

From Cook Bibliography - p.168

ACCOUNT OF METHOD OF PUBLICATION
OF COOK'S THREE VOYAGES
AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS. MS. 4pp. FOL.

[N.B. This manuscript has no title and is unsigned. The handwriting resembles that of an amanuensis of Sir Joseph Banks, It is very similar to a number of documents in a collection of Banks Papers in this Library.]

Monica Flower

Officer in Charge

Mitchell Library

Sydney, N. S. W.

The Publication of the late Capt. Cooks third Voyage was as far as Sir Joseph Banks now recollects managed by the late Lord Sandwich then First Lord of the Admiralty as Follows.

It was first determined that the Expence of all the Copper Plates both ornamental and explanatory, should be defrayed by the Public, but that the Cost of Paper Printing Rolling Press & in short all other Charges whatever, should be placed to the account of the profits of the Work.

That the King's Bookseller should be employed as Publisher, & directed to provide Paper & all other necessary Articles, as also to advance the Money wanted to pay for the Printing &c &c, being allowed to make the customary Charge for the same.

That as the Public bear the expence of the Plates, the Book be sold at the same price as it would be if without Plates, Excepting a small allowance for the Cost of Paper & Rolling Press.

These preliminaries being settled Lord Sandwich summoned a few persons whom he thought capable of judging, how many, & which, of the numerous Drawings that had been made during the Voyage, ought to be communicated to the Public, they consisted as far as Sir Joseph Banks can recollect of the following Persons

Lord Sandwich

Mr. Stephens

Bishop Douglas the Editor of Cooks Journal

Capt. King the Writer of the third Volume

Mr. Stuart

Mr. Webber Draughtsman to the Voyage

Sir Joseph Banks

Mr. Dalrymple?

These persons met at the Admiralty, & having carefully looked over the Drawings, prepared a List of such as they thought proper for Publication, from which List little if any variation was made, during the course of the work

The Drawings were then sent to Sir Joseph Banks, who undertook at the desire of Lord Sandwich to superintend the Engravers assisted

by Mr. Webber, whose Salary was continued during the time the Plates were in hand, & Mr. Nicol the Kings Bookseller, who as Publisher readily & willingly gave abundance of usefull assistance, & the Charts(except the general one, which was not then constructed) to Mr. Dalrymple, who likewise at Lord Sandwich's desire had undertaken to superintend the Engraving of them & the Views of Land

The Publication consists of three large Volumes in Quarto containing 1528 Pages, The Plates without counting Charts or Views of Land are 61 in number, about one to every 25 Pages of Letter Press, the whole including Charts &c 78, about one to every 20 Pages; the Cost of the Plates was £2997.12.-, the highest price given for any one was 150 Guineas which Woollet receivd for the Human Sacrifice, Bartholozis Young Woman bringing Presents, which is the favorite Plate, cost 50, the Charts & Views which were under Mr. Dalrymples direction were elegantly engravd at reasonable prices, but the General Chart which was under the direction of the Admiralty cost a large sum of Money.

Forty seven Copies were given in presents by the Board of Admiralty besides the customary eleven, & some of them were bound magnificently at the Charge of the Profits.

Soon after the Book was publishd an application was made to the Court of Chancery for an injunction against the Sale of a Pirated Copy, but the Chancellor refusd it, giving as a reason that as the Voyage was made at the public expence, the Public ought to have the benefit of the literary property of the Journal

Notwithstanding this Check, the Copies sold rapidly, as long as the impressions of the Plates were tolerably clear & even after they were much worn out; Profits to the amount of £3863. 9. 4 have already been receivd, & ~~there~~ are still some hundred Copies of Letter Press & several of the Plates undisposd of, which have been paid for, & sell by degrees.

The Profits were divided by Order of the Admiralty while Lord Howe was first Lord in the following manner

One half to Capt. Cooks Family, The Interest to the use of

Mrs. Cook during her life, after her death the Principal
to be divided among her surviving Children by Capt. Cook
One fourth to the Executors of Capt. King to be disposed of
as Capt. King may have disposed of his Effects by his
last Will

One Eighth to the legal Representatives of Capt. Clerk next
in Command to Capt. Cook who died during the Voyage
One Eighth to Mr. Bligh now Capt. Bligh (who was Master of
the Resolution during the Voyage & did much of the
Surveying) one hundred Pounds to be deducted from this for
the use of the Executors of Mr. Anderson the Surgeon whose
Journal was made use of in the article of Natural History.