Prologue: Telling Tales of the South Pacific

> I wish I could tell you about the South Pacific. The way it actually was. The endless ocean. The infinite specks of coral we called islands. Coconut palms nodding gracefully towards the ocean. Reefs upon which waves broke into spray, and inner lagoons, lovely beyond description. I wish I could tell you about the sweating jungle, the full moon rising behind the volcanoes, and the waiting. The waiting. The timeless, repetitive waiting.
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> James A. Michener, *Tales of the South Pacific* (1947)[1]

On October 28, 1832, after sailing for how many days history will likely never know, an enigmatic man, then aged fifty-nine, landed at Pitcairn Island. It was a Sunday. Joshua W. Hill had sailed from Tahiti, more than 1,300 nautical miles to the northeast of the tiny Pacific island best known as the home of the descendants of the mutineers from His Majesty's Armed Vessel (HMAV) *Bounty* and its ill-fated breadfruit mission under Captain William Bligh in 1789.[2] Hardly a major tourist destination, Pitcairn was and remains an inhospitable rock formed from an upwelling of magma deep beneath the waters of the Pacific Ocean. Less than two-square miles in area, Pitcairn Island has no natural landing for visiting boats; its sloping hills drop off into the ocean as dangerous cliffs against which the turbid waters of the Pacific beat a ferocious music.[3] The only small beach at the island is located at a bay so elongated and flattened that it hardly merits the geographical label of "bay." Known as Bounty Bay – for it was there that that infamous vessel made its last anchorage in 1790 – the inlet is sealed in by coral and rocks so high and so sharp that only expert longboat men are able to "surf" in from the open ocean on the crests of incoming waves (Figure 1).[4] The climb from the beach to the island's only settlement, Adamstown, is as steep and

[1] James A. Michener, *Tales of the South Pacific* (New York: Fawcett, 1973), 9.
[2] For more on the *Bounty* saga, see Caroline Alexander, *The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty* (New York: Viking, 2003).
[3] Captain Henry William Bruce (R.N.), *Extract from a Letter to Lady Troubridge* (Valparaíso, Chilé: January 17, 1838), NMM TRO 119/9. See also Trevor Lummis, *Life and Death in Eden: Pitcairn Island and the Bounty Mutineers* (London: Phoenix, 1999), 76.
[4] See Maurice Allward, *Pitcairn Island: Refuge of the Bounty Mutineers* (Stroud, Gloucestershire: Tempus Publishing Limited, 2000), 77.

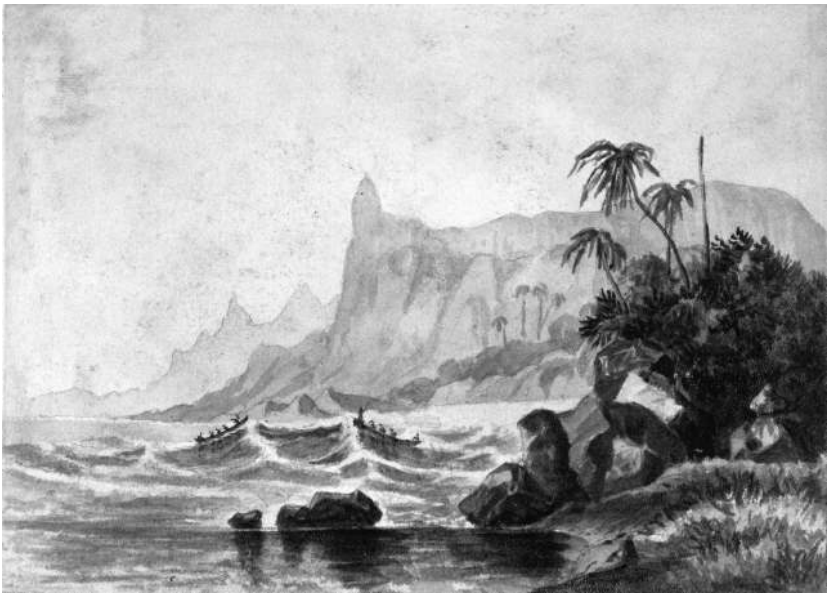

Figure 1 Frederick William Beechey, *Landing in Bounty Bay, Pitcairn Island, December 1825*. Te Puna A-118–009. Published by permission of the Alexander Turnbull Library, Willington, New Zealand.

unwelcoming as is the island more generally. The Pitcairnese people call the corniche one must climb to reach Adamstown "the Hill of Difficulty."

Joshua Hill's voyage from Tahiti to Pitcairn is cloaked in uncertainty. Petitions written years later by the Pitcairn islanders indicate that Hill arrived on a small Tahitian vessel, the *Pomare*, captained by Thomas Ebril.[5] The official island register, known since its inception as "The Bounty Register," records that no such ship landed at the island in 1832, though it does record the arrival on October 28 of the *Maria*, under the command of Thomas Ebril.[6] Ebril, for his part, was one of a new wave of European settlers to the Pacific in the first three decades of the nineteenth century, men like Samuel Pinder Henry, George Bicknell, and Jacques-Antoine Moerenhout. These men were merchants, sailing between Tahiti, Valparaíso, and other ports of the

[5] The Humble Petition of the Principal Native Inhabitants of Pitcairn's Island to His Excellency James Townshend, Commander in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces upon the west coast of South America (June 19, 1834), in Walter Brodie, *Pitcairn's Island and the Islanders, in 1850* (Uckfield, East Sussex: Rediscovery Books, 2006), 205.
[6] The Pitcairn Island Register, 1790–1854, NMM Rec/61.

Pacific basin and trading in commodities such as coconuts, coconut oil, arrowroot, sugar, and sandalwood. Henry, Bicknell, and Ebril had been employed by Pomare II of Tahiti to transport sugar back and forth between that island and Port Jackson, better known today as Sydney Harbor, though, after the Tahitian monarch's death, Ebril engaged almost exclusively in private trade in the South Pacific.[7] The *Maria*, if the Bounty Register is accurate, was one of only five ships to reach Pitcairn in 1832.[8] It is peculiar, though, as we shall see, far from uncommon, that there should be no sense of certainty about an event as rare or as noteworthy as the arrival of a ship off the shores of Pitcairn Island.[9]

There is no record of Hill's actual landing in Bounty Bay either. It is likely that a crew from among the island's adult men sailed out to the *Pomare* or the *Maria*, collected Mr. Hill from Captain Ebril's care, and transported him to the beachhead. Seated on the front of a longboat, Hill would have felt the ocean breezes whistle across his balding scalp as a swell lifted the craft over the coral and boulders of the bay and onto the rocky beach. It is not likely that many, if any, of the island's seventy-eight inhabitants would have met Hill at the water's edge. His first encounter with the majority of the islanders, therefore, came after he had mounted the steep hill and rounded the path into Adamstown, a small collection of rough buildings (Figure 2).

If we do not know what Hill made of his landing at Pitcairn, we do know what he made of Adamstown. Having touched at Pitcairn in 1833, only a few months after Hill's arrival, Captain Charles Freemantle of HMS *Challenger* recorded that Hill "found the island in the greatest state of irregularity." Most of the islanders were intoxicated from overindulgence in spirits distilled from the root of the ti plant. This group included one Englishman by the name of George Hunn Nobbs, who was the island's pastor.[10] By all accounts, Hill was horrified by the state

[7] George Pritchard, Letter to Lord Palmerston (Tahiti: December 24, 1839), TNA FO 58/15; and Foreign Office, Letter to George Pritchard (London: June 27, 1840), TNA FO 58/16. See, J. W. Davidson and Deryck Scarr, *Pacific Island Portraits* (Canberra: Australian National University Press, 1970), 79–81. See also, Dorothy Shineberg, *They Came for Sandalwood: A Study of the Sandalwood Trade in the South-West Pacific, 1830–1865* (New York: Melbourne University Press, 1967), 17 and 28; and Colin Newbury, *Tahiti Nui: Change and Survival in French Polynesia, 1767–1945* (Honolulu: The University of Hawai'i Press, 1980), 78.

[8] Pitcairn Island Register, 1790–1854, NMM Rec/61.

[9] Richard Charlton, Letter to Lord Palmerston (Tahiti: September 8, 1834), TNA FO 58/8.

[10] Captain Charles Freemantle (R.N.), Despatch of the HMS *Challenger* (May 30, 1833), reprinted in *The Sydney Morning Herald* (October 2, 1834), and Captain F.W. Beechey

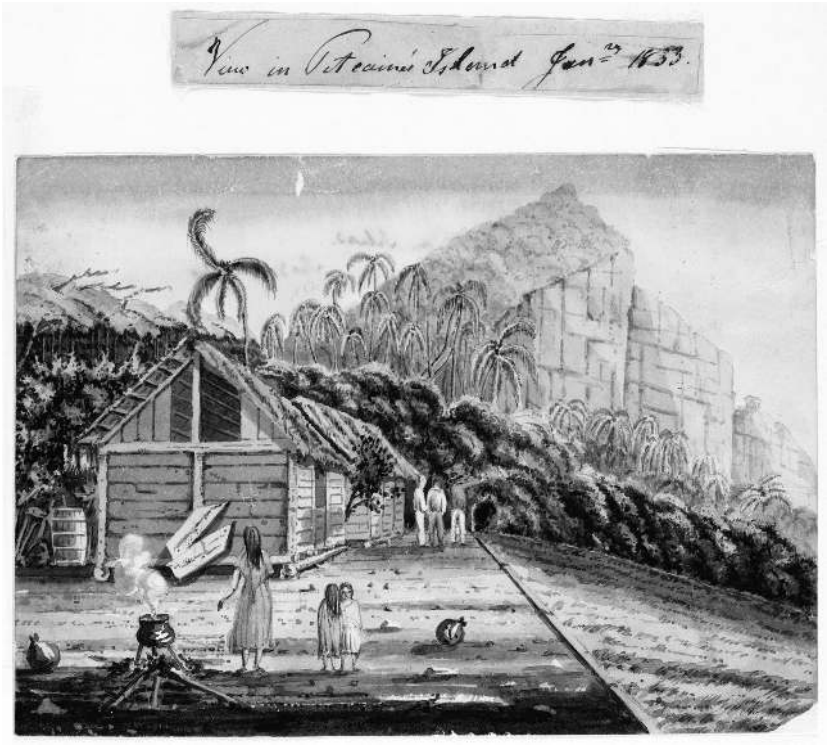

Figure 2 George Frederick Dashwood, *View in Pitcairn's Island, Janry. 1833*, in Sketchbooks, 1830–1835. SLNSW PXA 1679, 58b. Published by permission of the State Library of New South Wales, Mitchell Library, Sydney.

of things on the small island, but what happened next remains something of a mystery.

If we believe Hill and his partisans, he convinced the Pitcairners that they were in need of reform, volunteering his services as an agent of change. Captain Freemantle was, initially, concerned that Hill was little more than an "adventurer" but was quickly impressed by a mountain of papers and a lengthy curriculum vitae that Hill presented as his bona fides.[11] These documents suggested that Hill had lived a peripatetic sixty or so years before he ventured to Pitcairn in the 1830s. By his own

(R.N.), *Narrative of a Voyage to the Pacific and Bering's Strait to Co-Operate with the Polar Expeditions*, two vols. (London: Henry Colburn and Richard Bentley, 1831), i, 92.

[11] Freemantle, *Despatch* (May 30, 1833).

admission, he had "in the course of a long life passed among the various foreign dependencies of Great Britain, visited many of the islands in the Pacific Ocean."[12] His travels had brought him into contact and communication with the rich and the famous. He knew William Wilberforce as well as Captain F. W. Beechey, whose 1825 voyage on the *Blossom* had famously stopped at Pitcairn.[13] He had, he boasted, "visited the four quadrants of the globe," and he had done so in style. He had lived and dined in palaces (and with no less than the likes of Madame Bonaparte and Lady Hamilton, mistress to the great Lord Nelson), he was friends with George IV and William IV, he had been a guest at meetings of the Royal Society and was an associate of its president, Sir Joseph Banks (whose idea it had been to send Captain Bligh on his breadfruit mission).[14] He had published in some of the leading newspapers of the day and visited some of the greatest tourist destinations in South Asia and North America. He had sampled some of the finest wines at the tables of royal hosts across Europe, though he also boasted (perhaps hypocritically) of his nephalism as a member of various temperance societies. He attended Napoleon's coronation.

These were, at least, some of his claims.[15] The island's residents told another story.

George Hunn Nobbs, the island's erstwhile preacher, later noted that the newly arrived Englishman announced that he had been sent from London to "adjust the internal affairs of the island." Hill claimed to have "British ships of war on the coast ... under his direction," a threat the islanders seem to have taken seriously.[16] There were, though, no boats. There were no orders. Though, as we shall see, Hill had tried to convince the British government and the London Missionary Society (LMS) to take up the issue of Pitcairn Island, neither had done so. He seems, therefore, to have arrived on the island of his own accord. He was but

[12] Joshua Hill, *The Humble Memorial of Joshua Hill* (London, May 27, 1841), 1.
[13] Ibid., 1.
[14] Glyndwr Williams, *Naturalists at Sea: From Dampier to Darwin* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013), 135. See also, Harry Liebersohn, *The Travelers' World: Europe to the Pacific* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006), 98 and 232. See also, Anne Salmond, *Bligh: William Bligh in the South Seas* (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2011), 108; Jill H. Casid, *Sowing Empire: Landscape and Colonization* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005), 23–24; and Stuart McCook, "'Squares of Tropic Summer': The Wardian Case, Victorian Horticulture, and the Logistics of Global Plant Transfers, 1770–1910," in Patrick Manning and Daniel Rood, eds., *Global Scientific Practice in the Age of Revolutions, 1750–1850* (Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2016), 202.
[15] Joshua Hill, Letter (June 1834). Quoted in Brodie, *Pitcairn's Island and the Islanders*, 211–215.
[16] George Hunn Nobbs, The Humble Petition of George Hunn Nobbs, late Teacher at Pitcairn's Island, quoted in Brodie, *Pitcairn's Island and the Islanders*, 181.

one man, and yet, from 1832 until his removal from the island late in 1837, Joshua Hill ruled at Pitcairn as the island's high priest, its president, and its schoolteacher. He managed, in short, to dislodge Pitcairn from any authorized form of British colonial control without ever firing a single shot. As veritable dictator over the Pitcairners, he would attempt to reform their system of land ownership, he would institute a temperance society, he would break up stills and found schools. He established new religious policies, and he sought to reform the manners of a community of people whose moral fate, he believed, was on the brink.

But, who was Joshua Hill? Where exactly had he come from? Why did he decide that Pitcairn, of all places, ought to be the ultimate target of his "philanthropic tour among the islands of the Pacific"?[17] Few historians who have looked at the history of Pitcairn Island have ventured to ask any of these, admittedly basic, questions about this pavonine tin god. Instead of researching Hill's time at Pitcairn as a matter of biography, scholars have written only pathography. Most have assumed he was a madman. He has been labeled "psychopathic," a "stalker," and a "confidence artist *par excellence*."[18] Accordingly, most have written this short period of Pitcairnese history off as something of a lark, though the acclaimed Pacific historian H. E. Maude went further when he labeled Hill as a "somewhat sinister figure."[19] Most, it is certainly true, have been far more interested in Pitcairn as the ultimate home to the mutineers from the *Bounty* than they have as a part of the broader history of Britain's global nineteenth-century empire, but the general tendency to be done with the Icarian story of Mr. Hill's fraudulent rule at Pitcairn in a few quick lines or a short paragraph is, to say the least, surprising.[20] Nearly all of the historians who have written about Hill's sojourn at Pitcairn have assumed that all of his claims were lies, and they have concluded, as

[17] Joshua Hill. Letter to Lord Palmerston (Tahiti: January 13, 1832), TNA FO 58/14.
[18] See Sven Wahlroos, *Mutiny and Romance in the South Seas: A Companion to the Bounty Adventure* (Topsfield, MA: Salem House Publishers, 1989), 293; and Roberk Kirk, *Pitcairn Island, the Bounty Mutineers, and Their Descendants* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2008), 82.
[19] H. E. Maude, "The Migration of the Pitcairn Islanders to the Motherland in 1831," in *The Journal of the Polynesian Society* 48:2 (June 1959), 122. See also, Lady Diana Belcher, *The Mutineers of the Bounty and Their Descendants in Pitcairn and Norfolk Islands* (London: John Murray, 1870), 206; David Silverman, *Pitcairn Island* (New York: The World Publishing Company, 1967), 78, 118, and 177; Robert Kirk, *Pitcairn Island*, 82–83; Susanne Chauvel Carlsson, *Pitcairn Island: At the Edge of Time* (Rockhampton, Queensland: Central Queensland University Press, 2000), 39–40; Raymond Nobbs, *George Hunn Nobbs, 1799–1884: Chaplain on Pitcairn and Norfolk Island* (Norfolk Island: The Pitcairn Descendants Society, 1984), 32; and Lummis, *Life and Death in Eden*, 215.
[20] Kirk, *Pitcairn Island*, chapter 12.

a result, that it is nearly impossible to know much about this Pacific mountebank.

I want to start from a different premise. We know so little of this man, but his story begs us to dig deeper. Writing in 1885, J. J. Spruson, the assistant registrar of copyright at Sydney, may have offered what has to date been the most generous assessment of Joshua Hill's time at Pitcairn. "From 1832 to 1838," he wrote, "there resided on Pitcairn a Mr. Joshua Hill, who arrived from Otaheite." Spruson confessed that previous books had described Hill "as a person who imposed on the people with extravagant accounts of himself and his importance and his influence and who exercised a tyranny over them." But he cautioned that

> this view of the case should be regarded with great caution till more is known about it, for subsequent investigation favours the belief that Mr. Hill was a good man, who arrived at the island just in time to save the inhabitants from the curse of drink, into which they had fallen, and who, after gaining the confidence of most of the better disposed of the people, caused them to adopt such firm measures as were necessary for the removal of this curse.

In the course of this work, Hill naturally made some enemies, which suggested, to Spruson at least, that Hill's biography was "a remarkable instance of persecution for righteousness' sake."[21]

Without making judgments on righteousness, let us imagine that there is more to this story than one impostor, three score gullible Pacific islanders, and a half decade of British colonial neglect on London's part. Let us assume that Joshua Hill was connected to bigger colonial concerns, that he did have global connections, and that his arrival at Pitcairn was part of a larger, if still idiosyncratic, sense of how to reform and refortify British imperialism around the globe. Let us assume he had a purpose in going to Pitcairn that was more than an attempt to euchre a bunch of islanders. Let us imagine that Hill's life was, to quote Sena Jeter Naslund's beautiful turn of phrase, "pleated," that there was "more gathered up and stored behind than one can see."[22] Let us assume, in short, that Joshua Hill had a reason to go to Pitcairn. After all, in 1832, as today, one did not end up on that small little rock of an island by accident. Let us assume, therefore, that Hill's arrival off Bounty Bay in either the *Pomare* or the *Maria* on October 28, 1832, was intentional. That, I want to suggest, may be a tale worth the telling.

[21] J. J. Spruson, *Norfolk Island: Outline of Its History, from 1788–1884* (Sydney: Thomas Richards, 1885), 27.
[22] Sena Jeter Naslund, *Ahab's Wife, or, The Star-Gazer* (New York: Harper Perennial, 1999), 288.

In the early nineteenth century, it would have been difficult indeed to have been unaware of Pitcairn Island. As one journalist observed in *Chamber's Edinburgh Journal* in 1850, "there are few unacquainted with that romance of naval history, the 'Mutiny on the *Bounty*'."[23] The romantic story of swashbuckling mutineers still captivates audiences to this day (helped, no doubt, by Hollywood adaptations staring the likes of Errol Flynn, Clark Gable, Marlon Brando, and a young Mel Gibson), but its power to seduce was even more palpable to contemporaries.[24] From the first hint that a mutiny had occurred on board the *Bounty*, everyone wanted to know the same thing.[25] Where was the ship? Where were the mutineers? Where was the cabal's leader, Fletcher Christian? Bligh and his bosses at the Admiralty, of course, wanted to know so that justice could be done. There were courts martial to be held. Captain Edward Edwards of HMS *Pandora* was ordered out in search of the mutineers in November 1790.[26] The families of the mutineers wanted to know what had happened in order to (possibly) find and clear their loved ones and simply as a matter of familial concern. For the broader public, this was a mystery story of epic proportions.[27]

Sales of Captain Bligh's account of the mutiny were brisk. Brisker still were sales of a pamphlet refuting Bligh's claims by Edward Christian, Fletcher's older brother who, admittedly, was not on board the *Bounty* to know what had transpired during the mutiny.[28] Christian had the backing of his family, including Edward Law, his prominent first cousin. Law, who was a well-respected attorney by profession, was the defense council in the impeachment trial against Warren Hastings, the former governor general of India.[29] The published battle between Bligh and Christian

[23] "Pitcairn Islanders in 1849," in *Chamber's Edinburgh Journal* (1850), in Pitcairn Extracts, SLNSW F999.7/9, 10.
[24] Stephen A. Royle, *A Geography of Islands: Small Island Insularity* (New York: Routledge, 2001), 15. See also, Michael Sturma, *South Sea Maidens: Western Fantasy and Sexual Politics in the South Pacific* (Westpoint, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002), 42–47.
[25] William Bligh, Letter to Elizabeth (Betsy) Bligh (Coupang: August 19, 1789), SLNSW ML Safe 1/45. See also, Salmond, *Bligh*, 228.
[26] Edward Edwards, Captain, and George Hamilton, Surgeon, *Voyage of the HMS* Pandora (London: Francis Edwards, 1915. Kindle Edition).
[27] Bengt Danielsson, *What Happened on the Bounty*, Ala Tapsell, trans. (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1963), 205.
[28] William Bligh and Edward Christian, *The* Bounty *Mutiny* (New York: Penguin Books, 2001). See also, Gavin Kennedy, *Bligh* (London: Duckworth & Co. 1978), 93–98. See also, Glynn Christian, *Fragile Paradise: The Discovery of Fletcher Christian,* Bounty *Mutineer* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1982), 34; Lummis, *Life and Death in Eden*, 12; Donald A. Maxton, *The Mutiny on HMS* Bounty*: A Guide to Nonfiction, Poetry, Films, Articles, and Music* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2008), 17; and Salmond, *Bligh*, 436–441.
[29] Kennedy, *Bligh*, 229.

made the case a cause célèbre in the last years of the eighteenth century, made more exciting because it offered Europeans a South Sea adventure in what was one of the coldest winters in Europe in living memory.[30] As the lagoon in Venice froze over, the *Bounty*'s tropical saga had to seem even more tempting. Furthermore, the mutinous history of the *Bounty* resonated against the larger story of the French Revolution, still in its earliest days. Before the Terror made the events in France seem too dangerous, stories that pitted individual liberty against a stronger central authority had real purchase.[31]

So well-known was the story of the *Bounty's* lost crew members that when Mayhew Folger, an American whaling captain, sailed upon an uncharted island in 1808, he knew from the very first syllables of English off the lips of the natives who sailed out to greet him that he had found the final landing place of Bligh's rebellious crew and that infamous ship, the *Bounty*. This island, one might argue, was populated by history's ghosts.

To tell the history of Pitcairn Island has always been to tell *the* tale, if not also to tell outright tales. It has been a story, a myth, and a legend all at once, but the compounded nature of the island's history has not made for an easy narrative.[32] To quote W. B. Yeats, "mirror on mirror mirrored is all the show."[33] This complex narrative tale-ish-ness (if I may be forgiven the neologism) is hardly unique to Pitcairn. As David Chappell has observed, "seamen have a language of their own; a dictionary peculiar to themselves."[34] Consider, furthermore, how deeply embedded islands and maritime voyaging are rooted in the vocabulary of storytelling. When a story is difficult to believe, it is "hard to fathom." The narrator is thought to have "gone overboard" or "off the deep end." To interrupt the narration is to "barge" in, and any dispute emerging about a story's

[30] See, Joseph Coleman, Affidavit (July 31, 1794), SLNSW DL MSQ 163. See also, Thomas Boyles Murray, *Pitcairn: the Islands, the People, and the Pastor* (London: The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1860), 61, and Peter Heywood and Nessy Heywood, *Innocent on the* Bounty*: The Court-Martial and Pardon of Midshipman Peter Heywood, in Letters*, Donald A. Maxton and Rolf E. Du Rietz, eds. (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, Inc. 20143), particularly 3–7.

[31] Sturma, *South Sea Maidens*, 35. See also, John Barrow, *A Description of Pitcairn's Islands and Its Inhabitants* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1845), 72. See also, Salmond, *Bligh*, 21.

[32] Alan Moorehead, *The Fatal Impact: An Account of the Invasion of the South Pacific, 1767–1840* (New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1966), 76.

[33] W. B. Yeats, "The Statues," in Richard J. Finneran, ed., *The Poems* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1983), 337.

[34] David A. Chappell, *Double Ghosts: Oceanian Voyagers on Euro-American Ships* (London: A.E. Sharpe, 1997), 62.

veracity could put two parties "at loggerheads." Those observing the feud could be said to be caught "between the devil and the deep blue sea."[35]

More specifically, novelists, poets, journalists, essayists, and other writers have long found the Pacific to be a particularly fruitful geography in which to set their tales, though, not surprisingly, it has always been difficult to delimit the Pacific Ocean within a singular, coherent narrative. The author and anthropologist Epeli Hau'ofa, whose biography was itself an example of the Pacific region's complex narrative flow (he was descended from Tongan missionaries but was, at the time of his death, a citizen of Fiji), wrote in his *Tales of the Tikongs*, a fictional account of Pacific Islanders and their reaction to Western infiltration, that truth in the Pacific "comes in portions, some large, some small, but never whole." Anybody "who believes that truth, like beauty, is straight and narrow," he continued, "should not visit our country or they will be led up the garden path or sold down the river (so to speak, since we have no rivers). Truth is flexible and can be bent this way so and that way so; it can be stood on its head, be hidden in a box, and be sat upon."[36] The Pacific, it would seem, creates storytellers.

No wonder, then, that Pacific islands have featured so prominently in the writing of some of literary history's best authors as well as many of its lesser lights: Herman Melville, Jack London, Somerset Maugham, James Michener, Robert Louis Stevenson, Lord Byron, Mark Twain, Robert Michael Ballantyne, Edgar Allan Poe, William Golding, William Cullen Bryant, Richard Henry Dana, James Norman Hall, and Charles Nordhoff, to name but a few.[37] Islands, Jill Franks has argued, "fulfill

[35] This interesting set of maritime-related vocabulary was brought pointedly to mind in an exhibit I toured on June 1, 2014, at the Museum of Wellington City and Sea in Wellington, New Zealand.

[36] Epeli Hau'ofa, *Tales of the Tikongs* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1983), 7–8.

[37] See, Herman Melville, *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life* (New York: Penguin, 1996); Herman Melville, *Omoo: A Narrative of Adventures in the South Seas* (New York: Penguin, 2007); and of course, Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick, or, The Whale* (Los Angeles: The Arion Press, 1979). By way of example, see also Jack London, *South Sea Tales* (New York: Modern Library, 2002); W. Somerset Maugham, *The Moon and Sixpence* (New York: Vintage Books, 2000); Michener, *Tales of the South Pacific*; Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island* (New York: Barnes and Noble Classics, 2005) and Robert Louis Stevenson, *In the South Seas* (New York: Scribner's Sons, 1905); Edgar Allan Poe, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket* (Buffalo, NY: Broadview Press, 2010); William Golding, *To the Ends of the Earth: A Sea Trilogy* (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2006); and Richard Henry Dana, *Two Years before the Mast and Other Voyages* (New York: The Library of America, 2005). Small though it may be, the history of Pitcairn Island has interested more than a few writers. The most famous here, of course, would be Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall, *The* Bounty *Trilogy* (New York: Little, Brown, and Company, 1964). See also, James Norman Hall and Charles Norhoff, *Faery Lands of the South Seas* (Garden City, NY: Garden City Publishing Co., 1921). In other works, Hall wrote specifically of Joshua Hill, labeling