

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**CAPTAIN JAMES COOK**

**Journal, 1772-75**

**Reel M722**

**National Library of Ireland  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2 Ireland**

**National Library of Australia  
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**Filmed: 1969**

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Cook (1728-1779) was born at Merton, Yorkshire and grew up on a farm at Ayton. In 1747 he moved to Whitby and joined the merchant navy, working on colliers and other ships in the coastal trade and later in the Baltic Sea. In 1755 he joined the Royal Navy and in 1757 he qualified as a master. He served in North America during the Seven Years War, taking part in the capture of Louisburg and Quebec, and as master of HMS *Grenville* he spent five years surveying the coasts of Newfoundland.

In 1768 Cook was promoted to lieutenant and given command of HMS *Endeavour* on its voyage to the South Pacific. After visiting Tahiti and observing the transit of Venus (the ostensible purpose of the expedition), Cook mapped the entire coasts of New Zealand and the eastern coast of Australia. He returned to England in July 1771 and was immediately promoted to the rank of captain. In 1772 he was commissioned by the Royal Society to search for a southern continent that many believed lay in the high latitudes of the South Pacific. HMS *Resolution*, accompanied by HMS *Adventure*, spent nearly three years exploring the extreme latitudes of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans, twice crossing the Antarctic Circle. Using bases in New Zealand and Tahiti, Cook also explored much of the South Pacific, including the Friendly Islands (Tonga), Easter Island, the New Hebrides, New Caledonia and Norfolk Island. In July 1776 Cook, again commanding HMS *Resolution*, set off on his third great voyage with the aim of exploring the North Pacific and discovering the North West Passage. He discovered the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) and explored the north-western coast of America as far as the Bering Strait. Returning to the Sandwich Islands, he was killed in a skirmish with the Hawaiians in February 1779.

## JOURNALS OF THE SECOND VOYAGE

Cook's holograph journals of his second voyage to the Pacific are held in the British Library (Add MSS 27886, 27888). They have been filmed by the Australian Joint Copying Project (reel M1580). Other versions of the journal, written by William Dawson, the clerk on HMS *Resolution*, are in The National Archives and the National Maritime Museum. The manuscript in the National Library of Ireland closely resembles the journal in the National Maritime Museum. It appears to be in the hand of Alexander Dewar, the clerk on HMS *Adventure*.

The journal was part of the collection of Dr Jasper Robert Joly (1819-1892), the vicar of Tuam, and was presented to the Royal Dublin Society in 1863. His collection formed part of the foundation collections of the National Library of Ireland in 1877.

## CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

### Reel M722

Journal of Captain James Cook kept on HMS *Resolution* on his second voyage to the Pacific, 9 April 1772 – 19 July 1775, 2 volumes

Volume 1 (MS J.7): 9 April 1772-14 May 1774 (416pp)

Volume 2 (MS. J.8): 15 May 1774-19 July 1775 (458pp)

The journal commences when the *Resolution* was being fitted out at Deptford. It sailed from Plymouth on 13 July 1772 and visited Cape Town (October 1772), Dusky Bay, New Zealand (March-May 1773), Queen Charlotte Sound, New Zealand (May-June 1773), Tahiti (August-September 1773), the Friendly Islands (October 1773), Queen Charlotte Sound (November 1773), Easter Island (March 1774), Tahiti (April-June 1774), the Friendly Islands (June 1774), the New Hebrides (July-August 1774), Norfolk Island (October 1774), Queen Charlotte Sound (October 1774), Tierra del Fuego (December 1774-January 1775), Cape Town (March-April 1775) and St Helena (April-May 1775). It returned to Portsmouth on 29 July 1775.

The entries when the ship was at sea, including the lengthy periods in the Southern Ocean, are relatively brief. In contrast, the descriptions of the lands and islands that were visited, and the peoples who were encountered, are substantial. In particular, following his practice in the journal of his first voyage, Cook set down his impressions of the topography, fauna and flora, and resources of the places that he visited and the appearance, manners, customs and artefacts of the indigenous peoples. The following entries are of particular importance:

11 May 1773: Dusky Bay

17 September 1773: Tahiti

7 October 1773: Friendly Islands (Tonga)

17 March 1774: Easter Island, including short vocabulary

12 April 1774: Marquesas

14 May 1774: Tahiti

1 July 1774: Friendly Islands (Tonga)

23 July 1774: Malekula (Vanuatu)

20 August 1774: Tana (Vanuatu)

31 August 1774: New Hebrides (Vanuatu)

13 September 1774: Balade (New Caledonia)

3 January 1775: Tierra del Fuego (Strait of Magellan)

21 February 1775: Completion of voyage at high latitudes

6 April 1775: St Helena

13 June 1775: Azores

The journal contains no original maps or sketches, but 12 engraved charts have been inserted. They include charts of Dusky Bay, the Friendly Islands, Easter Island and Marquesa de Mendoza.