

Original HMS Bounty Ruder



HMS Bounty Ruder im Museum von Suva Fiji



A Discovery of Historic Interest

WE have received the accompanying picture and the following statement from Brother Roy Clark of Pitcairn Island. After telling of the movements of the mutineers and the ultimate burning of the *Bounty* close to the shore of Pitcairn Island, he proceeds:

"Not long ago Parkin Christian, a direct descendant of the mutineers of the *Bounty*, came ashore with part of the *Bounty's* rudder, which he had fished up from the site where the ship was burned. It was the gudgeon, and it had lain buried in the sand for nearly one and a half centuries. He accidentally saw it while out fishing. The reason it was not discovered before is this: it was only a few days before that some very heavy seas and a large surf had occurred, which uncovered the sand from it.

"This triumph in securing a real relic from the *Bounty* awakened the interest of the people, and especially of Parkin Christian, who again in the next few days took out his canoe for the purpose of looking for some more of the *Bounty*.

"Again he was fortunate, for he saw deeply buried in the sand, something that looked like the remains of part of a ship. This object excited his attention, and he began to fish for it. He managed at last to make fast to it, but, try as he would, it was impossible to move it from its ocean bed. He called to his aid another man in his canoe, but even with their united strength they could not move this object.

"One of the men came ashore and called for volunteers to bring two larger boats to their assistance in gaining the prize. Many responded to the call, and soon two boats were loaded with men and boys, anxious to see some more remains of the historic old *Bounty*.

"After much effort to get larger ropes on what was now decided to be the rudder of the *Bounty*, the men finally succeeded. The boats came close together, and with the combined strength of one boat's crew the rudder was shifted from the bottom. The men in their excitement were too eager, and in their hurry they dropped their prize. The rudder was almost in the boat when the ropes shifted, and down it went. The second attempt was more successful, and in a short time there lay



The actual rudder of the famous old "*Bounty*," discovered by a descendant of Fletcher Christian, after it had lain for 150 years on the seabed, at the spot where the "*Bounty*" was destroyed.

the old *Bounty's* rudder in the bottom of the boat.

"The reward of their labour was taken ashore with great excitement among the men. There were many conjectures as to what the value would be, if able to dispose of it. It is now in the court house, carefully locked up, and the people are patiently waiting to hear from the British Admiralty for its opinion as to how the discovery of such a great relic of the *Bounty* can be used to the best advantage."

HMS Bounty Ruderteile im HMAV BOUNTY MUSEUM Weinfelden

