



The ironic wisdom of the Tahitians Touiavii and Outourou

E. Scheurmann, *Der Papalagi* and Giraudoux, *Supplément au voyage de Cook*

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Cahiers Jean Giraudoux](#)
2020, n° 48. *Supplément au voyage de Cook*

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Abstract: *Le Papalagi. Les étonnants propos de Touiavii, chef de tribu, sur les hommes blancs* (1920) purports to reproduce the words of a Samoan chief whose travel notes fell into the hands of German novelist Erich Scheurmann. It recounts the shrewd islander's observations and criticisms. To what extent was Giraudoux aware of this work? In *Supplément au voyage de Cook*, an apparent follow-up to Diderot's *Supplément au voyage de Bougainville*, Mr. Banks is bombastic with easily disprovable assertions, and is rattled by life on the island. It is the islanders who have the last word.

Pages: 65 to 84

Journal: [Jean Giraudoux Studies](#)

CLIL theme: 4027 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage -- Lettres -- Etudes littéraires générales et thématiques

EAN: 9782406110903

ISBN: 978-2-406-11090-3

ISSN: 2552-1004

DOI: 10.15122/isbn.978-2-406-11090-3.p.0065

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 12-07-2020

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: Mr. Banks, Bougainville, Cook, islanders, Pacific, parody, Samoa, natives, Erich Scheurmann, supplement

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