

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,

Well it's the Christmas edition already, wow how quick has this year gone. I hope that everyone has a great festive season and remains safe and well going into 2020.

Frank Wilson has another fantastic auction planned for early next year and is looking for material from members to auction. Please support Frank as this does benefit PPS members as well as PPS sellers.

More details can be found inside this edition. Closing date for submission of lots is end Dec - see article page 5 - if everyone offered for sale, say, 5 lots, it would be a super auction - and remember, a portion of sales goes to the society - contact Frank NOW at: ppsauktion@btinternet.com

The report of the Queensland chapter meeting on Nov 17 was received too late for inclusion in this issue but note the next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 2nd Feb at 1:30pm.

A special mention to advise that Alan Grey is now a fully-qualified National Judge - well done Alan.

Major research works that we plan to add to the website Library and will be reported on in upcoming issues include:

- Doug Spencer's detailed survey of *PNG Personalised Stamps* - a small sample was featured in the Sept issue
- *Franking Machines of PNG* - a major project from Richard Peck (assisted by Roy Materne) that has been underway for the past 20 years!

Several large auctions have taken place this year across the globe and it's positive to be able to report that good items are still producing good results. In saying this, and of note, is the strength in the GRI overprints which are being snapped up quickly and are also setting new records. The other area of strength which should not come as any surprise is the value in good early commercial covers.

On a sad note: Ross Christian (Canada) - membership number 138, one of our earliest members passed away in 2019. We wish the family members our condolences.



Cheers!
Mark (Robbo) Robinson

PPS Chairman (Australia)

PNG PTPO STATIONERY

• By Steve Zirinsky (USA) •

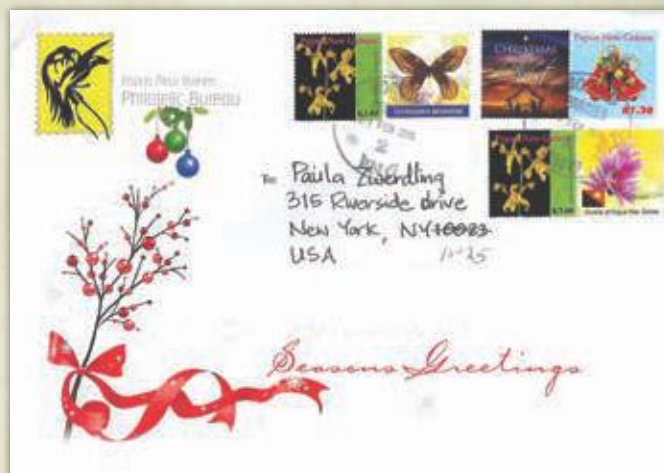
(Editor's note - This was submitted by Steve ages ago – just waiting for the right time – which is now, especially “tis the season”)

PNG PTPO (Printed to Private Order) PNG Stationery is created by, and for the exclusive use of, the Philatelic Bureau for their holiday cards. As these are denominated and issued in December, the rate that applies is usually only good

until the end of that month. And, for 2013 and 2017 the dates were imprinted (as part of the design).

Here is a summary of past printings (note the very limited numbers):

Item	Year	Value	Description	First Day of Use	Quantity Printed
1	2013	K 1.30	Bird of Paradise/Seasons Greetings	13/12/2013	100
2	2014	K 1.30	Christmas Begins With Christ	15/12/2014	200
3	2014	K 6.00	Christmas Begins With Christ	15/12/2014	200
4	2015	K 1.45	Bilas Hamamas	18/12/2015	100
5	2015	K 6.60	Bilas Hamamas	18/12/2015	100
6	2017	K 1.50	Christmas Greetings (Toaripi dialect)	19/12/2017	100
7	2017	K 2.00	Christmas Greetings (Keri dialect)	19/12/2017	100
8	2017	K 6.80	Christmas Greetings (Kiriwana dialect)	19/12/2017	100



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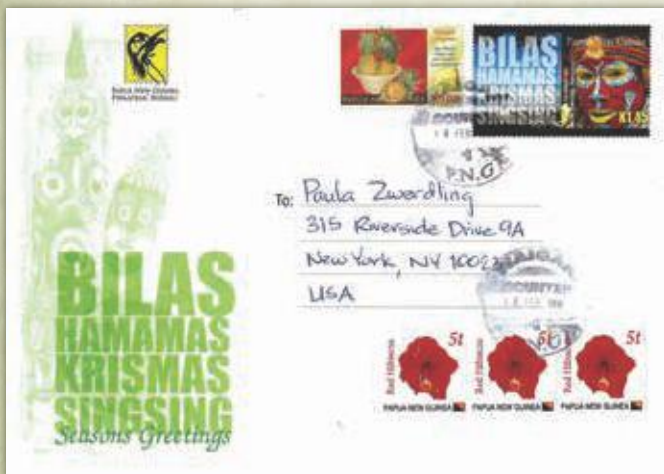
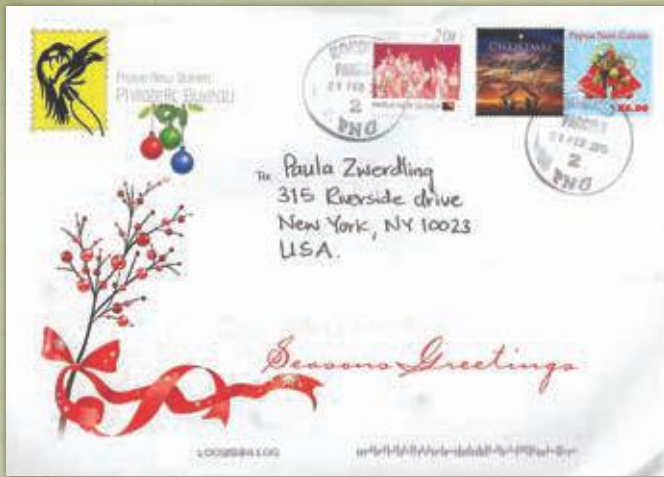
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W. Sondheim (dec)

Michael Garwood (dec)



**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 papuanphilatelicociety@gmail.com



INSIDER DEALING (Part 3)

• By Robert Benoist (UK) •

Returning to Captain Ravenscroft he is not only causing anxiety for Weller but also embarking on a spree of “acquisition” which his position as Provost Marshal made easy. It must be admitted, however, that he was not alone and several officers and men were court martialled as a result of their actions in the days immediately following the invasion of GNG. Indeed Counsel's advice was sought in respect of various charges which were to be brought, including one of the theft of the German Regimental Silver aboard the *Komet* by Col. Paton, Officer Commanding, Troops! Counsel was confident that a conviction could be secured² but for whatever reason the charge was not proceeded with. It could only be imagined what a charge of this nature against such a senior officer would do to the morale of other ranks.

Ravenscroft faced nine charges at his court martial. These charges arose out of a search which was carried out when Ravenscroft arrived back in Australia on the 1 Mar. 1915. His property was inspected by both Customs and the Provost Marshall's office of Victoria. Three items were found in Ravenscroft's effects for which he had no rational explanation.

They were first the office typewriter from the Provost Marshall's office in Rabaul, secondly a camera alleged to belong to the Botanical Gardens at Rabaul and thirdly the Ship's Chronometer from the German Prize Ship, the *Kolonel-Gesellschaft*. Unless specifically mentioned, the source material relied upon is contained in the 90 pages of the official transcript of Captain Ravenscroft's Court Martial¹ and the 12 pages of his personnel file³. Although the reader is not concerned with the non-philatelic evidence, the nine charges related to the alleged theft, handling or receiving all three items.

The prosecution's case was not strong, by reason of the difficulty in finding witnesses of ownership of the goods. Under cross examination Ravenscroft admitted that the camera had been taken by him because he could not find the owner. Ravenscroft was found not guilty of the charges both as a result of the weakness of the evidence and also the fact that he had left New Guinea, resigning his commission, with the object of enlisting for service on the Western Front- a point laboured by his counsel.

In order to try and shake Ravenscroft's defence the prosecution tried to bring in his bad character in that first he had once before been successfully court martialled and cashiered for dishonesty and secondly that he had, in some way, acted dishonestly in dealings with Postmaster Moore in Rabaul in the overprinting of GNG stamps.

Moore had been arrested on his return to Australia in March 1915⁴ in possession of £97 in face value of 'G.R.I.' overprints. Posterity might have consigned part of the jigsaw to oblivion were it not for a letter that Ravenscroft wrote to Moore on 16 Mar. 1915, shortly after his return to Sydney from

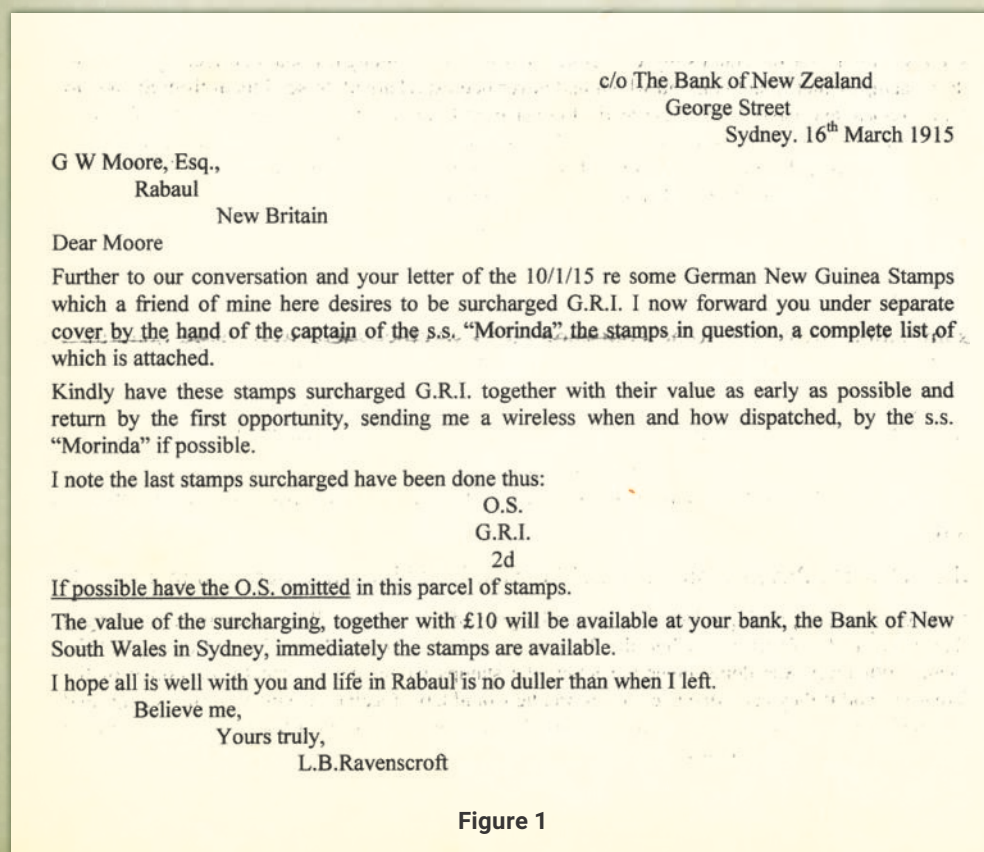


Figure 1

New Guinea. The content of this hitherto unseen letter and Ravenscroft's evidence surrounding it put an entirely different complexion on the so-called amateurism of the administrative staff as described

in Gibbs [6: 8, quoting Piggot]* The letter is reproduced here in its entirety (see Figure 1) with the list of GNG stamps which were to be enclosed-under separate cover¹.

There follows the list of stamps on a separate sheet as follows:

	5Mk.	3Mk.	2Mk.	1Mk.	80	50	40	30	25	20	10	5	3
No of Stamps	21	8	26	22	82	112	181	130	97	100	129	402	201
Surcharged at	5/-	3/-	2/-	1/-	8d	5d	4d	3d	3d	2d	2d	1d	1d

Below this list there is a breakdown of the cost as follows;

£	s.	d.
5	5	0
1	4	0
2	12	0
1	2	8
2	14	8
2	6	8
3	3	0
1	12	6
1	4	3
	16	8
1	1	6
1	13	6
	16	9
25	12	6

When Ravenscroft was cross-examined about the letter he responded as follows [1:37-39]:

"I had certain transactions with Moore relating to stamps, I have not attempted to induce Moore to commit a fraud on the public in relation to these stamps. I have not offered him a bribe to commit any offence. After I returned to Sydney I wrote a letter addressed to Moore in New Guinea; I don't know the date of it but it was about the 15* March. I asked him in my letter to get stamps surcharged. These were stamps i sent from Sydney. I believe they were to the value of £25.12.6. I told him I had made arrangements for that amount to be placed to his credit at the Bank of New South Wales, plus £10 for his share of the transaction. This was no attempt to commit any offence.

Moore was perfectly entitled to take German stamps from anyone who brought them in to the Post Office and have them surcharged through the printing office, and they would go back through the Treasury to Moore, and Moore would be responsible for the payment of the surcharge on those stamps – I paid for the stamps myself before I left Rabaul. I thought I had a perfect right to send these stamps which i had got, and which had never been surcharged, to send them from Sydney to New Guinea, and have them surcharged, I considered I had a perfect right by law- the Treasury were having other stamps done in exactly the same way in which I had asked Moore to have it done they were done through Moore. The Treasury were having them done, as acting between Moore and the printing office. I had to send the stamps to Moore first."

References

- ¹ Transcript of the Court Martial of Captain Ravenscroft, National Australian Archive, A471/224.
- ² Counsels' Advice, offences committed at Rabaul New Guinea, 1914, National Australian Archive.
- ³ Ravenscroft's service record, National Australian Archive, B2455/Ravenscroft L B.
- ⁴ Karl Weller, "The Onset of 'The War' in German New Guinea", ed. John Kevin Doyle, *German Postal Specialist* (Jan./Feb, 1999).
- ⁶ Robert M. Gibbs, *G.R.I.*, Christies Robson Lowe, Bournemouth (1988).

TO BE CONTINUED

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.

Contact Frank via email **URGENTLY - DON'T DELAY** ppsauktion@btinternet.com or write: 57A Bourne Road, Spalding, Lincs. PE11 1JR. U.K

**CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS
DECEMBER 31**



INTERESTING BNG COVERS

(Editor's note - Here are a couple of interesting covers that are currently on the market. Information is provided, not to promote the items, but there is a fair amount of research mentioned and the covers are rather special. The text is taken from the selling material.)

British New Guinea 1893 unique cover, to tiny rural Auburn, *Nova Scotia*!: Attractive cover, (reduced slightly at side) with the rare 8 Bar, Port Moresby "N.G" in Bars cancellation (Lee #2, Rarity Rated D). A very fine complete strike, on 6d Queensland green QV pair, incredibly sent to Nova Scotia as endorsed top left "Via Sydney & San Francisco". Crisp "PORT MORESBY - 26 JU 92 - BRITISH NEW GUINEA" backstamp, plus transit backstamps of Cooktown, Brisbane, and a sharp crisp Ontario Canada arrival of "WINDSOR - AU 9 : 93 - ONT". Neat arrival docketing date on face of "Recd/12th August 93" at lower-left.

To his unmarried sister, Miss Frances "Fanny" Wood Musgrave - sender was Captain Anthony Musgrave, The Deputy Government Commissioner at Port Moresby. To: "Miss Musgrave, Holmworth, Auburn, Nova Scotia." Photo of



Fanny, and the family home Holmworth etc is here - tinyurl.com/1893NG Flap as can be seen, has his personal crested recess/intaglio printed crest, with his initials "AM" intertwined, under the Family Coat Of Arms element - of two armour glad arms, grasping a golden annulat. All above the Family Motto of "SANS CHANGER"

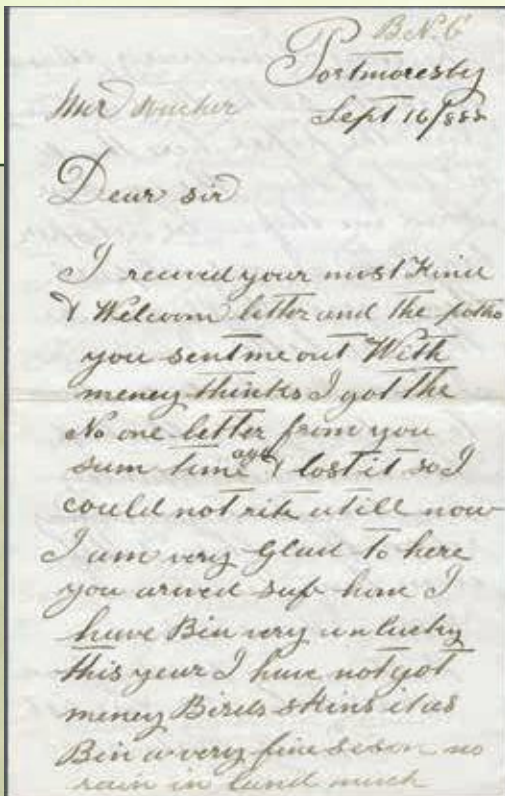
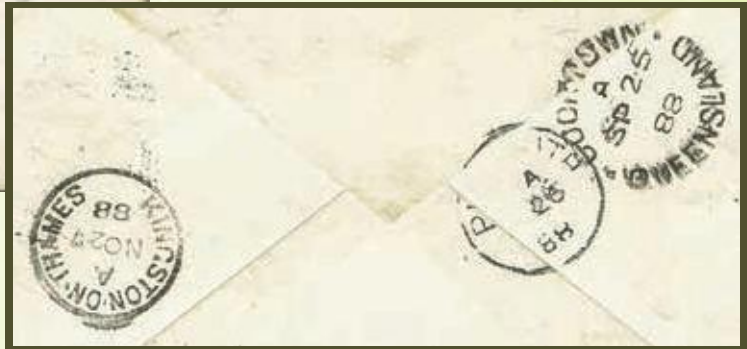
Noted very lightly in pencil on the reverse - "From Robson Lowe - Private Sale." Ex Clive Fenn and Peter Troy. Any 1890s covers with the "N.G." cancel are virtually unobtainable, and all get mega bucks. Tim Rybak's damaged 1889 identical cancel "N.G." cover to common UK destination, was invoiced for over double estimate at \$A43,700 - way back in 2008. Any Nineteenth

Century cover to anywhere CANADA from BNG is believed unknown, and to a tiny near unpopulated (even today!) rural speck, in Auburn, Nova Scotia is most certainly unique. This "N.G." cancel is rare when genuine (near nothing on ebay in recent years is kosher of course - very heavily forged) and a nice complete strike like this, even snipped OFF cover is a 4 figure piece alone these days.

(Editor's note - There are many opinions regarding the 'Musgrave correspondence' and this item is an intriguing addition to the subject.)



Papua (British New Guinea) 1888 (Sept. 22): Cover from Granville - Port Moresby to Surbiton Surrey bearing Queensland 4 d. yellow, creased before being affixed, tied by superb strike of scarce "N.G." obliterator (Lee fig. 2, rated 'D'), very fine strike of the rare "GRANVILLE SP 2. 88 B.N.G." cds (Lee fig. 4, rated 'F') alongside, second day slug omitted, reverse with "COOKTOWN SP 25 88 QUEENSLAND" and "KINGSTON - ON - THAMES NO 27 88" transit cds's.



Some cover corner soiling and small repaired tear on top do not distract from the extreme rarity of this elusive Papua cover. Very few pre-1891 covers from British Guinea have been recorded. Only three examples of the Granville datestamp are described in Lee to be known with this being the oldest known. The second outgoing cover shows a messy Granville strike from 1889 and was part of the Tom Rybak collection.

The envelope includes full original four page letter dated in manuscript "B.N.G. Portmoresby Sept 16 1888" and was signed by "WC English / Post office Portmoresby BNG" who was an early explorer and hunter in BNG. He is writing to a former colleague, a Mr. Bucher. English was only semi-literate and his letter contains many oddities. The lot includes a transcript of the letter.

(Editor's note - This item was listed in the 2017 Abacus/Prestige auction, withdrawn from sale. The text in this current auction is an edited copy of the Prestige description)

THE MELBOURNE PAPUA & NEW GUINEA STUDY CIRCLE

Here's an update on of our most active groups:
 Quarterly meetings are held the last Friday of the month
 Time : **1:30-3:30pm** (so daylight hours)
 Place : **Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Purves House**
303 High Street, Ashburton, Victoria 3147
 Parking : Available in car park Welfare Parade (beside rail line)
 Train stops at Ashburton 100m from Purves House.

Dates :
28 February 2020 | 29 May 2020
28 August 2020 | 27 November 2020
 Convenor :
Alan Grey (0438-896-766)
 Secretary :
Brian Fuller (0400-532-400)

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 1/2 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



ROD PERRY'S WOODCHIP FREE ZONE PART 4

Note to readers: Figure numbers continue in sequence from Part 3 (Issue 283)



Figure 13. *The gentle, noble art of shark snaring*

set off cover \$3). [Footnote: In the 1980s I owned a block of land in the Daintree Rainforest, Far North Qld, which I sold to the Qld Govt., for classification within the World Heritage Rainforest region. Later I was told it was acquired specifically as local Botanists had established that reposing within "my" block was the only recorded example of a particular orchid genus. That's one to the World, zero to Rod.]

The 1969-71 Bird of Paradise coil 2c and 5c are rather difficult to find on commercial cover; relatively few Post Offices had coil dispensing machines. **Figure 8** has a rare pair (I've seen but two) of the 5c, used Boroko to NSW 7 Aug 1974, paying the 10c airmail rate. **Value : \$100** (around 50c off cover).

Figure 9, as in **Figure 5**, has a regular stamp

utilized as a Postage due. In this instance, an unstamped local Rabaul cover has been taxed 14c (double the 7c postage deficiency), and a solo 1971 South Pacific Games 14c has been affixed in taxing. An attractive item for an exhibit. **Valuation : \$100** (used set off cover \$1.50).

The 1971 Native Dancers set, to my eye, embody the exoticism of PNG stamp design of the subject era. **Figure 10** has the 28c, rare on cover, together with 9c from the Primary Industries series, on 17 Nov 1972 registered cover Kavieng to Rabaul, at 37c combined letter/registration rate. **Valuation : \$60** (Dancers used set off cover \$2).

Figure 11 bears the striking combination of 9c from the riotous 1971 Native Dancers, and the sensuous 21c Green Python from the 1972 Reptiles series. The aggregate 30c paid airmail 28 Apr 1972

PNG DECIMALS. STAMP USAGE BEFORE SELF-GOVERNMENT.



Figure 14. *New and exciting 1st wmk. Kangaroo cover "discovered"*

from Wewak to West Germany. The joy of ownership of items such as this belies their present market worth. **Valuation : \$30** (Reptiles used set off cover \$3). [*Well, "friendly" to the extent that they seldom grow to greater than 1.5 metres in length.]

The 1973 Birds of Paradise and 75th Stamp Anniversary issues, aside from the base rate 7c denominations, are scarce to rare on commercial cover. **Figure 12** bears two of the difficult issues, the 14c from the "Birds" and the 30c "Stamps", the aggregate 44c paying combined 2nd weight step letter (14c) + registration fee (30c), Tari to Madang on 9 Jul 1974. For those who prefer their Usage exhibit to have specific stamps paying specific rates, this is a gem of an item, peppered by having emanated from a small P.O. **Valuation : \$50** (off cover used sets \$6 (Birds) and \$3 (Stamps)).

The 1973-74 "Panorama" series is another bottle for a usage study. Aside from the unusual denominations (try finding the 21c and 28c), some of the designs are wonderful. It was a difficult choice deciding between wig-makers, the pig exchange, fire dancers and crocodile hunters. **Figure 13** came up trumps for it features two alluring designs, the

elusive 28c Menyamya Bowmen, and the enigmatic Shark Snaring (probably don't try it at home). Used from Angoram 28 Sep 1973, the aggregate 58c paid 4th weight step letter (28c) + registration fee (30c), another example of specific stamps for specific rates (see under **Figure 12**). **Valuation : \$50** (used set off cover \$7).

The scarcity of many of the PNG stamps of this era, and of most earlier and later issues, belies the modest sums covers tend to fetch in today's marketplace. I can't help but believe that, just as the scarcity of many Australian contemporary usage items has come to be reflected in buoyant auction results, similar recognition is overdue for PNG usage.

New "finds" are one of many uplifting elements in Philately. I seldom see exciting new discoveries in Kangaroo covers, particularly 1st wmk. issues, but **Figure 14** is an outstanding exception. It turned up recently in the U.S., 103 years after it was sent there! This 1/10½d franking, including very rare on cover 9d and 1/-, represents 2½d Foreign letter rate x9. Now back "home", when offered it is expected to realize \$5000.

THE END

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

PAPUA POSTAL HISTORY

Never Forget to Research Addressee Details!

By Tony Griffin (Australia)



Something that's often forgotten when looking at covers is the postal history aspect. If details on a cover seem interesting then dive into the internet for information. Sometimes the results can be surprising!

A typical example is this recently purchased cover sent from Port Moresby to England in 1929.

Now I don't particularly collect Papua mono colours on cover, preferring the earlier BNG or later Papua bi-colours, but the addressee on this one seemed interesting.

After some research I discovered that Admiral E.H.M Davis had a spectacular history as follows:

Admiral Edward Henry Meggs Davis, C.M.G., O.B.E., J.P., Royal Navy, Retired (18 August, 1846 – 6 October, 1929) was an officer of the Royal Navy. He served in Japan at the bombardment of Kagosima in 1863, and at the capture of Fort Simonoseki in 1864. He was a member of the Naval Brigade during the Kaffir War from 1877-1878, and took part in the Zulu War of 1879.

Davis was involved in the establishment of British dominion over the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, declaring a British Protectorate over thirteen islands of the Gilbert Islands Group during 1892. During his voyages in the South Pacific, Davis collected many hundreds of ethnographic native items which are now in the British Museum as well as in private collections. He was a Director of the Papuan

Trading and Planting Syndicate.

Davis was appointed to H.M.S. "Urgent" on 13 January, 1900 as Commodore, Second Class in Charge, Jamaica and in August 1900 he became a member of the Legislative Council of Jamaica. He was promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral on 13 March and was promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral on 8 June, 1905 after which he was placed on the Retired List, at his own request, on 26 June.

Davis' name was added to a list of Nautical Assessors in the House of Lords on 23 February, 1906 and was advanced to the rank of Admiral on the Retired List on 5 November, 1908. On 4 July, 1910, he returned from leave to Australia. He died on 6 October 1929 at the age of 83 after a fall from a bedroom window he had been trying to repair.