

had a keen eye for topographical detail and this collection certainly enhances his reputation in this area.

Before the acquisition of these 131 drawings for critical scholarship, Ellis was represented in the British Museum (Natural History) by the 115 drawings and paintings aforementioned, by 16 watercolour landscapes in the Rex Nan Kivell Collection in the National Library of Australia, Canberra; in the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (10), the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu (3), the Mitchell Library, Sydney (1), the Public Record Office, London (1) and in the Hocken Library, Dunedin (1). Compared with Webber his known representation and output seems small. All the more welcome, therefore, to wider 'Cook scholarship' are these Turnbull acquisitions. Since, apart from the astronomer William Bayly and the Kew gardener David Nelson, no civilian scientists were carried on the third voyage, it is to the naval 'scientists' Anderson, King and Ellis that we must look for the scientific record of this exploration.

Until now Ellis has been the least known of Cook's artists and scientists. Any addition to the body of information concerning him is welcome to all scholars of Cook. Ellis—mute except for his book, drawings, paintings, a couple of letters and some scanty notes—leaves us tantalized and puzzled. No Ellis log is known or none has survived, although Samwell said he helped Clerke write up 'his log &c'<sup>31</sup>

Whitehead has pointed to the 'remarkable contrast' between the 'determination, courage, good planning and great care' exhibited by all the scientific staff of Cook's three voyages and the later 'delays, misfortunes, dissensions, intrigues (and at times downright malice) that so beset the publication of the results'.<sup>32</sup>

Through his own folly or straitened circumstances Ellis perhaps became part of the 'misfortunes'. But we would like to think the magnanimous Banks soon forgave him, even if he could do little to advance him in the Navy. The Forsters, whose career Ellis must have felt was something like his own with debts, unofficial narratives, sales of drawings to Banks and so on, returned to Germany to pursue their careers. In 1785—perhaps guided or recommended by Banks—William Webb Ellis took ship for the Continent, going (so it is said) to take up an appointment under the patronage of the 'radical and rational' Habsburg Emperor Joseph II (1741-90) for a voyage of discovery. But Ellis's odyssey ended in June 1785 when he fell to his death from the mainmast of a ship before reaching Ostend.<sup>33</sup>

To know more of Ellis, to find more relics of Ellis and put flesh on to that 'worthy', delicate surgeon and artist we will need to search some Continental archives; to search, too, in Cambridge and St Bartholomew's for an undergraduate and a medical student. Of seven