



# The Pacific

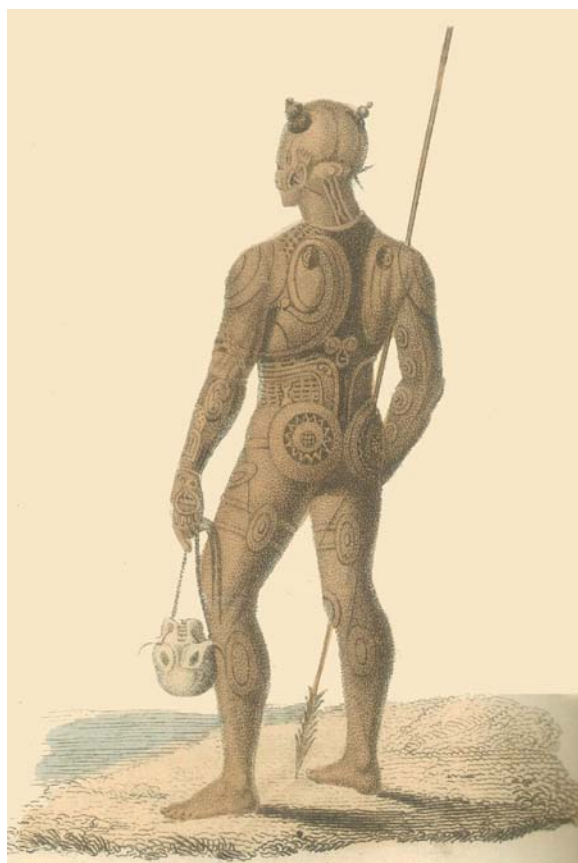
An exhibition of material from the Monash University Library Rare Books Collection

27 September 2007- 29 February 2008

Exhibition room, level 1, ISB Wing,  
Sir Louis Matheson Library, Clayton campus



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“Young man of the Marquesas, not completely tattooed”, from item 23

## cover

“Tattooed native of Nukahiva [Marquesas]”, from *Atlas to Krusenstern's Voyage around the world*, 1803-1806

## credits

Exhibition and catalogue by Richard Overell, Rare Books Librarian, Monash University Library, Box 4, Monash University, Victoria, 3800 Australia. An electronic version of this catalogue, with additional illustrations, is available at the Monash University Library website. Electronic catalogue prepared by Iris Carydias

## thanks

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## Introduction

Taking up some 30% of the Earth's surface, the Pacific Ocean always posed challenges and opportunities. Exploring, settling and trading, the inhabitants both of the islands scattered therein and of the shores that ring it saw the vast expanse of water not as a barrier, but as a highway—a point often missed by the plethora of outsiders who later came to traverse, observe, exploit or settle.

As a Pacific Rim nation, Australia has a long history of bi-directional connections with the Pacific. The extremely competent Polynesian seafarers found and settled Norfolk Island, for example, and we can but speculate whether some of their canoes may have hit upon the Australian mainland.

After the arrival of the Europeans on the Australian continent, the Pacific Islands became a source of produce for the fledgling colony and a market for its products; they provided the essential leg to make the England-Australia trade viable in the early days: England-Australia (convicts and products), Australia-South Pacific (products); South Pacific-China (beche de mer, sandalwood), and, finally, China-England (tea etc). The search for oils that drove European, and thus also Australian life in the increasingly industrialised world of the nineteenth century defined Australia's connection with the Pacific in the years to come, through whaling and sealing, and soon after through trading for vegetable oils, particularly coconut oil and later dried coconut flesh (copra) in its unprocessed state. Australians established plantations in the islands and imported Pacific Island labour, often employing questionable means, to work on Australian farms, especially on Queensland plantations.

In the great carve-up of the Pacific into Imperial interest spheres, the Australian colonies were active players representing British, but also colonial Australian interests: the southeastern section of New Guinea ('Papua') became a possession of Queensland in 1888, and Sydney based trading interests continually locked horns with German interests in Micronesia.

The early days of the twentieth century saw the newly created Commonwealth of Australia expand its trading spheres of interest and eventually, with the outbreak of World War I, also fulfil its colonial ambitions by occupying all German Pacific colonies south of the Equator (with the exception of Samoa which was occupied by New Zealand). She was to retain her territorial gains of German New Guinea and Nauru as Mandates of the League of Nations and after World War II, as Trust Territories of the United Nations.

While Australia had seen the Pacific region as a source of commerce and produce, the events of World War II demonstrated that the islands played a major strategic role in defining the nation's security. As a result, Australia's relationship with its neighbours changed, with Australia taking a greater interest in their 'stability' in particular after the island nations' independence. Australian universities were given scholarships for Pacific Islander education and substantial Australian funds flowed to the Pacific in form of aid monies. *Inter alia*, Australian-built patrol boats now serve in the Pacific Islands' navies enforcing their fishery rights. At the same time, Australia became the destination for large numbers of Pacific Islanders: the 2001 revealed that there are now more people living in Australia who claim Pacific Islander ancestry than who claim Australian Indigenous ancestry.

The recent developments of Australia taking a policing role in the Solomon Islands are a timely reminder that Australian national interests in the Pacific continue unabated. It is thus appropriate to narrate European and especially Australian interaction with the Pacific for contemporary audiences showing the long history of our nation's involvement with the region.

Through printed matter this exhibition traces European history and cognisance of all matters Pacific: from representations on early maps that show imaginary continents and gradually give way to more accurate details as traveller's accounts became available; the published texts of scientific expeditions to the Pacific by the Imperial powers of the day (United Kingdom, France, Imperial Russia) which provided first observations; the experiences of Pacific Islanders sailing with the Europeans, such as the Tahitian Omai with Cook, the Palauan Lebu with Wilson or the Carolinian Kadu with Kotzebue, who provided some local commentary and insights.; to the early residents on the islands such as missionaries and others, such as William Mariner on Tonga, who filled in other detail often in (necessarily) biased accounts. The exhibition captures these elements well.

Naval officers were charged with projecting a colonial presence in the region and enforcing colonial rule where needed. Like their merchant marine contemporaries, these officers only rarely published accounts of their voyages, and most their observations are confined to logbooks and letters retained in archives. There are, of course, exceptions and these are well represented here.

What is inevitably lacking in an exhibition such as this is the voice of the islanders themselves, a voice which is only reflected in the interpretations of European observers. Local traditions were orally transmitted and printed matter was absent. Only in more recent years did local literature emerge in printed form—if we ignore missionary publications of biblical texts in local languages.

Also largely lacking from the published record are the voices of the vast number of traders and beachcombers, the early Europeans to settle and work in the Pacific Islands. Often near illiterate, or when not, preoccupied by their entrepreneurial spirit, these men had little time to read let alone write. A notable exception, represented in this exhibit, is the Australian trader Louis Becke, who in later life turned into to journalist and prolific writer of short stories. Unlike Robert Louis Stevenson, how saw the Pacific from the outside (despite his brief stay on Samoa), Becke lived, loved and laboured in the region for over twenty years, mixing with islanders and traders on remote islands as wells as the more urban Samoa. Of all, he can be considered the best writer to capture the late nineteenth century Pacific.

Dealing with four and half centuries of printed matter on the Pacific, the exhibit truly spans time and space. The exhibition is crucial reminder of the power of the printed word to trace the history of engagement with a region. This is particularly poignant at a time, when the new communications and publications technologies of the World Wide Web are increasingly dominating the way we disseminate and increasingly 'consume' information.

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**Charles Sturt University**

## The Pacific

The first European to see the Pacific was Balboa in 1513 looking from a mountain in Panama. This was described by Keats in the famous lines of his sonnet, *On first looking into Chapman's Homer*, although he confused Balboa with "stout Cortez",

Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes  
He star'd at the Pacific – and all his men  
Look'd at each other with a wild surmise –  
Silent upon a peak in Darien.

The first European to sail upon it was Magellan who entered it in 1520 around Cape Horn. He named it the "Pacific". Sir Francis Drake was the first Englishman who entered it in the *Golden Hind* through the Straits of Magellan in 1578 and sailed up the coast of the Americas, then across to Java and round the Cape of Good Hope. He arrived home in 1580 and was knighted for his achievements by Queen Elizabeth in 1581.

## Early maps

### 1. Jode, Gerard de, 1509-1591.

*Speculum orbis terrarum, Antwerpen, 1578* / G. de Jode ; with an introduction by R.A. Skelton. (Amsterdam : Published for the World Publishing Company, Cleveland and New York ; Theatrvm Orbis Terrarvm, 1965)

### 2. Mercator, Gerhard, 1512-1594.

*Atlas, sive cosmographicae meditationes de fabrica mundi et fabricati figura ...* / Gerardus Mercator. (Bruxelles : Lebon, 1963) Originally published 1595.

### 3. Ortelius, Abraham, 1527-1598.

*The theatre of the whole world. London. 1606* / by Abraham Ortelius; with an introduction by R. A. Skelton. (Amsterdam, Theatrum orbis terrarum, 1968)

### 4. Blaeu, Joan, 1596-1673.

*Atlas maior of 1665 : "the greatest and finest atlas ever published"* / introduction and texts by Peter Van der Krogt ; with a selection of original texts by Joan Blaeu. (Köln ; London : Taschen, 2005)

Representations of the Pacific in early atlases included not only the islands discovered by Magellan and other sixteenth and seventeenth century voyagers, but also the speculative outline of a "Great South Land", or "Terra Australia nondum cognita". One of the objectives of Cook's voyages, especially his second voyage, was to discover and chart the extent of any such continent.

## Dampier

**5. A Collection of voyages : in four volumes ...: illustrated with maps and draughts : also several birds, fishes, and plants, not found in this part of the world : curiously engraven on copper-plates. (London : Printed for James and John Knapton ... , 1729) 4 v.**

The earliest account we hold is that of William Dampier. He was first in the Pacific in 1681 after crossing the Isthmus of Darien (Panama). Then he sailed across the Pacific, beginning in 1683, finally reaching England again in 1691. His next voyage was to the islands of New Guinea (1699-1701) arriving and leaving via the Cape of Good Hope. His next voyage was around the world again (1703-1707) out via the Horn, and home via the Cape of Good Hope. Then he sailed as navigator with Woodes Rogers (1708-1711) in his circumnavigation from the Atlantic across the Pacific and home. The accounts of his voyages are included in the four-volume work on display.

He sailed into the Pacific on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1684, commenting on the appropriateness of the name,

Our passage lay now along the Pacific Sea properly so-called. For tho' it be usual with our map-makers to give that name to this whole Ocean, calling it *Mare Australe*, *Mal del Zur*, or *Mare Pacificum*; yet, in my opinion, the name of the *Pacifick-Sea* ought not to be extended from South to North farther than from 30 to about 4 deg. South latitude, and from the American shore westward indefinitely, with respect to my observation; who have been in these parts 250 leagues or more from land, and still had the sea very quiet from the winds. For in all this tract of water, of which I have spoken, there are no dark rainy clouds, tho' often a thick horizon, so as to hinder the observation of the sun with the quadrant; and in the morning hazy weather frequently, and thick mists but scarce able to wet one. Nor are there in this sea any winds but the trade wind, no tempests, no tornadoes or hurricanes (tho' north of the Equator, they are met with as well in this Ocean as in the Atlantick;) yet the sea itself at the new and full of the Moon runs with high, large, long surges, but such as never break out at sea, and so are safe enough; unless that where they fall in and break up on the shore, they make bad landing. (p. 94)

Dampier landed on the north-west coast of Australia in January 1688; landing again in north-west Australia in July-August 1699.

Accounts of Dampier's voyages make up most of the text in these volumes but there are other voyages included as well. Captain Cowley's circumnavigation of the globe (1683-86) appears in vol. 4. He visited the Galapagos Islands, commenting,

here being great plenty of provisions, as fish, sea and land tortoises, some of which weighed at least 200 pounds weight, which are excellent good food. (p. 10 of Captain Cowley's Voyage)

## Cook

**6. *An account of the voyages undertaken by the order of His present Majesty for making discoveries in the Southern hemisphere, and successfully performed by Commodore Byron, Captain Wallis, Captain Carteret, and Captain Cook, in the Dolphin, the Swallow, and the Endeavour / drawn up from the journals which were kept by the several commanders, and from the papers of Joseph Banks, esq; by John Hawkesworth. (London : Printed for W. Strahan and T. Cadell, 1773) 3 v.***

Hawkesworth's edition of *Voyages* is best known as the first appearance of Captain Cook's account of the discovery of the east coast of Australia, but it also includes the narratives of Byron, Wallis and Carteret. The frontispiece map to volume 1 shows the tracks of all of the voyages.



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Byron's circumnavigation took place in 1764-66, in the *Dolphin* and the *Tamar*. After discovering and taking possession of the Falkland Islands, he rounded the Horn and crossed the Pacific from east to west. Wallis went in the same direction (1766-68) in the *Dolphin*. On 18<sup>th</sup> June 1767 he sighted Tahiti, being the first European to do so. He sailed onwards through the Society Islands, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the Marshall Islands, and the Marianas. The illustration shows Wallis and his party being greeted on Tahiti by the Queen and her attendants.

Volumes two and three are devoted to Captain Cook's first voyage (1768-1771), in the *Endeavour*. He came via Cape Horn and reached Tahiti on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1769, where he observed the transit of Venus on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. He then sailed for the Society Islands. The illustration shows a troupe of dancers performing on the island of Bora Bora. The figures are depicted in the classic style of ancient Greece or Rome, for this was the period of idealisation in the image of the "noble savage".

After leaving the islands Cook steered south to try to discover the "Great South Land". He reached the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1769, and spent six months charting the country's coastline. Volume three is open at an illustration of a New Zealander showing his tattoos.

The bodies of both sexes are marked with the black stains called Amoco, by the same method that is used at Otaheite, and called Tattowing; but the men are more marked and the women less. The women in general stain no part of their bodies but the lips, though sometimes they are marked with small black patches on other parts: the men, on the contrary, seem to add something every year to the ornaments of the last, so that some of them, who appeared to be of an advanced age, were almost

covered from head to foot. Besides the Amoco, they have marks impressed by a method unknown to us, of a very extraordinary kind: they are furrows of about a line deep, and a line broad, such as appear on the bark of a tree which has been cut through, after a year's growth: the edges of these furrows are afterwards indented by the same method, and being perfectly black they make the most frightful appearance. The faces of the old men are almost covered with these marks: those who are very young, black only their lips like the women; when they are somewhat older, they have generally a black patch upon one cheek, and over one eye, and so proceed gradually, that they may grow old and honourable together; but though we could not but be disgusted with the horrid deformity which these stains and furrows produced in the "human face divine," we could not but admire the dexterity and art with which they were impressed. The marks upon the face in general are spirals, which are drawn with great nicety, and even elegance, those on one side exactly corresponding with those on the other: the marks on the body somewhat resemble the foliage in old chased ornaments, and the convolutions of filigree work; but in these they have such a luxuriance of fancy, that of an hundred, which at first sight appeared to be exactly the same, no two were different in different parts of the coast, and that as the principal seat of them at Otaheite was the breech, in New Zealand it was sometimes the only part which was free, and in general was less distinguished than any other.

The skins of these people, however, are not only dyed, but painted, for as I have before observed, they smear their bodies with red oker, some rubbing it on dry, and some applying it in large patches mixed with oil, which is always wet, and which the least touch will rub off, so that the transgressions of such of our people as were guilty of ravishing a kiss from these blooming beauties, were most legibly written on their faces. (p. 452-3)

Outside the Rare Books office, there is a model of Cook's ship, the *Endeavour*, constructed by Sir Robert Blackwood, the first Chancellor of Monash University, and presented to the Library in 1968. Above it is an engraved portrait of Captain Cook.

## **7. Scott, Major (John), 1747-1819.**

***An epistle from Oberea, Queen of Otaheite, to Joseph Banks, Esq. / translated by T.Q.Z. ... and enriched with historical and explanatory notes. 4th ed. (London : Printed for J. Almon ..., 1774)***

This is a satirical poem written in imitation of Ovid. The sexual adventures of Cook's men in the South Seas became the major talking point in English society after the publication of Hawkesworth's account. Banks supposedly had an affair with the Tahitian Queen, "Oberea", and this poem is written as an affectionate letter from the Queen to her departed lover.



## 8. Cook, James, 1728-1779.

***A voyage towards the South Pole and round the world. : Performed in His Majesty's ships the Resolution and Adventure, in the years 1772, 1773, 1774, and 1775 / written by James Cook ... In which is included, Captain Furneaux's narrative of his proceedings in the adventure during the separation of the ships.* 4th ed. (London : printed for W. Strahan; and T. Cadell, 1784) 2 v.**

Cook's orders for his second voyage were to sail further south in order to investigate the existence of the southern continent. He sailed on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1772 with two ships, the *Resolution* and the *Adventure*. After rounding the Cape of Good Hope he steered southwards, becoming the first person to cross the Antarctic Circle. He sailed to New Zealand, then to Tahiti, the Society Islands and Tonga. On his return voyage he sailed south again, crossed the Antarctic Circle for the second time but returned northwards to Tahiti, Easter Island, the New Hebrides and New Caledonia. e returned home on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1775.



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The accounts of the sailors' experiences in the islands of the South Seas created great interest in Europe, and according to popular belief, the Pacific was a paradise made more attractive by the easy morals of the native women. Cook tried to correct this view, writing,

Great injustice has been done the women of *Otaheite*, and the Society Isles, by those who have represented them, without exception, as ready to grant the last favour to any man who will come up to their price. But this is by no means the case; the favours of married women, and also the unmarried of the better sort, are as difficult to be obtained here as in any other country whatever. Neither can the charge be understood indiscriminately of the unmarried of the lower class, for many of these admit of no such familiarities. That there are prostitutes here, as well as in other countries, is very true, perhaps more in proportion, and such were those who came on board the ships to our people, and frequented the post we had on shore. By seeing these mix indiscriminately with those of a different turn, even of the first rank, one is, at first, inclined to think that the only difference is in the price. But the truth is, the woman who becomes a prostitute, does not seem, in their opinion, to have committed a crime of so deep a dye as to exclude her from the general esteem and society of the community in general. On the whole, a stranger who visits England might, with equal justice, draw the characters of the women there, from those which he might meet with on board the ships in one of the naval ports, or in the purlieu of Covent-Garden and Drury-Lane. I must, however, allow, that they are all completely versed in the art of coquetry, and that very few of them fix any bounds to their conversation. It is therefore no wonder that they have obtained the character of libertines. (p. v. 1, 187-188)

Cook found that many of the natives welcomed him and his men, but on some occasions when he went ashore for food and water the locals were belligerent. The illustration shows one such incident at Tanna in the New Hebrides. Even firing the ships guns and the muskets seemed to have little effect,

In short every thing conspired to make us believe they meant to attack us as soon as we should be on shore; the consequence of which was easily supposed; many of them must have been killed and wounded, and we should hardly have escaped unhurt; two things I equally wished to prevent. Since therefore, they would not give us the room required, I thought it was better to frighten them into it, than to oblige them by the deadly effect of our fire-arms. I accordingly ordered a musquet to be fired over the party on our right, which was by far the strongest body; but the alarm it gave them was momentary. In an instant they recovered themselves, and began to display their weapons. One fellow shewed us his backside, in a manner which plainly conveyed his meaning. (v. 2, p. 55)

Eventually, by giving gifts, Cook was able to land and re-provision. It was in this type of confrontation that Cook was eventually to meet his death in Hawaii.

#### 9. Forster, Johann Reinhold, 1729-1798.

***Observations made during a voyage round the world, on physical geography, natural history, and ethic philosophy... / by John Reinold Forster. (London : Printed for G. Robinson..., 1778)***

Johann Reinhold Forster and his son Johann Georg were two German travellers who were appointed as naturalist and draftsman respectively to accompany Cook on his second voyage. They published their account on returning to England. It includes a table comparing the vocabularies of the various people of the Pacific and South-East Asia. The volume is open at "A chart representing the isles of the South Seas according to the notions of the inhabitants of O-Taheitee and the neighbouring isles chiefly collected from the accounts of Tupaya." This centres on the Society Islands of which Tahiti is the largest and best-known. Tupaya was a Tahitian who Cook took on board to help him navigate the islands.

***10. A voyage to the Pacific Ocean : undertaken, by the command of His Majesty, for making discoveries in the northern hemisphere ... : performed under the direction of Captains Cook, Clerke, and Gore, in His Majesty's ships the Resolution and Discovery : in the years 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, and 1780 / Vol. I and II written by James Cook ; vol. III by James King. (London : Printed by W. and A. Strahan for G. Nicol ... and T. Cadell ..., 1784) 3 v.***

Cook set out on his third voyage to the Pacific on 12th July 1776. His mission included mapping the north Pacific coast and seeking the north-west passage. The ships were the *Resolution* and the *Discovery*. They sailed via the Cape of Good Hope. In January 1877 they landed in Adventure Bay, Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) then sailed to New Zealand. They then sailed north to Rarotonga and Tongataboo, landing at Tahiti



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in August 1777. There they rested for four months in preparation for their trip to the Pacific coast of North America. En route to the American coast, they discovered and named the Sandwich Islands, part of the Hawaiian group. After sailing as far north as Alaska, they passed through the Bering Strait, made the Siberian coast then returned south to the Sandwich Islands. They charted the island of Mowee (Maui) then Owhyhee (Hawaii).

The Hawaiians seemed to be friendly with Cook and his men, but after the boats sailed on 4<sup>th</sup> February, they struck bad weather and were forced to return, relations deteriorated. Disputes arose over thefts by the natives and when the *Discovery's* cutter was taken Cook went on shore with a party to attempt to retrieve the boat. They met with strong resistance and four of the marines were killed. Cook, who was on shore, turned to climb into one of the boats but was killed on the beach at Karakakooa Bay on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1779.

Our unfortunate Commander the last time he was seen distinctly was standing at the water's edge, and calling out to the boats to cease firing and to pull in. If it be true, as some of those who were present have imagined, that the marines and boat-men had fired without his orders, and that he was desirous of preventing any further bloodshed, it is not improbable, that his humanity, on this occasion, proved fatal to him. For it was remarked, that whilst he faced the natives, none of them had offered him any violence, but that having turned about, to give his orders to the boats, he was stabbed in the back, and fell with his face into the water. On seeing him fall, the islanders set up a great shout, and his body was immediately dragged on shore, and surrounded by the enemy, who snatching the dagger out of each other's hands, shewed a savage eagerness to have a share in his destruction.

Thus fell our great and excellent Commander! (v. 3, p. 45-46)

One of our copies of vol. 3 is open to show the "Chart of the Sandwich Islands"; and the "Sketch of Karakakooa Bay."

Captain Clerke took charge and the vessels sailed north again to the Bering Strait, returning south along the Asian coastline and home by the Cape of Good Hope, arriving on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1780. Clerke had died and was buried at Petropavlovsk. Captains Gore and King then took control of the expedition.

The frontispiece map to Cook's Third Voyage is "A general chart exhibiting the discoveries made by Captn. James Cook in this and his two preceding voyages with the tracks of the ships under his command."

Vol. 1 is open to show "A night dance by women in Hapae", one of the islands in the Tongan group. The illustration from vol. 2 shows "A human sacrifice in a Morai in Otaheite."

That the offering of human sacrifice is part of the religious institutions of this island, had been mentioned by Mons. De Bougainville, on the authority of the native whom he carried with him to France. During my last visit to Otaheite, and while I had opportunities of conversing with Omai on the subject, I had satisfied myself, that there was too much reason to admit, that such a practice, however inconsistent with the general humanity of the people, was here adopted. But as this was one of those

extraordinary facts, about which many are apt to retain doubts, unless the relater himself has had ocular proof to confirm what he has learned from others, I thought this a good opportunity of obtaining the highest evidence of its certainty, by being present myself at the solemnity (v. 2, p. 31)

There follows a detailed description of the ceremony.

## Other Voyagers

### 11. Keate, George, 1729-1797.

***An account of the Pelew Islands, situated in the Western part of the Pacific Ocean : composed from the journals and communications of Captain Henry Wilson, and some of his officers, who, in August 1783, were there shipwrecked, in The Antelope ... / by George Keate. 2nd ed. (London : Printed for Captain Wilson; and sold by G. Nicol, 1788)***

Captain Henry Wilson and his ship the *Antelope* ran aground on the Pelew Islands (Palau, to the east of Mindanao) in August 1783. He and his crew were treated well and managed to repair their boat and sail to Macao, taking with them Prince Lee Boo, the second son of the King. Lee Boo became a celebrity when he reached London, in much the same way as Omai had when Captain Cook brought him back from Huahine in 1774. Omai was returned to his home in 1777; Lee Boo was less fortunate and died in London from smallpox in 1784.

### 12. Bougainville, Louis-Antoine de, comte, 1729-1811.

***A voyage round the world, performed by order of His Most Christian Majesty, in the years 1766, 1767, 1768 and 1769 / by Lewis de Bougainville... in the frigate La Boudeuse, and the store-ship L'Etoile ; Translated from the French by John Reinhold Forster. (London : J. Nourse and T. Davies, 1772)***

Bougainville reached the Pacific through the Straits of Magellan in January 1768. He then sailed to Tahiti, claiming it for France and naming it "Nouvelle Cythere" after the birthplace of Aphrodite. He then sailed westward as far as the Great Barrier Reef, then turned north towards New Guinea, sighting the Solomons, Choiseul and Bougainville. He returned home through the East Indies via the Cape of Good Hope, taking with him a young Tahitian boy, Aoturu.

### 13. La Perouse, Jean-Francois de Galaup, comte de, 1741-1788.

***A voyage round the world : performed in the years 1785, 1786, 1787, and 1788, by the Boussole and Astrolabe, under the command of J.F.G. de La Perouse / published by order of the National Assembly, under the superintendence of L.A. Milet-Mureau. (London : Printed by A. Hamilton, for G.G. and J. Robinson, 1799)***

La Perouse sailed into the Pacific round Cape Horn, then crossed from Chile to Easter Island and Maui. From there he sailed north to the North American Pacific coast. He then sailed westwards to Hawaii and on to Macao and the Philippines, then to Japan and Kamchatka. There he received orders to sail to Australia, arriving in Botany Bay in 1788, four days after Governor Phillip landed with the First Fleet. After

staying for six weeks he set out to sail northwards. No further sightings of the expedition were made and the fate of La Perouse long remained a mystery until Peter Dillon discovered the wreckage on Vanikoro, in the islands of Santa Cruz, in the Solomons, in 1826. Fortunately La Perouse had sent his papers back to Europe on the *Sirius* and Milet-Mureau was able to edit them for the published account of the voyage.

Easter Island had been discovered and named by the Dutchman Jacob Roggeveen in 1722. The Spaniards landed and explored the island in 1770. Cook arrived in 1774 to find the population decimated and many of the famous statues overthrown. Some of this can be seen in William Hodges illustration included in vol. 2 of the account of Cook's second voyage. La Perouse arrived in April 1786 and found the people at peace and apparently thriving. He measured and described the statues, and his artist sketched them for reproduction in the Atlas volume of the voyage.

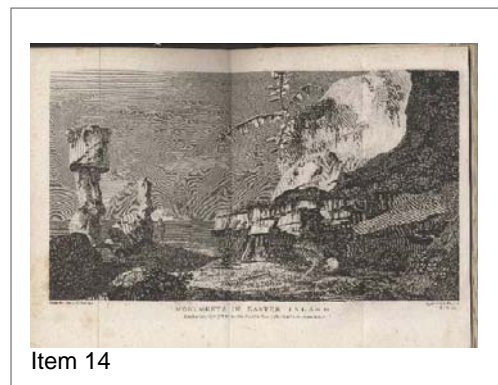
All the monuments which at present exist ... appeared to be very ancient. They are placed in *morais*, or burying places, as may be judged from the great quantity of bones which we found near them. ... These colossal busts ... which prove the small progress this people have made in the art of sculpture, are formed of the volcanic production known to naturalists under the name of *lapillo*. It is so easily crumbled and so extremely light that some of captain Cook's officers supposed it to be artificial, and composed of a kind of mortar which hardened in the air. It only remains to explain how so considerable a weight should have been raised without any point of support. But as we are certain that it is very light volcanic stone, it would be easy, with levers five or six toises long, and a stone placed under as a fulcrum, to raise a still more considerable weight. A hundred men would be sufficient for this operation, and the space does not allow for more. Thus the wonder disappears. (v. 1, p. 322-323)

#### 14. Cook, James, 1728-1779.

***A voyage towards the South Pole and round the world. : Performed in His Majesty's ships the Resolution and Adventure, in the years 1772, 1773, 1774, and 1775 / written by James Cook ... In which is included, Captain Furneaux's narrative of his proceedings in the adventure during the separation of the ships. 4th ed. (London : printed for W. Strahan; and T. Cadell, 1784) v. 2.***

"Monuments in Easter Island", drawn in nature by William Hodges; engraved by W. Woollett.

Although the Dutch voyager, Roggeveen in 1722 described the Easter Islanders as worshipping the statues with fire, and prostrating themselves before the monuments at sunrise, Cook, when he surveyed the island in March 1774 did not see any such rituals.



Item 14

The gigantic statues, so often mentioned, are not, in my opinion, looked upon as idols by the present inhabitants, whatever they might have been in the days of the Dutch ... on the contrary, I rather suppose that they are burying places for certain tribes or families. I, as well as some others, saw a human skeleton lying in one of the platforms, just covered with stones. Some of these platforms of masonry are thirty or forty feet long, twelve or sixteen broad, and from three to twelve in height; which last in some measure depends on the nature of the ground. For they are generally at the brink of the bank facing the sea, so that this face may be ten or twelve feet or more high, and the other may not be above three or four. They are built, or rather faced, with hewn stones of a very large size; and the workmanship is not inferior to the best plain piece of masonry we have in England. They use no sort of cement; yet the joints are exceedingly close, and the stones morticed and tenanted one into another, in a very artful manner. (p. 294)

**15. La Perouse, Jean-Francois de Galaup, comte de, 1741-1788.**

***A voyage round the world in the years 1785, 1786, 1787 and 1788* / by J.F.G. de La Perouse ; edited by L.A. Milet-Mureau ; translated from the French. 2nd ed. (London : Printed for J. Johnson, 1799) 3 v. (8vo)**

*En route* to New South Wales, La Perouse landed at the Navigator Islands (Samoa). M. de Langle, the commander of the *Astrolabe*, and M. de Lamanon, the naturalist from the *Boussole* were killed along with ten crewmen by the natives when they went ashore to replenish their supply of water.

The folding frontispiece to vol. 3 of the octavo edition shows the scene of the massacre.

**16. La Billardiere, Jacques-Julien Houtou de, 1755-1834.**

***Relation du voyage a la recherche de La Perouse : fait par ordre de l'Assemblée Constituante pendant les années 1791, 1792 et pendant la 1ere. et la 2de. année de la République françoise / par le Cen. Labillardiere. (Paris : Chez H.J. Jansen, Imprimeur-Libraire, [1800] (2 v. : 21 cm. + 1 atlas.***

This was the voyage of D'Entrecasteux. He had met La Perouse in the China seas in February 1787, and in 1791 was commissioned to sail in search of the missing expedition. He travelled via the Cape of Good Hope and reached van Diemens Land, turning north to the Admiralty Islands. He had been told at Cape Town that Captain John Hunter had seen natives there wearing European uniforms. However he was unable to find any traces of La Perouse. He sailed west then south to the south-west corner of Western Australia, then back to Tasmania and on to Tonga and New Caledonia. He sighted the island of Vanikoro where the remains of La Perouse's ships were but did not land. By July 1793, D'Entrecasteaux and many of his men had died from scurvy and dysentery. On reaching Surabaya in Java in October 1793, the survivors were taken prisoner and their ships impounded. Some were released in March 1795 and returned to France. The papers, charts and specimens were eventually returned to France.

The atlas volume contains many charts and engravings. The image on display shows a "Sauvage de la Nouvelle Caledonie lançant une zagaie." [throwing a lance]

**17. Dillon, Peter, 1785-1847.**

***Narrative and successful result of a voyage in the South Seas performed by order of the government of British India, to ascertain the actual fate of La Perouse's expedition interspersed with accounts of the religion, manners, customs and cannibal practices of the South Sea islanders / by the Chevalier Capt. P. Dillon. (London : Hurst, Chance and Co., 1829)***

Dillon was an Irish sandalwood trader between the islands of the South Seas and China. In 1826 he was offered a French sword on the island of Tucopia in the Santa Cruz group in the Solomons. After his return to England the government equipped a vessel and sent him to find information on the fate of La Perouse. He was accompanied by a French government official. In September 1827, he found more relics at Tucopia, then on the island of Mannicolo (or Vanikoro) found the wreckage of the vessels.



Item 17

Apparently the vessels had been driven on to the reef in a storm and most of the sailors were killed by the natives. Some of the crew survived and later managed to build a boat from the wreckage and sail away, presumably to perish at sea.

The coloured frontispiece of vol. 2 shows the “Natives of La Perouse’s Island or Mannicolo”. The frontispiece to vol. 1 illustrates an earlier incident on Dillon’s career in the south seas, “Massacre at the Feejee Islands in Sept. 1813. Dreadful situation of Capt. Dillon and two other survivors.” At that time Dillon was serving on the *Hunter*, under Captain Robson. Robson was helping one of the Fijian chiefs in his wars with another tribe. However, the Fijians turned on the sailors, killing about fifty of them. Dillon and his two companions managed to escape to the *Elizabeth*, the *Hunter*’s sister ship.

**18. *A Collection of the most celebrated voyages & travels, from the discovery of America to the present time : arranged in systematic order, geographical and chronological, the whole exhibiting a faithful and lively delineation of the world / carefully selected from writers of different nations by R.P. Forster (Newcastle upon Tyne [England] : Printed by Mackenzie and Dent ..., 1818) 4 v.***

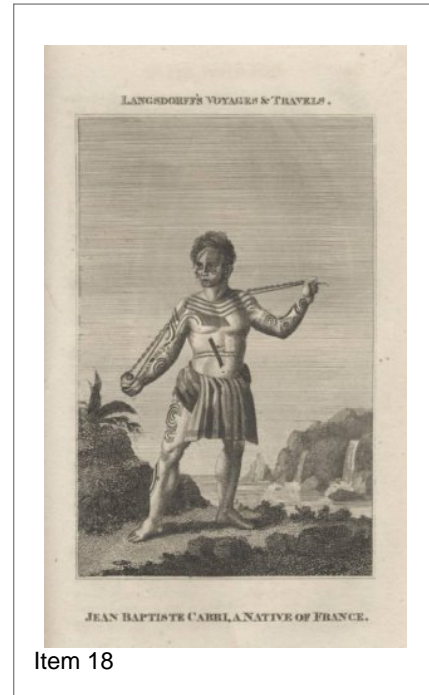
This set is open at the illustration in vol. 4 of “Jean Baptiste Cabri, native of France.” (facing p. 448) This occurs in the account of *Captain Wilson’s missionary voyage to the Southern Pacific Ocean performed in the years 1796, 1797, and 1798.*

Captain James Wilson of the *Duff* set sail from England in August 1796 to take a party of missionaries to Tahiti. These were the first English missionaries to land there. As an aside to the account we learn of Cabri. He was a French sailor

discovered by Georg H. von Langsdorff, the naturalist on Krusenstern's Russian expedition, living in the Marquesas in 1804. There were two Europeans on the island,

an Englishman named Roberts and a Frenchman, a native of Bourdeaux, named Jean Baptiste Cabri. These two Europeans lived in a state of great enmity. Cabri was tattooed, and had married the daughter of one of the inferior chiefs. He appears to have been an unprincipled fellow, and did not possess such influence over the natives as the Englishman. He was however brought away by the Russians, and being an excellent swimmer, was afterwards engaged as teacher of that useful art to the corps of marine cadets at Cronstadt. (p. 448)

Afterwards, Cabri displayed himself at fairs, becoming the first European to exhibit as a tattooed man.



Item 18

## 19. Byron, George Anson, 1789-1849

***Voyage of H. M. S. Blonde to the Sandwich Islands in the years 1824-1825, Captain the Right Hon. Lord Byron, Commander.* (London : John Murray, 1826)**

George Anson Byron was the grandson of the circumnavigator John Byron (see item 2) and cousin of the poet, George Gordon Byron. His voyage to the Sandwich Islands was partly to return the bodies of King Kamehameha II and his Queen to Hawaii. They had died of measles while on a visit to London. He sailed round Cape Horn and visited the Galapagos Islands before journeying on to Hawaii, which he reached on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1825. He stayed a month at Honolulu and erected a memorial to Captain Cook on the beach at Kealakekua Bay.

His account includes details of the Hawaiian King and Queen's visit to London. The *Blonde* returned south via the Cook and Society Islands, back around Cape Horn and home.

## 20. Fleurieu, Charles Pierre Claret, comte de, 1738-1810.

***Discoveries of the French in 1768 and 1769, to the south-east of New Guinea : with the subsequent visits to the same lands by English navigators who gave them new names : to which is prefixed an historical abridgement of the voyages and discoveries of the Spaniards in the same seas / by M. \*\*\*, formerly a captain in the French navy. Translated from the French.* (London : Printed for John Stockdale ..., 1791)**



Fleurieu's account centres on the discovery and re-discovery of the Solomon Islands. The group was originally discovered by the Spaniard Mendana in 1567, then was finally re-discovered by Carteret and Bougainville in 1767 and 1768. The book is open at a chart showing the different locations given for the Islands by the various "discoverers".

The Islands had acquired a legendary significance because Mendana claimed to have found gold there, and it was thought to have been the source of the gold used by King Solomon in building his temple in Jerusalem.

Fleurieu quotes the earliest description of the Solomons Islanders from Figueroa's account of Mendana's voyage, published in Madrid in 1613.

The inhabitants of this country worship serpents, toads, and other animals. Their complexion is bronze, their hair woolly and they wear no covering but round the waist. They subsist on cocoa nuts and a sort of root which they call *Venaus*. They eat no flesh, and are ignorant of the use of fermented liquors, they have, therefore a clearer complexion than those first seen. But there is no room to doubt that they are cannibals: the Cacique [chief] sent, as a present to Mendana, a quarter of a child, having the hand and arm upon it. The Spanish general caused it to be buried in the presence of those who had brought it, who seemed offended and confused at the bad success of their embassy, and retired hanging down their heads. (p. 6)

On the question of cannibalism, Fleurieu includes a long footnote to this passage. It reads in part,

The irrefragable testimony of voyagers, both French and English, has unhappily proved too fully, against the assertion of some philosophers, that there are man-eaters. (p. 6)

Fleurieu later accompanied Etienne Marchand on his voyage across the Pacific in 1790-92 in the *Solide*.

## **21. Mariner, William, 1791-1853.**

***An account of the natives of the Tonga Islands in the South Pacific Ocean : with an original grammar and vocabulary of their language / compiled and arranged from the extensive communications of William Mariner, several years resident in those islands, by John Martin. (London : Printed for the author and sold by John Murray, 1817) 2 v.***

**22. Mariner, William, 1791-1853.**

***An account of the natives of the Tonga Islands, in the South Pacific Ocean : with an original grammar and vocabulary of their language / compiled and arranged from the extensive communications of Mr. William Mariner, several years resident in those islands by John Martin. 3rd edition, considerably enlarged. (Edinburgh : Constable, 1827) 2v.***

William Mariner was a cabin boy on the *Port au Prince* a privateer which cruised the south seas attacking Spanish ships. In 1806 the ship put in to Hawaii and left with a mostly Hawaiian crew. On 1<sup>st</sup> December 1806 they landed at the Hapai Islands, Tonga, where the crew was massacred and the ship burnt. Mariner was the only survivor. He was adopted by the Chief and one of the Chief's wives, given the name of the Chief's dead son, and brought up in a Tongan family, learning the language and the local customs. Using some of the guns from the *Port au Prince*, he took part in the tribal wars. He was allowed to leave on a passing English boat in 1810, arriving back in England in 1811.

He gave an account of his experiences to John Martin, who edited them for a book, published in 1817, later reprinted as vols. 13 and 14 of *Constable's Miscellany* (1827)



Item 22

The frontispiece to the first edition shows Mariner in Tongan dress; this is reproduced as the title-page vignette in the Constable edition, with a folded frontispiece map of the Tongan group. An anchor next to Lefoogia, in the Hapai Islands shows where "the *Port au Prince* was cut off."

**23. *South Sea Islands : being a description of the manners, customs, character, religion, and state of society among the various tribes scattered over The Great Ocean, called the Pacific or the South Sea. (London : Printed for R. Ackermann, 1824) 2 v. in 1***

This forms part of *The world in miniature* series, edited by Frederic Shoberl for Rudolf Ackermann.

The "Preface" is interesting not only as a list of the sources from which the information has been drawn (Mariner's account of Tonga was one of the works) but also for the attitudes then current towards the Pacific islands and their inhabitants.

There is not perhaps any portion of the globe that presents, at this moment, a spectacle so full of interest to the contemplative mind as the islands now scattered over the vast ocean which intervenes between the Asiatic and American continents. Half a century ago, many of these islands were scarcely known even by name to the civilized world; and most of them, though indeed casually seen by earlier mariners, had never been explored by Europeans, till the peaceful expeditions equipped by the British government in the early part of the reign of the late king [i.e. King George III], and the indefatigable researches of our great navigator, Captain Cook, exhibited their inhabitants in all the freshness of a new discovery, and opened to the philosopher a fertile theme of enquiry and speculation.

In all these tribes, how distant soever from each other, much the same habits and manners and a nearly equal degree of barbarism were found to prevail. With the benevolent design of improving their condition, the officers of our ships industriously introduced among them the most serviceable of our domestic animals to which they were utter strangers, and such generally useful vegetable productions as were best adapted to the soil and climate of their respective islands. The intercourse with Europeans, which from this time became more frequent, served to make these savages acquainted with the superiority of their visitors in all those arts that tend to the preservation and embellishment of life. An eager desire to possess themselves of our mechanical instruments, and a spirit of imitation were the natural consequences of this impression. The change thus gradually operating among them was accelerated by the establishment in some of the islands of missionaries, whose religious labours, however, seemed for a long series of years to be totally fruitless. Their perseverance has nevertheless been crowned with a result surpassing the most sanguine expectations; and a revolution which, we trust, will extend over the whole of the Great Ocean, is now in rapid progress among some of its tribes. Among savages who, a short time since, were but a few degrees removed from a state of nature, printing presses have been established – written laws have been promulgated – the trial by jury adopted – the rudiments of navies formed – regular roads made – churches built – societies for the dissemination of the Scriptures and the encouragement of the Arts instituted – and the atrocious cruelties of the ancient superstitions have yielded to the beneficent influence of the Gospel of Christ!

Sincerely as we should rejoice in such a change, by whomsoever effected, we must confess that it heightens our gratification to find such wonders accomplished through the instrumentality of Englishmen, and much of a British spirit and British feelings diffused along with these improvements. The extension of that spirit and of those feelings to the remotest corners of the globe we hail with cordial exultation, not merely because England is the land of our birth, but because we are convinced that institutions arising out of them are better calculated to promote the liberty, prosperity and happiness of mankind than those of any other nation under the face of heaven. (p. iii-viii)

The volume is open at a colour illustration of a “Man of Easter Island.” This was taken from an illustration published in the account of Otto von Kotzbue’s voyage in the Pacific from 1815-1818. He had landed on Easter Island but found the natives very aggressive. He was later told that this was the result of an American schooner which had landed there in 1805, attacked the Easter Islanders, and carried some of them away as slaves to help in their sealing operations. The illustration shows the tattoos of the Easter Islanders, and the “fresh wreathes of leaves ... worn in the hair.” (v. 2, p. 11)

#### 24. Erskine, John Elphinstone, 1806-1887.

***Journal of a cruise among the islands of the western Pacific : including the Feejees and others inhabited by the Polynesian Negro races, in Her Majesty's ship Havannah / by John Elphinstone Erskine. (London : John Murray, 1853)***

Erskine was a naval officer who was posted to the Australia station in 1848. In 1849 made a tour, in the *Havannah*, of Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, the New Hebrides, the Loyalty Islands and New Caledonia, and next year visited the Solomons and other islands.

The colour frontispiece shows “Girls and man of Uea – Loyalty Islands.” The Loyalty Islands are now part of New Caledonia. These islands were a focus of Anglo-French conflict at the time and were annexed by France in 1853.

Erskine tells two stories of the people of Uea (now “Ouvea”). One concerned their settlement of the island.

According to the tradition, the forefathers of the people composing this tribe landed, only one or two generations ago, from a long voyage which they had undertaken from Uea, or Uevia, the modern Wallis Island [north-east of New Caledonia]. The reason assigned for their departure from their native land, was the death of the son of a great chief, named Savaloa, occasioned according to them, by the *accidental* falling of a hatchet on his head whilst asleep. The persons in fault, not daring to face the chief after the disaster, escaped to their canoe, and abandoning themselves to the winds and the waves, after a long voyage (the distance is upwards of 1000 miles), landed on the northern coast of this island, to which they gave the name of their birth-place. The original inhabitants, driven back by the intruders, are said to still inhabit the central part of the island. (p. 340)

The other story concerned an early instance of “black-birding”.

An unsuccessful attempt, made in 1847 by a company established in New South Wales for whaling and other purposes, to supply the labour market of that colony by their means. The director of the company in question despatched at that time two vessels with this view, under the command of a Mr. Kirsopp, who succeeded in inducing the chiefs of several of the islands to persuade about seventy young men, a few of them were natives of Tana, in the New Hebrides, but the greater number of Uea and Lifu, to embark with him for the purpose of “seeing the world.” Sundry events occurred during the voyage to open their eyes to the real

intentions of their pretended friends; and on their arrival at their destination of Two-fold bay, the whole scheme was so apparent, that, refusing to work, they, with one consent, demanded to be sent back to their homes. With an extraordinary degree of determination and intelligence, the whole body made good their way by land to Sydney, a distance of more than 200 miles, whence with a few exceptions, they were ultimately shipped off for the islands. (p. 342)

## Missionaries

### 25. Ellis, William, 1794-1872.

***Polynesian researches, during a residence of nearly six years in the South Sea Islands, including descriptions of the natural history and scenery of the Islands, with remarks on the history, mythology, traditions, government, arts, manners, and customs of the inhabitants / by William Ellis. (London : Fisher, Son, & Jackson, 1829) 2 v.***

William Ellis was one of the early missionaries sent out by the London Missionary Society to the Pacific. He was stationed at Tahiti from 1817 to 1822. From there he went to Hawaii, returning to England in 1824.

Vol. 1 is open to show the frontispiece portrait of Pomare, King of Tahiti. He had befriended the first missionaries to land at Tahiti. The frontispiece to vol. 2 shows some of the idols, "Worshipped by the inhabitants of the South Sea Islands."

Ellis was the first to set up a printing press in Tahiti and began to print grammars, readers and catechisms in the local language.

### 26. Davies, H. J. (Herbert John)

***A Tahitian and English dictionary, with introductory remarks on the Polynesian language, and a short grammar of the Tahitian dialect: with an appendix containing a list of foreign words used in the Tahitian Bible, in commerce, etc., with the sources from whence they have been derived. (Tahiti : London Missionary Society's press, 1851)***

This is a later example of a Tahitian dictionary printed by the London Missionary Society's Press set up locally by Ellis.<sup>27</sup> Williams, John, 1796-1839.

**27. Williams, John, 1798-1839.**

***A narrative of missionary enterprises in the South Sea islands : with remarks upon the natural history of the islands, origin, languages, traditions, and usages of the inhabitants / by John Williams of the London Missionary Society ; illustrated with engravings on wood by G. Baxter. (London : John Snow, 1838)***



Item 27

**28. Campbell, John, 1794-1867.**

***The martyr of Erromanga, or, The philosophy of missions, illustrated from the labours, death, and character of the late Rev. John Williams / by John Campbell. 2nd ed. (London : John Snow, 1842)***

The Rev. John Williams of the London Missionary Society was an inspirational figure. He arrived at the Society Islands in 1817 and was a colleague of William Ellis. He encouraged the Tahitians to build houses and taught them carpentry, plastering and blacksmithing, with some success. He believed in the importance of encouraging trade between the settlers in Sydney and the islands and bought a schooner for the Christian chiefs of the Society Islands using his own money. He moved his attentions to other island groups and made some notable conversions, particularly in Samoa and the Cook Islands. He returned to England in 1834 for a series of lecture tours and to publish his book on the South Sea Islands. This proved very popular and he was able to raise a considerable amount of money; enough to purchase a boat, the *Camden*, to continue his work.

The “dark islands” of southern Melanesia were felt to be a particular challenge and soon after returning to the Pacific, Williams ventured to Erromanga in the southern New Hebrides. He and his party landed at Dillon’s Bay on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1839. The local inhabitants were not however welcoming and Williams and his assistant, James Harris were clubbed to death and later eaten.

His death as a martyr resulted in Williams being seen as a heroic figure and there was a great outpouring of popular literature on the subject, much as was to happen later when, in 1901, the Rev. James Chalmers was killed and eaten by the natives of New Guinea.

**29. Turner, George, 1817 or 18-1891.**

***Nineteen years in Polynesia : missionary life, travels, and researches in the islands of the Pacific / by George Turner. (London : John Snow, 1861)***

The Rev. George Turner was sent by the London Missionary Society to Tanna in the New Hebrides in 1840 after news of the massacre of the Rev. John Williams and his party on Erromanga. He worked in the South Seas on Tanna and Samoa for twenty years, “as an ambassador of the British churches to the heathen.” (Preface)

**30. *The Evangelical magazine, and missionary chronicle. (London : Frederick Westley and A.H. Davis, 1813-1904)***

This volume is open at the issue for September 1854 which shows the “providential cure of a Samoan chief”. The accompanying story is “Polynesia. Memoir of a native evangelist.” It tells the story of Moia of Huahine, who was

among the foremost of the native pioneers who prepared the way for the introduction of the Gospel at Samoa. To the pious confidence of this devoted man, in undertaking the cure of the most potent chief on the islands, when lying apparently at the point of death, and the signal success of his treatment, may be attributed, under God, the first favourable impressions the Samoans received regarding the new religion which Moia and his companions had come to make known to them (p. 546)

**31. Gill, William Wyatt, 1828-1896.**

***Life in the Southern Isles, or, Scenes and incidents in the South Pacific and New Guinea / by William Wyatt Gill. (London : Religious Tract Society, [1876])***

The Rev. William Gill was another sent to the Pacific islands by the London Missionary Society. He spent twenty-two years in the Cook Islands and New Guinea. As with many of the missionaries, their knowledge of the local languages and minute observation of the daily life of the natives, with whom they lived closely is of lasting importance to anthropologists. However, they were constantly working to convert the heathen and extirpate their idolatrous practices.

In his Preface, Gill summarises the present position of the Polynesians and the problems they face. He also addresses the question raised as to the worth of missionary endeavours,



Item 31

A recent critic, referring to the South Sea Missions, speaks of “the smallness of the results obtained from the enormous expenditure upon Mission-work.” Now what are the facts of the case? Sixty-five years ago the whole of the Pacific was heathen. Now upwards of three hundred islands are Christianized. When missions were commenced in the Pacific, commerce did not exist. The commerce of the Pacific is now estimated at £3,000,000. So surely does civilization follow in the wake of Christianity. (p. vi)

The book is open to show two scenes, “before and after”. The first is of “A village in Pukapuka, under heathenism”, the second, “The same village under Christianity.” Pukapuka is one of the Cook Islands. The London Missionary Society landed there in 1857 and when Gill arrived in 1862 he found most of the people converted to Christianity. Unfortunately Peruvian slavers raided the island in 1863 and took away about 100 men and women.

**32. *Adventures in the South Pacific* / by one who was born there. (London : Religious Tract Society, [1933?])**

This novelisation of missionary endeavours in Polynesia is most notable for its frontispiece which shows a chieftain gesturing towards his tribe’s idols, while saying to two white men. “When you come here again, you will find all these gone.” An earlier edition (1908) is on display with the fiction (item 94).

## Ethnographers

**33. Prichard, James Cowles, 1786-1848.**

***Researches into the physical history of mankind* / by James Cowles Prichard. [3rd ed.] (London : Houlston and Stoneman, [1836-1847]) 5 v.**

**34. Prichard, James Cowles, 1786-1848.**

***The natural history of man : comprising inquiries into the modifying influence of physical and moral agencies on the different tribes of the human family* / by James Cowles Prichard ; with thirty-six coloured and four plain illustrations engraved on steel, and ninety engravings on wood. (London : H. Bailliere, 1843)**

James Cowles Prichard was a medical doctor, a graduate of Edinburgh University. For his dissertation he chose to write on the varieties of mankind, and published his research in book form, *Researches into the Physical History of Man*, in 1813 (seen here in its expanded 3<sup>rd</sup> edition). He was one of the earliest ethnologists and devoted much of his time to anthropological questions. *The Natural History of Man*, a more accessible version of his work appeared in 1843, the first of many editions. The grouping of peoples in races according in part to their cranial shape was the basis of much of the early ethnographic study. When he dealt with the peoples of the Pacific, he attempted to place them in negroid and non-negroid groups. One of Prichard’s basic assertions was that “the primitive stock of men were Negroes,” not a view shared by his colleagues. He based much of his research on information gathered by the voyages of discovery. The illustration on display from *The Natural history of man*, is of the “Inhabitants of Tikopia”, was “accurately copied from M. d’Urville’s



picturesque atlas." (p. 341) Tikopia (or Tucopia) was the island in the Solomons where Dillon first found evidence of the fate of La Perouse.

The illustration from *The Researches into the physical history of mankind* is of a "Woman of the Mariana Islands". The Marianas were discovered by Magellan and originally named the Ladrones. They are about 1,500 miles east of the Philippines and directly north of New Guinea. Guam is perhaps the best known.

Jesuit missionaries from Spain landed in 1668 and began to convert the islanders. This proved difficult and the Spanish government sent soldiers to suppress the local resistance, with great loss of life among the natives, but by 1699 Spain held control of the entire group. Prichard gives much information on the caste system prevailing among the inhabitants and details of their social customs,

Before marriage the greatest licence existed between the two sexes; and according to the information afforded to M. de Freycinet, an almost promiscuous intercourse prevailed. It was by opposing this general corruption of manners that the Christian missionaries drew upon themselves the hostility of these islanders, which protracted for a long period their conversion, and fostered by the priests gave rise to long and destructive wars. (v. 5, p. 175)

## Pitcairn

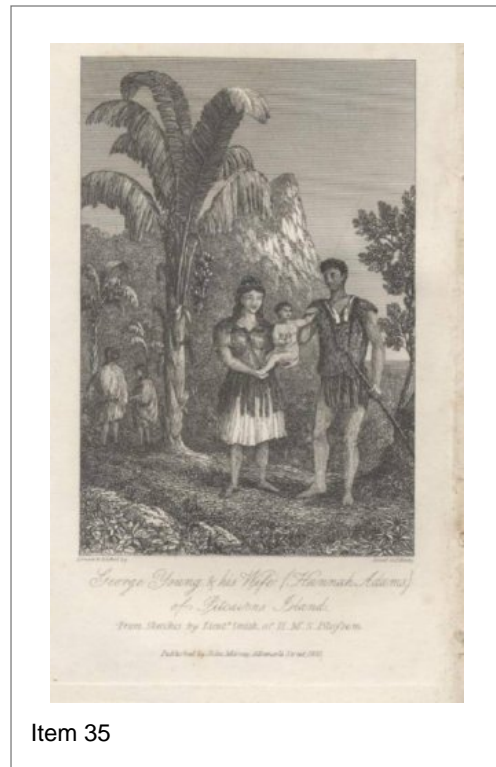
### 35. Barrow, John, Sir, 1764-1848.

***The eventful history of the mutiny and piratical seizure of H.M.S. Bounty : its cause and consequences / illustrated by six etchings from original drawings by Lieut.-Colonel Batty. (London : John Murray, 1831)***

The *Bounty* under Captain William Bligh was sent to the South Seas in 1787 to collect bread-fruit for transport to the West Indies. The stayed in Tahiti from October 1788 to April 1789. After they set sail for Cape Horn *en route* to the West Indies, the crew became restless. They had enjoyed the idyllic life in the islands and were reluctant to go to sea again. On the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> April twenty-five of the crew, under the Mate, Fletcher Christian, mutinied. They set Bligh and the remaining crew members adrift in a small boat. Bligh managed to reach Timor, 3,600 miles away, on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1789. In 1806 he became Governor of New South Wales, only to be deposed in the "Rum Rebellion" of 1808.

The mutineers returned to Tahiti, and Christian, with eight others and some Tahitian wives and manservants, eventually landed, in 1790, at Pitcairn Island, 1,350 miles south-east of Tahiti. Pitcairn was uninhabited until Fletcher Christian and his

party settled there. They remained undisturbed until 1808 when Captain Folger, of the American ship the *Topaz*, landed. He found only one of the mutineers alive, John



Item 35

Adams, though he now called himself Alexander Smith. There had been an uprising by the Tahitian men, who killed all of the white men, except Adams, who was severely wounded. According to Adams/Smith's account the bereaved women then killed the Tahitian men. Adams was left as the only man on the island with "eight or nine women and several small children." By the time Folger arrived there was a population of thirty-five. Apparently Christian had gone insane shortly after arriving at Pitcairn and threw himself off the rocks into the sea. (p. 283-284) Though other accounts have him as one who fell during the uprising of the Tahitians.

The frontispiece shows "George Young and his wife, (Hannah Adams) of Pitcairn's Island."

### 36. Brodie, Walter.

***Pitcairn's Island, and the islanders, in 1850 : together with extracts from his private journal, and a few hints upon California : also the reports of all the commanders of H. M. ships that have touched at the above island since 1800 / by Walter Brodie. 2nd ed. (London : Whittaker & Co., 1851)***

Brodie, while on his way from New Zealand to the California gold fields, was stranded on Pitcairn in March 1850 when his vessel was blown offshore. He prints many of the documents relevant to Pitcairn's history, and gives a "True copy of the Pitcairn's Island's register, from 1790 to 1850". We learn for example that,

1831. Feb.28<sup>th</sup>. Arrived H. M. Sloop *Comet*, Alexander A. Sandilands; and barque *Lucy Anne* of Sydney, Government vessel, J. Currey, master, for the purpose of removing the inhabitants of Pitcairn's Island to Tahiti.  
 March 6<sup>th</sup>. All the inhabitants of Pitcairn's Island embarked on board the above named vessel, and sailed for Tahiti.  
 March 21<sup>st</sup>. Arrived at Tahiti; on the passage, Lucy Anne Quintal was born. Soon after our arrival at Tahiti, the Pitcairn people were taken sick.  
 (p. 112)

There follows a list of islanders who died over the ensuing couple of months (including the baby, Lucy Anne) until the entire population returned to Pitcairn in two boats, 17<sup>th</sup> June 1831 and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1831.

### 37. Murray, Thomas Boyles, 1798-1860.

***Pitcairn : the island, the people, and the pastor : to which is added an account of the original settlement and present condition of Norfolk Island / by Thos. Boyles Murray. 8th ed. (London : Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1857)***

The first edition of this book appeared in 1853. It is concerned partly with the career of the Rev. George Nobbs, the pastor of Pitcairn. He was on a sealing expedition, a venture that miscarried, and fled his creditors for Pitcairn, landing there in October 1828 shortly after the death of John Adams. He soon took on a position of authority, inheriting the Bounty's *Bible* and *Prayer Book* from Adams. In 1829 he married Fletcher Christian's grand-daughter. He took part in the abortive move to Tahiti, but after the islanders returned he was supplanted in 1832 as the leader of the people by Joshua Hill who arrived at the Island claiming to be the representative of the Crown. Nobbs and his family were forced to leave, but after Hill was revealed as an impostor, Nobbs returned. He was involved in negotiations for the removal to Norfolk Island, Pitcairn having become too small to support the population. In 1856 they were re-settled on Norfolk Island, a former penal settlement from which all the convicts had

been removed to Tasmania in 1855. This edition of Murray's popular work was revised to include material on the move. The design in gilt on the spine shows a bread-fruit, and a Norfolk Island pine.

### 38. Hood, T. H. (Thomas H.)

***Notes of a cruise in H.M.S. "Fawn" in the Western Pacific in the year 1862 / by T.H. Hood. (Edinburgh [Lothian] : Edmonston and Douglas, 1863)***

The naval vessel the *Fawn* sailed from Sydney 8 May 1862 to New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island and back to Sydney on 6 Sept. 1862. It was under the command of Ralph Cator. Thomas Hood was one of his officers. The account gives a great deal of information about the customs and situation of the people of the islands at which the *Fawn* called. It is especially important for the description of the Norfolk Islanders, who had only recently been removed to that island from Pitcairn.

The volume is open at an illustration of "Polly Adams and sisters. Pitcairn Islanders".

## Blackbirding

Blackbirding was the term used to describe the recruitment of Pacific islanders as labourers for the cotton and sugar plantations in northern New South Wales and Queensland. Ben Boyd was the first to engage in this, to secure labour from the New Hebrides for his New South Wales sheep stations in 1847 (see item 24). The NSW Attorney General instituted an investigation and Boyd ceased the practice.

The trade thrived from the 1850s until 1904. About 60,000 natives were brought to Australia. Technically, they were indentured labourers who had signed contracts to work for set periods from six months to three years; in practice however, the conditions under which they were recruited and worked differed little from slavery.

By the late nineteenth century unionists and the churches were agitating to have the practice stopped, and when the Commonwealth was instituted legislation was passed to ban the activity. The Queensland sugar industry was still keen to continue the system as their pamphlet (item 43a) *The case for retaining the kanaka* shows. They argued that white men could not work effectively in the tropics and expressed alarm at the increase in Chinese and Japanese taking up cane farms on the Burdekin, at Proserpine and around Cairns. However, in 1906 the remaining labourers were repatriated to their island homes. Those who had formed relationships here or who owned land were allowed to stay.

**39. *Despatch and correspondence respecting the deportation of South Sea Islanders from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. (Sydney : Thomas Richards, Government Printer, 1871)***

**40. Palmer, George, 1799-1883.**

***Kidnapping in the south seas : being a narrative of a three months' cruise of H.M. Ship Rosario / by George Palmer. (Edinburgh : Edmonston and Douglas, 1871)***

**41. Great Britain. Parliament.**

***Report of the proceedings of H.M. Ship "Rosario", during her cruise among the South Sea Islands between 1st November 1871 and 12th February 1872, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.*** (London : H.M.S.O., 1872)

**42. Hope, James L. A.**

***In quest of coolies / by James L.A. Hope. 2nd ed.*** (London : Henry S. King, 1872)

**43. Churchward, William B. (William Brown), 1845-1920.**

***"Blackbirding" in the South Pacific : or, The first white man on the beach / By W. B. Churchward.*** (London : S. Sonnenschein & co., 1888)

**43a. *The Sugar industry : case for retaining the Kanaka.*** (Rockhampton : Record Printing Co., [1905])

It soon became obvious that recruiting of indentured labourers was open to many abuses. The Queensland Government passed "An Act to regulate and control the introduction and treatment of Polynesian Laborers. Assented to 4<sup>th</sup> March 1868." This is reprinted as an Appendix to Hope's book. The Act proved inadequate and the British Government decided to take responsibility. The HMS *Rosario* under the command of A. H. Markham was given the task of investigating. Their orders were,

to visit each island of the New Hebrides and Santa Cruz groups, and communicate with every missionary, planter or other person from whom reliable information can be obtained relative to the murders of British subjects which have recently taken place there, and to the alleged kidnapping of natives which is supposed to have led to these acts. (item 41, p. 16)

The first document in the British Parliamentary report gives details of the murder of Bishop Patterson, one of the missionaries Markham was specifically asked to interview. Patterson was killed as he landed at Nukapu Island in the Santa Cruz group. Markham's assessment was that this murder was "entirely in retaliation of wrongs and murders suffered by them at the hands of white people, whom I imagine to be those concerned in the nefarious practice of kidnapping natives for labour." (p. [3])

In June 1872 the House of Commons passed the *Pacific Islanders Protection Act*. Five schooners were provided to patrol the islands. The trade was allowed to continue but under strict licensing. It did not however cover activities by non-British subjects or that took place outside British jurisdiction. Abuses continued but a series of stronger acts were passed by Britain and by Queensland, culminating in the Commonwealth of Australia *Pacific Island Labourers Act 1901*.

## Later Visitors

The accounts of Cook's voyages in the South Seas published in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century caused great interest in England and Europe in general. Each Pacific island seemed an unspoiled paradise. By the late nineteenth century the South Seas had become a popular tourist destination.

### 44. Gill, William Wyatt, 1828-1896.

***Jottings from the Pacific* / by W. Wyatt Gill. [London] : Religious Tract Society, 1885.**

Although this is primarily a missionary account, including a long section of "Bible truths illustrated by native preachers", the author has a very light touch and his book is notable for the descriptions of the beauties of the islands and the friendliness of the people. The gilt decoration on the cover presents a classic image of the surf rolling in while fishermen tend nets and an islander relaxes on the beach.

For a more detailed account by Gill of his missionary experiences, see item 31.

### 45. James, John Stanley, 1843-1896.

***Cannibals & convicts : notes of personal experiences in the Western Pacific* / by Julian Thomas ("The Vagabond") (London ; Melbourne : Cassell & Company, 1886)**

The Vagabond was a celebrity journalist in Melbourne in the 1870s, producing a series of articles for *The Argus* written as a result of the author checking himself into the Benevolent Asylum, and the lunatic asylum. These appeared collected in five volumes as *The Vagabond Papers* (1877-78). He moved to Sydney in August 1877 and began writing for *The Sydney Morning Herald*. The paper sent him in 1878 to cover the unrest in New Caledonia. He reprinted the articles in *Cannibals and convicts*, severely criticising the French government for its treatment of the natives, "In every case the natives were treated – as too often the natives of Australia have been – as *ferae naturae* [naturally wild], having no personal right to the land. (p. 47)" The Vagabond re-visited the islands in the 1880s, going to the New Hebrides, Tonga, Noumea, New Guinea and Fiji, and many of those articles also appear here.

### 46. Moss, Frederick J. (Frederick Joseph), 1829-1904.

***Through atolls and islands in the great South Sea* / by Frederick J. Moss. (London : Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, & Rivington, 1889)**

Moss was a New Zealand businessman who went to Fiji in 1868 during the "cotton rush", "when the American civil war made sea-island cotton precious in the markets of the world" (p. 2). In 1869 he returned to New Zealand and became an administrator and politician. He maintained a strong interest in the Pacific and visited the islands on many occasions and in 1890 was appointed first British Resident at Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. Moss believed strongly in involving the native peoples in their own government, but this led to trouble with the European colony there and Moss was eventually recalled.

**47. Elkington, Ernest Way, 1872-**

***The savage South Seas / painted by Norman H. Hardy, described by E. Way Elkington.* (London : A. & C. Black, 1907)**

This is an example of the accounts of the South Seas as an exotic place full of charm but with an added frisson of danger. Elkington's account of a journey through New Guinea, the Solomons and the New Hebrides is secondary to the ninety-six colour plates, typical of the A. & C. Black gift book series.

**48. Stock, Ralph, b. 1882.**

***The cruise of the dream ship / by Ralph Stock, illustrations from photographs, line drawings by Lynn Bogue Hunt.* (Garden City, N.Y. ; and Toronto : Doubleday, Page & company, 1921)**

Stock was born in New South Wales and went to Canada as a twenty year old. He sailed through the Pacific and began writing stories for *The Lone Hand*. In 1911 his novel, *The Recipe for Rubber : a Fijian romance*, was published. *The cruise of the dream ship* was his third travel book, and his most popular. It describes a cruise on a yacht from Devon, through the Panama Canal into the Pacific, ending at Thursday Island. His sister, Mabel, accompanied him and also wrote a book about the journey, *The log of a woman wanderer* (1923). They called at the Galapagos Islands, the Marquesas, Tahiti, and the Friendly Islands.

**49. Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946.**

***To the South Seas : the cruise of the Schooner Mary Pinchot to the Galapagos, the Marquesas, and the Tuamotu islands, and Tahiti / by Gifford Pinchot; illustrated with over 250 reproductions of photographs taken on the cruise, and with wood engravings.* (Philadelphia ; Chicago [etc.] : The John C. Winston)Company, 1930.**

This was a trip first planned "when all the world was young" by "two sophomores at Yale." In the event only one of them could make it and he organised the cruise to be part adventure, part scientific expedition, with representatives of the National Museum of Washington, the U. S. Biological Survey and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. The route went through the Panama Canal, to the Galapagos, reaching Tahiti.

The frontispiece, showing a native sailing-boat against the pink sunset, framed by a palm tree, is a perfect South Seas image.

## Fiji

The Fiji group of islands are about 1700 miles east north-east of Sydney. They were first discovered by Tasman in 1643. Cook and Bligh also explored parts of the archipelago. By the early nineteenth century sandalwood and *beche-de-mer* traders were frequenting the islands. Wesleyan missionaries began to work there in 1835 and a small white population was established.

In 1849 some damage was done to the property of the American consul and the United States government made a claim for £9000 against the leading chief, Thakombau. He was unable to pay this and in 1858 offered sovereignty of the islands to Britain provided he retained his rank and the debt was paid. This offer was not accepted, but the white population continued to grow, especially when cotton plantations were established during the American Civil War. A group of Australian businessmen formed the Polynesian Company in 1868 to take over the King's debt and sovereignty of the land on offer. In 1874, the British government finally accepted sovereignty of the islands, and Fiji became a British Crown Colony.

Sir Arthur Gordon was the first Governor. He set up a form of government to maintain the traditional Fijian structure of chiefs, and banned sales of Fijian land. He introduced Indian indentured labour for the local sugar industry.

Independence was achieved in 1970.

### **50. Seemann, Berthold, 1825-1871.**

***Viti : an account of a government mission to the Vitian or Fijian islands in the years 1860-61 /by Berthold Seeman. (Cambridge : Macmillan, 1862)***

Seeman's book gives a favourable account of the possibilities of commercial development in Fiji (or Viti as it was originally named). He has been credited with sparking an influx of Australian settlers there in the 1860s, at a time when British sovereignty of the islands was being debated.

### **51. Smythe, Mrs.**

***Ten months in the Fiji Islands /by Mrs. Smythe ; with an introduction and appendix by Colonel W.J. Smythe. (Oxford : J.H. & J. Parker, 1864)***

This is an account of the visit to Fiji of Colonel Smythe sent by the British government as a special commissioner to report on the suitability of Fiji as a naval and coaling station and for the cultivation of cotton. The journey was made as a consequence of the Fijian King's first offer of annexation in exchange for payment of his debt to the United States. Smythe recommended against annexation but advised that the British consul should be invested with full magisterial powers over the British subjects there.

## 52. Britton, Henry.

***Fiji in 1870 : being the letters of the Argus special correspondent, with a complete map and gazetteer of the Fijian Archipelago /by H. Britton. (Melbourne : Samuel Mullen, 1870)***

Henry Britton was a Melbourne journalist sent to Fiji in May 1870 to report on the question of whether or not Fiji should be annexed. There is a chapter on the efforts of the Polynesia Company to come to a business agreement with the King. Though the company had failed to gather enough capital, they had paid money to off-set the King's debt and had been granted land around Suva. However they were very unpopular with both the natives and the whites as they had been unable to carry through with their promises for development.

Britton is critical of the British reluctance to accept sovereignty and recommends that the Australian colonies should annex Fiji.

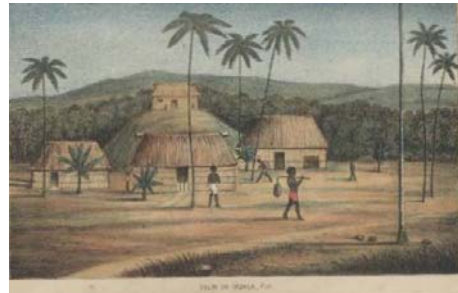
But whatever may result from the present Imperial policy of laissez-faire and indifference as regards the colonial question, it must not be forgotten that these islands belong to Australia. They are, by their geographical position, the birthright of the Australians; they are being peopled from our shores, and our hold of them will be in the close affection which grows from common names, from kindred blood, and from equal political privileges. When the federation of the Australian colonies has been accomplished, and we form one great nation, Fiji must be included in the Commonwealth. (p. 72)

In fact Fiji took part in the Inter-colonial Conference of 28<sup>th</sup> November 1883 to set up a Federal Council for establishing an Australian Commonwealth, but, as with New Zealand which were also invited to join, eventually opted out of the Federation.

## 53. Anderson, J. W. (John William), 1851-1904

***Notes of travel in Fiji and New Caledonia : with some remarks on South Sea islanders and their languages /by J.W. Anderson. (London : Ellissen & Co., 1880)***

This is a useful account of the Pacific islands in general as well as giving much specific information on Fiji and New Caledonia. It is especially good on the languages of the different areas, and Anderson uses lists of word comparisons in an attempt to trace the migration of the different Melanesian and Polynesian races.



Item 53



#### 54. Lucas, Thomas P. (Thomas Pennington)

***Cries from Fiji and sighings from the South Seas : "Crush out the British slave trade" : being a review of the social, political and religious relations of the Fijians... / by T.P. Lucas. (Melbourne : Dunn & Collins, [1885?])***

Lucas writes of the conflict between "the Gospel of Christianity" and "the gospel of civilization." (p. 3-5) he saw that there was resentment between the white planters and the missionaries, partly based on the reluctance of the Fijians to work on the plantations. He interviewed the English officials and was told,

"Our policy," they stated, "is protection for the native race. We are obliged to protect them from the encroachments of the white people. They look upon the black man as they do upon a plough, as a something solely for their own use and advantage." (p. 10)

When asked about "the labour question",

The reply was – "This is nothing more nor less than a slave trade. It is perfectly true that coast tribes kidnap or in other ways obtain men from the inland tribes, and that these are forced to go as recruits, or if they dare to refuse, forfeit their lives for their temerity, the kidnappers receiving the bounty money. And thus, not only are there the evils of the particular kidnapping, but also the origin of feuds and tribal wars. On the whole the whites treat their labourers well, but many die soon after importation. On these grounds we would discourage the labour traffic, and have endeavoured to substitute Indian labour. And so far as tried, Indian (Coolie) labour has proved a success." (p. 11)

Lucas found that in practice the English officials, though often well intentioned, were rude and lacked judgment. The Fijians were being corrupted by the whites, but were also under the absolute sway of their chiefs who shared power with the British government. Lucas ends with a list of recommendations for regulating life for the Fijians, based on fair labour conditions.

#### 55. Grimshaw, Beatrice, 1871-1953.

***Fiji and its possibilities / by Beatrice Grimshaw : illustrated from photographs. (New York : Doubleday, Page & Company, 1907)***

Beatrice Grimshaw was an Irish journalist who came to the Pacific in 1904 to write tourist publicity brochures, books and articles. She spent the rest of her life there, living mainly in New Guinea where she managed a plantation near Samarai. She was a successful novelist, most of her fiction having a Pacific island setting.

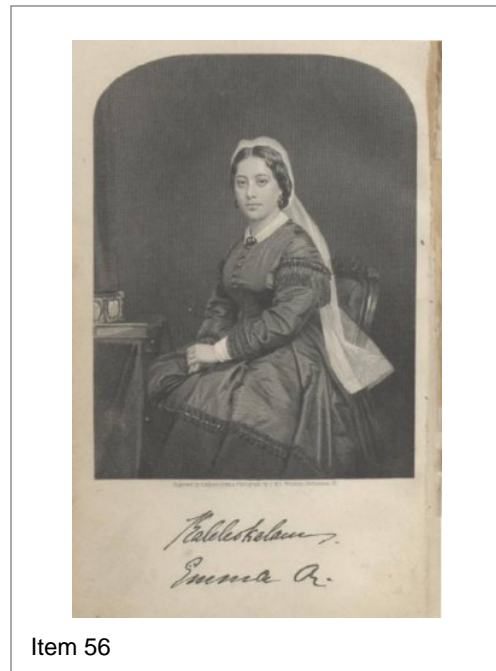
## Hawaii

Captain Cook was the first to discover the Hawaiian (or Sandwich) Islands, landing at Waimea Bay, Kauai Island, on Jan. 20, 1778. Following the pronunciation of the people, he called the islands "Owhyhee". Cook was killed by the Hawaiians at Kealahou Bay on the large island of Hawaii in 1779. Vancouver, who was on Cook's expedition returned in 1792 and 1794. He introduced sheep and cattle to the islands and helped the King Kamehameha to build a European style ship. Within ten years the King had a fleet of twenty vessels which traded between the islands. From 1820 missionaries, predominantly from the United States, began to operate in the islands. Throughout the nineteenth century America, France and Britain vied for supremacy in the islands but the Hawaiian kings maintained their rule, though gradually, under Western influence, introduced a form of constitutional government. After a long period of unrest and inter-tribe political fighting, the royal family was overthrown in 1893 by a coup and a republic was formed with US backing. This eventually led to establishment of Hawaii as a territory of the United States on June 14, 1900. In 1959 Hawaii became the fiftieth US state.

### 56. Hopkins, Manley, 1817 or 18-1897

***Hawaii: the past, present, and future of its island-kingdom. An historical account of the Sandwich Islands (Polynesia) / By Manley Hopkins; with a preface by the Bishop of Oxford. 2nd ed., rev. and continued. (London, Longmans, Green, and Co., 1866)***

Manley Hopkins was the British Consul-general to Hawaii. The frontispiece shows the Hawaiian Queen Emma, Kaleleo-ka-lani, wife of Kamehameha IV, looking remarkably like Queen Victoria.



Item 56

### 57. Bird, Isabella L. (Isabella Lucy), 1831-1904.

***The Hawaiian archipelago : six months among the palm groves, coral reefs, and volcanoes of the Sandwich Islands / by Isabella L. Bird. 2nd ed. (London : John Murray, 1876)***

Isabella Bird, (later Mrs. Isabella Bishop), was perhaps the best-known travel writer of the late nineteenth century. This was her first book, published in 1875. It resulted from a trip she made to Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii. She was noted, among other things as an enthusiastic horse-woman, and it was on Hawaii that she first learned to ride astride rather than side-saddle.

**58. Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894.**

***Father Damien; an open letter to the Reverend Doctor Hyde of Honolulu*  
/ by R. L. Stevenson (London, Chatto and Windus, 1890)**

Father Damien (1840-1889) was a Belgian Catholic missionary who ministered to the lepers at the colony on Molokai, one of the Hawaiian islands. Father Damien served at the leper colony from 1873 to his death. He discovered he had contracted leprosy in December 1884, when he came back to his hut after a day's work, put his feet in boiling water and was unable to feel them. He was revered as a saint by the Hawaiian people, and this caused animosity from missionaries of other denominations. After Father Damien's death, the Presbyterian Rev. C. M. Hyde, based in Honolulu, wrote criticising him, "The simple truth is, he was a coarse, dirty man, head-strong and bigoted. ... He was not a pure man in his relations with women, and the leprosy of which he died should be attributed to his vices and carelessness." Robert Louis Stevenson, also a Presbyterian, lived for a time on Hawaii. He had visited Molokai and wrote from Sydney, in Father Damien's defence, attacking the Rev. Hyde.

when we sit and grow bulky in our charming mansions, and a plain, uncouth peasant steps into the battle, under the eyes of God, and succours the afflicted, and consoles the dying, and is himself afflicted in his turn, and dies upon the field of honour — the battle cannot be retrieved as your unhappy irritation has suggested. It is a lost battle, and lost for ever. (p. 11)

**59. Howell, H. Spencer (Henry Spencer), 1857-1912.**

***An island paradise ; and, Reminiscences of travel* / by H. Spencer Howell. (Toronto : Hart & Riddell, 1892)**

Howell was a Canadian who wrote affectionately of his time in Hawaii. He and his party were taken to see the many sights in a way that has become more usual now that tourism is one of the major industries of the islands. After being driven to see the Pali, a mountain about six miles from Honolulu he writes,

On our way back we saw a great many native ladies riding on horseback in their regular way – astride; each of them wore the *pau* [a divided skirt], and it was a charming sight to see these soft-eyed, happy-faced girls, with *leis* round their necks, galloping along the fern-bordered roads, their long hair flying in the wind, and their bright coloured costumes rivalling the *ohias* and hibiscus in the hedges on either side! (p. 38)

Howell travelled on from Hawaii and ends his book with an account of Melbourne's Bourke Street on a Saturday night.

**60. Forbes, Rosita, (1890-1967)**

***Unconducted wanderers* / by Rosita Forbes. (London : John Lane, 1919)**

Rosita Forbes, an Englishwoman, born in Lincoln, was "a bold and successful traveller" (DNB). *Unconducted wanderers* was her first book. It deals with her journey though the Pacific to Asia, with long descriptions of the islands, especially Hawaii. Her later reputation rests however on her exploits in the Arab countries of North

Africa and the Near East. Her first impressions of Hawaii, Honolulu on the island of Oahu, are captured atmospherically,

There were magnolias in bloom and fig-trees, and only a hedge of scarlet hibiscus separated us from the far-famed Waikiki beach where brown Hawaiian boys came flying in on their surf-boards – bronze statues upright upon the breakers, kings of the whirling surf, foam-crowned! It was quite a different effect whenever we tried to do it. With fiendish ingenuity, our surf-boards used to turn over, deposit us on a particularly vicious coral rock, deliver several sharp blows to the head as we tried to rise from underneath them and float triumphantly away, leaving us puffing and panting a quarter of a mile from shore. ... But, oh, the joy when first one mastered the intricacies of the surf-board and came sweeping shorewards at the speed of an express train, on the very edge of a wave, tilted a little forward with the foam whirling right and left before one.

The population of Honolulu is amphibious. It wanders about in bathing kit, generally à la Annette Kellerman, at all hours and in all places – on foot in the hotel gardens, in cars along the big avenues, cloakless and undisguised and burnt a beautiful, dark copper brown. (p. 17-18)

#### 61. Castle, William Richards, 1878-1963.

***Hawaii, past and present / by William R. Castle, Jr. ... Rev. and enl. ed. (New York : Dodd, Mead and company, 1931)***

Castle's avowed purpose was to provide a guide-book to Hawaii, as "Baedeker has not yet extended his labours to the Pacific Islands" (p. vii). He includes a chapter on the volcanoes. Mauna Loa, on the main island of Hawaii is the largest volcano in the world. Castle gives details of a suggested trip to Kilauea, the volcano adjacent to Mauna Loa. This is the legendary home of Pele, the Hawaiian fire Goddess.

## Tahiti

Tahiti (originally *Otaheite*) was discovered by De Quiros but first accurately described in detail by Cook in 1769 who named the group the Society Islands after the Royal Society which had sponsored his voyage. The island group, more than 2000 miles north-east of New Zealand, is divided into two clusters, the Leeward Islands to the west and the Windward Islands to the east. Tahiti itself is in the Windward Islands and the capital is Papeete.

The missionaries began to work in the islands in 1797 when a party landed from the ship *Duff*. Although befriended by the King Pomare I they faced difficulties partly because of the constant warfare among the tribes, and fled to New South Wales. They returned in 1812 but the local population was largely unreceptive, preferring the old gods or a perversion of Christianity. In 1828 a fanatical sect arose, the *Mamaia*. The leader proclaimed himself to be Jesus Christ and promised his followers a sensual paradise.

The British and the French competed for control. Queen Pomare IV refused permission for the French to land their nationals and deported two French

missionaries, but a French frigate was despatched and in 1843 the Queen was compelled by rebels among her own people to sign an agreement with the French government. A French Protectorate was proclaimed covering the Windward Islands. The Leeward Islands was left under the control of the native Tahitians. Queen Pomare died in 1877; her son reigned for only three years before abdicating in favour of full French control. Tahiti became a French colony in 1880.

**62. Pembroke, George Robert Charles Herbert, Earl of, 1850-1895.**

***South Sea bubbles / by the Earl and the Doctor. (Melbourne : Printed for R. Bentley and Son, London, by George Robertson, 1872)***

This was written by the Earl of Pembroke and Dr. George Kingsley. It deals with two voyages the pair made to the South Seas in the late 1860s. Much of the work deals with Tahiti and the Society Islands.

The finest islands of the West Indies idealized, with a dash of Ceylon, is all I can compare it to. And the natives! How well they match the scene! The women with their voluptuous figures, - their unique, free, graceful walk, - their nightgowns (for their dress is nothing but a long chemise, white, pale green, red, or red and white, according to the taste of the wearer, which is invariably good) floating loosely about in a cool refreshing manner, - their luxuriant black tresses, crowned with a gracefully plaited Araroot chaplet, and further ornamented by a great flowing bunch of white "Reva-Reva," - their delicious perfume of coconut oil (it is worth going to Tahiti for the smell alone), - and, above all, their handsome faces, and singing, bubbling voices, full of soft cadences, - all this set off by the broken, scattered rays of green light shining through the shady avenues. (p. 2-3)

**63. Hort, Dora**

***Tahiti : the garden of the Pacific / by Dora Hort. (London : T. Fisher Unwin, 1891)***

Dora Hort was married to Alfred Hort, a businessman in Tahiti from 1847 to 1869 when his business failed. His assets were sold in 1870. The circumstances surrounding her husband's bankruptcy are touched upon in the final chapter, and cause Dora to inveigh against the corrupt French administration. Certainly the book contains much detailed information about the conflict between the French Governor and Queen Pomare, and as the Horts were prominent members of Tahitian society during this time we find out much about the tensions existing among the local French and English people and among the Tahitians themselves.

**64. Seurat, L. G., b. 1872.**

***Tahiti et les Établissements français de l'Océanie / L.G. Seurat. (Paris : Augustin Challameh, 1906)***

In 1903 the whole of the French possessions in the Eastern Pacific were declared a single colony. This is an official account setting out details of Tahiti as a place to

invest or migrate. The posed photograph on display is of a young Tahitian with examples of the fruit which grows in the islands.

**65. O'Brien, Frederick, 1869-1932.**

***Mystic isles of the south seas / by Frederick O'Brien. (London : Hodder and Stoughton, 1921)***

**66. O'Brien, Frederick, 1869-1932.**

***Atolls of the sun / by Frederick O'Brien. (London : Hodder and Stoughton, 1922)***

Frederick O'Brien was an American journalist who worked for the *Manila Times*. In the early years of the twentieth century he travelled to French Polynesia and wrote three books. The first was *White shadows in the south seas* (1919), set in the Marquesas. In the Foreword he wrote,

It is for those who stay at home yet dream of foreign places that I have written this book, a record of one happy year spent among the simple, friendly cannibals....There is little of profound research. Nothing, I fear, to startle the anthropologist or to revise encyclopedias.

**67. Cheesman, Evelyn, 1881-1969.**

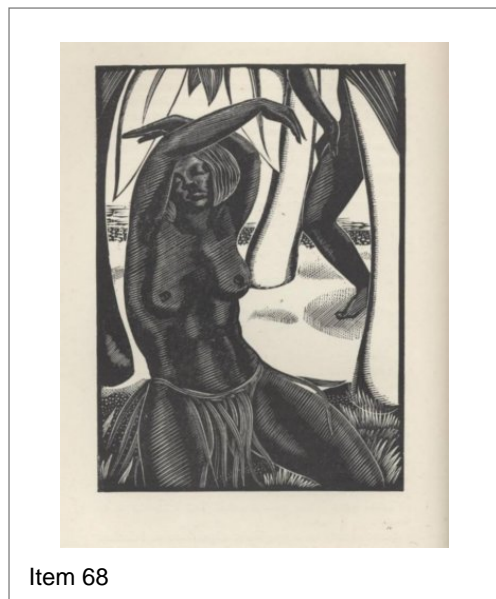
***Islands near the sun : off the beaten track in the far, fair Society Islands / by Evelyn Cheesman. (London : Witherby, 1927)***

Evelyn Cheesman was an entomologist with the St. George Expedition to the South Seas in 1924. She left the expedition in Tahiti and spent time pursuing her own research there. This is an account of her insect hunting and of life in Tahiti at that time. Cheesman was to return to the Pacific, collecting insects in the New Hebrides and New Guinea.

**68. Gibbings, Robert, 1889-1958.**

***Iorana! : a Tahitian journal / by Robert Gibbings ; with wood-engravings by the author. (London [England] : Duckworth, 1932)***

Gibbings was one of the leading English wood-engravers of the twentieth century and it was mainly through his efforts that the Golden Cockerel Press was so successful. In 1929 he visited Tahiti. His book is most notable for the beautiful illustrations but his prose is also evocative, written with an artist's eye, and a bohemian sensibility,



Item 68

That night we slept on the sand. Lying on our backs and looking at the stars, we could feel the earth tearing through space, and I gripped the coral lest centrifugal force should hurl us into space. We rose to an opal dawn, no line between sky and sea, everything lost in an iridescent haze, as it were the concavity of some gargantuan pearl shell; and I thought of the millions of city dwellers sleeping each night in their papered cupboards. (p. 51)

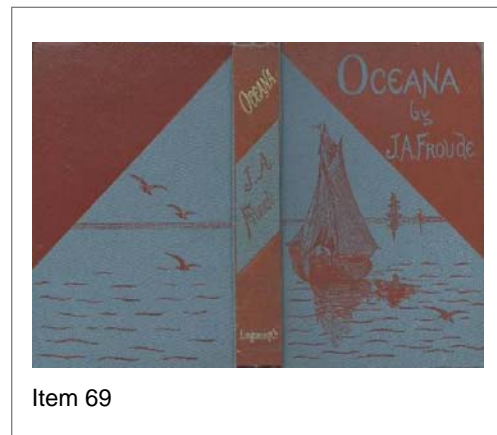
## The Pacific Question

The Pacific was increasingly seen as a power vacuum. The great powers of France, Britain and the United States distrusted each other and considered the Pacific an arena where they were vulnerable to commercial and strategic competition. This was especially the case when Japan began to expand in the late nineteenth century and continued to do so up until the Second World War.

### 69. Froude, James Anthony, 1818-1894.

***Oceana, or, England and her colonies* / by James Anthony Froude. New ed. (London : Longmans, Green and Co., 1886)**

Froude, the historian and biographer of Carlyle visited Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific in 1884-85. He strongly argued that the British colonies should be given self-government and made into a "Commonwealth of Oceana", where the countries would form a self-governing federation, permanently allied to Britain.



Item 69

### 70. Fletcher, C. Brunston (Charles Brunston), 1859-1946.

***The new Pacific : British policy and German aims* / by C. Brunston Fletcher ; with a preface by Viscount Bryce and a foreword by W.M. Hughes. (London : Macmillan, 1917)**

The immediate focus of this book was to secure control of German New Guinea and German Samoa to Australian and New Zealand authority after the end of the Great War. These territories had already been taken from the Germans and were being administered by Australasian authorities. Part of Fletcher's argument centres on German investments in the Pacific, now under the control of the Public Trustee. He argues that Germany intended to use their commercial strength to control Australia and New Zealand after defeating the allies in the war.

The necessity for the future co-operation of Australasia and America in the Pacific is endorsed with the situation in Samoa given as an example of how well such an arrangement can work.

**71. Jacomb, Edward.**

***The future of the Kanaka /* by Edward Jacomb. (London : P.S. King & Son, 1919)**

This is another book on the changes in the Pacific after the defeat of Germany in the First World War. Jacomb put forward the radical idea, for the time, that the native peoples should be encouraged to govern themselves, "Only, be it remembered, we must make haste, for if we do not act promptly and decisively it will soon be too late." (p. 215) He advocates a division of the Pacific under spheres of influence as an aid to achieving indigenous nationhood. He saw the Northern Pacific as falling to Japan's influence, but saw no threat in this, remembering that they were our allies in World War I. The South-Western Pacific (south of the Equator) was to be made the responsibility of Australia and New Zealand, and the Western Pacific that of the United States.

**72. Marks, E. George (Ernest George)**

***Watch the Pacific! : defenceless Australia /* by E. George Marks. (Sydney : Coles Book Arcade, 1924)**

Soon after the war Australians began to fear the increasing strength of Japan. After the League of Nations awarded mandatory power over the Caroline, Marshall and Ladrone Islands (apart from Guam) to Japan, coincidentally as recommended by Jacomb in his book, Australia and the United States felt under threat.

Marks emphasises the Hawaiian Islands as an example of US vulnerability (p. 41), and devotes chapters to "Defenceless Australia" and "Australia – World's last great prize."

**74. Brown, J. Macmillan (John Macmillan), 1846-1935**

***Peoples & problems of the Pacific /* by J. Macmillan Brown. (London, T.F. Unwin, 1927) 2 v.**

This was an attempt to bring together the concerns about all of the major groups in the Pacific, the peoples of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, and describe the economic and political issues they faced in the 1920s. Brown concludes with a chapter on "A coming conflict in the Pacific" in which he foresees the Pacific as an arena of a war between Japan and America.

## Fiction

The Pacific has long been a locale for fiction. In the seventeenth century, when it was still mainly unknown, authors such as Swift in his political satire, *Gulliver's Travels* (1728), used it as the setting for imaginary voyages. After Cook and the other early voyagers published their books later in the century, writers were able to mine the accounts for factual detail to use as colour.

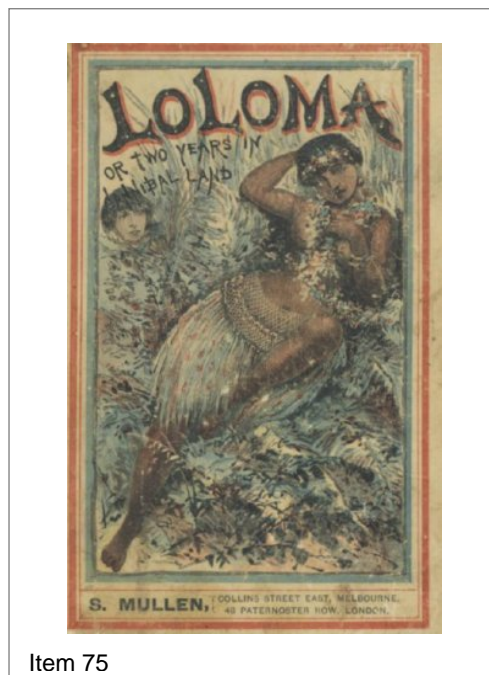
The examples on display are all from the late nineteenth, early twentieth centuries and were written by authors who had personal experience of life in the Pacific.



### 75. Britton, Henry.

***Loloma, or, Two years in cannibal-land : a story of old Fiji / by Henry Britton. (Melbourne : Samuel Mullen, 1883)***

Britton's factual book on Fiji, *Fiji in 1870* (item 52) was written as a result of the Melbourne journalist being sent to the islands by *The Argus* newspaper. *Loloma* is the story of a Fijian princess told from the point of view of a young sailor from Sydney who is shipwrecked on the island in the early nineteenth century. Britton takes the opportunity of using much of the material he had gathered on the Fijians, their legends, customs and beliefs. He was conscious as he writes in his "Preface" that "The opportunity of acquiring information on these subjects is fast slipping away with the older aboriginal inhabitants, and if not now seized upon it will be gone forever." Britton adds an Appendix, "The religion of old Fiji."



Item 75

### 76. Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894.

***Island nights' entertainments : consisting of The beach of Falesá, The bottle imp, The isle of voices / by Robert Louis Stevenson ; with illustrations by Gordon Browne and W. Hatherell. (London : Cassell & Co., 1893)***

The best-known author to settle in the Pacific in the nineteenth century was Robert Louis Stevenson, famous for his children's books, *Treasure Island* (1883; set in the Caribbean) and *Kidnapped* (1886), as well as *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886).

In 1888 he decided to live in the South Seas in an effort to improve his health; he suffered from consumption. Stevenson lived in Tahiti, Hawaii, and from 1890 to 1894 on Samoa. The Samoans called him "Tusitala" (teller of tales).

Three of his Pacific tales are collected here. In a letter he described *The beach at Falesa* as, "the first realistic South Sea story; I mean with real South Sea character and details of life".

### 77. Becke, Louis, 1855-1913.

***By reef and palm ; The ebbing of the tide / by Louis Becke. (Toronto : Thomas Allen, [189-?])***

### 78. Becke, Louis, 1855-1913.

***His native wife / by Louis Becke. (London : T. Fisher Unwin, [1896])***

**79. Becke, Louis, 1855-1913.**

***The mystery of the Laughlin Islands / by Louis Becke and Walter Jeffery.***  
(London : T. Fisher Unwin, 1896)

**80. Becke, Louis, 1855-1913.**

***Notes from my south sea log / Louis Becke.*** (London : T. Werner Laurie, 1905)

Becke was born at Port Macquarie in New South Wales. He went to America aged 14 and then worked as a sailor on trading vessels in the South Seas. After returning to Australia in 1874, and joining the Palmer River gold-rush, he set out again to the Pacific, sailing with Bully Hayes. He returned to Sydney in 1892 and Archibald encouraged to contribute his stories to the *Bulletin*. Some of these were collected for his first book, *By reef and palm* (1894) In all he wrote thirty four books, but as he was paid outright for them he received no royalties and was always in financial straits. A natural story-teller, his books were popular in England and America as well as Australia.

## New South Wales Bookstall

The New South Wales Bookstall Company under A. C. Rowlandson (1865-1922) was the best-known publisher of Australian fiction in the early twentieth century. They specialised in novels and short stories set in the Australian bush and in the islands of the Pacific. Steele Rudd was their most popular author. Louis Becke published some of his works with them but most of their Pacific novels were by Beatrice Grimshaw, Jack McLaren, and S. W. Powell.

**81. *The Late Alfred Cecil Rowlandson : pioneer publisher of Australian novels.***  
(Sydney : [NSW Bookstall], 1922)

Rowlandson went on a sea cruise in 1922 to recover his health but died in Wellington, NZ. This tribute was published as a commemorative volume. It includes a section on "Bookstall illustrators", and is open at a humorous sketch by Vernon Lorimer, "Vernon Lorimer getting the atmosphere for a bookstall adventure novel." It shows the artist with a block of ice on his head, under a fan labelled "Tropical wind", with a heater, "Tropical heat", while he sketches a native under a palm tree.

**82. Grimshaw, Beatrice Ethel.**

***The coral queen / by Beatrice Grimshaw ; illustrated by Percy Lindsay.***  
(Sydney, NSW Bookstall, 1920 [c1919])

**83. Grimshaw, Beatrice, 1871-1953.**

***Queen Vaiti / by Beatrice Grimshaw ; illustrated by Percy Lindsay.***  
(Sydney : N.S.W. Bookstall, 1921)

Beatrice Grimshaw was one of the most successful romance writers of her time and set most of her works in the Pacific. As we saw above with her book on Fiji (item 55), she lived for much of her life in New Guinea and the islands.

84. McLaren, Jack, 1887-1954.

*The oil seekers* / by Jack McLaren ; illustrations by Percy Lindsay. (Sydney : N.S.W. Bookstall Co., 1923)

85. McLaren, Jack, 1887-1954.

*The skipper of the "Roaring Meg* by Jack McLaren ; illustrations by Percy Lindsay. (Sydney : N.S.W. Bookstall Co., 1923)/ "

86. McLaren, Jack, 1887-1954.

*Fagaloa's daughter* / by Jack McLaren ; illustrations by Percy Lindsay. (Sydney : N.S.W. Bookstall Co., 1923)

87. McLaren, Jack, 1887-1954.

*The hidden lagoon* / by Jack McLaren. (Sydney : N.S.W. Bookstall, 1926)



Item 85

Like Louis Becke, Jack McLaren sailed and worked in the Pacific before turning to writing. He began his literary career sending paragraphs to the *Bulletin* from his home on Cape York and in 1919 came to Sydney where he sold his first two novels to Rowlandson. He later moved to London where he enjoyed a long and successful career as a writer, though, once again like Becke, he was often in financial trouble. His novels typically deal with the sexual tension between men in the tropics and the local women.

88. Powell, S. W. (Sydney Walter), 1878- .

*The maker of pearls* / by S.W. Powell ; illustrations by Percy Lindsay. (Sydney : N.S.W. Bookstall Co., 1921)

89. Powell, S. W. (Sydney Walter), 1878- .

*The trader of Kameko* / by S.W. Powell ; illustrations by Percy Lindsay. (Sydney : N.S.W. Bookstall, 1923)

Born in England, Powell came to Australia in 1904, via South Africa, where he fought in the Boer War. He joined the Army in Brisbane and was stationed on Thursday Island. From there he began to contribute to the *Bulletin*. He lived for a while in New Zealand and Tahiti. When the war broke out he joined up and was sent to Gallipoli. After the war he began writing fiction set mainly in Tahiti and published by The Bookstall Co. He returned to England in 1925.

## Children's Books

The writers of stories for children typically seek exotic locales to stimulate the interest of the young. The jungles of Africa, the great plains of North America, the Australian outback and the Arctic ice-fields were exploited by writers throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Pacific was equally as popular, especially after the success of Ballantyne's *Coral Island* (1858).

**90. Ballantyne, R. M. (Robert Michael), 1825-1894.**

***The coral island : a tale of the Pacific Ocean* / by Robert Michael Ballantyne. New ed. (London : T. Nelson, 1897)**

**91. Ballantyne, R. M. (Robert Michael), 1825-1894.**

***The cannibal islands : Captain Cook's adventures in the South Seas* / by R.M. Ballantyne. (London : Nisbet, [1880?])**

Ballantyne was the nephew of James Ballantyne, Scott's publisher. At the age of 16, he went to Canada where he worked for five years for the Hudson Bay Company, experience which was later used by him in his first children's novel, *Snowflakes and sunbeams, or, the young fur-traders* (1856). Although *Coral Island* (1858) remains his best-known work, all of his books (more than 80 titles) were popular in their day.

*Coral Island* was written from published travel accounts and includes at least one notable mistake where he wrote that coconuts grew without husks. He was so embarrassed by this that he took great pains to write from personal experience as much as possible in his later works.

*The Cannibal Islands* is a re-working for children of incidents from Cook's first voyage. The copy on display is notable for the illustration on the cover of natives riding surf-boards.

**92. Smeaton, William Henry Oliphant, 1856-1914.**

***A mystery of the Pacific* / by Oliphant Smeaton ; with illustrations by Wal Paget. (London : Blackie, [1903])**

Although set in the Pacific, this novel centres on the discovery of a lost civilization of Romans found in the mid-Pacific.

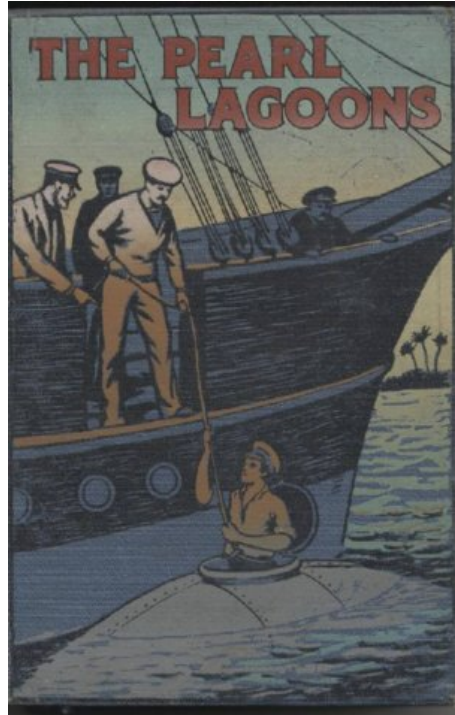
**93. MacDonald, Alexander, 1878-1939.**

***The island traders : a tale of the south seas* / by Alexander MacDonald ; illustrated by Charles M. Seldon. (London : Blackie and Son, 1908)**

**94. *Adventures in the South Pacific* / by One who was born there ; with illustrations by Lancelot Speed. (London : Religious Tract Society, [1908])**

95. Macdonald, Robert M. (Robert MacLauchlan)

*The pearl lagoons, or, The lost chief*  
/ by Robert Macdonald. (London : S.W.  
Partridge & Co., [1911?])



Item 95

96. Elias, Frank.

*A boy's adventures in the South  
Seas, or, With Williams to Erromanga* / by  
Frank Elias. (London : Religious Tract  
Society, [1914])

Part of the appeal of books from this period lies in the coloured cloth covers, from the vivid scene of two men being attacked by sharks on the cover of *Adventures in the South Pacific*, to the boy about to be lowered in a bathysphere on the cover of *The Pearl Lagoon*, and the idyllic scene of the steamer reflected in the calm waters on the cover of *The Island Traders*.

They were written to entertain, educate, and edify their young readers. Frank Elias's book for example sets out the heroic but tragic fate of the Rev. Williams (see item 28 for a factual account) while giving details of the culture of the New Hebrides and the better life the natives could enjoy as Christians.

97. Abbott, J. H. M. (John Henry Macartney), 1874-1953.

*The South Seas : (Melanesia)* / by  
J.H.M. Abbott ; with twelve full-page  
colour illustrations by Norman Hardy.  
(London : Adam and Charles Black, 1910)

This is part of the "Peeps at many lands" series. Hardy's colour plates are particularly realistic.



PORTRAIT OF A SOLOMON ISLAND CARIBAL. FIGURE 7

Item 97

## “A Swim for Life”

**98. “A swim for life”, Supplement to the *Illustrated Sydney News*, April 1881.**

This is a coloured engraving after a painting by Arthur Collingridge. “It represents an incident in the recent massacre by South Sea savages of Lieutenant-Commander Bower and four seamen of Her Majesty’s ship *Sandfly*.” (p. 14) This took place in November 1880 in the Solomons.



Item98

## Screens

Illustrations reproduced on the screens include images from the artists on Cook’s voyages; and Krusenstern’s voyage from 1803-1806. Also displayed are covers from sheet music with a Pacific, usually Hawaiian, theme (displayed by courtesy of Aline Scott-Maxwell and John Whiteoak)

## Corridor Cases

Copies of the magazine *Walkabout* showing illustrations of Pacific scenes.