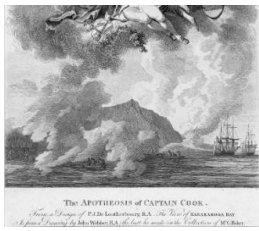




Object number:
00003928

Title: The Apotheosis of
Captain Cook



Captain Cook

Date: 1785

Primary Maker: John
Webber R.A.

Medium: Print on paper

Name: Engraving

History: Captain Cook was killed on the shore of Kealakekua Bay (previously known as Karakakooa Bay), Hawaii on 14 February 1779 by the local inhabitants. It is believed the incident occurred after the Hawaiians stole a small cutter from the Europeans and Cook retaliated by taking their Chief hostage. Conflict broke out culminating in Cook being clubbed and stabbed to death. After his tragic and violent death the representations of Captain Cook in books, paintings and portraits show him as a heroic figure, sometimes almost to the point of divine worship. This has been referred to as the apotheosis of Captain Cook. This favoured treatment was given to other prominent historical figures in the 18th and 19th century including George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.