

Unique watermark papers donation by Jeanette Bissell,

Two great watermark papers from her late father Herbert Gilbert who worked as assistant manager at the paper merchants L.L. King & Prior and at Wiggins Teape Pty Ltd in Sydney.



The large paper depicting drawings by Artist William Hodges Captain Dampier (1686) and Captain Cook (1770)



The insert above corner reads:
On the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the firm of John Sands Ltd., the Directors have great pleasure in presenting to you this unique sheet of water-marked paper, made from moulds specially designed by a master craftsman in the year 1878..... Depicting, as it does, Captain Cook and Captain Dampier, those two great navigators who played so important a part in the discovery of Australia, the historical

value of this sheet in years to come will be greatly enhanced the paper was made by Messrs. T. H. Saunders & Co., of London, and in the year 1878, when the firm of John Sands Ltd., exhibited this now famous work, it was awarded a gold medal, and again at the Melbourne Exhibition, held in 1880, the sheet gained a silver medal.

WILLIAM HODGES 1744 - 1797.

William Hodges was an artist who travelled with Captain Cook during his second voyage on board the "Resolution" in 1772 - 1775. They sailed far south through southern Pacific and Atlantic waters searching for habitable land around Tierra del Fuego and South Georgia. There were two vessels on this voyage - the "Resolution" and the "Adventure". No habitable land was found this far south, however, they did visit Tahiti, the Tongan Archipelago into Melanesia with the discovery of New Caledonia.

The picture of Captain Cook shown on the water-marked page was painted by William Hodges before they left on this second voyage in the "Resolution" and after Cook's first voyage in the "Endeavour" in 1768-1771 where he discovered Australia in 1770.

The source for the above information has been from a book in my possession called "The Voyages of Captain James Cook", Nicholas Thomas, Editor - from the writings of James Cook, John Hawkesworth, George Foster and James King. This book contains illustrated accounts of three epic voyages made by Cook in the South Pacific the first being the voyage of the Endeavour 1768-1772, the second the voyage of the "Resolution" 1772-1775 and the third the voyage of the "Resolution" and the "Discovery" 1776-1780 and it was on this final voyage that Captain Cook was killed in Hawaii. It is a very interesting and detailed book with a number of beautiful landscape paintings by William Hodges depicting scenes during the voyage around Tahiti.



The museum was also given a seconded unique watermarked paper picturing Queen Elizabeth 2 which was made for the 1954 Royal visit to Australia.

HERBERT GILBERT - 1915/1985.



The watermarks came into the possession of my father Herbert Gilbert (known to all as "Bert") due to the fact he had spent his working life in the paper trade employed by paper merchants who imported paper from mills both overseas and locally for sale to local printers. A lot of the imported paper came from Norway and Sweden, also the United Kingdom and a mill in Bumie, Tasmania. On reading the small insert on the copy received from the Sydney Library Archives it appears that the watermark depicting Captain Cook and William Dampier was distributed by the Directors of John Sands Ltd., to mark their 100th anniversary in business. In 1851 John Sands and Thomas Kenny founded Sands & Kenny in Sydney, the firm later became Sands, Kenny & Co., and then John Sands Ltd., ((Source - Wikipedia). believe this would then make the centenary 1951 which would fit with Bert's employment as Sales Manager and Director at L.L.King & Prior Pty. Ltd, paper merchants, in Sydney. The smaller watermark showing the Queen was obviously to mark her coronation in 1953, however, I have no idea how Bert acquired it and once again he would have been working at King & Prior at the time.

Herbert's employment record is as follows Employed for three years as messenger and assistant storeman - 1931/1934 by Woolcott & Mackie Pty. Ltd., Paper Merchants - Sydney. Woolcott & Mackie sold the business in 1934 to L.L.King & Prior Pty. Ltd., Paper Merchants, Sydney. Herbert was appointed Sales Manager & Director in charge of overseas and local buying and selling in 1950, he resigned from this company in 1955.

JEANETTE BISSELL June, 2022.