

ROGER WHITLOCK, ARTIST

A native of Seattle, Washington, Roger Whitlock has lived in Honolulu, Hawaii for more than 40 years. Strangely my first knowledge of Roger came from Australia. I will explain this later in this article. Patrick and I holiday on Oahu fairly often and last year we finally got to meet Roger. This year I arranged to meet him at his gallery in Honolulu and we spent an interesting time talking Whitlock. The main information I wanted to let Roger know was regarding our recent discovery that his branch of the WHITLOCK74 family, the Whitlocks of Birmingham, Warwickshire came from Oxfordshire and I could now connect his family to the WHITLOCK20 chart and get him back to the 1600's.

Roger's website www.rogerwhitlock.com gives interesting detail and much of this article it taken from that site. In an article in the *Honolulu Magazine* in December 2008 Jana Wolfe recounts some of Roger's past as an English professor, much of his time spent at the University of Hawaii. He had a very successful career and was awarded the Regent's Medal for excellence in teaching. Ms Wolfe makes the comment that Roger's lack of corresponding success as an author was likely the art world's gain. Unhappy about the difficulty of getting manuscripts published, Roger signed up to take an art class in 1985. Roger enjoyed the class so much he took the same course five times. Bit by bit his life as an artist superceded his life as a professor. When people started asking to purchase his work Roger realized he already was "an artist". Finally retiring from the University of Hawaii in 2001, Roger concentrated on his art. Continuing to refine his skills, he trained with Robert E. Wood and discovered he could financing his love of travel by selling paintings of the places he visited.

As one of America's premier watercolour artists, Roger has had more that 20 solo shows since 1993. By 2001 Roger was chosen by *Watercolor Magic* as one of 15 American watercolour artists "to watch". By 2008 he was touted as one of the "nine Hawaii artists to collect" by the *Honolulu Magazine*. In August 2010 *Watercolor Artist* featured his art in their article "Twelve by Two". A reputation around the world hasn't hurt Roger as well, with recent exhibitions in Taipei City, Taiwan, San Paolo, Brazil and Incheon, Korea.

Roger has achieved that enviable goal of life where you can't wait to get up every morning because you love what you do and there is so much you want to achieve before you return to your bed in the evening. Roger gives the same advice one of my teachers at school gave me as a teenager. Don't wait until you retire to find your passion, if you can, make it your career.

Getting back to that connection to Australia. Whitlock descendants in Australia were working on the family of Harry Whitlock and Mary Ann Cassidy of New South Wales. Harry was from Birmingham, Warwickshire and his brother Arthur Whitlock had a son Arthur Leslie Whitlock who went to live in Seattle. Arthur Leslie Whitlock was Roger's father. As I lived close to Seattle the family in Australia was hoping I might be able to help them trace Arthur's descendants. Great to have gone full circle and gotten to know another amazing Whitlock.

I have shown a couple of examples of Roger's amazing art but checkout his website www.rogerwhitlock.com for many more.