

CARTOGRAPHER'S NOTES

ISLAND OF HAWAI'I by Artist / Cartographer Blaise Domino

*I*sland of Hawai'i is the fifth in a series of my historical maps of Hawai'i. This is the last of these historical island maps and admittedly a bit of a tour d' force. At first glance, it would appear to be quite busy with content but unlike other art forms, maps are to be poured over and studied with relish.

Youngest and largest of the Hawaiian Island chain, this island is notable in many ways. Land of the world's most active volcano, Kilauea and home of Pele the Volcano Goddess, it also hosts the world's tallest mountain Mauna Kea, when measured from the ocean floor. It is the home and birthplace of Kamehameha The Great who unified the islands.

As with the previous maps, the time frame takes place during Capt. James Cook's rediscovery of Hawai'i and features not only historical personalities and events but also cultural icons such as heiau, sacred locations, as well as endangered and endemic plants and animals.

Starting from the lower left: Find indigenous plants; Coco Palms, Bananas and the Kukui Tree the Hawai'i State Tree, along with Pu'u 'Ō'ō Vent erupting and a golden sunset/sunrise in the background. Flanking the cartouche are endemic Hawaiian Tree Ferns.

CARTOUCHE: This identifying element contains a bust of **Kamehameha I** and the armorial seal of **Capt. Cook** at the bottom.

Moving bottom right: Framed 'ĀINA o "Land of" **HAWAI'I** shows Kilauea Crater and an erupting (starting 1983) Pu'u 'Ō'ō Vent, followed by a rainbow which separates Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, Rainbow, Akaka and Umauma Falls. Above find endemic 'Io "Hawaiian Hawk".

Continuing right: The Compass is designed from the Royal Hawaiian Seal with 'Io "Hawaiian Hawk" here as a symbol of the Island of Hawai'i.

Above the Compass: CAPT. JAMES COOK, a Scotsman from Yorkshire in northern England was knighted for his extraordinary contribution in exploration. Using navigational tools like the sextant for surveying coasts, chronometer for fixing longitude and a reflecting telescope to observe the transit of Venus, he braved the unknown. His legacy can be summed up by the inscription found on his Armorial Banner which states "Around the Globe" and "He left nothing un-attempted."

KAMEHAMEHA The Great: Fulfilling the three requirements of prophecy for who would unify the Hawaiian Islands, Kamehameha I built the War Temple Pu'ukoholā housing guardian deity Kūkā'ilimoku. Secondly, he was born when Haley's Comet passed by and he was also able to lift the Naha Stones, which weight over 500 pounds. His notable success in battle was due in no small measure to his use of western ships and guns which were traded for the much prized Sandalwood 'Iliahi and Koa wood which were subsequently greatly depleted changing the eco system in some areas.

PELE: Volcano Goddess is seen here in the many forms that she can take, from wrathful woman of fire to cloud. Transporting and holding her sister Hi'iaka in an egg, she is also nurturing. She is carrying her 'ō'ō digging stick in search of a fire pit and a potential home. Her final home is **Halema'uma'u Navel of the World** at Kilauea Crater where she lives today.

In the upper right hand corner is "Map of the Sandwich Isles" indicating that "Island of Hawai'i" is part of this Hawaiian Historical Map suite.

Moving left toward the top of the island we find **Waipio Valley**. This beautiful area is known for abundant Taro or *Kalo*.

UMAUMA FALLS: The more realistic version is on the map proper. The framed version has been exaggerated.

AKAKA FALLS: **Akaka** means a rent, split, separation or to crack. The falls is 420 ft high and is a State Park.

RAINBOW FALLS: Rainbow "Anuenue" Falls is 422 ft. high and is a State Park near Hilo.

MAUNA KEA: "White Mountain" so named because it is usually snow clad. **Snow Goddess Poli'ahu**. This is the site of the world renowned **Mauna Kea Observatory**. At 13,796 ft., it is also the tallest mountain in Hawai'i and the tallest in the world when measured from the ocean floor.

PU'UKOHOLĀ HEIAU "Hill of the Whale": National Historic Site and personal war temple of **Kamehameha the Great**, it hosts the war god **Kūkā'ilimoku**.

AHU'ENA HEIAU: This is the personal heiau of **Kamehameha The Great** and is dedicated to **Lo** god of the **Makahiki**. This festival honors the harvest (first fruits). All war is suspended from October through January.

KEALAKEKUA "Path of the Gods" BAY: Karakakooa is the way the Europeans spelled phonetically what they thought they heard the Hawaiians saying. Most notably, this is the site of **Capt. Cook's** death. After being celebrated and feted, **Capt. Cook** was forced to return for repairs and a misunderstanding concerning the theft of a small sailing vessel triggered a battle in which he was killed.

PU'UHONUA o HŌNAUNAU: "Place of Refuge." National Historical Park A law- breaker could receive sanctuary if he could get here before being apprehended. **Hale O Keawe Heiau** houses images of **LONO "God of the Makahiki"** and **Kū "God of war."**

KĪLAUEA CRATER: Most active volcano in the world, it is also, the home of Fire Goddess **PELE**. The 'Ōhelo Berry from the cranberry family, is a sacred fruit to **Pele** and is also, a staple food of the **Nēnē "Hawaiian Goose"** the State Bird. The **Koa'e Kea** White-tailed Tropic Bird breeds here and is associated with the carter as is the 'Ōhi'a **Lehua** tree. The **Lehua** Blossom is the flower of the Island of Hawai'i. **LAVA:** Shown here, though there are many forms of lava, **Pāhoehoe** the slow thick flowing kind and **'A'ā** the chunky cider type are probably most recognizable.

As the last Hawaiian Historical Map of this suite, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to honor and interpret our mutual past, here in the place that I have called home for over 50 yrs. My approach has always been one of love and respect. I have sought to present objective truth within the context of oral and written reporting which is not easy. I am by no means an authority on Hawaiian history or culture. I am an artist first last and always. My Mission Statement sums it up best:

"Old maps to me represent a quite authority and grace that, as keepers of history and information occupy a unique place in art. It is my purpose to create beauty within this context" ... Blaise Domino