



# Dunedin Philatelic Society (Inc).

## NEWSLETTER

October 2016



### Society News

*Club meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in St Mary's Hall, Whitby Street, Mornington (behind BP garage)*

#### LAST MONTH'S MEETING.

Welcome Mark Grellet in chair welcomed 18 members and special guest George Stewart. There were apologies from D Gravenor P Lane P Botermans

**Minutes** Were taken as read

Mvd B Longstaffe / M Carr  
New Zealand Philatelic Federation Southern Delegate  
George Stewart then presented our member Don White with the NZPF's Award for Service.. Congratulations to Don on a well-earned award .

#### General Business

Neither B Herron [treasurer] or S McLaren [Armistice 2018] had anything to report

B Longstaffe enquired if those present had understood the 2 remits that are to be presented to the AGM next month. Both George and Don made comment on the name change both stating that we were moving in the right direction

Meeting closed at 7.55 followed by a truly fascinating talk by Don White on the Alamo and the New York stamp show

NEXT MONTH COMING UP.

#### Agenda for the 103<sup>rd</sup> AGM of the Dunedin Philatelic Society

- 1/ Apologies
- 2/ Minutes of 102<sup>nd</sup> AGM
- 3/ Matters arising from previous AGM
- 4/ Correspondence
  - (!) inwards
  - (!!) outwards
- 5/ Financials
- 6/ Remit to increase subs
- 7/ Remit to change the everyday name to Dunedin Stamp & Postcard Club
- 8/ General Business
  - (!) changing the Clarke Cup to an 8-page competition to be staged during the year
- 9/ re Election of officers

#### Presidents report

It gives me great pleasure to present this report what I could argue was the most mementos in the clubs' 103 years. At the start of the year we signed the agreement to hold Armistice Stamp Show in 2018. This is the first time the full national show has been held in Dunedin with Sinclair's devotion and commitment to this I know it is going to be an outstanding show.

In January this year we moved to new premises St Mary's hall in Whitby Street, Mornington these have proven to be an excellent fit for the club enabling us to hold stamp fairs. While the jury is still out on the format of these they are a major step for the club. In April this year we had our first 4 page competition for the new George Rolton Trophy. We also increased the size and interesting content of our newsletter, all these things mixed together have put the club in a very healthy place

Thanks must go to Sinclair without his enthusiasm Armistice Stamp Show 2018 would not be happening. Bob whose detail has put the club on a very solid footing, Barry whose contributions to the newsletter have made it a very interesting read, David who has pieced it all together and of course our ever suffering secretary Jane and all committee members who have always been their ready to help.

#### Prestigious Award Presentation.

At last months meeting we had George Stewart from Invercargill ( Philatelic Federation, Southern Delegate) here to present Don White with the New Zealand Philatelic Federation's Award for Service. Don has been operating in business since 1968 and on the NZ Stamp Dealers Association since 1972. This Award is not often given but in Don's case richly deserved. The Dunedin Philatelic Society also extends our congratulations, remembering all the advice and assistance to us all he has provided over many years.



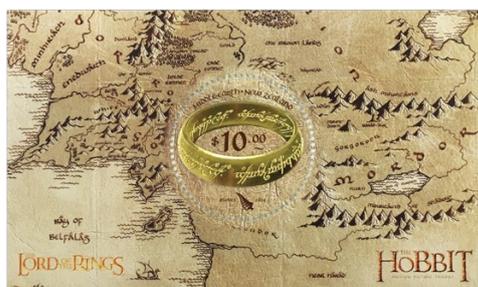
## Philatelic News

Again, NZ Post has come up with a surprise for collectors. As well as the 75th Anniversary of the Royal New Zealand Navy they are also issuing collectables as a follow up to the Hobbit Movie series.



As the maritime arm of the New Zealand Defence Force, the RNZN is committed to defending New Zealand's interests at sea and making a difference at home and abroad.

On 1 October 1941, His Majesty King George VI approved the designation 'Royal New Zealand Navy', creating the independent maritime force that is the RNZN today. Since then, many thousands have served with the Navy, playing a crucial role in contributing towards the prosperity and security of New Zealand.



New Zealand is famous around the world as the home of Middle-earth - thanks to *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* Motion Picture Trilogies. The legacy of these iconic films lives on through New Zealand Post's commemorative stamps - which are available together for the first time in a stunning publication. An exclusive new stamp is also contained inside!

For the first time, each miniature sheet produced by New Zealand Post for *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogies (37 miniature sheets) is now available in the ultimate collectable: *A Journey through Middle-earth*. This beautifully crafted book has been inspired by the journal written by Hobbits Bilbo Baggins and his heir Frodo Baggins in both *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

It comes complete with an embossed leatherette cover, fastened with a button modelled from the waistcoat of Bilbo Baggins. Inside the pages, which have been printed on premium textured paper, you can re-live this great adventure with the film synopses, quotes from your favourite characters, conceptual illustrations and stunning photography. Each of the miniature sheets contained within are individually numbered, making them uniquely collectable. Each book also comes with a certificate of authenticity.

### New Zealand Lighthouse Stamps.

In 1869, NZ initiated a government-supported life insurance plan. The program evolved into the NZ Government Life Insurance Dept., with policies sold through post offices nationwide.

As it was a government service, the department had postal franking privileges and paid for its postage through the Post & Telegraph Dept. This method worked for several years until there was a dispute regarding the postage costs.

The solution was to issue its own set of six stamps on Jan. 2, 1891 with a lighthouse design to symbolize safety. The rays of light emanating from the lighthouse include the words "State Security," with the letters "V" and "R" straddling the structure. These initials refer to the reigning Queen Victoria (in Latin, Victoria Regina).

In 1905, new Govt. Life Insurance stamps were issued with a different lighthouse image (and without the "VR"), these continued until 1947. Eight new designs came into use from 1947 to 1965. One of the stamps shows a lighthouse that is not in NZ – the Eddystone, which is off the coast of Devon in England.

When decimal currency came in, the existing stamps were overprinted, then two years later five new designs emerged, in part to mark the centenary of the Government Life Insurance Office. The final issue appeared in 1981 and used until 1987, when the Dept became a state-owned business.

*Editor's Note: New Zealand Post has issued 2 sets of stamps featuring lighthouses.*



*The Lighthouses featured in this set, entitled Lighthouses of New Zealand are Pencarrow Head at the entrance to Wellington Harbour, Dog Island, near Bluff, Cape Brett, at the entrance to the Bay of Islands, Cape Egmont, near New Plymouth, and Cape Reigna, at the northern tip of the country. In 2013 a set of stamps entitled New Zealand Coast-*



*lines also featured lighthouses. This time the lighthouses are Castlepoint, on the Wairarapa Coast, Nugget Point, near Kaka Point township, East Cape, at the eastern extremity of the North Island, Pencarrow Head (again), and Cape Campbell, near Blenheim.*

### News from Canada:

On September 26, two new fundraising stamps take flight in Canada's Post Community Foundation series of semi-postal stamps. The self adhesive, nondenominated permanent "P" stamps pay Canada's basic domestic letter rate, currently 85c., with a 10c. surcharge to support a charity, indicated on the stamp by "+10" following the "P". Funds raised through semi-postal stamp sales has allowed the Foundation to grant \$6 million to 369 community projects since 2012.

Canada Post first issued semipostal stamps in 1974-76, when a dozen helped fund the 21<sup>st</sup> Olympic Games in Montreal. Twenty years later, Canadian stamps returned in 1996 with a 45c.+5c. to support literacy. 12 years later the charity stamps "P+10c." were introduced. From 2008 to 2011, these semipostals raised money for Mental Health, followed ever since by the Canada Post Community Foundation.

This year's stamps, depict simple, stylized brave little birds preparing to fly with a little help from their friends.

They are printed by seven-colour offset lithography on Tullis Russell paper, measuring 32x32mm.

### For those with time on their hands !

For people with a computer, type in the following; [globalphilateliclibrary.org](http://globalphilateliclibrary.org)

This site will link you to 27 different libraries, but if you click on the newly listed Crawford Philatelic Library you can access material from 1861 until 1913. For example you can find Stanley Gibbons catalogues from 1877 to 1913.

They also have the Scott catalogues from 1877 to 1912. Just recently they have digitized 7500 different bound volumes, which now gives them their master catalogue of 8830 individual titles, which equates to 1.2 million pages of pdfs.

Anyone wanting to do philatelic research on older philatelic material will be provided with a wealth of information.

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### “How to get letters free”

A shrewd countryman being informed that there was a letter for him in the post office, accordingly went for it. On the postmaster's handing it to him, he frankly confessed he could not read, and requested the postmaster to open it and let him know the contents, which he very readily did. After getting all the information he wanted, he knowingly shrugged his shoulders, thanked him for his politeness, and drily observed, "When I have some change, I'll call and take it!"

( from "The Philatelist" 1872.)

**Pneumatic Mail Service** Speedy, door-to-door delivery was the goal when many large cities in Europe, and a few in the U.S., began implementing pneumatic mail service in the late 1890s and early 1900s but it was only ever used for postal branch-to-postal branch transfer of mail. Pneumatic mail service is when air is used to propel or, in the case of vacuum-driven systems, to pull mail through a series of airtight tubes. Mail or small packages were put into cylinders which fit snugly into a network of pipes, almost always underground. Air or vacuum pressure would cause the cylinder to move through the tube from a location with high pressure to one with a lower pressure as it tried to equalize. At the remote location, a postal worker would remove the cylinder from the pneumatic tube, open it and remove the mailed items, and then process them by hand for the rest of their journey.

Although maybe not apparent to today's world of instant communications, pneumatic mail offered the only real hope of quickly moving a letter through the mail at the turn of the century. The idea was simple ... install pneumatic tubes and route mail and small packages throughout the system. The tubes were used in many large European cities such as Paris, Berlin, Munich, and Rome. In America, at least four cities had pneumatic tubes as part of the mail delivery infrastructure: New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Boston. New York's tube service was in operation until the 1950s. As one might imagine, the tubes were expensive to install. While offering the benefit of moving mail to neighbouring sub-stations quickly, the expense of laying and maintaining pipe made the system impractical except for anything other than high traffic areas. The once-futuristic dream of having door-to-door pneumatic mail delivery quickly faded once the cost of implementation was factored. Surprisingly, a variation of the pneumatic mail system remained in use until as recently as 2002 in Prague, Czech Republic, and it was closed only due to flooding.

Here comes the MAIL The word *mail* comes from the Medieval English word *male*, referring to a travelling bag or pack. It was spelt that way until the 17th century, distinct from the word male. The French have a similar word, *malle* for a trunk or large box, and *mála* is the Irish term for a bag. In the 17th the word *mail* began to appear as a reference for a bag that contained letters: . Over the next hundred years the word *mail* began to be applied strictly to the letters themselves, and the sack as the *mail-bag*. In the 19th century the British usually referred to *mail* as being letters that were being sent abroad (i.e. on a ship), and *post* as letters that were for localized delivery; in the UK the Royal Mail delivers the *post*, while in the USA the US Postal Service delivers the *mail*. The term *email* (short for "electronic mail") first appeared in the 1970s. The term *snail-mail* is a retronym to distinguish it from the quicker email. Various dates have been given for its first use.

*Post* is derived from Medieval French *poste*, which ultimately stems from the past participle of the Latin verb *ponere* ("to lay down or place") and the city of Post in Western Iran where Cyrus the Great commissioned the building of the first roads expressly for the purpose of delivering mail across the Persian Empire.

### **The first postal systems in the Ancient**

**world** The first credible claim for the development of a real postal system comes from Ancient Persia,. The best documented attributes the invention to the Persian King Cyrus the Great (550 BC), who mandated that every province in his kingdom would organize reception and delivery of post to each of its citizens. He also negotiated with neighbouring countries to do the same and had roads built from the city of Post in Western Iran all the way up to the city of Hakha in the East. Mail may not have been the primary mission of this postal service, however. The role of the system as an intelligence gathering apparatus is well documented. The Persian system worked on stations (called Chapar-Khaneh), where the message carrier (called Chapar) would ride to the next post, whereupon he would swap his horse with a fresh one, for maximum performance and delivery speed. (All articles on this page from Nelson Stamp Club Newsletters—Editor)