

	<p>Object: "Orakelbefragung. Encounter-Bay."</p> <p>Museum: Ethnologisches Museum Arnimallee 27 14195 Berlin 030 / 83 01 273 em@smb.spk-berlin.de</p> <p>Collection: Südsee und Australien</p> <p>Inventory number: VIII B 1924</p>
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Description

Fotografie einer Zeichnung: "Orakelbefragung. Encounter-Bay."

Handschriftlich unter dem Bild:

Bei plötzlichem Todesfall wird z. B. in Encounter-Bay das Orakel über den daran Schuldigen oder Veranlasser befragt. Der Tote wird in sitzender Stellung auf eine Bahre gebunden u. von sechs Männern vor die versammelte Menge getragen. Ein unter dem Toten niederkauernder Weiser befragt nun den Verblichenen: Wer an seinem Tode Schuld getragen habe? Das geringste von der Bahre vernommene Geräusch wird sofort auf eine anwesende Person gedeutet u. diese nach dem augenblicklichen Ermessen der Strafvollzieher entweder getötet oder verwundet. An natürlichen Tod glauben die Australier nicht.

Gezeichnet v. S. Mützel

Gustav Mützel (7.12.1839 - 29.10.1893), Zeichner des Originals

[Es handelt sich um die Kopie einer Zeichnung, die in Wilhelm von Blandowskis 1862 zu Gleiwitz erstelltem "Australien in 142 Fotografien" veröffentlicht wurde. Über dieses Werk heißt es:

"William Blandowski (1822–78) was a pioneer in many ways. Born in Gleiwitz, Upper Silesia (present-day Gliwice, Poland), he went to Australia in 1849 to compile "a natural history, a botanical classification, and a geological arrangement of this country." He joined an early gold rush in Victoria, where he invented a powerful water pump. Blandowski went on several expeditions, on which he collected numerous specimens and attempted to compile the first checklist of the mammals and birds of Victoria. His drawings are notable for their accuracy and artistic value. Largely unknown is his application of the newly invented technology of photography for scientific purposes. This album, created as the author's copy

after his return to Germany from Australia, contains Blandowski's album of photographic prints of drawings and engravings (only some are strictly speaking photographs), together with handwritten annotations and some plates from the portfolio of his unpublished book *Australia Terra Cognita* (today in the State Library of New South Wales, Mitchell Collection). Only the pamphlet with Blandowski's annotations, minus the prints, was printed by Gustav Neumann in Gleiwitz (1862), which explains why only two copies of the album are known to exist: the author's copy in Berlin (text and prints) and an incomplete copy with the prints only in the Haddon Library, at the University of Cambridge. This rudimentary publication marks Blandowski's final effort as an Australian natural historian. When it failed and nearly bankrupted him, he gave up and established himself as a studio photographer in Gleiwitz. (<https://www.wdl.org/en/item/15128/>)]

Basic data

Material/Technique:	Präsentationsform: auf Karton
Measurements:	Kartonformat (Foto): 32,1 x 23,6 cm; Bildformat (Foto): 7,1 x 9,9 cm

Events

Template creation	When	
	Who	Gustav Mützel (1839-1893)
	Where	
Intellectual creation	When	
	Who	William Blandowski (1822-1878)
	Where	
[Relationship to location]	When	
	Who	
	Where	Encounter Bay
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Indigenous Australians
	Where	

Keywords

- Oracle
- Photography