

An eighteenth century account purports to give the circumstances in which the portrait was painted. It first mentions the visit to Tahiti in July 1788 of the transport *Lady Penrhyn* and a meeting there with Tu. 'The charming proof of O'too's tender and inviolable friendship for Captain Cook' was attested by Tu's being 'attended by a man carrying the portrait of that illustrious Englishman, without which he never moves from one place to another'. The account indicates that, according to the artist himself, 'O'too, by the Captain's particular desire, sat to Mr Webber, in order to furnish such a memorial of his features, as might serve for the subject of a complete whole length picture, on the return of the ship to England. . . . [Tu] was informed that it would be kept by Captain Cook, as a perpetual memorial of his person, his friendship, and the many favours received from him. He seemed pleased with the idea, and instantly replied, that, for the very same reasons, a picture of Captain Cook would be highly acceptable to him. . . . Captain Cook, charmed with the natural sincerity of his manner, complied with his request much more readily than on any other occasion he would have granted such a favour.'

It appears that the projected full length portrait of Tu was never painted so the present head and shoulders study gains added importance. According to family legend King already had a Webber portrait of Cook and at the latter's request exchanged it for that of Tu so that the chief might be given the Captain's likeness that he so much desired. This of course has long vanished.

The highlight of the Turnbull's extensive holdings of material relating to the Pacific is the great Voyages Collection, with especial emphasis on Cook. The Cook Collection is probably the most comprehensive and important in the world, including all significant published items and also Professor Beaglehole's photocopies of all known Cook related manuscripts. The Library also holds a small collection of original manuscripts and works of art in this field. In 1973 the Endowment Trust purchased at Christie's an excellent large red chalk drawing of a man of Tanna in the New Hebrides, by Hodges; and in 1976 the Library acquired a large collection of Pacific drawings made on the Third Voyage by William Ellis, which are of great research value to both historians and scientists.

The Webber portrait of Tu is not only of considerable merit as a work of art but is also of great historical importance, both for its close associations with Cook and King and because of Tu's place in the history of the South Pacific. The painting is a most valuable addition, one of the most important Pacific acquisitions to the Library in the sixty years since the death of the founder.