

HOW HAWAII HONORED CAPTAIN COOK, R.N., IN 1928*

No one is certain that prior to January 18, 1778, foreigners put foot ashore on any of the islands of the Hawaiian archipelago, but it is definite that on that day Captain James Cook, R.N., on his way from the South Seas to the mystical Northwest of the North American continent to discover, if it existed, a short cut between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, discovered the group and named it after his patron, First Lord of the Admiralty, The Sandwich Islands.

Legends of the Hawaiians vaguely record the visit of strange people many generations before Cook landed upon the Islands. The professional bards, who carried history from generation to generation by word of mouth, owing to the fact that there was no written language, told of haoles (strangers) with faces light in color, who came ashore at Keei, on the Kona coast of the island of Hawaii, and strangely enough, Keei is on the southern end of the crescent bay from Kaawaloa, where Captain Cook was killed on February 14, 1779.

Upon this legend has been builded the story of Spaniards shipwrecked there, possibly from one of the vessels of Saavedra's squadron which disappeared and was never heard of or from again. This was about the year 1527.

And further, in 1745, Lord Anson, commanding a British squadron, crossing the Pacific from South America to the Philippines fell in with and captured a Spanish galleon which was looted and among the literary prizes were strips of a map which, put together, seemed to form a map of the Pacific Ocean, with a group of islands very much in the geographical order of the present Hawaiian group, almost in the identical latitude, but the longitude was very much farther to the east, even closer to California than to Hawaii.

The Anson map, said to have been in the possession of Captain Cook on his third and last voyage, has been the cause of controversy as to whether Captain Cook was entitled to the designation of discoverer of the Hawaiian group. In this case Hawaiian legends and the Anson map appear to build up a hypothesis, at least, that foreigners, and these, undoubtedly Spanish, first saw the group.

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If the Spanish did know the location of the Islands, they were secretive, and only for the capture of the "Anson map" would even the possibility that they discovered the Islands be permissible, for the archives at Madrid so far have failed to substantiate the Spanish claim.

Captain Cook, discoverer, or rediscoverer, gave to the world the exact location of the Hawaiian group. Many books from English and German presses concerning his last and fatal voyage, and glittering stories of the Hawaiian Islands, accentuating one thing, and that was that the Hawaiians were superior to all other Polynesians thus far encountered.

Captain Cook saw these islands and cruised along the Northwest Coast. Six or seven years later, English, American and Spanish vessels visited Hawaiian waters. Practically all, except the Spanish ships in the 1780's, visited both the Hawaiian Islands and the Northwest. The furs of the Northwest were disposed of in China, the ships calling at the Sandwich group for refreshments, and on the way back to the Northwest, called again for supplies. In time the sandalwood forests of Hawaii furnished another reason for calling, and sandalwood, as well as furs, comprised rich cargoes disposed of in China. The sandalwood curios which seamen bought in China ports and sent home or took back to New England and Old England, came really from Hawaii, only the "curio" part emanating from China.

Captain Cook was one of the world's great navigators. His exactitude in surveying and charting made their permanent impress in the realm of navigation. His surveys of the Hawaiian Islands stand today, at least the portions that came under his observation and of his officers who took up the work when he gave up his life at Kealakekua Bay.

There may be some in Hawaii who deride the name of Captain Cook, charging him with having been the commander of an expedition during which visit the curse of certain diseases came among the people. But those who steer a clear historical course, find that Captain Cook brought the Hawaiian Islands into the ken of the outside world, and the nations, shortly after contacts with the chiefs of Hawaii, saw in the latter a clan of high order and gave them exceptional credit for their method of government. In time, when Kamehameha I, conquering all the islands, and establishing the Monarchy of Hawaii in 1795, representatives of foreign nations met Kamehameha the Great as they would the sovereign of any civilized country.

Hawaii became a nation which was permitted a seat in the family of the nations, with diplomatic contacts of high order. The court of the kings of Hawaii, under the civilizing influences brought particularly by American missionaries from New England (and they are to be credited with having sowed the seeds of the sturdy Americanism which was harvested in 1898 when the United States annexed Hawaii), was honored by the powers abroad. It was not a court of a savage king or chief. It was exampled upon the royal courts abroad. The kings were splendidly educated men, some finishing their education in London and Paris.

Thus it was that Captain Cook gave to the knowledge of the world the Hawaiian group, which, in time, became a factor in the diplomatic contacts of the Powers.

In 1878 the Kingdom of Hawaii, with King Kalakaua at its head, honored Captain Cook at the centenary celebration of discovery. The permanent memorial established in Honolulu at that time was the splendid statue of Kamehameha the Great which stands upon a high pedestal in front of the Judiciary Building.

The Hawaiian Historical Society sponsored the first movement to honor Captain Cook in a sesquicentennial celebration in Hawaii in 1928. The writer, in 1925, proposed a major celebration to include the official visits of warships of England and America, these to visit Waimea, Kauai, where Cook first landed, and Kealahou Bay, Hawaii, where Cook was killed, and at the latter place to fire an international salvo. Strangely enough the original plan was carried out to the letter in August, 1928. Bruce Cartwright, at this same time proposed the issuance of commemorative stamps and a coin.

The historical society appointed a committee, including Bishop H. B. Restarick, Bruce Cartwright and the writer to lay the entire plan before the Governor of Hawaii. Victor S. Houston, commander in the U.S. Navy, and now Hawaii's elected delegate to Congress, Professor R. S. Kuykendall, executive secretary of the Hawaiian Historical Commission, and Dr. Herbert E. Gregory, director of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, at Honolulu, were added to the committee. The Governor approved, and appointed the historical society's committee as his committee, to prepare plans that he might lay before the legislature of 1927. These plans were prepared, the legislature passed an enabling act for the celebration, and appropriated \$20,000 therefor. The Gov-

ernor appointed as the "Capt. Cook Sesquicentennial Commission," Col. Curtis P. Iaukea, former chamberlain to King Kalakaua (who was elected chairman); Hon. Victor S. Houston, Albert P. Taylor, H. B. Restarick and Bruce Cartwright. When Mr. Houston left for Washington, D. C., Dr. Gregory was appointed to fill the vacancy. Edgar Henriques was named executive secretary.

The Taylor-Cartwright plan as outlined and eventually carried out, with amplifications suggested by Dr. Gregory, Messrs. Cartwright, Restarick and Houston, particularly, included formal invitations to be addressed to the Governments of Great Britain, United States, Australia, New Zealand and Canada to participate; with request that the British and United States governments send warships to Hawaii; that the United States government issue commemorative Captain Cook stamps and a silver 50-cent coin; that speakers of note, particularly in historical fields, be invited to make addresses; that a bronze tablet be set just beneath the surface of the water at Kaawaloa, Kealakekua Bay, Hawaii, where Capt. Cook "fell on his face in the water," as his chroniclers state; that a monument be erected at Waimea, Kauai, where Cook set up his astronomical instruments, and where William Whatman, a seaman, was buried, Capt. Cook there reading the burial service of the Church of England, the first recorded Christian service ever held in the Hawaiian Islands.

The plan for issuance of commemorative stamps and a coin was the plan of Bruce Cartwright, a connoisseur, who carried his suggestions through as far as practicable, the federal government allowing only the issue of the coin. Through an Act of Congress, introduced by Delegate Houston, 10,000 coins were issued and these were sold at Honolulu at \$2.00 each. Fifty of the ten thousand were "sand blast proof" coins. These were distributed, as far as possible, to include the King of England, British Museum, British Admiralty; governments of Australia and Canada; to several officials who assisted in getting this measure through congress; to the Governor of Hawaii, each member of the Cook Commission; to the captains of the British cruisers *Cornwall*, *Duned'n* and *Brisbane* and the American battleship *Pennsylvania*; chairman of the Kauai and Hawaii committees; to the speakers, Secretary of War Davis, who spoke on Early Relations of Hawaii and the United States; Judge F. W. Howay, F.R.G.S., of British Columbia, representing Canada, who contributed a paper on the Relations of Hawaii with the Northwest; Professor F. A.

Golder, of Stanford University, a paper on the Relations of Hawaii with Russia; Verne Blue, a paper on the Relations of Hawaii with France; Sir Henry Newbolt, of England, a paper on Captain Cook; Sir Joseph Carruthers, of Sydney, Australia, representing the Commonwealth of Australia, who spoke on Captain Cook at the unveiling of the bronze tablet at Kaawaloa; Maurice Cohen, representing New Zealand; Hon. G. H. Phipps, British Consul, official representative of Great Britain; the Bishop Museum; Archives of Hawaii, Hawaiian Historical Society; Smithsonian Institution; and many other persons and institutions.

By August 13 the cruisers flying the British flag and the U.S.S. *Pennsylvania* and the official representatives of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States were in Honolulu. On the night of August 15, 1928, the four warships, the *Pennsylvania* leading, and the Inter-island steamer *Haleakala*, steamed, en squadron, for Kauai, arriving off Waimea the following morning. For the first time in a century and a half armed marines and sailors of British vessels, went ashore with bands. To the tap-tap of drums and blare of bugles the foreign troops, as well as the American, marched to the little square in the center of the village and there was dedicated a splendid monument to Captain Cook erected entirely through subscriptions of the residents of Kauai. Delegate Houston made the principal address. As the monument was unveiled the squadron fired a salute, each one firing 21 guns, while airplanes flew overhead.

The British warships steamed directly for Kealakekua Bay, Hawaii, the *Pennsylvania* returning to Honolulu with the Secretary of War. On Friday, August 17th, literary exercises were held, at which portions of the keystone address were given, the Secretary of War giving his in full.

At this time Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Pitman and her son, Theodore Pitman the artist, of Boston, presented a beautiful bronze tablet to the Cook Commission, commemorating Captain Cook. The tablet was given, also, to commemorate the ancestors of Mrs. Pitman's husband, who was part-Hawaiian, descendant of the Chief Hoolulu, who, in May, 1819, secretly took possession of the bones of Kamehameha the Great from the temple of Kama-kahonu, at Kailua, Hawaii, and as secretly hid them, supposedly in a cave on the coast, a location never revealed again. The inscription on this tablet reads:

CAPT. JAMES COOK

Forerunner

of

Modern Civilization

in the

Pacific Ocean

In Hawaii 1778-1799

In memory of the High Chief Hoolulu, High Chiefess Kinoole and her son Keola-O-Kalani (Benjamin Franklin Pitman)

Presented by

Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Pitman, Benjamin Pitman and Theodore Baldwin Pitman—Sculptor

That night the *Haleakala* and the *Pennsylvania* steamed to Hawaii with the official party, the Governor of Hawaii, members of the commission, official representatives and speakers, and a large party of excursionists.

The morning of Saturday, August 18, 1928, found these vessels near the entrance to the bay and within it the three British warship. The bay has room enough to float a fleet. It was a wonderful sight. As the two ships entered there appeared a double formation of Hawaiian outrigger canoes, and on the platform of double-linked canoes, stood "Kamehameha the Great," in feather helmet and feather cloak and carrying a spear. The paddlers were in ancient garb. It was a wierd, barbaric, majestic sight. The canoe fleet led the fleet of small ships' boats to the temporary landing, which was at the foot of the square within which is the old obelisk monument, erected to the memory of Captain Cook, about 1876, and on land deeded outright to the British Government by Princess Likelike, sister of King Kalakaua, about the same year, so that that square is absolute British Territory.

British and American Marines, under arms, landed, occupied spaces outside the chains which are reeved through the muzzles of old British muzzle-loading cannons, and then Vice-Chairman Gregory made a brief historical address, following which the captains and officials laid wreaths at the base of the monument.

From there they walked over rough black-hued lava to the little hallowed spot where Captain Cook was slain.

The black, broken, uneven lava, the fringe of kiawe trees, the little inlets, the black rocks just beyond the shore, the lapping of the waves, and an unusual, strange silence, presented a wierd setting for the ceremony to follow.

Just off from a little inlet, just where the water softly lapped the shore, stood a tripod of sticks and over these an Hawaiian flag. Under the tripod, and just beneath the surface of the water could be seen the bronze tablet, the inscription facing toward the heavens, the tablet to be unveiled. The inscription read: "Near this spot Capt. James Cook, R.N., was killed, Feb. 14, 1779."

Upon the uneven shore, occupying positions where they could, stood the dignitaries of the day, the Secretary of War, the Governor of Hawaii, the general commanding the Hawaiian Department; the Admiral commanding the naval station; the members of the commission, the official representatives, the speakers, the captains of warships and their aides, and near by detachments of British and American marines.

John C. Lane, a part-Hawaiian, gave the dedicatory address, both in English and in Hawaiian, and then removed the flag and declared the tablet unveiled to the honor of the world's great navigator, and a man of whom the Hawaiians could well be proud. To Sir Joseph Carruthers, whose hobby has been the life of Captain Cook, and who has raised funds to erect monuments and memorials in Australia, England and Hawaii, was given the honor of making the return address, and he made an impressive speech, one long to be remembered. Then from the middle of the bay, as a signal man waved his small flags from that hallowed shore, came the boom of salutes, each warship firing 21 guns, and at the end a party of British buglers gave "The Last Post," one of the most beautiful and impressive ceremonies to the dead in the regulations of the British Navy. It was done, and Capt. Cook was honored in an unusual manner by that intermingling of people from England, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the American mainland, Hawaii, while scattered throughout the assembly were peoples from China, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Siberia, Porto Rico and Tahiti.

Across the bay to Napoopoo the throng was taken in boats, and the William Whatman tablet was dedicated in addresses made by Rev. D. D. Wallace, of the Episcopal Church in Kona, and by Bishop H. B. Restarick, retired bishop of the Episcopal church.

A motor visit was made to Hoonauau, the ancient city of refuge, and then to the Konawaena high school high up on the slopes of Mauna Loa, the "Burning Mountain," and from there the long motor trip around the island through the district of Kau, to the Volcano of Kilauea. The huge Volcano House was big

enough to care for all the great crowd. A splendid dinner was followed by another motor trip through the fern forest, then down upon the floor of the crater, and to parking space within a 100 feet of the fiery pit, which, just then was devoid of lava, as the Goddess Pele, diety of all volcanoes, was absent from her realm in another part of the world.

Upon the brink of the crater a pageant of Pele, was enacted by Hawaiians, with hula dancing, Hawaiian songs and a little scene to show how the High Chiefess Kapiolani, in 1824 defied the Goodess Pele, a defiance done in the name of Jehovah. The Secretary of War lay stretched on the ground, feet toward the little platform, and enveloped in a heavy overcoat. It was then, during this depicted defiance, that vast avalanches broke and fell from the pit's sides to the bottom, a terrifying noise, with the usual accompaniment of heavy clouds, which were redeemed by the glare of old-style Hawaiian torches. The Hawaiians felt that Pele was making herself known.

At Hilo the following afternoon the party boarded the *Haleakala* and returned to Honolulu Monday, the 20th.

That night at Hamohamo, at Waikiki, a home of the former Queen Liliuokalani, and where in 1869, the Duke of Edinburgh was received in considerable state during the reign of Kamehameha V, the play-pageant, "Hawaii One Hundred and Fifty Years Ago," was presented under the auspices of the Cook Commission, through the help of the Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors' Society. It was a play depicting the incidents at Waimea, Kauai, of the arrival of Capt. Cook, his meeting with the Hawaiians, and his request for fair play and ending in friendly co-operation. The play was written by James A. ("Kimo") Wilder, of Hawaii, and was a splendid portrayal of the Cook landing. Historically, every incident was portrayed with exactitude. It was a great success and was witnessed by all the visiting officials.

Some of the curious outcomes of the celebration are these facts:

The legislature appropriated \$20,000 for the celebration, all of which was spent, as the Commission paid the traveling expenses of all the party from Oahu to Kauai and to Hawaii and return.

There were certain receipts which came up close to \$20,000, thereby providing a theme. There was a \$20,000 outgo and almost a \$20,000 income.

The Government of Australia sent \$2500 to build a permanent jetty at Kaawaloa, in front of the Cook monument;

The historical play brought in \$3800, although receipts were not a goal, but seats had to be charged for, outside the invited guests, and this money went direct into the General Fund of the Territorial Treasury;

The sale of Captain Cook coins brought in a large amount, the net being \$12,000. The three sums make a total of \$18,400.

The fund from the sale of Cook coins, by Act of Congress, goes to the Archives of Hawaii as a special fund to establish a "Captain Cook Memorial Collection," therein. The first contributions came from Judge F. W. Howay, Canada's representative, who brought a number of books and photostat copies of old ships' logs of the 1780's, a photostat of the original map made by Capt. Cook of Kealakekua Bay. Other contributions and purchases have already made a sizable collection, including the purchase of two sets of Captain Cook's Voyages, sets which are in almost perfect condition. The Archives of Hawaii hopes for contributions from any source.

The Archives of Hawaii is already engaged in having copied, in London, a large amount of material relating to Captain Cook's voyages, obtained from logs and journals kept by officers of Capt. Cook's ships.

Hawaii regards its honoring of Captain Cook in the recent celebration as an outstanding contribution to history.

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