



Plate 1. John Webber, 'An Interview between Captain Cook and the Natives', pencil, pen and wash, 66 x 97.2 cm. 1777. Naval Library, Ministry of Defence, London.

This itself caused resentment.

Some of the tensions that developed on the second voyage are implicitly revealed in George Forster's *A Voyage round the World* (1777). After providing a detailed account of Cook's attempted landing at Eromanga, he wrote:

From his [i.e. Cook's] account of this unhappy dispute, Mr. Hodges has invented a drawing, which is meant as a representation of his interview with the natives. For my own part, I cannot entirely persuade myself that these people had any hostile intentions in detaining our boat. The levelling of a musket at them, or rather at their chief, provoked them to attack our crew. On our part this manoeuvre was equally necessary; but it is much to be lamented that the voyages of Europeans cannot be performed without being fatal to the nations whom they visit.¹⁷

Comments of this kind aroused the anger of William Wales, the meteorologist on the voyage, a man who felt deeply loyal to Cook whatever the circumstance and was also a good friend on the voyage of William Hodges. In his *Remarks on Mr. Forster's Account of Captain Cook's last Voyage round the World* (1778) he described Forster's description of the affair at Eromanga as 'one of the most singular pieces of misrepresentation and detraction that ever dropped from a pen'.¹⁸ This was characteristic of the vitriolic attack which Wales launched on the book as a whole. It caused George Forster in turn to publish his *Reply to Mr Wales's Remarks* (1778). Concerning Eromanga he wrote in defence: