



AUCKLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY Inc.

P.O. Box 1932 Shortland Street Auckland 1140

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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

EDITORIAL ADDRESS

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Newsletter No.213 ISSN 0113 6100 – March 2023



Roman Postal services:
Vindolanda tablet. A birthday invitation written by one woman to another. This is the earliest example of women's handwriting in Latin

See page 4

2023 Subscriptions are now due

For the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Adult members \$40 pa, Including Partner \$45 pa

Country Members \$30 pa, Including Partner \$35 pa

Junior Members (under 18 years at 1/1/2023) \$20 pa.

(Partners need to be living at the same address)

Note: If you pay before the 30th April there is a \$5 discount.

Payment methods

1. Internet banking: **ANZ Bank 01-0102-0063264-00**. Please put first initial and full surname of member being paid for.
2. Pay in cash to Neil Coutts at a club meeting. Put the correct amount in notes in an envelope with name and date on the outside.

Please pay no later than 31st May. Members who have not paid by 30th June risk being removed from the membership list.

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 books 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.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 7th March – Carolyn Gibson, Eileen Mayo.

Tuesday 21st March – Neil Harding, New Zealand 1935 Pictorials

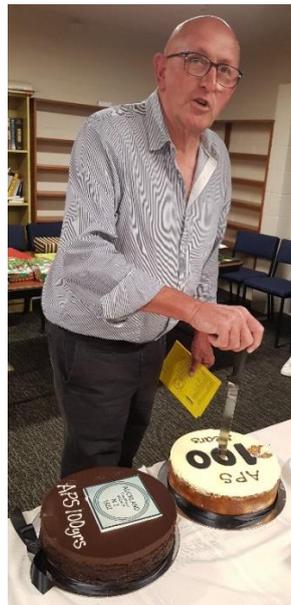
Tuesday 4th April – Sean Brady, Fakes and Forgeries.

Tuesday 18th April – Antony Harris (NZ Post), NZ Post's Stamp & Coin Programme.

Tuesday 2nd May – Bruce Chadderton, Maori Postcard Exhibit (Won an international Gold in Dubai).

Saturday 13th May is our next **Red Dot sale**. This sale will be held at our club rooms at Mt Albert Senior Citizen's Hall, Wairere Avenue.

Christmas Party and 100 years celebration



1. Andrew entertaining us at the last minute.
2. John cutting one of two centennial cakes.
3. Appreciation Certificates: Tane for his help as auctioneer on club nights; Trevor for his help in folding and posting the Newsletters, and Graham Robertson (absent but Tane holding up certificate) for Red Dot Auction assistance and support during Society Meetings.
4. Trophy winners: Ray for the Best APS speaker on a club night, Mike for the most Items of Interest, Grant for the Best One Frame talk in the Armstrong Cup Competition, and Chris for the One-page competition.

The Pre-History of the post office – Bruce Webber

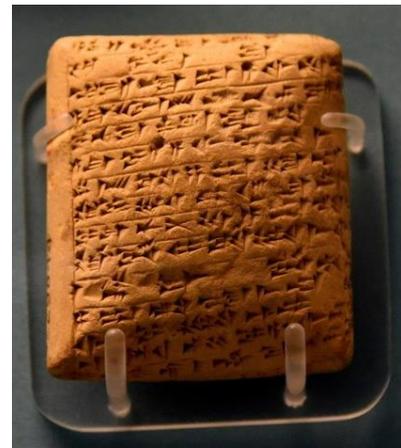
The post office is a means of transferring information between people in different locations. Since speech began accurate communication over a distance has been a requirement, especially of leaders. Initially this would have been done orally, however, oral transferring of information often was inaccurate and open to dishonesty.

About 4000 BC: Although not a postal system as such, during the Uruk period in Mesopotamia a concept developed which is considered a forerunner of a postal system. Clay “tokens” were used with markings upon them representing quantities of goods to be purchased. The courier would take these to the supplier and receive the goods. It was soon realized that this was open to dishonesty. Eventually the clay tokens were enveloped in a sheet of clay and then baked. The envelope, called *bulla*, would be given to the seller so the correct amount would be supplied and dishonest couriers would be minimised.



Two clay bullae, one complete and sealed, the other broken with tokens visible, Uruk period. Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago.

2000 BC: Ancient Egyptians developed a system that is classed as the oldest postal system in the world. The main mode of transportation was the Nile River. Letters were placed in a box escorted by guards. This postal service was initially used exclusively by the pharaohs and the leaders of surrounding countries. The Egyptian Postal Museum in Cairo displays messaged between Amenhotep and Akhenaten updating each other on political developments. Interestingly, another document has survived which was sent by a scribe to his son emphasizing the importance of writing and the bright future of a scribe in government posts. The private use of the Egyptian “postal service,” was, for some, allowed.

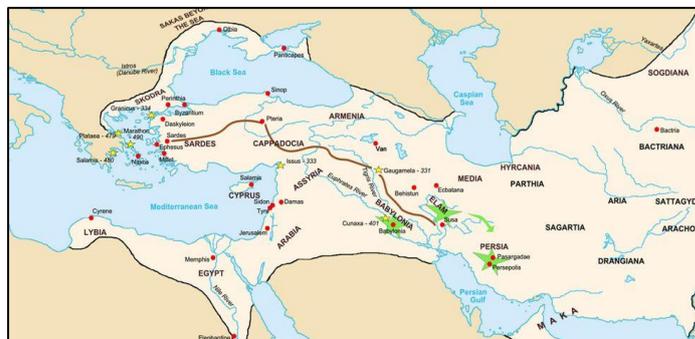


Letter written in Babylonian cuneiform to Egyptian Pharaoh Amenhotep III. (The British Museum, London)

1122 - 221 BC: The Chou (or Zhou) Dynasty in China were probably the first people to develop the posthouse relay system. The posthouse was a place for riders with mail to swap horses, or for the mail to swap both horse and rider, so that it was not delayed in getting to its destination.

600 BC: The Persian Empire successfully developed and used the posthouse system. Herodotus (484-425 B.C) a Greek Historian wrote:

“Along the whole line of road there are men stationed with horses, ... a man and horse to each day; and these men will not be hindered from accomplishing at their best speed the distance which they have to go, either by snow, or rain, or heat, or by the darkness of night. The first rider delivers his despatch to the second and the second passes it to the third; and so it is borne from hand to hand along the whole line.”



The Persian Royal Road was an ancient highway built to facilitate rapid communication throughout the Empire (Credit: CPA Media Pte Ltd/Alamy)

It was the first-time administrative letters folded, sealed and delivered on a purpose build royal road was used. The Biblical book of Esther (about 400-300 BC.) mentions:

“Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king’s signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king.”

100 – 400 AD: The Roman Empire extended/copied the Persians. Their roading network was called the *cursus publicus* (the public way) and it became the most highly developed postal system in the ancient world. Two hundred and seventy kilometres could be covered on horse in a day and night. In 1973 while excavating a Roman fort at Vindolanda just south of Hadrian’s Wall, slivers of wood with writing on them, cut into “post card” sized and folded in half were found. An address was written on the back. Roman military communications occurred via a postal service at this remote part of the Roman Empire. It was also used for private communications. Shown (front page) a birthday invitation from one officer’s wife to another. It is the earliest example of women’s handwriting in Latin. The fall of the Roman Empire didn’t completely destroy the *cursus publicus* but over the next few hundred years roads decayed and the communities were unwilling to maintain them and the posthouses service eventually disappeared. Leaders still had their couriers to deliver mail, but it limited to the local region rather across multiple countries.

References:

- <https://egyptianstreets.com/2018/10/01/the-egyptian-postal-system-oldest-postal-system-in-the-world/>
- <https://factsanddetails.com/world/cat56/sub399/entry-6326.html>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/postal-system/History>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-mail-1992142>
- <https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20200624-iran-the-surprising-origins-of-the-postal-service>
- <https://brewminate.com/letters-and-post-in-the-ancient-world/>

Meeting reports:

15th November 2022, Bruce Webber – Hearts in Four Parts. Initially Bruce was booked in to speak in 2020, then 2021, but on both occasions Covid got in the way. Bruce collects anything relating to hearts on stamps or covers. Having worked as a radiographer in a cardiac catheterisation environment for almost all of his working life, it was a forgone conclusion that hearts would be his



thematic theme. He displayed four themes relating to Hearts. Bruce's talk included:



1. Heart postal markings on mail from Italy, 1767 to 1855. These heart shaped markings with the name of the city and a number within were used to aid the administration of the postal service. The earliest Italian entire shown was one posted in Florence to Rome dated 6th April 1768.

2. French Fashion houses who designed France's yearly Valentine heart shaped stamps. Chanel, Givenchy and Lanvin were highlighted.



3. A section on general world stamps and how he collected them.



4. Chicago Heart Association Valentine seals which were used to raise funds for cardiac research.

At the end of his talk Bruce gave a demonstration on how to perform CPR on someone who has collapsed.

7th February 2023, A review of Ambury Shield Results.

Last October the Auckland Philatelic Society won the Ambury Shield. This was a great result not having entered the competition for a number of years. The win was achieved by members winning one first place, five second places, two third places out of 12 entries

Most of those who entered the Ambury Shield Competition last year presented their entries and discussed the judge's remarks. A summary of some of the judge's comments were:

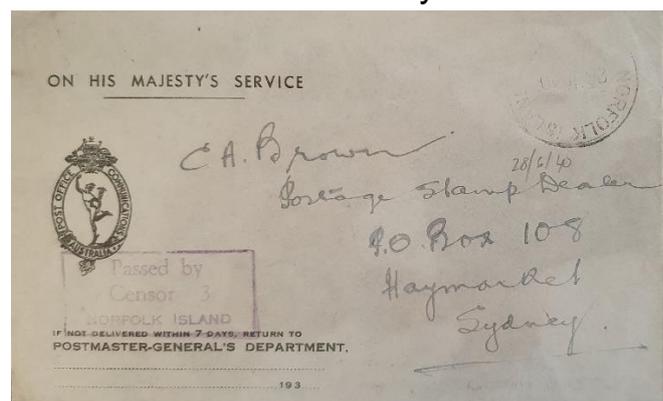
1. The introduction needs to explain what is going to be exhibited on the next few pages.
2. Markings on covers need to be explained even if they have no relevance to the topic of the exhibit.
3. Pages need to have more than 2 or 3 stamps upon them.
4. You need to tell a story which flows from page to page.

Overall, we achieve a great result. Below are some of the entry titles.



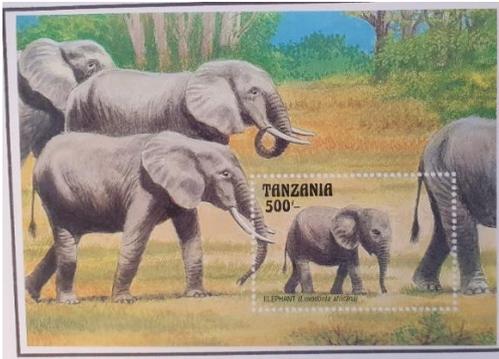
Brian Marshall

Bolivian Censor and Resealing Labels from the Chaco War, 1932-1935.

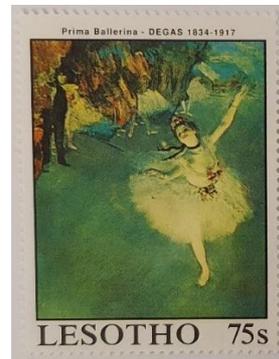


Grant Longley

Norfolk Island WWII Civilian Censorship



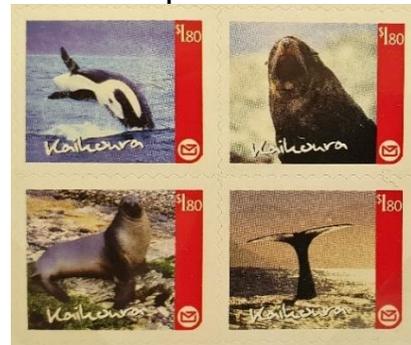
Bruce Burgess
Elephants



Chris Keery
Impressionism



Josephine Burgess
The Bible



Mike Steel
Kaikoura Regional Postage



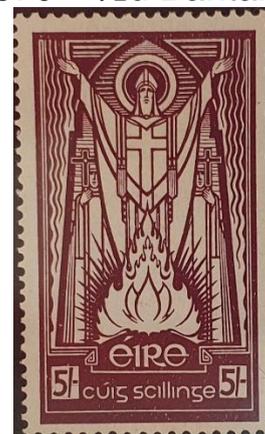
Neil Coutts
1d Dominion



Nic Hendy
GB 1870 – ½d Bantam



Roger Marshall
Paris Star Cancellations



Tane McManus
The 1st Definitive Issue of
Ireland 1922 – 1968

Nic Hendy is collecting Obliterator postmarks on First and Second Sidefaces, if you have any interesting ones, please contact him on nichen@hotmail.com or 09-817-5668. You can send a scan and name a price or ask him for a quote.

Recent NZ Post Issue



2023 Year of the Rabbit, issued 7th December 2022. Four gummed stamps, and gold foil numbered miniature sheets and the usual miniature sheet. They were designed by Ying-Min Chu after the Chinese nianhua poster style. The rabbit is the fourth year of the Chinese calendar because it came fourth in the Jade Emperor's great race after having a nap and three others passed him.



Katherine Mansfield 1888-1923, Issued 1st February 2023. Four gummed stamps and one miniature sheet. Katherine Mansfield is known for her distinctive prose and her adventurous life. A New Zealand author from Wellington who is internationally recognised. She died of tuberculosis in Avon, France January 1923. The stamps celebrate her legacy and work.

(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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