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Synopsis: Adelaide Observatory assists with triangulation with Admiralty survey of southern coastline

Summary: Also outlines the earliest European explorers of Australia's southern coastline

ADMIRALTY SURVEY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Dutch seaman, Peter Nuyts, was the first discoverer of any part of the shores of South Australia, he having in 1627 sailed along the south coast from the westward as far as St. Peter's Island, in Nuyts's Archipelago, and he left on record a very rough map of the land he had seen. No more of this country was sighted by any European until in 1800 Captain Grant, R.N, on his voyage to Sydney, fell in with the land about Cape Northumberland, and traced it down to Cape Otway. In 1802 the celebrated navigator, Captain Matthew Flinders, R.N, commencing his survey from Cape Leuwin, and proceeding to the eastward, took up the discovery of the coast from where Peter Nuyts had left off, sailed up the Gulfs of Spencer and St. Vincent to their heads in the first vessel— the Investigator— whose keel ever ploughed their waters, and made an excellent running survey of all he saw, until he fell in with Captain Baudin off the Murray mouth in Encounter Bay. Captain Baudin had come from the south-east, and must have the honor given him of being the discoverer of the land between Cape Northumberland and the place where he met Flinders. After communicating Flinders proceeded to the south-east, while Baudin charted the south and west shores of Kangaroo Island, and afterwards made a more minute examination than Flinders had of Smoky and Denial Bays. The colony having been established. Captains Lipson and Douglas, and Messrs. Nation and De Mole, made improvements in Flinders's charts as occasion offered, but until the present survey began to be published, the only charts used by navigators for the greater part of the coast were the original ones of Captain Flinders, to whom, considering the instruments he had, and the time in which he performed the service, too much praise cannot be given for his work. <clip>

<clip> The survey of the coast has been a triangulated one throughout, bases of about a nautical mile in length being frequently measured to carry it out from, and at every port an observation spot has been selected to check the triangulation by an exact determination of the latitude and longitude— the former by stars and circum..*unintelligible* altitudes of the sun; the latter by meridian distances with five chronometers, and occasionally — especially in the more western ports —by telegraphic signals with the Adelaide Observatory. Mr. Todd has always shown the greatest willingness to aid the survey in this manner. Advantage has also been taken to compare the triangulation with the Surveyor General's where practicable, and the survey is much indebted to Mr. Goyder for his cordial help whenever it could be rendered. <clip>