

The discovery or Australia

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To cite this article: P. W. Rygate , P. W.Rygate & F. Silvestre (1914) The discovery or Australia, Surveyor, 27:7, 159-160, DOI: [10.1080/18324460.1914.10439380](https://doi.org/10.1080/18324460.1914.10439380)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/18324460.1914.10439380>



Published online: 01 Aug 2012.



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Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE SURVEYOR,"

Dear Sir,—In your issue of May I notice a report from the Chief Surveyor, Northern Territory, against Contract Surveying for the Northern Territory. Mr. Day's short acquaintance with that country, coupled with the fact that he has had no experience of contract work, leads him to draw wrong conclusions. As one of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Institute of Surveyors, Adelaide, to consider and reply to the Surveyor-General's report as quoted by Mr. Day, I may say that had Mr. Day seen our comments, in which we pointed out the unintentional omissions in that report, he would not have quoted it to show that departmental surveys are less costly than contract work. Having controlled the Survey Department in the Territory, and also practised there as a private surveyor, I have no hesitation in saying that the work should be done by contract. It certainly would cost the Government less.

Yours, &c.,

Sydney, 29/6/14.

DAVID LINDSAY.

The Discovery of Australia.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE SURVEYOR."

Dear Sir,—In your issue of May, 1913, you published a letter from Mr. F. W. Moffett, referring to an old Globe of the World to be seen at the Doge's Palace, Venice.

The enclosed correspondence may be of interest to members and readers of our Journal.

Yours truly,

P. W. RYGATE.

City Bank Chambers,

164 Pitt Street,

Sydney, 20th December, 1913.

CAV. FRANCESCO SILVESTRE,

SEGRETARIO DEL R. MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO,

VENEZIA.

Dear Sir,—I had the honour of an interview with you during last October, relative to the age of the smaller one of the two globes in your Museum. I shall esteem it a great favour if you should be able to give me something definite as to the author and the age of that globe, and if Australia as now shown is the same as when the globe was made.

You may not know that the date of the discovery of Australia is still a matter of doubt with us, and we are ever ready to give honour where same is due.

If you would have a tracing made for me of that part of the globe where Australia and the adjoining Islands are shown, I shall be very pleased to have sent to you the cost of same.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. W. RYGATE,

Vice-President,

Acting on behalf of the Institution
of Surveyors of New South Wales.

Secretario Del R. Museo Archeologico,

Venezia,

P. W. RYGATE, ESQ.

3rd June, 1914.

Dear Sir,—

I received your letter dated 20th December last, which arrived here on the 23rd April, and am losing no time in answering it.

With reference to the Globes kept here, I can only tell you that they were drafted by Silvestro Amanzio Moroncelli (Monk), Monaco, Silvestrino, when he was staying in the Convent of St. George Maggiore di Venezia in the year 1683.

The coast of Australia and New Holland had been seen for the first time in March, 1606, in the yacht "Duyfen," sent by the Dutch Government in the year 1605, in order to explore the coast of New Guinea. On the return of that expedition this boat came across the coast of New Holland to the south of the Strait Endeavour on the Oriental shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

At the beginning of the 17th century (1605-7) the Spanish Navigators, Sedro Fernandez de Quiros and Luiz Vaes de Torres started on a voyage of discovery, and while they were together they found the Tierra del l'Espirito Santo, which Captain Cook was able to verify as the different Islands afterwards called the New Hebrides.

This news I obtained from searches that I made after I had the pleasure of making your acquaintance.

As far as the sketches, etc., are concerned that you wished to have, shewing Australia on the Globes which are to be seen in the Doge's Palazzo Ducale, I advise you to write to the Photographer, Mr. Naya, of this place, who is always getting commissions for photographs of Globes, etc., and perhaps he has got some ready now.

Hoping my letter will arrive in good time.

I remain,

Yours truly,

F. SILVESTRE.