



Engraved chart.

“ROSE ISLAND” BY ANY OTHER NAME

Chart of the Friendly Islands.

Author

ANDERSON, George William; and Captain James COOK

Publication date

[1784-1786].

Publisher

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Publication place

London,

Physical description

Engraved chart.

Dimensions

235 by 355mm (9.25 by 14 inches).

Notes

A chart of the Tonga Islands, featuring Tongataboo, now Tongatapu, Eooa and Annanooka in the Hapae islands. Showing the tracks of Cook's ships 'Resolution' and 'Adventure' in 1773, and then of the 'Resolution' and 'Discovery' in 1777.

Leaving Guam in May of 1819, the 'Uranie' headed south and back towards the east coast of

Australia, with Tonga en route. As they neared Fiji, the ship came to Samoa, which Freycinet named for his wife Rose, who had stowed away on the voyage.

Published in Anderson's 'A new, authentic, and complete collection of voyages round the world: undertaken and performed by royal authority: containing a new, authentic, entertaining, instructive, full, and complete historical account of Captain Cook's first, second, third, and last voyages...' (1784-1784).

The mapmaker

Captain James Cook's (1728 - 1779) name was made with the three voyages he made to Australasia. The first, with HMS Endeavour, from 1768 to 1771, was supposedly made in order to observe the Transit of Venus across the sun, but Cook was actually under orders to search for "Terra Australis", the mythical continent thought to lie at the south pole. Sir Joseph Banks, the eminent naturalist, accompanied the expedition. The voyage took them to Tahiti and then New Zealand: Cook was the first European to set foot there. By 1770, they had sailed west past New Zealand and sighted land, which Cook named New South Wales.

Cook returned to the area three years later, this time with HMS Resolution and Adventure. He reached Australasia by a different route, completing the first crossing of the Antarctic Circle. At Huaheine, they were joined by a native called Omai, who became a member of Adventure's crew and accompanied them back to England. In 1774 Cook continued through the Pacific from New Zealand, stopping at Easter Island. He was aided this time by new methods of calculating longitude and latitude, and concluded that "Terra Australis" did not exist.

Cook's third and final voyage began in 1776. This time, the expedition sent out to explore a different region. They followed the coast of Australia (then called Van Diemen's Land) and New Zealand and then sailed into the north Pacific, discovering multiple island groups along the way. Christmas Island was sighted and named on Christmas Day 1777, and on the 18th of January 1778 they sighted Hawaii. Captain William Bligh, the eventual commander of the ill-fated Bounty, was sent to check the depth of the water and thus became the first recorded European to set foot on the island. Cook stopped to reprovision and exchange goods with the islanders, participating in several ceremonies on apparently good terms. They then continued to California and made their way up the coast of America, passing through the Bering Strait before the frozen sea forced them to turn back and head south. Almost exactly a year after they had sighted Hawaii for the first time, the expedition returned to the north coast and stopped in Kealahou Bay on 17 January 1779.

It has been suggested that the first visit of the voyage to Hawaii had been taken as a divine symbol by the islanders: their return into Kealahou Bay, a harbour dedicated to the fertility god Lono, had happened to coincide with one of Lono's religious festivals, and after one of the crew died their divine status was supposedly called into question. It is unclear exactly at what point tensions emerged, but when Cook was forced to return with a broken mast after attempting to leave on the 4th of February, the reception was hostile. The Hawaiians began to steal from the ships, and sparred with the crew. Eventually, they captured a small boat. While Cook was negotiating for its return, his crew opened fire and killed a Hawaiian leader; in the ensuing melee, Cook was killed.

Bibliography

David, 'The Charts and Coastal Views of Captain Cook's Voyages' 2.111A; NLA Bib ID: 3539186.

Provenance

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Freycinet family archives

Price: £400

Inventory reference: 22657

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