

Pitcairn Islands Research Station

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Abstract: The Pitcairn Islands Research Station (PIRS) functions as a portal for our studies involving the mutiny on the HMAV Bounty (April 28, 1789) and its aftermath. Our affiliate investigators include Donald Albert (Department of Environmental & Geosciences), Susan Elkins (Newton Gresham Library), Matthew Purifoy (Geography Major), and Mason Solomon (History Major). The purpose of PIRS is to disseminate our studies (abstracts, posters, magazine and journal articles) online through Scholarly Works @ SHSU to Bounty/Pitcairn enthusiasts worldwide. The underlying themes of these studies have ranged from biogeography, isolated populations, to island feminism. The public has downloaded these studies almost 1,600 times from Scholarly Works @ SHSU over the last two years. Download counts offer an alternative measurement to standard citation metrics (e.g., h-index). PIRS maintains almost one-hundred books, including rare first or early editions. Further, the PIRS has collected first day covers (stamps), stamp exhibition entries, and postcards illustrating motifs depicting the Bounty or Pitcairn Island. PIRS possesses carvings (whales, sharks, birds, turtles, and a stingray), painted leaves, and other memorabilia emanating from Pitcairners. One developmental leave (2021), two internal grants (2022, 2023), and three Nancy and Jim Tiller Faculty Awards (2018, 2020, 2022) have supported our research. Our most recent publication is titled, "Repositioning Pitcairn's Tapa: Detecting the Voices of the Forgotten Women of Bounty," appearing in the *Okinawan Journal of Island Studies* (2023). In support of this initiative Albert has traveled to California (Pitcairn Islands Study Center), Oahu (US), Tahiti and Moorea (French Polynesia), Australia (Sydney), and New Zealand.

Keywords: Mutiny on the Bounty, Pitcairn Islands, Historical Geography, Small Island Economies