A. GROVE DAY

An Early Hawaiian Vocabulary

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO, while I was visiting the Instituto Histórico de Marina in Madrid, the curator, Captain Roberto Barreiro-Miero, graciously inscribed for me a copy of a fascinating monograph which he had edited in a series of journals and narratives for use in studies of voyages of discovery. I have treasured the monograph because a number of the ships mentioned therein visited Hawai'i. Moreover, it contains one of the first word lists of the Hawaiian language, along with those by David Samwell in the journals of Captain James Cook in 1778, and by William Beresford in George Dixon's voyage in 1787.

Apparently the log of a voyage from San Blas, Mexico, by a Spanish naval vessel to and from Nootka Sound in 1789, the work opens with a biography of the captain, Esteban José Martínez (1742–1798). His most eminent achievement in the royal service was to trigger the so-called "Nootka Sound Controversy," during which Spain and England almost broke into open warfare over an obscure Pacific bay on Vancouver Island, now a part of British Columbia.

In brief, the episode begins in 1774, when a Spanish naval ship sighted the mouth of the Sound and named it San Lorenzo but kept the news secret. The channel itself was explored—like a hundred other Pacific shores—by Cook in 1778. Reports of the rich-

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ness of the furs traded by the tribe ashore—especially those of the sea otter, in high demand in China—aroused various Europeans to send ships to that coast, and some sort of trading post was set up ashore by British John Meares in 1778. The following year, seizure by two Spanish naval ships of several trading vessels aroused a violent international dispute over possession of the area. The decision of the "Nootka Sound Convention" in 1790 in favor of British claims explains why Canada never became a part of the powerful Spanish empire. For five years more, however, the Sound continued to be a magnet for traders from four nations; both Russia and the United States added their quota to the fur seekers of the Sound.³

The Hawaiian-Spanish vocabulary, contained in the log, was written just two centuries ago and some 30 years before the translations of the celebrated exile 'Opukaha'ia in Connecticut. In his *Memoirs*, the young seeker of foreign knowledge mentions that he was preparing a grammar, a dictionary, and a spelling book, as well as translating into Hawaiian the entire Book of Genesis. Only the grammar has survived.⁴

Overlooked by the makers of our outstanding English-Hawaiian dictionaries of today, the vocabulary made on the return voyage of the naval ship *Princesa* from Nootka is a fascinating revelation of many usages heard long before New England missionaries grappled with the problems of putting in black and white the melodious speech of the unlettered Polynesian nation.

Reading the preface by Captain Barreiro, one learns that, fearing a collision between Spanish claims to the American coast and the expansion of the Russian empire south from Alaska, the viceroy of New Spain (Mexico) ordered that a ship be sent north of Monterey to protect these claims. Under the command of Juan Pérez, the Santiago sighted the mouth of Nootka Sound. Aboard the ship as second pilot was Esteban José Martínez. He it was who became the prime mover in the creation of the early word list.

Little is known of the life of Martínez previous to 1773 or later than 1795. Probably a native of Seville, he learned the art of navigation at the Real Colegio de San Telmo in that city and began making various voyages to the Americas. From San Blas he voyaged almost annually northward and advanced in rank in the Navy. Twice he served as commandant of that busy port, and twice he headed important expeditions.

During the first of these expeditions, when he was in command of the frigate *Princesa* and her consort *San Carlos*, for the first time a Spanish ship from Mexico encountered a Russian ship off the American coast. Alarmed by evidences of settlement by the czar's empire, on his return to port Martínez recommended that he head another expedition with the main purpose of forestalling rivalry by taking possession of Nootka Sound.

Armed with royal documents, in command of the same two ships, Martínez departed from San Blas on February 19, 1789, and arrived in the sound early in May. There, during six months, he set up a fort, made friends with the local chief Maquinna, planted a garden, compiled a vocabulary of the Nootka Indians,⁵ and executed his orders to take control of all shipping in the region. As a result of his actions, this officer was to find himself in a wasp's nest from which he emerged with vilification and the charge that he brought Spain and England to the verge of outright warfare.

The Spanish captain found that two American ships, which had spent the winter in the Sound, were still in the neighborhood. Moreover, they were soon joined by several British vessels sent to the Pacific by a company in which John Meares was most active. These comprised the Iphigenia under William Douglas; Princess Royal under Thomas Hudson; Argonaut under James Colnett; and North West America under Robert Funter. Martínez decided to leave the American ships alone, despite his instructions, and during his stay he allowed the *Iphigenia* and *Argonaut* to depart as well. When the latter decided to return, she was captured. The North West America was confiscated, given a Spanish name, and sent to explore the coast to the south. Ordered to return to San Blas, Martínez sailed from the Sound on October 31 without waiting for the San Carlos. The Princesa, without support, herded as prisoners the captains and crews of the Princess Royal, the Argonaut, and a small American vessel, the Fair American, which had arrived in October under the command of teenaged Thomas Humphrey Metcalfe. 6 At San Blas the international trouble began.

By nature, Martínez did not deserve the obloquy heaped on

him by the British; some of the rival captains, like James Colnett, were more violent and meretricious than anyone could imagine. The two priests who accompanied the expedition had only good words for their captain. He was a scholarly type and wrote on September 30 a lengthy description of the Nootka region, its inhabitants, and products, and, anticipating his Hawaiian-Spanish vocabulary, even compiled a considerable similar word list of the Nootka Indian language. He believed that the "Sandwich Islands" had first been discovered by ships under the Spanish flag, and he later pointed out the value of the central location of the Hawaiian group and their utility in providing not only support for 400,000 inhabitants, but supplies for visiting ships such as those from Nootka.⁷

The captain's collaborator on the vocabulary during the return voyage was a Hawaiian sailor taken as a prisoner off James Colnett's Argonaut. He, too, was devout. On September 13, objecting that on this day of Holy Mary two youngsters were being baptized, whereas he was still called by his native name of Matutaray, he begged that he be named "María." This he did because he had once been cured of an ailment by praying to the Virgin. The two priests aboard compromised by naming him José Mariano. Here was the sort of captured sailor who, far from his home islands, was to become the verbal informant for the Hawaiian-Spanish vocabulary that begins on the next page.

To the list of words, the collaborators added the numbers from 1 to 30. In addition, Mariano offered information of the current chiefs of his islands. "Tayana" (Ka'iana) was named as the principal chief of the island of Hawai'i.⁸ "Temejameja" (Kamehameha) and "Teomouri" (Keawemahili?) were supposed to be brothers of Ka'iana and fellow chiefs of the same island. "Tayo" (Kaeo) was king of the island of "Atoay" (Kaua'i), and his brother "Jetiri" (Kahekili) was king of five small islands.

To the list, headed "Vocabulary of the language of the natives of the islands of Sandwich, translated into Castilian," Martínez adds an interesting note that may be worded as follows:

This vocabulary comes from the Indian [Hawaiian] whom I have on board named José Mariano (alias) Matutaray. It is apparent in him that the natives of those islands use very few letters of the alphabet. His pronunciation is facile and they have many terms comparable to those of the language of the islands of Tahiti. . . . They do not trill the r nor use the l, nor many other letters of the ABC.

Spanish and Hawaiian indeed resemble each other in pronunciation and are smooth and melodious tongues. Vowels in both are pronounced as in Latin. The vocabulary shows that before the adoption of a standard alphabet by missionary printers, the South Pacific use of t in place of the current k and the use of r for l was more common. Since h in Spanish is silent, that sound would be replaced by Martínez with j.

Remembering that the only constant in language studies is

SANDWICH	CASTELLANO	SANDWICH	CASTELLANO
Aru aru	Cuerpo.	Anó	Hoy.
Y ó	Carne.	Abobó	
Toto	Sangre.	Yuta	Tierra.
Omoti	Sombrero.	Jetay	La mar.
Tepó	Cabeza.	Pupují	El fuego.
Raóbojo	Cabello o pelo.	Matani	El viento.
Jeray		Puay	El pescuezo.
Tuamata	Cejas.	Pojive	Los hombros.
Riji-rigi	Pestañas.	Rima-rima	Los brazos.
Onojó	Ojos.	Tue-tue	
Jeyju	Narices.	Peaji	
Paparina	Carrillo.		La palma de dicha.
Popoyao	Orejas.		El revés de dicha.
Reje-reje		Nimanuy	
Guaja		Pirimay	
Nijo			El dedo de enmedio.
Jetui	Muelas.		El dedo del anillo.
Jerero			El dedo pequeño.
Aguay	Barba.	Mayao	
	Las barbas del hombre.	Huma-huma	
Mamatani		Tuomó	La espalda.
Matuagine	Madre.	Opú	
Majana	Hijo.	Huja	Los muslos.
Mopuna	Hija.	Turi-turi	Las rodillas.
Tayta-hinu	Hermano.	Oro-oro	La pierna.
Taytu-hana	Hermana.	Tapuay	El pie.
Jejatu	Las estrellas.	Taguamo	Los dedos del pie.
Jera	El sol.	Tanata	Hombre.
Jereputa	El sol sale.	Guajine	Mujer.
Jeratomo	El sol se pone.	Heremature	Viejo.
Marcemarrma	Día.	Ruagine	Vieja.
Ajiajé		Tahiti	Muchacho.
Poere	Noche oscura.	Tahitimajine	Muchacha.
Ynéginey	Ayer.	Papanojo	Silla.

SANDWICH	CASTELLANO	SANDWICH	CASTELLANO
Ypú	Caja o baúl.	Jeuji	Ñame.
Jamama		Uru	
Lepo	Salvadera.	Jeto	
Onetea	Arenilla.	Tamau	El melón.
Ypututuy	Un candelero.	Taro	La sandía.
Tutuy	Una vela.	Nio	Cocos.
Jeagi	La luz de una vela.	U-ara	Papas.
Upa	Unas tijeras.	Aba	
Tuy	Una aguja.	Tautaji	Una canoa.
Ajo	Hilo.	Joe	El canalete.
Totoy			Un palo de canoa.
Mejana	Calor.	Motu	
Aguajia		Oputete	
Jeuguaji	El humo.	Tajuri	Zozobrar.
Poay	Una llave.	Jemo o	Una culebra.
Jo-uhire		Gu-ajie	
Ju-ay		Pojatu	
Papani			Un petate cualquiera.
Teateo		Pepeji	
Jurumano	Una pluma.	Jo-ite-ita	
Tuono	Una olla.	Aruri	
Jepa	Un plato o cazuela.	Naná	
Oti-oti	Una sierra de carpin-	Aureyti	
	tero.	Taray	
Jonoy	Un escoplo.	Mú	
Toyti-pi	Un cepillo.	Ju-e-ja-ore	
Amana	Un martillo.	Anapa	
Juo-ay	Un bule.	Tejau	Nubes.
Magina	La luna.	Je-o-ju	Nieve.
Joata Magina	La luna sale.	Je-ú-a	
	La luna se pone.	Jeguay	Agua dulce.
Titoo		Guaytaji	Cualquier rio.
Pana	Flecha.		Pescado en general.
Rere	Disparar la flecha.	Matao	Un anzuelo.
Pajo		Upena	Una red de pescar.
Pajoa		Jejou	Un clavo de fierro.
Pají	Navaja.	Jeu-jay Yputa	Vantana
O-otí		Ay	
U-0	Fusil o escopeta.	Ynu	
Oneneir	Dálmara	Pua	
Onepajú		Móa	
Pojatu	Cordel o cuerda.	Tinana	
	Morrión de pluma.	Jejua	
	Manto de pluma.	Yrio	
Ain uro	Esclavina de pluma.	Yriofine	
Tuy-tuy Memeri	Dar de golpes. Una canción.	Tuy	~
Memeri	Ona cancion.	Jana	Ballena.
Jura		Aru-aru	
Jatiri Jeu-hira	Delfaces	Ata	
Jare	Casa.	Ninau	
Piritea	Vana.		
Papanani		Nuy nuy	
Ti-ji	Danco.	Yti-yti	T000.
Nené	rato.	O-au	Tú.
Jemanu		O-oe	
M			
Maya	Plátanos.	Aroja	

SANDWICH	CASTELLANO	SANDWICH	CASTELLANO
Puni-puni	Malo.	Nonov	Dame.
Juna	Ladrón.	Nonoy-ay	Dame qué comer.
Tuji	Una regla de delinear.	Jev ri	Un huevo.
Tataja	Tirar una línea.	Joni	Oler u olor.
Jinu-jinu	Un farol para la luz.	Nanajo	Morder.
Jajao	Una bolsa.	Otomo	El anillo del dedo.
Je-aa	Un pañuelo.	O-ata	Una concha cualquiera.
Tuagivi	Montes.	Mamay	Un dolor.
Ra-au	Arboles.	Eati	Enfermo.
Moe	Dormir.	Tatau	Escribir.
Rague	Toma esto.	Erenure	Una mosca.
Joaguy	Vuélvemelo.	Nanupata	Un mosquito.
Nana	A dónde.	Aje	Sí.
Manu	Pájaros en general.	Aori	No.
Mao	De este lado.	Tereague	Cobre.
Mane	Del otro lado.	Toymeti	Fierro.
Joroy	Lavar.	Rapa-rapa	Plata o metal blanco.
Jeri	Un jefe o capitán.	Pau	Yo no tengo.
Jorono	Oye.	A-oreyte	No te entiendo.
Joy-may	No te vayas.	Pupú	Abalorios.
Jeripera	Anda vete.	Poctore	Pequeño.
Pimay	Ven acá.	Roro-giri	Grande.
Jerenone	Anda.	Nani	Bonito o precioso.
Joro	Apriesa.	Yna-yna	Corajudo o enfadado.
Tutuní	Corre.	Tagea	Habla.
Tuamaja	Pesado.	Gueri-gueri	Calla.
Mama	Ligero.	Jininay	Acostarse.
Jepu	Agarra.	Ani-ani	Un espejo.
Joy-joy	Larga.	Tau-u-hira	Un bastón de mano.
Tiora	Tíralo.	Ata-ata	Blanco.
Jajao	Rómpelo.	Onena-nena	
Uji	Póntelo.	Uri-uri	Azul.
U-eje	Quitatelo.	Omao-mao	Amarillo.
Tu-u	Levántate.	Ura-ura	Encarnado.
Nojo	Siéntate.	Ere-ere	Negro.

MODO QUE TIENEN DICHOS NATURALES DE CONTAR

Ataji Uno.	Tumamaono Dieciseis.
Arua Dos.	Tumamajitu Diecisiete.
Atoru Tres.	Tumamarité Dieciocho.
Ajá Cuatro.	Tumamay-ua Diecinueve.
Arima Cinco.	Tumama humi Veinte.
Aono Seis.	Tanataji Veintiuno.
Ajitu Siete.	Tanarua Veintidós.
Arite Ocho.	Tanatoru Veintitrés.
Ay-ua Nueve.	Tanaja Veinticuatro.
Humi Diez.	Tanarima Veinticinco.
Tumamataji Once.	Tanaono Veintiséis.
Tumamarua Doce.	Tanajitu Veintisiete.
Tumamatoru Trece.	Tanarite Veintiocho.
Tumamajá Catorce.	Tanayua Veintinueve.
Tumamarima Quince.	Tana-humi Treinta.

change, it is amazing that most of the words in the Martínez vocabulary closely resemble their transliterations in the standard dictionaries of today. Take, for example, the following from the first vocabulary column:

Aru aru [aluʻalu] body [skin] Y ó ['i'o] flesh Toto [koko] blood Tepó [ka po'o] the head Raobojo [lauoho] head of hair or hair Jeray [ka lae] the forehead Tuamata [ku'emaka] eyebrows Riji-rigi [lihilihi] eyelashes Onojó ['ōnohi] eyes Jeyju [ihu] nostrils [nose] Paparina [pāpālina] cheek Popoyao [pepeiao] ears Reje-reje [lehelehe] lips Guaja [waha] mouth Nijo [niho] teeth

Jetui [ke kuʻi] the molars
Jerero [elelo] tongue
Humi-humi [ʻumiʻumi] beard
Mamatani [makua kāne] father
Matuagine [makuahine]
mother
Mopuna [moʻopuna] daughter
[grandchild]
Tayta-hinu [kaikuaʻana]
brother
Tayta-hana [kaikuahine] sister
Jejatu [ke hōkū] the stars
Jera [ka lā] the sun
Poere [pōʻele] dark night
Ynéginey [inehinei] yesterday

A number of other words common in Hawai'i nowadays are easily spotted in the later list:

Abobo ['apopo] tomorrow Jetay [ke kai] the sea Pupuji [ho'opau] fire [discharge?] Matani [makani] wind Rima-rima [lima] arms Tue-tue [ku'i ku'i] elbows Nimanuy [lima nui] thumb Mayao [mai'ao] fingernails Huma-huma [umauma] breast Opú ['ōpū] belly Turi-turi [kuli] knees Tanata [kanaka] man Guajine [wahine] woman Heremature [elemakule] old man

Ynu [inu] drink Pua [pua'a] pig Móa [moa] rooster Jejua [ka hua] the egg Yrio ['īlio] male dog Jana [hana] work Ata ['aka] laugh Nuy nuy [nui nui] much Yti-yti [iki iki] little Aroja [hoaloha] friend Maytay [maika'i] good Puni-puni [puni puni] bad [to lie] Ra-au [lā'au] trees Moe [moe] sleep Nana [nana] where

Ruahine [luahine] old woman Tahiti [keiki] boy Tahitimajine [keikiwahine] girl Papanojo [papa noho] chair [bench] Magina [mahina] moon Pana [pana] arrow Pajoa [pahoa] knife Pají [pahi] jackknife Memeri [mele] song Jura [hula] dance Jare [hale] house Jemanu [ka manu] a bird [dove] Jeto [ke ko] the sugar cane Nio [niu] coconut U-ara ['uala] sweet potato Motu [moku] ship Pojatu [pōhaku] a stone Tejau [ke ao] the clouds Jeguay [ke wai] the sweet water Jeya [ke i'a] the fish Upena ['upena] fish net Ay ['ai] to eat

Manu [manu] birds in general Joroy [holoi] to wash Tuamaja [kaumaha] heavy Mama [māmā] lightweight Joni [honi] smell Nanajo [nanahu] bite Mamay [ma'i] pain, ailment Tatau [kākau] write Aje ['ae] yes Aori ['a'ole] no Toymeti [meki] iron Pau [pau] lacking, finished Pupú [pūpū] beads Nani [nani] pretty Yna-yna [inaina] angry Gueri-gueri [kulikuli] be quiet Ani-ani [ani ani] mirror Ata-ata [akaaka] white [bright] Uri-uri [uliuli] blue of the sea Omao-mao ['ōma'ooma'o] yellow [green] Ura-ura ['ula'ula] reddish, flesh colored Ere-ere ['ele'ele] black

Considering the possibility of misunderstandings and copying errors, the vocabulary produced by the captain and his Hawaiian collaborator on a pitching deck 200 years ago is still a useful language!

NOTES

- ¹ Roberto Barreiro-Meiro, ed., Colección de Diarios y Relaciones para la Historia de los Viajes y Descubrimientos, VI: Esteban José Martínez (1742-1787), Madrid: Instituto Histórico de Marina, 1964.
- ² J. C. Beaglehole, ed., The Journals of Captain James Cook on His Voyages of Discovery, vol. 3, The Voyage of the Resolution and Discovery, 1776-1780 (Cambridge: Hakluyt Society, 1967), part 2: 1231-34; George Dixon, A Voyage Round the World; but More Particularly to The North-west Coast of America (London: George Goulding, 1789) 268-70.

- ³ A pair of useful later volumes on the Nootka background are: Derek Pethick, First Approaches to the Northwest Coast (Vancouver: J. J. Douglas, 1976); and The Nootka Connection: Europe and the Northwest Coast, 1790-1795 (Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1980).
- ⁴ Memoirs of Henry Obookiah (New Haven, 1819).
- ⁵ Barreiro-Meiro, ed., Coleción 128-30.

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- 6 The Fair American was quietly released in San Blas in 1790, and its captain, who was about 18 years old, sailed her to the island of Maui, seeking rendezvous with his father, Simon Metcalfe, in the Eleanora. The story of the son's fate is well known. In revenge for the "Olowalu Massacre" by Simon Metcalfe, the Hawaiians of the coast vowed to attack the next foreign ship that came along. Ironically, it was the Fair American. Thomas and four of the other five of his crew were killed; sole survivor Isaac Davis became one of the two principal advisors of Kamehameha I.
- Previous to 26 June, 1793, Martínez submitted to the Viceroy, Conde de Revillagigedo, a project: "Anterior a este proyecto, Martinez elevó otro para formar un establecimiento en las islas de Mesa o Sandwich, descubiertas por los españoles, para poder vender las pieles de las costa de California en Asia, a mucho mejor precio que los extranjeros, por tenerlos centros de abastecimiento más próximos y poderlo hacer con muy pocos buques. Tambien fué desechado este proyecto": Barreiro-Meiro, ed., Coleción 15.
- ⁸ See David G. Miller, "Ka'iana, the Once Famous Prince of Kaua'i," *HJH* 22 (1988): 1-19.
- ⁹ Translations are taken from the excellent work by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert, *Hawaiian Dictionary* (1957; Honolulu: U of Hawaii P, 1985). The Martínez vocabulary is not mentioned in Samuel Elbert, "The Hawaiian Dictionaries, Past and Future," *HHS Annual Reports*, no. 62 (Honolulu 1954): 5–18, which starts with words lists by the following: Beaglehole, ed., *Journals of Captain James Cook*, vol. 3, part 2: 123–34; Dixon, *Voyage Round the World*. . . 1787; D. Manuel Quimper Benites del Pino, *The Sandwich Islands: A Brief Description of this Archipelago* . . . (Madrid: E. Aguado, 1822); Urey Lisiansky, *A Voyage Round the World in the Years* 1803, 4, 5, and 6 . . . in the Ship Neva (London: John Booth, 1814); Archibald Campbell, *A Voyage Around the World from* 1806 to 1812 (1822: Honolulu: U Hawaii P for Friends of the Library of Hawaii, 1967); and Santiago Jacques Arago, *Recuerdos de un Ciego: Viaje al Rededor del Mundo* (Madrid, 1851).