

Who Came Next?

Colonization (the 'Peopling of the Pacific') began about 40,000 years ago with movement from Asia; by BC 1250, people were settling in the eastern Pacific. (Kirch) By BC 800, Polynesians settled in Samoa. (PVS)

The motivations of the voyagers varied. Some left to explore the world or to seek adventure. Others departed to find new land or new resources because of growing populations or prolonged droughts and other ecological disasters in their homelands. (PVS)

Archaeologists and historians describe the inhabiting of the Hawaiian Islands in the context of settlement which resulted from canoe voyages across the open ocean.

They have noted that early Polynesian settlement happened with voyages between Kahiki (Tahiti - the ancestral homelands of the Hawaiian gods and people) and Hawai'i, with long distance voyages occurring fairly regularly through at least the thirteenth century.

The Pacific settlement took a thousand years. However, after the 14th-century, the archaeological evidence reveals a dramatic expansion of population and food production in Hawai'i. Perhaps the resources and energies of the Hawaiian people went into developing their land rather than travel. (Kawaharada; PVS)

Significant advances in radiocarbon dating and the targeted re-dating of key Eastern Polynesian and Hawaiian sites has strongly supported and suggested that initial Polynesian discovery and colonization of the Hawaiian Islands occurred between approximately AD 1000 and 1200. (Kirch)



Ancient Voyaging Canoe-(HerbKane)

Who came next - the English, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish ...?

English

In the dawn hours of January 18, 1778, on his third expedition, British explorer Captain James Cook on the HMS Resolution and Captain Charles Clerke of the HMS Discovery first sighted and made 'contact' with what Cook named the Sandwich Islands (that were later named the Hawaiian Islands.)



Moment of Contact-(HerbKane)

On the afternoon of January 20, 1778, Cook anchored his ships near the mouth of the Waimea River on Kauai's southwestern shore. After a couple of weeks, they headed to the west coast of North America.

Hawaiian lives changed with sudden and lasting impact, when his western contact changed the course of history for Hawai'i.

Iron – An Indication of Prior Contact

But, was Cook the first foreigner to find Hawai'i? Some suggest that Cook's references to the Hawaiian interest in iron, and some of the iron implements noted by Cook's crew at the time of his Contact with the Islands suggest contact prior to the Englishmen Cook and his crew.

Since some of the terms for 'iron' also are applied to 'foreigners,' the indications are that the various Polynesians learned of iron, either directly through foreigners, or by means of wreckage from foreign ships. The early Polynesians were not iron producers, because, valuing the metal as they did, they apparently were unable to obtain it by smelting. (Stokes)

Captain James Cook's journal notes that the people he met on Kauai were not "acquainted with our commodities, except iron; which however, it was plain, they had ... in some quantity, brought to them at some distant period. ..."

Cook and his crew noted the specific interest the Hawaiians had in iron. "Their having the actual possession of these, and their so generally knowing the use of this metal, inclined some on board to think, that we had not been the first European visitors of these islands."

"The only iron tools, or rather bits of iron, seen amongst them, and which they had before our arrival, were a piece of iron hoop about two inches long, fitted into a wooden handle, and another edge tool, which our people guessed to be made of the point of a broadsword." (Cook's Journal)

Captain Clerke's record (Jan. 23, 1778) notes, "This morning one of the midshipmen purchased of the natives a piece of iron lashed into a handle for a cutting instrument; it seems to me a piece of the blade of a cutlass; it has by no means the appearance of a modern acquisition ..."

"... it looks to have been a good deal used and long in its present state; the midshipman ... demanded of the man where he got it; the Indian pointed away to the SE ward, where he says there is an island called Tai, from whence it came." (Stokes)

On Cook's second visit to the Islands (1779), Ms. W Bayly ascertained that all the iron seen in the hands of the Kauai natives had floated ashore in wreckage.

When Cook returned to Hawai'i the ships were supplied with fresh provisions which were paid for mainly with iron, much of it in the form of iron daggers made by the ships' blacksmiths on the pattern of the wooden pāhoa used by the Hawaiians.

The Hawaiians were permitted to watch the ships' blacksmiths at work and from their observations gained information of practical value about the working of iron. (Kuykendall)

It appears evident, before Cook's contact with the islands, the Hawaiian already had, used and wanted more iron - to make tools and weapons (principally to shape into knives.) Did it first come from the Japanese?

Japanese

Early Japanese history is traditionally divided into five major eras: the Paleolithic (c. 50,000 BC – c. 12,000 BC), Jomon (c.11,000 BC to 300 BC), Yayoi (9,000 BC – 250 AD), Kofun (300 AD – 552 AD) and Yamato Periods (552-710 AD). (Japan Society)

Then, Father Francis Xavier, with three other Catholic Jesuits missionaries, arrived at Japan on July 27, 1549 and went ashore at Kagoshima, the principal port of the province of Satsuma, on the island of Kyushu. Francis worked for more than two years in Japan spreading the gospel.

From 1550-1560, more Christian missionaries began arriving in Japan. At first they were welcomed as the ruling Shōgunate hoped it would build better trade relations with the west, particularly Spain and Portugal. (Trevino)

Ieyasu Tokugawa became shogun in 1603 after defeating his rivals by using guns brought into Japan by the Europeans. His successors, however, began to fear that the growing trade with the West and influence of Christianity would directly challenge the Japanese value system. (Tokugawa)

In the isolation edict of 1635, the shogun banned Japanese ships or individuals from visiting other countries, decreed that any Japanese person returning from another country was to be executed, and placed severe restrictions on visits by foreign trading vessels. (Thompson)

Isolationism ended on July 8, 1853 when Commodore Matthew Perry of the US Navy, commanding a squadron of two steamers and two sailing vessels, sailed into Tokyo harbor aboard the frigate *Susquehanna*.

Perry returned again on February 13, 1854 with an even larger force of eight warships, forced Japan to enter into trade with the US and demanded a treaty permitting trade and the opening of Japanese ports to US merchant ships.

While Japan was in 'Isolation,' does that mean Japanese did not have contact with the rest of the world, including Hawai'i? Actually, no ... there is evidence that Japanese made it to the islands during isolation – possibly, even before Captain Cook.

Sword of Kaluiki (~1300s AD)

There is reference to Japanese contact well before Cook's time. The following excerpts from Kalākaua's 'The Legends and Myths of Hawaii' titled 'Iron Knife' tells of an earlier time. It speaks of early Japanese visitors to the Islands and the Japanese captain's sword – the time frame is about the 1300s.

“(A) Japanese vessel that had been dismantled by a typhoon, driven toward the North American coast until it encountered the northwest trade-winds, and then helplessly blown southward to the coast of Maui.”

“It was late in the afternoon that word had been brought to Wakalana that a strange vessel was approaching the coast. As it was high out of water and drifting broadside before the wind, it appeared to be of great size, and little disposition was shown by the people to go out in their canoes to meet the mysterious monster.”

“Wakalana hastened to the beach, and, after watching the vessel intently for some time, saw that it was drifting slowly toward the rocky coast to the westward. Seaman enough to know that certain destruction awaited it in that direction, Wakalana hastily manned a stout canoe and started out to sea in pursuit....”

“The name of the captain was Kaluiki-a-Manu; the four others were called Neleike, Malaea, Haakoa and Hika - all names of Hawaiian construction. Two of them - Neleike and Malaea - were women, the former being the sister of the captain.”

“They landed almost without clothing, and the only novelties upon their persons were the rings and bracelets of the women, and a sword in the belt of the captain, with which he had thoughtlessly leaped into the sea from the sinking vessel.”

Wakalana “was charmed with the bright eyes and fair face of Neleike, the sister of the captain. He found a pleasure that was new to him in teaching her to speak his language, and almost the first use she made of [this] was to say ‘yes’ with it when he asked her to become his wife.”

“Her marriage was followed by that of Malaea to a native chief, and of her brother and his two male companions to native women of good family. And here, as well as anywhere, it may be mentioned that, through her son Alooa ...”

“... Neleike became the progenitor of a family which for generations showed the marks of her blood, and that the descendants of the others were plentiful thereafter, not only on Maui but in the neighborhood of Waimalo, on the island of Oahu.”

“The object of the rescued Japanese which attracted most attention was the sword accidentally preserved by the captain. No such terrible knife had ever before been seen or dreamed of by the natives.... The sword of Kaluiki, the ransom of a king, remained for some generations with the descendants of Kukona; but what became of it in the end tradition fails to tell.” (Kalākaua)

Japanese Junks

Japanese junks have been blown to sea, and finally stranded with their occupants upon distant islands, and have reached even the continent of America, in the 46th degree of north latitude. (Jarves)

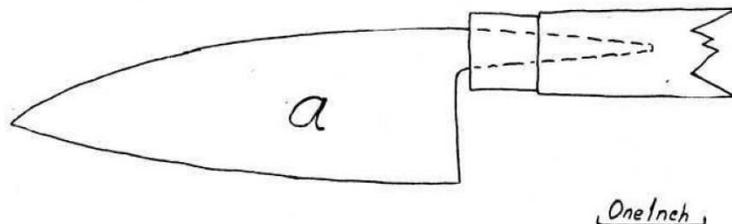


“[M]ention is made of several Japanese vessels reported in some of the Spanish-American ports on the Pacific. In 1617 a Japanese junk belonging to Magomé, was at Acapulco.” (Brooks)

“According to the traditions of the islands, several such junks had been wrecked upon Hawaii, before the islands were discovered by Captain Cook.” (Brooks)

The reference to Cook’s midshipman’s iron “cutting instrument”,

that “people guessed to be made of the point of a broadsword,” caught the attention of Stokes (former Curator of Polynesian Ethnology and Curator-in-charge of the Bishop Museum,) who speculated that rather than the end of a broadsword, the Hawaiians may have had a deba bocho (a Japanese fish-knife.)



Stokes noted that swords generally break straight across, making it difficult (impossible) to be “lashed into a handle.” Rather, the deba bocho has a tang that is driven into a wooden handle.

The tang would have been concealed from view by Cook’s crew and “These men, ‘accustomed to the sword,’ would naturally think first in terms of weapons. It is certain they were unfamiliar with Japanese domestic utensils because Japan had then been isolated from foreigners for more than a century.” (Stokes)

Whether it actually was a knife and whether it drifted in on wreckage or was brought by a Japanese fisherman (before Cook’s arrival in the Islands) is not clear.



Hawai’i had its share of Japanese contact, directly in the Islands, as well as by sailors at sea. Beachcombing finds of Japanese glass balls (fishing floats,) as well as marine debris from the 2011 Japan tsunami, suggest the possibility of earlier Japan contact with the Islands (especially in the context that a Japanese fishing boat and its survivors landed in the Islands in 1832.)

A Japanese fishing boat that was washed out to sea during the 2011 Japan tsunami and made its way to O’ahu’s Alan Davis Beach in April 2015 is finally making the journey home. Experts say the Daini Katsu Maru drifted 5,000 miles following Japan’s devastating earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. (SOEST)



Chinese

“Every junk found adrift or stranded on the coast of North America, or on the Hawaiian or adjacent islands, has on examination proved to be Japanese, and no single instance of any Chinese vessel has ever been reported, nor is any believed to have existed.” (Brooks)

Spanish

Back to the ‘iron’ reference ... the first written Hawaiian word is ‘Hamaite’ – it was spoken to Captain Cook at the time he made contact with the Islands and he wrote it in his journal.

It was made in reference to iron. Some suggest it refers to Hematite (ferric oxide – a mineral form of iron oxide - that is Hematita in Spanish.) However, others suggest ‘Hamaite’ is actually a Hawaiian expression of He maita’i – good. (Schutz) The following is Cook’s explanation:

“In the course of my several voyages, I never before met with the natives of any place so much astonished, as these people were, upon entering a ship.”

“Their eyes were continually flying from object to object; the wildness of their looks and gestures fully expressing their entire ignorance about every thing they saw, and strongly marking to us, that, till now, they had never been visited by Europeans ...”

“... nor been acquainted with any of our commodities except iron; which, however, it was plain, they had only heard of, or had known it in some small quantity brought to them at some distant period.”

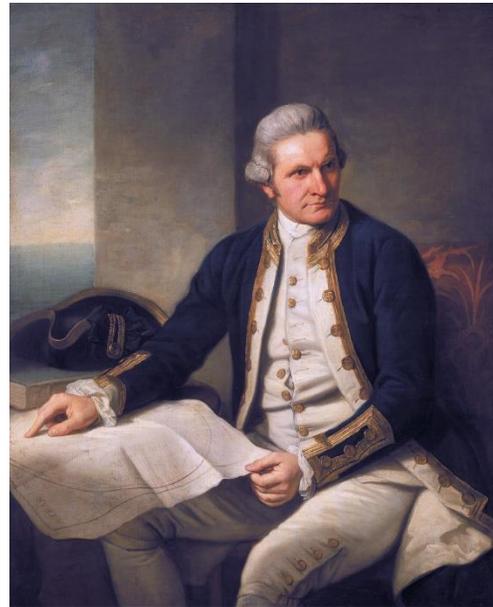
“They seemed, only to understand, that it was a substance much better adapted to the purposes of cutting, or of boring of holes, than any thing their own country produced.”

“They asked for it by the name of hamaite, probably referring to some instrument, in the making of which iron could be usefully employed for they applied that name to the blade of a knife, though we could be certain that they had no idea of that particular instrument; nor could they at all handle it properly.”

“For the same reason, they frequently called iron by the name of ‘toe,’ which in their language signifies a hatchet, or rather a kind of adze.”

“On asking them what iron was, they immediately answered, ‘We do not know; you know what it is, and we only understand it as ‘toe,’ or ‘hamaite.’”

“The only iron tools, or rather bits of iron, seen amongst them, and which they had before our arrival, were a piece of iron hoop about two inches long, fitted into a wooden handle, and another edge tool, which our people guessed to be made of the point of a broadsword.”



“Their having the actual possession of these, and their so generally knowing the use of this metal, inclined some on board to think, that we had not been the first European visitors of these islands.”

“But, it seems to me, that the very great surprise expressed by them on seeing our ships, and their total ignorance of the use of fire-arms, cannot be reconciled with such a notion.”

“There are many ways by which such people may get pieces of iron, or acquire the knowledge of the existence of such a metal, without ever having had an immediate connection with nations that use it.”

“It can hardly be doubted that it was unknown to all the inhabitants of this sea, before Magellan led the way into it; for no discoverer, immediately after his voyage, ever found any of this metal in their possession ...”

“... though, in the course of our late voyages it has been observed, that the use of it was known at several islands, to which no former European ships had ever, as far as we know, found their way.”

“At all the places where Mendana touched in his two voyages, it must have been seen and left, and this would extend the knowledge of it, no doubt, to all the various islands with which those whom he had visited had any immediate intercourse.”

“It might even be carried farther; and where specimens of this article could not be procured, descriptions might, in some measure, serve to make it known when afterward seen.” (Cook)

Spanish Galleons (1565 - 1815 AD)

We know the Spanish crossed the Pacific, between the Philippines and Acapulco for 250-years.

The Manila Galleons (Spanish: Galeón de Manila, Filipino: Kalakalang Galyon ng Maynila at Acapulco) were Spanish trading ships which made round-trip voyages once or twice per year across the Pacific Ocean from the port of Acapulco (present-day Mexico) to Manila in the Philippines which were both part of New Spain.

The name of the galleon changed to reflect the city that the ship sailed from. The term Manila Galleons is also used to refer to the trade route between Acapulco and Manila, which lasted from 1565 to 1815. (Alchetron)

“On May 3, 1493, Pope Alexander VI, to prevent future disputes between Spain and Portugal, divided the world by a north-south line (longitude) 100 leagues (300 miles) west of the Cape Verde Islands.”



Manila Galleon Off Puna Coast-(HerbKane)

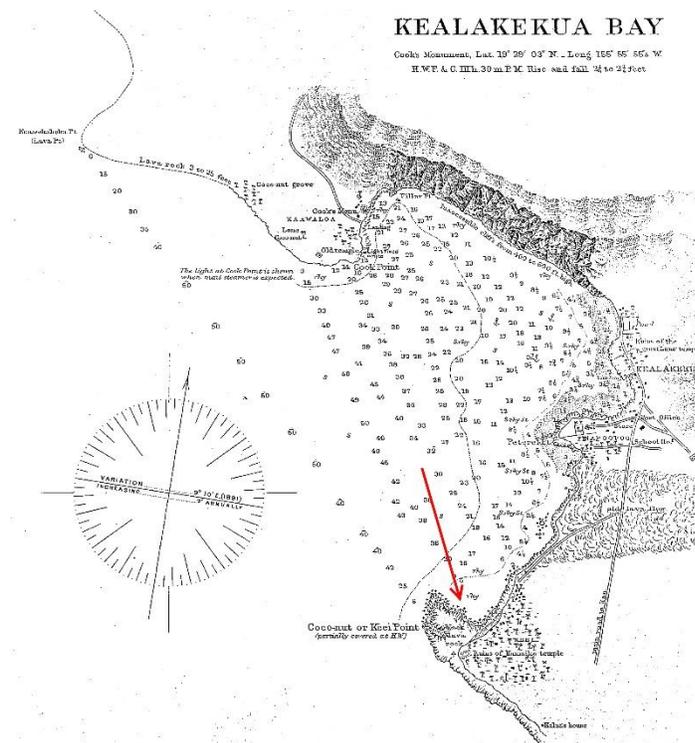
“In 1494, by the terms of the Treaty of Tordesillas, Spain and Portugal agreed to move that line to a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands.”

On November 28 1520, Ferdinand Magellan entered the "Sea of the South" (which he later named the Pacific) and thereby open up to Spain the possibility of an alternative route between Europe and the spices of the Orient.” (Lloyd)

Then, almost 50 years after the death of Christopher Columbus, Manila galleons finally fulfilled their dream of sailing west to Asia to benefit from the rich Indian Ocean trade. More than 40-Spanish galleons were lost during this 250-year period. (Lloyd) The Manila Galleon Trade lasted for 250 years and ended in 1815 with Mexico’s war of independence.

Kulou (‘to bow down’) (1527 AD)

“Hernando Cortez, immediately after his conquest of Mexico, fitted out an expedition on the western coast to reinforce his countrymen ... [they] sailed from Zacatula, Mexico, Oct. 31, 1527.” (Alexander) Two of his ships were lost during a storm [one is said to have landed in Hawai’i]. (Univ of Wellington)



“A well known Hawaiian tradition relates that in the reign of Keliokaloa, son of Umi, a foreign vessel was wrecked at Keeki, South Kona, Hawaii. According to the tradition, only the captain and his sister reached the shore in safety. From their kneeling on the beach and remaining a long time in that posture, the place was called Kulou (to stoop, to bow,) as it is unto this day.” (Alexander 1892)

“The natives received them kindly and placed food before them. These strangers intermarried with the Hawaiians, and were the progenitors of certain well known families of chiefs, as for instance, that of Kaikioewa, former Governor of Kauai.” (Alexander 1892)

Jarves expanded on the story, “In the reign of Kealiokaloa, son of Umi, thirteen generations of kings before Cook’s arrival ... a vessel, called by the natives Konaliloha, arrived at

Pale, Keeki, on the south side of Kealahou bay, Hawaii.”

“Here, by some accident, she was drawn into the surf, and totally wrecked; the captain, Kukanaloo, and a white woman, said to be his sister, were the only persons who reached the land. As soon as they trod upon the beach, either from fear of the inhabitants, or to return thanks for their safety, they prostrated themselves, and remained in that position for a long time.”

“The spot where this took place, is known at the present day, by the appellation of Kulou, to bow down. The shipwrecked strangers were hospitably received, invited to the dwellings of the natives, and food placed before them.” (Jarves 1843)

Gaetano and Mapping of the Islas de Mesa (1555 AD)

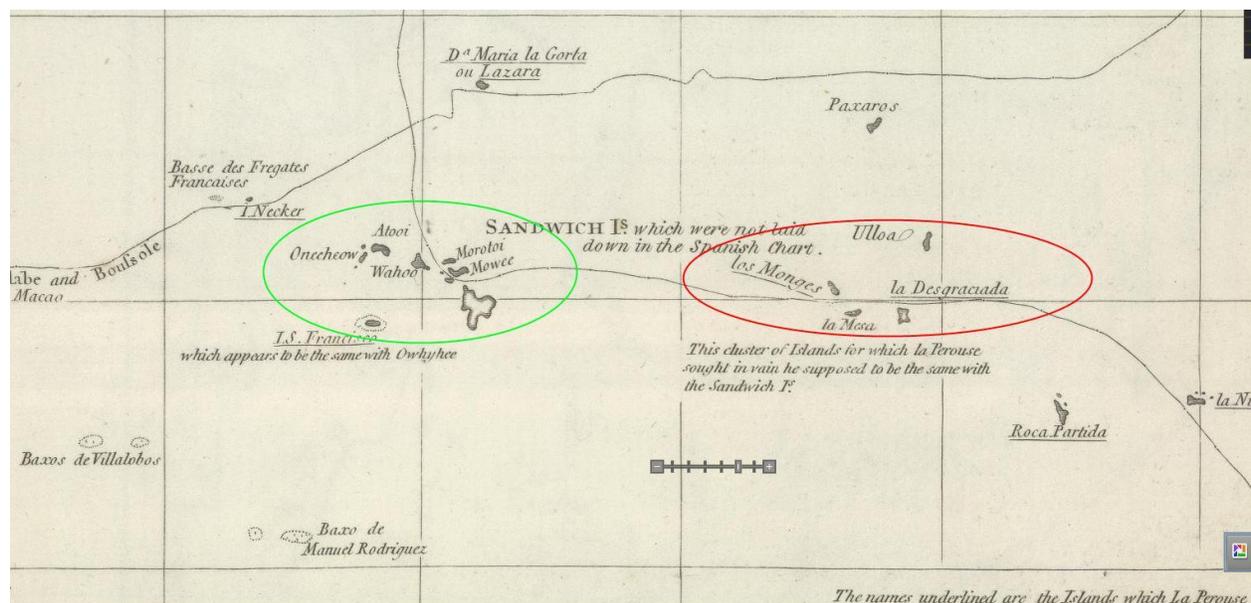
In addition, “Old Spanish charts and a 1613 AD Dutch globe suggest that explorers from Spain had sighted Hawai’i long before Captain Cook. When Cook arrived in 1778, galleons laden with silver from the mines of Mexico and South America had been passing south of Hawai’i for two centuries on annual round trip voyages of 17,000 miles between Acapulco and Manila.” (Kane)

“It seems to be almost certain that one Juan Gaetano, a Spanish navigator, saw Hawaii in 1555 AD. A group of islands, the largest of which was called La Mesa, was laid down in the old Spanish charts in the same latitude as the Hawaiian Islands, but 10 degrees too far east.” (Hawai’i Department of Foreign Affairs, 1896)

“There are undoubted proofs of the discovery of the Hawaiian Islands by the Spaniard, Juan Gaetano. This is the first known record of the islands among the civilised nations. There are evident references to this group in the legends of the Polynesians in other Pacific islands.” (Westervelt 1923)

La Perouse noted, when he briefly visited the Islands (1786,) “In the charts, at the foot of this archipelago, might be written: ‘Sandwich Islands, surveyed in 1778 by Captain Cook, who named them, anciently discovered by the Spanish navigators.’” (La Perouse, Fornander)

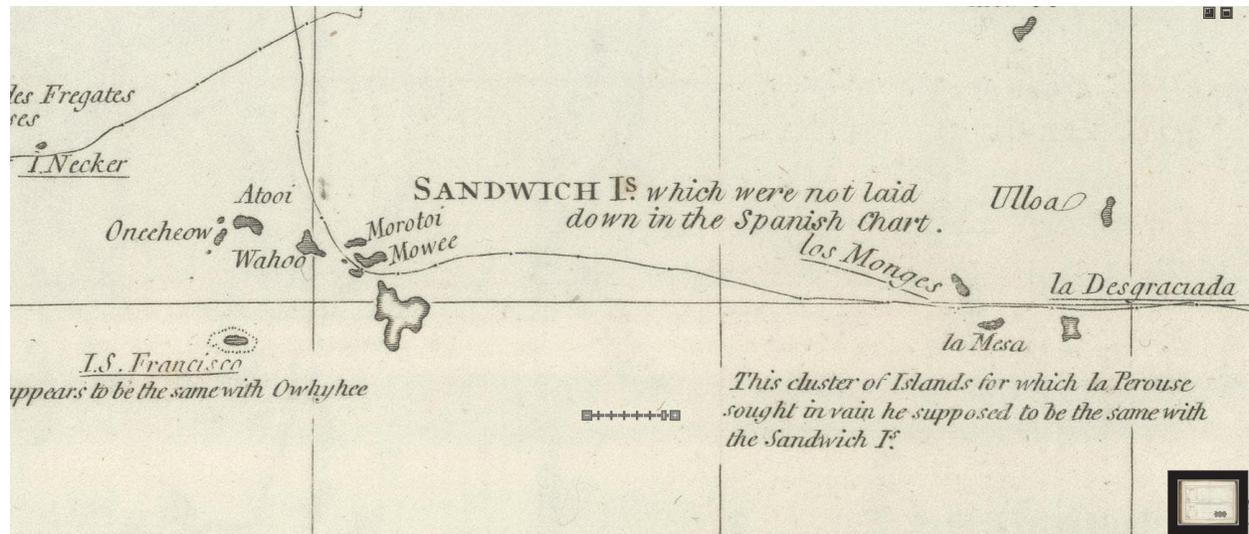
“By all the documents that have been examined, it is demonstrated that the discovery dates from the year 1555 and that the discoverer was Juan Gaetano or Gaytan. The principal proof is an old manuscript chart, registered in these archives as anonymous, and in which the Sandwich Islands are laid down under that name, but which also contains a note declaring that he called them Islas de Mesa”. (Spanish Colonial Office letter to the Governor of the Philippines, The Friend May 1927)



“It is true that no document has been found in which Gaytan himself certifies to this fact, but there exist data which collectively form a series of proofs sufficient for believing it to be so. The principal one is an old manuscript chart ... in which the Sandwich Islands are laid down under that name...” (The Friend May 1927)

“(H)e called them "Islas de Mesa" (Table Islands.) There are besides, other islands, situated in the same latitude, but 10° further east, and respectively named "La Mesa" (the table), "La Desgraciado" (the unfortunate), "Olloa," and "Los Monges" (the Monks.)”

Gaetano passed through the northern part of the Pacific and discovered large islands which he marked upon a chart as "Los Majos." The great mountains upon these islands did not rise in sharp peaks, but spread out like a high tableland in the clouds, hence he also called the islands "Islas de Mesa," the Mesa Islands or the Table Lands. One of the islands was named "The Unfortunate." Three other smaller islands were called "The Monks." (Westervelt 1923)



In 1743, English captain George Anson set sail for the Pacific to attack Spanish galleons (English and Spain were at war at the time.) Overcoming the 'Nuestra Senora de Covadonga,' he found a "chart of all the ocean between the Philippines and the coasts of Mexico."

A cluster of islands were noted in mid-ocean; the island La Mesa is on the same latitude of the Island of Hawai'i and its southern contour resembles the southern coastline of Hawai'i; however, they are noted east of their actual location. (Kane)

How could the Islands be mis-mapped to the east? ... Until 1744 and the development of the chronometer, determining longitude was an historic problem for navigators. Longitude (east-west) was estimated by distances a ship covered within various periods of time, estimated by the ship's speed during each period. (Kane)

Ship speed was measured with a block of wood attached to a line with knots tied at intervals. The 'log' was cast from the sterns and the number of 'knots' run out during a certain time interval enabled the navigator to calculate his speed. However, this method doesn't address the west-bound ocean current that would effectively place a position east of its true position. (Kane)

"The Spanish Galleons were square rigged ships with high superstructures on their sterns. They were obviously designed for running before the wind or at best sailing on a very 'broad reach.'"

"Because of their apparently limited ability to 'beat their way to windward' (sail against the wind), they had to find trade routes where the prevailing winds and sea currents were favorable." (Lloyd)