

CAPTAIN COQK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

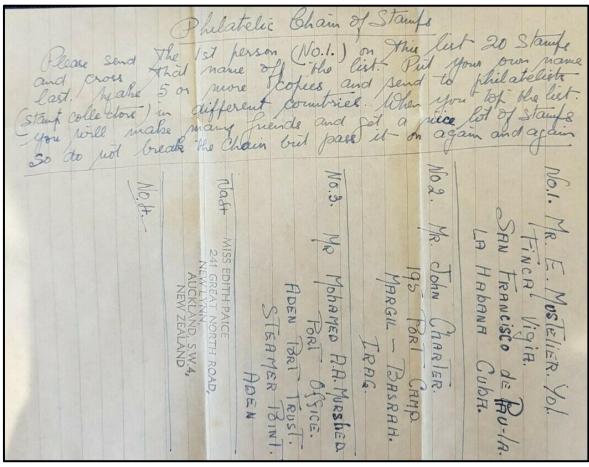
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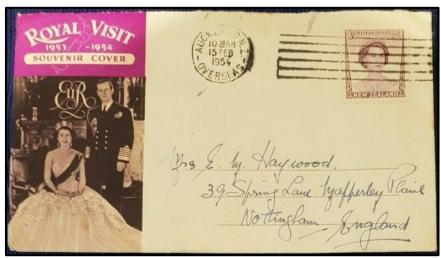
Num 844 (Vol 50 No 9)

October, 2022

1954 Stamp Chain Letter

Seen for sale on the internet, and interesting twist on the use of chain letters. In this instance the promise is not for riches, but stamps. Don't break the chain!!





SOCIETY NEWS: September Meeting

September Meeting Stamp Summary

Once again Herb Cowley from Wellington popped down to Christchurch, to give a talk and display at the CPS September meeting. This time Herb spoke on New Zealanders who were interned in Italian and German Prisoner of War Camps WWII.

Herb displayed four frames of covers and correspondence relating to the camps in both countries, preferring those with postage applied. Herb then identified the camp locations in both Italy (120) and Germany, differentiated between the camps mail of officers, and regular soldiers, explained which were working camps and gave the figures for the large numbers that were housed in many of the camps. Informative and interesting aspect of military history was presented to attendees.



Herb is still researching the topic and further examples of the various camps & the documentation for internment are required by him, if you can help, please email the President who can pass on your information to him.

The President wishes to thank Lester Hotton for his silent display of CALs, some unusual and lesser-known examples were also shown by Lester.

Marlborough Stamp Club 50th Anniversary (1972-2022)

The Marlborough Stamp club celebrated achieving this milestone in August 2022. Travelling up to the region, it was an honour to have attended their anniversary dinner held in the Vintage Car Club rooms, Brayshaw Heritage Park on Sunday, August 28.

The attendees were welcomed by the President, Louise Brownie, who spoke briefly on the club's history and passing on congratulatory messages from the NZPF, Canpex Inc, and the Christchurch Philatelic Societies. The venue had multiple displays of stamp material around the room for attendees to view during the function.

The 'anniversary' cake was cut jointly by several of the long-standing Marlborough members Paula Baily, Lynne Nicholl and Elspeth Wells.

It was a lovely celebration, and we wish club members a long & happy future and I would personally recommend if you were travelling up that way, why not try and include a visit on their meeting night.

The personalised stamps issued for the weekend are shown on page 107.



Cont page 107

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 3 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP Open for all members

OCTOBER 11 SOCIETY MEETING Members' Night

War and Peace

War and Peace

A wide topic with plenty of possibilities here, so dig through your collection see what's there to interest your follow members. Maybe say a few words as well if there is an interesting story to go with it

OCTOBER 18 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

NOVEMBER 7 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP Open for all members

NOVEMBER 8 SOCIETY MEETING Antony Harris

New Zealand Post

NOVEMBER 15 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

NOVEMBER 22 POSTCARD GROUP Open for all members

Waters and Waterways

All meetings are held at the Philatelic Centre, 67 Mandeville Street, Riccarton, and

commence at 7.30 pm. (Library night closes at 10 pm)

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SOCIETY OFFICERS:

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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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Where On Earth Is: Šibenik?

Šibenik (Italian Sebenico) is a city on the Dalmatian coast, part of Croatia. In 1944 Croatia printed a local issue for Šibenik after the puppet state of Croatia took over parts of Dalmatia when Italy surrendered on September 8, 1943. It represented the destruction of the Italian Empire during World War 2.



Italy 1929 overprinted N.D. Hrvatska (Independent State of Croatia) for local use in Šibenik

The story starts in 229 BC with the first Roman invasion of Illyria. By 27 BC Illyria was fully Romanised. In 7 AD, Istria (part of Illyria) became part of the Roman province of Italia. In the 1st century AD Rome split up Illyria. The province of Dalmatia came out of it.



Ukraine 2003 Gothic Army
The Ostrogoths entered via the Ukraine

With the death of Roman emperor Theodosius I, the split (again) of the Roman empire into West and East this time became permanent. Dalmatia was assigned to the Western Roman Empire. On September 4, 476, Odoacer, leader of the Germanic federate troops in Italy, deposed Romulus, the last Roman emperor. This is considered to be the end of the Western Roman Empire. In 480 Odoacer invaded and annexed Dalmatia into his Kingdom of Italy.

In 489-490, the Ostrogoth (Eastern Goth) king, Theodoric the Great, conquered Odoacer's Kingdom of Italy, including Dalmatia. The Eastern Roman Emperor, Justinian I, wanted to reestablish the old Roman Empire. This included the Gothic war (535-554) with the Ostrogothic Kingdom of Italy.

In 536 the Eastern Romans, took Dalmatia, but it took till 554 to subdue all of Italy. Justinian I's wars severely weakened Eastern Rome militarily. Eastern Rome was unable to stop the Lombard invasion of Italy in 568, which fragmented Italy. It would take nearly 1300 years (in 1870) when Italy would again be united.

The first Slavic incursion into the Eastern Roman Empire occurred in 518. In 551, the Slavs spent a year in Dalmatia. By 615, the Balkans was described as "Sklavinia", inhabited or controlled by Slavs.



Albania 2003 Justinian I Albania forms roughly southern Illyria



Traditional" Slav costumes

Many Romans fled to the coastal cities for refuge as the different Slavic tribes settled the hinterland surrounding the coastal cities. As the Slavic tribes did not possess a navy, Eastern Rome was able to resupply and reinforce many besieged coastal cities. Over the centuries the Slavs came to dominate many of these coastal cities.

Venice was established as a place of refuge in the lagoons from the successive waves of Hunnic and Germanic invaders

that devastated northern Italy from the early 5^{th} century. The Lombard invasion reduced Eastern Roman Italy into small territories controlled from the last Imperial Roman Capital, Ravenna, the Exarchate of Ravenna. Venice was part the Exarchate. It was from the Exarchate that Eastern Rome sustained the coastal Istrian/Dalmatian towns.



1600th ann. of Venice's founding 421AD



Fiume 1919 Venetian Galley Venetian galleys ruled the eastern Mediterranean

this Istria/Dalmatia gravitated towards Italy. In 751 the Lombards ended Exarchate. In 756 Pepin the Younger, King of the Franks, defeated the Lombards and donated the former Exarchate lands to the Papacy.

This marked the beginning of the temporal power of the popes. By this time Venice had risen in power and prominence. Venetian independence was sealed with their victory over the Franks in the siege of Venice, 809-810. Venetian policy was split between Italian or Istrian/Dalmatian expansion. In 991, Doge Pietro II Orseolo, settled on Istrian/Dalmatian expansion. In 1000 AD Venice secured Istria/Dalmatia. For the next 797 years Croats, Hungarians, and Ottoman Turks also vied for control of Istria and Dalmatia.



200th anniversary of the Congress of Vienna

Venice's end came with the Napoleonic conquest of mainland Venice. The Treaty of Campoformio, October 18, 1797, gave Venice and Istria /Dalmatia to Austria. After the Peace of Pressburg, December 26, 1805, they became part of Napoleon's puppet Kingdom of Italy.

The 1814-1815 Congress of Vienna (which re-ordered Europe after Napoleon's demise) returned Venice and Istria/Dalmatia to Austria, much to the anger of Italian nationalists.

During the revolutions which swept Europe in 1848-49, the Kingdom of Sardinia tried to unify Italy by invading Austrian held Lombardy and Venice, the 1848-49 First War of Italian Independence. Austrian forces defeated Sardinia. In the Plombières Agreement 21 July 1858, France agreed to support Sardinia's efforts to expel Austria from Italy in return for ceding Savoy and Nice to France.

The Second Italian War of Independence, 1859, succeeded in forcing Austria out of Lombardy and unifying the rest of Italy under Sardinia.

It failed to wrest Venice/Istria from Austria or gain the Papal States.



French military mail from Napoleon III's Army of Italy dated 10 August 1859

On April 8, 1866, Italy signed a military alliance with Prussia to take advantage of the impending Austro-Prussian War. The Prussian victory at Sadowa, July 3, 1866, enabled Italy to gain Venice in the Third Italian War of Independence. Napoleon III withdrew French troops from Rome during the 1870 Franco-Prussian War. Italian troops entered Rome on September 20, 1870. On October 2, Rome became the official capital of Italy. Thus ended the temporal papal power which the Franks (France) had started in 756.



Cent. of the Union of Rome & Italy



Italian nationalists looked to Illyria (occupied by Austria in the north and Ottomans in the south) and Africa to establish a new Italian empire.

Italy aspired to make Tunisia its colony, due to the large Italian population living there. However, on May 12, 1881 France claimed Tunisia.

The first Italian overseas colony was Eritrea, secured by the Treaty of Wuchale with Ethiopia, May 2, 1889. The disastrous Italian defeat in the First Italo-Ethiopian War 1894-1896, ended the Italian dream of conquering Ethiopia. By April 30, 1908, Italian Somalia became a colony. Italy participated in suppressing the 1901 Boxer Rebellion and gained a small concession in Tianjin. In the Italo-Ottoman War, 1911-1912, Italy took Libya and the Dodecanese Islands from the Ottoman Empire.

The real prize of Italian irredentists and nationalists was Istria/Dalmatia. Italians were only the majority or largest ethnic group in some coastal cities and islands, with the Croats or Slovenes being over 80% of the entire population.

To counter Italian claims, Austria promoted pro-Austrian Croat and Slovene nationalism.



Italian occ. of the Dodecanese Islands



Italian occ. of Istria

This is the basis of Croat/Slovene antipathy toward the Serb dominated Yugoslavia from 1919. On May 20, 1882, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed an uneasy Triple Alliance. Italy remained neutral at the start of World War 1.



Yugoslav stamps postmarked Šibenik 1936 indicated Šibenik was part of Yugoslavia, which Italy desired.

In the (Secret) Treaty of London, April 26, 1915, Britain, and France promised Italy ownership of Istria, most of Dalmatia and parts of Albania, to induce Italy to declare war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.

After the war Italy only gained Istria and later Fiume (modern Rijeka). Italy felt humiliated and betrayed. This and the post-WW1 financial turmoil caused the rise of Mussolini's Fascist's.



1938 Italian East Africa

They took power on October 22, 1922. Mussolini demanded ownership of Slovenia, Croatia, and Albania, among other territorial claims.

In the Second Italo-Ethiopian War, 1935-1937, Italy conquered Ethiopia. On April 12, 1939, Italy annexed Albania.



Italy 1932 10th ann. of Mussolini's march on Rome. (Mussolini pictured

Mussolini wanted to invade Greece and Yugoslavia, but Hitler forbade it. However, Italy attacked Greece on October 28, 1940 and was utterly defeated. The German victory over Yugoslavia April 18, 1941, and Greece April 30 saved Italy. Germany carved up Yugoslavia.

Western Slovenia and Montenegro were given to Italy. The puppet Independent State of Croatia was formed.

On May 19, 1941, Italy forced Croatia to cede Dalmatia including Kotor to it in the Treaty of Rome. In Istria/Dalmatia the Italian treatment of the Croats and Slovenes was particularly harsh, it included force "Italianisation" and brutal anti-partisan reprisals.

The end of the Italian Empire started in Africa.



"Independent" Croatia



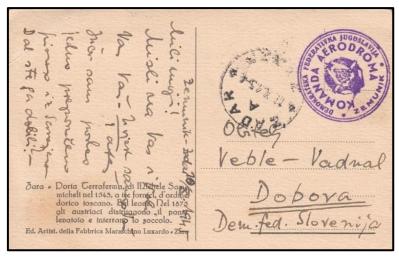
1929 Italian stamp postmarked Sebenico Dalmazia,3/11/1942 Italian occupation of Šibenik

Italy initially captured British Somaliland in June 1940, but by November 27, 1941, Britain had captured Italian Eritrea, Somalia, and freed Ethiopia. On February 4, 1943, Britain captured Libya. On August 17, 1943, Allied troops captured Sicily. On September 3, 1943, the Allies invaded mainland Italy. Italy surrendered on 8 September.

Croatia declared the Treaty of Rome void. Orders given to the Italian soldiers were vague. In some places Italian troops surrendered while others, as in Split and Zadar, went over to the partisans. Germany secured Istria by 10 September. Croatia fought alongside German troops to take over Dalmatia.



Allied occ. of Italy
By September 15 Šibenik was
captured. Germany turned
Istria into Operational Zone
Adria. In 1944 Soviet and
Tito's Yugoslav Partisan armies
advanced up Yugoslavia.



Partisan military mail from Zadar 1945. Yugoslavia regained Dalmatia

Šibenik was freed on November 3, 1944. Many Italians who were captured by Tito's partisans were massacred. On May 1, 1945, Tito's 4th Partisan Army reached Trieste. On May 2, the 2nd NZ Division arrived in Trieste, to the relief of the Italians.



Italy 1929 Roman Emperor
Augustus

Mussolini dreamed of creating a new Roman empire and borrowed heavily from its symbolism. Most famously the word "fascist", derived from "fasces", meaning "bundle of sticks", the Roman symbol of authority and power. The Šibenik issue represented the end Mussolini's dream and of over 2000 years of an "Italian" empire. Japan annexed the Italian concession in Tianjin on September 8, 1943. With Japan's surrender on August 10, 1945, Italy's concession was effectively revoked. The Treaty of Paris, February 10, 1947, formalised Italy's 1943 surrender. It is currently difficult to see that an Italian empire could be re-established

Murray Taege

"A" Class Datestamps

Last year I wrote a piece on obliterator cancellations used by the post office. By the 1870s, a lot of new post offices had opened and a new standardised datestamp format, the "A" class, was rolled out by the post office. The advantage with these was that the device was made up using loose type and so could be transferred from one office to another should the need arise. The impression from the device typically measured just over 21mm in diameter but examples range from 20 - 25mm and aside from a few exceptions was made up of four rows of text or numbers. The top row has the letters NZ, followed by the name of the office, then the dd mm yy as a single dateline and finally either an index number or space.

Although there had been some development with the use of circular datestamps, it wasn't until the 1860s that the forerunners of the "A" class devices were put into use. Initially described as relief cancels, they are now accepted as the first datestamps provided for use at local or sub offices within the provinces. They are known as letter/number datestamps as the first line of characters is a letter, indicating the province, followed by a number indicating the office at which they were used.





L1 allocated to Papanui



L7 allocated to Heathcote Valley

W9 allocated to Castle Point

In the above, "W" numbers were allocated to Wellington, "L" numbers to Lyttelton, Canterbury, where the Chief Post Office was in 1862. Using the letter/number combination would have facilitated the reallocation of the device to another office if required. Covers found with these datestamps are uncommon and strikes on individual stamps are often difficult to read.



Broadfield 1896



Presentation cancel

Rollout of the "A" class datestamps began in the mid 1870's after the Chalon Head stamps had been replaced by the First Sideface issue of 1874.

Postal usage on Chalons Heads has been noted but these are found on examples used outside the Chalon issue period. An "A" class style datestamp was also used for cancelling Chalons for use as presentation copies

Even with the intended standardisation, there was still some variances in format as they were being put into widespread use. In his book "A Class and Allied Datestamps", Craddock identifies

three precursor formats he defines as Types A, B, and C. All have the dateline in two lines, as opposed to a single line found with the true "A" class cancels, and are summarised as follows:

- Type A Index letter above the letters NZ
- Type B Similar to Type A but with the letters NZ well down leaving a noticeable gap
- Type C Similar to the "A" class but the date still in two lines



Craddock Type A, with the index letter above NZ, used in Wellington

The Craddock Type A precursor datestamp see above used in Wellington was superceded by 1876 with the first of over 30 "A" class datestamps identified as being used in some form in Wellington. Putting together a full set of these on cover wouldn't happen overnight.



Mourning cover, Wellington "A" class, 29 February, 1876

With well over 2,000 post offices receiving this style of canceller there is plenty to choose from. Due to their small size, the bulk of a clean, well centred strike can fit on the smallest of the stamps issued although it can take still take a while to find that "just right" copy of even the commonest offices as shown in the examples below.





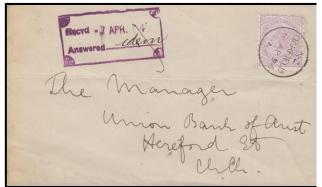






This has made them a popular choice for many postmark collectors as they have a high visual appeal. They were also used through a period where many small post offices were in operation, some for only a short duration, adding to the challenge of finding not only a copy, but an example showing the complete name of the office.

Examples of covers cancelled with these datestamps are quite readily available and the huge quantity of mail associated with the Union Bank of Christchurch provided a good source of Christchurch region material.





Union Bank mail from Darfield

Union Bank mail from Pigeon Bay

These covers illustrate another frustration with trying find the perfect strike; do you think it would have killed them to orientate the datestamp strike so the text was horizontal, sigh?

It is not unexpected that over the usage lifetime of this datestamp style there are some variations probably due to where the device was manufactured. These can be differences in the size of some of the lettering, or full stops or dashes between the "N" and "Z", or variations in the diameter of the outer circle.





Larger font for the letters NZ, no full stop between letters





Smaller font for the letters NZ, full stop between letters





Small dash between "N" and "Z"



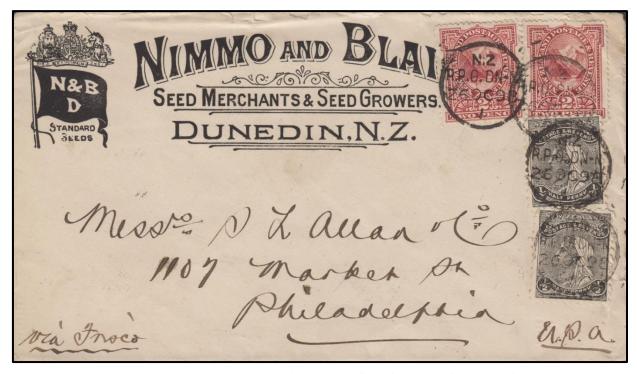


Larger device, Bluff 24mm diameter, and Dargaville 24½mm diameter



The use of the datestamp format wasn't restricted to bricks and mortar post offices, they were also used on RTPO's, Railway Travelling Post Offices and as for Marine POs based on some ships.

1898 Marine Post Office, 20 Apr, 1898, likely to have been carried on the Mariposa, departing Auckland Apr 16 for San Francisco



1898 RTPO, DN-N, north bound, Invercargill to Christchurch via Dunedin

Collectors of New Zealand revenues will have seen copies of the Long Type fiscals cancelled with "A" class datestamps, giving the impression that they were postally used. While there is sufficient evidence that the lower values were regularly used for postage, the higher values were almost certainly from used telegram forms that were "liberated" prior to destruction.







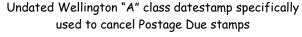


Used for cancelling stamps on telegrams

Used for cancelling stamps on documents

This style datestamp also found use with cancelling stamps used for the payment of stamp duty and other revenue purposes where stamps were used to receipt payments. Long Type revenues used on documents cancelled by the Wanganui Office can be mistaken for postally used copies if they have been removed from the original document.







Timaru datestamp struck in red as a Dead Letter marking

Inevitably with so many of these devices being used and having adjustable type that errors are found in the setup of the date head. This is understandable as the type had to be inserted while the head was facing down because turning it over to check progress resulted in the type falling out.



Usage of the first local print on Pirie paper, perf 11
Date error, reads as 17 OC(tober) 10, backstamp confirms usage in October, 1901







Bogus "A" class format cancellations

Craddock's book indicates that some, or all the components of the kits were made in the London by George De Lacy & Son.

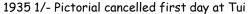
Craddock also mentions that engravers Bock & Cousins also had involvement with the manufacture of the devices

With well over 2000 devices out in use it would have been impractical not to have had a local manufacturer for the removable type used in the date head. Again this opened up the possibility of error as shown with the use of the serifed, lower case letters "de" for December in the 3d Pictorial cancelled at Turakina in 1900.

There are "A" class style forgeries known used to cancel stamps initially used for revenue purposes. The device used to cancel the 2/- value is a good copy but unfortunately the maker used the province name, Canterbury, for the name of the post office. While the font style used for the postmark on the 5/- Mt Cook is sans serif, it is sufficiently different from that used for the genuine device that collectors would recognise it as bogus cancellation.

Given the widespread distribution of the datestamp, you would think the Post Office would consider the job done, but by the first half of the 1880s, the Post Office was already rolling out another style, the squared circle or "F" class datestamp. The "A" class remained in circulation with this and other types that were first rolled out through the 1890s and early 1900s.







1953 Health cancelled first day at Matamau

These were in turn replaced by the ubiquitous "C" and "J" class devices that became the standard format by the 1920s and continuing through to the modern era. There were a few holdouts, typically smaller offices that wouldn't have handled much mail resulting in the device staying in serviceable condition and not requiring replacement before the office was closed. Thankfully, the post office at Tui was one, giving collectors the opportunity to get their 1/Tui Pictorial cancelled at Tui. The same opportunity occurred for the 1d value and covers have been seen cancelled first day at Kiwi. Another late novel use was the use of the "A" class Koromiko datestamp to cancel FDCs for the 7d value issued in 1966.

This piece is written as a primer to show collectors some of the varieties and what is out in there. Postmark collectors will know that this has only touched on the variety of material and usage available and the fun of finding examples of strikes from rarely seen post offices.

For further reading, I would recommend collectors have a look at RS Craddock's book "A Class & Allied Datestamps of New Zealand" and Volumes III and VII of the RPSNZ handbooks, all three of which are to be found in the Society's library.

CALs produced by the Marlborough Stamp Club for their 50th Anniversary (1972-2022)



WPS100

The Wellington Stamp Show is only a month or so away. There will be some club and society meetings held at the show including the New Zealand Philatelic Federation Annual General Meeting, see their website https://wps100.nz/shop/ for further information

Closed Albums

I am sad to give details of two further members who have passed away late last month. Both ladies will be sadly missed.

Shirley Alice Bone



Shirley was a member of the CPS for many years, joining in 1990. She gave small talks and displays at meetings regularly, however, became more aligned with the NZ stamp Collectors Club in her later years, serving on their committee and as their cheerful door person welcoming people and selling the raffles at their regular meetings.

Shirley collected Norfolk Island, royalty, and Nurse Maude material (Shirley was an RN) and she worked for Nurse Maude for a number of years. Shirley was eighty-one and she will be sadly missed.

Jill Rosemary Glasson

Jill joined in the society in 1989, quickly recruited to the committee she became the Secretary from 2008 until 2011. Members will remember Jill's collecting interests as being "Moving Pictures" an open class exhibit that was appealing and attractive to view, as well as a postcard exhibit on 'Looking back - An earlier Lifestyle 100 years ago'. Both exhibits were well received and displayed at several exhibitions in New Zealand & overseas. Her postcard interest received a vermeil on its first outing!

Jill gave frequent talks and displays and would bring in her items of interest at regular meetings. Being a

friend, I was able to travel with Jill to various shows and we would enjoy meeting stamp friends, dining out and enjoying the tourist sites of the places we visited.

I will personally miss both ladies and wish to send my condolences to the respective family members.



Auction Number 86 (50% Reserves)

Closing date for all bids: Tuesday November 1st, 2022 at 9:00am (New Zealand time).

INTRODUCTION:

All lots in this auction have a 50% reserve.

Many lots are unsold lots from previous auctions and have had their estimates lowered. That, in conjunction with the 50% reserves make them very attractive to bidders.

VIEWING OF LOTS:

- 1. All lots can also be viewed in full colour on the website (www.classicstamps.co.nz/auctions).
- 2. Photocopies of lots can be sent to clients requesting them (does not include large lots and collections).

POSTAL BIDS:

Postal bids are accepted. Please allow sufficient time for them to be received before the closing time.

WEB SITE BIDS:

The auction is available on the web site where every lot can be viewed in colour.

A link to the auction will be on the front page of the main web site (www.classicstamps.co.nz).

Should you wish to bid using the website, you have the added advantage of:

- Being able to choose to 'watch items' without placing bids. To do this click on the 'Add to my Watch List' link on interested lots. If that lot receives a bid you will automatically be notified by email,
- Search for items using a key word (e.g. 'Cinderella' will bring up all lots with Cinderella in the description).
- Receive an email notification of your bids placed,
- Receive an email when you have been outbid on any lot,
- Receive an email any time you increase your bid(s).

Should you wish to bid using the web site's facility, you will need to pre-register on the site.

Near the top left corner of the website's front page, there is a box "New Customers, Click Here to Register". Click there and follow the prompts that appear.

Should you have any trouble in registering, contact Paul Wales at Classic Stamps Ltd.

RESERVES:

The Reserves on all lots is 50% of the estimate shown in the catalogue.

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