

The full title, identical for each volume apart from the numbering, differs in several details from that of the 1784 edition. It will also be noted that no mention is made of Grasset de Saint-Sauveur, and that the work is attributed to Sylvain Maréchal with whom he had indeed already collaborated and with whom he would collaborate again in the future. The engraved frontispieces which appear in each of the four volumes are dated 1787 and the title-pages 1788, but the work appears under the *privilège* and *approbation* originally granted to Jacques Grasset de Saint-Sauveur in 1784. Of the three copies sighted only two contain the essay, 'Moeurs et Coutumes des Insulaires de la Nouvelle Zelande' which occupies eight pages, paginated [1]-8.

For his information about New Zealand Grasset de Saint-Sauveur (or Sylvain Maréchal) had turned to the account of Cook's third voyage first published in London in 1784, of which four French translations had appeared by 1788.² He provides an almost continuous adaptation, interspersed nevertheless with numerous excisions and interpolations. It is possible that the few lines devoted to topography and natural history may be derived from Hawkesworth, but the predominant role of the principal English source cannot be doubted. Among the original additions we must, for the moment at least, classify comments on human vanity and personal adornment, interpretations of *moko*, meditations on liberty and the right to live in independence, texts of a war chant and a song, and a charming analogy drawn between tikis and European custom.³

The text is illustrated with one plate, an unsigned aquatint of an 'Insulaire de la Nouvelle Zélande', of which all copies sighted are hand-coloured. Its source remains to be identified.

II

Although some of the material incorporated in 'Moeurs et Coutumes des Insulaires de la Nouvelle Zelande' will later reappear in different form, the essay as a whole produced no offspring. Such is not the case however for the essay 'Moeurs, Loix et Costumes des Sauvages de la Nouvelle Zélande', a text of nine pages first issued without date or place of publication, which stands manifestly as ancestor to all subsequent texts associated with Grasset de Saint-Sauveur.⁴

Once again we are confronted with a collaborative work associating this time Grasset de Saint-Sauveur with Jean-François Cornu, 'Man of Law', about whom we have discovered nothing