

APPENDIX 1

La Trobe's Instructions

The following instructions¹ were issued by Sir George Gipps, Governor of New South Wales, and read aloud to the assembled populace on 3 October 1839 on the occasion Charles Joseph La Trobe's arrival in Melbourne to take up his appointment as Superintendent of the Port Phillip District. They were signed by Deas Thomson who was Colonial Secretary for New South Wales under the administrations of Governors Sir George Gipps and Sir Charles FitzRoy.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,
10th September, 1839

SIR,

Her Majesty having been pleased to appoint you to be Superintendent of Port Phillip, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to transmit the accompanying Commission, containing such appointment under the Great Seal of the Territory, and to request that you will proceed by the earliest opportunity, and assume the command of the District. The Police Magistrate, Captain Lonsdale, who has hitherto been in charge, has been instructed that

from the date of your arrival his duties will be confined to such as properly belong to his own office, and a similar notification will be inserted in the *Government Gazette*.

2.—The District to which you are appointed is considered as consisting of that part of the Territory of New South Wales, which lies to the south of the thirty-sixth degree of south latitude, and between the one hundred and forty-first and one hundred and forty-sixth degrees of east longitude. Within these limits you will exercise the powers of Lieutenant-Governor, and will stand in the same position in respect to the Governor of New South Wales, as the Governor himself stands in with respect to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

3.—All Public Officers within the District of Port Phillip, as above described, whose appointments are strictly of a local nature, will look only to you for instructions.

4.—Public Officers at Port Phillip, belonging to Departments of which the Heads are established at Sydney, or who receive instructions from the head of any Department in Sydney, will stand in the same relation to you as the Heads of certain Departments in Sydney (as for instance, the Ordnance and Commissariat) stand to the Governor of the Colony. They will carry into effect the orders which they receive from the Heads of their respective Departments in the same way as the Commanding Royal Engineer and the Deputy Commissary-General carry into effect the orders which they receive from the Ordnance or Treasury, but are nevertheless bound always to communicate to the Head of the Local Government the nature of those instructions, as well as the nature of the measures which they themselves suggest, and also bound to give their assistance to the Head of the Local Government in any matter whatsoever wherein he may require it.

5.—All Officers of the Civil Government, without exception, will look upon you as their immediate Head.

6.—On the occurrence of vacancies, you are at liberty to make appointments where the salaries or emoluments do not exceed one hundred pounds per annum; but all above

that amount must be reported for the approval of the Governor, and on no account is the authorized establishment to be exceeded in any way without His Excellency's previous sanction.

7.—In cases of necessity you are empowered to suspend, until the pleasure of the Governor shall be known, any Officer appointed in the Colony, but not such as hold appointments from Her Majesty's Government. If, however, you shall have occasion to disapprove of the conduct of any of the latter, you will immediately report the circumstance for His Excellency's information and decision, with a full detail of the particulars, and the grounds of any recommendation which you may think it necessary to make in the case.

8.—With respect to the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's troops in the District, you will stand in the same relation as the Governor stands to the Major-General Commanding in the Colony. In all cases wherein the preservation of the peace is concerned, or the enforcement of Convict discipline, you will be entitled to call for his assistance; but you will carefully avoid interference in matters purely Military, and you will have no control whatever over expenses defrayed out of the Military Chest. Military Officers however, holding appointments under the Colonial Government, will be responsible to you for the performance of their Civil duties, and in this class all Officers of the Mounted Police are included.

9.—All letters and returns intended for the Governor's information, instead of being addressed to the Colonial Secretary, will be addressed to you.

10.—You will forward to the Colonial Secretary as many of these letters, or extracts from them as you may think necessary, expressing your own opinion in a separate letter when the subject is important; in others or ordinary cases making a Minute on the margin; and at all times, for the sake of avoiding confusion, confining each communication to a single subject.

11.—The rules to be observed in all matters of Revenue

and Expenditure will form the subject of a separate instruction.

12.—In cases which are not met by those rules, you will act on your own discretion, adhering, however, to the general principles which govern the expenditure of the public money, in this as well as in all other parts of the British Empire, viz.—

(1)—That no expense can be incurred which has not been provided for by the Local Legislature, or expressly charged upon the Land Revenue, and specifically authorized by the Governor.

(2)—That funds provided for one service cannot be expended on another, neither can savings on one item of any service be applied to another.

(3)—That savings are to be made whenever practicable; and that because a certain sum of money has been provided for any particular service, it does not follow that it must necessarily be expended.

(4)—That any person who authorizes a departure from any one of the three foregoing rules, does so on his own responsibility.

13.—In all matters of Convict discipline, or in the distribution of Convict labour, you will exercise all the functions of the Governor; subject, however, to confirmation or disallowance by His Excellency, and with this exception rendered necessary by the law, namely, that you will not be authorized to withdraw Convicts from the service of any individual without the express order of the Governor. In cases, therefore, when Assigned Servants are taken from their Masters, either for Police purposes, or for any infraction of the regulations, they are to be kept in Government employment until an order for their final disposal may be received from Sydney.

14.—The Convicts so kept are to be considered as under the Police Magistrate as far as their custody and discipline are concerned. But the direction of their labour will rest with the Clerk of Works, or other Officer in charge of any Department, to which you may desire them to be attached.

15.—In further compliance with the law, you will not be authorized to exercise the prerogative of the Crown in the pardoning of offenders, or the remission of punishments. The practice, however, of sending petitions or applications for mercy or remission through you is to be adopted as far as possible, and in all such cases you will be pleased to express your own opinion on them, obtaining, if practicable, the opinion or report of the Judge, Chairman of Quarter Sessions, or Magistrate before whom the case may have been tried or decided.

16.—Cases will probably arise, wherein it may be desirable for you to put yourself in direct communication with the Heads of Departments in Sydney, especially perhaps the Heads of the Convict and Emigration Departments. The general rule to guide such communications is that they relate only to the detail or fulfilment of instructions previously conveyed through the Colonial Secretary; and that they be continued so long as the dispatch of public business is facilitated by them, without disturbing the harmony of the service; but that they be discontinued, and the subject brought through the Colonial Secretary before the Governor, the moment a difference of opinion or anything likely to lead to a difference of opinion arises.

17.—I am directed in a particular manner to invite your attention to the treatment of the Aborigines, and to the prevention as far as possible of collisions between them and the Colonists. For your information and guidance in this very important part of your duty, I enclose copies of the principal Government orders now in force respecting them, as also of the instructions which have been issued to the Chief Protector of Aborigines, and the Commissioners of Crown Lands.

18.—In conclusion I am directed to inform you that extracts of the foregoing instructions have been communicated to the several Departments, accompanied by the Governor's commands that strict attention be paid thereto, and His Excellency suggests that, upon your assuming charge, it will be expedient to cause the whole of the present

communication to be read in public, for general information and guidance. Further instructions will be transmitted to you, from time to time, as the exigencies of the service may require, and I am commanded to add, His Excellency Sir George Gipps will at all times be happy to receive every information and suggestion connected with your duties, or the welfare of the District entrusted to your control, which it may be in your power to offer.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Honor's most obedient servant
E. DEAS THOMSON

HIS HONOR, CHARLES JOSEPH LA TROBE, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

Notes

- ¹ Charles Joseph La Trobe—Commission, 10 September 1839, VPRS 19/8/1, Unit 1, File 39/3, PROV.

APPENDIX 2

La Trobe's Art

As an artist, La Trobe was virtually unrecognised until the publication in 1999 by the State Library of Victoria and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) of all his known extant sketches and watercolours in the volume *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Landscapes and Sketches*.¹

Before his arrival in Australia in 1839, La Trobe had travelled extensively, recording for his own pleasure and as examples of the wonderment of creation the scenery he encountered. No doubt, he began drawing and painting as a student at Fulneck School in Yorkshire, but none of his early efforts have been located.

Fortunately, however, 437 of his sketches and paintings still exist. The State Library of Victoria is custodian of seven folios of La Trobe's art. Of these, four folios comprising 277 works—*Switzerland-Italy, North America, Mexico* and *Port Phillip*—belong to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) which placed them with the Library on long-term loan in 1976 for safekeeping. These had been donated to the Trust in 1960 by Captain Charles La Trobe and Mrs Victoria La Trobe Shea-Simonds, the children of Charles Albert La Trobe, the only son of Charles Joseph. The remaining 160 images in three folios—*Home* [England], *Tahiti* and *Tasmania*—are held in trust for the people of Victoria at the State Library. Of these, some pictures were presented to the Library in 1934 by the Baronne de Blonay, daughter of Agnes La

Trobe, Charles Joseph's eldest daughter, together with manuscripts and correspondence relating to her grandfather. The bulk of these three folios, however, was acquired by the Library in 1992 from an antiquarian dealer in London as part of the collection known as the 'La Trobe Archive'.²

Because La Trobe sketched as he travelled, with little time available to finish his works, many of his pictures are incomplete. Mostly, they are pencil sketches overlaid with a sepia wash. There are, though, a number of completed paintings which demonstrate how accomplished La Trobe was as an artist. The majority of the works are postcard-size, while some of the more detailed are approximately twice that dimension.

The value of La Trobe's impressions of the landscape he saw lies in the fact that he recorded scenes very early in the European history of the places he visited. Examples of this phenomenon are his view of the site of the city of Chicago in 1832 as a tent encampment, and the church at Port Arthur in Tasmania, complete with the roof which was destroyed by fire a year after his visit in 1847. In addition, La Trobe's views of Port Phillip were some of the earliest executed after the arrival of European colonists in the southern part of the Australian continent.

Not only do his sketches and watercolours document the colonising spirit of the first half of the nineteenth century, but they show the contribution made to art and history in many parts of the rambler's world by the 'sketcher of no mean pretensions',³ Charles Joseph La Trobe.

Notes

¹ Reilly, *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Landscapes and Sketches*.

² La Trobe Archive, MS 13003, La Trobe Australian Manuscripts Collection, SLV.

³ Irving, *A Tour on the Prairies*, p. 5.

APPENDIX 3

Charles Joseph La Trobe: Journeys and
Excursions in Australia

1840	
14–19 February	Geelong, Corio, Barwon Mission Station, Point Henry, Point Lonsdale
16–18 March	Yering
25 July–1 August	Dandenong, Western Port
30 August–3 September	Arthur's Seat, Cape Schanck, Point Nepean
25–28 October	Mt Macedon, Tallarook, Kilmore
23–24 November	Station Peak
1841	
2–4, 27–30 January	Geelong, Indented Head, Shortland's Bluff (Queenscliff), Cape Schanck, Western Port
13–25 May	Portland
2–6 July	Barwon Mission Station, Geelong
25–30 September	Campaspe, Kilmore
26 October	Geelong
23 November–9 December	Holiday at Williamstown
1842	
16–20 January	Geelong, Colac, Weatherboard, Station Peak
21–24 July	Goulburn, Kilmore, Mitchellstonen, Mt Macedon
17–20 October	Geelong, Shortland's Bluff
31 October–5 November	Loddon District, Mt Alexander

1843	
27 February–11 March	Port Fairy, Portland, Stony Rises, Mt Rouse, Grampians
17–20 April	Geelong and the Heads
11–16 August	Point Nepean, Western Port
19–25 December	Loddon District
1844	
18–22 January	Geelong
3–9, 17–23 February	Geelong and The Heads
10 April	Dandenong
30 April–15 May	Geelong, Colac, Port Fairy, Portland, Mt Gambier, Merino Downs, The Grange, Mt Rouse, The Elephant
6–9 August	Geelong
17–22 October	Geelong
9–22 November	Cheviot Hills, Kilmore, Grampians, Mt William
10–13 December	Geelong
1845	
14–22 January	Geelong and The Heads
28 February–14 March	Gippsland—Dandenong to Wilson's Promontory
15–19 March	Geelong and The Heads
3–17 May	Port Fairy, Portland, Warrnambool
24–28 June	Geelong
7–13 October	Geelong, 1st attempt to reach Cape Otway, Timboon, Terang
1–4 November	Cape Schanck, Arthur's Seat
2–9 December	Geelong, 2nd attempt to reach Cape Otway, Port Campbell
1846	
26–29 January	Geelong
22–29 February	Geelong and The Heads
27 March–12 April	Geelong, Cape Otway, Lubras' Cave
17–20 April	Geelong and The Heads
12–13 July	Dandenong
28 July–3 August	Buntingdale Mission Station
24 August–6 October	Twofold Bay, Eden, Sydney
9 October	To Van Diemen's Land Visits to: Launceston, Norfolk Plain, Deloraine, Avoca, Tallegroim, Fingal, Falmouth, Tasman's Peninsula, Eaglehawk Neck, Cascades, Port Arthur, Hobart, D'Entrecasteau Channel, Recherche Bay, Huon, Bruny Island, Fluted Cape, Maria Island, Schouten Island, Mt Wellington

1847	
24 February	Return to Port Phillip
10–14 June	Geelong
3 July	Dandenong
16–24 July	Mt Rouse
10–15 September	Geelong
26 November–3 December	Gippsland
11–16 December	Geelong, Trawallo, Pentland Hills, Bacchus Marsh, Keilor
1848	
10–12 January	Mt Macedon District
31 January–2 February	Geelong
10–23 March	The Grampians, Portland, Port Fairy, Warrnambool
14–17 April	Geelong
22–25 August	Geelong
26–30 September	Mt Macedon, Mt Aitken, Keilor
1–4 December	Geelong
1849	
20 January–5 February	Geelong, Cape Otway, Warrnambool, Portland, Trawallo, Bacchus Marsh
2–25 May	Geelong
29–31 August	Dandenong
17–24 October	Loddon Station, Mt Macedon, Kyneton
23–29 November	The Heads and Geelong
20–23 December	Mt Macedon District
1850	
12–13 January	Geelong
17 January–1 February	Murray River, Swan Hill, Terrick Terrick, Seymour, Kilmore
20–22 February	Dandenong
8–19 March	The Grampians, Horsham, Buninyong, Ballan, Bacchus Marsh
20 April–5 June	Geelong and The Heads
29 July–1 August	Mt Macedon
9–11 October	Geelong, The Heads
24–29 October	Dandenong, Cape Schanck, Arthur's Seat
30 November–7 December	Mt Macedon, Goulburn River
1851	
9–11 January	Plenty Ranges, Yering
22–26 February	Twofold Bay, Sydney
12–18 April	Brownlow Hill, Kiama, Wollongong, Sydney
3–10 May	Return to Melbourne

2–5 September	Geelong
2–8 October	Bunninyong, Ballarat, Geelong—1st visit to goldfields
22–28 October	Mt Alexander, Forest Creek, Kyneton
1852	
19–23 February	Yering
13 April–5 May	Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Buninyong, Clunes, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Mt Alexander, Bendigo, Avenel, Benalla, Wangaratta, May Day Hills, Seymour
19–27 November	Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Creswick, Mt Alexander, Bendigo
16–23 December	Carlsruhe, Shortland's Bluff, Point Lonsdale, Mordialloc
1853	
18–25 February	The Heads
18–21 March	Yering
2–5 April	Geelong
15 April–2 May	Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Creswick, Ballarat, Kerang, Bendigo, Kilmore, Broad Meadows
20–21 September	Geelong
28 October–1 November	Shortland's Bluff, Capel Sound
26–30 November	Capel Sound, Arthur's Seat
1854	
21–23 January	Yering
28–31 January	Geelong
17–21 February	Capel Sound
6 March	Yan Yean, Mt Disappointment