

# PITCAIRN ISLANDS STUDY GROUP

# PITCAIRN LOG

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*The long life of Pitcairn's first stamp issue. See Dr. Vernon N. Kisling's article beginning on page 4.*



*This photograph shows the Pitcairn Post Office on opening day, October 1, 1940. It was used as the Type 24 cachet on many first day covers from 1949.*

# *Make your Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012 registration today!*

Plans are being finalized for the Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012 being staged Sunday, August 19 through Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at the Pitcairn Islands Study Center on the Pacific Union College campus in California's spectacular Napa Valley. As of early May, scores of people had committed to attend, and the total is expected to swell to more than 100 by mid-August.

### **Meet Pitcairners and Hear Interesting Talks**

Four people born on Pitcairn and a former Pitcairn commissioner will be present at the conference, and the final lineup of 15 speakers will hail from Pitcairn, Australia, Norfolk Island and the U.S. The talks will cover a wide array of topics relating to The Bounty-Pitcairn Saga. The speakers include Pitcairn Islanders Jacqui Christian and Kari Boye Young; Marie Christian Thomas, who grew up on



*At the Pitcairn Islands Study Center the Pitcairn flag, a Bounty model, and various precious wooden handicrafts made on the island are prominently displayed.*

the island; and former Commissioner for the Pitcairn Islands Leslie Jaques.

Other speakers include marine conservation advocate Heather Bradner; Norfolk Island resident and numismatist Ron Edwards; Australian historian Roger Stuart-Andrews; philatelist and former PISG President Mark Butterline; author and former *Pitcairn Log* Managing Editor Steve Pendleton; Pitcairn Islands Study Center Director Herbert Ford; history professor and author Dr. Bob Kirk; communicator and author Donald A. Maxton; maritime, *Bounty* and Pitcairn collector Tony Probst; Australian linguistics professor and author Dr. Peter Muhlhausler; and history professor and author Dr. Tillman Nechtman.

The titles of the talks include: "Ned Young, Creator of Pitcairn's Linguistic Landscape," "Joshua Hill, Pitcairn's Self-instituted King," "Did Fletcher Christian Ultimately Return to Cumberland?" "Pitcairn's

*Continued on page 10*

## **PITCAIRN TRIVIA**

**By Barbara Kuchau**

1. Who is the current oldest Pitcairn islander living on the island?
2. From whom was Captain Mayhew Folger, captain of the *Topaz* (who rediscovered Pitcairn in 1808), made familiar with the story of the *Bounty* mutiny?
3. What items did John Adams give to Captain Folger when he departed from Pitcairn?

*Think about these questions.*

*If you're stumped, find the answers on page 14!*

Survival by Ship,” “Illustrating the Bounty/Pitcairn Saga,” “Pitcairn’s Island Neighbors,” “Growing up on Pitcairn,” “The Resourcefulness of the Islanders in Light of Their Isolation,” “A Retrospective on Seven Years as Commissioner for the Pitcairn Islands,” and “The Prospects for the Establishment of a Pitcairn Islands Marine Reserve.”

### **Film Premiere, Internet Chats with Pitcairn, Handicrafts Market, and More**

But the conference is not just about 15 fascinating lectures. The world premiere of “Dem Tul Pitcairn,” a documentary filmed on the island and in other locations worldwide, will be on August 20. Two “Q and A” video chats with Pitcairn will be conducted via the Internet. Rare, decorated tapa cloth produced on Pitcairn by islander Meralda Warren and Pitcairn children will be displayed and offered for sale. A market for Pitcairn handicrafts and curios will be open at scheduled times. The Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau and others will offer a selection of stamps and covers, and a USPS postal station will operate, using a postmark specially designed for the conference.



*A model of the 19th Century-built mission ship, Pitcairn, rests between the bookshelves at the Pitcairn Islands Study Center.*

Small group tours of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center’s 1,500-book library will be conducted. The Center’s library constitutes one of the world’s largest collections relating to the Mutiny on the Bounty, Captain William Bligh, HMAV *Bounty*, and both Pitcairn and Norfolk Islands.

### **Conference Donations**

Although by early May donations of nearly \$1,300 had been received, additional contributions are still sought for the conference, a not-for-profit event. Please send your check payable to “Pitcairn Islands Study Group” to PISG Treasurer Bradley W. Brunsell, P.O. Box 12, Milton, MA 02186-0002, or donate online at [www.2012BPC.com](http://www.2012BPC.com), where registration information and complete details about the conference program are available. Those without Internet access are requested to contact Herbert Ford, director of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, at 1 Angwin Ave., Angwin, CA 94508-9713. Mr. Ford can also be reached by fax at 1-707-965-6504 and by telephone at 1-707-965-6625 or 1-707-965-2047. Advance registration is \$65 while from August 18, 2012 the “at the door” rate of \$80 per person will apply.



*The Pacific Union College campus mall, surrounded by foliage aplenty, is an impressive site.*



# President's Message



By Ted Cookson

**G**reetings from Cairo, Egypt where I arrived on May 1 after a 27-hour journey from Miami via Chicago and Amman, Jordan. I'm getting more and more excited about Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012 ("BPC 2012") which is to be held August 19-21, 2012 at the Pitcairn Islands Study Center at Pacific Union College in Angwin, California.

I can't wait to hear the 15 excellent speakers we have lined up, and there'll be no stopping me now that there is to be a USPS station in operation at the conference both Monday and Tuesday! In fact, it's going to be difficult to decide how to divide my time during the 90-minute lunch breaks on Monday and Tuesday. In addition to grabbing a bite to eat on campus, I'm going to find myself patronizing the postal station, checking out the beautiful stamps for sale at the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau's stand, ogling the wooden carvings and other handicrafts on offer at the Pitcairn crafts market, and admiring Meralda Warren's renowned tapa art as well as displays of some of the treasures held by the Pitcairn Islands Study Center. On Monday and Tuesday evenings, the Pitcairn Islands Study Center will keep its doors open until 8 p.m. so attendees may spend extra hours exploring its extensive 1,500-book collection.

Even at this date in early May we already know that, along with our 15 speakers, in excess of 60 people will be in attendance at BPC 2012. Of course, many more attendee registrations are expected by mid-August. Our speakers will travel to Angwin from Pitcairn Island, Australia, Norfolk Island, and the U.S.; and so far the list of non-speaking attendees includes enthusiasts from the U.S., Canada, England and New Zealand. Although total donations are approaching the \$1,300 mark, additional gifts in support of BPC 2012 are still sought. Full conference details and the registration form are available online at [www.2012BPC.com](http://www.2012BPC.com). Those without Internet access are requested to write to Herbert Ford, Director of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, 1 Angwin Avenue, Angwin, CA 94508-9713, to fax him at 1-707-965-6504, or to telephone him at 1-707-965-6625 or 1-707-965-2047.

Thanks to the recent indexing efforts of PISG Vice President Vernon Kisling, Jr., we still plan to release our so-

ciety's Pitcairn Log DVD at BPC 2012. Information on how to purchase this remarkable compendium by mail order will be published in the October issue of the *Log* for those unable to attend the conference. We also anticipate that at BPC 2012 a similarly-indexed DVD will be offered featuring the entire run (back to 1991) of *The UK Log*, the semi-annual journal of The Pitcairn and Norfolk Islands Society. This, by the way, is the new name recently adopted by our colleagues in the U.K. You will recall that their organization was formerly known as the Pitcairn Islands Study Group, U.K.

Volunteers are needed to help man our joint society table at the American Philatelic Society's StampShow, to be held in Sacramento, California August 16-19, 2012, just prior to BPC 2012. PISG will share a table as usual with the Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group and the St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society. PISG members who can spare an hour to assist in manning our table are requested to contact me at [ted-cookson@gmail.com](mailto:ted-cookson@gmail.com) or via snail mail. It is anticipated now that the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau will be represented only at BPC 2012 in Angwin and not at StampShow in Sacramento.

Thanks to Dr. Everett Parker for conducting the PISG auctions; and thanks to all participants, including those members who have submitted lots as donations to PISG. In the first half of 2012, net profit to PISG from auctions exceeded \$200. However, because higher quality auction lots would encourage more bidders and thus make more profit, older postal history is also sought for future auctions. Your material should be sent directly to Dr. Parker (address on page 2).

I look forward to seeing old friends once again and to meeting new ones in August at StampShow and BPC 2012.

## Deadlines for the Log:

**January issue: November 1**

**April issue: February 1**

**July issue: May 1**

**October issue: August 1**