The Naval Mutiny on HMAV (His Majesty’s Armed Vessel) Bounty which took place in the South Seas in 1789 has been the subject of numerous books and articles and in more recent years several Hollywood films. The Isle of Man has strong links with this famous episode in naval history. This bibliography attempts to provide an aid in accessing some of the material available in the MNH collections, much of which will be obtainable from other libraries worldwide.

Glynn Christian in his book *Fragile Paradise* states that the bibliography of the Bounty/Pitcairn story exceeds 2500 items! Therefore this guide is only intended to provide a starting point for access to the vast amount of material available to the researcher. Please note that other material is accessible through our catalogues and a summary list of the books, articles and pamphlets we hold in our collections is available in the reading room or by e-mail as an attachment.

For a more comprehensive list refer to those titles which have included detailed bibliographies. A selection of these are listed at the end of this resource sheet since they provide a convenient way for researchers to locate material and then request it through the inter library loan system.

Just outside Douglas is the village of Onchan, where on February 4 1781 at the parish church, William Bligh, later commander of the Bounty, married Elizabeth Betham, whose family lived at Bemahague, Onchan. Bligh was from Plymouth, where his father was a customs officer. Whilst serving as a midshipman on HMS Ranger in the 1770s William was a frequent visitor to Douglas, where he met customs officer Richard Betham and his family. After this posting Bligh subsequently sailed with Captain Cook to the Pacific and was promoted to Lieutenant, returning to England in 1780. After their marriage the Blighs lived in Douglas where their daughter Mary was christened at St Matthew’s Church on July 7, 1784. The family subsequently moved to Lambeth in London.

Peter Heywood of Douglas (Midshipman on the Bounty) was the son of a former Deemster (Judge) who was Steward to the Duke of Atholl. Born in the early 1770s Heywood joined the navy in 1786. In a small community his family would have known the Bethams and this helped persuade Bligh to select him as one of his officers for the voyage. Heywood’s subsequent arrest, trial and sentence to death and the efforts of his sister Nessy and family to have him pardoned are recorded in some detail in family correspondence and subsequent publications. The leader of the mutineers was Fletcher Christian. Although from Cumberland, which is just across the sea from the Isle of Man, he was related to the Christian family of Milntown near Ramsey and maintained links with the Island. Christian had sailed with Bligh before.
The Mutiny

Barrow, Sir John
The eventful history of the mutiny and piratical seizure of HMS Bounty: its causes and consequences
London: John Murray, 1831
A full account of the events surrounding the mutiny. The author was Secretary of the Admiralty.
Library Ref. G88/1/18

Barrow, Sir John
The Mutiny on the Bounty
Boston: David R Godine, 1980
0 89723 343 5
A modern edition of the above title edited by and with an introduction by Gavin Kennedy which refers to sources which have been found since the original publication and work on them by scholars.
Library Ref G88/1/127

Bligh, William
A narrative of the mutiny on board HMS Bounty: and the subsequent voyage of part of the crew in the ship's boat...
London: Printed for George Nicol, 1790
Bligh's account of events.
Library Ref.G88/1/3x

Bligh, William
A voyage to the South Sea...in HMS the Bounty
London: Printed for George Nicol, 1792
Expanded and amended account of events.
Library Ref.G88/1/4x

Bligh, William
Bligh and the Bounty: his own unabridged narrative edited and illustrated by Laurence Irving
London: Methuen, 1936
A reprint of Bligh's voyage to the South Sea in 1792
Library Ref.G88/1/59

Mackaness, George (editor)
A Book of the Bounty
London: J.Dent, 1938
Library Ref G88/1/68

Rutter, Owen
The Court-Martial of the 'Bounty' Mutineers
Edinburgh: William Hodge & Company, 1931
A reprint of the Court-Martial proceedings with an introduction by Owen Rutter.
Library Ref. G88/1/50

Interpretation of events

Alexander, Caroline
The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty.
ISBN 0 00 257221 4
A reinterpretation of events using a wide range of material..
Library Ref: G.88/1/164

Belcher, Diana, Lady
The mutineers of the Bounty and their descendent in Pitcairn Islands and Norfolk Islands...
London, John Murray, 1870
Includes extracts from James Morrison's Journal.
Library Ref: G.88/1/38

Dening, Greg
Mr Bligh's Bad Language: Passion Power and Theatre on the Bounty
Cambridge University Press, 1992
0 521 38370 6
An attempt to interpret the mutiny in the context of its historical and cultural representations.
Library Ref G.88/1/123

Danielsson, Bengt
What happened on the Bounty
A reconstruction of what happened on the Bounty, the adventures of the survivors and the subsequent Court-Martial.

Du Rietz, Rolf
Studia Bountyana 1: the causes of the Bounty mutiny, some comments on a book by Madge Darby
Uppsala, 1965
This author has written numerous articles about the Bounty and this is a critique which provides a discussion of the various ways the events have been interpreted.
Library Ref G.88/1/89/1

Hough, Richard
Captain Bligh & Mr Christian: The Men and the Mutiny
London: Hutchinson, 1972
0 09 112860 9
A study of the leading characters in the mutiny.
Library Ref G88/1/124

Kennedy, Gavin
Captain Bligh the man and his mutinies
Developed from his biography of Bligh. Issued in the bicentenary year of the mutiny.
Library Ref G88/1/116

McFarland, Alfred
Mutiny in the Bounty!: and story of the Pitcairn Islanders
Sydney: J. J. Moore, 1884
A compilation from the various books about the Bounty aimed at the Australian reader.
Library Ref G88/1/31

Shapiro, H.L.
Heritage of the Bounty: The story of Pitcairn through six generations
London: Victor Gollancz, 1936
The author, formerly Curator of the American Museum of Natural History, wrote a number of articles on matters related to the Bounty.
Library Ref G88/1/61

Wahlroos, Sven
Mutiny and Romance in the South Seas: A Companion to the Bounty Adventure
Topsfield: Salem House, 1989
Part 1 is a chronicle of events, Part 2 a Bounty
HMS Pandora

Gesner, Peter
HMS Pandora Project: A report of five seasons of excavation
ISSN 1440 4788
Library Ref G88/1/147b

Gesner, Peter
Pandora: An Archaeological Perspective
0 7242 4482 4
Library Ref G88/1/147

Hamilton, George
A Voyage Round the World in His Majesty's Frigate Pandora
Facsimile reprint with an essay by Peter Gesner, Curator of Maritime Archaeology, who was involved in the Pandora excavation.
Library Ref G88/1/149

Thomson, Basil, (editor)
The voyage of HMS Pandora: despatched to arrest the mutineers of the 'Bounty' in the South Seas, 1790-91
London: Francis Edwards, 1915
This tells the story of the treatment of the mutineers on the voyage back to England to be put on trial.
Library Ref.G88/1/41

Pitcairn Island

Murray, Thomas Boyles
Pitcairn the Island, the People and the Pastor
London: SPCK, 1853
This volume was frequently reprinted with the last edition published in 1909. It includes details of the mutiny.
Library Ref G88/1/36 (1909 ed)

Young, Rosalind Amelia
Mutiny on the Bounty and Story of Pitcairn Island 1790-1894
Wellington: Pastor David Nield, 1924
Written by a descendant of the mutineers who was born and lived on Pitcairn.
Library Ref G88/1/43

The Personalities:

William Bligh

Kennedy, Gavin
Bligh
London: Duckworth, 1978
A biography using recently discovered sources.
Library Ref.G88/1/105

Mackaness, George
The Life of Vice-Admiral William Bligh
Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1931
2 volume comprehensive account.
Library Ref G88/1/48-9

Montgomerie, H. S.
William Bligh of the 'Bounty': in fact and in fable
London: Williams & Norgate, 1937
A biography.
Library Ref.G88/1/65

Rawson, Geoffrey
Bligh Of the Bounty
London: Philip Allan, 1930
With sixty pages on the Mutiny.
Library Ref.G88/1/47

Rutter, Owen
Turbulent journey
London: Ivor Nicholson and Watson, 1936
Library Ref.G88/1/60

Fletcher Christian

Beach, Susan Hicks
The yesterdays behind the door: a family biography
Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 1956
This volume deals with the Christian family history and includes details about Fletcher Christian.
Library Ref.G90/CHR

Christian, Glynn
Fragile Paradise: the discovery of Fletcher Christian's Bounty mutineer
An interesting interpretation of the events leading up to and subsequent to the mutiny by a descendant of Fletcher Christian. It also includes the Christian family tree.
Library Ref.G88/1/103

Peter Heywood

Moore, A. W., SHK
Nessy Heywood
Douglas: Brown & Sons, 1913
Nessy was actively involved in securing her brother's pardon from his conviction for his involvement in the mutiny. This book contains all the published letters of Nessy and Peter Heywood
Library Ref.G88/1/39
Tagart, Edward  
A memoir of Captain Peter Heywood, R.N. with extracts from his diaries and correspondence.  
London: Effingham Wilson, 1832  
Extensive coverage of his naval career, the Bounty voyage and subsequent court martial.  
  
Library Ref. G88/1/19

Bibliographies

The following have useful bibliographies. The more recent examples provide a vivid indication of the amount of material available to researchers.

Alexander, Caroline  
The Bounty  
pp 441-448 sources.  
pp 449-467 select Bibliography

Dening, Greg  
Mr Bligh’s Bad Language  
pp 397-427 over 620 references.

Kennedy, Gavin  
Bligh  
pp 400-412 a detailed list of 328 items.

Kennedy, Gavin  
Captain Bligh: the man and his mutinies  
Updated and condensed list pp 307-310

Lucas, Charles, Sir  
The Pitcairn Island register book  
London: SPCK, 1929  
pp 165-178 has 82 references divided by theme.  
(Library Ref. G88/1/45)

Rutter, Owen  
The Court-Martial of the ‘Bounty’ Mutineers  
pp 200-202 23 references

Wahlroos, Sven  
Mutiny and Romance in the South Seas:  
A Companion to the Bounty Adventure  
pp 439-466

Manuscript Resources

Heywood Family Letters  
The letters and papers of Peter and Hester (Nessy) Heywood.  
A detailed handlist is available in the search room.  
  
Archive Ref 09519

Web Sites:

There is a wealth of information about the Bounty available on the Internet. Try running searches using terms such as Bounty Mutiny, Pitcairn Island, William Bligh to get up to date references.

At the time of writing this guide a useful site was

http://lareau.org/bounty.html

This had numerous links and an online bibliography by H.L.Kerr which included books, manuscripts, articles and portraits relating to the mutiny.

The Manx National Heritage Library holds a wealth of various and extensive source material. Staff at the library and throughout Manx National Heritage, are always pleased to hear from anyone with an interest in Manx history.

Manx National Heritage,  
Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LY.  
Tel: (01624) 648000  
Fax: (01624) 648001  
E-mail: library@mnh.gov.im  
Website: http://gov.im/mnh

Opening times: Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm  
Closed Sunday and for one week in January.

MNH Library is a reference only facility and does not lend items through the Inter Library Loan system. However, photocopies of some material, subject to copyright and the need to preserve originals may be available on receipt of the appropriate copying fee. Some material may also be available through Inter Library Loans from other libraries and research centres.

The following links are useful for researchers:

British Library Newspaper Library -  
http://prodigi.bl.uk/nlcat  
British Library on-line public catalogue -  
http://blpc.co.uk  
Library of Congress -  
http://catalog.loc.gov

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