



PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PAPUAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH 'AUSTRALIAN STAMPS PROFESSIONAL' MAGAZINE

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A Message from the Papuan Philatelic Society's Chairman

Dear PPS Members,

This is to inform you of the exciting future for the Papuan Philatelic Society.

With immediate effect, a sub-committee has been formed to implement the proposals submitted by Richard Muller and Mark 'Robbo' Robinson. Both Richard and Mark were asked to head this sub-committee. They were both nominated to be Vice-Chairmen of the PPS by the meeting and they have subsequently accepted those positions. Various members have volunteered to help with this proposal. Full details will be available in due course.

The sub-committee has already organised the future publication of *Papua New Guinea Calling*. This will now be published in the form of pages of articles in the 'Australian Stamps Professional' (ASP). These articles will be emailed to members who have valid email addresses registered with the PPS.

Those members who are not 'internetable' will receive printed copies of these pages. As you will realise on reading this, the first issue of this new format has now been published in the July-August issue of ASP.

Initially, your subscription will entitle you to either of these formats, but this may change in future years,

when the actual costs of each are realised.

Also, Richard and Mark will supervise the building of a new website for members. It is hoped that this will eventually hold all back copies of *Papua New Guinea Calling*, articles of interest and other material that it is hoped will be fully searchable. Other facilities to be developed will include a Q&A section, Branch news, a Members' only section, and links to current Auctions. The PPS auction could be listed and fully illustrated as well. It is hoped that a 'beta' website version will be available shortly.

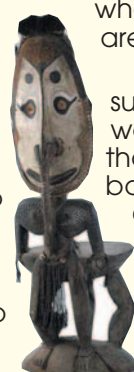
The PPS AGM hopes that the members will fully support this exciting venture by offering articles for publication and by their continued support for the PPS by renewing their Subscriptions.

Will all members please submit their up-to-date email addresses to Lorraine (Treasurer), Richard Muller and/or myself, so that our records are up to date? At least 15 email addresses were invalid when recent catalogues were sent!

Here's to the future of the PPS!

Frank Wilson

Frank Wilson
Chairman
(United Kingdom)



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

***The Sepik Orator's Stool**

When ASP searched for an appropriate iconic symbol for the PPS Chairman's column, an actual "chair" symbol was one suggestion. Finding one connected with Papua was not easy! Traditionally, people sat on the ground or on a mat. We eventually found the answer in the Sepik Spirit House ("Haus Tambaran") where elders communed with the spirits and argued village politics using a "chair" or stool.

Paradoxically, nobody sits on the Sepik "Orator's Stool" or "teket". It is for the chief ancestral spirit, who empowers villagers to debate tribal matters. Speakers strike the seat with palm leaves, calling on ancestors' names for support. They place leaves on the stool to affirm the truth.

We trust this ancient tradition will inspire the present and future occupants of the PPS Chair and the "PPS elders" in their search for the best ways forward!



Unlisted Type of Namatanai Cancellation (1921)

Andrew Loughran's updated/revised monograph, available as a pdf, of J.H. Powell's "The Postal History of The Territory of New Guinea From 1888 to 1942" incorporating material from his collection, lists five different cancellers used at Namatanai, on New Ireland, during and after the Australian occupation.

Two of these, Powell types 76 and 77, are seen used between January, 1917 and May 1939. The third, from the collection of Andrew, and numbered by him as 78a was a District Office canceller seen used in 1933 (a scan in the publication seems to be dated 1928). Although chronologically it should fall between 77 and 78 Andrew has chosen to append District Office handstamps used as cancellers after the last Powell number for that particular post office.

**By Rod Buchko
(Canada)**

An excerpt from Andrew's monograph for 76 and 77, with scans added from Powell's plates, can be seen in **Figure 1 (bottom)**.

Andrew has added a table of earliest (ERD) and latest recorded dates (LRD) of usage of most cancellations. Those dates for the Namatanai ones are seen in **Figure 2**, immediately below.

I recently acquired a small accumulation of mint and used NWPI stamps. One of those stamps is shown in **Figure 3a (above left)**. A cursory inspection would categorize it as a faint strike of one of the often encountered "Radio Station" or "Radio Telegraph Station" cancels (Powell types 128 or 129). Initially it certainly didn't



Figure 3a: The unenhanced scan of a recent discovery.


stand out as anything exceptional. I did notice the unusual letter configuration at the top - there was no agreement with either of the preceding text. As well I saw no internal oval line and an odd

To lower page PNGC 4

Figure 2 (below): Excerpt from Loughran's table of ERD & LRD p. 77.

Namatanai	74	8 SE 1911	P	Nov-14	P	26.5	28	D
Namatanai	75	24 JA 1917	JD	24 JA 1917	HM		28	G
Namatanai	76	24 JA 1917	JD	11 JA 1924	MB	25	28	D
Namatanai	77	23 AP 1924	P	18 SE 1939	JD	28	28	C
Namatanai	78	Late 1939	P	Jan-42	P	28	28	F
Namatanai District Office	78a	23 SE 1933	P			42	29	G


Figure 1 (below): Excerpt from Loughran's update of J.H. Powell p. 29.



Type 76 consisted of a single-lined circle of 25 mm. diameter, with "NAMATANAI" above, "QUEENSLAND" below, and the date in one line in the centre. As in the case of Type 14 canceller of Kokopo, the word "QUEENSLAND" was obliterated by means of a filling of soft metal which printed as a semi-circular bar. During use, this filling began to shed so that the word "QUEENSLAND" became successively more discernible. The earliest known date of use is 24 January 1917, as mentioned in the previous paragraph. The latest date of use known to the writer is 6 October 1922, but probably later dates may be found in view of the date of introduction of the next type, namely, 1924.

Strikes from Type 76 have been found struck in violet. (LRD 22 Dec 1923 - AL)

Type 77 consisted of a single-lined circle of 28.5 mm. diameter, with "NAMATANAI" above, "NEW GUINEA" below, separated by short bars, and with the date in one line in the centre. The earliest known date of use is 23 April 1924, struck in violet-black. The latest date of use so far recorded is 5 May 1939.





60 AND 30 YEARS AGO

◆ In June, 1956, the PPS issued Vol 2 of its society journal, *Stamp News*. Three new members (all UK) were welcomed - nos 44-46.

In this edition:

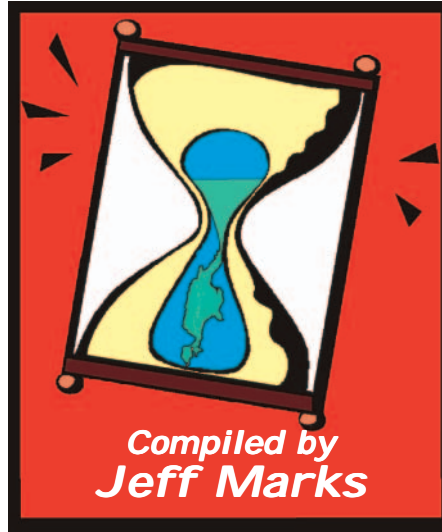
◆ SAMARAI POSTMARK

An item of interest for the Specialist collector is found in the postmark released at Samarai on 19th January 1956.

The postmark arrived from the supplier, with the second digit drum numbered 1 2 3 4 5 8 7 8 9 0.

The Samarai PO changed the first 8 to a 6 by removing a small section of the top right hand circle of the '8'.

Providing the PO has not used this postmark on Sundays *there are only 11 days on which the 6 could be used. A replacement drum... will be installed immediately.* (Ed: Does anyone know of any postal history examples of



this postmark? Please reply to the PPS email address provided at the foot of this article.)

◆ In June 1986, the journal (No. 157) name-changed to the current *Papua New Guinea Calling*. Roger Lee was the editor

and 11 new members were listed, namely, nos 1115-1125.

◆ In this edition an article by Michael Garwood was published:

POSTMARKERS PREPARED BUT NEVER USED

Maxwell Hayes has sent me information which he was able to obtain on a visit to Port Moresby Post Office in August 1974.

The ten C.D.S.'s of which Max obtained photocopies (illustrated on the front cover of that issue of the Journal) are:

BANIARA, BULWA, BUNA*, BURUI*, EDIE CREEK, IOMA, KULUMADUA*, SAIDOR*, TUFU*, and No. 7 AUST BASE P.O. (see *Cover & CDS close-up opposite*).

We also understand that five of the C.D.S. (marked * in the list)

From page PNGC 3

horizontal line not evident in the "Telegraph" cancels.

Prior to bidding on the collection I used Photoshop to enhance the low resolution scan of the stamp. In spite of the poor quality of the image I could easily determine the cancellation was not a "Radio Station" from Namatanai

since no usage from that locality is known but rather it was some kind of "District Office" example.

Soon after obtaining the collection I used the internet online text enhancement (image processing) algorithm (Retro Reveal) hosted by the University of Utah to enhance the cancellation. One of the Retro Reveal images provided can be

seen in **Figure 3b (bottom left)**.

A new Namatanai District Office cancel was revealed. Its date of usage places it between Powell 76 and 77. Using Andrew's numbering system would label it as 78b but I believe this is misleading since it no longer fits with the chronology. I am tentatively giving it a 76a designation.

A future article of mine will discuss Powell's and Loughran's numbering systems. Where and how should we name/number any new discoveries - assuming more will be found. Powell's restricted and possibly archaic numbering does not allow the use of new whole numbers. Andrew's system which inserts them *after* the last Powell type for the particular post office seems a bit disorganized. The latter does not work well when one incorporates his type into a file name of a computer scan i.e. when sorting scans of Namatanai cancels, 78a, which chronologically precedes 78, would be found after 78 in an output list, even though the date would likely place it before 78. ■

Figure 3b (below right), after treatment by the author through the 'Retroreveal' process, shows an enhanced scan revealing matters discussed in the article. We show the original again (Figure 3a, below left), for easy comparison.





were actually received into stock at Port Moresby on the 9th of July 1946.

BANIARA was first opened 1.2.1917; closed 27.10.1918.

BULWA was first opened 22.5.1941; closed 11.2.1942.

BUNA was first opened 1.10.1907; closed 11.2.1942.

BURUI was never opened. It is situated lat.4.01 long. 143.01 (south of Maprick).

EDIE CREEK was first opened 1.9.1928 and closed 11.2.1942

IOMA was opened originally as a receiving office TAMATA but was transferred to Ioma on 1.7.1905; closed 11.2.1942.

KULUMADUA was first opened in December 1899 and closed 11.2.1942.

SAIDOR was first opened 20.3.1969 using Type 3 C.D.S.

TUFI was first opened in 1900 as a receiving office, CAPE NELSON. Reopened as TUFI on 6.11.1964 with Type 3 C.D.S.

No. 7 AUST BASE P.O. Date?

Can any member explain why BURUI, which was never opened, was in 1946 considered to be **large enough** to have its own Post Office? Also, where was the P.O. using No. 7 AUST BASE P.O. situated? I think that we all may have theories on the remaining Post Offices, and why

the C.D.S.'s were not used but maybe any surviving members who were in PNG at the time would kindly provide the answers. Anyone with information should write to the email address below.

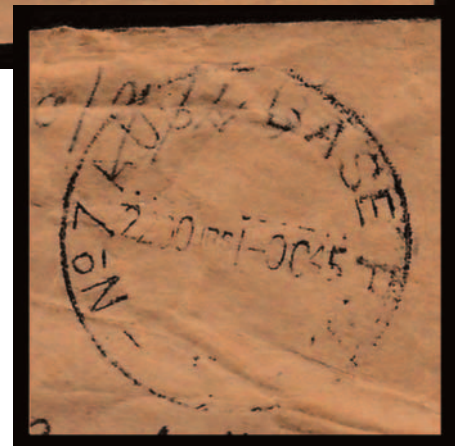
(Ed: Some of those dates have been updated since. If anyone

would like a scan of the front cover, please request this through the contact email address below.

Replies from readers will be duly noted in future instalments of:
"60 AND 30 YEARS AGO"



Above: A cover dated 10 OCT 45 struck with a C.D.S. showing No. 7 AUST BASE P.O.
Close-up: A view of the C.D.S. Sold on eBay for a bargain \$3.01 this cover may help lead to the location of the "base" P.O. from whence it came, but it lacks a letter such as "C" in the gap of the CDS which seemingly indicates from which of several bases it may have been posted.



CONTACT! Please email: papuanphilatelicsociety@gmail.com



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





Past Papuan Philatelic Society publication **UPDATE** The Reverse Watermarks of the Small Papua Lithograph issue (SG49 to SG71)

I wrote an article for the PPS official journal the *Papua New Guinea Calling* (PNGC journal), Vol 61, No. 4, Issue 268, December 2015, updating the known examples of the Very Rare reversed watermark quantities of the Small Papua Lithograph issue SG49 to SG71.

Thankfully this article encouraged other members to go back through their collections in search

*By Mark (Robbo)
Robinson PPS Brisbane*

of examples that might have been missed or had not been checked for the watermark flaw. It was very encouraging to start receiving emails with new information, albeit on closer inspection, up to 70% were unfortunately not reversed. Out of the 86 stamps that

I checked for members, only 16 were true reverse watermarks.

Having the new examples and plating them allows us to update the quantities of full sheets that should exist based on the printing method used for this issue (Print and Turn) (a.k.a. "work and turn" in the trade - Ed).

For new collectors or readers who have not embarked on the course of pleasure that can be found in the collecting of Papua Lakatois, the following snippet will give you a quick snap shot of this article:

"The term reverse watermark implies that the watermark appears as a Mirror Image of its normal state. Such watermarks can only be detected if the watermark itself is not symmetrical. The letter A used in the watermark for the Papua Lithographs is asymmetrical having a second leg parallel to the right-hand leg of the A, thus making reverse watermarks detectable. Illustrations of the normal and reversed watermarks when viewed from the gummed side of the stamp (as per Stanley Gibbons) are shown."* (see Figures 1 & 2). Note: The latter quote has been slightly amended to fit the

Figure 1: A strongly enhanced image of a Reversed Watermark from the back of a Papua Lithograph, in the selvage, showing detail of the asymmetrical "A" with the double-leg (blue arrows) on the right and a single leg on the left (yellow arrow). The asymmetry allows a "Reverse Watermark" to be identified with assurance.

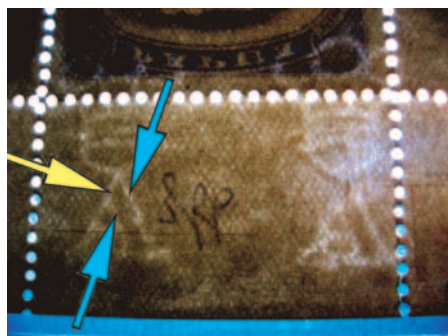


Figure 2: Also strongly enhanced, but differently, this image of a Papua Lakatoi with Reversed Watermark perhaps more clearly shows the "A" in the watermark, with its doubled right leg.



List: Updated examples of known Reverse Watermarks "Single stamp numbers"

Figure 3

SG51	2½d	Perf 11	Bright-ultramarine	Upright REVERSE	21 Mint* & 1 Used
SG51a	2½d	Perf 11	Pale-ultramarine	Upright REVERSE	1 Used
SG51a	2½d	Perf 11	Pale-ultramarine	Upright Inverted REVERSE	30 Mint* & 3 Used*
SG52	4d	Perf 11	Sepia	Upright Inverted REVERSE	6 Mint*
SG53	6d	Perf 11	Myrtle-green	Upright REVERSE	1 Mint
SG53	6d	Perf 11	Myrtle-green	Upright Inverted REVERSE	1 Used
SG55	2d	Perf 12½	Purple	Upright REVERSE	1 Mint
SG57	4d	Perf 12½	Sepia	Upright REVERSE	1 Mint
SG57	4d	Perf 12½	Sepia	Upright Inverted REVERSE	2 Mint
SG62	2½d	Perf 11	Dull-blue	Sideways REVERSE	3 Mint
SG62	2½d	Perf 11	Dull-blue	Sideways Inverted REVERSE	6 Mint
SG69	2½d	Perf 12½	Dull-blue	Sideways REVERSE	1 Mint
SG07	4d	Perf 11	Sepia	Upright REVERSE	1 Mint* & 1 Used*



List: Total number of panes of 30 that exist based on the above findings

SG51	2½d	Perf 11	Bright-ultramarine	Upright REVERSE	3
SG51a	2½d	Perf 11	Pale-ultramarine	Upright REVERSE	2
SG51a	2½d	Perf 11	Pale-ultramarine	Upright Inverted REVERSE	2
SG52	4d	Perf 11	Sepia	Upright Inverted REVERSE	1
SG53	6d	Perf 11	Myrtle-green	Upright REVERSE	1
SG53	6d	Perf 11	Myrtle-green	Upright Inverted REVERSE	1
SG55	2d	Perf 12½	Purple	Upright REVERSE	1
SG57	4d	Perf 12½	Sepia	Upright REVERSE	1
SG57	4d	Perf 12½	Sepia	Upright Inverted REVERSE	1
SG62	2½d	Perf 11	Dull-blue	Sideways REVERSE	1
SG62	2½d	Perf 11	Dull-blue	Sideways Inverted REVERSE	1
SG69	2½d	Perf 12½	Dull-blue	Sideways REVERSE	1
SG07	4d	Perf 11	Sepia	Upright REVERSE	1

Figure 4 (above)

Figure 5 (below)

List: Other possible examples still to be discovered based on the Print and Turn method

SG51	2½d	Perf 11	Pale-ultramarine	Upright Inverted REVERSE	3*
SG52	4d	Perf 11	Sepia	Upright REVERSE	1*
SG55	2d	Perf 12½	Purple	Upright Inverted REVERSE	1*
SG69	2½d	Perf 12½	Dull-blue	Sideways Inverted REVERSE	1*

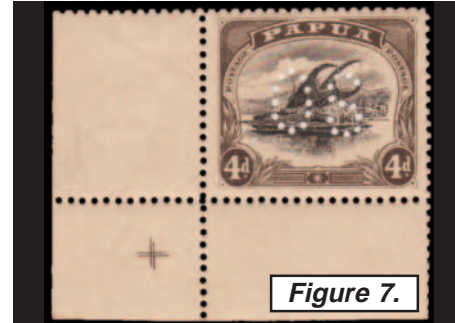


Figure 7.

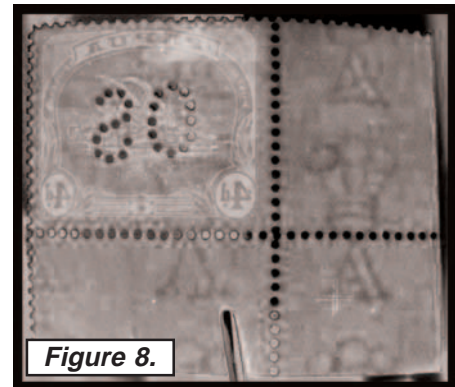


Figure 8.

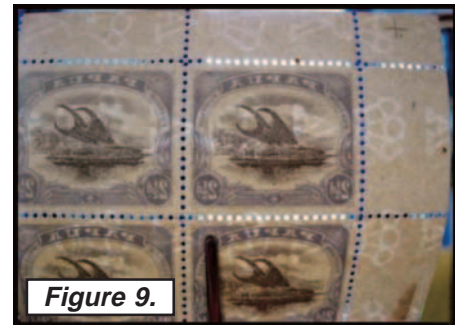


Figure 9.

context of this update of the known quantities of Reverse Watermarks.

At bottom left, a table shows an updated list of the examples of known Reverse Watermarks (see Figure 3, bottom opposite).

A list of the total known number of panes of 30 that exist, based on the above findings in this article, is also shown (see Figure 4, upper left, above).

The final list that will be useful for collectors in this area is a list of other possible examples still to be discovered, based on the Print and Turn method (see Figure 5, lower left, above).

Of note in the group of three bicolour 2½d Lakatoi stamps, (see Figure 6, below), the stamp

on far left is not only SG51a Upright Inverted Reversed it also has the Thin D Pantograph flaw in the L/H value tab.

Note: *All of the above listed stamps with asterisks might very well be found on the OS issues and are not restricted to the base stamp SG51/SG06, SG52/SG07, SG55/010 and SG69/SG024.

A few OS examples are shown. One shows SG07 (Figure 7), perfed OS with Upright Reversed Watermark, Position 25. Below is an image of the back of the stamp (Figure 8). In this case the watermark was revealed by scanning the back of the stamp then splitting the image into CMYK plate-making images. This is the "Yellow"

plate image and it gives a clear view of the watermark.

The final image show SG62 scanned from the back (no techniques used), positions 1, 2, 6 and 7 of which provide Sideways Reversed Inversed watermarks.

Anyone seeking further information on any of the above, feel free to contact me directly at: robbo_robinson60@hotmail.com



Figure 6



BUYING RARE STAMPS IS WITHIN REACH OF ALL

Very rare Papua or New Guinea stamps, and post marks with a 'Scarcity Rating G' (only up to 10 believed to exist), are usually very expensive and out of reach of most of us with limited financial resources.

However, the good news is that opportunities do arise when any of us can secure a very rare stamp or postmark at discount prices – and even having one or two adds prestige to a modest collection and great satisfaction to the keen collector.

These opportunities occur when the seller/auction house fails to recognize, and thus does not highlight, the scarcity of the stamp or postmark, whether it be sold as a single item or 'hidden'

**By John Rayward
(Australia)**

within a collection. This occurs on many more occasions than you might realize.

Of course, to take advantage of such an opportunity requires the

buyer to have the time and dedication to search for a very rare item and the detailed knowledge, supported by the appropriate reference material, to recognize its rarity.

Three examples from my own German New Guinea collection will be discussed.

Postmarks – Kerawara

In June 1890, when the post office at Kerawara closed, the KERAWARA cds (Powell Type 5) was transferred to Herbertshoh for six months.

The postmark was re-designated Type 5A and given a G scar-



Figure 1: KEREWA cds Type 5A, used at Herbertshoh from June 1890 to December 1890. Catalogue No. Mi 42c.

A well-travelled Cover from Papua

During World War II mail services between Germany and Australia were known to have been interrupted as early as 22nd September 1939.

I was therefore most astonished to find an Australian military mail cover (*Figure 1, below*) with German censorship.

It took me quite a while to understand this cover. So I hope that its analysis also gives interesting insights to other collectors.

**By Otto Graf
(Germany)**

The cover was sent on 17th September 1943 from ARMY POST OFFICE 060, which was located at Milne Bay in Papua and is addressed to Switzerland. The letter was censored at the camp by censor number 7 (*mid left circular strike on cover*) and then again in Melbourne by censor number

414 signified by the censor marking "3 PASSED BY CENSOR 414" (*bottom left of cover, inverted*). Lastly it was censored in Berlin with censor label "Geöffnet – Oberkommando der Wehrmacht b" (*Figure 2, back of cover, strikes inverted, PNGC page 9*). There are two manuscript markings from German censors 7027 (*bottom of Fig.1*) and 1617 (*top of Fig. 1 under "[BY] AIR MAIL*), as the rule was that two censors had to look at a letter. The manuscript markings also indicate that the cover contained one page of letter and one photo. The cover was also examined for hidden messages in secret ink, which can be seen from the chemical test stripes on front and back of the cover.

But how did the cover make it to Berlin? The cover is paid for air transport with 2/3d and endorsed "airmail". In 1943 private mail to Europe would not be flown via Asia any more. Therefore the cover was transported by sea to the USA.



Figure 1: The face of the Australian military mail cover that so astonished the author (back shown PNGC page 9).



city rating by Andrew Loughran in his update of Powell in 2007.

The auction house offered the item shown in **Figure 1** (PNGC page 8, mid-page) only as a normal Type 5 cds, recognizing neither its 5a status nor that the date of 28/7/90 was also the earliest recorded date of use of that cds. These characteristics should have added more value to the item.

Luckily, wealthy buyers did not appear to note these things either.

Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen

When Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen post office was taken over militarily by Australia on 24 September 1914, several improvised cancellers were brought into use, including two rubber hand-stamps.

The first of these two-line cancellers, Powell Type 20 (scarcity rating G), displayed "(Deutsch-Neu-Guinea)" on the second line. However, before issue, the brack-



ets and the word 'Deutsch' were removed. **Figure 2** shows a legitimate cover cancelled with the original handstamp design.

Figure 2: The original rubber hand stamp used on a postcard. At top: "Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen", then, "(Deutsch-Neu-Guinea)". Original Type 20, Mi 8 with a Scarcity rating of G + ?

Air mail for continental Europe was transported by a PanAm flying boat to Lisbon, Portugal. Until 1944 German Lufthansa had three flights per week from Lisbon via Spain to Stuttgart, Germany and then on to Berlin.

It would have been most efficient to unload the cover in Stuttgart and send it on by rail or air to Switzerland. But Stuttgart did not have a censor station. So the cover was sent on to Berlin, where it was censored. Then it was sent back to Stuttgart where it continued its

delivery journey by rail or air to Switzerland.

As the big cities in Switzerland did not use receiving postmarks at the time, it cannot be determined how long the letter was on its way and how it finally was routed.

What I cannot explain thus far is the rate of 2/3d. Rate tables that I do have at hand show an airmail rate of 1/11d for airmail to Switzerland.

Does anybody have an explanation for the 2/3 rate? ■

"Only one stamp exists"

It seems that I obtained this stamp cheaper than expected because a rare printing error was not mentioned by the auction house.

A major printing error occurred at Position 10 on every sheet of each denomination of the 1897 - 1899 'Deutsch-Neu-Guinea Overprint' Issue as illustrated and described at **Figure 3**. Only one sheet of 100 stamps of the 25pf value was printed with the over-

Continues bottom left PNGC page 10

Figure 3 (below): Printing Error on Inverted Overprint. Catalogue Number: Mi 5b K X, Position 10, (Tail of 't' in 'Deutsch' missing).



Figure 2.



Tail of 't' missing

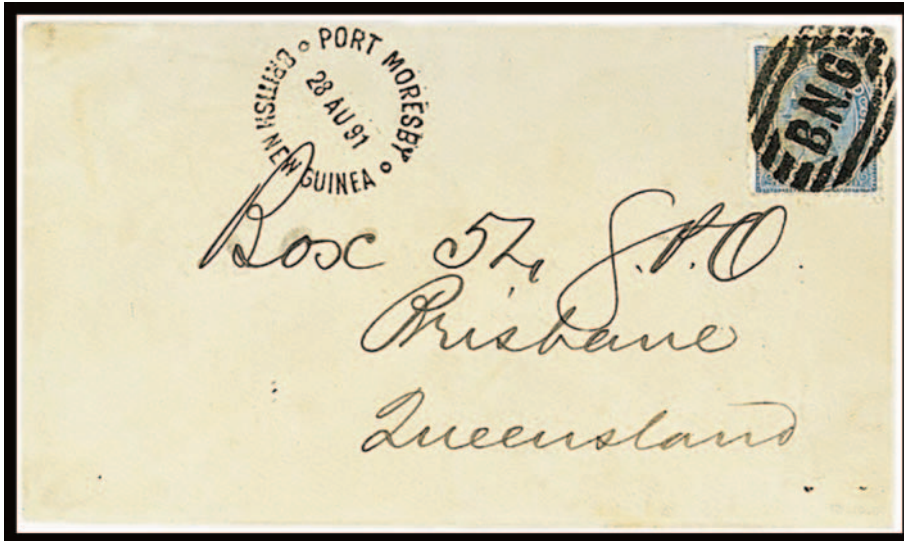


A Papuan Cover to Brisbane in 1891

In his magnificent book *'The Postal History of British New Guinea and Papua 1885-1942'* published in 1983, Roger Lee at page 5 has a picture of "A cover from Port Moresby with what is most likely first day of use of the two handstamps shown. This is one of several covers to the same address on this date."

The cover (similar to **Figure 1** (below), for purposes of definition) is postmarked at Port Moresby on the 28th August 1891 (Lee type 6)

Figure 1



From previous page

print inverted. Consequently, there can only be one stamp in existence on which the overprint is inverted and which has that error.

This was probably because, as a marginal corner stamp, to the casual viewer it looks like it is

By Jeff Marks
(Australia)

with the 2d blue Queensland stamp mainly obscured by the BNG obliterator (Lee type 7), a rather early cover from British New Guinea to Brisbane and in such a fairly pristine condition.

So what do we know about the handstamps? The Macray Stamp Sales Auction No. 38 on the 19th July 1988 contained the 'Jim Harrison' NEW GUINEA and

PAPUA collection with lot 275 (Figure 2, mid left page 11) being a small piece with the 2d blue Queensland franking tied by Lee type 7, and alongside, the circular date stamp (Lee type 6) dated 17th August 1891. This item realised \$160.

One item that has since come to light is, once again, a 2d blue Queensland with a partial cds (Lee type 6) with an even earlier date of April 1891 (Figure 3, top right, opposite). Are there any out there with an earlier date?

One does not need to be observant to notice that the addressee has not been included on the cover at left (Figure 1). So who had Box 54 at the Brisbane GPO? I spent some fruitless time on this but discovered one placement in the Brisbane Courier of 12th March 1891 in the Miscellaneous section requesting "House, wanted to RENT, in a good position, near town; containing about 10 rooms. Apply Box 54, G.P.O."

In the same section of the paper for the next day, there appeared two placements: "HOUSE, wanted to PURCHASE; about eight rooms, with paddock, on a railway line three or four miles from town. Apply A.M., Box 54, G.P.O." as well as a repeat of the previous day's advertisement. This latter advertisement was also in the newspaper on the 16th March 1891.

Although these advertisements are five months before the Papuan cover, no detail is being discarded until a successful outcome is achieved.

Roger Lee mentioned that there were several covers to the same address. Until recently, I had accounted for fourteen similar covers and one piece, all in the same handwriting and posted on the same day - an amazing number for that time and for the place of origin. After many years in a quandary, I was delighted to be reading the Cavendish Philatelic Auction of the 9th March 2016 which featured the John Walton Nicholson Collection of Papua & New Guinea. Lot 152 described another of the

from the bottom left of the sheet (position 91), not position 10.

Forgeries

No matter how much you study, how do you recognize whether one or all the stamps shown in **Figure 4** (below) are genuine? ■

Figure 4: BUKA cds, Type 91, Scarcity rating F. All sold by highly regarded auction houses for (from left to right and excluding costs): \$17,360; \$4,000; and \$3,878.





Figure 2 (above): 2d Blue Queensland franking on piece, with Lee type 6 and 7 handstamp strikes. Figure 3 (right): A Lee type 6 with an earlier date.

above covers adding, “env. addressed in the writing of Sir William MacGregor the Governor of Papua”. Additionally, the accompanying photo of the item (Figure 4, courtesy of Cavendish Philatelic Auctions), unlike all the other recorded items, had an addressee, a Mr J. Cox.

Could a J. Cox be located? Was J. Cox added to the cover at a later date? There was such a person mentioned in *The Register* (Adelaide) on the 19th February 1910 in a prospectus for the Papuan Rubber & Trading Co. Ltd. with a Joseph Cox, Esq. Investor, Lithgow as a Provisional Director.

Later he was chairman of directors of this company as mentioned in the Adelaide newspaper *The Advertiser* on the 12th September 1910 and also in *Growing New Guinea* on the 22nd December 1910. Later, a less favourable report was given in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on the 25th Sep-

tember 1912 when a Joseph Cox and John George Aikman, two directors of the Papuan Rubber and Trading Company, were charged with fraud.

So fifteen covers and one piece still require further research to establish if Joseph Cox, as an in-

vestor, of Lithgow, NSW, was in any way linked to those Brisbane advertisements and/or the Brisbane GPO Box 54. Confirming that Sir William MacGregor was involved might prove a lot more difficult. (Feedback – please send to: papuanphilatelicociety@gmail.com)

Fig. 4 (below): The cover that revealed the mysterious recipient.



SHARP-EYED STEVE, STATES-SIDE, SPOTS SOME STUNNING STAMP STRIKES

Steve Zirinsky, a USA member of the PPS, obviously keeps his eyes peeled for the unusual and he seems to have an accountant’s eye for detail. His latest foray into modern PNG postal usage turned up some interesting double circle cds examples with useful dates and post offices, but the specimen in the centre is a cracker.

“It’s the only example I’ve seen of a double ring cds used as a postage due marking,” he said. “This seems to be a new use for the cds.”

Steve Zirinsky will reveal more of his recent finds in our next issue.



◆ PNG Calling invites keen ‘Modern PNG’ collectors to submit their best ‘finds’!