

# PITCAIRN ISLANDS STUDY GROUP PITCAIRN LOG

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**We had a wonderful time at  
Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012!**



*Coverage begins on page 4*



# Over 100 attendees felt the magic at Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012

**M**oderator Barbara Stein of Hollywood, Florida introduced 15 speakers and two films and masterfully conducted two lively Skype video question-and-answer sessions with Pitcairn Islanders gathered in their public hall during the second Bounty-Pitcairn Conference. The three-day event, co-sponsored by the Pitcairn Islands Study Group and the FRIENDS of PITCAIRN Yahoo! Group, was staged August 19-21, 2012 in the Fireside Room at Pacific Union College in Angwin, California. Pacific Union College is well-known to many as the home of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, which was established there in 1977 by long-time PISG member Herbert Ford. Coincidentally, Ford was presented with the 2012 Bounty Anchor Award at the Confer-

com/official-program.pdf). Of 40 donations, a dozen individuals made hefty contributions of \$100 or more. The largest donation, £100, was given by the Pitcairn Islands Study Group-UK. The conference ended in



*Pitcairn Islanders enjoyed singing in Angwin. L to R: Leslie Jaques, OBE, Jacquie Christian, Marie Christian Thomas, Melva Evans, David Brown, Margaret Young Hansen and Kari Boye Young.*

ence by PISG President Ted Cookson (see article on page 13).

The conference attracted 95 attendees from 17 U.S. states and six foreign countries. Some had paid their registration fees more than a year in advance. Those gathered in the Fireside Room in Angwin also included half a dozen of the many local volunteers who were able to attend in connection with their Conference-related duties. The event was made possible by the raising of nearly \$5,400, of which 54 percent came from registration fees, 44 percent through donations and two percent from advertising in the official program (which is still available online at [www.2012BPC.com](http://www.2012BPC.com)).



*Moderator Barbara Stein conducted a Skype video Q & A session with Pitcairn Mayor Mike Warren, who answered questions put to him from the audience in Angwin.*

the black, and the small excess of funds will be given to the Pitcairn Islands Study Center.

A short film, *Myth Bounty: In the Footsteps of a Mutiny*, by Evelyn Bremer of Berlin, Germany, was featured at the opening mixer held on the evening of August 19. The well-produced documentary wistfully combined sequences filmed at the first Bounty-Pit-



*Dr. Peter Muhlhausler addressed the audience in Angwin (partial room view).*



**Mark Butterline was tasked to operate the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau's table.**

cairn Conference held in St. Petersburg, Florida with scenes of the HMAV *Bounty* replica and images from the *Bounty* saga. Another highlight of the evening was the screening of a breathtaking six-minute video clip showing maritime and *Bounty* collector Tony Probst's dangerous climb out to the very edge of Ship's Landing Point overlooking Bounty Bay.

Conference speakers on the morning of August 20 included Pitcairn resident Kari Boye Young, who discussed how the isolated islanders' survival has always depended on their resourcefulness. PISG Immediate Past President Mark A. Butterline made a PowerPoint presentation titled "Pitcairn Island: Post Office and Community" which focused on the central role played by the island post office. PISG Director-at-Large Ron Edwards of Melbourne, Australia and Norfolk Island then spoke about the successes and pitfalls he had ob-



**Thanks to PUC technician Junn Artigas, who recorded the entire Conference. Video clips of the talks will be placed online at [www.2012BPC.com](http://www.2012BPC.com).**

served over the years *vis-a-vis* Pitcairn Islands coinage.

The historical importance of the charity of passing ship captains and others was emphasized in Pitcairn Islands Study Center Director Herbert Ford's talk, titled "Pitcairn Island: Survival by Ship." Leslie Jaques, OBE, gave an inspiring retrospective on his seven year term as Commissioner for the Pitcairn Islands from 2003 to 2010. Jaques spoke about what



**The PISG officers and ATA representative gathered on the sidelines of the conference. From left, Ron Edwards, Steve Pendleton, Ed Morgan, Wendy Niem, Ted Cookson and Mark Butterline.**

was achieved and also about where the islanders can go from here.

During the 90-minute lunch breaks on August 20 and 21, a Pitcairn Marketplace was conducted. The Pitcairn Islands Study Center offered a selection of books for sale as well as rare Pitcairn-crafted tapa cloth and other items. The Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau displayed Pitcairn stamps, coins and covers and featured a triangular BPC 2012 cachet. Various other vendors sold everything from Pitcairn T-shirts and caps to handicrafts, books and philatelic items. In addition, during selected morning and afternoon breaks, the United States Postal Service, represented by Angwin Postmistress Kim Paddock, offered covers on which a special BPC 2012 cancel had been affixed.

The two Skype video Q & A sessions were some of the highlights of the conference. Islanders in Angwin could wave hello to their families on Pitcairn, and those in the audience could ask questions of the islanders. To the delight of the audience, there was also some singing on Pitcairn and by islanders in the Fireside Room in Angwin. Pitcairn Mayor Mike Warren fielded questions on the first day, and culture ex-

*Continued on page 6*

pert Meralda Warren took over the microphone on the second day.

In the afternoon of August 20, Tillman Nechtman, Ph.D., gave a talk on Joshua Hill, the self-instituted king of Pitcairn. Then Captain Sean Bercaw spoke about his family's four visits to the island between 1951 and 2002. Interestingly, Bercaw's two sisters and mother, who had also sailed to Pitcairn by yacht, were in the audience. The first full day of the conference concluded with an excerpt from the long-awaited



*Along one wall of the Fireside Room can be seen the long table with historical displays. Hanging from the ceiling are blowups of the latest Pitcairn Bounty detail definitives.*

ed *Dem Tul Pitcairn*, a documentary film by Marius Luessi and Derick DeGennaro which is expected to be released later this year. Luessi and DeGennaro had attended the first Bounty-Pitcairn Conference in 2005 and then traveled to Pitcairn and New Zealand to make the film.

Short tours of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center were offered by Herbert Ford and Pacific Union College Heritage Room Librarian Gilbert Abella prior to the beginning of the programs on both August 20 and 21.

Bob Kirk, Ph.D., who reviewed some of the highlights of Pitcairn's history, was the first speaker on the morning of August 21. Then Jacqui Christian, who grew up on Pitcairn Island, discussed her return to the island to help build its future after two decades of living overseas. Peter Muhlhausler, Ph.D., of Adelaide, Australia talked about St. Kitts-born Ned Young's contributions to the linguistic landscape of Pitcairn Island. Donald A. Maxton gave a fascinating Power-Point presentation titled "'Mutiny' in the Magazine Section: Bounty, Pitcairn and the Popular Press." The final morning talk was by former editor of *The Pitcairn Log*, Steve Pendleton, who described Pitcairn's

island neighbors.

After the Pitcairn Marketplace and the Skype video Q & A, Roger Stuart-Andrews, D.D.S., of Melbourne, Australia gave an interesting talk on the ultimate fate of Fletcher Christian. Then maritime collector Tony Probst and Pitcairn-born Marie Christian Thomas narrated a joint slide show through Pitcairn's past and present. Probst, an excellent photographer, also exhibited his world-class collection of 29 *Bounty* artifacts, which included such items as cannon and musket balls, dividers, an oar lock from *Bounty's* launch, and sheathing, wood and bronze from the *Bounty*. Alongside were two rifles used on the island for many years which now reside in the Pitcairn Islands Study Center.

A total of 113 other items of historical and photographic interest were also displayed on a 50-foot row of tables along one wall of the Fireside Room. Dominating the upper reaches and stretching completely across one side of the large room were 12 full-color enlargements of Pitcairn's 10th definitive series, showing details of the *Bounty*. The entire room was filled with Pitcairn-related paintings, photographs and even a large tapa cloth, "Niau's Hideout," created by



*Maritime and Bounty collector Tony Probst's amazing display of Bounty artifacts was enjoyed by all.*

the skilled Meralda Warren, who led the rediscovery of tapa-making on Pitcairn.

The Bounty-Pitcairn Conference was attended by four people who live on Pitcairn currently and by three others who were raised on the island. All who were present felt that they had shared a magical time in Angwin. The Conference website, [www.2012BPC.com](http://www.2012BPC.com), will continue to be hosted until at least 2019. It is expected that video clips of the talks and supplementary information will be available online by October 2012. PISG members are encouraged to continue to visit the site at their leisure.

# Conference speakers at Angwin



*Leslie Jaques*



*Capt. Sean Bercaw*



*Kari Boye Young*



*Dr. Bob Kirk*



*Herb Ford*



*Dr. Tillman Nechtman*



*Jacqui Christian*



*Marie Christian Thomas*



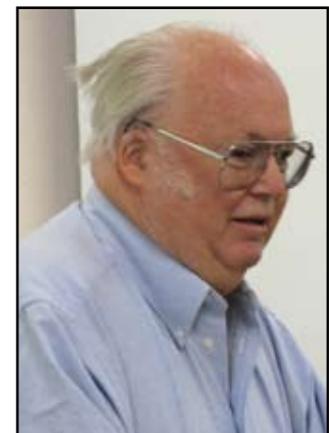
*Tony Probst*



*Dr. Peter Muhlhausler*



*Donald Maxton*



*Steve Pendleton*



*Dr. Roger Stuart-Andrews (left); Ron Edwards (right)*



*Mark Butterline (right)*

