



AUCKLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY Inc.

P.O. Box 1932 Shortland Street Auckland 1140

www.aps.gen.nz

President: Chris Keery

Secretary: Andrew Chessum

Meetings are held at the Mt. Albert Senior Citizens' Hall, Wairere Avenue on the first and third Tuesdays of each month except Jan starting at 7.45pm

EDITORIAL ADDRESS

Bruce Webber P.O. Box 1932, Shortland Street, Auckland 1140. Email: brucewebberqa@netscape.net

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The 1870 Bantam of Great Britain



INTERNET BANKING

All payments to APS need to be either in cash at a Red Dot sale or at a club night, or by internet banking. The club 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**

Subscriptions are now due – \$40 for Normal members and \$30 for country members; the discount date has now passed. When paid please email Bruce (brucewebberqa@netscape.net) with the details.

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

Important When paying for your Circuit Book purchases please put your name in "Particulars" (i.e. "Smith") and the circuit books numbers you are paying for as the "Reference" (i.e. "books 10, 12"). To successfully process your payment we need these details. Also please email Victor (victor.sutcliffe66@hotmail.com) with these details and the amount paid.

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

Use the Red Dot Sales account to pay for your winning auction lots won at one of our 4 yearly Saturday Red Dot Sales. Please put your name in "The Particulars" and "Red Dot Sale" in the reference. When paid please email Nic (nichen@hotmail.com).

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Best year ever Circuit Book Sales

We had an all-time record of \$20,790 of circuit book sales this year, many thanks to Barry, Rodger and Nic and all of you who purchased items.

Change of Venues

Our June **Annual Exhibition** will now be held at the Mt Eden War Memorial Hall. This has been our venue on previous occasions.

Until August 2022, our **Tuesday Member nights** are being held at St Peters Presbyterian Church, 7 Harrison Road, Mt Wellington.



**AUCKLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY
CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION
Saturday 11 June 2022**



REMINDER: CALL FOR ENTRIES

To celebrate its 100th Anniversary, the Auckland Philatelic Society invites collectors and enthusiasts to prepare a 1 frame, (16 page), entry for its Centennial Exhibition.

The theme for this year's exhibition is the number 100.

Each entry is restricted to 1 frame (16 pages) and must simply relate to the theme of 100, (e.g. 100 stamps, 100 years, 100 cats, etc).

Prizes and certificates will be awarded to the best entries in four categories:

- **New Zealand Themed Entry** - featuring NZ stamps or postal materials, Prize \$50
- **Internationally Themed Entry**—featuring international stamps or postal materials, Prize \$50
- **Thematic Entry** - featuring any stamp or postal theme e.g: music, horses, butterflies, royalty, trains or even simply your 100 favourite stamps, Prize \$50
- **Best Overall Entry** - selected from all entries received an additional \$100 prize

PLEASE NOTE: Entries must be received by **5.00pm Friday 3 June, 2022**. Entries will be returned to owners where arranged.

Door Prize – Once again we will be offering as a door prize a **Penny Black** (thanks to Nic). There will also be our standard raffles.

*Auckland Philatelic Society reserves the right to use any entry received in future publicity directly relating to the Society or its centennial exhibition
For further information please contact*

Email: andrew.chessum@gmail.com **Postal:** Auckland Philatelic Society, PO Box 1932 Shortland Street. Auckland 1140 or visit our **website:** <http://aps.gen.nz>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 21st June, 8pm is our **Annual General Meeting**.

Saturday 9th July is our next **Red Dot sale**. Now being held at held at St Peters Presbyterian Church, 7 Harrison Road, Mt Wellington
This will include an **Estate Sale** of Andrew Dolphin's material. Better items will have a reserve, dealers are welcome to attend.

Tuesday 2nd August – **The Keith Griffiths Memorial Lecture** Ray Wiseby, Early London Postal History.

THE CAR IN THE GARAGE

Miles Dillon

Over forty years ago, I bought my first vintage car, a 1936 two-door Morris sedan – just like my grandfather's. A few years later I bought my second, a 1936 Morris 12 coupé. As if that was not enough, I went on to purchase a 1936 Morris 8 convertible. Panel-beating night-classes curtailed attendance at Wellesley Philatelic Society meetings for several years as I worked to repair the panels of the rusty old convertible. Then life took over – I bought a house, work demands increased, I re-engaged with philately – and the cars have lain untouched for decades in the garage. Our first family car was a Morris 12 sedan but the coupé design is a relative rarity. When my parents decided to sell our sedan, I recall, as a little fellow, planting a fond farewell kiss on its mudguard! They say nostalgia often drives our collecting interests.

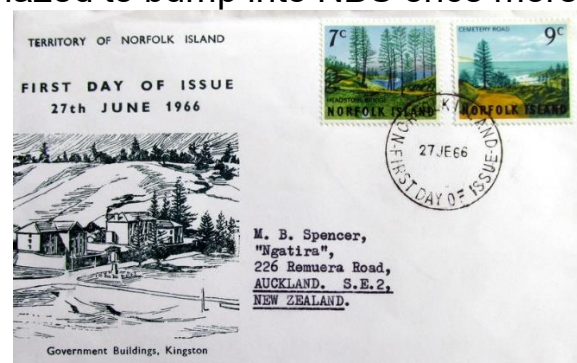
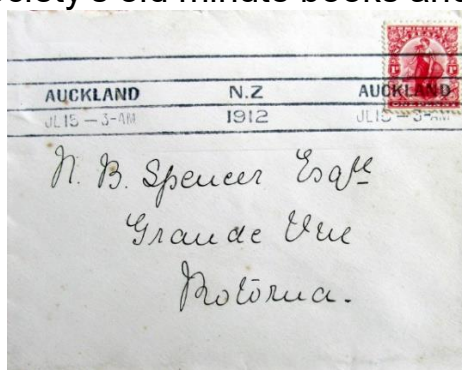
My coupé was registered new on 12 June 1936 to the Passenger Transport Coy Ltd of Otahuhu. PTC, in my opinion, ran some of the ugliest buses on the road - austere, square

and boxy, the bodies assembled locally, I guess. The muddy orange livery did little to enhance the image. The smart lines of the Morris 12 coupé were in marked contrast to those of



the bus fleet. My car's registration papers show that in November 1938 ownership was transferred from PTC to Norman Berridge Spencer (NBS) then in 1946 to his wife Isabella. I learned that Spencer was a director and shareholder of PTC. He died in 1968 and in his will leaves his PTC shares to his son and daughter.

Dredging through boxes of philatelic material I have unearthed items of postal history addressed to the Spencer family, one to NBS himself and another to his son MB Spencer. More recently I have been reading our Society's old minute books and was amazed to bump into NBS once more!



Norman Spencer was elected a new member of APS on 4 September 1924, proposed by JA Robertson, seconded by GC Fryer. Soon after, NBS found himself on the committee at a meeting when FK Maseman

suggested appointing a rules revision committee. Besides his interest in PTC, NBS was a lawyer and an obvious choice along with HC Duthie and WJ Harrison. Although members referred to Auckland Philatelic Society at that time, the organization was still legally Auckland Stamp Collectors' Club. After NBS reported on their deliberations, a special committee meeting agreed to a voluntary winding up of the ASCC and incorporation as Auckland Philatelic Society. At the AGM on 5 March, JC Entrican proposed, seconded by M Leather, that the



Copy of original Certificate of Incorporation

recommendations of the committee be adopted. On 2 April, on a show of hands, 38 members agreed to dissolve the Club and expressed their desire to become members of APS. The Certificate of Incorporation is dated 15 September 1925.



Norman Berridge Spencer in uniform

NBS was elected Vice-President and auditor at the AGM on 4 March 1926. The Society's founder Robert Brown was re-elected as President but resigned on 1 April. Brown read a letter to the members from the Secretary which suggested that the conduct of meeting (too much talking) was the cause of a decline in membership. The Secretary apologized for his action in writing in such a strain, but Brown reiterated that he did not see his way to carry on under certain conditions. The matter was referred to the committee, the upshot being that on 6 May NBS found himself elected to the presidency, a position he held for one term. On 2 September he presented a display of stamps of the British West Indies to a gathering of 17 members at the Chamber of Commerce meeting room. His talk was greatly appreciated, endorsed with a hearty vote of thanks.

NBS was to address the Society on 16 July 1930 but his unspecified display was brought by his delegate HC Duthie. A letter conveying a hearty vote of thanks was to be written. I am not sure how long NBS was a member but he seems to have finished before 1943.



The picture on the left shows the author in the midst of an engine rebuild on the Morris 12. Sadly, a thorough search of the interior of the car failed to reveal any philatelic gems dropped by its former owner, Norman Berridge Spencer!

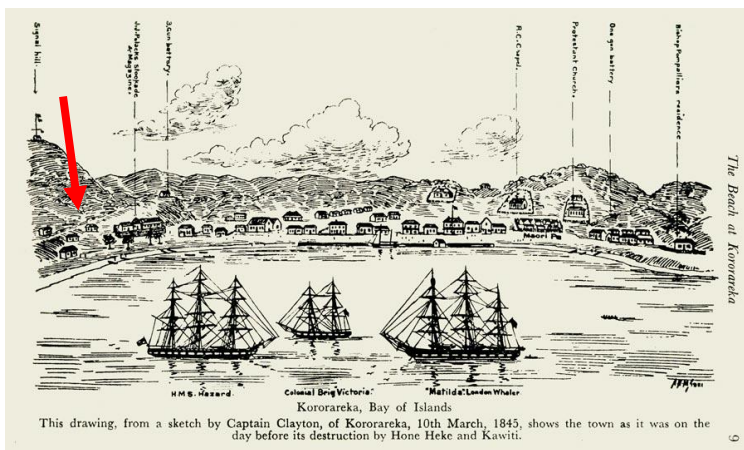
An Early History, the Post Office in New Zealand

Bruce Webber

In 1839, William Hobson (pictured) was appointed Britain's consul to New Zealand, his job was to establish British sovereignty in New Zealand. Once established, New Zealand would, for a while, be governed by George Gipps, the governor of New South Wales; he had been looking after New Zealand anyway. Hobson was Gipps Lieutenant-Governor. In January 1840 Gipps issued a proclamation extending the boundaries of New South Wales to include New Zealand. In May 1840 after the signing of the Treaty and its travels throughout the North Island, Hobson proclaimed British sovereignty over all of New Zealand. In June 1840, an act was passed in Sydney extending the laws of New South Wales to New Zealand; this included postal regulations.



The governance of New South Wales was never intended to be permanent. Even before news of Hobson's proclamation of British sovereignty reached London, the English parliament enacted a 'Charter for erecting the Colony of New Zealand' and had made New Zealand a separate colony with a constituted nominated Legislative Council, effective November 1840. This news of course took some time to reach Hobson in New Zealand.



This drawing, from a sketch by Captain Clayton, of Kororareka, 10th March, 1845, shows the town as it was on the day before its destruction by Hone Heke and Kawiti.

Lieutenant-Governor Hobson, in early 1840, opened the first official post office in New Zealand in the Bay of Islands; in Kororareka (now Russell – approximate building arrowed). Prior to this, various merchants were delegated post office responsibilities by the Postmaster-General of New South Wales. The post office in

New Zealand continued operating under Sydney regulations until May 1841 when the news of New Zealand being established as a Crown Colony independent of New South Wales was received and Hobson had been sworn in as Governor.

Hobson and the newly appointed Legislature passed a local ordinance and the post office became, or it was believed to have become, a locally owned entity. The ordinance was sent to London for confirmation and the post office acted as though it was under the control and regulations of the local New Zealand government. However, Her Majesty's Treasury, unaware of Hobson's post office ordinance, issued a warrant establishing a post office in New Zealand, under British control. When Hobson received notice of the British control and the regulations the post office had to work under, he and William

Swainson the Attorney General considered these actions as illegal. They wrote an opinion to that effect and sent it back to London. London dismissed the opinion and disallowed the local ordinance. In the latter half of 1842, after 18 months of being a New Zealand owned and regulated post office, it was placed under the control of Britain and British regulations.

The early settlers complained about these new regulations, so in July 1844, the Governor, who at this time was Robert Fitzroy (pictured right), and the legislative council set up an inquiry into the complaints and the effect the new regulations had. William Connell, who had been Postmaster General for about 5 months from September 1841 under the local regulations, and then temporary filled the role in 1843 before Peter Hogg took over, was an ideal person to interview and give evidence, with others, having been involved with both systems.



There were two but similar areas of complaint.

Firstly, receiving news in the form of newspapers from home was, for the early settlers, extremely important. Under the local ordinance, newspapers having been paid 1d when posted in England, were delivered anywhere in New Zealand free of any charge whatsoever. Under the new system the newspapers for ports other than the port of arrival were liable to a rate of postage (1d) if received by a private ship, and an additional rate of postage (1/2d) if conveyed from one part of the colony to another.

Secondly, again with overseas mail, there was an inland charge (4d) for the conveyancing of these letters to other parts of New Zealand. Because of these extra charges, especially the newspaper charges, the post office was running at a loss. Settlers were refusing to pay the extra for newspapers and more than 50% of them were undelivered laying around the post office taking up space and requiring the post office to return them to sender.

Although the inquiry covered more issues than just this one, like all inquiries, not much could be done. It wasn't until 1850 that New Zealand regained control of its own Post Office.

References:

<https://www.nzpost.co.nz/about-us/who-we-are/history-of-new-zealand-post>

Daily Southern Cross, Volume 2, Issue 66, 20 July 1844

Daily Southern Cross, Volume 2, Issue 67, 27 July 1844

Meeting reports:

5th April – Alphabet night – U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

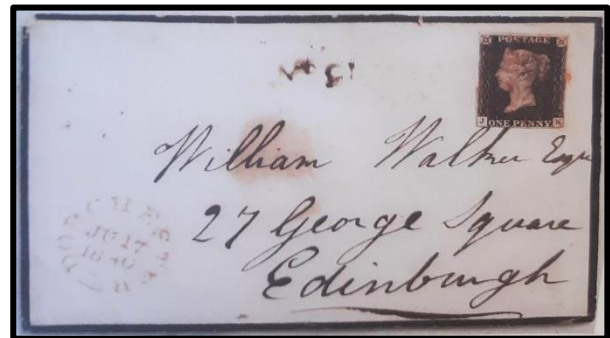
There were seven speakers, some brought items from all 6 letters, others majored on just one or two.

Mike Steel showed us postmarks from U to Z but also spoke on Charles Upham who was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery twice during WW2.

Carolyn Gibson spoke on her collection of over 500 items of correspondence from the Walker family dating from 1820 to 1910. Postal history reminds us

that philately is more than just the stamp on an envelope – the letters within tell us a social history of the times and the family who wrote them.

The letter is the point of interest – the stamp merely a payment for delivery. However, she was extremely happy when she came upon a letter bearing a penny black!



Roger Marshall Spoke on French Zanzibar which is an exotic island close to the west coast of Africa. The French Post Office opened there in January 1889. From 1894 to July 1904 the Post Office used issues of France; Peace and Commerce (Sage), Blanc, Mouchon, Merson and Postage Dues. These issues were surcharged "ZANZIBAR" with value expressed in Annas.



Tom Butler spoke on Warships through the ages from war canoes to modern day naval ships. Harold spoke on Uganda and the Australian state of Victoria.



Brian Marshall spoke to all six letters. For U he showed a Russian stamp that had a Russian flag on it. When viewed under an ultraviolet light, however, a map of Russia appeared.



Then there was a set of 1896 maps showing Venezuela's territorial dispute with neighbouring British Guiana. The map is hard to follow, as there are just too many lines on it, and the point of the stamp is lost. W was for Waiheke Island, Whakatane, Wellington and Waimate, which appeared as maps on different advertising covers. X was for Xmas, which is the wording on

the 1898 Canadian map stamp, commemorating imperial penny postage. X was also for xylophone, which appears on an Indonesian map stamp, and Yemen and Zanzibar map stamps dealt with the final two letters.

Graeme spoke on the Ukraine.

Andrew spoke on Xylophones and Zithers. Xylophones are tuned percussion instruments made of wood. Traditional across Africa and Asia, there are many stamps depicting these. Zithers are a strummed or plucked instrument where the strings are the same length as the sound board. Found traditionally in Africa, Asia, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.



1870 Bantam

Nic Hendy

(Nic spoke to us 3rd May)

The **Halfpenny Rose Red**, issued on 1 October 1870, was the first 1/2d stamp of Great Britain. It was introduced following a reduction in the postal rate for newspapers and postcards. Designed to be approximately half the size of the one penny stamp, it is notable for being the smallest UK postage stamp ever issued at 17.5 mm x 14 mm

The stamps (nicknamed 'Bantams' due to their small size) were printed in sheets of 480 with 20 horizontal rows of 24 stamps. The letters on the corners go from AA at the top left of the sheet and TX at the bottom right corner. They are line engraved and feature a bust of Queen Victoria in profile with '1/2d' on either side.

A plate number was engraved in the design, in the left and right side lace work. They were numbered from 1 to 22, but plates 2, 7, 16, 17, and 18 were not completed, plates 21 and 22 were not used. Mint stamps are not common, and blocks, particularly with marginal imprints are difficult to obtain. Plate 9, of which only 50,000 sheets were printed, was used as the reserve plate and is the scarcest. Comparatively Plate 5, the most common, had 533,200 sheets printed. The stamps were watermarked with the word "halfpenny" that extended across three stamps. The stamp was replaced in 1880.

Plate	Put to Press	Earliest Known Date	Sheets Printed	Plate	Put to Press	Earliest Known Date	Sheets Printed
1	20 June 70	01 Oct 70	121,500	11	24 Oct 72	04 June 74	411,000
3	28 June 70	01 Oct 70	192,500	12	13 April 74	28 Aug 74	*400,000
4	04 July 70	15 Oct 70	264,600	13	20 April 75	27 June 76	*300,000
5	19 July 70	24 Oct 70	533,200	14	30 April 75	09 Mar 77	*250,000
6	19 July 70	19 Oct 70	402,100	15	16 Nov 76	10 July 78	*200,000
8	26 July 70	31 Oct 70	*120,000	19	16 Nov 77	23 Aug 78	*175,000
9	23 July 70	05 Dec 71	*50,000	20	31 Dec 78	04 Oct 79	*150,000
10	24 Oct 72	22 Dec 73	386,100				

* Estimated number of sheets printed

There was a mixed reception for the 'Bantams'. The *London City Press* described the halfpenny stamp as 'about two thirds the size of the ordinary penny stamp and printed in a similar red. But the portrait of Her Majesty in a circular medallion is disfigured by large halfpenny symbols on the left and right.' The stamp's design continued to meet with disapproval well into the 20th century, probably culminating in 1943 with the disparaging remarks of John Easton, author of *British Postage Stamp Design*:

'The Halfpenny of 1870 was a freak with a miniature head of the Sovereign floating in a small white circle, with figures of value of huge disproportion flanking to left and to right.'

The design of the Victorian halfpenny of 1870 was not as easy as the postal authorities would have liked...

- Difficulties had arisen from the unexpected introduction of the word HALFPENNY into the design mix.

- The word was almost twice as long as PENNY, yet required to fit on a stamp much smaller than a Penny Red.
- The paper on which bantams were printed had the word **halfpenny** in manuscript style as a watermark that stretched across three stamps. Perkins, Bacon & Co's solution to space restrictions on the surface involved moving the *d* abbreviation of *denarius* to a position above the ½ symbols on both sides of the portrait; an innovative if puzzling value figure on a postage stamp.
- The printer's original intention had been to issue the miniature HALFPENNY in a shade of light green. Experiments to produce a fugitive ink in that hue proved, however, too time-consuming; so they dropped the plan and used rose-red ink instead.

It is difficult to correctly ascertain the plate number. Nic could not find any guide on the internet with pictures of all the numbers, so he provided his own below, with comparisons between similar numbers. Plate numbers are read with the ½ uppermost.


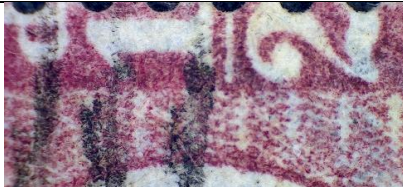
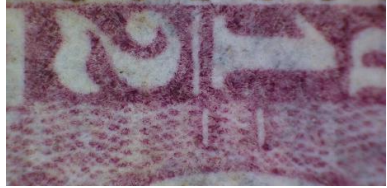



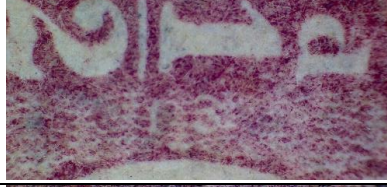
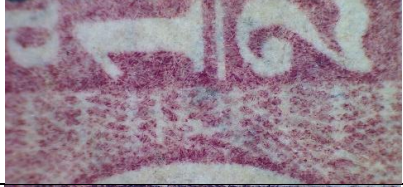


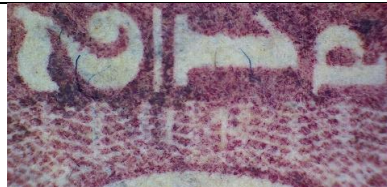
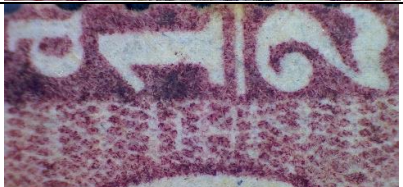
Plate Number	Left side of stamp	Right side of Stamp	Notes
Plate 1			Only one vertical stroke, close to the bar of ½.
Plate 11			Two vertical strokes, close to the bar of ½ and half way along the '1' of ½.
Plate 3			On the right the 3 is in the middle of the "1" left the 3 aligns with the bar of the ½.
Plate 13			On the right the 3 aligns with the bar on the left the 3 aligns with the middle of the '1'.
Plate 4			On the right the 4 is in the middle of the "1" on the left the 4 aligns with the bar of the ½.
Plate 14			On the right the 4 aligns with the bar of the ½, on the left the 4 aligns with the middle of the '1'.

Plate 5			On the right the 5 is above the bar of the ½, on the left the 5 aligns with the bar.
Plate 15			On the right the 5 aligns with the bar of the ½, on the left the 5 aligns with the middle of the '1'.
Plate 6			On the right the 6 is above the bar of the ½, on the left the 6 aligns with the bar.
Plate 9			On the right the 9 is above the bar of the ½, on the left the 9 aligns with the bar.
Plate 19			On the right the 9 aligns with the bar of the ½, on the left the 9 aligns with the middle of the '1'.
Plate 8			
Plate 10			
Plate 12			
Plate 20			

Recent NZ Post Issues



Eid Mubarak issued 6th April 2022. (Eid Blessings) 4 gummed stamps and miniature sheet. A collaborative designing effort by artists Muhammad and Sameera Waqas and others. Four standard colours plus gold. This is the first time NZ Post has recognised the Muslim celebration of Eid which is the culmination of the fasting month of Ramadan. The design includes Arabic calligraphy which is a fundamental element of Islamic art. The dome shape is an illustration of Al-Noor mosque's dome in Christchurch.



Matariki issued 4th May 2022. 4 gummed stamps. Designed by Kaaterina and Tai Kerekere of KE Design. The cluster of stars known as Matariki (the Pleiades) arises in the night sky mid-winter. It is an abbreviation of 'Ngā Mata o te Ariki Tāwhirimātea ('The eyes of the god Tāwhirimātea'). When Tāwhirimātea's brothers separated their parents, Papatūānuku the mother to the ground and Ranginui the father to the sky, he was angry so he tore out his eyes and threw them into the heavens.

(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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