

Anyone with information on this stamp?



Master and Commander: the Far Side of the World

by Lana Rodlie

A replica of an 18th-century English warship, the **HMS ROSE**, recently earned 21st century notoriety in a Hollywood film.

Movie-goers have been racing to see director Peter Weir's (Lord of the Rings) Hollywood epic, *Master and Commander: the Far Side of the World*, starring Australian actor, Russell Crowe.

The story is based on author Patrick O'Brian's series of Aubrey/Maturin (fiction) novels and set during the Napoleonic Wars. Crowe plays British Navy Captain "Lucky" Jack Aubrey, and Paul Bettany is ship's doctor Stephen Maturin. Their ship, the **H.M.S. SURPRISE**, is suddenly attacked by a superior enemy. An epic journey ensues across two oceans – from the coast of Brazil to the storm-tossed waters of Cape Horn,



festivals and spoke with scores of people from the worldwide tall ship community.

In 2000, Weir joined Captain Chris Blake (who would become one of the film's many prominent technical advisors) for a cruise on the **ENDEAVOUR**, a

museum-quality replica of Captain Cook's famous vessel. A year later, Weir embarked on a second voyage aboard the **ENDEAVOUR**, this time bringing along producer Duncan Henderson, executive producer Alan Curtiss and cinematographer Russell Boyd. "I wanted to be sure they too would have the experience stored in their bones when it came time for our 'voyage,'" says the director on the movie's



south through ice and snow, to the remote shores of The Galapagos, the captain chases and tries to intercept and capture his foe. (*Master and Commander* is the first feature film ever filmed in the Galapagos.)

A "casting" challenge for Weir was finding the ideal vessel to portray the **HMS SURPRISE**, Captain Aubrey's 28-gun warship. Early in pre-production, during a trip to Europe, Weir walked the deck of the restored **H.M.S. VICTORY**, the vessel commanded by Lord Nelson in the Battle of Trafalgar. In addition, he attended several tall ship

website.

Weir's search ultimately led him to the American tall ship **ROSE**, in its homeport Rhode Island. The three-masted wooden frigate was purchased by Twentieth Century Fox and traveled through the Panama Canal en route from Rhode Island to the West Coast, enduring a hurricane and a broken mast before arriving at a San Diego dry dock to prepare for her transformation into **HMS SURPRISE**.

(*Master and Commander*, Continued on page