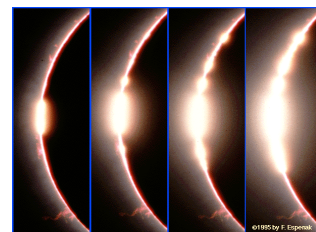


NEWS RELEASE



PITCAIRN ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION



Oeno Eclipse Stamp Issue

On April 8, 2005 Oeno Island in the Pitcairn Group will experience an eclipse with the "Path of Totality" being just a few kilometres offshore. The trail itself begins south of New Zealand and ends in central and South America. At both ends of this trail (and on Oeno itself), the eclipse is known as an annular partial eclipse. This means it is annular near the edges of the track (some sun curvature is visible) and total near the middle. The actual time of the eclipse is 19h 47m 36.5s UT and the closest location on Oeno is the SW point of the larger of the two islands and is located at Latitude 23° 55' 54" S, Longitude 130° 45' 19" W.



The eclipse will feature some of the classic stages of a total eclipse as the moon passes between the sun and the earth. The photosphere (sun's central circle) will, at the point of total eclipse, have a **corona** completely surrounding the central black eclipse area. This corona is the "glow" seen in \$1.00 stamp. Between the corona and the photosphere is a fine line of burning gases known as the **chromosphere**. This is visible as a crimson ring but only to the unaided eye during an eclipse. Within the chromosphere are large gas eruptions or flares and these are known as **prominences**. At the point of seeing the crimson chromosphere, bright points of light are also visible and look like a pearl necklace or tiara. This light comes from the photosphere shining through the rugged terrain (mountains and valleys) of the moon. These bright points are known as **Baily's Beads** after the man who first discovered them. As the sun and moon start to part, a bright arc of the sun is visible.

The eclipse in April is estimated to last only 35.5 seconds and cover a width of 23 kilometres.

The Pitcairn Island Philatelic Bureau would like to thank all those who offered assistance and encouragement to produce this issue, in particular two knowledgeable and extremely helpful "Eclipse chasers" Glenn Schneider and Fred Espenak.

The stamps are available only in miniature sheet, in mint or CTO as well as on First Day Cover. The issue is on sale from 8 April 2005 and is available from the Pitcairn Philatelic Bureau or Pitcairn's appointed agents worldwide.

Collectors' Notes

<u>Designer:</u>	Denise Durkin, Wellington, New Zealand
<u>Printer:</u>	Southern Colour Print, Dunedin New Zealand.
<u>Process:</u>	Offset lithography
<u>Perforation Gauge:</u>	TBA
<u>Stamp Size:</u>	40.00mm diameter. Circular.
Miniature Sheet size:	138mm x 46mm
<u>Denominations:</u>	\$1.00; \$2.00 and \$3.00
<u>Paper:</u>	103gsm, litho gummed stamp paper
Period of Sale:	April 8, 2005 for a period of 2 years.

For further information please contact:

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