



Outward letter books

23/9/1820 - 2/6/1830

✓
By Lieut. P. King R.N.
Commanding H. M. Cutter
Mermaid in Carreening Bay
N. W. coast of Australia

A considerable leak, which has lately
much increased, having induced me to
career H. M. Cutter under my command
in order to stop it if possible.

You are hereby directed to take to
your assistance the Carpenter of the Cutter
and examining into its cause, report to me
upon the following heads.

1st The nature and extent of damage done
and of any defect that may be disco-
vered.

2nd After making such repairs as our
confined means will allow, will it
be prudent for her to complete the
voyage before our return to Port Jackson

Given under my hand at
our encampment in Carreening
Bay this 25th day of September 1840
(Signed) Phillip P. King R.N.

J. W. P. Frederick Bedwell

Jas S. Roe

Masters Mates of H. M. Cutter
Mermaid

Pursuant to an order on the other side we whose names are hereunto subscribed with the assistance of the Carpenter of His Majesty's Cutter Mermaid, have made a careful examination into the principal defects of the said Cutter, and into the nature of the leak that occasioned her being laid on shore upon the sands of Carcening Bay — On stripping a few sheets of copper off the lower part of the stern post and of the part of the keel, found the latter rent through horizontally to about 3 feet from the stern post, in a part which appeared to have been defective when the vessel was built a bolt having been driven in to prevent it shifting further.

The Stern post appeared loosened at its connexion with the keel by violent beating on the ground, and the bolts used in fastening a small iron plate for their greater security were found so rusted and worn as to be extracted by the Carpenter with little other assistance than his fingers.

The whole of the fastenings which are iron fore and aft, appear in a forward state of decay and in many places have eaten holes through the copper; which we are

of opinion will make it necessary for the Vessel to be newly fastened with Copper bolts and Spikes if possible on her arrival at Port Jackson before she will be in a fit state for sailing on another voyage, as we consider the latter defect and the looseness of the Stern post &c to be the principal cause of the leak that existed:-

The seams in the beams of both sides and the butt ends under each counter appear strong and in good condition.

The means which have been adapted for repairing the above mentioned defects during our continuance in Carcening Bay we consider as far as our judgments extend to be as effectual as our limited means would admit, and to have rendered the Vessel sufficiently secure to enable us to complete the present voyage without being under the necessity of returning to Port Jackson than was originally intended: we are however fully aware that a trial at Sea can alone determine this point & do not apprehend an unfavorable result.

We cannot close our report without recommending to your favorable consideration William Foster the Carpenter for his zeal and ability in the discharge of his duty & Thomas Stephenson Sailmaker for the able assistance he has afforded as a Shipwright and we do declare that we have made this examination with such care and equity that we are ready if required to make oath to the impartiality our proceedings.

In witness whereof we hereunto set our hands this 8th day of Oct^r 1820 in Carcening Bay.

To Lieut P. O. Key R. N. G.
Commanding H. M. Cutter "Mermaid".

Signed } Frederick Beddell
John Septimus Roe

H. M. Sloop Bathurst
Deptford May 29th 1823

Sir

Having to pass an examination at the Royal Naval College, Portsmouth, to qualify me for holding the situation of Lieut. in H. M. Navy, I have the honor to solicit the Lords, Commissioners of the Admiralty for leave from my duties on board the Bathurst for that purpose during the ensuing week to commence on Saturday 31st inst.

To J. M. Croker Esqre
S. S. S.
Admiralty

I have the honor to be
Sir your most Obedt^l & humble Servt
Signed, J. S. Roe

Sir

45 St Georges Square Portico
12 June 1823

I beg leave to state that having been recently employed under Captain Phillip P. King exploring the coasts of New Holland &c in H. M. Sloop Bathurst I received from Capt. King an order bearing date 25th April 1822 to act as Lieut. of that vessel agreeable to directions just received from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. I had then been serving nearly nine years as Mid. & Master Mate in H. M. Navy but not having had an opportunity of passing the usual examinations in Seamanship & Navigation since the sailing of the Expedition from England on 14th Feb^r 1817 for the ^{want of the} specified number of Officers of the prescribed rank, I was then examined as to my proficiency in those points and received

a certificate dated 25th April 1822 signed by
2 Captains and 2 first Lieut^s being all that could
be procured - which certificate I beg to state
was enclosed with an explanatory letter from
Captⁿ King for the favorable considerations of
their Lordships. The Bathurst not arriving at
Deptford till 10th May last & having understood through
the commission officer that I was to pass another
examination at the Royal Naval College - Portsmouth
I did so by the following opportunity on Monday
the 9th inst^t but the Commander in Chief on
the station declines giving a Certificate to that
effect without a document which shall satisfy
him of the Certificate in Seamanship being
considered sufficient - The arduous service which
Captⁿ King has completed having been honored
with the approbation of their Lordships
I have been induced to hope for the con-
sideration of their indulgence and to request
Sir that you will be pleased to move their
Lordships to signify their pleasure by ap-
proving my passing Certificate of 25th April 1822
signed as it is by 2 Captains & 2 Lieut^s in
the absence of other Officers whom there
was no possibility of meeting together.

I have the honor to be Sir

To J. W. Croker Esq^r
K. S. S.
Admiralty

Sr S. S. S.

✓
Sir

Lieut. Taylor - Greenwich Hospital
16th June 1823 -

The Lords commissioners of the Admiralty having been pleased to promote me to the rank of Lieut. in consideration of services performed on the recent expedition of Captain King to explore the coasts of Australia, I beg leave most respectfully to call their Lordships' recollection to their intention of granting me that ~~favor~~^{step} on the 9th July 1821, when the unavoidable want of a passing certificate prevented my benefiting at that time by the intended favor; for on my appointment to the Expedition under Captain King, which has been absent from England upwards of six years, I had served 3^{1/2} years as midshipman in various parts of the world, with gratifying testimonials from the Officers under whom I had served, and since that period, from the peculiar service in which I was employed, had not an opportunity of passing the examinations to qualify me for a Lieut. until 25 April 1821, when a passing certificate was enclosed to their Lordships with a Duplicate of the accompanying letter from Captain King: On July 9th 1821 their Lordships were pleased to issue orders for the promotion of Captain King, Lieut. Bedwell & myself, but the want of a passing certificate for the

reasons stated above) proved a bar to mine
until 25th April 1822 when, the Bathurst
having arrived at Port Jackson from a voyage
of 12 Months duration, I received an order to act as
Lieut. agreeable to their Lordships' directions,
and on the same day passed the examinations
to which I have referred above. In the nature
and extent of the duty on board the Mermaid and
Bathurst, and the manner in which it was
performed by the very small number of Officers
on board, having no master or warrant Officers,
and the Bathurst only 1 Mid; I beg leave with
a modest confidence in my own exertions for
the public benefit to refer their Lordships
to the accompanying testimonials, and my late
Commander, & having performed the same duty
previous to receiving Capt^l Kings order to act
as Lieut^l, as since that period I am induced
to throw myself upon the considerations of their
Lordships and to hope that they will be
pleased to signify their pleasure that
my commission as Lieut^l shall be dated for
that period 19 July 1821, at which they were
originally pleased to order my promotion,
but should insuperable objections prevent
my receiving the benefit of the original
intentions of their Lordships, I beg with
confidence in their liberality by requesting
to be allowed to receive the increased pay for
that interval, during which I was doing Lieut^l
duty and receiving the pay of unpassed Mr. Mate.
I have to request, Sir, that you will be pleased to lay my
unusual case before their Lordships, & have the honor to be Sir
Your Obedt^l & Grate Serv^t
J. W. Croker Esqre
8 Oct 22
Admiralty
(Signed) J. S. R.

[Faint, illegible handwriting visible at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

Newbury 24 Nov 1823

Sir

My name not having yet appeared on the half pay list of Lieuts. I beg leave to request their Lordships will be pleased to direct that it may be inserted from 6th June last the day on which I was paid off in R. M. Sloop *Bathurst*

To
J. M. Croker Esq^r
Sec. Sec &c
Admiralty

I have the honor to be Sir
Your Obedt^l Serv^t
(Signed) J. J. Noel

The North Coast of New Holland (or Australia) situated between the Meridian of 129° and 135° East of Greenwich with all the Bays, Rivers, Harbours, Creeks &c and all the Islands laying off were taken possession of in the name and in right of His Most Excellent Majesty George the 4th King of the united Kingdoms of Great Britain & Ireland &c &c and His Majesty's colours hoisted at Fort Eslington on (Sburg Peninsula), on the 20th day of Sept^r 1824 by James John Gordon Premier Companion of the most honorable military Order of the Bath, Captain of R. M. Ship *Tamar* and commanding Officer of a detachment of His Majesty's forces employed on the said Coast — His Majesty's Colonial Brig *Lady Nelson* and the *Countess of Harescourt* in Company

✓
H. M. Ship Tamar at sea
lat 16 S. lon 113 E -

29 Nov 1824

Sir

Having recently had the honor of being employed under Capt^l J. J. Gordon Bremer, C.B., in H. M. Ship Tamar (taking possession of part of the north coast of Australia, and forming a colonial establishment at that part of it called Port Cockburn in Melville Island, I beg leave with due deference to suggest to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the expediency of making a particular examination and survey of the coast and its immediate vicinity, and to offer my services for the accomplishment of so desirable an object as that of constructing correct charts of the intricate seas and coasts which will now shortly become the busy scene of commercial enterprise and speculation -

I beg most respectfully to refer their Lordships to the accompanying charts of the Northern part of Apsley Strait and the extensive Shoals that lie off it, in order to shew the existing necessity for an accurate survey of these parts being made

to give confidence and security to the
Merchant and Navigator. For the general
purposes of Navigation the excellent charts
of Captain King will admit of very little
improvement, but having had the
honour of being employed upwards of 6 years
under that Officer, exploring the coast of
Australia, I beg leave to call the attention
of their Lordships, not only to the Port
Bays, and Rivers, from Liverpool River westward
all of which require particular examination
but to several parts of the coast as far
South as Cygnet Bay in Lat 15. S. which were
undoubtedly either not seen at all by that
expedition, or at such a distance as to
leave much doubt respecting their actual
delineation. Included among this number
are the South and West coast of the North
Island upon which the new settlement
is established, Clarence Strait that
separates it from the main land to the
Southward, and several promising openings
on the Southern side of that strait, which
neither time nor circumstances would admit
of our looking into and which from their
near neighbourhood to the infant colony cannot
but prove highly interesting and useful.
There is also a chain of dangerous shoals extend-
-ing from the Sahul Banks to the Southward among

which ships must pass on approaching
Melville Island from the westward and
with the positions of which we are very
slightly acquainted -

The numerous and laborious duties of every
Officer, Seaman, and marine belonging to
the present expedition, have prevented my
accomplishing the examination of a greater
extent of coast during their amiable stay
at Port Cockburn, but should their
Lordships be pleased to accede to my
request and to place at my disposal
an armed vessel of about 200 tons burthen
I beg to assure their Lordships that no
exertion of hand or heart shall be wanting
on my part to accomplish their utmost
wishes and to perform this service in
such a manner as to give their Lordships
no cause of regret for the confidence they
may be pleased to place in me.

To Captain Bremer who has offered to do me
the honor to forward this application to
their Lordships I have given a list of the
Instruments &c which it will be necessary to
have in the event of their Lordships being
pleased to order the survey to be undertaken

I am the honor to be
their Lordships most Obedt Servt
(Signed) John Septimus Roe

J. M. Croke Esq
&c &c &c.
Admiralty

List of Astronomical and Nautical Instruments & requisites
for Surveying on the Northern Coast of Australia

- 2 good Sextants - or 1 Sextant and 1 repeating circle
- 2 Artificial horizons, with spare quicksilver
- 2 Chronometers -
- 1 Azimuth compass & 2 spare Cards -
- 2 Circumferentors, with spare needles
- 1 Theodolite
- 2 Measuring chains
- 1 pair beam compasses
- 1 Case working Instruments
- 1 Brass scale $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft in length with graduated edge
- 1 Circle or protractor.
- 2 Hatons compasses
- 2 pocket haton compasses
- 1 Brass $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft Telescope for observing Jupiters Satellites &c
- 1 Pentagraph
- 1 Dipping Needle
- 2 Boats compasses with spare cards
- 1 Marine Barometer
- 2 Six's Thermometers with Magnets
- 2 Common Thermometers with Galles
- 1 Hygrometer
- 1 Pair Large parallel rules in 3 pieces
- 1 Pocket Sextant, with magnifying tube
- 2 Water Thermometers.

- Stationery*
- Imperial Vather paper for charts
 - Tracing paper. - Crow quills
 - Black lead pencils principally $\# \#$
 - 24 Memorandum Books with Clasp
 - Envelopes and large paper for rough plans.
 - &c &c &c

- Capt'n Selwicks charts and Account of Australia
 - King Do Do Do
 - Baudins Freycinet's Do Do
 - Charts of Eastern world
 - Hosburgh East India Directory &c
- } Nautical Almanacs
after 1825

26th July 1826

Sir

I beg leave to request you will do me the honor to lay before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a survey of the entrance to Rangoon River and a Chart of Mantaban Gulf which several visits of His Majesty's Ship Tamar to the scene of the late Burmese War have enabled me to construct. and which our very slight knowledge of that interesting Country had caused to be much wanted.

I have the honor to be
 Sir
 Your most Obedt^l Servant
 Signed John Septimus Roe
 Lieut of His Majesty's Ship Tamar

To J. W. Croker Esq
 &c &c &c
 Admiralty

Mem^o of the services of Lieutenant John Septimus Roe

Several Bearings Ranks	Names of the Service Ships	Names of Admirals & Commanders	Stations on which the ship was chiefly employed	Date of Entry	Date of Discharge
Midshipman	Rippon	Capt. Sir Christ. Cole	Chamoo (Flot)	11 June 1813	17 Aug 1814
Midshipman	Horatio	Capt. W. Dillon	Newfoundland Guiney, Barbary China East Indies	18 Aug 1814	10 Jan 1817
Master Mate	Bahawalpore Auton foreign Service	Capt. Thomas P. King	Surveying Service New South Wales	4 Feb 1817	25 April 1822
Lieutenant	Bathurst	Comdr. P. King	Do	26 April 1822	6 June 1823
Lieutenant	Tamar	Capt. J. G. Bremer C.B.	New South Wales & East Indies	13 Feb 1824	6 Aug 1825 still serving -

H. M. S. Samar. Bombay
20th April 1827

Sir

Having just finished 3 Charts of portions of the Arabian and African Coasts on which H. M. S. Samar's Squadron under your command have recently been employed, I beg you will do me the favor to request the Government at Bombay will honor me by accepting an outline copy of them; as any information connected with coasts so little known cannot but prove acceptable.

To Capt. James J. Gordon Brewer R.N.
H. M. S. Samar

I remain Sir

Your Obedt. faithful Servant
J. S. Roe

N.B.

The above was forwarded to Mr. Newham the Chief Secy to Govt. by Capt. Brewer together with the 3 Charts alluded to and a handsome testimonial of their correctness &c &c to which the following reply was made next day

Political Department

Bombay Castle

21st April 1827.

Sir

I have had the honor to receive and lay before the Honble the Governor in Council your letter of the 20th instant with its accompaniments by Lieut. Roe of His Majesty's Ship Samar; and am directed to offer you the thanks of this government for your kind-ness in transmitting the interesting and beautiful Surveys prepared by that officer of those parts of the Arabian & African Coasts lately visited by His Majesty's Squadron under your Command. — The

The Governour in Council begs that his acknowledgments may also be conveyed to Lieut Roe for the liberal and considerate feeling which has induced him to communicate the result of his valuable observations on coasts so little known and ~~of~~ ^{of} some mark of the sense entertained by Government of the value of his labors, I am directed to beg his acceptance of the accompanying order on the Treasury for the sum of One Thousand Bombay Rupees.

J. J. Gordon Premier C^o.
Master of S. S. Tamar

I have the honor to be Sir
Your most Obedt. Serv^t.

(Signed) W. Newsham C^o. Secy

Political Department

Bombay Castle

21st April 1827

Sir

I have it in command from the Honble the Governour in Council to request you will pay to Lieut. John Septimus Roe of R. M. S. Tamar the sum of Bombay Rupees One Thousand in testimony of the high sense entertained by Government of his valuable and scientific labors in surveying those parts of the Arabian and African coasts lately visited by His Majesty's Squadron and the result of which he has kindly communicated to Government.

To L. Bouslier Esq
Acting Sub Treasurer

I have the honor to be Sir
Your most Obedt. Serv^t.
(Signed) W. Newsham C^o. Secy

Sir

H. M. S. Tamar
Bombay 23^d April 1827

I beg to acknowledge having received through Captain Bremer C.B. of H. M. S. Tamar a communication of the very handsome and flattering manner in which the Hon^{ble} the Gov. in Council did me the honor to receive 3 Charts of the African and Arabian Coasts transmitted on the 20th inst^o accompanied by an order on the Treasury for One thousand Bombay Rupees - Will you do me the honor to convey my grateful acknowledgments to the Hon^{ble} the Governor in Council for this act of liberality, with an assurance that while I feel deeply impressed with a sense of the honor conferred upon me by expressions of approval so highly valued, such an unlooked for display of munificence was not requisite to ensure my best feelings towards a Government to which I have many reasons for being strongly attached

I have the honor to be
Sir

To M Newham Esq^r
Esq^r Esq^r
Chief Secy

Your most Obedt^o & Aff^o Serv^t
Signed John Septimus Roe

Sient Roe of H. M. Ship Tamar presents his compl^{ts} to Rear Admiral Gage and begs to inform him by the Champion a chart of the Bays to westward of Cape Aden, which is all that the rolling about in Madras Roads has enabled him to complete. Mr R. also begs respectfully to offer his best wishes for the health and welfare of Admiral Gage, being on the eve of his departure for England.
Madras Roads 9 July 1827.

Greenwich 22 July 1828

Sir

The service on which Mr. M. Ship. Tumor
Capt^m Breen C.B. was employed in 1824 taking possession
of the North coast of New Holland and forming a colonial
settlement at that part of it called Melville Island
having afforded opportunities of discovering many dan-
gerous reefs and Shoals that lie off a portion of
its Eastern Coast comprising an extent of
nearly 300 miles, and a knowledge of which
may prove of great importance to Ships and Vessels
navigating that intricate Sea, I beg to have the
honor of acquainting his Royal Highness the
Lord High Admiral that I have delivered into the
Hydrographical office at the Admiralty 3 Charts
delineating those dangers, which unfavorable
circumstances alone prevented being laid down
in the excellent Charts of Capt^m P. A. King employed
surveying the Coast from 1817 to 1823.

J. Barrow Esq^r
Secretary
Admiralty.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your most Obedt^l & Respect^l Serv^t
(Signed) J. S. Roe
late Lieut^t of the Tumor

Dear Sir

Newbury 21 July 1828

I received your two enclosures this morning
and have to return my best acknowledgements for
the kindness with which you have borne in
mind my interests. - The offer of employment in
the Hydrographical department which you

have been as good as to propose to me I accept with
pleasure as being likely to lead to something desirable
though perhaps a fortnight will elapse before I can make
my appearance at the Admiralty in consequence of an
accident I met with when last in Town and with which
I am now confined to the house. — My Medical atten-
-dant tells me that will be the probable time of my
further detention, — therefore should this agree with the
plan of your arrangements I can only repeat my
readiness to appear at the Admiralty with all
practicable dispatch, and shall feel obliged
by a line to signify your decision

I am
Dear Sir

To Capt. W. E. Parry R.N.
Esq &c &c

Yours very faithfully & obliged
Signed / John Septimus Roe

Sir

Newbury 28 Feb 1828

I beg to acknowledge having received your
letter of yesterday's date informing me of V.R. Dighby
the Lord High Admiral's Council having desired you
to employ me in the Hydrographical Office in
compiling sailing directions to accompany the
Charts issued to His Majesty's Ships, and have
to state my intention of appearing at the Admiralty
for that purpose as soon as the state of my health
will permit.

I am Sir

To Capt. W. E. Parry
Hydrographer

Your Obedient Serv^t
Signed / John Septimus Roe. Serv^t

Newbury 21st March 1828

Dear Sir

Three weeks having now elapsed since I received your official appointment to attend at the Hydrog. office I fear you will begin to tire of expecting my appearance and therefore avail of the opportunity by a friend going to Town of expressing regret that my recovery has not proved so rapid as I could have wished or as I had been led to expect at the time of accepting that appointment, therefore in the event of any enquiries being made for me I have thought it advisable to provide you with the enclosed certificate of my medical Attendant here, which you will greatly oblige me by producing if called for relying on my desire to wait upon you as speedily as possible. Before the end of the present month I have every reason to hope I shall be able to make my appearance in propria persona; and in the mean time should the nature of the service on which I am to be employed, and your own opinion of the propriety of my proposal warrant your acquainting me with the spot to which my attention will in the first place be directed. I could by that means prepare myself for it. -

I am Dear Sir

Yours very faithfully

(Signed) J. S. Roe

To Capt. W. C. Parry
A. B. & C.
Admiralty

Newbury 21st March 1828

I certify that Lieut John Roe has been under my care since the 5th February and is still requiring my Professional attendance labouring under great Constitutional derangement of health brought on by fatigue and exertion in the services he has been lately employed on; it is my opinion from the improvement he has made that in a short period he will be equal to any service on shore
Enclosed to Capt. Parry with Note.?
(Signed) Richard Peat
Surgeon

Memo of M. J. Roe's Services &c in U. M. Navy

- 11th June 1813 Entered the Service, on board *Ship Rippon*. Lieut. Col. R. G. B.
- 17th Aug^r 1814 On *Rippon* being paid off was discharged into *Ship Horatio* Capt. Dillow
- 10th Jan^y 1817 The *Horatio* was paid off at Deptford. -
- Jan^y 1817 Passed an Examination in Mathematics & Navigation at the Royal Mathematical School, Christ's Hospital & obtained the reward of 15 Guineas as usually given on those occasions by the Governors of the Institution.
- 24th Feb^r 1817 Appointed by the Admiralty to Surveying Service in New South Wales under command of Captⁿ P. P. King: -
- Dec^r 1818 Completed 6 years service in the Navy as Midshipman & Master Mate but had no opportunity of passing the usual examinations in Seamanship & Navigation till 25th April 1822, when M^r Roe passed before 2 Captains & 2 first Lieutenants. His certificate was enclosed to the Admiralty by Captⁿ King with the accompanying explanatory letter.
- 25 April 1822, Captⁿ King gave M^r Roe an order to act as Lieutⁿ of *Ship Bathurst*, agreeable to directions received on that day from the Admiralty accompanied by his Promotion as Captⁿ and M^r Redwells promotion as Lieutenant bearing date of July 1821 on which day the Admiralty Board had been pleased to order my commission to be made out also, but the want of a proper certificate proved an obstacle to its being done according to the regulations of the Service
- 10 May 1823. The *Bathurst* arrived at Deptford from New South Wales to be paid off having been absent from England since 17th February 1817. -
- 13 July 1824 Joined *Ship Pama* employed formerly a settlement on the Northern coast of Australia, and subsequently on the East India Station where opportunities were afforded of constructing charts of Port Cockburn in Melville Island entrance to Rangoon River Mantaban gulf Pat Bumbura part of the North

- Coast of Africa. Days to westward of Cape Aden, numerous
Shoals on N. E. coast of Australia together with greater
part of Ceylon & the Persian gulf the two latter
unfurnished on account of ill health

28 Decr 1827 Tamar paid off at Plymouth

1828

24 January Received the thanks of the Lord High Admiral for
3 Charts containing the positions of many
Reefs and Shoals discovered in H^M Ship Tamar
Presented a memorial of services and a letter promo-
tion.

27 February Received from Capt^l Damp^r Hydrographer an appoint-
ment at the Admiralty to compile sailing directions
to be issued with the Charts to His M^{ty} Ships
but was prevented by ill health commencing that
duty till 2nd of April. -

Hydrographic Office
Admiralty 15 Nov 1828

Sir

Understanding that it is the intention
of His Majesty's Government to form a Colonial Settlement
at Swan River on the West Coast of Australia a large
portion of which has never been thoroughly examined.
I beg to have the honor of renewing my former application
to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty bearing date
Nov 29. 1826 to be employed in completing the examinations
of those very interesting parts of the Western shores of
Australia which were left unexplored by Capt^l King
in 1822.

I beg to suggest the practicability of combining the
Survey of Swan River with this Service and to call
the attention of their Lordships to the small
expense at which both services might be per-
formed by a small vessel of about 200 Tons

while a depot for Stores will exist at the new
Settlement - Having been employed as assistant Surveyor
under Captain King for nearly 6 years, exploring the shores of
Australia, and subsequently in H. M. Ship *Tamara* forming a
settlement at port Cockburn in Melville Island. I beg to
assure their Lordships of the strong interest & sincere
feel in fulfilling any instructions they may be pleased
to give me on this occasion, and in such a manner
as shall be perfectly satisfactory to their Lordships
and beneficial to a rising Colony of so much importance

To
Mr Croker Esq
No 4. St.
Admiralty

I have the honor to be

Sir
Your most Obedt. Servant
(Signed) John Stephens Roe

Sir

22 Orundel St. Strand
11th Decr 1828

His Majestys Principal Secretary of
State for the Colonies having been pleased to
appoint me to superintend the Survey of Lands
at the new Colony about to be formed at Swan
River on the West Coast of Australia

I beg you will do me the honor to move my
Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for permission
to hold that appointment, and to grant me
two years leave of absence from England.

I have the honor to be

To Mr Croker Esq
No 4. St.
Admiralty.

Sir
(Signed) J. S. Roe Esq

London 4 Dec^r 1828

Sir

I beg to enclose a list of Instruments &c. required for the Surveyors department at Swan River and

have the honor to be

To Capt James Murray R.N.

&c &c &c

Sir

Your most Obedt^l Serv^t
(Signed) J. S. Roe
Surveyor

Books, Charts, Maps &c.

Books	Collins' New South Wales	1 Vol.	} Cunningham Buggs Report }
	Whites do	1	
	Hunters do	2	
	Conrads do	1	
	Menkharts do	2	
	Atkinsons do	1	
	Cunningham do	2	
	Flinders Voyages	2	
	King's Voyages	2	
	Freycinet's French	1	
	Perous do	2 or 3	
	Evans Van diemens Land	1	

Maps
 Cox's New South Wales
 Dangers Hunters River
 Evans Van Diemens Land
 General of the World

Charts
 Australian Atlas
 Freycinet's Atlas
 Large Chart of Indian Ocean by Heald mounted on Wall
 Do Pacific Ocean arrowmount do

Miscellaneous

- 4 Horses with packs saddles, bridles, cloths feeding bags with 4 painted
2 Riding Saddles - } cloths to cover their loads
2 Boats complete with Oars, Masts, Sails &c and spare gear
Servants -
1 Bell Tent lined with ticking pole in 3 pieces, pegs &c complete
A small field Officers Mess for an Officer Tent complete } 12 feet diameter }
6 Camp Stools
3 field Drawing tables portable as possible
4 Drawing Boards 2 feet 11 inches by 1 ft 11 inches and 2 ft 1 ft by 1 ft 11
3 Tin Cases with padlocks for rolls of Drawing paper
1 Large Office table with drawers to the ground, cross grain }
1 Hon. Oak Chest for records &c } with graduated edge }
Large Book press, with shelves & drawers at bottom
12 Tomahawks
4 Axes
4 Spades
3 Canteens
6 Iron Pots of 2 or 3 gallons each
6 frying pans

Instruments

- 1 Sextant
1 Artificial horizon with spare quadrants
1 Sextant of small radius with an artificial horizon in a commodious box
1 Theodolite
2 Circumferencers, with spare needles
4 Measuring chains
1 Perambulator
2 Lavoisier's Thermometer with Magnets
1 Barometer
1 Mountain Barometer
2 Katers pocket compasses

Instrument continued

✓

- 4 Small pocket Sextants with Tubes
- 2 Sets of Instruments
- 1 Office Set of Instruments
- 2 Brass scales - 4 foot graduated edge
- 2 large parallel rulers in 3 pieces each
- 2 parallel rulers with wheels
- 1 pair beam compasses
- 2 large plain circular protractors / brass /
- 2 Circular protractors with arcs & pointers
- 2 dozen marking arrows - 1 yard long, in thick Iron shod
- 3 short telescopes, 1 foot, sliding tube, in leather slings
- 1 Pentagraph
- 2 Sets of Ivory plotting scales
- 1 pocket Chronometer
- 2 Boxes water colours
- Carvel hair pencils in assortment
- 4 dozen drawing pins for confining paper to table
- 4 Guling and dotting pens with extra dotters
- 1 Magnet
- 1 Tracing pointer
- 1 Eidagraph

Stationery

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Stationery, a good assortment including Foolscap, Letter, & Note paper | |
| Tracing paper, plain & blacked | Crew Quills - 200 |
| Drawing paper of sizes - | Quills - 500 |
| Antiquarian paper | Pencils, primarily 14 |
| Blotting paper | Indian Ruffled |
| Brown paper | Indian Ink |
| Sealing wax and wafers | Inds powder red & black |
| Brown Holl and for mounting maps - | Red tape |
| 4 Pen knives | Broad green tape for |
| 6 paper knives | edging maps - |
| 6 wafers stamps | Cartridge paper |
| Office Seal | |

Application to reside in the Colony

✓

Date	
Name of Applicant	John Septimus Roe
Age	Thirty Two
Place of Birth	London
To what Country subject	Great Britain
Profession or calling	Lieut. R.N. Surveyor to the Colony
Married or Single	Married
Term of intended residence	Uncertain
Condition	
If on Government establishment	on the Civil Establishment
What Relations in the Colony	None
By what Ship landed	Pamelia
Master	T. H. Luscombe
From what Port	London
Applicants Signature	

Entered in General Muster Books

Sir

Perth 27th Oct 1829

In consequence of a temporary increase to my establishment of servants &c I have to solicit permission from H. E. the Lieut. Governor to draw one more ration from His Majesty's stores for a period not exceeding a few months

To P. Brown Esq

I am Sir

Your most Obedt Servt
Signed, J. S. Roe

✓
Perth Nov 5th 1829

Sir

Having understood there are some articles under the storekeepers charge which are disposable to the Civil Office of the Colonial Establishment by paying for the same I have to request the approval of His Excellency the Lieut Governor to the enclosed requisition for 3 window sashes

To J Brown Esq
Secy to Gov^{ty}

I am Sir
Your most Obed^t Serv^t
(Signed) J. S. Rae

Sir

Perth Nov 5th 1829

Please to supply for my private use the undersigned stores to be charged to me as his Excellency the Lieut Gov^{ty} may please to direct

To J Morgan Esq
Colonial Storekeeper
Approved Lt Gov^{ty}

I am Sir
Your Obed^t Serv^t
(Signed) J. S. Rae

16
Tenth Nov^r 19th = 1829 -

Sir

The proclamation recently issued by His Excellency the Lieut Governor requiring all matters of difference between Masters & Servants to be referred to him for decision, I request you will do me the honor to state to His Excellency that a female in my service ^{named Maria Studsoe} having from some unknown Cause repeatedly refused to perform the smallest item of duty for the last 30 days although by a written and signed agreement at the Cape of Good Hope she agreed to do all work which might be required of her. - I have to request that any investigation which His Excellency may think fit to direct may be instituted into her conduct or that I may be authorised to employ another servant at her expense until she returns to her duty. Pleading in these I beg to solicit His Excellency's permission to discharge the said Maria Studsoe from my service forthwith

J. P. Brown Esq
Secretary to Gov^r

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most Obedt^l Serv^t
Signed J. H. Rol

14
Leith 28th January 1830

Sir

I avail myself of the approaching departure of the bark *Leda* from this settlement for the Mauritius which opens a communication with England to request that His Excellency the Lieut. Gov^r will do me the honor to move the Right Hon^{ble} the Secretary of State for the Colonies to increase the Salary attached to the situation in which he has been pleased to place me ~~in~~ here or to sanction some allowance for a house as I find the former very inadequate to meet my expenses when labour and the common necessaries of life are not to be obtained but at very high rates. Having a Wife and small family in the Colony I beg most respectfully to submit to his Excellency that neither of the 2 Servants which I find it absolutely necessary to keep could be engaged under a Guinea per week and that their maintenance will amount to nearly as much more. The great expenses I am obliged also to incur in house-building and keeping two establishments in consequence of being almost constantly separated from my family, draw very largely upon £300 a year, whilst the numerous and pressing calls of duty which require constant attention leave my private affairs entirely neglected. By bringing these statements to the notice of Sir Geord Murray, I beg to assure his Excellency the Lieut. Gov^r of my unwillingness to be considered as affected or dissatisfied and that I confide as much in his sense of propriety as in the justice of my representations for his doing me the honor to sanction and forward my request - I trust His Excellency will have less hesitation in doing so when I apprise him that the surveyor to a private establishment is ~~now~~ receiving from his employer a salary exceeding mine by £100 a year and for doing comparatively nothing.

To R Brown Esq^r

I have the honor to be Sir
Your most Obedt ^{Servant}
(Signed) J. S. Ror. Sec^y

Perth, Western Australia

June 1st 1830

Sir

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having been pleased to grant me two years leave of absence from England commencing from the 5th day of Dec^r 1820 for the purpose of holding the appointment of Surveyor General in Western Australia I beg to solicit the indulgence of their Lordships for a further extension of leave for a similar period

I have the honor to be

To
Jno Barron Esq
&c &c
Admiralty

Sir

Your most Obedt^{ly} Servant
(Signed) John Stephens R^{et} Lieut

Sir

Perth June 2nd 1830

His Excellency the Lieut^g Govern^r having been pleased to forward to the R^{ts} Hon^{ble} the Secretary of State for the Colonies my application of January 20th for an increase to my present Salary of £300 a year and the time being considerable before an answer to such application can be received:

I have the honor to request His Excellency will sanction my drawing on the Colonial Treasurer for the allowance of £100 a year as house rent to commence with the present year, and to be deducted from my future Salary should the above named application be unsuccessful.

To the
Colonial Secretary
Perth

I am Sir

Your most Obedt^{ly} Servant
(Signed) J. S. Roe

June 2nd 1830



