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Monique Dinan, *Une Ile éclatée: Analyse de l'émigration mauricienne 1960-82*. The author, 11, rue Eliacin Française, Rose Hill, Mauritius, 1985, 243 pp., Rs 85.

Monique Dinan's *Une Ile éclatée* ("An Island Exploded") is the first detailed study of Mauritian emigration to be published. Given that there are now some 12,000 Mauritians in Australia, who are part of the diaspora that Dinan documents and analyses, this book deserves more attention than it has so far received in Australia. Her chapter on Mauritian emigration to Australia in the 1960s and 1980s, is certainly a significant contribution to our knowledge of the Mauritian community in this country. Monique Dinan, a former editor of *La Vie Catholique*, reveals herself to be an astute social observer, capable of providing her readers with a good scholarly meal but in a highly digestible form that so often only a well seasoned journalist can prepare. Her French prose is crisp and eloquent and often characterized by an ironic turn of phrase. Although her basic raw materials are newspaper accounts and government reports, she treats both with justifiable caution.

Despite being uninhabited until the seventeenth century, Mauritius is now very much overcrowded with a million people of European, African and Asian descent, ultimately dependent on the failing fortunes of the sugar industry. While Mauritius was first settled by the Dutch (who were responsible for the extermination of the Dodo), it was the French who stamped an indelible cultural mark upon the island in the eighteenth century. Captured by the British in 1810, Mauritius was only granted independence in 1968. An understanding of Mauritius' economic problems, rooted in sugar monoculture, together with the fear and uncertainty associated with decolonization, are crucial to an understanding of Mauritian emigration. Dinan provides her readers with an excellent review of emigration within the context of both these factors, together with the policy decisions of immigrant recipient nations.

Dinan examines, in chapter/case studies, Mauritian emigration to Australia, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, the United States of America, Africa, the Middle East and the French island of Réunion. Aside from Australia, Britain and France (who welcomed 11,779, 21,941 and 14,203 immigrants respectively), other "Western" countries who accepted Mauritians only opened their doors to far fewer than 2,000 individuals. Hopes of further large-scale emigration were therefore effectively dashed.

In summing up, Dinan reflects on the broader meaning of the exodus of some 66,000 Mauritians from their native island. She remains full of hope for her country, despite its economic problems and its communal and ideological conflicts. Emigration, Dinan argues, has forged significant international links

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for Mauritius. Being Mauritian now has an expanded meaning, as the author points out in her final impassioned plea to her compatriots:

In this search for a better future, do not forget that Mauritius has now left her isolation. The colonies of emigrants, distributed around the world, have given a substance and radiance to the pluricultural and international dimension of our island. We here are one million and they are 66,000 over there; do not let the bond break completely... If our horizons are exploded, for this diversity, it is the same nourishing earth which has forged our Mauritian spirit... Do not cut the roots completely...

Edward Duyker

Sylvania, New South Wales

Isabel Ollivier (transcription and translation), *Extracts from Journals relating to the visit to New Zealand in May-July 1772 of the French ships "Mascarin" and "Marquis de Castries" under the command of M.J. Marion du Fresne*, Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust with Indosuez New Zealand Limited, Wellington, 1985, 396 pp., \$40.10.

This is the second in the series of *Early Eyewitness Accounts of Maori Life*, a series which aims to give scholars better access to the first European accounts of Maori communities. It is surprising that Isabel Ollivier's translations have not received more notice in Australia, for Marion's expedition (the first to visit Van Dieman's Land after Tasman), provided Europeans with the very first description of Tasmanian Aborigines. Marion, however, has always been something of an enigmatic character. Had he been English and a good publicist, Anglo-Australian historians would certainly have made a Dampier-like hero of him and perhaps even commemorated him on a bicentennial stamp. Alas, poor Marion does not even rate a mention among the hallowed pages of the *Dictionary of Australian Biography*. In many other encyclopaedias and biographical dictionaries he is confused with his cousin Nicholas Thomas.

Marc Joseph Marion Dufresne was born in St Malo in 1724 and went to sea at the age of nine. During the war of Austrian Succession, he served in the French navy and commanded the French ship which spirited "Bonnie" Prince Charles Stuart out of Scotland after the dreadful defeat of Culloden. In the service of the *Compagnie des Indes*, he sailed to China and other parts of East Asia. After taking the French astronomer Pingré to Rodrigues, to observe the transit of Venus in 1761, he settled in Mauritius where he became a prominent merchant and landowner. He retained, however, a consuming interest in scienti-

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fic discovery and exploration.

In 1770, the year Cook made his important discoveries on the eastern coast of Australia, the Polynesian, Aoutouron (who had journeyed to France with Bougainville), arrived in Mauritius with orders that an eastern passage to his native Tahiti should be organized for him. Marion seized this opportunity to propose a journey from Mauritius to Tahiti, which could convey Aoutouron home, but also enable exploration of southern waters on the way. Permission was soon granted by the scientifically minded French "Intendant" of the island, Pierre Poivre. Marion, who largely financed the voyage himself, acquired two ships, one of which was appropriately named *Mascarin* – after the island group to which Mauritius belongs. His other ship was the *Marquis de Castries*, under the command of du Clesmeur. Marion was also accompanied by the navigator Crozet. The expedition's preparations were hurried, for Marion did not want his thunder stolen by Kerguelen, who had recently arrived in Mauritius to prepare for a voyage of exploration of his own.

The *Mascarin* and the *Marquis de Castries* left Mauritius on 18 October, 1771 and sailed first for Capetown, since Marion, like Bouvet de Lozier before him, believed that Gonneville's lost continent lay south-east of the Cape. His intention was then to follow Tasman's route to the south of New Holland and then sail on to Tahiti. But Aoutouron had contracted smallpox in Mauritius and died off the coast of Madagascar. Although Aoutouron's death removed the purpose of the voyage, Marion decided to continue.

On 13 January 1772, the expedition sighted islands which are now known as part of the Prince Edward Islands group. And on 21 January, the Crozet Islands were discovered. In early February, Marion missed an important group of islands which were discovered less than two weeks later by Kerguelen, and which still bear Kerguelen's name. Marion then sailed on to Tasmania.

After leaving Tasmania, Marion went on to New Zealand, where his life came to a tragic end: on 8 June 1772, he and all but one of his landing party of sixteen were massacred by Maoris. After this sad incident, violence bred more violence: Crozet and du Clesmeur undertook a reprisal raid before returning to Mauritius.

Although Marion's personal log has disappeared, the accounts of a number of his subordinates have been preserved and they have been Ollivier's raw material. These existing accounts include du Clesmeur and Roux's journals, and the summaries of Crozet, Chevillard de Montesson and Le Dez. In the present volume, Ollivier also includes D'Après de Manneville's commentary. Worthy of note are her appendices: one provides detailed notes on the location of manuscripts relevant to the voyage and another (compiled by Jeremy Spencer) lists associated charts and drawings.

Extracts from the Journals... is a bilingual work and Ollivier has sought

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to tie French transcription with English translation on a line by line basis. So zealously have the original documents been adhered to that deleted words have also been scored-out in the text in a manner which indicates whether or not the original word remains legible. Translation is never an easy task. Ollivier has not allowed herself the luxury of "poetic licence". Elegance has not been sought at the expense of confusion. Nevertheless, the various accounts are very readable and engaging, thanks to Ollivier's fine scholarship.

Because of their Eurocentric biases and limitations (they did not speak the languages of those they visited), Marion and his men had numerous misconceptions about the peoples of the Pacific. Although they bequeathed us some important facts, one is ultimately tempted to suggest that their accounts tells us more about European man in the eighteenth century, than about native Tasmanians and Maoris of the same epoch.

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