



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



David Noël was born in 1935, on September 19, the 152nd anniversary of the ascent of the first passenger-carrying hot-air balloon, in Paris. The passengers (a sheep, a cock, and a duck) survived the eight-minute flight quite uninjured, although the cock had its right wing hurt by a kick from the sheep before the ascent commenced. Among the vast crowd of spectators was Benjamin Franklin, the printer who demonstrated the electrical nature of lightning with kite experiments; he was in Paris as the Ambassador of the United States to France.

Franklin, the Father of the U.S. Constitution, the inventor of bifocal glasses, and the man who introduced the concept of hospitals to America, was also ... .. *hold on*, who is this supposed to be about?

Oh yes, where were we? Er, um, David Noël was brought up in England, and in 1957 he gained a science degree from Cambridge University. Subsequently he obtained various minor qualifications in Russian, Geology, Librarianship, Computing, and Nursery Management.

He was a member of the Intelligence Corps in the British Army, serving in Berlin (before the Wall) and other overseas posts during National Service. He then worked in research and development in a British manufacturing company for five years, before settling in Australia in 1964.

In Australia he was a staff member of the University of Western Australia for more than 20 years, engaged in various information technology and computing activities. He is currently Director of the the Tree Crops Centre in Perth, where he is working on various projects to cover the world with nut trees. He is also currently President of the West Australian Nut & Tree Crop Association Inc.

## ABOUT THE COVER

The Cover is based on a map of Australia produced in 1753 by Jacques Nicolas Bellin, official hydrographer to Louis XIV of France.

Rottnest Island is shown as 'I. des Filles' (Island of Girls) off the lower west coast of Australia. There have been many interesting but unsubstantiated suggestions as to the reason for this name.

The map gives appropriate prominence to what are now the eastern States of Australia. The inset map of Rottnest Island is from a more modern source.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*To Ros Fisher, World Freckle Record Holder, for changing the library books, and a thousand other personal services; and to Max, for fixing the stairs and the pyramids.*