

## Captain Cook's New Voyage, 1774

**I**N 1774 James Rivington of New York published a work in two volumes, *A New Voyage, round the World, In the Years 1768, 1769, 1770, and 1771; Undertaken by Order of his present Majesty. Performed by Captain James Cook. . . . By John Hawkesworth, L.L.D. and late Director of the East-India Company. In two volumes: With Cutts and a Map of the whole Navigation.* Volume 1. New-York: Printed by James Rivington, 1774.

Volume I has pages [2], 17, [1], 4, [2], 260; and Volume II contains pages [2], 250. The first volume includes seventeen pages of a list of Subscribers, covering the several colonies, Canada and the West Indies, and containing six hundred and sixty-eight names, one of the longest lists in any American book before the Revolution. A varying issue, otherwise identical throughout, contains an additional list of forty-seven subscribers on the reverse of page 17. A third issue omits the entire list of subscribers and bears the imprint: "Printed for William Aikman, Bookseller and Stationer, at Annapolis, 1774." There was no Maryland list in the earliest issue and Aikman evidently thought that he could sell enough copies to justify Rivington putting Aikman's name in the imprint. The American Antiquarian Society has all three issues, and one or more editions are in many libraries.

There are three engraved plates in the two volumes. The frontispiece of Volume I is entitled: "Dramatic Interlude & Dance given by the Indians of Ulietea performed by two Women & Six Men with three Drums." The plate is headed "to front the title of Cooks Voyage Vol Ist," and is signed in lower right corner "P Revere scp." The size of the print is  $4\frac{15}{16}$  by  $6\frac{5}{8}$  inches. Opposite the first page of the text is a long folding map of the world, which is signed at the lower right corner "Protracted by B. Romans," and presumably engraved by him. The frontispiece of Volume II shows "A New Zealand Warriour" and "Two Natives of New Holland." It is unsigned. Neither the map nor the second plate is in Revere's style, in design, or in lettering.

Rivington, who published the work, took good care to announce it in his newspaper, *Rivington's New-York Gazetteer*, during the year 1774 (file in American Antiquarian Society). He made a preliminary announcement in the issue of February 3, 1774. In the issue of February 24, he elaborately described the prospective publication and said: "The principal Copper Plate Cutts, expressive of the Persons, Habits, Ceremonies, Pastimes, &c. &c. of the Inhabitants are engraving, and will be delivered with the Book; the utmost Price of which shall not exceed One Dollar and an Half." On October 20, 1774, he advertised the work as "This Day is published," and said: "These books are printed upon a paper fabricated by Mr. Christopher Leffingwell, of Norwich in Connecticut, with ink made at Boston, and every part of the labour effected by inhabitants of the city of New-York." The price was announced as twelve shillings half bound, and sixteen shillings full bound and lettered, for the two volumes. In all the announcements it was mentioned that Henry Knox of Boston was taking subscriptions.

In some Henry Knox correspondence of 1772-1774, published in the Massachusetts Historical Society *Proceedings* for 1928, Volume 61, several letters from James Rivington to Knox are included. One letter (page 279) dated April 8, 1774, says: "Enclosed is a Print which I desire you will immediately employ Mr. Riviere to engrave with all the ability in his power and to let it be done as soon as possible, be pleased to acquaint him that the Plate must be of such a size as will be adapted to a very large Duodecimo which you know is the size of Cook's Voyage and that it is to fold out Length ways as it lies now enclosed. I beg his best Execution and speedy dispatch of it."

In Revere's Day Book, under date of May 3, 1774, is the following charge: "Mr Henery Knox Dr/ To Engraving a Copper plate for Rivington/ 4-0-0." There is only this one charge for one plate.

The origin of this plate can be traced, as is usual with most of Revere's designs. The engraving of the Dance at Ulietea appeared in John Hawkesworth's *Account of the Voyages . . . by Commodore Byron, Captain Wallis, Captain Carteret, and Captain Cook*, London, 1773, in Volume 2, page 265. The plate measured 13 inches in width, and was designed by J. B. Cipriani and engraved by F. Bartolozzi. In the review of this work in *The Town and Country Magazine* for June,

1773, Volume 5, page 313, the plate is re-engraved in reverse and is entitled "Representation of a Dance, in the Island of Ulietea, to the Music of that Country." It is effectively engraved, but is reduced in width to  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Revere followed this as his model, rather than the original in the volume of *Voyages*. He changed the title, furthermore, as will be shown in Plate number 30. The engraving, although a reasonably faithful copy, is much more crude than the plate which he copied.