

## Samuel Daniell and John Webber: some recently identified drawings

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From Alexander Turnbull's own collection the Library has three folio volumes of plates illustrating the voyages of Captain Cook, each handsomely bound in green calf, with spine lettering: 'Discoveries in the Northern Hemisphere. Cook's voyages'. The hand-written title-page of the first volume (accession no. 280), which notes that the plates are 'very early proofs on French paper', gives no hint of the original drawings that were also contained in it.

Fifteen unsigned pencil drawings of South African natives, often depicted with hunting weapons or beside their dwellings, were found to be bound in throughout the volume. They have now been removed and are part of the Library's collection of paintings, drawings and prints (ref. A154/21-35). The sizes range from 18 × 14 cm. to 26 × 19 cm. Identification of these very fine drawings was made thanks to the arrival of a Sotheby's catalogue in which a number of drawings by the English artist and aquatinter, Samuel Daniell, happened to be illustrated.

The art of aquatint engraving was developed in France, and was introduced to England by Paul Sandby in his *Views of South Wales* (1775-1776). A number of well-known engravers, among them Rowlandson, Boydell and Westall, were to exploit this technique, which is particularly suited to the illustration of books.

However, the greatest contribution to aquatint engraving was made by three members of the Daniell family: Thomas Daniell (1749-1840), a landscape artist and engraver, who taught his nephew, William (1769-1837), and collaborated with him in producing a series of illustrated books; and William's younger brother, Samuel (1775-1811), who is recognised as the most gifted artist of the three. Samuel's ability was apparent at an early age; in 1791, when he was just sixteen, he had a painting hung in the Royal Academy. He was also an engraver, but apparently it was more often William who made engravings or aquatints from Samuel's drawings.

All three were intrepid travellers. In 1784 Thomas and William had journeyed throughout India, subsequently publishing *Views of Calcutta* (1786-1788) and *Oriental Scenery* (1796-1808) from the drawings they had made there. Samuel was appointed secretary and