



Pitcairn Island
Bounty Bible
made by the Island Council
on the
30 November 2011

Background:

Among all the books that arrived on Pitcairn onboard the Bounty in 1790 was the Bounty Bible. The Bounty Bible, donated by John Adams to a passing ship's captain, was said to have been used by Mr Adams to teach the young ones, ended up in the archives of the Connecticut Historical Society. A century later a correspondent with the late Roy Clark, managed to track down the Bounty Bible in 1945. A. W Moverley, school teacher to Pitcairn, wrote to the Society in 1948 and requested that the Bounty Bible be returned to Pitcairn. The Bible was consequently repaired and rebound in London then packed and sent first to Fiji where a wooden case was made for it with a glass top. In February 1950 the Bible and the box was presented to the people of Pitcairn.

The glass covered case, today, contains the Bible itself, a facsimile of William and Elizabeth Bligh's marriage certificate, the standard flag used on the Pastor's car during Prince Philip's visit in 1971 and a New Testament in very small print donated to the church. In the drawer underneath the case are photos of the Bible before and after being rebound, some fragments of the old binding, and many letters written by the Hayden family relating to the Bounty Bible plus some newspaper clippings.

The case containing all of the above was kept in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church but was moved to the museum in 2006. In 2011, following a petition presented to the Island Council, the Council agreed that the Bible should be returned for display in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Responsibility:

The Bounty Bible is the property of the Pitcairn People. The responsibility for its care is to remain with the Museum Curator under the Division Manager for Community Development.

A memorandum of understanding between the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and the Government of Pitcairn is annexed to this Policy.

Care of the Bible

Because the Bible in particular is fragile the following applies:

1. The glass covered case should be displayed in an area of the church least affected by direct or indirect sunlight, yet offering reasonable access for viewing.
2. When not being viewed the case should be covered to protect the contents from direct or indirect sunlight.

3. No flash photography is allowed.
4. The Bible is to be handled in general by the Museum curator.
5. Appropriate gloves must be worn when handling the Bible and contents within the glass case.

Annexed

- **Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Pitcairn and the Seventh-Day Adventist Church**
- **Bounty Bible Petition**