

Additional Eighteenth-Century Sketches of the Polynesian Native Dog, Including the Maori

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WHILE AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM in May and June, 1960, I discovered five additional eighteenth-century sketches which include views of what presumably are native Polynesian dogs. Two are of the Maori native dog, of which no other sketches are known. Three sketches show dogs of the Society Islands but do not portray them as clearly as in the views presented earlier (Luomala, 1960*a*) in this journal. However, they may be of general historical and anthropological interest. Also included is a sketch showing a native pig of the Society Islands.

The five sketches come from "A collection of drawings by A. Buchan, S. Parkinson and J. F. Miller, made in the countries visited by Captain Cook in his first voyage (1768-71), also of prints published in John Hawkesworth's *Voyages of Biron, Wallis and Cook, 1773*, as well as in Cook's second and third voyages (1762-5, 1776-80)." This is the same collection from which the British Museum had sent me photographs (Luomala, 1960*a*: figs. 5-8) of two scenes from the Society Islands, "Double Canoes, Tipaerua" and "Canoes of Ulietea." The collection, which may have come into the possession of the British Museum from the estate of Sir Joseph Banks, who accompanied Captain Cook on the first voyage to the Pacific, also includes, besides unpublished sketches and engravings, duplicates of prints which Hawkesworth used in preparing Captain Cook's journal of the first voyage for publication. Because these duplicates were larger or clearer than the published engravings I had an opportunity to verify details which had not been very distinct in Hawkesworth's published prints.

What can be learned of the Maori dog from these eighteenth-century sketches? Figures 1 and 2 show a light-colored dog with dark spots. One

large, dark spot is on the dog's back and right side above its right hind flank. Another is on its left side somewhere between the neck and the left shoulder. Another dark patch is around its ears above the eyes. The ears are erect, pointed, and large in proportion to the skull. The muzzle is long. The dog, in relation to the man behind, seems quite small. The tail is not shown. The



FIG. 1. Detail of dog shown in Figure 2.

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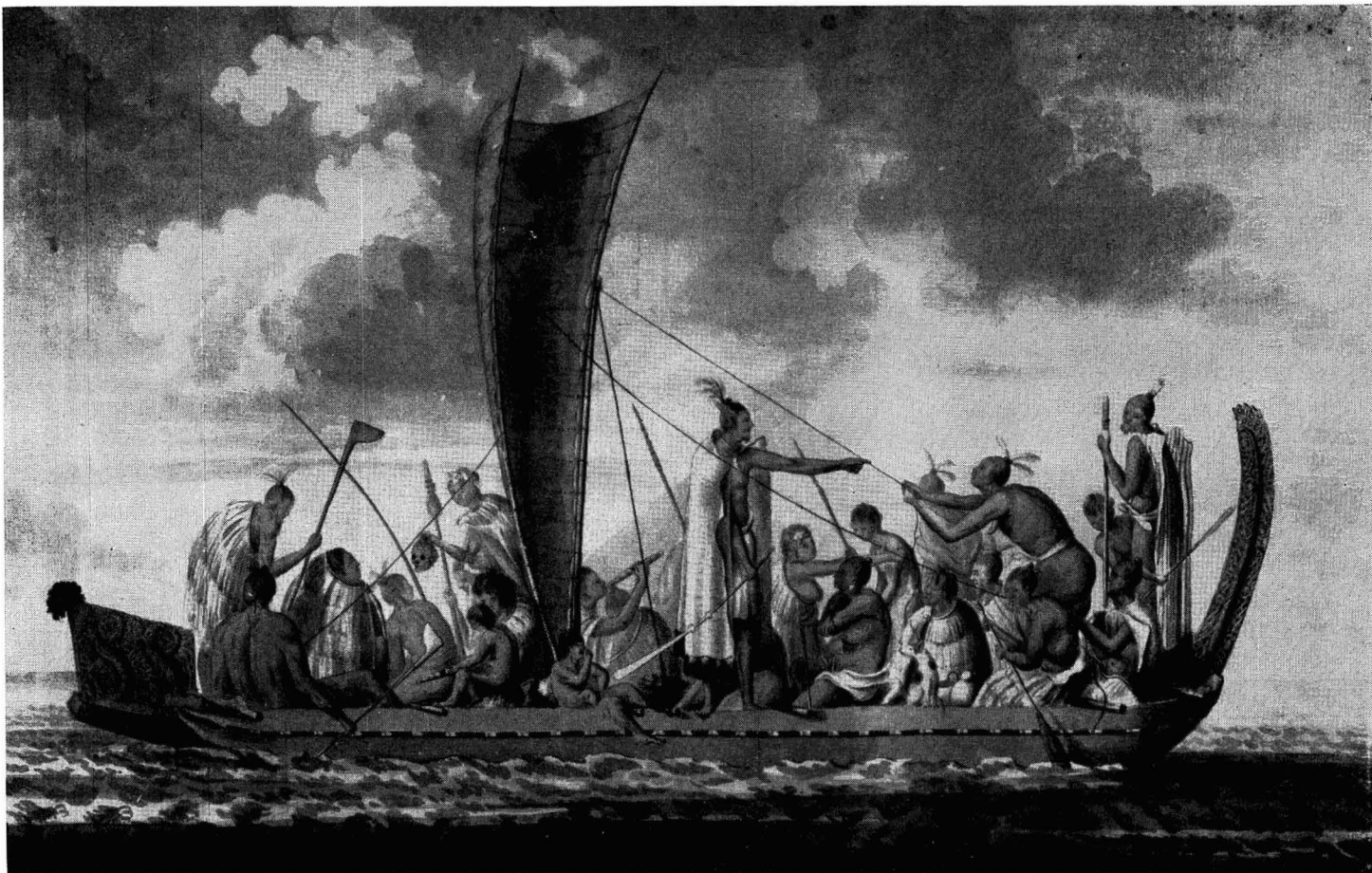


FIG. 2. "New Zealand War Canoe." A white dog with dark spots is sitting at the center right.

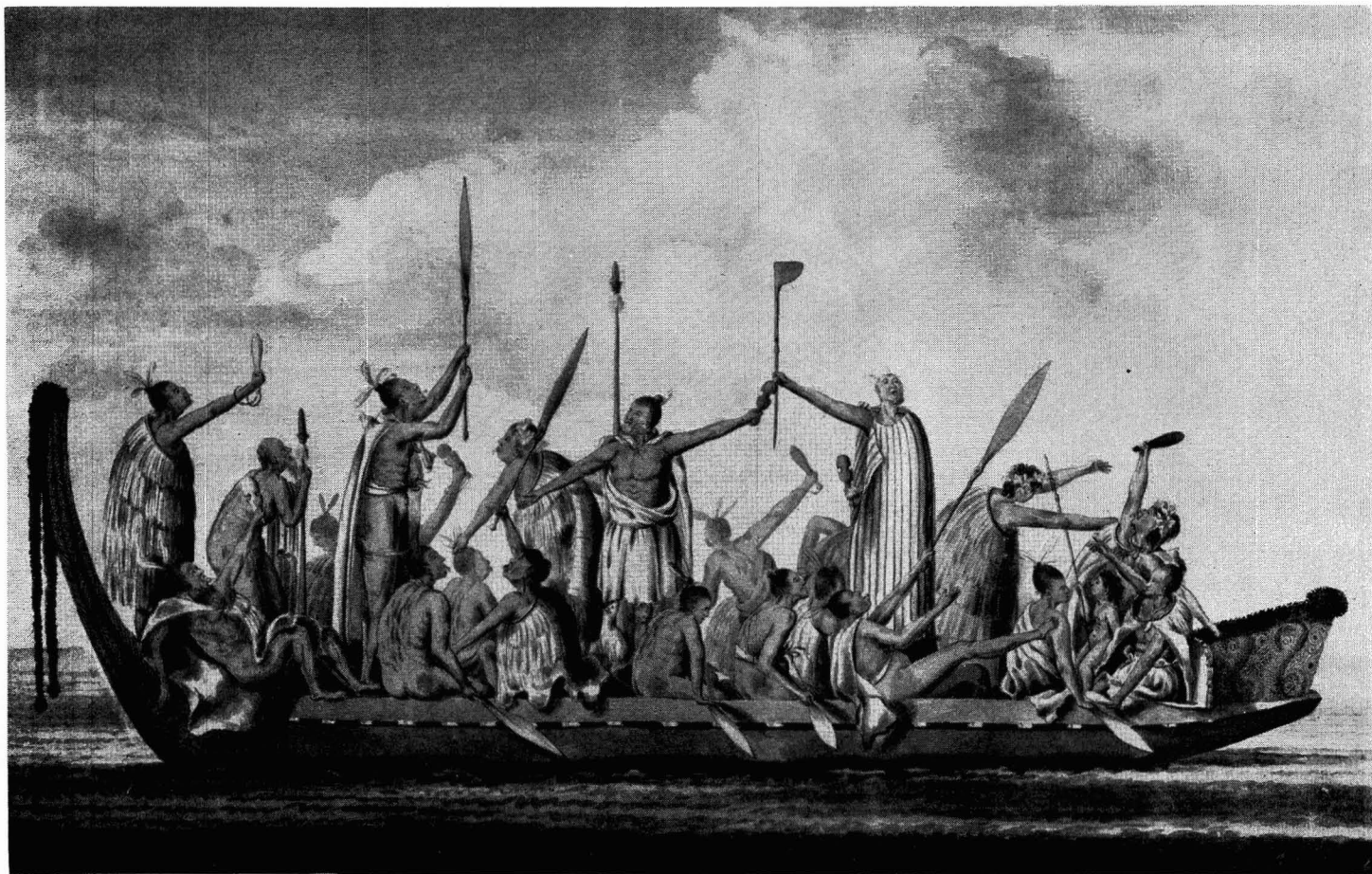


FIG. 3. "New Zealand War Canoe bidding defiance to the Ship." A white dog is sitting in mid-center looking up at the man who has both arms outstretched and holds a mere in his left hand.



FIG. 4. Detail of dog shown in Figure 3.

nature of the hair, whether long or short, rough or smooth, is difficult to determine. The shading and lines on the dog's left side suggest thick hair, disarranged by the dog's attitude, but, contrarily, the right side has a sleek look.

The dog in Figures 3 and 4 appears to be entirely of one light color. It has a long muzzle, erect ears, and rather short spindly legs supporting a very plump body. The length and the texture of the hair are not indicated unless the parallel lines made to show the twisting of the body as the dog looks up at the man are also intended to suggest the partings that might occur in a wooly coat by such a movement. The sketcher has scarcely drawn the tail except by narrow curves which he has not filled in. When compared with the man behind him the dog is quite small in size. The dog is sitting on a thwart at about mid-calf of the man who is standing on the bottom of the canoe. The up-turned muzzle of the dog touches the hem of the man's garment which falls just above his knees.

The eighteenth-century descriptions of the Maori native dog provide more information than the sketches. The latter do not include an all-black dog or show the dogs in attitudes by which the body length, the hair length, or the appearance of the tail might be judged.

The first descriptions of the Maori native dog come from Captain Cook and his crew. Cook described the dogs he saw in October, 1769, at Poverty Bay, North Island, as "very small and ugly" (Hawkesworth, 1773, II: 313) and of unspecified different colors (Hawkesworth, 1773, III: 444). In the journal of the third voyage (Cook, 1784, I: 153), the Maori dog is described as "a sort of fox-dog," which echoes Crozet's account.

Crozet (Roth, 1891: 76) described the dogs he saw in 1772 in New Zealand as "a sort of domesticated fox, quite black or white, very low on the legs, straight ears, thick tail, long body, full jaws but more pointed than that of the



FIG. 5. Detail of dog in Figure 6. The long ears of another creature, a pig, are visible in the hull.

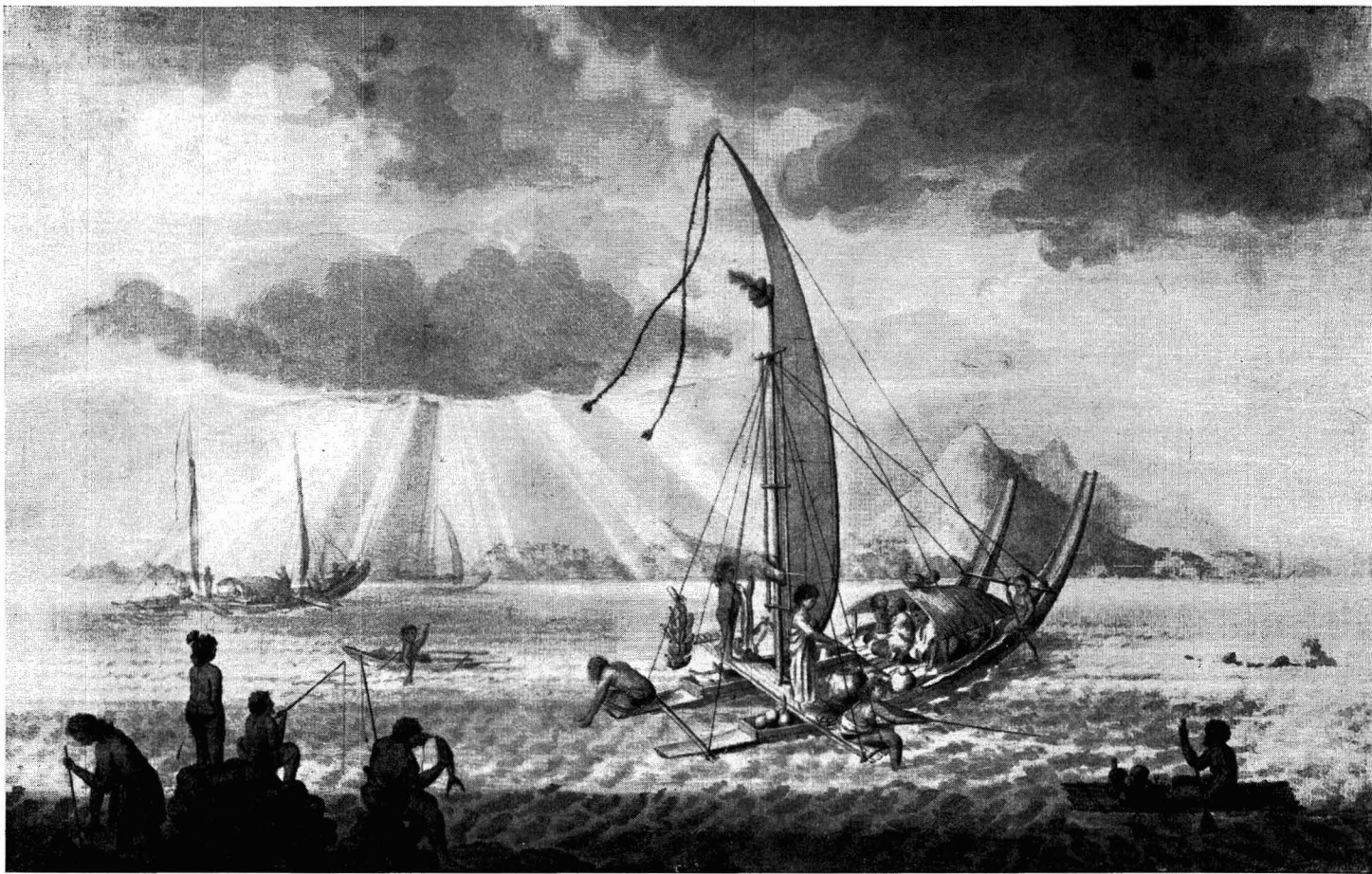


FIG. 6. "Vessels of the Island of Otaha," Society Islands. A spotted dog is partly visible beyond the mast.

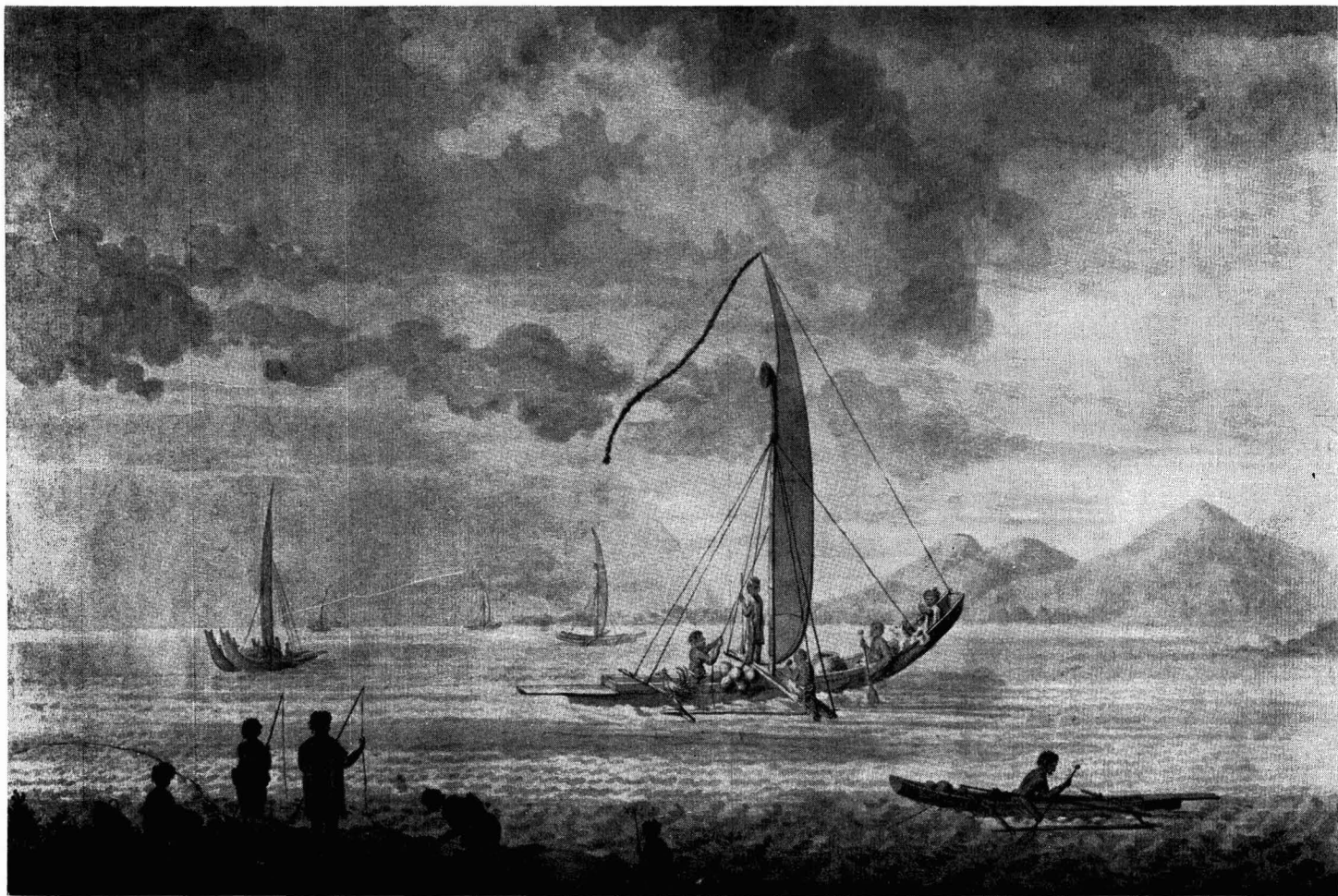


FIG. 7. "View of the Island of Otaha," Society Islands. A dog sits in the stern.

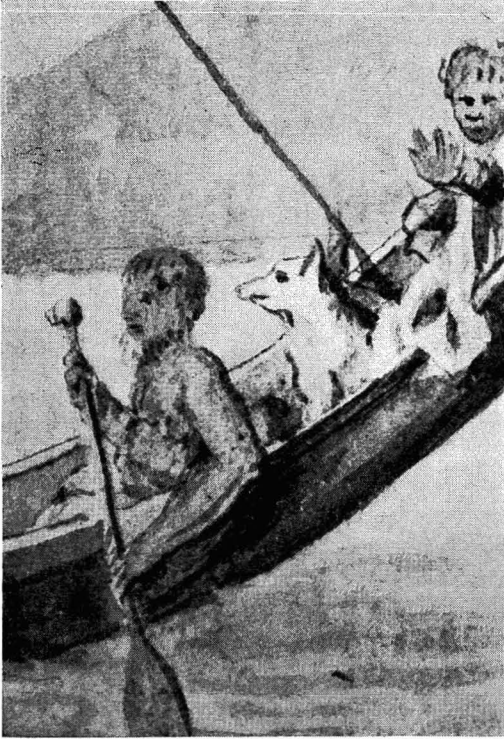


FIG. 8. Detail of dog in Figure 7.

fox..." The dogs he took aboard were "treacherous" and bit the strangers who had acquired them.

George Forster (1777, I: 377), naturalist on Cook's second voyage, likened the Maori dogs he saw in 1773 to the "common shepherd's cur, or count Buffon's *chien de berger*" (Luomala, 1960a: fig. 17). Forster described the Maori dog's hair as rough and long. The dogs varied in color, for there were "some spotted, some quite black, and others perfectly white." The ears were pricked.

Bellingshausen (1945: 215) in 1820 said that the dogs were of "rather a small breed...not large." They had thick tails, erect ears, a broad muzzle, and short legs.

My earlier article (Luomala, 1960a: fig. 16) includes a photograph of a stuffed dog (B. 3527, Dominion Museum, Wellington, New Zealand), sometimes regarded as of the native type although obtained in modern times. Moa Hunter archaeological sites in South Island have yielded

dog bones and artifacts made of dog bone but I know of no analyses of the bones (Luomala, 1960b: 192). However, they serve to establish the pre-European presence of dogs in New Zealand.

The three harbor scenes (Figs. 6, 7, 10) from the Society Islands show canoes with dogs and other native livestock on board. Unlike the Maoris who had only dogs, the Society Islanders had dogs, pigs, and chickens. These drawings do not seem to have been published before, so they may be of anthropological interest. The close-ups of the dog show that it is far less sharply and fully delineated than in the sketches published earlier.

In Figure 5 at the left is part of a long-eared animal head. That it is a pig is evident from comparing it with Figures 11 and 12. The pig is mentioned here because earlier (Luomala, 1960a: fig. 1, 195) a similar creature, of which only the head is visible in a canoe, is described as a horned cow being transported from the

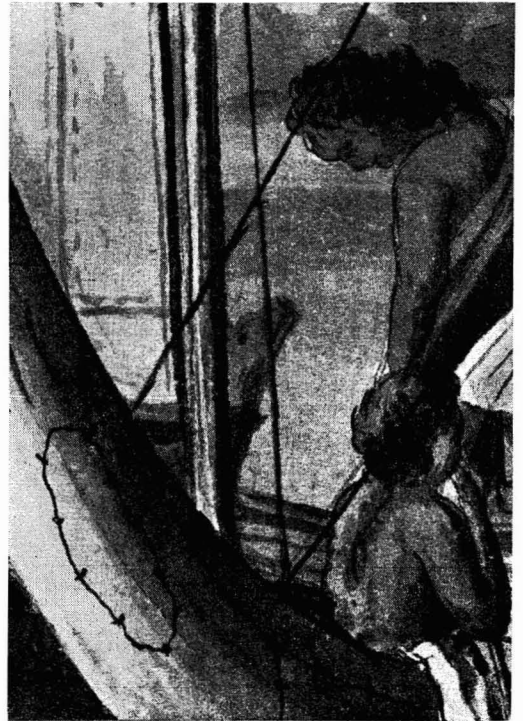


FIG. 9. Detail of dog in Figure 10. The irregular oval section on the hull is a patch.

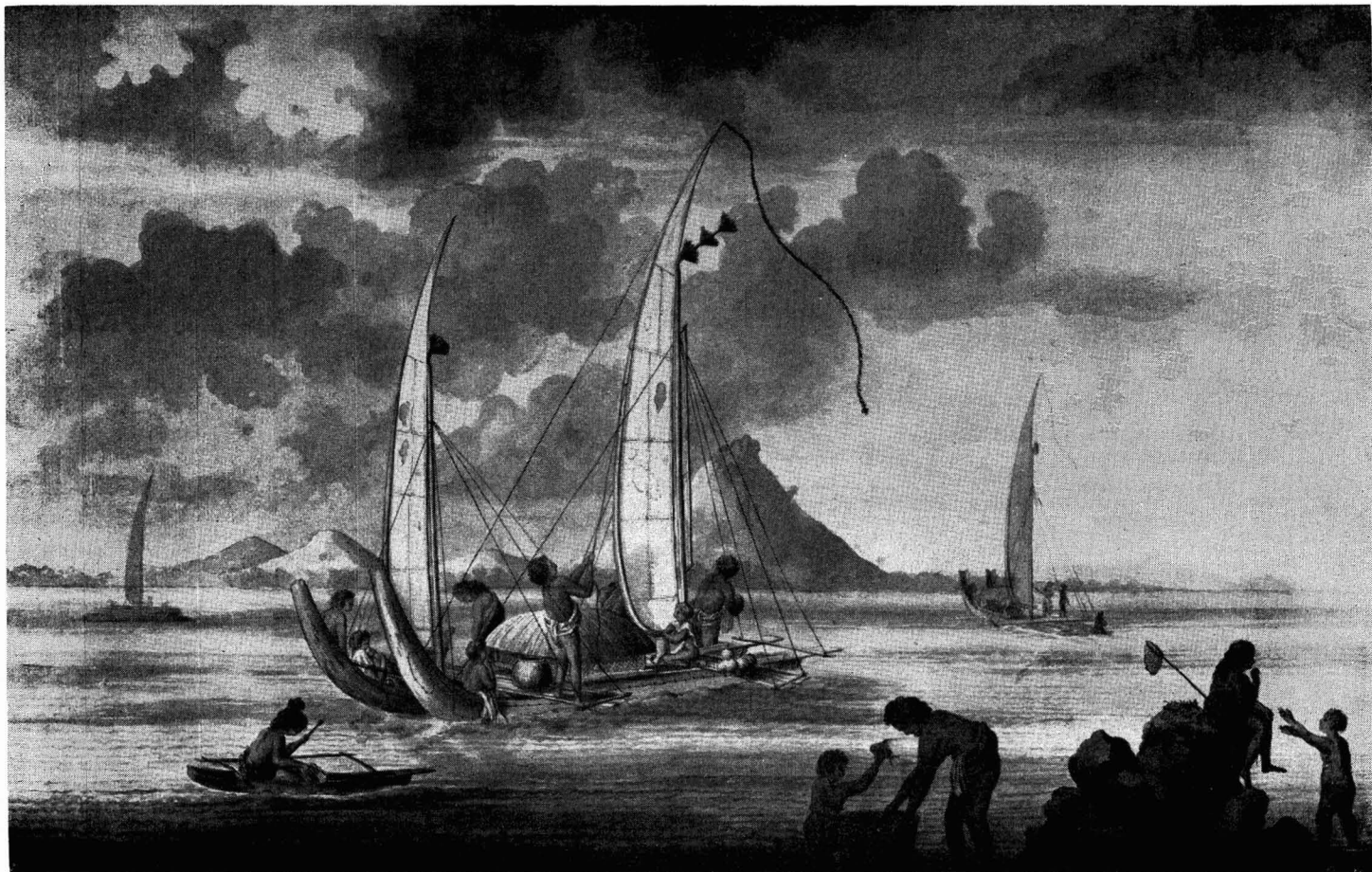


FIG. 10. An unlabeled scene in the Society Islands. A dog's pointed muzzle is visible near the aft mast.

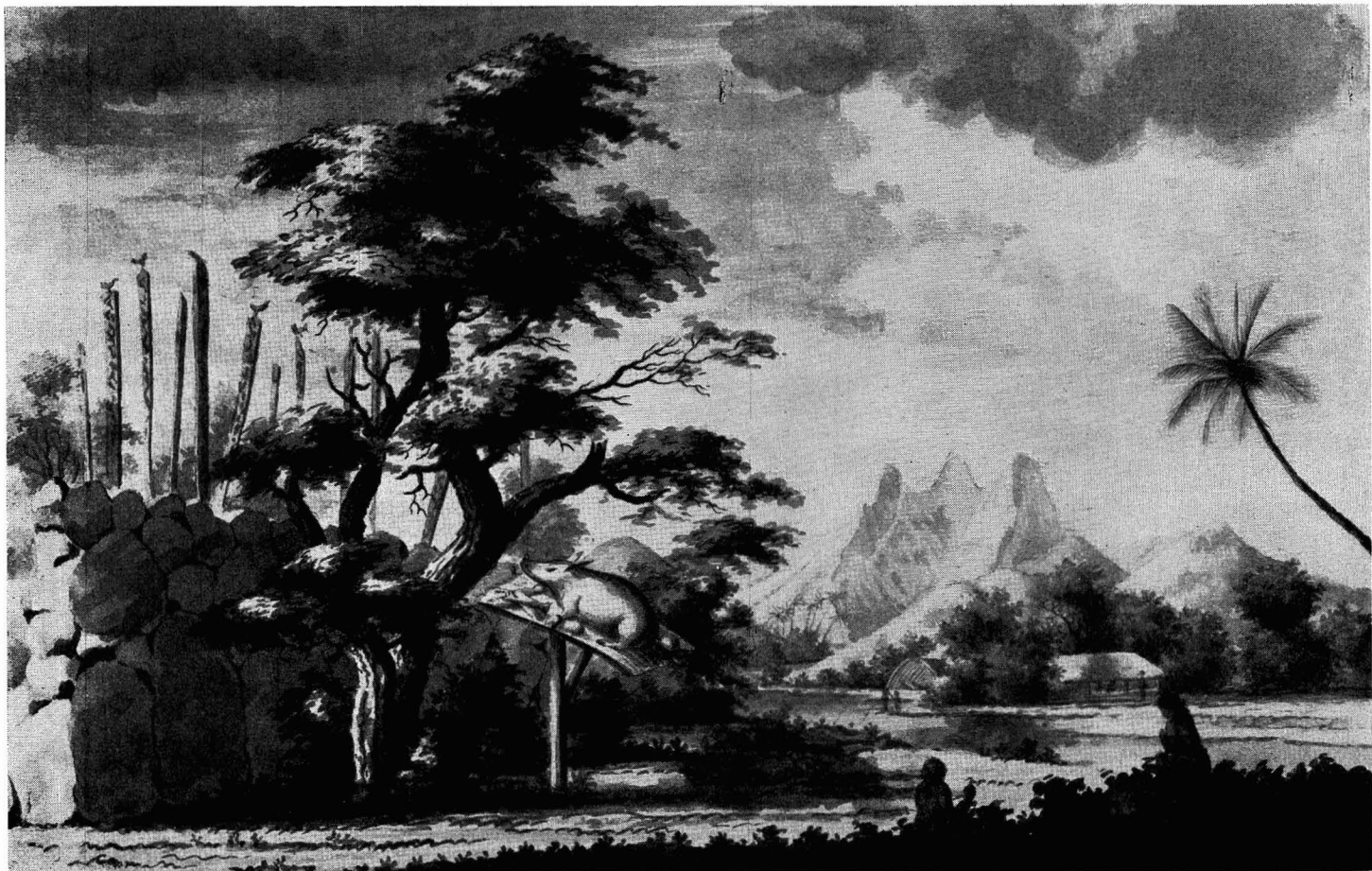


FIG. 11. "A Morai with an offering to the Dead," Society Islands. A pig and some fish lie on the single-poled sacrificial platform.

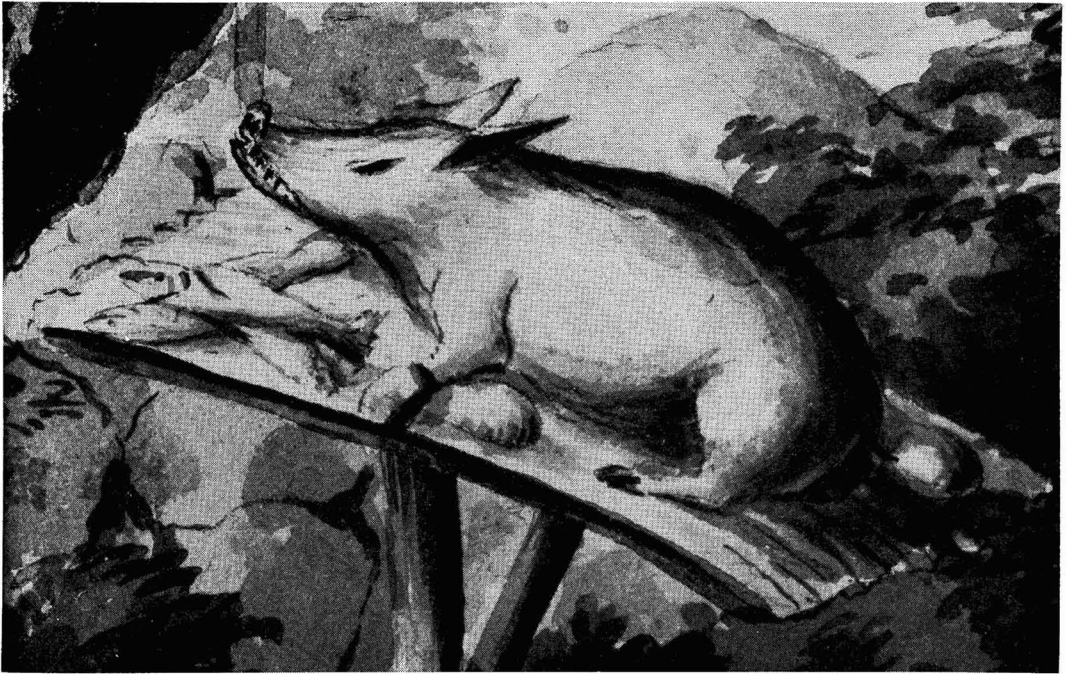


FIG. 12. Detail of pig in Figure 11.

European ship. At the British Museum where I saw a clearer engraving of the same scene and compared it with Figures 5, 6, 11, and 12, it seemed to me that the creature was really one of the long-eared native pigs.

Another incidental point, also puzzling, that examination of the collection clarified for me had to do with identifying the animals indistinctly depicted, except for their tails, in J. Webber's scene, "A Human Sacrifice, in a Morai, in Otaheite" (Cook, 1784, Atlas: pl. 25). On the offering platform are animals whose clearly drawn tails hang over the edge. Two pig tails hang between two long, thick, wooly-looking tails which it had occurred to me might be those of dogs, for dogs were frequent sacrifices. A better copy of Webber's scene in the collection left no doubt that the thick tails were like those of the dogs depicted in figures 4 and 5 (Luomala, 1960a). In the same scene a pig is being singed on a fire.

This paper has presented photographs of eighteenth-century sketches of the native Maori

dog, of which no illustrations have been previously noted. Also included here are additional sketches of the native dog of the Society Islands and of the native hog of that archipelago. The study of illustrations made by artists who accompanied the early expeditions has led me to the discovery of the previously ignored drawings depicting the native dog. The sketches made in the Society Islands also include views of native fowls and pigs. It would seem that further knowledge of these two animals might be gained by examining sketches made by early voyagers to the Pacific islands.

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