

COOK'S LAST VOYAGE

THE ARTISTIC VISION IN JOHN WEBBER'S PRINTS



Unpublished Aquatints • Lifetime Issues • Boydell Issues



ANTIPODEAN

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INTRODUCTION



John Webber was engaged as the official artist for Cook's third voyage, a voyage noted for its discovery of Hawaii and Alaska, and sadly, James Cook's demise. Educated in Switzerland and Paris, Webber was more fully trained than any of the artists of the previous voyages. Cook had hoped to write the narrative of the third voyage himself, and he was keenly aware of an artist's powers to illustrate the text. He and Webber worked closely together to illuminate "the unavoidable imperfections of written accounts, by enabling us to preserve, and to bring home, such drawings of the most memorable scenes of our transactions, as could only be expected by a professed and skilled artist."¹ Being so much with Cook in the field, Webber became known as the "Captain's artist".² In contrast to the work by William Hodges on the second voyage, which was inclined to depict the islanders in classical attitudes, Webber's work was "a more fully naturalistic mode for the presentation of contemporary events of historic importance".³

Webber's drawings were used to illustrate the official account of the voyage, but he was also given leave to publish them himself to support his retirement. Thus, he issued views himself, in either etchings with hand color or soft ground etchings tinted in brown and gray wash. These bear the colophon of "London Pubd, (date) by J. Webber, No. 312 Oxford Street." These have become known as "Lifetime" issues, and Sir Maurice Holmes, in his "Captain James Cook, RN FRS, A Bibliographical Excursion" (1952) suggests that they were colored by Webber himself.

Webber's published engravings recorded standardized views for each place visited - the landing place, landscapes, portraits of men and women, ethnographical artifacts, etc. Trained in both portraiture and landscape painting, he used the standard conventions of fore-, middle- and background in his compositions. However, as the trip progressed, he modified his compositions, particularly of the warm weather vegetation, flattening the field in a revolutionary way that made "the eighteenth-century idea of the picturesque...obsolete."⁴ This development, combined with his naturalistic depiction of the peoples encountered on the voyage, place Webber's views as "a new visual source for the study of history..."⁵

¹J. Cook & J. King, *Voyage to the Pacific Ocean*, London 1784, Vol I, p.5

²Joppien & Smith, *The Art of Captain Cook's Voyages*, Yale UP, 1985-98, vol 8 text, p151

³Joppien & Smith, *The Art of Captain Cook's Voyages*, vol 2, p115.

⁴Joppien & Smith, "The Art of Captain Cook's Voyages", vol 3 text, p151

⁵Smith, Bernard, *Art as Information*. Sydney, 1978

THE ISSUES



I. RARE, BUT THE MOST COMMON, THE “BOYDELL ISSUE”. Individual colored aquatint views with letterpress from John Webber’s “Views in the South Seas, from drawings by the late James Webber, draftsman on board the Resolution, Captain James Cooke (sic), from the year 1776 to 1780” (note Cook’s name is misspelled) London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Compy. No. 90 Cheapside. The text is drawn from the published account of the voyage. The work has been called “the most striking publication resulting from Cook’s expeditions”. (Parsons Collection 136). Although the publication date is listed as 1809, the letterpress & prints are always watermarked either 1819 or 1820. The prints are watermarked J. Whatman 1820, while the letterpress is watermarked C. Wilmott 1819.

II. EXTREMELY RARE. A RARE LIFETIME ISSUE OF WEBBER’S VIEWS IN BROWN & GRAY WASH. Joppien & Smith state that on his return from the 3rd voyage, Webber was given permission to issue the views himself to provide a living in his retirement. Sir Maurice Holmes, in his “Captain James Cook R.N. FRS, A Bibliographical Excursion”, (London 1952), concludes that the original drawings were published by Webber between 1788 and 1792 “etched and coloured by himself”.

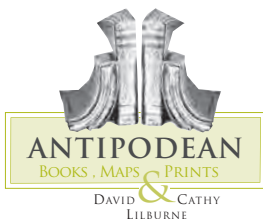
We found only one auction reference to a lifetime issue for this issue with a slightly altered title (John Webber, R.A. (1751-1793) Views in the South Seas from drawings taken on Board the Resolution, 1776 to 1780.” It appeared at Christie’s South Kensington April 2009, and achieved \$42,148 us. The Christie’s description refers to a similar bound set in the British Museum (Lucas Collection) No. 246*a2.

III. EVEN RARER. Hand-colored etchings, rare lifetime issues. These precede the aquatint views, and if Sir Maurice Holmes (Captain James Cook, A Bibliographical Excursion) is correct, Webber colored these himself.

IV. UNPUBLISHED. THREE VIEWS NEVER PUBLISHED IN ANY EDITION OF “VIEWS IN THE SOUTH SEAS”. These are lifetime issues, monochrome aquatints, again, that Holmes concludes were etched by Webber himself. These must have been purchased together by the early collector, as there is a note on the verso of one saying “3 plates £10.”

The rare lifetime issues offered here were obtained from an early Cook collector, Ralph Beddiel, of Missouri. It appears that he may have obtained some of them directly from Captain Alfred Walter Francis Fuller, the noted collector of ethnographica and visual material from the Pacific. Some of his collection was donated to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and other works were donated to the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu. The print “The Narta” is signed & dated by Fuller on the verso.

None of this research would have been possible without the meticulous bible of art from Cook’s voyages by Rudiger Joppien & Bernard Smith, *The Art of Captain Cook’s Voyages... with a Descriptive Catalogue of all the known original drawings of peoples, places, artefacts and events and the original engravings associated with them.* Yale University Press, 1985- 88, folio, 4 volumes.



1. THE BOYDELL ISSUE



Webber, John. Balagans or summer Habitations, with the method of Drying Fish at St. Peter & Paul. Kamtschatka. London: Boydell, 1809 (1820).

A view of the raised summer dwellings of the natives of Kamtschatka, Russia, published in John Webber's "Views in the South Seas", which has been called "the most striking publication resulting from Cook's expeditions". (Parsons Collection 136). London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Comp. No. 90 Cheapside. Vol. III Book VI. page 375. Impression mark 450 x 325 mm, on paper 500 x 363mm. Colored aquatint and accompanying letterpress in very good condition. The text is drawn from the published account of the voyage. The print & letterpress are watermarked J. Whatman 1820. Joppien & Smith 3.362b.

\$3,000

PLATE XI.

BALAGANS OR SUMMER HABITATIONS, WITH THE METHOD OF DRYING FISH AT ST. PETER AND PAUL, KAMTSCHATKA.

THE balagans are raised upon nine posts, fixed into the earth in three rows, at equal distances from one another, and about thirteen feet high from the surface. At the height of between nine and ten feet, rafters are passed from post to post, and firmly secured by string ropes. On these rafters are laid the joints, and the whole being covered with turf, constitutes the platform or floor of the balagan. On this is raised a roof of a conical figure, by means of tall poles, fastened down to the rafters at one end, and meeting together in a point at the top, and thatched over with strong coarse grass. The balagans have two doors placed opposite each other; and they ascend to them by the same sort of ladders they use in the joints; the lower part is left entirely open; and within it they dry their fish, roots, vegetables, and other articles of winter consumption. The proportion of joints to balagans, is as one to six; so that six families generally live together in one joint.

The highones (alms) are raised with long timbers piled horizontally, the ends being let into one another, and the seams caulked with moss. The roof is sloping, like that of our common cottage houses, and thatched with coarse grass or rushes. The inside consists of three apartments. At one end is what may be called the entry, which runs the whole width and height of the house, and is the receptacle of their sledges, harness, and other more bulky goods and household stuff. This communicates with the middle and best apartment, furnished with broad benches for the purpose, as hath been above mentioned, of both eating and sleeping upon. Out of this is a door into the kitchen, one half of which is taken up by the oven or fire-place, so contrived, by being let into the wall that separates the kitchen and the middle apartment, as to warm both at the same time. Over the middle apartment, and kitchen, are two beds, so which they ascend by a ladder placed in the entry. There are two small windows in each apartment, made of bale, and in the houses of the poorer sort, of fish skins. The beams and boards of the ceiling are daubed smoothly with a larch-leaf (for they are unacquainted with the plane), and from the effects of the smoke are as black and shining as jet.

From Cook's last Voyage, Vol. III. Book vi. Chap. vii. p. 273.

2. A LIFETIME ISSUE & THE BOYDELL ISSUE



Webber, John. The Narta, or Sledge for Burdens in Kamchatka. London: 1788-92 & 1809 (1820).

An illustration of transport in Kamtchatka, Russia, showing the sledge dogs hooked up to the sledge, and their master on skis. It is offered here in two versions; a Lifetime issue & the Boydell issue. The extremely rare life time edition was self-published by Webber, and Sir Maurice Holmes states in his "Captain James Cook RN FRS, A Bibliographical Excursion" (1952) that the original drawings were "etched and coloured by himself". It is a soft ground etching tinted in brown and gray wash by Webber himself. J. Webber R.A. fecit. London Pubd. July 1, 1789 by J. Webber No. 312 Oxford Street. NB not mentioned in Cook's Last Voyage. Pencil in the top right margin "Pl. 10" and "1 July 1789" lower right margin, in a period hand, possibly Webber's. Impression mark 450 x 325 mm with large margins, in excellent condition with one small smudge in lower right margin. Paper watermarked "J Whatman". Joppien & Smith 3.340A. Signed on the verso "A.W.F.Fuller 2 Augt 1951." Captain Fuller was a noted English collector of ethnographica and visual material from the Pacific.

(with)

the Boydell edition of the print, London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 (1820) by Boydell & Compny. No. 90 Cheapside. NB not mentioned in Cook's Last Voyage. Colored aquatint, on paper watermarked J. Whatman 1820, as is the accompanying letterpress. Joppien & Smith 3.340b. Excellent condition.

\$12,500



3. THE BOYDELL ISSUE



Webber, John. *The Plantain Tree in the Island of Cracatoa*. London: Boydell, 1809 (1820).

A scene on Krakatoa, most notable for its depiction of the lush vegetation on the island. This view was done towards the end of the voyage, when Webber varied his subjects from the standardized depictions that illustrated Cook's 3rd Voyage. "More than ever now Webber recorded the botanical production of the tropics, depicting many markedly different plants in the same view. This new bent may be noted in "The Plantain Tree"... and "A Fan Palm".. Both drawings are remarkable for the density and plastic handling of the organic forms. These slices of exuberant nature differ from all of Webber's previous work. Particularly in "A Fan Palm" Webber heralds a new approach to landscape, in which no longer an extended view is unrolled and distance measured by natural components such as lakes, hills, rocks and mountains. In closing the background and renouncing open vistas, Webber presents us with a close-up of impenetrable thickness of stems, leaves and branches. Entangled in this luxurious natural growth, the eye confronts little spatial recession, as had been the ruling convention. Proceeding from a new interest in the depiction of exotic plants Webber breaks away from the traditional forms of landscape, in which fore-, middle- and background must play their role. In fact in drawings like "A Fan Palm" the traditional components of the eighteenth-century idea of the picturesque have become obsolete." (Joppein & Smith, "The Art of Captain Cook's Voyages", Yale UP, 1998, vol. 3 text, p150-1). The view was published in John Webber's "Views in the South Seas", which has been called "the most striking publication resulting from Cook's expeditions". (Parsons Collection 136). London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Comp. No. 90 Cheapside. Vide Cook's Last Voy. Vol. III Ch. 10. Impression mark 318 x 413 mm, on paper 500 x 360 mm. Colored aquatint in very good condition with accompanying letterpress (a sml. marginal nick). The text is drawn from the published account of the voyage. Both are watermarked J. Whatman 1820. Joppein & Smith 3.414b.

\$4,500



4. 5. THE BOYDELL ISSUE



Webber, John. A Sailing Canoe of Otahaite. London: Boydell, 1809 (1820).

A close-up view of early Tahitian boat with sail, distinctly different than the Fijian boats illustrated in the companion print. The sail on this canoe is a vertical oblong shape, tightly lashed to masts on two sides. 4 natives are depicted, with perpendicular platforms allowing closer access to the water. The view was published in John Webber's "Views in the South Seas", which has been called "the most striking publication resulting from Cook's expeditions". (Parsons Collection 136). London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Comp. No. 90 Cheapside. Vol. I. Impression mark 448 x 330 mm, on paper 500 x 360 mm. Colored aquatint with lower left corner missing, into the plate mark, but not the image, o/w in very good condition. Print is watermarked J. Whatman 1820. Joppien & Smith 3.133b .

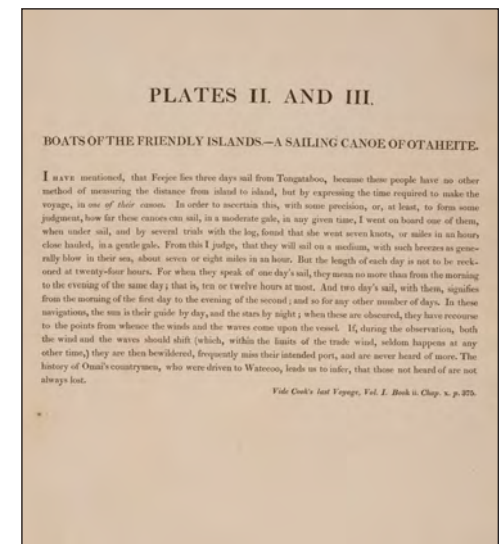
\$2,500



Webber, John. Boats of the Friendly Islands. London: Boydell, 1809 (1820).

A detailed view of early Fijian twin hulled boats, one in the foreground with 5 natives, with a large vessel behind complete with a dwelling and a dozen natives. The view was published in John Webber's "Views in the South Seas", which has been called "the most striking publication resulting from Cook's expeditions". (Parsons Collection 136). London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Comp. No. 90 Cheapside. Vide Cook's Last Voy. Vol. II Bk. 11 Chap. IV. Impression mark 443 x 320 mm, on paper 500 x 360 mm. Colored aquatint in very good condition (sml. closed tear in margin) with accompanying letterpress (slt. creased), which describes both this plate & "A Sailing Canoe of Otaheite". The text is drawn from the published account of the voyage. Both are watermarked J. Whatman 1820. Joppien & Smith 3.73b.

\$2,500



6. THE BOYDELL ISSUE



Webber, John. *A Toopapaoo of a Chief, with a Priest making his offering to the Morai, in Huaheine.* London: Boydell, 1809 (1820).

A view of a chief's raised burial chamber in Huaheine, the Society Islands, published in John Webber's "Views in the South Seas", which has been called "the most striking publication resulting from Cook's expeditions". (Parsons Collection 136). London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Compy. No. 90 Cheapside. Vide Cook's Last Voy. vol. II Ch. VI. Impression mark 450 x 325 mm, on paper 500 x 360 mm. Colored aquatint, with the accompanying text page, very lightly toned o/w very good condition. The letterpress is drawn from the published account of the voyage and the paper is watermarked C. Wilmott 1819. Joppien & Smith 3.146b.

\$2,500

PLATE VIII.

A TOOPAPAOO OF A CHIEF, WITH A PRIEST MAKING HIS OFFERING TO THE MORAI, IN HUAHEINE.

When Omai's offerings and prayers were finished, the priest took each article, in the same order in which it had been laid before him, and after repeating a prayer, sent it to the Morai; which, as Omai told us, was at a great distance, otherwise the offerings would have been made there.

Cook's Last Voyage, Vol. II. Book II. Chap. vi. p. 94.

As I had some reason to believe that, amongst their religious customs, human sacrifices were sometimes considered as necessary, I went one day to a Morai in Manava, in company with Captain Furneaux; having with us, as I had upon all other occasions, one of my men who spoke their language tolerably well, and several of the natives, one of whom appeared to be an intelligent, sensible man. In the *Morai* was a *toopapaoo*, on which lay a corpse, and some viands; so that every thing promised success to my enquiries. I began with asking questions relating to the several objects before me, if the plantains, &c. were for the *Eatua*? if they sacrificed to the *Eatua*, hogs, dogs, fowls, &c., to all which they answered in the affirmative. I then asked if they sacrificed men to the *Eatua*? he answered, *Jaie*; and that he had seen they did; first *apapani*, or beating them till they were dead. I then asked him, if good men were put to death in this manner? his answer was, no, only *taute* men. I asked him, if any *taute* were? he said they had hogs to give to the *Eatua*; and again repeated *taute* men. I next asked him if *taute*, that is servants or slaves, who had no hogs, dogs, or fowls, but yet were good men, if they were sacrificed to the *Eatua*? his answer was, no, only bad men. I asked him several more questions, and all his answers seemed to tend to this one point, that men for certain crimes were condemned to be sacrificed to the gods, provided they had not wherewithal to redeem themselves. This I think implies, that, on some occasions, human sacrifices are considered as necessary; particularly when they take such men as have, by the laws of their country, forfeited their lives, and have nothing to redeem them; and such will generally be found among the lower class of people.

I have since learnt of Omai, that they offer human sacrifices to the Supreme Being. According to this account, what men shall be sacrificed, depends on the caprice of the high priest, who, when they are assembled on any solemn occasion, retires alone into the house of God, and stays there some time. When he comes out he informs them, that he has seen and conversed with their great God (the high priest alone having the privilege), and that he has asked for human sacrifice; and tells them that he has chosen such a person, naming a man present, whom most probably the high priest has an antipathy against. He is immediately killed, and so falls a victim to the priest's resentment.

Fido Cook's Voyages, 1773, Vol. I. Book I. Chap. xiv. p. 184.

7. THREE UNPUBLISHED VIEWS & LIFETIME ISSUES



Webber, John. A View in Annamooka, One of the Friendly Isle's; View in Ulietea; A View in Matavai, Otaheite (variant title). London: J. Webber, 1787-1788.

This series of three views are UNPUBLISHED views by Webber. They are monochrome aquatints, a different process used in Webber's other views. They were not published in either the extremely rare lifetime edition of "Views in the South Seas" nor the more common but still rare 1809 (1820) edition of "Views in the South Seas". They seem to have been bought together by an early collector, one being marked on the verso "3 views £10" in the 1950's.

1. "A View in Annamooka, One of the Friendly Isle's" is not directly recorded in Joppien & Smith, but this view with the date of Feby. 1, 1788 is obliquely referred to in the reference notes to Joppien & Smith 3.44b as a lone copy with this publication date in the British Museum, Dept. of Prints and Drawings. It could possibly be recorded as Joppien & Smith 3.44c.

"Drawn & Etch'd by J. Webber. Aquatinta by M.C. Prestel. London Pubd. Feby. 1, 1788 by J. Webber No. 312 Oxford Street. Vide Cook's Last Voy. Vol. I Ch. IV". Printed on laid paper, watermarked. Impression mark 430 x 293 mm, on paper 452 x 308 mm. A little dusty around edges, the top edge with some old creases and marginal tears repaired and a small bit of border added. Otherwise very good.

2. [Variant Title] "A View in Matavai, Otaheite". London: J. Webber, 1787. There were 2 earlier etchings of this view, and neither includes the name of "Matavai" in the title.

Joppien & Smith 3.120c which cites 4 known copies. "Drawn & Etch'd by J. Webber. Aqua Tinta by M.C. Prestel. London Pubd. Feby. 1, 1787 by J. Webber No. 312 Oxford Street. Vide Cook's Last Voy. Vol. II Ch. II". Impression mark 430 x 293 mm, on paper 480 x 333 mm. Aquatint printed on laid paper, watermarked. A little dusty, with an old crease in lower margin, very good overall.

3. "View in Ulietea". This is an intimate view of native life in Ulietea, French Polynesia. The foreground is filled with a native boat, the long bow & stern pieces topped with carved statues and a covered area housing natives, baskets & food. An open sided meeting house is visible on the shore with 5 natives conversing underneath. Joppien & Smith 3.157c. "Drawn & Etch'd by J. Webber. Aqua tinta by M.C. Prestel. London Publish'd Feby. 1, 1788 by J. Webber No. 312 Oxford Street. Vide Cook's Last Voy. Vol. II Ch. VII". Aquatint printed on laid paper, watermarked with a dovecote. Impression mark 427 x 293 mm, on paper 470 x 335 mm. Very good condition.

\$60,000

8. RAREST LIFETIME ISSUE COLORED BY WEBBER HIMSELF & THE BOYDELL ISSUE



Webber, John. View in Macao. London: John Webber, 1788-92 & 1809 (1820).

The "View in Macao" is offered here in two versions; a rare colored Lifetime issue & the Boydell issue. The rare lifetime issue was self-published by Webber and is a soft ground etching. This is an extremely rare hand colored copy, which Sir Maurice Holmes states in his "Captain James Cook RN FRS, A Bibliographical Excursion" (1952) that the original drawings were "etched and coloured by himself". Impression mark 450 x 323 mm with large margins, 539 x 390 mm. With notations in pencil, quite possibly by Webber - "Pl.13" penciled in the top right corner, along with "1st Augt. 1788" in the lower right. Soft ground etching with hand color. Watermark J. Whatman. Joppien 3.372A.a. [with]

the Boydell issue, published in John Webber's "Views in the South Seas", which has been called "the most striking publication resulting from Cook's expeditions". (Parsons Collection 136). Vide Cook's Last Voyage Vol. 3 Chap. 11. London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Compy. No. 90 Cheapside. Impression mark 450 x 325 mm, on paper 500 x 363 mm. Colored aquatint. Light foxing in the margins and some offsetting from the accompanying text page, which is drawn from the published account of the voyage. Both the print and letterpress are watermarked J. Whatman 1820. Joppien & Smith 3.372A.b.

Webber accompanied James Cook on two of his important voyages of discovery and was engaged as the artist for Cook's third voyage, during which Cook discovered Hawaii & Alaska. Webber was more fully trained than any of the artists of the previous voyages, and he and Cook worked closely together to illuminate "the unavoidable imperfections of written accounts,

by enabling us to preserve, and to bring home, such drawings of the most memorable scenes of our transactions, as could only be expected by a professed and skilled artist." (J. Cook & J. King, Voyage to the Pacific Ocean, London 1784, Vol I, p.5). Because he was there with Cook in the field, his paintings "constituted a new visual source for the study of history..." (Smith, Bernard, Art as Information. Sydney, 1978). Cook's ships were the first Western contact with the natives of Nootka Sound and the furs they traded with them were sold at a vast profit in Macao in the following year, 1779. Soon American and English ships were making annual trips to the Northwest Coast in search of "Sea Beaver" pelts.

After the publication of the official history, Webber issued a series of twelve splendid soft ground etchings produced between 1788 and 1792 and this print is one of those early issues. It is extraordinarily rare. The culmination of his long concentration on his sixteen subjects was finally issued as a book after his death by Mr. Boydell under the title "Views in the South Seas..." The proof reader did a poor job, with two mistakes on the title page, mistaking Webber's first name for James and Captain Cook's name as "Cooke". In this issue, which is also scarce, the plates are dated April 1, 1809, although the watermarks are nearly always later.

Only 16 views were published in the book - the two views of Macao indicate its significance in the East.

\$30,000



9. A LIFETIME ISSUE AND THE BOYDELL ISSUE



Webber, John. View in Macao including the residence of Camoens when he wrote his Lusiad. London: John Webber, 1788-92 & 1809 (1820).

The extremely rare life time edition was self-published by Webber and Sir Maurice Holmes states in his "Captain James Cook RN FRS, A Bibliographical Excursion" (1952) that the original drawings were "etched and coloured by himself". Soft ground etching tinted in brown and gray wash; Holmes suggests colored by Webber himself. J. Webber fecit. 1788. London Pubd. Augt. 1, 1788 by J. Webber No. 312 Oxford Street. Vide Cook's Last Voyage Vol. 3 Chap. XI. "1 Augt. 1788' penciled in the lower right margin, "Pl. 12." in the top right, likely by Webber himself. Impression mark 17 1/2 x 12 13/16"; 445 x 325 mm, with margins. With some light toning at edges o/w very good condition. Paper watermarked "Whatman" but without a date. Joppien & Smith 3.372B.a.

[with]

the Boydell issue, London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Compy. No. 90 Cheapside. Vide Cook's Last Voyage Vol. 3 Chap. XI. Impression mark 450 x 323 mm with margins, 500 x 365 mm. Plate 12 engraved in the top left corner. Colored aquatint. With light foxing in the margins and some offsetting from the accompanying text page, which is drawn from the published account of the voyage. No watermark on the print, but the letterpress is watermarked C. Wilmott 1819. Joppien & Smith 3.372B.b.

Webber accompanied James Cook on two of his important voyages of discovery and was engaged as the artist for Cook's third voyage, during which Cook discovered Hawaii & Alaska. Webber was more fully trained than any of the artists of the previous voyages, and he and Cook worked closely together to illuminate "the unavoidable imperfections of written accounts, by enabling us to preserve, and to bring

home, such drawings of the most memorable scenes of our transactions, as could only be expected by a professed and skilled artist." (J. Cook & J. King, Voyage to the Pacific Ocean, London 1784, Vol I, p.5). Because he was there with Cook in the field, his paintings "constituted a new visual source for the study of history..." (Smith, Bernard, Art as Information. Sydney, 1978). Cook's ships were the first Western contact with the natives of Nootka Sound and the furs they traded with them were sold at a vast profit in Macao in the following year, 1779. Soon American and English ships were making annual trips to the Northwest Coast in search of "Sea Beaver" pelts.

Only 16 views were published in the book - the two views of Macao indicate its significance in the East.

\$20,000





Webber, John. View in Queen Charlotte's Sound, New Zealand. London: Boydell, 1809 (1820).

The only view of New Zealand published in John Webber's "Views in the South Seas", which has been called "the most striking publication resulting from Cook's expeditions". (Parsons Collection 136). The image is notable in that it includes the landing party from the ship, with their tents pitched on shore and various other supplies. The Maoris in the foreground have a regal bearing, and there is just a hint of tattooing on their faces. Two of their boats are quite close to shore, some men carry caught fish. The Discovery & Resolution are seen moored in the distance. London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Comp. No. 90 Cheapside. Vide Cook's Last Voyage Vol. 1 Chap. 7. Impression mark 450 x 325 mm, on paper 500 x 360 mm. Colored aquatint, with vibrant color, with a few foxing spots in the sky, two dark thumbprints in the margin outside the plate marks, a small closed tear repaired and a little dusty & ruffled at the edges. The print is watermarked J. Whatman 1820, while the letterpress is watermarked C. Wilmott 1819. Joppien & Smith 3.12b.

\$6,000

PLATE I.

VIEW IN QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S SOUND, NEW ZEALAND.

We had not been long at anchor before several canoes, filled with natives, came along side of the ships but very few of them would venture on board, which appeared the more extraordinary, as I was well known to them all. There was one man in particular amongst them, whom I had treated with remarkable kindness, during the whole of my stay when I was last here. Yet now, neither professions of friendship, nor presents, could prevail upon him to come into the ship. This slyness was to be accounted for only upon this supposition, that they were apprehensive we had revisited their country, in order to revenge the death of Captain Furneaux's people. Seeing Onai on board my ship now, whom they must have remembered to have seen on board the Adventure when the melancholy affair happened, and whose first conversation with them, as they approached, generally turned on that subject, they must be well assured that I was no longer a stranger to it. I thought it necessary, therefore, to use every endeavour to assure them of the continuance of my friendship, and that I should not disturb them on that account. I do not know whether this had any weight with them; but certain it is, that they very soon had aside all manner of restraint and distrust.

On the 13th we set up two tents, one from each ship, on the same spot where we had pitched them formerly. The observations were at the same time erected, and Messrs. King and Bery began their operations immediately, to find the rate of the time-keeper, and to make other observations. The remainder of the empty water-casks were also sent on shore, with the cooper to trim, and a sufficient number of sailors to fill them. Two men were appointed to brew spruce beer, and the carpenter and his crew were ordered to cut wood. A boat, with a party of men, under the direction of one of the masters, was sent to collect grass for our cattle; and the people that remained on board were employed in refitting the ship, and arranging the provisions. In this manner we were all profitably busied during our stay. For the protection of the party on shore, I appointed a guard of ten marines, and ordered arms for all the weaknesses; and Mr. King, and two or three petty officers, constantly remained with them. A boat was never sent to any considerable distance from the ships without being armed, and under the direction of such officers as I could depend upon, and who were well acquainted with the natives. During my former visits to this country, I had never taken notice of these precautions; nor were they, I freely believe, more necessary now than they had been formerly. But after the tragical fate of the Adventure's boat's crew in this sound, and of Captain Marion de Froese, and of some of his people, in the Bay of Islands, it was impossible totally to divert ourselves of all apprehensions of experiencing a similar calamity.

If the natives entertained any suspicion of our revenging these acts of barbarity, they very soon laid it aside. For, during the course of this day, a great number of families came from different parts of the coast and took up their residence close to us, so that there was not a spot in the cove where a hut could be put up, that was not occupied by them, except the place where we had fixed our little encampment. This they left us in quiet possession of; but they came and took away the ruins of some old huts that were there, as materials for their new erections.

It is curious to observe, with what facility they build these occasional places of abode. I have seen above twenty of them erected on a spot of ground, that, not an hour before, was covered with shrubs and plants. They generally bring some part of the materials with them; the rest they find upon the pebbles. I was present when a number of people landed, and built one of these villages. The moment the canoes reached the shore, the men hopped out, and at once took possession of a piece of ground, by tearing up the plants and shrubs, or striking up some part of the framing of a hut. They then retreated to their canoes, and secured their weapons, by setting them up against a tree, or placing them in such a position that they could be hid, if hid in an instant. I took particular notice that no one neglected this precaution. While the men were employed in raising the huts, the women were not idle. Some were stationed to take care of the canoes; others to secure the provisions, and the few stragglers in their possession; and the rest went to gather dry sticks, that a fire might be prepared for drying their victuals. As to the children, I kept them, as also some of the more aged, sufficiently occupied in scrambling for beads, till I had emptied my pockets, and then I left them.

Vide Cook's Last Voyage, Vol. I. Book I. Chap. vi. p. 139.

11. THE BOYDELL ISSUE



Webber, John. A View in the Island of Pulo Condore. London: Boydell, 1809 (1820).

An early large view of Vietnam, showing a tranquil scene of open fields leading to water, with a boy leading an ox by a string through his nose, with several other oxen in the background. The encounter with the natives & the oxen is described as anything but tranquil in Cook's Voyage. A much larger group of oxen threatened Webber & his compatriots, and the situation was brought under control by these boys, "ox whisperers" if you will, who were able to quiet them. (Joppien & Smith) A dwelling with several inhabitants sits at the foot of a lush tropical mountainside. The view was published in John Webber's "Views in the South Seas", which has been called "the most striking publication resulting from Cook's expeditions". (Parsons Collection 136). London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Comp. No. 90 Cheapside. Vol. III, Book VI, p. 450. Impression mark 450 x 325 mm, on paper 500 x 363 mm. Colored aquatint with the accompanying letterpress. The text is drawn from the published account of the voyage. The print in wonderful condition, with a couple of small fox spots in the sky, is watermarked J. Whatman 1820. The letterpress is watermarked C. Wilmott 1819. Joppien & Smith 3.397.e \$4,000

PLATE XIV.
A VIEW IN THE ISLAND OF PULO CONDORE.

HERE I quitted Captain Gore, taking with me a Midshipman and four armed sailors, and pursued the path which seemed to point directly across the island. We proceeded through a thick wood, up a steep hill, to the distance of a mile, when, after descending through a wood of the same extent, on the other side, we came out into a flat, open, sandy country, interspersed with cultivated spots of rice and tobacco, and groves of cabbage-palm trees, and cocconut trees. We here spied two huts, situated on the edge of the wood, to which we directed our course, and before we came up to them, were observed by two men, who immediately ran away from us, notwithstanding all the peaceable and supplicating gestures we could devise.

On reaching the huts, I ordered the party to stay without, lest the sight of so many armed men should terrify the inhabitants, whilst I entered and reconnoitred alone. I found in one of the huts, an elderly man, who was in a great fright, and preparing to make off with the most valuable of his effects that he could carry. However I was fortunate enough, in a very little time, so entirely to dispel his fears, that he came out, and called to the two men, who were remaining every, to return. The old man and I soon came to a perfect understanding. A few signs, particularly that most significant one of holding out a handful of dollars, and then pointing to a herd of buffaloes, and the flocks that were running about the huts in great numbers, left him without any doubts as to the real objects of our visit. He pointed towards a place where the town stood, and made us comprehend, that by going thither, all our wants would be supplied. By this time the young men, who had fled, were returned, and the old man ordered one of them to conduct us to the town, as soon as an obstacle should be removed, of which we were not aware. On our first coming out of the wood, a herd of buffaloes, to the number of twenty at least, came running towards us, raising up their heads, snuffing the air, and cowering in a hideous manner. They had followed us to the huts, and stood drawn up in a body, at a little distance; and the old man made us understand, that it would be exceedingly dangerous for us to move, till they were driven into the woods; but as enraged were the animals grown at the sight of us, that this was not effected without a good deal of time and difficulty. The men not being able to accomplish it, we were surprised to see them call to their mistress a few little boys, who soon drove them out of sight. Afterward we had occasion to observe, that in driving these animals, and securing them, which is done by putting a rope through a hole which is made in their nostrils, little boys were always employed, who could stroke and handle them with impunity, at times when the men durst not approach them. Having got rid of the buffaloes, we were conducted to the town, which was at a mile's distance, the road to it lying through a deep white sand. It is situated near the sea side, at the bottom of a retired bay, which most affords a safe anchorage during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon.

This town consists of between twenty and thirty houses, built close together, besides six or seven others that are scattered about the beach. The roof, the two ends, and the side facing the country, are neatly constructed of reeds, the opposite side, facing the sea, is entirely open; but by means of a sort of bamboo screens, they can exclude or let in as much of the sun and air as they please. We observed likewise, other large screens or partitions, for the purpose of dividing, on occasions required, the single room of which the house, properly speaking, consists, into separate apartments.

Vol. Cook's last Voyage, Vol. III. Book vi. Chap. x. p. 440.

12. A LIFETIME ISSUE & THE BOYDELL ISSUE



Webber, John. *View of the Harbour of Taloo, in the Island of Eimeo*. London: 1788-92 & 1809 (1820).

This view of Taloo Harbor on Moorea, French Polynesia, depicts the Discovery & Resolution at anchor, with many native watercraft, and some of Cook's crew on shore. It is offered here in two versions; a Lifetime issue & the Boydell issue. The extremely rare life time edition was self-published by Webber and Sir Maurice Holmes states in his "Captain James Cook RN FRS, A Bibliographical Excursion" (1952) that the original drawings were "etched and coloured by himself". It is a soft ground etching tinted in brown and gray wash by Webber himself. J. Webber fecit. London Pubd. July 1, 1789 by J. Webber No. 312 Oxford Street. Vide Cook's Last Voyage Vol. II Chap V. Impression mark 450 x 320 mm with large margins, a couple of small foxing spots at sky border but overall in excellent condition. Paper watermarked "J Whatman". Joppien & Smith 3.138A.

(with)

the Boydell edition of the print, London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 (1820) by Boydell & Compy. No. 90 Cheapside. Vide Cook's Last Voyage Vol. II Ch. V. Colored aquatint, on paper watermarked J. Whatman 1820. Joppien & Smith 3.138b. The accompanying letterpress is watermarked C. Wilmott 1819. Text with faint offsetting o/w both in very good condition.

\$7,500



PLATE VII.

VIEW OF THE HARBOUR OF TALOO, IN THE ISLAND OF EIMEO.

As I did not give up my design of touching at Eimeo, at day break, in the morning of the 30th, after leaving Ouhéine, I stood for the north end of the island; the harbour, which I wished to examine, being at that part of it. Omo, in his canoe, having arrived there long before us, had taken some necessary measures to show us the place. However, we were not without pilots, having several men of Ouhéine on board, and not a few women. Not caring to trust entirely to these guides, I sent two boats to examine the harbour; and on their making the signal for safe anchorage, we stood in with the ships, and anchored close up to the head of the inlet, in ten fathoms water, over a bottom of soft mud, and moored with a hawser fast to the shore.

This harbour, which is called Taloo, is situated upon the north side of the island, in the district of Ohoonohoo, or Pooohoo. It runs in south, or south by east, between the hills, above two miles. For security, and goodness of its bottom, it is not inferior to any harbour that I have met with at any of the islands of this ocean; and it has the advantage over most of those, that a ship can sail in and out, with the reigning trade-wind; so that the access and recess are equally easy. There are several rivulets that fall into it. The one at the head, is so considerable as to admit boats to go a quarter of a mile up, where we found the water perfectly fresh. Its banks are covered with the papoua tree, as it is called by the natives, which makes good fire-wood, and which they set so value upon; so that wood and water are to be got here with great facility.

On the same side of the island, and about two miles to the eastward, is the harbour of Pooowoooh, much larger within than that of Taloo, but the entrance, or opening in the reef (for the whole island is surrounded by a reef of coral rocks), is considerably narrower, and lies to leeward of the harbour. These two defects are so striking, that the harbour of Taloo must always have a decided preference. It is a little extraordinary, that I should have been three times at Ouhéine before, and have once sent a boat to Eimeo, and yet not know, till now, that there was a harbour in it. On the contrary, I always understood there was not. Whereas, there are not only the two above mentioned, but one or two more, on the south side of the island. But these last are not so considerable as the two we have just described, and of which a sketch has been made, for the use of those who may follow us in such a voyage.

We had no sooner anchored, than the ships were crowded with the inhabitants, whose curiosity alone had brought us aboard; for they had nothing with them for the purpose of barter. But, the next morning, this deficiency was supplied; several canoes then arriving from more distant parts, which brought with them abundance of bread-fruit, coconuts, and a few hogs. These they exchanged for hatchets, nails, and beads; for red feathers were not so much sought after here as at Ouhéine. The ship being a good deal peppered with rats, I hoisted her within thirty yards of the shore, as near as the depth of water would allow, and made a path for them to get to the head, by fastening hawsers to the trees. It is said, that this experiment has sometimes succeeded; but, I believe, we got clear of very few, if any, of the numerous tribe that harrassed us.

In the morning of the 31st, Mabeine, the chief of the island, paid us a visit. He approached the ship with great caution, and it required some permission to get him on board. Probably, he was under some apprehensions of mischief from us, as Friends of the Ouhéinians; these people not being able to comprehend, how we can be friends with any one, without adopting, at the same time, his cause against his enemies. Mabeine was accompanied by his wife, who, as I was informed, is sister to Omo, of Ouhéine, of whose death we had an account, while we were at this island. I made presents to both of them, of such things as they seemed to set the highest value upon; and after a stay of about half an hour, they went away. Not long after, they returned with a large hog, which they meant as a return for my present; but I made them another present to the full value of it. After this they paid a visit to Captain Clarke.

Vide Cook's Last Voyage, Vol. II, Book iii, Chap. v, p. 78.

13. THE BOYDELL ISSUE



Webber, John. Waheia, Chief of Oheitepeha, lying in State. London: Boydell, 1809 (1820).

A view of a Tahitian chief's raised burial dwelling & food offerings, published in John Webber's "Views in the South Seas", which has been called "the most striking publication resulting from Cook's expeditions". (Parsons Collection 136). London. Pubd. April 1, 1809 by Boydell & Comp. No. 90 Cheapside. Vide Cook's Last Voyage Vol. II Chap. 1 page 17. Impression mark 450 x 325 mm, on paper 500 x 360 mm. Colored aquatint, with the accompanying text page, both watermarked J. Whatman 1820 and both in very good condition. Joppien & Smith 3.95b.

\$2,500

PLATE VI.

WAHEIA, CHIEF OF OHEITEPEHA, LYING IN STATE.

THIS day, some of our gentlemen, in their walks found, what they were pleased to call, a Roman Catholic chapel. Indeed, from their account, this was not to be doubted; for they described the altar, and every other constituent part of such a place of worship. However, as they mentioned at the same time, that two men, who had the care of it, would not suffer them to go in, I thought they might be mistaken, and had the curiosity to pay a visit to it myself. The supposed chapel proved to be a *toopapoo*, in which the remains of the late *Waheia* lay, as it were, in state. It was in a pretty large house, which was inclosed with a low palisade. The *toopapoo* was uncommonly neat and resembled one of those little houses, or *awingis*, belonging to their large canoes. Perhaps it had originally been employed for that purpose. It was covered, and hung round, with cloth and mats of different colours, so as to have a pretty effect. There was one piece of scarlet broad-cloth, four or five yards in length, conspicuous amongst the other ornaments; which no doubt, had been a present from the Spaniards. This cloth, and a few tassels of feathers, which our gentlemen supposed to be silk, suggested to them the idea of a chapel; for whatever else was wanting to create a resemblance, their imagination supplied; and if they had not previously known, that there had been Spaniards lately here, they could not possibly have made the mistake. Small offerings of fruits and roots seemed to be daily made at this shrine, as some pieces were quite fresh. These were deposited upon a *whatta*, or altar, which stood without the palisade; and within these we were not permitted to enter. Two men constantly attended, night and day, not only to watch over the place, but also to dress and undress the *toopapoo*, for when I first went to survey it, the cloth and its appendages were all rolled up; but, at my request, the two attendants hung it out in order, first dressing themselves in clean white robes. They told me the Chief had been dead twenty months.

Vide Cook's Last Voyage, Vol. II. Book I. Chap. 1. p. 17.