

Too few know Webber's portrait of Poedooa [Poetua, daughter of a chief of Raiatea], owned by the Admiralty but on loan to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. Her enigmatic beauty is remarked upon by both Beaglehole and Smith.

Smith also considers Webber's conscientious attention to botanical detail in his landscapes, in which unusual prominence is given to trees, and human figures are introduced only as an incidental foil, reversing the usual procedure of the time.

After the 1776-80 voyage Webber was employed for some time by the Admiralty, making finished drawings to be engraved by a number of well-known specialists in this field. Because of the large number of plates and charts included in the three volumes, publication was delayed until 1784. It is for these plates that Webber is best known. All sixty-one are from his work, although William Ellis, surgeon's mate on the *Discovery*, also drew many very attractive landscapes, bird studies, etc, recorded by Beaglehole and Lysaght. As with the engravings of the first two voyages, many of Webber's are still being reproduced today.

The original paintings are scattered around the world more widely than those of any other of Cook's artists. Beaglehole lists the whereabouts of these in his section on the Graphic Records of the voyage. Of particular interest are the sixty-six watercolours held in the Dixson Library of the Public Library of New South Wales, 'apparently the finished designs for the engravings in the *Voyage*'. Many are exact duplicates of other originals by Webber in the British Museum and the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu. Among the most striking of Webber's ethnological studies are those in the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University.

The Aquatints

It is commonly stated that Webber published a series of sixteen aquatints in colour of Pacific views, between the years 1788 and 1792. This is correct, as far as it goes, but interesting variations to be found seem to have escaped notice. It seems always to be assumed that this series consisted of those plates published posthumously by Boydell.

In the Turnbull collections, however, among the several made-up sets of engravings illustrating Cook's voyages, one volume contains several apparently rare variants.

The four earliest aquatints are dated 1787 (one lacking the month of publication) and are the joint production of Webber himself and Mrs Maria Catharina Prestel. These are all in sepia. The captions given below follow the varied presentation found on the prints, three of which do not seem to have been reproduced elsewhere, although the fourth appears also in the next series.