



*Tu, Ariki of Pare, later Pomare I of Tahiti (d. 1803) painted at Tahiti, August 1777, by John Webber RA (1751–93) oils on prepared board 36.2 × 28 cm.*

improvements he has sence made in the isles has convinc'd me of my Mistake and that he must be a Man of good parts, he has indeed some judicious, sensible men about him whom I beleive have a great share in the Government. I am sorry to see a jealousy subsisting between him and other great Men . . .'

In August 1777 Tu was in high favour and as previously spent much time at Matavai Bay, while Cook also visited him at Pare, a little further along the coast, where he enjoyed Tu's hospitality on more than one occasion and frequently exchanged gifts with him. Clever, shrewd and ambitious, Tu took full advantage of Cook's highly influential patronage and of continued English support subsequently, and of the gradual elimination of his chiefly rivals in the frequent wars.