

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**W.J. COTTON**

**Diaries, 1874-76**

**Reel M857**

**M.W. Gregory  
14 Southampton Road  
Fareham Hampshire PO16 7DY**

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**Filmed: 1977**

## HISTORICAL NOTE

The *Goshawk* was a 140 ton top-sail schooner registered with the Royal Mersey Yacht Club. When the vessel called in at Darwin in September 1975, the *Northern Territory Times* described it as the finest vessel to have ever entered its waters. Its owner was Thomas George Fermor-Hesketh (1849-1924), who in 1876 succeeded his brother as the 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet. He was an extremely wealthy landowner, a keen yachtsman and a collector of zoological specimens. He also had an interest in music and the ship had a Christy Minstrel band. On a world cruise on the *Goshawk* in 1879-81 Hesketh-Pearson visited San Francisco and met Florence Sharon, an American heiress. They were married in 1880. In the following year Fermor-Hesketh was appointed High Sheriff of Northamptonshire.

The master of the *Goshawk* on its 1874-76 cruises was W.J. Cotton.

## W.J. COTTON

### Reel M857

#### **Diary of the voyage of the *Goshawk* to South East Asia, 21 December 1874 – January 1876**

The *Goshawk* sailed from the Isle of Wight and visited Cadiz, Algiers, Malta, Port Said, the Gulf of Aden, the Maldivé Islands, Point De Galle (Ceylon), Batavia (19 April 1875), Singapore (27 May 1875), Bangkok (18 June 1875), Manila (13 July 1875), the Pellew Islands, Malacca, Port Darwin (2 Sept. 1875), Surabaya, Mauritius and Capetown.

The diary is not an official log but the private diary of Cotton. It refers to the weather, sightings of ports and coastlines, the performance of the vessel, encounters with other ships, taking of photographs, letters received and sent, the activities of T.G. Fermor-Hesketh, crossing the Equator, impressions of Batavia and relations with Javanese people, illnesses of crew members (swamp fever), impressions of Bangkok and the Siamese people, meetings with princes, social events, a typhoon in the Philippines, birds of paradise, difficulties in sailing into Port Darwin (Cotton had not expected to visit Australian waters and his charts were deficient), visitors to the ship, social life in Palmerston, a concert by the *Goshawk* Minstrels, disciplinary problems, and the interest of Fermor-Hesketh in acquiring a cattle station. Fermor-Hesketh and the crew stayed in Darwin for about a month.

#### **Diary of the voyage of the *Goshawk* to the Arctic Circle, 13 May – 19 August 1874**

The *Goshawk* sailed from the Isle of Wight to the town of Hammerfest and the island of Spitsbergen on the north coast of Norway.

The two diaries appear to be contained in a single volume.