

THE ELLIS DRAWINGS: AN INVENTORY

The collection consists of 49 leaves but there are frequently several sketches on any one page, and many bear drawings on both sides (indicated in the following list by adding A and B to the folio number—B for the verso): hence 74 pages yield a total of 131 drawings. This list has been based upon the catalogue prepared by The South Sea Library but has been considerably amplified. The varied pieces are all on eighteenth century papers, the majority watermarked. Most of the inscriptions are in a hand that clearly corresponds with writing known to be by Ellis on material held in other collections. Seven signatures appear in the Turnbull collection, one being the variant form 'W. W. Ellis' which the artist sometimes used. The many queries in the inscriptions relating to localities would imply that Ellis added these after the voyage; and they would seem to confirm that he used several different sketch-books at any one period, and at random—f.14A shows a view of Nomuka in the Tongan Islands while the verso, f.14B, has a sketch of a walrus. Some pages bear small numbers in ink (not quoted in the list); they apparently refer to pagination of a drawing book.

I have studied all drawings by Ellis known in other collections in England, Australia, Hawaii and New Zealand and they are all finished works—the material in the Turnbull collection is unique* in that virtually all are original sketches *ad vivum*, thus being of much greater value to the research worker. Of particular importance to the historian are the portrait studies of Tongan, Tahitian and Hawaiian chiefs who were closely associated with Cook—f.9B Fatafehi Paulaho, 'King' of Tonga; f.20A Teto'ofa, 'Admiral' of the great Tahitian war fleet immortalised by Hodges; f.23B Amo, consort of the Tahitian 'Queen Oberea' [Purea]; and f.44A Palea, who had greatly befriended Cook and his men at Kealakekua Bay until he was (according to Clerke's account) involved in a small fracas on the afternoon before the fatal Sunday.

* Since Dr Hoare wrote his article, on a recent visit to Australia he discovered seven more original field drawings by Ellis tipped into a volume of Dixon's *A voyage round the world* (London, 1789) in the National Library of Australia. These sketches complement the Turnbull holdings, being also working drawings done on the third voyage. I have not yet seen the originals myself. The items are: (1) Men in canoes in Sandwich Sound pen and wash 16.5 × 26.3 cm, (2) Portrait of a priest of Sandwich isles pen and wash (unfinished) 11 × 6 cm, (3) [A *morai* in the Sandwich Islands] pen and wash 22.5 × 32.4 cm, (4) Portrait of a man from N.W. coast of America Lat. 80.50. Snug Corner Cove pencil 10 × 9 cm, (5) A view of Hippa Island, Queen Charlotte Sound water-colour and ink 17.7 × 24.4 cm, (6) Chinese fisher boats pencil 14.8 × 25.5 cm, (7) Chinese [faces and figures] pencil 26.8 × 17.8 cm. It is hoped that still more of the series may now be identified elsewhere as a result of the publication of these articles.

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