Over the last 20 years or so interest in convict artist Joseph Lycett (1775-1828) has steadily quickened and heightened in Australian popular culture through the influence of various published works and exhibitions. He is now held in high regard by art and cultural historians. John Maynard's magnificent book sheds fresh light and sharper insights on the true nature of the continuing Aboriginal presence in the landscape depicted by Lycett, now regarded as a significant creative and decorative artist of the early colonial period. He was a valued recorder of what he saw in the infant prison colony. Clearly, John Maynard has comprehensively filled an important gap and in so doing has restored a living knowledge of the artist's most significant subject - the economic, cultural and ritual activities of the First People of the Australian continent.