



AUCKLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY Inc.

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Meetings are held at the Mt. Albert Senior Citizens' Hall, Wairere Avenue on the first and third Tuesdays of each month February to November. Doors open at 7.30pm

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Great Bitter Lakes Locals – Graham Robertson
(See page 6)

INTERNET BANKING

All payments to Auckland Philatelic Society (APS) need to be either in cash at a Red Dot sale or Club night, or by internet banking. APS runs one main account (for subscriptions) and two subsidiary accounts (for circuit book payments and Red Dot Sale payments). Please don't mix these up.

APS Main Account: ANZ Bank 01-0102-0063264-00

For subscription payments. Please put your name in "Particulars" (i.e. "J Blogs") and in "Reference" put the year your subscriptions relate to (i.e. 22/23 for this year or 23/24 for next year). When paid please also email Andrew Chessum (aucklandphilatelic@gmail.com) with the details.

The Exchange Circuit Account: ASB Bank 12-3077-0246547-00

For Circuit Book payments. **Important** When paying for your Circuit Book purchases please put your name in "Particulars" (i.e. "J Blogs") and the Circuit Book numbers you are paying for as the "Reference" (i.e. "Books 10, 12"). To successfully credit your account, we need these details. Please email Victor Sutcliffe (victor.sutcliffe66@hotmail.com) with confirmation.

The Red Dot Sales Account: ASB Bank 12-3034-0184198-00

For Red dot auction payments. Please put your name in "Particulars" and "Red Dot Sale" in "Reference". When paid please email Nic Hendy (nichen@hotmail.com) with your details.

2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 10th February 2024 is our next Red Dot sale. This sale will be held at our Club rooms at Mt Albert Senior Citizen's Hall, Wairere Avenue

Tuesday 20th February – Part one Ambury Sheild presentations

Tuesday 5th March – Part Two Ambury Sheild presentations.

Tuesday 19th March – Angola before Independence – Tane McManus

Tuesday 2nd April – Plan and Preparing for a one frame exhibit - Tim Beach

Association of Northern Philatelic Societies

The ANPS now has a Facebook page which has been established to promote the Upper North Island philatelic events. Visit to see what's going on: <https://www.facebook.com/UpperNorthIslandPhilatelicEvents> . If you have anything you want promoted, email lmccully@orcon.net.nz with the information.

Index

	Page
Internet Banking Account details	2
Dates for your diary	2
2024 APS programme – John Powell	4
North Shore PS annual Competitive Stamp Exhibition.....	4
Notes from the Ambury Sheild Competition	5
New Zealand Obliterators (Part 3) – Nic Hendy	6
When AI Designs Stamps – Bruce Webber	7
Great Bitter Lake Locals – G Robertson.....	8
An Historic Horticultural Cover – G Robertson.....	10
Meeting Reports:	
Armstrong Cup.....	11
Andrew Chessum – Music part 3.....	11
Bob Gibson – The Berlin Stalinallee of East Germany...	13
Ross Marshall – Flyspecking and other things.....	13
Recent NZ Post Issues	14



We Need You!!!



We need to find someone who is interested in training to become our new Exchange Superintendent. The Exchange Superintendent looks after our Circuit Books and is a key part of the Auckland Philatelic Society. This role has been outstandingly managed for a number of years by the wonderful Victor Sutcliffe. Unfortunately, for health reasons, Victor is keen for us to identify someone with a keen philatelic interest to initially join him to understand how the circuit currently operates and is managed with a view to ultimately taking over his role as APS Exchange Superintendent/Circuit Manager. The position would ideally suit someone with a few spare hours each week who is well organised and is good with figures.

The role can be undertaken as a standalone position or, if you would prefer, you can become part of the APS Management Committee – the choice is yours. The Circuit Manager is awarded an honorarium of \$750 per annum.

There is an Assistant Circuit Manager to help with the delivery and collection of Circuit Books and to keep Circuit Membership up to date and accurate.

If you would like to investigate this opportunity, we would love to hear from you. Drop an email to our President John Powell at jp.auckland@gmail.com or if you would prefer, give him a call on 021 347 6730.

APS Programme for 2024

John Powell – President

Auckland Philatelic Society Inc. - 2024 Programme		
Note: A 1 Page Competition is held each night and judged by a Committee Member(s) with Pacific Award points and occasional prizes.		
February	6	Waitangi Day - No Meeting
	10	Red Dot Sale
	20	Ambury Presentations - Pt 1 - CK/NC/BW/TB/TW/HJ/PS
March	5	Ambury Presentations - Pt 2 - MS/BC/GL/RM/BB/AC/FG/BM
	19	Angola before Independence - Tane McManus
April	2	Planning & preparing a 1 Frame Exhibit - Tim Beach
	16	Buying & Selling on the Internet - Nic Hendy
May	7	Club Members 1 Frame Review with Denise Rosenfeldt
	11	Red Dot Sale
	21	"Music to my Ears" - Victor Sutcliffe & Andrew Chessum
June	4	Discovery Lecture No 1 - Postal History - Mark Benvie
	8	APS Annual Exhibition - 1 Frame Competition - Mt Albert Memorial Hall
	18	Discovery Lecture No 2 - Buying and Selling from a Dealer
July	2	Discovery Lecture No 3 - Postcards
	13	Red Dot Sale
	16	AGM and Table Sales Night
August	6	Keith Griffith Memorial Lecture - Bruce Tapp - President Waikato PS
	20	Discovery Lecture No 4 - Numismatics
September	3	Armstrong Cup - 1 Frame Competition
	17	Dealers Night - A chance to find those missing items or start a new collection
October	1	Discovery Lecture No 5 - Genealogy
	12	Red Dot Sale
	15	"Time for a Cuppa" - John Powell
November	5	Discovery Lecture No 6 - Social Philately
	19	"Now for something completely different" - Members talk about their other Hobbies
	21 - 23	2024 APS National Exhibition - Ellerslie Convention Centre
December	3	Combined Christmas Party and Annual Awards Night - Partners welcome

Next year on the 21st to 23rd November APS will be hosting a National Exhibition at the Ellerslie Convention Centre. To help APS members to prepare an exhibit for this exhibition and to refine it over the year we have Tim Beach speaking to us 2nd April about preparing a one frame exhibit and Denise Rosenfeldt will take a look at your plan or initial draft exhibit on 7th May and help you refine it to exhibit status.

Our Annual Exhibition on June 8th will be a one frame judged competition so that your exhibit can be entered, judged and further refined. Display it refined for the Armstrong Cup 3rd September. Then enter it for the North Shore, Christchurch or our own National Exhibition.

To help expand your thinking around your current collecting or future collecting, there will also be a series of "Discovery Lectures" throughout the year covering topics which will enable you to enhance and add value to your collection or exhibit.

All in all, an interesting and exciting year to develop your philatelic and other collecting interests.

We will look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings. Until then, may we wish you and yours a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

North Shore PS's Annual Competitive Stamp Exhibition

Report from Jo Burgess.

Several of our members went along. Three APS members exhibited and two of these folk received awards:

Carolyn Gibson won the Lois Foote Memorial Award Trophy (Rose Bowl) for Best Display with her "Eileen Mayo Stamp Designs 1959 – 1985".

Carolyn also won the Len Jury Award Trophy (large glass vase) for Best Novice Entry with the same entry.

Brian Carroll won the Auckland City Stamps Trophy (1d Black Design) with his "Heard Island Postal History 1947 – 1955" entry.



Carolyn and Brian receiving their awards. (Jo Burgess photographer)

The Ambury Shield Interclub Competition

Report Roger Marshall, Photos Jo Burgess

The Ambury Shield Interclub Competition is organised every year by the Waikato Philatelic Society, and this year it was the turn of the Auckland Philatelic Society to act as the host club. We won the Shield last year, and were keen to do so again in 2023.

Saturday 28 October was a beautiful spring day and 15 of our group travelled to Hamilton to look at the exhibits on display, prepared by members from Auckland, Whangarei, Whakatane and Waikato Societies. There was a wonderful variety of exhibits to view. It is customary for the host club to provide a speaker, and Tane McManus gave an informed and well-illustrated talk on "Angola - Before Independence" which was well received and reflected his firm grasp on Angola's history. Neil Coutts ran a wonderful raffle, and there were enough dealers to satisfy the collector in each of us.



At 1.30 the Ambury Shield awards were presented. The Ambury Shield Trophy went to Waikato, and the Best in Show Cup was awarded to Bruce Tapp from Waikato for his Seven Wild Bovine Species exhibit. Our own Chris Keery won the Novice Cup with his 1899 New Zealand

First Issue Series Postage Dues, and the People's Choice Award went to our own Francesca Giraldo for her Loss of Species exhibit. Congratulations to both Chris and Francesca.

There were 19 APS exhibits carefully prepared by 16 members. Over the 9 classes our average mark was 68. We managed three firsts two seconds and six third places. All APS exhibits will be presented to our members in the first two meetings of 2024. It was a good day out, and all entrants are to be congratulated and thanked for their great efforts. Well done team.



Obliterator Postmarks of NZ (Part III) – Numerals Nic Hendy

When the Perkins Bacon numbers 1 to 18 had been all assigned to Post Offices, District Offices were issued letters (e.g., A = Auckland). Sub-Post Offices carried on being assigned new numbers from 19 to 94. Twenty-nine different known numbers were assigned and used; most are in the standard oval shape with horizontal bars. Some examples of the numbers are shown below.

1. **Obliterator 19.** Three different versions used at Oamaru.
2. **Obliterator 20.** Queenstown
3. **Obliterator 21.** Two Post Offices, Horizontal bars in an oval used at Hokitika then Okitiki and vertical bars used at Invercargill.



4. **Obliterator 24.** Two Post Offices, Mangapai and Manuherikia.
5. **Obliterator 25.** Two Post Offices, Queenstown, and Makara.
7. **Obliterator 26.** Whangarei.



8. **Obliterator 30.** Hurunui.
9. **Obliterator 42.** Ohonga. Even damaged stamps have a life if they have the right postmark.
10. **Obliterator 55.** Mauriceville.
11. **Obliterator 62.** Interestingly this was used in a Bulls-eye obliterator at Terrace End.



11. Obliterator 83. Whangarei.
 12. Obliterator 87. Warkworth.



Nic Hendy is hoping that a member may have a First or Second Side Face with any Obliterator postmarks, especially those with a Letter followed by or above a number. If you have any interesting ones at all, please contact me by email nichen@hotmail.com or phone me on 09-817-5668. You can send a scan, name a price or ask for a quote.

Can you help Nic?

What is this postmark? Is it O25 or O26 with the 2 inverted. Or is 920?

Otago postmarks have a letter O followed by a number. They range from O1 to O180. Generally, the O is cut larger than the number. Numeral postmarks go from 1 through to 165. It could be a postmark applied overseas, but it looks like a raised O to me. I would welcome suggestions or comments.



When Artificial Intelligence Designs Stamps

Bruce Webber

A campaign was run by travel the insurance company InsureAndGo, with the aim to encourage the sending of postcards. The company partnered with Censuswide to survey 1500 travellers, to discover their postcard habits. One of the questions they asked was to list everything they thought was quintessential of the country they had visited. Using this quintessential information, a collection of stamps was designed by artificial intelligence. Four of the 20 countries are shown below.



Most of the designs captured the stunning landscapes, cuisines and famed animals. Italy was of a beautiful vineyard featuring a bottle of red wine, Greece was of Santorini's famous blue-domed churches, and China's stamp was of an extremely rare giant panda with bamboo and a cup of Chinese tea.

The Australian stamp however, had a rather interesting rendition. It showed a beach with palm trees, mountain ranges, a pint of beer and right next to the beer, a massive spider. It's not wrong, but it's rather humorous when you compare it to the other stamps that are mainly of picturesque landscapes.

Acknowledgement:

Information and images taken from: <https://www.news.com.au>

Great Bitter Lake Locals

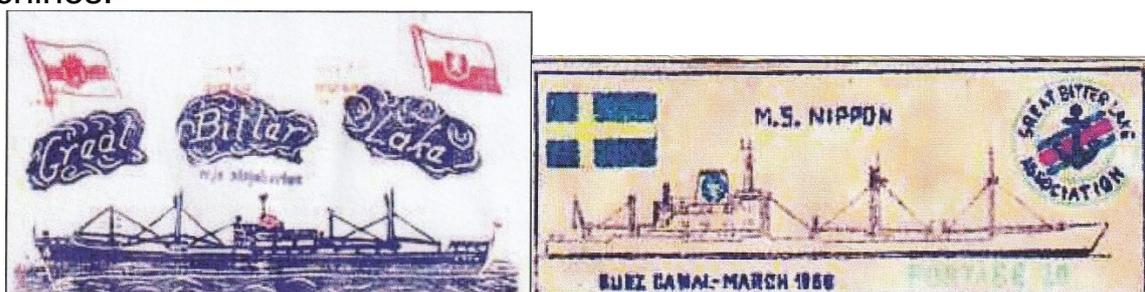
G.I. Robertson

Following months of increasing tension between Israel and its Arab neighbours the Israeli Air Force attacked Egyptian airfields on 5 June 1967 initiating the Six Day War with Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq. President Nasser ordered the closure of the Suez Canal and the blocking of the waterway by scuttling ships at both ends. As a result, a convoy of 14 freighters were trapped at the southern end and instructed to anchor in the largest of the Bitter Lakes. Thirteen of the freighters were owned by European shipping lines together with one American ship. Most were carrying dry, chilled or frozen food from Australia to the UK and Europe. Even though the war only lasted six days the freighters were to spend the next eight years at anchor in the Great Bitter Lake.

In October representatives from each ship held a meeting and formed the Great Bitter Lakes Association. Its aims were to cultivate friendship, promote mutual assistance and carry out joint undertakings. Receiving and sending mail was one of the more important activities and each ship was provided with a distinctive circular "MAILED ON BOARD" cachet depicting an anchor and "14" with a double line representing the Suez Canal. All the ships then began creating their own stamps, cutting designs in materials such as large erasers and pieces of linoleum - Later more sophisticated designs and printing methods were employed to produce an extensive array of stamps and cachets. Many bore a value and some were inscribed "POSTAGE" or "AIRMAIL". On-shore entrepreneurs even designed and printed stamps.



Ships' crews were kept busy satisfying the demands from collectors seeking stamps and impressions of the cachets. Many covers received a cachet from each of the 14 ships on the reverse side. Outward mail was collected by an agent and taken to the nearest port usually Port Tewfik, nowadays known as Suez Port, where Egyptian postage was paid either with adhesives or franking machines.



Over time the ships became discoloured by a covering of desert dust and became known as "The Yellow Fleet", a name which then started to appear on cachets and stamps.



When the canal finally became operational again in 1975 only two of the ships were capable of sailing to their destinations under their own power.



A book on the stamps and cachets was produced in 1975 but more recently Peter Valdner [valdpete.blogspot.com. > great-bitter-lake-association-ca] has compiled the story of the Great Bitter Lakes Locals and provided a catalogue listing of around 2000 stamps and other collectables. Updated this year the 332-page volume is available for 112 euros.

Acknowledgement:

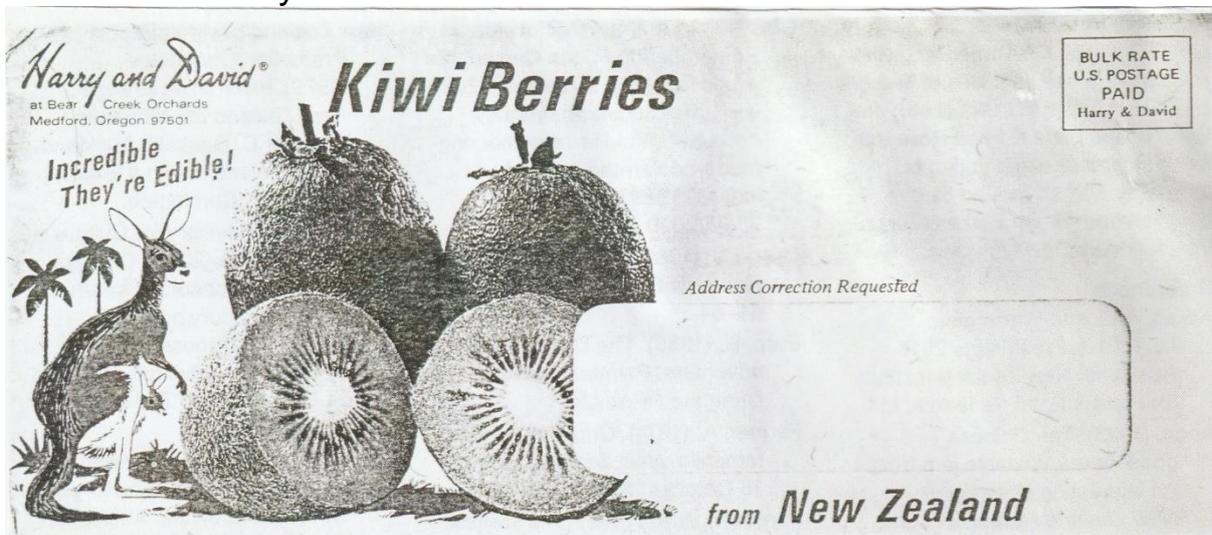
Images and philatelic elements of this article courtesy of: Bjoern Moritz <https://www.shipsonstamps.org/Topics/html/gbla.htm> (1998-2003)

An Historic Horticultural Cover

G.I. Robertson



Kiwifruit, formerly known as Chinese gooseberries, were one of the country's major horticultural successes in the second half of the 20th Century. Introduced in the early 1900s the name 'Chinese gooseberry' seems to have been coined during WW I. Limited volumes of fruit were exported to Australia and the UK and it was not till the late 1950s that exporters dipped their toes in the American market. Auckland-based horticultural produce firm Turners & Growers led the way in developing and expanding this new outlet. Importers soon told them Americans would be put off by the name 'Chinese gooseberry'. This was not because of any feeling of ill-will towards the Chinese race but rather the word 'gooseberry' with its connotations of a fruit growing close to the ground which might be carrying traces of soil. Senior members of the Turner family came up with the names 'melonette' and 'kiwiberry' before 'kiwifruit' was finally chosen.



The cover is an advertising envelope produced, in 1964 by Harry & David, fruit producers and importers based in Oregon. It seems their knowledge of South Pacific geography was a little shaky! At this time the New Zealand exporter chose to use the term 'kiwi berries' believing Turners & Growers might have sole usage of the name 'kiwifruit'. These days we do have a NZ Kiwi Berry, which is the smooth-skinned, grape-sized fruit of another species of the genus *Actinidia*.

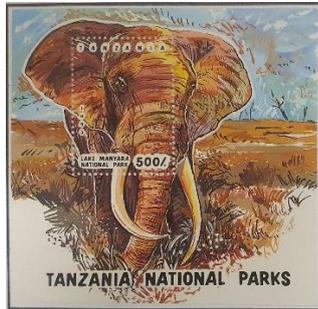
Reference

Ferguson, A.R. 2020. Changing names: tamarillo and kiwifruit. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 23(II):4-8

Meeting reports:

5th September, Armstrong Cup.

There were 4 one frame entries to the Armstrong Cup this year. Bruce Burgess talked on Elephants, Mike Steel spoke on Risky postcards, Andrew Chessum showed stamps and postcards featuring The Beatles and Roger Marshall spoke stamps used in the French colonies.



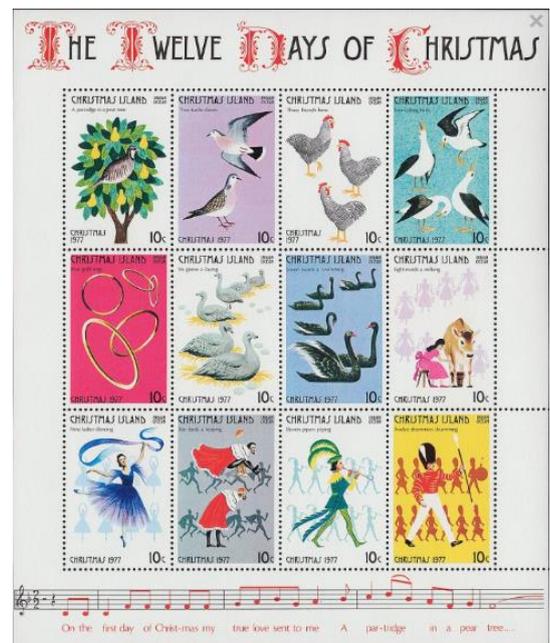
The winner this year was Roger Marshall with his French Colony stamps.



17th October, Andrew Chessum – Music on Stamps Part 3.

Andrews first talk was on Mozart, Beethoven and Bach, his second talk on musical instruments. His talk this year was on 13 Christmas Carols as seen on stamps. Four carols are highlighted here:

“The Twelve Days of Christmas”. has been around in various forms from the early 1700s and was first published in England in 1780. The lyrics typically used today are from a 1909 version set to a traditional folk melody by English composer Frederic Austin. The “twelve days” refer to Christmas Day through to January 5th with Twelfth Night being the evening before Epiphany (6 Jan) or “Three Kings Day” - a traditional church holiday marking the end of the Christmas celebrations. Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” mentions an old ballad sung by Sir Toby Belch and it has even been suggested this carol may be related. The 1780 version has 4 “colly” birds – as in “coal-black” rather than “Calling birds.”





“Good King Wenceslas” was written in 1853 by John Mason Neale, who was an English/Anglican Hymn writer. Melody is a 13th century Catholic Spring carol “Tempus adest floridum” (Eastertime has Come). Words retell a legend of Duke Wenceslas (907 – 935) of Bohemia (modern-day Czechoslovakia); posthumously conferred the regal title “King” by Holy

Roman Emperor Otto (962 – 973). Known as Wenceslas the Good, legend suggests he was assassinated by his younger brother Boleslaus the Cruel. Considered a martyr and later a saint (recognised by Pope Pius II in the 1400s). Writings from c.1119 mention Wenceslas, along with a chamberlain, distributing alms to the poor at night in bare feet – leading to the tradition of the page treading in his footsteps. Eventually legend grew to incorporate the content of Neale's verses.



“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” is an English carol with lyrics by Charles Wesley & George Whitefield, first published 1739. The Tune was a popular tune adapted from Mendelssohn's



Gutenberg Cantata (1840). After an angel appeared to the shepherds, a multitude of angels appeared and sang “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”



“We Three Kings” was written by John Henry Hopkins Jr in 1857, Pennsylvania and is the first widely popular Christmas carol written in America. It is based on stories rooted in Biblical accounts of Magi (wise men/astrologers) visiting Jesus some time after his birth (to a house, not a stable), and bringing gifts of gold (for a king), frankincense (representing deity) and myrrh (symbol of death).

Three gifts means traditionally there are three kings; later legends name them Melchior (Persia), Caspar (India) and Balthazar (Arabia or Ethiopia), and have them riding camels. In the Biblical account, the wise men visit King Herod, mentioning they have come to see the new king whose star appeared in the East. Herod feels threatened and asks them to return once they have found the new king so he can also visit. However, after being warned in a dream, they return via a different route. An angry Herod then ordered all boys 2 and under in Bethlehem and districts to be killed.

Amahl & the Night Visitors is a one act Opera by Menotti (1951), inspired by Hieronymus Bosch's The Adoration of the Magi – tells the fictional story of a young crippled boy whose home is visited by the wise men as they travel. When he is miraculously healed, he travels with the wise men to see the baby Jesus, and gives his crutch as a gift in thanks for the healing.



7th November, Bob Gibson – The Berlin Stalinallee Definitive of East Germany.



The Berlin Stalinallee, built in 1949, is an avenue 89 metres wide and nearly 2 kilometres long. The stamp depicts the pedestrian footpath and cycleway which runs the length of the road on both sides. Issued on the 21st September, it was a late addition to the 10th August 1953 5-year plan set of stamps.

There were seven issues of this stamp design, two parody issues and one official reprint of all issues for the philatelic market. In 1954 the 24pf value was overprinted 20pf and in 1955 it was redrawn as a 20pf stamp.



The Parody stamps, issued in 1954 supporting the workers uprising of 1953, have “STRASSE DES 17. JUNI” below Berlin Stalinallee and the letters “UN” in front of Deutsch and Demokratische, meaning unGerman and undemocratic. The parody stamp was also overprinted 20pf.

Booklets were issued from 1957 to 1960 and coil stamps were trialled 1959. The Stalinallee design was replaced on 29th August 1961 with the 20pf Walter Ulbricht issue. On the 13th November 1961 the avenue was renamed Karl-Marx-Allee.

21st November, Ross Marshall – Flyspecking, compulsory registration and a philatelic tour of Iceland. The second talk by Ross to us this year covered three topics.

Flyspecking – or in more philatelic terms, plating. With the use of a high-powered digital microscope camera (purchasable at your local philatelic store) images of stamps can be seen in high magnification. This enables the detection of imperfections unique to the stamp and its position on the sheet; if one has a sheet of stamps to examine. Other things like plate cracks can be detected like the one he found on these Polish stamps.



Compulsory Registration of mail that should have been registered was first regulated by order of council 18th December 1865. “Postmasters will carefully collect all letters unquestionably

obtaining coin, addressed to places within the Colony, and which have not been registered, in order to subject them to **compulsory registration.**” The tax for compulsory registration was double the registration rate. If the compulsory registration was in error; there were no coins in the mail, then the tax was to be refunded.

Later on, other articles such as jewellery, bank-notes, or anything else requiring a postal article to be registered was included. Cover markings include the postmaster writing compulsory registered on the envelope, hand stamps of various designs and “mail 6” labels. The cover shown had a double deficiency rate of 36 cents paid in current stamps. It is unsure when compulsory registration ended, Ross has a cover from 1992.



Philatelic Tour of Iceland: In 2011 Ross, his wife and friends did a cycling tour of Iceland. By using the stamps of Iceland and the photos he took we were given a tour of Iceland. They cycled clockwise around the island visiting many places and seeing many things.



Church and Official residences & offices at Thingvellir



Godafoss – Waterfall of the Gods

A request from Barry Cleaver

I am trying to acquire any Sommerville postmarks issued between 1898 and 1904. Sommerville was a rural area north west of Taihape and was superseded by Mataroa from 1904 to 1972. I know of two such postmarks in a private collection so can only hope there are others out there somewhere. As I am collating a history of the area, it would be most helpful if I could add one of these postmarks to the collection. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please email me barrycleaver@slingshot.co.nz thanks, Barry.

Recent NZ Post Issue



2023 Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022, issued 6th September 2023. Six gummed stamps and three miniature sheets, two gold foiled and one standard. Commemorating the life and legacy of over 70 years reigning as Britain's Queen who died 8th September 2022.



Scott Base, Home on Ross Island, issued 6th September 2023. Four gummed stamps (sheets of 20) and a miniature sheet. Scott Base, originally a temporary base for the British Trans-Antarctic Expedition, has been home to New Zealand scientists for over 60 years.



2023 Christmas stamps, issued 4th October 2023. Four gummed and three self-adhesive stamps. The gummed stamps come in sheets of 20 and the self-adhesives stamps in booklets of ten. The stamps depict gifts wrapped in the colours of gold, frankincense and myrrh; the flowers are those seen at Christmas time in new Zealand and there is a tag references the Christmas story.



2023 20th Anniversary of The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, issued 1st November 2023. Six gummed stamps (sheets of 20) and six individual miniature sheets. The Return of the King was the last film in New Zealand made Lord of the Rings series of films. It was nominated and won eleven Academy Awards.

(Information and images taken from <https://collectables.nzpost.co.nz/>)

Advertising

Would you like to advertise within this newsletter?

Are you missing something from your collection and want to ask around and see if someone might have it for sale?

Email the editor brucewebberqa@netscape.net for rates – whole page to some lines in a box.

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