

# PITCAIRN ISLANDS STUDY GROUP

# PITCAIRN LOG

Vol. 43, No. 3

July - September 2016

Whole No. 172



*Thursday October Christian,  
Son of Fletcher Christian,  
Born on Pitcairn Island, on a Thursday in October, A.D. 1790.*

*Tracing the Fletcher Christian heritage on Pitcairn*

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# PITCAIRN LOG

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Visit us on the web at

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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 those of the authors and not necessarily those of PISG. Advertising is available at \$50 per full page, \$25 per half page, and \$15 per quarter page, per issue. Contact the Publications Editor for additional information.



# President's Message

By Dr. Vernon N. Kisling Jr.



**Membership Dues Renewal.** Once again it is time to renew our dues. Enclosed with this issue of the *Pitcairn Log* is the 2016 dues renewal form, which must be submitted before **SEPTEMBER 1** in order to receive the journal without interruption. I would also like our LIFE MEMBERS to return the form with your current contact information (even if it is the same as last year), or you can email Barbara Kuchau with this information (either way, we need to hear from you). Please note the special low cost for receiving the *Pitcairn Log* online. This is a really good alternative for our international members. We are in much better financial shape than we have been in the recent past. This is due to the generosity of our Contributing Members -- a great big **THANK YOU** to each of you. I encourage all members to contribute whatever you can above the regular dues so that we may continue to remain financially stable without having to raise the cost of our regular dues (something we have not done for many years). Everyone's support in keeping PISG alive and well is greatly appreciated.

**NY2016 World Stamp Show – PISG Meetings.** New York, May 28 – June 4. PISG will be sharing a table with the Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group (FIPSG) and the St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society (SHATPS) at this international stamp show. If you attend, please stop by and volunteer, or just visit and relax. It has also been confirmed that the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau will be attending the show. PISG will have a Board meeting (open to the membership) on Sunday, May 29, from 1 p.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. This will be followed by a PISG membership meeting (open to the public) on Sunday, May 29, from 3 to 5 p.m. There will be two presentations: "Establishing a British Colonial Post Office – Pitcairn Island 1904-1940" (my own), and "Picturing Pitcairn Island – A Retrospective View" (Donald Maxton). Consult the show program for the meeting room numbers. I will provide a review of both meetings in a future *Pitcairn Log*. These international shows can only be

held in the same country every 10 years. The next one will be in 2026 at Boston (which our very own Mark Butterline is helping to organize).

**PISG Website.** We now have a new webmaster: Barbara Kuchau. Barbara is an enthusiastic and dedicated student of all things Pitcairn and is using these interests to revise our PISG website ([www.pisg.net](http://www.pisg.net)). Our web presence is important these days, so a big thank you to Barbara for taking on this responsibility. Take a look and send your comments and suggestions for web content to Barbara. She is very interested in hearing your ideas.

**PISG Activities and Services - Publications.** These will be topics for discussion at our PISG Board meeting at NY2016. If you have ideas in this regard that you would like to share, please let me (or any of the Officers or Board members) know. PISG has had several publications in the past, but they are now sold out. We cannot afford to re-publish large print runs of these publications because we do not sell enough to recover our costs. However, we may now have a print on demand service, whereby we print only enough copies to fill our orders. Therefore, we may be revising and updating some of our past publications. We will know more about this possibility later in the year.

**Pitcairn Islands Study Center** at Pacific Union College has been renovated and enlarged, as many of you probably know. It has now been announced that the center will be named in honor of Herbert Ford. A very great, and well deserved, honor. Congratulations Herb, and thank you for the many years of hard work you have devoted to making this great legacy to Pitcairn Island history and knowledge. The center's website is [www.pitcairnstudycenter.org](http://www.pitcairnstudycenter.org).

## Deadlines for the Log:

January issue: November 1

April issue: February 1

July issue: May 1

October issue: August 1

# *How the Panama Canal Zone and Marconi changed the lives of Pitcairners*

By Julius Grigore, Jr.

**D**uring the course of civilization there have occurred events that irrevocably change the course of a society -- for better or for worse. Three such events occurred within the span of seven years, between 1914 and 1921, that forever improved the lives of the Pitcairn islanders.

British merchant ship captain beside him, whose ship was enroute to New Zealand, to deliver a letter addressed to "The Christians of Pitcairn Island."

The consequence of Postmaster Bliss's request was that the Cristobal Post Office became the unofficial



*Gerald Bliss with Emily McCoy when she was in the Kellogg Sanitorium in Miami. The photograph was taken on June 19, 1938.*

The opening of the Panama Canal Zone to world commerce during August 1914 was the first of three climatic events between 1914 and 1928 that radically upgraded the standard of living for Pitcairn islanders.

The opening of the Panama Canal Zone allowed ships to transit from either the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in less than 10 hours, and re-directed shipping lanes from the major ports of Northern Europe and North America to the South Pacific and the Orient via the Panama Canal.

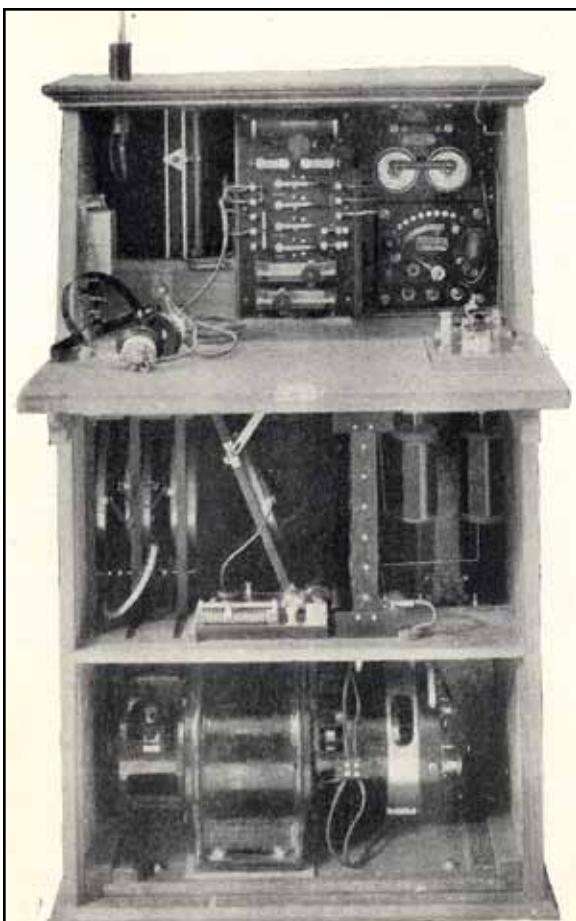
Opening of Pitcairn Island to postal communications with the world began, in front of the Stranger's Club, Cristobal, Panama Canal Zone, circa 1920, when Postmaster Gerald D. Bliss asked the

mail collection station for the Pitcairners and that the Bliss family and many Canal Zonians became involved providing long term charitable and purchasing support for the Pitcairners with the assistance of American and British merchant ships detouring to Pitcairn Island for deliveries and pick-ups.

It was the Bliss family that arranged for the purchase and delivery of the first cooking stove to the Pitcairners, as well as many shipments of clothing and kerosene. Through the years, before Bliss's retirement from the Canal Zone Postal Service in 1934, he had accumulated nearly 300 requests from the Pitcairners. The most prolific writer to the Bliss family was Mrs. Ada McCoy Christian.

The Bliss family benevolence evolved into the sec-

ond climatic event in the lives of the Pitcairners as their frequency of correspondence, through the American Cristobal Post Office, finally influenced the British Government to open Pitcairn Island to official postal correspondence with the world community in the late 1930s.



***The Marconi Wireless Transmitter.  
A Marconi half watt transmitter similar to  
this was sent to Pitcairn Island.***

On April 5, 2002, the Pitcairn Island government honored Postmaster Gerald D. Bliss by placing his portrait on a five-cent Pitcairn Island stamp. While I had been researching Bliss's involvement with the Pitcairners for several years, it was Herbert Ford, director of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, who, in 2001, suggested to Mr. Leon Salt, then Commissioner for the Pitcairn Islands, that Postmaster Gerald D. Bliss be memorialized on a Pitcairn Island stamp.

Before the existence of the Panama Canal, ships had to sail around Cape Horn of South America or



***Mabelle Anna Bliss, wife of  
Postmaster Gerald D. Bliss.***

the Cape of Good Hope of Africa to reach Australia and New Zealand. This extended their voyages by many weeks.

Once merchant ships could enter and exit the Pacific Ocean via the Panama Canal it placed them within acceptable sailing distance of the previously isolated Pitcairn Island.

But, because World War I restricted merchant shipping in the South Pacific, improvement for the Pitcairners was incremental until early 1920, when the second climatic event occurred.

In the 1920s it was Guglielmo Marconi's generous gift of wireless receiving and transmitting equipment that created the third climatic event in the lives of the Pitcairners. After the installation and use of Marconi's equipment, the Pitcairners could never regress to being as they were before.

The consequence of Marconi's gift was that it opened the loneliest island in the vast Pacific Ocean to communications with passing ships and the world beyond through telegraphy.

On September 5, 1995, the Pitcairn Island Government showed appreciation for Marconi's generous gift by issuing a 20-cent stamp with his portrait. It also honored Marconi's 100th anniversary of his invention of communication by wireless transmittal.

# *Early Pitcairn letter from Jemima Young surfaces*

By Denys McCoy

A number of years ago, I was fortunate to acquire Art Everett's collection of Pitcairn Island material. I think the letter shown here was the gem of his award-winning forerunner exhibit. As one can see, it is a year older than the Riswald 1849 cover from the same correspondence which mentions Captain Worth and the ship *Calypso*. There is more information on this in the *Pitcairn Log*, Vol. 20, No. 2, 1993. Here is a transcription of the letter, which is illustrated here as well. Grammar, spelling and punctuation is as in the original letter.

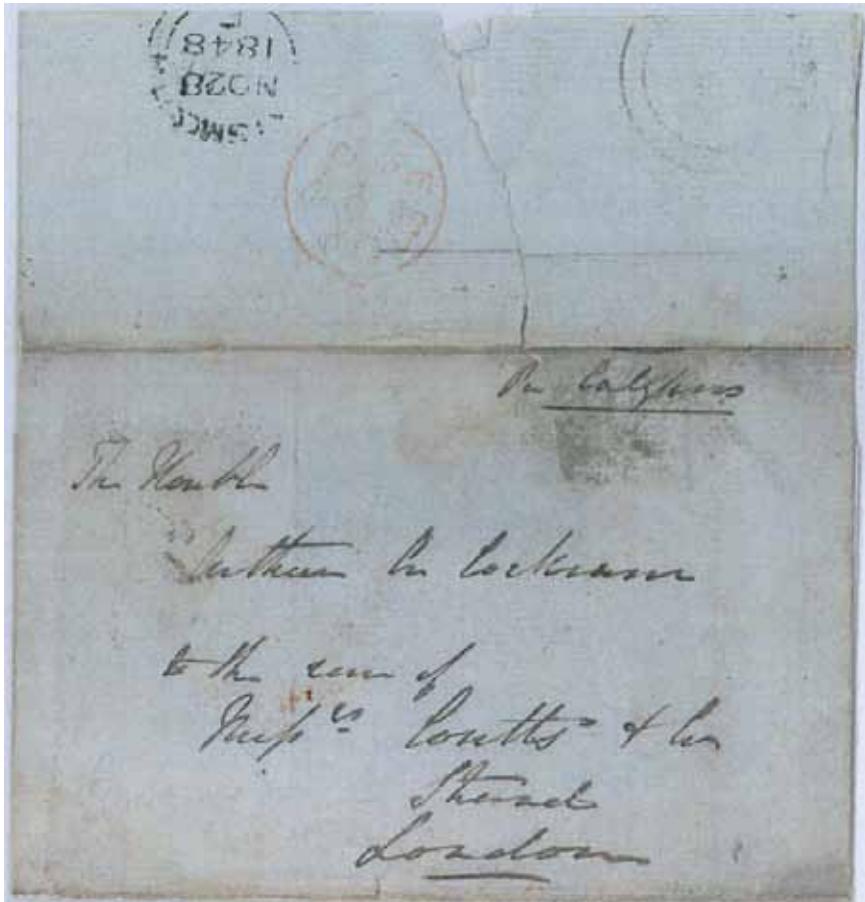
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Pitcairn Island  
March 10, 1848

Sir, In compliance with your request, I send you these few lines, to acquaint you with our welfare; we are all thank God, doing well at present, the inhabitants are all well, and in good health, with the exception of one, or two, cases of trifling illnesses. The young man who was wounded when you were here, has, thanks to Almighty goodness, recovered his health, but not the use of that limb, and is now only able to go about on crutches, and very little hope is entertained of his ever recovering the use of that limb, perfectly again.

The other little boy who was sick when you were here, is well again, and seems likely to do well. We have had but one death since you left us, and that a young man who was wounded in the foot by a piece of wood, which brought on the lock jaw, and although his death was deeply regretted by all, yet we have a good hope that he is now in heaven singing the songs of the redeemed.

We are all greatly desiring to see a British ship of war, and although it is now twelve months since you left us, we are frequently speaking of you, and the other gentleman who was on shore with you, and I hope, we may have the pleasure of seeing you again; and though it may not be our lot to see each other again in this world, yet you may be sure that I was always remember one, who was so kind to me, and will always think of you as an absent friend. Farewell, kind sir, a long farewell; time and circumstances has placed us so far apart, that it is not likely we should ever see each other's face again in this world,



**This is a very early Pitcairn cover dated 1848, from Jemima Young on the island.**

yet I do sincerely hope, that we, and all those connected with us, may meet hereafter in a better. Remember me to your sister; and tell them if you have any, that I should like very much to see them, give them my best wishes and tell that that I do hope to see them in Heaven.

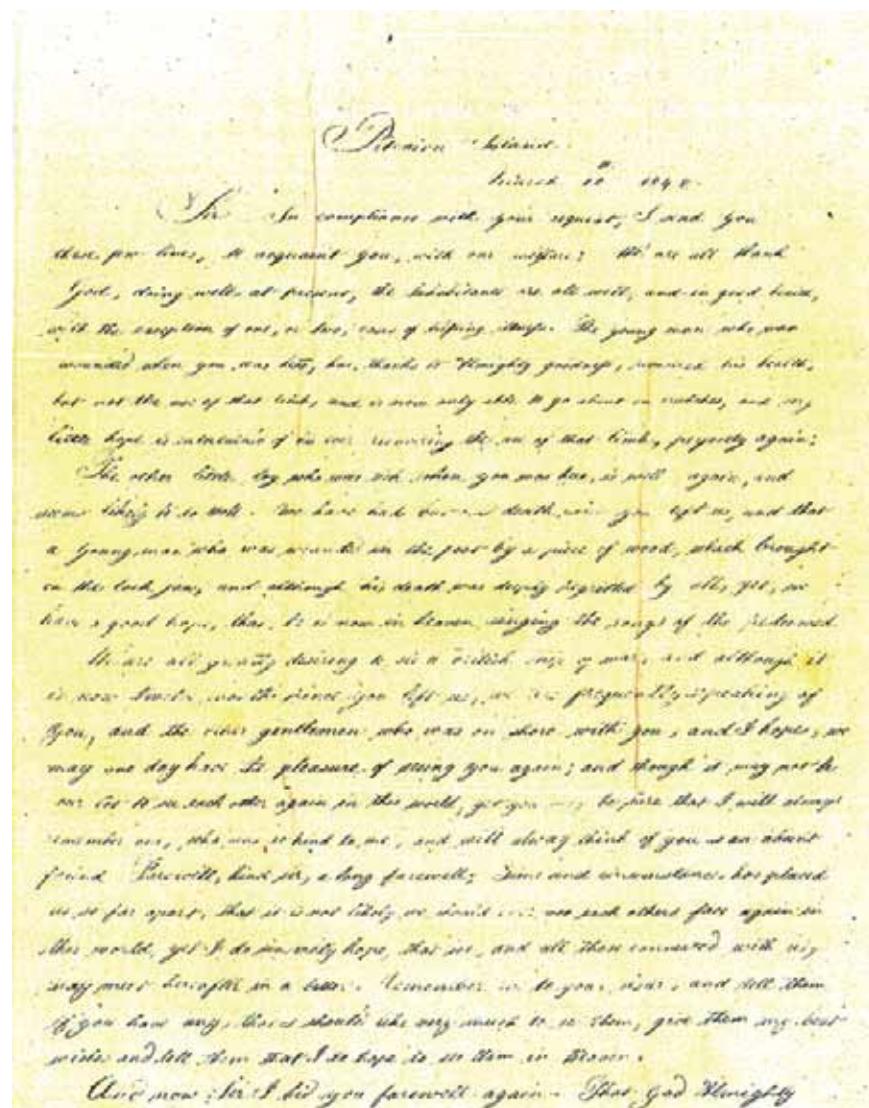
And now Sir I bid you farewell again. That God Almighty may help and protect you, from all dangers, and bring you and your heaven at last is the sincere wish of

Your friend  
And well wisher  
Jemima Young

----

Jemima Young was born on Pitcairn on October 31, 1828 to George Young and Hannah Adams. She died at age 39 on Norfolk Island on May 5, 1868. In 1849, when Captain Wood of the *Pandora* arrived bringing Buffett home, Nobbs asked for volunteers among the young people to help the captain up the cliff to the town. Jemima readily volunteered, and was described by Wood as, "a stout, good natured girl, who seized my arm and almost carried me up without the aid of my feet, and this with no apparent effort on her part." She was among the women who invited Admiral Moresby to visit Pitcairn in 1851. When he arrived, according to Moresby, "she was a fine girl, very stout, not pretty, but with an amiable face. She made me her property because, before coming here, I had written her a note. Then she introduced me to all the girls."

The above reference came from "The Peerage, a genealogical survey of the peerage of Britain as well as the royal families of Europe." (Internet site: thepeerage.com).



## PITCAIRN TRIVIA

By Barbara Kuchau

1. Pitcairn was occupied long before Fletcher Christian and his group arrived. From where did the previous residents arrive?
2. What artifacts were left by these people?
3. Where is the only remaining statue found on Pitcairn located?

*If you're stumped,  
find the answers on page 12!*

# Documenting, Researching and Conserving Pitcairn's material culture

By Janelle Blucher

The Pacific Development and Conservation Trust of New Zealand has confirmed their most generous financial support for our project titled "Documenting, Researching and Conserving Pitcairn Island's Material Culture."

The Pacific Development and Conservation Trust (PDCT) was established by Trust Deed by the New Zealand Government on May 23, 1989. The money for the Trust was received from the French Government in recognition of events surrounding the destruction of the *Rainbow Warrior* vessel in 1985. Some might recall Norfolk Island's connection to this incident with the vessel *Ouvea* arriving at Norfolk Island after smuggling explosives and other gear into New Zealand. Thirty years has passed since the explosion of the Greenpeace vessel that tragically killed photographer Fernando Pereira. Only recently the French secret-service agent who led the attack made a public apology for his actions.

We at the Norfolk Island Museum are extremely pleased and excited to be provided with the financial resource to pursue this project. The aim of our project is to locate, document and provide conservation advice on Pitcairn Island's material culture that is held with the communities on Norfolk Island and New Zealand.

The permanent population on Pitcairn Island has been decreasing rapidly in recent times with the islanders migrating mainly to New Zealand. The cultural material is leaving the island along with the people putting the provenance of the material at risk and creating potential for these objects to be lost.

This is a two stage project. Stage 1 is to identify and document Pitcairn Island's cultural material located in New Zealand and Norfolk Island while stage 2 will focus on Pitcairn itself. This initial successful grant is to facilitate stage 1.



*Among items on display in the Norfolk Island Museum is this kettle from the Bounty.*

The need for this project has been identified through feedback from Norfolk islanders visiting Pitcairn Island, and also by our relationship with the Pitcairn Island Museum, which has little resources to undertake this type of project.

This project is fundamental to the protection of Pitcairn Island's material culture. No previous projects have provided for such a holistic approach to ensure material is identified and documented. This project also explicitly acknowledges that there is a distinct Pitcairner culture created through the historical circumstances of its 18th century establishment by Polynesian and European forebears: its development on Pitcairn and later Norfolk Island. Today, these objects are an important part of this heritage.

Documentation of this material and associated knowledge about its cultural contexts, uses and significance will form a focus for future community interest in its material and cultural heritage, as well as provide a body of material for researchers wherever they may reside, through physical and digital

access. And what a valuable gift this will be to the future generations of Pitcairn and Norfolk islanders.



*This cannon from the Bounty is also on display at the Norfolk Island Museum.*

Individuals will be given the opportunity to tell their stories about life on Pitcairn Island. They will have the opportunity to have these stories recorded for themselves and their families. Participants can showcase their material culture and connections to Pitcairn Island. Basic conservation advice will be provided to ensure the objects remain in good condition, objects will be photographed and their history recorded. This information will form a comprehensive database. The Norfolk Island Museum will be the repository and access point of this data base of material, information and research enabling

## PISG auction well received

The PISG donation auction which was finalized earlier this year netted \$479.94 in profit. All of the lots which were sold were donated by members to help ease the financial situation we were facing at the time.

A total of eight bidders took part in the auction, and seven were successful. Several lots had multiple bids, with a number drawing the interest of three or four bidders.

Another auction is planned for this fall, so watch the October *Log* for the bid sheet. Now is the time to send items for the auction. Remember that you receive the net bid amount minus 10 percent for the society, and you get to set the reserve amount. Please send lots to the editor.

full and direct access to the community.

The Pitcairn and Norfolk Island culture is intrinsically interwoven; this project is imperative to protect our shared heritage and culture. It also offers a fantastic opportunity to develop research, learning and curatorial outcomes. We'll keep you posted. In the meantime please contact us at the Norfolk Island Museum -- your knowledge and ideas are important!

*Used with permission from the Norfolk Island Museum website: [http://norfolkislandmuseum.blogspot.com/2015\\_10\\_01\\_archive.html](http://norfolkislandmuseum.blogspot.com/2015_10_01_archive.html)*

## Irma Christian has died on Pitcairn Island

Just as this issue of the *Log* was going to print, we learned of the passing of Irma Doreen Warren Christian. She was born on Pitcairn Island on June 3, 1927, the daughter of Philip Anderson Calvert Warren and Emily Mabel Christian. She married Benjamin Norman Christian, son of Thornton Gilbert Christian and Marian Edith Young.

Irma was one of Pitcairn's ham radio operators. In 1994 she was elected the first female elder in the Pitcairn Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was also the "ship recorder" who wrote the *Pitcairn Miscellany's* Shipping Report. Our condolences to her family.

### Bounty Anchor Award Winners

*In 2001, the Board of Directors of the Pitcairn Islands Study Group (PISG) created an award designed to recognize and applaud outstanding service to the study group. The award is not necessarily made annually. Following is a list of award winners to date.*

**Mr. Bradley W. Brunsell, 2001**

**Mrs. Anne A. Hughes, 2002**

**Mr. Ralph Badagliacca, 2003**

**Miss Jennifer Toombs, 2004**

**Dr. Everett L. Parker, 2006**

**Mr. Cy Kitching, 2009**

**Mr. Bernie Reilander, 2011**

**Mr. Herbert Ford, 2012**

**Mr. Paul Lareau, 2013**

**Mr. George Speirs, 2015**

## Enlarged Pitcairn Islands Study Center opens at Pacific Union College in California

**A** new and enlarged Pitcairn Islands Study Center that houses the world's largest collection of information about "The Bounty Saga" -- the famed 1789 mutiny on HMAV *Bounty* and its aftermath -- has opened on the campus of Pacific Union College, located in the San Francisco Bay Area of Northern California.



***A view of the new "Herbert Ford Pitcairn Islands Study Center," which opened at Pacific Union College in Northern California in April 2016.***

In mid-April, scores of people attended a brief ceremony of speeches and a ribbon-cutting, followed by a tour of the new information-giving facility, now renamed the "Herbert Ford Pitcairn Islands Study Center." The center is located in the college's Nelson Memorial Library.

Founded in 1977, the Study Center contains some 1,600 books relating to Captain William Bligh, his ship, the *Bounty*; and to Pitcairn and Norfolk islands, the two Pacific isles on which most of the descendants of the Bounty mutineers now live.

Also in the Study Center are some 25,000 pages of articles, monographs, theses, typescripts, cor-



***A view of some of the thousands of artifacts on display and available at the expanded Herbert Ford Pitcairn Islands Study Center at Pacific Union College in California.***

respondence and other papers relating to various aspects of the mutiny and its aftermath. The center also houses collections of Pitcairn and Norfolk philately; models; paintings, photographs and illustrations; audio-visual material; artifacts; and rare



***These hair pigtails, on display in the Herbert Ford Pitcairn Islands Study Center, are thought to be from seven of the Bounty mutineers and three of the Polynesian women who accompanied them from Tahiti to Pitcairn in 1789.***

***The handkerchief on which they are displayed belonged to Sarah McCoy, daughter of mutineer William McCoy.***

historical papers and objects.

According to the Study Center's director, PISG member Herbert Ford, the center's purpose is to provide accurate information about this historically significant British naval incident and its aftermath. "The world-wide telling, writing or filming of this

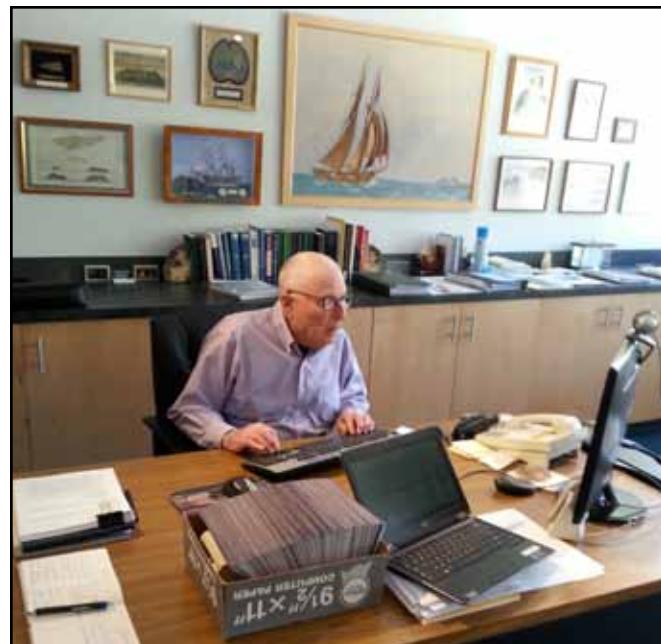


*A view of one of the HMAV Bounty models on display at the expanded center.*

famous sea story never seems to end," Ford said. "Every couple of months, somewhere in the world, a new book on some aspect of the *Bounty* saga is published, a major magazine article about it appears, or a new television documentary or motion picture on it is produced. The Study Center offers its vast store of *Bounty* saga information to all who wish to tell, write or film the story in an accurate way."

Ford said the Study Center is located at Pacific Union College because of the school's long association with and concern for the people of Pitcairn Island. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, young Pitcairn islanders were students at the college's campus in Healdsburg, California. Later in the 1900s, one of the Seventh-day Adventist missionary teachers who served on Pitcairn Island became the dean of women at Pacific

Union College, and through decades of the recent 1900s, the college maintained weekly radio contact with Pitcairn that sometimes included providing needed supplies and emergency help.



*A "rare" view of the man for whom the Pitcairn Islands Study Center has been named, Director Herbert Ford, shown at work in his office.*

More recently, through the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, funds have been provided to provide wind generators for the island, to help build an all-weather paving of Pitcairn's "Hill of Difficulty," and to pay for emergency medical care.



*Another view of the recent expansion and renovations at the Herbert Ford Pitcairn Islands Study Center.*

# Tracing the Fletcher Christian heritage

By Steve Pendleton  
Vice President

The Christian family roots lie in the beautiful lake district of northern England. The area is called Cumbria, and is depicted on Norfolk Island Scott #454. Their farmstead, Moreland Close, lies near the town of Cockermouth. It is shown on Pitcairn #335, released in 1990.

Christian himself (or an actor portraying him) is shown on a number of stamps. They can be divided into several classifications: Christian alone, Christian and others during the mutiny, and Christian alone and with others at Pitcairn.

One of the nicest stamps shows Christian in full. It's Pitcairn #146, a part of the American Bicentennial set of 1976. Other portraits are seen on Norfolk #786, released in 2000, and Tonga #595. The mutiny as a whole, including a stamp showing Fletcher, is found on a 12-stamp miniature sheet (#466) from Niuafoou. Bligh and Christian are shown on Aitutaki #433.

After Bligh was awakened at the beginning of

the mutiny, he was brought on deck. There, he and Christian became involved in their famous argument. This scene was depicted on Pitcairn #321c. It was also shown on a 2014 \$1.00 Pitcairn stamp.

The 1940 first Pitcairn definitive stamps are a gold mine for Christian fans. As well, they were a source of some debate in Great Britain. The problem arose from having the portraits of a mutineer and the British monarch on the same stamps. However, the stamps were released as designed.

Scott #2 shows Christian and members of his crew on board the HMAV *Bounty* as they gazed on their future refuge, Pitcairn Island. Scott #6 has a portrait of Christian alone with a more distant view of the island. Scott #8 also has a view of Christian and crew. This time, however, a closeup view of the Pitcairn coastline is provided.

It should probably come as no surprise to learn that Fletcher

Christian has appeared on the stamps of several countries. That is not only a tribute to his legendary



*Fletcher Christian, as depicted on a 1976 stamp.*

## 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/~dennisirmapproducts/>

### Mike and Brenda Christian

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

### Heather Menzies and Kerry Young

<http://www.young.pn>

### Jay and Carol Warren

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

### Meralda Warren

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

### Mike Warren

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

## PITCAIRN TRIVIA ANSWERS

### By Barbara Kuchau

1. The earliest residents on Pitcairn were most likely from Mangareva, located 490 km. to the northwest.
2. Artifacts left behind by the earlier settlers were roughly hewn stone gods still guarding sacred sites. Carved in the cliff faces were representations of animals and men; burial sites yielding human skeletons; and there were earth ovens, stone adzes, gouges and other artifacts of Polynesian workmanship.
3. The only surviving piece of sculpture resides in Dunedin's Otago Museum in New Zealand.  
P.S.: My thanks to *Dem Tull* for the information used in the trivia.

status as the leader of a band of mutineers (whether that action was justified or not). It is also due to his position as the leader (or founder if you will) of a new community of men and women in the wildest Pacific.

Possibly more of a surprise is that a number of his descendants have also appeared on stamps and postal stationery. These have been postal emissions of Norfolk Island and Pitcairn.



*Fletcher Christian and  
shipmates on the First  
Definitive Issue of Pitcairn.*

It is generally accepted that just about every person who claims descent from a mutineer probably shares some of Fletcher Christian's blood. However, since I have a lot of problems tracing the *Bounty* genealogies, in this article I have limited the list to those with the Christian surname. Other Pitcairners and Norfolk Pitcairners, such as Simon Young, Moses Young, James Russel McCoy, Rosalind Amelia Young or Lily Warren, we leave for another time.

Hopefully, we will not be accused of sexism. That is, considering only Fletcher Christian and not the female side of the equation. So we must also mention the Tahitian maiden who accompanied Christian on his exile. Her name was Maimiti, also known as Isabella or Mainmast. She was said to be very tall, of the Tahitian nobility, and somewhat older than Fletcher.

We do not know when she was born on Tahiti (probably around 1760). On Pitcairn she bore Fletcher three children. She died on Pitcairn on September 16, 1841. Unfortunately, no stamp bearing her portrait has been issued. However, a Norfolk stamp likely shows her. This is Scott #453, which is labeled "Mutineers."

As mutiny aficionados know, the story has been told (as of the present) no less than five times on film. One of them, the wildly popular but also inaccurate "Mutiny on the Bounty" of 1935, won the Oscar for Best Picture. Christian portrayers have

been featured on stamps of Tonga and Pitcairn.

Three countries, Tonga, French Polynesia and Pitcairn, have issued stamps about the *Bounty* films. Two have depictions of Christian. Tonga was the first, with an issue of five stamps in a strip. This is Scott #607. All the scenes are in black and white, and originate in the 1935 classic film. One stamp has a view of Clark Gable, while another shows Gable as Christian, holding a sword to Captain Bligh's body.

In 2014, Pitcairn released a five stamp set (Scott #781-5) for Christian's 225th birthday. It features stills of the five actors who have portrayed him; Australian Wilton Power (1916) and the infamous Errol Flynn (1933), Clark Gable (1935), the foppish Marlon Brando (1962), and probably the most honest one, Mel Gibson (1984).



*Fletcher Christian, a mutineer, with King George VI on the First Definitive Issue.*

I believe these direct descendants of Christian have been honored on stamps: Thursday October Christian, Friday October Christian (yes, I know he didn't actually exist), Parkin Christian and Ben Christian. There are also two Christians on postal stationery: Charles Allen Christian and George H.P. Christian.

It is known that Fletcher and Maimiti had three children before he was murdered. Two were boys: Charles and Thursday October. Daughter Mary never married. Thursday October was born in October 1790. As a young man he greeted some of the first sailors to rediscover the island. Thursday had six children, one of whom was also named Thursday October. The first Thursday died on Tahiti in 1831, during the first migration.

Thursday is shown on Norfolk Scott #496. He is also on another two stamps (Pitcairn Scott #226 and #399), but not with his name. Scott #226 shows the meeting of the islanders and Captain Folger of the *Topaz*. However, it doesn't note that Thursday was

one of the greeters.

Scott #399 shows Thursday, but it's labeled "Friday October Christian." Is this a mistake? Not really. Thursday was only 18 when he met this strange outsider. According to the story, he was told about the time change that occurred when crossing the Pacific from the west. He thereupon decided to change his name to Friday. (Later, of course, he changed it back.)

The name Thursday October Christian also appears on another Pitcairn stamp (Scott #106). However, this isn't a portrait, it's a house. Also, it may not be a reference to Fletcher's son.

For many years that house was considered the oldest one on the island. For years it was also the abode of the famous postmaster, Roy Clark. When I saw it in 2003 it had long been derelict. Shortly thereafter, it was torn down because it was termite-ridden and a danger to youngsters.

I asked islander Nola Warren which Thursday built the house. She was of the opinion that it was the grandson. In any event, that Thursday probably deserves a stamp. He was born in 1820 and lived until 1911. During that time, he was the island magistrate many times. He also sired 17 children.

In 2011, as a part of the Famous Pitcairners series, a four stamp strip (plus vignette) was issued by Pitcairn. This is Scott #722. The subject was Parkin Christian (his full name was Charles Parkin Christian). He was born on Pitcairn in 1883, and died in New Zealand in 1971.

Parkin was well-respected. He was the island magistrate 10 different years. He was also an elder in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was a world traveler, having been a cruise ship lecturer.

The latest Christian to be philatelically honored is Ben Christian. On June 24, 2015 a four stamp strip was issued in his memory. Again, it is part of the Pitcairn series of famous islanders.

Ben was born on the island in 1921. He was the son of F. Thornton Christian. Ben served as secretary of the Island Council from 1962 to 1986. During that time he was responsible for answering correspondence from people and research groups

around the world. When a visiting ship came to the island, he made a point of welcoming the captain.

In addition to his secretarial duties, he was also an Elder in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was married and had several children, one of whom was Dennis Christian, current island postmaster. In recognition of his service he was awarded the BEM in 1987. Ben died on Pitcairn in 1992.

There is one other Christian name on a postage stamp. That is Bradley Christian, adopted son of Randy Christian. Even at a young age, Bradley was a very good artist (he is currently a teenager). One of his watercolors is shown on Pitcairn #697.

Between 1983 and 1986, Norfolk Island issued nine different pieces of postal stationery, called "Pitcairners of Norfolk Island." These are not listed in Scott's or Gibbons, but are mentioned in the *Australasian Specialized Catalogue*. All of those pictured probably have Christian blood. However, only two of them carry that surname.

George H.P. Christian was a great-grandson of Fletcher. He was born on Pitcairn in 1853. He went to sea as a lad of 14, and spent some time aboard whaling ships. Much of his life was spent on the famous American whaling ship *Charles W. Morgan*. His later life was spent on Norfolk, where he died in 1940.

Charles Allen Christian was born in 1855. He spent most of his life on Norfolk, dying in 1910. He was one of the first to cut down and use the great Norfolk pine trees. These had been originally intended for use as masts aboard naval ships, but proved unsuitable for that purpose.

Logs were cut into slabs, then dressed for use in islander homes. Many of his descendants still operate sawmills using this tree. It is still a source for lumber for house building.

Considering the total of possible candidates who have been on stamps, I'd say it would be hard to find a family which has had more members pictured thus.

*My thanks to Herb Ford for personally delivering a copy of Lareau's Genealogy, and to Nola Warren on Pitcairn for her input.*



**Thursday October Christian, from an early lithograph.**

# WHEN WILL THE VANDALISM END?

**By Cy Kitching**  
*Of the United Kingdom*

I thought members would like to see the vandalism that was done to a package I received recently from Pitcairn. The box contained jars of Pitcairn honey. As you can see, beautiful high value stamps have been vandalized through the mails in the United Kingdom.

Such tragic occurrences are so often reported in various journals, and in the United States as well as the United Kingdom. The question is, when will it all end? Why do postal workers seem to have to damage the stamps?

----

*(Editor's Note: In addition to Cy's timely comments above, one might question why in the United States, mail to Pitcairn Island is often returned to the sender marked "undeliverable"? In the U.S., we are told it is best to mark the envelope or packet "Via New Zealand" below "Pitcairn Island." In numerous cases, the item is still returned as undeliverable. Trips to the local post office often make no difference. Your editor has a large envelope in his collection which was used to send the Log to Meralda Warren on Pitcairn two years ago. It was returned FOUR TIMES by the U.S. Post Office, which indicated there was no such place, despite the postal manual having a routing number to Pitcairn!)*

## *Wartime cover likely contrived*

In the last *Log*, in the "Looking Back" column, an unusual post-World War II cover was noted as having been described by Cy Kitching in the March-May 1991 issue. Cy reports now, a quarter century later, that new information was never forthcoming.

"Just to re-cap, FPO642 was with the Royal Air Force in Rome, Italy, from November 1944 to at least until April 1945," he wrote recently. "Several items of mail this period have surfaced in the past, even a couple of covers in Hebrew, to Tel Aviv. Otherwise, nothing new to report."

The cover likely was a contrived item. "Anyone who could help is probably a 'sky-rider' by now," he concluded.



*Packet from Pitcairn with honey to the U.K.*



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# New Issues

*Information provided by the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau*

## William Shakespeare and QEII honored by Pitcairn

The 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare was recognized with a set of Pitcairn stamps issued on March 9, 2016. Shakespeare was born on or about April 23, 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. The third child of John Shakespeare, a leather merchant, and Mary Arden, a local landed heiress, he had two older sis-

ters and three younger brothers. Scant records exist of William's childhood, and virtually none regarding his education. Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, from Shottery near Stratford, in 1582. He was 18 and she was 26 and pregnant. Their daughter, Susanna, was born in 1583 and two years later, twins Hamnet and Judith were born.



ters and three younger brothers. Scant records exist of William's childhood, and virtually none regarding his education. Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, from Shottery near Stratford, in 1582. He was 18 and she was 26 and pregnant. Their daughter, Susanna, was born in 1583 and two years later, twins Hamnet and Judith were born.

After the birth of the twins, there are seven years of Shakespeare's life where no records exist. Scholars call this period the "lost years," and there is wide speculation on what he was doing during this period. By 1592, there is evidence he earned a living

as an actor and a playwright in London and possibly had several plays produced. He became a managing partner in the Lord Chamberlain's Men, an acting company in London. The company proved popular, and records show that Shakespeare had works published and sold as popular literature. By 1597, 15 of the 37 plays written by Shakespeare were pub-

lished and by 1599 Shakespeare and his business partners built their own theater on the south bank of the Thames River, which they called the Globe.

It is believed that Shakespeare died on his birthday, April 23, 1616. Church records show he was interred at Trinity Church on April 25, 1616.

### HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II 90TH BIRTHDAY

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her 90th birthday this year with festivities throughout the United Kingdom and beyond. The Queen celebrates two birthdays each year -- her actual birthday is April 21 and her "official" birthday is celebrated on a Saturday in June. That fact is perhaps not commonly known, but is not unique to the Queen. In fact, King Edward VII was actually born on November 8, but his birthday was "officially" celebrated in May or June when the weather is more apt to cooperate for a Birthday Parade, known as Trooping the Colour.

In 2006, Queen Elizabeth celebrated her 80th birthday with a walkabout in the streets outside Windsor Castle to meet well-wishers.

#### SHAKESPEARE COLLECTOR NOTES

<b>Designer:</b>	Lucas Kukler, Bangkok, Thailand
<b>Printer</b>	Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, N.Z.
<b>Process:</b>	Offset Litho
<b>Stamp Size:</b>	37.5mm x 36.95mm vertical
<b>Format:</b>	Four stamps se-tenant with gutter
<b>Perforation:</b>	14.40 x 14.615
<b>Denominations:</b>	\$1.00, \$1.80, \$2.00, \$2.20
<b>Paper:</b>	Tullis Russell 103gsm. yellow/green phosphor stamp paper.
<b>Period of Sale:</b>	March 9, 2016 for two years.

Many festivities are planned during the summer months in the United Kingdom, with pomp and ceremony throughout the British Commonwealth as well. A pageant celebrating the Queen's life is planned, along with a National Service of Thanks-

some of her stylish hats.

The stamps were designed by well-known artist Denise Durkin of Wellington, New Zealand, and were printed in offset lithography by Southern Colour Print of Dunedin, New Zealand.



giving at St. Paul's Cathedral, the Queen's Birthday Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade and a Patron's Lunch which is a celebration of Her Majesty's patronage of over 600 organization in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth since 1952.

The aforementioned pageant will be a celebration of The Queen's life, her love for horses, her dedication to the Commonwealth and international affairs and her deep involvement with the military. The celebration will use horses, actors, bands and dancers to tell the story of The Queen's life.

Since the Pitcairn Islands is an active part of the British Commonwealth, it is fitting that the set of four stamps showing The Queen was issued on April 19, 2016. The stamps show The Queen with

The stamps will be on sale for two years through the island post office and the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau in Wellington, New Zealand.

#### QEII 90th BIRTHDAY COLLECTOR NOTES

<b>Designer:</b>	Denise Durkin, Wellington, N.Z.
<b>Printer</b>	Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, N.Z.
<b>Process:</b>	Offset Litho
<b>Stamp Size:</b>	44.22mm x 35mm horizontal
<b>Format:</b>	Four stamps in panes of 15x2
<b>Perforation:</b>	14.286 x 14.47
<b>Denominations:</b>	\$1.80 x 2; \$2.10 x 2
<b>Paper:</b>	Tullis Russell 103gsm. yellow/green phosphor stamp paper.
<b>Period of Sale:</b>	April 19, 2016 for two years.

## Was the Bounty stripped before burning?

The burning of the HMAV *Bounty* as depicted on a Norfolk Island stamp raised questions in Spencer Murray's mind when he wrote about the stamp in the June-August 1991 issue of the *Pitcairn Log* (Vol. 18, No. 4), exactly 25 years ago.

The stamp depicts the ship on fire in Bounty Bay with its rigging intact. For two centuries, authors had reported that the *Bounty* had been stripped before being burned. In the end, Murray concluded that truth lies somewhere between the two ends of the spectrum.

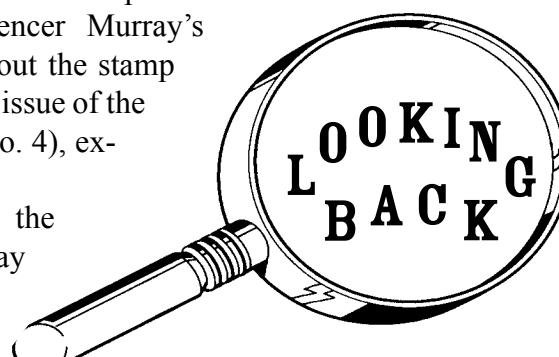
Also, Vice President David Tomeraasen (soon to be president) wrote about his research into Richard B. Fairclough and his connection to Pitcairn Is-

land. David Miller wrote about an easier way to get to Pitcairn since the 35-foot steel-hulled motor-sailer *Te Manu* was set to begin transportation from Mangareva.

Harry L. Yazell wrote a review of the book *The Wreck of the White Wave*, subtitled "The untold story of Capt. Knowles and Pitcairn Island. Secretary David Fowlie wrote a member profile of Rev. Michael Kalka of Australia, and T.C. Brittain showed a Pit-

cairn cover from 1943 which had a Bermuda "Fleet Mail Office" cancel, and Anne Hughes, our stamp show coordinator, discussed the forthcoming World Columbian Stamp Expo '92 in Chicago.

Nine new members and one reinstatement were reported in this issue of the *Log*.





# Secretary's Report

By Barbara Kuchau



## NEW MEMBER

*None this quarter*

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Dr. Everett L. Parker, 117 Cedar Breeze South,  
Glenburn, ME 04401-1734 USA. New email:  
eparker@ne.twcbc.com

## RESIGNED

*None this quarter*

## NECROLOGY

*None this quarter*

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Membership as of January 31, 2016: **262**

New Members during the quarter: **0**

Reinstatements during the quarter: **0**

Loss (Resignations): **0**

Loss: (Deaths): **0**

Loss: (Unable to locate): **0**

Non-renewal of dues: 14

## TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

**April 31, 2016: 248**

## Electronic mail addresses of our membership

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

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

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

**Art Ackley:** ack19@aol.com

**Maria Adams:** maydaymalone@lycos.com

**Jimmy Brill:** JEBrill@aol.com

**Bradley W. Brunsell:** bradleywbrunsell@gmail.com

**Don Burns:** donlburns@yahoo.com

**Mark Butterline:** mbutterli@comcast.net

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

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colina.cunningham@uqconnect.net

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**Ron Edwards:** norpit@norfolk.nf

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**Herbert Ford:** hford@puc.edu

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**Walter A. Galazka:** galazka58@yahoo.com

**Terry Gamble:** mandtgamble@hotmail.com

**Julius Grigore, Jr.:** scadta@comcast.net

**Klaus Hahn:** HahnStamps@t-online.de

Website at: www.hahnstamps.com

**Jerry Jensen:** jerry@gps.nu

**Dr. Vernon N. Kisling, Jr.:** vkisling@ufl.edu

**Cy Kitching:** cykitching@gmail.com

**Barbara Kuchau:** PISGmember@yahoo.com

**Jim Lennard:** jlennard@brocku.ca

**Donald Maxton:** dmaxton@chpnet.org

**Ed Morgan:** eanddfof@gmail.com

**Wendy Niem:** wniem@charter.net

**Dr. Everett L. Parker:** eparker@ne.twcbc.com

**Brian Peacock:** bdpenotto@btinternet.com

**Steve Pendleton:** SPendl@peoplepc.com

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**Martin Weidenegger:** taepc@yahoo.de

**Howard Wunderlich:** hjwesq@mail.com

**Gerard York:** gerard\_york@msn.com

**Steve Zirinsky:** szirinsky@cs.com

# THE CLASSIFIEDS

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

## FOR SALE

**For sale:** 26 books on Pitcairn, the mutiny, and Norfolk; 1 booklet; 1 stamp catalog; 3 general interest mutiny books, 5 *National Geographic* magazines (1957-1985) with articles on Pitcairn, Norfolk and the *Bounty*. Price, \$700. Contact Hugh Wesley for complete list. (978) 922-8772 or email to [kwesley42@yahoo.com](mailto:kwesley42@yahoo.com). (4-16)

*Fishes of the Pitcairn Islands Including Local Names and Fishing Methods* is a new book by Lars-Ake Gotesson 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 Gotesson by email at [tott1@hotmail.com](mailto:tott1@hotmail.com) or books-on-demand at [www.books-on-demand.com](http://www.books-on-demand.com). (4-16)

*Birds of the Pitcairn Islands* is a new book by Lars-Ake Gotesson 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 Gotesson by email: [tott1@hotmail.com](mailto:tott1@hotmail.com) or Nomen at: [www.books-on-demand.com](http://www.books-on-demand.com). (4-16)

**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](mailto:hford@puc.edu), or at the mail address given. (4-16)

**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](http://www.eptours.com/CD.htm). To order your CD, email

[tedcookson@gmail.com](mailto: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. (4-16)

**BPC 2012 5-DISC SET:** The proceedings of Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012 are now available for purchase. 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](http://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](http://www.tinyurl.com/5-disc-set). (4-16)

**Beautiful Bounty & Captain Bligh Topical Set.** Aitutaki Scott #351-353 complete NH, issued in 1984. Catalogue value, \$13.50. Available for \$7.00 per set, postpaid in U.S. Add \$1 for shipment outside U.S. Blocks of 4 available at only \$22.00. Eliot Gregos, P.O. Box 4774, Clearwater, FL 33758, or email [emgregos@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:emgregos@tampabay.rr.com). (4-16)

## WANTED

**PI covers** with cachet Types 4, 12, 13 and 88 (as per PISG Printed Cachet Catalog). Also, PI 1953 QE II Coronation (Scott/PISG 19) Plate Block with plate numbers 1-2 or 1a-2a (mint NH or LH). Vernon Kisling, P.O. Box 1511, High Springs FL 32655-1511. Email: [vkisling@ufl.edu](mailto:vkisling@ufl.edu). (4-16)

**I need** a number of common Pitcairn stamps in USED condition: #97-109 1969 def. series; #140a shells s/s; #178-81 Harbour Development; #182-83 John Adams; #192 Mailboat s/s; #394-8 Lizards overprint FDC; #453-6 Amateur Radio; #492-5 (used and FDC). Also need \$2 1969 def. Fairy Tern and 1994 45¢ Lizards overprint used. Do you have 1938 radio covers with dates other than March 18? I am interested in purchasing any cover with dates I don't have, and unusual or different covers

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- ★ **Chicagopex 2016**  
November 18-20 • Chicago, IL
- ★ **OrcoExpo 2017**  
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- ★ **St. Louis Stamp Expo**  
March 31-April 2 • St. Louis, MO

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