

the true geography of the Pacific ocean: and to him we are indebted for the destruction of the geographical fictions so readily embraced by many preceding geographers.

While Cook was preparing for his voyage, the viceroy of New Spain sent out an expedition for the same purpose under Bruno Heceta, Juan de Ayala and Iuan de la Bodega y Quadra, in 1775. The account of this expedition was written by Maurelle the pilot of one of the vessels. Maurelle went as far north as 57° , and he obtained a tolerable outline of the coast to that point, and sent home a note of alarm regarding the progress of Russian settlement. Maurelle had no better charts than the conjectural ones of the French, such as Bellin's of 1766, and he was on the look out for DeFonte's pretended straits, which were in full faith still retained upon those charts. In 1779, another Spanish expedition, accompanied also by Maurelle, and De la Bodega y Quadra, was sent over the same track, apparently unconscious that Cook had preceded them during 1778. This voyage went no farther north than 59° .

In 1774 and 1755, Perez and Martinez, under the Spanish flag, anchored at Nootka sound and sailed as far as 58° .

The discoveries of Capt. Cook were not published until 1784. They produced a great excitement in favor of free trade in furs, hitherto a monopoly of fur companies; and the rivalry for this trade led to numerous voyages of ships of all nations. The most prominent of these were those of Portlock and Dixon in 1786 and 1787, chiefly for the purpose of trading in furs: when a détour for discovery was made, it was for the sake of finding new regions to buy furs of the natives. Dixon chronicles our still existing ignorance of the continent by the observation, that "so imperfectly do we know the coast that it is in some measure to be doubted whether we have yet seen the main land; whether any land we have been near is really the