The Waropen villages fringe the southern and eastern shores of Geelvink Bay. Some of them might have been seen by Jacob Weyland and his men who sailed between the islands of Biak and Japen in 1705. It is possible that Dr Meyer visited some of the villages on the eastern shores in 1873, but there is considerable doubt as to the reliability of Dr Meyer's claims. See B86. There appear to have been no other contacts between these villages and Europeans until 1881 when the Dutch District-Controller, J. van Oldenborg and Lieutenant-Commander M. A. Medenbach visited the villagers along the east coast.

When on April 5th this coast was sighted, it showed itself as a low-lying marshland, covered by a dense growth of rhizophores and containing a great number of inlets of which it was believed that these could only be mouths of rivers.

In the afternoon some small prahuos were observed and the party succeeded in coming into friendly contact with their crews. This was certainly due to the interpreter taken on board at Dorei, who understood the Wandamen language spoken by these Papuas. They appeared to belong to the Aropen tribe, living in a village called Waju Nami and trading with the Wandamen, whom they perfectly resembled in their outward appearance. These Wandamen seemed to exercise some sort of supremacy here, at least, they had recently appointed one of their men as 'korano', but at the time of the visit of the Batavia this chief was on the island of Moor.

The houses, mostly built over the water, did not provide anything remarkable. The natives assured us to be living in peace with their neighbours and also that during these last years robbery by the people of Jappen had become less frequent.

On a slightly elevated place on the shore, at the mouth of a river, we thereupon put up the Netherlands coat of arms, to the great joy of the inhabitants who helped us with diligence. The commander of the Batavia fixed the position at 135°48' East and 3° South.

A Dutch flag was placed near the coat of arms and some gifts were distributed among the population, whereupon the voyage was continued on April 6th.


**POLITICS AND SCHOLARSHIP—THE START TO NATIONAL INTEREST: DOCUMENTS B29 TO B35**

Very little had been done by 1700 to collect and collate accounts of voyages. Apart from Hakluyt's collection and the collection made by Purchas at the beginning of the seventeenth century, there were available only the works of Theodore de Bry (1613) and Melchisedich Thevenot (1663). Then, in 1697, William Dampier published his 'New Voyage Round the World', and the popularity of this work led to a flood of similar publications beginning with John Harris's 'Complete Collection of Voyages and Travels', published in 1703.

Dr John Campbell in his 1744-48 edition of Harris's work, addressed the merchants of Great Britain. He warned them that they were in danger of 'preferring the pernicious Arts of Politicks to the noble and generous Arts of Commerce. [1] Impressed by Dampier's favourable description of New Britain following his second voyage in 1699-1700, (B29) and by Jacob Roggeweijn's contention that many fertile and pleasant islands were in the same region, (B31) Campbell pressed for a British settlement there. He was anxious for British merchants to secure trade opportunities in the East. New Britain appeared to be suitably placed for a British post in that from this station a great network of trade might be extended to the south and east through Terra Australis and to the west through the East Indies. Dr Campbell thought New Britain to be part of Terra Australis. His aim was to interest the South Sea Company in this region. One of his proposals to this end was that slaves from New Guinea might be sold to the Spaniards in Chile and Peru.

The French Government was encouraged to think in terms of settling New Britain with foundlings, orphans and the economically distressed, by Charles de Brosses, President of the Burgundian Parlement

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1 J. Harris, *Navigantium atque Itinerantium Bibliotheca, or a complete collection of voyages and travels*, Dr J. Campbell, ed. 1744-48
and a shareholder in the French India Company. (B34) He was influenced by William Dampier and probably by Campbell’s arguments as well as by Pierre de Maupertuis. Maupertuis, mathematician and astronomer, read a Lettre at a meeting of the Dijon Society ‘sur le progres des sciences’; the Lettre was addressed to the Prussian King, Frederick the Great, and pointed to the need for the rulers of countries to take an interest in and initiate voyages of discovery by their subjects. (B32) In his ‘Histoire des Navigations aux Terres Australes’, (1756), de Brosses argued in support of Maupertuis that although commerce was not to be despised, attention to science would bring rewards of discovery. De Brosses’ collection was the first to deal exclusively with voyages in the Pacific. James Callander’s collection, ‘Terra Australis Cognita’ (1766-68), is merely an English edition of de Brosses’ work with, however, no acknowledgment of de Brosses but an occasional reference to ‘a certain Frenchman.’ (B35)

The British-French rivalry over New Britain as the key to the imagined wealth of Terra Australis was just one aspect of a commercial rivalry that broke out into seven years of open warfare at this time and ended with the defeat of France in 1763. As Dr Beaglehole points out, France’s capture of a new area of wealth which she imagined to exist in Terra Australis would have done much to wipe out her loss of face and to replace the trade she lost in India. A similar acquisition by Britain would have meant for her complete invincibility. So the rivalry during the war years continued on into the years of peace. British interests were represented in the expeditions led by Byron, Wallis, Carteret and Cook; French interests were represented by Bougainville, de Surville, La Perouse and D’Entrecasteaux. The Russians sent out expeditions; the Spaniards sent theirs.

A renewed interest in exploration was now shared by men whose enthusiasm for a knowledge of the developing sciences was not only because of the material profits such knowledge would bring: there was a growing notion that every man had a right to enlightenment. See also, Edward Lynam, Richard Hakluyt and his Successors .... London, 1946; Abbé A. F. Prévost d’Exiles, Histoires générales des voyages..., Paris, 1746-70; J. Dunmore, French Explorers in the Pacific, Oxford, 1965; F. Goldner, Russian Expansion on the Pacific, 1641-1850, Ohio, 1914.

B29  Dampier’s Favourable Description of New Britain, 1700

William Dampier’s reputation as a buccaneer has somewhat obscured his role as explorer. His Journals reveal his intense interest in geography and natural science. The publication of his ‘New Voyage Round the World’, in 1697, aroused tremendous interest and led to the British Admiralty’s favourable reception of Dampier’s plan to voyage to ‘the remoter part of the East India Islands and the neighbouring coast of Terra Australis’. Dampier had high hopes of finding islands between New Guinea and Terra Australis that would afford spices, but if these hopes should not be fulfilled, he planned to range along the coast of New Guinea to see if the mainland afforded any commodities. His description of New Britain convinced Charles de Brosses that a French commercial settlement should be made there. See also B96.

PORT MONTAGUE
This Place I named Port Mountague, in Honour of my noble Patron. It lies in the Latitude of 6 deg. 10 min. South, and Meridian distance from Cape St. George, 151 miles

West. The Country hereabouts is mountainous and woody, full of rich Valleys and pleasant fresh Water-brooks. The Mould in the Valleys is deep and yellowish; that on the Sides of the Hills of a very brown Colour, and not very deep, but rocky underneath; yet excellent planting Land. The Trees in general are neither very straights, thick, nor tall; yet appear green and pleasant enough: Some of them bore Flowers, some Berries, and others big Fruits; but all unknown to any of us. Coconut-Trees thrive very well here; as well on the Bays by the Sea-side, as more remote among the Plantations. The Nuts are of an indifferent Size, the Milk and Kernel very thick and pleasant. Here is Ginger, Yams, and other very good Roots for the Pot, that our Men saw and tasted. What other Fruits or Roots the Country affords, I know not. Here are Hogs and Dogs; other Land Animals we saw none. The Fowls we saw and knew, were Pidgeons, Parrots, Cockadores and Crows like those in England; a Sort of Birds about the Bigness of a Black-Bird, and smaller Birds many. The Sea and Rivers have plenty of Fish; we saw Abundance, though we catch’d but few, and these were Cavallies, Yellow-tails and Whiptails.

THE ISLAND OF NEW BRITAIN

The Easternmost Part of New-Guinea lies 40 Miles to the Westward of this Tract of Land; and by Hydrographers they are made joyning together: But here I found an Opening and Passage between, with many Islands; the largest of which lie on the North-side of this Passage or Streight. The Channel is very good, between the Islands and the Land to the Eastward. The East-part of New-Guinea, is high and mountainous, ending on the North-East with a large Promontory, which I nam’d King William’s Cape, in Honour of his Present Majesty. We saw some Smoaks on it; and leaving it on our Larboard-side, steer’d away near the East Land; which ends with two remarkable Capes or Heads, distant from each other about 6 or 7 Leagues. Within each Head were two very remarkable Mountains, ascending very gradually from the Sea-side; which afforded a very pleasant and agreeable Prospect. The Mountains and lower Land were pleasantly met with Wood-Land and Savannas. The Trees appeared very green and flourishing; and the Savannas seem’d to be very smooth and even; no Meadow in England appears more green in the Spring than these. We saw Smoaks, but did not strive to anchor here; but rather chose to get under one of the Islands, (where I thought I should find few or no Inhabitants,) that I might repair my Pinnacle, which was so crazy that I could not venture ashore any where with her. As we stood over to the Islands, we look’d out very well to the North, but could see no Land that way; by which I was well assur’d that we were got through, and that this East-Land does not join to New-Guinea; therefore I named it Nova-Britannia. The North-West Cape, I called Cape Gloucester, and the South-Westpoint Cape Anne, and the North-West Mountain, which is very remarkable, I call’d Mount Gloucester.

This Island which I called Nova-Britannia, has about 4 deg. of Latitude; The Body of it lying in 4 deg. and the Northernmost part in 2 deg. 30 min. and the Southernmost in 6 deg. 30 min. South. It has about 5 deg. 18 min. Longitude from East to West. It is generally high, mountainous Land, mixt with large Valleys; which, as well as the Mountains, appeared very fertile; and in most Places that we saw, the Trees are very large, tall and thick. It is also very well inhabited with strong well-limb’d Negroes, whom we found very daring and bold at several Places. As to the Product of it, I know no more than what I have said in my Account of Port Mountague: But it is very probable this
B30 Dutch Reaction to British Interest in New Guinea, c. 1705

William Dampier's favourable report on New Britain was received with much interest in England and led to speculation on the possibility of establishing a British settlement there. British interest inspired the Dutch East India Company to send Jacob Weyland in 1705 with three ships, the Geelvink, the Kraanvogel and the Nova Guinea, to make further investigations along the New Guinea coast. The journals of the voyage have been lost, but an account has been made up from documents of the Company. See A. Haga, Nederlandsch Nieuw-Guinea en de Papoescie eilanden, Historische bijdrage, ± 1500-1883, Vol. 1, pp. 165-75.

EXTRACT FROM INSTRUCTIONS TO JACOB WEYLAND, ISSUED BY THE DUTCH AUTHORITIES AT BATAVIA AND DATED 20 JANUARY 1705

... that we with good reason may doubt that we possess reliable sea-charts of the coast of New Guinea, and more especially a reliable description of the country and its inhabitants.


B31 Strange Islands Seen in New Guinea Waters, 1722

Commodore Jacob Roggewein and his squadron reached New Guinea waters early in 1722. A course was struck for New Britain. Roggewein missed the islands of New Guinea altogether, but he gives us descriptions of some islands, two of which he suggested might not be islands at all, but extensions of the Great South Land, Terra Australis. It has not been possible to plot Roggewein's course and identify the lands he saw; however, it was generally believed in his day that he had reached New Britain. The descriptions he gave excited interest and supported notions that New Guinea and other lands as yet undiscovered in the south seas nearby were rich and populous.

In quitting the island Recreation we steered N. W. to get into the latitude of New-Britain; the third day after we left it we were in 12° S. lat. and 290° long. We then discovered several islands all at once...

All the inhabitants of these islands are white, and not different in this respect from as Europeans, except that some amongst them have their skins burnt by the heat of the sun ... Charmed with our arrival, they received us as divinities, and testified afterwards great regret when they perceived we were preparing to depart, sadness was painted in their countenance ...

Soon after (following rediscovery of Cocos Island and Traitor's Island) we discovered two other islands, very large; we named the one Tienhoven, and the other Groningue. Some thought the last was really the Continent. For my part, I shall not decide, but suspend my judgment for want of conclusive proofs.

The island Tienhoven appeared at a distance very pleasant, of a fine verdure, and furnished with trees; it is of a moderate height; we counted it a whole day without finding an end to it. We remarked, that it extended in a semi-circle towards the island Groningue, so that it is probable these supposed islands are in fact one country, and are a tongue
of the Terra Australis; however, in the neighbourhood were found islands of 150 miles circuit. Some amongst us were very solicitous to anchor and land there; but the chiefs, who had the voyage to the East-Indies in their heads, and therefore unwilling to every thing which might retard this object, would not consent to it, under pretence, that if unluckily these islanders should kill any of the sailors, we should want people to navigate the ships. We were thus obliged to continue our course; we were in expectation of soon seeing the coast of New-Britain and New-Guinea, but a navigation of many days soon shewed us how far we were out in our accounts. In this period sickness carried off many people, sometimes four or five dying in a day, owing to the badness of the provisions and water. At length we got sight of New-Britain.


### B32 A Desire for New Scientific Knowledge, 1752

The enthusiasm in the eighteenth century for scientific knowledge through exploration is obvious in the collections made by British and French publishers of voyages of discoveries. Following the publication of 'An Essay on the Progress of the Sciences' by Maupertuis, the French Academy of Sciences became interested in that field and published two volumes of geographical discoveries in the southern Pacific. Maupertuis' comments reveal a desire for knowledge for its own sake.

The Southern part of our globe is hitherto almost unknown. There is no probability that this vast portion of the earth is occupied by water only; for, at different times, capes of land and coasts have been seen, which is a certain indication of a continent, and these coasts are marked in our charts ... The Southern Continent is certainly entirely divided from the others, since the tour of the globe has been frequently made in that hemisphere, in a course parallel to the Equator, leaving the Terra Australis always on the same side. This is more than we can yet affirm with precision of America itself, which is perhaps joined to Russian Asia by the northern parts of the Peninsula of California. Thus, plants, animals, and other things may have been multiplied in the four parts of the known world, with no other alteration upon them than what flows from the diversity of climates; whereas, in the New Austral world, cut off from communication with the Ancient, and where long voyages are certainly unknown, we must find many things of different kinds absolutely unknown to us, many branches of commerce entirely new, and many wonderful objects, moral as well as physical.


### B33 A Conviction that Useful Knowledge Should Be Shared, 1753

The Dutch geographer, Nicolas Struyk, while stating a case for Dutch policy in the South-west Pacific, concludes that mankind has a right to share in scientific knowledge. See also, N. Struyk, *Vervolg von de beschryving de staertsterran*, 1753, M. L., Special Collection; *Inleiding tot de algemene Geographie*, 1740, M. L., Special Collection.

Though we are sometimes possessed of maps and accounts of new-discovered countries, yet there may be many reasons for not publishing them to the world. First, because we incline to reserve such countries for our own use, and prevent the approach of other nations to them. Secondly, these discoveries may be yet too imperfect, and we wait to have them completed: Or, thirdly, this sometimes never happens, because people do not chuse to lay out large sums in fitting out vessels, for discovering countries, the products of which, perhaps, may yield no profit to the adventurers. Be this as it may, it is certainly injurious to mankind in general, to conceal anything from them that tends to illustrate so useful a science as geography is.

B34 A French Proposal for the Settlement of New Britain, 1756

Charles de Brosse, President of the Burgundian Parlement and a shareholder in the French India Company, was also President of the Dijon Society, which drew scholars to discuss new ideas particularly in the sciences. De Brosse's collection of Voyages was the first to deal specifically with explorations in the Pacific and to promote national interest in commercial settlements there.

The land of the Papous so close to Gilolo that the inhabitants of the two islands go there daily, would be very favourable as well as the New Guinea of which navigators give us pleasant descriptions: ... They also speak well of the island Sabuta, in the language of the country, 'Pulo Sabuda', between the island of Ceram and Papoua. The people there are docile and amenable. Spices have been seen there as well as nutmegs, although we are not certain that they are produced on the island. It is known only that it abounds in fruits and sago substance from which bread is made. But this island is rather small, too close to Dutch interests that would be sure to give trouble to a new settlement; at too little distance from much visited countries to warrant one staying there in the hope of finding something of value that could not be found elsewhere, even though the advantage lies with the one who first discovers it. One must push on nearer the east and double Cape Mabo. Then one encounters Moa and Arimoa, of which Roggewin gives comprehensive description; the archipelago of Garet-Denis of which Dampier speaks in some detail; & New Britain praised by those two seamen, & favoured for the establishment of a colony over all the places in Terra Australis, mentioned above.

The island called New Britain is advantageously situated across the fifth parallel south; longitude is 43° degrees ... neither too close to nor too far from the Moluccas and the Philippines; within reach of Canton in China, and, perhaps not the least important, within reach of the islands of the Indies and numerous islands no longer visited that are to be found in the great Pacific ocean for the opening up of which New Britain is well placed. It would appear a better spot could not be chosen for opening up a trade depot than in these regions, which must promote useful returns, to explore the vast country of Carpentaria and one land Australi du S. Esprit, at a moderate distance to the south. Knowledge of these countries will give successful communication with New Holland, New Zealand and Diemen's land; whether they are continuous lands or whether they are isolated by the sea. For if this last is the case, the distances that separate them can't be too difficult to overcome. All these countries can be explored; whatever they have of value; trade possibilities; the wisdom of establishing new items or whether it would be sufficient to take vessels there from time of time. Explorations could be made right to the tropics, perhaps even to the south polar region. The geography of this part of the world could be charted. There would not be a more useful enterprise than this last, of acquiring new lands in the world, to immortalise the glory of the Prince who would have given the orders, & the officer who would have put them into practice.

I shall not repeat here what has already been said in previous pages, of Dampier's and Roggewin's opinions of New Britain; they both speak of the fertility of the soil, of the beautiful aspects, of the hope of finding great riches there, of the character of the natives without trying to hide their bad qualities. Roggewin, after having told us of finding little islands nearby, of gold-dust, of ambergris, of birds of paradise, &C. concludes his narrative by saying that the country appears exquisite, and that to all appearances, it should be full of minerals and other precious treasures, in that it entirely resembles in outward appearance, all the islands in the same climate which produce spices, gold, silver, gems. Dampier speaks in detail of the large number of these places, of the good foods that are produced, of the nutmeg and ginger trees, of the beautiful vegetation, of the quantity of coconuts produced, of the abundance of fish furnished by the sea.

It is a pity that circumstances are such that there is no place near New Guinea close to the established trade route, so that one is not obliged to go round the island to look for St. George's Bay or Port Montague, which, among the places discovered by Dampier, seem the most suitable for a landing. Business can be promoted happily and sustained if one is not afraid of savages devoid of fire-arms; and one could make do without the natural foods of the country by unloading provisions for the subsistence of the fort which would be erected immediately upon disembarking. From what we read in Captain Dampier, we believe that before very long trade with the islanders would begin.

Things thus prepared, as soon as the monsoon would permit it, one of the three vessels could return to Pondicherry, carrying the latest news of the colony and after a delay of a month it would be possible for it to take back from Pondicherry to the new settlement more men, supplies and materials. The colony would receive a boost and would soon be reinvigorated when it knew it was not abandoned, and when it saw the consequence of being established between the Indies and Terra Australis. Of the two boats resting off the coasts of New Britain, one would serve to make a return voyage to India in case an accident should befal the first, and the return from Pondicherry be too long delayed. It could be used to explore the coasts and the neighbouring regions. . .


B35 Scientific Interest Combined with Commercial Enterprise, 1768

The late eighteenth century saw in Britain and France a rush of interest in exploration of the south-west Pacific. Collections of 'Voyages' flooded the markets to cater for the interest that was shared by an increasingly literate public. Editors expressed views on the commercial potential, settlement advantages and
scientific curiosities of newly discovered lands. The Scotsman, James Callander, was comparatively late into the field with his three volumes, 'Terra Australis Cognita'. The age was one in which publishing was not regularised by copyright laws, so that Callander was able to pirate much of his work from previous collections. See Richard Hakluyt and his Successors, Edward Lynam, ed., London, 1946.

Experience has already begun to verify our conjecture concerning the existence of a counterpoise towards the South: For, not to mention that extensive but doubtful coast, placed by some to the south of Asia, the immense tracts that are found in the latitudes under the several names of Diemans Land, New Holland, Carpentaria, New Guinea, New Britain, and New Zealand. There is great reason to think, that this is not one continent, but divided by unknown Straits; Such is that island discovered by our navigator Dampier, to which he gave the name of New Britain. Be this as it may, who can doubt that this vast tract of land must furnish objects innumerable, both of commercial advantage and curiosity, equal to any that were found in America by the first discoverers? Numbers of people, entirely different from us, and from each other, in their figure, customs, manners and religion; Their animals, insects, fishes, plants, medicinal herbs, fruits, metals and fossils entirely of another species. Thus this world must present us with many things entirely new, as hitherto we have had little more knowledge of it, than if it had lain in another planet. Here, too, we are sure to find an advantageous market for all our wares, such as cloths, glasses, paper, spirits, and all the species of toys that were so greedily fought after by the Indians of the West, in the days of Columbus. Iron alone is a treasure to Europeans far more valuable than all the gold of the Indies, and the first of metals because the most useful. The extreme avidity of the islanders in the South-sea for this metal is well known, or rather their insatiable avarice; while they discover stronger passion for it than the Europeans have for gold. And, in fact, they must be great gainers, whatever they were to give us for a spade, a saw, or a pair of scissors, instruments of universal use, but which they are entirely unacquainted with. We must also remember how much they would profit, by adopting our ideas of a regular and well-ordered society; their minds would be opened, and formed, their savage manners softened...

As to the product and commodities of this country in general, there is the greatest reason to believe that they are extremely rich and valuable; because the richest and finest countries in the known world lie all within the same latitude. Thus the land discovered by Quiros makes a part of this great island, and forms the opposite coast to that of Carpentaria. This country the discoverer called La Australia del Espiritu Santo, in the latitude of 15°40' South; and, as he reports, it abounds with gold, silver, pearl, nutmegs, mace, ginger and sugar-canes of an extraordinary size. Dampier's account, though formed from a very slight view of that part of the country he called Cape St. George, and Port Montague, agrees very well with the other....

B ... For all these reasons, and many more that might be added, both Roggewein and Dampier agree in giving the preference to New Britain on account of its size and situation, the salubrity of the air and fertility of the soil. Its whole appearance seems to indicate the riches it is said to contain, and its neighbourhood to lands already well known, leave little room to doubt these conjectures in its favour. Hence the ingenious French editor of the Voyages aux Terres Australes thinks, there is no place so proper as this to fix on. He proposes to settle it by sending three ships from Pondicherry, completely filled out with every necessary, men, arms, ammunition and provisions, for beginning a settlement here. He thinks best, after doubling Cape Mabo, to examine the west coast of the island, which neither Dampier nor Roggewein approached, to try to find there some good port, near to New Guinea, without going round the island to seek the bay of St. George, or port Montague described by our navigator. It will be no difficult matter to maintain ourselves here and save those who are ignorant of the use of fire arms, and who may be soon reconciled to the sweets of commerce. It must be very obvious, that it is as easy for us to settle New Britain from Madras, as to the French from Pondicherry; as rough provisions of all kinds can be sent with the first ships, as may enable the colony to subsist even without the assistance of the natives, till they can be again relieved from the continent. One of the three ships may be sent back for assistance from Madras, the second may be employed in perfecting the discovery of the island itself, and those of the neighbourhood, and establishing a trade with the different tribes of savages who inhabit them, while the third vessel may remain to guard the colony, and be a retreat to them, should any unforeseen misfortune oblige them to abandon the island.


THE REDISCOVERY OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS: DOCUMENTS
B36 to B42

Mendana, in his search for the great south land in 1567, came upon an island which he named Yasabel, after his wife. (B5) He thought he had discovered part of the great south land. The association of this land with the rich mines of King Solomon led to the islands of his discovery being called the Solomon Islands.