

Title

MS 4005/item 1 - Letter from Bennelong -

Transcription Explanatory Notes:

This transcription is a copy of the document, not a facsimile. For this reason, certain elements of the original document may not have been reproduced. To assist the reader, the following approach was taken:

Spelling: This document contains archaic forms of words. The spelling of such words has been retained, with the inclusion of (sic) at the first occurrence to indicate that this is not a misspelt word.

This document uses the archaic form of 'fs' to represent modern day 'ss' eg 'ifsue' for 'issue'. For ease of comprehension, this has not been reproduced in the transcription.

Deciphered words:

[-] = a single word is illegible

[- -] = two consecutive words are illegible

italics = content added by transcriber

[word?] = best guess

Page location within the original document:

This document does not have page numbers. To indicate the location of each page within the original document, the unique url number, which appears at the top of the digitised image of that page, has been included.

Capitalisation:

Used irregularly throughout this document and for ease of comprehension, has not been reproduced in the transcription

Formatting:

For ease of comprehension, the original format of the document has not been strictly followed.

Background information:

Bennelong was the first Aboriginal man to travel to Europe. In December 1792, Bennelong sailed for England with his young friend Yemmerrawanne and Governor Phillip. He returned three years later.

External links: <https://australianmuseum.net.au/about/history/exhibitions/trailblazers/woollarawarre-bennelong/>

Transcription follows:

p1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-557679852>

Copy of a letter from a Native of Botany Bay, to Mr Phillips Lord Sydney's steward being returned to his own country after he had resided a short time in England

Sidney Cove

New S. Wales Aug 29th 1796

Sir,

I am very well. I hope you are very well. I live at the Governor's. I have every day dinner there. I have not my wife: another black man took her away. We have had [murzy] (x) doings: he spear'd me in the back but I better now: his name is now (xx) Carroway. All my friends alive & well. Not me go to England no more. I am at home now. I hope Sir you send me anything you please Sir. Hope all are well in England. I hope Mrs Phillips very well. You nurse me Madam when I sick. You were good Madam; thank you Madam & hope you remember me Madam, not forget. I know you very well Madam. Madam I want stockings. Thank you Madam; send me two pair stockings. You very good Madam. Thank you Madam. Sir, you give my duty to Ld Sydney. Thank you very good my Lord very good: hope very well all family very well. Sir, send me you please some handkerchiefs for pocket. You please Sir send me some shoes: two pair you please send Sir

Bannolong

(x) mean bad (xx) they frequently change their names