

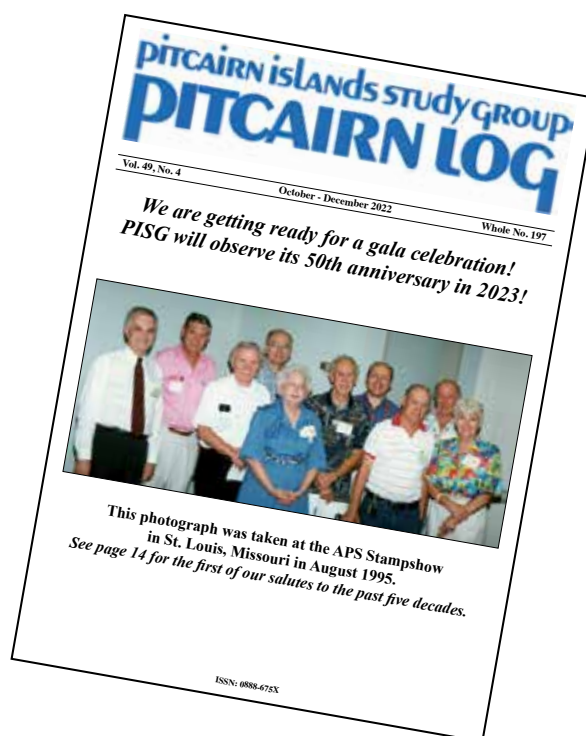
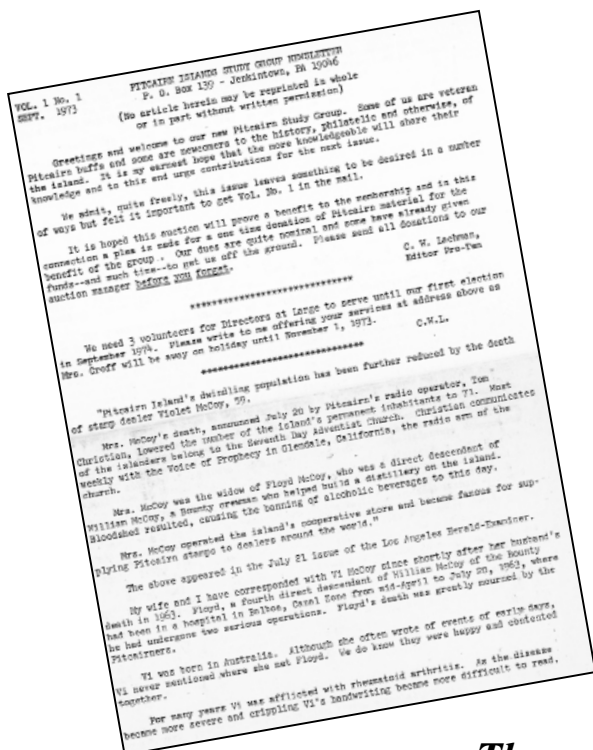
PITCAIRN ISLANDS STUDY GROUP PITCAIRN LOG

Vol. 50, No. 1

January - March 2023

Whole No. 198

Our 50th Year!



Then ... and now!



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PITCAIRN LOG



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January - March 2023

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President's Message

By Steve Pendleton



I'm trying to present some good news for a change: you know, like 50 renewals, peace in the Ukraine, receding of climate change. Sorry to burst your bubble, but ain't much of that around.

But enough gloom and doom. We did have a nice PISG meeting at the Sacramento stamp show. About a dozen folks showed up, which I thought was pretty decent considering the talk was scheduled right after opening time and the attendance was, shall we say, light. The talk was pretty much a rehash of the *American Philatelist* article which, if you aren't an APS member, you will see the first half of in this issue with a few different illustrations. I even sold some copies of the new Mutiny monograph.

Speaking of which, I apologize for a monumental goof in said publication. This was due to the fact that I wrote the original manuscript several years ago. In one section I suggested readers should try to visit the *Bounty* replica on one of its port visits. Of course, that is impossible since the ship tragically sank during one of those superstorms some years back. That will teach me to reread my material; at least, I hope so.

Regarding the ongoing efforts to kick Tower Mint where it hurts, I can tell you that we do have channels of communication open with Ben Brooks, who is the man in charge of issuing Pitcairn stamps. I suspect most of you are heartily sick of dull royal stamps. Of course, with the passing of the late Queen Elizabeth II, we are sure to get mourning stamps and certainly some for the coronation of King Charles III. You would think Pitcairn should at least get a royal visit out of all this, but somehow I doubt it. After all, that trip is not exactly a honeymoon cruise.

However, all is not lost. Searching my feeble excuse for a brain for some alternate subjects for Pitcairn stamps, I came up with three ideas. One, a set

for leaf paintings. Two, a set for carvings and weavings. Three, postcards of Pitcairn. A few weeks ago I sent copies of several old leaf paintings, plus pictures of carvings (I have one of Reynold Warren's great *Bounty* models, plus a museum quality shark carving by Terry Young). I have not heard anything yet from Mr. Brooks, but surely hope he sees the light -- a steady diet of royals tends to curdle the collecting appetite. By the way, I have very few old Pitcairn postcards. Can anyone do an article for the *Log* on some of these? I am sure many of our members have other stamp ideas. How about sharing these?

Finally, I would like to give a somewhat belated shout-out to our grand old man of Pitcairn, Herb Ford, who celebrated his 96th birthday recently. I last saw Herb a few years ago, which wasn't difficult as he was operating out of a small office about a 10 minute drive for me. The man simply amazes me. Apart from a bit of hearing loss he is in amazing shape -- certainly puts me to shame!

Visit us on the web at
www.pisg.net

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership is available in two categories:
REGULAR and **CONTRIBUTING**.

Fees in the U.S. are: REGULAR: \$22 per year (\$23.50 PayPal). CONTRIBUTING: \$30 or more. For international rates, please contact the Secretary. The *Pitcairn Log* is sent by First Class mail. An email pdf version is available for \$15 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.

Part I

A look back at 50 years of PISG

What eventually became the Pitcairn Islands Study Group began in the minds of a number of folks over a half century ago. What the PISG came to be was the result of a lot of planning and meetings over a period of time.

Dr. Arthur A. Delaney of Mineola, New York was one of those involved in the early days of the study group. In fact, his byline appeared in the first issue of what became known as the *Pitcairn Log*, and he remained an active member until his recent passing.

A review of the early issues of the study group's publication reveals some of the struggles involved in establishing what we have today.

Vol. 1, No. 1 of our journal, issued in September 1973, was known as the *Pitcairn Islands Study Group Newsletter*. It was prepared by "editor pro-tem" Charles W. Lachman of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Lachman was also the founding president. In fact, it was not until Vol. 2, No. 2, in December 1974, that the name *Pitcairn Log* was selected. How that came about is interesting.

Walter L. Highsmith of Newbury Park, California was editor of the *Newsletter* in its earliest days, and challenged members to select a name for the publication. Some of the names proffered were "Bounty Tidings," "Pitcairn Specialist," "The Pitcairner," "Pitcairn Philatelic Phacts & Phantasy," "Pitcairn Islands Stamps and Stories," "Bountyland Philately," "Pitcairn Philatelic Patter," "Pitcairn Paraphernalia," and "Pitcairn Palaver."

And you know what the winning name was. What you may not know is that the name *Pitcairn Log* was nominated by two members: the late Marné L. Groff and long-time Ontario member Bernie Reilander, who served as editor from 1976 to 1985, when your current scribe took the helm.

The first *Newsletter* was a mere four pages of typewritten information (see **Figure 1**). Probably the most significant news from Pitcairn was the passing on July 20, 1973 of Mrs. Violet (Vi) McCoy. Vi McCoy was well-known to stamp enthusiasts, and particularly Pitcairn collectors. It was noted she operated the island's cooperative store and became famous for supplying Pitcairn stamps

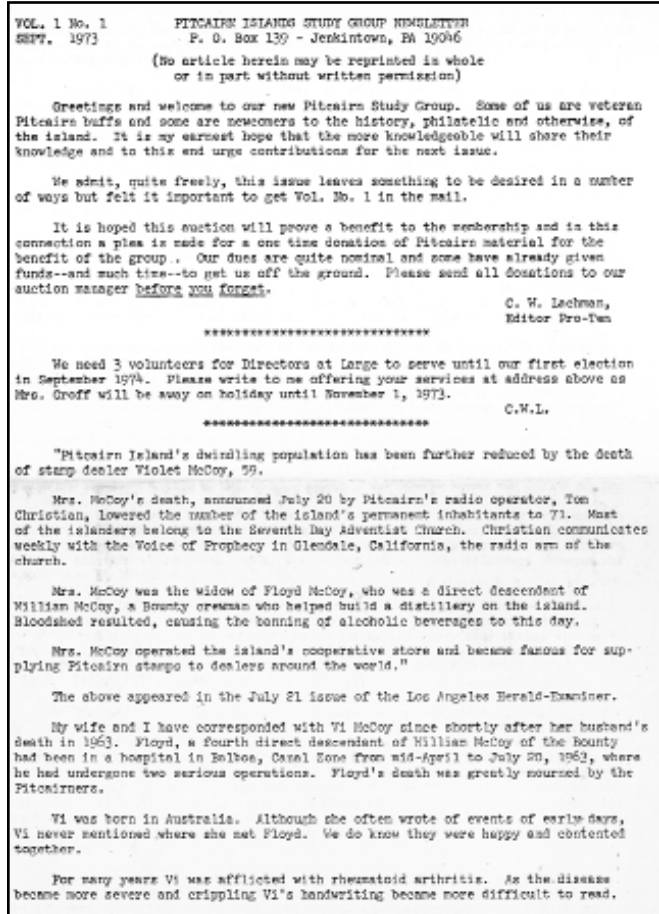


Figure 1

The first issue of what became over a year later the *Pitcairn Log*.

to dealers around the world.

In that same *Newsletter*, Dr. Delaney provided an article titled "The Day the Queen Visited Pitcairn." He noted that while Queen Elizabeth did not, in fact, make it to Pitcairn, she was scheduled to visit Fiji during 1953, and Pitcairners thought she would be stopping at Pitcairn as well. But it was not to be.

However, that did not stop islanders from preparing a philatelic tribute if the visit had occurred. Dr. Delaney noted, "To mark this visit -- and in lieu of a commemorative stamp issue -- a special rubber handstamp cachet was prepared and was to be applied to covers on the day of the Queen's arrival." The cachet was never officially placed in use, of course, since the visit did not occur.

But there is more to the story. "An impression

made by the original handstamp was recently sent to the writer (this was 1973) by Violet Ann McCoy, just prior to her death on Pitcairn. 'The cachet,' Vi wrote, 'was put aside to be destroyed, but some reason or other, I could never throw it away. I put it in a wee box, but by the looks of it, I think the miserable cockroaches have been nibbling at it.'" What became of the cachet is unknown.

Perhaps the most intriguing tidbit from the first *Newsletter* is a mystery perhaps heretofore unknown, or at best, forgotten. It is the mysterious "Custard Covers" from what must be the First Definitive Issue on October 15, 1940.

The late Ralph Badagliacca, one of our original members, discussed three events under the title "From Cover to Cover." One of those he titled "Custard Covers," and in it, he wrote about a note from Mrs. Myrtle L. Ward, missionary on Pitcairn Island from June 26, 1938 until October 5, 1951.

Mrs. Ward's note reads: "You will find a rather grubby-looking First Day Cover with a penny stamp on (it). I have sold a few of these. People have liked them for the novelty. As you know, there are no shops on Pitcairn, so we couldn't buy any envelopes. When the stamps were first issued, everyone was buying first day covers. We used hundreds of envelopes and at last ran out of them.

"I remembered that we had some envelopes of vanilla custard powder. These were emptied and the envelopes pressed into service as first day covers. This is the last of them. Several persons made envelopes of paper at home."

It would be interesting to know if any PISG members have first day covers that can be identified as "custard covers." Please let ye editor know!

Ralph also provided a keen and colorful inside look at the massive job that was required for processing first day covers of the First Definitive Series, issued on October 15, 1940. This was Pitcairn's first stamps, and the work involved in meeting the demand for covers was overwhelming.

Here is what he wrote about the Hon. Henry Evans Maude, O.B.E., and his involvement in helping prepare first day covers. Readers will recall that between 1940 and 1941, Maude was sent to Pitcairn by the Western Pacific High Commission to modernize the government, and to establish a post office and issue stamps in order to generate revenue for islanders.

Likely Mr. Maude did not have a clue what the landslide of first day cover requests would be like. Ralph picks up the story, quoting Mr. Maude from an article written by Dr. Delaney in *The American Philatelist* in May 1969.

"I can still picture thousands of requests for first day covers we received from all over the world when we opened for business in 1940. We were completely snowed under and kept the datestamp firmly fixed on '15 Oct 1940' (the first day of issue) for 16 days while my wife and I sat on the floor and stamped, franked and sorted into two large bathtubs."

Badagliacca couldn't resist adding, "The idea of the Honorable H.E. Maude, Order of the British Empire and his distinguished wife (Honor Courtney Maude) sitting on the floor, pitching envelopes into bathtubs sounds neither British nor proper, but it would have been a sight to behold."

Although it remained the *Pitcairn Islands Study Group Newsletter* in issue number two (December 1973), the format changed to 5.5 x 8.5 inches, a size that would remain until January 2006 that the present 8.5 x 11 inch format was adopted.

In that second issue, President Charles Lachman noted there were now over 70 members, and that there would be an auction of Pitcairn material in the future. And Wilfred Bloom (still a member in Arizona) wrote about a radio program about Pitcairn broadcast in South Africa in 1967.

In the March 1974 issue, the third since inception, it was reported a total of 92 members had enrolled, and it was noted the dwindling population on Pitcairn had been bolstered by the first birth in a year and a half -- Raelene Christian was born to Betty and Tom Christian. There were 69 people on the island at that point.

The final *Newsletter* was distributed in June 1974, and included a note that "women's lib" had arrived on Pitcairn with the election of Thelma Brown and Carol Christian to the Pitcairn administrative council. Several other mainly non-philatelic articles rounded out the final issue.

In December 1974, the *Pitcairn Log* made its debut as Vol. 2, No. 2 of the PISG. At this point, two years into the new study group, 160 members had signed up -- a number of whom are still with us today!

To be continued

The four philatelic eras of Pitcairn Island: Part I & II: The stampless period to 1926

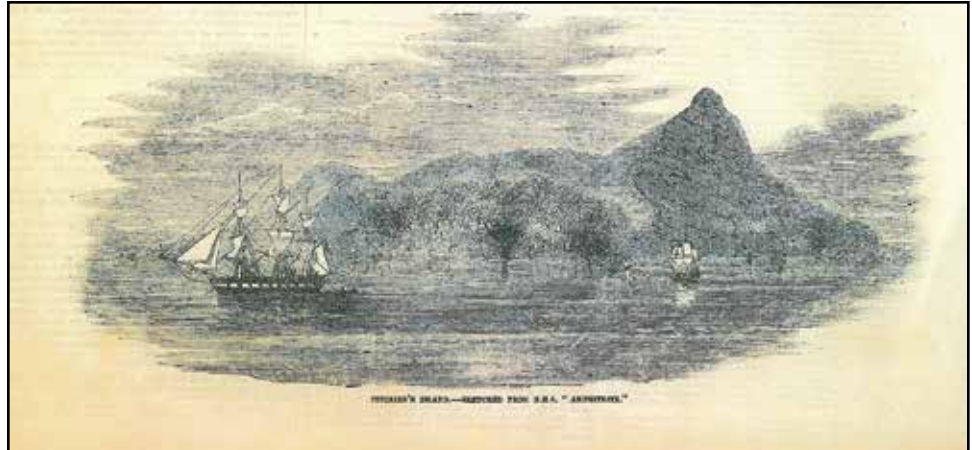
By Steve Pendleton

INTRODUCTION

Ever since I was a kid, I've been fascinated by faraway islands. Where's one of the most isolated inhabited places on Earth? It's that two square mile rock in the Pacific Ocean, the refuge of the mutineers of the HMAV *Bounty*, the (hardly) romantic Pitcairn Island.

As an adult I began collecting the postal history of Pitcairn. This led to the development of a correspondence with islanders Reynold and Nola Warren. Later, I got to meet them in person, as well as other islanders. I got to visit the island twice, just briefly enough to get an idea of how tough the life must be.

The philatelic history of Pitcairn involves far



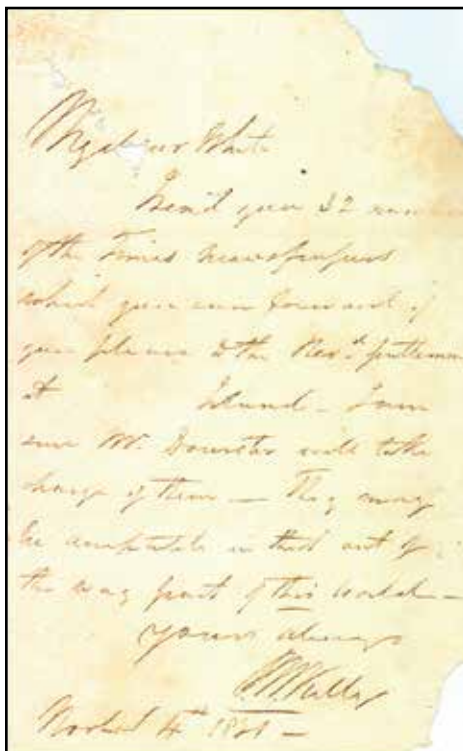
View of Pitcairn Island in 1855 from a woodcut. It is titled "Pitcairn's Island - Sketched From M.H.S. Amphitrite."

more than just stamp issues. For many years, some of the more esoteric areas of that philately were so rare as to be beyond the pocketbooks of most of us. That's still true in some areas. However, some recent finds have made early material relatively more accessible.

For me, there are four eras to Pitcairn philately. The first would be the stampless era from the earliest known letters to, from or about Pitcairn. This may be 1819. That lasted until 1921. From 1921 to 1926 there was a concession on the island which allowed islanders to send mail by paying a fee, but stamps were not available. This resulted in the use of a number of "No Stamps Available" markings. That could arguably be the second era.

In 1927 Pitcairn finally got a post office and official postmark. It did not, however, get its own stamps as New Zealand stamps were provided. This was the third era. The final era began in 1940, with the issuing of definitive stamps for the island. This set was very popular with collectors, and many thousands of covers were prepared. Island stamps were printed under authority of The Crown Agents and later by a philatelic bureau in New Zealand.

In 2020 the proprietors of the philatelic bureau retired. The business was sold to Tower Mint in England.



This letter, from 1821, is earliest in the Hobbs correspondence.

I. STAMPLESS MAIL

Pitcairn was discovered in 1767, but no one set foot on the island. At that time it was uninhabited, but once there were Polynesian natives. Someone made a mistake in plotting its location, as it was placed on maps miles from its true position. This was, of course, a boon to Fletcher Christian, the leader of the famous "Mutiny on the Bounty." After seizing the ship, he needed to find a place the British navy could not find he and his followers.

The mutiny happened in the Tongan Islands. There were attempts at settling on inhabited isles. Eventually Christian and some of the mutineers took a number of Tahitian men and women, and vanished into the Eastern Pacific.

Nothing more was heard of them until 1808. An American sailor chanced upon the island, and to his surprise found his vessel being hailed by an English-speaking native. He found a colony of women and children ... and one surviving mutineer, John Adams.

The first reported letter is believed to have come from Adams. It was reported by a Calcutta newspaper in 1819, but appears to have been lost. Surviving letters come in three categories: those from islanders, those to Pitcairn, or those about the island. They are certainly rare, especially items in private hands from Pitcairn. Some may well have been faked.

The islanders (other than Adams) for many years had no one to write to. In the 1850s they emigrated en masse to Norfolk Island. A few eventually returned to Pitcairn, creating a split community. How-

ever, very few, if any, letters have survived.

I know of four early letters from islanders in private hands. Two are mentioned in the Bill Hornadage catalogue.¹ The first was written by Jemima Young to a British naval officer who had visited the island. Another was written by Benjamin Young to a former shipmate in 1875. There is an 1870 letter by Chief Magistrate Robert Buffet, which tersely describes life for the 70 or so inhabitants, and the fourth is a letter from Pitcairn to Norfolk Island in about 1867. There are possibly a letter or two hidden away in family papers on Norfolk.

With that tiny amount of collectible material, it's



More of the Hobbs correspondence shows evidence of insect damage.

no wonder that at one time you'd need a large bankroll to own one. However, the same cannot be said about obtaining letters TO Pitcairn.

Once discovered, Pitcairn became a stop for visiting whaling ships. Occasionally, a sailor or wanderer would join the community. In 1828, George Hunn Nobbs landed. He soon married and became a respected member of the community. When islanders moved to Norfolk, he settled there. He died in 1884, but his property remained.

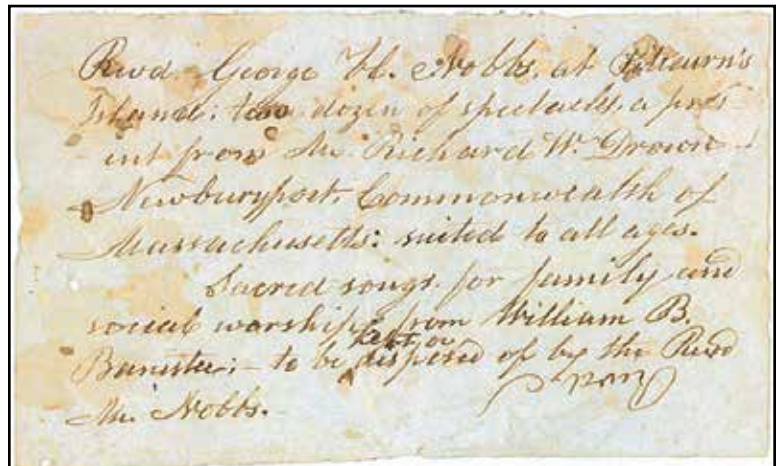
In the early 2000s a tin was discovered in the building. The contents were a trove of letters, a few with envelopes. Unfortunately, many of these were severely damaged, being eaten around the edges by insects. In 2005, Stanley Gibbons Australia auctioned the material.

The material comprised 69 lots. Some had several items. They were about evenly divided between Pitcairn and Norfolk-related letters and envelopes. There were a number of letters from the U.S. -- remembrances of whaler visits, letters to Mrs. Nobbs, mail from England, and from people curious about life on the island. The bidding was quite reasonable, ranging from A\$2,700 to several items at less than \$100.

I managed to snare a few of these. One is just a fragment. It was sent by a New England whaler in the 1850s and involves the gift of a pair of spectacles. Another was sent to Norfolk in the 1870s, but the author has many questions about Pitcairn. Even then, the story of the mutiny had become well known around the world.

In 1890, the missionary vessel *Pitcairn* began sailing to and from the island. Letters are known carrying a two-line cachet with the island name. There are also a number of items dating from that period with a similar-worded marking. These are questionable as to authenticity.

I do not believe the islanders used stamps or had any sort of formal post office facility before 1927. Prior to 1921 letters were carried free or with the writing "No Stamps Available" on the envelope. There are two markings, each believed to be unique. One was applied on the *Australplain* vessel, while the other came from the Panama Canal Zone postmaster.



Another of the letters from the Hobbs correspondence showing insect damage.

II. NO STAMPS AVAILABLE

Pitcairn did not have a post office even after World War I. In June 1921, the United Kingdom and New Zealand governments agreed to handle island mail. Senders would pay, and the mail was sent with a cachet noting that no stamps were available on the island. This concession was available until March of 1926.

This period is perhaps one of the most interesting in Pitcairn's philatelic history. That's because of the rarity of material (and resultant high prices), and the number and variety of cachets. Some varieties may have two or three or even less examples.

How many cachets are there? Several lists have been consulted. The *Stanley Gibbons Eastern Pacific* catalogue (Third Edition) lists 16 varieties. The last one is valued at £3000, and the rest at slightly less. David Hume of South Africa listed no less than 21, including one from 1920. Unfortunately that list is not illustrated. Cy Kitching published a monograph also showing 21. Bill Hornadge only shows 13.

A possible reason for the disparity is the mentioned scarcity -- when some of these lists were compiled, perhaps less than 30 covers were known. More have been discovered since the 1980s.

When the islanders converted to the Adventist Church, a number of correspondences were begun. The islanders also found a good friend in Gerald Bliss and his wife. He was the postmaster in the Canal Zone.

Many letters were addressed to either or both of them. Bliss would fill merchandise orders and oth-

erwise be of help. The correspondence has been preserved.

Most of the markings were in two lines, usually with the "No Stamps Available" wording and the island name. Sometimes a year was added. One also may have been created by Bliss. It is doubtful that any of the markers survived very long in Pitcairn's tropical climate.

Considering the scarcity of material, a truly remarkable collection came up for auction at Phillips in 1999. This was the Humphrey Norvill collection. No less than eight such covers were illustrated.

For many years it was believed that none of these handstamps had survived, but one has been found.

In the early 1990s I began a correspondence with islanders Reynold and Nola Warren, buying the occasional curio and enduring up to a year in receiving mail. I learned, to my surprise, that their son lived about an hour's drive from me, and they were going to visit. We arranged a time, and I eagerly drove to the address. Reynold handed me a bag and asked me about the object inside. I found a wooden handstamp. Inking it up, I found, to my great surprise, that it was one of the early handstamps. Reynold explained that some years before, he had helped demolish one of the old abandoned houses which are often left when the owners die or emigrate.

In the wall he found the handstamp, which must have slipped into a crevice. This handstamp was manufactured in one piece ... it was not of the type where words could be made separately.

In 2006 I took the handstamp to the Washington International, where it was sold to a fellow collector for a nice sum in the low four figures. The funds helped finance the Warrens' travels.

To be continued



An example of early mail from Pitcairn, this one with the handstamp "POSTED IN PITCAIRN ISLAND / 1924 NO STAMPS AVAILABLE" (Kitching's Type 1.8 handstamp). The cover likely traveled to New Zealand on the passenger liner Remuera, which was bound for Auckland from Southampton, England. The Remuera stopped at Pitcairn on June 17, then arrived at Auckland on June 28, 1924, which is reflected in the Auckland circular datestamp.

Have a favorite dealer for Pitcairn, Norfolk philately?

Here are dealers carrying Pitcairn & Norfolk stamps and postal history. If you know of others, please advise the editor!

William Carson, P.O. Box 1836, Auckland 1140, New Zealand: email: william@william-carson.com

Auckland City Stamps, P.O. Box 99988, Newmarket, Auckland 1149, New Zealand: email: david@aucklandcitystamps.com

Dunedin Stamps, P.O. Box 776, Dunedin, Otago 9054, New Zealand: email: dunedinstamps.co.nz

Pacific Stamps, P.O. Box 816, Tewantin, Queensland 4565, Australia: email: info@pacificstamps.com

Chris Rainey, P.O. Box 1060, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 1JJ United Kingdom: email: chris@chrisrainey.com

Steven Zirinsky, P.O. Box 230049, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023: email: szirinsky@cs.com

Breadfruit is found on numerous stamps

By Juan L. Riera

In 1787, when Lt. William Bligh took command of the HMAV *Bounty*, his mission was to travel to Tahiti and transport breadfruit to the West Indies. The idea was to provide inexpensive, but nutritious, food for slave labor working on plantations.

After setting Bligh adrift, the mutineers tossed the breadfruit plants overboard as they set off, eventually making it to Pitcairn. Eventually Bligh was promoted to the rank of captain and as master and commander of HMS *Providence*, he again undertook the task of transporting breadfruit to the West Indies from 1791 to 1793.

This 1969 5¢ stamp shows a breadfruit plant and containers.



Breadfruit was successfully delivered, and introduced to St. Vincent and Jamaica by Captain Bligh. Initially, slaves did not take a liking to breadfruit. Surprisingly, when the mutineers arrived on Pitcairn, there was breadfruit on the island -- one variety that is assumed to have come from the Austral Islands or from Mangareva, while the other variety being introduced from Fiji.

Breadfruit has been compared to eating a potato stewed with coconut milk, onion, and seasoning. It is also eaten as breadfruit salad, mashed, or as chips, or rolled in bread crumbs and fried. These are just a few examples.

Breadfruit is a species of flowering tree in the



*This 1989 20¢ stamp depicts breadfruit in the cabin of the HMAV *Bounty*.*

mulberry and jackfruit family and is believed to have been domesticated in New Guinea, the Maluku Islands, and the Philippines. It is grown nowadays throughout the tropics and the lightweight wood is frequently used in outriggers, ships, and houses.



This British Solomon Islands King George VI stamp shows breadfruit on the 1/- value.

Breadfruit is depicted on at least 10 stamps from around the world including Pitcairn Island. These stamps are:

- 1) Pitcairn Scott #797, issued August 26, 2015. A set of three stamps with face values of \$1.00, \$1.50, \$5.00.
- 2) Pitcairn Scott #320f, Captain Bligh and Breadfruit, 20¢ face value. Issued in 1989.
- 3) Pitcairn Scott #101, 5¢ stamp issued September 17, 1969.

Additionally there are stamps bearing breadfruit from St. Vincent & the Grenadines (Scott #221), issued March 23, 1965 with a 4¢ face value; French Polynesia, issued January 3, 1959, four francs; Gabon, December 10, 1962; Bahamas, 2¢ issue in 1971; Cayman islands, 50¢ value on May 24, 1989; and Fiji issue on July 25, 2002 with a face value of 25¢. These are just some examples. For further details and examples, I recommend StampData.com.



A more recent (2017) stamp from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands shows a mature breadfruit and slice.

Pitcairn records its first case of COVID-19 from visiting ship

By Dr. Herb Ford

Pitcairn Islands Study Center

The list of countries of the world which are COVID-free has been reduced by one. One widely-published report listed Turkmenistan and Tuvalu as the only two COVID-free countries, but Pitcairn Island officials say their island has never before had a COVID case.

In a recent report, a Pitcairn islander said a passenger arriving aboard the island's cargo-passenger ship *Silver Supporter* has been tested positive by

island health officials. The person went into isolation along with seven other arrivals.

Because it hoped to remain COVID-free, Pitcairn had stopped all ship calls from the outside world, which was a near-mortal blow to the island's economy.

This COVID presence on the island now extends that difficult time for this tiny South Pacific island made famous by the Mutiny on the *Bounty*.

AFTER THE BOUNTY

A Sailor's Account of the Mutiny, and Life in the South Seas

JAMES MORRISON

EDITED AND ANNOTATED BY DONALD A. MAXTON

"For anyone interested in the *Bounty* saga, this volume is a most worthwhile addition to the extant nonfiction reading currently available." —*Sea History*

"[*After the Bounty*] can be expected to add richly and pervasively to general knowledge of that historically and historiographically conspicuous incident." —*Mariner's Mirror*

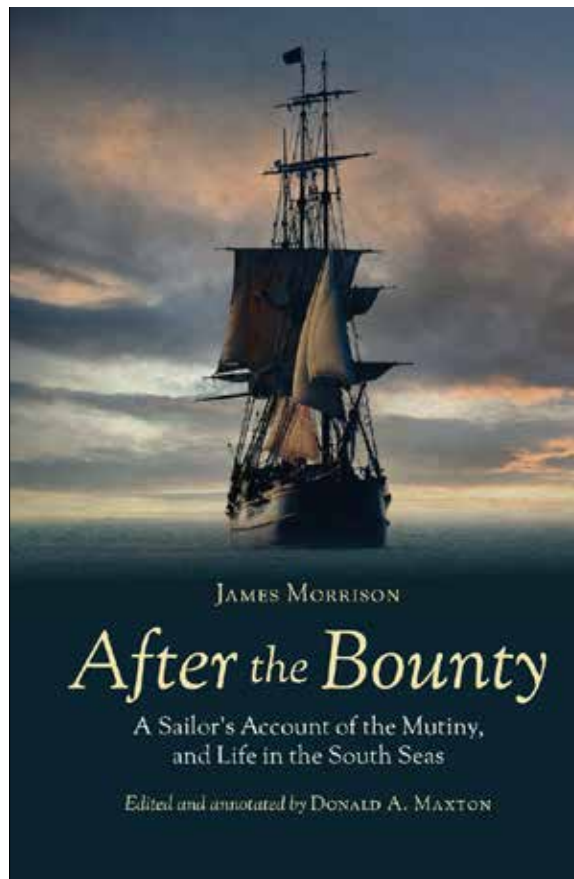
"A good read for anyone interested in life at sea in the age of sail or the history and culture of the South Seas." —*strategypage.com*

In 1787 the Royal Navy ship HMS *Bounty*, captained by William Bligh, set sail for Tahiti in search of breadfruit plants. Soon after leaving Tahiti, Master's Mate Fletcher Christian led a successful revolt, setting Bligh and eighteen of his men adrift. In his journal, Boatswain's Mate James Morrison recounts the *Bounty's* voyage, placing considerable blame for the mutiny on Bligh's irascible personality and style of command.

This event, however, only introduces Morrison's remarkable journey through the South Seas. A born storyteller, Morrison pens compelling tales of the time after the mutiny, beginning with ringleader Fletcher Christian's two ill-fated attempts to establish a refuge on the island of Tubuai. Morrison then recounts his eighteen-month sojourn on Tahiti, where he constructed a seaworthy schooner and closely observed the island and its way of life. He tells of the subsequent arrival of HMS *Pandora*, which was charged with bringing the mutineers back to England for trial, and his imprisonment in the horrific "Pandora's Box." Morrison once again faces peril when the *Pandora* sinks on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, where thirty-one of the crew and four prisoners perished.

Although Morrison did not actively participate in the *Bounty* insurrection, he had remained with Fletcher Christian's party, which was enough evidence for his eventual condemnation. While imprisoned, Morrison began composing his journal. King George III granted a pardon, and soon after his release, Morrison wrote the second half of the journal, which he filled with detailed descriptions of Tahitian life, culture, and natural history. Morrison's journal is an invaluable resource for naval and cultural historians and an enthralling tale for the general reader.

Donald A. Maxton worked in the field of corporate communications and public affairs for thirty-five years. He is the author of *The Mutiny on H.M.S. Bounty: A Guide to Nonfiction, Fiction, Poetry, Films, Articles, and Music* and *Chasing the Bounty: The Voyages of Pandora and Matavy*. He lives in New York City.



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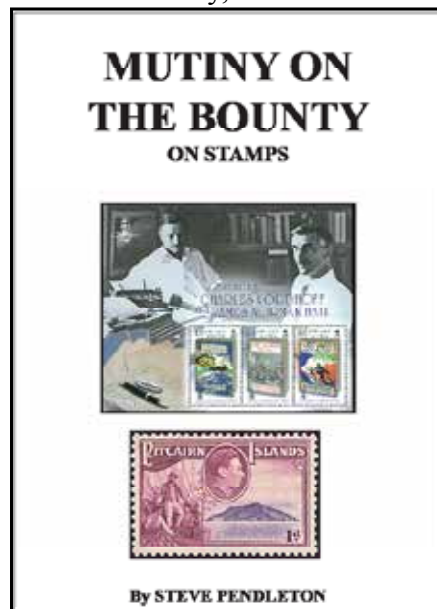
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1-800-848-6224.



POTOMAC BOOKS
An imprint of the University of Nebraska Press

New Mutiny book now available to celebrate anniversary

A new book by PISG president Steve Pendleton has been released in advance of the study group's 50th anniversary, and is now available for shipping.



The 34 page c o m b b o u n d book tells the tale of the mutiny on the *Bounty* through stamps. It is available for \$10 postpaid (cash or check, please) in the U.S. and can be ordered from Moosehead Communications, Inc., 207 Corinth Road,

Hudson, ME 04449-3057. Email is: everettpark-er1245@gmail.com. (See ad on back cover).

PISG auction results

The PISG auction which ended at midnight October 31, 2022 was more active than the previous one. Here is a list of lots sold and winning bids. There were 10 bidders and eight were successful. The next PISG auction ends at midnight on January 31, 2023. See the full listing on page 13 of this issue.

Lot 1: \$16.00	Lot 9: \$26.00
Lot 3: \$6.00	Lot 12: \$25.00
Lot 4: \$8.00	Lot 13: \$70.00
Lot 5: \$88.00	Lot 15: \$36.00
Lot 7: \$11.00	Lot 16: \$41.00
Lot 8: \$136.00	Lot 17: \$31.00

Thanks to Jerry Jensen for the kind donation of auction lots to benefit PISG!

Remember, we'll always consider offers for unsold lots!



AN ULTRA-LUXURY, ALL-INCLUSIVE CRUISE TO PITCAIRN ISLAND MARCH 13-31, 2024 (YES, 2024) 19-night itinerary

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HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021 USA

954-966-7690

barbara@posthastetravel.com
barbarastein@gmail.com



PISG Quarterly Auction #147

In order to hopefully attract more participation, we are providing auction lots each quarter. The rules are simple: send an email with the lot number and the amount you are willing to pay to **everettparker1245@gmail.com or everettparker45@icloud.com**

You may also send by letter to Dr. Everett L. Parker, 207 Corinth Road, Hudson, ME 04449-3057 USA
If you are successful, an invoice will be sent to include the lot price (which could be lower than your offer if there is no other bids) plus a 10 percent buyer's premium and cost of shipping.

MB= Minimum Bid; CDS= Circular Date Stamp; EST=Estimated; FDC= First Day Cover

THIS AUCTION ENDS AT MIDNIGHT EASTERN TIME ON JANUARY 31, 2023

The following lots are from a national gold medal award collection by Jerry Jensen.

Each page is nicely mounted on acid-free 8.5 x 11 inch cardstock and in acetate sheets for a three-ring binder.

LOT 1: Eight exhibit sheets titled "The Ship," "The Mutiny," "The Captain," "The Crew," "Flight and Success," "Home, Sweet Home." A total of 26 Pitcairn stamps and seven S/S as well as a limited edition engraved print of William Bligh by Dubbo Printing Works in Australia. Extensive write-up on each stamp, S/S; EST= \$10.00++

LOT 2: Continuing story from Lot 1, this is a two-sheet lot titled "But it was never lost," featuring the title page of *The National Geographic Magazine* article by Luis Marden, "I Found the Bones of the *Bounty*" (just the title page), three Pitcairn stamps and S/S showing *Bounty* artifacts, original small photo of Parkin Christian, *Bounty* Bay postcard by Roy Clark with typewritten (in red) message about the *Bounty* and sliver of original *Bounty* wood and 1d Pitcairn stamp showing *Bounty* with 1966 circular datestamp. Also, piece of tree bark (?) with map of Pitcairn glued on, "Pitcairn Souvenir" at top, and stamp with 1977 CDS ; EST= \$25.00++

LOT 3: Next we move to "The Islands," 29 Pitcairn stamps, four S/S, two postcards, two FDCs, photo (Steve Christian with grouper "Catch of the Day") and plate block of four of 1¢ island profile signed by Jennifer Toombs; EST= \$50.00

LOT 4: Now we move to island birds: three sheets with 42 Pitcairn stamps showing birds, all identified and well written up. Very attractive layout; EST= \$10.00

LOT 5: This section of five well-written up sheets includes insects, lizards, fruit, flowers and shrubs. A total of 44 Pitcairn stamps, margin pairs, 1970 and 1973 FDC, one S/S, detailed and well written up; EST= \$ 10.00++

LOT 6: Ten sheets from stamps depicting pre-European era to Queen Elizabeth II. Lots of useful information, 87 stamps, 1971 FDC to New Zealand, watermark varieties, death of John Adams with two original photos of gravestone and second with Hyacintha May Clark, large engraving of Thursday October Christian 1979 FDC, S/S; EST= \$50.00+

LOT 7: Four sheets titled "Scenes of the Modern Island" with maps and stamps. A total of 29 stamps, postcard, two different FDCs of 1971 Royal Visit, four "Phone Cards," three inverted watermark stamps; EST= \$25.00+

LOT 8: Two sheets titled "Omnibus Issues." Includes 1946 Peace issue, 1949 UPU, 1963 Freedom from Hunger, 1963 Red Cross, 1965 ITU, 1965 ICY, South Pacific Commission 25th anniversary, S/S, FDC; EST= \$25.00++

LOT 9: Nine sheets depicting "Island Life." It looks like 86 stamps, two S/S, postcard, two original photos of Thursday October Christian's house in 1936 and the Adventist "Tithe store" in 1937; EST= \$50.00+

LOT 10: "TOP SECRET" project, Satellite Recovery. Two pages with write-up, FDC, S/S from 2000, PLUS unique 1972 envelope from U.S. to "Director / Satellite Tracking Station / Pitcairn Island" and with island marking, in red, "Station Unknown" and "Return" (to sender). Obviously top secret project! EST= \$75.00+

LOT 11: Two sheets titled "The Island's Longboats." Includes 21 stamps showing longboats, S/S, three original photographs from 1935, diadem flaw variety on 1/2d 1964 QEII definitive stamp; EST= \$25.00+

LOT 12: Five sheets with eclectic collection. Includes "First Postal Issue" with set of eight stamps and a FDC on one sheet. Next is a page depicting various cancelers in use on the island. Includes 1974 OHMS cover to U.S. several pieces of island's only prestamped envelope, including one signed by designer. Also FRAMA labels and three covers, 1990 unexploded booklet and two covers with panes; EST= \$25.00+

LOT 13: Five sheets titled "Moving the Mail." Includes 15 stamps, two S/S, four covers (two different "Official airdrop" covers); EST= \$20.00

LOT 14: Miscellaneous collection. Includes 1984 Fish definitives (missing #243), 1973 Flowers, 1970 Fish, 2003 Painted Leaves strip of five; 1954 cover to New Zealand with three values of First Definitive Series (including 2/6); 1976 MV *Iberic* ship marking with Canal Zone CDS; 1977 cover to England; EST= \$15.00

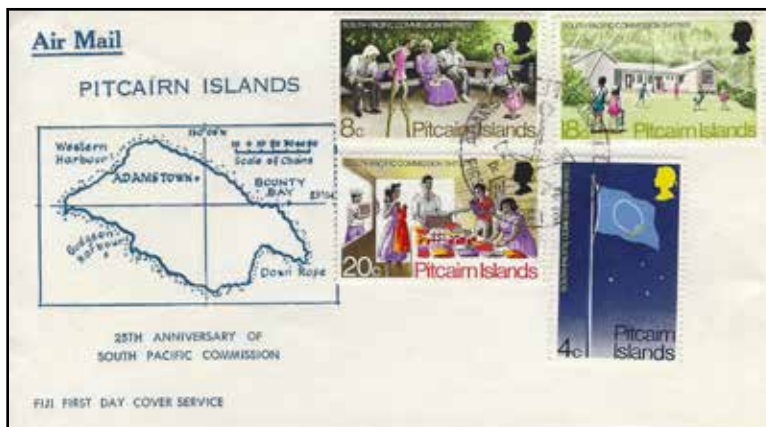
New variant for Type 53 cachet found

Stephen Heath has found yet another possible variant for his growing “map outline in a box” cachet collection. It most closely resembles Parker’s Type 53 or Type 72 cachets.¹ But there are subtle differences.

In the Type 53 cachet, the single line at the bottom left, “FIJI FIRST DAY COVER SERVICE” is centered under the map cachet, while in the cachet shown at right, it is flush left. It is of a similar type font at Type 53.

This cachet was used for the 1972 Pitcairn stamp set calling attention to the 25th anniversary of the South Pacific Commission. The Type 53 cachet, with centered “FIJI FIRST DAY COVER SERVICE,” was used in 1967, and the similar Type 72 was used in 1975.

Likely, the same “map outline in a box” design was retained for several issues, with the wording underneath changed to accommodate specific issues. Proof of that statement can be shown in the



First day cover for South Pacific Commission issue.

January 2, 1973 first day covers of the Pitcairn Coat of Arms 50 cent stamp. The cachet is the same as Type 72, but had “Definitive Issue / 1972” beneath the map.

And, of course, all of these are reminiscent of Type 47, which has the same “map outline in a box” design.

FOOTNOTE

¹ Everett Parker, *Pitcairn Islands Printed Cachets* (Hudson, Maine: Moosehead Communications, Inc, 2020), n.p.

Election completed

The PISG election recently completed reflected a total of 38 ballots received, indicating participation by about one-third of the membership.

Steve Pendleton was re-elected president; Everett Parker was re-elected vice president; and Vernon Kisling was re-elected secretary and treasurer. Each received 38 votes.

Elected to two positions on the board were Ted Cookson with 29 votes, and Juan Riera with 23 votes. Outgoing board member Howard Wunderlich received 19 votes. Thanks to all who participated in the election process!

Editor's mea culpa

In the October 2022 *Pitcairn Log* (Vol. 49, No. 4), on page 12, Denis Doren of Ontario, Canada, authored a report on CAPEX 22 in Toronto. Unfortunately, his name was recorded as “Doran.” To complicate matters, your editor, who has corresponded with Denis for years, compounded the error by using “Doran” in the photo outline as well.

Désolé mon ami!

New Administrators, Desk Officer for Pitcairn named

Derek Lavery has been named Desk Officer for Tristan da Cunha and the Pitcairn Islands in the Overseas Territories Directorate at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Lavery was in Kazakhstan on a posting until the end of July 2022, having been there for four years. Prior to that he was in Russia for three years, serving in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Ekaterinburg. Other jobs in the FCO were in Ghana, Azerbaijan, Germany, Pakistan and London.

Coincidentally, Fiona Kilpatrick and Steve Townsend, joint Administrators on Tristan da Cunha during 2020-2022, are now Administrators on Pitcairn Island. In a website provided by Mark Butterline, there is no indication exactly what a Desk Officer does, nor was an internet search successful in providing additional information.

Pitcairners note Queen's passing

By Dr. Herb Ford

This article, by Mark A. Kellner, was published in the Washington Times newspaper; and forwarded by Dr. Herb Ford, director of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center at Pacific Union College in Angwin, California. Minor updates have been made.

Has the smallest, most remote dot of land in Queen Elizabeth II's realm of nations and countries taken note of her passing? "Indeed, we have taken note of our Queen's death, in several ways, and we're right now in the midst of other matters relating to her death, and to the accession of King Charles III, our new King," a Pitcairn spokesperson said in an interview with the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, located in California's San Francisco Bay Area.

"Upon learning of the Queen's death, all flags on Pitcairn were immediately hoisted to half-staff, and they will stay that way until the 10 days of mourning are over," the islander reported. "An official Pitcairn Islands message of condolence was dispatched to the palace shortly after learning of her death."

The spokesperson said that on September 9, at noon, 96 strokes of the Pitcairn Island bell were struck in honor of the Queen's age. "Life on Pitcairn virtually shut down tight during that lengthy and solemn ringing. The bell ringing is something we do for every person who dies here on Pitcairn; normally it is done on the day of the funeral."

A Book of Remembrance was placed in the island's Public Hall, open to everyone on the island who wished to sign and add a note of condolence. Royal Warren, 94, was one of the earliest writers in the Book. It will be left in the Hall until the official days of mourning are concluded. Visitors on Pitcairn are invited to sign the book, as well."

Today (Sunday) there will be a ceremony on Pitcairn marking the ascension of King Charles III to the throne. Originally scheduled for Saturday, the

ceremony was moved to Sunday, possibly in deference to the Seventh-day Adventist faith. Normally Saturday is an island-wide day of rest on Pitcairn.

The recently appointed governor of Pitcairn Island – Iona Thomas - will participate in the King Charles III ascension ceremony via video link from her office in Wellington, New Zealand, according to the island spokesperson.

Pitcairn Island, located roughly halfway between Panama and New Zealand in the South Pacific



Pitcairn matriarch Royal Warren signs the Book of Remembrance for the late Queen Elizabeth II on Pitcairn Island.

Photo by Melva Evans.

Ocean, is about one mile wide by two miles long, with a constantly changing population of some 50 persons. It is a cliff-ridden, volcanic outcropping in the Pacific Ocean.

In 1789, the aftermath of the widely-publicized "Mutiny on the Bounty" brought some of the ship's mutinous sailors and their Polynesia consorts to Pitcairn Island, where they hid away from detection and British justice for nearly two decades. Today a number of the Pitcairners trace their lineage to those early inhabitants.

Although Pitcairn Island has been a part of the British Empire for centuries, it has had only one official visit by a member the Royal family. Prince Philip, the Queen's late husband, and Lord Louis Mountbatten called at Pitcairn Island in the royal yacht *Britannia* in February 1971.

Member Profile

WILFRED BLOOM

When I was six or seven years old, my brother and I were each given a red stockbook of used worldwide stamps, courtesy of one of my father's business trips. Living in "the Colonies," I did not understand the wording on the "foreign" issues, but a new world opened up. This was very much the pre-computer era, and I used an atlas to locate the countries in the collection, and an encyclopedia to research them.

In my mid-teens, I attended my first stamp club meeting. It seemed that many of the old folks there smoked pipes, and held forth about their collections, as if there were no other stamps and covers in the world worth collecting.

Then, the light bulb popped! I bought a fine 1954 cacheted cover of Pitcairn Islands for 50 cents. It was franked with two King George VI stamps, the 1953 Coronation stamp, and a low value 1957 definitive. I still have it!

After the Pitcairn bug bit me, I joined the British "Pacific Islands Study Group" and started collecting issues of Fiji, Gilbert & Ellice Islands, Solomon Islands, and Norfolk Island, in addition to Pitcairn.

In 1973, I joined the Pitcairn Islands Study Group (PISG) as Member #14, so I now celebrate 50 years with the study group. I was, by now, completely entranced by Pitcairn's history and origins, so that my other Pacific Islands interests fell away.

I assembled my first Pitcairn Islands exhibit (1870-1950) for the International Exhibition at the "Johannesburg 86" show, where it was awarded a Silver-Vermeil medal, and Best Commonwealth Exhibit on Show.

I still believe the judges did not grasp the significance of seeing the 1870 letter from Pitcairn's Chief Magistrate, Robert P. Buffett, to Valparaiso ("... there may be letters in Valparaiso from our children, brothers and sisters, &c. on Norfolk Island, from whom we have not heard since February/68.")

The exhibit included Captain Cockell's 1917 SS *Australplain* cover, his wife's islander correspondence, multiple covers with every known "NO STAMPS AVAILABLE" marking, some manu-



WILFRED BLOOM

script "Free from Pitcairn" covers, 1927 New Zealand stamps on paquebot covers to Montgomery Ward in Chicago, and to Jerusalem, and postage due covers to the New Zealand Post Office.

I also included every variant of the 1938 Radio PITC cover and postcard, signed and unsigned, including a December 4, 1938 letter to Honolulu from radio operator Andrew Young.

There were also covers to H.E. Maude bearing New Zealand and Pitcairn stamps, specimen sets, proofs, booklets, censored mail to and from Pitcairn, printer's samples, etc.

I have been very fortunate to have had exchanges of ideas and correspondence with all of the early pioneers of the study group, many who are thankfully still with us, as I continue my interest in all things Pitcairn.

I would mention that I am a pharmacist, married for 44 years, with two sons and one grandchild, all of whom have absolutely no interest in philately!

***We need YOUR profile!
Please contact the editor!***

Out of the Past ...

*PISG photos of the "good old days"
from PISG Archivist Jerry Jensen!*



*This vintage black and white photograph was taken at INTERPHIL '76, the international stamp show held under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from May 29 to June 6, 1976. Shown are, from left, Bernard Reilander, Rev. Nelson A.L. Weller, Dr. Peter P. McCann and Marné Groff.
Have old photos to share? Send them to the Editor!*

A lot of ideas put forward to celebrate 15th anniversary

In the December-February 1988 issue of the *Pitcairn Log*, President Thomas A. Silver noted there had been a lot of ideas put forward on how to celebrate the study group's 15th anniversary. Ideas ranged from a special cachet to a stamp collecting package for Pitcairn's school children.

Additionally, a number of goals for the coming year were advanced, including adding 50 new members, updating bylaws, publishing a new monograph, establishing a speaker's bureau, and publishing an updated Pitcairn stamp catalogue. Whew! Those were the days!

Also, Anders Kallgard of Sweden authored an article asking the question of which language is

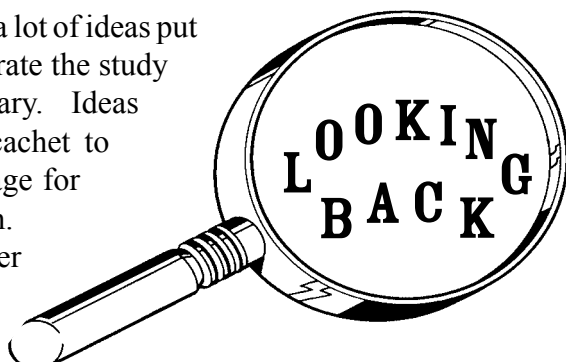
spoken on Pitcairn. He said when it comes to small islands in the Pacific, there is a plethora of languages spoken.

PISG treasurer Bradley Brunsell reported on the study group's participation at STaMPSHOW '87 in Boston, noting that a good number of members took part in staffing a table, and that new members were added.

Rev. David Ward of the United Kingdom discussed his Pitcairn collection, which included a num-

ber of examples of correspondence from islanders over the years.

Bruce Frahm of Colby, Kansas was featured in the Member's Profile section, and there was information about the PISG being represented at AR-IPEX in Phoenix, Arizona in January.





Secretary's Report

Vernon N. Kisling, Jr.
(Address on page 2)



NEW MEMBERS*

#1691 Randy Clark, Florida.
#1692 Gen Kathol, Nebraska.

ADDRESS CHANGES*

None this quarter

RESIGNED/ RETURNED MAIL

None this quarter

NECROLOGY

None this quarter

**If needed, addresses may be obtained from the Secretary.*

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Membership last quarter: **109**
New Members during the quarter: **2**
Renewals: **9**
Loss (Resigned/Returned Mail): **1**
Loss: (Deaths): **0**

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

119

I am looking forward to this year as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. A big thank you to all of our renewing members for their continued support of PISG.

Electronic mail addresses of our membership

*If you would like to be listed here, please email the editor (everettparker1245@gmail.com). There is no charge!
To protect privacy, we do not automatically list your email address without permission.*

Art Ackley: ack19@aol.com

Maria Adams: maydaymalone@lycos.com

Dr. Donald Albert: GEO_DPA@SHSU.EDU

Wilfred Bloom: wbloom1@cox.net

Jimmy Brill: JEB Brill@aol.com

Don Burns: donlburns@yahoo.com

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Martin Weidenegger: taepc@yahoo.de

Howard Wunderlich: hjwesq@yahoo.com

Gerard York: gerard_york@msn.com

Steve Zirinsky: szirinsky@cs.com

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

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. (4-23)

Birds of the Pitcairn Islands is a new book by Lars-Ake Goteson presenting 66 breeding or observed bird species from the Pitcairn group. Another 15 extinct species are also included in this illustrated 274 page book. "Birds featured on stamps of the Pitcairn Islands" is one of the book's many subtitles. For the first time, a comprehensive presentation of the bird fauna of the Pitcairn Islands is available in book form. Price \$60 postpaid to U.S. Contact Lars-Ake Goteson by email: tott1@hotmail.com or Nomen at: www.books-on-demand.com. (4-23)

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. (4-23)

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. For a free sample or to order, email tedcookson@gmail.com or post funds to Ted Cookson, 3501 Keyser Ave, Apt 38, Hollywood, FL 33021-2402. US\$6 to U.S.A.; US\$7 to Canada; US\$8 rest of world. PayPal accepted to tedcookson@gmail.com with no surcharge. (4-23)

Dig into Pitcairn's Yesterdays -- by obtaining copies of *Pitcairn Miscellany*, the island's monthly newspaper. Photocopies going back to the first issue in 1959 are available from the Pitcairn Islands Study Center. Some copies of *Pitcairn Pilhi*, *Miscellany's* forerunner, are also available. A single copy is available postpaid for US \$5.00; five various-date copies for \$20.00, postpaid. Price for larger numbers of copies is negotiable. They may be ordered by using credit card via PayPal to PISC@pitcairnstudycenter.org. Snail mail orders would include cash or check (to "Pitcairn Islands Study Center") and addressed to Katy Van Arsdale, Pitcairn Islands Study Center, 1 Angwin Ave., Angwin, CA 94508. Request more information from hford@puc.edu. (4-23)

WANTED

I am seeking turtle, fish, starfish, bird and other carvings made by Pitcairn Islanders. If you have any of these items to sell, please contact me by email. Thanks! Don Albert, email: dp_albert@yahoo.com (4-23)

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. (4-23)

Needed: Blocks of four (not plate blocks) of certain Pitcairn stamps: SG #7, 1/- Fletcher Christian and view of Pitcairn; #27, Second Definitive Issue 2/- wheelbarrow; #28a, 2/6 blue and deep lake; #52; #479-482 Marconi; #483-486 UN; #493-496, Queen's birthday; #500-503, radio. Dusan, 6 Plettenberg Street, Welgemoed 7530, Cape Town, South Africa. Email: studioarc@wo.co.za. (4-23)

Is your Pitcairn collection missing FDCs from the late 1960s, late 1970s and all of the 1980s? Official first day covers for sale. Send for full listing. Bernie Reilander, 1081 Ambleside Dr., Apt. 501, Ottawa, ON K2B 8C8 Canada; email: breilander@rogers.com (4-23)

Publication Deadlines for the *Pitcairn Log*:

January issue: November 1

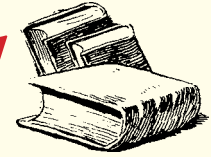
April issue: February 1

July issue: May 1

October issue: August 1



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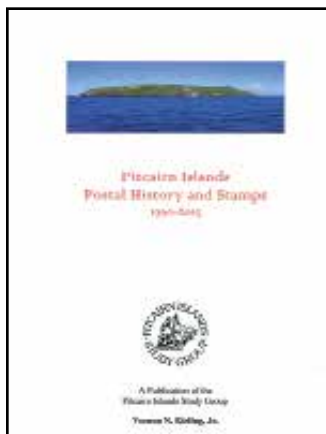


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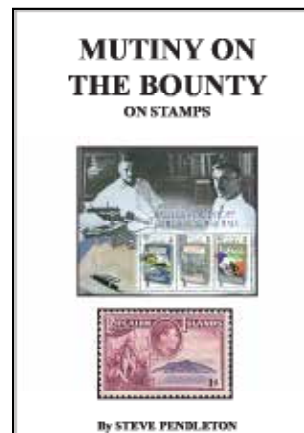


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