

Reflections on 50 years of PISG

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set on the stamps I bought, and I had to agree with them. But some still wondered if it was really there. After the show closed I did find my sales slip and the dealer's name and in time I wrote to him asking about the stamps and the off-set.

It was Ronald Grover of RUSHSTAMPS in Lyndhurst, Hampshire who had sold me the stamps and he was of the opinion that there was more than one off-set sheet, but he wasn't sure of the number. I also tried other dealers and PISG members and finally wrote to the Royal Mint, which had printed the stamps and where the off-set error must have taken place.

The answer to that letter didn't help. Their answer was simply "the Royal Mint doesn't make errors" and as I had gotten very little information from others about the offset, and none from the Royal Mint, I decided I'd call my stamp "unique" and exhibit it that way.

Over the years I had sent other items to the Royal Philatelic Society in England and in 1997 my "unique" stamp was in the mail to them. I waited weeks and finally it came back with a certificate saying the offset was faint but definitely on the back of the error.

While writing this piece I contacted Dr. Vernon Kisling as I had sold him some of my extra stamps over the years and I wanted his input on the offset question. I got an e-mail from Vernon that he has an offset error in his collection. That fact threw me and I began to think maybe there were two sheets with the offset and two errors with offset.

But then memory kicked in and in the following days I did a complete search of my collection and realized I no longer had the "unique" stamp on the exhibit page as I thought I did and the reality was, the one I had had was now living in Vernon's collection.

Some years back Vernon had visited me and bought a number of items and the error he has, had a certificate. When he sent me a copy of the Royal Philatelic Society certificate that went with his stamps, it showed that I had been the one who sent those stamps to London and that they were the same stamps I had bought in 1976.

So, we're back to square one in terms of the number of sheets there could be. I don't know of any

other members who have an offset stamp, though I would think there are some who do. And I would be glad to hear from any who do. I can tell you Vernon says that today the price of a simple offset stamp is \$700.00, so if you have one guard it well.

I will end by saying those are some of the thoughts the picture in the last *Log* brought to my mind. I will finish telling about my time at Interphil 76 by saying simply that picture was taken during the show but I don't think it was at the show itself.

PISG member active in Pitcairn studies

Dr. Donald Albert of Huntsville, Texas, is one of the busiest PISG members these days. Professor of geography at Sam Houston State University and editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*, he is helping to promote the society in a number of ways.

Recently he noted that he was working on a paper on barkcloth to appear in the *Okinawan Journal of Island Studies*, and that he had prepared a paper for the *Pennsylvania Geographer* on following John Buffett's journeys on Google Earth with analysis based on time-space compression associated with the Industrial Revolution.

"I received several small grants to study aviation histories (or lack thereof) in Polynesia and Pitcairn," he noted, "and am funding a student research assistant and plan to travel to Oahu and Tahiti."

He will present a poster in Perth at the Institute of Australia Geographer in early July. "This is based on an extension of two papers I published on Jenny, one in the *Pitcairn Log* and the other in the *Island Studies Journal*."

He also recently presented a talk on the intersecting lives of the three Fletcher Christian siblings. "Previously I published in medical and health geographies and geographic education, but the Pitcairn thread has generated the most interest."