

Depicting Pacific peoples

BERNARD SMITH

First, may I thank the Committee of the Friends of the Turnbull Library for inviting me to give the first of the Founder's Lectures. This is a great honour and one that I shall treasure. I owe much to scholars born in this country: Professor A. D. Trendall, who taught me the little I know about classical archaeology; the late Professor J. W. Davidson, Foundation Professor of Pacific History at the Australian National University, who made it possible for me to deepen my interest in the European perception of the Pacific; and the late Professor J. C. Beaglehole who first suggested that I should make a catalogue of the work of the artists and others who travelled with Cook. I did not realise that his almost casual suggestion in 1949 would involve me in a lifetime's work.

It is generally agreed that Cook's three voyages greatly enhanced the economic and political power of Europe in the Pacific. But before such power could be fully exercised certain basic sciences and technologies, the efficient maidservants of power, had themselves to be enhanced. Cook's voyages advanced astronomy, navigation and cartography or, as he might have put it, geographical science. But there were other sciences of less direct concern to the Admiralty enhanced by his voyages and these also contributed in their time to European domination in the Pacific, namely natural history, meteorology and the emergent science of ethnography.

Important advances were made in all these sciences continuously throughout the three voyages, but there were differences in emphasis. The first voyage is the botanical voyage, *par excellence*, the second voyage is the meteorological voyage, and the third, the ethnographic voyage.

These changing emphases were due largely, though not entirely to contingent factors. On the *Endeavour* voyage, Banks, Solander and Parkinson with their interests centred on botany made a powerful team. On the second voyage, Cook himself, his astronomers Wales and Bayly, the two Forsters, and William Hodges, the artist, were all deeply interested in the changing conditions of wind and weather, light and atmosphere, as they traversed vast sections of the southern oceans. By the third voyage Cook had come to realise that both scientific and

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