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'Convictism: Hyde park barracks and the

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antipodean gulag'

Historic Environment

Volume 10 Issue 2/3 (1993)

Emmett, Peter

**Abstract:** Perhaps Arthur Phillip started it all in more ways than one. 1787, still voyaging on his expedition of 1,000 exiles to the Pacific, before even seeing and naming the ancient place he called Sydney: "I would not wish convicts to lay the

foundations of Empire", he brooded. Phillip's lament has reverberated as a scream of insult, resentment and shame throughout Australian history and our psyche: why were we given such poor fodder to build a nation? As Robert Hughes reflected 200 years after Phillip.



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