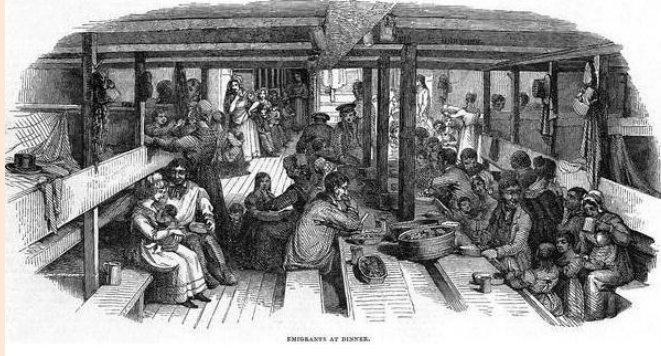


Bound for South Australia 1836

History SA

2011



Bringing History Alive – an online exemplar for the National History Curriculum

Launched in early 2011 by History SA, *Bound for South Australia 1836* is a digital reenactment of the sea voyages made 175 years ago to establish the British Province of South Australia. It is a mark of its quality that

Education Services Australia has cited it as an exemplar and it will become the first resource online supporting the new National Curriculum for History.

Using captains' logs, passenger diaries, letters and other original source material, the *Bound for South Australia* blog retraces - through weekly real time updates - the journeys made by nine vessels from England to Australia between February and December 1836. Over ten months in 2011, website visitors, email subscribers and social media followers have been able to re-live and engage with the unfolding story of the first 500 settlers as they made their way to an unknown land across the globe.

The blog platform and associated social web technologies enables active user participation and inspired an associated exhibition, schools program and public events. In 2012, a supporting video conference-based program will enable schools to participate remotely as part of their use of the site. The project has been very successful in bringing new life and new people to traditionally inaccessible historical material with over - its pages have been viewed over 126,540 times since its launch. Much of this material has not been published before or made accessible online.

One of the goals of the project has been to demonstrate how social web technologies can bring new life and opportunities for engagement with traditional historical source materials. The multiple perspectives of the passengers (recast as posthumous bloggers) creates a compelling narrative of life on board and of the hopes of these first settlers, as they endure the travails of a months-long sea voyage, visit exotic ports of call and finally make landfall. Once ashore, their accounts provide insights into early encounters with Indigenous inhabitants and the challenges of establishing a European-style settlement in unfamiliar lands. The serialised delivery of these stories in a blogging format enables a narrative approach that is more contingent, open ended - and dramatic - rather than traditional discursive presentations of historical events. See www.boundforsouthaustralia.net.au