Almost a French Australia
French–British Rivalry in the Southern Oceans
Noelene Bloomfield
ALMOST A FRENCH AUSTRALIA
French-British Rivalry in the Southern Oceans
by
Noelene Bloomfield

In a strategic battle with her perennial rival Britain, France sent many expeditions to the Indian and Pacific Oceans in the 1700s and 1800s, attempting to solve the mysteries of the legendary Terra Australis Incognita, and to locate suitable ports for trade. However, many French captains, officers, scientists and crewmembers died during these voyages and were unable to report their exciting discoveries to their King or Emperor. And the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789 meant that France could not develop colonies in the southern oceans for many decades. Noelene Bloomfield explains why France, despite having claimed the western side of this country, eventually withdrew from the Australian continent, allowing Britain carte blanche to develop this nation and block France from both Australia and New Zealand.

* * *

About the Author

Noelene Bloomfield, Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, lectured at The University of Western Australia from 1968 – 2002, where she is now a Research Fellow in European Languages and Studies. She produced a DVD and a CD-ROM on the French exploration in Australian waters before creating a related exhibition, a French version of which is currently touring in France. Noelene, who is listed in Who’s Who of Australian Women, recently co-authored a book on the first 100 years of the Alliance Française in Perth, W.A.

Almost a French Australia: French-British Rivalry in the Southern Oceans
$49.95 rrp
Available in good bookstores and from
www.halsteadpress.com.au
[For more information contact noelene.bloomfield@gmail.com]

HALSTEAD PRESS