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| Nota di contenuto | Introduction / John West-Sooby -- Note on the Second Frank Horner Lecture / John West-Sooby -- 1. The globe encompassed : France and Pacific convergences in the Age of the Enlightenment / John Gascoigne -- 2. The Abbe Paulmier's Memoires and early French voyages in search of Terra Australias / Margaret Sankey -- 3. The acquisitive eye? French observations in the Pacific from Bougainville to Baudin / Jean Fornasiero and John West-Sooby -- 4. Discovering the savage senses : French and British explorers' encounters with Aboriginal people / Shino Konishi -- 5. A case of peripheral vision : early Spanish and French perceptions of the British colony at Port Jackson / John West-Sooby -- 6. New creatures made known : some animal histories of the Baudin Expedition / Stephanie Pfennigwerth -- 7. "Primitive race", "pure race", "brown race", "every race" : Louis Freycinet's understanding of human difference in Oceania / Nicole Starbuck -- 8. Imperial eyes on the Pacific prize : French visions of a perfect penal colony in the South Seas / Jacqueline Dutton. |
| Sommario/riassunto | It was not until the eighteenth century that France began sending |

mariners to the southern oceans on a regular basis, and by that time a new maritime power had begun to emerge: Great Britain. Together, these two nations would play a decisive role in determining the configuration of these little known parts of the globe, and particularly of the Pacific, which had for so long been the almost exclusive preserve of Spain.
