

French explorers in New Zealand, 1769-1840: a list of manuscript material; Part I

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A French Government bursary enabled me, between October 1980 and November 1981, to carry out research in France on the manuscripts of the French explorers who visited New Zealand prior to 1840. In the course of that year, I located a considerable number of manuscripts, which have subsequently been copied and deposited in the Alexander Turnbull Library. This list is a record of my findings and an attempt to show what material in this field is now available in New Zealand.

Notes made during the year in France are contained in a set of nine books, the first six of which are blue, the last three, red. Each entry in the books is given an item number so that it can be quickly located. The books are to be kept with the manuscripts in the Turnbull Library; each reference in this list, therefore, has my personal reference number added in brackets: for example, (Blue Book I:7).

Organisation of the material: this list contains references to manuscript material drawn from nine French voyages which called at New Zealand between 1769 and 1840. The material is organised chronologically, grouped by expedition under the name of the commander. Where there were two ships in a single expedition, the commander's ship is listed first. For each expedition, the following information is given:

NAME of Commander

Name of ship/s

Dates of stay in New Zealand from first sighting to day of departure.

Ports or places where the ship anchored.

For each ship, material is listed under the name of the author of the manuscript, arranged in order of rank, followed by miscellaneous or anonymous material. Charts and drawings are given last.

For each manuscript, the following information is given, where known:

NAME of author with dates of birth and death.

Rank at the time of the visit to New Zealand, in French (and English).