

strategy for circumpolar Antarctic navigation three decades before Cook's second voyage⁷ (see e.g. photocopy letter of instructions for an expedition in *L'Aigle* (qMS 1739) from the originals in the Bibliothèque Nationale). Marchant argues justifiably for greater attention from Anglo-Saxon scholars to the role of the French in New Zealand development before 1840s. Before 1826-27—the date of Dumont D'Urville's second visit—Marchant suggests French exploration was 'characterized by science and cartography'.⁸

Marchant shows that Australian and New Zealand records tend to be poor regarding French activity in the region because of a contemporary British failure to take cognisance of France's well-defined 'prescriptive rights' in the Pacific. For *science* itself, it must be admitted that Turnbull seemingly stood in this same British tradition *vis-à-vis* French achievements. Dunmore has listed copies of French exploration materials in the Library before 1969⁹ and for what is available in French repositories in detail on science Marchant is the authority. To understand more fully the *very neglected* field of French contributions to scientific research in the New Zealand Group more materials would need to be acquired from the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, where, for instance, are deposited natural history manuscripts of scientists like Commerson (with Bougainville), Labillardière (with D'Entrecasteaux), Quoy (with Freycinet), R. P. Lesson (in the *Coquille* under Duperrey, 1822-25) and so on. Here, too, are housed, further valuable Forster manuscripts on New Zealand natural history.¹⁰ As a repository of copied records of the French voyage *principals* rather than the subordinate scientists the Turnbull is, however, a good starting point for research (see e.g. the microfilm collection (Micro MS 325-31 and 337-44) of Records of French Exploration in the Pacific, 1701-1849, as well as copies of the exploration records).

While science at one level became part of the 'rivalry' between British and French enterprise in the southwest Pacific, at another level, in their convict settlements in New South Wales, Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land, the British were unconsciously founding new centres and bases for scientific research in the region. The decade 1810-20 marked the nadir of British science at home and in the colonies. In matters taxonomic, for instance, the 'natural methods' of the de Jussieus were applied to Pacific life forms in France as a protest against the Linnean system's so-called 'artificiality', but when Robert Brown, Matthew Flinders's botanist, did the same in his excellent *Prodomus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae Van Diemen* (London, 1810) it was a publisher's disaster.

British science in 'Australasia' was for the first time temporarily compelled to look largely to its own resources. The death of Banks in 1820 confirmed the passing of an era.¹¹