

Fis Tree Lane,
Old Marston,
Oxford

28 June, 1954

Hxelson

Dear Mr. Hxelson,

I ought to have answered your letter of the 16th April long ago; but I have been (I am) very hard pressed.

I am completely at a loss to understand how Mr. Hayes could possibly acquire copies of Capt. Thompson's Log of the 1786 voyage to Manitok. A Captain (of the Royal Navy) was under orders to write a Log which he frequently supplemented by sketches. On reaching home he automatically deposited his Log-books with the Admiralty, where it was filed as an official document & where it remained. The same applied, of course, to Admirals & Commodores. It is incredible that any busy Captain kept a duplicate for his own edification.

On the other hand, the young midshipmen were also required to keep logs - by way of training: & they frequently were allowed to "lift" a good deal from their Captain's log. When the voyage was over & these 'apprentice' logs had been examined, the writers were allowed to keep them. It seems probable therefore that these manuscript accounts are actually midshipmen's efforts which were kept by their families & then sold by later generations.

I have not myself come across any reference by Alex. Dalrymple to the voyage of the Yves. I hope that you will send me a copy of what you published about the Dingford. So best
Yours sincerely,
Vincent Hart

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