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About the Cover

Joseph Lyckett
“Inner View of Newcastle”
Oil on canvas (relined) 61 x 91 cm.
C. 1818

Transported to Australia for forgery in 1814, Joseph Lyckett flooded Sydney with forged notes in 1815, and was sent to Newcastle, the ultimate place of banishment. There he came under the protection of Captain Wallis, a fellow painter and Commandant of Newcastle. Lyckett received a conditional pardon in 1818 and started a series of drawings of the colony under Governor Macquarie’s patronage. In 1822 he returned to England to publish this work. An uncorroborated tradition says that he cut his throat, while living near Bath, after being found out for forgery again.

He had strong ties to Newcastle, painting an altar piece for the first church and designing a three-light window, which still survives in the present Cathedral.

“The Inner View of Newcastle” was reproduced through special arrangement with Newcastle Region Art Gallery.

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