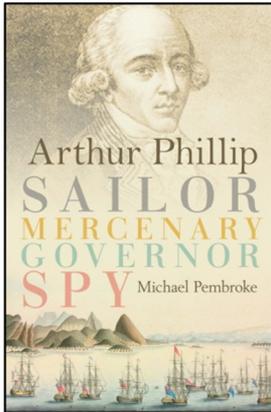


"A gripping life of a quite extraordinary man: the most important enlightenment life story we've never had, properly told, before."
Andrew Marr



ARTHUR PHILLIP

SAILOR, MERCENARY, GOVERNOR, SPY

By Michael Pembroke

Published by Hardie Grant, 2 September 2013, £20.00
Hardback, £10.00 ebook

This judicious and timely publication is not just your average account of naval life, warfare, ambition or wealth. It is also a story about privation and hardship, matrimonial mistakes, espionage and mercenaries, discovery and exploration. At its heart, it is a story of hope and the extraordinary idealism that inspired and accompanied the founding of Australia.

In *Arthur Phillip: Sailor, Mercenary, Governor, Spy* Michael Pembroke, published author, one-time leading commercial silk, and now judge, brings to life his subject's fascinating character amidst the culture, values, fashions and features of Georgian Society. Written with historical fidelity, Michael unveils extraordinary events that transported Arthur Phillip from the inauspicious beginnings as an 'orphan of the sea' to captain's servant and eventually to Admiral of the Blue, traversing the globe in the employ of the British and Portuguese governments before founding the colony that he thought would one day be the most valuable acquisition Great Britain ever made.

Arthur Phillip's journey takes you through the 18th Century poverty-stricken streets of the City of London to the high society in Hampton and Regency Bath; from the Channel port of Lymington across the Atlantic to the South American coastline; from North-East France to the French Naval base at Toulon; and from Lisbon, the undisputed capital of Europe's overseas trade, to Rio de Janeiro, the slave capital of Brazil. Chosen to lead the First Fleet, one of the most remarkable social experiments of the Enlightenment, Phillip's service continued on his return to England, commanding ships of the line in the French revolutionary war until his eventual decline into obscurity that comes with old age.

Arthur Phillip: Sailor, Mercenary, Governor, Spy is a compelling story punctuated with loneliness and desperation, integrity and persistence, rewards and loss. Yet it is marked by an enduring humanity and egalitarianism - a legacy for the colony that Phillip founded in 1788.

In praise of Arthur Phillip: Sailor, Mercenary, Governor, Spy:



“At long last, a finely written biography of the astonishing egalitarian who became Australia’s founding father. There are gripping descriptions of his amazing sea voyages and moving accounts of the humanity he brought to the government of penal colony that only he thought would ever become a nation. The book shows the moral vision of a man who gave history its best example of the possibility of the Reformation of the human spirit”

Geoffrey Robertson, QC

“The colour and dash of Arthur Phillip’s extraordinary life, lived in amazing times in every corner of the world, is told just brilliantly in Michael Pembroke’s utterly absorbing book, destined to become a classic of Imperial literature”

Simon Winchester

About the author

Michael Pembroke is a writer, judge and naturalist. He was born in 1955 and enjoyed a peripatetic childhood traversing the great oceans of the world, living in and travelling to many of the maritime ports of the colonial era. His first school was at Sandhurst in the grounds of a military academy and his last on the foreshore of Sydney Harbour. His father was an Australian infantry officer who was awarded the Military Cross for his role in North Korea as a junior platoon commander at the battle of Maryang San. On his mother’s side, he is a direct descendant of Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne who arrived at Botany Bay in January 1788.

He completed his education at Cambridge and now lives and writes in Sydney and at the cool climate hamlet of Mount Wilson in the Blue Mountains. In 2009 he wrote *Trees of History and Romance*, a paean to nature and poetry, and has contributed literary reviews to the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Since April 2010, he has been a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

<http://michaelpembroke.com/>

Notes to editors

- **Arthur Phillip: Sailor, Mercenary, Governor, Spy** is published by Hardie Grant on 2nd September, priced £20.
- **Arthur Phillip: Sailor, Mercenary, Governor, Spy** is also available as an e-book, priced at £10
- Michael Pembroke will be in London and available for interview from 30th September-3rd October 2013
- For further details, to request review copies or discuss extracts please contact Emma Marijewycz at EmmaMarijewycz@hardiegrant.co.uk or 020 7420 9340

