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REPRINT

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FROM UGGIE TO DEAREST MAIRE AND SOMETIMES AN "UNGRATEFUL CAT"

A series of 130-odd letters, which the late Sir Hubert Murray wrote to his daughter and grand-daughter while he was Lieutenant-Governor of Papua, have recently been copied on microfilm for the four member-libraries of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau.

The letters cover the period from November 2, 1930, to February 15, 1940 - 12 days before Sir Hubert's death in Samarai at the age of 78.

They provide intimate glimpses of the life, thoughts and opinions of a man who presided over the destiny of Papua for 31 years from 1908, and who for four years before that was a judge in the territory.

Sir Hubert Murray's daughter is Mrs Mary Pinney, of Bowral, New South Wales. His grand-daughter is Miss Maura Pinney, of Canberra, A.C.T.

For five of the 9-1/2 years covered by Sir Hubert's correspondence with them, the Pinneys lived on Norfolk Island, where Mrs Pinney's husband, the late Captain C.R. Pinney, MC, was the Administrator. The letters contain numerous references to ups and downs in Captain Pinney's career, and to the schoolboy literary prowess of the Pinneys' son, Peter, who has since made a name for himself as a novelist and travel writer.

Most of Sir Hubert's letters to his daughter are addressed "My dearest Mary" or "My dearest", but occasionally when she had upset him in some way, they bear such superscriptions as "Unnatural Cat", "Insolent Cat" or "Ungrateful Cat". The letters to grand-daughter Maura (always addressed, for some reason, to "Dearest Maire") are usually signed with the unubernatorial pet-name, "Uggie".

Sir Hubert wrote all his letters on a typewriter, which, as he said in one of them, sometimes "appears to have been drinking". The

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau was established in 1968 as part of the Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Its purpose is to locate unpublished documents of value concerning the Pacific Islands and to obtain copies of them on microfilm for four world libraries specialising in Pacific research. The four libraries are the National Libraries of Australia and New Zealand; the Mitchell Library, Sydney; and the Library of the University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

letters almost invariably contain pungent comments about life in Papua and the Europeans - some of them now notable figures of history - who came into Sir Hubert's ken. Here is a sample, written on September 14, 1931, with a postscript added 16 days later:

My dear Mary,

The day after tomorrow I shall have been 27 years in this land of sin sweat and sorrow - the Saints between us and harm.

They killed a dog on Saturday in the presence of two priests, two doctors, two Judges and others of high degree; and then the sorcerers essayed to bring him back to life, but he insisted upon remaining dead, poor beast.

There was a great row in the village afterwards - rival sorcerers denouncing one another. One of them came up to see me yesterday and explained that his method was infallible - he could bring a dog or a man to life, but the creature would only live as long as he determined - no white doctor could make it live an hour longer. He wanted to kill three more dogs - but I said No - it was not my fashion to kill dogs, and if I did kill one I should shoot it. He admitted that in that case he could not bring the dog back - there must be some life in it. I said it was like a man being knocked insensible - he was dead, apparently, and then got up and walked away. But the sorcerer said no - for two reasons (i) the dog, if left to himself would never get up - the life would soon fade away and (ii) the dog would only live as long as the sorcerer appointed - perhaps one day, perhaps two, and perhaps more - but no longer. A queer stunt, but the death of the dog was revolting.

I think I told you that Father Dupeyrat and Father Bachelier were prosecuted for assaulting a native girl - the case fizzled out, the girl admitting that she had made the marks herself. Dupeyrat had not touched her and was acquitted - the other had pulled her ears, which of course is an assault. So he was

convicted, but no penalty was imposed, as the assault was so trivial. The girl got a sentence for perjury.

Chabot and the rest were wildly excited. It was suggested to them that if Bachelier had pulled a girl's ears in Paris he would have been prosecuted - but they would not be comforted, and spoke of coming as one man to Port and seeking justice from me. But the Bishop apparently put some sense into them.

Mr Dunstan, the mining expert, has been to the new gold field, but will say nothing till he has examined some specimens he has located. I have always felt confident that it is a good field, but my opinion is of no value. If it is our financial troubles are over.

There are also rumours of many millions to be invested in sugar growing.

Bob and Mr Bate had dinner with me on Saturday; both well. Vogan went off by last Mataram laden with strange things - a frog with purple toes, a bat with red and yellow wings, and so forth. He atoned for all his misdeeds by telling me that I reminded him of you.

Sept. 30. All our prospects of prosperity have gone to the winds - the assays from the field were very disappointing, and the men who were finding the money for the sugar have been arrested for conspiracy. So we are all once more in the depths of despair...

The Murray letters to Mrs and Miss Pinney have been used as source material for a book on Sir Hubert to be published in November by Dr Francis West, of the Australian National University. The book will be entitled, Hubert Murray: The Australian Pro-Consul. Selections from Sir Hubert's correspondence with the same people and with others are to be published by Dr West in a second book towards the end of 1969. Both books will bear the imprint of Oxford University Press.

THE PAPERS IN "SQUEAKER" HAMILTON'S TRUNK

When Captain William Hamilton, an old hand in the Western Pacific, died in Sydney in November, 1937, at the age of 85, the Pacific Islands Monthly recorded that he had left behind him a trunk-full of diaries and other papers concerning his Pacific career, which, "in the hands of a competent writer, might make a bestseller".

Captain Hamilton, PIM recalled, had been a trader, pearl-sheller and planter at Thursday Island, New Guinea and the Solomons,

and had been known throughout the islands as "Squeaker" because of a defect in his voice.

Having taken part in many historic happenings in the Islands, his life had been "full of colourful adventure and incident".

Born in Scotland in 1852, he had come to Australia with his parents at the age of 10. As a young man he had begun a small shipping service on the Queensland coast, carrying miners and stores to the newly-discovered Palmer goldfield on Cape York Peninsula.

PIM went on to recall other details of Captain Hamilton's career. But beyond a vague hint that his trunk of papers was probably in the possession of his daughter, Mrs E.M. Stevenson, of Sydney, it gave no clue as to what - if anything - was to be done with it.

As things turned out, it appears that nothing was done with it. No bestselling novelist or historian ever got to its contents. No antiquarian bookseller ever haggled for its possession.

It simply remained a part of Mrs Stevenson's household, gathering dust and a silverfish or two, until finally, in the last couple of years, Mrs Stevenson presented it, with its papers still intact, to the Oxley Memorial Library, Brisbane.

The papers were still unsorted and uncatalogued when the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau chanced to discover the trunk during a visit to the Oxley Library in August.

Having received permission to examine its contents and obtain microfilm copies of any documents of historical value, the P.M.B. settled down to a diet of Hamiltonian prose for three or four days.

It soon became apparent that Captain Hamilton had been a man of considerable substance in his day. For a dozen or so years from the late 1890's, he had run a pearl-shelling business called the Hamilton Pearling Co., which had had a number of luggers operating from Komuli in the Admiralty Islands and from Gizo in the Solomons. This company also traded in copra, tortoise shell, black lip and green snail shell, and carried on an extensive correspondence with firms and private individuals in such places as Samarai, Cooktown, Townsville, Cape Melville, Herbertshohe (now Kokopo), Bundaberg and Brisbane. By 1910, Captain Hamilton had acquired considerable wealth; and with 7,000 acres of land in the Solomons, mainly on Choiseul, he was the fourth-largest landholder in that group, with big planting interests.

Although the papers in Captain Hamilton's trunk record his activities in meticulous detail, they are scarcely of the kind to make a bestselling author's heart leap with joy.

Like the prosaic Captain Handy in the memorable South Seas yarn by James Norman Hall, Captain Hamilton had a remarkable facility for recording only the business details of his career and ignoring the colourful life and personalities that must have surrounded him.

Yet among the mass of papers in his trunk there is a handful of documents that will be of great value to scholars interested in piecing together the early history of European penetration in the New Hebrides, Solomons and New Guinea.

Two of the most interesting documents are diaries which Hamilton kept on two labour recruiting voyages to the Islands in the early 1880's. This was at the outset of his career when the people he met and the things he saw still had the charm of novelty. Hamilton seems to have been the mate of the ships on both voyages.

The first diary, covering the period September 20, 1882, to December 29, 1882, concerns a voyage in the schooner Lochiel from Brisbane to the New Hebrides in which most of the islands from Tanna northwards to Gaua were visited.

The second diary concerns a voyage in the Jessie Kelly from March to September, 1883. On this voyage, Hamilton visited New Britain and New Ireland in addition to the New Hebrides. An extract from his diary for May 7, 1883, when the Jessie Kelly was in Blanche Bay, gives an idea of the kind of useful information that the diary as a whole contains:

In the afternoon, Captain Farrell and his wife [this was the famous "Queen" Emma] came alongside in their boat. He is manager and partner with Mason Bros., of Sydney, in the copra trade at present, but has resigned and intends starting a copra and cotton plantation on New Britain close to Blanche Bay, on land he has already bought and is having prepared. He was short of tobacco and we gave him what we could spare, 191 lb, and in return he gave us what information he could that would be useful in recruiting, and also promised to give us the plan of a place where he thought we could get men, lately surveyed by the Germans. The vessel we passed at anchor was the Halley Bayley and the vessel we saw under weigh as we came in was the Fanny from Queensland. They had over 100 recruits on board. The Hopeful had also been here and left a few days ago with over 100 on board. There are two other vessels recruiting further north, the Stanley and Meg Merriles. Captain Farril [sic] said there was no chance of getting filled up about here and advised us to try fresh ground....We heard from Capt. Hemsheime, manager from Godfrey's [i.e. Godeffroy's] firm, that the Stanley had a skirmish with one of his traders on the Laughlans and they burned his house and copra. He said he had reported it to the man-of-war, which had gone on to Queensland with the news.

Other papers in Captain Hamilton's trunk which contain a good deal of information of interest to a historian are:

- * Two reports on voyages in search of pearl shell in New Guinea and the Solomons in 1899-1900.
- * Log of the pearling lugger Nippon from April 20, 1901, to September 24, 1901, kept by Aubrey Griffith and later F.E.J. Schmidt, manager of the Hamilton Pearling Company's station at Komuli, Admiralty Islands.
- * Log of the Hamilton Pearling Company's station at Komuli, Admiralty Islands, from September 27, 1902, to March 10, 1903.
- * Logs and diaries kept by William Hamilton in the vessels Canomie, Ysabel, Gazelle and Kambin from January 1, 1903, to November 14, 1905. These concern the operations of the Hamilton Pearling Company in New Guinea and the Solomons.

All of the foregoing documents and the two diaries of the recruiting voyages have now been copied on microfilm for the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau as PMB Manuscript No. 15.

The remaining documents in Captain Hamilton's trunk were not deemed to be worth the expense of copying on microfilm, but many of them could contain some items of interest to an economic historian.

The main uncopied documents are Hamilton Pearling Co. letterbooks covering the period from January, 1898, to October, 1907; receipts, bills of lading, etc. from March, 1900, to February, 1903; and numerous logbooks of pearling luggers. There are also diaries of Captain Hamilton for the years 1907, 1909-16, 1919-21, 1926, 1928 and 1935, and a ledger for 1909-17, all of which mainly concern his planting interests in the Solomons.

THE LOST TAHITIAN VOCABULARY OF PETER HEYWOOD

If any reader of this newsletter should ever come across a handwritten vocabulary of 100 folio pages, in which most of the words contain more vowels than consonants, then please phone, wire or cable the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau - and reverse the charges!

A manuscript answering the foregoing description could well prove to be the lost Tahitian vocabulary of Midshipman Peter Heywood, of mutiny on the Bounty fame. The vocabulary was last recorded to have been seen more than 120 years ago.

In the realm of Pacific historians and linguists, its re-discovery would be somewhat akin to the finding of one of the Dead Sea Scrolls or a sonnet in the hand of William Shakespeare.

The vocabulary is (or was) a notable document in Pacific history and linguistics for three reasons:

- (1) It was compiled by a convicted mutineer of the Bounty.
- (2) It was the first vocabulary of the Tahitian language to be prepared by someone other than a short-term visitor to Tahiti.
- (3) The first missionaries sent to Tahiti by the London Missionary Society found it of great value in learning the language of that island, and it almost certainly had some influence on their thinking when they reduced Tahitian to the written form still in use today.

The vocabulary was compiled in October 1792, while Heywood was a prisoner in H.M.S. Hector in Portsmouth harbour. He had just been condemned to death for his part in the Bounty mutiny, although he had not, in fact, been an active participant.

When Captain Bligh and the others were cast adrift in the open boat in April, 1789, Fletcher Christian and his fellow-mutineers had kept Heywood on board the Bounty against his will because they needed his help to sail their pirated ship.

However, as, in those days, British naval law provided that those who did not assist their commander in a mutiny were against him, it was inevitable that Heywood, when captured, should be courtmartialled and found guilty of mutiny.

With death the only punishment prescribable for such a crime, Heywood was accordingly condemned to hang from the yard-arm. But as there were obviously extenuating circumstances in his case, an appeal for mercy was made to the king on his behalf.

It was while Heywood was awaiting the outcome of this appeal that he set to work and compiled his vocabulary. He was then barely 19 years old, and had spent nearly two of those impressionable years in Tahiti, before and after the mutiny.

Heywood's brother James, who visited him in the Hector on October 17, 1792, said in a letter written that day: "While I write this, Peter is sitting by me writing an Otaheitean vocabulary, and so happy and intent upon it, that I have scarcely an opportunity of saying a word to him..."

Ten days after that letter was written, Heywood had the "unspeakable joy" of being pardoned by the king; and before long his much-relieved relatives had whisked him home to the Isle of Man for a vacation. Heywood subsequently resumed his career in the Royal Navy and rose to the rank of post-captain.

Meanwhile, his vocabulary, or a copy of it, had been left with a Portsmouth clergyman, the Rev. William Howell, who had given comfort to Heywood and his fellow-prisoners during their anxious days in the Hector.

Howell still had the vocabulary when the mission ship Duff put into Portsmouth in September, 1796, with the first L.M.S. missionaries bound for Tahiti. Howell lent the vocabulary to the missionaries so that they could gain some advance knowledge of Tahitian before arriving at their proposed field of labour.

The Rev. Dr Thomas Haweis, one of the founders of the London Missionary Society, who sailed in the Duff as far as Portsmouth, recorded details of all this in a diary he kept at the time. The diary was later incorporated in a manuscript autobiography which is now in the Mitchell Library.

Writing under the date of September 16, 1792, Haweis said: "Friday, on board [the Duff]. Mr Howell, the clergyman at Portsea Chappel had called on me. Took him at his desire on board with me. Spent the day with him till 10 o'clock at night...He communicated to me a vast store of knowledge respecting the South Sea Islands, having been the chaplain who attended the mutineers condemned for running away with the Bounty. During six weeks, he was daily shut up with them for many hours every day and has such a vocabulary of the language and such a journal of their proceedings as casts the strongest light on our design [of introducing Christianity in Tahiti]. ...He hath entrusted me with his papers, which I have read and shall read again with delight and, if permitted, transcribe".

Four days later, Haweis wrote in his diary: "Carried on board the ample vocabulary, having got it transcribed, but so incorrectly that the missionaries and I determined to make a new copy entirely, which we completed. Set myself to study the pronouns and to make an alphabetical dictionary, proceeded to the letter C. Discovered much of the conjugations, tenses, adverbs, affix's and suffixes that mark interrogation, the passive voice, etc. The structure of the sentences more like the Greek and Latin than English. I have the original in my possession thro' Mr Howell's kindness; and have given the missionaries, I hope, such a clue as may enable them to make a considerable progress in the language before they reach Otaheite..."

Heywood's material did, in fact, prove of value. In a letter which Captain James Wilson of the Duff wrote to Dr Haweis from Rio de Janeiro on November 15, 1796, he said: "Mr Jefferson [one of the missionaries] has made particular advances in the Otaheitan language, which they all write and study diligently from the Vocabulary you left us..."

Meanwhile, Haweis apparently still had Howell's copy of the vocabulary in his possession for on November 28, 1796, he wrote an article on some of the words in it for the Evangelical Magazine. The article was printed in the issue for January, 1797.

The London Missionary Society publicly acknowledged its debt to Peter Heywood when it published A Missionary Voyage to the Southern Pacific Ocean...in the ship Duff in 1799.

"An ingenious clergyman of Portsmouth", that volume records, "kindly furnished Dr Haweis...with a manuscript vocabulary of the Otaheitean language...which was of unspeakable service to the missionaries...for the help which it afforded them to learn before their arrival much of this unknown tongue".

This passage was also quoted in a biography of Peter Heywood which appeared in John Marshall's Royal Naval Biography in 1825; and Sir John Barrow, the Admiralty Secretary, referred to it in a full-length account of the mutiny which he published anonymously in October, 1831, eight months after Heywood's death.

For his book, Barrow made use of a great number of previously unpublished documents which had either been lent to him by Heywood before his death, or by his widow afterwards. Among these documents was a copy of the Tahitian vocabulary.

Barrow described the vocabulary as "a very extraordinary performance". "It consists", he went on, "of one hundred full-written folio pages, the words alphabetically arranged, and all the syllables accented. It appears from a passage in the Voyage of the Duff that a copy of this vocabulary was of great use to the missionaries who were first sent to Otaheite in this ship".

Following Barrow's perusal of the vocabulary, no one with an interest in either the Bounty mutiny or the Tahitian language seems to have sighted it again; and many a scholar who has sought for it or wondered about its fate these past 130-odd years has done so in vain.

Recently, however, the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau chanced to discover a scrap of information about the vocabulary in the National Library, Canberra, which aroused strong hopes that the vocabulary might yet be safe in London.

The information was that the vocabulary had been presented by Heywood's widow to the "US Inst." and that an item to that effect had been published on p.93 of the catalogue of the "US Inst." in 1842.

Having translated the mystic abbreviation "US Inst." as United Service Institution (now Royal United Service Institution), the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau sent an inquiry to that organisation in London.

This revealed that the Heywood vocabulary had, indeed, been listed in that organisation's catalogue for 1842 as a gift from Mrs Heywood.

But the librarian, the Hon. David Erskine, said that as the vocabulary was not listed in the subsequent catalogue for 1890, it could be taken for granted that the vocabulary was not in the institution's library now.

"The only explanation I can offer", the Hon. David Erskine said, "is that in its early days this Institution was a general philosophical institution, with a strong military bias.

"As the years went on, the more general subjects were dropped, and the emphasis became increasingly military. As this happened, parts of the collection were hived off, and there is certainly a record that the ethnographical collection was dispersed, as were coins and marine biology. But no one was systematic enough to record where the things went.

"I suspect that late in the 1880's there was a great clear out, in preparation for a move to our present building..."

This, then, is the story of Peter Heywood's missing Tahitian vocabulary as far as it has so far been revealed; but PAMBU hopes that one of these days it will be able to relieve its readers of the cliff-hanging suspense it is currently obliged to leave them in.

MEMOIRS OF A SOUTH SEAS WHALER

Of the countless whaling skippers who cruised the South Seas in the first half of the last century, few were sufficiently handy with a pen to write worthwhile accounts of what they did and saw.

One of the few exceptions to this was Captain Edward Primrose Tregurtha, who was born in Cornwall in 1803, and who died in Launceston, Tasmania, in 1880.

Captain Tregurtha went to sea at an early age and before long had made voyages to both the Far East and India.

In 1831-33, as master of the whaler Caroline, he made an extensive whaling voyage out of Hobart - his itinerary taking in Sydney, the Bay of Islands, the Kermadecs, Rotuma, Wallis Island, the Gilberts, Solomons, New Ireland, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea.

Sometimes Captain Tregurtha went ashore at his island landfalls; sometimes he merely whaled in their vicinity.

Following his voyage in the Caroline, Captain Tregurtha paid a visit to England, and then returned to Tasmania, from where he traded with neighbouring colonies as owner and master of the Henry.

He made voyages to newly-founded Adelaide in 1837 and took early settlers and sheep to Port Phillip. Later, he opened a business in Launceston as a general merchant and shipping agent.

Round about 1852, Captain Tregurtha began writing an autobiography in which he incorporated a great deal of day-by-day material from journals he had kept at sea.

Captain Tregurtha gave a full and well-rounded account of his life from 1803 to the late 1830's; but from then until 1852, it was brief and sporadic.

The autobiography was never published in Captain Tregurtha's lifetime; but in the early 1930's, Captain Alan Villiers borrowed it from his descendants and quoted extensively from the part on the voyage of the Caroline in his book Vanished Fleets.

More than 30 years later, Captain Villiers' quotations set Mr H.E. Maude in search of the Tregurtha opus on behalf of the Australian National University's Department of Pacific History.

After inquiries lasting nine months, Mr Maude located the autobiography in the possession of a great-nephew of Captain Tregurtha, Dr Roland R. Wettenhall, of Melbourne.

Dr Roland Wettenhall has since died and the autobiography has passed into the ownership of his son, Dr Norman Wettenhall, of Toorak, Victoria.

This latter gentleman recently gave his consent to microfilm copies of his interesting heirloom being made for deposit in the four member-libraries of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau.

Details of microfilms made for the member libraries since the first list was published in PAMBU No. 2 are:

<u>No. of film</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>No. of frames</u>
PMB 12	Autobiography of Captain Edward Primrose Tregurtha, South Seas whaler.	180
PMB 13	Letters of Sir Hubert Murray, of Papua, to his daughter, Mrs Mary Pinney, and grand-daughter, Miss Maura Pinney.	457
PMB 14	(in preparation)	

12

No. of
film

Title

No. of
frames

PMB 15

Papers of Captain William Hamilton, labour
recruiter, pearl-sheller, trader and planter in the
New Hebrides, New Guinea and Solomons.

431