

to the discourse. For some people this book will obviate the need to visit the Alexander Turnbull Library to read his diaries and letters; for others the contents of the book will make them think afresh, especially when reading about the humanist foil to Malone in the form of his family. For all it will cause speculation about what life had in store for Malone had he survived the Great War.

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*Storms and Dreams: Louis de Bougainville: Soldier, Explorer, Statesman.* By John Dunmore. Exisle Publishing, Auckland, 2005. 296 pp. NZ price: \$49.99. ISBN 0-908988-57-5.

LOUIS DE BOUGAINVILLE (1729–1811) was the first Frenchman to circumnavigate the world. Despite his own more realistic views, some accounts of his visit to Tahiti were seen as endorsing Rousseau's notion of the noble savage and shifted European dreams of paradise to the Pacific. Bougainville is known more particularly in the English-speaking world for giving his name to a South American vine with bright purple flower bracts and to the largest island in the Solomon's which he 're-discovered'. Canadians know of his role as an aide-de-camp in the war between the French and the British in the late 1750s when the British captured the town of Quebec. Less known are his roles in the American War of Independence and in a briefly successful French attempt to colonize the Malouines (Falkland Islands). An early publication on calculus led to him becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society in London. This very talented man has had the misfortune to languish in the shadow of his contemporary, James Cook.

Even so, his *Voyage Autour du Monde* (1771) made him well known internationally. A beautiful and very professional two-volume edition of the journal he kept during this circumnavigatory voyage finally appeared in French in 1977, and has become the centrepiece of Bougainville scholarship. John Dunmore translated the Pacific section of this journal into English for the Hakluyt Society in 2002. Martin Allanic's important 1600-page biographical study (Paris, 1964) focuses on this major voyage, quoting primary material extensively but paying little attention to the rest of Bougainville's life, as what concerned him was the context of voyages of discovery and, in particular, how Bougainville's scientific achievements compared with those of Cook. Similarly, the earlier Canadian episode has been closely studied as a discrete episode in Bougainville's life. Again there is a journal, covering the years 1756–1760, which has been carefully edited in both French and English.

What John Dunmore has done with *Storms and Dreams* is to give a chronological account of Bougainville's whole life in very readable (rather than the dust-jacket's 'elegant') English. Its five parts (early years, war in Canada, creating the Malouines colony, sailing round the world, war and revolution) are sub-divided into chapters with narrow chronological limits, like 'Across the Pacific from East to West: January–June 1768'. Dunmore writes about how Bougainville himself, in the published account of his circumnavigation, 'had tried to steer a middle course between a popularized version and one addressed to a specialized audience' (p.219), and this is what Dunmore himself tries to do in this biography. A similar project, Victor Suthren's *The Sea has no End: The Life of Louis-Antoine de Bougainville* (Toronto, 2004), is aimed more at a popular readership.

Within the chronological narrative, Dunmore sketches in the historical background and provides clear explanations of important details and brief portraits of the various people who were part of Bougainville's daily life. A light sprinkling of footnotes indicates

manuscript and published sources, and there is a good bibliography, an index, some maps and illustrations. From time to time, and notably in the opening chapter, Dunmore indulges in imagined historical conversations that may embarrass 'a specialized audience'. Consistently calling Bougainville by his first name, Louis, is part of the book's rejection of pretentiousness, but it can be rather disconcerting when talking about a man who frequented the courts of Louis XV and Louis XVI and was a protégé of Madame de Pompadour. One would sometimes like to go beyond a chronicle of events to delve more deeply into the character of this 'witty and charming courtier' and Enlightenment man, and there could be more discussion of the significance of his achievements. However, while not breaking new ground or posing new questions, this is an intelligent and very well informed account of Bougainville's life written by a man who has published widely on Bougainville and other French explorers of the Pacific.

A coherent view of Bougainville's life does emerge from Dunmore's narrative. A member of the *noblesse de robe*, well educated in the classics, a man with social skills and influential patrons, he had both intellectual curiosity and the ability to get things done. Influenced by an older sickly brother who took a particular interest in the explorations of the ancient Greeks and Romans and in the contemporary search for a southern continent, he encouraged the French government to set up a colony on the Malouines in an effort to give the French control over the entrance to the Pacific and as a first step in the exploration of the unknown seas that lay between America and Asia. Bougainville raised much of the money for the colonizing himself, being reimbursed by the Spanish government when it eventually took over the islands after moderately friendly negotiations. This project, which has striking parallels with the later French attempt to colonize southern New Zealand, led to his voyage round the world (1766–1769) at a time when the French government constantly pleaded poverty whenever scientific expeditions were mooted.

After many notable liaisons and the removal of a benign scrotal tumour, Bougainville married at the age of 51, and he and his wife had four sons. Imprisoned during the Terror, he was only saved from the guillotine by Robespierre's death. His relations with the British throughout his life were extremely interesting in that mutual respect was shown in his frequent contacts with British intellectuals and officers and, in a way, he wanted France to become more like the British and contest their political, military and scientific hegemony. He went to war, both on land and sea, against his British friends. As late as 1798, under the Directory, he prepared a technical paper, based on his Canadian experiences, on how the French could invade England. And he continued to think that French possession of the Falklands was strategically desirable. Under Napoleon he lived comfortably as a senator, a count and a retired rear-admiral, attending meetings of the Academy of Sciences and the National Institute. When Bougainville died in 1811, Napoleon ordered that his body be buried in the Pantheon, where it lies near those of Rousseau and Voltaire. Dunmore has written the most readable and balanced general biography, in English or French, of a man who took an active part in many of the salient events of his time.

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*Vision and Reality in Pacific Religion: Essays in Honour of Niel Gunson.* Edited by Phyllis Herda, Michael Reilly and David Hilliard. Macmillan Brown Center for Pacific Studies, Christchurch and Pandanus Books, Canberra, 2005. 343 pp. NZ price: \$25.00. ISBN 1-74076-119-7.

NIEL GUNSON IS WIDELY RESPECTED as one of the pioneers of the scholarly speciality of Pacific history that germinated at the Australian National University in the 1950s under