



STORIES FROM THE SEA

EXPLORATION OBJECTS



CARVED COCONUT

Date made

1792

Object ref.

GRYEH : 1967.206

Credit

Great Yarmouth
Museums

Artist / maker

Hugh Kerr

Description

This coconut is carved with a poem and pictures of a seahorse, mermaid, anchor and a kangaroo. This is one of the oldest depictions of a kangaroo in European art, and was made less than twenty years after George Stubbs' painting Kongouro of New Holland. The poem on the back of the coconut records that it was carved by a man called Hugh Kerr in 1792 after he ate the flesh and drank the juice.

The coconut is actually upside down; the face carved on the top is actually the bottom of the coconut. Some sailors believed that coconuts with faces were l

ucky- they would never fall on your head because they could see where they were going!

Questions

1. People in Britain were amazed by kangaroos when they first saw paintings and pictures of them. Why do you think this was?
2. Can you think of any other animals they would have been amazed by in the 1700s?
3. Imagine you are describing a kangaroo to a friend who has never seen one before. How would you describe it by comparing it to other animals they might have seen?



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