

# 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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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*Dear PPS members,*

I noted in the last report about Alan Grey's achievement in attaining a Gold Medal from his fantastic exhibition in the London show in February 2022. In this addition we are pleased to be able to provide members with some lovely covers from the above-mentioned exhibit, courtesy of Alan.

For even enjoyment for the cover lovers amongst us we have been given permission by Stanley Gibbons to reprint their Rev W. G. Iremonger story. Many/most collectors may know the name from his many prepared covers but little or nothing about the person. This may help add some 'character' to his covers.

Several other great articles in this edition that we hope all members will appreciate including a nice one from Doug Spencer on the unissued 5-shilling Patrol Party stamps.

Again, we urge all members either experts in their field or starting out novice collectors to pick up their pens and start adding to the journal for all members to enjoy and for future members in years to come. Doesn't have to be pages and pages even short stories or interesting pictures with questions. The more participation the better the journal will become.

We made mention in the last edition that our auctioneer Mr Frank Wilson has withdrawn from active involvement in the society to focus on health issues. However, this will leave the society with a large hole to fill as we need another person to step up and take over the role of auctioneer. Unfortunately, we have not had anyone put their hand up to take over this important role. If anyone did have some spare time and would be happy to take this on, then the committee would all be very supportive in getting you up to speed.

In closing I had a request from a member a few months back to start listing all new members in these editions as was done in years past and I will ask the editor to consider this request.

Stay safe, have fun and don't let your stamps get wet.

*Cheers!*  
*Mark (Robbo) Robinson*

PPS Chairman (Australia)



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



# THE CURIOUS TALE OF PAM PRESCOTT - TPNG STAMP DESIGNER

(Ed: This follows on from a "Help Wanted" item in the Sept/Oct 2017 issue – p11- and followed up in the May 2020 issue – p7. The research was done over some years by Doug Spencer (Aust); Maurie Clark (Aust) facilitated the preparation of this article. As is often said in stamp collecting – "the final word is never written"!)

The initial 2017 query regarding Pam Carnielo generated a follow-up reply and additional information has now been collated by Doug Spencer. Her contribution to PNG stamp design was extensive and mostly unrecognised. That is partly due to the scattered and somewhat confusing information available.

So, below are some of the highlights and snippets that have come to light.

She painted under her maiden name of Carnielo; her husband, Valentine Prescott, was the Chief Archivist. She resided in the Territory from 1956 to 1966 and is credited with no less than 23 territory postage stamps (mostly done in watercolour and poster paint) and several first day covers.

She was a talented painter and was a finalist in the 1957 Wynne Prize (one of Australia's oldest running art prizes (for landscapes) for a scene of Douglas Street, Port Moresby). Figure 1 is from an undated newspaper article showing her holding some of her abstract designs of native carvings held in the Port Moresby Museum.

Her accepted stamp designs were based either on photographs and scholarly articles of others, or from viewing the actual artefacts held in the Port Moresby Museum. There is no evidence that she

went anywhere outside of Port Moresby to produce any of her stamp designs, though she did travel widely around the country.

The Bureau did not commission work at that stage, and none of her artwork appears to have survived.

Some of her designs are shown in Figures 2-5 (all signed by her), with a special mention of the issue for the Fifth South Pacific Conference held in Pago Pago in 1962.



Figure 1



Figure 3 - Artifacts (an updated newspaper article notes that her design for this series won a Certificate of Merit at an international stamp exhibition in New York)



Figure 2 - First accepted design



Figure 4 - Beetles

Technical Details  
Stamp Size - 42mm x 26mm. Sheets - 6 x 6 = 36  
Printing Technique - Intaglio Artist - Mrs. P. M. Prescott, Port Moresby

Colour - 5d. - Red Brown and Green  
- 1s. 6d. - Purple and Yellow  
- 2s. 6d. - Green and Blue

Printer - Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne.  
Mrs. Prescott's design was also adopted by the French possessions New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis & Futuna

Figure 5 - Fifth South Pacific Conference, July 1962 (The official technical information sheet – edited – notes that her design was also "adopted" by the French possessions. There have been suggestions that the use of her design was not done with her consent or involvement).

## HELP WANTED

by Jeff Marks (Australia)

## UNCLAIMED AT PORT MORESBY

A study is being conducted by the PPS on the 'UNCLAIMED AT PORT MORESBY' handstamp, Lee type 105A. Six inward items have been recorded to date in the years 1920 to 1937: a 1920 post card from Hungary; a 1931 cover from the U.K.; a 1934 cover from New Zealand; a 1934 cover from the U.K.; a 1936 post card from Germany (Fig 1); and a 1937 cover from Australia (Fig 2).

It is rated as G (by Lee) or RRRR (very rare) suggesting up to 10 examples are believed to exist.

If you have any items with this handstamp, an image in the range of 300 to 600 dpi can be forwarded with much appreciation to papuanphilatelicsociety@gmail.com and will be treated, as expected, with the utmost discretion.



Figure 1



Figure 2

## PAPUAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OFFICERS

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## 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

# AN INTERESTING INWARDS MAIL (PORT MORESBY) CARD WITH SOME HISTORY

By Richard Muller (Australia)

This recently acquired 1912 postcard (Figs 1 & 2) from Port Said, Egypt to PM was a nice addition to my “inwards mail” collection. However, the recipient made it an especially welcome addition.



Figure 1



Figure 2

From the number of covers I have seen over the years, it is apparent that something odd was certainly happening in Samarai – too many to be coincidental but no idea ‘who’ or ‘why’. Anyway, the use of these fiscal stamps for postage was not unknown at various times from various post offices around Papua – apparently more by accident than design.

The name “A. Naish” is very familiar to me, having come across his name many years ago – see my initial article in the June 1982 issue of “P.P.S. Stamp News” (as our journal was then called). If your own library does not go that far back, let me know – richard@muller.id.au - and I can send you a scan).

Albert Naish was the Manager of the Union Bank in Port Moresby in 1912. This was the same period in which number of letters from Samarai were posted in May of 1912, using the 1d monochrome overprinted “Stamp Duty” (Fig 3 for an example). I have no reason (or evidence) to think that Naish had any involvement in the Samarai episode. For reasons I have never discovered, a myth grew up amongst philatelists that the use of these overprints was officially approved by the postal authorities.

See Fig 4 (Port Moresby cds “12DEC10” and Bury St Edmunds “FE-4-11”) for an example of a Naish cover to the UK – and note the name of the recipient – ah, you’re getting the drift. Albert Naish was indeed a philatelist; his name comes up in various Australian stamp journals after he retired to Sydney. Was that “Stamp Duty” fiscal an accident? Or did Naish arrange for its use? Whatever the circumstance, it absolutely went through the mails and can be considered ‘genuine’ usage.

Naish was manager of the Union Bank (which eventually was absorbed by the ANZ Bank) and I managed to obtain a copy of his employment record – something unlikely to be made available these day!



Figure 3



Figure 4

An extract is illustrated in Fig 5. For interest, his successor as manager at PM earned considerably less!

Port Moresby was described as “a drab dusty little town quite devoid of tropical character, with a permanent population of perhaps a hundred (Ed: Europeans)” (James Sinclair, *Uniting a Nation*, 1984). The Union Bank and Bank of New South Wales opened branches in 1911 and only then did a butcher, baker and chemist also set up shop.

Some time after learning more about Albert Naish, I happened to come across a selection of mail to the Naish family. Apparently Mrs. Naish also had quite a range of correspondence overseas and a selection of those covers & cards is shown in Fig 6.

Comments and further information would be welcome.

Date	Particulars	Debit	Credit	Balance	Remarks
1911 Jan 1	Balance b/d		500	500	
1911 Jan 31	Salary		500	1000	
1911 Feb 28	Salary		500	1500	
1911 Mar 31	Salary		500	2000	
1911 Apr 30	Salary		500	2500	
1911 May 31	Salary		500	3000	
1911 Jun 30	Salary		500	3500	
1911 Jul 31	Salary		500	4000	
1911 Aug 31	Salary		500	4500	
1911 Sep 30	Salary		500	5000	
1911 Oct 31	Salary		500	5500	
1911 Nov 30	Salary		500	6000	
1911 Dec 31	Salary		500	6500	

Figure 5



Figure 6

## POSTMARK TRIVIA (cont'd from May Issue 2022 p.3)

By Sid Dikes (Australia)

Mount Hagen CDS MT-6, MT-7, MT-8 and MT-9 were in use from July 1977. Early in 1993 it was reported that both MT-7 and MT-9 were still in use and in reasonable condition. MT-9 was still in use 27th December 1995, after a period of 18 years even though the “4” is now very faint.



TO BE CONTINUED

(Ed: We're delighted to acknowledge Alan Grey's Gold Medal at the London Show in February. He has allowed us to include some of his highlight pages, which will be shown in an ongoing series. Enjoy)

**QUEENSLAND ADMINISTRATION – Rates Period up to 1906**

**Mail to Non British Empire**



1906, October 2, Samarai to Washington DC, USA, single 2½d letter rate.  
Backstamped Sydney 22.10.06, Seattle, Wash. 24.11.06, and Washington DC 29.11.06.

Scarce SAMARAI BRITISH NEW GUINEA handstamp only in use February 1906 to October 1906



1902, July 2, Port Moresby to Springfield, Mass., USA, double 2½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee (1d overpaid)  
Redirected from Springfield to Boston.  
Backstamped Cooktown 4.8.02, Brisbane 12.8.02, Tecoma Washington 4.09.02, Springfield, Mass. 11.09.02 and Boston, Mass. 11.09.02.



1901, November 7, Port Moresby to Cleveland, Ohio, USA, single 2½d letter rate.  
Backstamped Thursday Island 21.11.01, Brisbane 1.12.01, Vancouver 25.12.01 and Cleveland 30.12.01

Scarce DARU B.N.G. transit handstamp used December 1899 to December 1906



(75% scan of Reverse)

24 ore of Norwegian postage due stamps



1901, July 12, Woodlarks to Solor, Norway, 2½d letter rate (1½d underpaid, probably due to lack of stamps at this small Post Office)  
Backstamped Samarai 18.7.01, Cooktown 22.7.01, Brisbane 9.8.01 and Christiania (Oslo) 10.9.01  
15/CTMS/T handstamp indicating only the 1½d underpaid postage (applied at Samarai)

24 ore (3d equivalent) indicating double deficiency as per UPU Regulations (applied in Norway)

This is the only cover recorded from British New Guinea to Norway

**LONDON GOLD MEDAL** (cont'd from May Issue 2022 p.7)

**QUEENSLAND ADMINISTRATION – Rates Period up to 1906**

**Mail to Non British Empire**



1904, December 9, Port Moresby to Wilmersdorf, Germany, 5 times single 2½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Sydney 21.12.04 and Wilmersdorf 25.1.05



1903, September 12, Port Moresby to Polten, Austria, double 2½d letter rate. Backstamped Cooktown 17.9.03, Brisbane 24.9.03, Napoli 30.10.03 and Polten 1.11.03

This letter was not Registered at Port Moresby, but may have contained coin, and was therefore Registered at Brisbane, though it then should have been taxed.



(E) 1906, September 6, Samarai to Sollingen, Germany, 1½d overseas postcard rate.

SAMARAI – BRITISH NEW GUINEA canceller was only in use February 1906 to October 1906.



(E) 1906, April 17, Port Moresby to Berne, Switzerland, quadruple single 2½d letter rate.

**Exhibited By Alan Grey (Australia)**

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## Wanderings of a Philatelist

By Rev. W. G. IREMONGER

### III. PAPUA.

PAPUA is part of the largest island in the world (if Australia be counted as a continent), and its history is very short up to the present. It was in 1874 that the country first came into prominence, owing to the surveys and reports of Captain Moresby. It was recognized that the possibility of the coasts opposite Australia being occupied by a foreign power constituted a menace to the Commonwealth, and in consequence Queensland annexed the shores opposite to it, but its action was disallowed by the home Government. However, in 1884, owing to the pressure brought to bear, a protectorate was declared over the country east of 141° E. Germany annexed the northern portion of the territory that was not claimed by the Dutch, and the boundary of the respective spheres was fixed by mutual agreement, the line of 5° S. being the dividing line between the two.

Thus the history of Papua really commences in that year—1884, when it was placed under an administrator; in 1888 it became a Crown Colony under the first Lieutenant-Governor, Sir William McGregor. In 1901 it was taken under the control of the Australian Government, since when it has formed a territory of Australia.

Papua is one of the best examples of European control to be found anywhere, mainly owing to the splendid work of its first Governor, who was well backed up by his subordinates. Under the Governor is an Administrative Council, and a band of R.M.s; these are the only Europeans who have anything to do with the government. Under the R.M.s is a body of native Constabulary, entirely recruited from the Papuans themselves; there is also in each village a village constable, who is responsible for the maintenance of order, and peace, and is generally to look after the village itself, to keep it clean and sanitary, and to put down all such things as head-hunting and witchcraft, which were the bane of the people at one time.

It is delightful to read how the village constables and constabulary are recruited. In the early days it happened that the natives occasionally broke out, and indulged in their ancient sport of head-hunting, or even killed a white man. If it was a first offence the village chief was, as a rule, taken to Port Moresby to be judged, where he would be sentenced to a term of imprisonment, usually short; and on the expiry of his term he would be sent back more often than not to his own village

as the village constable, with the authority of the Government behind him, and with the knowledge that it would pay him best to keep straight; also, of course, he gained in importance among his people by his official position. Of course this does not apply to noted bad characters among the natives, of whom there were a few.

In the same way the constabulary are enrolled, any particularly prominent man being added to the force, and thus it happens that many of the best of the under-officers were in the early days noted head-hunters. It seems at first as if this proceeding would be rather risky, but it has paid wonderfully in the long run, and the Constabulary is a fine force.

In the early days it is, of course, a fact that the class of Europeans that went to Papua was not of the best; they went, as a rule, to get what they could out of the country any way that they could; there were many "hard nuts," as you may judge from the fact that one of them went by the sobriquet of "Jimmy-from-Heaven," owing to the fact that he had been condemned to be hung in some other country, but owing to the rope breaking three times he had been chucked out of the country, and escaped his punishment. Now, however, the class of Europeans that go to the country is of a very different stamp, and it is pleasant to record the fact that all work together amicably for the good of the natives—officials, traders and missionaries. All alcohol is forbidden to be sold to the natives under the heaviest penalties, and the second offence means expulsion from the territory. Again, all competition between the different Missionary bodies is effectually squashed, as each body has a separate sphere, beyond which it is not allowed to go. The result of the work of all those who are doing their best for the native, in whatever direction, is nothing short of marvellous; it is said that it is difficult to find a native of over forty who has not been a cannibal, while it is impossible to find one of under that age who has been one. It is typical of what has been, that one of the landing-places is called by a native name that means, literally, "The Place of the Roasting of Visitors."

Papua is connected with Australia by steamer: there is a monthly mail that leaves Sydney about the beginning of the month by the steamship *Morinda*, which calls at Brisbane and Cairns in Australia, then at Port Moresby, Tahira (or Bootless Inlet), and Samarai in the Territory, returning by the same route; every second month a call is

made at Yule Island, and every third month at Woodlark Island, which thus gets a mail four times in a year. Coastal services are arranged for taking the mail to outside settlements from the ports named above. Besides this, a monthly mail leaves Port Moresby, on the arrival of the steamer, overland for Kokoda, Ioma and Buna Bay, these last two being on the northern coast.

There are in all ten P.O.s in the Territory of Papua, Port Moresby, the capital, being the head office; next in importance is Samarai, an island off the extreme south, Daru in the extreme north-west, and Abau between Port Moresby and Samarai; in the centre of the island is Kokoda, a health resort, and the favourite station for a R.M., while on the north coast are Ioma, the very opposite of the last, and Buna Bay. The latest office to be opened is at Hisiu in 1924; there was formerly an office at Kanosia, about forty miles to the north-west of Port Moresby, which was closed, and now an office has been opened in the same district but nearer the coast at Hisiu. The remaining two offices are on the islands to the south-east of Samarai. The first is Kulumadau. This office has been through many changes. At first it was called Woodlarks, as it is on the island of that name; then it was named Bonagai; now it has been moved to higher ground, and is named Kulumadau. It is interesting to note that, while the postmark was changed, the old Registered labels of Bonagai were still used, so that entires are to be found with the postmark Kulumadau, and the Registered mark of Bonagai. The other P.O. is on the island of Misima, which is called on most maps by its old name of S. Aignan. Bwagoia is the place at which the Government Station is situated; the P.O. here was established in June, 1920. There is an interesting fact about this office. When it was first opened the name was spelt "Bwagoia," and I have an example of this mark in purple, dated 23 Aug. 20; I have also entires with the same postmark in black, showing date 4 Jan. 22; the next date that I have is March, 1923, by which time the name had been changed to "Bwagoia."

All these marks are of the same form with the exception of the first Bwagoia one: the name of the office round the top of a circle 25 mm. in diameter, with the letters "C.D." or "N.D.", e.g. after it, and "Papua" at the bottom; date across the centre. The first Bwagoia mark spelt "Bwagoia" is different in that the circle is larger (28 mm.), and there are two concentric lines between the upper and lower words. In some cases the letters after the name are absent. These letters signify the district in which the office is situated. There are now six districts in the Territory: Central, Western (Daru), Eastern (Samarai), Northern (Kokoda), North-Eastern (no office), South-Eastern (Kulumadau); each of these is under a R.M. of its own, and are

divided thus for administrative purposes, not postal.

I had an amusing experience when collecting the postmarks of Papua. I had looked at the map, and seen an island (which shall be nameless), which I thought would belong to Australia. I therefore sent some envelopes franked by Australian stamps. Nothing happened for over four months, when one morning I received two envelopes from Papua, one Registered, and the other not. I opened the latter first, and thought that I had to deal with a strange person, if nothing worse, as it contained a request that I would send two plain hankies instead of one fancy one "as I am no longer young." . . . I then turned to the other one, and found that I had made a mistake, as the island was in Papua, and used those stamps, so, in order not to disappoint me, the postmistress had enclosed them in another and sent them on to me thus; as she had to pay the postage she requested me to send her a "hanky" in return. I thus have as a remembrance of the incident a set of Australian kangaroos postmarked with a Papuan mark. In a later letter, when I had written for some stamps, and had forgotten to enclose enough for postage, I received a request for a lace collar. The lady evidently found my first choice to her taste, and wanted some more. Such incidents are a recompense for the various troubles that beset a wandering philatelist.

May I warn collectors against stamps of the unicoloured series with "Cape Nelson" postmarks? This office was opened in 1913, and only received supplies of the "large Papua" stamps; it was closed down the same year, and has not been reopened since, therefore any stamps bearing later dates, of which I have seen some, are wrong.

If anyone is desirous of learning more of this delightful country, may I recommend two excellent books by Captain Monckton, one of the early R.M.s? I shall be pleased to give the names to any enquirer sending stamp for answer.

**An Australian "Special."** The September issue of the *Victorian Philatelic Record* is a Commonwealth special number. It is full of interest for specialists, and those two stalwarts, Messrs. A. A. Rosenblum and J. R. W. Purves, have some very interesting contributions to the study of Commonwealth issues.

**A "J.P.S." Essay Competition.** The Junior Philatelic Society is promoting an essay competition for collectors who are under nineteen on January 1st, 1928. Two silver cups are offered, one for boys, and the other for girls. Full details of the contest can be obtained from Major Gold, 44 Fleet Street, E.C., if a stamped addressed envelope is sent.

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA CALLING

## TPNG UNISSUED 5/- PATROL PARTY STAMP

*By Doug Spencer (Australia)*

In 2012, Raymond J Kelly (PPS member number 19) published a monograph dealing with the unissued 5 shillings Patrol Party stamp. Ray was able to positively identify 3 sheets that were last known intact in London, Sydney and Port Moresby. All 3 sheets were from the London experimental printing of 1960, sheets numbered in the lower left corner area, 60 stamps per sheet – 12 rows of 5.

The London sheet (Fig 1), numbered 2992, was broken up by dealer Barry Kleinberg in 1970, who sold some stamps to his UK clients and the balance apparently to Australian dealer Bill Driver (339). Fred Bartu (97) recalled being shown the stock purchased by Driver and in fact purchased some from him. The sheet number block of four was owned by Clifford Crush (744) before being sold by Melbourne auction house Prestige Philately in 2010.



Figure 1

The Sydney sheet, numbered 2840, was sold by Stanley Gibbons in 1994 to Sydney dealer Kevin Duffy, who on-sold it to Glen Stephens, who broke up the sheet. The auction description by SG includes the interesting statement “One of three sheets that surfaced in London in 1970”. It is believed that Kleinberg originally possessed all 3 sheets, and if that is the case, then there is at least one other sheet number still to be discovered.

The Port Moresby sheet, numbered 694, was photographed in the philatelic archives by Maxwell Hayes (533) in July 1974. It, along with all other items in the collection, disappeared some time around the turn of the century. When I was putting together the brief for Ray to research, Robin Linke (677) advised me that he felt there was a new source of material of late (this was around 2006).

Earlier to Ray’s work, in 2002 Ken Humphreys (1071) published his findings which differed from

Ray’s, inasmuch as Ken states regarding the Port Moresby archives “2 sheets of 12 rows of 5 mounted on album pages”. Ray disputed this, but did acknowledge that Ken appeared to have had access to material that he (Ray) did not.

How to reconcile these figures? Ray relied upon the Australia Post archives for material that had been transferred there from the Note Printing Branch in the 1990’s and he notes that the TPNG philatelic collection received one full sheet and 3 sheets of different single colours (Magenta, Yellow and Blue). My belief is that these arose from the Melbourne printing and that Max Hayes did not sight them, whereas sheet 694 is from the London printing. How and when exactly no. 694 got to Port Moresby is a mystery.

Nine years on from Ray’s monograph and the situation became even murkier. Stanley Gibbons offered for sale a full sheet from the Melbourne printing, numbered 13257 in the lower right corner area, in their November 17/18, 2021 auction. At the same time, Ace Auctions in Perth offered a block numbered 13275 (Fig 2) plus the un-numbered left lower block from the same sheet. Stamps from this sheet had been dribbled onto the market in prior years without fanfare. No-one was the wiser as there are only slight differences in the “warmth” of the colours between the London and Melbourne printings, and the existence of any Melbourne sheets was not then known.

My enquiries of the Australia Post archivist revealed that they are holding sheets numbered 13255, 13268 and 13269, quite a tight little grouping including the escapees.

No doubt the story will continue to evolve.



Figure 2