



PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PAPUAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Change is in the air for the PPS

Dear PPS Members,

As I prepare this message I am preparing for the society AGM in a few weeks' time. I am aware that it could be one of the most significant meetings of recent years.

Some proposals have been put forward which could have long-reaching effects on the PPS. Many of these could have been introduced by the time you read this.

In recent years, there has been a change in the dynamics of the PPS. Ageing of the collecting fraternity generally and the general ebb and flow of interest in our collecting area has seen interest falling in the UK whilst rising in Australia. This has also been reflected in our membership.

At the last AGM, these trends were corroborated by the introduction of two new Australian based Vice-chairmen in the shape of Mark Robinson and Richard Muller. They have taken a renewed interest in the welfare of the PPS for which I thank them.

There is a proposal for this to be carried further and for an increased participation by the Australian membership. This I hope will be in place after the AGM. May I take this opportunity to thank all current committee members for their efforts and especially to Simon Nanson, who re-

signed as our Secretary recently due to family commitments.

Due to our falling numbers, there was a proposal to merge with the Pacific Islands Study Circle at the last AGM. At the last gasp, an alternative was put forward and accepted.

As you will have noticed some of the changes have started filtering through with the new PPS website (albeit with teething problems) and the new style Journals.



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

Another change proposed for the AGM is the introduction of a 2-tier membership subscription. This will give you the option of continuing to receive the PNG Calling in paper form as now or for a reduced subscription you can opt to have a digital version. Subscriptions are due and your prompt payment would be appreciated.

As I prepare for the AGM and the possible changes, I am aware that these are exciting times for the Society. Thank you again to all those who have helped the PPS to continue as a thriving community.

Frank Wilson

Frank J Wilson
Chairman
(United Kingdom)

*The Sepik Orator's Stool

The Sepik "Orator's Stool" or "teket" was chosen as an iconic symbol for the role of the PPS Chair. In the Sepik Spirit House ("Haus Tambaran"), tribal elders communed with the spirits and argued village politics using the "teket" to affirm the truth of their words. Striking it with palm leaves, they called on ancestors for support, placing leaves upon it to affirm the truth. We trust this ancient tradition inspires present and future occupants of the PPS Chair and the "PPS elders" in their quest for philatelic nirvana.

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The puzzle of an abundant Cover

In 1937 cricketer Don Bradman scored 279 runs for Australia against England at the MCG; the Hal Foster-created "Prince Valiant" comic strip appeared; the German passenger airship Hindenburg exploded in flames, and the Coronation of King George VI of Great Britain took place at Westminster Abbey.

New Guinea and Papua both recognised the latter event, the King's Coronation, with a set of stamps of similar design issued on the 18th and 14th of May, 1937, respectively. One person in the philatelic world thought that there was an opportunity for financial gain with these issues.

"I secured many of the rare Papuan 'halo round King George's head' penny stamps [R5/2 No. 22 plate 2], worth 10 times their face value, ...", he recorded.

For the Papua stamps, that same person arranged for printing on airmail envelopes, with a boxed address via the Postmaster at Port Moresby. He was Elbert L Hiler, a stamp dealer, and in 1937 he travelled around the South Seas. He was quoted as having spent £5,150 on Coronation stamps alone.

"In Papua I bought 40,000 stamps, put them on 10,000 letters, and sent them to myself in London. In New Guinea I did the same...", he said.

If my calculations are correct he would have spent almost AU\$917 in Papua, and twice that amount of money in New Guinea.

Perhaps this was an exaggeration just for the print media,

Right: The Hiler Registered cover with the printed address altered by hand, PORT MORESBY to Wau.

Upper right: The address, similarly modified, of another example of another Hiler cover.

**By Jeff Marks
(Australia)**

did I hear you say ? In the past two years, a not insignificant 37 similar Papua envelopes addressed to Hiler have appeared on eBay with the Port Moresby postmark dates ranging from the 1st to the 7th of September, 1937. The Port Moresby registration label numbers range from 40559 to 49594, thus heading towards 10,000 covers, if he used all the labels in-between. The eBay starting price has varied from £0.99 + £2.50 p&p to \$US30.45 + free p&p. The majority have the Coronation set attached, with a block of 4 of one value, on three envelopes only.

You will notice that on the cover example shown (bottom right), the address has been changed with an ms of Wau replacing Port Moresby as the destination. Perhaps Hiler's itinerary changed; the Port Moresby postmaster forced the change; or some arrangement

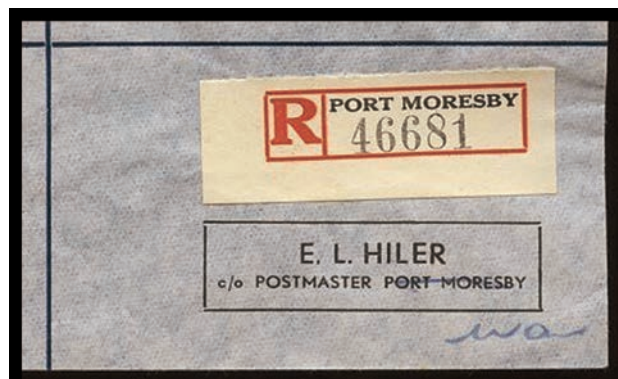
was made for forwarding all these covers to London. Somehow it seems laborious to have attached all those stamps, then later have to alter the address. A labour of love... or with profit in mind?

Somewhere out there are another 9,963 Papua covers unrecorded by me, and the question remains – did he make his profit ? Hiler added "Australians are not stamp conscious yet, but they will get the bug."

References: *The Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga, NSW) Wednesday Feb 2nd 1938 & eBay.*

Below: An image of Elbert L. Hiler's newspaper quote.

"Australians are not stamp conscious yet, but they will get the bug." Mr. Hiler added.





STAMP 'ROAD TO DAMASCUS'

Part 2: A candid account of a boyhood collector's discoveries on the winding road to true collecting

In our last issue of the *PNG Calling* Journal, Mike Lean recounted his experiences discovering the complexities of Papua and New Guinea stamps, including the iconic lakatoi and BOP issues. He was seeking to revive a childhood interest in stamps as he found new freedoms in retirement. He now takes up the thread of his journey on the metaphorical "Road to Damascus".

Did I mention I discovered that postmarks (Circular Date Stamp or 'CDS') cancellations from military post offices and from some of the more obscure places in New Guinea (and Papua, remember the lakatois?) can seriously push up the value and interest of a stamp?

By Mike Lean (Australia)

So, then I moved onto the 'Huts', which is another pre-war New Guinea issue (*mid left*). Not quite as complex as the BOPs (Bird of Paradise stamps from last issue), but still pretty lively, with the usual overprints, OSs, and now some 16 different ink shades on one denomination having been identified. (I'm not sure I really care about that too much, but don't tell anyone.)

Looming in the background was the last pre-war New Guinea issue, the beautiful 'Bulolo' air mail stamps (*bottom left*). A lovely pictorial, with some very high values.

These stamps frequently were used to send gold shipments to Australia, and hence people working in banks got the lion's share

All was going reasonably well at this stage, and then I learned that the Germans had issued stamps when they were the colonial masters in New Guinea, up until 1914.



Above: An example of a German New Guinea 'Kaiser's Yacht' stamp, overprinted 'G.R.I.' for use in early British New Guinea. (Courtesy of Premier Postal Auctions, from a recent sale).



of the used ones. Today, Bulolo stamps on piece addressed to a bank bring interesting prices. I managed to scramble together a reasonable collection of these, but of course the high values are waiting till I get that second million.

Left: Another series of stamps issues, "So, then I moved onto the 'Huts'..."



So there were some more New Guinea stamps to chase; but it gets worse, because after the Australian Navy and Army captured German New Guinea at the battle of Bitia Paka in 1914 (my great-uncle was there!), they overprinted the German stamps with "G.R.I."

('Georgius Rex Imperator' for George V, the guy on the 2d reds, who was running the British Empire at the time) and used them for postal purposes.

These are hard to come by and again, quite expensive. It is



believed that there are forgeries around as well. I've managed a few, but nothing like a complete set of these.

And to round out the military stuff, there are also Australian kangaroos and George V heads overprinted 'N.W.P.I.' (North West Pacific Islands), which were pressed into use when the German overprints ran out. (I think that's how it was; my resources here are a bit vague.)

Being tempted by German New Guinea made me think about the western side of the island, and I

"...and there was a Lakatoi with the 'Buna Bay' cancellation."

started out after Dutch New Guinea stamps as well. Fortunately I encountered an amazingly generous Dutch man on eBay who **gave** me a pile of Dutch New Guinea stamps, covers, UNTEA stamps, and various other things so I'm reasonably set up there.

This somehow extended into the Netherlands Indies, as I picked up quite a few in my New Guinea searches. I'm also tempted by Indonesia, of course...

After all these adventures, I returned to looking at the modern PNG issues, and found myself confronted with several issues; the cost of postage in PNG has risen astronomically, and the firm that produces their stamps is loading them with designs that have noth-

ing to do with the country at all.

So now, to keep up to date, you are required to fork out \$20-30 or more four or five times a year to purchase a mint set plus mini-sheets etc of stamps depicting Barak Obama, Mother Teresa, The Wright Brothers, Marilyn Monroe, Henry Ford, Princess Diana and the like. I've solved this problem by deciding I will not now purchase a new issue, unless the design has relevance to PNG culture or environment, e.g. native flora and fauna, arts, traditional activities, landforms, buildings and so on.

I did briefly mention postmarks (sorry, CDSs) earlier, and one of the ones I wanted particularly to find on a lakatoi stamp (remember them?) was "Buna Bay", because I had lived just up the beach from Buna in the 1960s. Not much luck anywhere, until one day I was looking through my dad's old album, and there was a lakatoi with the "Buna Bay" cancellation! A couple of pages back from there I found the 5 bob Sydney Bridge, too! No luck yet with a Higaturu postmark, though, and I'd like one of those, for all sorts of reasons, including the fact that I was once a councilor on the Higaturu Local Government Council. The original Higaturu was destroyed in 1952 by the eruption of Mt Lamington. I



Above: An Australian 'Roo and Map' issue, overprinted 'N.W. PACIFIC ISLANDS.' for use in early British New Guinea.

(Courtesy of Premier

Postal Auctions, from a recent sale.)

wonder if the date stamp itself was ever recovered.

So there's a taste of the adventures I've had beginning a PNG collection. It's been an absorbing interest, and I've learned a lot about the country I lived in for 15 years. I have to tell you that my interest in German New Guinea led me to developing an interest in the stamps of Germany itself. I have just finished sorting my stamps of the inflationary period, 1922 -23. But that's another story... ■

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



THE ACCIDENTAL POSTAL HISTORIAN

**By Alan Grey
(Australia)**

Discussion at the Melbourne PPS Meeting on 26 August 2016 centred on the article by Jeff Marks (**PNG Calling in ASP Vol. 10 issue 4**) about who was behind the P.O. Box 54 covers dated 28 Aug 1891 (see **Figure 1 top right**).

I stated I had several covers to Lady MacGregor in the same handwriting, which I felt indicated Lieutenant-Governor Sir William MacGregor was the addressor of the P.O. Box covers (**compare Figure 1 with Figures 2 and 3**).



Figure 1

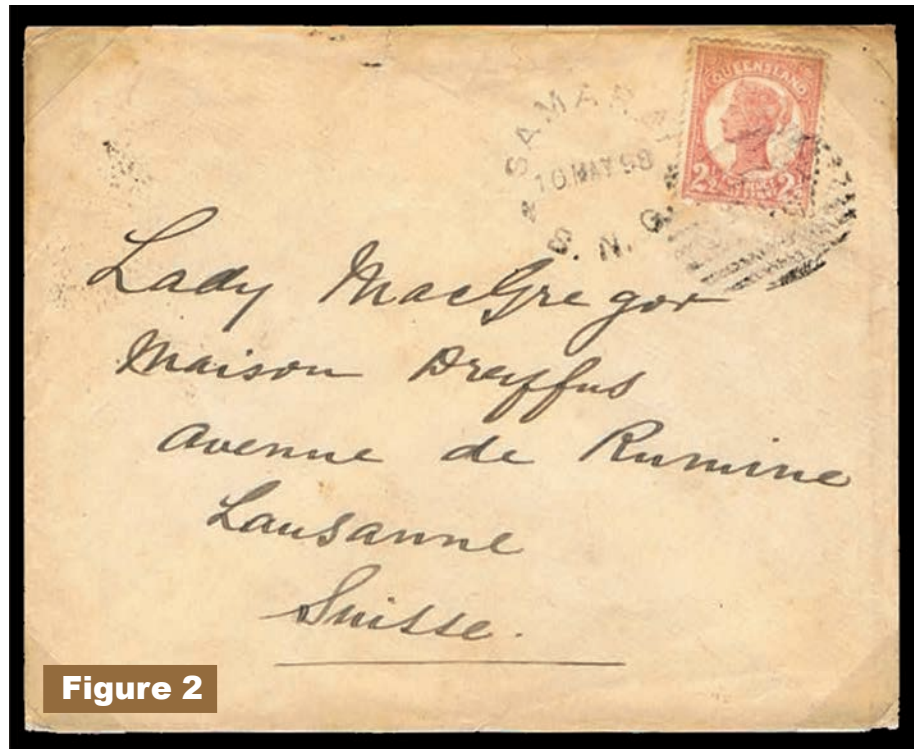


Figure 2

It was then that Clive Fenn threw an "absolute curve ball" at me. Clive stated that Sir William MacGregor had his secretary address all his mail. This raised the prospect that Anthony Musgrave, the Government Secretary, may have been responsible for addressing the P.O. Box 54 covers.

If this scenario was correct, the covers may have been per favour for a Musgrave friend in Brisbane, maybe J. Cox as per the Cavendish cover, and nothing to do with Sir

William MacGregor. Anthony Musgrave (1849-1912) was appointed Government Secretary upon the establishment of the Colony of British New Guinea in late 1888. He held the position until he resigned in 1908 due to ill health. During his tenure he also held various other temporary Government appointments. He was granted a C.M.G. in 1902 in recognition of his long service.

With Anthony Musgrave now in the frame, I checked the hand-



Figure 3



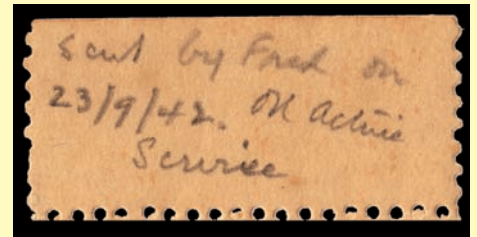
Mick Ryan's "Sent by Fred" case needs DCS Foyle

Detective Chief Superintendent (DCS) Foyle of the WWII BBC series "Foyle's War" would be needed to investigate an enigma that Mike Ryan, a keen PPS member and well-known philatelic author, has unearthed. He writes:

"I picked up this rather unassuming 'bright mauve' pair (**top right**) at one of the local monthly stamp fairs over a year ago. I didn't even try to plate it but did check the front and back. The gum is slightly toned. There is a pencil message in the selvage:

'Sent by Fred on 23/9/42 On Active Service', (**right**).

More recently I examined the water mark, as one should always do, and found it was: Crown to right of A! Gibbons calls it O 40 w. No value is given. One wonders how Fred managed for the rest of the war and why it was sent. With no obvious commercial value, perhaps just sent as a souvenir (after all, it is an appealing-looking item). Any thoughts/comments, members?"



writing on my Musgrave cover he sent to his family in Nova Scotia, Canada (**see Figure 4, top right**). Sure enough, it appears to be the same addressor.

Further Musgrave covers are illustrated in my article in *Philately from Australia*, June 2014, and on the dust jacket of *Postal History of BNG and Papua 1885-1942* – Roger Lee. I believe the stamps do not belong on these covers, however, in transit hand stamps prove the covers genuinely travelled to the Musgrave family in Nova Scotia, and the addressor hand writing was in fact that of Musgrave.

I also have an OHMS cover (**Figure 5, lower right**) to Union Bank of Australia, Brisbane with the same hand writing, with the access to OHMS Government stationery being available to Musgrave.

I believe Anthony Musgrave easily could have asked Lady MacGregor to save her covers and requested the same of his family in Nova Scotia. He also had the Union Bank manager saving covers, a number of which I have in my exhibit. In addition all inward mail to MacGregor and himself was at his disposal, of which I have four such covers.

We are indebted to the very few residents in BNG who saved the covers of both inward and outward mail, and I believe many BNG covers in the Queensland era point to Anthony Musgrave, who may well be today's ACCIDENTAL POSTAL HISTORIAN. ■



Figure 4

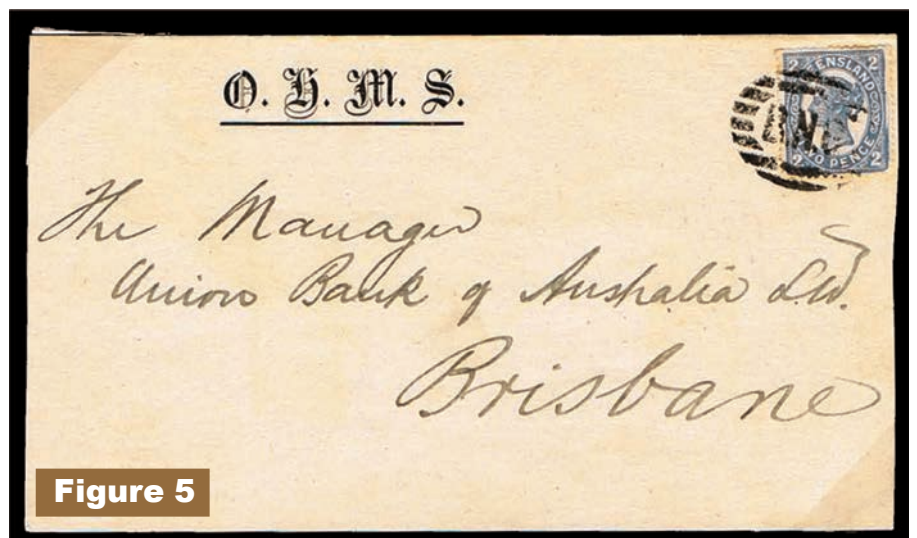


Figure 5



THE BENEFITS & DOWNSIDES OF AUTHENTICITY CERTIFICATES

In our last issue of "PNG Calling" an example of a questionable authenticity certificate was cited, then we introduced a certificate for an SG73 mixed perf 2d Large Papua Lakatoi.

I commented that although the certifier had got the SG73 catalogue number correct, the description was inaccurate, then asked whether you could tell from the stamp and cropped certificate what was wrong?

If you guessed that it's not a large PAPUA then you would be correct as a large PAPUA would be SG77.

Illustrated below, from top to bottom, is a 2d Lakatoi Small PAPUA (courtesy Scott Starling); the PAPUA from the 2d Lakatoi certificate shown in the last issue; and, a 2d Lakatoi large PAPUA.



Clearly, the centre example, claimed in the certificate to be a large PAPUA, is the small PAPUA variety.

PART 2 By Mark (Robbo) Robinson PPS Brisbane

The next example of questionable purchase was recently sold at a major Australian auction house with a certificate. The so-called SG115, with two other stamps (*see certificate image below*), achieved a hammer price of \$2,700.00. The catalogue value is £3,500.00 so the buyer must be happy with that purchase. I hope, however, that the buyer asked for an extension to get a second opinion as the stamp is actually an SG118 and worth, on a good day, about \$5.00.

The benefit of having a reliable certificate can and does add to the resale value over a stamp without one. It allows the purchaser to feel confident that they are paying a bit more for a stamp that has been described accurately.

I, as a major collector of all British New Guinea and Papua lakatois, often find stamps that require certification for future sales and also for my own personal pleasure in knowing that what I have purchased is in fact genuine.

These days I send my stamps to an expert in the area in which I choose to collect rather than a company that punches out hundreds of certificates covering all areas of the world where mistakes can be made due to lack of true expertise in a certain field as highlighted above.

My mentor and good friend Jerry Blair who is not only a major collector and seller in his own right, but can also claim fame to supplying the likes of Peter Troy with a large part of the well-published collection of lakatois sold through Prestige Auctions back on Tuesday 28th July 2009.

Here is just a small selection of stamps that I have picked up that were not correctly identified at the time of sale and lucky for me I knew what they were yet still wanted to get a certificate for them.

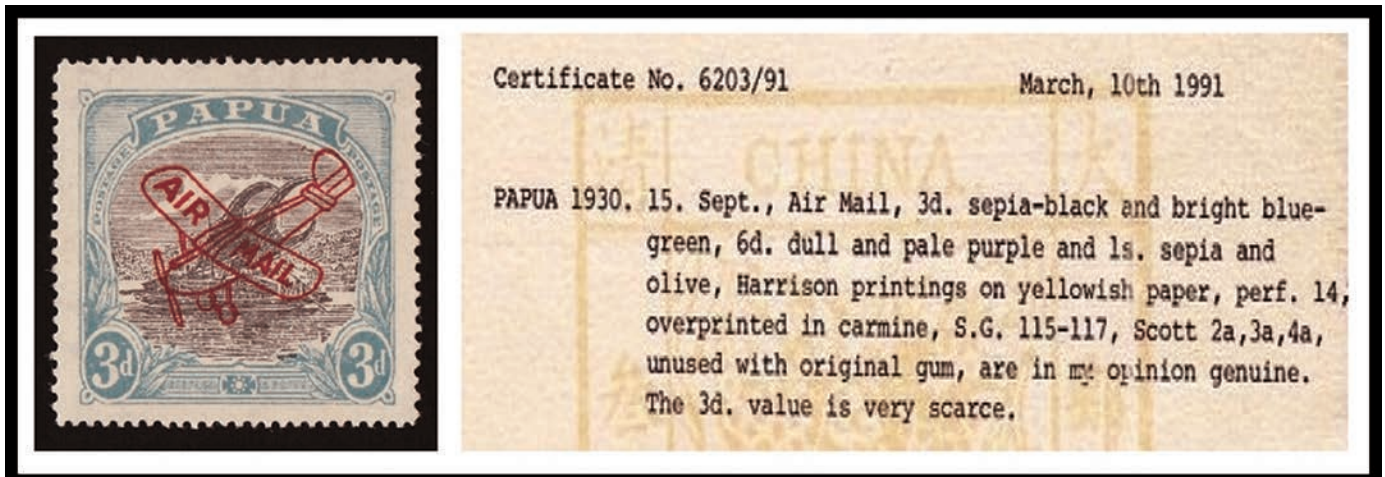
As you will see these are well written and very accurate certificates from someone who knows our area of collecting.

Jerry's certificates are also well designed, as they are made to fit half a lighthouse-size album page, meaning that you can display the Certificate and the stamp neatly showing both off at the same time.

Please note the top of the certificate:

"British Commonwealth
Expertising Service"

Below: After all, looks can be deceiving! (Image courtesy Morten Munck, Denmark, www.STAMPForgeries.com)





Jerry's service also covers more than just my old lakatois.

The first Jerry Blair certificate is for an SG45 picked up as a possible SG45a thin paper (**right**).

The SG45a catalogue value is \$170.00 used. Now with the Certificate, the SG45 catalogue value is \$17,500.00 used.

Another item was a SG70 purchased out of an auction house in the USA in a bulk lot on a page that listed it as SG64.

The SG64 catalogue value is \$18.00 mint. Now, with a certificate (**at bottom right**), the SG70 catalogue value is \$10,000.00 mint

Jerry Blair charges, in my mind, a very modest fee for Authenticity Certification and as a member of the Papuan Philatelic Society for many years does give a genuine discount to all current PPS members.

The charges are as follows:

For non-members, \$65.00 per certificate, including the return registered postage.

PPS members are charged a discounted rate of \$50.00 per certificate including the return registered postage.

Yet another reason to join the Papuan Philatelic Society (PPS) for as little as \$21.50 AUD per year.

Just send two stamps for Certification and you will have already saved your membership fee in the discount offered to members above.

I personally would like to thank Jerry for offering the above discount to members.

Contact Jerry at:

Jerryblair@bigpond.com



Or by mail, his address is:
P.O. Box 4934, Nambour 4560, Queensland, Australia.

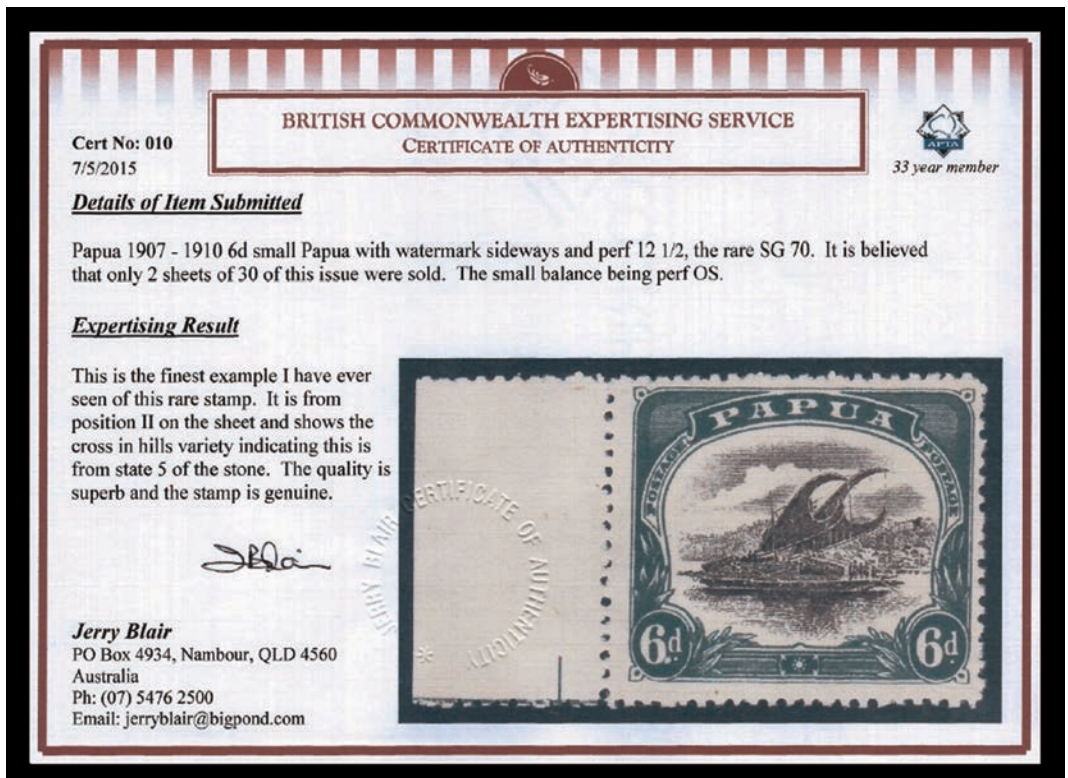
I would like it to be noted that I have No financial or Non-financial interest in Jerry Blair's business.

For anyone seeking further information on any part of the

article please contact me at:
robbo_robinson60@hotmail.com

Editor's note: In another article, in the July 2012 **PNG Calling**, Ray Kelly made very interesting comments on two certificated covers, For a scan, email:

papuanphilatelicsociety@gmail.com





Q & A

Q&A 1: QSL?

I was interested to read the Q&A about Papuan QSL Cards in the last edition of PNGC (Sept-Nov).

Illustrated is a copy of a QSL Card (**top right**) from an elderly Papuan I interviewed when we were putting together our book "Milne Bay 1942" in 1989.

The gentleman's name was Mackendrick "Mac" Rich. He was born in 1904 at Kwato Mission from missionary parents. Mac joined the Papuan Field service in 1924 and was the first District Officer at Kokoda in 1932 and there also the first licenced radio operator in Papua – VK4VX. He actually built the first airstrip at Kokoda on the opposite side of the plateau to where it was during the war and it is today.

He was an officer in the PAU (Papuan Administration Unit) which was absorbed into ANGAU when it was formed in March 1942. Mac was based in the Milne Bay area early in 1942 and was there before the Army and RAAF.

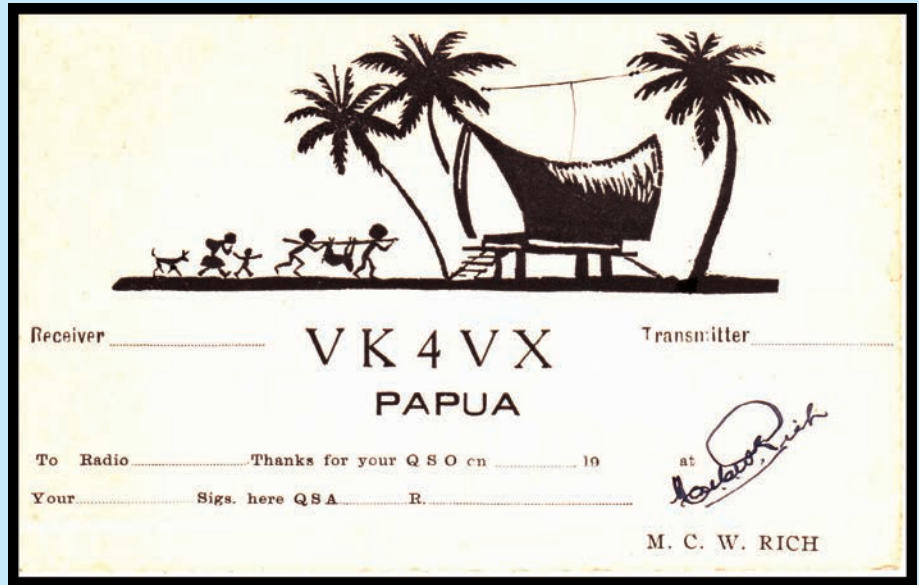
The mint but signed QSL card he gave me was made from a wood cut stamp he manufactured at Kwato Mission (located on Kwato Island – near Samarai Island in the Milne Bay Province).

Q&A 2: QSL?

Your "PNG Calling" editor is not sure whether the following fits the bill for Q&A, but it is from a member and he thinks that it's a good idea. Perhaps members would like to see more of this type of entry? "Ed" leaves it to the majority of members to adopt such "Wants" (or similar) as "Questions" and perhaps form a zero-cost way of chasing philatelic material. Another member's plus!
From Ron in WA:

Wanted to buy:
Mint u/h block of four of the 1988 Sydplex triangle stamp with Imprint at the base of the sheet.

A larger block would be OK. Contact Ron, e:janritter@adam.com.au or tel (Aust) (08) 8396 3546.



Although in his late 80s when I interviewed him, he had an extremely acute mind and could remember things in minute detail. He retired and moved to Sydney in the 1950's where he continued his Ham Radio operations (as VK2ECJ at Manly Vale) for many years. He died in Sydney in 1991. **Greg Knight (Australia)**

Note from the Editor of PNG Calling: What an extraordinary story! Here is further information on QSL cards, from Wikipedia:

A QSL card is a written confirmation of either a two-way radio communication between two amateur radio stations or a one-way reception of a signal from an AM radio, FM radio, television or shortwave broadcasting station (see further example below). Reception of a two-way radio communication can also be confirmed by a third party listener. A typical QSL card is the same size and made from the same material as a typical postcard, and most are sent by mail as such.

The QSL card derived its name from the Q code "QSL". A Q code message can stand for a statement or a question (when the code is followed by a question mark). In this case, 'QSL?' (note the question mark) means "Do you confirm receipt of my transmission?" while 'QSL' (with no question mark) means "I confirm receipt of your transmission."

Below: Australian QSL cards are not as difficult to find as Papua (or "PNG") QSL cards, but cards such as this, from the Stan McIntosh collection, are rarely sold.





COVERS RETURNED: POWs SANK WITH SHIP

Based on information and images supplied by Andrew Brockett, a well-known Sydney philatelist who specialises in Australian military postal history

The starting point is two articles from past PPS journals, Roger Lee (July 2011) and Ray Kelly (Oct 2012)*. Thumbnails of both are shown (**Figure 1**) as they provide the foundation of Andrew Brockett's exceptional research.

****"PNG Calling" Editor's note: Lee and Kelly – two titans of the PPS!**

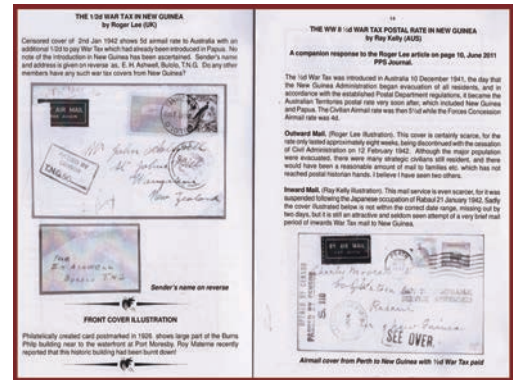
Andrew has presented another cover (**Figure 2**) that falls into the Lee/Kelly discussion. The Abbott cover was franked 5½d for airmail and posted at Sydney – 'G.P.O. SYDNEY N.S.W. AIR' '2?-??-42'. It was opened for inspection and resealed by the civil censor at Sydney. There is a Boxed 'AIR SERVICE/NOT AVAILABLE' cachet

Figure 1: Thumbnail-sized image of the original articles. For a readable image consult PPS Journals or visit the ASP website.

in violet and 'NOT TRANSMISSABLE / SERVICE SUSPENDED' cachet in red. On the reverse, Sydney Dead Letter Office datestamp 16 February 1942 and "Return to Sender" label.

The letter was addressed to Pastor Edwin Abbott, Superintendent of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission at Rabaul. He was interned following the Japanese invasion of New Britain on 23 January 1942.

Abbott was among 208 civilian



internees of war (mostly from the Australian Army's Lark Force) who were embarked on the *Montevideo Maru*, a Japanese auxiliary ship, at Rabaul for transportation to the Chinese island of Hainan.

The *Montevideo Maru* was sighted, sailing without escort, by the American submarine *USS Sturgeon* near the northern Philippine coast. Unaware of the presence of Allied prisoners of war and civilians, the *Sturgeon* fired four torpedoes at the *Montevideo Maru* before dawn on 1 July 1942, causing the vessel to sink in minutes.

All the prisoners of war and civilian internees on board died in the sinking. The incident is considered to be the worst maritime disaster in Australia's history.

In addition to the Abbott cover, Andrew has recently sourced another exceptional cover (**Figure 3**), the Maclean cover. It was posted at The Entrance NSW on 15 Jan 1942. It has the same boxed "NOT TRANSMISSABLE/RETURN TO SENDER" as the Abbott cover. There is also a WR Carpenter 18 February 1942 marking (applied on return) plus a manuscript "Believed in Jap occupied area".

WR Carpenter (known affectionately as "Carpy's") was a long-established Pacific Islands trading company. Charles Hector Roderick MacLean was a Director of WR Carpenter who also died when the *Montevideo Maru* sank.



Figure 1



Figure 2

THE BACK PAGE

Welcome to the latest issue of PNG Calling. We hope you are now used to the new look. It is pleasing to have settled down with our new system and once again, we are indebted to John Leah for the editing.

If you have submitted an article and it hasn't appeared yet (sigh!), please be patient. We got into a bit of a muddle with the member contributions and are trying to work our way through it. Be assured, every contribution is welcome and appreciated and the journal only survives through your continued support. Keep those articles coming!!

The PPS website is now up and running at:

papuanphilatelicociety.com

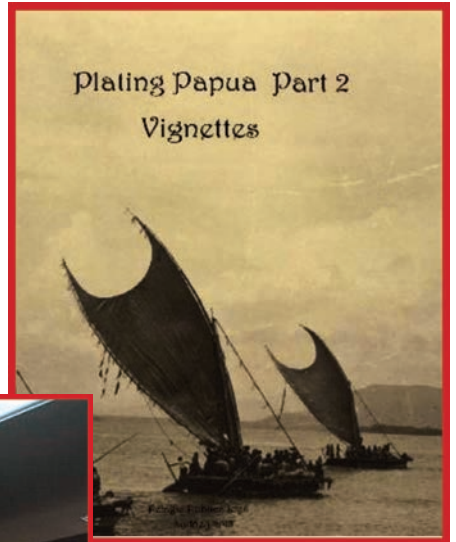
We did suffer some start-up glitches and hopefully we're working our way through those - it is surely a "work-in-progress".

The entire website committee has a membership of one - yours truly. Unfortunately, my IT skills are limited

and so the website process has not been as efficient or quick as I would have liked.

If you have any questions about how to access or use the site, what is there (or is not there!), suggestions, etc, please do contact me. And even better, if you have some IT knowledge and would care to join the website committee....

This is being prepared before the AGM on the 20th. There are a



Left: Michael Ryan presenting "Plating Papua Part 2" (more details next issue).
Above: The handsome cover of the new work.



number of important matters to be discussed and we'll look forward to hearing more about that event.

You will also note that it is time for membership renewals. We think the PPS has a new energy and a very good offer for members: the revamped journal; the website; society auctions; and, the ongoing facebook group. Plus, you now have the option of an electronic-only membership (at a lesser cost). We want to keep every single current member, perhaps regain some lost ones, and absolutely add new members. Please return your mem-

bership renewal form soonest. I have a report on the most recent Melbourne branch meeting but it must be posted on the website. Check the NEWS section. One thing I must mention is the PPS meeting at the Melbourne 2017 Show. We had an excellent turnout, with 30+ attendees. A full report will also be posted on the website but here we include some pictures (thanks to Julie Griffin who dealt with subdued lighting yet still managed to 'massage' the pics.

Regards,
Richard
richard@muller.id.au

Near left: Members inspecting one of Alan Grey's exhibits.
Bottom left: Keen "early bird" members making sure they have seats before the start of the PPS meeting (ASP editor John Leah at left).
Bottom right: Alan Grey & Jeff Marks -

