

PITCAIRN ISLANDS STUDY GROUP

PITCAIRN LOG

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Whole No. 163

Trove of old post office photos from Pitcairn



*New Zealand Postal Agency
era to 1940s post office.*



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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership is available in two categories: REGULAR and CONTRIBUTING. The fees are: REGULAR, \$20 per year in the U.S. and Canada and \$25 per year elsewhere; CONTRIBUTING, \$30 per year or more. The *Pitcairn Log* is sent First Class International to non-U.S. members and by Standard Class to U.S. members. An emailed pdf version is available for \$18 per year. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of PISG. Advertising is available at \$50 per full page, \$25 per half page, and \$15 per quarter page, per issue. Contact the Publications Editor for additional information.



President's Message

By Dr. Vernon N. Kisling Jr.



I would first like to mention how much I appreciate the variety of articles we had in the first *Pitcairn Log* of this new year, as well as the variety of authors who have contributed to our PISG journal. Also, a big thank you to our Publication Editor, Everett Parker. I encourage our PISG members to contribute articles on Pitcairn topics of interest to you, as I am sure they will be of interest to the other members. We are also interested in articles about Norfolk Island, whose first civilian settlers were Pitcairn islanders.

Please note some slight, but necessary by-laws changes. The biggest change is the elimination of the PISG library due to a lack of use. I would like to thank Jerry Jensen for operating the library these many years. Jerry is one of our PISG Directors and was part of the discussion about the library. Jerry continues as our PISG Archivist. For books, articles or documents on Pitcairn, I would suggest contacting the Pitcairn Islands Study Center or the American Philatelic Research Library (if you are a member of APS).

Several member services have come and gone over the years. Good ideas for services and activities sometimes lose steam after a number of years due to declining participation from PISG members. We will continue to develop services and activities of interest to our members, but if they are not being used they will be discontinued. If you have any suggestions for new or improved services or activities, just let any of our PISG Officers or Directors know.

I am looking forward to our PISG table and meeting at the Saint Louis Stamp Expo in March (of course, by the time you read this it will have already taken place). With an emphasis on the British Commonwealth, many related philatelic societies will be in attendance so it should be an interesting and fun stamp exhibition. It will be great to meet with our past presidents and other members who are able to attend (note: without a quorum this will be an unofficial meeting).

It was decided to publish the extensively revised PISG specialized stamp catalog as an online edition. If you have provided PISG with your email address you should have received a PDF version of the catalog. While publications can be a good source of income for small societies like ours (if enough copies can be sold), members do not like to constantly pay for revised updates -- or have to buy another entire catalog, as was the case with this edition due to the extensive number of revisions and corrections that were needed. It was decided that this new edition would therefore be published online as a member service, even though this meant the many black and white stamp illustrations could not be included. However, some new color illustrations are included and all Pitcairn stamps are illustrated on the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau website.

PISG also has the *Pitcairn Log* (1973-2011) available on disc in PDF format and the *PISG/UK Log* (1991-2012) is available on disc in PDF format as well. These also include searchable indexes. A five disc set is available covering the Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012, the current *Pitcairn Log* is available online, and the *Pitcairn Miscellany* is available online. See the January-March *Pitcairn Log* for information on these resources. Other PISG publications remain out of print for the time being.

Finally, I would like to ask all our members to encourage anyone with an interest in Pitcairn or the HMAV *Bounty* saga to join PISG. Increasing, or even maintaining, membership in small societies is a widespread problem and a difficult one to overcome, so any help to increase our membership will be greatly appreciated.

Deadlines for the Log:

January issue: November 1

April issue: February 1

July issue: May 1

October issue: August 1

Pitcairn's Definitive Issues

Do we need them and do they really serve a purpose?

An opinion piece by Wilfred Bloom of the USA

Background

Pitcairn Island has been issuing its own postage stamps since 1940 – that's a full 100 years after Great Britain's famous "Penny Black" was issued to pay the fee for having a letter delivered. In that time, the island has issued 11 permanent issues, or "definitive sets." These sets have consisted of between eight and 13 stamps each, and have shown facets of island life, artifacts, fish, ships, birds, flowers, and details from HMAV *Bounty* on the current issue from 2007.

In addition, Pitcairn has issued numerous commemorative issues, consisting of one to six stamps, and, from 1974 onwards, have complemented these with souvenir sheets, or miniature sheets, of one to four stamps. Often, these small sheets have been the only issue of a particular event, the first of which was the 1978 Coronation 25th Anniversary sheet. Face value was \$1.20 (Scott #177, Stanley Gibbons #MS189). These notes will concentrate on the past 30 years of Pitcairn stamps, with their increases in cost and frequency of issues.

Pitcairn's one and only King George VI (KGVI) definitive was released in October 1940, and evoked



First Definitive Series

total outrage in political and philatelic circles at the time, especially in Great Britain. It was World War II. Britain stood alone. The Nazis were engaging the Royal Air Force in the Battle of Britain, and the threat of invasion was very real. Austerity measures were in full force, with food and petrol (gasoline) rationing the order of the day. There was even talk of clothing coupons, but that idea was never implemented.

With a few exceptions (Gibraltar and Bermuda come to mind), most British Empire stamp sets of the period were boring and dull, depicting the head

of the monarch in various colors. Now, here comes little Pitcairn Island, a two-square-mile piece of volcanic rock in the middle of the Pacific, whose mutineer-descendant population was less than any office building in England, and now they need their own stamps? Many islanders had nobody to write to, yet here they were, issuing this absolutely beautiful set of eight stamps, recess-printed in London by Bradbury Wilkinson, and Waterlow and Sons, with a face value of 4/8d (48¢). Outrageous!



Second Definitive Series

It seems that those detractors got their money's worth out of this issue. The KGVI set was on sale for almost 17 years, being supplemented by a 4d and 8d value (increased postal rates) in 1951, and being replaced by a Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) set in 1957, more than five years after the Queen ascended the throne in February 1952.

Definitives

The QEII definitives have usually been replaced, on average, every six or seven years. The exception was the colorful Boats and Birds issue of 1964, which was re-issued in 1967 as the gold *Bounty* anchor overprinted decimal currency series. The overprint set was, in turn, replaced in 1969, after just 27 months on sale, by Jennifer Toombs' fine borderless designs, showing Pitcairn artifacts and island life.

Regarding the definitive sets and their denominations, the monetary values of these issues seem to have constantly increased, as postal rates rise due to increased labor and postal costs, or due to the inefficiency of some postal administrations.

To illustrate this point, the lowest value Pitcairn stamps issued, including commemoratives, was ½d or ½¢ from 1940 to 1969. This increased to 1¢ from 1969 to 1988, then to 5¢ from 1988 to 2000, and is currently 10¢.

Complimenting this trend, the highest value definitive stamp issued was 2/6 (25¢) from 1940 to 1964, 8/- (80¢) from 1965 to 1977 (Scott #84, SG #81), \$2 from 1977 to 1987, \$3 for the seven months in 1988 (Fish extra value Scott #296, SG #313), increasing to \$5 from August 1988 to May 2000, and is now \$10.00 -- the Hattie Leaf flower stamp of 2000 and the Bounty Chronometer of 2007.

Commemoratives

There is a similar trend for the Island's commemorative sets and souvenir sheets. Pitcairn's KGV commemorative sets of 1946 to 1949 were low value items, from 1½d to 6d values, with the major exception being the 1949 Silver Wedding 10/- stamp (Scott #



Third Definitive Series

12), which evoked more of the same outrage as the definitive issue had done in 1940. Regarding the past 30 years of Pitcairn stamps (1984 to the present), unlike definitive sets, which, as has been stated had an average life of six or seven years, commemoratives were on sale for a limited time only. At least up until the 19th Century Paintings issue of 1985, sets were available for three or three and a half months, unless sold out earlier. From the Shells issue of 2004 (Scott #591-594, S.G. #660-663) until today, issues have been on sale for a period of two years. (Does anybody have knowledge of the length of the sale period of commemorative sets from April 1985 until December 2003?)

In the 1960s, sterling currency commemoratives were only on sale for three months, with values up to 2/6d (FFH, Red Cross, ITU, World Cup). The decimal currency commemoratives had a top value of only 20¢ or 25¢, until the 1973 Flowers issue (35¢). Thereafter, the top values increased from 50¢ in 1974 to 70¢ in 1979. The 1977 25th Anniversary of the QEII Coronation \$1.20 sheet has already been noted. Four of the next eight issues pushed to top value to \$1.20, which was surpassed by a 50¢ plus \$2 Ausipex sheet (1984). This \$2 stamp remained the highest face value commemorative until the 1988 Australian Bicentennial \$3 single stamp

sheet was surpassed by a \$5 stamp or sheet in 1993, 1995, 1997 and Mr. Turpen in 2000.

In the 15 years from 1990 to mid-2005, the face value of complete sets of commemoratives ranged from \$3.40 to \$5.90, with the most common or frequently-issued denominations being 20¢, 35¢, 50¢, 80¢, 90¢, \$1.00, \$1.30, \$1.50, \$1.80, \$2.00, \$2.50, and \$3.00. It seems to this author that these 12 stamps, valued at \$14.05, would have been a fine basis for a 12-stamp definitive issue.

But this was not to be! The two-stamp 2005 "Blue Moon Butterfly" sheet and 2007 "Salt and Pepper Moth" sheet each had a \$4.00 value, while a \$5.00 stamp was issued for Prince Charles' 2005 Wedding to Camilla, and for the "Old Glory" sheet (2005), and the "Discovery of a Community" souvenir sheet in 2008.

But the stakes would soon be much higher, brought about by two important Royal milestones: Prince William's 2011 Wedding to Kate Middleton featured a \$2.80 and a \$6.00 stamp, and Queen Elizabeth's Coronation 60th Anniversary sheet (2013) had a pair of \$6.00 stamps.

For commemorative issues released since the end of 2007, when the *Bounty* definitives were issued, and including souvenir/mini sheets, until 2011, the most common values issued have been 50¢, 60¢, 80¢, \$1.00, \$1.20, \$1.50, \$1.80, \$2.00, \$2.10, \$2.50, \$3.00, and \$3.50



Fourth Definitive Series

stamps. These values could easily be the basis of a 12-stamp definitive series, with a face value of \$20.50. There have also been a few \$2.10, \$2.40, \$2.80, \$4.00, and \$5.00 stamps in this period.

Finally, for the two-year period from the November 2011 Christmas issue to the November 2013 Kennedy issue, the face value of complete sets ranges from \$6.10 (Bounty Trilogy) to \$8.60 (Tapa sheet of three). If we include the \$12.00 sheetlet for the 60th

Continued on page 6

Pitcairn's definitive issues -- do we really need them?

Continued from page 5

Anniversary of the Coronation mentioned above, the average cost per set rises to \$7.75. In all of these issues of the past two years, only two stamps have a face value less than \$1.00. They are the 20¢ stamps of the "Romantic Bounty" and "Giant Fluted Clam" sets of 2012.

So, what are we to think of this – only two stamps less than \$1 in 15 consecutive issues? The more popular values in this group include the 20¢, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$1.80, \$2.00, \$2.10, \$2.20, \$2.80, \$3.00, \$3.40, \$4.60 – hardly a "series" that could accommodate all postal rates, but if they could, the

20¢ would probably be the most frequently used! It appears that if we include a 50¢, 60¢ and 80¢ stamp,

all of which were "in vogue" just a few short years ago, and remove the \$2.10 and \$3.00 values, we could have the makings of a fine 13-stamp definitive issue with a face value of \$24.40, which is less than the cost of the 12-stamp releases of 2000 and 2007 (*see the table above*).

So, the last five definitive series issued from 1984 to 2007 show the progressive increased costs of mail and packages from Pitcairn. These include the shipping of heavier items, such as the handicrafts, which many produce, the jars of Pitcairn honey, and, lately, the sets of commemorative coins in sturdy presentation boxes.



Fifth Definitive Series



Seventh Definitive Series

In 2014, the *Bounty* series will have been on sale for seven years, and would be due for replacement. However, 2015 marks the 75th anniversary of those gorgeous KGV I repress-printed definitives, so who knows? The powers that be may wait until then to release the newest set of Pitcairn Island definitive stamps. I, for one, cannot wait!

The reality of the situation

This writer loves Pitcairn Islands stamps. The 8/- definitive of 1965 and the \$1.00 "Romantic Bounty" stamp of 2012 are, in his biased opinion, two of the

most beautiful Pitcairn stamps yet released. (Is anybody interested in rating Pitcairn's most beautiful design, decade

by decade, to find the most appealing stamp?)



Sixth Definitive Series

But, the reality is that the British government spends thousands of Pounds every year on maintaining our island, and thousands more on each islander. As philately provides one of the most important revenue streams for Pitcairn (aside from the British government's investment), it appears that for the foreseeable future, we will continue to be delighted by colorful and relevant issues of Pitcairn Island stamps.



Eighth Definitive Series

PITCAIRN DEFINITIVE SERIES					
Year	Series	Stamps	Value	Stamps under \$1	High Value
1984-88	Fish	15	\$10.30	11	\$3.00
1988	Ships	12	\$11.05	9	\$5.00
1995	Birds	12	\$15.15	7	\$5.00
2000	Flowers	12	\$25.55	5	\$10.00
2007	<i>Bounty</i>	12	\$29.00	5	\$10.00

Ye editor reports ...

Early Pitcairn photos

In this age of instant gratification and everything electronic, we are in constant danger of losing the medium we have relied on for hundreds of years to communicate with each other -- written words on paper. As we plunge headlong into the electronic age, with everything "stored" electronically, paper ephemera as we know it is rapidly disappearing.



"This is a photograph of the original post office, constructed during the period of the New Zealand Postal Agency. It was taken in the 1930s."

Hand in glove with that is the dispersal of the PISG library. But it's also our own fault that we don't take advantage of the materials available for our research. Or, perhaps, no one is doing research anymore? Hmmm.

In any regard, I lament because there is still a wealth of information available in paper files. Some months ago, long-time member Jimmy Brill in Texas sent me two huge boxes stuffed with his paper ephemera collection. Thousands of sheets, perhaps even tens of thousands of sheets of vital information about the island, the philately and postal history, and the islanders.

I finally finished integrating all of that material, including a number of books which made their way to my philatelic library, before last Christmas. While it is not an annotated bibliography (another term that I am certain will be rapidly disappearing from our lexicon in the "electronic age"), there are many file folders of material, and it is all broken down by

subject. Eventually, I will collate and disseminate all of the paperwork into a more manageable file.

In the meantime, if you have research paperwork that you are going to discard because you believe everything you need is on the Internet, send it on to me and we'll keep a PISG file cabinet for those luddites who like to do real research in original source documents!

So what can be found in paper ephemera collections such as Jimmy's? I spotted one folio that was really amazing. Most of us have seen early photographs of Pitcairn, but it's less common to see identifications of what the photograph is and the people therein. The folio contains seven sheets in the British A4 size (210 x 297mm or 8.27 x 11.69 inches) with good quality photocopies of the photographs. The photographs are reproduced here with the annotated text found on each sheet.

Photographs continue on page 8



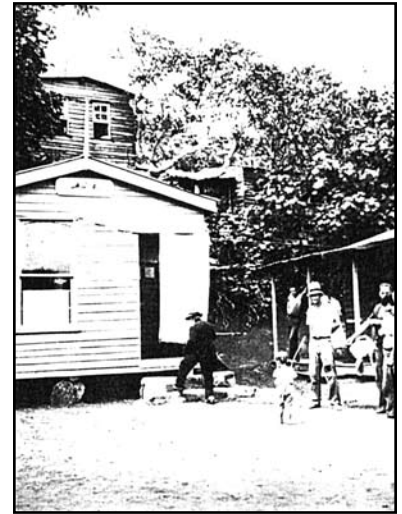
"The building is the first post office, and the name can be seen on the side wall. However, this photograph was taken at the time of the first issue of postage stamps in October 1940, when it was no longer being used as the post office. The man at the left carrying the bag is Andrew Young, and next to him is the Postmaster, Roy Clark, and Mrs. Maude with her son, Alaric. The other man carrying a bag is Elwyn Christian. The second boy is Errol Young."



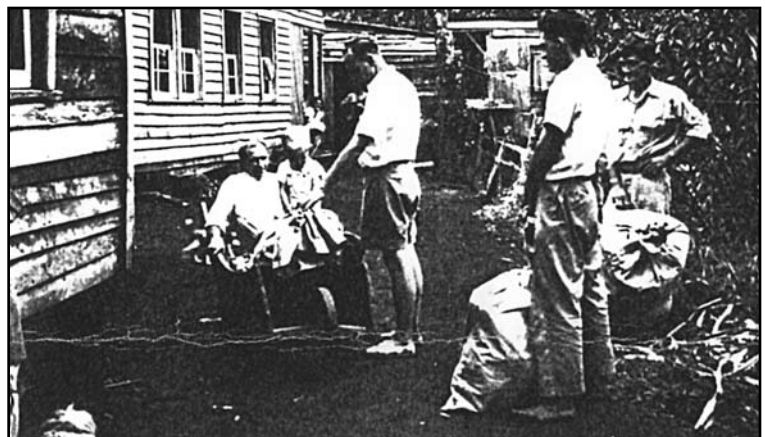
"This building was constructed to cater to the expected volume of mail on the introduction of postage stamps in October 1940. This photograph shows the building as similar to that in the illustration on the cover dated August 21, 1957, but differs greatly from the drawing which forms the design of the 4¢ value of the U.P.U. Centenary issue of 1974. The people shown are: standing: Norris Young, Henry Young, Burnett Christian, H.E. Maude, John Christian, Andrew Young, A.E. Fuller, Vernon Young. Sitting: Cady Warren, Amy Christian, Roy Clark, Herbert Young, Nelson Dyett, Theo Young. Mr. H.E. Maude was the Crown Commissioner for Pitcairn Island in 1940, and made the preparations for the introduction of the new postal system. Mr. A.E. Fuller represented the Fiji Post and Telegraph Department, and went to Pitcairn Island to supervise the issue of the postage stamps, on behalf of the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific. He brought with him the first supply of stamps and the cancellers. The first postmaster when the New Zealand Postal Agency was established in 1927 was Mr. Edgar Christian, but he died in June 1940, before the new stamps were issued. His assistant, Mr. David Young, became acting postmaster until Mr. Maude appointed Mr. Roy Clark to the position."



"These photographs (above and right) were taken on the first day of issue of the new postage stamps, October 15, 1940. They show an awning covering the doorway of the post office, presumably to shut out the heat. The man with the white hat in both photographs is Arnold Christian. In the upper photograph, the man entering the post office is Mr. Cooze, and the man just right of the second verandah post is Ivan Young."



"The man sitting on the wheelbarrow is the postmaster, Roy Clark, with the child Alaric Maude. Standing next is Mr. A.E. Fuller, of the Fiji Post and Telegraph Department. The man standing nearest the camera is Elwyn Christian, with Andrew Young (hand on hip) next to him."





"This photograph shows the first outward mail ready for dispatch. It was taken at the top of the steep descent down to Bounty Bay. The people depicted are: unidentified boy at left background, Andrew Young with wheelbarrow, Morris Mento, in foreground, Mrs. Maude with child, Alaric; Errol Young, Mr. A.E. Fuller, Postmaster Roy Clark, Elwyn Christian at extreme right."

(Two similar photographs at right, apparently taken a moment apart.)

"The people depicted in the upper photograph are Elwyn Christian (with bag on shoulder), May Clark in background, Mr. A.E. Fuller, the child, Alaric Maude, Andrew Young, bending over wheelbarrow and partially obscured, the Postmaster, Roy Clark, nearest to camera. The lower photograph shows the same people, but Mrs. Maude is obscured behind Mr. Clark (with hands on hips)."



Unique box made by John Buffett finds its way to the Pitcairn Museum!

By Kari Young

Visitor Heather Koldeway had announced before she arrived that she had ties to Pitcairn dating back to 1848, a matter of 165 years ago. Her ancestor, Dr. James Donnet was on-board the HMS *Calypso*, which visited the island in March of that year. "When telling my Mum about the new Darwin project, I discovered that my great-great grandfather, Dr. James Donnet, visited the Pitcairn Islands in 1848 ... I also attach a letter Mum



View of end of box made by John Buffett.

found in some family documents which she inherited and are a complete archive of Dr. Donnet's travels and correspondence. He obviously made firm friends in Pitcairn and it will be lovely to work out their descendants for when I visit."

I could hardly wait for Heather to tell me her story and show the momentos that Dr. Donnet had collected from Pitcairn, and was so excited to touch the box that John Buffett had made so long ago, and especially to see the treasures in the box. Pitcairn had nothing from those old days still on the island, except for *Bounty*-related items, and they are disappearing fast to private overseas collectors. But we have little made from people of that era. Whatever has not been given or traded or sold away, has perished in the humid climate or eaten by termites. Heather's family left the box with its

Pitcairn treasures on loan to the Pitcairn Museum. It is a huge asset for our museum, and we sincerely hope it will survive the transition to our unkind climate after a century and a half in England's very



Viewing John Buffett's box at the Pitcairn Museum. From left, Colleen Crane of Norfolk Island; Stein Hoff, a visitor from Norway; David Brown of the museum; and Heather Koldeway.

different climate. Dr. Donnet's writing inside the box tells it is constructed from miro and gardenia, and made by John Buffett, but Dr. Donnet obtained it from Fletcher's grandson, Fletcher Christian II. It has a top that slides off, with several compart-

PITCAIRN TRIVIA

By Barbara Kuchau

1. When mail was first posted from Pitcairn, how was it marked?
2. Why was the practice of "no stamps" discontinued?
3. When was a postal agency set up on Pitcairn to sell New Zealand stamps?

*If you're stumped,
find the answers on page 15!*

ments inside and also a drawer underneath. There are medicinal powders and bottles, also momentos from the *Calypso*'s visit in Chile and other places, but the main attractions are from Pitcairn. A number of shells, and the most fascinating items: locks of dark hair from three young and unmarried Pitcairn women at the time, Ruth Quintal (19 years old) and the two sisters Martha (21) and Jemima Young (20). Dr. Donnet had an extensive correspondence with his friends on Pitcairn for years after his visit, and Heather's mother produced a letter written by Pitcairn's magistrate Arthur Quintal in 1855.



A lock of Ruth Quintal's hair, found in the box.

Ruth Quintal was daughter of Arthur Quintal, who was a respected island leader, one of the few who stood up to the dictator Joshua Hill 15 years earlier. Jemima and Martha were daughters of George Young and Hannah Adams, and sisters of Simon Young, the island patriarch in later years. All three girls remained on Norfolk Island after the exodus in 1856.

The *Pitcairn Island Register* (written by George Nobbs) recorded *Calypso*'s visit on March 9, 1848: "Arrived HMS *Calypso*, Henry J Worth Esq. Captain from some misunderstanding respecting the signal no attempt to land was made today our boat went on board and remained all night. March 10th 1848. At nine this morning Captain Worth and a party of his officers landed and the greeting on both sides was most cordial, our people, men women and children are almost beside themselves. Two whale boats and several large cases of useful articles were brought on shore for the use of the Islanders, contributed by the Admiral and officers on the coast, and foreign residents in Valparaiso among which

the Rev. Messrs. Armstrong (our untiring benefactor) and Turnbull were prominent ... Much entreaty was used by our people to induce Captain W. to remain another day, and our young women drew up a petition and presented him. To which he have no decided answer but told them if they should hear a gun in the course of the night that would be the signal for sailing. Thus ends a very happy day; but much anxiety will be experienced during the night lest the report of a gun should be heard.

"March 11th 1848. At daylight this morning the general inquiry was "Where is the Ship?" She was discovered about four miles from the land. Two of our boats went on board and at 9 a.m. the captain landed. Dr. Donnet, hearing there were some hiero-

Shells collected on Pitcairn, and found in the box.



glyphics supposed to have been cut by the aborigines on the face of the cliff, on the east side of the Island, determined to inspect them himself. He was informed that the path was not only difficult, but dangerous, yet he would not be turned from his purpose. Accordingly he started with one of the islanders and succeeded in his undertaking being the first European that ever went down the face of the cliff (which is very precipitous), without the assistance of a rope. At noon Capt. Worth assembled the inhabitants and expressed to them his entire satisfaction with the state of things on shore, and exhorted them to continue in the way they were in. After making them presents of various articles from his own stores, he returned on board ... "

This article is extrapolated from a similar one in Dem Tull, a free internet monthly newsletter of Pitcairn news. Go to: www.demtullpitcairn.com.

What should PISG's position be *vis-à-vis* the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau?

By Steve Pendleton
PISG Vice President

Readers have seen several comments recently in the *Log* regarding the Pitcairn Philatelic Bureau's issuing of stamps, the subjects of which have no relevance to our islands. These are notably from Mark Butterline and Vernon Kisling. First, I want to add my name to the list.

This policy sets a very dangerous precedent. For those of you who do not collect stamps, it is important to know that such a move can permanently destroy a country's philatelic reputation. This means that few long-term collectors follow its issues, and collections of that country become much less salable in the philatelic trade. It becomes a self-fulfilling, spin-fewer sales mean more issues are needed to balance the budget. You end up with a country like Grenada or Dominica, issuing dozens of gaudy sheets of stamps each year.

Russell Watson, the philatelic bureau manager, must understand that proposing such issues is unpalatable to longtime Pitcairn collectors. However, we must also realize the intense economic pressures being put on Mr. Watson to produce revenue for the islands. Given the decreasing demand for Pitcairn stamps, the position that Mr. Watson finds himself is certainly unenviable.

We have to realize that he really has no economic reason to listen to our complaints unless we can provide him with some positive suggestions. I am only one person thinking about this, so my ideas are limited. But we have 300 members, and we should be able to come up with some feasible ideas which Mr. Watson can use. I think these would be helpful:

1. The PISG needs to come up with a list of stamp subjects which should be both interesting and salable, such as: The "death" of the *Bounty* replica; Tom Christian memorial; centenary of the death of Jack London; a souvenir sheet showing all the islanders (what other country can do that?); models of Pitcairn boats. How about a series on islander *Bounty* models, or the one of the Pitcairn boats in the last *Log*? I would hope there would be space in

the *Log* for any member to suggest other appropriate future issues.

2. Promote non-philatelic sales. For this by far the best sources are those cruise lines which stop at Pitcairn. I do not know the average number of visitors per year but at a wild guess would say around 10,000. Having visited the island twice, I do not remember any particular effort to sell stamps or postcards on board either time. I think Mr. Watson should consider putting together a display which could be taken aboard each ship, from which Dennis Christian could sell appropriate issues. Or, as another possibility, he could contact the lines with the idea of supplying stamps for the purser's office.

3. Examine the workings of the post office with another, very similar postal administration. There is one, South Georgia. Last year their income from stamps totaled £201,000. They also had about 6,000 tourist visits. Having spent a week at South Georgia in October, I can say they made no particular effort to sell stamps, but their museum and post office were open with some special cachets you could use. They also did not come out to the ship, but that was

BPC 2012 Five-Disc Set Now Available for Purchase

The proceedings of Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012, held August 19-21, 2012 in Angwin, California, are now available for purchase on a five-disc set. Four DVDs, with over 8.5 hours of content and featuring all 15 talks, the opening and closing ceremonies and the two Skype video chats with Pitcairn Island, can be played on either a DVD player or a computer. The fifth item, a compact disc, containing a table of contents, the official program, PowerPoint presentations and the written text of most of the talks, is accessible only on a computer. Prices for the five-disc set, including postage, are as follows: US\$20 to U.S., US\$26 to Canada and US\$30 to rest of world. This set is available only from the Pitcairn Islands Study Center (www.pitcairnstudycenter.org) which hosted the event. Payment may be made by check, credit card or PayPal. Details on how to purchase are online at www.tinyurl.com/5-disc-set.

What are the print quantities for Pitcairn stamps, and how many are sent to the island?

By Mark A. Butterline
Interim Treasurer

Ever wonder how many stamps are printed for Pitcairn? Print runs are not published by the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau. And they can't be found in Vernon Kisling's *Pitcairn Islands Specialized Stamp Catalog*, at least not for modern issues. The most recent issue that includes print run information is the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Wedding issue of 1972.

Since the mid-1990s, Southern Colour Print of Dunedin, New Zealand has been one of the main printers of Pitcairn stamps. In 2006 the author had an informal conversation with an employee of Southern Colour Print who would have knowledge of how many stamps they print for Pitcairn. The author speculated that "about ten thousand sets" were printed for each commemorative. The employee

said "that was about right." Of course, how many are actually sold is another question. As per the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau website (stamps.gov.pn), all stamps issued since 2000 are still available. Interestingly, commemorative stamps issued more than two years ago have a 50 percent premium added to their price, so buy them when they are issued.

Another question is, of course, how many stamps are actually sent to the island? Recently, Steve Pendleton traded emails with Postmaster Dennis Christian. Christian reported that 150 sets of each commemorative are sent to Pitcairn for sale to visitors and islanders. Christian also stated that 60 first day covers are sent for each issue for sale to visitors.

Thus, of all the commemorative stamps printed for Pitcairn, about two percent are sent to the island.

Philatelic Bureau ——— From page 12 because all the passengers went ashore, a condition which does not often happen at Pitcairn. Their philatelic sales are under the control of the Falkland Islands Post Office, which also cancels all South Georgia mail on the island.

4. Does Pitcairn have a Stamp Advisory Committee? Several territories do. It is something we could do as an organization directly with the Pitcairn government in New Zealand.

I am sure there are many other constructive suggestions members can make. Let us begin a positive exchange with Mr. Watson. What's that old saying about you catch more flies with honey?

Seeking information on John Samuel of the HMAV Bounty

PISG member John Fish is seeking information about John Samuel, the clerk on the HMAV *Bounty*. He is particularly interested in what happened to Samuel after he returned to England. Any information will be appreciated and can be sent to email address jafish@bigpond.net.au.



The Pitcairn Miscellany

Subscribe now and stay in touch with Pitcairn Island!

The Pitcairn Miscellany is Pitcairn Islands' official monthly newsletter. *Miscellany* has recorded objectively and in detail the day-to-day voyage of Pitcairn through the seas of time, reflecting the minuses and the pluses, the joys and the sorrows, the good and the bad in the experience of the voyager inhabitants. Alongside Pitcairn's *Bounty* heritage, *Miscellany* has provided readers with a unique insight to the culture and way of life of Pitcairners since 1959.

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Ted Cookson interviews retired PISG Treasurer Bradley W. Brunsell

Not long ago, Immediate Past President Ted Cookson conducted an interview with Bradley W. Brunsell, who retired last year after decades in the position. Here is a synopsis of the interview.

Cookson: How did you become interested in Pitcairn Island?

Brunsell: At the ripe old age of 12 or 13 I decided to collect only British Commonwealth stamps. Then, while attending Boston Latin School (the oldest public school in America, founded in 1635), in the seventh grade I read *Mutiny on the Bounty* by Nordhoff and Hall and became hooked on Pitcairn Island, its history, and its stamps and covers.

Cookson: When did you join PISG?

Brunsell: As I recall, I joined PISG sometime in the early 1980s.

Cookson: Why did you decide to run for PISG treasurer?

Brunsell: In 1983 then-Treasurer Herb Keogh of Massachusetts decided to step down, and he asked me if I would consider taking over. I accepted and have been the treasurer ever since!

Cookson: With which PISG officers have you most enjoyed working over the years?

Brunsell: I have enjoyed working with all the officers over the years. It would be difficult to pick any in particular.

Cookson: Tell us about your Pitcairn collection. How complete is it, and what have you pursued after filling all of your album pages?

Brunsell: I have kept my Pitcairn collection up-to-date by buying annual supplements for my KABE hingeless album which is complete up to the present. I also have a complete set of gutter pairs and a complete set of first day covers. I own hundreds, or maybe even thousands, of duplicate Pitcairn first day covers and commercial covers. I cherish about

Own The Pitcairn Log and The UK Log on DVD!

Own the entire run of PISG's *The Pitcairn Log* on a single DVD! The PISG DVD contains all quarterly issues in PDF format from 1973 through October 2011 plus three out-of-print PISG monographs: *Pitcairn Postal History 1914 to 1927* by Wilfred Bloom (1984); *The Pitcairn Islands Radio Station and its Postal History* by Taffy Hook (1992); and *The Pitcairn Anthology* by Everett Parker (1998). Also included are William Volk's 1998 index to the first 100 issues of *The Pitcairn Log* and a bonus monograph, *Pitcairn Island Nineteenth Century Mail*, by Stephen Pendleton (2008).

Similarly, own the entire run of PISG-UK's *The UK Log* on a single DVD! The PISG-UK DVD contains all semi-annual issues in PDF format from 1991 through July 2012 plus two bonus monographs, *Shipwrecked on Pitcairn* by Bob Hearn (2001) and *The Forgotten Bligh* by Madge Darby (2004).

A free installation CD with search software is sent with each DVD. The search software runs on Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7 (both 64-bit and 32-bit). However, the PDFs of all documents can be viewed using Adobe Reader on any operating system.

If you don't own all the interesting back issues, this is your chance to expand your library inexpensively. Or, if you own the old issues but need to downsize, this is an opportunity to shrink your library without forgoing access.

Both DVDs are distributed from the U. S. To order, email LogDVDs@gmail.com or send your check payable to "Pitcairn Islands Study Group" to PISG Treasurer Bradley W. Brunsell, P O Box 12, Milton, MA 02186-0002. If you are a member of the organization(s) whose DVD you want to buy, then the prices for each DVD are as follows: \$15 to USA, \$15.50 to Canada and \$16 to rest of world. If paying via PayPal to LogDVDs@gmail.com, add \$1 for each DVD ordered. Non-members please add \$10 per DVD.

An order form is available at www.pisg.net/dvd.htm and <http://tinyurl.com/czg93e9>. The same form may be used to purchase both DVDs.



a dozen censored covers and loads of both new and postally used Pitcairn picture postcards. In addition, I collect books, souvenirs, a dozen or more carvings, and all of the coins, including the gold coins, that Pitcairn released back in the 1970s and 1980s.



This “formal” portrait of Bradley W. Brunsell was taken a few years ago.

Cookson: What else do you collect, and what will become of your many collections?

Brunsell: I collect British colonies up to 1966-1967 in albums. I also have over 300 binders of covers in plastic sheets from virtually every colony. These mostly date from the 1800s up to about 1980. All my possessions will go to Sara, my significant other. Her son, a former collector himself, will serve as executor; and everything will most likely go into an auction, perhaps via Phoebe MacGillivray of Victoria Stamp Company.

Cookson: How many PISG events have you attended through the years, and which was your favorite?

Brunsell: I have attended many PISG events, including several at the American Philatelic Society’s national StampShow when it was held in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Hartford, Providence, etc. I have attended all of the PISG regional meetings held at the annual Boxborough Stamp Show (staged every spring in Boxborough, Massachusetts by the Northeast Federation of Stamp Clubs). Once I also attended a PISG (U.K.) meeting at the Union Jack Club in London. That was probably my favorite event as I was able to meet so many members there whose names I knew from collecting dues and la-

beling their *Pitcairn Log* envelopes.

Cookson: Did you ever consider traveling to Pitcairn?

Brunsell: Yes, I did consider arranging a trip to Pitcairn following my retirement in 2001 after teaching for 35 years in the Boston Public Schools. But I aborted the mission after realizing that many cruise ships were unable to land passengers on the island due to unfavorable weather. The thought of spending so much to get there and then only being able to view my beloved Pitcairn from a mile offshore was very discouraging!

Cookson: What interests do you have outside of PISG, and what will you do with all of your time in “retirement?”

Brunsell: I will continue franking the foreign and Canadian *Pitcairn Log* envelopes, and I will continue my duties (for a while, at least) as treasurer of the St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society. I also play bridge with my retired teacher friends. Occasionally I visit Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut, and I make annual trips to visit with family in Texas and England. Another cruise to Bermuda has been booked for May 2014. On a daily basis I enjoy watching sports on television and Fox News Channel. Perhaps I will begin sleeping in a little later in the morning. However, right now I am so far behind in filing covers purchased at recent stamp shows and auctions that I hardly know where to start. I have plenty of stuff to keep me busy during my sunset years!

PITCAIRN TRIVIA ANSWERS

By Barbara Kuchau

1. The first mail posted from Pitcairn was marked, “Posted on Pitcairn Island: no stamps available.” Stamps were carried by passing ships and received postal stamps and cancellation at various ports of call.
2. The practice was discontinued in 1926 following reports of ship passengers mixing their own mail into the “no stamp” system set aside for the Pitcairn residents.
3. The agency to sell New Zealand stamps on Pitcairn was set up June 1927.

Interim Treasurer's Report

Included in this issue are the annual financial reports for both 2012 and 2013. As you can see we ran a deficit in both years. Part of these deficits are attributable to the recent Bounty Pitcairn Conference (we spent over \$1,200 more than we took in). Rapidly increasing postage costs were also a problem. I expect this situation will lead to increases in dues rates in the near future (at least for non-Life Members receiving paper copies of the *Log*).

Also included is the group's current balance sheet. As you can see our liabilities greatly exceed our assets. While this is not an immediate issue (nor a new issue), it will need to be addressed sometime in the future. Members with any treasury related questions can email me at mbutterli@comcast.net.

Thanks to members for their dues payments. However, if you haven't paid yet, please send me your dues as soon as possible.

Thanks to the following Contributing Members (received as of December 30): WILFRED BLOOM, HERBERT FANTLE, JIM LENNARD, PATRICK DELMORE, MARIA ADAMS, STEVE ZIRINSKY, MAURICE MEYLAN, LAURENCE FUSSELMAN, ALEX MCGREGOR, V. REX HICKOX, DR. FREDERICK LAUBSCHER, DERECK WILLIAMS, JIM E. FITZHARRIS, DENNIS J. IVORY, JO MAGNE, RICHARD W. MORAIN, BOYD J. MUDRA, RICHARD T. SIMS, ANNE STEWART, DUNCAN TIMMS, ELISABETH WHITEBREAD, ANTHONY WILLIAMS, JIMMY BRILL, JOHN DENYS MCCOY and DAVID HENSON. Your generosity is much appreciated. Contributing membership payments received after December 30 will be recognized in the next issue.

Also, an extra special thanks to MAURICE MEYLAN, ALEX MCGREGOR, BOYD MUDRA, and JIMMY BRILL for their especially large donations!

Mark A. Butterline
Interim Treasurer

Opening Balance 1/1/12: **\$5,748.51**

Income

Dues (incl Contributing)	\$5,396.00 (Estimate)
BPC Donations/Fees	\$3,468.81 (Estimate)
Ads in Log	\$250.00
Auction Fees	\$538.00
Net Sales, Royalties, Commissions	\$19.00
Interest	\$ 0.41
Total Income:	\$9,672.22

Expenses

Log & US/UK Postage	\$4,725.17
BPC 2012	\$5,674.51
Additional Postage	\$892.00
Officer Expenses	\$120.00
APS Stamp Show	\$33.33
Web Expenses	\$83.88
Ads in <i>American Philatelist</i>	\$37.82
Total Expenses:	\$11,566.71

Closing Balance 12/31/12: **\$3,854.02**

Opening Balance 1/1/13: **\$3,854.02**

Income

Dues (incl Contributing)	\$4,439.66 (Estimate)
Ads in Log	\$15.00
Auction Fees	\$255.42 (Estimate)
Net Sales, Royalties, Commissions	\$63.00
Interest	\$ 0.26
Total Income:	\$4,773.34

Expenses

Log & US/UK Postage	\$4,804.57
BPC 2012	\$241.30
Additional Postage	\$1,086.04
Officer Expenses	\$407.87
Bank charges	\$28.00
Web Expenses	\$83.88
Donation to PISC	\$25.00
Ads in <i>American Philatelist</i>	\$37.82
Total Expenses:	\$6,714.48

Closing Balance 12/31/13: **\$1,912.88**



New Issues



Information provided by the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau

SHIP LANDING POINT

Bounty Bay is dominated by a rocky outcrop known as Ship Landing Point. Its name serves a dual purpose being the point overlooking the HMAV *Bounty*'s resting place and the point where vessels head for when approaching the relative shelter of Bounty Bay.

The Pitcairn Islands Tourism website describes the point as being "approximately 1,100 feet high and can be seen from about 25-30 miles away on a yacht, visibility and swell allowing. Approaching from the east, Pitcairn Island appears to have a saddle in the middle of it. This is where you should initially aim for. As you near the island, toward Bounty Bay there appears to be a distinctive pinnacle, high above the bay, again head toward this pinnacle." This visible landmark has at its highest point a rather precarious rock known as "The Nose." Its future is uncertain as it is fracturing and slowly parting from the cliff. Ship Landing Point has been described as "possessing considerable beauty." It rises in bold outline almost perpendicularly from

the sea, its rugged, rocky front softened here and there by patches of grass and shrubs. For those who make the difficult climb the views of Adamstown and the Pacific are magnificent.

As part of the scenery series on Pitcairn, this stamp issue shows the rugged beauty of Bounty Bay and its surroundings.

Ship Landing Point is a stand out symbol and a feature of Pitcairn Island's geographical landscape.



The stamps were issued on December 18, 2013. They were designed by Denise Durkin of Wellington, New Zealand, and printed in offset lithography by Southern Colour Print of Dunedin, New Zealand. Photographs for the designs were taken by Tony Probst of California. As of mid-February, no stamp issue information for 2014 had been provided.

Forty-seven new PISG members noted in 1988

President Thomas A. Silver outlined a plan to exchange membership applications with the St. Helena, Ascension & Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society in the March-May 1989 issue of the *Log*. The idea was since PISG members and the other society both studied history and postal history of small islands, there might be a benefit of dual membership. Today, several of the PISG members still hold membership in the St. Helena group.

Mr. Silver also authored an article on handpainted Pitcairn covers made by Karl Lewis. He described a half dozen covers sent by Lewis during the 1920s and 1930s.

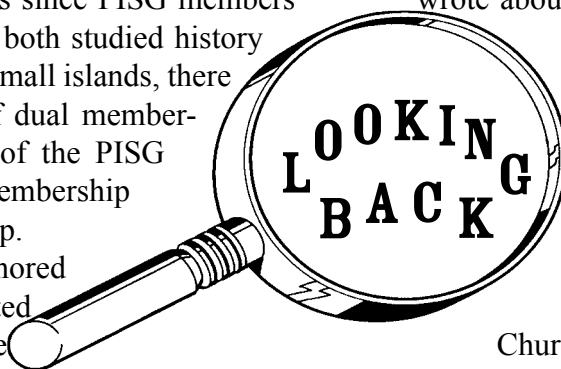
Also, David Tomeraasen wrote about a PISG meeting scheduled during STaMpsHOW '89 in California. A special program was to be offered by

Jerry Miller of Oregon. Mr. Miller lived on Pitcairn for 18 months and planned to show some of the many photographs he took while there.

Miss Jennifer Toombs of the United Kingdom wrote about the Pitcairn Constitution issue which she designed. The stamps were released in November 1988.

Bradley Brunsell wrote about a forthcoming PISG meeting at Boxborough, Massachusetts during Philatelic Show '89, and Harry L. Yazell wrote about the need for a new organ at the Pitcairn Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Secretary David I. Fowlie reported that during the previous three months, 16 new members had been added to the PISG and two previous members had rejoined. Those, as it might be said, were the "good old days" of collecting!



Is it time for a special stamp issue for lost Bounty?

By Steve Pendleton

PISG Vice President

Over a year has passed since the tragic loss of the replica *Bounty* (on October 29, 2012). I think it's time the PISG leads an effort to convince the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau to issue a memorial set of stamps in honor of the ship and those who lost their lives, as well as those who rescued the remainder of the crew.

As far as worldwide interest is concerned, I think this idea is a no-brainer. I believe previous *Bounty* issues have proven more popular than other island topics. I think this one would be just as popular, especially if the Bureau contributes a percentage of the proceeds to a memorial or charitable fund for the families of the survivors and those lost.

I've been giving a lot of thought to possible ways to organize such a set. Right now, I think a set of three plus a souvenir sheet might be appropriate. Two of the stamps could feature the two lost crew - Ms. Christian and the captain. A third could honor the rescue attempts of the U.S. Coast Guard. The souvenir sheet could show the last known photo of

the ship set against a background of a satellite photo of the storm, or even (though I am not certain this would be in good taste) an illustration of the ship foundering. I would certainly entertain suggestions for alternative designs.

In any event, we do know the Bureau listens to our suggestions. The recent *Bounty* author set is a good example. If other members agree, I urge you to send a message to the Bureau via their email.

And while we're talking about new issues, in 2016 an anniversary is occurring which I believe matches in importance that of the Dickens centenary, but which has a much greater relationship with Pitcairn. That is the centenary of the death of Jack London, one of the great American writers. London is, of course, the writer of a famous short story using as its hero one of the Pitcairn McCoys. I do have a personal interest in this one, as my grandfather was a personal friend of London's. He was often a visitor at London's ranch in the Valley of the Moon. Here they argued politics far into the night.

Now is not too soon to campaign for both of these issues.

Electronic mail addresses of our membership

If you would like to be listed here, please email the editor (eparker@hughes.net).

To protect privacy, we do not automatically list your email address without permission.

We used to have about 100 members listed -- let us add you today -- no charge!

Art Ackley: ack19@aol.com

Maria Adams: maydaymalone@lycos.com

Jimmy Brill: JEB Brill@aol.com

Bradley W. Brunsell: bradleywbrunsell@gmail.com

Mark Butterline: mbutterli@comcast.net

William D. Chisolm: bchisolm@sc.rr.com

Ted Cookson: tedcookson@gmail.com

Colin Cunningham: colina.cunningham@uqconnect.net

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Ron Edwards: edwards2@hotmail.net.au

Herbert Ford: hford@puc.edu

Walter A. Galazka: galazka58@yahoo.com

Julius Grigore, Jr.: scadta@comcast.net

Klaus Hahn: HahnStamps@t-online.de

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Cy Kitching: cykitching@gmail.com

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Ed Morgan: eandddf@f@gmail.com

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Martin Weidenegger: taepc@yahoo.de

Howard Wunderlich: hjwesq@mail.com

Gerard York: gerard_york@msn.com

Steve Zirinsky: szirinsky@cs.com



Secretary's Report

By Ed Morgan



NEW MEMBERS

#1620 **MICHAEL SCHWARTZ**, 4206 NW 58th Way, Gainesville, FL 32606 USA
 #1621 **ELLEN MURPHY**, 8013 Lighthouse Landing, Frederick, MD 21701 USA

RESIGNATIONS

Peter Lay, Peter Logan,
 Ross Greenwood, Harry Rogers

DECEASED

Mr. Richard Potter
Mr. Mitchell Bunkin

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Membership as of September 1, 2013: **291**
 New Members during the quarter: **2**
 Reinstatements during the quarter: **0**
 Loss (Resignations): **4**
 Loss: (Deaths): **2**
 Non-renewal of dues: **00**
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP,
December 1, 2013: 287

THE CLASSIFIEDS

This space is provided free of charge to members who wish to buy, sell, or exchange items. Ads will run for four issues unless otherwise specified, and can be rerun.

FOR SALE

For sale: 26 books on Pitcairn, the mutiny, and Norfolk; 1 booklet; 1 stamp catalog; 3 general interest mutiny books, 5 *National Geographic* magazines (1957-1985) with articles on Pitcairn, Norfolk and the *Bounty*. Price, \$700. Contact Hugh Wesley for complete list. (978) 922-8772 or email to kwesley42@yahoo.com. (4-14)

Fishes of the Pitcairn Islands Including Local Names and Fishing Methods is a new book by Lars-Ake Goteson presenting 380 exotic fish species in 209 genera and 76 families found in the Pitcairn Islands. For the first time, a comprehensive presentation of the fish fauna of the Pitcairn group is available in book form, 354 pages. Price is \$41 + \$25 postage to U.S. Contact Lars-Ake Goteson by email at tott1@hotmail.com or books-on-demand at www.books-on-demand.com. (4-14)

Travel to Pitcairn Island on a thousand ships or more in the book *Pitcairn Island as a Port of Call*, the second, edited, enlarged edition of Herbert Ford's *Pitcairn - Port of Call*. Here is Pitcairn history as you've likely never read it before: shipwreck, romance, tidal waves, Pitcairner seamanship -- even murder! This \$75 McFarland Company book is available from the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, 1 Angwin Ave., Angwin, CA 94508 for \$55 plus postage. If interested, write to Herbert Ford at hford@puc.edu, or at the mail address given. (4-14)

Pitcairn Island and the Bounty Saga - Institutions and

Monuments: A Worldwide List of Related Archives, Churches, Gardens, Houses, Libraries, Monuments and Ships by Ted Cookson. Learn where Pitcairn and Bounty-related monuments, manuscripts and artifacts may be viewed in 101 places in 12 U. S. states and more than 12 foreign countries in this clickable 50-page PDF monograph on CD. Find a sample and pricing details at www.eptours.com/CD.htm. To order your CD, email tedcookson@gmail.com or post funds to Ted Cookson, 3501 Keyser Ave, Villa 38, Hollywood, FL 33021-2402 US\$6 to U.S.A.; US\$7 to Canada; US\$8 rest of world. PayPal accepted with no surcharge. (4-14)

WANTED

PI covers with cachet Types 4, 12, 13 and 88 (as per PISG Printed Cachet Catalog). Also, PI 1953 QE II Coronation (Scott/PISG 19) Plate Block with plate numbers 1-2 or 1a-2a (mint NH or LH). Vernon Kisling, P.O. Box 1511, High Springs FL 32655-1511. Email: vkisling@ufl.edu. (4-13)

I need a number of common Pitcairn stamps in USED condition: Scott #31 Schoolteacher's house; #97-109 1969 def. series; #140a shells s/s; #178-81 Harbour Development; #182-83 John Adams; #192 Mailboat s/s; #394-8 Lizards overprint FDC; #453-6 Amateur Radio; #492-5 (used and FDC). Also need \$2 1969 def. Fairy Tern and 1994 45¢ Lizards overprint used. Everett Parker, 249 NW Live Oak Place, Lake City, FL 32055 (eparker@hughes.net).

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