



Frederick William Beechey
Narrative of a voyage to the Pacific and Beering's Strait, to co-operate with the Polar expeditions : performed in His Majesty's ship Blossom, under the command of Captain F. W. Beechey, in the years 1825, 26, 27, 28, New ed., London, 1831

Author Frederick William Beechey (1796–1856) was an English naval officer and geographer. He was born into a family of artists: His mother was a painter of miniatures and his father was a painter and a member of the Royal Academy of Arts. Beechey enlisted in the Royal Navy at the age of 10 and participated in an Arctic expedition and a survey voyage to the coast of North Africa. In 1825, Beechey was appointed captain of the *HMS Blossom* and under orders from George IV, King of the United Kingdom, carried out observation surveys of the Pacific Ocean and the Bering Strait. In his later years, he served as president of the Royal Geographical Society.

This book is an account of his voyage to the Pacific Ocean and Bering Strait from 1825 to 1828. Departing England, he sailed around Cape Horn in South America and into the Pacific Ocean and then voyaged north toward the Bering Strait. To pass the winter, he subsequently entered San Francisco Bay in California. Beechey crossed the Pacific Ocean and even made port calls in Ryukyu and the Ogasawara Islands via Southeast Asia and China. After once again sailing the North Pacific Ocean, he detoured around South America for the homeward journey back to the U.K.

The book's richness of words describing weather, its sharp observations that vividly engrave the spectacle of waves, landscapes and villages, and its lifelike portrayals of fish, flora and fauna are superb. The book leaves fascinating accounts of how people lived in an age when regions worldwide were far more isolated than today and how people from different cultures with no common language interacted and strived to communicate. The sections describing Ryukyu and Ogasawara Islands have also been published in Japanese in *Burossamu-gō rairyū-ki* and *Ogasawara-shotō ikokusen raikō-ki* (translated by Ryoichi Okuma), respectively.

The library houses a new edition of two volumes, which came out in the same year as the first edition. Both the two-volume book and the first edition were published by the Royal Navy.