

BOOK REVIEWS

The Death of Captain James Cook. By GEORGE GILBERT. (Honolulu: Paradise of the Pacific Press. 1926. Pp. 30. Hawaiian Historical Society Reprints, No. 5.)

The Hawaiian Historical Society has set a worthy example in its reprint series. The four preceding are: Extracts from *Meares's Voyages*; Samwell's rare volume, *The Death of Captain Cook*; Portions of Ingraham's manuscript *Journal of the Hope*; and the *Diary of Ebenezer Townsend's Voyage on the Sealing Ship Neptune*.

The manuscript from which this extract was taken is in the British Museum. Sir Walter Besant in his *Life of Captain Cook*, published a part describing the occurrences immediately surrounding the death of Captain Cook. The author was George Gilbert, one of the midshipmen of the *Discovery*. It is strange how many of the manuscript and rare printed accounts of Captain Cook's third voyage come from that vessel: Burney's, Rickman's (the anonymous journal), Edgar's, Gilbert's, Ellis's, and Zimmerman's. Sir Walter Besant is of the opinion that this journal was written after the return of the expedition from notes made in the progress of the voyage. This may or not be the case. The Admiralty had given instruction that all private journals and diaries must be surrendered until the publication of the official volumes. Captain Gore and King read this order to the ships' companies and believed that it had been loyally obeyed. We know vastly different.

Gilbert's version of the occurrences on and after the fatal 14th February varies in places from the official report and from the accounts of other eye witnesses. The manufacture of the broken anchor of the *Discovery* into knives and nails for trade with the Sandwich Islanders is mentioned by Zimmerman. He is now corroborated by Gilbert. In all the other accounts, it is believed that this incident is not recorded.

The increasing interest in the history of the Pacific Coast and the general desire for the fullest information regarding Captain Cook would seem to warrant the publication of this short narrative of the voyage in its entirety.

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