

THE ARTISTIC LEGACY

The *Endeavour* expedition is perhaps as well known for the staggering collection of art, drawings and paintings that resulted from it, as it is for the scientific collections and the new species discovered during the voyage.



Sydney Parkinson was the artist most involved, but unfortunately he died from an epidemic of fever and dysentery, which swept the ship shortly after it left Batavia (now Jakarta) in Indonesia, on the return voyage from Australia. Even so, he had by then completed 264 of 900 drawings, and the remainder fortunately all showed the critical points of each plant, as detailed by Banks and Solander on those long nights aboard ship.

Two other artists also made their contributions on board the *Endeavour* :

Alexander Buchan, who was also to perish on board, in 1769, and **Herman Spöring**.

Banks employed several other artists to complete the drawings on the ship's return to England, riding the wave of public admiration and respect that followed the adventurers' arrival home.

Joseph Banks and James Cook came from very different beginnings, and were separated by 18 years in age, yet they apparently held each other in high regard, and rarely disagreed.

Without their joint contribution and unique skills, the voyage could not have been as successful as it was. Cook was killed on a third subsequent voyage, by native inhabitants of Hawaii, whilst Banks went on to enjoy an administrative career, although he continued to encourage and actively seek new plant introductions through myriad contacts.

This, and the collections themselves, together with the inspiration they gave to others to make further expeditions, add up to the great legacy of the *Endeavour*.

