

[0498] SAMUEL FREEZLAND AND *FREEZELAND ROCK*

Among the ships' companies of Captain James Cook's second voyage from 1772 to 1775 one Dutch (Frisian?) seaman is registered, viz. "Samuel Freezland", of Holland, 23 years, A.B. ("able-bodied seaman"), no. 138 on the *RESOLUTION*.<sup>1</sup> He had joined the expedition on February 13, 1772 and is famous for having sighted "Freezland Peak" on 31 January 1775. In Captain Cook's own words: "... the weather cleared up a little more and gave us a tolerable good sight of the land. That which we had fell in with proved three rocky islets of considerable height, the outer most terminated in a lofty Peak like a Sugar Loaf and obtained the name of *Freezland Peak*, after the Man who first discovered it".<sup>2</sup>

The islet (59 °03'S., 26°41'W.) lies west of Bristol Island in the South Sandwich Islands group, small volcanic islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, which were discovered by Cook during the second voyage. *Freezland Peak* later became *Freezeland Peak* - a folk-etymology due to the cold Antarctic because Samuel Freezland had been forgotten? - and the official name today is *Freezeland Rock*: When the feature was charted as an insular rock in 1930 by personnel of the British Discovery Investigations, the name was altered accordingly.

What happened to Samuel Freezland after he had been paid off on 28 August 1775? Apparently, he did not write down his adventure as for instance Heinrich Zimmermann, a German, later did after he had participated as a mariner in Cook's third voyage from 1776 to 1780.<sup>3</sup> Freezland kept silence, and, today, only an 'islet' because of its name - whose correct version however would be "Friesland" (not to speak of "Fryslân") - remains as his memorial, though probably nobody ever thinks of the man.

*Gadstrup (Denmark)**W. W. Schuhmacher**Notes:*

1. J.C. Beaglehole (ed.), *The Journals of Captain James Cook on his Voyages of Discovery: The Voyage of the 'Resolution' and 'Adventure', 1772-1775*, Cambridge 1961, p. 881.
2. Beaglehole (cf. Note 1), p. 631.
3. H. Zimmermann, *Reise um die Welt, mit Capitain Cook*, Mannheim 1781.