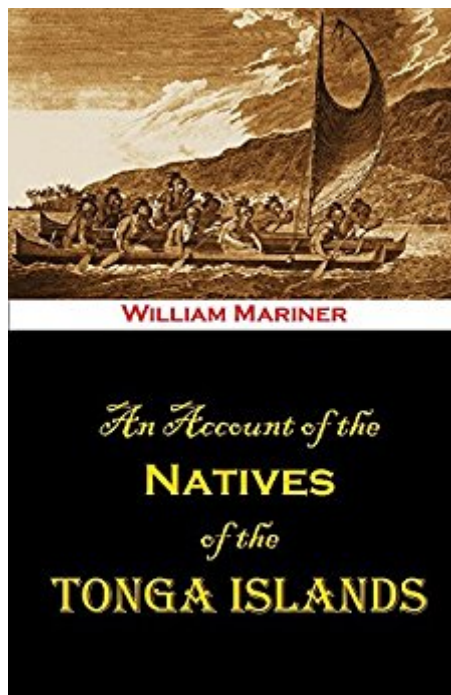




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An Account Of The Natives Of The Tonga Islands, In The South Pacific Ocean (1820)



Synopsis

William Mariner (1791–1853) was an Englishman who lived in the Tonga Islands from 29 November 1806 to 8 November 1810. He wrote an account of his experiences, *Tonga Islands*, that is now one of the major sources of information on pre-Christian Tonga. William Mariner was a teenage ship's clerk aboard the British privateer *Port au Prince*. The ship anchored off the Tongan island of Lifuka, in the Ha'apai island group, and was seized by the Ha'apai chief Fā'ānau Ulukālala on 1 December 1806. Most of the crew were killed in the takeover of the ship, but Fā'ānau spared Mariner and several colleagues. Fā'ānau assumed responsibility for Mariner, taking him under his protection. Mariner lived in Tonga for four years, predominantly in the northern island group of Vava'u. On his return to England he dictated a detailed account of his time in the Tonga Islands, a description of Tongan society and culture at the time, and a grammar and dictionary of the Tongan language. The resulting publication remains one of the most valuable historical documents of pre-Christian life in the Pacific Islands. This book published in 1820 has been reformatted for the Kindle and may contain an occasional defect from the original publication or from the reformatting.

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