

# CAPTAIN COQK

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

ISSN 0122 – 9813

Num 826 (Vol 49 No 2)

March, 2021

## 1902 "Try Zealand Holland"



Dated December 1902, this cover sent to Zierikzee, Holland ended up going the long way via New Zealand. I understand that sometimes these mis directions are due to errors in the sorting process where mail destined for one country, with this example Holland, accidentally goes into an adjacent bag. It has received a number of New Zealand postal markings including a 5d postage due strike. Possibly this has influenced the Dutch post office in charging 25 cents postage due as I would have thought the original 2½d would have been sufficient.

Stephen Jones

## SOCIETY NEWS

### February Meeting

As advertised, the February meeting was themed on aerophilately and as a members evening, a range of material was on show.

David Reynolds opened with a frame of his Canadian Airmails, including a Winnipeg to Vancouver via Regina, Edmonton, and High River proving flight that was not listed in the Canadian Airmail Catalogue initially until he found newspaper references to it to prove its occurrence. He obtained the item in a collection of covers brought at auction, and this was its first showing. It obviously made an impression on the audience being clear winner of the popular vote for this member night.

Christine Haythornthwaite has two airmail covers from Rangoon when still British India (just) to the UK, from parents to their children in English boarding schools. Ian Gardiner showed some early NZ airmail covers followed by Alan Tunnicliffe with his take on the "World of Aerophilately"

John Kersel showed covers and photos of Union Airways and Robert Duns had mail from the Belgian consulate in the Belgian Congo to their counterpart in Wellington that had come via the Imperial Airways route to here. Jeff Long filled two frames the British Empire Rate of 1½d for airmail between the British Commonwealth countries in 1938-39. Ric Oxenham, a recent "returnee" to Christchurch showed Chilean airmails 1927 to 1937. Paul van Herpt finished off with Scout airmails, a PowerPoint display of airmails used to get mail to Scout events and by NZ Scouts back home when they are overseas.

**Sales:** The hall will be open from 6.30pm on meeting nights and tables set up along the back for members to sell swop, trade material. The society's circuit books were out, and one member took advantage of a table. Not sure if a lot of sales were made on this first attempt but this facility will be available again this month.

**2021;** November we host the 17<sup>th</sup> NZ Philatelic Literature Exhibition, the third such event held here in Christchurch. We understand the NZ Philatelic Federation's AGM will be here same weekend. We are also looking at some seminars leading up to the weekend directed more at the general public who have inherited a collection or have theirs from many years ago and do not know how to continue with it. Help to display variety, just like our members nights will be probably be needed as we develop the programme for these events.

Incidentally, if you have spent the lockdown period and hiatus on overseas travel finishing or producing a monograph and wish to enter the literature exhibition, the prospectus is on the Society's website.

Paul van Herpt





## SOCIETY PAGE

### PROGRAMME

MARCH 1 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

MARCH 9 SOCIETY MEETING **Paul Wales**  
1901 - 04 Captain Scott's Expedition

#### Paul Wales

1901 - 04 Captain Scott's Expedition

Paul would be one of the leading authorities on this expedition and its associated philatelic material. This is sure to be a fascinating talk accompanied by a display of quality items not often seen by collectors

MARCH 16 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

MARCH 23 POSTCARD GROUP

APRIL 5 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

APRIL 13 SOCIETY MEETING **AGM**  
President's Night

APRIL 20 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

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

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## What's In A Name



"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet". If William Shakespeare had been a stamp collector, he may have been a bit more circumspect. The name I am referring to is the name inscribed on a stamp, the name of a country. What's in a name? Surprisingly quite a lot. The name can be guarded. It gives rise to existence, both past and present.

The name represents all types of political and geographic existences. The name gives an assumption of competency and legitimacy. It also shows where these are challenged. Some of a country's past can be discerned from the name. If the name were to change, it would represent a fundamental change in that country.



The name represents a political authority over a defined geographical area. It is this, along with its content, which gives the postage stamp its political attribute. The political authority is any sort of government: monarchy or



republic; democratic or dictatorial; that has or had authority over the geographic area to which the stamp relates. The defined geographic area is usually shown in the content of a stamp issue, (maps on stamps). Most modern country names come with an adjective which can describe the type of political authority.

Currently the name represents three types of geo-polity: the sovereign state, any United Nations (UN) recognised country; overseas territories and dependencies claimed by a sovereign state; and not yet a sovereign state. These range from states not recognised by the UN to states with limited UN recognition.



Unrecognised state of Nagorno-Karabakh

The name confers an authority not just over the defined geographical area, but it can also confer authority or a claim over associated geo-political areas. It arises when the same people groups are split across different geo-political entities, and one political authority claims the right to represent those outside their defined geographical area politically. This can lead to extra territorial claims. In short, irredentism.

Political authorities have and will continue to use the name as a potential political weapon in other geo-political areas, mostly in the name of nationalism. When combined with content, (eg maps on stamps), stamps can become a powerful political tool. To protect their irredentist claims or out of fear of irredentist claims, names are carefully guarded.



Greece - map of Greek Macedonia



Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Greek fears of potential Macedonian irredentism over Greek Macedonia, caused Greece to refuse to let Macedonia call themselves the "Republic of Macedonia" on becoming independent in 1991. They were forced, until February 12, 2019 when they became "North Macedonia", to call themselves the "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".





Taiwan 2007



Taiwan 2009



Hong Kong (China) 2006



Macau (China) 2014

On 12 February 2007 "China" was dropped from Taiwan's state names and "Taiwan" was used instead. This was protested by the PRC China, as it viewed Taiwan as part of China. "Taiwan" was viewed as an independence move. A new government in Taiwan in 2008 warmed relations with PRC China and re-instated "China" in its official names. On July 1, 1997 Hong Kong was returned to PRC China, as was Macau on December 20, 1999. To ensure PRC China ownership is recognised "China" forms part of the name.

The name gives rise to existence. Existence and showing existence, was and still is, important for any sovereign state. Existence gives a state a voice and recognition. Stamps were part of the communications tool kit political authorities used. Stamps were considered a useful tool, as they were distributed both within the defined geographic area as well as around the world. In the age before electronic communication, it was one of the few ways many countries had to advertise their existence. The content of a stamp was and is used by political authorities as a method to disseminate its propaganda. Flags, anthems, membership of various international organisations, especially the UN, were and still are tools that are used to underline their existence.



As "North Macedonia" it was allowed to join various organisations, (NATO & EU)



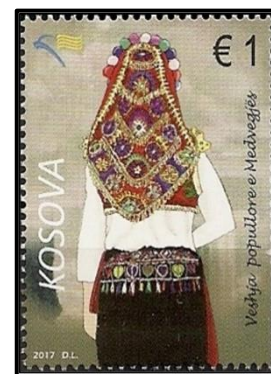
Republik Maluku Selatan circa 1955. Republik Maluku Selatan (RMS) (a group of islands in Indonesia) was established in early 1950 when Indonesia became independent. Indonesia overran Ambon, their main base, in November 1950. Fighting continued until 1962. In December 1950, a government in exile was established in the Netherlands. All RMS stamp issues are considered bogus, but they would have had at least tacit RMS approval if not direct approval

If existence is important to existing sovereign states, it is crucial to emerging states and peoples seeking self-determination in wanting to create their own sovereign state. It is even more so if they are facing an armed struggle to survive.

Advertising their existence is the first step to gaining recognition, which is crucial to the establishment of a sovereign state. As with sovereign states, stamps were considered useful tools to achieve this. The sale of stamps was also a source of much needed revenue. Like modern sovereign states, many rebellion issues were issued more for stamp collectors than for intended postal use.

Most stamp catalogues do not list those issues which could not be used in the place of their intended use. Such exclusions show a monocular view of philately. While usage is important, it is only one of the purposes which political authorities produce stamps.

There are several theories as to when a state becomes a de jure state, and then a de facto state. The UN's own rules are self-contradictory. In history, the main aspect of establishing a sovereign state is the requirement to have a more powerful external political and military backing, than the one that is threatening its existence. Becoming an internationally recognised sovereign state is not a clear or straightforward process. In many ways, it is determined by power and the international political climate of the day. Oft times, emerging states or peoples seeking self-determination are used as pawns in bigger political games played by powerful states. Today there are a few states that exist somewhere from state to not quite de facto state.



Kosovo 2017 - Kosovo is a state de jure only, as Serbia still claims Kosovo and has Russian backing

The backing of the Austrian Empire and Italy (for their own purposes) in 1913 saved Albania from being split between Serbia and Montenegro after the First Balkan War.

The US (President Woodrow Wilson) saved Albania from being split between Italy and Yugoslavia in 1919, during the Versailles Conference



Albania 1913 and 1919



Poland 1919.

Poland's borders were not settled until 1922

Emerging states and peoples seeking self-determination want to establish their existence at the earliest possible time. The geographical boundaries in rebellions are generally reasonably defined. This is seldom the case with emerging states. It was not uncommon for emerging states to issue stamps prior to their borders being finalised. This is especially so when there were disputes over border areas.

Once an emerging state has managed to become a sovereign state, the borders are usually worked out by a common agreement. The same can be said for currency. It is not uncommon for emerging states to use the old currency until sovereignty has been established and a new currency is established.



Showing the usage of a stamp as postage to far flung places is prized in traditional exhibiting

The name brings to existence distant and remote countries. Generalist stamp collectors tend to have a better grasp of the geo-political world due to their desire to put a stamp onto its correct page in one of the many pre-printed world stamp albums.

They will take the time to find out what the name on the stamp is (ie what country it is) and get some basic information on the country



It is understandable that a person's knowledge of the outside world is limited to their uptake of international news, general interest, and their need to know. It is, however, quite ironic that in today's electronic information world, general knowledge of the outside world is less than it was earlier. That a person is bombarded by so much data from the e-media, and that the data is available at one's fingertips, it appears that it requires a catalyst for people to access that data. Stamps are superlative catalysts as a portal to look at the outside world.



Wenden zemstvos

The name gives rise to the existence of geographic areas within a sovereign state. The stamps are called "locals". Mostly viewed by political authorities as an administrative tool, eg zemstvos, they can still exhibit a degree of political importance, eg Wenden.

Modern locals are in reality issued for economic purposes, not administrative purposes.

Today existence tends to be taken for granted, as existence comes to us in many different forms. The move of communication from physical to electronic has diminished somewhat the usefulness of philately as a propaganda tool for political authorities. For emerging states and peoples who want to be independent, the battle ground is now electronic, with domain names ending in the country's short code, e.g. .nz, and the internet.



The potential and actual audience via electronic communication is far greater than that what could ever be achieved via physical forms.



The ability of authorities to suppress communication is also reduced. Iceland will be the first modern country to cease the issue of stamps, though there will still be a postal system and adherence to the UPU rules, so the name will not disappear. The stamp will morph into a different form from what we are used to. However, there could be a time when the traditional postal system ceases. (end of part 1).

Murray Taege



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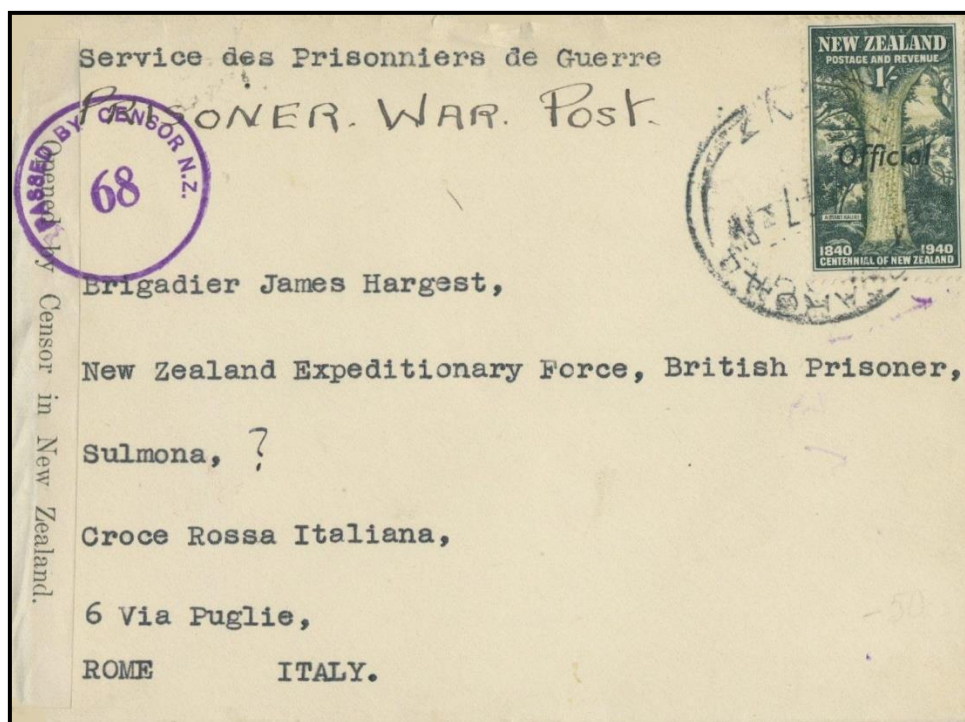
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Thanks again to Alan Tunncliffe for his sterling work in compiling the index.

## Brigadier James Harvest

There are a number of reasons to collect postal history, from mail destination and routing to usage of the stamp on cover. Many collectors recognise that although a stamp may have a minimal catalogue value, to find it used on cover can be difficult. The 1/- 1940 Official is catalogued in my slightly out of date ACS for \$15 but this an extremely difficult stamp to find used on cover, especially as a single rate. Consequently, I was excited to see the following cover offered in auction.

Along with the stamp usage, there was the added appeal of being addressed to Brigadier James Hargest, a POW in an Italian POW camp. Wow, how many New Zealand soldiers of this rank would have been taken prisoner in WWII? Unfortunately, it appealed to at least one other bidder too, and I walked away empty handed. I do not expect to see another offered any time soon.



Although not successful with my bid, I felt the cover warranted further research and found Wikipedia had a very comprehensive piece on him.



Hargest as a lieutenant colonel,  
1918

James Hargest was born on September 4, 1891 in Gore, Southland Zealand. His parents, James, and Mary Hargest were from Wales and owned a farm in Mandeville. Hargest was the fourth of nine children, and after leaving school worked alongside his father on the family farm. He joined the Territorial Force in 1911 and by 1914 had reached the rank of sergeant. Following the outbreak of war, he joined the NZEF and was commissioned as an officer, serving in the Gallipoli in 1915 where he was seriously wounded.

Following his recovery, he returned to active duty on the Western Front. Assigned to the Otago Infantry Regiment's 1st Battalion, he commanded a company during the Battle of the Somme in September 1916. His actions in restoring order in his battalion that had suffered heavy casualties following a failed attack on September 27, saw him rewarded with the Military Cross. By the end of the year, he had been promoted to major.



Appointed to second-in-command of the battalion, Hargest was involved in the preliminary planning for the Battle of Messines in June 1917. He carried out vital reconnaissance of the German front lines, penetrating the enemy communication trenches in the lead up to the battle.



Military Cross



DSO

He participated in the last offensive action of the war involving the New Zealand Division when on November 4, 1918, his battalion attacked Germans positioned in a fortified house in the Mormal Forest. His leadership of his battalion during the last few months of the war was recognised with an appointment to the Distinguished Service Order, a mention in despatches and the French Legion of Honour. In the immediate post-war period, he remained in command of his battalion while it performed occupation duties in Cologne until his departure to England on February 4, 1919.

After the war, he returned to New Zealand to resume farming. In 1931 Hargest entered the Parliament of New Zealand as the member for Invercargill. Initially an independent, he was one of the strongest supporters of the National Party that was formed in 1936, and held an executive role in the party hierarchy.

From 1938, he represented the Awarua electorate and had been considered for the party leadership, but he was no longer available once he volunteered for active service. The National Party leadership eventually went to Sidney Holland in November 1940. Hargest remained a member of parliament during his time on active service and in the 1943 election, he was the sole candidate in the Awarua electorate whilst an internee in Switzerland; he was thus returned unopposed. In 1935, Hargest was awarded the King George V Silver Jubilee Medal.



King George V Silver Jubilee Medal.



German paratroopers landing on Crete

Upon the commencement of the Second World War in September 1939, Hargest attempted to join the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force being raised for service. His application was initially declined for health reasons, but after intervention by Peter Fraser, the acting Prime Minister of New Zealand, he was accepted and appointed commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade, part of the 2nd New Zealand Division.

He led his brigade during the Battle of Greece in April 1941 after an initial period performing garrison duty in England. During the Battle of Crete he displayed poor judgement in positioning his forces around the vital Maleme airfield and in controlling their movements once the battle commenced. The loss of the airfield allowed the Germans to gain a foothold on the island and the Allied forces eventually were evacuated from Crete. Despite his own performance during the battle, he received a bar to the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) that he had been awarded in the First World War. The fighting now shifting to North Africa, Hargest led his brigade during Operation Crusader in November 1941 but was captured by German forces.



Hargest, centre front, with Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Andrew (left) and Major General Bernard Freyberg, Egypt, July 1941.

Hargest was transported to Italy where he was initially held in a villa near Sulmona but was transferred, along with a fellow New Zealander, Brigadier Reginald Miles, who had been captured in December 1941, to Castle Vincigliata, known as Campo 12, near Florence. In late March 1943, a group of officers, including Hargest and Miles, managed to escape using a tunnel dug from a disused chapel within the castle walls.

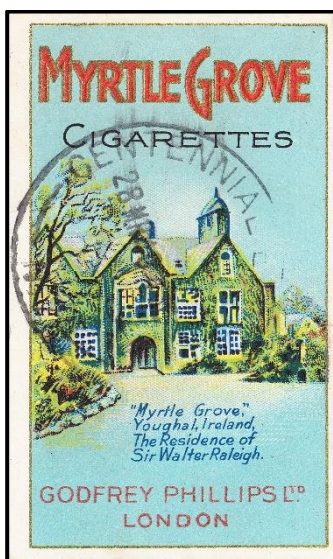
Of the six escapees, Hargest and Miles were the only two to reach safety in neutral Switzerland, where they split up to independently try to make their way to England. With the help of the French Resistance, Hargest travelled through France to Spain, where he reached the British Consulate in Barcelona. He flew to England in December 1943.

By early 1944, the 2nd New Zealand Division was fighting in the Italian Campaign with his former brigade commanded by Brigadier Howard Kippenberger. He was appointed New Zealand's observer of the D-Day landings in Normandy with a unit of the 21st Army Group. A month after landing at Normandy, he was wounded later that month. Now that the Allies were on mainland Europe, the 2NZEF Reception Group was set up to help repatriate repatriated New Zealand POWs and Hargest was appointed the commander of the group but on August 12, 1944, when he was making a farewell visit to the British 50th Division, he was killed by shell fire during the Battle of Normandy. Hargest is buried at the Hottot-les-Bagues War Cemetery in France.

Stephen Jones

## 1940 Centennial Exhibition Souvenir

The 1940 Centennial Exhibition in Wellington was a popular event with thousands of people attending the exhibition. Numerous souvenirs were produced to cater for the influx of visitors from all over New Zealand and even today, pieces of china or some form trinket are readily available on Trade Me. There was a post office open at the show along with a special datestamp used to cancel the mail, and also postcards of buildings and grounds for sale. However, it would seem these did not appeal to one visitor who made a little postcard from a packet of 10 Myrtle Grove cigarettes.



Stephen Jones



## Great Britain 1882 £5 Forgery

Probably shortly after stamps became a popular collectable, there was the temptation to create or alter stamps to appear to be a more desirable, thus more expensive, variety. Before the advent of cheap image reproduction, there would have been lots of opportunity to create outright forgeries, especially where the buyer would not have an image of the original stamp to refer to.

Creating a convincing forgery from scratch is a very labour intensive process so using a genuine stamp to start with, ideally one that is already very desirable, makes the job a whole lot easier. Fortunately, many post administrations provided the ideal raw material in the form of high face value stamps overprinted Specimen.



Under oblique lighting, traces of the original overprint can still be discerned



Collecting high face value Great Britain stamps from the Queen Victorian period can be daunting for the average collector and stamps overprinted Specimen offer a less expensive option for acquiring an example for the collection.

The 1882 £5 orange is one such stamp and, in this instance, the forger has done such a successful job of removing the overprint that in 1985 the RPSL certified the stamp, describing it as a "SG 133 £5 Orange on blued paper, used, is genuine".



A £5 Telegraph stamp overprinted "Specimen"

The removed overprint shows as a slightly blurred area on the front of the stamp and the forger has partially concealed this with a (forged) oval Registered Threadneedle St cancellation.

I believe genuinely used copies of this stamp are catalogued at around £12,500, which is considerably more than that which an example overprinted Specimen would cost.

A cunning forgery that would (has) fooled a number of experienced collectors.

Stephen Jones

## More New Zealand Commercial Stamp Packets

Further to my July 2020 article in *CAPTAIN COQK* article about 1957 Betta Peanut Butter packets of stamps, and thanks to Alan Jackson, I am able to show more New Zealand commercial stamp packets.

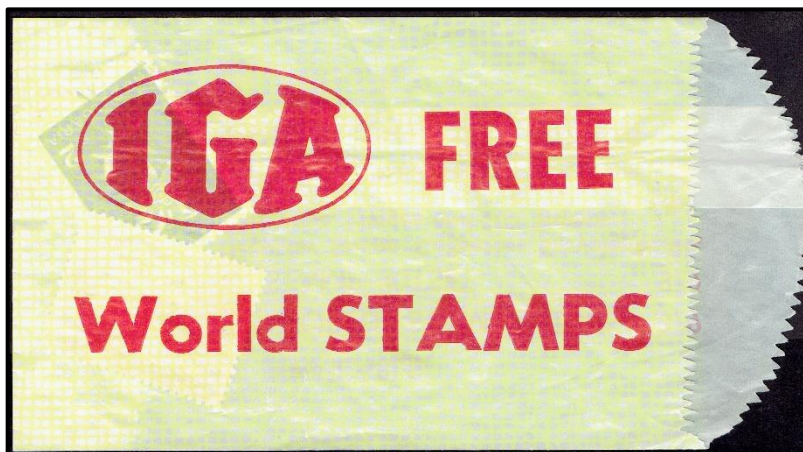
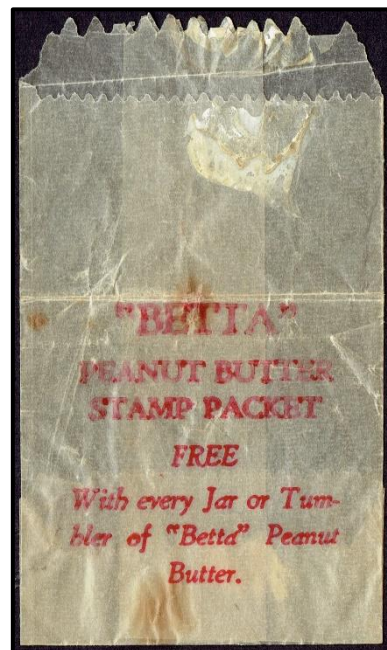


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figures 1 and 2 are essentially the same apart from the pale/deep yellow colours. As with the Betta Peanut Butter promotion mentioned earlier these contained a number of cheap stamps. It is suggested that after the initial printing as in Figure 1, that the yellow colour was strengthened perhaps to further disguise the contents of the stamp packet

Both packets bore (the same) additional rubric on the rear:

NOW AVAILABLE

I.G.A. WORLD STAMP ALBUM 3/9

I.G.A. STAMP KITSET 3/9

(Includes Stamp Collectors Encyclopaedia,  
Catalogue, Hinges and 100 Stamps.)

STAMPS (envelope pack) 1/-

HINGES (packet of 500) 7d

Figure 3 illustrates another, but different Betta Peanut Butter stamp packet. That featured earlier was in a horizontal format which measured 74.5 x 37/5 mm with flap opened out, and this is in a vertical format which measures 50 x 86 mm.

Both I.G.A. stamp packets were presumed produced in the mid-late 1950s so as to compete with the likes of the Betta peanut butter production, though of course if one purchased a jar of Sanitarium peanut butter in an I.G.A. store, one would expect the Sanitarium packet free and one of the above stamp packets.

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## Auction #82:

Auction #82 will include many more scarce items from the John Wilson estate

Closing date to be advised.

Below are illustrated some of the lots in the auction:



Slot machine pair used on  
R.M.S. Sierra (9 Sept 1905)



Slot machine pair.  
Roulettes at both ends



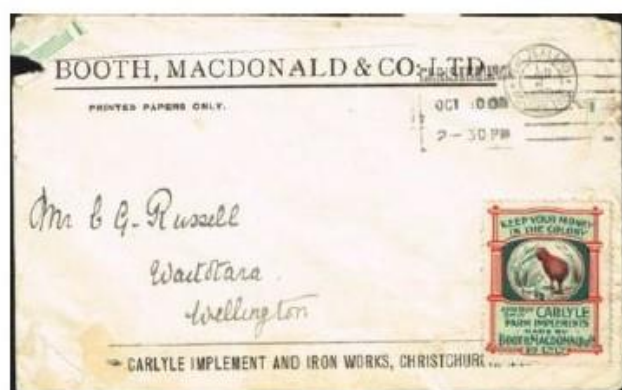
Slot machine single (Parker with two pin holes) on 1906 cover to SS Elvaston at Calcutta. Re-addressed to Bombay, Philadelphia and returned.



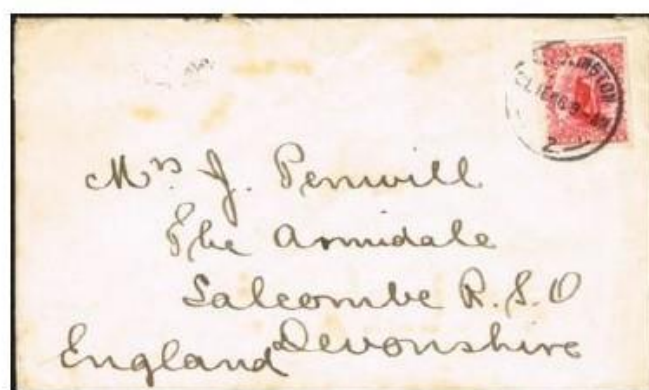
War Stamp machine  
coil single used.



1d Dominion.  
Coil single mint.



1906 'Carlyle' cinderella on correct company cover.  
Franked with Moss Model C meter.



Reserve Plate coil single used on cover on the  
First Day of Issue (21 June 1906). With confirming personal letter.



Alliance Assurance parcel label  
franked with two 1/- meters.



Auckland Exhibition 1d Slot Machine Issue.  
UHM with coil join between 4th and 5th stamps.



1/2d de la Rue vending machine strip.  
Coil join between 1st and 2nd stamps.



Two unissued proofs of New Zealand  
bi-colour meters. Robertson (page 33)  
states "Only four examples recorded".



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