

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07823-8 - The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe González to Easter Island, 1770–1:
Preceded by an Extract from Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen's Official Log of His Discovery
of and Visit to Easter Island

Edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney

Excerpt

[More information](#)

EXTRACT

FROM THE OFFICIAL LOG¹ OF THE VOYAGE OF

MYNHEER JACOB ROGGEVEEN,

IN THE SHIPS DEN AREND, THIENHOVEN

AND DE AFRIKAANSCHÉ GALEY,

IN 1721—2,

in so far as it relates

to the discovery

of

EASTER ISLAND.

Translated by the Editor.

¹ DAGVERHAAL der Ontdekkings-Reis van Mr *Jacob Roggeveen* mit de Schepen *DEN AREND*, *THIENHOVEN*, en *DE AFRIKAANSCHÉ GALEY*, en de Jaren 1721 en 1722.

Te Middelburg, MDCCCXXXVIII.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07823-8 - The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe González to Easter Island, 1770–1:
Preceded by an Extract from Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen's Official Log of His Discovery
of and Visit to Easter Island

Edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney

Excerpt

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07823-8 - The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe González to Easter Island, 1770–1:
Preceded by an Extract from Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen's Official Log of His Discovery
of and Visit to Easter Island

Edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney

Excerpt

[More information](#)

EXTRACT FROM THE OFFICIAL LOG
OF
MR JACOB ROGGEVEEN;
RELATING TO HIS
DISCOVERY OF EASTER ISLAND.

LOG, relating to the voyage to the unknown portion of the World, lying in the South-Sea to the westward of America, done and kept by Mr JACOB ROGGEVEEN, as Commander in Chief of the three Ships *THE AREND*, whose Captain is JAN KOSTER, mounted with 32 pieces of Cannon, manned with 110 Persons, and 120 feet in length: the Ship *THIENHOVEN*, commanded by Capⁿ. CORNELIS BOUMAN, being mounted with 24 pieces of Cannon, 80 Persons, and 100 feet in length: together with the Ship *DE AFRIKAANSCHÉ GALEY*, having [*sic*] pieces of Cannon, 33 men, and 92 feet long, each one being victualled for 28 months, all equipped and fitted out by the Amsterdam Chamber, in pursuance of a Resolution of the Honourable the Directors of the Netherlands chartered West-India Company, adopted at a Meeting of their Board held at The Hague on the 10th of April, *Anno* 1721.

April.

1. Found ourselves at noon in 26 degrees 56 minutes South latitude, and in the longitude by reckoning of 268 degrees 45 minutes, the course was West, the wind East-

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07823-8 - The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe González to Easter Island, 1770–1:
 Preceded by an Extract from Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen's Official Log of His Discovery
 of and Visit to Easter Island

Edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney

Excerpt

[More information](#)

4 THE VOYAGE OF CAPTAIN DON FELIPE GONZALEZ

South-East and South-East, with a topgallant-sail breeze, also light airs to calm. The North-Easterly variation was 2 degrees 18 minutes¹.

2. The lat. was 27 degrees 31 minutes by reckoning, the long. 268 degrees 23 minutes, corrected course Sou'-Sou'-West $\frac{1}{2}$ West, distance 10 miles, the wind Southerly and West-Nor'-West, from calm to a reefed-topsail breeze, with showers, and a thick, lowering atmosphere. Made a signal for a consultation with the captains of the ships *THIENHOVEN* and *THE AFRICAN GALLEY*, of which the resolution adopted is the following :—

COUNCIL of the Officers of the three Ships sailing in company; holden on board the Ship *AREND*, in the presence of Mr JACOB ROGGEVEEN, President; Captain JAN KOSTER, commanding the Ship *AREND*; Captain CORNELIS BOUMAN, commanding the Ship *THIENHOVEN*, and Captain ROELOF ROSENDAAL, in charge of the Ship *THE AFRICAN GALLEY*.

Thursday, 2 April, 1722.

“The President having pointed out that we have now come about 500 miles to the Westward of Copayapo, situated on the coast of Chile, also that having reached the latitude of 26 degrees 56 minutes South, and yet not come in sight of the unknown Southland (according to existing accounts of it), for the discovery of which our Expedition and Voyage is specially undertaken; moreover, as fortune has not yet favoured us with the aforesaid sight, possibly because it lies farther to the Westward than its

¹ Cook does not quote the variation specifically, but from his Tables of the *Resolution's* courses and positions it appears that he found it 2° 34' Easterly on the day next but one after leaving the island. The Spaniards found it 2° 30'.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07823-8 - The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe González to Easter Island, 1770–1:
Preceded by an Extract from Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen's Official Log of His Discovery
of and Visit to Easter Island

Edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney

Excerpt

[More information](#)

TO EASTER ISLAND.

5

discoverers reckoned ; seeing that they must have been as much liable to error as the most experienced and intelligent experts in seamanship, when sailing along a given parallel on a course from East to West, be it North or South of the Line ; therefore the President submits this question to the Council as being a thing of utmost importance, namely, whether it be not judged safest to continue on a West course long enough to feel sure that Copayapo lies fully six hundred miles away to the Eastward of our position, in order thus to follow out and exactly fulfil the intention of our Principals (in accordance with the Instructions issued to us, which lay down and limit the Longitude at 600 miles). All the which, being well considered, it is unani- mously approved and agreed upon, after the different longitude of each commander was noted and the mean departure worked out, which was found to be 29 degrees 30 minutes, to sail another degree and 30 minutes farther to the Westward, in order thus to give full effect to the Resolution adopted on March the 15th last : and, further, to continue on the same due West course until one shall have sailed a good clear hundred miles farther, as to wholly obey the aforesaid Instructions in all their particulars in accordance with the dictates of right and of our duty. So resolved and determined in the Ship and on the day above stated. (Signed) JACOB ROGGEVEEN, JAN KOSTER, COR- NELIS BOUMAN, ROELOF ROSENDAAL.”

3. Had lat. 27 degrees 1 minute South by observation, and long. 267 degrees 31 minutes by reckoning, the cor- rected course was West-Nor'-West, the wind between the Nor'-West and the Sou'-South-East, with reefed topgallant- sail and topsail breezes ; fine weather. We saw many kinds of birds. The variation of the compass was 1 degree 46 minutes North-Easterly.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07823-8 - The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe González to Easter Island, 1770–1:
 Preceded by an Extract from Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen's Official Log of His Discovery
 of and Visit to Easter Island

Edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney

Excerpt

[More information](#)

6 THE VOYAGE OF CAPTAIN DON FELIPE GONZALEZ

4. Reckoned ourselves to be in lat. 27 degrees 1 minute S., and long. 267 degrees 2 minutes; the course was West, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the wind between Sou'-Sou'-West and East, with light airs and calms, and very fine weather, although the sky was overcast; we were able nevertheless to get two observations of the sun at rising and setting from which we found the variation to be 2 degrees 37 minutes North-Easterly.

5. Our lat. by reckoning was 27 degrees 4 minutes South and the long. 266 degrees 31 minutes, course West $\frac{1}{2}$ South, distance 7 miles, the wind Nor'-Nor'-West to Sou'-West, breeze unsteady, with calms, also thick weather and showers. Saw a turtle, floating weed, and birds. About the 10th glass in the afternoon watch *THE AFRICAN GALLEY*, which was sailing ahead of us, lay to to wait for us, making the signal of land in sight; when we came up with her, after four glasses had run out, for the breeze was light, we asked what they had seen. On this we were answered that they had all very distinctly seen a low and flattish island lying away to starboard, about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles off, to the nor'ard and west'ard. Hereupon it was deemed well to stand on under easy sail to the end of the first watch, and then to lie to and await the dawn. This being decided, the necessary information was given to Captain BOUMAN, who was astern; and to the land the name of *Padsch Eyland*, because it was discovered by us on Easter Day. There was great rejoicing among the people and every one hoped that this low land might prove to be a foretoken of the coastline of the unknown Southern continent.

6. Had a light breeze out of the South-East, and East-South-East, *Padsch Eyland* lying West by North 8 to 9 miles from us. Laid our course between West by South and North-West, in order to run under the lee of the Island, and so avoid the dangers of a lee shore. At noon the corrected course was West, distance 10 miles, lat. by

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07823-8 - The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe González to Easter Island, 1770–1:
Preceded by an Extract from Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen's Official Log of His Discovery
of and Visit to Easter Island

Edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney

Excerpt

[More information](#)

TO EASTER ISLAND.

7

reckoning 27 degrees 4 minutes South, and long. 265 degrees 42 minutes. In the ninth glass of the afternoon we saw smoke rising in several places from which we concluded that there were people dwelling on the same. We therefore thought it would be well to consider with the Captains of the other ships whether it were not needful to undertake an expedition ashore, to the end that we might gain a fitting knowledge of the interior of the country. On this, it was decided that both the shallops of the Ships *AREND* and *THIENHOVEN*, well manned and armed, should proceed inshore, and find out a convenient place for landing a party from the boats, and also to take soundings. This decision being come to, we stood off and on for the night with our Ships. Which Resolution is as follows:—

COUNCIL of the Commanders of the three Ships sailing in company held on board the *AREND*, in the presence of the undersigned.

Monday the 6th of April, 1722.

“The President submitting that we had now arrived within a distance of some two miles of the *Sandy Island*, the which lies in an Easterly direction from the stretch of coast (as yet out of sight) which it is one of the objects of this Expedition to discover, and as we have seen smoke ascending in several places, from which it may reasonably be concluded that the aforementioned Island, although it may be shown to be sandy and barren, has nevertheless human inhabitants; now, therefore the President moves that it would be culpable to proceed in a careless and negligent manner, and that we should stand off and on for to-night with our ships, and that on the arrival of daylight we send close in to the land two well manned shallops,

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07823-8 - The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe González to Easter Island, 1770–1:
Preceded by an Extract from Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen's Official Log of His Discovery
of and Visit to Easter Island

Edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney

Excerpt

[More information](#)

8 THE VOYAGE OF CAPTAIN DON FELIPE GONZALEZ

properly armed (that we may be in a state of defence in case of any hostile meeting), and show all friendliness towards the inhabitants, endeavouring to see and inquire what they wear or make use of either as ornaments or for other purposes, also whether any refreshments in the way of green stuff, fruit, or beasts can be procured by barter. Which motion having been discussed, the same is by common assent approved and adopted: and it is farther decided that both the shallops of the Ships *AREND* and *THIENHOVEN*, shall proceed at daybreak, and that *THE AFRICAN GALLEY* should follow as close to the land as possible and prudent, covering and defending the said shallops (should need arise). Resolved and attested in the said Ship and on the day above mentioned. (Signed): JACOB ROGGEVEEN, JAN KOSTER, CORNELIS BOUMAN, ROELOF ROSENDAAL.”

7. The weather was very variable, with thunder, sheet lightning and showers. The wind unsteady from the North West, and occasional calms, so that our shore expedition could not be undertaken with any prospect of success. During the forenoon Captain BOUMAN brought an Easter Islander on board, together with his craft, in which he had come off close to the Ship from the land; he was quite nude, without the slightest covering for that which modesty shrinks from revealing. This hapless creature seemed to be very glad to behold us, and showed the greatest wonder at the build of our Ship. He took special notice of the tautness of our spars, the stoutness of our rigging and running gear, the sails, the guns—which he felt all over with minute attention—and with everything else that he saw; especially when the image of his own features was displayed before him in a mirror, seeing the which, he started suddenly back and then looked towards

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07823-8 - The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe González to Easter Island, 1770–1:
Preceded by an Extract from Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen's Official Log of His Discovery
of and Visit to Easter Island

Edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney

Excerpt

[More information](#)

TO EASTER ISLAND.

9

the back of the glass, apparently in the expectation of discovering there the cause of the apparition.

After we had sufficiently beguiled ourselves with him, and he with us, we started him off again in his canoe towards the shore, having presented him with two strings of blue beads¹ round his neck, a small mirror, a pair of scissors, and other like trifles, which seemed to have a special attraction for him.

But when we had approached within a short distance of the land we saw distinctly that the account of the *Sandy* and *Low* Island (so described by Captain *William Dampier*, in accordance with the statement and testimony of Captain *Davis*, and of the narrator *Lionel Wafer*, whose log of this and other discoveries the aforesaid *Dampier* has made known through the press, and inserted as a prominent feature in his book, which comprises all his own travels and voyages) was not in the least in conformity with our find; and that neither could it be the land which the aforementioned discoverers declare to be visible 14 to 16 miles beyond it and stretching away out of sight, being a range of high land, which the said *Dampier* conjectured might be the extremity of the unknown Southland. That this Easter Island can not be the *Sandy* Island is clear, from the fact that the sandy one is small, and low; whereas *Easter Island*, on the contrary, extends some 15 or 16 miles in circuit, and has at its Eastern and Western points—which lie about five miles from each other—two high hills sloping gradually down, with three or four other smaller hills about their bases which rise above the plain, so that this land is of moderate elevation, and raised above the force of the sea.

The reason why, at first, when at a farther distance off, we had regarded the said Easter Island as being of a sandy

¹ The original has *coraelen*, meaning beads.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07823-8 - The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe González to Easter Island, 1770–1:
Preceded by an Extract from Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen's Official Log of His Discovery
of and Visit to Easter Island

Edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney

Excerpt

[More information](#)

IO THE VOYAGE OF CAPTAIN DON FELIPE GONZALEZ

nature is that we mistook the parched-up grass, and hay or other scorched and charred brushwood for a soil of that arid nature, because from its outward appearance it suggested no other idea than that of an extraordinarily sparse and meagre vegetation; and the discoverers had consequently bestowed upon it the term *sandy*.

It may therefore be concluded, in the light of the foregoing explanation, that this *Easter Island* now discovered will turn out to be some other land lying further to the Eastward than that which is one of the objectives of our Expedition: or else, the discoverers must stand convicted of a whole bundle of lies in their reports, told by word of mouth as well as in writing.

8. We had the wind South, South by East, and Sou'-Sou'-West, with a reefed topsail breeze, unsteady. After breakfast had been served, our shallop was well manned and armed, and likewise the shallop of the Ship *THIENHOVEN*, now close in with the land; and having received their orders, they reported that the inhabitants there were very finely clad in some stuffs of all kinds of colours, and that they made many signs that we should come on shore, but as our orders were not to do so, if the Indians should be present in large numbers, that was not permitted. Furthermore, some thought they had seen the natives to have plates of silver in their ears, and mother-of-pearl shells as ornaments about their necks. By sundown, having come into the roadstead, between the Ships *THIENHOVEN* and *THE AFRICAN GALLEY*, which had already brought to in readiness for us, we let go our anchor in 22 fathoms, coral bottom, at the distance, of a quarter of a mile¹ from the beach; the Eastern point of the Island bearing East by South, and the West point West-Nor'-West from us.

¹ About six furlongs.