

### CAPTAIN COQK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

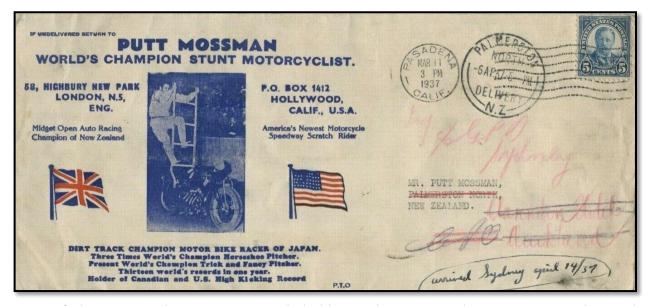
ISSN 0122 - 9813 Num 805 (Vol 47 No 3)

April, 2019

#### 1937 Putt Mossman

I never ceased to be surprised at the interesting philatelic items that appear on the internet and the below cover is another example of what can turn up; a wonderful illustrated cover, promoting "Putt Mossman, World's Champion Stunt Motorcyclist". It only took a brief search to find the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame site which had quite a bio on him.

Putt Mossman was born on July 8, 1906 in the small farming community of Eldora, Iowa. It wasn't until he was 20 that he bought his first bike and it was on the ride home he performed his first stunt, standing on the seat to impress two young ladies. He decided there was more money to be made stunt riding than farming and formed a troupe of riders to perform around the country. He called his show "Putt Mossman and his American Motorcycle Rodeo Circus and Speedway Aces."



Some of the tricks in his repertoire included having his sister ride sitting or standing on his shoulders, drawing a pistol and shooting helium filled balloons out of the air as he rode, riding while juggling eggs or skipping rope, riding with a sack over his head and using a broomstick to feel for the stadium wall to guide him around the track, and climbing up and down a ladder attached to the back of his motorcycle.

His fame spread internationally and one show in Yokohama, Japan attracted 80,000 spectators. He toured New Zealand more than once, performing around the country and promoting speedway events at Wellington's Kilbirnie track and Palmerston North. The Taranaki Historic Speedway Association website credits him with reinvigorating the interest in speedway at a time when many tracks were struggling financially.

A natural athlete, excelling at baseball and boxing, and a world champion at horseshoe throwing, he continued performing into his 70's, dying in 1994 at the age of 88.

#### Lower Hutt, New Zealand's Brigadoon

CPS readers will probably be familiar with the musical "Brigadoon" about a village in Scotland that reappears for one day once in every 100 years. In the musical, two American tourists stumble across the village and one of them falls in love with one of the townsfolk, ultimately choosing to stay with his new love rather than carry on with his life in America. My exposure to it was in the mid 60's with a TV screening of the 1954 movie starring Gene Kelly.

It would appear that Lower Hutt also only exists for intermittent periods near Wellington but this information is only known to the US Postal Service. After paying for a recent purchase on ebay, the lot was duly dispatched by the vendor to the address accompanying the confirmation of payment. A while later I received an email from the vendor advising the letter had been returned and would I confirm my address.



The lot eventually arrived a few weeks later and when I opened the letter, I found the vendor had enclosed the original mailing envelope along with my lot. The original mailer (above), which hadn't left the US, had a yellow label applied by the US Postal Service stating "Return To Sender, Undeliverable As Addressed, Unable to Forward".

The cover (below) that I received containing the lot must have been sent during the window of opportunity when Lower Hutt was in existence as it was addressed virtually identically and delivered without any difficulty. Who knew?



Stephen Jones

#### SOCIETY PAGE

#### PROGRAMME

APRIL 1 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

APRIL 9 SOCIETY MEETING AGM

President's Night

### AGM\*\*AGM\*\*AGM\*\*AGM

My fellow members, ask not what your Society can do for you, ask what can you do for your Society

"Out of Season", a talk given by our President

APRIL 16 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

MAY 6 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

MAY 14 SOCIETY MEETING Graeme Russell

To Be Confirmed

MAY 28 POSTCARD GROUP Don Mee

Alfred Tattersall's Apia Postcards

JUNE 1 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

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

#### SOCIETY OFFICERS:

Patron Jeff Long President Paul van Herpt Vice President Sue Claridge Secretary Paul Ledington Treasurer Karen Jeffrey Robert Duns Library Editor Stephen Jones Exchange Supt Tony Stockley Immed Past Pres Collections Convenor Paul Clark Robert Duns

Web Master Murray Taege

#### 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 31<sup>st</sup> (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)

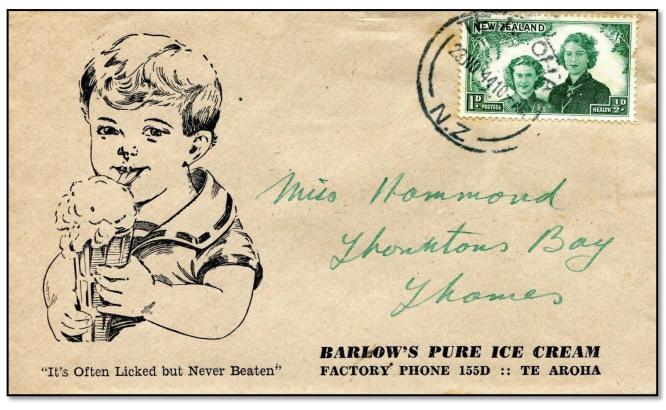
The view expressed in this issue of CAPTAIN COQK are not necessarily those of the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc) but are simply those of the respective authors

The newsletter is published 11 times a year by the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc), PO Box 9246, Tower Junction, Christchurch, 8149, New Zeeland

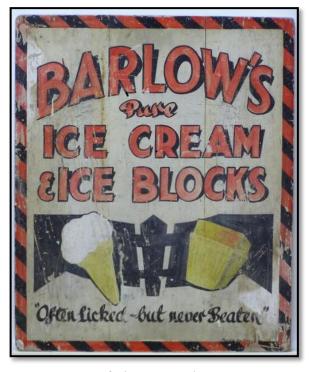
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#### 1944 Barlow's Ice Cream

A recent internet auction featured an advertising cover for Barlow's Pure Ice Cream from Te Aroha. Dated November 1944, it was illustrated with a picture of a little boy licking an ice cream and the caption "It's Often Licked but Never Beaten". This caption was subsequently used in advertising by Tip Top. It is a most appealing cachet and after some strong bidding sold for over \$US100, disappointingly not to me.



Barlow's wasn't a brand I had heard of so with some help from Professor Google I was able to find further information although there wasn't a great deal to be had.





Courtesy of the New Zealand Ice Cream
Manufacturers Association website

Courtesy of the Te Aroha Museum

The ice cream company was named after the founder, John Lancelot Barlow, who was born at New Plymouth on June 7, 1868. He later moved to Wellington and served an apprenticeship with the firm of WT Jackson in Manners Street, becoming a journeyman tinsmith.

He married Miss Matilda Harris in March 1881, and afterwards built up a successful plumbing business at Lower Hutt, carrying it on up to and through the period of the 1914-18 war. He served for varying periods on school committees and the Lower Hutt Borough Council, and also took a keen interest in bowling, playing at tournaments throughout the North Island.

In 1920, he left Lower Hutt and settled with family in Te Aroha where he set up an ice-cream manufacturing business. He died on February 6, 1944. According to The New Zealand Ice Cream Manufacturers Association website, the business carried on until the 1960's.

The Association website is quite interesting reading and has an extensive list of brands that I had never heard of. A number of these were small operations run out of a single outlet such as a Milk bar. It includes an entry for Elbe's Milk bar in Lower Hutt, made infamous by the 1954 Mazengarb Report on juvenile delinquency.



Elbe's Milk Bar in its 1950s heyday, courtesy Elbe family/Longwhitekid/Darian Zam

Stephen Jones

#### 1950 US Distilled Spirits Stamps



This example is from the first printing of the distilled spirits excise tax stamps produced between 1950 and 1952. These were stamps for the collection of the federal excise tax on distilled spirits.

There were 25 values from 1 cent through to \$50,000, and with dimensions of  $90\text{mm} \times 64\text{mm}$ , these stamps are among the largest US stamps ever produced.

The selection of examples looked at on the internet all appeared to be rouletted on two adjacent sides, possibly indicating a four stamp sheetlet but I wasn't able to confirm any details of the sheet composition. Although New Zealand printed revenues with higher face values, these were done individually as required. These US revenues may well be the highest values in real terms of any revenue printed in a sheet format.

Stephen Jones

## THE CHRISTCHURCH (N.Z) PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2018

2017	Income	2018
8,778	Subscriptions	8,357
	Other Income	
3,600	Advertising	3,740
600	Donations	600
570	Exchange Branch Commissions	714
8,904	Interest	11,597
231	Library	391
0	Literature Award	200
1,251	Literature Exhibition	0
132	Miscellaneous	87
268	Raffles	296
700	Sales	320
16,256	Total Other Income	17,945
\$25,034	Total Income	\$26,302
	Expenses	
4,646	Depreciation and Write Off	0
250	Donations	0
565	Federation Levy	532
198	General Expenses	73
419	Insurance	576
922	Internet	1,251
971	Library	2,899
1,251	Literature Exhibition	0
864	Meeting Expenses	541
1,100	Officers Expenses	1,100
1,544	Postage and P O Box Rental	1,462
4,607	Printing and Stationery	5,681
7,400	Rent	7,400
80	Society and Interclub Competitions	88
\$24,817	Total Expenses	\$21,603
\$217	Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenses	\$4,699
	=	

#### THE CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

2017		2018
	Current Assets	
6,078	Westpac Cheque Account	3,611
17,051	Westpac Savings Account	14,679
316	Paypal	310
289,593	Westpac Term Deposits	299,198
313,038	Total Current Assets	317,798
3,000	Advance to Philatelic Properties	3,000
150,000	Shares in Philatelic Properties	150,000
153,000	Total Investments	153,000
466,038	Total Assets	470,798
	Current Liabilities	
3,401	Exchange Branch Suspense	3,462
3,401	Total Current Liabilities	3,462
3,401	Total Liabilities	3,462
\$462,637	Excess of Assets over Liabilities	\$467,336
462,420	Members Funds at beginning of year	462,637
217	Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenses	4,699
\$462,637	Members Funds at end of year	\$467,336

Review Report to Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society Incorporated

I have reviewed the financial statements of Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society Incorporated for the year ended 31 December 2018.

A review is limited primarily to enquiries of Society personnel and analytical review procedures applied to financial data and thus provides less assurance that an audit. I have not performed an audit and, accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements do not give a true and fair view the financial position of Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society Incorporated as at 31 December 2018, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Murray Taege February 25, 2019

#### CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC

Notice is given for the  $108^{th}$  Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 9 April 2019 with an agenda as below to receive reports and elect officers. No specific remits have been received.

AGENDA 108<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019 AT 7.30pm AT THE PHILATELIC CENTRE, 67 MANDEVILLE STREET

**WELCOME**: APOLOGIES:

MINUTES OF THE 107th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

MATTERS ARISING:

**CORRESPONDENCE**: Literature Award results (covered in General Business)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

FINANCIAL REVIEW PANEL'S REPORT:

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Patron President

Vice-President Treasurer Secretary Librarian

Exchange Superintendent Newsletter Editor

Collections Convenor Committee positions ×4

GENERAL BUSINESS: Officer's Expenses

**Annual Presentations** 

The Anderson Cup, awarded for best talk and display during 2017 The Pim Cup, most popular talk or display on Members nights

John Wilson Literature Award, for best Newsletter article in 2017.

Items from the floor

MINUTES OF THE 108th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC

held on 9th April 2018 at 67 Mandeville Street

Welcome: 18 members were welcomed to the meeting by Paul van Herpt.

Apologies: Don Mee, John Sheppard, Doug Napier, Christine Haythornthwaite, Geoff

Tyson and Sue Claridge

Minutes of the 107th AGM: Moved by Paul van Herpt, seconded by Bernard Hempseed

that the minutes as circulated in Captain Cook be accepted as a true and

correct record. Carried.

President's Report: This was circulated in Captain Cook and was taken as read. It was moved

by Paul van Herpt, seconded by Stephen Jones that the report be

accepted. Carried.

Financial Report: It was moved by Karen Jeffrey, seconded David Reynolds that the

financial report as circulated in captain Coak be approved. Carried.

#### Award Presentations:

The Anderson Cup for the best talk at a meeting was jointly awarded to Stephen Jones and Stephen Chivers.

The Pim Cup for the best members' night presentation went to Paul Clark.

The literature award for best article in Captain Coqk as judged by Alan Tunnicliffe went to Murray Taege. 2nd equal was Paul van Herpt and Stephen Jones.

#### Election of Officers:

Patron Jeff Long
President Paul van Herpt
Vice President Sue Claridge
Secretary Paul Ledington
Treasurer Karen Jeffrey

Committee: Tony Stockley, Murray Taege, Robert Duns, Paul Clark, Stephen Jones

All above nominations were moved and seconded by Alan Tunnicliffe & David Reynolds.

Carried

Review Panel Murray Taege & David Reynolds moved by Robert Duns & Graham Muir. Carried.

Officers expenses Moved Bernard Hempseed seconded Peter Bamber that the expenses remain the same as the previous year being \$2200.00.

Carried.

There was no additional general business so the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### For year from May 2018 to April 2019

Looking through the previous President's report, it would be easy just to issue it again and it would again adequately describe with workings of the society for another year. What that of course says is that the running of the Society is or has become fairly routine. The services offered to our members by way of general meetings, specialist meetings, the newsletter, the library, and the circuit book systems have all continued and completed another year.

There are risks with such routine. Firstly, that things get taken for granted and those ensuring the routine continues get forgotten and not thanked. Secondly, by keeping the routine going we lose sight of change around us and fail to keep up or adjust to suit.

The first problem of forgetting to thank we will therefore do first. Apart from the Executive Committee, there are a number of members who help with the audit review, circuit books, library work, and distributing the newsletter. To all those on the committee and part of these various teams, we do extend our thanks for your continued support and efforts to contribute to this Society. While not naming everyone individually and doing this collectively is to ensure no-one forgotten in error by me. There are two we need to particularly mention, both new to the Committee from last year, namely Murray Willocks and Paul Ledington. Paul joined us to take on the role of Secretary so he really did jump in the deep end and therefore gets particular thanks.

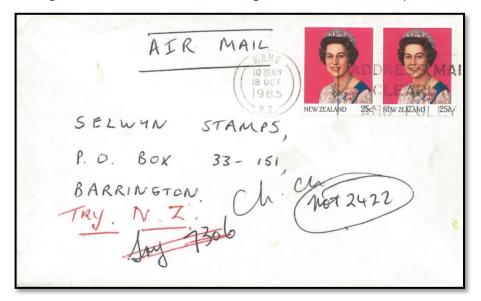
The second issue is far more complex and the Committee does struggle with it. We are like so many Societies, we have an aging membership whose requirements, irrespective of how long they've been involved, are changing and we cannot bring in new young members. We obviously have regular activities that we need to keep doing, so the question is, if we change these, would we get more membership involvement or would we just drive away our regulars? Is our expectation of what members want and the level they want to be involved unrealistic? A bit of a gamble in some respects unless of course we can back it up with member's feedback.

There will come a turning point, when some of the things do now will no longer be viable to do and change will be forced upon us. Good feedback is really necessary for the Executive Committee to be able to make good decisions on your behalf and keep things relevant and viable. Staying relevant is getting harder and can only happen with widespread feedback and goodwill.

Paul van Herpt

#### 1985 Barrington Australia?

Typically mail sent internally doesn't need the addition of New Zealand in the address, as after all, it must be somewhere in this country. So you would think a letter sent from Kamo, Whangarei and addressed to Barrington would find its way without too much difficulty



#### A CHRISTCHURCH man who uses a box at Barrington Post O Office received an air mail letter from Kamo, a Whangarei suburb, recently. It was addressed to Barrington. As is the practice of many people mailing internal letters, the envelope did not mention New Zealand. Whoever decides these things decided that it must be going to Barrington, New South Barrington, Wales, and sent it there. When the letter finally reached New Zealand about month after it mailed, someone across the Tasman had written N.Z." on it.

Down here

For whatever reason, this cover was sent first to Barrington in New South Wales, postcode 2422 before being forwarded on to Barrington in Tasmania, postcode 7306. It spent about a month in Australia before a post office employee suggested to "Try NZ"

Stephen Jones

#### The ITU & UPU In Berne, Switzerland

Almost at the end of a European holiday my family visited Berne for a few days, one of which was a wet Sunday. As we found out not much was open that day, but the Berne Historical Museum, containing its Einstein museum, on Helvetiaplatz was open.

This was where we headed and just outside the entrance was an impressive monument dedicated to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).



By the middle of the 19th century, the telegraph was transforming communications – and society – across Europe and North America, as well as extending its reach around the world. However, barriers and bottlenecks could occur when a message had to cross from one national jurisdiction to another. To overcome this, agreements began to be made between countries, and, in 1865 in Paris, various European States signed a treaty to harmonize telegraph services, at the International Telegraph Convention.

Those countries were: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey. Surprisingly, Great Britain was not amongst the initial treaty signatories, as it only became a member of the ITU on February 24, 1871. Australian States and New Zealand (which joined on May 27, 1878 and on June 3, 1878 respectively) were already members well before both Canada and the USA joined on July 1, 1908.

The 1868 International Telegraph Conference in Vienna decided that the ITU would operate from its own bureau in Berne, Switzerland. It began operating with just three staff members. Established to manage the first international telegraph networks, the ITU has worked ceaselessly since then to connect the world. Over the years, the ITU's mandate has expanded to cover the invention of voice telephony, the development of radio communications, the launch of the first communications satellites, and most recently, the telecommunications-based information age. Along the way, ITU's structure and activities have evolved and adapted to meet the needs of this changing mandate.

#### The ITU Monument

In 1908, the delegates at the International Telegraph Conference in Lisbon approved a project to erect a monument in Berne, Switzerland, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ITU in 1915. Following an international competition, a design in bronze by the Italian sculptor Giuseppe Romagnoli (1872-1966) from Bologna was selected and work began on the monument. Completion of the project was postponed due to the First World War, but the monument was finally erected on a base of grey granite from Castione in Switzerland, and inaugurated on Saturday, December 16, 1922.<sup>1</sup>

The overall theme of the monument is that "the souls of the peoples are united through the ITU." The central female figure represents the International Telegraph Union, whose outstretched arms unite the surrounding figures representing themes and expresses the idea of "union".

One standing male figure holds a closed book symbolizing the knowledge already acquired by past generations; the other man holds an open book which represents the scientific discoveries to be made in the future. The other figures in the monument represent Charity, Fertility, Sorrow, Creative work, Family, Defence of Justice and of the Oppressed, and Workers carrying out their arduous task.

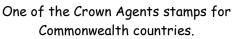
Inscribed, in French, on the left block is:

UNION TELEGRAPHIQUE INTERNATIONAL FONDEE A PARIS EN 1865 - SUR L INITIATIVE DU GOUVERNMENT FRANCAIS (International Telegraph Union founded in Paris in 1865 on the initiative of the French Government), whilst on the right block the inscription reads:

ERIGE PAR DECISION DE L UNION TELEGRAPHIQUE PRISE A LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE DE LISBONNE EN 1908 (Erected by decision of the International Telegraph Union taken at the International Conference of Lisbon, 1908).

In 1948, the headquarters of the ITU was moved from Berne to Geneva, and in 1965, as part of the celebrations commemorating the 100th anniversary of ITU, the Swiss Government invited the delegates at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Montreux to a special ceremony in Berne on October 8 for the unveiling of a bronze plate bearing the names of the Member States of the Union as of May 17, 1965. This tablet was affixed to the back of the ITU monument, replacing the original inscriptions, which included a list of the countries that signed the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865, as well as a list of the Member States of the Union in 1908 (the year of the Lisbon Conference).







9d British stamp symbolising telecommunications network.

Many countries issued stamps featuring the ITU (or, UIT in French) logo for the centenary of the ITU in 1965. According to Stanley Gibbons' Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps

1840-1970 catalogue<sup>2</sup> the 1965 ITU Centenary British Commonwealth omnibus comprises 112 stamps & 1 miniature sheet - complete, these are catalogued at £140 uhm and £110 used.

Whilst the rest of my family were enjoying the Historical Museum, I headed off to Berne's (Kleine Schanze) City park. Most visitors to this park enjoy the impressive views of Berne across the Aare River. It is in this park that a monument to the UPU is situated, that is what I wished to see.



The Universal Postal Union (UPU, French: *Union Postale Universelle*), established by the Treaty of Berne of 1874, is a specialised agency of the United Nations that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system.<sup>3</sup>

#### The UPU Monument

The bronze and granite sculpture standing some ten metres high and forty metres wide commemorates the founding of the Universal Postal Union's founding in 1874. The work of French sculptor René de Saint-Marceau, a member of the Paris Academie des Beaux-arts, was unveiled on 4 October 1909. He was chosen to execute the work following an international competition organised by the Swiss Government on the theme, 'Around the World'.

The sculpture embodies the UPU's truly universal mission, depicting five messengers depicting the five continents, as they pass letters around the globe. The monument's symbolic representation was gradually accepted as the UPU's distinctive emblem. The logo appeared for the first time on the cover of the UPU's flagship magazine Union Postale in 1951 and was then used on envelopes and official documents. The UPU's Executive Council adopted it as the Union's official logo in 1967.

The seated figure according to the UPU's magazine *Union Postale*, number 11, November 1909, advised that, "To symbolize the city of Berne, the artist included a noble and majestic female

figure, her outstretched arm cradling the city shield." Today, the UPU's Headquarters is still based in the city of Berne.

The initial signatories to this treaty, with effect from July 1, 1875, included: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and USA. Four years later, the name was changed to "Universal Postal Union". Many countries have since joined the UPU which now comprises 192 members - the latest to join being South Sudan on October 4, 2011. As Dominions, Canada joined on July 1, 1878 and New Zealand on October 1, 1907, some six years after Federation, the Commonwealth of Australia joined at the same time as New Zealand.

Prior to the establishment of the UPU, each country had to prepare a separate postal treaty with other nations if it wished to carry international mail to or from them. In some cases, senders would have to calculate postage for each leg of a journey, and find mail forwarders in a third country if there was no direct delivery (Capill's 1993 work explains how New Zealand managed its international mails until joining the UPU.<sup>4</sup>). To remove this complexity, the United States called for an International Postal Congress in 1863, which was held in Paris<sup>5</sup>. This led Heinrich von Stephan (Royal Prussian and later German Minister for Posts) to found the Universal Postal Union. It is currently the third oldest international organization after the Rhine Commission and the ITU. The UPU was created in 1874, initially under the name "General Postal Union", under the Treaty of Berne that was signed by a number of postal administration representatives on October 9, 1874.

The UPU established that:

- 1: There should be a uniform flat rate to mail a letter anywhere in the world
- 2: Postal authorities should give equal treatment to foreign and domestic mail
- 3: Each country should retain all money it collected for international postage

One of the most important results of the UPU Treaty was that it ceased to be necessary, as it often had been previously, to affix the stamps of any country through which one's letter or package would pass in transit. The UPU provides that stamps of member nations are accepted for the entire international route. Toward the end of the 19th century, the UPU issued rules concerning stamp design, intended to ensure maximum efficiency in handling international mail. One rule specified that stamp values be given in numerals (denominations spelled out in letters not being universally comprehensible); another, that member nations all use the same colours on their stamps issued for post cards (green), normal letters (red) and international mail (blue), a system that remained in use for several decades.

(to be cont) David Smitham

#### Nazi Occupation Stamps Of Jersey

When Germany first occupied Jersey, the intention was to overprint stamps of Great Britain with the Nazi swastika. Due to complaints by residents, only a few were overprinted and the stamps are extremely rare. The examples below are realistic forgeries of these.



#### Review

#### Cachets Applied To Interrupted New Zealand Air Mail

The authors of this study have spent thirty years amassing examples and information on the subject. The result is a 108-page full-colour book containing details of every cover recorded and its provenance.

Jim Stapleton, compiler of The New Zealand Air Mail Catalogue, had intended to publish something on this subject over 25 years ago, and the two authors had provided him with details of their examples. Sadly, Jim passed away before taking the matter further.



The study deals only with the cachets applied to interrupted air mail in the period 1936 to 1967. The authors set the context by stating 150 examples have been identified. They then list the number of examples recorded for each year, pointing out that 87 examples (58% of those recorded) are from the period April 1936 to 1938. What is remarkable is that in 57 of the 89 incidents (64%) only a single example is recorded.

Auction realisations have not reflected the scarcity of these cachets.

A census of covers is included. Listing every example in chronological date order, with images where available, one can quickly establish whether a cover has been already recorded or is a new find.

Listings of all the aircraft involved during the period are very detailed, and useful for those collecting first flight covers.

Inevitably the publication of the study will encourage collectors to examine their examples to check if they have an unrecorded item. Many more examples will come to light.

The authors state that other aspects of New Zealand disaster mail could be the subject of further studies. It is hoped these have already been started.

Available at NZD35 plus postage from Mowbray Collectables, Wellington, NZ. john@mowbrays.co.nz

Brian Pearce

Note, the CPS library has a copy (Ed)

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