

CAPTAIN COQK

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RADAR Dated Stamps

The learned readers of the "Captain Coqk" are no doubt familiar with the term palindrome, ie "a word, phrase, or sequence that reads the same backwards as forwards, eg *madam* or *nurses run*". Less formal terms include *madam*, *radar* and *iwi*. These terms are not confined solely to text as strings of numbers, and in this case dates, could also be described as being radar numbers or dates.

A few meetings ago, one of our members, Alastair Watson, showed a copy of an 1876 Law Courts 1 Pound value with a manuscript date reading 18/11/81, a radar date. This is a particular fine example as the date is clearly written and on a lighter coloured stamp making it very easy to see. An interesting item which Alastair was pleased to receive the Smitham (Editor of the *Kiwi Revenue Catalogue*) seal of approval as being genuine in all respects.



There are a few challenges with acquiring radar dated stamps. One is the limitation on the calendar years that a marking of this nature can exist as they will almost exclusively be in the first two years of each decade. You probably won't find anything for the year's ending in "0" unless a "0" placeholder is used in the day date (extremely uncommon), and unless you expand the definition to include dates in a textual form eg 9 Feb 09, you won't find anything post 2000 and would be fortunate to get anything post 1900. If you're going to be strict about it then a "0" in the month eg 18/05/81 won't work either.

Another is the period when manuscript dates were in common usage. By 1900, the use of circular date stamps and other date stamp types was becoming more prevalent, reducing the range even further, so really your Goldilocks period is going to be the early 1870's and 1880's when pretty much all revenues were dated in manuscript. The upside is that revenues from this period are readily available and with patience, radar dated examples can be found.



18/3/81



18/7/81



28/2/82



18/8/81



18/8/81

A look through the examples I already had proved fruitless but through the kindness of a fellow revenue collector I was fortunate enough to obtain the above examples for my collection. Readers will note that these examples too are on Law Courts stamps. Law Courts stamps were only in general use for a limited period, late 1870's through to the early 1880's before conventional duty stamps were permitted to be used in place of them. So if you want to increase your chances even further, check the dates on any Law Courts, and also Lands and Deeds stamps that you see.



17/7/71



4/4/44

If you want a real challenge, have a look out for a "First Day of Use" radar date. Good luck with the Chalons (16/1/61) but a 17/1/71 date (a Tuesday) on an early revenue is something to look for.

Collectors will probably come across other manuscript dates that have interest and the 15/- Arms dated "all the fours", 4/4/44 certainly appealed to me.

Now, I hear you say "so what" about all this. Stamp collecting is a highly aesthetic hobby and so if like many collectors, you are going to collect a single example of each stamp, why not get an example with a little flair and added interest, or as they sometimes say in the exhibiting world "sex appeal". Most manuscript dated revenues are common and inexpensive, and nothing beats the pleasure of finding a stamp you have been looking out for.



Law Courts
"Whimsy"

On a final note. When looking through the many 100's of these Law Courts stamps for the radar dated copies, I came across this fabulous item. Dating from the late 1870's, early 1880's, the individual processing the documents has drawn a cartoon of Queen Victoria under the crown device in the frame design of the stamp.

Given how regimented documentation processes were then, this would almost certainly have amounted to a hanging offence for not correctly cancelling the stamp with a date. I haven't seen anything similar to this in over 50 years of collecting. Unique? Well, I don't know but I won't be trying to complete the set cancelled in this manner.

Stephen Jones

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 7 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

OCTOBER 8 SOCIETY MEETING Paul McTaggart from Lower Hutt
1946 Peace Commemorative issue

1946 Peace Issue

This month we will be treated to a talk and display of the 1946 Peace issue stamps and their usage from Paul's extensive collection of this issue

OCTOBER 15 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

NOVEMBER 4 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

NOVEMBER 12 SOCIETY MEETING **Member's Night**
Transportation

NOVEMBER 19 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

NOVEMBER 26 POSTCARD GROUP **TBA**

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

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(website) www.cps.gen.nz
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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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First Contact – 250th Anniversary Of Captain Cook's First Voyage

On February 16, 1768 the Royal Society petitioned King George III to finance a scientific expedition to the Pacific. It was to observe the 1769 transit of Venus across the sun. Royal approval was granted. The Admiralty combined the scientific voyage with a secret mission to search the south Pacific for signs of Terra Australis Incognita (unknown southern land).



The Admiralty combined the scientific voyage with a secret mission to search the south Pacific for signs of Terra Australis Incognita (unknown southern land).

The Royal Society suggested Scottish geographer Alexander Dalrymple be the commander. The Admiralty refused. They appointed naval officer James Cook, who was accepted by the Royal Society on May 5.

May 25, the Admiralty commissioned the merchant collier Earl of Pembroke, renamed HMS Endeavour, for the expedition. Provisions included three tons of sauerkraut to prevent scurvy. The expedition included an official astronomer, Charles Green, and an official botanist, Joseph Banks. Banks funded Swedish naturalist, Daniel Solander, Finnish naturalist Herman Spöring, and artists, Parkinson, to join the expedition.



The expedition departed from Plymouth on August 26, 1768 arriving at Madeira on December 12 and took on 3032 gallons of wine. January 13-21, 1769 were spent laid over at Tierra del Fuego before setting off and rounding Cape Horn on January 25.

The ship finally arrived at Matavai Bay, Tahiti on April 13.

On April 15 the site was chosen to observe the transit, with the building of Fort Venus, Point Venus. By May 1, the observatory had been established and on June 3 the transit of Venus was observed



Friendly relations were established with the Tahitians. They undertook ethno-graphic and scientific observations on the fauna and flora, the native society, language and customs. The observation of the transit of Venus was to obtain measurements that could be used to calculate more accurately the distance of Venus from the Sun. Disappointingly, measurements varied by more than the anticipated margin of error. When their results were later compared



French Polynesia 2019 Cook & Tupaia

to those of the other observations of the same event made elsewhere, the net result was not as conclusive or accurate as had been hoped. On 9 August, HMS Endeavour left French Polynesia with a Tahitian, Tupaia, as an interpreter.

Cook commenced the secret part of the expedition, to find the Terra Australis Incognita. On October 6, 1769, Nicholas Young sighted the coastline of New Zealand from the masthead, Young Nick's Head. October 8, HMS Endeavour anchored at the entrance to Tūranganui (near Gisborne).

Hoping to establish friendly relations with the natives and to take on food and water, Cook went ashore.

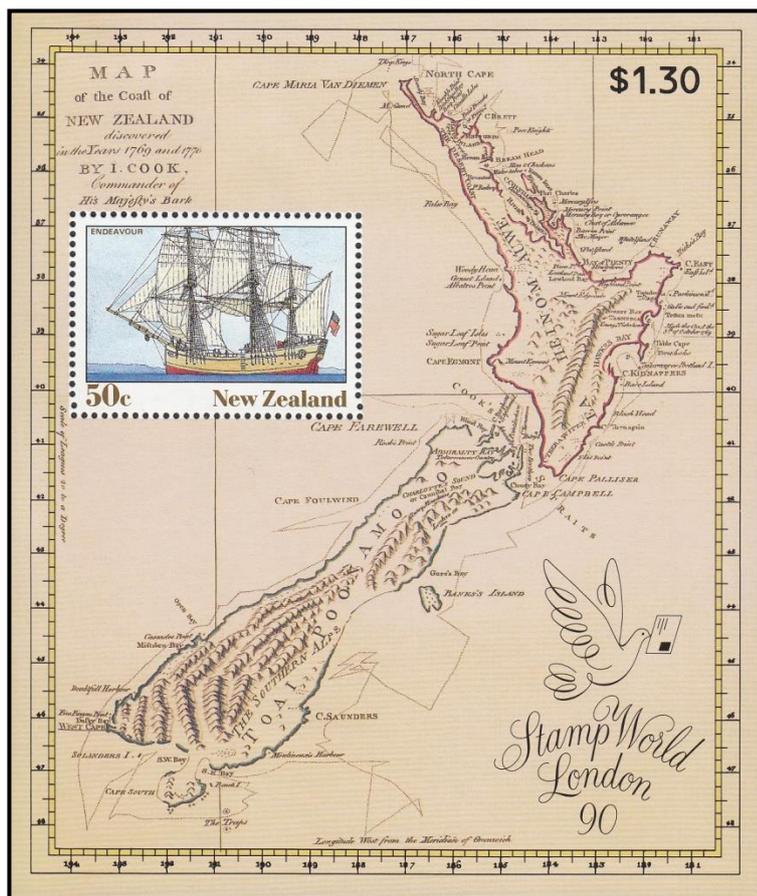
Through misunderstandings, Ngāti Oneone leader Te Maro was shot and killed. The next day, accompanied by Tupaia, communication was made possible. Gifts were presented, but the killing of the day before had left the Māori hostile. When a Māori seized a small cutlass, he was shot. In an attempt to win the Iwi's trust, four more Māori were left dead or wounded. Cook, upset by the deaths, decided to leave. Poverty Bay, named as Cook had been unable to take on food or water.



HMS Endeavour continued south. On October 15, a large canoe came alongside. Via Tupaia, Cook communicated with the Māori, and trade for fresh fish commenced. The Māori attempted to kidnap Tayetu, Tupaia's servant. He was rescued, and Cook named the place Kidnappers Bay. Two days later, HMS Endeavour arrived off Cape Turnagain, turns around and heads north arriving and anchoring in Cook's Cove, Tolaga Bay on October 23. On October 31, the ship rounds East Cape and on November 4, the HMS Endeavour finds a suitable bay (Mercury Bay) to observe the transit of Mercury five days later on November 9. During this time the area is explored and Cook claims possession for Great Britain



On November 18, Cook sighted Great Barrier Island and entered firth of Thames and anchored at Whangarei on November 25.



The ship arrived in the Bay of Islands on the 27th, leaving the Bay on December 5, he sighted North Cape eight days later.

Storms pushed the Endeavour north. The Three Kings Islands are sighted late December and Cape Marie van Diemen, (Cape Reinga), is rounded.

Cook entered the Tasman sea on January 1. On January 11, Mt Egmont was sighted and a few days later, Kapiti Island and the South Island. Cook at once made for the new land, reaching it by evening.

On January 14, the Endeavour arrived at "a very broad and deep bay or inlet". Cook named the inlet Queen Charlotte's Sound.

Friendly relations were established with the Māori, and trade for fish and fresh vegetables commenced. HMS Endeavour was careened and repaired. On 22 January, Cook climbed Kaitapeha peak, Arapawa Island, and saw (Cook) Strait, separating the North and South Islands.

On January 31, Cook claimed British sovereignty for the South Island. After a week, the expedition sailed back north from Queen Charlotte's Sound and arrived at Cape Turnagain on February 9. The north is an island, so Cook turned south.

February 16, Cook sighted Banks Peninsula. Cook mistakes the Peninsula for an island. January 25, HMS Endeavour is off Otago Harbour and charts Port Chalmers. When off Foveaux Strait, Cook carried on south looking for signs of land and by February 3, Cook had confirmed that there was no land to the south.



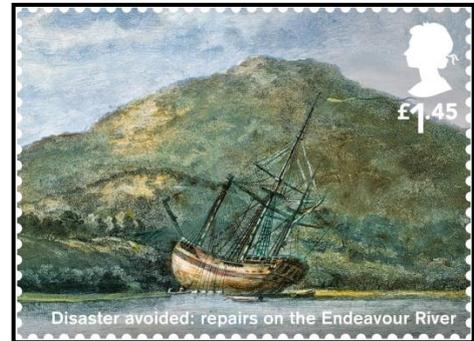
On February 11, completed the circumnavigation of Stewart Island. On Admiralty orders, (due to its potential significance as an island), Cook amended his journal and chart to depict Stewart Island as a peninsula

On March 13, HMS Endeavour rounds the southernmost point of the South Island. Travelling up the West Coast, Cook noted the rugged terrain.

Arriving at Queen Charlotte's Sound on March 27, Cook concluded that his secret mission is complete. There is no Terra Australis Incognita. After provisioning, Cook left New Zealand on March 31, 1770, almost six months after first spotting the New Zealand coastline.

Cook decided to explore the as yet unknown east coast of New Holland (Australia). Cook also intended to go to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) to establish if it formed part of the fabled continent. Due to prevailing gales, they were forced to maintain a more northerly course. At 6 am on April 19, 1770 the first recorded European sighted Australia's east coast, Point Hicks.

Here, Cook calculated that Van Diemen's Land was an island, (Tasman had chartered only part of the island). The expedition made their first landing at Sting-Ray Harbour, (Botany Bay), on April 29. It was the first contact with the Aboriginal people. As with the Māori, violence occurred but no deaths. After studying the flora and fauna, HMS Endeavour left on May 6. During this time Cook sighted the harbour at Port Jackson (Sydney).



On June 11, HMS Endeavour was badly damaged when it ran aground on a shoal of the Great Barrier Reef. It took seven weeks to repair. Encounters with the Aboriginal people were mainly peaceable and "Kangaroo" entered the English language. Endeavour resumed sailing early August



August 22, HMS Endeavour reached the northern most point of the east coast, (Cape York). When in Batavia, (Jakarta, Indonesia), Cook heard Louis Bougainville (French explorer) had sailed across the Pacific so he amended his journal to state that on August 22, 1770, he claimed the east coast as New South Wales.

After leaving Australia, HMS Endeavour reached Batavia October 11. Tupaia, Spöring, Green, and many of the crew died of diseases from Batavia. On July 10, 1771 Nicholas Young, who had first seen New Zealand, first sighted England again.

What was the impact of the first voyage? Cook set new standards of attention to detail and accuracy in cartography and recorded observation. In science, it had a major impact on geography, botany, astronomy, oceanography and was the catalyst for ethnology and anthropology. Vast quantities of material was gathered which formed the basis of huge collections. In health, Cook's dietary disciplines meant that no one died of scurvy. His practices were to be adopted by the navies around the world. The voyage resulted in the direct colonisation of Australia but not New Zealand. NZ had to wait to the 1830's.



Murray Taeye

Fonopost/Phonopost 80 Years On!

Many types of postal services, such as airmail, registered and AR (Advice of Receipt) are well known to most collectors. Recently, whilst browsing the internet I came across a New Zealand PHONOPOST cover to England, see below, figure 1. This mail service I had not heard of nor seen any such mail previously



Figure 1

The cover was described as: New Zealand 1970s PHONOPOST cassette mail special rate cover to England. The postage rate at the time for airmail to Britain was 23c for the first weight step. Having never heard of the postal service previously and turning to Wikipedia the answer to what is/was Phonopost was:



Figure 2

Fonopost, or **Phonopost**, was an experimental postal service in Argentina to record a person's voice and deliver the resulting recording by mail. The service was demonstrated at the Universal Postal Union Congress, in Buenos Aires, in 1939 and later the Argentine Post Office issued three stamps to mail the records, in 1.18pesos (see figure 2), 1.32pesos & 1.50pesos denominations. These are listed by SG as RM688/RM690.

Special mobile recording vans were used to make the recordings which used 8 inch 78rpm acetate gramophone records. As a service approved by the Universal Postal Union, Fonopost was not restricted just to Argentina. The Museum voor Communicatie in The Netherlands has a Fonopost unit with recordings that was used in postal offices from 1937-1939 mainly to provide people with the opportunity to send spoken messages to relatives in the Dutch East Indies.

So, what did Argentina and the Netherlands have in common apart from the love of football? They are located in different hemispheres, speak different languages, one has huge mountains and the other has land lower than sea level etc. The answer was most probably poor telephone communication infrastructure in vast rural areas. Certainly, within the likes of

Buenos Aires and Amsterdam there would have been adequate access to telephones, but not necessarily in the countryside.

Phonopost was used by several other countries as may be found with investigation on the internet. However, not all countries introduced the international service in the 1930s. Great Britain for example, introduced the service from 1 February 1966, and Australia from 1 October 1967. Mention of this (Australian) service was made in postage rate guides, and on 1 October 1970 the Sample and Phonopost categories were merged into the small packet category.



Figure 3

As may be seen in figures 3 and 4 stationery was printed for the discs, although the latter is not a Phonopost item.



Figure 4

Not having seen any I presume that these envelopes were quite sturdy and not made from paper as for ordinary envelopes. From a post made on Stampboards it appears that the Royal Mail sold a prepaid postage label bearing 2 x 5d dark blue Machin indicia around 1969 for Phonopost etc items figure 5.



Figure 5

Interesting to note the boxed rubric in figure 4. Goodness knows how New Zealand's Ministry of Agriculture (etc) at the time would have coped with the importing of wooden needles had the service been available to NZ!

Examples of Australian Phonopost rates for 2 ounces to Zones 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively:

- 1) Effective 1 October 1967: 8c (1), 15c (2), 25c (3), 30c (4) and 35c (5)
- 2) Effective 1 October 1968: 12c (1), 20c (2), 30c (3), 40c (4) and 45c (5)

The approved status of Fonopost was removed at the Tokyo U.P.U. congress in 1969. This explains the Australian (and no doubt other countries) decision to abandon the service in late 1970 or in 1971.

The 1971 New Zealand Phonopost cover in figure 1 was sold for £6.99, and various Dutch Phonopost covers sighted on the internet have sold for up to 450 Swiss Francs each.

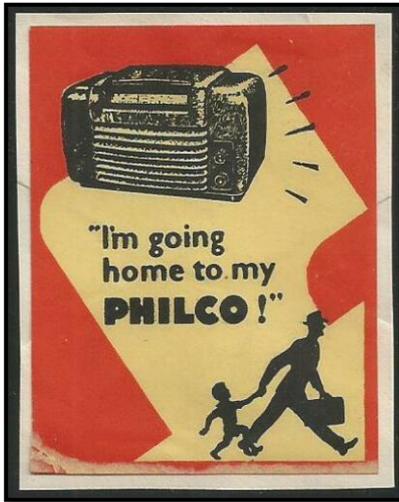
References:

Wikipedia
Stampboards

David Smitham

1950's Philco Radio Cinderella

Recently seen in an online auction, an unrecorded New Zealand Cinderella for "Philco" radios. Sometimes it can be a bit to challenge to confirm if a label is a New Zealand related item, especially if they don't have a company name or New Zealand written on them. However, in this instance, it was a little easier as I can recall my parents owning a radio which appeared to be identical to that shown on the label.



Professor Google was quite helpful and a link to the "The New Zealand Vintage Radio Project" website provided some history of the brand and a confirmation that the radio (at least) was manufactured in New Zealand during this period.

While the detail of the radio's image on the label is not that clear, there is sufficient to identify the model as being either a model 501 or 521, available on the market in 1952 and retailing for £21/10/- and £29/15/- respectively. The 521 is described as having a "dual wave receiver" which presumably was a more expensive feature hence the additional cost.

MANUFACTURED UNDER LICENCE FROM  PHILCO CORPORATION U. S. A.

The World's largest Radio and Television Manufacturers.

				
<p>PHILCO MODEL 401 Philco's famous midget with power and punch capable of receiving in most remote localities. Available in Walnut or Ivory Plastic. £16/15/-.</p>	<p>PHILCO MODEL 501 A powerful 5-valve Broadcast radio in a larger sized Walnut Plastic cabinet. Variable Tone Control, Local Distance Switch, Over-size Speaker. £21/10/-.</p>	<p>PHILCO MODEL 521 Philco's amazing 5-valve Dual Wave receiver. All Philco features. £29/15/-.</p>	<p>PHILCO MODEL 612 A dignified 6-valve Broadcast receiver in a Walnut veneered wooden cabinet. Large speaker with superlative tone. £35/10/-.</p>	<p>PHILCO MODEL 735 Philco's super powerful All-wave Bandspread 7-valve receiver. World wide range with ease of tuning. For world wide listening Model 735 cannot be bettered. £33/10/-.</p>
	<p>PHILCO MODEL 501RN As above with the addition of Philco's Famous Radio Nurse feature. £27.</p>			
<p>PHILCO MODEL 1255 An amazingly low-priced 3-speed Radiogram which plays all records. Five powerful Local Valves for broadcast reception. £13/10/-.</p>	<p>PHILCO MODEL 1221 A 6-valve de luxe Dual Wave Table Radiogram with 3-speed Automatic Record Changer and world wide reception. £69/10/-.</p>	<p>PHILCO MODEL 555 Philco's sensational Swedish style furniture Broadcast Radiogram. 3-speed Record Player and full Broadcast reception. £69/10/-.</p>	<p>PHILCO MODEL 555ARC As above with Automatic Record Changer. £74/10/-.</p>	<p>PHILCO MODEL 852 Philco's super de luxe 8-valve All wave Bandspread Auto Record Changer Console. For those discriminating listeners for whom only the best will do. £134/10/-.</p>

The following is cribbed from the Project website. The 'Philco' brand name was introduced into New Zealand in 1929 and lasted until around 1962.

Philco was manufactured by Dominion Radio and Electrical Corporation Ltd and they were distributed by Chas Begg & Company Ltd.

Currently there are 52 documented models.



Model 521

Philco was one of the world's largest radio brands. Based in Philadelphia USA it had its start as the Helios Electric Company and produced carbon-arc lamps until 1904. The Philco brand appeared in 1919, although they did not begin production of radios until 1926 - but within 4 years they were the largest manufacturer of such in the US

Philco had been imported and distributed in New Zealand by Chas Begg from 1929, although import restrictions in 1937 meant that only the chassis was imported and fitted to locally manufactured cabinets. By 1939 Dominion Radio & Electrical Corp. had been set up in Auckland to produce Philco sets for the NZ market.



The Philco Tropic range from around the WW2 era had chrome plated chassis' similar to overseas models but this costly process gave way to blue paint sometime after the war ended.

Model numbers generally (with the exception of some models from the early-mid 1940's) did not follow the US style of starting the model numbers with the year (eg 41-722) and while they started off looking very much like their American cousins they slowly drifted further and further from any similarity.

As the advert would indicate, Philco continued to be a leading brand in the NZ marketplace until the early 60's when, due to the parent company being sold off to Ford, the ties between the NZ manufacturers (DRECO) and Philco USA were severed, and DRECO introduced the Majestic brand to replace it. (I can also recall Majestic stereos being on the market through until the late mid 70's)

Stephen Jones

1918 Inverted Jenny Block



Discovered shortly after the issue was placed on sale in 1918, the inverted Jenny is one of philately's most well-known stamp errors.

Eventually, the full sheet was bought by Colonel Green, an extremely wealthy collector at the time, for \$20,000. The sheet of 100 was then broken up into multiples and singles and these went on the market over time.

The centre marking block remained in Green's collection until sold in 1946 for \$22,000 to John Stilwell. It was described as being the "gem" of the entire Green collection.

It was then sold in first ever Robert Siegel Rarities of the World auction in 1964 for \$67,000, and again for \$550,000 by Christies in 1991 against a then catalogue value of \$575,000. It has not been offered in public auction since that time, but it has been sold privately a number of times. It is now up to be auctioned by Spinks on September 27.

So if you happen to have a lazy million dollars (US) hanging around, it could be yours, but don't forget the 20% buyer's commission. Bear in mind a single copy was sold last year by Siegel's for US\$1,593,000

Stephen Jones

Early Polish Scout Labels/Cinderellas

Modern Poland has had a very chequered history as an independent nation. Go back to the beginning of the 20th century and ethnic Poles were in areas under German, Austro Hungarian and Russian control. Independence being gained after the First World War but with boundaries still fluid as they fought with the Ukrainians over Galicia, and a larger Second Polish republic coming into being. A number of early Polish Scout labels come from this period of history.



This series is dated 1917 and appears to have been printed in se-tenant strips with imperforate edges and perforation to separate the different designs. Appears also to have been in several colours. They all have a 20 groszy value indicating they were sold to raise funds.

The text "Harcerstwo Polskie" or Polish Scouts appears on all of them, as does "Kijow 1917". Kijow is Polish for Kiev, the current capital of Ukraine. The Polish Scout logo appears on several of them as do the letters seen on the logo CZU WAJ. The last image feature the silhouette of a city and the small text under it reads Warsaw, while the label also has Kijow on it. Another puzzle is the 20 gr denomination. This currency was not in use in 1917, the first period of it's use finished in 1850 and was not reintroduced until 1924. Something is not quite as it appears.

So lets go back to the some of the steps to Poland gaining independence. In the aftermath of the February 1917 Revolution in Russia, there were some 700,000 ethnic Poles in the Russian

Army. Some of them formed into a Polish Army to fight for a united and free Poland. The Polish I Corps in Russia was formally formed on August 23, 1917 and existing until May 1918 when it surrendered to Germany. The men were given safe passage to Warsaw where they were reformed as the Polish Army. In the initial period there were three congresses, the first two in Petrograd, the third was in Kiev from June 18 to 24, 1917.



Russian stamps overprinted for use by the Polish I Corps courtesy of Murray Taege

The next step is to look at Scout history. Polish Scouting started on May 22, 1911, some years before the war. It was the result of a student, Andrzej Malkowski (1889-1919) translating Baden-Powell's book "Scouting for Boys" into Polish. The first Troops and headquarters under Malkowski were in Lwow (Lemberg in German, and these days Lviv, in western Ukraine).

Scouting spread to areas of Polish populations in Germany, Austro-Hungarian Empire and Russia. In 1913 a group of Polish Scouts attended the Scout Rally in Birmingham, United Kingdom, taking with them and displaying a red and white flag for Poland, a country then not in existence. Their presence and display of the flag led to complaints from the diplomatic representatives of the three nations where the Poles lived.

In 1912, a logo for the Polish Scouts was designed and it is based on Virtuti Militari which was a Polish military cross from earlier independent days, with a Scout arrowhead in the centre and the text "czu waj" on it. The logo was not acceptable in the Russian areas and they used a fleur de lis with letters ONC (Ojczyzna - Fatherland, Nauka - Education, Cneta - Virtue). Scouting had difficulties in those early years communicating between zones, Austro-Hungarian to Germany functioned to a degree, but with the Russian zone less so



On November 1, 1918 there was a Scout congress in the city of Lublin where the Scouts from the three sectors met and formed a united organisation, the "Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego", ZHP, or Polish Scout Union. It was seven days later, on November 7 that Poland declared its independence as a country.

Incidentally, Ukrainian Scouting started also in Lviv (Lemberg) and spread through Austrian and Russian areas (effectively east and west Ukraine), but did not come out as an independent country post 1st World War and the various rebellions and wars of independence that followed. It therefore spent most of it's history "in exile".

There is therefore a reasonable assumption that the ZKP was an organisation that participated in the Polish Congress in Kiev in 1917 as they were well enough informed or involved in the political moves to form an independent Poland to have their uniting congress days before the formal political declaration of independence. Perhaps that is why they commemorated the event on these labels as it was the catalyst for uniting the three founding branches of Scouting into a single Polish movement, possibly in 1927?

Some further early labels:



The first two labels have values of 200mk and 1000mk indicating they are from the 1917 to 1923 period when this currency was in use and inflation rate was high.



Labels with title "Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego", ZHP, or Polish Scout Association. The series appears to have been in use around 1923 as the original print has a currency in use before then, and they have been over-printed using the groszy.



1930, a series with text "Harcerstwo walczy z gruźlicą" or Scouts are fighting tuberculosis, in three values and colours, a fund raising campaign to help those suffering from this illness.



Differing colours and values for this series which again must be post 1923 by the currency used. CZU WAJ appears which as a single word "czuwaj" means vigilant or the Polish equivalent of "Be prepared"



References: "The Undaunted" P J Kroonenberg, 1998, Oriole International Publication, Geneva.
 Wikipedia on Polish currency and Polish I Corps
 With assistance from Murray Taege

Paul van Herpt

September's Society Meeting

The meeting for September was a members night with members showing material around the letters "M,N,O,and P". We had 12 contributors in total which included two powerpoint digital presentations. Topics covered were a Pot porri of health related items, National Council of Women, Niue overprints, Military overprints, POW postal stationery, Propaganda leaflets, Pacific island of Tonga, 4 stockcards of NZ stamps showing Maori, Orchids, and related letter topics, Various NZ ships starting with M, Sovereign Order of Malta, Maps and aviation related stamps using the 4 letters, Post as history, the story of Halych-Volhynias (in current Ukraine), and Scouting covers entitled "My nice old pieces".



Murray Clark explaining his Military overprints

With that number and range of topics, no we did not manage to fit it all in in the usual 1 ½ hour meeting, finishing nearer 9.30! Great to see the range and the number of people participating, many thanks to all for doing that.

Paul van Herpt

Library

In 2013 a start was made to re-catalogue the Society's library books. This has now been pretty much completed (apart from a number of non-philatelic books). The catalogue is split into 19 lists each with their own unique identifying number, for a grand total of just under 12,000 listings (11,909 to be precise). A copy of the listing will be on the website and our next task will be to get it into a searchable format, so watch this space.

When borrowing from the library, please use the number normally found on the back or just inside the back cover when filling in the "honesty book" recording your borrowings.

Having achieved this milestone, special mention needs to be made of former president John Sheppard, who for the last 6 years has been in the library pretty much every Friday evening helping with this cataloguing project. John has now stepped down from his participation as a member of the Library Team, and so through the pages of this newsletter we want to acknowledge John's contribution and sincerely thank him for it.

Paul van Herpt

A Monopoly

In 2001 a company called Sandd commenced postal deliveries in the Netherlands in competition nationwide with PostNL the now privatised successor of the original Dutch PTT or Post. On February 25, 2019 PostNL made a 130 million Euro takeover bid for Sandd. On September 5, the regulatory authority from whom such commercial transactions need approval, announced they were declining to approve the takeover. The grounds for this was that it would create a monopoly in the post market and that there was no indication the move was needed for either or both to survive, this despite an average 10% annual reduction in the letters.

In 2018 PostNL had 18,000 post delivery staff processing 1.8 billion items for a turnover of 1.7 billion Euro. Sandd had 16,000 post delivery staff processing 720 million items for a 201 million Euro turnover. From this turnover difference it is obviously cheaper using Sandd and probably explains why in 17 years they have captured some 29% of the market. Meanwhile PostNL still has an obligation to the Dutch Government to deliver mail throughout the country 5 days a week, an obligation Sandd does not have.

Imagine setting up another post operator in this country because NZ Post gets deemed a monopoly! What sort of service would we end up with?

Paul van Herpt

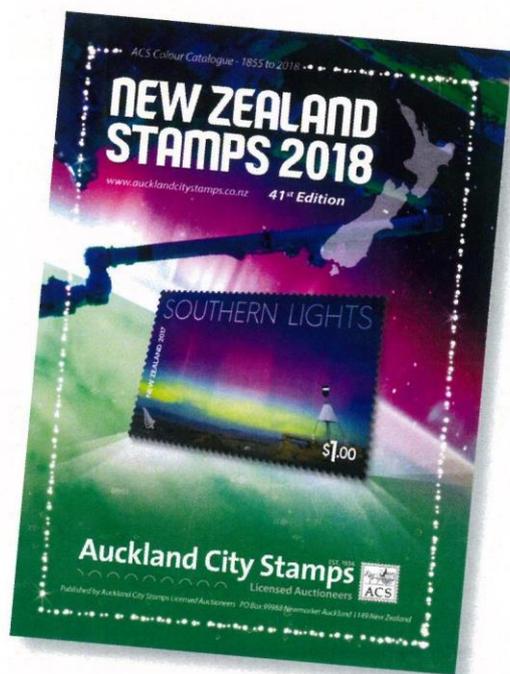
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