

# 18th Century Material Culture Captain James Cook, Royal Navy



# Captain James Cook



“The son of a farm labourer, James Cook (1728–1779) was born at Marton in Yorkshire. In 1747 he was apprenticed to James Walker, a shipowner and master mariner of Whitby, and for several years sailed in colliers in the North Sea, English Channel, Irish Sea and Baltic Sea. In 1755 he volunteered for service in the Royal Navy and was appointed an able seaman on HMS Eagle. Within two years he was promoted to the rank of master and in 1758 he sailed to North America on HMS Pembroke. His surveys of the St Lawrence River, in the weeks before the capture of Quebec, established his reputation as an outstanding surveyor. In 1763 the Admiralty gave him the task of surveying the coast of Newfoundland and southern Labrador. He spent four years on HMS Grenville, recording harbours and headlands, shoals and rocks, and also observed an eclipse of the sun in 1766.”

# Captain James Cook

## The First Voyage

(1768 - 1771)

“In May 1768 Cook was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and given command of the bark Endeavour. He was instructed to sail to Tahiti to observe the transit of Venus in 1769 and also to ascertain whether a continent existed in the southern latitudes of the Pacific Ocean. The expedition, which included a party of scientists and artists led by Joseph Banks, left Plymouth in August 1768 and sailed to Brazil and around Cape Horn, reaching Tahiti in April 1769. After the astronomical observations were completed, Cook sailed south to 40°S, but failed to find any land. He then headed for New Zealand, which he circumnavigated, establishing that there were two principal islands. From New Zealand he sailed to New Holland, which he first sighted in April 1770. He charted the eastern coast, naming prominent landmarks and collecting many botanical specimens at Botany Bay. The expedition nearly ended in disaster when the Endeavour struck the Great Barrier Reef, but it was eventually dislodged and was careened and repaired at Endeavour River. From there it sailed around Cape York through Torres Strait to Batavia, in the Dutch East Indies. In Batavia and on the last leg of the voyage one-third of the crew died of malaria and dysentery. Cook and the other survivors finally reached England in July 1771.”

# Captain James Cook

## The Second Voyage

(1772 - 1775)

“In 1772 Cook, who had been promoted to the rank of captain, led a new expedition to settle once and for all the speculative existence of the Great Southern Continent by ‘prosecuting your discoveries as near to the South Pole as possible’. The sloops Resolution and Adventure, the latter commanded by Tobias Furneaux, left Sheerness in June 1772 and sailed to Cape Town. The ships became separated in the southern Indian Ocean and the Adventure sailed along the southern and eastern coasts of Van Diemen’s Land before reuniting with the Resolution at Queen Charlotte Sound in New Zealand. The ships explored the Society and Friendly Islands before they again became separated in October 1773. The Adventure sailed to New Zealand, where 10 of the crew were killed by Maori, and returned to England in June 1774. The Resolution sailed south from New Zealand, crossing the Antarctic Circle and reaching 71° 10’ S, further south than any ship had been before. It then traversed the southern Pacific Ocean, visiting Easter Island, Tahiti, the Friendly Islands, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island and New Zealand. In November 1774 Cook began the homeward voyage, sailing to Chile, Patagonia, Terra del Fuego, South Georgia and Cape Town. The expedition reached England in July 1775.”

# Captain James Cook

## The Third & Final Voyage

(1776 - 1779 / 1780)

“A year later Cook left Plymouth on an expedition to search for the North West Passage. His two ships were HMS Resolution and Discovery, the latter commanded by Charles Clerke. They sailed to Cape Town, Kerguelen Island in the southern Indian Ocean, Adventure Bay in Van Diemen’s Land, and Queen Charlotte Sound in New Zealand. They then revisited the Friendly and Society Islands. Sailing northwards, Cook discovered the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) and reached the North American coast in March 1778. The ships followed the coast northwards to Alaska and the Bering Strait and reached 70°44’N, before being driven back by ice. They returned to the Sandwich Islands and on 14 February 1779 Cook was killed by Hawaiians at Kealakekua Bay. Clerke took over the command and in the summer of 1779 the expedition again tried unsuccessfully to penetrate the pack ice beyond Bering Strait. Clerke died in August 1779 and John Gore and James King commanded the ships on the voyage home via Macao and Cape Town. They reached London in October 1780.”

# The Portraits



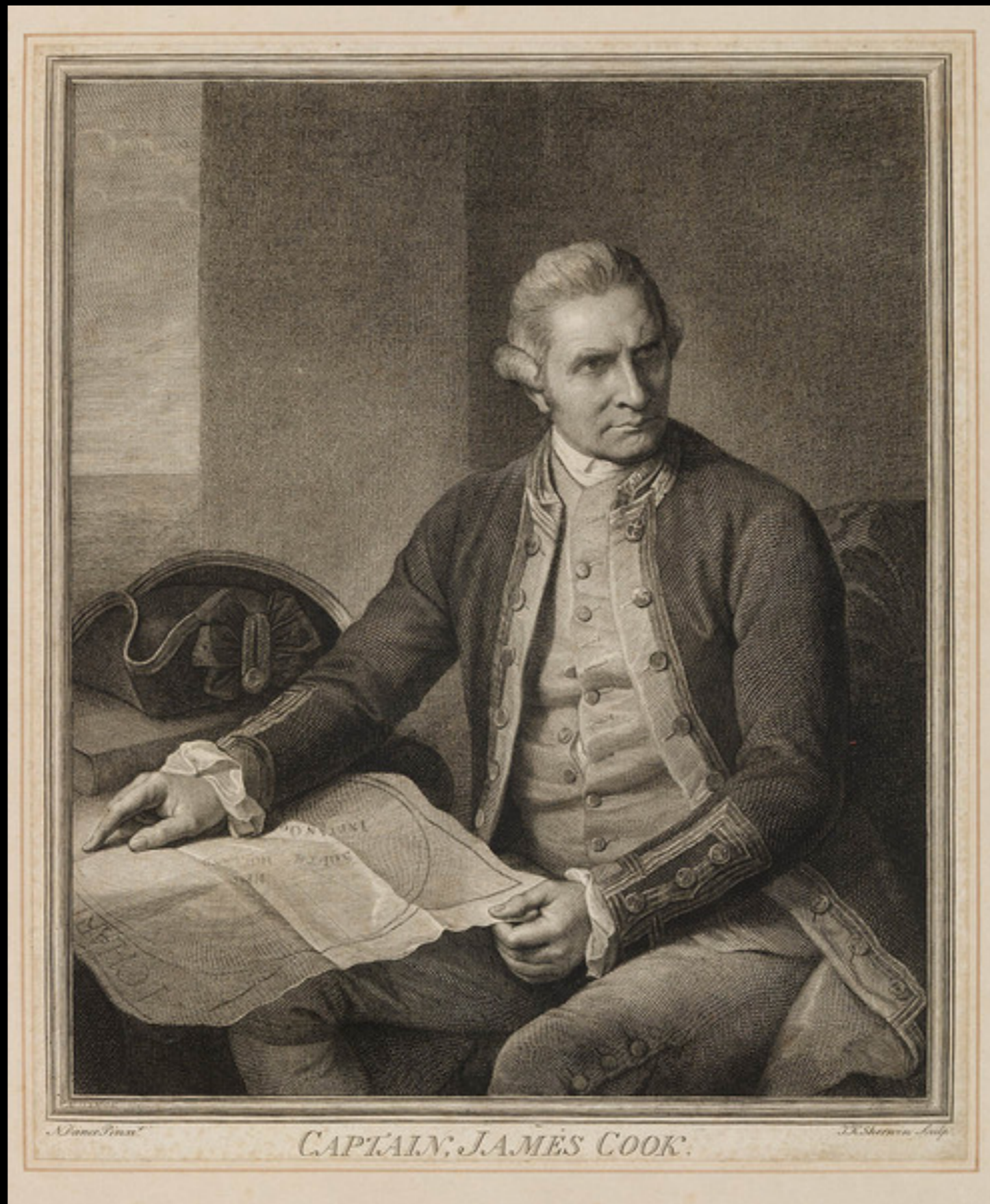
Captain James Cooke  
by Hugh Douglas Hamilton  
(The British Museum)



Captain James Cooke  
"T. (J.?) Major Sculpt. Reg. Cap. 1759"  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints )



Captain James Cooke  
by Nathaniel Dance c. 1775  
(National Maritime Museum, Greenwich)



**“CAPTAIN JAMES COOK”**  
by T.K. Sherwin Sculp., After Nathaniel Dance  
(State Library - New South Wales)



A. Dance Pinx.

Printed by J. K. Sherwin, No. 5, St. Martin's Lane.

Captain James Cook

Engraved by J. Keyse Sherwin, after Nathaniel Dance.

Sold by R. Wilkinson, No. 11, Cornhill, London.

“Captain James Cook”  
by John Keyse Sherwin, Published by Robert Wilkinson, After Nathaniel Dance 1784  
(The British Museum)



Watercolor on Ivory Miniature of Captain James Cook  
After Nathaniel Dance c. 1775 - 1780  
(State Library - New South Wales)



Captain James Cook

“Captain James Cook.”  
After Nathaniel Dance  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)

Engraved for Hervey's Naval History.

Vol. V. Page 464



Capt. JAMES COOK, F.R.S.

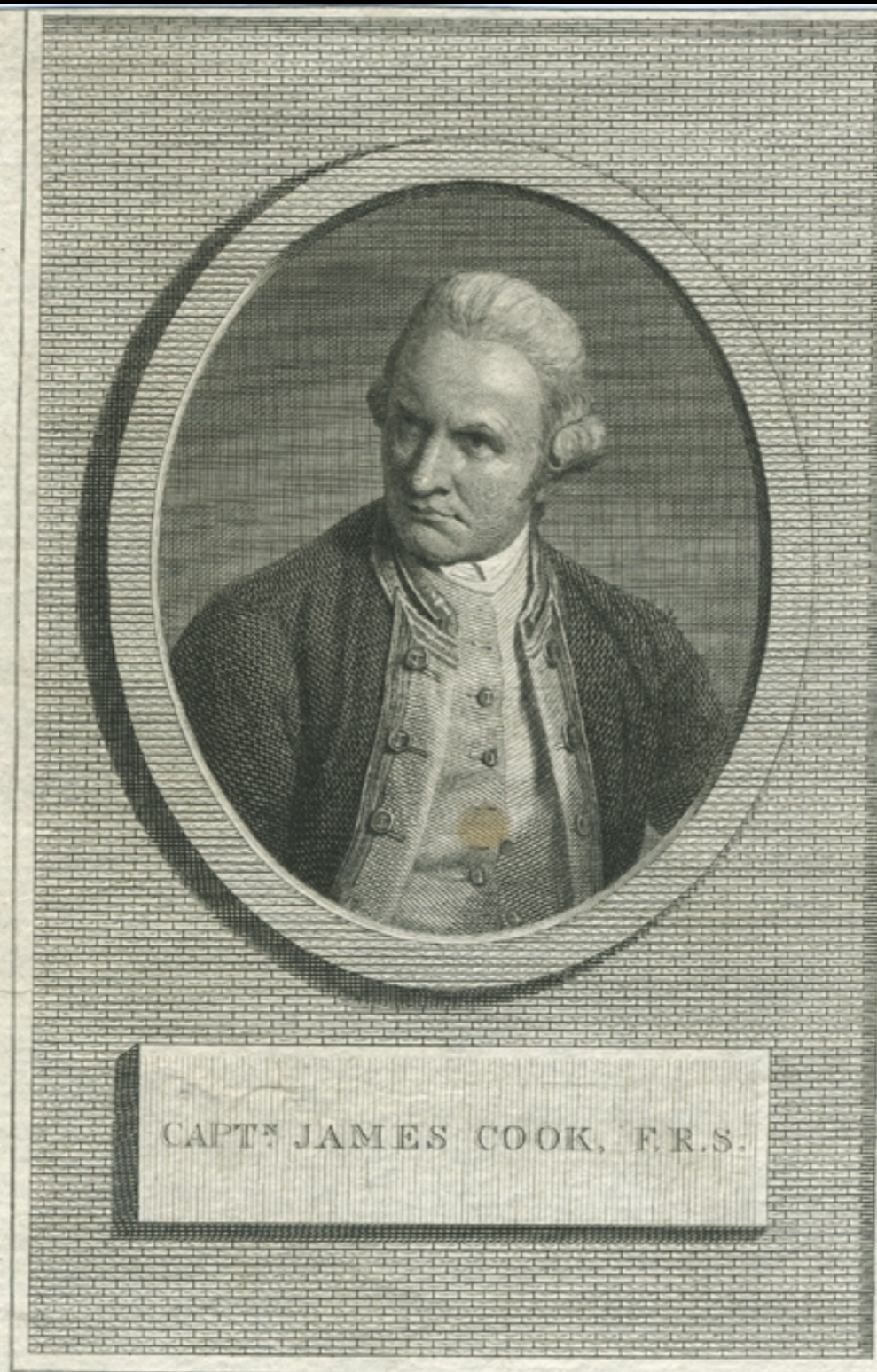
*From a Painting by M. Dance in the Possession of  
Joseph Banks Esq.*

*Printed March 21. 1780. by J. Barne, Stationer, Row.*

“Capt. JAMES COOK, F.R.S.”

After Nathaniel Dance "Engraved for Hervey's Naval History vol. V page 464" 1780

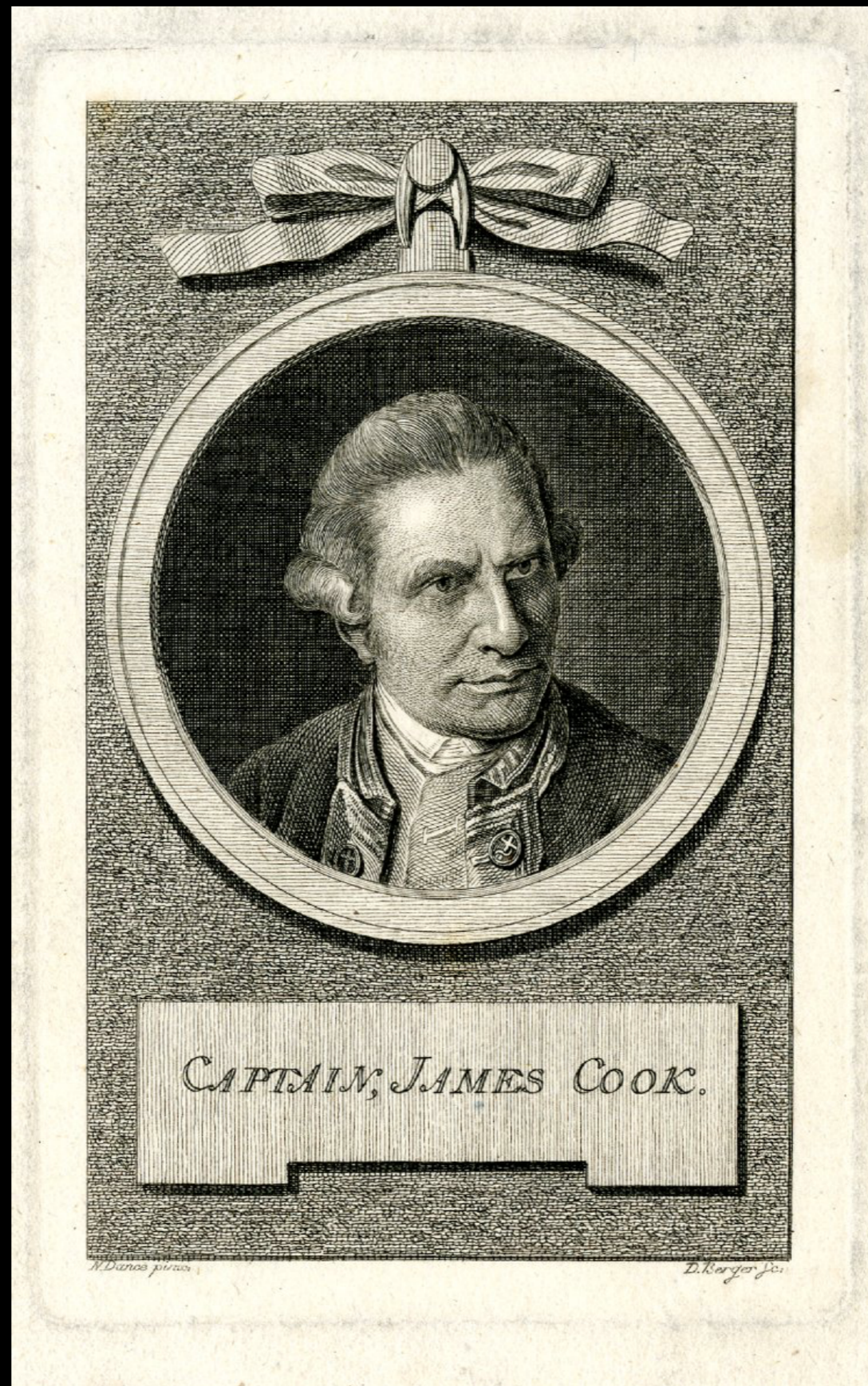
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)



*Heath sculp.*

*From an original Picture, in the Possession of Sir Joseph Banks, Bart.*

“CAPT. JAMES COOK, F.R.S.”  
After Nathaniel Dance  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)



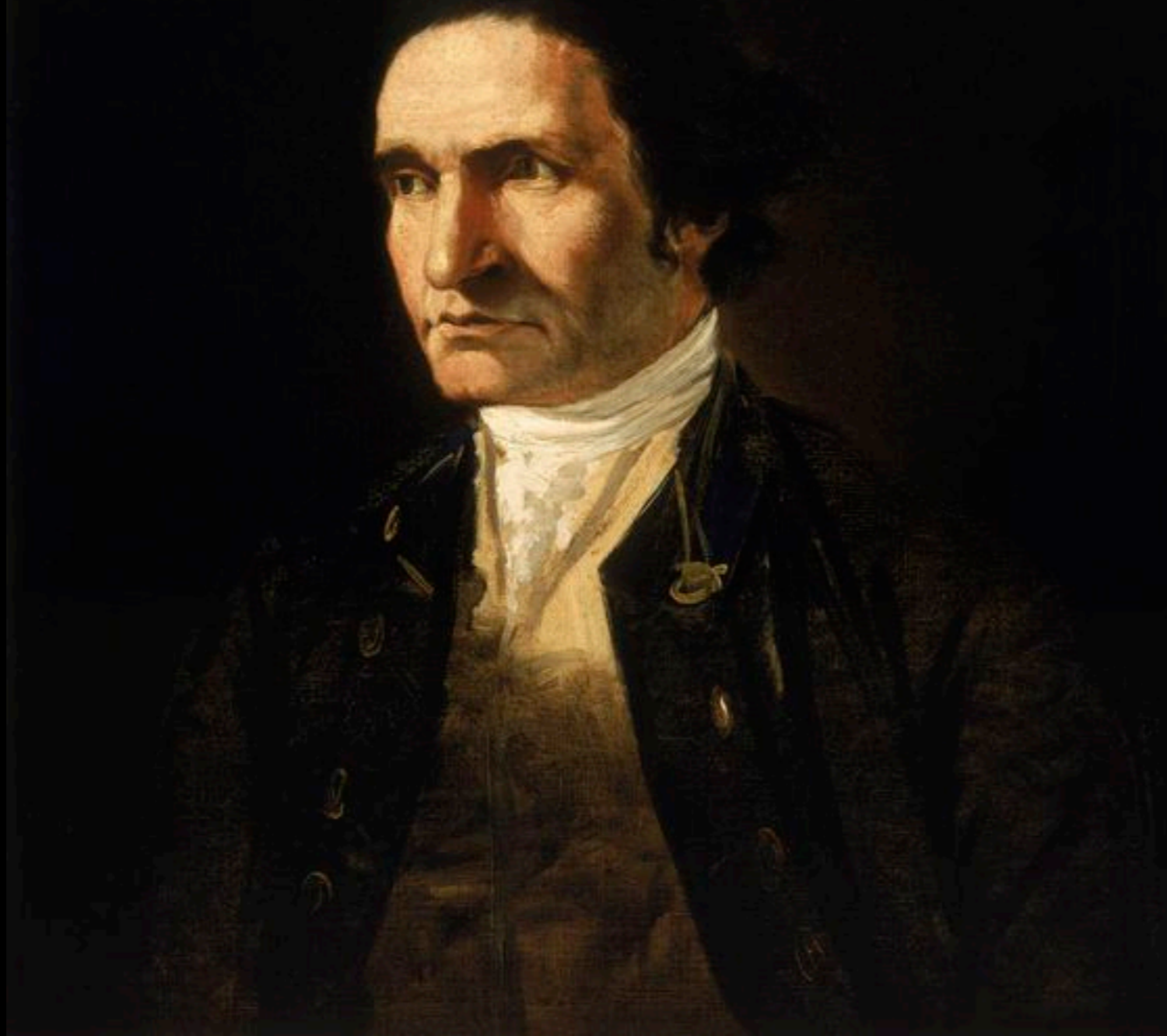
"CAPT. JAMES COOK, F.R.S."

by Daniel Berger, Published by Joyce Gold, After Nathaniel Dance Late 18th Century  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)



Watercolor on Ivory Miniature of Captain James Cook  
c. 1780  
(State Library - New South Wales)

Capt. James Cook  
of the Endeavour.



Captain James Cooke  
by William Hodges c. 1775 - 1776  
(National Maritime Museum)



Captain James Cook

by John Webber, Commissioned by the Admiralty to Accompany Captain Cook on His 2nd Voyage to the South Pacific 1776  
(Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington)



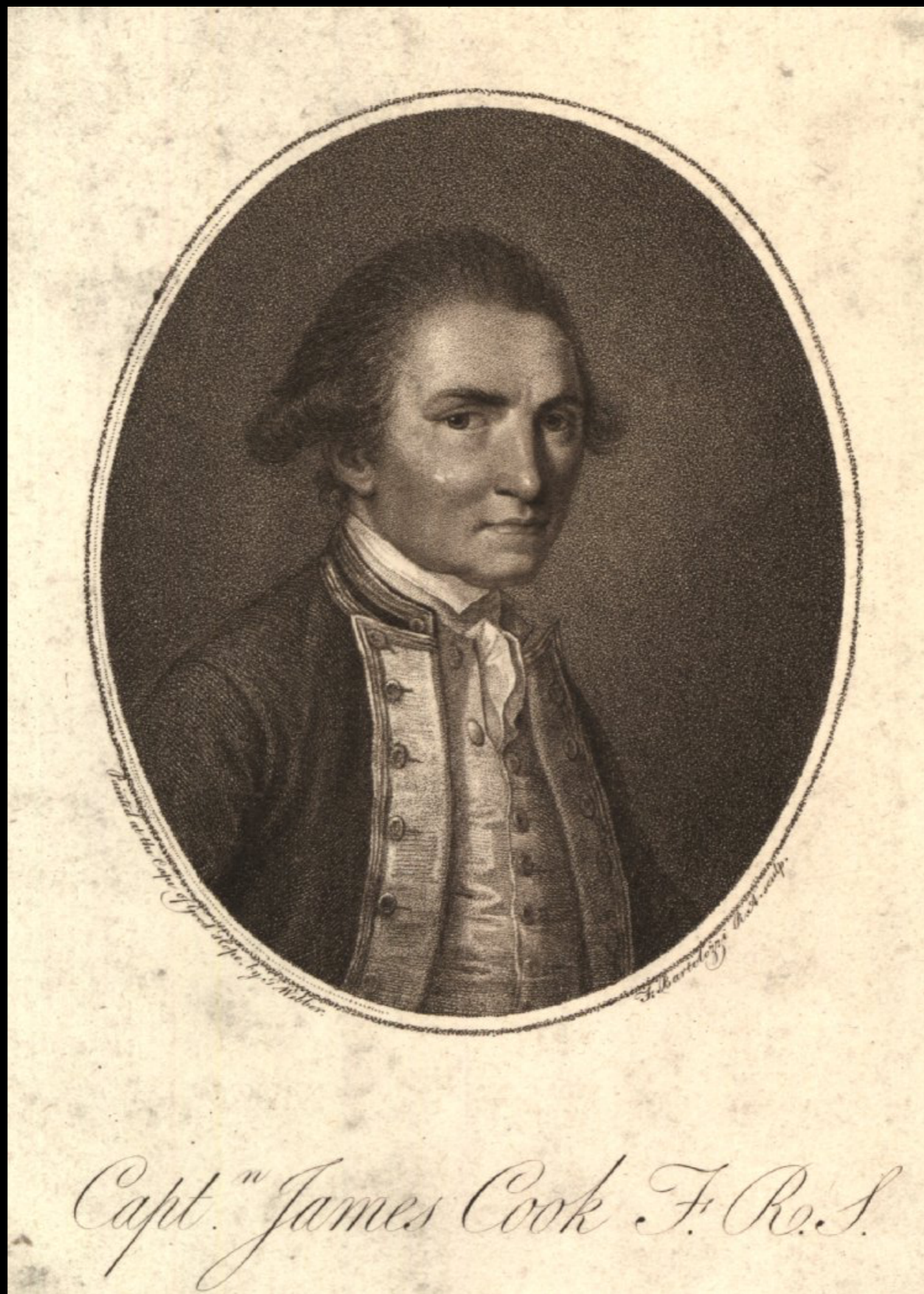
Captain James Cook

by John Webber, Commissioned by the Admiralty to Accompany Captain Cook on His 2nd Voyage to the South Pacific 1782  
(National Portrait Gallery)



Captain James Cook

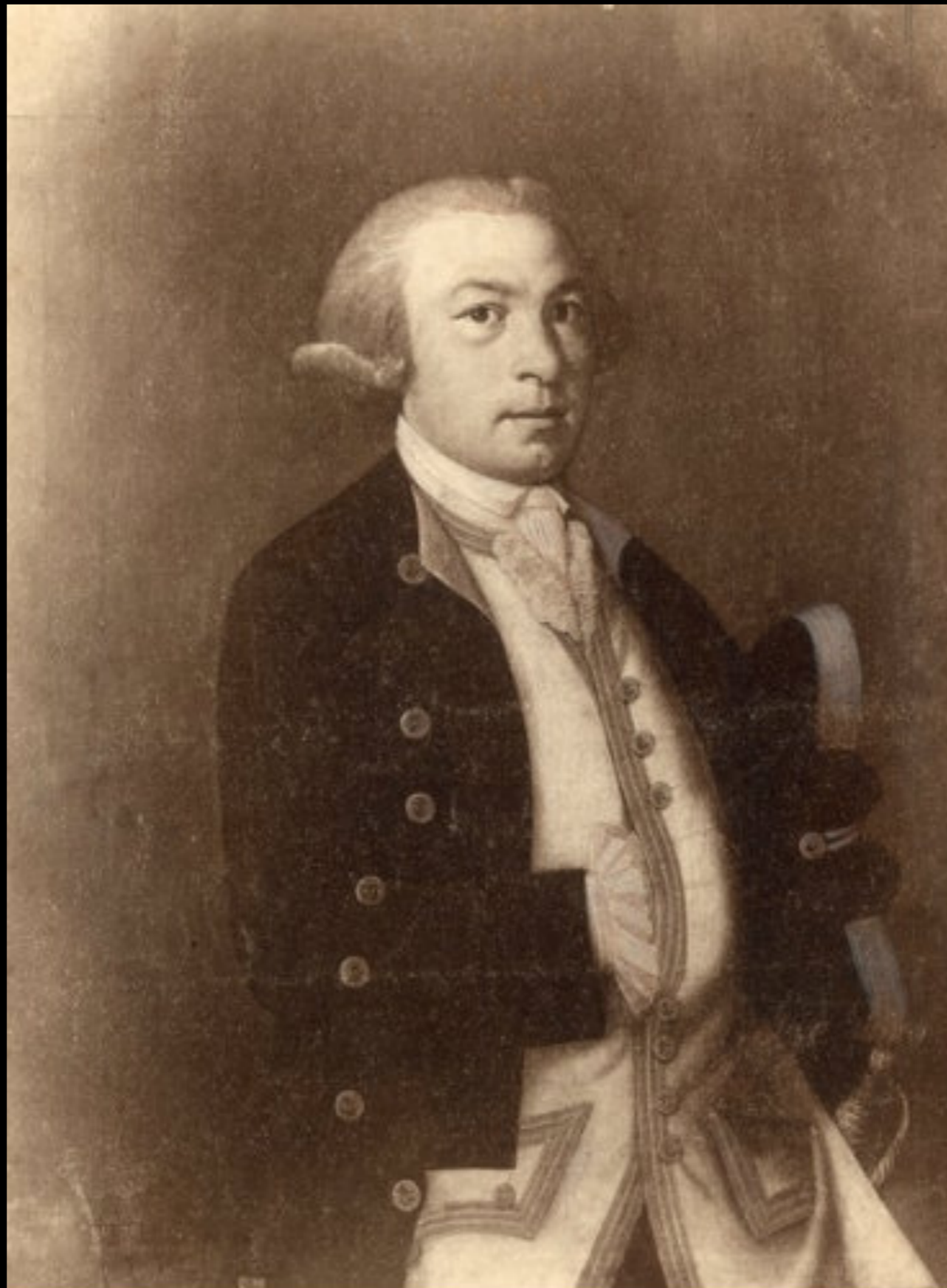
by John Webber, Commissioned by the Admiralty to Accompany Captain Cook on His 2nd Voyage to the South Pacific 1776  
(National Portrait Gallery)



“Capt.n James Cook F.R.S.”  
by Francesco Bartolozzi, After John Webber 1774  
(The British Museum)



“Capt.n James Cook F.R.S.”  
by Francesco Bartolozzi, After John Webber 1774  
(National Portrait Gallery)



Captain James Cooke

c. 1775

(Getty Images)



*Published by Fielding & Walker 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1780.*

"CAPT. JAMES COOK"  
by Fielding & Walker 1780  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)



*Published by G. Robinson Sep<sup>r</sup>. 1, 1784.*

“CAPT. JAMES COOK”  
by G. Robinson 1784  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)



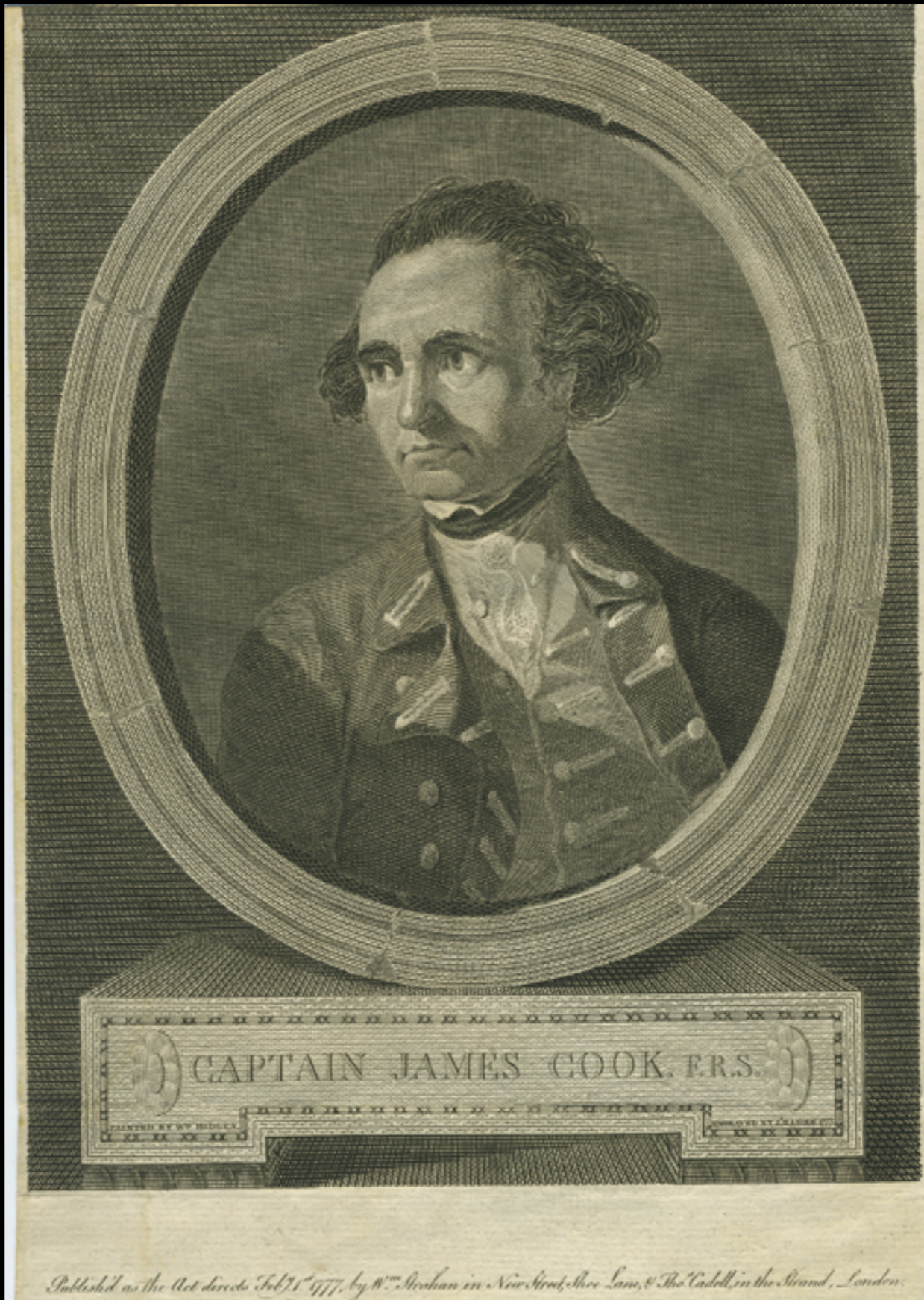
*A Striking Likeness of the Late*  
**CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, F.R.S.**

*His* FIRST VOYAGE performed in the Years 1768 1769 1770 1771 —  
SECOND VOYAGE. 1772 1773 1774 1775 —  
THIRD VOYAGE. 1776 1777 1778 1779 1780.

*He was Born at Marton in the North Riding of Yorkshire, Nov<sup>r</sup> 27 1728, & unfortunately Killed by  
the Savages of the Island Owhichoo, Feb<sup>r</sup> 14 1779.*

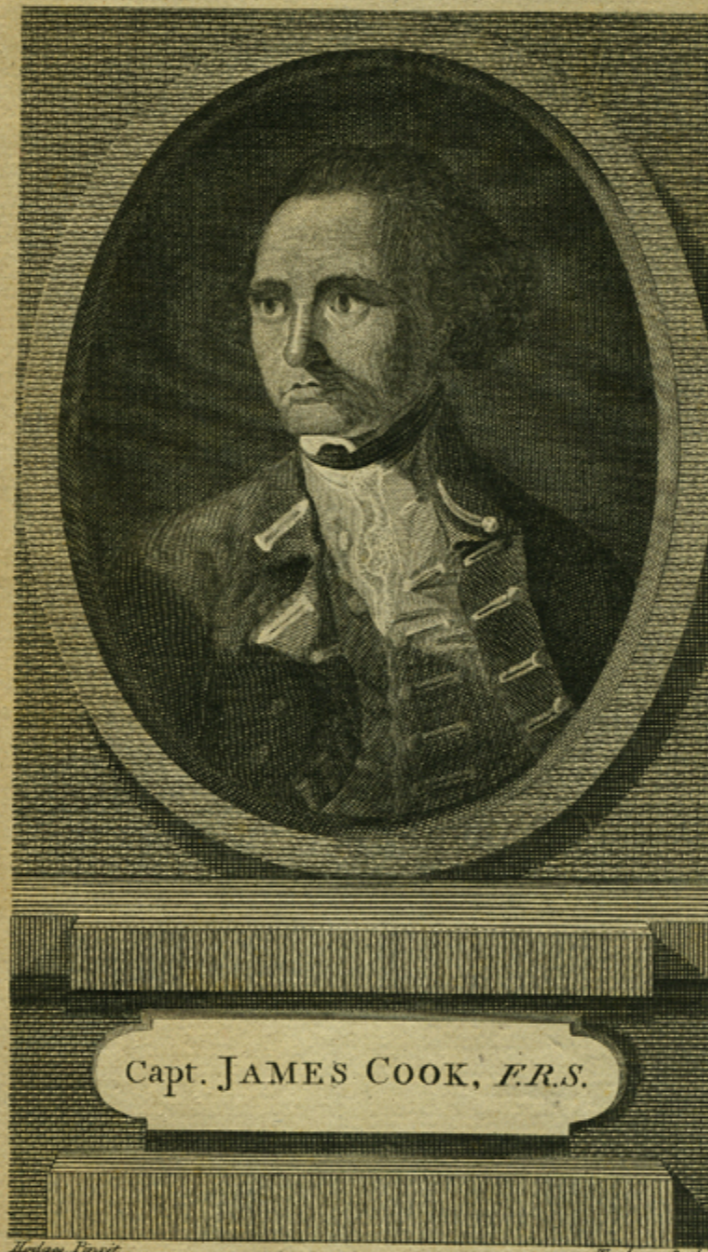
Engraved by W. Richardson from an Original Drawing by M. Boscawen.  
London, Published by W. Woodcut, at the Crown Office, No. 11, Pall-mall, 1781.

“A Striking Likeness of the Late CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, F.R.S.”  
From Anderson's Compilation. Sept 11th 1781  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)



*Published as the Act directs Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1777. by W. Strahan in New Street, three Lane, & Tho. Cadell, in the Strand, London.*

**“CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, F.R.S.”**  
by W.M. Strahan 1777  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)

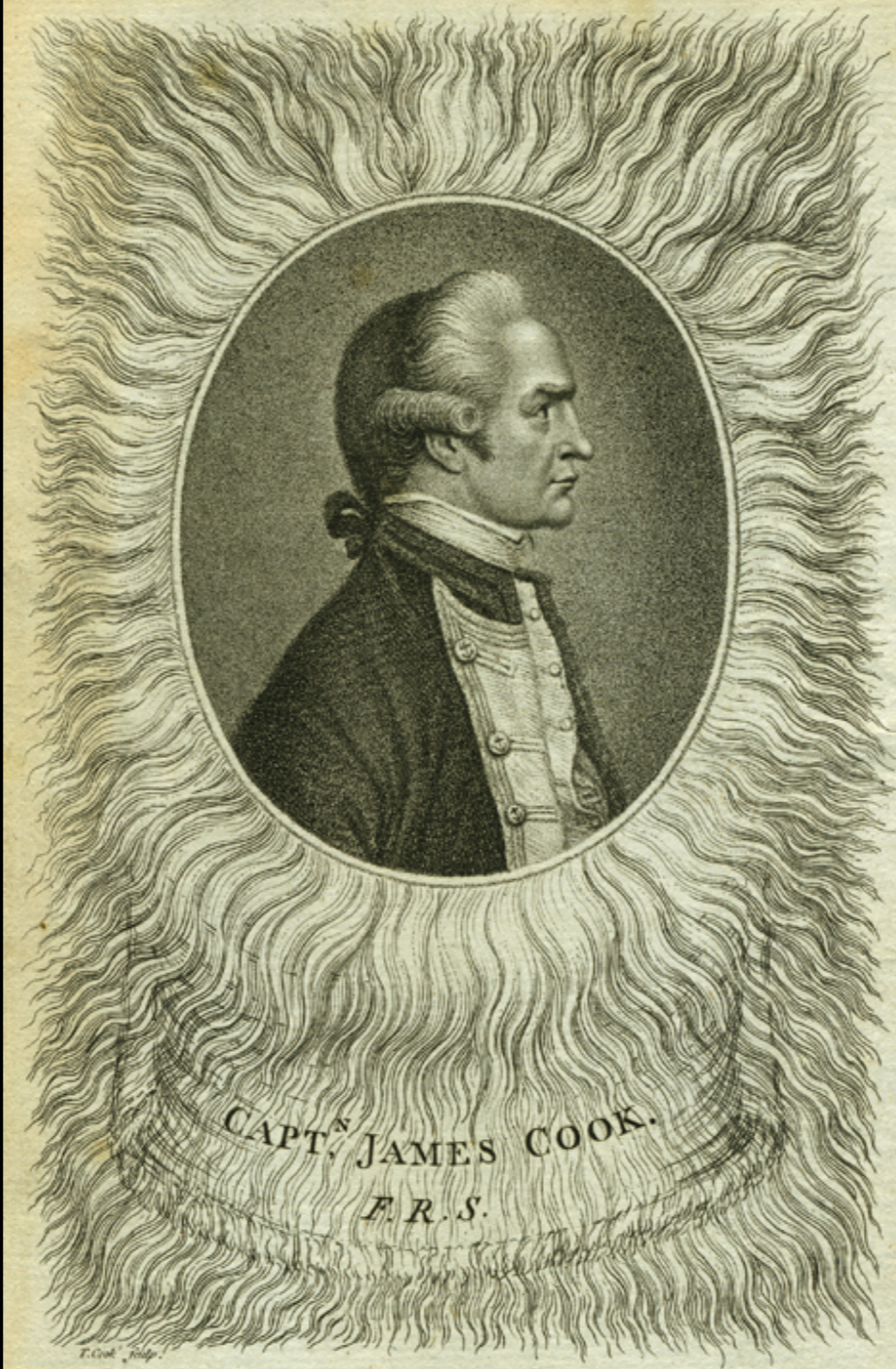


*Published by Authority, July 16, 1784. by W. Bent, Paternoster Row.*

“Capt. JAMES COOK, F.R.S.”  
by W. Bent 1784  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)



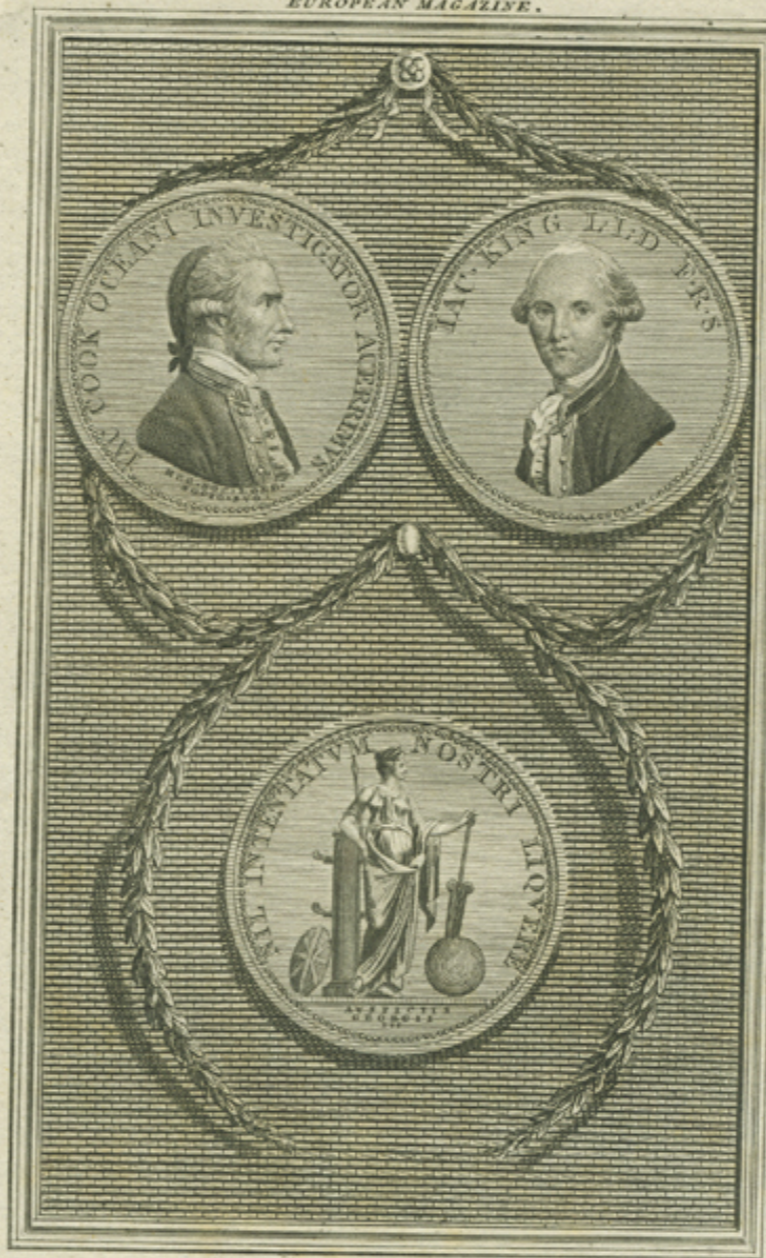
“CAPT. COOK”  
by Wedgwood 1779  
(National Portrait Gallery)



*Published Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> 1784, by J. Fielding Printer near St. Dunstons Church.*

CAT NO 10

“Capt. JAMES COOK, F.R.S.”  
by J. Fielding 1784  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)



*London Publish'd March 1. 1785 by J. Savell Cornhill.*

Illustration from the European Magazine  
London 1785  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)



"CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, F.R.S."  
18th Century  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)



Cameo of Captain James Cook  
by John Flaxman - Wedgwood Factory 1784  
(The British Museum)



*CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, F. R. S.*

“CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, F.R.S.”  
by Hall, Boston, Massachusetts  
(Antipodean Books, Maps, & Prints)

# Personal Effects



Court Paste Shoe Buckles from the Family of Captain James Cook  
18th Century  
(State Library - New South Wales)



Silver Shoe Buckles from the Family of Captain James Cook  
18th Century  
(State Library - New South Wales)



Inclinometer, or Gunner's Quadrant, Used for Leveling in Shore Work - Associated with Captain James Cook  
18th Century  
(State Library - New South Wales)



Waistcoat Panels Owned by Captain James Cook

c. 1770 - 1779

(State Library - New South Wales)



Waistcoat Panel Owned by Captain James Cook  
c. 1770 - 1779  
(State Library - New South Wales)



Drawstring Purse Reported to Have been made from a piece of Mrs. Elizabeth Cook's Wedding Dress

c. 1762

(Captain Cook Birthplace Museum, Middlesbrough Council)



Dress Sword & Scabbard Owned by Captain James Cook  
c. 1755 - 1760  
(State Library - New South Wales)



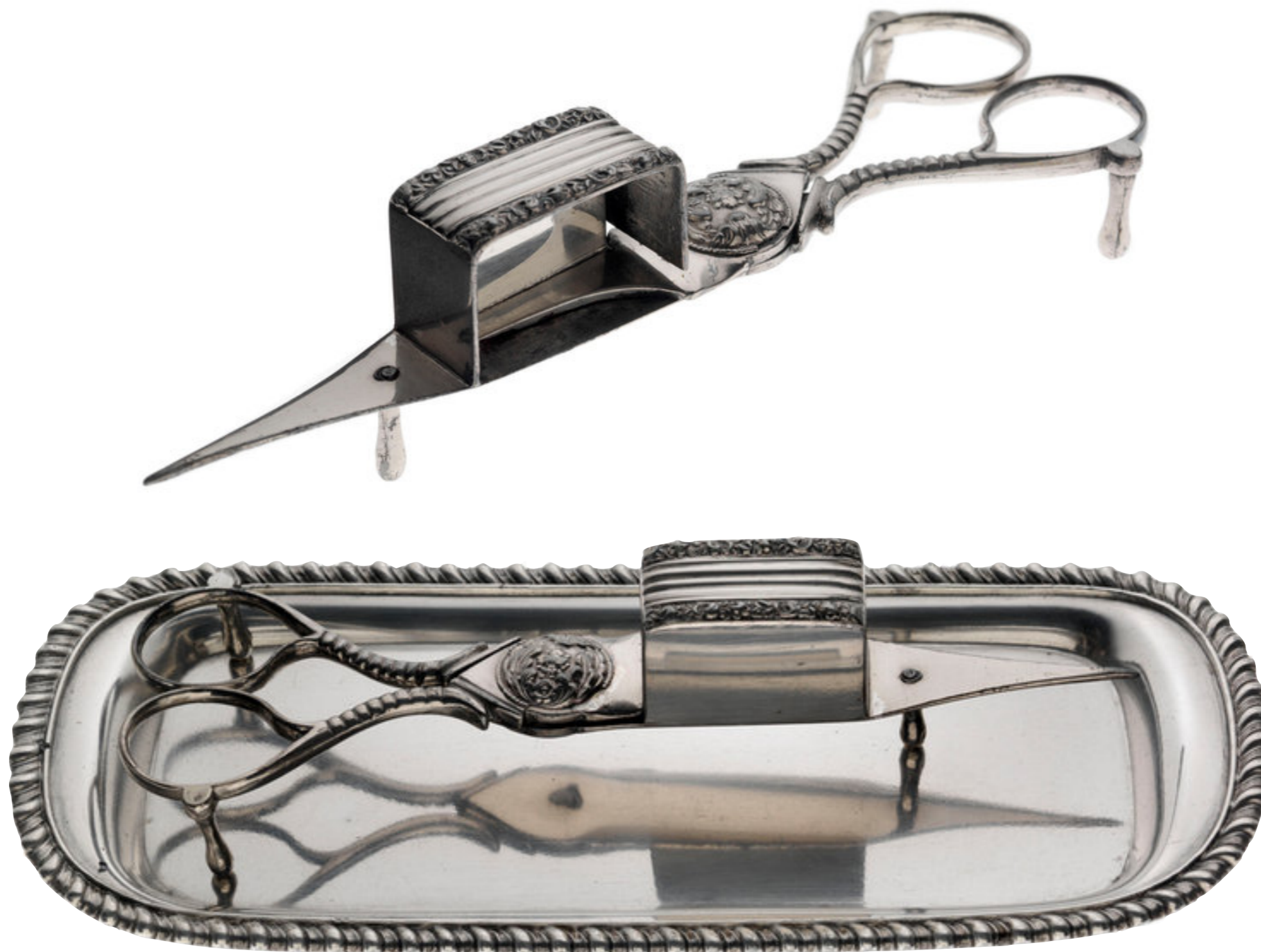
Hanger & Punchbowl Owned by Captain James Cook  
c. 1760 - 1779  
(Glenbow)



Telescope Reported to Have Been Owned & Used by Captain James Cook  
18th Century  
(State Library - New South Wales)



Pocket Hammer Carried by Captain James Cook  
Mid 18th Century  
(Christie's)



English Silver Candle Snuffer & Tray Which Belonged to Captain James Cook & His Wife, Elizabeth  
18th Century  
(National Maritime Museum, Greenwich)



English Silver Pap Boat Which Belonged to Captain James Cook  
18th Century  
(National Maritime Museum, Greenwich)



Pair of Candlesticks Which Belonged to Mrs Elizabeth Cook, Widow of Captain James Cook  
by John Parsons & Co.  
(National Maritime Museum, Greenwich)

# Acknowledgements

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Thank you!

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