

voyage. Only in the wake of the great scientific voyages of the 1820s, 1830s and 1840s will France 'discover' New Zealand.

And so the six New Zealand essays and seven engravings associated with Jacques Grasset de Saint-Sauveur, despite the surprisingly large corpus they represent in themselves, are unexceptional when replaced in their fuller context. In their lack of originality they are typical of their time, and their bibliographical intricacies may be of little fundamental significance, yet the plates alone—as filled with charm and awkward innocence as they are void of ethnographic truth—redeem them, and earn for their publishers, engravers and principal begetter a modest place in the gallery of eighteenth century New Zealand art.



Fille parée de la nouvelle Zeelande (2nd state) aquatint, hand-col. 20.8 × 14.4 cm.  
(In *Encyclopédie des voyages*, 1796) Alexander Turnbull Library