



16. The Playbill 2007

In 2007, during an official visit to Australia, Prime Minister Stephen Harper presented the people of Australia with a rare historic gift. The gift of a theatre playbill printed in Sydney in 1796 is the earliest known printed document in Australia. *The Playbill*, which left Australia in the possession of First Fleet Marine Officer and later Governor of New South Wales, Philip Gidley King, was printed by George Hughes. Mr Hughes operated the first printing press in the colony.

At an official presentation of *The Playbill* to the National Library of Australia, High Commissioner Michael Leir said it was "another example of the enduring relationship that continues to bring our two countries closer together."

