Finding Aid for the Playbills Relating to Captain James Cook, 1786-1818

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Finding Aid for the Playbills Relating to Captain James Cook, 1786-1818

Collection number: 650

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

Processed by:
Manuscripts Division staff
Encoded by:
Caroline Cubé
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Playbills Relating to Captain James Cook,
Date (inclusive): 1786-1818
Collection number: 650
Extent: 1 oversize box
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Dept. of Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Captain James Cook (1728-1779) joined the British Navy as a seaman in 1755 and rose rapidly in rank during the Seven Year's War. He surveyed the St. Lawrence River, and played an important role in the capture of Quebec. In 1759, he became master of flagship Northumberland, and spent summers from 1763-67 surveying the coast of Newfoundland. He made three voyages to the South Pacific, explored New Zealand and Australia, and discovered New Caledonia, Norfolk Island and the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands. The collection consists of playbills for the play Omai and for Captain Cook.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Playbills Relating to Captain James Cook (Collection 650). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID

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Biography

Cook was born on October 27, 1728 at Marton-in-Cleveland near Whitby, Yorkshire, England; first apprenticed to a storekeeper at Staithes, then in 1746 with Walker Brothers, shipowners at Whitby; joined British Navy as a seaman in 1755, rising rapidly in rank during the Seven Year's War; surveyed the St. Lawrence River, and played an important role in the capture of Quebec; in 1759, he became master of flagship Northumberland, and spent summers from 1763-67 surveying the coast of Newfoundland; made three voyages to the South Pacific; in the Endeavor he explored New Zealand and Australia, where the botanist Joseph Banks studied the plant life; on his next voyage in the Resolution, he discovered New
Caledonia and Norfolk Island; he discovered the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands on his final trip, but was slain by natives at Kealakekua Bay on February 14, 1779.

**Scope and Content**
Collection consists of two playbills relating to Captain James Cook, performed in England. They are for the play *Omai*, performed on April 6, 1786 and for *Captain Cook*, performed September 13, 1818.

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Cook, James, 1728-1779.
Playbills.

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**Playbills Relating to Captain James Cook. v.p. (England) 1786 and 1818**

- Physical Description: (2 items)
- Scope and Content Note
  - 1 playbill for *Omai*, performed April 6, 1786.
  - 1 playbill for *Captain Cook*, performed September 13, 1818.