

CAPTAIN COQK

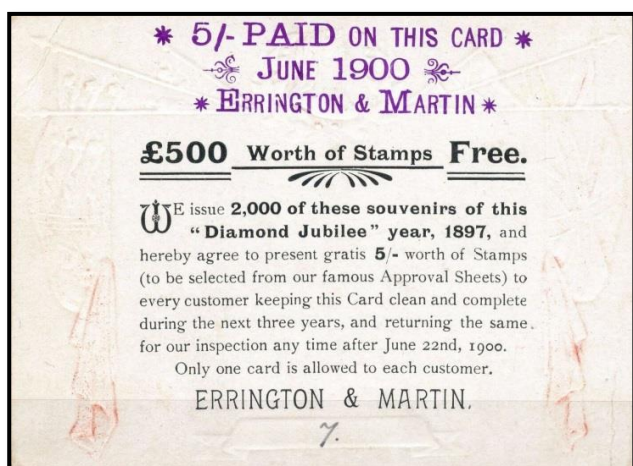
NEWSLETTER OF THE
CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

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1897 Diamond Jubilee



For Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, London Stamp Dealers Messrs Errington & Martin came up with a novel promotional idea. They gave out 2000 cards with the promise of redeeming them for 5/- worth of stamps three years later in June 1900. This was conditional on the card being presented "clean and complete".

As an additional bonus, they attached stamps from New Brunswick and New Zealand to the front of the card. I wonder if this was a temptation to impact on the completeness element of the conditions?

Stephen Jones

Correspondence Stemming From December's Issue

In December's issue, the small piece I wrote on the Mullan cover commented that New Zealand was the only country to have a stamp from the Victorian era still valid for use on May 6, 1940. Apparently this isn't quite the case as CPS member Stephen Prest advises.



In his email, Stephen goes on to say:

"..... Victorian era postage stamps of Canada and the former colony of Newfoundland are still valid for use up to the present time. The most recent demonetization of Canada's postage stamps occurred in 1858 while all Newfoundland stamps since their decimalization in 1865 remain valid today. NO this is NOT an misprint, read 1858 and 1865, more than 150 years ago and counting, and still valid.

One source mentions that an 1897 \$5 Queen Victoria Jubilee, catalogue value £1400+, would not pay the cost for a local registered letter in 2018. It would require two of them to be affixed to the envelope to meet the current \$10 rate."

Well, who knew??

I should have qualified the comments I made in the article in that (anecdotaly) the NZ Queen Victoria Long Type stamps were still valid and available for use rather than being still valid for use.

Stephen Jones

December Meeting



John Shirley with his display of fine QEII definitive material

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY 4 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

FEBRUARY 12 SOCIETY MEETING **Member's Night (Wine & Cheese too)**
Arts & Entertainment

Member's Night (your favourite)

Arts and Entertainment

Don't be literal, be lateral with your interpretation
Followed by the ever popular Wine & Cheese treat

FEBRUARY 19 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

MARCH 4 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

MARCH 12 SOCIETY MEETING John Kersel on the sinking of the "Tahiti"
Crash, Wreck and Disaster Mail theme

MARCH 19 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

MARCH 26 POSTCARD GROUP Alan's display of Armistice Day postcards

All meetings are held at the Philatelic Centre, 67 Mandeville St, Riccarton, and commence at 7.30 pm. (Library night closes at 10 pm)

SOCIETY ADDRESS: PO Box 9246, Tower Junction, Christchurch 8149
(website) www.cps.gen.nz
(emails) Use the "Contact" facility in the website

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Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc) Subscription Rates

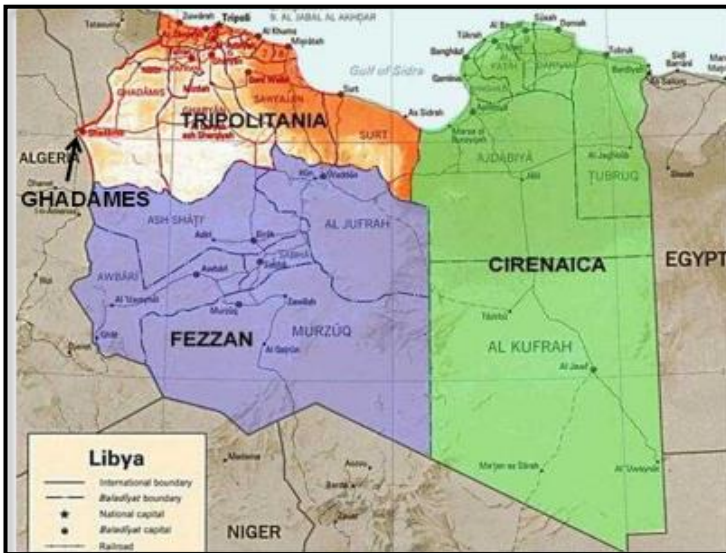
The annual subscription to the Society is \$60.00. A \$10.00 discount may be deducted if paid by March 31st (or on application for membership) Where both husband and wife are members but require only one *CAPTAIN COQK* newsletter to be sent, a combined subscription of \$90.00 is charged, \$15.00 discount allowed. Additional postage is charged to cover the extra cost of posting to overseas addresses. Overseas postage rates are as follows: Australia & South Pacific \$13.20 Rest of the world \$18.70 (Economy rate discontinued)

The view expressed in this issue of *CAPTAIN COQK* are not necessarily those of the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc) but are simply those of the respective authors

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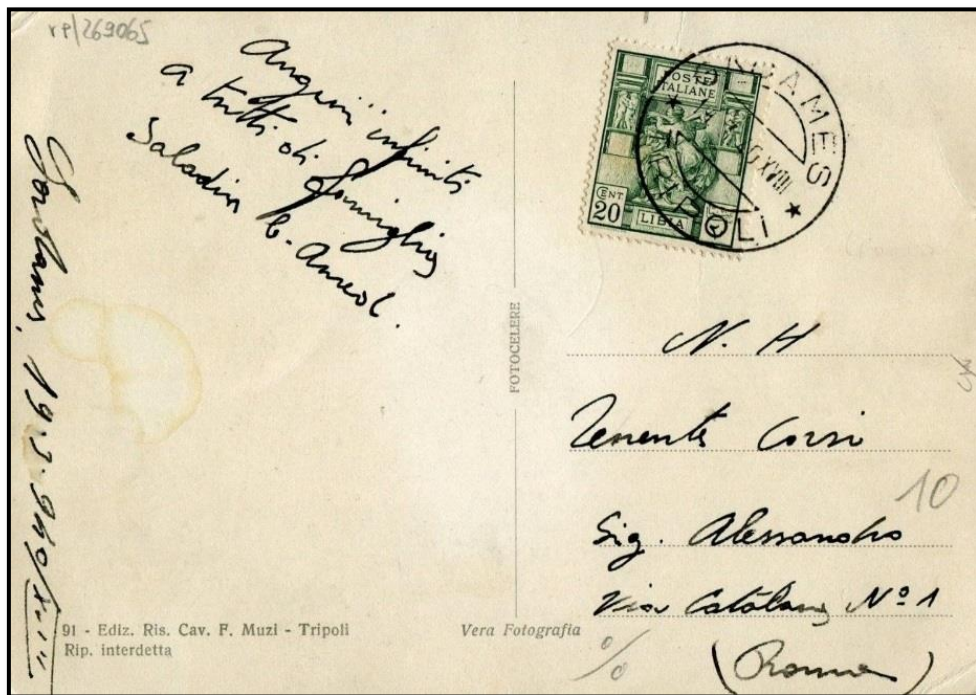
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Where On Earth Is: Fezzan-Ghadames?

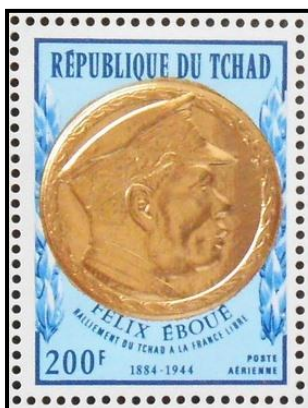


After the Italian-Ottoman War 1912, Italy had only nominal control of Libya's southern hinterland. Italy's entry into World War 1 on the side of the Entente caused a revolt of Libyans who largely supported the Ottoman Empire. The Acroma Treaty signed April 17, 1917, acknowledged Italy's cessation of control of most of Libya, only retaining control of the coastal region. On October 31, 1922, Benito Mussolini became prime minister of Italy. Mussolini

and the Fascist government reversed the previous government's policies and saw Libya as the "fourth shore and an important part of the Italian Empire which Mussolini wanted to expand. In February 1924 Ghadames was re-occupied. Sebha, capital of Fezzan, was re-occupied in February 1929 and Murzuq in January 1930. As part of a deal to get Italy into the war, Britain agreed to cede to Libya the Egyptian Kufra province. This occurred in 1919.



Italian mail postmarked Gadames Tripoli cancelled 19 March 1940



However it was only on February 20, 1931 that Italy managed to finally control the Kufra region. In 1937, southern Libya was termed "Territorio Militare del Sud", Southern Military Territory or the "Territorio del Sahara Libico" (Libyan Sahara Territory).

On August 26, 1940 Félix Éboué, governor of Chad, declared his support of De Gaulle's Free French Government. In a short time, French Equatorial Africa supported De Gaulle. Outside of Vichy French West Africa, Libya was the only other Axis territory that the Free French forces could attack directly,, (via Chad)

French forces in Northern Chad were ill equipped to tackle the well-armed Italian forces. Also it was 400km from either Murzuq or Kufra. With the assistance of and in conjunction with the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG), Free French forces from Chad successfully attacked the Italian air base at Murzuq on 11 January 1941.

On January 31 the LRDG and Free French forces from Chad commenced operations to take Kufra. The LRDG was spotted by Italian aircraft and were attacked by superior Italian forces. The LRDG's leader was captured with the plans to take Kufra.

Leclerc decided to carry on with the operation even though he knew the Italians had the plans. On February 17, Free French arrive at Kufra having lost half of the men and equipment due to vehicle failure. Leclerc's tactics gave the impression to the Italian defenders that there were more Free French troops than what there actually were. On March 1, 1941, Leclerc persuaded the Italian commander to surrender. Free French forces occupied Kufra.



D'Ornano was killed on the Murzuq raid



French mail postmarked RF (French) Sebha, Fezzan cancelled 13 June 1943

After the Second Battle of El Alamein, October 23 - November 4, 1942, British forces steadily pushed back the Afrika Korps and Italians. On November 11, British forces entered Libya for the 3rd and this time permanently. Britain claimed the eastern part of the Southern Military Territory, the bit the Free French had captured in 1941, as part of British controlled Cyrenaica.

This left the western portion, Fezzan, still in Italian control. De Gaulle was preparing to take this bit of Libya and then combine with British forces to attack Tripolitania and Tunisia. Britain feared De Gaulle meant to take Fezzan and incorporate it into a French colony.



Libya 1921 overprinted Fezzan French occupation

However, Anthony Eden convinced the War Office in late 1942 that Fezzan was of no strategic use to Britain. Accordingly, Free French troops occupied Murzuk, the chief town of Fezzan, on January 16, 1943. Ghadames was taken by Free French forces on January 29.



Military Territory of Fezzan and Ghadames 1946

De Gaulle established the Military Territory of Fezzan-Ghadames and proceeded to administer the territory from Sebha. French administration was largely exercised through Ahmed Sayf Al Nasr, head of the Sayf Al Nasr clan, and other family members who had returned from exile in French Equatorial Africa. Thousands of other refugees that had fled Fezzan for Chad also returned with the advancing Free French forces. At the lower echelons, French troop commanders acted in both military and civil capacities according to customary French practice in the Algerian Sahara.

Initial French plans called for Fezzan integration into French Equatorial Africa. However, Félix Éboué on September 22, 1943 stated that French Equatorial Africa did not have the resources to administer Fezzan. In the west, Ghat was attached to the French military region of southern Algeria and Ghadames to the French Tunisia. Libyan nationalists feared French intentions to split Fezzan from Libya.

For France, Fezzan had great political and strategic importance. It provided a defensible region protecting northern Chad and southern Algeria. It also was the quickest route to link Niger and Chad with Algeria and Tunisia. France worked to integrate Fezzan financially and administratively into French Algeria, so as to isolate it from the rest of Libya. Progressive social policies were combined with repressive political measures to quell any latent independence movements.



Military Territory of Fezzan 1949

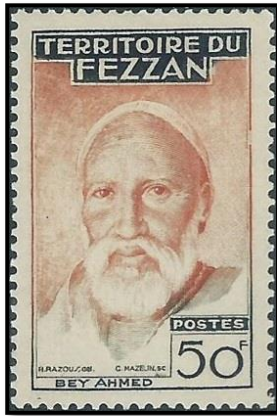


Military Territory of Ghadames 1949

Ultimately, French desire to make Fezzan part of the French colonial system was doomed. The Italian colonies question was now to be answered in a climate of demands for colonial independence, the establishment of the United Nations on October 24, 1945 which was to give effect to independence aspirations, and the jostling of the USA/USSR for political dominance including Libya.

At the Potsdam Conference, July-August 1945, a Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM): US; UK; USSR and France; was established to deal with Italian colonies. In March 1948, CFM visits

Fezzan. French occupation is denounced and request unification with Cyrenaica is made. After the CFM departs, French authorities arrest the ring leader. The CFM could not agree on the settlement of Libya, so on September 15, 1948 it was passed to UN.



Fezzan 1951 Transitional Government
Ahmed Sayf Al Nasr whom France had
installed.
(note it is the **Territory** not a **Military
Territory** as above).

On November 21, 1949 UN Council voted to unite the states of Libya into a unified country and grant it independence by January 1, 1952 under UN guidance. July 1950 seven members from each territory formed a committee of 21 to establish an assembly of 60 members to decide the constitution. Tripolitania with 2/3rds of the population argued for proportional representation. Cyrenaica and Fezzan both favoured a federal government.

December 2, 1950 Libya is to be federal monarchy under Idris. October 7, 1951 Libya is to be a hereditary monarchy. Fezzan et al are provinces not states, a senate with eight members from each province but proportional representation in house of representatives.

In February 1951, France established a transitional government and representative assembly in Fezzan. December 24, 1951 Libya became independent.



Libya 1951
for use in Fezzan



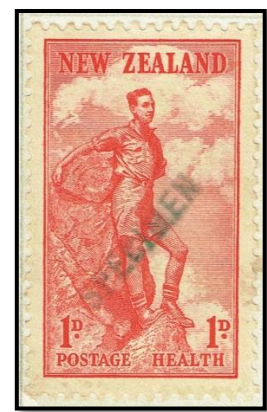
Libyan Kingdom 1952
Idris



Libyan Kingdom 1955 Unity
inscribed "United Kingdom"

Murray Taege

UPU Specimen Overprints



Specimen overprints on Health stamps provided by New Zealand to the UPU for distribution by the UPU to member countries.

Stephen Jones



Southland Truck Museum

The Southland Truck Museum was established by Bill Richardson, who:

- at one stage operated more Mack trucks than any other firm in NZ, and
- who bought out many trucking firms to add to his own Southern Transport fleet, and
- who dominated the concrete truck business in the South Island, and
- who purchased the contracting arm of the Southland District Council, trading as SouthRoads, which among other plant, owned in excess of 20 graders to help maintain the largest roading network of any local authority in NZ.

Bill had his own private truck museum, and after he died the family opened the collection for public viewing, adding many vehicles in the process, including a range of Model T Fords, and VW Kombi-wagons. It is now known as the Bill Richardson Transport World. Since then, a separate motorcycle museum (Motorcycle Mecca) has been established. Both of these are fantastic places to visit, and well worth a trip to Invercargill, even if you see nothing else.

Then there are an increasing number of quirky items, including this dress, made of over 4,000 laminated recycled postage stamps, mainly from New Zealand. The dress was created by Cecile Pierce and Jocelyn Murray of the Riccarton Inner Wheel group, for the WOW (World of Wearable Arts) festival.

It is entitled *"People Reaching People: The Rise and Fall of the Postage Stamp."*

The design is to "encapsulate the eventual demise of the postal service in New Zealand!!"

Jeff Long

1937 Dunedin Chief Post Office Opening

Tin Can Island mail is readily available although examples franked with New Zealand stamps are less commonly seen. Adding to the other more unusual usages illustrated in previous newsletters, the below cover, addressed Quensell the island's postmaster, was posted on the opening day of the Dunedin Post Office



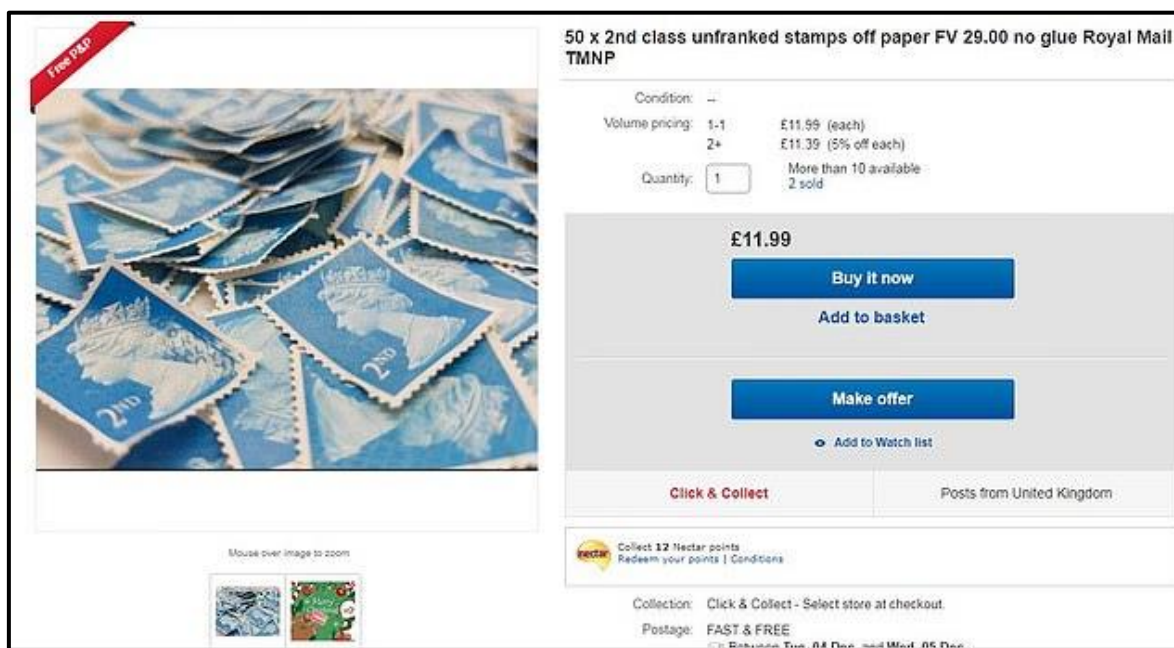
Stephen Jones

Uncancelled Stamps Sold For Postage

CPS members will no doubt be aware of the recent variations in the policy that New Zealand Post has applied when cancelling mail and that they were adopting a single line inkjet cancel for use in the mail handling machines. Whatever the case, there is still a lot of mail being delivered that doesn't show any apparent cancellation on the stamps, something that hasn't endeared NZ Post to collectors. Conversely, uncancelled stamps on mail could be seen as a bit of a recycling windfall for some people although I am certain that CPS members would not succumb to the temptation. The following edited account, taken from the Birmingham Mail online, relates to a couple who did succumb and ran a business via eBay selling uncancelled stamps.

"A crooked Birmingham couple who defrauded the Royal Mail by "washing" used stamps and selling them on ebay as new have both been jailed for two years. As a result of their scam, which they ran for five years, they caused a potential loss to the company of over £400,000 (approx NZ\$763,000). The couple in their 50's, had previously pleaded guilty to three charges of fraud, possessing articles for use in fraud, adapting an article for fraud and supplying an article for fraud.

In July, 2013, the couple started buying used first and second class stamps in bulk from charities and other organisations. According to the prosecutor, the amount they bought and then sold on ebay "dramatically accelerated" from initially £7,262 to £48,518 worth. The vast majority of the sales were to businesses and traders and there were multiple and repeat purchases.



The prosecution said the defendants had subjected the stamps to a chemical process to remove their cancellation marks. The glue was removed from the back with white spirit; they were dried with talcum powder, put on drying racks and sprayed with hairspray "to make them look better." These were then sold on ebay a significant discount. The couple had advertised their business with the adverts carrying disclaimers in a bid to legitimise what they had done.

In 2014, the couple established a company called "Stampbusters" as a vehicle for the illegal enterprise which was registered to their home with both of them named as directors. The value of the amount of stamps sold was £443,244 while the defendant's profited to the tune of £149,344.

The defendants had used the bogus stamps to send parcels themselves and Royal Mail investigators who made test purchases from them and also buyers identified the stamps as having previously been used. Officers who went to their address discovered large numbers of first and second class stamps "in various states of process."

In passing sentence Recorder Rachel Brand QC said the fraud had been "persistent and planned" and went on "You placed into circulation a huge number of washed stamps over a number of years allowing others to use them to cheat the Royal Mail out of revenue they were entitled to."

While the account indicates that the stamps had been treated in some manner to remove the cancel, the current practise by New Zealand Post is creating an abundance of "raw material" to work with. It will be interesting to see if someone in New Zealand shows the same "enterprise".

Stephen Jones

Update – Palestinian Mail

In the October 2018 issue of "Captain Coqk" (no 800, Vol 46, no 9) there was an article regarding mail into the Palestinian West Bank being not allowed through by Israel and being held up for up to 8 years in Jordan. Andrew McNiven responded promptly to tell us that he had checked the mail from New Zealand to the Palestinian West Bank and that the data from Track and Trace items were being processed at what were considered normal time durations. He noted those items were going through Israel.

That then gives us a good background to the routing to the West Bank. To most of the world (perhaps, but certainly from NZ) the mail goes via Israel and has no delays. Looking at the various media articles that did report on the mass of mail being held up and then sent through in one go, you could see mailbag labelled from Qatar, and one report talked of a parcel from Turkey, all of which came through Jordan.

This tells us the mail delay was selective, and given the Middle East situation, probably politically motivated.

Christchurch Post Changes

Prior to the 2010/2011, there were numerous Postshops in the Christchurch CBD, most of which also had post box lobbies, in particular the Armagh street office and the Victoria Street office (actual in Salisbury Street. After the earthquake cycle of 2010/2011 this changed. The respective box lobbies were retained but shifted to the corner of St Asaph and Phillips Streets in Phillipstown, which is also a mail delivery centre where the posties are based. The addresses for those box holders remained effectively on hold until decisions on their future made.

Currently, the site of the Armagh Street office is still wasteland, while the Victoria street one has been a building site for some time with a mixed use development of offices and hotel going on the site.

On December 7, 2018, NZ Post informed box holders of changes, namely that with changes to the retail network, The box lobby at Eastgate (shopping centre in Linwood) is closing ad being shifted to join those from Armagh and Victoria Streets. From January 21, 2019 the location in Phillipstown will now be known as City East Box Lobby.

This means that box number addresses

Armagh Street, Christchurch 8141

Victoria Street, Christchurch, 8144

Eastgate, Christchurch 8642

will now all become

City East, Christchurch 8141

So after over 8 years since our world shook, there are still changes resulting from this coming through, in this case, rationalisation of the city centre and suburban box lobbies.

Paul van Herpt

Who Designed The ½^d Manuka Of The 1960 Pictorials?

In November 1958 the New Zealand Post Office announced there would be a new issue of definitive stamps. Rather than following the recent trends of using portraits of reigning monarchs, it was decided that the issue would be a pictorial issue that reflected New Zealand as a country.

A competition⁽¹⁾ was held to select the designs for each of the denominations, first prize being £100. When the issue was launched it was accompanied by a promotional bulletin⁽²⁾ which referenced the designers name, the printer and a background to the design. Apart from the ½^d Manuka all designs were attributed to individuals. The design of the ½^d Manuka was attributed to the printing company - Messrs Harrison and Sons Ltd, London.

An item purchased from the Jim Shaw collection ⁽³⁾ sheds more light on whom the actual designer was.

Correspondence between Campbell Watts, Stamps Division, General Post Office Wellington and Harrison and Sons dated July 8, 1958 outlined the thinking around stamp designs with particular reference to butter and cheese themed stamps (reference was made to pressure from industry) and the low value floral stamps. The guidance was if the latter was "...prepared with just the head of a flower or possibly a sprig where the flowers were small such as manuka, on the lines of the birds I suggested, then we would have something really outstanding". The designs were required to be in Wellington by September 30.

On July 14, Harrison's wrote to Michael Goaman copying the above letter from Watts. The letter referred to previous discussions relating to the design competition and submission of designs.



Michael Goaman was one of the leading British graphic designers through the 1950's, 60's and 70's. Often working in partnership with his wife, Silva, they produced a large number of stamp designs for use around the world. David Scott, author of "European Stamp Design", described the Goaman's designs as among the most beautiful and original of that period in the world.



Initial sketch of design. (Actual size 184 x 100mm)

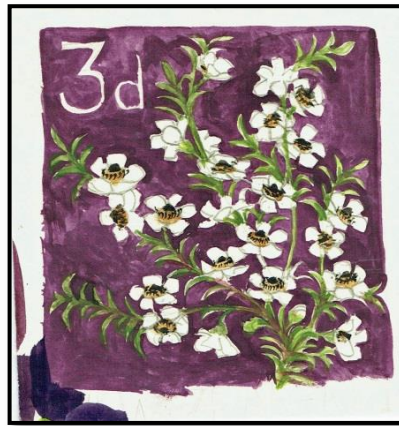
The Goaman's proceeded to produce artwork for the Manuka, which was provided to Harrison's for submission into the design competition.

While the winning design was commissioned by Harrison's, printing of the ½^d Manuka (and the other low value floral denominations) was entrusted to Thomas de la Rue and Co of London.

Footnote: Michael Goaman was also commissioned by the New Zealand Dairy Products Marketing Commission to design two stamps featuring butter and cheese for the 1960 Pictorial issue. Goaman's designs were not accepted with LC Mitchell producing the winning design.



Colour wash
(Reduced)



Colour wash
(Actual size 135 x 142mm)



Printer ready photo essay
(Actual size 68 x 86mm)

References

- (1) *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Chapter XII*
- (2) *New Zealand Postage Stamps - Pictorial Issue 1960 Promotional Booklet*
- (3) *Mowbray Public Auction #30 of the Jim Shaw Collection*

Murray Willocks



At the December meeting, Murray gave a talk on the 1960 Pictorial issue

1892 Sirmoor Stamp Issue

While referencing some information in "Fundamentals of Philately", I came across an interesting piece on Pseudo Separations found on an early issue from Sirmoor, a feudatory state in India. It seems the first stamps, a 1 paise value issued in 1879 and found in either blue or green, was very popular with collectors of the time and sold out. The postal authorities decided that they would do a reprint to satisfy collector demand for the stamp.

There was a problem with doing this as the original plate had been lost, and they were unable to find any examples of the original stamp to copy the design from to make a new plate. However, the postal authorities solved this by copying an image from a stamp catalogue. Unfortunately for them, the catalogue image also included simulated perforations which were duly incorporated into the design when the new plate was made.



1879 original issue

1892 reissue with simulated perforations

It turns out the demand for these official imitations was less than anticipated and the stamps were then placed into circulation concurrent with the stamps issued in 1885 which were printed in London by Waterlow and Sons.

Note, for those who don't know (me), Feudatory States ran their own post and issued stamps which were valid within that particular state. Convention states had an agreement (aka convention) with the British India postal system to handle internal postage, and overprinted stamps of British India with the particular state.

Stephen Jones

Member's Wants

CPS member Tony Ward is looking for examples of two Local Post services in Kaikoura and Levin that operated for a period in the late 1990's.

If any member can assist Tony, please email him directly at warm@bigpond.net.au

LOCAL POST KAIKOURA

Registered: 25 June 1998

This is a one man delivery service established in Kaikoura by Gilly Walker who delivers mail within the town for 30 cents an item. A rubber stamp "Local Post Delivered" is applied to each item.

JOHN DAGELET

Registered: 30 July 1998

Another one man delivery service based in Levin, John Dagelet marks all mail with a distinctive "JD 368-0207" marking. The number is his phone number.

 368-0207



Phone: (03) 579 5650. Fax: (03) 579 9894.
PO Box 5086, Springlands, Blenheim 7241.

The web site is up and running allowing orders to be placed directly once you have registered. Currently there are over 12,000 stamps, covers, postcards etc on the site and all are illustrated.

Email us if you have any problems registering or navigating around the site.

There is a search facility allowing you to search for your Interests. e.g. Entering the word 'Railway' brings up around 200 different items.

Website categories include:

- NZ definitive issues from Full Face Queens to the current issues.
- NZ Commemoratives from the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition onwards.
- NZ Health and Christmas issues.
- Booklets.
- Air mail stamps and covers.
- Life Insurance.
- Postage Due and Express stamps and covers.
- Postal fiscals and Revenue stamps.
- Cinderellas.
- Various miscellaneous issues and covers. Postal fiscals and Revenue stamps.
- New Zealand Postal History.
- New Zealand Postal Stationery.
- Antarctic stamps, Postcards and Postal History.
- Various British Commonwealth and Foreign Country's stamps and covers.

Recent additions to the Classic Stamps' web site.

Polar specialist Mark Jurisich FRPSNZ has recently updated three of his Antarctic monographs and produced eight new ones.

The full list of eleven publications is:

- * 'A Postal History of Campbell Island' (55Mb).
- * 'A Postal History of the Joint New Zealand - United States Hallett Station Antarctica' (225Mb).
- * 'The Postmarks of Ross Dependency' (13.5Mb).
- * 'Ross Dependency Stamp Issues' (1.8Mb).
- * 'Ross Dependency Historic Huts Restoration' (39.6Mb).
- * 'The Postmarks of Argentine Antarctic Bases' (1.3Mb).
- * 'The Postmarks of Chilean Antarctic Bases' (1.4Mb).
- * 'Postal History of Italian Antarctic 1957-1995' (14.7Mb).
- * 'The Postal History of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1955-58' (161Mb).
- * 'The Postmarks of Deep Freeze Antarctic Bases' (19Mb).
- * 'Operation Deep Freeze Picket Ships' (23Mb).

Some publications may take a short while to load due to the size (in brackets).

These are all freely available on the web site.

To access them, go to www.classicstamps.co.nz and you will see at the bottom of the left hand column the following.

Monographs

**Current Antarctic
Monographs**

Click on the red 'Current Antarctic Monographs' and you will see the list.

Click on the 'Click Here' to see the monograph you are interested in.

Remember: The bigger ones may take a few minutes to open.

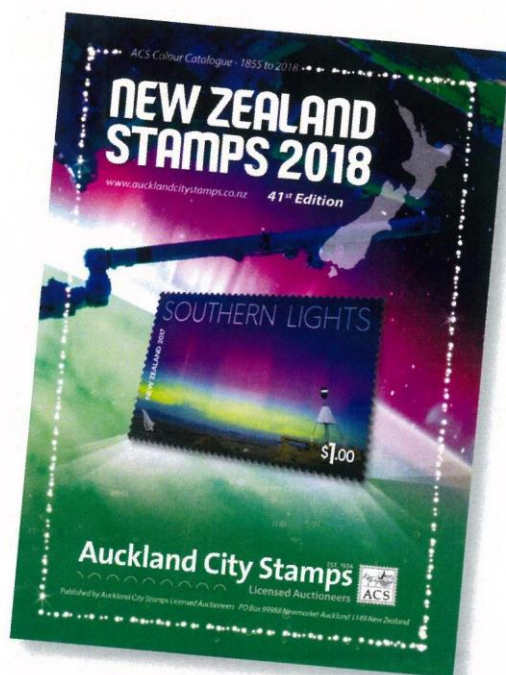
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