officios publicos V. M. premiara grandes seruicios, y los ocupará personas, de quien por razon del buen modo que se rendra en la eleccion, renta bastante que se ha de dar para sustentarse sin lleuar derechos, cuidado secreto en saber las vidas, castigo cierto y presto a los que usaren mal dellos, se deua creer que no solo seran sabios en su exercicio, sino que guardaran la fidelidad y diligencia tan necessaria: y demas desto se escusara la venta dellos, que es vno de los mayores males que pueden tener los Reynos, y vno de los mayores beneficios que pueden recibir aquellos; sin que en esto V. M. pierda nada, mas antes se ganará tanto generalmente, quanto puedo mostrar luego.

Mostrè como en aquellas tierras, en las Indias, en España, y en todos los estados de V. M. y aun en todo el mundo, no ay a pleitos civiles, de ninguno de los generos porque suele auerlos, y como seran menos los criminales, con modo de su aueriguacion, porque la verdad se halle quanto es posible, y por su falta no padezcan, ni perezcan inocentes,

QUIROS, Pedro Fernández de.

**Memorial: Cincuenta meses ha que estoy. [Incipit:] Señor. El Capitan Pedro Fernandez de Quirós. Cincuenta meses ha que estoy en esta Corte, suplicando a V[uestra] M[agestad] se sirva mandar, me vaya a poblar las tierras que V[uestra] M[agestad] me mandò descubrir... // ... [Explicit:] Esta es mi justicia, esta pido a V[uestra] M[agestad] cincuenta meses ha.**

*Folio, 303 x 203 mm., four leaves, foliated [1]-3 (six pages of printed text, the final leaf blank); woodcut initial "E" on the first leaf. Madrid, 7 December, 1611.*

**VERY RARE: JUST TWO INSTITUTIONAL COPIES ARE KNOWN, ALONG WITH TWO PRIVATELY-OWNED COPIES.**

**Quirós has now spent fifty months petitioning the king. Here are his arguments for colonising the southern land; he must press for a speedy decision as the annual fleet will sail shortly.** This highly significant Presentation Memorial, seeking to colonise the southern continent, was the eleventh in a series of fourteen such printed documents prepared by Pedro Fernández de Quirós, all of which are today of great rarity.

This newly-discovered copy has a long manuscript note, possibly by Quirós, specifically addressing this copy.

The Quirós Presentation Memorials represent the earliest printed record of discovery and plans for settlement of a Southern Continent, the discoveries that Quirós named "Austrialia del Espíritu Santo". Pedro Fernández de Quirós prepared his printed Memorials as a series of proposals addressed to King Philip III of Spain; he presented them to the king and his councils between 1607 and 1614. These Memorials described the discoveries made of a Southern Continent and petitioned the King to support an expedition of discovery and ultimately colonisation there, in order to settle the lands that Quirós had found.

Altogether as many as fifty Memorials were prepared, but most of them were in manuscript. Just 14 were printed for limited distribution, at Quirós' own expense.

This is the eleventh in the series of 14 printed Presentation Memorials now identified. This example is particularly interesting for containing a four-line note in ink on the blank final leaf specifically addressing this copy: Memorial del capitan quiros dado al Consejo (??) de estacaman (??) dado feste a ?? ???. In keeping with what we know of distribution of the printed Memorials, this may well be in Quirós' own hand.

As well as this newly-discovered copy, four others are known: the two located by Kelly (Archive of the Indies and Dixson Library Sydney), and two copies privately owned in Australia, the Longueville copy and another.

The Quirós historian and bibliographer Kelly explains the text:

Memorial, after 50 months spent at Court, on the benefits of a settlement in the Austral Lands, both in the spiritual and temporal spheres; the necessity of having administrative personnel (military, judicial and ecclesiastical); and that the total cost would be 500,000 ducats. It pleads for a dispatch to his satisfaction, and reminds the king that the fleet for Tierra Firme leaves in December. (Calendar of Documents, p. 291).

Quirós' Presentation Memorials represent the earliest printed record of discovery and plans for settlement of a Southern Continent, the discoveries that Quirós named "Austrialia del Espíritu Santo". He prepared his Memorials as a series of proposals addressed to King Philip III of Spain, presenting them to the king and his councils between 1607 and 1614. They described the apparent discovery of a Southern Continent and petitioned the King to support an expedition of discovery and ultimately colonisation there, stressing the commercial and nationalistic benefits to be had alongside the merits of taking Christianity to the new lands.

Altogether as many as fifty Memorials were prepared, but most of them were in manuscript. Just fourteen were printed for very limited distribution, at Quirós' own expense.

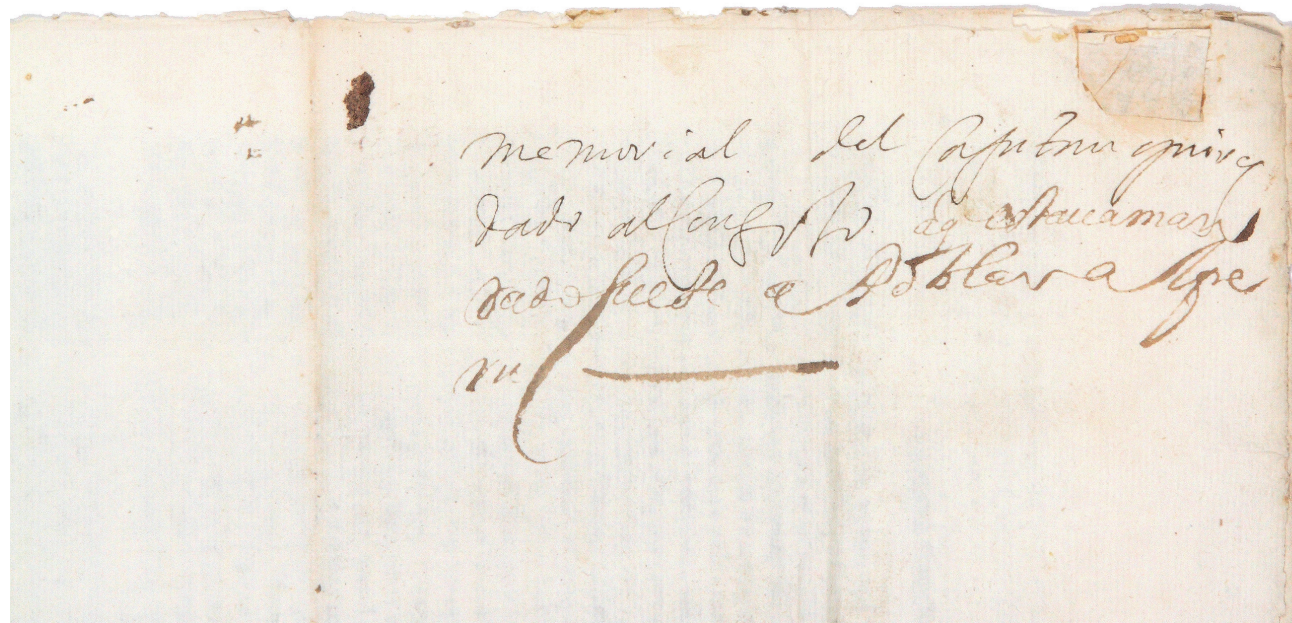
### THE PRESENTATION MEMORIALS

The Quirós Memorials, the series of petitions produced between 1607 and 1614 to colonise "Austrialia del Espíritu Santo", are the foundation documents for the history of the Pacific, the search for a Southern Continent, the discovery of the New World in the south and ultimately the discovery and settlement of Australia and New Zealand.

The Memorials are a series of different petitions to the King, each of which further argues the case, with new data and plans: they do not, as is often misunderstood, each simply make the same argument. This misconception may have been caused by the fact that the text of just one of the Memorials, that leaked beyond Spanish court circles in 1612, is seen almost exclusively in all the subsequent publications and dissemination,

Even the expert Carlos Sanz allows this misunderstanding to continue when he speaks of "the Quirós Memorial" as though the Memorials form a single entity:

'The era of the great geographical discoveries, opened with Columbus' first trans-atlantic voyage, closed with those announced in the Quirós Memorial.



Manuscript note, possibly by Quirós, specifically addressing this copy:  
Memorial del capitan quiros dado al Consejo (??) de estacaman (??) dado feste a ?? ??.



Tierra Australis del Espíritu Santo, discovered by De Quiros & Torres, 1st of May 1606 manuscript map by George Collingridge, Aug. 1902. (Image courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales)

‘Two great oceans (the Atlantic and the Pacific), an immense continent (America), the Philippine Islands and finally Australia are the achievements to be put to the account of this great maritime adventure, the greatest known to the centuries...

‘This work was the sole reason for the search carried out by the maritime powers of Europe during nearly two centuries for the vast, legendary, unknown Terra Australis...

‘Apart from Columbus’ Letter announcing his arrival in the Indies (America) [there is] no printed document that has counted for so much in the history of discovery and navigation...

‘It has been justly said that the three documents that have most decisively influenced the course of universal history are: the Bible, Columbus’ Letter and the Quirós Memorial...’ (Carlos Sanz, Australia, its Discovery and Name, Madrid, 1964).

## PEDRO FERNÁNDEZ DE QUIRÓS

Pedro Fernández de Quirós is of fundamental importance to the history of exploration in the south. A veteran of expeditions to the Pacific who sailed through Torres Strait without ever actually setting foot on the Australian mainland, Quirós was nonetheless convinced that he had discovered the greatly desired southern continent and petitioned vigorously for its settlement. He is justly considered the first great evangelist for the exploration of Australia and the Pacific, and his Presentation Memorials provided the catalyst for interest in the region for many centuries to come. As Alexander Dalrymple observed in 1770, ‘The discovery of the Southern Continent, whenever, and by whomsoever it may be completely effected, is in justice due to this immortal name’.

The belief that a vast Southern Continent – the Ophir of King Solomon, the lands reported by Marco Polo and golden islands reputed to have been known to the Incas – lay somewhere in the South Pacific had inspired Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa and Alvaro de Mendaña y Neyra to sail westward from Peru in 1567, a venture which resulted in the discovery of the Solomon Islands, the possible outliers, it was supposed, of Terra Australis.

Although born in Portugal, Quirós played a vital role in Spanish voyages to the Pacific. In 1595 he was the chief pilot under Mendaña, charting the islands of Santa Magdalena and Santa Cruz to the northeast of the New Hebrides, his observations convincing him that the Southern Continent long hypothesized must exist. Mendaña’s attempt to revisit the Solomons was a disastrous failure, but Quirós, through a superb feat of navigation, brought a starving remnant of the expedition over unknown seas to Manila and resolved to search for the continent that must, he believed, lurk somewhere beyond the elusive islands.

Repliqué, y me fue dicho de parte de V. M. que esperasse mas otro año, a cuya causa, y por otras que me hazen fuerça, ordene este, que será el penultimo memorial que doy a V. M. juntamente el Mapa vnuerfal que va aqui, y le hize para que V. M. se sirua mandar se ponga en parte, que la vista de su quarta oculta, clame y reclame en nombre de la perdicion de las almas de todos sus naturales, criadas y por criar, y de recordar, que en tiempo que se dize declinara esta Monarquia, como otras muchas lo han hecho, muestra Dios como V. M. pueda doblar su santa Iglesia, y assegurarla de los grandes daños, que por alli le amenazan: punto bastante para V. M. dexarse obligar de si mismo, y conceder el despacho que no han podido alcanzar mis humildes e importunos ruegos. Suplico a V. M. note y considere bien, que vnos pensamientos de vn Rey sin par, vn acometimiento de vn animo Real, vnas obras de mayor grãdeza como son estas: vnos prouechos tan ciertos, y que llegan de lo mas de la tierra al cielo Impireo, y acozean al infierno, quando se comprãan por todas las riquezas del mundo, fueran de balde, quanto mas que el dinero deste dicho empleo, se podrá dezir ser prestado por vno, o quando mas por dos años, el retorno de muchos millones de bienes y oro, y la duracion de siglos. En suma, con los olvidados de la casa Real de V. M. y aun con las migajas de su Real mesa se pueden comprar y sobrar, y V. M. eternizar se con doblada honra y gloria, y doblado Imperio. Bueluo a suplicar a V. M. infinitas vezes, gane con Dios y las gentes, temporal y eternamente, lo que se da en cielo y tierra a los zelosos de la honra del Señor altísimo, y del bien de las almas, y que se duela ya siquiera de su mismo seruido, y de lo que aventura perder de lo ganado, con recuerdo, que yo por apresurar aquellas gentes el bien que tanto les tarda, no me doli, ni duelo de mi, ni sola es mia la obligacion: y no solo esto, sino que ofreci perder todo mi derecho, y ir siruendo de balde, de lo que quisiese mandar me la persona q̄ V. M. embiasse por dueño de mis trabajos, que es embite jamas hecho, que yo sepa que doy por prueua de mi gran fé con esta obra, que siempre serui con amor y sin dinero, y sin preguntar lo que se me auia de dar por lo que daua, y nunca pedi sino lo que no pude escusar para obrar, con saber cierto, que a los descubridores passados no se negò lo mucho que pidieron para si, ni emplearon a otros en lo que ellos trabajaron. Y es verdad que en trabajos y en fidelidad no les quedò inferior, y que no pretendo otro premio, que los trabajos q̄ me niegan, y que solos estos trabajos me pueden satisfacer: y certifico, que si supiera otros modos de obligar, vsara dellos, o causa de mas quantia que representar.

V. M. se sirua de estimar de mi lo que ya di de muy buena voluntad, que no fue me dia capa, sino toda la hazienda que tuue, con desprecio de la que pude ganar: di mis trabajos, caminos de veinte mill leguas, tiempo de dezisiete años, todo a fin de librar de oluido y de peligro las tierras y gentes que descubri, cuyo rescate le pleitee cinco vezes, y defendi millares dellas, siendo la que està presente, la mas cara, y que mas conuiene vencerse. Y pregunto, como obligado de todas juntas, por ventura mis obras valen poco, por ser yo el que las hize? y las cosas que ofrezco valen menos, porque se entiende de mi ignoro su gran valor? o que me oluido de lo caro que las vnas me costaron, y pueden costar las otras? o es porque las doy de gracia, ruego e importuno con ellas, su fro y callo? o presume se que no me estimo por hombre, a quien Dios hizo mercedes tales, que basta cada vna dellas a levantar, engrandecer y eternizar, no digo casas, linages y patrias, sino Prouincias, Reynos, y Imperios? Y no es fabula, ni sueño, y bien se sabe que es verdad, y la mucha razon que tengo, y la justicia clara y firme que muy de atras se me deue, y no se me da, y que no es justo que pierda por leal, y por dar todo quanto Dios me ha dado.

V. M. se sirua de no despreciar de mi lo que de nuevo ofrezco, que no es menos que la proteccion de vn nuevo mundo, poblado, rico, y con toda su flor, es la seguridad de todos los Reynos que tiene V. M. es mi industria, mi sollicitud, mis pensamientos, que no son cortos, ni mal fundados, y por remate mi vida, que es lo que puedo dar: y si pareciere poco, dare mas la mitad de la parte que puedo merecer con Dios, y toda en

tera la dare; y por remate me vendere, por siquiera con el postrero dinero mio, se cõpre vn poco de barro con que se haga vn ladrillo y vna teja, que se ponga en aquel piadoso edificio, y si mas puedo, mas ofrezco. Suplico a V. M. reciba de mi estos cochinos, que bien se pueden llevar sin escrupulo: yo con razon dezir no ser para perder tal empresa, ni hombre que tal sabe dar, y ofrezco, y recordar, que no merecen aquellos ricos inocentes, la auaricia, ni el descuido, ni la desconfianza que veo, ni los grandes males que tienen, sino beneficios viuos de piedad y de vn socorro, a priessa, a priessa, que se condenan, y no lo entienden.

Todo lo dicho en este y en todos mis escritos, o es, o no es verdad; o es de importãcia, o no; o conuiene, o no conuiene la poblacion que pretendo: y esta, o se ha de hazer bien, o mal; temprano, o tarde: y si V. M. nunca mandare que se haga, suplico a V. M. me defengãne, pues es justicia que pido, para ser ageno, o ser mio. Y si lo que pretendo se ha de hazer, digo Señor que ha de ser presto y bien, pues para mal, mejor es no comenzar, y para mas mal, mucho ha estuuiera hecho. Mas no permita Dios que yo sea homicida de las infinitas muertes, de vidas y almas, y de todos los otros innumerables bienes temporales y eternos, que es certísimo dara vn mal principio, ni que mi alma deua y pague, a proporcion de tan gran culpa, tan gran pena, y tan gran daño; pues no ignoro los medios que para hazer se bien son necesarios, ni es esto lo que busco por remate de tormentos de muchos generos.

En suma digo Señor, lo que dixo Augusto Cesar: *Quien ha de hazer bien, hagalo presto, que espera?* y mas ofreciendo yo, que con solos quinientos mil ducados, gastados por vna vez en el Piro, sin que entre en mi poder vn marauedi, armar y proseguir esta grã maquina, así y de la manera que lo he representado: y tambien mas porque hallè, o mostrè modos, y medios, como en todas aquellas tierras sea el gouierno tal, mediante el poder de Dios, que asegure quanto es posible, toda la parte espiritual y temporal de sus naturales, con ventajas grandes, y como V. M. por mayor y por menor gane en ellas todo quanto en las Indias se perdiò, que es infinito. Suplico a V. M. note y considere bien este seruido, que no vale menos que todo quanto puede valer la parte Austral, en general, y en particular, y en perpetuidad, y juntamente los millones de oro, y bienes, que vale cada vno de los otros referidos: y que en premio de todos ellos pido y suplico a V. M. mande llamar a las personas de quien dire los nombres, para que estando ellas y yo en la presencia Real de V. M. digan porque trataron tan mal; que yo digo que si en mi no estuuiera viuo el conocimiento del gran valor desta grande obra, y el amor, con los deseos de procurarle vn grande y firme principio, vn buen medio y mejor fin, costasse lo q̄ costasse, ya estuuiera muerta y sepultada, yo olvidado, y V. M. mal seruido: y juntamente para que den las causas que les mueue a no darme el despacho que V. M. mandò se me diese a mi satisfacion, justificada y conueniente: y para q̄ respondan y yo responda a las preguntas que les hiziere, y ellos a mi, con que se sabra la verdad, y V. M. se defengãnarã, yo fere defengãnado: o castigado quièlo mereciere.

Bueluo a suplicar a V. M. reciba yo esta merced, siquiera porque no pueda dezir como ya digo, con el sentimiento que es justo, de que aura seruido mi buen animo, tantos trabajos continuos, tantos cuidados y vigiliãas, vna lealtad a prueua, vna verdad tan lisa, vnas finezas tan vistas, tanto sufrir y porfiar, con todas las otras cosas vsadas, adquiridas, representadas y desleadas; si todo se acaba aqui, y la obra se desampara, de cuya parte està Dios que no lo ha de permitir, su Iglesia santa que no ha de consentir, aquellas almas que claman y reclaman, V. M. que manda y manda, el Consejo de Estado que brama, defiende y ampara, el de conciencia que muerde y pica, la voz de todo, el pueblo que grita, el bien comun que se pierde, el zelo de Religiosos que ladran, los sabios y praticos que se asombran, las conueniencias tan grandes, y la fuerça que todas hazen, y juntamente mi justicia, que no es la menor parte. En suma digo Señor, que yo no comence tan de veras para acabar de burlas.

Bueluo a suplicar a V. M. se sirua de ayudarme para que lleue adelante esta obra q̄



Detail from an influential French map by Jacques Nicolas Bellin showing a hypothetical depiction of the eastern coastline of Australia: he conflates the depiction of Quirós' New Hebrides with the eastern coastline of the Australian continent. New Guinea is here shown joined to the Australian mainland whilst the imagined northern coastline is named "Terre Du S Esprit"

Convinced of the value of these new lands, Quirós campaigned for a new expedition, ultimately gaining the support of the new Spanish king, Philip III. In 1605 he began his own expedition to the South Seas, setting out from Callao with Torres as his second-in-command of a fleet of three ships. During this voyage he charted several southern islands, including La Encarnacion, Henderson Island, Marutea, La Conversion de San Pablo, and Tucopia.

He sailed 'further south than Mendaña had done, then north-west through the Tuamotu archipelago, and west when he was in the latitude of Santa Cruz. If he had kept on, he would have reached it; three or four degrees beyond it lay the islands of Solomon. He was diverted from an island a little short of it, the latest of a series discovered by him, to turn south, so that he fetched up at something quite different, though close, the land he called *Austrialia del Espiritu Santo*, the northernmost large island of the New Hebrides group...

'Here, he was sure, where he proclaimed the city of New Jerusalem, was the much-desired continent. Sickness, at the critical moment, infirmity of purpose, unreliable subordinates, finally the cruel luck with the wind, drove him away before a settlement was made, in a vast sweep north that took him to Mexico in October 1606... Quirós returned to Spain, ceaselessly and fruitlessly to importune crown and councils, with memorials and charts, for still another expedition...' (J.C. Beaglehole, *The life of Captain James Cook*, 1974, pp. 111-2).

### EXTENT OF THE MEMORIALS

In 1607 Quirós began his series of Memorials to the king expounding the great wealth of the lands he had discovered and asking to be allowed to take another expedition to settle the "continent".

In all he prepared about fifty memorials, most of them in manuscript but some, when he could afford it, printed. Kelly, whose work is the most comprehensive survey, could identify just 13 that were important enough to be printed for presentation (a fourteenth has since been identified). 'When I had the means', Quirós states, 'I had these memorials printed, and when not, I would copy them and present and distribute them to the Councils of State, of War and of the Indies, and amongst their ministers' (see Dunn, pp. 2-4 and Kelly, pp. 41-8).

Circulation of all, whether printed or manuscript, was highly restricted and when, in 1610, it was learned that he was printing various memorials and distributing them beyond the court, Quirós was ordered by the king to retrieve them and forbidden to print others without royal permission (see Kelly, 682, 689).

Just one, the Eighth, which appeared originally in December 1608 or January 1609, escaped the



A 19th century-likeness of de Quirós:  
no contemporary portrait is known



A jauntier likenes: a bronze sculpture of De Quirós,  
by Dr Michael Agostino,  
gift of the Spanish Embassy, Canberra, 2006

official restrictions and was translated (into Dutch, English, French, German and Italian) and published separately outside Spain, having a tremendous influence on subsequent exploration as a result. The substantial number of separate editions in the major European languages, many of them before 1620, led to the appearance of the text in every subsequent major collection of voyage accounts.

The creation of stand-alone editions in the printing capitals of Europe mirrored what had happened with the original “Columbus Letter”. Both texts spread from their leaked originals, being printed elsewhere in Spain, and then translated elsewhere in Europe. In terms of their similarity in distribution and appearance, as well as present-day rarity, it is interesting to note that a single copy of the official first printing of the Columbus Letter survives today (a small folio, without title-page and not dissimilar to the original Memorials in appearance).

The rarity of both Quirós’ and Columbus’ printed reports exemplifies the notion of geographical knowledge being held back for geopolitical benefit. The Columbus Letter had an uncannily similar history: the extreme rarity of the earliest printing today tends to confirm the theory that the text was not printed for dissemination so much as, paradoxically, in order to keep control of copies.

In an age long before photocopying and other forms of proliferation, printing in limited numbers for limited circulation did not constitute publishing as we would recognise it today. Indeed, there are good reasons to think that such printed documents were used much as confidential board papers might be today, and that they were intended for destruction after their immediate purpose had passed. The explanation of the modern rarity of these Memorials must be at least in part that the significance of Quirós’ reports was recognised by the Spanish administration who sought to ensure that neither printed nor manuscript Memorials could make their way into the hands of Spain’s European rivals.

## THE COUNCIL OF THE INDIES

Quirós’ Memorials, addressed to the King, would have been printed for distribution at the regular meetings of the Council of the Indies. The Real y Supremo Consejo de India was the most important administrative organ of the Spanish Empire, ‘the high legislative, executive, and judicial body that from the 16th to 19th centuries carried out Spain’s colonial policies in the Americas (referred to as “the Indies” in Spanish documents until the 18th century), Oceania, and Asia.

Established in 1511, the Council of the Indies consisted of a president, a chancellor, eight councillors, a procurator general, two secretaries, a cosmographer, a mathematician, and a historian. It had charge of such matters as finances, the conclusion of capitulations (treaties) with the conquistadores, the conversion of Indians to Christianity, the provisioning of expeditions, and the selection of military, ecclesiastical, and civil personnel. It was through the Council of the Indies that Spain plundered newly discovered lands and exploited the native population in its overseas possessions. The Council of the Indies existed until 1809 and at intervals thereafter (1810-20, 1823-34, and 1846-47); it was permanently abolished in 1847'.

Numerous corrections or annotations have been noted in surviving Memorials, a number of them the kind of scribbles that one might see today in the margins of a paper from a board-meeting or a committee room document.

### PRESENT-DAY RARITY

Dunn categorises the stages of publication of the printed Memorials thus:

1. Editions printed for presentation. (That is, the 13 identified by Kelly and the fourteenth since identified).
2. Derivative editions prepared by private printers based on the Presentation editions, or on their ms. equivalents. On government instructions Quirós was forced to recall some of these under the pretext of needing to amend them.
3. Translations produced elsewhere in Europe based on Spanish originals, and further translations and reprints thereof with corruptions creeping in.
4. Publication by Zaragoza in 1880.

The original Presentation Memorials are among the most valuable of all printed voyage documents. They have always represented a grail for collectors, both institutional and private.

The most assiduous collecting of them has been carried out in Australia for their obvious significance to the search for and settlement of the continent. Of 33 known surviving copies of the 14 Presentation Memorials, 22 and the present copy are held in Australia while just ten have been described in European or American collections. The 23 Memorials held in Australian collections represent all 14 known printed Memorials while the ten held in Europe or America represent only five of the printings. The paramount collection in the State Library of New South Wales now holds all 14, most of which were collected for them

by David Scott Mitchell and his fellow-collector Sir William Dixson. The only other Presentation Memorial to be held by an Australian institutional library is that acquired by the National Library of Australia in 2011.

When David Scott Mitchell acquired in one transaction, a century ago, the entire collection of Alfred Lee (over 10,000 books, paintings, pamphlets, prints and drawings) he did so despite a duplication rate estimated at over 90%. He acknowledged that the purchase, his last major transaction, was made solely in order to acquire for his own collection, and subsequently for the state of New South Wales, Joseph Banks' *Endeavour* Journal and two printed Memorials by Quirós.

Mitchell's fellow collector and philanthropist Sir William Dixson shared Mitchell's passion: he was always 'an assiduous collector of Quirós Memorials and of any documents relating to Quirós and his voyages. By the time of his death in 1952 he had acquired no less than eight printed Presentation editions, most being different from those published by Zaragoza. For these he paid £650 to £1000 sterling each...' (Dunn). These Memorials were acquired by Dixson for prices that are among the highest for any such voyage material in the inter- and immediately post-war period and demonstrate the extent to which the Memorials have always been valued.

for details 

*Dunn, Quiros Memorials, p. 45 (Q61/6); Kelly, Calendar of documents, 709 (47 in list); Medina (BHA), 6456; Palau, 89603; Pinochet de la Barra, Pedro Fernández de Quiros: Memoriales de las Indias Australes, Memorial 47.*



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