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compendium -- Fate of the Endeavour zoological specimens -- Matthew Flinders: Voyage of the Investigator -- British settlement of New South Wales -- Bligh and Flinders: early Reef surveys -- Flinders' surveys 1795-1799 -- The urgent issue: survey of the colony -- New Holland: missing links in nature's chain? -- Robert Brown: plant taxonomy in a new world -- Science assessed: Brown and Bauer in England 1805-1814 -- A Voyage to Terra Australis: the journal published, 1814 -- The Reef Explored: Early Surveys, 1821-1844 -- Expansion of the colony: first decades -- Australian coastline charts completed: Jeffreys and King 1815-1822 -- Geological observations: rise of controversy -- Accurate reef charts: Beagle survey 1837-1844 -- Jukes and MacGillivray: naturalists on the Fly 1843-1845.

Sommario/riassunto

One of the world's natural wonders, the Great Barrier Reef stretches more than 2000 kilometres in a maze of coral reefs and islands along Australia's north-eastern coastline. Now unfolding the fascinating story behind its mystique this 2002 book provides for the first time a comprehensive cultural and ecological history of European impact, from early voyages of discovery to developments in Reef science and management. Incisive and a delight to read in its thorough account of the scientific, social and environmental consequences of European impact on the world's greatest coral reef system, this extraordinary book is sure to become a classic.
