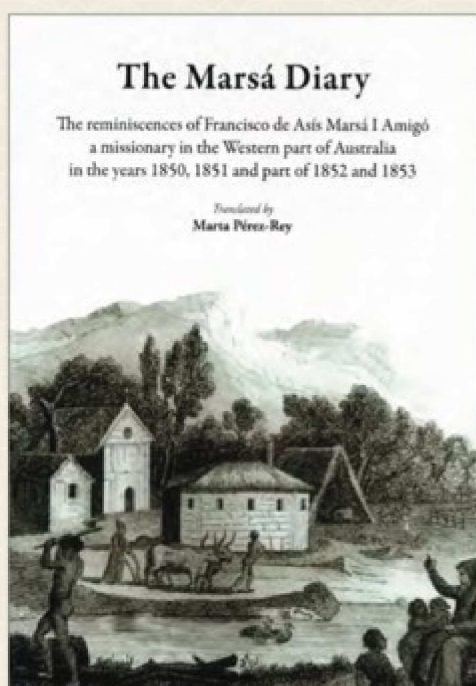


Another new book from the Archives!

Marsá Diary: the reminiscences of Francisco de Asís Marsá I Amigó



The Marsá Diary

The reminiscences of Francisco de Asís Marsá I Amigó
a missionary in the Western part of Australia
in the years 1850, 1851 and part of 1852 and 1853

Translated by
Marta Pérez-Rey



Marta Pérez-Rey - Translator

We are delighted to announce the publication of the Marsá Diary: the reminiscences of Francisco de Asís Marsá I Amigó, who was a Spanish missionary in Western Australia in the years 1850 – 1853.

Marsá was one of thirty-nine Benedictine priests and brothers who were recruited by Bishops Rosendo Salvado and José Maria Serra to come to Western Australia in 1849 aboard the Spanish warship *Ferrolana* to build the monastery at New Norcia. Marsá experienced first-hand the physical hardships involved in colonising the Victoria Plains and he was a witness to the complicated ecclesiastical turmoil which rocked the early colony. In his Diary, Marsá covers in detail the outward trip, the arrival in Fremantle, the difficult journey to the New Norcia site and the work and the hardships involved in building the monastery. Tom Stephens' very comprehensive foreword brilliantly sets the scene and provides the background context to that tumultuous period in Western Australian history.

University lecturer Marta Pérez Rey was awarded the Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholarship in 2020 to translate the Diary. Her translation is a very sensitive work in which she has captured the "tone" of Marsá's writings including his often very dry sense of humour.

Marta, a native of Cantabria, graduated with an MA in English Philology and a Master of Education from the University of Oviedo in Spain, and has been a certified NAATI translator (Spanish into English) since 2011.

The book will be officially launched at New Norcia's Library Day on Friday October 17th but it is available now in the Museum and Art Gallery shop, priced at \$29.99.