Learning mig

**MERCURY** 

James Cook was born and raised

Yorkshire port of Whitby that he

first experienced life aboard a ship

Cook joined the merchant navy as

an apprentice aboard ships known

Whitby

Those he left behind

December 1762 and in April 1763 sailed off to

Canada where he staved for several years. He

his family, yet while at home he was a devoted

father. When Cook died, Elizabeth was granted a pension by the government. The couple had six

children only three of whom survived beyond infancy. Two of Cook's sons died at sea and the

other died while studying to enter the clergy Mrs Cook died in 1835 at the age of 93.

would spend more time at sea than at home with

James Cook married Elizabeth Batts in

as Whitby Colliers or "cats"

in Yorkshire and it was in the North

http://ink.news.com.au/mercury

Captain James Cook was a navigator and commander of incredible skill. He charted more of the globe than any man before him and his maps were used by navigators for decades after they were created.

A new exhibition, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Exhibition, to open at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in March, 2006, will look at Cook's voyage into

Antarctic waters in 1773.

## James Cook 1728-1779

1728 Born October 27 in Marton, Vorkshire

1736 His family moved to nearby Great Ayton,

1740 Finishes school and goes to help his father on Aireyholme Farm.

1745 Starts work as a clerk in a grocery and

1746 Takes up an apprenticeship as a merchant sailor at the nort of Whithy. His first ship is a Whitby coal carrier known as a "cat"

1755 Leaves the merchant navy to join

1757 Reaches the rank of master.

1758 Sails for Canada to join British forces fighting the French. Cook takes up surveying and produces his first map of the Bay and

1759 Surveys the St Lawrence River

1762 Returns to England and marries Elizabeth

1763 He joins an expedition for Canada as official surveyor to map Newfoundland and its surrounding islands

1768 Back in England he is promoted to Lieutenant and placed in command of the HM Bark Endeavour. In August, the Endeavour sets sail on a voyage to Tahiti to observe the Transit of Venus, and secret orders to explore the south seas to search for a great southern continent.

1769 Arrives in Tabiti makes observations of the Transit of Venus and spends time charting its coast. He then heads for New Zealand.

1770 The Endeavour sails along the east coast of Australia. He arrives in Botany Bay in April 1770. Afterwards, he sails through Torres Strait around New Guinea arriving in Batavia in

1771 The Endeavour returns to England and Cook is promoted to Commander. Despite the disappointing results of his Transit observations. Cook is appointed to conduct a

1772 Cook sails on the Resolution, accompanied by the Adventure, to look for the southern continent.

1773 Cook abandons his search for Cape Circumcision (Bouvet Island, near Antarctica) believed to be part of the southern continent. He heads east hoping to find land but failing that sails for Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and then New Zealand where he arrives in March. In June he goes east across the Pacific in another attempt to find the continent, noting several uncharted islands on the way.

1774 After crossing into the Antarctic Circle again in his search for the continent he heads orth again to explore the Pacific finding more uncharted islands - Easter Island, the Marquesas and New Hebrides

1775 Arrives back in England in July.

1776 Embarks on a third voyage attempting to find a northwest passage between America and Asia through the Arctic.

1777 Visits Christmas Island, charts the Sandwich Islands and visits Hawaii

in February 1779 after an altercation. His crew make it through the northwest passage

Cook was sent to Tahiti to observe the Transit of Venus across the face of the sun in 1769. An accurate measurement of this phenomenon was considered useful to astronomers and as an aid to sea navigation. Unfortunately there were problems with

their measurements, making the visit almost useless. Cook was not the first European to visit Tahiti but he was the first to accurately survey and chart the island. In his time on the island he also had problems with thieving Tahitians and developed a method of dealing with trouble from natives - taking people hostage - that he would employ elsewhere not always with positive results. He also had problems with his own crew mixing with the Tahitian women. Cook would return to the island. on later voyages. Tahiti later became a French colony and is now part of the self-governed area of French Polynesia.

Tahiti

INDIAN

OCEAN

\* TORIAS FURNE

A watercolour by artist George Tobin of the British Fort Venus in Tahiti in 1769. Courtesy: State Library of NSW

ARCTIC OCEAN ALASKA

> When Cook first landed in Hawaii in 1778 he was probably not the first European to visit but was the first to chart it and named it the Sandwich Islands after his friend the Earl of Sandwich. Cook was welcomed as a god but when ne returned in 1779, he overstayed his welcome and a

> > Hawaii

SOUTH

**AMERICA** 

ATLANT

SOUTHERN

OCEAN

Cook visited New Zealand several times on his

voyages. His first was during October 1769 to April 1770. His initial encounters with the natives were not

riendly, several Maoris were killed in the clashes.

Cook thereafter limited his contact with them as he

circumnavigated the islands, mapping them as he

went. He found refuge at Queen Charlotte Sound on the north of the South Island, where he claimed the

islands for Britain, in spite of what the inhabitants thought about his intrusion. He later used Queen

New Zealand was eventually colonised by the British,

and was originally administered by the governor of New South Wales. In the 20th century, it gained full independence but remains part of the commonwealth

New Zealand

Charlotte Sound as a place to refit and replenish

supplies on future voyages

Sources and further study: Tasmanian Misseum and Art Gallery. Capitain Cook by Wanessa Collingridge (Ebury). Discoveries — The Voyages of Capitain Cook by March (Penguin), HM Bark Endeavowr by Pater Aughton (Orion). Resolution by Peter Aughton (Orion)

of nations formerly under British rule

OCEA

fatal battle ensued with the natives. Hawaii would later

be annexed by the US and in 1956 became the 50th state

ATLANTI

PACIFIC OCE

New Holland

New

Zealand

Van Diemen's Band

SOUTHERN

OCEAN

Cook's 1772-75 expedition: Resolution and Adventure wing his 1770 success at Botany Bay, NSW, in claiming Australia in the King's name, the British Admiralty sent Cook to determine the existence of the Great South Land. He was o claim possession for Britain. Cook's brief was to venture as far south as he could and, if possible, circumnavigate the globe

In 1772 he set off in the Resolution, accompanied by the Adventure, for what was to be a

n January 1773 the expedition crossed the Antarctic circle, probably the first ever to do so. Soon after, the Adventure anchored in Adventure Bay, Bruny Island.

During this voyage Cook completed the first circumnavigation of the Antarctic continent and proved that the lands and island that had previously been discovered were not part of a still undiscovered southern continent. In thick fog, The Resolution and Adventure lost contact in 1773 near New Zealand. The Resolution returned to England in July 1775. Cook has held the honour of being the first to circumnavigate Antarctica, but this honour should in fact go to Cook's 2nd in Command. Furneaux, who returned to England on October 14, 1774.

Cook concluded that there was no great South Land, just a useless land of ice. But his recordings of large numbers of seals and whales ensured that not everyone shared that view. A The monument marking visits by Captains James Cook and Tobias Furneaux at Adventure Bay, Bruny Island.

Australia and Antarctica

Editor: TROY LENNON Graphics: PAUL LEIGH

Cook's Voyages

by John Cleveley

ARCTIC CIRCLE

BRITAIN

AFRICA

Mad

in Tolom

circa 1784

Sailors knew Whitby as the only safe place of refuge between the Humber and Tyne rivers on the east coast of England, it therefore became a centre for shipping mainly coal and alum. But men of Whithy sent shins around the world and Cook would no doubt have heard tales of faraway places when he worked there

The port and town of Whitby, Yorkshire, England Courtesy: Historic Houses Trust, Cook's Sites

Cook's first voyage Departure: August 1768 Return: July 1771 Cook's second voyage Departure: July 1772 FUROPI Return: July 1775 Cook's third voyage

Departure: June 1776 0 1000 2000

INDIAN

OCEAN

Cook's death: February 1779

In Cook's time there were only two ways around the Americas to the Pacific. One was the south via Cape Horn and then west into the Pacific the other was south around Africa into the Indian Ocean and then east. For years the Europeans sought a passage around North America through the Arctic and the Bering Strait (between Russia and Canada). Cook also tried, but started from the Pacific. He mapped parts of the North American coastline but the supposed northwest passage was blocked by ice. After Cook's death in 1779. Captain Charles Clerke, commander of the Discovery, made one more attempt but also failed. Clerke died at sea six months after Cook. The Discovery and the Resolution made it back to Britain in 1780

Northwest passage

Cooks ships

ANTARCTIC CIRCLE

"The risk one runs in exploring a coast in these

d to say, that no man will ever venture farther

an I have done and that the lands which may

lie to the South will never be explored.

wn and Icy Seas, is so very great, that I can b

command of former Whitby colliers - known as "cats". These broad-beamed, flat-bottomed, sturdy ships were excellent negotiators of difficult coastline and shallow waters – perfect for survey and exploration. The navy referred to them as barks, meaning any broad ship of three masts. After her voyage the Endeavour was sold by the navy and is believed to have been scuttled or deliberately sunk in an American

Captain James Cook

For his voyages of discovery the admiralty had given Cook harbour. The Resolution possibly suffered a similar fate Attempts to find them have proved unsuccessful.

Tall ship replica HM Bark Endeavou

## Frozen world comes to the **Tas Museum**

Captain Cook's voyage into Antarctic waters will be just one of many stories to be recalled when people visit a new permanent Antarctic exhibition to open early next year at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Exhibition will open on March 7.

On that day 94 years ago, explorer Roald Amundsen announced to the world the success of his expedition to reach the South Pole. He sent the message from the Hobart GPO.

Cook preceded Amundsen's voyage south by 140 years, his expedition crossing the Antarctic Circle in January,

Mapping this voyage clearly defined Antarctica as a separate land mass. Visitors to the Tasmanian Museum's extensive exhibition will learn more about many of the early seafaring explorers besides Cook.

The scope of the exhibition is far broader than just looking at the early sea voyages and maritime history of the Southern Ocean and the frozen world at the southernmost part of this planet.

## **Exhibition information**

Antarctica and the Great Southern Ocean, at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 40 Macquarie Street, Hobart, from March 7, 2006.

Opening hours: 10am-5pm daily, except Good Friday, ANZAC Day and Christmas Day.

General Admission is free and includes the new Antarctic and Southern Ocean

School groups must pre-book visits by contacting the TMAG Booking Line on 6211 4189 or email Sally.Scott@tmag.tas.gov.au

## **Teachers' Seminars**

Antarctica and the Great Southern Ocean Teachers' Seminars showcasing the programs being conducted, teaching resources available and curricula linkages, plus a pre-exhibition viewing will be held on two Fridays: February 17 and 24, from 5-7.30pm.

Light refreshments will be provided Bookings essential

Phone TMAG Booking line 6211 4189 For further information on the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Educational programs and teacher resources contact the TMAG Booking Line, visit the website: www.tmag.tas.gov.au or email the Antarctic Education officer at Andy Baird@tmag.tas.gov.au

For further information about Antarctica go to the Australian Antarctic Division web site at: www.aad.gov.au



