

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

Official Journal of Papuan Philatelic Society

* The font used in the banner is inspired by the corporate letterhead used by Burns Philp & Company Limited, a trading and shipping company whose history is intimately intertwined with PNG and the wider Pacific region.



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

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear PPS members,

This issue is the first of the new look PNGC and we hope you all agree that it has taken a change for the better. Of course, your feedback as members is very welcome and encouraged. We hope you like it.

The Sydney Stamp show and combined PPS AGM has taken place. Although we only had a relatively small turn-out for the AGM/PPS meeting all I am told is that everyone who attended had a great time.

We thank again Nick Oughton who was voted in unanimously to the role of Secretary, and a big thank you to Lorraine Fitzwater our tireless Treasurer and Maurice Clarke who assists Lorraine on the Aussie side of the water for supplying the detailed set of accounts.

Congratulations to Alan Grey for his Large Gold in the Postal History category and hope that Alan shares pictures of his medal winning frames on the PPS website for future prosperity.

Since the last edition Frank Wilson has provided the PPS with another fantastic auction and we thank him for his role as Society auctioneer. We as a society benefit from sales and ask everyone to support them with not only purchases but also material/stock for Frank to be able to continue running them.

I am also very pleased to be able to report that membership continues to grow with several new members joining since the last edition.

And from everyone a big welcome to new members:

- Lynette Sullivan - Postal history, and cancellations of Papua, German, French and British colonies.
- Terry Commins - BNG, Australia used in PNG, Marshall Islands and German NG. Stamps, postal history and cancellations
- Jenny Bennett - Postal History and Cancellations.
- Andrew Turnbull - Postal History and Cancellations for the period 1900 to 1930, NWPI & Lakatoi.

Yes, I was asked to supply a picture of myself and it's no secret that yes, I am ugly (Ed note - "beauty is in the eye of...")

Cheers!
Mark (Robbo) Robinson



PPS Chairman (Australia)

INSIDER DEALING (Part 2)

• By Robert Benoist (UK) •

He told me that he had confiscated a large number of postage stamps from the New Guinea Company. Moreover, crates of telephone apparatus had been found there. Now he suspected that I had hidden even more official property. He drew my attention to the fact that according to the announcement published in the name of the English king, neglect of official property would result in severe punishment (according to Australian law, prison). In addition, he referred to the corresponding agreement with the Acting Governor, Dr. Haber, contained in Paragraph 8 of the terms of surrender.

He also showed me an Australian newspaper report, in which it was maintained that in conquering Kalisch, the German troops had killed the mayor under gruesome torture, since he had burned 500,000 rubles in bank notes shortly before the occupation of the city. He added sarcastically that I should not expect such treatment, since the principles of the British administration against the besieged enemy were justice and compassion. In spite of these threats, I had decided not to reveal the hiding place of the large buried stamp supply. I did not consider myself justified in giving state property to the enemy. On the other hand, if the items so pains-



Lionel Babington
Ravenscroft

takingly hidden were found by the enemy, I could change nothing. I therefore explained to the Provost Marshall that I would be accountable neither to him nor to the Australian government for my official actions.

He revealed to me that in the next few days I would have to present accounts to the Australian accounting office. I explained that I understood, but asked him to effect the return of the books, the paid postal money order cards and the undelivered parcels stolen from the post office. I knew that this was impossible, since the paid postal money order cards and the dispatched parcel cards had already been sold by the Provost Marshall, and the parcels, among which were about 20 consignments of provisions, had been consumed in his own house. Following another threat of imprisonment, etc., the Provost Marshall concluded the conversation, which had become uncomfortable for him.

Without any supporting evidence Weller's complaints might be dismissed as the sour grapes of the vanquished, but it must also be borne in mind that this report was prepared at a distance without any knowledge of events in Australia subsequent to his departure. There is, by way of additional corro-

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boration, a wealth of direct and circumstantial evidence connecting Ravenscroft to the theft of various items of considerable value belonging to the German Administration and to German citizens. There is also his own evidence regarding his dealing in the stamps of German New Guinea overprinted 'G.R.I.' with values in sterling.



what has become of them would be pure guesswork and would serve no purpose. Interestingly the Treasury receipt book also documents "private lots of stamps". Gibbs assumes that these almost certainly constituted the later printings of the so-called later settings. Col. Strangman had eleven copies of the 5 Pf., ten copies

of the 10 Pf. and one copy of the 5/- on 13 May 1915 which were entered in the receipt book.

Robert M. Gibbs, in his encyclopedic book⁵ comments at length on the controversies surrounding the overprinted issues and produces two lists [5: 12], the first being that prepared by the postmaster, Temporary Lieutenant Moore, the second taken from the Treasury receipts, both purporting to furnish the numbers and denominations of the issued stamps. The lists are reproduced below with a further column identifying the discrepancy. It is interesting to note that the Treasury list consistently contains a greater number of stamps than appear on Moore's list.

Dr. Cecil Lucius Strangman was a full Colonel and an expert in malaria and tropical diseases having carried out entomological research in the Northern Territories of Australia in the years leading up to the Great War. He enlisted at the advanced age of 48 on 25 Nov. 1914 and was attached to the 3rd Battalion, Naval and Military Forces – special tropical corps. Given that he outranked any officer at the Treasury it would not be difficult to persuade them to carry out the additional private printing, especially as it was May 1915 when the stamps of Australia overprinted "N W Pacific Islands' were in plentiful supply.

Although Gibbs states that the discrepancies do not appear to be too great, and some could be explained by defective material which the Treasury decided not to pass on to the Post Office, he goes on to assume that the stamps would have been accounted for in some other way, but quite properly states that

The author will attempt to show that these "private lots of stamps" were probably GNG or Marshall Islands issues, purchased from dealers or collectors in Australia after October 1914. brought or sent to New Guinea by officers who presented them to the Treasury and paid for them to be overprinted. They were never intended to enter the postal system and were a means of obtaining very valuable stamps at face value. This scenario allows that the Treasury's books balanced but there would be a discrepancy between these books and the Post Office records. It will also be shown that Temporary Lieutenant Moore was aware of and probably involved in this private enterprise.

References

⁵ In the absence of the official file which seems to have been mislaid rather than deliberately lost, the best account of the arrest is contained in Smyth's account of Moore's Court Martial, in *Australian Stamp Journal* (June 1915).

	Moore's List	Treasury Receipt	Variance
1d. on 3 Pf.	2,600	2,675	75
1d. on 5 Pf.	1,200	1,308	108
2d. on 10 Pf.	12,800	12,927	127
2d. on 20 Pf.	10,000	10,090	90
3d. on 25 Pf.	200	295	95
3d. on 30 Pf.	203	263	60
4d. on 40 Pf.	1,020	1,120	100
5d. on 50 Pf.	525	599	74
8d. on 80 Pf.	406	490	84
1s on 1 Mk.	85	133	48
2s on 2 Mk.	200	245	45
3s on 3 Mk.	45	88	43
5s on 5 Mk.	30	72	42

TO BE CONTINUED

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.

For information about joining the PPS, please contact us at papuanphilatelicsociety@gmail.com

PAPUA NEW GUINEA PERSONALISED STAMPS

Part 3 – By Doug Spencer (Australia)

FIRST SERIES

K1.00 sheets – Orchid Personalised stamp tab samples



Tab image placements for viewing purpose only and can be swap around to your preferred stamp value



Cancelled on the K1 sheet

DON'T JUST SEND A STAMP. BE ON THE STAMP YOU SEND.
Personalised Stamps

Blank tab

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K1.20 – Domestic rate for standard letter up to 50g for the 2012 year

Gap between
K and 1,
Close-up view
of harbour



Black K1.20,
text font differs,
clouds in sky on tab,
base cropped



Parliament House reversed
and further away,
Harbour view also further away



Larger (no frame) images



Small K1.20, tab description
in white at base
Design also appears with K1.30 value
and similar varieties

LATER PRINTINGS



Also K1.30, K8 & K8.70



Also K1.30, K8 & K8.70



Also K1.30



Also K1.30



Also K6 & K8



Also K6



Also K1.30

TO BE CONTINUED

CORRECTION

In the Feb 2019 issue, Rod Buchko's superb article ("Deciphering the Unusual Date-lines of Selected New Guinea Date-stamps"), there was a mix-up of the Images on page 5. Numbers 4 and 5 were accidentally exchanged. Alert readers probably worked it out, but for the record, please note the error.

A STUDY OF THE PNG STAMP BOOKLETS

1970-1973 (Part 6) By Sid Dikes (Australia)

Booklet Number SB5a, BK5 (I), MH5D, SS237f.

Note to readers: Figure numbers continue in sequence from Part 5

The 15th Anniversary of the International Stamp Exhibition was held from the 9th to 11th March 1973 in New York. Just about all countries with a Philatelic Bureau were invited to attend and to issue and sell a special set of stamps commemorating the Exhibition.

PNG having a small Philatelic Bureau believed a 3 day exhibition did not warrant a new set of stamps being issued for the event, and further they doubted whether there was sufficient time to have a set designed, approved, printed and ready for the exhibition.

The Bureau sent 1000 Telecommunications booklets SB5, which will all be TAA advertising. These booklets were overprinted in New York with the Official Interpex logo. The Bureau did not supply their own officers to staff their booth but used Crown Agents from the Australia Trade Commission.

It is understood the Crown Agents felt 1000 booklets would be insufficient, therefore they must have taken a quantity of spare SB5 booklets, plus had their own **hand stamp** made for any emergency situation where, if supplies of officially printed booklets ran short, they would be able to hand stamp more and keep



Figure 29

the clients happy. Their hand stamp did have the following differences to the official Interpex overprint, namely the absence of the “15th Anniversary Pennant” and the addition of the wording “Papua New Guinea”. Figure 30 (below left) shows the Crown Agents hand stamp

At some stage during the exhibition the Crown Agents felt their hand stamp should be put to good use, so they stamped 20 – 30 of the spare booklets and about 6 – 10 of the Official booklets with their hand stamp.

The 6 - 10 Official booklets therefore have both logos on the cover, as shown at Figure 31 (bottom left). It is unclear if the PNG Philatelic Bureau sanctioned this action.

Collectors complained they were unable to obtain these booklets. The Bureau therefore printed and sold in Port Moresby, a further batch of 1000 with the official Interpex Exhibition Logo.

Booklets where the overprint miss or just touches the PNG flag should be considered the New York printings, a booklets where the overprint overlays the PNG flag should be considered the Port Moresby printings (see Figure 32 opposite above).

Each booklet contains a block of 10 Sg.231/4 Telecommunication stamps. From a sheet of 100 Telecom, ten blocks are obtained therefore two hundred sheets of stamps would have been required to fill the 2000 booklets and of these there would be a maximum of 1000 with left-hand selvedge only and 1000 with right hand selvedge only. Again it is possible to have four different attaching methods.

The left-hand selvedge blocks would show “Two Helicopter at the Mt.Kerigomna Repeater Station” those with right-hand selvedge blocks would show “Three Helicopters”



Figure 30



Figure 31

With only 2000 booklets issued, Interpex booklets could be regarded as the lowest issued booklets of this study period.

The two different shades/depths of the Orange and Black colours and Mis-aligned guillotining are also found. The size is 120mm x 57 - 59mm.

Booklets with blocks attached as **Method 2** or **4 (Inverted)** are extremely rare with numbers obviously very low. Shown at **Figure 33** (right) is a Port Moresby overprint with attaching Method 4 inverted.

Interpex booklets having a sheet numbered selvage are limited to a maximum of 200. Only 100 booklets of either New York or Port Moresby would have been issued with sheet numbers.



Figure 32
New York overprint left, Port Moresby overprint right



Figure 33

Following the issue of these booklets it would be a further 20 years before another booklet was issued in PNG.

Now Accepting Material For THE 2020 PPS AUCTION

Great news – Frank Wilson is preparing another PPS Auction for next year (probably the first half of the year).

This is a terrific opportunity to clear out some of your excess/unwanted/duplicate stock, generate a bit of extra spending money (no doubt used on your own bids!) and remember that a portion of all sales go back to the Society.

This is an important part of our PPS agenda and we hope every member will participate as a seller and buyer.

What to do next? contact Frank via email at ppsauktion@btinternet.com or write: 57A Bourne Road, Spalding, Lincs. PE11 1JR. U.K



THE MELBOURNE PAPUA & NEW GUINEA STUDY CIRCLE SYLLABUS 2019-2020

Quarterly meetings are held the last Friday of the month
29 November 2019 | 28 February 2020

Meeting place:

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc Purves House, 303 High St, Ashburton, Victoria 3147

Visiting and New Members are most welcome.

Come along for a friendly chat and meet members with a common interest.

Convenor – Alan Grey (0438-896-766) Secretary – Brian Fuller (0400-532-400)



ROD PERRY'S WOODCHIP FREE ZONE PART 3

Note to readers: Figure numbers continue in sequence from Part 2 (Issue 281)



Figure 9. Another nice postage due adaptation

at Madang 11 Mar 1974, the article caught up with the addressee three days later, when the 12c was affixed and tied by another Madang datestamp, paying deficiency of 6c plus a fine of a further 6c. The 1960s Postal Charges stamps on commercial covers realize considerable sums; this item is as

rare. **Valuation : \$150** (entire used set off cover \$15).

The quirky 1969 Folklore rouletted between 5c and 10c pairs are difficult to find on cover. In fact I've yet to see the 10c! Until recently I had not seen an unsevered pair of the 5c. eBay to the rescue,



Figure 10. Native Dancers; groovy set

PNG DECIMALS. STAMP USAGE BEFORE SELF-GOVERNMENT.



Figure 11. "Friendly" python*

and **Figure 6** happened along, an 18 Apr 1969 use from Madang to U.S., where a 5c single and pair of unsevered pairs paid the 25c airmail rate. It may be a very long time before I see a comparable item. **Valuation : \$80** (used set off cover \$2).

Orchids on stamps is a popular thematic, and PNG as a country certainly has more than its fair share of these delights. **Figure 7** features a solo franking of the 30c from the 1969 set of four, paying combined letter rate/registration fee Mendi to Port Moresby. Note "RELIEF N° 9" datestamp, then in

use at Mendi; an example of how the convergence of Usage and Postal history can be complementary. This is a rare commercial use of the datestamp, not to be confused with the contrived covers prepared by the Papuan Philatelic Society for subscriber members. The PPS service is highly commendable, but the value of those covers is considerably less than commercial equivalents. The 1958 1/7d Cattle, for example, sells for around \$20/30 on PS-generated covers, whereas

commercial usages of that stamp have sold for upwards of \$500, and more. **Valuation : \$75** (used



Figure 12. Convergence of two attractive issues

TO BE CONTINUED

BENEFIT FROM OUR EXPERTISE & PRESENTATION



Australia KGV 2d red '21' flaw "extremely rare in red"
Estimate A\$1250, Sold for A\$2875*



Victoria BN 436 Wombat Creek
Estimate A\$750, Sold for A\$3115*



New Guinea SG1 with FDI cancel
Estimate A\$600, Sold for A\$958*



Papua SG57 Wmk Upright Reversed
Estimate A\$1500, Sold for A\$1917*



Australia 1924 KGV 1/2d Lettercard with 'Burrinjuck Dam In Flood' view
Estimate A\$4500, Sold for A\$4792* (world record for scenic lettercard)



New Zealand Coronation artwork
Estimate A\$750, Sold for A\$1078*



Australia 1928 from Malaya with 'FORWARDED BY AIR MAIL' cachet
Estimate A\$500, Sold for A\$1318*



Western Australia 1882 'KOJONUP' unframed oval and numeral '29'
Estimate A\$1500, Sold for A\$6859*



Norfolk Island 1960s Photographic Essays etc.
Estimate A\$600, Sold for A\$1258*



South Australia three-volume Picture Postcard collection
Estimate A\$800, Sold for A\$3474*

* at Public Auction on 19 May 2018 (prices include Buyer's Premium)

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Torsten Weller

Gary Watson

AGM AND SYDNEY MEETING

Richard Muller (Australia)



Left to right: Ian McDonald, Richard Muller, Jeff Marks, Brian Peace, Andrew Brockett (Guest), Lewis Webb, Michael Courtis, Tony Griffin, Alan Grey

The long-awaited PPS Annual General Meeting was held during the Sydney Stamp Expo. There was limited meeting space so we were pleased to get a spot.

The show itself ran from Thurs June 13 to Sun the 16th. Despite being held at the same time as a massive expo in Shanghai, China, anecdotal reports from dealers were positive, in terms of attendance (“good turnout of younger collectors” – good news indeed!) and sales.

The AGM took place on the Sat (15th) with 9 members in attendance – one guest – and a number of apologies. The award for most distant attendee went to Brian Peace from the UK (though he didn’t come just for the meeting!).

The agenda was cleared in short order with a couple of special mentions. A round of applause for Lorraine Fitzwater, our tireless Treasurer (despite being a small society the accounts involve multiple currencies and are a real challenge) and keeper

of the membership records. A mention of acknowledgement and appreciation to Ted McPheat, Secretary, who unexpectedly passed away during the year. And our thanks to Nick Oughton who has agreed to take on that Secretary role.

The general Sydney meeting followed with many members bringing along a “couple of their favourites” to display and discuss. One of the highlights of the show was Alan Grey’s exhibit of Papua Postal history – garnering a Large Gold – and some stories to tell. Congratulations Alan. Ian McDonald showed a fine collection of German NG, Lewis Webb passed around his vintage 1966 PNG telephone directory and some wonderful PNG usage items, Jeff Marks had some entertaining Papua covers (including one he just bought the day before – already written up!), and Brian peace had a great selection of crash/delayed covers (including one marked “eaten by rats” and another delayed 6 years as it was held as police evidence).

And for those who wondered what mysterious item Tony Griffin would present – see the accompanying article! (back page)

Of course we ran out of time but it left everyone looking forward to the next PPS event.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

IS THIS THE OLDEST PRINTED RECORD FROM NEW GUINEA?

By Tony Griffin (Australia)

(Editor note - this is the item mentioned in the AGM report - Tony teased us with a hint and he has certainly delivered - this is an edited version of his comments)

This is a pic of a 1744 copperplate map of the islands of New Guinea, New Britain & Timor. I couldn't take it out of its frame as its too delicate. Attached is the photo plus an enlargement of the writing on the bottom section - a very interesting read indeed (particularly the part about the remnants of the ten tribes of Israel!).

The copperplate print of William Dampier's 1666 voyage was done in London in 1744 (so 275 years

ago). You'll note that some names are recognisable as they haven't changed much, i.e. Timor, New Britain, Papua, etc. but most others have well and truly changed over time of course.

I bought it auction about 7 years ago and have carefully kept it from fading, in fact it hadn't seen the light of day until the Sydney Show, even then that was only fluorescent light :)



This Country was first discovered by Saavedra a Spaniard in 1529 who called it Terra de Papuas, but the Dutch Discoverer Schouten, imposed on it the Name of New Guinea. It is the least known to Europe of any of the Eastern Countries. The Inhabitants are generally speaking Blacks, but there is a Nation of Whites seated in one part of it whom some have suspected to be a Remnant of 10 Tribes of Israel, who were carried into Captivity by the Assyrians. The Kings of the Moluccas were formerly wont to have a Guard of these Papuas about their Persons, esteeming them the bravest and most faithful Soldiers in the Indies. They have hitherto defended their Country against all Invaders.

It is very difficult to say Positively what are the Products of New Guinea, because no Europeans have penetrated beyond the Coasts; however, the Inhabitants of the Moluccas, are known to trade with the People of this Country for Gold and Spices which sufficiently demonstrates that it is well worth the discovering.

This Discovery of Captain Dampier that the Country he named New Britain was an Island, is of very great importance, since it lessens the Difficulties of settling a Colony in this part of the World that might probably be attended with great Advantages, as well with respect to the profits drawn from the Plantations as from the Commerce of the neighbouring Countries. In our Twentieth Section the Reader will meet with the latest Discoveries that have been since Cap. Dampier's Voyage.