

Louis Claude de Saulses de Freycinet. *Hawai'i in 1819: A Narrative Account*. Trans. Ella L. Wiswell. Marion Kelly, ed. Honolulu: Bishop Museum Press, 1978. Paper. Pp. xii, 136, illustrations, maps. \$6.95.

Théodore-Adolphe Barrot. *Unless Haste is Made: A French Skeptic's Account of the Sandwich Islands in 1836*. Kailua, Hawai'i: Press Pacifica, 1978. Pp. 128, illustrations, index. \$4.95.

De Freycinet's account of conditions in Hawai'i in 1819 is taken from chapters 27 and 28 of his *Voyages Around the World* The primary importance of the Freycinet journal is accurately summarized by anthropologist Ben Finney. "What is perhaps most valuable and unique of de Freycinet's account is that it furnishes us with a picture of the political situation on the island of Hawai'i at a crucial period in the history of the emergent Hawaiian monarchy." The arrival of the *Uranie* in Hawaiian waters a few weeks after the death of the great chief Kamehameha was an opportune if not propitious time when the question of royal succession

and consolidation of Kamehameha's conquests came to the forefront of island politics. The distribution of political and economic power among the paramount chiefs became the fundamental issue and source of conflict observed by de Freycinet.

Being well acquainted with the journals of his exploratory predecessor James Cook, de Freycinet was cautious and sensitive in his scrutiny of Hawaiian social and political behavior, observing the imposition of ritual *kapu* on persons and places with considerable trepidation. Conversely, de Freycinet was considerably more descriptive of the Hawaiian "beach" community, who provided valuable insight into the important developments in Hawaiian politics. Descriptions of the Hawaiian chiefs are set forth with some restraint and comports with descriptions given by other island visitors.

Another valuable feature of the publication are the numerous and important footnotes and annotations of editor Kelly, which greatly supplement de Freycinet's narrative. Likewise maps by cartographer J. I. Duperrey and drawings by Jacques Arago complement the literary descriptions. Some comment must be made on the data compiled by de Freycinet. Although the primary interest of the expedition focused on geographic, botanical, and other scientific research, de Freycinet could not refrain from acquiring statistical data on some of the physical attributes of the Hawaiians themselves, including some of the chiefs. Nor could de Freycinet refrain from commenting on the physical appearances of particular personalities, both Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian. The early-nineteenth century account is generally free from critical commentary and observations generally found in later source material. It may well be that de Freycinet's voyage was the last of the "noble savage" visions initiated by Europeans during the course of the eighteenth century.

Barrot's narrative has less objectivity. Written seventeen years after de Freycinet's visit, Barrot's account is occasionally punctuated with factual errors and littered from time to time with anti-missionary remarks which reflect his own personal discontent with Hawaiian society in the 1830s. Though Barrot maintains a largely journalistic tenor, he is not oblivious to important political and social developments, particularly in the foreign resident community. He is impressed with the hospitality of the chiefs, but skeptical with the consequences "civilization" thrust upon Hawaiian society. Barrot adds little in the way of historical data, but confirms impressions made by other visitors on the general social state of the islands during the early nineteenth century. Barrot is perceptive in his observations, but occasionally lapses into philosophical monologue on future prospects of the islands under the increasing influence of foreign nations. Almost ironically, Barrot fails to mention the French presence in the is-

lands, though considerable comment is made on Jean Rives. This may have been due to the short length of his visit or perhaps to his reluctance to take a position against his own countrymen in view of his own ambivalence on European and American activities in the islands.

William E. Tagupa
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