

James Cook
 from AN ACCOUNT OF A ROUND VOYAGE OF
 THE ENDEAVOUR IN THE YEAR MDCCCLXX
 ALONG THE EAST COAST OF AUSTRALIA

1770 April

Friday 20

We brought to for the night, and at four in the morning made sail along shore to the northward. At six, the north-most land in sight bore NNW and we were at this time about four leagues from the shore. At noon, we were in latitude $36^{\circ}51'S$ longitude $209^{\circ}53'W$ and about three leagues distant from the shore. The weather being clear, gave us a good view of the country, which has a very pleasing appearance: it is of a moderate height, diversified by hills and valleys, ridges and plains, interspersed with a few lawns of no great extent, but in general covered with wood: the ascent of the hills and ridges is gentle, and the summits are not high. We continued to sail along the shore to the northward, with a southerly wind, and in the afternoon we saw smoke in several places, by which we knew the country to be inhabited. [...]

Saturday 28

After dinner the boats were manned, and we set out from the ship, having Tupia of our party. We intended to land where we saw the people, and began to hope that as they had so little regard to the ship's coming into the bay, they would as little regard our coming on shore: in this, however, we were disappointed; for as soon as we approached the rocks, two of the men came down upon them to dispute our landing, and the rest ran away. Each of the two champions was armed with a lance about ten feet long, and a short stick which he seemed to handle as if it was a machine to assist him in managing or throwing the lance: they called to us in a very loud tone, and in a harsh dissonant language, of which neither we nor Tupia understood a single word: they brandished their weapons, and seemed resolved to defend their coast to the uttermost, though they were but two, and we were forty. I could not but admire their courage, and being very unwilling that hostilities should commence with such inequality of force between us, I ordered the boat to lie upon her oars: we then parted by signs for about a quarter of an hour, and to bespeak their good-will, I threw them nails, beads, and other trifles, which they took up and seemed to be well pleased with. I then made signs that I wanted water, and, by all the means that I could devise, endeavoured to convince them that we would do them no harm: they now waved to us, and I was willing to interpret it as an invitation; but upon our putting the boat in, they came again to oppose us. One appeared to be a youth about nineteen or twenty, and the other a man of middle age: as I had now no other resource I fired a musquet between them. Upon the report, the youngest dropped a bundle of lances upon the rock, but recollecting himself in an instant he snatched them up again with great haste: a stone was then thrown at us, upon which I ordered a musquet to be fired with small shot, which struck the

eldest upon the legs, and he immediately ran to one of the houses, which was distant about an hundred yards: I now hoped that our contest was over, and we immediately landed; but we had scarcely left the boat when he returned, and we then perceived that he had left the rock only to fetch a shield or target for his defence. As soon as he came up, he threw a lance at us, and his comrade another; they fell where we stood thickest, but happily hurt nobody. A third musquet with small shot was then fired at them, upon which one of them threw another lance, and both immediately ran away: If we had pursued, we might probably have taken one of them; but Mr Banks suggesting that the lances might be poisoned, I thought it not prudent to venture into the woods.

(1773)

Mary Gilmore
AUSTRALIA

I

There was great beauty in the names her people called her,
Shaping to patterns of sound the form of their words;
They wove to measure of speech the cry of the bird,
And the voices that rose from the reeds of the cowl.

5 There, when the trumpeting frog boomed forth in the night,

Gobgambalini! he said, *Gobgambalini!*

And even as Aristophanes heard, in the far-off deeps

Of his Grecian marshes, the frogs, so we in that word.

10 *'Gobgambalini! ... Gobgambalini! ...'*
Harken, and measure the sound!

II

Mark where, fallen, the tribes move in the shadow;

Dark are the silent places where Arunta walks—

Dark as the dim valleys of Hades where stalk,

Grey-shaped, the Gods and heroes of the Greeks.

These were the young; for even then Arunta was old.

Very old was Arunta when Alexander wept;

Old, old was Arunta when over Bethlehem

Was seen the star that told the birth of Christ;

Old, old was Arunta when upward from the deep

Was swung the hammer-symbol of Poseidon.

20 Troy rose and fell, but Arunta lived on.
Then was Arunta put out in a night.

Wurleys: gunyahs, or shelter places

Moolpa: the spoonbill

Cowal: a coolamon-hole or small lake

Weenyah: 'whither'

Arunta: a tribe of Central Australia, the name being used here as a general designation for reasons of the drama and poetry

*has quickly the moment
civilization was
destroyed
(1932)*

*the first words
of a conquest
of a world
15*

*Greek
of the
cave
10*