

H.M.S. ENDEAVOUR ~ 1768

The Endeavour, commanded by Lt. James Cook, undertook a voyage of discovery to the Pacific, setting sail from Plymouth, England on the 25th of August, 1768. Cook was instructed to establish an observatory on the Isle of Tahiti. Data from Tahiti would be important in determining the distance between the sun and the earth, information vital to navigation.

In January of 1769, the Endeavour rounded Cape Horn and in April, 1769 moored at Matavai Bay, Tahiti to view the transit of Venus in June, 1769. The Endeavour reached the East Coast of Australia at Botany Bay in April, 1770, leaving Australian waters in August.

The Endeavour's voyage was completed on July 12, 1771. For Cook, the voyage was distinguished by the excellence of his survey work and the discoveries he made...notably the East Coast of Australia and New Zealand. The discovery of about 1,400 plants and more than 1,000 animals unknown to European science were among the significant findings of this voyage.

ABOUT THE ARTIST...

This boat was hand crafted and generously donated by Jack Smith. Jack, a native of the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania, has spent the better part of his life in engineering design. He now resides in Lakeland, Florida where his creative energy comes alive in his unique woodcarving art.