



PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
OF THE
PAPUAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Some positive news from 'Chairman Robbo'!

Dear PPS Members,

Some positive news to start membership for 2017 is now 15% year and growing. I would like to thank all past members for their continued support and welcome all new members the society has to offer.

I am told that Richard Muller *New Guinea Calling* Journals have been painstakingly scanned by Michael Ryan onto the PPS website available for access by journals date back to 1930s and have a wealth of knowledge that is ready to be shared with everyone wishing to access this treasure house.



Chairman's symbol: A 1930s Sepik Orator's Stool (Teket). Museum of Victoria*

this report is that the membership on the 2016 membership like to thank all past members of the PPS and also and hope they enjoy what

now has all of the *Papua New Guinea Calling* Journals that have been painstakingly scanned by Michael Ryan ready to load up where they will be available for members. These the very beginning valuable knowledge be shared with everyone

We have been asked if we can consider hosting another all day National Papuan Philatelic Society meeting in Queensland very much like the one held in 2012. At that meeting we had over 30 members from across Australia attending as well as some of Australia's largest dealers. A great deal of information sharing took place as well as some fantastic presentations by members, making it a great and enjoyable day.

We would also be holding the AGM on the morning of the above meeting so for those who would like to attend please feel free to join in. More on the AGM to follow in coming months regarding the meeting format. For members who are unable to attend the AGM, a full set of minutes will be circulated after the meeting.

Former Chairman, now Vice Chairman and Auctioneer, Mr Frank Wilson, has a rather special collection formed by a past member that he will be auctioning over several sales throughout 2018, with the first part planned for the end of January next year. We will make further announcements through the PPS website and the PPS Journal on auction updates and the progress of this. Pictures of all lots will be available through a new website address, yet to be finalised. I already have, however, four photos of some of the material for the 1st auction (opposite page). As you will agree there will be some very keen bidders including myself for some of this quality material.

Frank told me the first auction of this collection will be mostly covers from German New Guinea, Australian Occupation, Papua, and US Army items. Stamps will follow later.

Cheers!
Mark (Robbo) Robinson
Mark (Robbo) Robinson
PPS Chairman
(Australia)

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STAR QUALITY LOTS FROM THE FORTHCOMING WILSON AUCTION



PAPUAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP



Papuan Philatelic Society (PPS) membership is open to anyone who collects or has an interest in the stamps and postal history of 'Papua New Guinea'. The PPS covers all periods from the early days of British New Guinea (later Papua) and German New Guinea in the 1880's, to modern PNG with its many colourful stamps and cards. The membership is international with links in Australia, USA, UK & Europe, New Zealand and PNG itself. It is one of the strongest and most active philatelic societies.



MEMBERSHIP? Simply contact: papuanphilatelicsociety@gmail.com



MORE CLUEDO ON "THE SMOKING GUN'S" TARGETS...

We concluded the first part of this exploration with a focus on the 1d black and rose Lakatoi (SG49). In considering the possible causes of the amusingly-named "Bullet Holes" in some of the Lakatoi printings, nine possible factors were listed that may have caused or contributed to their creation.

I have noted from members comments that while there is an inconsistency in the number and location of bullet holes on SG49,

By Ted McPheat (Australia)

a number appear on the variety with the Comet flaw. This would indicate that a number of sheets may have been printed with the same bullet hole flaws and locations (*more research required*).

Printing Dates

The 1d was printed over two days, starting on 12 August 1907 where 425 sheets (480 on) were printed.

As a result of a very high spoilage rate a second printing of 75 sheets was required on 23 August 1907 to make up the order.

It should be noted that the paper was supplied in sheets of 480 watermarks. This produced 4x30 sheets, which were derived from each full 480 on sheet. The 480 on sheets were cut vertically and printed using a print and turn technique.

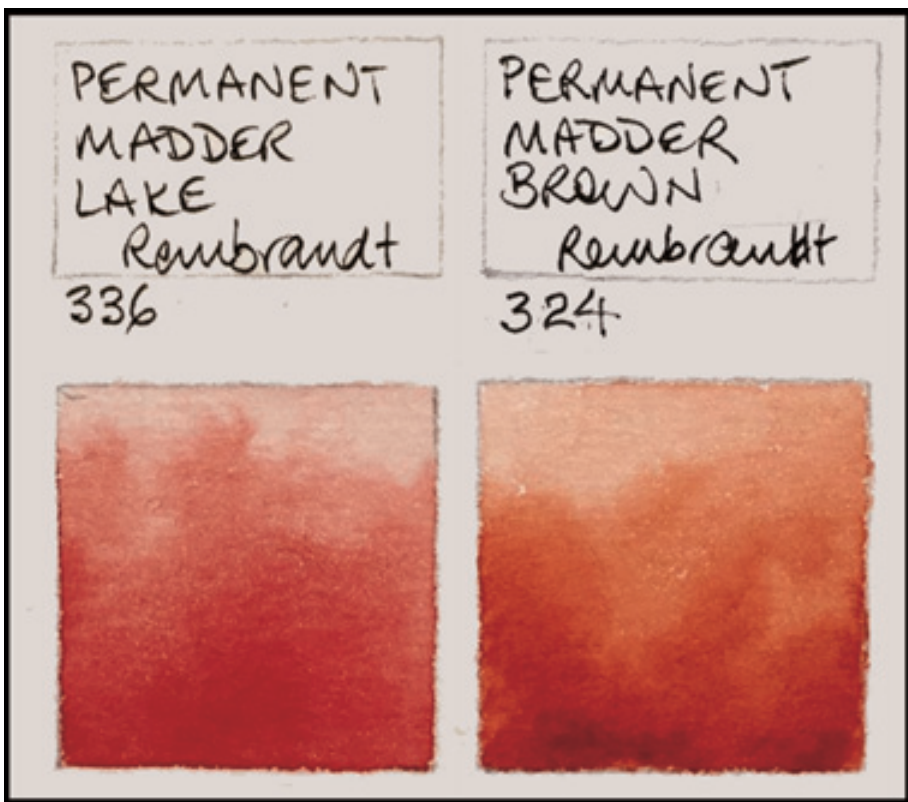
In summary, this resulted in 2,000 sheets of 30. However, only 1729 sheets were dispatched due to spoilage (271 sheets).

Inks and Composition

We know from various examples of the 1d (GG49) that there are three colours, these being:

- ◆ Rose
- ◆ Rose carmine
- ◆ Carmine

We know from printing records that on 12 August 1907, 3 ounces of Madder Lake and 2 ounces of



Madder, an ancient plant pigment (see text) is still used in printing and artists' paint. Mixed with other pigments it provides a variety of shades of red, from vivid or rich to delicate. "Ancient chromatographic evidence of its use includes linen dyed with madder in the Egyptian tombs of the Nile Valley, where Herodotus describes its use there around 450 BC." (Ponting, 1980). Pliny also mentions its use by the Persians as well as the Hindus and Egyptians in the first century AD." (Historia Naturalis Book XIX, Ch.17). To this history, Ted McPheat adds "Papua" in 1907!



black were issued for the formulation of ink.

For the Lithographic printing process to work an oil-based ink must be used. Linseed oil was the preferred solvent for mixing with ink. I believe that the following is a possible explanation for the ink variation and the formation of the bullet holes:

a. First Batch of Ink

This batch, I believe, is the Rose colour. This ties in with Vignette Stone III, and its State 1 (early in the printing). As this was the first batch of red ink, it is highly probable that it was prepared too thick in consistency (possibly not enough linseed oil). It would appear that a large number of bullet holes appear on the 'Rose' coloured stamps (more research required)?

Was it Miss Scarlet in the refectory with the revolver or was it the printer, in the printery with the ink?

b. Second Batch

As most of the 1d stamps were printed on the same day (12 August 1907), I believe that the printer, to solve the high spoilage rate, made the ink thinner. This would have been done by diluting or changing the ink mix by adding more linseed oil to make it thinner.

This would also result in a slight change in colour to Rose-carmine. As well, this also ties in with the Vignette Stone III, State 2. I believe that it is also highly probable that the first printing of 1,700 sheets (of 30), on 12 August 1907, produced the Rose and Rose-carmine colour.

c. Third Batch

The third ink colour is Carmine and is only found with Vignette Stone III, State 3.

This implies a later printing. In fact I believe that this Carmine printing is actually the make-up printing done on 23 August 1907. This was 300 sheets of 30. As very few bullet holes have been seen in this colour (more research needed), it would suggest that the ink mix had been resolved.

Figure 5 (Fig. No. continuous with previous article): A double overlapping "Bullet Hole" above the A of PAPUA. Distinguish this from Figure 1, previous issue, which had a single "Bullet Hole" beneath the A of PAPUA, plus, it had a further faint example at the foot of the P of PAPUA (very hard to spot in the PNGC No. 274 illustration but it cuts the right foot of the P on an angle).



Environmental Factors

In this area we should review the following:

- a. Weather, including the effects of Temperature and Humidity, and,
- b. Printing Facilities.

Weather

Did the weather at the time contribute to the formation of the Bullet Holes?

Factors such as temperature, humidity and rainfall may have been contributing factors. With the assistance of the Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, available information was obtained. Unfortunately, no humidity readings were recorded.

The weather for Monday 12 August 1907 had a high of 13.7 degrees Centigrade and a low of 7.2 degrees. For the second printing on 23 August 1907 there was a high of 17.7 degrees and a low of 8.1 degrees were recorded.

No rain fell on these printing days. With no rainfall it is presumed that humidity was not high.

It does not appear that the weather on the day/s played a significant factor in the printing.

Printing Facilities

Printing of the Lakatoi stamps was conducted in Melbourne, Victoria at the newly formed Central Printing Office.

Did the new facility contribute to the problem?

As it was winter, there is a possibility that when in full production the building was a lot warmer than the outside environment. There has been some suggestion that the environment within the facility was not very comfortable (hot /humid)? This hot working





BAR TYPE OBLITERATORS OF BRITISH NEW GUINEA & THEIR RARITY RATINGS

I'm sure every collector of British New Guinea (BNG) has, at one stage or another, looked at a bar type cancel on a stamp of those issues and wondered from whence it was posted.

**By Tony Griffin
(Australia)**

The bar type obliterations were basically a "killer" type cancel with only the letters "N.G.", or later on "B.N.G.", indicating they were posted from somewhere in British New Guinea.

I will endeavour to provide in this series, an overview of the various bar type obliterations used, a description of a simple method of identifying and differentiating between them, and to rationalise their rarity ratings so that they align with the R type rarity ratings more commonly used by philatelists.

Figure 1: An example of an "N.G." 5-bar obliterator on a Queensland second QV sideface stamp.



A Brief History

Stamps of Queensland were valid for postal use in BNG until 1 July 1901, when the first stamps specifically for BNG were issued.

During the Queensland period, mail had a variety of bar type obliterator cancels, circular date stamp (CDS) cancels, registered straight line cancels and hand-stamps applied including the following:

- ◆ **1888-1901**
"SAMARAI/BNG" (CDS), and, 1888-1907 – a 9-bar "BNG" cancel.
- ◆ 1889-1890
"GRANVILLE/BNG" (CDS)
- ◆ 1890-1906
"PORT MORESBY/BRITISH NEW GUINEA" (CDS), 8-bar "NG" and "BNG" cancels

Continued from previous page... BULLET HOLES AND HOW THEY WERE FORMED

environment, if proven, could be a contributing factor. More research is required to see if records exist to support this contention.

Human Factors

Some human factors also need to be considered. These include staffing, the process used and the outside production pressures including delivery deadlines.

This area of my research still has a way to go, so I have some questions which require further investigation, these being:

- a. Were the staff still settling into the facility at the time?
- b. Was the new building, new/relocated equipment and unfamiliar layout a contributing factor?
- c. Was there sufficient trained staff in the Lithographic process; using 'stones' etc.?
- d. Was staff 'pressured' to produce against very tight time frames?
- e. Was the ink mixer adequately trained?
- f. It is obvious that with subsequent printings the printing improved and the wastage rate

dropped markedly. Was this due to improved training, or being more familiar with the process?

g. Was there initially an effective quality control process? Probably yes, due to the high recognized wastage rate. Did they allow marginal printing through?

Summary

At this stage there are some answers, but a lot of questions remain.

Based on my research so far, I believe that the most likely cause of the Bullet Holes is a mixture of the printing process, getting used to the lithographic process and in particular, the ink mix being used.

For the initial printings, I believe the thicker ink caused droplets to be formed when the paper was lifted from the stone. Small droplets remained or more likely fell onto the stone, dried and the resulting raised droplets resulted in formation of the Bullet Holes.

I would be happy to receive any suggestions or comments. If you are able to send a scan could I ask that you indicate the SG number

(and position if known) of the stamp and the type of watermark and its orientation. I would like to set up a reference file of what is out there.

My email address is:
ted.mcphat@bigpond.com

References:

- A. Papua New Guinea Calling, Vol 59 No 4 Issue 258, September 2013, Official Journal of the Papuan Philatelic Society
- B. Papua New Guinea Calling, Vol 59 No 5 Issue 260, December 2013
- C. Papua New Guinea Calling, Vol 60 No 1 Issue 261, March 2014
- D. Papua New Guinea Calling, Vol 60 No 3 Issue 263, September 2014
- E. Wikipedia at:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lothography>
This reference provided the best summary of the many referenced studied (but not listed).
- F. Archival Printing Records of the Territory of Papua (Lithographs 1907-1911). Researched and written by Dr Geoff Kellow. PnR Publications –PnR Philately Pty Ltd.



Figure 2, right: A "B.N.G." 8-bar obliterator on a pair of Queensland third QV sideface stamps.

- ◆ **1895**
"H.M. CUSTOMS DARU/
BNG" handstamp only
- ◆ **1899-1905**
"TAMATA/BNG" (CDS) and
10 bar "BNG" cancel – also
used at Woodlarks
- ◆ **1899-1902**
"NIVANI/BNG" (CDS) & 10-bar
"BNG" cancel

Queensland stamps prior to 1891 are found cancelled with the "N.G" (i.e. New Guinea) 8-bar obliterator which was used at Port Moresby. **Figure 1 (bottom left, opposite)** is an example of this type of cancellor.

The directive to Post and Receiving Offices was to strike the stamp(s) with the bar type obliterator and the cover with the CDS, though this directive was not always followed.

Per Favour Cancellations

Stamps of Queensland are often seen with well formed and well located bar type cancels.

In the majority of cases these were either done per favour or "cancelled to order" (CTO) by a friendly postal clerk or are posthumous forgeries, thus increasing the stamp value markedly.

Figure 2, upper right, is an example of that type of cancel on a Queensland third QV sideface issue. In this case the 8-bar cancel indicates Port Moresby.

Bar type cancellations on stamps of BNG are basically "killer" type cancels and as such were seen to detract from the value of a stamp. They are rarely found cancelled per favour or forged for that reason. **Figure 3, right centre**, is an uncommonly clear example of the 9-bar cancel of Samarai on a dull blue Lakatoi issue of British New Guinea.

Philatelic covers are also often seen with CDS cancels only, as the bar cancels hid too much of the stamp design. An example is in **Figure 4, right**, with only CDS cancels and no bar type cancels, clearly improving the collectability of the cover. Bar type obliterations



continued to be used on BNG mail until 1906 when the Territory of Papua was formed.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

Figure 3, right: A "BNG" 9-bar Samarai obliterator on a dull blue Lakatoi stamp of British New Guinea.



Figure 4, below: A hard-to-find BNG-era Registered Cover with a plethora of CDS cancellations only – and not a barred BNG cancel in sight. Most collectable.





A STUDY OF THE PNG STAMP BOOKLETS 1970-1973 PART 2

By Sid Dikes – Australia

Sid Dikes follows Part 1 of his study of the 1970-1973 stamp booklets of Papua New Guinea with further details on “what’s out there” for the alert PNG booklet specialist

Note to readers: Figure numbers continue in sequence from Part 1

Booklet Number SB2, BK2, MH2, SS142

Released on the 25/05/1970, numbers stated as 50,000. Green printing on Cream cover (**Figure 5, top right**).

The printing of 'POSTAGE STAMP' and '50c' is in *non-serifed type*.

This booklet contains 10 x 5c Shell stamps SG140, with selvage both sides. Four different attaching methods occur. There are also four different print types of the front cover of this booklet, easily recognizable by the following:

Print Type A Booklet

(see **Figure 6, 2nd from top**)
Size 120mm x 51-52mm.

- ◆ There is **2.5mm** between the text 'Postage Stamp' & 'Booklet'.
- ◆ There is **4.5mm** between the Australian logo and Territory of Papua.
- ◆ The star of the Coat of Arms is higher than the top of the 'P' of 'Postage' (*see red guideline*).

Print Type B Booklet

Size 120mm x 51-53mm.

- ◆ There is **4.5mm** between the text heading 'Postage Stamp' and Booklet.
- ◆ There is **5.0mm** between the Australian logo and 'Territory of Papua'.
- ◆ The middle of the star of the Coat of arms is level with the top of the 'P' of postage.
- ◆ Cut off scroll in coat of arms (*see red arrow, Figure 7*).



Figure 5 (above): Booklet Number SB2, BK2, MH2, SS142



Figure 6 (above): Print Type A. Booklet size 120mm x 51-52mm



Figure 7 (above): Print Type B. Booklet size 120mm x 51-53mm



Figure 8 (above): Print Type D. Booklet size 120mm x 53-54mm

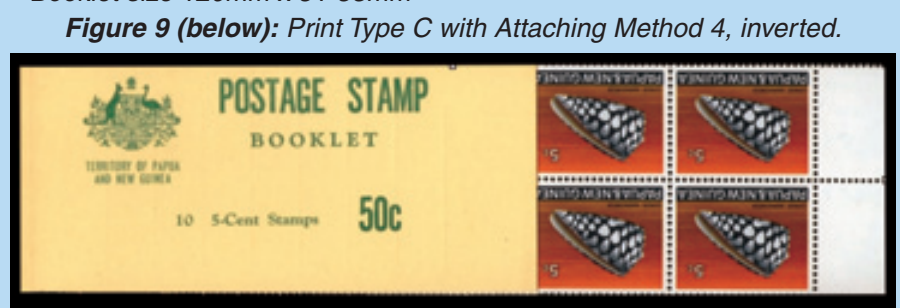


Figure 9 (below): Print Type C with Attaching Method 4, inverted.



**Print Type C Booklet
Size 120mm x 51-52mm.**

- ◆ There is **4.5mm** between the text headings, 'Postage Stamp' and 'Booklet'.
- ◆ There is a **2.5mm** difference in height of the Australian Coat of Arms and the text, 'Territory of Papua'.
- ◆ The top of the start of the Coat of Arms is level with the top of the 'P' of 'POSTAGE'.

**Print Type D. Booklet (detail Fig. 8)
Size 120mm x 53-54.**

- ◆ There is **7.0mm** between the text 'Postage Stamp' & 'Booklet'.
- ◆ There is **6.0mm** between the Australian Coat of Arms and 'Territory of Papua'.
- ◆ The top of the Coat of Arms star is level with the top of the 'P' of 'POSTAGE'.
- ◆ A small piece of free floating Wattle is found at bottom right of the Coat of Arms (**arrow A**).
- ◆ Parts of the Wattle above the Emu's back are missing (**B**).

Other Varieties

**Print Type C Booklet
Attaching Method 4 Inverted.**

The various print types of this booklet appear to have survived approximately in equal numbers (**Figure 9, bottom opposite**). Nearing the end of this booklet's issue the SG140 5c Shell stamp was replaced (**see Figure 10, top right**) with the **SG187 5c Native Artifact Bowl**.

Why the stamps were changed is unclear as the 5c Shell stamp was still on issue at that time. It is not known how many were issued.

**Print Type A Booklet
Misplaced printer's imprint**

There is a variety found on **Print Type A** booklets in which the Government Printers identifier (or 'imprint') '**G.P. - P&NG/B1112**' is located incorrectly at the top instead of at the bottom of the back cover, owing to a mis-aligned guillotine cut (**see Figure 11, mid right**). It may well be possible that guillotining could have caused this booklet to exist without the GP identifier.

Rare SB2 oddity (see Figure 12)
Another rare variant is as shown,



Figure 10 (above): Print Type C with attaching method 1, size 120mm x 52mm.



Figure 11 (above, upper): Incorrect imprint position; (lower): Correct position.



Figure 12 (above): Text totally omitted on the front and rear cover.



Figure 13 (above): Left hand selvedge shows sheet number every 5th book.

with the front and rear cover printing totally omitted, but internal printing is as normal. It is not known if any more exist, this being the only one reported at this point in time. It is known to be **SB2** owing to its cream colour.

This booklet also has a sheet number on the selvedge. Obviously, the print type is unknown, **Attaching Method 1. Size 120mm x 54mm.** The left-hand selvedge sheet number appears on every 5th booklet (**see Figure 13**). ■

**Sid Dikes may be contacted at:
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Queensland,
Australia**



EARLY PAPUA (AND NEW GUINEA!) COLOUR POSTCARDS CAN RAISE SOME INTRIGUING QUESTIONS

Even without a stamp (otherwise considered a desirable requirement) early 'PNG' colour postcards can fascinate the conscientious collector with questions, and at times, insoluble problems that add to the challenges. Richard Muller has come up with a nice little 'frugal' find that's set him calling for help...

When a postcard came up on eBay and I picked it up for a nominal amount, it wasn't the postal usage which attracted me but the card itself (**bottom left**).

Addressed to 'Bucarest/Romania' (a bit out-of-the-ordinary), and posted from South Australia (with a Clare postal marking, stamp removed), the date is written as 1/11/07 (or '/09?'). The back of the card includes the printed inscription 'Valentines

**By Richard Muller
(Australia)
richard@muller.id.au**

Series' and the front has the code '51828' (printed, though handwritten) and what looks like a 'V' in a circle. On magnification, within the limits of the quality of the printing on the postcard, it could also be a 'JV'.

This might be consistent with the name of the Valentines founder, James Valentine, engraver. A clearer example of a Valentine monogram (**below**) suggests the 'JV' is



correct. This postcard features a 'colorized' photograph, typical of the era, when monochrome photographs were frequently enlivened with hand tinting. This could be converted to a colour printing process called Colour-tone. The descriptive title on the postcard is, "Village Scene, Port Moresby, New Guinea". It appears to be Hanuabada and is very similar to the illustration on the 1973 7c SG245 "Coastal Village" stamp (**upper left**), but from the opposite side of the village.

I have not come across many colour postcards from that time period. Later views of 'village life' (boys playing cricket) come up now and again. As well, of course, there is the endless supply of the French missionary photo cards from this region, mainly scenes from New Guinea but also plenty from Port Moresby.

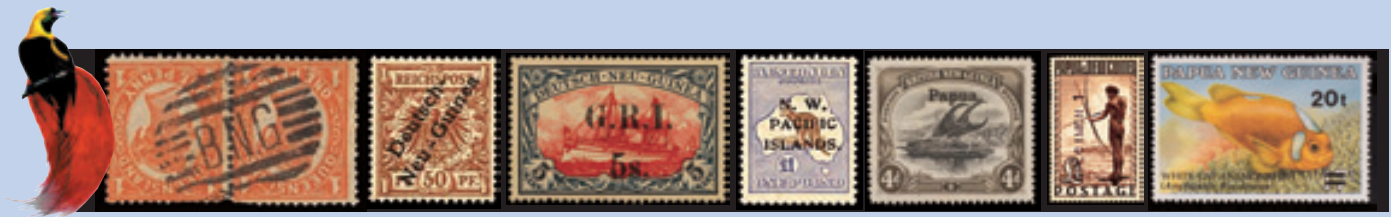
Valentines was famous as a supplier of postcards. Founded in 1825 in Dundee, Scotland, the company expanded to London and later still, to offices all around the world.

One of James Valentine's sons moved to New Zealand in 1884 so there is possibly some (however tenuous) geographic reason for a Papua connection.

If any member or reader has more information or additional examples, I would be pleased to hear from you through the email address in the author's panel. ■



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MODERN MATTERS

BANIAN MASIBODA SENDS KEY INFO TO PNG COLLECTORS

Once again, PNG Calling readers owe thanks to Banian Masiboda, Philatelic Manager of PostPNG for providing updated information.

He has forwarded images of the new postmarks for the Highland Regions, replacing worn out units (see Figure 2). He has also supplied a photo of the Boroko Post Office (Figure 3). So different from the days when I was last there – too many years ago to mention!

And thanks to Wolfgang Holzl for passing on this information about agency offices (Figure 1):

Opening dates or notes:

- ◆ V/City PO opened 21/11/11



Figure 3

Figure 1

ITEM	LOCATION	STATUS
1	UNITECH	Operational
2	GORDONS	Operational
3	MAPRIK	Operational
4	DIVINE WORD UNIVERSITY	Drafting Agreement
5	VUDAL UNIVERSITY	Drafting Agreement
	LOSUIA	To consider after the national elections
	MISIMA	To consider after the national elections

- ◆ Waterfront PO opened 18/10/12
- ◆ Unitech is an agency PO run by Unitech administration.

And at left (Figure 1) is a summary of the status of various offices.

Finally, a good source of information on postmarks, cancels etc can be found on Steve Zirinsky's website. ■

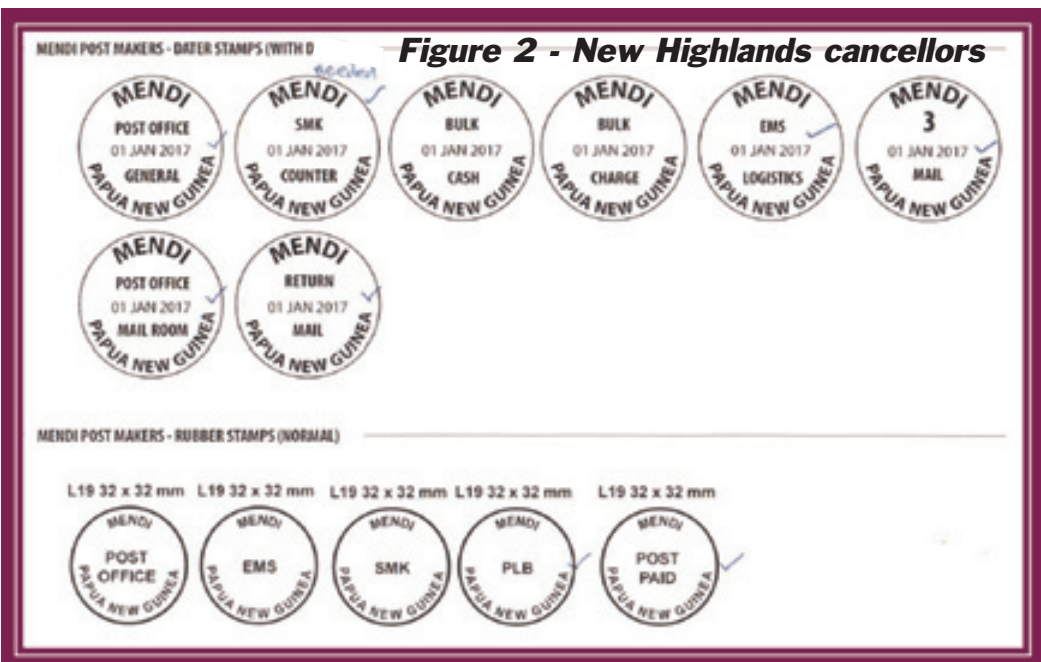


Figure 2 - New Highlands cancellors

HELP WANTED

We lived & worked in PNG for the 15 years prior to Independence. My wife had an extensive stamp collection but this has been passed on.

Currently, we are interested to know more about a lady, P. Carnielo which we think is her professional name as an artist and designer of a series of stamps in the 1960s. Do you have any information about her, please? If not, are you able to direct us to a source where the information could be found? (Ed: Possibly Pamela Carnielo, a 1957 Wynne Prize finalist at the Art Gallery of NSW?)

Many thanks,
Colin & Carlyn Mathews

[Please send info c/o Richard Muller – see email address Page 2]

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