

NEW SOUTH WALES - Postal History**Lot 906**

906 C (B) **1819** entire headed "Parramatta NSWales/12th June 1819" and signed "Geo Tho Palmer" to "Dingle/Ireland" variously rated "2/2", then "3/8" & finally "5/6", light but fine 'SHIP LETTER/[crown]/26OC26/1819/LONDON' transit cds, professionally cleaned & with some archival tape backing.

A very early "country" letter, believed to be **the earliest recorded letter to the British Isles from outside Sydney**. The remarkably quick passage of only 18 weeks is explained by the writer: "This letter goes by a whaler direct to England, which is to sail tomorrow: her name is the *Foxhound*" and in a postscript "I beg to apologize for the slovenliness of this hasty scrawl. I reside 15 miles from Sydney, and an opportunity offers for sending it, which I am likely to lose but for the haste".

George Thomas Palmer arrived at Sydney in 1806 as a lieutenant with the *61st Regiment* but with permission to settle there. *Governor Macquarie* held him in high regard. He became a major landholder, establishing "Pemberton Grange" near Parramatta, and was one of the earliest settlers of the Canberra district, taking-up 13,000 acres at Ginninderra.

2,400^T**Lot 908**

908 C A **1826** mercantile entire headed "Sydney 18 Decr 1826" **to the Netherlands** endorsed "pSteamer/of 13 June" with oval 'POST PAID SHIP LR/12AU12/1827/LONDON' d/s in red & Dutch 'England/...Amsterdam' b/s in red, rated "8" & "50", remarkably fine. Oh that this was what it purports to be; an 1826 entire from NSW to Holland. In fact, it is a duplicate of the original, in Dutch, sent to Schiedam by the London forwarding agent to whom it was originally sent. Even so, it is a remarkable document that proves the existence of trade between Holland and NSW in this very early period.

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