

CAPTAIN COQK

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

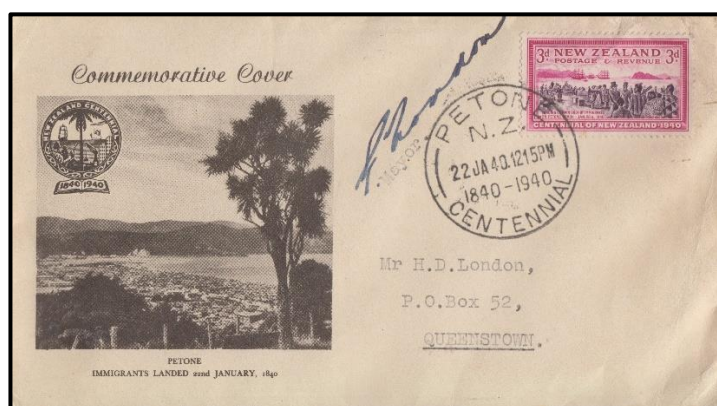
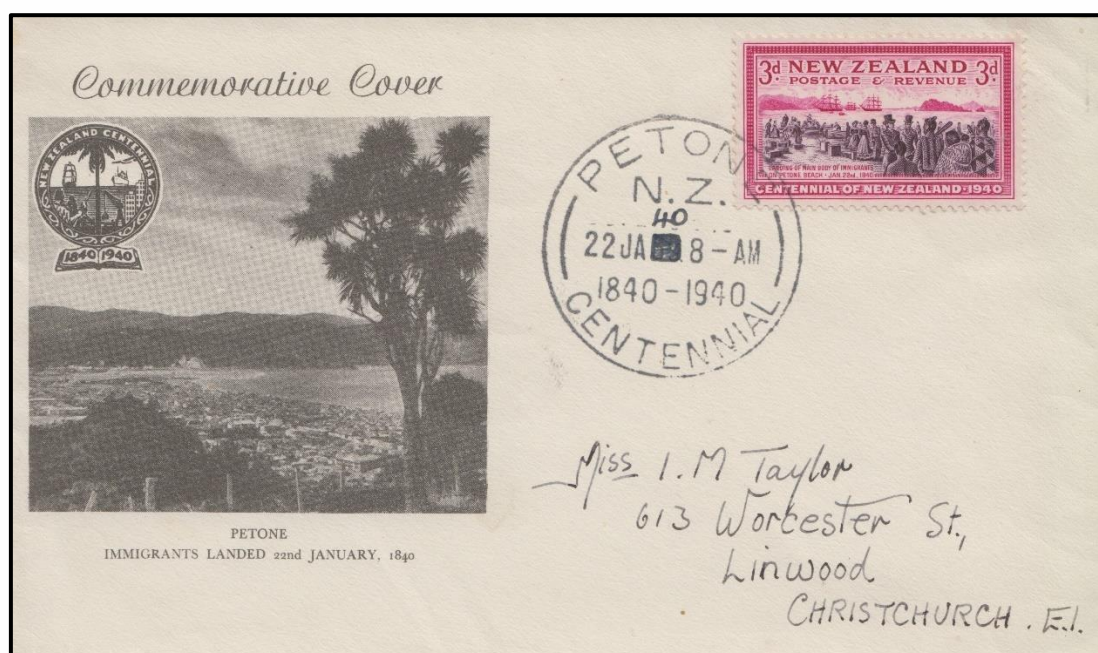
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May, 2022

1940 Centennial Datestamp Error

Concurrent with the 1940 Centennial celebrations and stamp issue, the post office decided that some events at Petone, Russell and Akaroa deserved further promotion and made available a datestamp to be used for the local celebrations. In Petone, this was on January 22, 1940. Unfortunately the datestamp was setup incorrectly showing the year as "1939"



The error was spotted, but not before a considerable number of covers were cancelled with the wrong date. These were subsequently corrected by hand. There must have been a lot, as the covers I have indicate at least four people were involved with correcting the error. A press report from the period shows there was lots of collector interest at the time in the error.

Date Stamp Wrong.

Keen interest is being taken by philatelists in the first-day covers issued on January 22 to commemorate the landing of the first settlers at Petone, Wellington. A special date stamp was used to cancel the stamps, and some of the covers received in Auckland showed the date 1939 instead of 1940. The '39 had been crossed out, apparently by a Post Office official, and the figures "40" substituted in writing. Mistakes of this kind are so rare that an Auckland philatelist wrote to the Director-General for particulars, and was advised yesterday that of the large number of covers dealt with on that date approximately 25 per cent. were postmarked in error "1939." Regret was expressed for the mistake, and an offer was made to replace the incorrect covers by others correctly postmarked. However, as it is considered by Auckland enthusiasts that the covers may be eagerly sought overseas, it is unlikely that any such application will be made to the Post Office.

Stephen Jones

SOCIETY NEWS

April Meeting - AGM

The annual General meeting took place for members on Tuesday the 12th of April and was well attended. Members were able to raise issues during the meeting. The President wishes to apologise to attendees, for missing out the agenda in the previous month's newsletter an oversight on her planning! One was emailed to those members we have an email address and extra copies were made available at the meeting when you signed in.

The AGM discussion focused on some key aspects for the committee to work on that included: The future of the society, membership numbers, library issues and changes required to comply with the Incorporated Societies Bill recently reviewed and approved by parliament.

Several CPS sub-committees have been set up to look at some of these issues and problems that may arise in regard to the revised bill.

Sadly, because the AGM went over time, the talks and displays were postponed to avoid members going home at a late hour. President Sue and webmaster, Murray will look at presenting their 'Trip down the Nile' at a date later in the year.

Presentation of Awards and Cups

It is with great pleasure I can announce the winners of the Annual Cups and Awards as being the following:

Anderson Cup

Donated by Frank L Anderson who was President 1943-44, it was first awarded in 1944 to Charles Hitchings. Nowadays it is awarded to the speaker judged as being the most informative talk and display for the year. The 2021 recipient is Mr Paul Wales - for his talk and display on 1901/04 Captain Scott's 'Discovery' Expedition.

Pim Cup

This was originally donated by the firm of Pim & Co., Auckland stamp dealers. They gave these cups to many other stamp clubs in New Zealand. Whilst this cup was given to the winner of a competition for writing the best philatelic article of up to 500 words in the newsletter in the last few decades it has been given to the second best talk and display or the member voted with the highest points from member nights talks and displays. The cup was first presented to Wilf Peers in 1945.



Pim Cup 2021 winner, Murray Taege researching for his next presentation in the CPS Library

In 2021 it has been awarded to Murray Taege for his innovative, lateral thinking and 'out of the box' power point presentations to members attending the monthly meetings.

John Wilson Memorial Literature Award

Newly instigated following John's death this award acknowledges the best article in the newsletter as judged by a literature expert. It comes with a monetary prize and was won by David Smitham.

(see page 43 for the write up from judge, Mr Jeff Long with his deliberations on the candidates for this award)

Congratulations to all winners

Sue Claridge

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

MAY 2 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP Open for all members

MAY 10 SOCIETY MEETING **Tim Beach**
The work of designer James Berry

Tim Beach: The Work Of James Berry

Auckland collector Tim Beach, a long-time stamp collector, exhibitor, a philatelic judge and NZPF representative will speak about his James Berry exhibit/collection.

Berry was a well-known New Zealand artist, noted for creating a large number of postage stamps and coins. Tim will show a wide range of Berry's philatelic design work that includes sketches, preparatory drawings and completed first samples.

MAY 17 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

MAY 24 POSTCARD GROUP Open to all members
Aviation

JUNE 6 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP Open for all members

JUNE 14 SOCIETY MEETING Annual Competition
TBA

JUNE 21 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

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

SOCIETY ADDRESS: PO Box 9246, Tower Junction, Christchurch 8149
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SOCIETY OFFICERS:

Patron	Jeff Long	President	Sue Claridge
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Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc) Subscription Rates

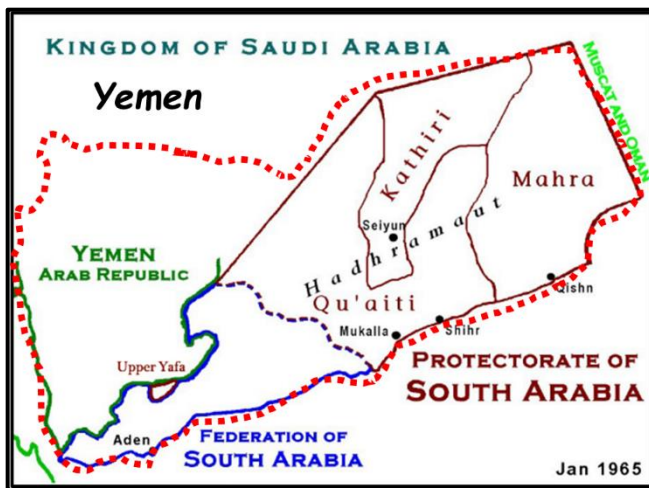
The annual subscription is \$60.00 which includes a digital copy of Captain Coqk. A \$10 discount may be deducted if paid by 31st March. Where husband and wife are members but require only one CAPTAIN COQK newsletter to be sent a combined subscription of \$90.00 is charged with a \$15.00 discount allowed. From 2021 there is an additional charge (for NZ members) of \$20.00 for receiving printed copies of Captain Coqk or \$30.00 if you want a printed copy with our personalised stamps. For overseas members, the additional charges are Australia \$35.00 and Rest of the World \$40.00 plus another \$10.00 if you want the personalised stamp used for postage.

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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Where On Earth Is: Qu'aiti Sultanate Of Shihr And Mukalla



The former Qu'aiti Sultanate of Shihr and Mukalla forms the central portion of Yemen. As with Aden, its history is tied up with British India. Yet it shares a similarity with New Zealand.



In the late 18th century and during the Napoleonic wars, France was interested in Egypt as the route to despoil Britain of its Indian colony. Aden was briefly occupied by Britain from 1799-1801 to stop this. On 22 January 1838, Captain (Naval) Stafford Haines obtained a treaty for the British Indian occupation of the port of Aden from Sultan Muhsin bin Fadl of Lahej. On 19 January 1839, British Indian troops took possession of Aden. So began nearly 130 years of British entanglement in the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula



Aden 1939 - Capture of Aden



Mukalla



Gateway to Shihr



Coast hugging dhows relied on these ports

Between Aden and the British controlled Sultanate of Oman was 450km of barren coastline dominated by two ports, Shihr and Mukalla. Shihr and Mukalla are not natural harbours. They existed: to service the peoples who lived in and around the large Wadi Hadhramaut and the smaller oases; and as watering places when dhows hugged the barren southern Arabian coast. These ports did not have to be well developed as their principal trade was people. Up to the 1880s, it was one of the last remaining entrepôts for East African slaves into southern Arabia. Its exports were the younger sons of both the rich and poor, who left the wadis to seek a living overseas. Sons of Hadhrami stretched from East Africa to Singapore to find work



Hyderabad 1936. Hyderabad was a successor state to the Mughal Empire

Among the more profitable areas for the Hadhrami sons was British India and its myriad of princely states. 'Umar bin 'Awadi left for India in the early 19th century. He had a successful career working for various minor Indian princes. On 1 September 1798, the Nizam (ruler) of Hyderabad, Nizam Ali Khan (Asaf Jah II) entered into a subsidiary alliance with the British East India Company.

Hyderabad became the first princely state to officially become a British protectorate. The British East India Company forced a Hindu Chief Minister onto the Nizam. To maintain his position, the Nizam hired Muslim soldiers. Many of these came from southern Arabia, and the



Sultan Sir Saleh bin Ghalib Al-Qu'aiti, the great grandson of 'Umar

Hadhramaut in particular. Most importantly, some Hadhrami became jemadars, high military officials, within the Nizam's court. They had the task of raising, outfitting, training, and paying recruits. Jemadars tended to recruit from their own tribe/clan. 'Awadi was hired by the Nizam and rose to become the head of his military. In 1865 'Awadi died leaving a vast fortune to his sons. The most notable was Salah bin 'Umar al Qu'aiti, who became one of the most notable of the Nizam's jemadars. Another contemporary jemadar was Ghalib bin Mushin al Kathiri, also a Hadhrami son.

With the collapse of the Kathiri state in the 1720s, Hadhramaut politics became highly decentralised. These two jemadars were to change completely Hadhramaut politics by vying with each other to carve out an empire for themselves in their Hadhramaut homeland.

It also ended up by making the Hadhramaut a British protectorate (another name for a colony). The war for dominance in the Hadhramaut started in the 1840s.



India 1948 - Red Fort Delhi
Jemadars (Zamindars) were a creation of the Mughal Empire



Both sides preferred trained Indian soldiers which were equipped with the latest weapons



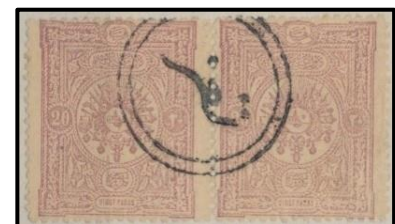
The Kathiri jemadar became the Qu'aiti's main contender in building an empire in the Hadhramaut

It quickly escalated from a few hundred to thousands, well-armed with modern artillery. Both used their Arabian and Indian connections to stoke the flames of war. The turning point came in 1866 when the war turned to the control of the two ports of Shihr and Mukalla. They were ruled by independent Naqibs and made their fortunes as the entrepôts for the men, munitions and ordnance used in the war.

In November 1866 Kathiri forces captured the Shihr. Kathiri forces then immediately marched on Mukalla. The Naqib of Mukalla did not have the strength to fight the Kathiris alone. So, he called on the assistance of the Qu'aiti. The combined forces retook Shihr but failed to conquer the Kathiri in the Wadi. The Naqib of Mukalla then left the Qu'aiti alliance. The Kathiri tried and failed to retake Shihr.

The war became internationalised. At this time Salah was Prime Minister of Hyderabad. The British Raj relied on his support to maintain friendly relations with the Nizam. British Raj obliged Salah's requests for aid in the war.

The Kathiri allies were the Sayyidis. They were traditional Muslim teachers and favoured dealing with the Muslim Ottoman Empire.



Ottoman Empire 1898 postmarked Tiazz, Ottoman Yemen

After an official request from the Sayyidis, in August 1867 an Ottoman warship arrived at Shihr. They demanded the Qu'aiti withdrawal from Shihr, and acknowledgement of Ottoman

sovereignty over the Hadhramaut. The Naqib, as with the Qu'aiti, did not want the Ottomans and called on British India for protection

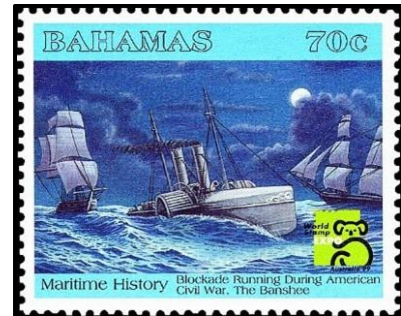


Britain initially did not want the expense of ruling NZ but didn't want France to claim it either

This is where the similarity to New Zealand comes in. In both cases Britain did not want to rule the territory, but they did not want another party, (in this case the Ottoman Empire) to claim it either. Unlike New Zealand, Britain got the agreement of the Ottoman Empire that both parties would not interfere in Hadhramaut affairs.

In practice, neither party knew how it would be enforced. At the time it seemed that the war would sort itself out. In return for their help, the Qu'aiti had bound the Naqib of Mukalla up in a series of financial agreements that all but bankrupted the Naqib. It appeared that the Qu'aiti would gain Mukalla, claim the entire coast, and win the war

Then a son of Aden, 'Abdallah bin 'Ali al 'Awlaqi, who had made a fortune as a Hyderabad financier, bailed out the Naqib. The al 'Awlaqi became the chief challenger to the Qu'aiti. In 1873, the 'Awlaqi advanced the money to the Naqib, who regained Mukalla in December. Also in December, the 'Awlaqi tried and failed to take Shihr. In 1874 the 'Awlaqi and Qu'aiti resorted to naval warfare and attempted to blockade each other's port. British India did not want to get involved in the escalation but saw the area's maritime peace under threat.



Navel blockades threatened the maritime peace British India relied upon

However, if it imposed a maritime peace, the losing party would appeal to the Ottoman's who had claimed the entire peninsula in 1872. By 1876, the superior resources of the Qu'aiti and their dominance in Hyderabad, effectively won through.

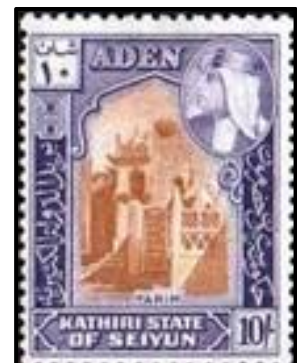


British India wanted maritime peace for its commerce and security

On 20 August 1876, the Qu'aiti took Ghayl Ba Wazir (Wadi) and defeated the Kathiri. In October 1876 they decisively defeated the al 'Awlaqi. The Naqib was now alone and Mukalla seemed likely to fall. British India now intervened.

Fearing Ottoman intervention, in December 1876 they got the two parties to agree to a two-year truce with British India as the final arbiter of any agreement.

After 5 years of trying to find a solution, the Qu'aiti offered a solution which British India accepted. In February 1881, 'Abdal Habib bin 'Abdallah al Qu'aiti proposed to British India that they purchase Mukalla for \$300,000. The Naqib thought he had British support refused. British India hesitated to enforce the decision. When the Naqib claimed to be an Ottoman subject, British India acted. By 11 November 1881, the Naqib was forced to surrender Mukalla and received the \$300,000. He left for exile in Zanzibar with 2,000 followers.



A full protectorate treaty was signed with the Qu'aiti on 1 May 1888. It wasn't until 1918 that the Kathiri entered into the same protective treaty with British India. In January 1876, the Mahra Sultanate entered into a treaty not to alienate any land other than to Britain. On 23 April 1886, the Mahra Sultanate became a British Indian protectorate. The entire coast of South Arabia became British.



The southern Arabian coast is now British



Qu'aiti inscribed "Hadhramaut"

Britain maintained good relations with the Qu'aiti. On 13 August 1937, a new treaty was signed in which a Resident Adviser was appointed. The Sultan agreed to: "accept his advice in all matters except those pertaining to religion".



Protectorate of South Arabia 1966

In 1954, the official name changed to Qu'aiti State in Hadhramaut. The rise of independence in the Arab states, the disastrous 1956 Suez Crisis, and the pan-Arab movement led by the Egyptian leader Gamel Abdel Nasser forced Britain to create a Federation of South Arabia as a precursor for Aden's independence. The Qu'aiti and the Western Aden Protectorates refused to join the new Federation, as there had been little direct connection between Aden and the Hadhramaut.

Thus, on 18 January 1963, the Protectorate of South Arabia was established. On 14 December 1963, a grenade attack on British officials inaugurated the "Aden Emergency" and the start of the war of independence. On 17 September 1967, communist forces overran Qu'aiti. On 30 November the People's Republic of South Yemen was proclaimed and the Protectorate of South Arabia was abolished.



Sultan Awadh II bin Saleh Al-Qu'aiti 1963



1966 JFK commemoration



Bogus Qu'aiti stamps



South Arabia Qu'aiti 1966

Murray Taege

Kapiti Coast Self Service Stamps



Recently, whilst processing a consignment of stamps for Mowbray Collectables, this writer came across some little known New Zealand Post issued stamps. These were available from the revamped Kapiti Coast (Paraparaumu) Post Shop in a trial, from November 2011 until September 2013.

They were thermally printed on plain white self-adhesive paper from a self-service Hytech Postal Vision 1600 vending machine shown in the adjacent picture of the post shop office.¹

At the time of notification on *Stampboards*¹ in early 2014, only a 70c machine vended stamp was illustrated, and a similar \$1.40 machine vended stamp was also known.

In the stamp consignment were a number of these stamps and a few used on cover, the first in either format seen by this writer.

Each stamp was printed on plain white self-adhesive paper and measured 50 x 30 mm with a 5mm gap between the stamps.

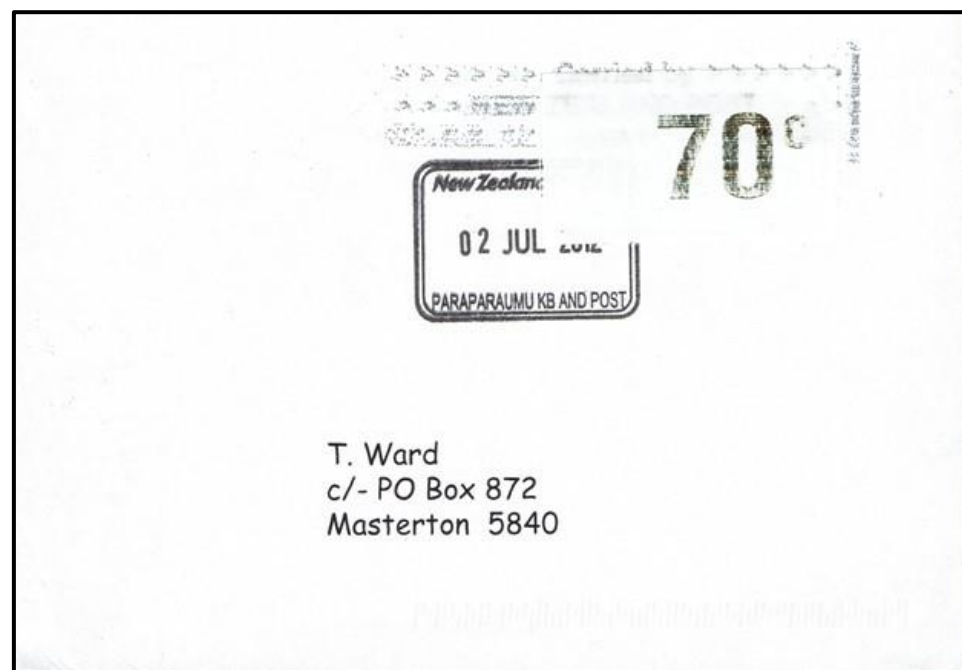
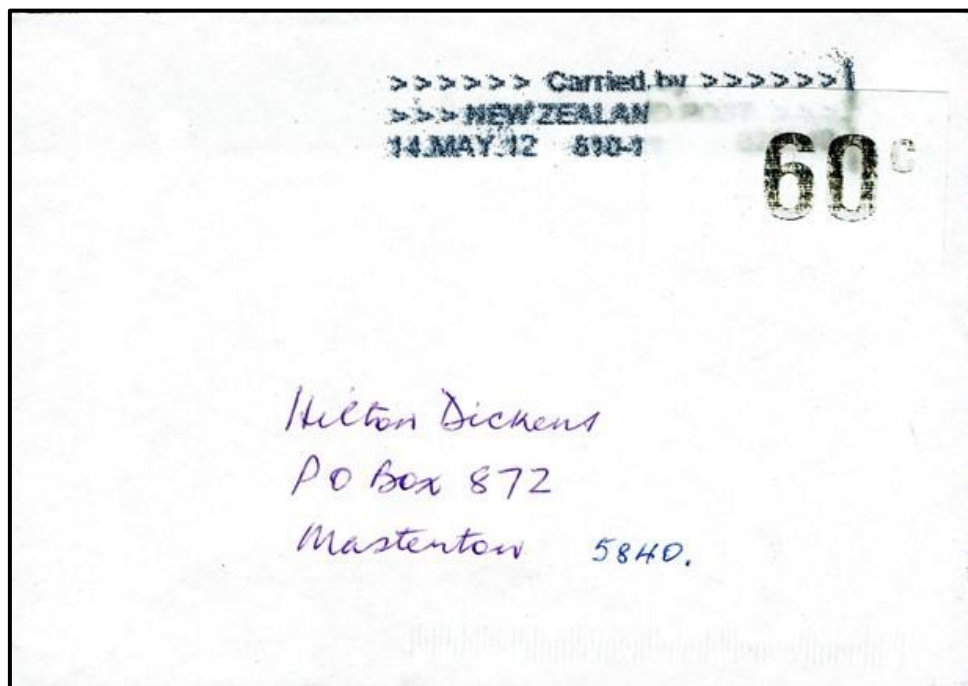
Illustrated below are 60c and \$1.20 denominations from this trial, and it is probable that the \$1.20 pair are not exactly as issued, otherwise much backing paper would be wasted.



With these stamps were 7 covers - whilst philatelic in nature, they are perhaps the only survivors extant of this trial.

The earliest is dated 14 May and bears a New Zealand Post ink jet slogan cancel. Another, posted on the same date is uncanceled but bears the same slogan cancel on the rear flap! A \$1.20 stamp cancelled by a 14 May 2012 priority mail roller cancel exists on a fastpost cover.

The next is a 60c stamp cancelled 29 June 2012 by the New Zealand Post Paraparaumu handstamp, as well as an ink jet cancel of 2 July. Similarly, a fastpost \$1.20 stamped cover bears the 29 June New Zealand Post Paraparaumu handstamp as well as a 2 July 2002 New Zealand Post priority mail handstamp.



New Zealand's postage rates increased from 60c/\$1.20 to 70c/\$1.40 for standard and fastpost letters respectively, on 1 July 2012.

Finally, two 2 July 2012 covers cancelled with the New Zealand Post Paraparaumu handstamp are known. The 70c denomination cover also bears a faint ink jet slogan cancel, whilst the \$1.40 fastpost cover, in addition to the handstamp bears a priority mail roller cancel.

It is possible that other printed denominations exist as customers were supposedly able to weigh and pay for parcels via this self-service kiosk, but none have, to this writer's knowledge, been reported.

No doubt, this facility being made available to the general public and producing 60c etc., stamps as shown above, these ought to be listed in New Zealand stamp catalogues.

David Smitham

Reference:

1 <https://stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?t=51604>

See also article by Brian Vincent, NZ Stamp Collector Vol 91/4 December 2011

Editor

Registered Post or part of ever changing postal services

At the NZ Philatelic Federation's last AGM, a number of issues were raised on NZ Post operations and services which the NZPF Secretary followed up on with the Chief Executive of NZ Post and to which a response was received.

One question related to registered mail being left in a postbox at a Box Lobby and therefore being available without being signed for. The response from NZ Post was as follows;

"The registered post service is a mail service and reference numbers are placed on registered mail items for internal purposes only. Registered mail is not a tracked service but is essentially like airmail which provides for additional security in the form of a signature on delivery. A card should be placed in the PO Box ensuring the box holder signs at the time of delivery over the counter."

An interesting response especially since airmail and registered post are not available domestically as they were once, so we are now only talking international mails. The comparison with airmail is interesting, has anyone ever signed for the delivery of airmail ?

The issue recently happened to me also, a registered item from Belgium with some auction lots in it was in my box along with a yellow card which was for a Courier Post item from Collectables in Wanganui with the most recent (April) CPS personalised stamps. When I questioned the postal clerk over it, I was told that was a mistake, it should not have been put directly in the box.

Two things that were of interest. Firstly, the envelope did not have the usual REG-008 sticker with NZ Post's own bar coding stuck over the back or over the front. An extensive article on these labels appeared in the journal back in numbers 766 to 776 during 2015 and 2016. These labels have been the cause of much frustration to collectors as postal staff at the International Mail Centre in Auckland regularly stuck them over stamps and postmarks.

I've had another registered item subsequently for which a yellow card was left, but again no REG-008 label. So I asked and was told they are no longer in use. Potentially that is why they could be going directly in the postboxes, the REG-008 labels are not on them, so they are possibly not keeping registered mail separate anymore. Signing is interesting too. It now involves the postal clerk taking a photo of the envelope with a handheld digital device looking very

much like a mobile phone. Pen, paper, and actually physically signing also appears to be a thing of the past.

Secondly, my post box was recently relocated by NZ Post from City East, in Phillipstown to the central lobby in Westside as they like to call that side of the Avon River in the city centre these days. City East was only open until 10.30am but you were given a code to access the lobby after that time. You also had the option of allowing the postal clerk there to sign for your registered items by completing the appropriate form. This was classed as a standard lobby by NZ Post. They've now closed this lobby and transferred us to a Priority Lobby which aside from being open until 5 pm and having mail sorted into the boxes by 7.30 am and is \$15 dearer

DELIVERED BY **New Zealand Post**
FOR ANY ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL 0800 73 63 53

Registered RP 052 066 719 NZ

CTC
A/D RP 052 066 719 NZ

D RP 052 066 719 NZ

NAME (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) SIGNATURE REQUIRED

per annum. Those extra opening hours also means the option of delegating the postal staff to sign for your registered items is not available, that's only for lobbies that are not open all day. Somehow, the services offered by NZ Post seem erratic and illogical in terms of customer service.

The comment that the numbers on registered mail are for internal purposes is interesting. Those internal processes include tracking. An article in this publication in 2016 (in no.773) showed how NZ Post staff had details showing how registered mail travelled, down to airlines, flight numbers and times, at least up to Sydney Australia. Registered mail used to be in separated specially sealed mailbags which were tracked by postal authorities. That was the point of the service, an additional layer of tracking security for which you paid an extra fee. If it is no longer so, why is registered mail still attract an extra fee especially if it has the same level of security as normal airmail as intimated by the NZ Post response ?

I sometimes think people like us collectors have more knowledge of the postal service than some of NZ Post's own staff, particularly those in "Customer Services" who are dealing with complaints. However, I think there will be plenty of people happy to see the end of the REG-008 labels defacing their mail.

Sticking with defacing, but on a different tack, we have seen much mail out of the United Kingdom with the stamps cancelled by a black Sharpie marker. Is it still happening ? Recently I got mail from Germany with the stamps cancelled by the black Sharpie marker. Got me wondering whether since Brexit, the Sharpie pens went over to the continent as part of the political wheeling and dealing and went from the UK to Germany.....

Paul van Herpt

Cont from page 34

Evaluation Of Articles In The Captain Cook For 2021

Three contenders stood out during the year.

Murray Taege, for the research required, the number of items used to illustrate his articles, AND for the fact that he provided an article for every issue of the magazine in 2021 !

David Smitham, who wrote 5 articles over the year.

Stephen Jones, who had contributions in every issue, and not just brief items to fill up a page or so in his role as Editor, but for some significant research items, including articles about James Hargest, the 1936 Commerce issue, Donald McDonald, and NZ Obliterator cancels.

Dr Ross Marshall and Jeff Long chipped in with interesting articles as well.

Congratulations to ALL the contributors, for without you there would be no Society magazine. My selection for the award in 2021 goes to David Smitham. His articles were all interesting, sometimes a bit provocative, and very wide-ranging.

David's articles on NZ flown covers introduced readers to a subject many would have known little about, and the same applies to his item about a visit to Te Papa. David's contributions about the LAMU cancellations of Imperial British East Africa Company, and about 'Operation Cornflakes' were typical esoteric and interesting 'Smithamese'

Jeff Long

1950's Austrian Housing In Titahi Bay

The end of hostilities meant that those serving overseas could return to New Zealand. Those that had seen action were probably looking forward to a better future and one where they could settle down and raise a family. One important aspect of this would have been owning their own house.

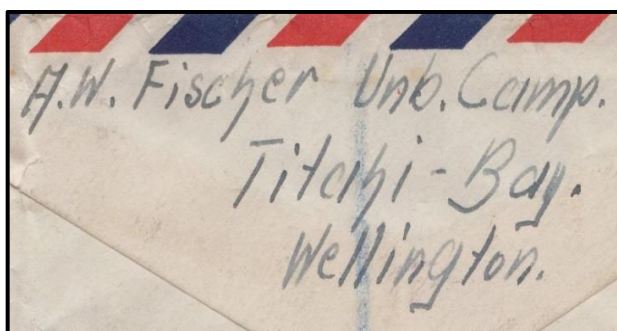
This was going to be a problem. The country they were returning to was suffering a housing shortage, and along with the returning servicemen, there were 1000's of families on waiting lists for new homes. Under the labour government, the state housing scheme that had started in the Hutt Valley earlier in the decade was deemed to be a success and it was decided to develop two blocks of land in Titahi Bay in a similar manner. By 1949 there was 45,000 people waiting for new housing and there had been a change of government with National now in power.

National wanted to reduce government commitment to state housing and was looking at ways of encouraging the private building sector to become more involved. However, due to shortages of material and trained builders, the Minister of Housing decided to restart the Titahi Bay development.



Cover sent by Austrian tradesman bought to New Zealand to assemble the imported kitset houses

To get this underway, the government decided to import 1,000 pre-cut houses, 500 of which would be erected in Titahi Bay. Designed in New Zealand, the houses were to be pre-cut and manufactured out of Austrian larch and spruce at a dozen sawmills in Southern Austria. They would then be shipped in a kitset form and assembled on site by "imported" Austrian Tradesman.



Sender's address at the worker's camp

The agreement for the houses also included the recruitment of 170 skilled Austrian tradesman who were offered 18 month contracts to come to New Zealand.

The workers were admitted on the temporary permits with the understanding that permanent residence would be approved if desired.

Given the post war conditions of Austria at that time, there were many younger unmarried skilled tradesmen who were eager to move away from Europe for a fresh start. Few had ever left Austria prior to coming to New Zealand and few would have had any idea on what to expect on arriving here let alone where New Zealand was.

By December 1952, the first group arrived by ship and were housed in a camp of small huts in Titahi Bay and by July 1953, a further seven groups had arrived. Most men arrived with very little other than the £3 given to them by the New Zealand government. The kit sets, which had been transported to New Zealand on the SS Aida Lauro and SS Polonia, arrived in February 1953.

The majority of the new migrants spoke very little English and relied on their English speaking German overseer to help with adjusting to their new environment. Some local teachers helped by running night classes but most of the learning was done when out on the job and mixing with the local community. By all accounts the Austrians fitted in well with the local community and through a shared interest in music and dance, got on especially well with local Maori. They were also responsible for the introduction of freshly ground coffee, something that they missed greatly, into the area.



Austrian built kitset state house

The Austrian worked in gangs capable of erecting a house from its foundation through to the final painted touches. Due to delays with materials and other project issues the initial contract was extended to two years.

At the end of the contract the majority of the workers elected to stay in New Zealand and become permanent residents with only 5% returning to Austria.

While the project didn't galvanise the local building industry as the government had hoped, the construction of the Austrian houses in Titahi Bay turned out to be a great success. They were well designed and solidly built, and still form a distinct and unique neighbourhood of Porirua City and now, sixty years on, many of the original residents still live in them.

Philatelically the cover is a mystery as it appears to be massively over franked. In November 1952, the airmail postage rate to Europe was 1/6 per half ounce plus an additional 6d for registration so 8/9 postage would indicate a registered airmail letter weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ ozs with a little left over.

While the cover is not perfect, it doesn't look to be stressed from a heavy enclosure so the high value franking could have been to the benefit of the recipient.



Typical floorplan

Stephen Jones

ANNUAL COMPETITIONS 2022

GENERAL MEETING NIGHT - 14 JUNE 2022

- Our annual Society competition night is in June, and we encourage **YOU** to participate them. If you are a first time entrant, why not put together an 8 page exhibit. The point of competitions at Society level like this is to give opportunity for people to try and exhibit at a more casual level before embarking on more serious national level.
- No entry form is required; however your pages will need to have your name and address on the reverse and numbered from 1 - 16.
- The class entered, and your name and address must be on a sheet with each entry.
- Members who require their entries to be returned by post/courier must enclose suitably addressed prepaid post/courier bags for return postage, in the method that you want your entry returned.
- The closing date for exhibits to be received will be **ON THE NIGHT** of the meeting. Entries can be posted to the Society at PO Box 9246, Tower Junction, Christchurch 8149, to arrive by June 10th 2022. Entries can also be handed in at the May 10th Society Meeting; or the May 17th Library Night.
- OVERSEAS MEMBERS: Please send COLOUR PHOTOCOPIES of your exhibit -This saves problems with Customs and GST etc. These should be sent rolled or flat - NOT folded, and will not be returned, but will be filed with other similar exhibits in the Society's library.
- PAGE SIZE: 28mm x 23mm maximum. A4 sheets will need to be trimmed to meet the height maximum.
- PROTECTORS: Entries must be housed in protector pages, and these can be obtained from the Philatelic Youth Council, P O Box 2979 Auckland 1140.
- **CLASS A: 16 Pages**

1	Postal History	2	Traditional
3	Postal Stationery	4	Aerophilately
5	Maximaphily	6	Revenues
7	Cinderellas	8	Thematic
9	Open	10	Postcards
11	Entries which do not fit into any of the above classes		
- **CLASS B: 8 Pages**

12	Adult Development - any of the above classes.		
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Judging - We will have a 2 tier judging effort, those who want to be formally reviewed loosely based on NZPF standards, and for the rest, a popular vote by the members at the Society meeting. We want to make this as just another evening where members can participate, like the Members Nights.

An entry does not have to be specifically written up with a competition in mind but can be 8 or 16 pages that you enjoyed putting together and you are happy to share with the rest of us and be put into the popular vote section of the competition.

Judging based on NZPF (NZ Philatelic Federation) standards will happen over the month of June and results announced at the July meeting.

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