

Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

Sometimes I Feel Like Fletcher Christian

Sometimes I Feel Like Fletcher Christian
(The Mekons)

Sometimes I feel like Fletcher Christian
Staring out across the sea
Torn apart by duties shackles
The twisted tongues of loyalty

Well I sucked hard on every pleasure
Till my head began to spin
He'll choose between the whip and feather
And that is where his crimes begin

Sometimes I feel like Fletcher Christian
In paradise with the tables turned
Yes and I can feel the tattooists needle
I can feel my neck and ankles burn

These south sea isles are cold and barren
but this civil war's been good for me
We took drugs and tore our uniforms
Gave up our captain to the sea

Sometimes I feel like Fletcher Christian
Twisting off the serpents head
For the mutiny I'll shoot the big one
Hot and hungry, far from home

Through the sun and sea my skin is peeling
But it don't make these pictures fade
Those shapes and symbols, I know their meaning
The shameless riches of another world

If I return they're sure to hang me
So I guess I'll have to stay
And if I should croak out in the darkness
No-one will know I got away

Here are the lyrics to the only song I know about the Mutiny on the Bounty.
It is not traditional. This was written and performed by the Mekons on
their 1988 CD "So Good it Hurts" on TwinTone Records; in the UK I believe

[Visit \[www.traditionalmusic.co.uk\]\(http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk\) for more songs.](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

the label that released this cd is SIN. The Mekons are an English band that have been putting out albums for many years ranging from punk rock to country music. This cd is a mix of folk and rock. Below this I have included some other interesting (to me, at least) information from the cd booklet.

There are two clippings in the liner notes to the cd regarding the Bounty.

They are:

"The Fate of the Mutineers" - Children's Encyclopedia Britannica 1960.
Collins Concise Encyclopedia 1977.

The Bounty left Tahiti for good in 1789. On board 9 mutineers, six male Tahitian "servants", 19 native women and one child. (Tahitians believed they had just been visiting the Bounty for one night, one mile out to sea one woman jumps overboard.) 9 miles further at Morea, six "ancient" women put ashore. 4 mon

Fletcher Christian spends days alone in a remote cave. 4 years later "servants" revolt when Mutineer takes Tahitian's wife for his own. John Mills' head cut off, William Brown's head is crushed. Smith got musket bullet in throat, saved by offering money. Edward Young hidden by woman. Christian disappears. Matthew Quintail and McCoy flee to bush. McCoy makes still. Inflamed by his liquor he jumps from top of Island. Quintail killed later by Young and Smith. Young dies of asthma. Smith and women kill "servants". Smith reverts to name of John Adams. Profoundly religious his Govt. of island stern and puritanical. Joy and frivolity wholly lacking. Hymns sung morning and evening. Dancing allowed one day a year, on King's birthday.

Source: Traditional Jamaican Cookery by Norma Benghat, Penguin 1985.

Purpose of Bounty's voyage to procure Breadfruit plants from Tahiti. To be planted in West Indies as cheap food for slaves. Bligh's second voyage a success but slaves won't touch the fruit 'til generation later.

Howev

low). SG

SG

apr96