

REVISED 2018 STAMP PROGRAMME (Subject to change without notice)

Bounty Jewels	27 February	Children's Issue	14 August
Nobbs and Elliott	5 April	Octopus	27 September
Royal Wedding	19 May	WWI Ending	9 November
Colours of Paradise	27 June		

2017 ANNUAL COLLECTIONS

The Annual Stamp and First Day Cover Collections are proving popular and enable collectors to receive all stamp issues, miniature sheets and /or First Day Covers produced in 2017.

The Collections are enclosed in practical folders and come with or without the current definitive stamps. Each folder also contains an index showing issue information and an image of each date stamp

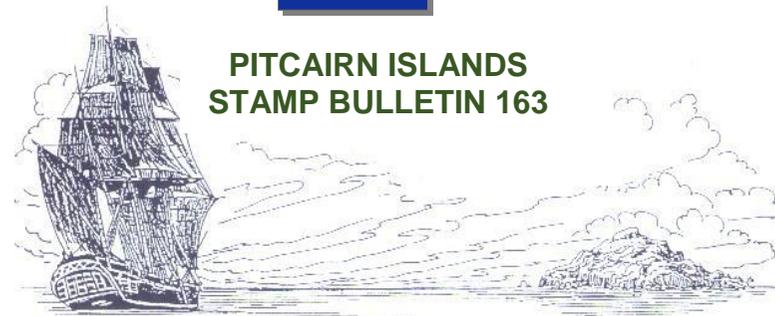


See enclosed order form for prices with and without definitives.



NEXT ISSUE: Pitcairn's Constitutional Beginnings

After a period of troubled leadership in the 1830s and growing trouble from visiting whalers, Pitcairn needed a code of laws to bring stability and protection to the community. The island leader George Hunn Nobbs was the first to recommend a set of laws which were expanded and drawn up by Captain Russell Elliott of the visiting British ship the *HMS Fly*. The First Constitution of Pitcairn Island was signed onboard the *Fly* on 30 November 1838, thereby incorporating Pitcairn into the British Empire.



PITCAIRN ISLANDS STAMP BULLETIN 163

JEWELS OF THE BOUNTY



Stamp issue release 27 February 2018

Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau,
New Zealand. Tel +64 4 385 3765
PO Box 27404 Marion Square, Wellington 6141,
Email: stamps@pitcairn.gov.pn
Web: www.government.pn

JEWELS OF THE BOUNTY

When the mutineers burnt the *HMAV Bounty* on January 23, 1790 to avoid detection from the authorities, much was sent to the seabed of Bounty Bay. Over time some of the more permanent fixtures that were on the ship have changed their appearance through metallic changes and oxidation. These “jewels” of copper, lead and bronze all display brilliant colours of reds, purples and verdigris green and along with their history, represent a treasure to behold.



Nigel Erskine’s article “Reclaiming the Bounty” in the magazine ‘Archaeology’ (Volume 52 Number 3, May/June 1999) sums up his Project Pitcairn, where many remaining artefacts were uncovered to help reveal the story of the final days of the *Bounty* and how its crew adapted to their new life.

Erskine writes (abbreviated):

“A reconnaissance trip in 1997 confirmed that significant remains of *Bounty* lay in the surf just off the Landing, the island’s only harbour. The first area sampled quickly confirmed that artefacts lay trapped beneath the ballast. Working in a small hole, partially shielded from the wave surge, we removed two ballast blocks to expose a concreted mass of artefacts including copper sheathing and nails held together in a

mixture of corroded metal and sediment. The nails were in surprisingly good condition, with no sign of corrosion, and remained extremely sharp. Several concretions brought to the surface later revealed cannonballs, grapeshot, musket balls, and a large piece of timber in good condition.

A bolt appeared to be a puzzling composite of iron with a brass outer case. More of them, found later throughout the site, attest the measures taken to prepare the ship for its botanical mission. The refitting included covering the wooden hull with copper sheets



to protect it from teredo worms and to discourage barnacles and other marine organisms from fouling (and thereby, slowing) the ship. This was an expensive but necessary exercise for a voyage in the tropical waters of the Pacific lasting several years. The Admiralty had long accepted the advantages of copper sheathing, and after tentative experiments with smaller warships, had ordered the entire fleet coppered in 1782. An important part of this process was the development of suitable fastenings. Several ships sank after the iron fastenings that were initially used came into contact with the copper and corroded. *Bounty*’s bolts may prove early examples of fastenings developed to be compatible with copper sheathing. We also found a lead scupper associated with the drainage of the captain’s cabin-greenhouse, a range of copper-alloy and iron fastenings, a large iron hinge, bronze washers clearly displaying the broad arrow symbol (marking them as British government property), animal bones, pulley sheaves, keel staples, and a variety of iron fragments in concretions. Some of the concretions are hollow, where iron objects have corroded entirely. These will be X-rayed and used for casting molds of the original objects. Almost without exception, the finds relate to the structure and armament of the ship. Only two or three objects, including a spoon crudely fashioned from copper, may relate to the crew. The near total absence of personal items suggests that *Bounty* was stripped of all useful items before it was burned”.

Bounty Jewels Collectors Notes:

Designer:	Denise Durkin, Wellington, New Zealand.
Printer:	Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, New Zealand
Process:	Offset Litho
Stamp Size:	40.00mm x 30.00mm horizontal.
Format:	Two panes each of 20 stamps separated by gutter.
Perforation Gauge:	13.33 x 13.33
Denominations:	\$1.00, \$1.80, \$2.10 and \$3.00
Paper:	103gsm Tullis Russell Yellow/Green phosphor gummed stamp paper.
Period of Sale:	27 February 2017 for a period of 2 years.
Acknowledgement:	The Philatelic Bureau wishes to thank Tony Probst (USA) and the Pitcairn Islanders for their enthusiastic co-operation in providing images and descriptions.

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