

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

Logs and journals, 1770-84

Reels M1580-82

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Cook (1728-1779) was born at Merton in Yorkshire and grew up on a farm at Ayton. In 1747 he moved to Whitby and joined the merchant navy, working on colliers and other ships in the coastal trade and later in the Baltic Sea. In 1755 he joined the Royal Navy and in 1757 he qualified as a master. He served in North America during the Seven Years War, taking part in the capture of Louisburg and Quebec, and as master of HMS *Grenville* he spent five years surveying the coasts of Newfoundland.

In 1768 Cook was promoted to lieutenant and given command of HMS *Endeavour* on its voyage to the South Pacific. After visiting Tahiti and observing the transit of Venus (the ostensible purpose of the expedition), Cook mapped almost the entire coasts of New Zealand and also the eastern coast of Australia. He returned to England in July 1771 and was immediately promoted to the rank of captain. In 1772 he was commissioned by the Royal Society to search for a southern continent that many believed lay in the high latitudes of the South Pacific. HMS *Resolution*, accompanied by HMS *Adventure*, spent nearly three years exploring the extreme latitudes of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans, twice crossing the Antarctic Circle. Using bases in New Zealand and Tahiti, Cook also explored much of the South Pacific, including the Friendly Islands (Tonga), Easter Island, the New Hebrides, New Caledonia and Norfolk Island. In July 1776 Cook, again commanding HMS *Resolution* and accompanied by HMS *Discovery*, set off on his third great voyage with the aim of exploring the North Pacific and discovering the North West Passage. After visiting Van Diemen's Land, New Zealand and the Friendly Islands, he discovered the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) and explored the north-western coast of America as far as the Bering Strait. Returning to the Sandwich Islands, he was killed in a skirmish with the Hawaiians in February 1779.

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Add. MS 27885

Part of holograph log of Lieutenant James Cook on HMS *Endeavour*, 18 February – 23 September 1770. (51 folios)

The log begins when the *Endeavour* was passing Banks Peninsula on the South Island of New Zealand and records the voyage round the southern and western coasts, the departure from New Zealand, the sighting of New Holland (23 April), the exploration of the eastern coast, the time spent at Botany Bay (28 April – 6 May) and Endeavour River (17 June – 5 August), and the voyage through Torres Strait to the west coast of New Guinea, Timor and Savu in the East Indies.

At the beginning of the log are a page of calculations by Cook and two receipts signed by William Parry, surgeon's mate, Batavia, 6 November 1770. At the end of the log is a printed form entitled 'Computation for finding the Longitude by observations', filled in by Cook.

Note: The holograph journal of Cook kept on HMS *Endeavour* is held in the National Library of Australia (MS 1).

Add. Ms 27886

Holograph journal of Captain James Cook on HMS *Resolution*, 28 November 1771 – 10 November 1774. (320 ff.)

The journal begins on 28 November 1771, when Cook received his commission to command HMS *Drake*, which shortly after was re-named HMS *Resolution*. There are no further entries until May 1772. HMS *Resolution* and *Adventure* left Plymouth on 13 July 1772 and the journal records the voyage to Cape Town, the southern Indian Ocean, Dusky Sound, New Zealand (March – May 1773), Queen Charlotte Sound, Tahiti (Aug. 1773), the Friendly Islands (Oct. 1773), the separation from the *Adventure* (Oct. 1773), Queen Charlotte Sound (Nov. 1773), the southern Pacific Ocean, Easter Island (March 1774), the Marquesas Islands (April 1774), Tahiti (April – May 1774), Huahine (May 1774), Savage Island (Niue) (June 1774), Tonga (June 1774), New Hebrides (July – Sept. 1774) and New Caledonia (Oct. 1774). The journal ends with the *Resolution* sailing south-east towards the Straits of Magellan.

The journal was written in seven folio books bound in thick marbled paper which were later taken apart and re-bound in a guardbook. There are a number of calculations, notes by the ship's master (Joseph Gilbert) and other insertions. The most substantial is an extract in a clerk's hand from the journal of Captain Tobias Furneaux on HMS *Adventure*, 8 February – 15 May 1773, written when he explored the eastern coast of Van Diemen's Land (ff. 97-105). The first page of the journal is written in another hand and is headed 'Remarks in Long Island Sound'.

Add. MS 27887

Fair copy of log of Captain James Cook on HMS *Resolution*, 30 November 1771 – 10 November 1774. (142 ff.)

This manuscript is a fair copy of the holograph log of Cook (Add. MS 27956), including the first part of the voyage which is missing in the holograph log. The period 30 November 1771 – 13 July 1772 takes up less than two pages. There are a few minor additions and corrections in Cook's hand. The log contains a number of drawings and charts of Madeira and the Cape Verde and Canary Islands: profiles of Porto Santo, a chart of 'Fonchall [Funchal] Bay', a chart of the island of Palma, profiles of St Iago [Jago], and a chart of Porto Praya (Praia). Pasted at the end of the volume are a number of sheets giving daily ships' positions and meteorological observations of various passages. The last, giving the route of the *Adventure* from New Zealand to the Cape of Good Hope, is in Cook's hand.

Add. MS 27956

Part of holograph log of Captain James Cook on HMS *Resolution*, 16 October 1773 – 28 July 1775. (145 ff.)

The log opens when the *Resolution* was sailing from Tonga to Queen Charlotte Sound in New Zealand continues to the end of the voyage. It appears that it was originally in two volumes. At the end of the volume are two leaves entitled 'Descriptions of bearings and harbours within Trinity Bay' [Newfoundland] and a few mathematical calculations.

Reel M1581

Eg. MS 2177A

Holograph journal of Captain James Cook on HMS *Resolution*, 10 February 1776 – 6 January 1779. (605 ff.)

The journal begins with Cook receiving his commission to command the *Resolution* and the preparations for the voyage. It records the departure from Plymouth (12 July 1776) and the voyage to Cape Town, Kerguelen, Adventure Bay, Van Diemen's Land (Jan. 1777), Queen Charlotte Sound (Feb. 1777), the Friendly Islands (May – July 1777), Tahiti (Aug. – Sept. 1777), Huahine (Oct. 1777), the Sandwich Islands [Hawaii] (Jan. –Feb. 1778), New Albion (March – Nov. 1778), Alaska, Arctic Ocean, Aleutian Islands, and the Sandwich Islands (Nov. 1778 – Jan. 1779). The last entry was written about five weeks before Cook was killed at Kealakekua Bay.

The journal appears to have been written with the eventual publication in mind and is more polished, and is more of a narrative, than is the case with Cook's earlier journals. He concentrated on the countries and islands that he visited, while the entries written when the ship was at sea are relatively brief. As with his other journals, there are occasional blanks left for figures.

Reel M1582

Eg. MS 2177B

Fragments of holograph log of Captain James Cook on HMS *Resolution*, 28 November 1778 – 17 January 1779. (4 ff.)

The fragments, written on very large sheets of papers, is not in the usual tabular form, but the entries are very brief and mostly record winds, bearings and position. There are a few references to encounters with the Hawaiian Islanders. The log is accompanied by the original instructions from the Admiralty to Cook (6 July 1776), signed by Lord Sandwich, Lord Spencer and Palliser and extracts from the instructions to Lieutenant Richard Pickersgill, commander of the brig HMS *Lyon* (14 May 1776) and Lieut. Walter Young, commander of the brig *Lyon* (12 March 1777). In 1776 and 1777 the *Lyon* was sent to Baffin Bay in Canada to search for the north-west passage and possibly link up with Cook, but the expeditions were failures.

Eg. MS2178

Journal of Captain James Cook on HMS *Resolution*, February 1776 - July 1777, rewritten by John Douglas, volume 1. (358 ff.)

The journal is preceded by a lengthy introduction (ff. 1-63), including an extract from a letter (18 May 1784) of Henry Roberts, the master's mate on the *Resolution*. There is also a list of plates. Reverend John Douglas (1721-1807), later Bishop of Salisbury, edited Cook's journal of his third voyage, entitled *Voyage to the Pacific Ocean* (1784). While based on Cook's journal, Douglas made many changes, some minor, some substantial. The manuscript, which contains many deletions and marginal additions, appears to be the copy sent to the printer.

Eg. MS 2179

Journal of Captain James Cook on HMS *Resolution*, July 1777 – January 1779, rewritten by John Douglas, volume 2. (325 ff.)

The volume is similar to the previous volume, although there are somewhat fewer deletions. It includes many marginal additions and inserted pages. At the end of the volume is a printed map (1780) by Thomas Kitchin of the discoveries made by Captain Cook and other navigators in the Pacific Ocean.