"Translation and transcription. Enabling the archaeology of exploration narratives": Présentation des ouvrages *Exploration of the South Seas in the Eighteenth Century: Rediscovered Accounts Volume I* (Samuel Wallis's *Voyage Round the World in the Dolphin 1766-1768*) and *Volume II* (*Voyage Round the World Performed Under the Direction of Captain Etienne Marchand in the Solide of Marseilles 1790-1792*).

**Abstract:**

The publication and then the translation of key 18th-century voyaging accounts have been constants in editorial policy since the reading public’s response to Dampier and the publication of his voyaging texts at the end of the 17th century. In academia, there is of course a wide-ranging focus on the translation process itself.

Scholarship on unmediated voyaging text may be considered as a rather more recent trend in Travel Writing Studies. In the United Kingdom, contemporary publications of the Hakluyt Society for example provide the appropriate source materials with their critical editions of manuscripts.

The processes of translation and transcription, putting aside translation theory, may enable what is termed here as the archaeology of the narrative, that is the tracing of sources, or origins, and the excavation of these remains of previous or past narrative, in subsequent accounts. The translation of Etienne Marchand’s journal, and the transcription of Samuel Wallis’ logs, proved to be illustrations of these interesting backflow events which, in the context of exploration and discovery/disclosure, seemed to have involved more than simple copying.