

Christine Holmes, ed. *Captain Cook's Final Voyage: The Journal of Midshipman George Gilbert*. Honolulu: The University of Hawaii Press, 1982. 168 pp. \$20.00.

Captain James Cook's final (and fateful) venture of 1776-1780 has long been one of the best documented of all voyages of exploration and discovery, thanks to the publicizing efforts of the British government and scholars like Beaglehole, as well as the far-reaching importance of the expedition's accomplishments. Up to a dozen partial or complete accounts are extant in manuscript or published form.

Now comes yet another journal--only some of which was previously published by Beaglehole--from the pen of young George Gilbert, a midshipman on the *Resolution*. The journal is short, objective, quite straightforward, even unadorned. But it adds little to what is already known of the third voyage, corroborating the tedium of protracted anchorages, the rigors of routine duty, the attractive islanders and the natural beauty and bounty of the South Seas, the forbidding shoreline and unattractive natives of the Northwest Coast, the hardships and frustration of probing twice and vainly for a northwest passage, and the primitive conditions, indolence, and generous hospitality of Kamchatka's Russians.

At times Gilbert is disappointingly cursory, as at Nootka Sound and Macao. But he is not uncritical. In particular, he notes his aging commander's shortening temper, increasing fatigue, and uncustomary harshness, all of which proved his undoing at Kealakekua Bay. Cook's unnecessary cruelty was displayed on the Tongan and Society Islands, where he ordered ears cut off and houses burned down as punishment for persistent petty theft. Given such treatment, plus hostage-taking (in order to regain deserters), the depletion of food supply by purchase and requisition, debauchery, and the introduction of disease (venereal and tubercular), rats, grog, tobacco, and Christianity, it is a wonder that more Pacific islanders did not perish and more Euroamerican interlopers were not killed. Gilbert himself was relieved when the "long, tedious and disagreeable voyage" was over.

The journal has been ably introduced but exiguously annotated. The editor has dropped the 'd ending on past participles in favor of *ed* but, curiously, retained *tho'*, *tutching*, and *pervilent*. She has supplied helpful margin headings, but an index would have been more useful.

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