

use Willoughby's words, glorying in her role as part of a "new vigorous race ... potent to mould the beginnings of their wilderness land." As Pagh points out, this "daughter of the coast accepts her heritage as a shaper and conqueror of the landscape ... happily ignorant of woman's position" in the hierarchy of man over nature (152).

Earlier in her study, Nancy Pagh points us to the possibilities for future

work: using the techniques of oral history, dealing with male tourists in greater depth than does this study, looking at women who shared power equally on the water or who were captains of their own boats. Many of us who only made it to "first mate" look forward to such studies. Nancy Pagh's intriguing book has paved the way and has certainly whetted my appetite for more.

Captain Cook's World: Maps of the Life and Voyages of James Cook R.N.

James Robson

Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2000. 211 pp. Maps. US\$40 cloth.

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IF YOU WANT to know exactly where Britain's illustrious explorer, James Cook, went on his voyages of discovery (and I mean *exactly*), then this is your book. *Captain Cook's World* is comprised of 128 original (hand-drawn and computerized) sketch maps that depict Cook's movements and activities and, in a sense, attempt to explain his life through maps. John Robson, a librarian at Waikato University and the New Zealand representative of the internationally based Captain Cook Study Unit, provides us with an elegant visual synopsis of Cook's travels. Robson's justification for yet another book on this famous figure is that both the scholarly and popular literature is bereft of the kind of detailed and accurate maps that enable us to follow Cook around the world and work out precisely

where he encountered different peoples. The Hakluyt Society of London has published a three-volume collection of charts and maps pertaining to Cook's three voyages, but these volumes are very expensive and are inaccessible to most readers, and many of their maps are not very detailed. Robson has synthesized a much wider range of geographical and cartographic information than was either generated by or available to Cook and his team, and he has produced a book that makes a distinctive and valuable contribution to the enormous literature on Cook's voyages.

The maps in this book incorporate a plethora of place names; the tracks of Cook's vessels; pertinent geographical information; the location of monuments, museums, and archival collections devoted to Cook's endeavours; and small blocks of text that

place Cook's activities within wider contexts. Large-scale maps summarize different legs of Cook's voyages, and smaller-scale maps provide some fine detail of Cook's sweep of different parts of the Pacific, where he anchored, and the surrounding physical terrain and Aboriginal geography. *Captain Cook's World* is organized in four main sections, which take us through Cook's early life and three voyages; and Robson introduces his cartographic labours with some potted chronologies of Cook's efforts and European exploration during the eighteenth century.

This is a visually attractive volume that will appeal to scholars (who will find it a useful accompaniment to J.C. Beaglehole's magisterial edition of Cook's voyages) and to general readers (who will gain some vivid insights into the geographical circumstances within which Cook lived and worked). Robson admirably sifts through the flaws and inconsistencies in a range of original sources to arrive at as accurate a picture of Cook's whereabouts as we are likely to get, and he presents a wealth of information in an uncluttered and consistent fashion.

Yet I have a basic problem with this book and many others like it that focus on European explorers; namely, that such work is stuck in a Eurocentric mould. Authors like Robson do not feel the need to acknowledge or question the fact that the experience of travel is explored from within the self-

privileging imaginary that inspired Cook's voyages and still frames how his achievements are viewed. European agendas and experiences remain of intrinsic interest, and we get a much thinner sense of the cross-cultural and intersubjective dimensions of exploration and contact. Robson, for instance, barely acknowledges the fact that some of the charts, journals, and sketches produced by Cook and his crews drew upon and manipulated information supplied by Aboriginal peoples, and he barely explores the Aboriginal agendas that influenced what Cook did and where he went. This is not entirely Robson's fault, for his understanding of Cook's life is derived largely from Beaglehole's work, which does not delve very far into Aboriginal agendas either. But Robson could have drawn upon the work of scholars who have questioned a European intellectual tradition that continues to celebrate the exploits of European explorers, and he could have brought the Aboriginal aspects of European-Aboriginal contact in the Pacific more clearly into view. I think, particularly, of the work of Nicholas Thomas, Greg Dening, Anne Salmond, Marshall Sahlins, and Gananath Obeyesekere, which Robson does not cite. Cook's achievements may be self-evident to an Englishman like Robson, but we should be careful not to assume that they are self-evident to Aboriginal peoples.