

## Intimate Strangers

When Louis Antoine de Bougainville reached Tahiti in 1768, he was struck by the way in which ‘All these people came crying out *tayo*, which means friend, and gave a thousand signs of friendship; they all asked nails and ear-rings of us.’ Reading the archive of early contact in Oceania against European traditions of thinking about intimacy and exchange, Vanessa Smith illuminates the traditions and desires that consistently led Bougainville and other European voyagers to believe that the first word they heard in the Pacific was the word for friend. Her book encompasses forty years of encounters from the arrival of the *Dolphin* in Tahiti in June 1767, through Cook’s and Bligh’s voyages, to early missionary and beachcomber settlement in the Marquesas. It unpacks both the political and emotional significances of ideas of friendship for late eighteenth-century European, and particularly British, explorations of Oceania.

VANESSA SMITH teaches in the Department of English at the University of Sydney. She is the author of *Literary Culture and the Pacific: Nineteenth-Century Textual Encounters* (1998) and co-editor of *Exploration and Exchange: A South Seas Anthology 1680–1900* (2000) and *Islands in History and Representation* (2003).

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-43751-6 — Intimate Strangers  
Vanessa Smith  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

*Critical Perspectives on Empire*

Editors

Professor Catherine Hall  
*University College London*

Professor Mrinalini Sinha  
*Pennsylvania State University*

Professor Kathleen Wilson  
*State University of New York, Stony Brook*

*Critical Perspectives on Empire* is a major new series of ambitious, cross-disciplinary works in the emerging field of critical imperial studies. Books in the series will explore the connections, exchanges and mediations at the heart of national and global histories, the contributions of local as well as metropolitan knowledge, and the flows of people, ideas and identities facilitated by colonial contact. To that end, the series will not only offer a space for outstanding scholars working at the intersection of several disciplines to bring to wider attention the impact of their work; it will also take a leading role in reconfiguring contemporary historical and critical knowledge, of the past and of ourselves.

*A full list of titles published in the series can be found at:*  
[www.cambridge.org/cpempire](http://www.cambridge.org/cpempire)

# Intimate Strangers

*Friendship, Exchange and Pacific Encounters*

---

Vanessa Smith



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
 978-0-521-43751-6 — Intimate Strangers  
 Vanessa Smith  
 Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India  
 79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521437516](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521437516)

© Vanessa Smith 2010

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2010

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*

Smith, Vanessa.

Intimate strangers : friendship, exchange and Pacific encounters / Vanessa Smith

p. cm.

ISBN 978-0-521-43751-6 (Hardback) – ISBN 978-0-521-72878-2 (pbk.)

1. Friendship–Oceania 2. Friendship–Great Britain 3. East and West.

I. Title.

BF575.F66S625 2010

303.48'24096–dc22

2010014313

ISBN 978-0-521-43751-6 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-72878-2 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-43751-6 — Intimate Strangers  
Vanessa Smith  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

For Gabrielle Smith

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-43751-6 — Intimate Strangers  
Vanessa Smith  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

I found my account in having such a friend.

James Cook, *Voyage of the Resolution and Adventure 1772–1775*

## Contents

---

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
Introduction: ‘Amicable signs’	1
<b>Part I Making contact</b>	<b>21</b>
1 Crowd scenes	23
2 Receiving strangers	61
3 Calculated affection	104
4 Performance anxieties	140
<b>Part II Particular friendships</b>	<b>177</b>
5 Fellow travelling	179
6 Ruinous friendships	226
7 ‘Prizeable companions’	263
<i>Bibliography</i>	296
<i>Index</i>	316

## Illustrations

---

1. 'A representation of the attack of Captain Wallis in the Dolphin by the natives of Otaheite', from John Hawkesworth, *An account of the voyages undertaken by the order of His present Majesty, for making discoveries in the southern hemisphere, and successively performed by Commodore Byron, Captain Wallis, Captain Carteret, and Captain Cook, in the Dolphin, the Swallow, and the Endeavour: drawn up from the journals which were kept by the several commanders and from the papers of Joseph Banks, Esq.* (London: W. Strahan and T. Cadell, 1773). Reproduced by permission of the Rare Book & Special Collections, University of Sydney Library. page 31
2. 'A representation of the surrender of the island of Otaheite to Captain Wallis by the supposed Queen Oberea', from Hawkesworth, *An account of the voyages undertaken by the order of His present Majesty*. Reproduced by permission of the Rare Book & Special Collections, University of Sydney Library. 36
3. Francesco Bartolozzi, 'The Death of Captain Cook', published by William Byrne and John Webber, 1784. Reproduced by permission of the trustees of the British Museum. 44
4. 'Onthaal van Kapitein Cook op het Eiland Hapaeë', plate 79, in *Reizen rondom de waereld door J. Cook* (Leyden: J. D. Pasteur, 1795–1809), after the engraving by J. Heath from John Webber's watercolour, nla.pic-an7678391-v. Reproduced by permission of the Pictures Collection, National Library of Australia. 56
5. John Hall, after William Hodges, 'Otoo King of O-Taheite', from James Cook, *A voyage towards the South Pole, and round the World. Performed in His Majesty's ships the Resolution and Adventure, in the years 1772, 1773,*



- 1774, and 1775 (London: Thomas Cadell, 1777), Vol. I, opposite page 154, AN573906001. Reproduced by permission of the trustees of the British Museum. 74
6. John Webber, 'Waheia dooa, chief of Oheitepeha, lying in state', 1789, nla.pic-an7723659-V. Reproduced by permission of the Pictures Collection, National Library of Australia. 154
7. William Byrne, after John Webber, 'The Body of Tee, a Chief, as preserved after Death, in Otaheite', from James Cook and James King, *Voyage to the Pacific Ocean, undertaken by the Command of His Majesty, for making discoveries in the Northern Hemisphere. Performed under the direction of Captains Cook, Clerke and Gore, in His Majesty's ships the Resolution and Discovery, in the years 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779 and 1780* (London: 1785), AN573867001. Reproduced by permission of the trustees of the British Museum. 155
8. William Woollett, 'A view in the Island of Otaheite; with the house or shed called Tupapow, under which the dead are deposited, and a representation of the person who performs the principal part in the funeral ceremony in his peculiar dress; with a man climbing the bread-fruit tree to get out of his way', from Hawkesworth, *An account of the voyages undertaken by the order of His present Majesty*. Reproduced by permission of the Rare Book & Special Collections, University of Sydney Library. 157
9. William Woollett, 'A toupapow with a corpse on it, attended by the Chief Mourner in his habit of ceremony', from Cook, *A voyage towards the South Pole*, nla.pic-an7682809. Reproduced by permission of the Pictures Collection, National Library of Australia. 158
10. Artist of the chief mourner [Tupaia], 'Chief Mourner', from 'Dancing Girl and Chief Mourner, Otaheite'. Drawings illustrative of Captain Cook's First Voyage, 1768–1771. Pencil and watercolour, June–August 1769, British Library Add.Ms15508f.9. Reproduced by permission of the British Library Picture Library. 175
11. Artist of the chief mourner [Tupaia], 'A Maori bartering a crayfish with an English naval officer'. Drawings illustrative of Captain Cook's First Voyage, 1768–1771. Pencil and watercolour, June–August 1769, British Library

x	List of illustrations	
	Add.Ms 15508, f.11. Reproduced by permission of the British Library Picture Library.	196
12.	Francesco Bartolozzi, after Nathaniel Dance, ‘Omai, a native of Ulaietea, brought into England in the year 1774 by Tobias Furneaux’ (London: 1774), nla.pic-an9786480. Reproduced by permission of the Pictures Collection, National Library of Australia.	200
13.	Johann Jacobe, ‘Omai, a native of the island of Utietea, painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, engraved by John Jacobi’, London (Cheapside): John Boydell, 1 Sept. 1780, nla.pic-an6016285. Reproduced by permission of the Pictures Collection, National Library of Australia.	202
14.	Whipcord, ‘The fly catching Macaroni’, [London]: M. Darly accor. to Act, 12 July 1772, nla.pic-an9283268. Reproduced by permission of the Pictures Collection, National Library of Australia.	205
15.	‘The botanic Macaroni’, [London]: Publish’d as the Act directs by M. Darby [ <i>sic</i> ], 14 Nov. 1772, nla.pic-an9283266. Reproduced by permission of the Pictures Collection, National Library of Australia.	206
16.	Philippe Jacques de Loucherbourg, ‘Toha, Chief of Otahaite, Oedidee’, costume design for the pantomime <i>Omai</i> , 1785, nla.pic-an2668154. Reproduced by permission of the Pictures Collection, National Library of Australia.	208
17.	Philippe Jacques de Loucherbourg, ‘Toha’, costume design for the pantomime <i>Omai</i> , 1785, nla.pic-an2668148. Reproduced by permission of the Pictures Collection, National Library of Australia.	209
18.	Philippe Jacques de Loucherbourg, ‘Chief mourner Otahaite’, costume design for the pantomime <i>Omai</i> , 1785, nla.pic-an2668152. Reproduced by permission of the Pictures Collection, National Library of Australia.	210

## Acknowledgements

---

I've learnt much in the process of writing this book about how difficult it is to disentangle the languages of debt and friendship, and it's a book indebted to many friends. For the generosity of their insights, references, reading and hospitality, I thank Judith Barbour, Gillian Beer, Danielle Bobker, David Chappell, Hervé-Marie Le Cleac'h, Guy Davidson, Robert Dixon, James Drown, Mark Eddowes, Markman Ellis, Kim Evans, Vanessa Finney, Annegret Gottwald, the Grafton Terrors, Harriet Guest, Alexis Harley, David, Lorna and Shel Hershinow, Mark Johnston, Pamala Karol, Ulrich Kinzel, Catarina Krizancic, Harry Liebersohn, Kate Lilley, Paul Lyons, James Mackenzie, Andy Martin, Roslyn Mayled, Donna Merwick, Geoff Moggridge, Nancy and Al Morris, Keao NeSmith, Jennifer Newell, Sandhya Patel, Lee Quinby, Merrilee Robb, Bob Suggs, Ari'i Tai Tani, Teriitauairohutu Tetumu, Nicholas Thomas and Richard Yeo. I'm especially grateful to Elizabeth Wilson for her galvanizing critical engagement with this project, to Rod Edmond, for island and other conversations, and to Greg Dening and Noel Rowe, who offered me so much by way of conversation and example. My thanks and love always to Georg and Jan Gottwald, and Vivian, Sybille, Gabrielle and Nick Smith, who have given me all the best kinds of support and encouragement.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Australian Research Council for awarding me a QEII fellowship to conduct this research, and to the librarians and staff of Fisher Library and the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, Sydney; the National Library, Canberra; the Bishop Museum Archive, Hamilton Library, Hawaiian Historical Society Library and Mission Houses Museum Library, Honolulu; the Service des Archives Territoriales, the Société des Etudes Océaniques, the Académie Tahitienne and the Musée de Tahiti et Ses Isles, Tahiti; the Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts; the Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer, Aix-en-Provence; and the British Library, the British Museum and the National Archives, London. In particular I'd like to thank Paul Niva at the Musée de Tahiti et Ses Isles,

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-43751-6 — Intimate Strangers  
Vanessa Smith  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

xii Acknowledgements

Coulin Yoan at the Académie Tahitienne, Desoto Brown and Patty Belcher at the Bishop Museum Archive, and Barbara Dunn at the Hawaiian Historical Society for giving thought to the questions this project posed. I am grateful to Michael Watson and Kathleen Wilson for their early and sustained enthusiasm for the project, and their editorial guidance.

Versions of sections of this work have appeared in *Pacific Studies* 27, nos 1–2 (March/June 2004), *Eighteenth-Century Studies* vol. 41, no. 2 (2008), *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* 11, no. 2 (June 2009), and *Parergon* 26, no. 2 (2009).

This book is dedicated to my perceptive and generous sister Gabrielle Smith, who has always understood everything about friendship.