

those that obtained on the voyages. Nevertheless the depiction of indigenous peoples became an increasingly important concern with each voyage. Cook followed his instructions but, as John Beaglehole observed, never felt himself limited by them. 'A man would never accomplish much in discovery who only stuck to his orders' Cook had advised his young French correspondent Latouche-Treville.<sup>10</sup>

Cook was forty-eight when he embarked on his third voyage in 1776. He had just completed preparing the text of his second voyage for John Douglas his editor. His portrait had been painted by Nathaniel Dance. He was already the most famous navigator in the world and he must have been aware of it, knew that he had already made history, that on the present voyage he would be making more history and had in John Webber an artist capable of recording it.

It would seem also that he had developed a fairly clear idea how that history, the history of the third voyage, should be presented in publication. While at the Cape in returning to England on the second voyage he had been mortified and distressed by the many inaccuracies in Hawkesworth's account of his first voyage and by the attitudes attributed to him that were not his.<sup>11</sup> Nor did he appreciate the controversies that had arisen from Hawkesworth's discussion of the sexual practices and freedoms of Tahitian society. On that issue he had written to John Douglas in quite unequivocal terms, concerning the second voyage: 'In short my desire is that nothing indecent may appear in the whole book, and you cannot oblige me more than by pointing out whatever may appear to you as such'.<sup>12</sup> That meant surely that Webber would not be spending much time drawing naked savages in the Pacific even though he may have spent time drawing nude men and women in the life class of the École des Beaux Arts.

The test came early. From 24 to 30 January 1777 the *Resolution* and *Discovery* havened in Adventure Bay, Van Diemen's Land, to wood and water. Twice a party of Tasmanians came out of the woods to greet the woodcutters, 'without', Cook recorded, 'shewing the least mark of fear and with the greatest confidence imaginable, for none of them had any weapons, except one who had in his hand a stick about 2 feet long and pointed at one end. They were quite naked & wore no ornaments, except the large punctures or ridges raised on the skin . . .'.<sup>13</sup>

Webber appears to have made this drawing (Plate 1) to record the second meeting on 29 January:

We had not be[en] long landed before about twenty of them men and boys joined us without expressing the least fear or distrust, some of them were the same as had been with us the day before, but the greater part were strangers. There was one who was much deformed, being humpbacked, he was no less distinguishable by his wit and humour, which he shewed on all occasions and we regretted much that we could not understand him for their language was wholly unintelligible to us . . . Some of these men wore loose round the neck 3 or 4 folds of small Cord which was made