

PITCAIRN ISLANDS STUDY GROUP

PITCAIRN LOG

Vol. 47, No. 1

January - March 2020

Whole No. 186



This rather innocuous cover and enclosed letter from 1944 led to many questions and maybe a discovery! See page 5.

Pitcairn Island
July 30-19-44

My dear Leona,
Just a short note in answer
to your most welcome letter
which arrived safely.
You asked me what the price
of my souvenir will be.
I will let you know when
I am ready to send it.
I will send you some leaves
as soon as I have it ready.
The word work will take
little time to have it ready.
Thank you very much for
those funny papers which you
send me. I received that parcel
which had those book in & those
chew gum & those blouses.
Thank you very much for the doll
it very nice. I will close for
this time good luck surely yours
Karna Jacobsen



PITCAIRN LOG



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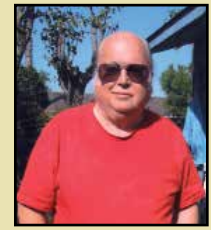
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership is available in two categories:
REGULAR and CONTRIBUTING. The fees are: U.S.,
\$20 per year. CONTRIBUTING membership is an
extra \$5 (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 \$15 per year. Opinions expressed are
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the Publications Editor for additional information.



President's Message

By Steve Pendleton



After seeing the drop in our membership, it should be obvious that we have a serious problem. Luckily our finances are still okay, but we have to take a strong look at possible strategies to offset these losses.

First, we need to look at alternative sources for members. I asked our editor to prepare a membership form we can send to Meralda on Pitcairn, to alert ship passengers as to our existence. I know in the past members have exhibited their carvings, leaves and covers at fairs and other sources. How about asking your local library to host such an exhibit? Many have suitable cases or places to hang pictures.

My wife and I work the humongous *New York Times* crossword each Sunday. If it's taught us anything, it would be to think outside the box. We need everyone's ideas, even if they seem oddball. Local newspapers are always looking for unusual articles: how about contacting a reporter with an account of your Pitcairn collection? After all, any place as isolated as Pitcairn, with its unusual history, can be a worthwhile "read."

I've said this before and will continue to say it: even the philatelic community does not seem to be particularly aware of us. I was at SESCAL a few weeks ago, wearing a Pitcairn Island shirt. I was approached by a man who was a Pitcairn collector. He had never heard of us. Luckily I was able to refer him to our website. But that contact would never have been made if I hadn't been wearing my Pitcairn shirt. Advertising helps!

I also really encourage those of you who have some rare material, to by all means write it up. There are still a few publications out there who will publish your findings. Much as I respect American Philatelic Society (APS), I know they take a long time

to print a submitted article. There may be other options. Again, think outside the box.

Okay, enough ranting. Again I must warn members, we are constantly under attack by scammers who try to convince us to part with our cash. Please remember, if the return email is not my personal address it isn't from me.

Even that is not always something you can prove, however, as a few years ago someone sent out hundreds of emails using my address. I believe it's secure now, but if it sounds fishy it probably is. For example, the old dodge saying someone is in trouble and needs financial assistance is a crock. This one was tried on a former president of the group so it does happen.

Finally, I hope you all will think about some possible future stamp subjects for Pitcairn. I get uneasy about some of the subjects featured on recent stamps. I realize Pitcairn offers a limited area for subjects. However, I've felt a neglected area has been the islanders' own products -- the souvenirs. I think, for example, there have been very few stamps showing basketwork and wood carvings.

I repeat, I would love to see a new definitive series featuring the many crafts done by some really amazing island artists. Maybe by urging such an issue we can contribute to the survival of the island in some small way.

Publication Deadlines for the *Pitcairn Log*:

January issue: November 1

April issue: February 1

July issue: May 1

October issue: August 1

An editorial comment ...

Who is doing the research?

Is Pitcairn philately being ignored?

As we begin another year as an organization of stamp enthusiasts known as the Pitcairn Islands Study Group, your editor is taking a moment to pose a question: Who is doing research in Pitcairn philately? Or, to put it more succinctly, is anyone awake out there? Does anyone care anymore about this tiny island in the South Pacific and its inhabitants, as well as the story of mutiny on the HMAV *Bounty*?

Or have we become so engrossed in our cellphones, “social media” and a plethora of other “things” now that we have given up reading, studying and doing research? And, most importantly, converting that reading, studying and doing research into writing and publishing our findings?

I realize this has the potential of offending some, and goodness knows that society is “offended” by everything these days, and I am certain some of you will say how you are “so busy” now that there just isn’t the time there used to be for these pursuits.

But I would suggest these are not legitimate excuses but rather faulty reasoning. As a society, we have turned in a different direction, and it’s not a pretty sight for the future of philately in general, and this study group in particular.

Why am I lamenting, other than the fact I am a crotchety old goat who, as my wife suggests, sits on the front porch and barks at passersby? The reasoning is simple: without more direct involvement by its members in this study group, we won’t survive. It’s that simple, even though it’s not a good thought. I hope you will prove me wrong. I hope we can reverse the trend and get back to being a vibrant, active group.

What has happened? I have, indeed, lamented about this before, as have others, but I do see it as the core problem for philately in general. We are a dying hobby, and all of the fancy electronic gadgets we love are at the base of it.

How so? Think about it. How many of you sit down and read the *Log* each quarter? How many of you even receive a paper copy that you can enjoy while perhaps sitting in your comfortable chair with a cup of coffee? And then -- horrors! -- actually file it

away in a run of journals for future study?

Or do you get it “electronically” and don’t even bother to look at it? All too often I hear, “Oh, I am so busy, I don’t have time to look at all the stuff that comes in.” All of our fancy electronics are fine, but are we reading and participating in PISG activities?

Case in point is a recent article in a philatelic journal where it was noted that 72 percent of those who receive the journal electronically do not even open it! Wow, think about that for a moment! Three quarters of those receiving the journal electronically don’t even bother to look at it!

Now this is not a rant against those who receive a pdf of our journal. Especially for those overseas, it is quicker and less costly. But do you actually read it, and then save it for future perusal, or just hit delete, delete, delete? I really wonder.

What makes me think you’re not reading it is this: if you are, why are you not sending in articles? If you are actively involved, why aren’t you participating in the auction, becoming an officer, doing research, volunteering to help at stamp shows, etc., etc.?

I have been involved with this study group since the mid-1980s, and I can remember when we had around 600 members. Compare that to 162 reported in the last *Log*. Do you see what I am getting at? I can remember when I had far more material to publish than I could stuff in each *Log*. It ain’t so now. It’s the same few writers, and thank goodness for them. Without them, we would cease publication in no time at all.

In summary, my question remains: *who* is doing the research? IS anyone doing research? There is so much “out there” to be learned. See my article on the next page. This came about by looking at a rather strange censored cover from World War II. Then the fun of research took over, and there are still questions you can help answer.

So will you prove me wrong? The time to start is now. Get off the treadmill of frenetic activity once in a while and get involved. Our future depends on it! Now, if you’ll excuse me, I’ve got an urge to go sit on the front porch and bark at passersby!

-- Everett L. Parker

World War II censor marking on Pitcairn cover leads to questions

Every so often, examining a seemingly non-descript Pitcairn cover can lead to more questions than answers, and even, perhaps, a “discovery.” In this case, there could even be the mystery of “who was that masked man?” Well, perhaps he wasn’t masked after all, but the following story does raise questions about war-time activities on Pitcairn.

It’s a rather innocuous cover, even a bit on the grubby side. Topical stains are found on front, and it’s opened at left and on top. There is a printed two-line inscription on the flap, “Great White Fleet/United Fruit Company.” Thus, it can be assumed that the envelope itself was secured from a passing ship at some point. The islanders were, and are, able to make use of practically anything, and during World War II, envelopes would have been scarce with few visiting ships.

The letter inside was written by Norma Jacobsen of Pitcairn, and is dated July 30, 1944. This raises the first interesting question. If the letter is dated July 30, how come the cover has two rather clear strikes of a postmark dated July 27, 1944? How



Figure 1
Cover from Pitcairn dated July 27, 1944 to Hampton, New Hampshire.

could the letter be written three days after it was postmarked (see the letter on the next page)?

The cover bears two low value stamps of the First Definitive Series (1d and 2d), and they are clearly postmarked with Kitching’s Type 2.3 handstamp, in use from October 15, 1940, when the definitives were issued, until June 14, 1954.¹

Let’s first look at the letter, then we’ll come back to the censor marking and look at why there is some mystery involved.

It is written on lined stationery, perhaps resembling a schoolchild’s tablet or notebook. This form of stationery was common on the island during this era. It is addressed to “My Dear Leona.” The address on the cover is “Mrs. Leona Gambole/ Lafayette highway/ Hampton, NH/ U.S.A.” Hampton is a small city on the coast of New Hampshire south of Portsmouth.

In the letter, Jacobsen notes that she will be sending some painted leaves as soon as they are finished, but the “wood work will take (a) little time to have it ready.” Likely she is referring to some of the island souvenirs well-known even in this era.

She also thanks Mrs. Gambole for “those



Figure 2
Reverse side of cover shown in Figure 1. Notice censor tape and marking at right and “Great White Fleet/United Fruit Company” inscription on flap.

funny papers (comics) which you send me.” And she acknowledges the “chew(ing) gum and those blouses,” as well as a doll.

Pitcairn Island
July 30-19.44

My Dear Leona,
Just a short note in answer
to your most welcome letter
which arrived safely.
You asked me what the price
of my souvenir will be.
I will let you know when
I am ready to send it.
I will send you some leave
as soon as I have it ready.
The sword sword will take
little time to have it ready.
Thank you very much for
those funny papers which you
send me. I received that parcel
which had those book in + those
chew gum + those blouses.
Thank you very much for the doll
it very nice. I will close for
this time good luck anyway yours
Norma Jacobsen

Figure 3

The letter written by Norma Jacobsen found inside the cover shown in Figure 1.

Norma Jacobsen may not be a name immediately recognized by some. In fact, the surname is not usually thought of when discussing Pitcairners. But in fact, Norma Ruth Jacobsen was well known on the island. She was born on January 14, 1928, one of six children of Jacob Jacobsen and Inez Warren. Norma married Walma Lowry Warren (born November 8, 1924). He was son of Wallace Maynard Warren and Maria Johnston. Later, she married Oscar Harrison Clark (born June 29, 1927), who became postmaster of Pitcairn in 1964.²

Interestingly, Oscar and Norma had four children, one of whom was named Leona Panda Gladys Jacobsen (born May 15, 1944). Could the child Leona be named after Leona Gambole in New Hampshire?

In any event, Norma Jacobsen was obviously an avid letter-writer, and her correspondence with Leona Gambole carried on at least through the late

1950s into the 1960s from the stack of correspondence at hand. More about another interesting connection in a future article.

And now, back to the World War II censor marking on the cover under discussion dated July 27, 1944. Cy Kitching illustrated a similar marking in his book, *Pitcairn Islands Postal Markings 1883-2008*.

Unfortunately, there wasn't a lot of extant information with the illustration, which he designated as Type 16.1.³ He did note that the marking was in two lines with initials of the censoring agent and a “sealing strip.” He added that it was “struck in black,” and known to be used from June through August 1944. What he failed to note was that the wording “OPENED BY EXAMINER/PITCAIRN ISLAND.” was apparently typed onto the sealing strip, or tape, prior to being applied to the envelope. Likely, a sheet of adhesive sealing paper was prepared with a typewriter, then cut into individual strips, somewhat like self-adhesive labels are prepared today.

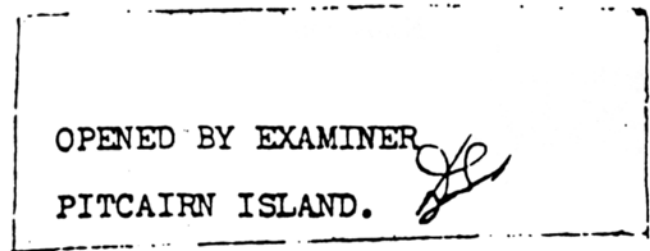


Figure 4

Illustration of Kitching's Type 16.1 censored marking with censor's initials at right.

We hinted about a “discovery” earlier, and while it would be premature to call it that, there is a substantial difference between Kitching's Type 16.1 and the censor marking on the cover being discussed. If one were to assume the illustration in Kitching and others is reproduced at or close to 100 percent, the marking on this cover is not exactly the same.

It appears the Kitching, *et al.*, illustration is at or near 100 percent because the width (48 mm) is very close to the width of the marking under discussion (45 mm). However, the “leading” or distance between the top and bottom line is where the difference lies. In Kitching, the width is close to 5 mm, while on the cover under discussion, the “leading” is very close; only about 1 mm. So it appears there

are at least two different versions of Type 16.1 (perhaps 16.1 and 16.1.1?).

Likely the earliest information about the marking identified as Type 16.1 came in 1976 when P.T.E. Bradshaw wrote about censored covers in the September 1976 issue of the *Pitcairn Log*.⁴ Here, he illustrated an example of the marking, but remarked only, "It appears that a censor operated on the Pitcairn Islands for a short time. A sealing strip ... is known used in June and August 1944. Further information regarding this is required."

It fell to Bill Hornadge of Dubbo, New South Wales, Australia, to begin unraveling the mysterious censor marking. In his seminal book, *The Pitcairn Islands Stamp Catalogue*, published in 1976 and updated in 1980 and 1981, he illustrated the marking and provided a bit of intrigue.⁵

He said that by 1944, the Japanese threat had definitely receded from the area of the Pacific where Pitcairn is located so there would have been little need to mount a radar monitoring system on the

went to Pitcairn in December 1943 to establish a British and Allied Merchant Shipping radio station on the island.

The force remained on the island until November 1945, and PISG member Ralph Badagliacca reported in the *Pitcairn Log*, "It is probable that all mail out of Pitcairn in the relevant period (January 1944 to November 1945) would have been subject to censorship by the PAN Expedition force, which was a hush-hush operation ..."⁶

If indeed ALL outgoing mail during this period was subject to censorship, that would explain why the letter from Jacobsen, an islander, to a friend in the U.S. was censored.

Notice the initials on the censor tape, and in Kitching's Type 16.1 illustration. In some instances, the initials appear to the left, as in the Jacobsen cover, and on some, on the right. So who was this person? It took some detective work to figure it out.

David Hume, in his book *Pitcairn Islands Philately*, discussed the censorship issue, and he noted it was first thought the person's initials were those of Nelson Dyett.⁷ It was Dyett, a New Zealander, who had established radio communications on Pitcairn in 1939. But Dyett was quickly ruled out because the initials were definitely not "ND" but rather appear to be "DS."

Enter Garth Harraway, who taught school on Pitcairn in the 1970s and served as Education Office and Government Advisor (he was also the island's last Commissioner).

Harraway, acting on a request for clarification and information from Ralph Badagliacca, wrote to Nelson Dyett in New Zealand and learned the person whose initials are on the Type 16.1 censor markings was most likely a Doug or Dave Shepherd.

Subsequent investigation by Badagliacca resulted in Mr. Shepherd confirming that he had been stationed at Pitcairn during World War II and that he had served as a censor and that he did indeed initial outgoing mail with "DS."

In part, Mr. Shepherd wrote, "During my term as Officer in Charge of the radio installations at Pitcairn, I was appointed Deputy Commissioner and directed to censor all outgoing mail." Perhaps strangely, he concluded his letter to Ralph Bada-

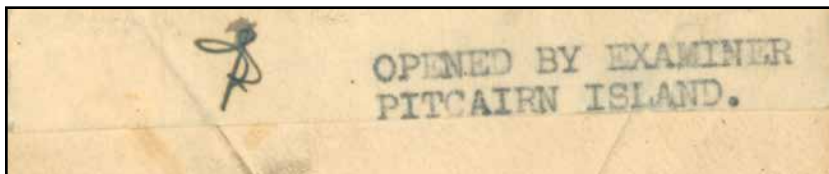


Figure 5

Enlargement of censor marking on reverse side of cover shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. Clearly, this is not the same marking as shown in Figure 4. Notice the difference in spacing, or "leading" between lines.

island to detect Japanese submarines. "However," he wrote, "the U.S. Navy may well have used the remoteness of the island to test some secret tracking system for allied ships or aircraft."

While it is not of significance to postal historians whether this was the case, it is a fact that for a short period, "a small U.S. technical force with a New Zealand military back-up force was located on the island," Hornadge wrote. Letters from those involved had affixed to them after censoring a sealing strip with the typed inscription "OPENED BY EXAMINER/PITCAIRN ISLAND." and the initials of the officer concerned, he added.

The technical force, Hornadge determined through continued investigation, was the PAN Expedition, and was composed of seven people who

The Harrison and Sons Specimen Stamps

By Mike Warren

Harrison & Sons, Ltd., has produced stamps for over 140 countries and colonies from 1866 when they printed a revenue issue for Montserrat. Most publications state that they never tendered for printing postage stamps before, but indeed they did, but were generally unsuccessful as the company of De La Rue got the contracts.

Over the years the company had an aggressive and very successful promotion of their products, not only postage stamps, but documents, advertising posters and many other publications.

The presentation folders or sheets were first produced in 1922 for the sole reason of making the stamps more appealing for collectors, who were the main revenue earners for the British Post Office. Nearly all commemorative issues from Great Britain from 1924 to 1997 had a presentation folder. These are not presentation packs that are also much sought after and are more numerous than the folders. These folders had stamps attached to the pages

and were classed as specimen stamps. Some were indeed overprinted with a form of specimen or simply "sp."

In around 1960-62, the company got permission from the Crown Agents to distribute folders to some other countries in order to attract these to Harrison & Sons when making decisions to print their own stamps. This was fairly successful, but some countries did not think that the British types were ideal for them. When this was realized, Harrison & Sons asked Stan Scott, a senior in-house designer, to help put together some stamps that were colorful and attractive from the issues of other countries. The first printings were in photogravure, but later lithography was used as a printing method.

The first folders contained stamps engraved and finely etched by the world-famous William Jeans, who was the jewel in Harrison & Sons' crown.

It is very difficult to find out information on these folders as the Harrison & Sons, Ltd. records from

Interesting Pitcairn cover from World War II ————— *Continued from page 7*

gliacca with a rather terse comment: "There is nothing more that I wish or in fact can usefully tell you."

Earlier, Hornadge reported in his section on censored covers that through "some smart detective work" the name and address of the censor was known, "but unfortunately for the sake of postal history records, he refuses to respond to all enquiries on the subject of the covers he censored so many years ago."⁸ We can only assume he was referring to Mr. Shepherd.

So, after considerable research by PISGers and others interested in this facet of World War II censored mail from Pitcairn, the matter of whose initials appear on covers of the era appears to be solved. Or is there still more to the story? One can only wonder why Mr. Shepherd, while admitting he was the censor, refused to discuss it in more detail.

In any event, a story worth telling, found through research on a small, nondescript cover from 1944. One can only wonder how many other stories are out there waiting to be told!

-- Everett L. Parker

FOOTNOTES

¹ Cy Kitching, *Pitcairn Islands Postal Markings 1883-2008*. (Greenville, Maine: Moosehead Communications, Inc., 2008), p. 2-1.

² Paul J. Lareau, *The H.M.S. Bounty Genealogies*. (St. Paul, Minnesota: self-published, 1999), pp. 124, 182, 189.

³ *Op.cit.*, Kitching, p. 16-1.

⁴ P.T.E. Bradshaw, "Some Censored Mail from Pitcairn Is.," *Pitcairn Log*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (September 1976), pp. 9-11.

⁵ Bill Hornadge, *The Pitcairn Islands Stamp Catalogue*. (Dubbo, N.S.W., Australia: Review Publications Pty., Ltd., 1981), pp. 154-155.

⁶ Ralph Badagliacca, "An introduction to Pitcairn Island censored covers of World War II," *Pitcairn Log*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (January 1998), pp. 6-9.

⁷ David Hume, *Pitcairn Islands Philately*. (Protea Park, South Africa: Merlin Designs, 2007), pp. 178-179.

⁸ *Op. cit.*, Hornadge, p. 155.

1920-1997 are deposited with D.W. Devur on indefinite loan. To get access through the National Archives costs a fortune!

However, through personal information (my partner was a Harrison), my research indicates that presentation folders were produced from stamps of Ceylon, Falkland Islands, Guyana, Ghana, Jamaica, Mauritius and New Zealand. There could have been more. Very few were issued as their primary purpose was for advertising to certain countries. Only a few were sold or mostly given to interested collectors.

In 1965, Harrison & Sons produced folders from 12 of the 14 British Overseas Territories, including the Pitcairn Islands. The reason these territories were used was to impress prospective customers with the five color printing process, and the fact that these particular countries had very attractive issues, especially when used for definitives. It was the definitive issues that Harrison & Sons wanted the most as they usually had a long and lucrative timetable.

But the real attraction was that Harrison & Sons reminded prospective customers of the great benefit of additional income they could earn by selling stamps, especially through stamp bureaus. No permission was sought from the countries that had their stamps used, or indeed from the Crown Agents.

To get to the main reason for this research -- the Pitcairn Islands folder. There is an important issue to be considered that may have an exciting outcome if proven. It appears Harrison & Sons produced special printings for these "specimen" stamps to be fixed to the folders, and that they, on some occasions, used unwatermarked paper.

I have stamps from a Falklands folder that are without watermarks, so I know some exist. Also some issues were again overprinted "specimen" or just "sp." The overprinted stamps were dropped very quickly and no Pitcairn issues have been found. I very much doubt that any were overprinted. However, when it comes to the unwatermarked paper being used, I do believe that it was used for the 1964-65 definitives.

One of the reasons for this is that the color of this set is much brighter and the paper appears very much whiter. I have tried to see if a watermark is identified, but I'm not brave enough to destroy the folders to really find out. I would like to point out

that using a Signoscope has only excited me more, as I cannot identify any watermark.

None of these later presentation folders were sold to collectors or stamp bureaus, and it is believed that only two sheets of 60 each of the 13 definitive issues were used and issued.

A very well-written advertisement appears in each folder, the same for each country. This is what is written in full:

"Superb quality, unrivalled service and the strictest security are standards that Harrison & Sons set themselves in the production of the world's most handsome photogravure postage stamps. Small wonder then that a growing list of no less than one hundred and eight postal authorities, including the British Post Office entrust their stamp production to Harrison & Sons.

"Now with the installation of an extensive new production plant, stamps can be engraved and delivered in quantity, within six weeks from receipt of approved originals. This incredibly fast service for the finest postage stamps of all, enables postal authorities to make more issues each year and to take fullest advantage of increased revenue that new issues inevitably bring. For maximum profit in your postal operations photogravure stamps by Harrison & Sons provide the obvious answer. May we make you a quotation?"

I know who wrote this in the office but am not allowed to share it publicly. I have spent a very long time to find all the above out and am very pleased to share it with my fellow collectors. If anyone can add to this, especially to confirm the unwatermarked possibility, I would love to hear from you at mikewarre@yahoo.co.uk.

Nuggets from the past ...

In the September-November 1990 issue of the *Pitcairn Log*, Jack Schroeder wrote about the visit of Tom and Betty Christian to Indiana in June and July 1990. Tom and Betty were accompanied by their daughters Shari and Darlene, and Betty's sister, Marie Christian Thomas of Albuquerque, New Mexico. A photograph shows the group, along with other PISG members. President Tom Silver also commented on the meeting in his president's report. Secretary David Fowlie reported 14 new members for the quarter.

Sydney's first Government House, where William Bligh spent two and a half years

By Ted Cookson

When William Bligh assumed his position as the fourth governor of New South Wales on August 13, 1806, he and his daughter, Mary Putland, who accompanied him on the voyage from England, moved into Government

House in Sydney. Construction of this building, situated near Sydney Cove and now known as First Government House, began in 1788. At the time of Bligh's residence, the main building consisted of the basic six-room structure built for Arthur Philip, the first governor of New South Wales, plus the drawing room and verandah extension (and perhaps a bedroom and dressing room?) added under Philip Gidley King, New South Wales' third governor.



Figure 1
First Government House in Sydney Cove was portrayed by pardoned convict painter John Eyre in this watercolor dated to 1807 during the time of Bligh's residence there. Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

House in Sydney. Construction of this building, situated near Sydney Cove and now known as First Government House, began in 1788. At the time of Bligh's residence, the main building consisted of the basic six-room structure built for Arthur Phil-

lip, the first governor of New South Wales, plus the drawing room and verandah extension (and perhaps a bedroom and dressing room?) added under Philip Gidley King, New South Wales' third governor. Bligh resided in this building for 531 days as governor along with Mary Putland, Lady of Government House. Mary's first husband, John Putland, who served as Bligh's aide-de-camp and also lived in the house, died of tuberculosis on January 4, 1808 and



Figure 2
This photographic view of Sydney's First Government House Plaza, looking up the southern side of Bridge Street toward Phillip Street, shows some of the steel studs implanted in the pavement, marking the outline of the original foundation of First Government House in 1789. On the other hand, the inlaid white granite indicates the foundation of the same building as it stood at the time of its demolition in 1846. Inlaid black granite delineates the grid of the 1982-1992 archaeological excavations.

was buried on the grounds. After the infamous Rum Rebellion when, on January 26, 1808, 400 soldiers of the New South Wales Corps marched there to arrest Bligh and he was deposed as governor, he and Mary stayed on under house arrest for an additional 417 days before their departure to Hobart on HMS *Porpoise* on March 17, 1809.

Historic First Government House, a two-story Georgian structure, was the first substantial European building to be constructed on the mainland

in 1946 after another Government House, occupied by successive governors, was completed in 1845 some 600 meters to the northeast in the direction of modern-day Sydney Opera House.

Today steel studs mark the outline of the foundation of First Government House as it debuted in 1789. These are implanted in the pavement of First Government House Plaza at the junction of Phillip and Bridge streets. Inlaid black granite in the plaza delineates the grid of archaeological excavations

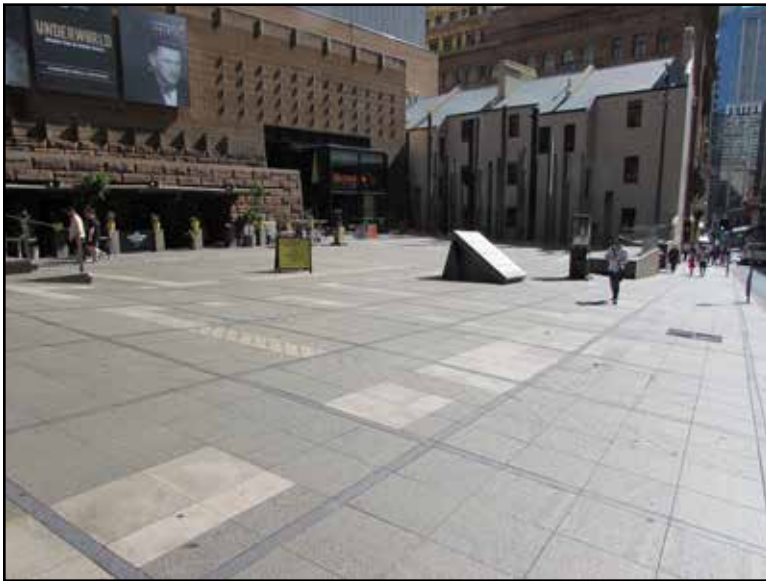


Figure 3

In this second photo of First Government House Plaza, taken from near the corner of Bridge and Phillip streets, the same steel studs and white and black inlaid granite outlines are evident. However, in this image the adjacent Museum of Sydney is also visible. This institution includes a collection of artifacts excavated at the site. Unfortunately, none of these can be tied directly to William Bligh.

of Australia. The new colony's center of power, it was positioned on Sydney Cove's most prominent site and towered over the local landscape. Convict laborers utilized 5,000 English bricks plus some convict-produced bricks, local stone, and lime mortar in its construction, which required more than a year. John Eyre, a pardoned convict and early Australian painter, depicted a lovely orchard in front of the house in a watercolor dated to about 1807, when Bligh would have been residing there. Not shown in the painting are the two cellars, rear staircase, and various outbuildings at the rear of the house, including a kitchen, a bakehouse, stables, offices and workrooms.

First Government House was occupied from 1789 to 1845 by the first nine governors of New South Wales. The building suffered from structural faults due to its hurried construction and the use of inferior building materials. Early governors complained about its dampness and small size. Repairs began in 1799 and were ongoing. Demolition finally came

which were conducted on the site from 1982 until 1992. Finally, white granite outlines the foundation of the same, much-expanded building as it had evolved by 1845 after multiple additions and demolitions. The white granite outline continues into the lobby of the adjacent Museum of Sydney. Opened in 1995 and containing an historical collection and various exhibits, the museum was built partially on the ruins of First Government House.

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Another Pitcairner passes at age 93

Another of the dwindling number of inhabitants of Pitcairn Island has died. Len Carlyle Brown, 93, a legendary fisherman and highly skilled seaman, died on November 1, 2019 of complications following a stroke. He was born on Pitcairn on March 20, 1926, to Ivy Young Brown and Frederick Warren Brown.

At age 16, Brown was the youngest ever coxswain to captain a Pitcairn longboat, a highly regarded position in a community where longboats have to put out to sea in often treacherous conditions to transfer every person and supplies coming to the island from off-shore ships, there being no harbor at Pitcairn Island.

A master woodcarver, Brown's hundreds of carvings of flying fish, walking sticks, models of the ship HMAV *Bounty*, island longboats, vases and turtles are today displayed in homes around the world. Pitcairners sell or barter their wood carvings, basketry and other products on every ship that calls at the island. Brown's was considered by many to be Pitcairn's best woodcarver.

During his life, Brown held numerous jobs or positions on Pitcairn, among them chief engineer, radio operator, equipment operator, chairman of the Island Committee, and Councillor.

Brown's wife, Thelma Christian, predeceased him. He is survived by his children and their spouses: David and Lea Brown; Kay and Lorraine Brown; Olive and Steve Christian; Clarice and Kerry Oates; Yvonne and Andy Watts; and by several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. -- From Herb Ford

Government House

Continued from page 11

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Pitcairn Miscellany collection, covers for sale

Interested in reading about Pitcairn? I have a collection of *Pitcairn Miscellany*, which was the island's monthly newsletter. The collection runs from Vol. 38, No. 9 (1995) to Vol. 53, No. 6 (2010).

I am asking about NZ\$50-\$70.

Also, I have 49 first day covers in their original envelopes, from 2001 to 2011, and am asking about NZ\$50-\$100 for these. Finally, I have a collection of *Pitcairn Miscellany* mailing envelopes with stamps. I am asking about NZ\$20 these, or if someone wants the other two items, I'll toss those in for free!

If interested, contact me and we'll talk!

Marilyn Olds

(email: Marilyn.Olds@outlook.com)

Ship visits at Pitcairn appear to be on increase

The number of ships and people visiting Pitcairn Island during 2019 was encouraging as it looks like visitation statistics are getting better. In a report to the Pitcairn Islands Study Center at Pacific Union College, in California's San Francisco Bay area, Pitcairn's Travel Coordinator Heather Menzies said the number of cruise ships calling at the island in the first three quarters of 2019 was 15, as compared to 10 ship calls in all of 2018. Two additional cruise ships were scheduled to call at the island from October through December 2019.

The number of people landing on Pitcairn from cruise ships from January 1, 2019, to September 30, was 1,189 compared to 332 for all of 2018. Yachts calling at the island during the first three quarters of 2019 totaled 30, while 26 yachts called in all of 2018. The number of people landing from yachts on the island in 2019 was 90 compared to 59 for all of 2018.

Visits of "other" types of vessels in 2019 was 20,

compared to 17 in 2018, with the number of people landing on the island from these "other" vessels during three quarters of 2019 was 116, compared to 171 in all of 2018. The number of people landing on Pitcairn from chartered vessels in the first three quarters of 2019 totaled 104, while the number in all of 2018 was 98.

"The more than double the number of people landing in 2019 on Pitcairn Island in the first three quarters of the year, 1,499 compared to the 660 landing there in all of 2018, certainly suggests the possibility of a brighter future for the Pitcairn people in the days ahead," said Herb Ford of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center.

We need YOU to recruit a new member for PISG, and to do it today!

EXTENSIVE PITCAIRN COLLECTION FOR SALE

After years in the PISG, plus researching, writing and lecturing about, and traveling to my beloved Pitcairn Islands, I find that I must downsize, and none of my family is as passionate about the island as I have been. So, I must sadly find a new home for my Pitcairn Islands stamp collection. It is complete up to 2009 in 12 beautiful Scott Specialty Albums with dust covers, plus several stock books of duplicates and numerous stamps. The collection is extensive, and includes all single



mint stamps, plus 167 blocks of four, 7 blocks of nine, 16 blocks of six, 151 first day covers, three Forerunners, SG #9s and 20s (catalogue over \$300), over 20 sheets, strips, gutter pairs, etc. There are also many errors, including numerous watermark inverted, several blocks with errors, over 100 cancelled stamps (hard to get), many cacheted covers, also stamps from other countries celebrating Bligh and the HMAV Bounty.

GARNER SCOTT ODELL
3338 East Menlo Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710
 email: garnerodell@gmail.com



Member Profile

JEAN ANN CAPOZZI

I have been collecting Pitcairn since the mid-1960s. I had bought a small album with a packet of stamps for my daughter for Christmas. After a while, as she did not show any interest in the stamps, I started putting them in the album.

I knew just how to do the hinging as I had collected stamps in the 1930s as a member of “Captain Tim’s Stamp Club” which was on the radio. I wish I still had the album, but I still do have my membership pin.

One day I casually said to my son, “What country would you like me to collect?” and right away, he said “Pitcairn.” So I went down to the Downtown Stamp Store in Newark, New Jersey, and bought some Pitcairn stamps.

Some years later, in 1986, one of the men who used to frequent the store turned out to be Tom Silver, who was active in the Pitcairn Islands Study Group, and even served as president. He told me about the *Pitcairn Log*, and I promptly joined the study group. The highlight of my membership, so far, was meeting Tom and Betty Christian and their daughters in



JEAN ANN CAPOZZI

Indianapolis in 1990. I am fortunate enough to have a small summer cottage at Boothbay Harbor, Maine, so I was able to see the *Bounty* replica several times when it was in for repairs before its tragic demise. I look at the monthly *Miscellany* from Pitcairn, and do hope that the *Pitcairn Log* lasts for my lifetime.

Here are website addresses for Pitcairn Islanders who have agreed to being listed!

Len and Dave Brown

<http://www.pitcairn.pn/~brownsproducts/>

Andy Christian

<http://www.andrew.christian.pn>

Dennis Christian

<http://www.pitcairn.pn/~dennisirmaproducts/>

Mike and Brenda Christian

<http://www.christian.pn/>

Heather Menzies and Kerry Young

<http://www.young.pn>

Jay and Carol Warren

<http://www.bountycrafts.pn/>

Meralda Warren

<http://www.meraldaonpitcairn.com/>

Mike Warren

<http://www.onlinepitcairn.com/>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

In looking at the covers in the July-September 2019 issue of the *Log*, it would seem to me they were printed and delivered to the Pitcairn post office for stamps and cancellation and then forwarded to Norfolk.

From the picture, the stamps were placed on the covers and then hand cancelled. This would not have done any damage to the covers as raised in the article in the October-December 2018 *Log*.

Hope this answers the question and I would like to hear from any other members with their ideas.

Ken Weber

Her Last Voyage

By Steve Pendleton

If you get to know folks who love Pitcairn, you realize that sometimes it's almost an obsession. This may be especially true of those who have blood ties to the island. It's the ancestral home, and sometimes the desire to return can be the penultimate act of a lifetime.

Maybe that's what drove Pamila King to visit Pitcairn in August 2018. Pamila's mother was Miriam Rosena Warren, who had been born on the island. She was Reynold Warren's sister. Miriam had left Pitcairn back in 1930. She moved to New Zealand, and later married Matthew King. Pamila was born in January 23, 1943 in Rotarua.

Pamila seems to have had a very varied life. She never married, and had been in a convent for awhile. She later lived in China where she taught, and had visited Turkey and India. She moved around a lot. Her last job seems to have been in a beauty salon.

When Reynold passed away in 2017, Pamila seems to have not been in the best of health. In any event

she decided to come to Pitcairn for the unveiling of Reynold's monument. Pamila was able to book passage on the *Claymore II* and she stayed on Pitcairn for 17 days.

Pamila had a cabin on *Claymore II* to return to New Zealand. Somewhere on the voyage she passed away in her cabin. One of the stewards discovered the death when he tried to waken her in the morning.

When the ship returned to New Zealand the police investigated. No evidence of foul play was detected, and the body was cremated. The ashes were interred in a memorial wall. A photo was taken of Pamila and Nola standing next to Reynold's tombstone. I think he would have been happy (and maybe a bit amazed) that two ladies would have taken the care that they obviously did, to honor his memory. And that includes the honor the community showed him when they turned out *en masse* for the unveiling of the stone.

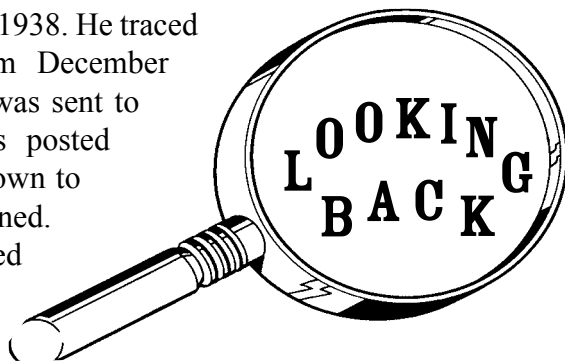
Radio covers of 1938 discussed in Log article

In the June 1975 issue of the *Pitcairn Log*, Dr. Arthur A. Delaney wrote about the Pitcairn radio covers of 1938. He traced early letter-writing from December 29, 1883 when a letter was sent to Dublin, Ireland. Covers posted prior to that date are known to exist, however, he explained. Dr. Delaney discussed how the so-called "radio covers" came about in 1938, noting that Alan Eurich, an amateur radio operator on board the schooner *Yankee* visited Pitcairn in 1937.

Eurich returned from his visit appalled by the sad state of Pitcairn's neglected and primitive radio, and wrote an article which was published in *QSL*, a magazine for radio hobbyists. That article

stimulated a lot of interest, and Lewis S. Bellem Jr. and Granville P. Lindley of Rhode Island resolved to solve the problem. The story of how they brought more modern radio equipment to the island, and creation of the 1938 radio cover makes for very interesting reading.

Also, Ernest C. Spain wrote about the visit of the schooner *William Taylor* to Pitcairn in November 1923, and Marvin A. Cohen discussed the passing of Hyacinth May Clark on the island in March 1975. She was the wife of Roy Clark, known to philatelists throughout the world. Secretary Marne L. Groff noted the study group was growing "by leaps and bounds," with 213 current members.





New Issues



Information provided by the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau

ECHINODERMS

The Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau issued a set of four stamps on October 23, 2019 depicting echinoderms. These include starfish, brittle stars, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, sand dollars and crinoids. They are one of the most diverse groups of marine invertebrates and play important ecological roles from the shore environment to the deeper seas.

The 20¢ value depicts the Slate Pencil Urchin, *Heterocentrotus mamillatus*. This species is a large sea urchin, with some specimens reaching over 8 cm in diameter, with spikes up to 10 cm. Most specimens are bright red, but brown and purple colorations are also seen. The spines may have a different color from the body. Spines generally have a white ring at their stem and have alternating light and dark rings. Surprisingly, at night, the red spines turn into a chalky pink. This species can be found throughout the tropical waters of the Indo-Pacific region (from the east coast of Africa to the Pacific archipelagos). It is

found in reefs in depths from eight to 25 meters. Sea urchins are primarily marine grazers and tend to eat the algae in closest proximity to them. *H. mamillatus* predominantly feeds on encrusting coralline algae. The main predator is fish although its thick, rounded magnesium calcite spines allows it to bore into hard substrates and defend itself against predators, wave drag, and pressure.

The \$1.00 value shows the Keeled Heart Urchin, *Brissonia latecarinatus*. This sea urchin is found around tropical to mid-latitude countries, mainly in the Indo-Pacific, Atlantic, and Mediterranean, in shallow water sands to shell gravels at depths of 1 to 45

meters. It belongs to the family *Brissidae* and is identifiable because of the star visible on the armor casing which is covered with spines. They feed on plants and small invertebrates found between sand particles. Fertilization is external and brooding is common.

The \$3 stamp depicts Cuming's Sea Star, *Neoferdina cumingi*, which is native to the tropical Indo-Pacific region. This starfish has a wide variety of color forms and is typically symmetrically patterned with distinctive spots and the tip of each arm curling upwards. Although the feeding habits of this starfish have not been studied, it is part of the order *Valvatida*, and starfish in this order typically evert their stomach to engulf and digest their food before retracting the stomach back into the disc.

Like other starfish, this species is likely to be able to reproduce asexually after splitting apart. Some



ECHINODERMS COLLECTOR NOTES

Designer:	Donna McKenna, Wellington, N.Z.
Printer:	Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, N.Z.
Process:	Offset Litho
Stamp Size:	50mm x 35.71mm horizontal
Format:	Two vertical panes of 12 stamps
Perforation:	Not provided
Denominations:	\$1.80, \$2.10 and \$3.40
Paper:	Tullis Russell 106gsm. yellow green phosphor gummed stamp paper
Period of Sale:	October 23, 2019 for two years

members of *Valvatida* are hermaphrodites and others have separate sexes. The larvae are planktonic and drift with the currents for about four weeks finding shallow water areas in which to settle, often at a considerable distance from their origins.

The \$4.60 stamp depicts the Brittle Star, *Macrophiothrix demessa*. Closely related to starfish, they are found in the Indo-Pacific, Malaysia and Pitcairn regions and live in reef communities, where they hide under rocks and even within other living organisms. They crawl across the sea floor using their flexible arms for locomotion. They have five long, slender, whip-like arms which may reach up to 60 cm (24 inches) in length on the largest specimens.

Also known as serpent stars, *M. demessa* is one

of over 2,000 species of brittle stars alive today with more than 1,200 of these species found in deep waters, greater than 200 meters deep. Their central disk contains all of the internal organs of digestion and reproduction and the underside contains the mouth, which has five toothed jaws formed from skeletal plates. Brittle stars are generally scavengers with small organic particles moved into the mouth by the tube feet. They may also prey on small crustaceans or worms. They generally sexually mature in two to three years, become full grown in three to four years, and live up to five years. *M. demessa* can readily regenerate lost arms or arm segments and often use this ability to escape predators.

CHRISTMAS 2019 ANGELS OVER PITCAIRN

The theme for this year's Christmas stamps is angels. Their role includes protecting and guiding human beings, and in fine art, angels are usually depicted as having the shape of human beings of extraordinary beauty. The title for the stamp issue is "Angels over Pitcairn."

The three angels play an important part in the beliefs of many of the

islanders and provide a relevant link to Christmas in what is one of the remotest places to celebrate this time of peace and fellowship. Date of release and particulars about the stamps was not available when this issue of the *Log* went to press.



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 PO Box 27404, Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand
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Secretary's Report

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



NEW MEMBERS*

#1672 Jacqui Chapman, New Zealand

ADDRESS CHANGES*

None this quarter

RESIGNED

None this quarter

NECROLOGY

None this quarter

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Membership last quarter: **162**
New Members during the quarter: **1**
Renewals during the quarter: **27**
Loss (Resignations): **0**
Loss: (Deaths): **0**
Loss: (Non-renewals): **0**

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

190

NOTE TO OUR CANADIAN MEMBERS

Our Canadian Representative is too ill to continue his PISG service. We are very grateful for his service and we are trying to find another person to take his place. In the meantime, we are continuing your memberships. If you can, please send your 2019-20 dues via PayPal or Western Union (or similar) money order (US\$30). Thank you for your patience and we apologize for this inconvenience.

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

Electronic mail addresses of our membership

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

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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. (4-20)

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. (4-20)

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. (4-20)

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. (4-20)

BPC 2012 5-DISC SET: The proceedings of Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012 are now available for pur-

chase. 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 CD, containing a table of contents, the official program, PowerPoint presentations and the written text of most talks, is accessible only on a computer. Prices for the 5-disc set, including postage, are as follows: US\$20 to USA, US\$26 to Canada & 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. (4-20)

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 (4-20)

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. (4-19)

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. (4-20)

We need YOU to recruit a new member for PISG, and to do it today!



Announcing a major new book from PISG!
Pitcairn Islands Postal History And Stamps
1790-2015

A new PISG publication by Dr. Vernon N. Kisling, Jr. covers Pitcairn letters 1790-1921, the New Zealand Postal Concession 1921-1926, the New Zealand Postal Agency, 1927-1940, and the Pitcairn Islands Post Office from 1940 to date. The stamps of 1940-2015 are covered in detail in a revised specialized catalogue with color images of all stamps 1940-1990.

This book, published in the 8.5 x 11 inch format on glossy paper, is absolutely necessary for all Pitcairn enthusiasts! Be sure to order your copy today as the softcover book has been printed in a very limited quantity.

You can order and pay for the book by check or through PayPal.
Checks should be made payable to the "Pitcairn Islands Study Group."

FOR ORDERS TO U.S. ADDRESSES

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