

Dunedin Stamp & Postcard Club

NEWSLETTER

March 2017



Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at St Mary's Hall, Whitby Street Mornington (behind the BP garage)
All philatelists and postcard collectors welcome.



Society News

Next Meeting:

MAR Sinclair McLaren – about displays and how to extend an exhibit. Come and learn from one who enters National competitions and collects the medals!

LAST MONTHS' MEETING

What an interesting night we had, Val Sparrow spoke and showed images of what it was like to live on the Chatham Islands, also how the postal system worked. Next up was Bob Herron with his display of postal items from the Southland district, including many hard to get early postmarks.

As usual we had our one page competition, featuring the letter "G" and by popular vote Alistair Drummond came out the winner with his subject, Gold.

ARMISTICE STAMP SHOW DUNEDIN

9 – 11 November 2018

ONE PAGE COMPETITION

Are you ready with your entry for this months one page competition –
LETTER "H"

Any topic along as it starts the the letter H , plenty of countries (Hong Kong, Hungary, etc) and topics such as Hats, Hawks, Hearts, Horses, etc. Rules remain the same as last year, 5 points awarded to most popular entry and at the end of six months that member with the most points will win the Webb Cup.

Also, while we are talking about competitions, have you started your entry into this years' 8 page display for the Clarke Cup – will it be ready by June?



CAN YOU HELP ?

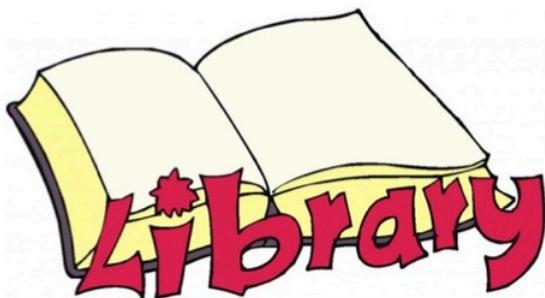
Our club has had a request from John Watts looking for information about Cadbury's and Arthur Barnett's for an article he is producing. In particular the items he is looking for are: **Cadbury's** - any advertising envelopes or other publicity material. The booklet published by Universal Mail NZ under the name "Cadbury World", or stamps from that booklet. Plus any photographs of work in the Dunedin factory. He hopes to follow the NZ philately connection of Cadbury from the initial 2nd side face issues of stamps with adverts of 1893 to the present day. He would like scans in colour or borrow the material so that he could scan it.

Arthur Barnett's, he is looking for a Last Day cover from the store – failing this just a clear Last Day cancellation.

In advance he is thanking us in our help for his research and when completed he is willing to provide the articles for publication in our Newsletter.

To make contact:

jlwatts463@gmail.com



Come along to our rooms and have a look in our library – there are catalogues that you can borrow.

2016/17 Subscriptions are due. Payment by cheque to :-

The Treasurer, Dunedin Philatelic Soc.

c/- 6 Glenbrook Drive, MOSGIEL 9024

OR direct into the Societies SBS Bank Acc #03

1355 0832038 00

OR better still by attendance at the Society's meeting in March.

Philatelic News

The new issue from New Zealand Post this month features native fresh water fish.



More than 40 different species of freshwater fish have been identified in New Zealand's waterways. Around three-quarters of these secretive and largely nocturnal natives are already endangered, which is a troublingly high number compared to other countries. Some of the issues our freshwater fish face include barriers in migration, destruction of habitat and the introduction of predators such as trout.

Many of New Zealand's freshwater fish species have had to evolve unique attributes in order to live in our varied habitats. The lowland longjaw galaxias is so named for its distinctive upturned lower jaw, the redfin bully has taught itself to climb, the longfin eel can live for up to 100 years, the lamprey is commonly known as a "vampire parasite" and the torrentfish has a unique zebra-style camouflage.

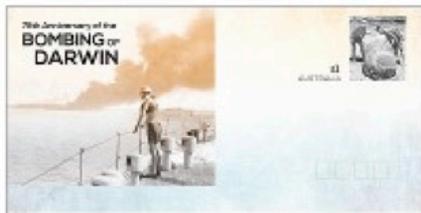
From deep ice-cold lakes to fast moving raging rapids, the vast range of species found in New Zealand's waterways are celebrated with these beautifully illustrated stamps. The diversity of New Zealand's aquatic life is clearly apparent when these stamps are viewed side by side.

While we are currently seeing and hearing of the many events being held to commemorate the centenary of World War I, it is sometimes all too easy to overlook the events of World War II, which are also at the stage of their 75th anniversary.

While the United States Postal Service did not issue any stamps to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941, in 2015 Royal Mail issued a miniature sheet containing 6 stamps to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the commencement of the Battle of Britain.



This year Australia Post has issued a pre-stamped envelope to commemorate the 75th of another incident in World War II, the bombing of Darwin on 17 February 1942.



This brought the reality of war home, both in Australia and on this side of the Tasman sea. It was almost as close as military action got to New Zealand, although I understand that there were times when Japanese ships were spotted close to the north of the North Island, and maybe even an incident when there submarines were observed in the vicinity of Auckland harbour.

A recent update by Ian Billings of Norvic Philatelics in Great Britain shows that Royal Mail intends to issue a set of stamps later to commemorate the 70th wedding anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

New Zealand Post has commemorated their wedding anniversaries twice previously, with stamps issued in 1997 to commemorate their golden (50th) wedding anniversary.



Again in 2007 New Zealand Post issued stamps to commemorate their diamond (60th) wedding anniversary.



This brings me to ask the question. In New Zealand Post's list of issues for 2017 there are several dates on which stamps are to be issued but at this stage there is no information about the subject of those stamps. Will New Zealand Post join Royal Mail and, no doubt, other postal administrations in celebrating this milestone.

As mentioned last month, this year is the 65th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. The 5 pound stamp issued by Royal Mail was shown in last month's newsletter. Will New Zealand Post issue stamps to commemorate this milestone? At least one of the above issues would be a fitting follow up to what has become almost an annual royal issue in recent years. In 2011 we had the issue for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, followed by issues in 2012 for the 60th anniversary of the Accession and in 2013 for the 60th anniversary of the Coronation. Also in 2013 stamps were issued to celebrate the birth of Prince George of Cambridge.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge together with Prince George visited New Zealand in 2014 and a set of stamps was issued to commemorate their visit. On 9 September 2015 the reign of Queen Elizabeth II surpassed that of her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, who had previously held the record for the longest reign. New Zealand Post, again along with other postal authorities issued stamps to commemorate this event. Then, in 2016, a set of stamps were issued to commemorate the 90th birthday of her majesty.



Another important milestone being commemorated by Royal Mail this year is the 50th anniversary of the first issue of the Machin definitives.

The series still continues, with more new values being issued later this month to accommodate the annual postage rate change.



As mentioned in the November 2016 newsletter, 10 July 2017 sees the 50th anniversary of the introduction of decimal currency in New Zealand. Will one of the forthcoming issues during the winter be dedicated to commemorating that anniversary? Could there possibly be a repeat of these stamps with new values?



Did you hear about the fussy stamp collector who had to have hip replacement surgery? He insisted that the new joint be in mint never hinged condition.

Also the one about the unstamped letter? You wouldn't get it.

Beware the Illegal Stamp

William Silvester

Do you remember the time you bought that beautiful souvenir sheet that you thought would be perfect for your topical collection only to later discover they were not real stamps? Or the time you spent \$50 on a sheetlet from your favorite country only to find it was bogus? Or when you went to sell some recent stamps only to be told by the dealer they were illegal? Unfortunately, these scenarios are being played out more and more often as the market is being flooded with these phony stamps.

So what is happening? Why are there so many fake stamps on the market?

It started in the 1990s when the Soviet Union collapsed into a number of different autonomous states. Profiteers took advantage of the confusion to create a flood of fictitious stamps for recently independent ex-Soviet territories. As their productions became more sophisticated and grew in volume — and as their trading networks extended into the wider world — they took the next logical step of producing illegal stamps for an increasing range of real nations in the developing world, astutely selecting those that were in no position to contest this piracy.

It was easy, all they had to do was choose a vulnerable developing country, preoccupied with its own internal problems, where communications and legal resources were impoverished. Better still if the rule of law had evaporated, leaving no dominant central authority to check up on bogus issues. Next, float a pilot issue, and if within a few months there's no comeback, you can proceed to milk the name for all it's worth. These days, anyone with a scanner and some serious image processing software can design stamps, and copyright on the imagery stolen is not a real consideration. (Even Disney, which is well known for its fierce defence of its copyright has done little.) Print the stamps in small sheetlets or souvenir sheets, as they are much more convenient and profitable than large sheets of single values, and leave some imperforated to sell at twice the price or more. It matters little that the Djibouti sheet is labelled 'Fishes' and shows birds (Figure 1). No problem that your unlikely Afghanistan sheetlet features Marilyn Monroe, even if the Taliban would never have countenanced such a thing. Before Sept. 11, 2001, no one would have noticed as they could not check on the validity of the stamps because none of them were listed in stamp catalogs yet and, by the time stamps of that year were listed, it was too late.



Figure 1 . Bogus Djibouti souvenir sheet is labeled "Fishes" and shows birds

Before long any country that was in political turmoil became a victim of these bogus stamps. Again, they were not up to date in catalogs due to the turbulent nature of their governments and the catalog editors could not always confirm legitimate stamp issues. Angola, Benin, Comoro Islands, Congo, Djibouti, Haiti, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, Timor, Tchad and states of the former Soviet Union, just to name a few of the more

prevalent ones, are all victims of this practice. They are always issued in the name of an existing country or region, and they have a face value printed on them. The Scott Catalog tried combatting this scourge to philately by listing illegal stamps in their catalogs but they are unable to keep up with the deluge. Sometimes the illegal stamps are presented by vendors as being collectibles or cinderellas or locals or labels. The problem is that because they cannot be distinguished from the real postage stamps, they are often taken for real issues by many stamp collectors, and though the first seller might make the distinction the next one might not.

So what's the big deal? Any stamp collector who would buy them in good faith will be hoaxed and any dealer that purposely sells them is cheating his customers. The new stamp collector will probably find the truth one day and will possibly give up such an — in his eyes — ungrounded hobby. Also, not only are numerous stamp collectors being bilked but the countries fictitiously represented also suffer.

The Comoro Islands issued a statement that sums it up nicely: *"The circulation of these stamps is causing moral and economic harm not only to the Comorian postal services, but also to collectors. Their circulation also discredits the Comorian postal services in the eyes of philatelists worldwide."*

Rwanda complained to UPU saying: *"The most outrageous aspect for our country and our administration is the fact that certain miniature sheets illustrate pornographic scenes. This is all the more reprehensible in as much as it is prohibited to use the Post to convey pornographic materials."*

Haiti denounced a proliferation of recent issues: *"We wish to make certain that the philatelic community realizes these colorful issues are nothing more than privately produced gummed or ungummed labels which were never sanctioned by Haitian postal authorities."*

Malawi, which lists dozens of illegals, asks the UPU to *"identify the culprits and have them prosecuted."*

Many small, third-world countries depend on revenue from postage stamps to supplement their economy. With collectors refusing to buy stamps from them due to their fear of buying illegal issues, the people will suffer along with the failing economy.

Aptly termed "Album Weeds" by writers in the late 19th Century, these modern releases bear none of the charm of the old attempts, but have the similar goal of separating collectors from their money. Most of the items seen appear to be primarily topical in nature. They are colorful, come in unused or 'used' condition (CTO), with a fraudulent, printed cancel purporting to be from the country whose name appears on the stamp.

So how can you tell what is real and what is fake? Oftentimes, you can't. Sometimes, however, it is blatantly obvious. If, for example, a large number of unrelated topics are depicted on the same souvenir sheet, chances are it is an illegal issue.



Figure 2. This illegal Comoros sheet shows a multitude of subjects and a high denomination to attempt to justify a high price.

copyright on the stamps; illegals don't. Often, illegals have a date printed conspicuously on them, so by comparing the legitimate issues of the same date in your catalog it often becomes apparent if it is a bogus issue. Figure 3 shows a souvenir sheet supposedly from Turkmenistan but a check in a catalog will show that the word "Republic" does not appear on any legitimate Turkmenistan stamps.

Legitimate issues would not show Elvis, Pope John, owls, Scout emblems and submarines on the same souvenir sheet. These are created to cheat as many topical collectors as possible with the minimum of printing costs. Take a look at Figure 2, the from Comoros Islands. It has a multitude of characters on the selvage to appeal to collectors of actors, pirates and space stamps. Another giveaway is extremely high face values that seem to justify high asking prices. (See the Comoros example again, as it has a very high denomination that none of the Comoros stamps in the Scott catalog come close to.) Often, as well, printed cancels supposedly indicating used stamps don't always have a date on them. Another indication is that licensed products, such as Disney or Warner

Sale of illegals will stymie some collectors' interest in philately, because of the lost credibility and bad image of the hobby. This means a massive loss of casual collectors and philatelists alike, which in turn significantly reduces the number of philatelic organizations. These illegals are also insidious in that their colorful subjects (tons of them are Disney knock-offs) appeal to children who waste their money on something no reputable dealer would buy from them (or sell to them), should they wish to, thereby souring them on our hobby. Hopefully this article demonstrates without any doubts that the illegal stamps are injurious to the image of issuing countries as well to philately as a whole, a fact that hasn't yet been sufficiently understood and publicized. This problem requires concerted action by all in the philatelic industry.

Postal administrations should be

able to prosecute at every opportunity. Organized philately should ensure that such material is not sold at their events and stamp publications should prohibit their being listed for sale. eBay and other auction sites should institute policies to ban these illegal items from being sold, even if listed under the title of labels or cinderellas. The trade should be able to expel members who deliberately deal in such material where laws are being broken. Philatelic journalists must keep collectors informed that such issues are rubbish and not worth the paper upon which they are printed.

Some of the information in this article is directly quoted, with permission, from www.pwmo.org/illegals/what-good-wns.htm. That website, maintained by the Philatelic Webmasters Organization (PWO), discusses the World Numbering System (WNS) or The World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) Numbering System that identifies bogus issues worldwide through its common numbering system. The WNS was created by WADP and implemented in 2002 by the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The PWO is a non-profit organization located in Switzerland that counts more than 350 members from all continents.

The WADP was founded in 1996 to work against the production and sale of illegal stamps. Consequently, it has published a growing number of circulars in which the postal administration members of the UPU have denounced stamps that were illegally issued in their name or in the name of their territorial units.

See the website www.upu.int/en/activities/philately/circulars.html for a current listing of circulars. Access to the actual circulars is unfortunately limited to UPU members, but the listings of countries with illegal issues can be seen. These sites are well worth perusing.

There are several factors that may reduce the production of illegal stamps, such as the economic downturn, the increase and diversification of stamp production by postal administrations and a better awareness of illegal stamps via the UPU Circulars, printed philatelic literature and philatelic websites. This is a great cause for all stamp collectors to support, if just for the sake of the continuing welfare of our hobby.

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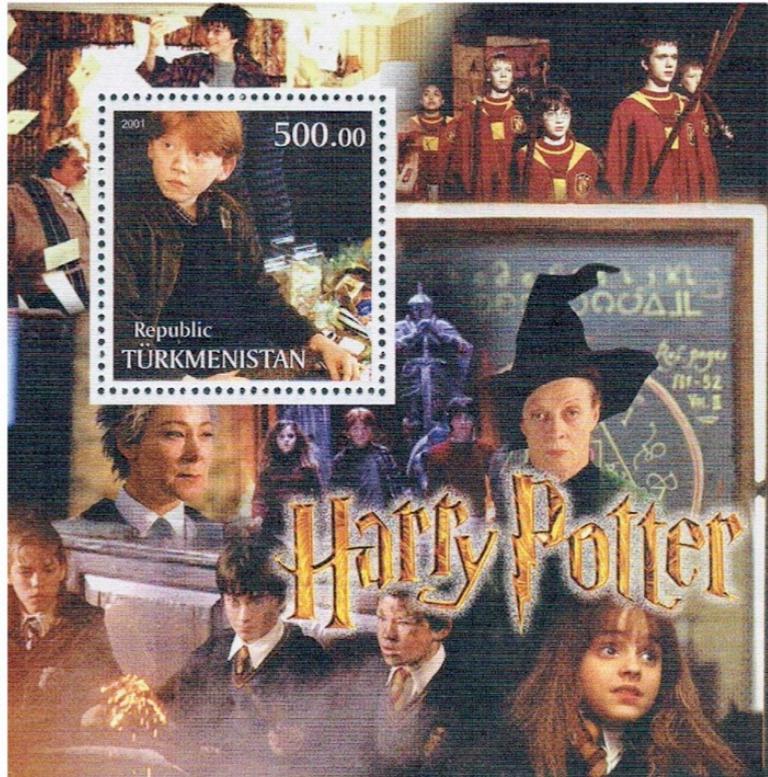


Figure 3. Legitimate Turkmenistan stamps do not have the words 'Republic of' inscribed on them.

Stamp Tongs

Philatelic tongs – not to be confused with the tweezers that one keeps in the medicine cabinet – are must have items for every philatelist. Get into the habit right away of using your tongs every time you work with stamps: tongs, properly used, will work as clean, delicate extensions of your fingers, and prevent dirt, skin oil, and other undesirables from getting on your philatelic paper, plus avoiding bends and tears on the items.

You will notice the words “properly used” in the last paragraph. This is important. As with many helpful instruments in life (knives, scissors, razor blades), careless use can result in a great deal of harm. Cut some plain paper into small pieces and experiment with your tongs to see what happens when you are not careful with the pressure, angle, and method of using them.

Grasp a scrap of paper firmly with the pointy-ended style of tongs and see what happens ... if that had been a longed-for acquisition, would you have wanted that hole punctured right in the middle of the stamp? Try picking up another “pseudo stamp” – more gently this time – and see how it is possible to hold the piece firmly yet delicately, with no marks left on it from overzealous tonging!

There are a variety of tongs available to accommodate your own preferences as well as specific uses. Some are quite pointed and require great care in handling stamps. “For experts only” are the extra-long models (five or six inches) with pointy ends: the combination of length and sharp “noses” requires an adeptness that one gets only after a good bit of experience (if even then).

The rounded, spatula-like style known as the “spade” is a good, general purpose style. An extremely handy style is the angled model, which has a bend near the tips that makes removing stamps from watermark fluid pans, for example, very easy. This style also is good for gently easing stamps in and out of stockbooks, etc.

Tongs are available a very reasonable prices (only a couple of dollars) from most any stamp dealer and by mail from philatelic supply houses. Check the classified ads in philatelic publications under “accessories” and send for catalogues from some of the major distributors of supplies.

Tongs are among the least expensive stamp needs and also among the most essential. You may find that you will want to have several different kinds to suit varying special purposes, but the expense will be worth it, and your philatelic will be the better for not being “fingered”!

1840 – The Penny Black.

May 1, 1840 The Penny Black, the world’s first adhesive postage, went on sale.

May 6, 1840 The Penny Black was valid for postage.

May 8, 1840 2-penny Blue was available.

Due to the minimum-rate reduction, expected to take place in January 1840, the British Treasury sponsored a competition to find a suitable design for the first adhesive postage stamp. After much discussion, Sir Rowland Hill’s suggestion was chosen. Hill proposed to use the profile of Queen Victoria because it was the most suitable design and would deter counterfeiters. Hill felt that the public, which was so familiar with the Queen’s profile, would detect any changes instantly.

Many aspects of the new stamp were borrowed from other areas or agencies. The size and form of the stamp were taken from adhesive labels used by the Board of Inland Revenue. The background of the stamp was taken from the contemporary bank notes. The letters in the corners of the first stamps were a security feature.

(*The above item from “American Philatelist”*)