

Anonymous Journal (1)



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Bibliothèque centrale, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, ms 1686

Description

Manuscript : 3 pages double-sided pages containing the fragment of an anonymous journal, followed by 3 pages containing Certificates of Sale of the personal effects of René Maugé.

Period covered

27 Vendémiaire Year IX [19 October 1800] – 22 Brumaire Year IX [19 November 1800], for the anonymous journal.

The auctions recorded in the certificates of sale took place between March and May 1802, following the death of René Maugé on 20 February 1802.

Notes on the text

The contents of the journal suggest that the author was an officer on the *Géographe*.

In the Museum catalogue, it is noted that all of the manuscript sheets bundled together under the catalogue number 1686 (the anonymous journal, and the papers relating to the sale of the personal effects of the zoologist Maugé), were part of the papers of the gardener Riedlé.

The page numbers given by the author are given in parentheses ; for pages that are not numbered, numbers are given in square brackets. This document also has page numbers that were added at a later date, on the reverse side only, using a stamp. The numbering of the pages of this group of documents is thus not easy to establish. The order in which the pages have been classified, however, has been scrupulously respected.

Translation

Adele Walker

Validation

Jean Fornasiero

Sample page from the manuscript

à g. Bureau des Domaines
24 avril 1812. Savillon, par le capitaine de grand
voile.



Journal d'un Voyage de
Découverte fait par le Capitaine
Baudin commandant le Corvette
Le Géographe et le Naturaliste.

Est Souma. le Commandant de descendre à
bord.

Le 27 Hydrounien au 9 1/2 ...
basse de grâce à la vue d'un peuple immense qui chassa
en particulier ...
1101. Le lendemain au point du jour ...
et notre approche fut bien vue ...
en station devant le port du havre ...
voilà pour nous ...
nous fûmes à ...
nous sommes ...
fut sur nous; ...
moment que nous ...
anglais qui portèrent sur nous ...
le change à mettre le canon à la mer ...
de débarquer dedans pour se rendre à bord ...
temps la nous avions mis en sautoir ...
par le Commandant de bord ...
Capitaine de la frigate anglaise ...
le Capitaine anglais se promena ...
port avec le commandant ...
l'extérieur du bâtiment ...
nous se trouvaient par armes ...
sur le pont et nos officiers ...
ayant tiré quelques coups ...
de faire feu sur nous ...
quelques coups de canon ...
bâtiment ...
sauvés ...
de notre départ ...
l'usage de la poudre qu'il y avait ...
nos armes en guerre ...
mettraient toujours ...
sur un ...
le débarquement ...
commandant avait dit ...
et son intention ...
le naturaliste ...
voyage au ...
sorte qu'aucun temps que nous ...
laquelle ...

Le 28 ...
Le 29 ...
Le 30 ...
Du 1er mai ...

From Citizen Riedlé
who died at Timor

N° 3

No. 1686

Notebook containing the narrative of a voyage of discovery commanded by Captain Baudin

MUSEUM
D'HISTOIRE
NATURELLE

[1]

Journal of a Voyage of Discovery made by Captain Baudin in command of the Corvettes *Le Géographe* and *Le Naturaliste*.

On **27 Vendémiaire Year 9 of the Republic [19 October 1800]** we cast off from Le Havre-de-Grâce¹ in view of an immense crowd in which each individual was sad to be losing a relative or a friend. As for me, I was leaving behind a dear father. We had favourable winds and our casting off went beautifully. About eleven o'clock we became aware of the English frigate which was still stationed at the entrance to the port of Le Havre and which was sailing at top speed to catch up with us; we steered towards her.² When we were within firing range she hailed us, summoned us to lower our sail,³ threatening that if we did not they would fire on us. In fact we were so close to them at this moment that we could make out the English cannon-firers aiming for us. We immediately set about lowering the boat into the sea, and the commander got into it in order to get on board. During this time we had brought to. Some time later the commander came back on board and was followed by the captain of the English frigate and his lieutenant. The English captain walked around for a while on the bridge with the commander and then asked to see the interior of the ship, obviously in order to reassure himself that we were not armed for war. His lieutenant stayed on the bridge and our officers having asked why, since we had hoisted the parliamentary flag, they had threatened to fire on us, he replied that they were afraid of being tricked, as many ships had used the same manoeuvre to escape, besides which they had no knowledge of our departure. Our officers having teased him a little on the lack of bravery shown towards unarmed ships, and having reproached him for the fact that they were always two or three vessels to one, he did not really know how to respond. Shortly afterwards, the English captain got back into his lifeboat, into which the commander had had some provisions placed and we immediately got back on course. The *Naturaliste* was quite close to us. We also saw the American corvette that had left Le Havre at the same time as us, but we lost sight of her during the night.

28 [Vendémiaire Year 9, 20 October 1800]

Fine weather, nothing new.

29 [Vendémiaire, 21 October 1800]

Same.

30 [Vendémiaire, 22 October 1800]

From noon to 4 o'clock fair seas. Fine weather. At 2 o'clock spotted Cape Lizard from the mast head at NNE 5° 0 about 8 leagues away. From 8 to 2 heavy sea.

From 1 to 2 Brumaire [23-24 October 1800]

Fair seas, almost calm.

¹ [at half past 9]

² [having hoisted the parliamentary flag on our main mast.]

³ [and summoned the commander to come on board]

[2]

From noon on 2 [Brumaire, 24 October 1800] to noon on 3 [Brumaire, 25 October 1800]

From noon to 4 o'clock the sky overcast, wind very variable. At 6 o'clock the wind light and variable, the sea fine, weather cloudy and humid. At half past nine we shortened sail in order to wait for the *Naturaliste*. Quite cool. At 10 o'clock we rallied the *Naturaliste*, which was appearing under the wind. From 12 to 4 weather cloudy, wind changeable. From 4 to 8 o'clock fine weather, the sea quite fair.

From noon on 3 [Brumaire, 25 October 1800] to noon on 4 [Brumaire, 26 October 1800]

At half past noon caught sight of a ship in the SO 11° 0, weather cloudy, very cool wind blowing. At 4 o'clock weather changeable, a little rain falling. Very cool wind. At 8 o'clock squalls.

From noon on 4 [Brumaire, 26 October 1800] to noon on 5 [Brumaire, 27 October 1800]

From noon to midnight clear weather, wind blowing in gusts, the sea rather big. We decreased sail in order to wait for the *Naturaliste*. At 7 o'clock we sighted a ship. From 8 to noon fine weather.

From noon on 5 [Brumaire, 27 October 1800] to noon on 6 [Brumaire, 28 October 1800]

From noon to 4 o'clock we steered S 33° 45' 0 and signalled this to the *Naturaliste*; the weather was quite nice, cool wind and the sea beautiful. From 2 o'clock to noon the weather really lovely; the *Naturaliste* was not far away from us.

From noon on 6 [Brumaire, 28 October 1800] to noon on 7 [Brumaire, 29 October 1800]

From noon on 6 [brumaire, 28 October 1800] to noon on 7 [brumaire, 29 October 1800] fine weather. At 6 o'clock sighted three ships.

From noon on 7 [Brumaire, 29 October 1800] to noon on 8 [Brumaire, 30 October 1800]

Fine weather; quite cool. At 2 o'clock we became aware of the two American ships, who had put up their flags; we then hoisted the French flag. At quarter to 3 we spoke to the *Naturaliste*.

From noon on 8 [Brumaire, 30 October 1800] to noon on 9 [Brumaire, 31 October 1800]

From noon to 4 o'clock the sea beautiful. Fine weather. At half past 9 cloudy weather. Rather cool, the sea turbulent. From 4 to 8 really lovely weather, the sea beautiful.

From noon on the 9th [brumaire, 31 October 1800] to noon 10th [brumaire, 1 November 1800] Fine weather, the sea beautiful and rather cool during the 24 hours. Decreased sail in order to wait for the *Naturaliste*. At half past 4 we sighted a cutter. At 5 o'clock we brought to and at quarter past 5 the *Naturaliste* passed our stern. We called to her to continue on her

way. At the same time we had hoisted the national flag behind and the Union Jack in front. At half past five the cutter fired a cannon at us. Next we brought to and put the little lifeboat in the sea. Some time afterwards it went away and we took the lifeboat back on board. We sighted the peak.

From noon on the 10th [brumaire, 1 November 1800] to noon 11th [brumaire, 2 November 1800] and during the stay we made at St Croix, Tenerife. From noon to 4 o'clock. Fine weather, the sea beautiful. On the morning of the 11th [brumaire, 2 November 1800] we arrived at St Croix, Tenerife. We dropped anchor in the harbour after hoisting our French flag and the Union Jack. We fired a cannon shot to confirm our flag, and immediately a launch left the harbour to bring us a pilot. We were opposite the town and we had a lovely view of the peak which was lost in the clouds, and of several forts. Our artists – who had sketched it from a distance the previous evening, didn't hesitate to take advantage of such a lovely view, lovely for an artist, but rather sad for an observant naturalist. The botanists found nothing but a few bay trees, some prickly pears and other common plants, but for the most part burnt by the sun. We found some minerals and a few insects, the ground is burnt everywhere and there is only volcanic material to be found. It produces grapes, oranges, lemons, figs and other fruits of this type. The grapes there, for example, are extraordinarily large: each one is as big as a nut, but they do not have the flavour of those from our country. Every day our scientists went ashore and made excursions into the country. I went too several times but because my duty kept me on board I was not able to go right into the interior of the country: in truth I did not miss much, for our men found nothing but mountains everywhere.

Two novices obtained permission to disembark; they were finding the job too hard. They were to go back to France on a Spanish ship which was carrying English prisoners, but the latter having revolted and being stronger, had seized control of the ship. One of our novices stayed on board, the other came back to Tenerife on a launch in which the English had boarded those who did not want to follow them. We put our despatches on this same ship, so I doubt strongly if they have reached their destination.

A people with a really miserable look arrived and [illegible] large and fat at the expense of the unhappy people. They came continually to the embarking side of the ship bringing fruit which they sold to us at three or four times the price on land, and those who brought it to us usually only came in order to steal anything they could lay their hands on, but we sorted it out: they were forbidden to come on board. When I went ashore the town, which from a distance had seemed quite pretty, seemed to me rather sad. The houses are dirty, disgusting and badly made; the streets are paved with little stones all different sizes put together; this is not very easy to walk on. The people there are sad and silent and watch us very carefully. All the women, who are mostly frightfully ugly, are covered with veils, and the men are wrapped in long coats. The churches are rather beautiful and the bells ring continually. The troop appears fine. The scientists from our ship saw some distance way from St Croix another town named Lagoue, which is the capital of the country: they found it a little more attractive, but as for me I was not able to go there. During our leave brave citizen Riédélé, that indefatigable botanist, wanting to get to the top of a rock that was too steep, fell about thirty feet down on top of one of his assistants who was following him, and injured the latter on the head. In his fall he injured himself a bit too: grazes on his back and feet, but our medical officer assured us there were no broken bones. He recovered gradually and only had a little pain. We left three or four men in Tenerife: some were ill and the others deserted. Our crew visited the opposite sex (you could not say fair) too often, and they were very

corrupt. This was obvious from the venereal diseases many of our number experienced. We took on a supply of water in Tenerife which is not at all on guard and we took on board some refreshments, meat as well as fruit and vegetables. We also took several well meaning men on board. On the 22nd [brumaire, 13 November 1800], when the commander had taken leave of the consul we took up anchor helped by a launch from the port, and set sail for the Ile de France. During our port of call we put out the flags for the festival of the King of Spain. [illegible] the forts of the town fired several shots. The consul also came on board with his daughter, who was very pretty, and his wife.

(4)

Certificate of Sale of the provisions and items of exchange belonging to Citizen René Maugé, who died during the campaign of the corvettes *Le Géographe* and *Le Naturaliste* under the command of Post-Captain Nicolas Baudin.

Today, **5 Germinal [26 March], Year 10 of the Republic [1802]**, we lieutenant-commander, sub-commissioner, and Guichenot, the gardener's assistant, instituted the sale of the provisions and items of exchange belonging to Citizen René Maugé, native of Cély, department of Seine and Marne, zoologist, who died on board on **1 Ventose [20 February 1802]** of dropsy following dysentery, according to the death certificate dated the said day. The sale was made to the highest and final bidder, as follows.

7	H. Freycinet, lieutenant-commander				Brought forward		361 [#] . 3
	3 bottles of red wine (acidic)	7 [#]		9	L. Barbe sub-commissioner		
	1/3 of a keg of anisette	37			1 bottle of verjuice syrup	10 [#] . 3	
	2 bottles of red wine	18			2 flasks of gin	27.10	
	1 jar of cornichons	20			2 bottles of arrack	7.10	
	1 bottle of antiscorbutic	6. 2			1 jug of brandy	24. 7	
	1 flask of Spanish wine	14. 5			1 violin	40. 1	
	3 flasks of gin	55. 5			2 knives	5.11	115.2
	3 bottles de vinegar	14. 5		17	F.E. Lharidon medical officer	155	
	2 bottles red wine	17.15			1 flask of gin	13	
	1 remnants of coffee	8.12			1 remnants of sugar	7	
	Chisels, hammers, gimlets, files etc.	7. 6			2 bottles of arrack	8.1	
	2 knives with wooden handles	5. 1			2 ditto of gin	18	
	4 ditto (clasp-knife)	4			axes, saws, files, hammer	38.12	
	1 extinguisher	2	216 [#] .11 ^s		carpenter's chisels		
7	F. M. Ronsard lieutenant-commander				5 knives of different kinds	15	
	1 roll of wallpaper	4			4 ditto (clasp-knife)	2.10	
	1 crystal tumbler and its case	17.19	21.19		2 ditto with horn handles	4	
8	L.C. Gaspard Bonnefoy sub-lieutenant				3 iron drills	1.10	107.13
	1 quart of cochlearia	4.10		26	Y.P.P. Bougainville mid-shipman	1 st class	
	1 bottle of malt vinegar	8.10			2 bottles of brandy	18	
	2 ditto of arrack	2			2 ditto plain vinegar	11	
	1 ditto of verjuice syrup	6.10			1 flask of olive oil	25.10	
	1 flask of tarragon	15			1 flask of anisette	9	
	1 horn-handled knife	10.	46.10		1 tin shaving-plate	2	
8	Ransonnet sub-lieutenant				3 carpenter's chisels, 1 axe, 1 chisel	9.10	
	5 bottles of red wine	27.15			4 (clasp) knives	4.10	
	1 ditto plain vinegar	8.10			1 extinguisher	2	81.10
	1 flask Spanish wine	8.		25	Lebrue midshipman	1 st class	
	2 remnants of sugar	19. 1			3 bottles of brandy	27.16	
	1 bottle lemon syrup	10.15			1 flask of anisette	10.10	38.6
	1 extinguisher	2. 2	<u>76. 3</u>		Total carry forward		703.14
	Carry forward		361 [#] . 3 ^s				

[5]

	Brought forward		703#.14		Brought forward		931#.18.6
	1 bottle of syrup of plain vinegar	10 [#]		174	N.M. Petit – artist		
	1 fiole d’huile douce	7	17		1 bottle verjuice syrup	10 [#]	
26.	C. Baudin midshipman 2 nd	class			1 flask of red wine	9.10	
	1 bottle of vinegar	2#.15			1 ditto of anisette	12	
	1 file, 1 iron chisel	3.15	6.10		1 crate, empty	6	
172	L. Depuch mineralogist				2 wooden-handled knives	5.2	
	1 keg of stale rum, ¾ empty	6.16			2 lengths of coloured ribbon	6.10	
	1 crate 2 empty flasks	3.15			1 remnants of plums	2.10	51.12
	1 bill-hook	5.5		174	C.A. LeSueur artist		
	1 pair of snuffers	3.16			3 b. ^{les} vin rouge	14.5	
	1 knife	1.12	21.4		1 hand-drill, 1 saw	7	
172	F. Peron zoologist				1 carpenter’s chisel, 1 hammer	3	
	1 keg of red wine (acidic)	25#.10			4 knives (clasp-knife)	3.5	
	1 bottle of malt vinegar	7			1 ordinary knife	2	29.10
	1 ditto of cognac	13.10		156	H. J. Taillefer medical officer		
	1 jar of cornichons	16			2 bottles of red wine	4	
	1 remnants of sugar	18.5			1 flask of vinegar	1.10	
	1 small lantern	9.1			1 ditto of sweet oil	1.2	
	1 bundle of poor quality prints	15			3 wooden rasps	4	
	5 dolls	.15			1 wooden-handled knife	2.13.6	
	1 bill-hook	5.10			4 knives (clasp-knife)	4.5	
	2 knives	4.13.6	115.4.6		2 ditto penknives	3.10	
174	P.F. Bernier astronomer				1 pruning knife	1.12	22.12.6
	1 bundle of prints	34.5					
	1 bootjack	10.					
	1 box containing a message from a child	10.10			On the ship’s account		
	1 ivory-handled knife	11.15			2 files handed to Citizen Ronsard		6
	1 ordinary knife	1.16	68.6				
	Carry forward		931#.18.6		Total Sales		1041.13 ^s

(6)

Certificate of Sale concerning Citizen René Maugé who died during the campaign of the corvettes *Le Géographe* and *Le Naturaliste* under the command of Post-Captain N. Baudin.

On this day **2 Prairial Year 10 of the Republic [22 mai 1802]** we, sub-commissioner and [blank] instituted the sale of the weapons belonging to Citizen René Maugé zoologist, native of Cély, department of Seine and Marne, who, according to the death certificate, died on **1 ventôse Year 10 [20 février 1802]**.

7	F. ^s M. ¹ Ronsard lieutenant commander	1 double-barrelled hunting rifle	395.1
156	H. J. Taillefer medical officer 2 nd class	1 ditto ditto ditto	300.
26	Y. P. P. Bougainville midshipman 1 st class	1 Chinese umbrella	10.
			705.1

(5)

Procès Verbal de Vente d'une petite partie des effets appartenant au C.^{en} René Maugé decedé pendant la campagne des corvettes le Geographe et le Naturaliste sous le commandement du Cap.^{ne} de V.^{au} N.^s Baudin.

This day, the **26 germinal Year 10 of the Republic [16 avril 1802]** we, lieutenant-commander, sub-commissioner and Guichenot, gardener's assistant, instituted the sale of the belongings of Citizen R. Maugé zoologist, native of Cely, department of the Seine and Marne, who died on board the **1 Ventôse Year 10 [20 février 1802]** according to the death certificate dated the said day. The sale was made at the foot of the great mast to the highest and final bidder, as follows:

8.	Ransonnet sub-lieutenant				Carried forward		220 [#] .
	1 pair of shoes		13 [#]	77	X. Galesne leading seaman		
9	P. Barbe sub-commissioner				1 pair of shoes		9
	1 woollen blanket		3.10	100	E.N. Michel seaman		
26	Y.P.P. Bougainville midshipman 1 st class				1 pair of shoes		11.5
	1 pair of shoes		22.10	101	M.T. Occre barber seaman		
25.	Lebrue midshipman 1 st class				1 pair of boots and 2 bedsheets.		23.6
	2 pairs of shoes		32	77	P.H. Sassem seaman		
33	P.G. Thierry chief petty officer				1 pair of shoes	20 [#]	
	1 woollen mattress		25		1 linen vest and pants	4.15	24.15
38	B. Lebon 2 nd petty officer			135	T.B. Bonnet seaman		
	1 pair of shoes	11 [#]			2 pairs of shoes	33.10	
	1 black hat	17	28		1 straw hat	1.15	35.5
47.	L. Binet master helmsman			156	H. J. Taillefer medical officer		
	2 pairs of shoes		25		1 pair of gaiters	2	
54.	P.N. Lebrun 2 nd carpenter				1 pair of shoes	21	23
	1 canvas bag		5.10	id	T.P. Boivin 2 nd steward		
57.	T.B. Paymalle 2 nd master sail-maker				1 pair of shoes	7	
	2 pairs of shoes	24.10			1 blue shirt	10	
	1 blue shirt	12.10	37		1 black hat	35	52.
65	B.T. Rouget assistant helmsman			163	V. Barbier assistant gunner		
	1 pair of shoes	7.10			1 worn-out pair of boots	1.10	
	1 blue shirt	10.10	18		1 cotton bonnet	1.	2.10
64	N.S. Berthier master sail-maker			164	Y. Menou drummer		
	1 pair of slippers		2		1 piece of leather	2.10	
65	T.V. Nobis 2 nd master caulker				1 woollen blanket	18.10	21
	1 pair of shoes		7.10	172	L. Depuch mineralogist		
76	N. Dumoutiers seaman				1 grey hat		16
	1 pair of slippers		1				
	Carry forward		220 [#] .		Carried forward		438 [#] .1 ^s

	Carried forward		438 [#] .1				
174	P.F. Bernier astronomer						
	2 pairs of shoes		14				
ditto	N.M. Petit artist						
	1 pair of boots		16				
	Total Sales		468 [#] .1 ^s				

Ms. 1686