



**BY  
ASIA  
TO  
AUSTRALIA**

The Diary of a Voyage  
in 1849  
by

***JAMES BROOM***

edited by Beryl A. Kingan  
2004

"BY ASIA TO AUSTRALIA"

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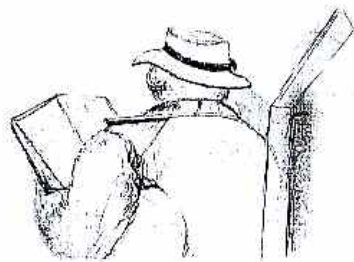
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One of James's Diary drawings

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## INTRODUCTION

In a folder labelled Post, among the Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society's records in the Wotton-under-Edge Heritage Centre, was a small notebook, hand-written in pencil. It proved to be the first part of a diary of a voyage to Adelaide, South Australia, in 1849. It had come from 2 Haw Street, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, together with various items of Post Office memorabilia and a school exercise book belonging to Elizabeth Foxwell, daughter of the chemist and postmaster, Eusebius Foxwell, and his wife Charlotte. At one time in the nineteenth century their home was also the Post Office.

The notebook had no cover and the end pages were so rubbed as to be almost illegible. The writing was very small, frequently crossed out and alterations inserted. The book consisted of two sections of folded pages sewn together. Perhaps there should have been a second volume, now missing, as the entries stopped before arrival in Adelaide. The last two pages, however, list the officers and crew and the passengers, so possibly the writer, for some reason, did not intend to continue his entries. A few loose pages describe the beginning of his return journey, in 1851.

From internal evidence, described later, it appeared that the writer was called James, he lived in Warminster, Wiltshire, and he was writing the diary for his mother, in Bath. The puzzle was, how