

Cook's first circumnavigation. It is of large format, impeccably produced and thoroughly edited.

This is a work for the specialist enquirer (and likely to be used even so only on rare occasions). Yet it serves a larger purpose: it makes available, easily and in definitive form, the documentary evidence (most of it previously unpublished) on which the standard generalizations about the quality of Cook's navigation and his 'opening up' of the Pacific are based. In partial recognition of that the book also commemorates the bicentennial of continuous European settlement in Australia, and the Australian and New Zealand governments contributed money to assist its publication. If an 'occasion' is required to stimulate the production of companion volumes covering Cook's second and third voyages, and high scholarship warrants patronage, it should not be too much to hope that the New Zealand sesquicentenary would provide the necessary stimulus.

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Two Voyages to the South Seas. Volume I: Astrolabe 1826-1829; Volume II: Astrolabe and Zélée 1837-1840. By Captain Jules S-C. Dumont d'Urville. Translated and edited by Helen Rosenman. Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1987. NZ price: \$155-\$185.00 approx.

OF ALL French explorers in the South Pacific, Dumont d'Urville is the one whom New Zealanders can most readily call to mind. He had already visited New Zealand in 1824 on the *Coquille*, under the command of Louis Duperrey, before returning three years later as captain of the same ship, renamed the *Astrolabe*. He left his mark in Cook Strait, discovering French Pass and naming D'Urville Island, and was no less active on the south-east coast of Australia. Returning to France, he was the driving force behind the publication of the official account of the voyages, writing up the five volumes of the historical section from his own journal and those of his officers.

This work, published in 1835, is the object of the first volume of Helen Rosenman's translation and adaptation. Prohibitive printing costs made the translation of the entire work impossible, and Rosenman has chosen to present only the Australian and Vanikoro sections of the historical account in full. The rest of the voyage is treated in summary form, with selected passages translated from d'Urville's own text.

Dumont d'Urville's ambition to make a third voyage to the Pacific was fulfilled by 1840, but death prevented his completing the official account. Editing was continued by his friends, Charles Jacquinot, who had captained the *Zélée* on the 1837-40 voyage, and Clément Vincendon-Dumoulin, hydrographer on board the *Astrolabe*. Rosenman has followed the same principles of selection in presenting their work, translating fully the text relating to exploration of Antarctica and Torres Strait and condensing all but pertinent excerpts of the rest.

Her lively introduction gives a rapid overview of earlier French exploration around the coast of Australia. A reasonably full biographical sketch of Dumont d'Urville follows. In spite of a lack of personal papers, Rosenman has pieced together opinions from contemporary death notices and eulogies and from the testimony of his fellow officers. He emerges as an exceptionally gifted and resourceful man, but rough and aloof in his manner. The most discordant note comes from the naturalist René-Primevère Lesson. Interestingly, an unpublished thumbnail sketch written by Lesson's younger brother Adolphe, botanist on the *Astrolabe*'s first voyage, is more acid still, casting doubt even

upon d'Urville's seamanship.¹

Rosenman has refused to embellish or refine Dumont d'Urville's sometimes laborious prose and in her translation she maintains a modern, colloquial style, avoiding anachronisms and remaining faithful to the original. The resulting text flows smoothly and the Australian sections, where there are long passages of direct translation, are very absorbing. Maintaining a style markedly heavier than her own must have required considerable restraint on Rosenman's part, and her attempt to combine the two is less successful. In the New Zealand sections, for example, the juxtaposition of Dumont d'Urville's stately, prosaic style with Rosenman's racy and highly readable summaries is disconcerting. The end result is disjointed and it is difficult to maintain a coherent point of view. For a reader seeking no more than a general knowledge of the main events of the voyage, this presentation may be satisfactory and it is certainly amusing. But, for scholars wishing to sort out the confused threads of foreknowledge, observation, personal opinion, and hearsay, already woven into Dumont d'Urville's own text, the addition of the editor's own interpretation and notes from various sources is a further complication. However, New Zealanders wishing to reconstitute the summaries concerning this country can always refer to Olive Wright's translations of the New Zealand sections of the voyage², and the fullness of the Australian sections avoids the problem entirely.

The reorganization of the original work has allowed comments drawn from the journals of other officers to be inserted in their chronological place, thus considerably enriching the text.

The two volumes are abundantly illustrated, mainly from the work of Louis de Sainson for the first voyage and Louis Lebreton and Ernest Goupil for the second. Many of the plates are in colour and the reproduction is good. Clear sketch maps help to situate the voyages.

Rosenman has added a number of useful and amusing appendices: rapid biographical sketches of all the participants in the voyages, extracts from relevant correspondence, official instructions, details about Baron de Thierry and Peter Dillon, even a phrenologist's very flattering assessment of Dumont d'Urville's character deduced from the study of his skull. A brief bibliography and an index round off this welcome contribution to our knowledge of nineteenth-century voyages around Australia and the South Pacific.

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1 Pierre Adolphe Lesson, 'Voyages de découverte de l'*Astrolabe*', MS 8124 Res 1-B, Municipal Library, Rochefort-sur-Mer, France.

2 Olive Wright, *New Zealand 1826-1827*, Wellington, 1950; *The Voyage of the Astrolabe — 1840*, Wellington, 1955.

New Zealand Prepares for War. By W.D. McIntyre. University of Canterbury Press, with assistance from the Historical Publications Branch and the Ministry of Defence, Christchurch, 1988. 287pp. illus. NZ price: \$44.00.

New Zealand's Moral Foreign Policy 1935-39. The Promotion of Collective Security through the League of Nations. By B.S. Bennett. NZ Institute of International Affairs, Wellington, 1988. 134pp. NZ price: \$34.95.

PROFESSOR EDWARD INGRAM is notable for the tart prefaces with which he begins his