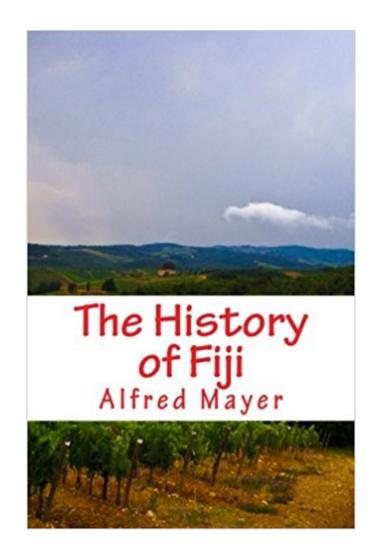


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The History Of Fiji





Synopsis

Of all the island groups in the outer Pacific none surpass the Fijis in their rare combination of beautiful scenery and interesting natives. The islands are upon the opposite side of the world from England, for the meridian of 180Å passes through the centre of the group crossing the island of Taviuniâ | That dauntless old rover, Abel Jansen Tasman, discovered them in 1643 on his way from Tonga in the Heemskirk and Zeehaan and named them "Prince William's Islands" and "Heemskirk's Shoals." After this, they were all but forgotten until July 2, 1774, when Captain James Cook sighted the small island of Vatoa in the extreme southeastern end of the group. The natives fled into the forest upon the approach of his boat, and he contented himself by leaving a knife, some medals and nails in a conspicuous place. Finding many sea-turtles in the region, he named his land-fall "Turtle Island," and then departed from the Fijis never to return.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (January 19, 2016) Language: English ISBN-10: 1523496215 ISBN-13: 978-1523496211 Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.3 x 8 inches Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item Best Sellers Rank: #386,758 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > History > Australia & Oceania > Fiji #15007 in Books > History > World

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