

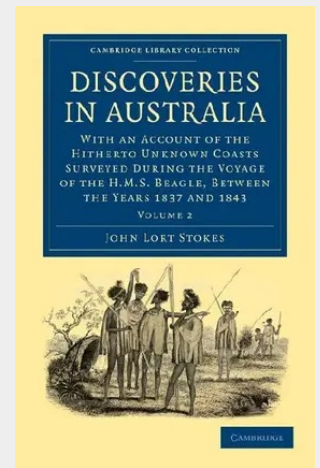
Stokes

Discoveries in Australia

With an Account of the Hitherto Unknown Coasts Surveyed During the Voyage of the HMS Beagle, Between the Years 1837 and 1843

John Lort Stokes (1812-85) was a naval officer on board H.M.S. Beagle - the same ship that had carried naturalist Charles Darwin around the world in 1831-6. Stokes served on that expedition and on the following commission, which was a survey of Australia in which the crew was charged with discovering more about the largely unknown land mass. The expedition set off in 1837 and Stokes did not return to England until 1843 - after 18 years of service on the Beagle - when he began work on this two-volume account of the voyage, which was published in 1846. This work provides a detailed narrative of the journey, including interaction with indigenous peoples and observations about the natural world in Australia, making it an important source about the early years of the European colony. Volume 2 sees the expedition explore the Victoria River, and later venture north into the Indonesian archipelago.

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78,60 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781108032728

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-1-108-03272-8

Verlag: Cambridge University Press

Erscheinungstermin: 27.05.2011

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2011

Serie: Cambridge Library Collection - Travel and Exploration

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 819 g

Seiten: 588

Format (B x H): 140 x 216 mm

