

of the voyage and the definitive review of the achievements of Captain Cook and his officers in it. But the editor who adds explanation to Cook, and brings in scraps of other journals to point details or to explain instances keeps in the background throughout the greater part of the long editorial voyage. The annotation of the journals has meant an immensity of labour, but it is never obtrusive and always precise, apt, final. The decision to print Anderson and Samwell in full as complements to Cook, while using the other journals as supplements where necessary, was undoubtedly the best policy, and produces the most effective result — though several of these subsidiary journals are worthy of publication on their own account. The careful lists of the ships' companies, the concise but all-inclusive calendar of documents, and a full index make up a fine as well as a scholarly book. There is also a fine gallery of illustrations, though I cannot say from a personal standpoint that I find John Webber, who did the greater number of those reproduced, as sympathetic or as perceptive as Sydney Parkinson on the first voyage. To work through nearly two thousand pages of words covering land and sea, men and plants, artifacts and fishes is an experience in the resuscitation of the past for which Captain Cook and his men are basically responsible, but for making the scene accessible, intelligible and coherent the entrepreneurial and literary labours of a great historian were vital.

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The Search for the Islands of Solomon 1567-1838. By Colin Jack-Hinton. Clarendon Press, 1969, xxii, 411 pp., frontispiece illustration, maps. U.K. price: £6.

THE PRICE of this book is large, but so are its volume and format. It contains forty-five maps, most redrawn from extant historical charts. The theme is the European exploration of the 'Islands of Solomon', defined as the islands immediately east of New Guinea which came to be known by that name (they formerly included the Santa Cruz group and Espiritu Santo). After tracing ideas current at the time of Mendana's voyage from Peru to the Solomons in 1567-9 concerning the biblical Ophir, an antipodean continent and lands of Inca tradition, the author deals with the inception of and courses followed on this voyage, when most of the islands of the southern sector of the Solomons from Choiseul to Santa Catalina were discovered. Surveys of Mendana's expedition of 1595, when Santa Cruz (Ndeni) and adjacent islands were discovered, and of Pedro Fernandez de Quiros's encounters in 1606 with the Duff Islands, Tikopia, some of the Banks Islands, and Espiritu Santo, fill out the epochal early discovery phase. Jack-Hinton then proceeds to Carteret's rediscovery and recognition of Mendana's Santa Cruz in 1767, his rediscovery of Malaita in the southern Solomons without recognition of its prior discovery by Mendana's first expedition, and his discovery of Kilinailau and Buka, Bougainville's rediscovery and recognition of Espiritu Santo and passage between Choiseul and Bougainville, Surville's skirting of the southern sector of the Solomons, and various eighteenth-century views on the geography of the western Pacific and further contributions to its exploration, including those of Callander, Dalrymple, Cook, Buache, Maurelle, Read, La Pérouse, Shortland, and

Fleurieu. The final chapter summarises a number of later visits to the Solomons. The book terminates with an impressive bibliography and an adequate index.

There is in this book a great deal that is admirable and little that is not. Readers who are familiar with the main sources are likely to receive added enlightenment from the peripheral material. Particularly valuable are the sections dealing with the mapping of the western Pacific during the period of exploration. The book as a whole approaches as nearly to a definitive work in English on the exploration of the Solomons as is possible in one volume, although those who wish to read full translations of the main sources will still have to resort to the relevant Hakluyt Society volumes, and the detailed tracing of coastal explorations, no doubt in deference to publishing realities, requires independent reference to large-scale charts.

The issues involved in the exploration of the Pacific transcend any academic distinction between history and geography. It may even be said of the discovery and rediscovery of the Solomons that the most significant themes are geographical. The early explorers who crossed the Pacific to the Solomons had rather vague ideas of the circumference of the world and the distances they had travelled, and navigation techniques for two centuries thereafter still gave no adequate answer to this problem of longitude. The Solomons had to be found all over again. Their political and economic value, contrary to the hopes of Mendana and Quiros, proved to be slight. Apart from the cosmographical issues and rivalry between the maritime powers, the main historical interest in the discovery and exploration of the Solomons lies in the fascinating dramas of the voyages themselves.

Jack-Hinton very properly does not hesitate to give his own opinions and suggestions on controversial issues. There is not much to dispute over with him, but I have a couple of personal reservations. I find it difficult to accept the possibility that 'Iave la Grande' in the sixteenth-century 'Dieppe' maps embodies knowledge of Australia. In preferring Roncador Reef to Ontong Java for Mendana's Baxos de la Candelaria, and Ontong Java to Nukumanu for the first island seen by Le Maire after the Horne Islands, Jack-Hinton argues that the persistent (although not invariable) southerly error in early latitudes noted by Guppy, Helen Wallis and myself (and also, I may add, the Dutch hydrographer Meyjes) has little or no significance for identifications in the absence of some demonstrated reason for this error. This predominant southerly error, however, is a fact, whatever the reason. But it seems unlikely that there will ever be a final consensus on the identification of either of these two discoveries.

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The Shadow of the Land: A Study of British Policy and Racial Conflict in New Zealand 1832-1852. By Ian Wards. Government Printer, Wellington, 1968. By Ian Wards xvix, 422 pp. N.Z. price: \$6.00

THIS ANALYSIS of British colonial policy began as a military history, and Mr Wards writes with the conviction that these origins bequeath him a realism previously unknown among historians of early New Zealand. He believes himself freed from the 'quixotic' visions of those who found in the decisions of the Colonial Office an attempt to create 'some other Eden'.