

# “Pitcairn’s Coinage: A Difficult and Varied Programme of Limited Success”

A talk given by Ron Edwards at Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012  
in Angwin, California, August 20, 2012

WELCOME!

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY IN A PLACE TO WHERE A LITTLE WHILE AGO I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD TRAVEL. I DO HOPE THAT MY CONTRIBUTION, EVEN THOUGH IT IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TO OTHERS WHICH ARE BEING PRESENTED FROM AN ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE. I AM SIMPLY A COLLECTOR WHO, ALONG THE WAY, DEVELOPED A KEEN INTEREST IN JUST ABOUT ANYTHING PITCAIRN, AND I HOPE THAT I WILL INSTILL SOME INTEREST IN THIS ASPECT OF PITCAIRN TODAY.

OFTEN I WONDER WHY PEOPLE TAKE A KEEN INTEREST IN A PARTICULAR TOPIC, AND IT MAY BE JUST NOW, WHEN YOU SEE ME FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PACIFIC STANDING HERE BEFORE YOU. WELL! PLEASE BEAR WITH ME FOR A FEW MOMENTS, TELLING A LITTLE ON THAT BEFORE I COMMENCE MY MAIN TOPIC TODAY.

FOR ME, IT ALL STARTED A VERY LONG TIME AGO , WHEN AS A YOUNG BOY OF AROUND 8-10. I , LIKE MANY OTHERS OF THAT ERA COLLECTED STAMPS FROM ALMOST ANYWHERE WE COULD. USED OR ABUSED , IT MATTERED NOT, AS LONG AS THE COLLECTION INCREASED IN NUMBER.

AT 14 , BEGINNING WORK IN A TERRA COTTA TILE FACTORY, AND LATER AS A CARPENTER, I WAS ABLE TO SPEND MORE ON STAMPS, AND BECAME MORE CHOOSY AS TO WHAT I PURCHASED. THIS WAS MAINLY STAMPS OF VARIOUS OUTLYING PARTS OF THE THEN BRITISH EMPIRE AS IT WAS KNOWN. THIS MEANT A TRIP TO MELBOURNE ON A STEAM TRAIN ON A SATURDAY MORNING AND RETURNING HOME IN THE AFTERNOON.

IT WAS IN 1957 THAT ON LOOKING CLOSER AT A PURCHASE, I CAME ACROSS THE 1957 PITCAIRN DEFINITIVE STAMPS. THE 8 PENNY VALUE GRABBED MY ATTENTION , AS IT DEPICTED AN ELDERLY MAN BESIDE A GARDEN . I TURNED TO OUR FAMILY ENCYCLOPEDEA AT HOME AND SOUGHT OUT PITCAIRN, THEN ON TO BOUNTY, BLIGH, NORFOLK ISLAND, ETC. IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF WHAT WAS TO BECOME AN OBSESSION.

MY INTERESTS GREW IN PRACTICLY EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING WITH A PITCAIRN CONNECTION , THAT HAS CAPTURED MY LEISURE TIME FOR MOST OF THE LAST 50+ YEARS. EXCEPT FOR A FEW YEARS THAT GIRLS ATTRACTED A DIFFERENT DIRECTION FOR A TIME.

I HAVE ALSO BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE REALISED MY DREAM OF VISITING PITCAIRN AND SPENDING AN ALL TOO SHORT 15 DAYS THERE, AND ALSO TO HAVE VISITED NORFOLK ISLAND ON NUMEROUS OCCASSIONS WHERE MY WIFE MAUREEN AND I OWNED A HOLIDAY HOME THERE FOR ALMOST 10 YEARS. HAVING SOLD THAT 2 YEARS AGO WE LAST YEAR PURCHASED 2 ½ ACRES AND ARE CURRENTLY BUILDING A NEW HOME , THAT WITH AMENDMENTS TO IMMIGRATION LAWS BEING MADE, WILL ALLOW US TO MOVE FROM MELBOURNE, AND RESIDE ON NORFOLK ISLAND PERMANANTLY.

ALSO, ALONG THE WAY I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCUMULATE A CONSIDERABLE COLLECTION OF BOOKS, FILMS, VIDEO'S, PHOTO'S, SLIDES, CRAFTS, STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY, REPORTS, NEWS PAPER ARTICLES, ENGRAVINGS, AND MORE RECENTLY, POST CARDS AND THE COINS ISSUED BY THE PITCAIRN ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION. IT IS THAT TOPIC THAT I CHOSE AS SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT TO TALK ABOUT TODAY.

THIS LATEST COLLECTING INTEREST, HAS , NEVER RECEIVED A LEVEL OF POPULARITY AMONGST COIN COLLECTORS, OR EVEN AMONGST THE CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF PERSONS GLOBALLY THAT HAVE AN INTEREST IN OUR FAVOURITE ISLAND AND IT'S PEOPLE. I WOULD BELIEVE THAT QUITE A FEW PERSONS EVEN IN THIS ROOM TODAY, WOULD HAVE VERY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF, OR, IF ANY, OF PITCAIRN'S COINAGE.

HOPEFULLY TODAY I CAN ENLIGHTEN YOU ON THAT TOPIC THAT MAY LEAD TO SOME INCREASE IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST IN THAT FIELD OF COLLECTING.

THE VERY FIRST ISSUE, AUTHORISED BY THE PITCAIRN ISLAND ADMINISTRATION WAS ISSUED IN 1988. A SET OF 3 COINS ALL OF THE SAME DESIGN DEPICTING THE BRITISH VESSEL 'FLY'. IT WAS TO COMMEMORATE THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PITCAIRN'S FIRST CONSTITUTION DRAFTED BY THE MASTER OF THE VESSEL , CAPTAIN. RUSSELL.ELLIOT.

THIS COINAGE CONSISTED OF A \$1- CROWN SIZE IN CU-NI, (A COMPOSITION OF COPPER AND NICKEL) AS ARE MANY OF TODAYS REGULAR COINS IN A SILVERISH COLOUR.

SEVERAL OF THESE COINS WERE ACTUALY SENT TO PITCAIRN

AND SOME WERE CIRCULATED FOR A SHORT WHILE. IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THAT THESE COINS WERE WORTH A PREMIUM, AND WERE 'SNAPPED UP', WITH MANY SOLD OFF TO VISITORS AND COLLECTORS.

THE PITCAIRN MISCELLANY STATED IN JULY THAT YEAR THAT THE COINS WERE 'LEGAL TENDER', EVEN THOUGH NOT PRACTICAL FOR CIRCULATING AT THE TIME.

A CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY OF THESE \$1- COINS WERE DISTRIBUTED ALSO BY A COIN DEALER IN SYDNEY, ENCAPSULATED IN A SQUARE ACRILIC CONTAINER APPROPRIATELY DESCRIBED.

MEANWHILE, THE OTHER 2 COINS, A RATHER LARGE \$50- FINE GRADE SILVER OF 65MM DIAMETER, WEIGHING SOME 5 OZ OR 155 GRAMS.----- THAT WOULD SOON WEAR A HOLE IN YOUR POCKET!!! A SMALLER 22 CT (.916) GOLD WEIGHING JUST UNDER ½ OZ WITH A FACE VALUE OF \$250- WAS ALSO OFFERED WORLDWIDE TO COLLECTORS.

THE YEAR OF 1989, THE "200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY WAS THE THEME FOR ANOTHER ISSUE IN A SIMILAR FORMAT AND VALUES AS IN 1988, BUT AN ADDITIONAL \$1- SILVER COIN TO CATER FOR THE COLLECTORS WAS ADDED.

THIS ISSUE DEPICTED A SHIP REPRESENTING AN IMAGE OF THE BOUNTY. REGRETABLY IT WAS INCORRECT, AS THE IMAGE SHOWED A VESSEL RIGGED AND CARRYING 4 SAILS ON EACH MAIN MAST., BUT AS WE KNOW, THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE. AS WHEN THE BETHIA WAS BEING PREPARED FOR THE VOYAGE, BLIGH ORDERED THE MASTS LOWERED TO MAKE HER MORE SUITABLE FOR THE SOUTH SEAS, THESE WERE EVEN TRIMMED FURTHER DURING THE TIME IN CAPETOWN.

ON RECEIVING PRE ISSUE ADVICE FROM THE ROYAL MINT, I WROTE TO THEM ADVISING OF THE INCORRECT DEPICTION, I DULY RECEIVED A REPLY THAT IMPLIED THAT THEY WERE CORRECT, AND I WAS NOT. BUT, OBVIOUSLY, HAD THEY CONTACTED THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM IN GREENWICH, LONDON, CORRECT IMAGES COULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE TO THEM, INSTEAD OF THE APPARENT IMAGE THEY USED, BASED ON THE VESSEL BUILT FOR THE MGM FILM OF 1964.

1990, ANOTHER 4 COINS AS THE PREVIOUS ISSUE THIS TIME TO COMMEMORATE THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 'ESTABLISHMENT OF A SETTLEMENT ON PITCAIRN". A DEPICTION OF THE BOUNTY IN FLAMES WAS THE DESIGN FOR THIS ISSUE.

OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS ANOTHER 6 COINS WERE ISSUED AND MINTED BY THE ROYAL MINT WITH THEMES RELATING TO THE ROYAL FAMILY, AND BY 1999 THE TOTAL OF 17 COINS HAD

BEEN ISSUED.

MINTING OF THE COINS WERE THEN CONTRACTED TO THE GERMAN MINT.

THE FIRST OF THESE WAS A SET OF 4 MINI COINS, EACH OF JUST 1.2442 GRAMS (1/25<sup>TH</sup> OZ) OF FINE .999 GRADE GOLD DEPICTING THE 4 MAIN ISLANDS, OF THE PITCAIRN GROUP, AND IMAGES OF 4 SHIPS WITH A HISTORICAL CONNECTION TO PITCAIRN ISSUED IN 1999. (THIS TIME THE BOUNTY WAS MORE ACCURATLY PORTRAYED)----- THE BRITISH MINT HAD IT WRONG BUT THE GERMANS GOT IT MUCH MORE CORRECT.

IN 2002 THE HUMPBACK WHALE WAS THE THEME FOR A SINGLE SILVER COIN. A BEAUTIFUL COIN WITH THE IMAGE OF A HUMPBACK CRAFTED IN "MOTHER OF PEARL" INSET INTO THE CENTRE. A 1 OZ COIN OF THE TRADITIONAL CROWN SIZE 1 ½ INCHES (38MM)

IN 2005 ANOTHER MINI GOLD COIN SHOWING THE "BOUNTY AND THE BOUNTY BIBLE".

ALSO IN 2005, A \$5- SILVER COIN PORTRAYING "CAPTAIN. PHILIP. CARTERET AND HIS VESSEL THE SWALLOW " WAS RELEASED.

2006 SAW A RELEASE OF ANOTHER ISSUE THAT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO RELEVANCE TO PITCAIRN ISLAND. A \$5- SILVER COIN THAT CELEBRATED THE "GOTHEBORG EXPEDITION TO CHINA" A RE-ENACTMENT OF A VOYAGE IN A REPLICA BUILT FOR THE OCCASION. WORDS FAIL ME TO UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR SUCH AN ISSUE, OTHER THAN A TOTALLY COMMERCIAL VENTURE. HAVING MADE NUMEROUS EFFORTS TO PURCHASE A SECOND EXAMPLE OF THIS COIN AFTER 6 YEARS, I HAVE ONLY EVER SEEN 3 OFFERED FOR SALE. THEY ARE THE ONE I DID PURCHASE , AND ONE OTHER IN A COLLECTION OF SHIP COINS, ON THE EBAY AUCTION SITE, FROM A TRADER IN EUROPE WHO WAS NOT PREPARED TO SELL SEPERATELY. ALSO JUST A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO , THE THIRD WAS OFFERED ON EBAY, AND ALTHOUGH I HAD BID A VERY HIGH PRICE I WAS OUTBID. ENQUIRIES FROM PITCAIRN ADMINISTRATION HAVE ALSO NOT BEEN ABLE TO ,ASSIST WITH ANY INFORMATION AND APPEAR TO KNOW LITTLE, IF ANYTHING ABOUT THE COIN. NOT VERY SATISFACTORY AT ALL!

OVER THE 18 YEARS, AND SOME 25 COINS BEING ISSUED BY AND ON BEHALF OF THE PITCAIRN ISLAND ADMINISTRATION, MARKETING, PROMOTION, DISTRIBUTION AND MEDIA RELEASES, HAD BEEN IN A VERY ADD HOC MANNER, HOWEVER IT WAS THEN ANNOUNCED THAT AS FROM JANUARY 2007 PITCAIRNS COINAGE WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PHILATELIC BUREAU.

SOME PUBLICITY WAS FORWARDED TO THEIR CUSTOMERS, AND A FEW VARIOUS MEDIA OUTLETS.

AT LAST, OR SO I THOUGHT, A RELIABLE SOURCE OF SUPPLY. AS IT TURNED OUT, NOT ALL COIN ISSUES WERE DISTRIBUTED FROM THE BUREAU. PERHAPS IT WAS NOT GOOD TIMING TO EXPAND NEW HORIZONS AS ADMINISTRATION WAS HEAVILY COMMITTED TO OTHER FAR MORE PRESSING MATTERS AROUND THAT PERIOD.

HOWEVER, THE FIRST COIN'S AVAILABLE FROM THE BUREAU, WERE A \$1- CU-NI, AND A \$10- SILVER CROWN SIZE DESIGN TO COMMEMORATE THE 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH AND DATED 2006. THIS TIME MINTED BY THE POBJOY MINT IN LONDON, AS THEY WERE ANNOUNCED THEN TO BE THE OFFICIAL MINTERS FOR THE PITCAIRN ISLANDS COINS.

HOWEVER, AS THE PREVIOUS CONTRACT WITH THE GERMAN MINT HAD NOT BEEN FINALISED IN 2007 THE GERMAN MINT ISSUED ANOTHER MINI FINE GOLD COIN DEPICTING THE 'BOUNTY AND AN ANCHOR'. THIS COIN WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT THE PITCAIRN BUREAU, SO IT THEN MEANT ONE HAD TO SEEK OUT WHERE AND HOW TO PURCHASE YET AGAIN. (BACK TO GOOD OLD EBAY!)

AFTER THESE 2 ISSUES, THE NEXT CHANGE OF DIRECTION CAME IN 2008. APPEARS THAT AN AGREEMENT WAS MADE WITH THE NEW ZEALAND MINT, THAT THEY WOULD BE THE OFFICIAL MINTER OF PITCAIRN'S COINAGE. A BUSY AND EXPENSIVE YEAR FOR COLLECTORS!

THE FIRST FOR 2008 WAS A COIN THAT I WAS NOT IN AGREEMENT OF, WAS ONE TO CELEBRATE THE "LUNAR—YEAR OF THE RAT". TO ME, THAT THEME HAD ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION WITH THE PITCAIRNS. HOWEVER, IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SILVER QUALITY COIN OF 1 TROY OZ (31.1 GRAMS) WITH A COLOURED IMAGE OF A RAT. WITH A \$2- FACE VALUE OF 1 ½ INCHES (38MM) DIA.

LATER THAT YEAR A SET OF COINS DEPICTING THE 'BOUNTY', BUT HOWEVER INCORRECT IN IT'S DESIGN YET AGAIN AS IT SHOWED THE VESSEL AS PER THE MGM VERSION.

A VERY EXPENSIVE SET! THERE WERE 2 SILVER COINS OF \$2- DENOMINATION (ONE WITH THE 'BOUNTY' COLOURED, THE OTHER WITH THE 'BOUNTY' HIGHLIGHTED BY GOLD GILTING.) ALSO A MINI .999 FINE GOLD \$10- COIN, AND TO CAP IT OFF, A \$25- .999 FINE GOLD ISSUE. THESE COINS WERE AVAILABLE AT THE PITCAIRN BUREAU AND AT THE NZ MINT AS SINGLE COINS, AND OR IN SETS OF VARIOUS GROUPINGS, AND HOUSED IN A WOODEN PRESENTATION BOX REPRESENTING AN OLD SHIP'S TRUNK. A SMALL SCALE REPLICA OF A SEXTANT, AS USED IN THE ROYAL

NAVY OF THE BOUNTY ERA , WAS ALSO OFFERED BRINGING A TOTAL COST OF AROUND \$1000 NZ DOLLARS. (APPROX US \$750)

2009 SAW ANOTHER NZ MINT ISSUE TO CELEBRATE THE “LUNAR--- YEAR OF THE OX”. 2 SILVER COINS, DEMONIAION OF \$2- AGAIN SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS LUNAR COINS, ONE WITH A COLOURED OX, THE OTHER GOLD GILT.

LATER IN 2009 A MUCH MORE PUBLICISED ISSUE. THIS TIME A SET OF 6 VARIOUS VALUE COINS FROM 5 CENT TO \$2- IN VARIOUS BASE METAL COMBINATIONS. ALL DIFFERENT DESIGNS DEPICTING VARIOUS ‘ARTIFACTS FROM THE BOUNTY’. SOME PUBLICITY IN VARIOUS AREAS STATED THAT THESE WERE TO BE CIRCULATED AND USED ON PITCAIRN. HOWEVER, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EVER HAPPENED, ALTHOUGH SETS WERE AVAILABLE ALSO FROM THE POST OFFICE ON PITCAIRN IN A PRESENTATION FOLDER AT A CONSIDERABLE PREMIUM PRICE, AS WELL AS AT THE BUREAU AND NZ MINT SALES. SOME MONTHS AFTER RELEASE , LOOSE COINS BECAME AVAILABLE IN EUROPE AND THE USA, ONLY!!!! IT DOES APPEAR, THAT THESE COINS WERE EITHER MINTED BY THE NZ MINT OR UNDER CONTRACT ELSEWHERE ON THEIR BEHALF. ENQUIRIES TO THE NZ MINT, RESULTED IN BEING DENIED FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS. HOWEVER, I DID LEARN THAT SOMETIMES MINTING WAS CONTRACTED BY AGREEMENT TO OTHER MINTERS. AND THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION WAS CONFIDENTIAL BETWEEN THEM.

SO I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN WHERE THESE COINS WERE ACTUALLY MINTED, AND , OR BY WHOM.?

I DID PURCHASE SEVERAL SETS, SOME IN THE ‘OFFICIAL’ PRESENTATION PACKS AND OTHERS LOOSE. THE QUALITY OF THE 5 AND 10 CENT COPPER COINS WERE VERY POOR. THE PERIMETERS OF THE COINS WERE SO ROUGH ONE COULD SCRATCH HAIRS OFF MY ARM WHEN I SCRAPPED A COIN ALONG.

MY COMPLAINTS TO THE NZ MINT RESULTED IN NO SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION, OTHER THAN CLAIMING A FEW MAY HAVE ESCAPED QUALITY CHECKS. OBVIOUSLY , WITH THIS, AND PREVIOUS ENQUIRIES, THEY DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH ME.

TO FINISH OFF 2009, 2 MORE COINS. ONE DEPICTING A ‘HUMPBACK WHALE’ AND THE OTHER ‘WILLIAM. BLIGH’. BOTH WERE \$2- , 1 OZ. OF FINE .999 SILVER . BOTH VERY NICE QUALITY ISSUES.

ON TO 2010. ANOTHER “LUNAR--- YEAR OF THE TIGER”, AS PREVIOUS ‘LUNAR’ COINS. SIZE, VALUE, ETC, DEPICTING A BEAUTIFUL COLOURED IMAGE OF THE SUMATRIAN TIGER.

2010 ALSO SAW THE ISSUING OF ANOTHER SET OF 6 BASE METAL COINS OF VARIOUS VALUES, AGAIN REPORTED WIDELY FOR CIRCULATION. AGAIN IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THAT WAS SO. AGAIN ALL COINS DEPICTED VARIOUS BOUNTY ARTIFACTS AS PREVIOUS, EXCEPT THE \$2- WAS CHANGED FROM DEPICTING THE BOUNTY HELM , TO DEPICT THE BOUNTY. (YEP! WRONG AGAIN, EVEN AFTER I WAS ASSURED BY NZ MINT MANAGEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE CORRECTED!)

AS IN 2009 , SETS APPEARED IN EUROPE AND THE USA IN LOOSE BAGS, BUT NOT AT THE BUREAU, NZ MINT, OR PITCAIRN POST OFFICE, OTHER THAN IN PRESENTATION PACKS.

BUT WAIT! ANOTHER ANOMALY APPEARED. ABOUT MID YEAR A SET OF THE 2010 ISSUE WAS OFFERED ON EBAY THROUGH A TRADER IN GERMANY IN A VERY NICE PRESENTATION BOX. THIS SET ALSO FEATURED A VERY LIMITED MINTING OF JUST 500 OF AN ADDITIONAL LARGER \$2- COIN IN CU-NI FINISH. A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY INCLUDED BY A CHARLES. MARSHALL, WITH HIS FACSIMILE SIGNATURE, ON BEHALF OF THE PITCAIRN GOVERNMENT. ON FURTHER CHECKING OF THE CERTIFICATE I FOUND INCORRECT SPECIFICATIONS OF THE COINS, AND ON ENQUIRIES TO PITCAIRN AUTHORITIES FOR INFORMATION AS TO WHO CHARLES MARSHALL IS, AND/OR AS TO HIS STATUS, HAVE NOT BEEN ANSWERED.

QUALITY OF THE 5 CENT AND 10 CENT ISSUES WERE AGAIN VERY POOR. FURTHER ENQUIRIES--- SAME. NO ' REAL' EXPLANATION.

2010 WAS NOT YET OVER WHEN ANOTHER 2 COINS WERE MINTED BY THE NZ MINT. ONE DEPICTED AN IMAGE OF FLETCHER CHRISTIAN, AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE YET ANOTHER OF THE 'BOUNTY' (YES AS BEFORE!) BOTH \$2- SILVER COINS SIMILAR STYLE AS PREVIOUS OTHER ISSUES, AND BOTH IMAGES IN A GOLD GILT.

NOW IF YOU THINK THAT IS ENOUGH FOR 2010. WELL, WRONG! FROM WHAT I HAVE BEEN INFORMED, AS THE NZ MINT HAVE CURRENTLY THE FULL RIGHTS TO SUB CONTRACT OUT MINTING OF COINS OF PITCAIRN TO OTHER SCOURCES. 3 SUCH COINS WERE ISSUED IN 2010, APPARENTLY BY A MINTER IN EUROPE THESE ARE ALL OF SIMILAR FORMAT , ALL \$2- DENOMINATION 35MM DIAMETER, ½ OZ .925 .SILVER. 2 OF THEM ARE OF "DEEP SEA FISH" THE OTHER OF A "JELLYFISH." THEY WERE NOT AVAILABLE AT THE BUREAU OR THE NZ MINT.

ONLY ISSUE FROM THE NZ MINT IN 2011 WAS A 2 COIN ISSUE TO CELEBRATE THE "LUNAR—YEAR OF THE RABBIT". BOTH SIMILAR FORMAT AND SPECIFICATIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PRODUCED. ONE

DEPICTED AN 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND' THEME, THE OTHER RABBIT IN THE SNOW.

IN 2011 ANOTHER EACH OF THE "DEEP SEA FISH" AND A "JELLYFISH" COINS AS PER THE SAME SPECIFICATIONS AS PREVIOUS WERE ISSUED, AGAIN NOT AVAILABLE AT NZ MINT NOR BUREAU.

RECENT INFORMATION FROM THE NZ MINT IS THAT THERE IS TO BE NO ISSUE FOR THE YEAR 2012 FROM THEM. THIS MEANS THAT 2012 LUNAR- YEAR OF THE DRAGON, WOULD NOT BE COMMEMORATED, BUT WOULD YOU BELIEVE AN ISSUE FOR NEXT YEAR 2013 IS IN PLANNING STAGES. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT SUPPORT THAT THEME AS SUCH, ONE WOULD EXPECT THE SERIES WOULD CONTINUE FOR THE FULL CYCLE OF 'NEW YEAR' SYMBOLS. NOT IGNORE ONE YEAR. MY APPEALS AND SUGGESTIONS YET AGAIN IGNORED.

APPEARS TO ME THAT THE QUANTITIES MINTED PREVIOUSLY WERE FAR TOO MANY, AND STOCKS STILL REMAINED ON HAND, IS AN ENTIRELY COMMERCIAL DECISION. THOSE IN MARKETING DID NOT RESEARCH THAT AREA SUFFICIENTLY. SOME EARLIER NZ MINTINGS WERE WAY ABOVE A REALISTIC SALES POSSIBILITY.

THE LATEST COIN I HAVE OBTAINED WAS JUST FEW WEEKS AGO. I JUST CHANCED TO LOOK AT EBAY UK, AND TO MY SURPRISE OR SHOCK. A COIN I HAVE NEVER PREVIOUSLY SEEN EVEN THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF, BEING OFFERED FOR SALE.

A 2011 COIN COMMEMORATING THE "LIFETIME OF SERVICE" BY HRH QE & PRINCE PHILIP. THE OBVERSE IS EXACTLY AS PER RECENT NZ MINT ISSUES OF THE \$2- VALUE. SO FAR ,MY ENQUIRIES HAVE AGAIN NOT BEEN ANSWERED, BUT I WILL PERSIST.

RECENT NEWS FROM EUROPE THOUGH, INFORMATION IS THAT 2 ADDITIONAL COINS, ONE EACH OF THE "DEEP SEA FISH" SERIES, AND " ANOTHER OF THE "JELLYFISH' COINS WERE PLANNED FOR RELEASE IN APRIL THIS YEAR 2012 , BUT ARE NOW EXPECTED ON AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>.

FINALLY! SEARCHING FOR, RESEARCHING, AND FINALLY PURCHASING AND PUTTING TOGETHER WHAT I BELIEVE IS A COMPLETE COLLECTION OF PITCAIRN'S COINAGE HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING AND VERY FRUSTRATING TIME OVER 24 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST ISSUE. FINDING THE ANSWERS FROM PERSONS WHO SHOULD KNOW, AND OR SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR , HAS AT TIMES BEEN WITHOUT ANY RESULT.



I HAVE SOUGHT ALSO, THE ISSUING OF CIRCULATING COINS, ON PITCAIRN , BUT WITHOUT ANY SUPPORT. YES!!!! I AM WELL AWARE THAT THERE WOULD BE VERY LITTLE PRACTICAL USE, BUT I AM CERTAINLY ADAMENT , THAT IF A SMALL NUMBER OF BASE METAL COINS WERE CIRCULARISED ON ISLAND, SOME MAY BE USED, AND ALSO IF THAT WAS SO, THEN COLLECTORS WOULD HAVE INCREASED INTEREST KNOWING THAT THE COINS ARE THEN IN FACT GENUINLY USED AND NOT JUST A COLLECTABLE. IF THIS CAME ABOUT, THE NZ CURRENCY WOULD STILL BE USED ALONGSIDE PITCAIRN'S OWN COINAGE. HOWEVER PITCAIRN'S COINAGE WOULD NOT HAVE ANY INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE VALUE. NUIE, HAS A SIMILAR SITUATION THAT SEEMS TO WORK WELL. MANY TOURISTS TAKE THE NUIE COINS OFFSHORE , AS A SOUVENIR, THUS LEAVING ANOTHER CAPITAL GAIN FOR THEM.

PITCAIRNERS COULD ALSO EARN A FEW EXTRA DOLLARS BY SELLING ON TO VISITORS AT A PREMIUM, IN SOME FORM OF SOUVENIR, AS A FEW DID IN 1988-90, WHEN A NUMBER OF THE \$1-CU-NI COINS WERE ON THE ISLAND. I WAS ABLE TO PURCHASE A SMALL QUANTITY EX AN ISLAND OFFICIAL IN RESIDENCE. THESE WERE IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS AS APPARENTLY DISTRIBUTED.

THE 2009 AND 2010 SETS WOULD HAVE BEEN IDEAL, AS THE 'BASE METAL' COINS COST ONLY A FEW CENTS TO PRODUCE. PERHAPS A 'BRASS. COLOURED' \$5- COIN BE INCLUDED MAKING A PROFIT MUCH MORE VIABLE. MY SUGGESTION TO PERSONS OF AUTHORITY WERE NOT CONSIDERED, BUT I DO REMAIN ADAMANT THAT IT STILL SHOULD BE. THE ARGUMENT THAT THE ISLANDERS DO NOT NEED THEIR OWN COINAGE, AS THE NZ CURRENCY IS SUITABLE FOR THE LIMITED REQUIREMENTS, IS ONLY THE SAME AS COULD BE SAID, THAT STAMPS ALSO, ARE NOT REQUIRED. IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER FOR THE POSTAL OFFICER TO SIMPLY APPLY A POSTAGE PAID CANCEL. BUT THE FACTS ARE, THAT REVENUE FROM SALES TO COLLECTORS WOULD ADD A LITTLE MUCH NEEDED REVENUE.

I BELIEVE THAT IF A WELL STRUCTURED COIN PROGRAMME IS IMPLEMENTED , FURTHER, THOUGH SMALL FINANCIAL GAINS, WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

PITCAIRN COINS AS AN INVESTMENT! WELL, IF HYPOTHETICALLY ONE COULD OR DID PURCHASE EACH COIN SOON AFTER ISSUE, THE VALUE WOULD BE SLIGHTLY ABOVE INITIAL COST ON TODAY'S VALUES. MAINLY, THIS IS SO WITH THE ISSUES FROM PRECIOUS METALS, SIVER AND GOLD, AS THAT VALUE HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE THE EARLIER RELEASES. A COMPLETE COLLECTION TODAY WOULD BE WORTH AROUND \$6,000.

WITH ALL THE FRUSTRATIONS IN THIS COLLECTING AREA, I HAVE

HAD A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE AND SATISFACTION OUT OF THE CHALLENGE, AS MOST WHO SEEK OUT AND COLLECT ANYTHING GET A SENSE OF SATISFACTION WHEN THEY FIND THAT ELUSIVE ITEM.?

PRESENTLY I AM WORKING ON PRODUCING A LISTING OF ALL THE 61 (AND THE 2 DUE FOR RELEASE TOMORROW IN EUROPE) PITCAIRN COINS ISSUED FOR AND/OR ON BEHALF OF PITCAIRN GOVERNANCE, AND THIS WILL BE PUBLICISED WHEN RELEASED. I HAVE A VERY ROUGH DRAFT WITH OF THAT WITH LOT'S OF INFORMATION WITH ME TODAY AND WILL LEAVE THAT WITH HERB FOR THE STUDY CENTRE AS AN INTEREM REFERENCE UNTIL I CAN COMPLETE THE FINAL PULICATION. THIS ALSO DOES INCLUDE A VERY BRIEF LISTING OF COINS OF OTHER COUNRIES WITH THEME OF A BOUNTY/ PITCAIRN CONNECTION.

I DO HAVE A FEW COPIES OF A SIMPLE LISTING HERE TODAY TO GIVE WITH MY COMPLIMENTS TO ANY PERSON SO INTERESTED.