



AUCKLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY Inc.

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www.aps.gen.nz

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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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Newsletter No.215 ISSN 0113 6100 – August 2023



British East Africa Company – Richard Korman
(See page 13)

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.

Change of APS meeting dates.

Due to the general elections these dates have had to be changed.

26th September – Dealers' Night. (Note – 3rd Tuesday of the month)

11th November – **Red Dot Sale**. (Note – moved from the 14th October)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 5th September – Armstrong Cup.

Tuesday 19th September – Tim Beach, 1960 Postal History.

Tuesday 26th September – Dealer night.

Tuesday 17th October – Andrew Chessum, Music on stamps – part 3.

Tuesday 7th November – Bob Gibson, The Berlin Stalinalee Definitive of East Germany

Saturday 11th November is our next Red Dot sale. This sale will be held at our Club rooms at Mt Albert Senior Citizen's Hall, Wairere Avenue.

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.

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Farewell Dear Friend

It is with much sadness we note the passing of **Miles Dillon** on 1 September 2023.

Auckland Philatelic Society was much richer for Miles’s membership, and he will be sadly missed by us all. Those who met Miles will remember his encyclopaedic like brain, his warm smile and his willingness to help no matter how big or complex the request.

Those who did not meet him in person will no doubt have read one of his many well researched articles in our APS Newsletter or even possibly seen one of his outstanding exhibits at a philatelic exhibition.

Miles will be greatly missed by us all. Rest in Peace dear friend.

A family and friends memorial service for Miles is scheduled for November and we will advise members of the location and date as soon as it is advised.

APS Annual Exhibition

This year’s theme was classic stamps. Thirty-seven frames of non-competitive stamps were on display ranging from classic Greece to British East Africa. There was an increased attendance over last year and great support from the membership setting up and taking down at the end.



APS AGM 20th June 2023:

President’s Report – John Powell (Slightly abridged)

It gives me much pleasure to be able to present my first President’s Report to you following what I believe has been an incredibly positive and progressive year for the Society. A lot can happen in a year, and this one has been no

exception. Our Society was finally able to return to our Mt Albert clubrooms from our temporary accommodation in Ellerslie that had been urgently arranged for us by Miles Dillon. We all owe Miles a huge vote of thanks.

In August we held a Special General Meeting to ratify the Rules Simplification and Update – an update that was passed unanimously.

In September, the NZPF advised that APS's application to hold a National Exhibition in 2024 had been approved. We are currently finalising a suitable venue for the event and once completed, planning for this event will start to be finalised.

October 2022 saw APS return after a short hiatus to contest the Ambury Shield. With 12 members preparing 16 entries, members efforts were rewarded with one first equal, six seconds and three thirds. And, for the first time since 1990, the Society was awarded the Ambury Shield for 2022.

Our March meeting saw previous APS President and current committee member Chris Keery awarded an NZPF Service Award for his services and promotion of philately in New Zealand, I would personally like to congratulate Chris on this richly deserved recognition.

Financially, the Society continues to operate in a strong position. In 2022, the Society was advised by IRD that it now needs to pay Income tax on profits from its trading activities. As a result, the committee decided late last year to appoint Bendall & Cant as its Accountants. This has allowed us to combine all our financial activities into one operation.

The Red Dot Sales and Society Circuits have continued to excel, and both have shown substantial increases in revenue growth and profitability for the 2022/23 year, even after two previous record Covid periods. This has not been without substantial personal effort on the part of those involved and I acknowledge and thank profusely Victor Sutcliffe, Barry Gray, Nic Hendy and Chris Keery, along with all those people who help at our Red Dot Sales.

In addition, I would like to thank the other hard-working members of our committee – our Secretary and Membership Secretary Andrew Chessum, Treasurer Neil Coutts, Newsletter Editor Bruce Webber and Committee Members Grant Longley, Tom Butler, and Roger Marshall. You are an amazing team and are all very much appreciated.

To Tane McManus, my thanks for your Club night auction work and for looking after the Ambury Shield for me.

A massive thank you must also go to Carolyn Gibson for her quiet commitment to ensuring members are extremely well catered for at meetings and events. In addition to sustaining the membership many of you possibly will have noticed how Carolyn almost singlehandedly organised the critical staffing of the recent international exhibition. Carolyn is valued and appreciated by us more than a simple thank you can ever express.

To Earle and Ruth Howe, may I also extend the Society's sincere thanks for your support, regular meeting Dealer table and the real interest and input you offer into all that we do.

To our Patron, Len Jury and Vice-Patrons, Grant Longley, and David Holmes – please accept my thanks for your guidance.

And last but by no means least, my thanks to the wider Society Membership – in particular, those of you who attend the meetings and the increasing number of you who have started to help with the set up and pack up of each of our nights. We would be poorer as a Society without your input and involvement, and I look forward to your ongoing participation and support as we move further into the current year.



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.

Exchange Superintendent's Report – Victor Sutcliffe

We continue to keep up some pretty decent figures; up 20% on last year. We lost a few members and gained a few new ones here's hoping 2023/4 is another productive year.

Sales Superintendent's Report – Nic Hendy (Slightly abridged)

During 2022 – 2023 we held 4 Red Dot Sales, with total sales of \$41,612 (compared to last year of \$26,495) and a commission to the Society of \$6,370.60 (\$3,973.78). This increase is due only 3 sales in the previous year due to COVID and the excellent material provided by vendors.

We are reliant on half a dozen vendors who list 90% of the material. Material from the public is listed by Chris Keery and sells with 20% commission. No

Reserve material continues to be popular with the vendors and appreciated by the buyers. I have had pleasing comments from both vendors and buyers. The auction list is generated electronically and is emailed to anyone interested. If you have not received one within a week of the auction, contact me by phone or email nichen@hotmail.com.

There are plenty of assistants behind the scenes who all play a vital part. The Auctioneer, Runners; Bin Room; printing of auction lists; Scribe and Treasurer all assist to make this a great event for the Club.

Starting the sale at 1:00 pm has been successful and we managed to finish each sale by 4:30 pm. To achieve this we try to restrict the number of lots to 500.

Early Auckland Stamp Dealers (Part Two)

Brian Marshall

F. Moore and Co.

F. Moore and Co., located in Parnell, published advertisements in both Wellington's *Evening Post* and Christchurch's *Star* in November 1880 offering sixty varieties of foreign stamps, post free for one shilling and twopence in stamps. They also offered a free price list. The Company also advertised in the Australian press, with advertisements appearing in

Adelaide's *South Australian Advertiser* in November 1880, Hobart's *Mercury*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*. and Perth's *The Inquirer and Commercial Press*. A series of 26 advertisements on behalf of F. Moore, Bradford Street, Parnell, appeared in the *Akaroa Mail and Banks Peninsula Advertiser* from August through to November 1890, offering good prices for old Australian and New Zealand stamps. It seems that Moore continued to trade into the mid-1890s. Described in the electoral roll as a clerk, and still at Bradford Street, Parnell, Moore in July 1896 advertised in the *Brisbane Courier* for Queensland stamps, for which he was offering "scarce foreign" stamps in return.

Part-time Auckland stamp dealers

Part-time Auckland stamp dealers advertising in the local press included **W.H. Ronayne**, stationer, 37 Queen Street Wharf, who in December 1883 advertised foreign stamps, books, Maori portraits, and views of major New Zealand cities. **Allen's Tobacconist and Curiosity Museum** in Queen Street in October 1878 was selling shells, curiosities, foreign stamps and coins. **A.E. Ivil** the tobacconist at 64 Queen Street, advertised to buy colonial and foreign stamp collections in 1890 and

FOREIGN STAMPS.

60 VARIETIES, including rare Mexico, Spain, Cape of G. H., Jamaica, &c.
 Post free for 1s 2d in stamps.
 Price list gratis.
F. MOORE & CO,
 Parnell, Auckland.

EVENING POST, VOLUME XX, ISSUE 261, 6
 NOVEMBER 1880, PAGE 3

SHELLS, Curiosities, Ferns, Foreign
 Stamps, Coins, &c., for sale at Allen's
 Tobacconist and Curiosity Museum, Queen-st.

AUCKLAND STAR, VOLUME IX, ISSUE 2649, 14 OCTOBER 1878,
 PAGE 3

colonial and New Zealand stamps in 1892. **Patterson and Company**, stationers at 84 Queen Street, in July 1890, offered to buy collections of foreign stamps. **R. Mackay**, at 8 Queen Street, was a bookseller and stationer from whom, the *Observer* newspaper commented in May 1891, "foreign stamp collectors can always depend on a large assortment to choose from". Mackay was also able to supply the latest Scott's catalogues, which he did at least until 1901. **F. W. Marter**, a tobacconist in Queen Street opposite Smith and Caugheys, was offering "good colonials and surcharges" in August 1895. **A. Stewart** at 14 High Street in November 1900 offering Baden Powell foreign stamp packets at 3d each or 2/6d per dozen. **J. Allen and Company**, in Queen Street two doors from Vulcan Lane, offering in March 1902 "foreign stamps at less than half Gibbon's Catalogue price". **Groves**, a stationer and tobacconist, the same year, located at the Terminus Depot in Wellesley Street, offered British, colonial and foreign stamps. **Sprechley's**, next to the G.P.O., was offering in July 1904 foreign stamp packets for 3d. and 6d. **Stamper and Company** in 1904 was offering to buy stamp collections, "must be cheap". They could be contacted care of the Auckland Star office. **Henry Bolitho**, a tobacconist and hairdresser in Customs Street West in 1903 was offering stamp mounts and "several thousand stamps". Interestingly, Bolitho's occupation in the 1902 and 1903 electoral rolls was given as "stamp dealer." **Charles Griffiths Fryer** was acting as a stamp dealer, in Mount Eden, around September 1918. **Harvey J. Dunn** advertised as a dealer in August 1920.

What is evident from this list is that, while there were a number of people in Auckland dealing in stamps, very few were full time dealers. Dealing in stamps supplemented the incomes of a number of book sellers, stationers, and tobacconists. Clearly, selling stamps was not by itself a sufficient income earner to make a living.

The Dominion Stamp Company – Arthur Powell.

An exception was Arthur Powell, who was a long-established full-time stamp dealer. Powell was born at Kakanui near Oamaru in 1876, and arrived in Auckland in 1902. His occupation in a succession of electoral rolls is given as

STAMPS —The Dominion Stamp Co. have
Removed to 73, Shortland-st Inspection invited
Open 9 a m to 6 p m 27

AUCKLAND STAR, VOLUME XLI, ISSUE 7, 8 JANUARY 1910

stamp dealer. Between 1903 and 1909 Powell had a shop in Cheshire Street in Parnell, before moving in December 1909 to 73 Shortland Street, where he remained until the 1930s.

Powell initially ran the Dominion Stamp Company, until May 1914, when he commenced trading under his own name. John Smyth commented in the Australian Stamp Journal that the name change would be a beneficial one "for there is a

NEW ZEALAND.—Several of our contemporaries have referred recently to the 1d. Dominion stamp, with a white stroke through the "one" of the One Penny. This was not, however, news to us, for in our issue of May 10th, page 96, Mr. W. E. Johnson, refers to it in "Philately as I saw it in New Zealand." Mr. A. Powell, of the Dominion Stamp Company, writes from Auckland, on the 16th November, that he has just received a sheet with the flaw in "o" corrected.

Philatelic Journal of Great Britain. Feb 20 1914

certain amount of individuality in philately, which is perhaps peculiar to it". Powell continued as a stamp dealer selling stamps, albums and hinges, until 1939. John Smyth described Powell as a "very genial fellow" who had the confidence of Auckland collectors. Powell was a member of the Philatelic Society of New Zealand, and the first exchange superintendent for the 1912 Auckland Philatelic Society.

Obliterator Postmarks of NZ (Part II) – Perkin Bacon Numbers Nic Hendy

When the first Full Face Queen stamps were shipped to New Zealand, with them included a set of 36 obliterating handstamps, two of each numbered 1 – 18. There are not complete records showing where each were assigned or where and when they may have been re-assigned. The details that we do have are recorded in the NZ Handbooks and are described as numbers 1A, 1B etc. Note the very worn look of 17 and 18. This because these obliterators were also used to seal mail bags with a lead seal when they were being sent from one Post Office to another. Over time this caused the obliterators to wear out.



Obliterator 1: Both number 1 obliterators were used at the Auckland Principal Office.

Obliterator 2: 2A was sent to Russell. Nothing is known about the 2B.

Obliterator 3: 3A was sent to Hokianga. 3B is believed to have been sent to Waipawa.

Obliterator 4: 4A is believed to have been sent to Monganui in 1855 and 4B may have been used in Akaroa in 1859.

Obliterator 5: 5A was sent to Bluff Harbour in 1859 and 5B to Timaru in 1859



Obliterator 6: These Obliterators were withheld to avoid confusion with New Plymouth's number '9'.

Obliterator 7: 7A was sent to Wellington in 1860 and transferred to Waikanae in 1862 and 7B was bought into use about this time.

Obliterator 8: 8A and 8B were sent to Wanganui in 1860.

Obliterator 9: 9A was used in New Plymouth from 1855.

Obliterator 10: 10A and 10B were used in Wellington from 1855. In 1858 10A had the '0' removed and was sent to the Hutt office. In 1862 10B was sent to Waikanae.

Obliterator 11: 11A was sent to Ahuriri in 1855 and 11B was sent to Otaki.



Obliterator 12: 12A was sent to Wanganui was badly worn by 1865. It is not known where 12B was sent.

Obliterator 13: This is the hardest Perkins Bacon Obliterator to find. It is not known where they were used. Is mine the same as the image?

Obliterators 14 and 15: These Obliterators were sent to Nelson in 1855 and later to some sub-offices.

Obliterator 16: 16A was used at Port Victoria (Canterbury) in 1855 and 16B in Kaiapoi in 1859.

Obliterator 17: 17A was used in Christchurch from 1855 and 17B was used at sub-offices Rangiora and Lyttelton.

Obliterator 18: 18A was used in Dunedin from 1855 and 18B at Port Chalmers

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.

Meeting reports:

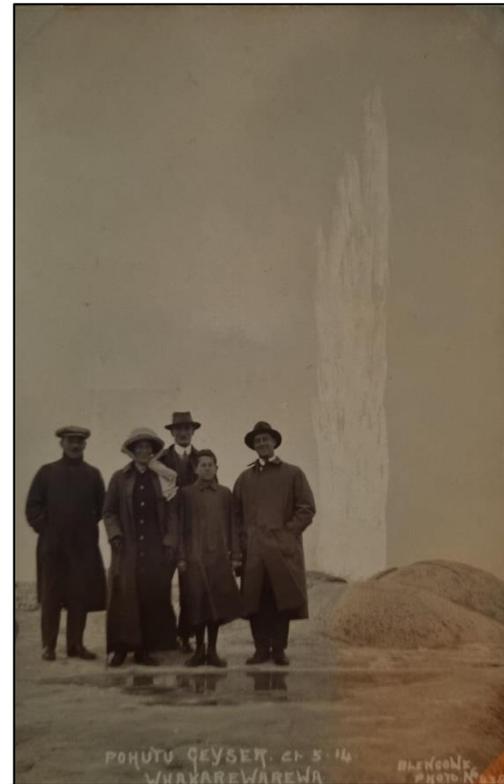
2nd May, Bruce Chadderton – Māori Postcards from Whakarewarewa

The Whakarewarewa village and thermal reserve is a well-known and significant tourist icon in the Rotorua area of New Zealand. It is home to the longest running family tourism business in New Zealand, namely the guided tours and concert performances that have operated in that location from the 1880's.

Initially Whakarewarewa was considered a side show by tourists to the Bay of Plenty region, whose main attraction, the Pink and White Terraces on the edge of Lake Tarawera, was considered the 8th natural wonder of the world. In 1886 the eruption of Mount Tarawera killed many of the local Māori and pakeha who had settled in the area, destroyed the Terraces and buried the area in up to 6m of volcanic ash. This forced the survivors to relocate, with many of them moving to Whakarewarewa (including Te Paea "Sophia" Hinerangi), where they used their guiding experience to improve and help refine the limited guided tours that were there.



Young women performing a *haka* at Whakarewarewa. The title, oft used on postcards from Whakarewarewa, implies that these young women were lurking about the thermal reserve and spontaneously burst into a *haka* just as the photographer arrived. (Sepia letterpress *An Impromptu Haka*, NZ Graphic series, *The Graphic & Ladies Journal*, floral pattern (on reverse), 1904-06. These cards were prepared in perforated sheet form and given away in 2's or 3's to readers of the *Journal* in an effort to increase readership.)



Pohutu Geyser painted into the image in a fully active state in front of a family group. (Private real photo, neg #438, *Pohutu Geyser, Whakarewarewa, 21.5.14*. Photo & publ by JR Blencowe, Rotorua, 1914). Mailed, but in an envelope, as it has no stamp on the reverse, but a roller cancel imprint is embossed on the card.

Guided tours of the thermal reserve at Whakarewarewa and cultural shows provided by Tuhourangi Ngati Wahiao became the main attraction, with the geysers which played regularly (sometimes with a bit of soapy encouragement) the main attraction.

Village life was also much photographed although colonial attitudes of the time meant not always with any understanding of what was in the picture.

The management of guiding and tourism practices initially fell under the leadership of Mita Taupopoki, a senior Whakarewarewa *kaumatua* (elder),



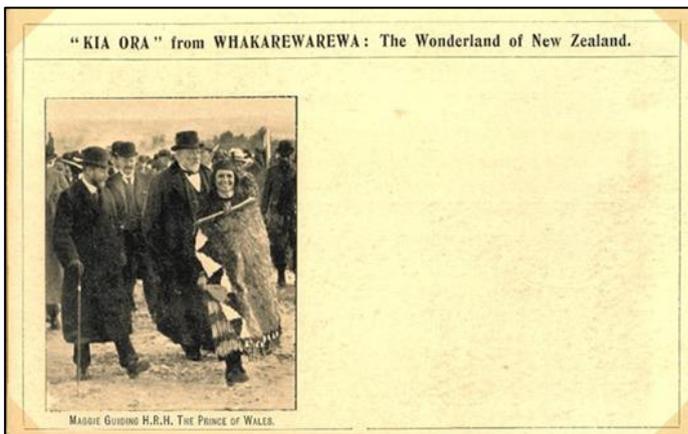
Head Guides chronologically from left to right. Te Paea “Sophia” Hinerangi Grey (government appointment in the 1890’s), Makereti “Maggie” Patterson Thom (1901 – 1912), Ihapera “Bella” Reretupou nee Thom (1912 – 1940), Rangitiarua “Rangi” Dennon (1940 – 1965), Huhana “Bubbles” Mihinui (1965 - 1985). Note: Sophia was considered an outsider and her ability to influence an iwi that she wasn’t related to was limited to whatever government support she could generate.

and the Head Guide, who policed guiding standards. Between the 1890’s and 1970’s there have only been five Head Guides, see images above.

Such was Whakarewarewa’s fame that in 1901 it was included in the itinerary of the Prince of Wales (later KGV) when they visited New Zealand. The Premier Richard Seddon and the Prince were guided by the guides “Sophia” and Makereti “Maggie” Patterson Thom. Postcards of this visit made Makereti a famous personality, status which she used to further develop guiding and take Tuhourangi Ngati Wahiao culture to the world.



Mita Taupopoki



Guide Maggie, with HRH Prince of Wales and NZ Premier Sir Richard Seddon, guiding them through Whakarewarewa. (Letterpress halftone, *Maggie Guiding HRH The Prince of Wales*, Series 18, The Weekly Press (Christchurch) 1904).

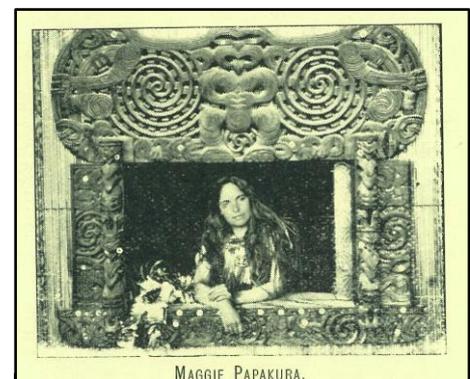


Image from reverse showing Maggie in the window of Rauru, (photo taken 15 Nov 1903, later used as a postcard and stereocard)

The postcard collecting craze of the early 20th Century took place at the time that tourism at Whakarewarewa was really developing, so many of the key personalities and events were recorded and printed for use as postcards. These include cards recording events like the visits of personnel from the Royal Navy Special Service Squadron (1924).



Captain Henry W Parker, commander of HMS *Repulse* standing in front of *Wahiou II* amongst the women who were performing the welcome to naval personnel from the RN Special Service Squadron in May 1924. Real photo, *A Maori Gathering, Whaka NZ* The photographer "MF" is the Royal Navy photographer who produced a range of souvenirs including postcards and a book for the officers.

16th May, Richard Kornman – British East Africa The Imperial British East Africa Company.

British East Africa was an area roughly occupying present day Kenya. It grew out of British commercial interests, with the Imperial British East Africa (IBEAC) Company being granted a concession to administer the area in 1887 from the Sultanate of Zanzibar. When the company began to fail in 1894 administration was passed to the crown and in 1895 the area became a protectorate run out of the British Foreign Office.



Prior to this East African mail was directed to Zanzibar. On 22 November 1888 a German postal agency opened on the island of Lamu serving the few German residents living around this area. The office closed 31 March 1891.



Queen Victoria stamps: British East Africa mail services started at Mombasa and Lamu in May 1890. First stamps issued were Queen Victoria stamps of Great Britain overprinted and surcharged by De La Rue. It was the first company allowed to use its name on postage stamps. (Image front cover)

IBEAC Company Definitive Stamps: issued in October 1890. They were printed by lithography by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Company. The 4 Annas, 8 Annas and 1 Rupee stamps were also printed in grey to be used as official stamps. The company did not find it convenient to have two stamps of the same value in different colours so sold the 8 annas and 1 Rupee stamps for postal use. Two sheets of the grey 4 annas stamps had not been perforated and were sold to Mr H L Hayman, stamp dealer, London at a premium price.



From 1891 to 1894 5 new values were introduced as well as a variety of different papers and watermarks.

Imperforate Varieties: The purchase of stamps, especially the imperforate varieties were monopolised by the London stamp dealer Mr H L Hayman. Two sheets each of six 1890 values and 3 sheets of 4 later values were produced imperforate and he purchased them all at a premium over face value. He also purchased partially imperforate sheets.



Handstamped, Manuscript and Overprinted Provisional Stamps: Because of an extreme shortage of postage stamps in 1891 the chief accountant, Andrew Dick, crossed out the "2 Annas" on a 2 Annas stamp, and hand stamped "1/2 Anna" and signed "AD" upon the stamp. Archibald Brown, the company's cashier did the same with 1 Anna on the 4 Annas stamp with his initials "AB". Sometimes they wrote upon the stamp 1/2 Anna or 1 Anna and signed their initials. Victor H Mackenzie "VHM" the Bank Manager also got into the act with 1 Anna on the 3 Annas stamp. In 1895 T E C Remington (TECR) the postmaster



AD

AB



AB

VHM

TECR

similarly manuscript ½ Anna on the 3 Annas stamp. In November 1894 Bradbury Wilkenson & Co overprinted 5 Annas on the 8 Annas stamp and 7 ½ Annas on the 1 Rupee stamp.

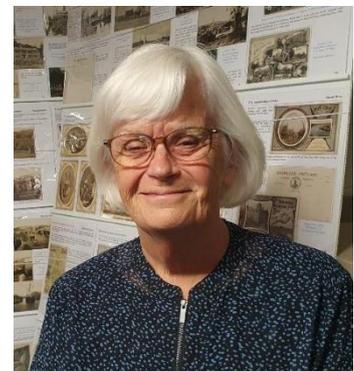


British East Africa Protectorate: When the administration of East Africa passed to the Crown and the area became a protectorate IBEA Company stamps were overprinted by handstamp “British East Africa” in three lines under supervision of Thomas Remington in Mombasa. Thus ended four years where a company was legally entitled to issuing its own stamps for a country. (Only 8 of the set of 16 stamps shown below)

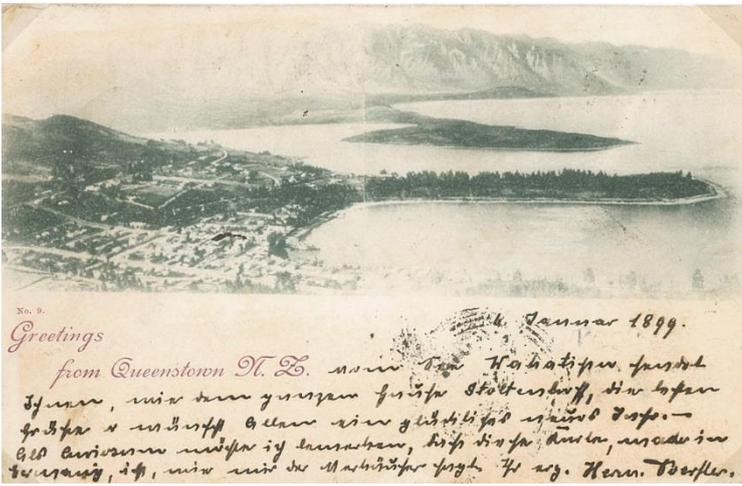


6th June, Jenny Long – New Zealand Postcards

Jenny showed us an eight-frame exhibit on New Zealand’s picture postcards, which won a large gold at the FIP exhibition in London in 2022. The exhibit looks at the origins of picture postcards in New Zealand and a selection of the photographers and publishers through the postcard craze in the early twentieth century.



Photographers such as Muir & Moodie, and F.G.Radcliffe were included because of the nation-wide coverage of their scenic views, and the time periods they covered. Other photographers were chosen for their work as specialised, or regional photographers. Thomas Pringle for example, is renowned for his high quality colour collotype postcards of Maori subjects produced in 1906 and 1907, while J. R. Morris, a contemporary of Muir and Moodie, has been included for the quality of his scenic images. W. Beattie. Joseph Zachariah and F. N. Jones, on the other hand, lean more to photojournalism with their interest in events and scenes of ordinary people. Fergusson & Taylor Ltd was chosen as a publisher because of the times the firm was operating in and the volume of cards produced. One significant rarity is the Lewis Hotop postcard dated 4 January 1899, the earliest known New Zealand picture postcard.



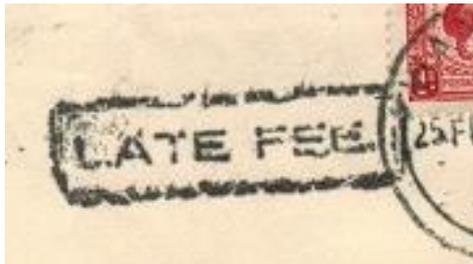
Earliest recorded picture postcard dated 4 Jan 1899



Dunedin from Bell Hill 1852. Photograph by John Tensfield.

6th June, Jeff Long – New Zealand’s Late Fee Service

The Late Fee service was offered by the New Zealand Post Office from the 1860’s to the 1980’s. Customers could pay a fee to have mail processed after the scheduled closing time for acceptance of mail, but before the mail bags physically left the Post Office for the steamer, train or other conveyance. The first reference to Late Fee in the New Zealand Gazette decreed that from January 1, 1864 “all sea-borne mails to be kept open to within two hours of the departure of the Mail from the Post Office. “



Postal markings were used to identify Late Fee mail, usually manuscript or rubber Late Fee cachets. These vary considerably in type, from the standardised cachets used at many offices to those created by staff at particular offices. Some firms which often used the Late Fee service had their own cachets.



While any Post Office could accept Late Fee mail, major post offices provided a Late Fee posting slot. Late Fee letters could also be placed in a receiving box on board ships, and a special Late Fee box was available on the main trunk rail service, starting in 1876 on a guard’s van on the Dunedin to Port Chalmers line.

Even if a Late Fee was paid, there was no guarantee that the mail would catch the outgoing conveyance if the letter was not received and processed in time. To avoid complaints or fines for delaying mails, these letters had a manuscript or rubber “too late” cachet applied.

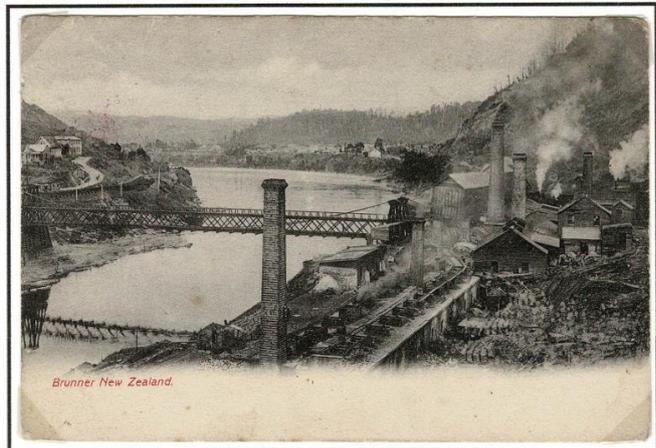


The service continued until the formation of NZ POST on 1st April 1987 when, like many such services, it gradually and unofficially reduced its availability. The late fee service finally ended with the introduction of *Fastpost* in 1988, which offered overnight delivery to over 500 NZ towns and cities.

4th July, Ross Marshall – The Greymouth Coal Mining District.

Ross gave us a very interesting talk about the Greymouth Coalfields.

Discovery: The coalfield was discovered inland beside the Grey River by Thomas Brunner on the 25th January 1848. Coal production in the district started at the Brunner mine in 1864 and continued at various other mining sites until the 2010 Pike River mining disaster.



"Brunner New Zealand" undivided back, no details. View of the Grey River with the

The Strike: For two months from 3

September 1890 to 3 November the miners went on strike. They had agreed to work at a lower rate of pay but on the condition that the Union Steamship

Company was not supplied with coal. This condition was not met. Brunner Mines brought in 'free labour' – unskilled workers to work the mines. The Union was crushed, the striking miners



Brunnerton "A" Class datestamps used around the time of the Coal Strikes

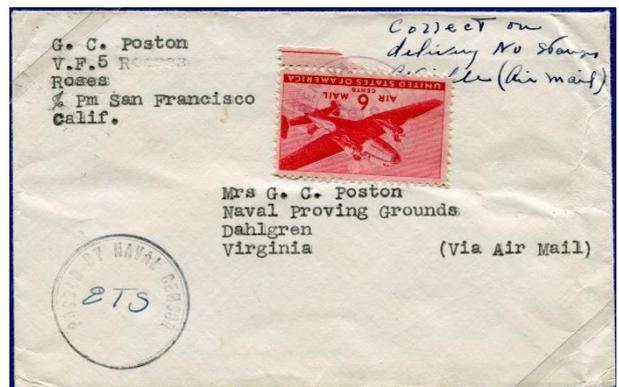
capitulated and the mines reopened.

The Cost: Over the years coal production from 130 underground mines produced 43,000,000 tons of coal but at a cost of 436 lives. A million tons of coal per life lost. Many 100's more were injured and thousands of families affected.

For more information and the complete exhibit visit Ross Marshall's website www.collectorsnz.co.nz. Here you will also find over 3000 pages from 65 exhibits.

18th July, Martin Treadwell – New Hebrides Military Postal History.

On 18 July 2023, we heard from collector and exhibitor Martin Treadwell, who gave a presentation of his Gold-medal winning display "The Postal History of the United States Military Forces in the New Hebrides During WW2". Martin's 5 frames began with mail from Task Force 6814, Detachment A, which had been sent from New Caledonia on 18 March 1942, to see if anywhere in the New Hebrides might provide a closer base to the Solomons, in order to stop the Japanese advance there. TF 6814-A was sent first to Port Vila, where they built a runway for fighters in about 12 days, and established a base ("Roses") that would become the Island Command. The men had no postal unit, however, so their



mail had to be shipped back to New Caledonia and they continued to use Noumea's 'APO 502' address for several months, even after they had moved north to the island of Santo, where they established base "Button". Button would go on to become the major launching point for the battle to seize and hold Guadalcanal.

Martin exhibited a number of fine pieces from this era, including a cover from a member of the Navy's VF5 squadron, which had been on the aircraft carrier Saratoga when she was torpedoed. Saratoga had to limp back to Pearl Harbour for repairs, leaving VF5 squadron on Efate for a month or two, to bolster the air power there.

A particularly poignant cover was sent by William Sandidge, a US Army Air Force pilot who landed at Efate on 8 May 1943 to refuel, on his way to rejoin his squadron fighting in the air over Guadalcanal. While his plane was being refueled, Sandidge posted the letter in question letter to a girl he had met in New Zealand (she lived in Wapiti Ave in Epsom). He then got back in his plane and took off, never to be seen again. It is presumed he suffered some catastrophic failure of the plane or engine because no distress call was ever heard. He remains, today and forever, simply "missing in action".



Martin's display explored the use of many code names for postal addresses and chronicled both the building of the two bases into gigantic towns (Santo had a quarter of a million people at one point) and the relentless passage of personnel, ships and aircraft passing through as the war moved further north. Both bases became important hospital facilities with numerous Army and Navy 'evac', field and general hospitals.

The display closed with the last recorded covers from both islands - both sent after the war was over and the need for censorship had ended.

1st August, Sue Claridge – The Keith Griffiths Memorial Lecture, Topical vs Thematic vs Open Exhibiting.

Sue gave a lot of encouragement to get involved in exhibiting. She said the important thing is to just get started and the first few pages are the hardest. Find something you are passionate about and want to tell people about through stamps.

Exhibits should tell a story, have a beginning, middle and end (although not obviously named as such). A good way to start is to get a children's library book on a topic and use the table of contents to inspire your exhibit.

Sue explained different types of exhibits:



- Traditional - stamps in catalogue/chronological order
- Topical - a thematic collection of philatelic material organised in a logical way, e.g. different types of railway engine
- Simplified Thematics - stamps and other philatelic material related to one subject (must be 100% material sold by the post office)
- Open - must be 50% philatelic material, but much more freedom, e.g. "Nursing" with scalpel blade included

Sue's display included 4 or 8 page examples of her own exhibits and from other collectors, including a Topical Railways collection her father (deceased) had exhibited, and a Thematic "Pineapple" exhibit (assembled from her father's thematic collection).

Lastly she mentioned there is material available from NZPF, FIP, Aus PF giving more details on how to assemble an exhibit.

15th August, Lynette Townsend – NZ Post's Stamp and Coin Programme.

Lynette is the Programme and Content Manager for NZ Post Collectables. With a background as a cultural historian, she ensures the stamps and coins issued by NZ Post reflect NZ people, culture and national resources.



There are both challenges and opportunities with these collectables. As we know, the number of stamp collectors is decreasing, while coins are fairly constant. NZ Post has branched out into other collectables, e.g. pins and medallions. Production and distribution costs have increased, and there are fewer outlets so more focus on sales through the website. Lynette is attempting to appeal to a wider market with some recent and upcoming issues featuring film and media associated with NZ - Lord of the Rings, Avatar, Computer Gaming [2024], Split Enz [2024], and also the first collectible NFTs (non-fungible tokens) - limited edition collectable digital images of NZ stamps.

NZ Post works closely with other parties on some stamp issues, e.g. the Avatar set, where Disney provided a selection of images which could be used.

Upcoming issues for 2023

QEII - 1st Anniversary of Death, Ross Dependency - Scott Base, Christmas, Lord of the Rings - 20th Anniversary of "The Return of the King", King Charles III - 75th Birthday'

2024 planned issues

Marine Reserves, Computer Gaming industry, NZ Music Month - Split Enz, ANZAC - NZ Veterans post-WWII, Paris Olympics, Matariki, Centenary of All Blacks Invincibles tour, Postcrossing (postcard swapping), Ross Dependency Mental Health, Christmas, Backyard Pollinators, Chinese New Year - Year of the Snake.



150-year Anniversary of the 1873 Newspaper Stamp, Issued 2nd August 2023. One \$6.90 gummed stamp in a miniature sheet. The Newspaper stamp was the first stamp that went from design, plate making and printing completely within New Zealand. The stamp was superseded by the ½d black Second Sideface. \$6.90 is the oversized letter rate for the rest of the world.



2023 Pets of Aotearoa New Zealand, issued 2nd August 2023. Four gummed stamps and a miniature sheet. There are more than 4.3 million pets, or “companion animals” within New Zealand. Almost the same number as New Zealand’s population. The pictured animals are finalists from a NZ Post request to send in photos of one’s pets. Spencer is a Cavalier King Charles spaniel, Zita a 3 year old seal point ragdoll, Kea is a Maroon-bellied conure and Oh-good an 18 month old sheep.

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

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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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