

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.

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by Mark Robinson

*Symbol of the Chair:
The Sepik Haus Tambaran
Orator's Stool*

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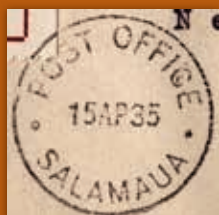
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Chairman's Report

Dear PPS members,

The Sydney Stamp show is fast approaching which means the PPS AGM and Meeting is getting closer as well. A room has been allocated for the PPS AGM and Meeting at the Stamp show venue, so it will be a great opportunity for members to enjoy the show and mingle with fellow members at the meeting. Check inside the PNGC for more details and if possible for members planning to attend the AGM & Meeting could you contact Richard Muller and let him know at "richard@muller.id.au"

One AGM item that warrants a mention is the approval for the role of PPS Secretary. I would like to thank Nick Oughton for stepping forward and putting his hand up for this role.

Our PNGC Magazine editor has asked me to thank everyone for their contributions. Not every article gets in the magazine straight away due to space availability and a spread of variety and topics - however they will be published in future editions. We are always looking for more so that we have some up our sleeves, so please everyone keep sending them in.

The closing date for bids in the PPS auction has now been extended to July 1st. (contrary to the information supplied in the last journal). Please support this society auction as members do benefit from these sales. There is some fantastic material up for sale at very reasonable reserves so get in early and don't miss out. Again, the PPS thanks Frank Wilson for all of his time and effort in putting these auctions together. Further details of this latest auction can be found inside the PNGC.

And from everyone a big welcome to new members: -

- John Woods; stamps, FDC, postal history and cancellations of German NG, British NG, NWPI, Papua & QLD.
- Guy Potts; stamps, postal history, & FDC.
- Greg Devine; stamps, postal history & FDC and NWPI.
- Bernard Wallace; stamps, postal history, & cancellations, Morobe Province/ Lae.
- John Woolven-Allen; Stamps, postal history, and cancellations on the Lakatoi issues 1901-1932 & New Guinea Territory issues.
- Duncan Findlay; Lakatoi stamps and cancellations.

Cheers! Mark (Robbo) Robinson

PPS Chairman (Australia)



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

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

A STUDY OF THE PNG STAMP BOOKLETS

1970-1973 (Part 5) By Sid Dikes (Australia)

Booklet Number SB4, BK4, MH4, SS216b.

Note to readers: Figure numbers continue in sequence from Part 4 - PNG Calling Issue 277

Issued 16.02.1973, with the same front cover design as SB4, a total issued number stated as 98,000. This 70ct. booklet contains 10 x 7ct. **Telecommunication stamps Sg.231/4.** From sheets of 100, when divided there would be blocks of 10 stamps with the selvedge only on the left side or blocks of 10 stamps with the selvedge only on the right side. It is possible and known to have four different attaching methods.



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26

Top: "Two Choppers", attaching Method 1
Below: "Three Choppers", attaching Method 3

Shown at left all four attaching Methods (Figure 25).

Booklets with left-hand selvedge blocks show "Two helicopters at the Mt. Kerigomna Repeater Station" (stamp Sg. 232), and those with right-hand selvedge blocks show "Three helicopters at the Mt. Kerigomna Repeater Station".

There are three distinct printings, being a difference in the advertising (Figure 27),

- 1) BK5, MH5a, SS237c and referred to as TAA.
– 48,000 issued 16.2.1973.
- 2) BK5a, MH5b, SS237d and referred to as OLIVETTI.
– 25,000 issued 2.7.1973.
- 3) BK5b, MH5c, SS237e and referred to as BURNEY.
– 25,000 issued 2.7.1973.

Contrary to the reported issued numbers, BURNEY booklets appear to be far more plentiful of the three followed by TAA and least of all OLIVETTI.

The two different shades/depths of the Orange and Black colours and Mis-aligned guillo-

tinging are also found. The size is 120mm x 57 - 59mm.

It has also been reported where the booklet contains a block of Sg.229 7ct. Bishop Verjus, from the Missionary series.

A booklet is known with overprinting as follows: - "Balpex 73, 1-3 September Hunt Valley Inn, Baltimore Maryland" and "Papua New Guinea Post Office" (Figure 28). It is attaching Method 1, with TAA advertising. Despite ongoing inquiries information is scarce on this booklet. Could it be that the PNG Philatelic Bureau had a stand at the Balpex Exhibition similar to the Interpex Exhibition, or is this a private printing?

TO BE CONTINUED



Figure 27



Figure 28

HAMILTON CROAKER (1913-1998)

THE PHILATELIST'S PHILATELIST

By Nicholas Oughton (Australia)

(Editor: This is the first of what (we hope!) will be an ongoing series focusing on some of the great names in Papua, NG, & PNG philately. For interest, I tried to find a photo of Tony, without success).

Papua and New Guinea authority Roger Lee suggests that Hamilton Croaker's publication, *The Postmarks of British New Guinea and Papua to 1942* was a milestone in postal history as it gathered together vital information on the territory. Croaker also wrote authoritative accounts of the design, production and dissemination of the region's stamps in two publications he titled Lakatoi 1., and Lakatoi 2. and 3.

The latter volume (Lakatoi 2. and 3.) was considered by some to be ephemeral and lacking detail when compared to Lakatoi 1. However, negative comment could have stemmed from "sour grapes" on the part of UK members of the *Papuan Philatelic Society* who, 'Thought they should have been

consulted'.¹

In a foreword to Lakatoi 1, Croaker recognizes that, 'He who writes last has seen everyone else's hand and is able to make decisions from a position of strength'.² And so it was to be for those writers who followed Croaker's lead, building on his assiduous research and extensive knowledge.

Commenting on Croaker's contribution to philatelic research, *Papua and New Guinea Calling* said, '[His] need for accuracy was evident in his writing especially on the stamps and postal history of BNG and Papua for which he was an acclaimed authority'.³

Croaker's writings drew on the works of Fred Melville, Evan Gill, A. A. Rosenblum, Ray Kelly,

Notes

¹ Papua New Guinea Calling *Lakatoi 2 and 3, Notes On Members Reactions In The UK*. Vol 44, No 1. Issue 202, p 14

² Croaker, H. *Lakatoi 1: British New Guinea and De La Rue* (Foreword). New Century Press, Sydney, 1979.

³ Papua New Guinea Calling. *Hamilton (Tony) Croaker*. An obituary published in Vol 44, No 1. Issue 202 p 18

Roger Lee and other forerunners and in their turn fostered further study and publication by specialist such as Dr. Geoff Kellows, Dr, Michael Ryan, Tony Griffin, Michael Parr and Mark Robinson. Later writers benefited hugely from Croaker's research, the veracity and accuracy of which has been, in many cases affirmed.

The subject of this article, a cover I own, shown at **Figure 1** and its reverse at **Figure 2** shows that Croaker (like many other philatelists) was not averse to creating philatelic items of his own.

Sent to himself and postmarked at Port Moresby on 2nd April, 1935 (Lee 18), and registered (Lee R16), the letter (fig 1.) was sent by air to Salamau in New Guinea arriving there on the 15th April. The Lee 18, Port Moresby CDS was used widely from 1930 to 1942. Can anybody think why this article took 13-days to reach its destination.

The envelope is backstamped on reverse (as well as front) with a Powell/Loughran 107 date stamp. This date stamp was introduced around March 1st 1932. The envelope is franked with four Papua, Bi-colour, 2d, Deep brown-purple and Lake stamps (Sg. 96a) totaling 8d. The number 139 is written in pencil on the reverse – what could this refer to?



Figure 1



Figure 2

Rod Perry informs me that the 8d (at that time) would have been for the airmail rate of a 1oz (or slightly less) standard sized article. It would be comprised of 2d for the letter, plus 3d per half oz. airmail surcharge. Thus, a total charge of 2d + 6d for 1oz. airmail charge was applied i.e. 8d in total. Registration would have been 3d.

Croaker, a member the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club (RSPC) was a prodigious collector and his assemblage was described as one of the last "Old time" collections of Papua to come on the market. The collection was auctioned on 6th March, 1998 by Spink of London.

A flurry of books, essays and articles has spurred increased interest in the stamps and postal history of BNG and Papua. Croaker's work provides a context for these later publications and his books should be included on every philatelic bookshelf.

Thanks go to Roy Materne, Rod Perry, Richard Muller, Tony Griffin and Mark Robinson for providing valuable information for this article.



The Salamau date stamp, Powell/Loughran 107 used from approximately March 1932 to May 1938.

References

- Lee, Roger, *The Postal History of British New Guinea and Papua: 1885-1942*. Pall Mall Stamp Co, London, 1983
 Powell, J.H. *The Postal History of the Territory of, New Guinea: 1888-1942* Updated by Andrew Loughran. 2007.
 Available at, https://issuu.com/gino-bartali/docs/microsoft_word_-_powell_finaldraft5b-colour5

DECIPHERING THE UNUSUAL DATE-LINES OF SELECTED NEW GUINEA DATE-STAMPS

(ca. 1921 – 1926) Part 2b – By Rod Buchko (Canada)

TYPES OF NEW GUINEA DATE-STAMPS – 1914 to 1926

Note to readers: Figure numbers continue in sequence from Part 2

3. Permanent date-stamps – 4th phase – ca. 1921 – 1926

Possibly overlapping the usage of the previous type (permanent date-stamps – 3rd phase) and sometimes as a precursor to them we see usage of variously designed unique rubber date-stamps and hand-stamps at some of the more remote post offices. These have either 'District Office', 'P.O.' etc. as part of the post office name and are seen in all shapes and sizes: single or with double & triple inner lines; circular or oval and in the case of Buka Passage – a two-line undated handstamp. None of these have 'New Guinea' in the post office designation. A limited selection of examples can be seen in Figure 6.

Research objective

My research is primarily focused on the period 1921 – 26 where there is an apparent brief overlap (concurrent usage of) the two types of 1st phase permanent issue date-stamps and the rubber permanent ones. Subsequently some of the 1st phase permanents seem to have re-appeared at several post offices. Or, perhaps they had been in continuous use but in an unrecognizable format.



Figure 6⁸ Selection of 4th phase permanent date-stamps

Future Part 3 will discuss the weird or unusual date-lines seen on strikes of the 1st phase permanent date-stamps (see Figure 3). Subsequent Part 4 will attempt to explain the mechanism behind the observations noted in Part 3.

⁸ Black and white illustrations taken from John H. Powell's 'The Postal History of The Territory of New Guinea From 1888 to 1942'. Shown are Powell's '29', '42', unlisted (Powell & Laughran), '96' and Laughran '105a'. Examples of all strikes are from author's collection except 'Gasmatta' which is from Millennium Auction 41 Lot 1430.



Figure 3
1st phase permanent date-stamps
All District Offices (Post Offices) shown

2019 PPS AUCTION CLOSING JULY 1ST

EXTENDED
CLOSING DATE



Hopefully everyone is now aware that the closing date for the auction organised by Frank Wilson is **July 1st**. There is a nice selection of material in many areas (just a couple of items illustrated), and very reasonable estimates. You can view the auction (and bidding information) at the following address: <http://www.mailbyrail.com/ppsauction3>.

Get your bids into Frank by the 1st - his email address is: ppsauction@btinternet.com.



PPS AGM JUNE 15

The AGM is now confirmed - to be held at the Sydney Stamp Expo - check out the website at <https://www.sydneystampcoinexpo2019.org.au>. We are booked in for Sat (the 15th) 12:30-1:30. We would have liked more time but all meetings are limited to one hour. Let's assume we will move to another part of the show area if we want to extend our gathering.

The agenda for the AGM is to be finalised, but the preliminary program is:

- approve minutes of last meeting
- approve re-appointment of all office holders and approve Nick Oughton as Secretary
- approve accounts
- any other business

We don't have a formal program to follow the AGM - we're looking for a speaker (volunteers welcome) or two. Every member is asked to bring along **FIVE FAVOURITES** - 5 items that are favourites of yours, that you would share with the rest of the meeting - does NOT have to be formally written-up!

It is proposed to arrange a dinner that evening for anyone around (partners welcome). Details closer to the event.



We would like to get an idea of how many members plan to attend the meeting and how many would like to stay for dinner. **PLEASE EMAIL (richard@muller.id.au) IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING.**

Also at the Expo:

One of the highlights will be the *Australasian Challenge*, a philatelic competition between the six Australian States and the two islands of New Zealand. Each team is comprised of 6 people with two of those either a novice or junior exhibitor. The four adults are each from a different class.

Part of the Victorian team will be PPS member Alan Grey with his 8-frame postal history exhibit "*British New Guinea and Papua (1885-1942)*". Alan's exhibit now contains a September 1885 letter from Father Navarre of the Sacred Heart Mission on Thursday Island to Captain Musgrave, received in Port Moresby 1 OC 85. This was prior to the opening of the post office in Port Moresby. The letter was carried privately by the London Mission Society vessel. For all PPS members attending, this is a 'must-see'.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA PERSONALISED STAMPS

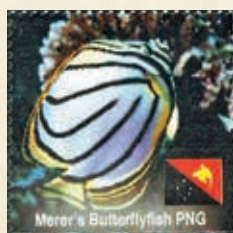
Part 2 – By Doug Spencer (Australia)

(Editor: Doug advises that many new designs have come to list since this article was prepared – comments/updates welcome)

FIRST SERIES

K3.35
– International Zones
1 & 2 up to 50g

Later issues



variety

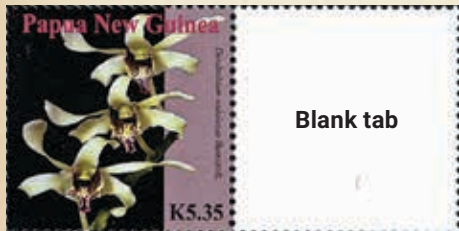


2018 reprint

The reprint adds the Provincial flag, changes Woman to Widow and places her further from the viewer.



The Sheet was inserted incorrectly to print the tab, resulting in the tab being printed (inverted) over the top of the stamp. There is an overlap of 4mm extending into the tab as the left hand side stamps are 26mm from the edge of the sheet whereas the last column of tabs are 30mm from the right edge of the sheet.



Blank tab

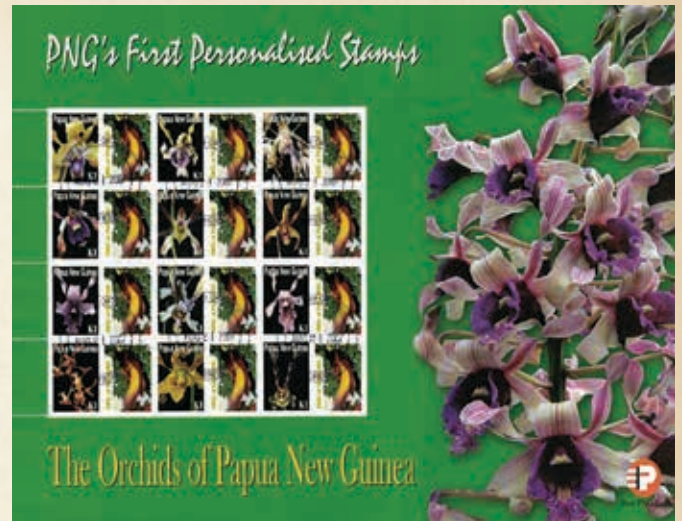
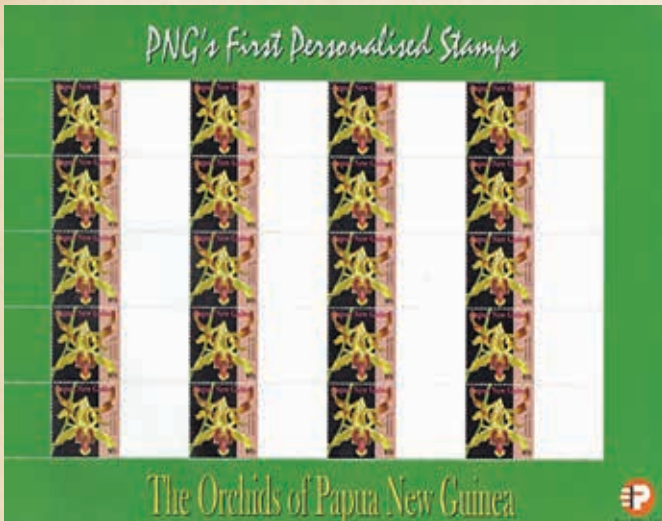
K5.35 – International Zone 3 to 50g for the 2006 year.

Later issues



First day of issue
21/08/2007





TO BE CONTINUED

INTERESTING EARLY GERMAN NEW GUINEA INWARDS MAIL

By Andrew Loughran (UK)

(Editor: This was provided by Andrew Loughran last year – only now appearing. However, it was sent along mainly for information so hopefully the delayed appearance here is forgiven. No info on the auction house and the estimate was 2800Euros).

New Guinea, 26.06.1888: early incoming mail from Lablachere/France with 25C foreign post via Paris (28.6.), Marseille (1.7.), Seepost Ned. Ind.-Singapore (25.7.) And Cooktown (11.8.88) where vs a triangle tax stamp and tax stamp was attached. Addressed to "Auguste Dupré/Blanche Baie Nouvelle Brittany/Oceanie/Nouvelle Guinee alle-



mande" went the letter on FINCHHAFEN (28.8.88) and from there with German "T." - Tax stamp to KERAWARA (8.9.88). Here, with negative seal of approval & signature of station assistant Bruno von Mengden the addressee officially confirmed that the letter did not exceed the weight of 15gm. Thus, the tax note of 1/1 (1 shilling 1 penny) attached to Cooktown was probably not claimed. Great and unique receipt from the DNG-early days with postmark & seal of KERAWARA.

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

INSIDER DEALING

• By Robert Benoist (UK) •

(Editor: This article first appeared in a 2006 publication. Robert always intended to send it along to us and we're delighted he has finally gotten around to it! It is a rather unique bit of original research. Enjoy!)

"...the evil men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones"

Julius Caesar - Act III Scene II

Colonel Babington Ravenscroft may have rejoined in a name redolent of the upper echelons of the officer classes but it could never be said that he was a gentleman. Few servicemen in time of war could have been court martialled on no less than three occasions, each for alleged offences of dishonesty, and lived to tell the tale. It is perhaps symptomatic of the Edwardian old boy network that Ravenscroft, having been cashiered from the Royal Scots Regiment in 1901 for stealing money from fellow officers¹ should later be accepted into the Australian Army as a lieutenant. Stranger still is his promotion to Captain and appointment as Provost Marshall in October 1914 on the *Berrima* shortly before the landing of Australian Military and Naval Expeditionary Force in German New Guinea² because Colonel Holmes "thought he was a decent sort"¹.

Our first description of Ravenscroft in action is provided by Karl Weller, the German *Postsekrciar*

at Rabaul, writing in an official report following his repatriation to Germany⁶.

"On 12 September, Rabaul was occupied by the enemy. The post office and my private dwelling were thoroughly searched for three hours by the military police, consisting mostly of Australian secret police. The commanding officer of the military police, the Provost Marshall Captain Ravenscroft, took everything he thought valuable. He didn't want to issue receipts for the confiscated items. He explained to me that this would not be necessary, since he had worked out a system whereby all confiscated things would be receipted only by an inventory. I asked him to ensure that the account books, the last quarterly accounts and the receipts of current account would be kept in security so that I would be able to present subsequent accounts. He promised to do this.

In searching my personal belongings, the small stamp supply and the postal accounts were found. Ravenscroft himself also confiscated my own mon-



Group portrait in the Officers' Mess of Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF), Rabaul, Sept 1914

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

INSIDER DEALING *By Robert Benoist (UK)*

ey (about 140 Marks), my life insurance card, my Bremen savings account slip and numerous objects of value. These items were to remain impounded until I had proven my right of possession. I never got them back.

On 13 September the Provost Marshall occupied the postal building. He also set up an office there. I therefore had to vacate the post office. All of my property was retained; I couldn't even take the most necessary laundry with me. Lineman Kleppek also had to pull out. On this day I still tried to destroy the stamp supply, valued at 1,839 Marks, stored by the New Guinea Company, since the cashier Maute told me that he had stored it in the safe. This spot seemed to me too unsafe as a hiding place. But Maute didn't want to take the stamps out, since the New Guinea Company building had been occupied by a strong guard."

And later:

"After my return to Rabaul, I tried to obtain from the Provost Marshall the release of the things I had



had to leave behind in the postal building. The answer I received was that all my belongings were to be confiscated, since the suspicion endured that I still hid official property. On 25 September I had a long discussion with him. We conversed mainly about personal things. The Provost Marshall had learned through the

first officer of the battleship *Australia* that I had had difficulty with the new Governor Holmes because of robberies committed in my home by the Provost Marshall and the military police. This mainly concerned ten Bird of Paradise skins and a large number of cassowary feathers which I had stored in a trunk that Ravenscroft had broken open. He maintained that he had opened the trunk in order to determine if the birds were still there. I was then able to confirm that the items were still present. But the Provost Marshall had forgotten to put the larger half of the stolen cassowary feathers back in the trunk. I discovered them in a drawer of his writing table. When I brought this to his attention, he became angry and turned the conversation to official matters.

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.

⁶ Robert M. Gibbs, *G.R.I.*, Christies Robson Lowe, Bournemouth (1988).

TO BE CONTINUED

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

Quarterly meetings are held the last Friday of the month
31 May 2019 | 30 August 2019 | 29 November 2019 | 28 February 2020

Meeting place:

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc
Purves House, 303 High Street, 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)