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978-1-108-05755-4 - An Account of the Natives of the Tonga Islands in the South Pacific Ocean: Volume 2

William Mariner Edited by John Martin

Frontmatter

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### An Account of the Natives of the Tonga Islands in the South Pacific Ocean

In November 1806, the damaged *Port-au-Prince* arrived at what Captain Cook had called the Friendly Islands. William Charles Mariner (1791–1853) was among the few crew members spared by the native inhabitants. He lived there for four years. Published in 1818, this two-volume second edition offers an important early insight into Tongan customs and language. As editor John Martin (1789–1869) explains, the structure of a nation's language is vital to the consideration of its history. So successful was the first edition of 1817 – expanded upon here to include 'generally corroborative, and in a few instances somewhat corrective' information from another erstwhile inhabitant – that within months of its publication a French translation appeared; German and American editions soon followed. Volume 2 covers diverse aspects of Tongan society, from its music to notions of the soul, and includes a detailed grammar of the language and 2,000 words of vocabulary.

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VOLUME 2

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WITH  
AN ORIGINAL GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY  
OF  
THEIR LANGUAGE.

COMPILED AND ARRANGED FROM THE EXTENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS OF  
MR. WILLIAM MARINER,  
SEVERAL YEARS RESIDENT IN THOSE ISLANDS.

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BY JOHN MARTIN, M. D.

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“ The savages of America inspire less interest . . . since celebrated navigators  
“ have made known to us the inhabitants of the islands of the South Sea . . . The  
“ state of half-civilization in which those islanders are found gives a peculiar  
“ charm to the description of their manners . . . Such pictures, no doubt, have  
“ more attraction than those which pourtray the solemn gravity of the inhabitant  
“ of the banks of the Missouri or the Maranon.”

*Preface to Humboldt's Personal Narrative.*

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