



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 Thursday 22 March

Our guest speaker will be George Stewart from Invercargill, who is our representative on the New Zealand Philatelic Federation. He will be bringing us up to date with what is happening at the federation and will also show us his latest display.

Also Russell Edwards will show items from his collection of Vietnam stamps.

The one page competition for March will be the letter N. Topics could be New Zealand, Nigeria, Newfoundland, Nyasaland, or topics such as National Parks, Navy, Nobel Prize, or you could be really daring and show your collection of nudes on stamps.

Last Meeting

Wayne Bowen showed us his very interesting collection of Russian local stamps.

Tribute for Barry Longstaffe

The Dunedin Stamp & Postcard Club

The name itself typifies Barry in his desire to increase our membership, he put through a special notice to have our name changed from stamp club to include his beloved postcards. Barry was a well respected member of our club for 40 years and many of these on committee.

He had an extensive collection of German/Austrian stamps and bits and pieces of everything else including his last effort, Canada which came about when he purchased a banana box two thirds full of assorted stamps. After some brief brooding on how he was going to get these home without notice, his first comment when meeting up with him next, was 'I'm collecting Canada' - the box was full of Canadian stamps.

Barry will be sorely missed as he was knowledgeable and willing to lend a hand in many ways including assisting with the editing and printing of the monthly newsletter and its circulation. He was a committee member for the forthcoming Armistice Stamp Show, ran our one page competition and collected elderly members on club nights.

His enthusiasm for the club will be very much missed.



Philatelic News

This month's issue from New Zealand Post commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Wahine disaster on 10 April 1968.



When the Wahine departed Lyttelton Harbour at 8.40pm on 9 April 1968, there were 734 passengers and crew on board. The overnight voyage to Wellington was nothing new to Captain HG Robertson: the often-turbulent Cook Strait was familiar in all its ill-behaved weather and swell. However, on this evening no-one was prepared for the raging storm that occurred when Cyclone Giselle swept down the coast, colliding with a southerly front. The result was one of the worst recorded storms in New Zealand's maritime history.

In the early hours of the morning on 10 April 1968, Wellington Harbour was encroaching on the near horizon. With the wind blowing at 50 knots, a common stiff breeze in Wellington terms, Captain Robertson made the decision to enter the narrow entrance to the harbour. On entering, the wind suddenly picked up and dramatically increased to a powerful 100 knots. Huge waves slammed the ship, forcing it towards Barrett Reef. With the radar system having failed, the Captain attempted to manoeuvre the ship back out to sea.

The storm continued to wreak havoc, dragging the ship along the reef, causing further damage, and preventing rescuers from approaching it. Its ferocity also delayed the captain's decision to abandon ship, as he believed that people would be safer on board.

The first survivors began washing up on Seatoun foreshore, and others were plucked out of the water by boats waiting nearby. Most of those tossed into the waves were swept to Eastbourne's rocky foreshore, where slips prevented rescuers reaching them quickly, and many suffered through being exposed to the harsh, deteriorating conditions. Many would ask how such a tragedy could occur right on the doorstep of the nation's capital. But it did and while a storm raged, many of the people in Wellington at the time went to watch the foundering of the Wahine unfold. News reports quickly spread across the country making this one of the most documented tragedies of our time. These stamps show the Wahine in all her glory and the sequence of how the day played out. The newspaper headings on the stamps are fictitious but acknowledge the role media played in telling the story.

THE ARMISTICE STAMP SHOW DUNEDIN

This is a full national stamp and post-card exhibition.

The event coincides with the 100th anniversary of the ending of hostilities in World War I.

The Armistice Stamp Show 2018 Facebook Page

1. Log in to your Facebook page
2. Then Search for Armistice Stamp Show 2018
3. Click "LIKE" on any post and then you will be following

Please keep looking at these pages as they are always being updated regularly.

Check it out now at armisticestampshow.com plus you can also find it in Facebook.

facebook.com/ArmisticeStampShow2018

The Stamp That Divided a Nation



Never underestimate the political power of the stamp. When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, the seceding Confederate states snatched up a good bit of government property. This included everything from forts to arsenals to thousands of post offices stocked full of stamps. Not wanting the enemy to profit off their goods, the Union recalled every U.S. stamp ever issued and declared them invalid for postage. Instead, people were allowed to exchange their old stamps for replacements, which the government had quickly printed with new designs.

The Stamp Even Bill Gates Couldn't Afford



During the post-World War I era, Germany was wracked by one of the most famous and spectacular bouts of inflation in history. Under the strain of huge war reparations demanded by the victorious Allies, prices for everything from pumpnickel to postage stamps soared out of control. To put things in perspective, consider this: In July of 1923, the rate for someone to mail a letter from Germany to the United States had risen from 300 marks to 900 marks (equal to a little more than half a cent in U.S. money). Only three months later, the cost to mail that same letter was 6,000 marks. The sample shown here was mailed from Berlin to London on October 18, 1923, and cost 15 million marks. But it didn't stop there. By November, the mark had plunged even further, and stamps were being printed at values as high as 20 billion marks.

During this period of runaway inflation, it became harder and harder to cram enough stamps onto letters and documents to pay for postage or revenue stamp fees. According to sources, one Swiss document had to be sent with 10 feet of paper attached to it, just to hold the required amount of revenue stamps. Eventually, the situation became so bad that Germany temporarily stopped requiring stamps to mail letters. Instead, they allowed customers to pay for postage in cash at the post office, and officials would simply mark the letters as paid.

The Stamps Made from Stolen Maps



During World War I, the Baltic region of Latvia didn't have much to call its own. It was governed by Russia, and German forces were occupying much of the area. In 1918, however, Latvia gained independence during the chaos and collapse of the Romanov Dynasty. In addition, German forces had retreated, but not without leaving their mark on the new nation. Oddly enough, that mark was on Latvia's stamps.

Latvia suffered devastating damage during the war. Factories were destroyed or moved to Russia, and paper was in short supply. So when the young nation got ready to print its first national stamps, postal officials got creative and used the blank backs of German military maps and unfinished banknotes. Indeed, if you look on the underside of some Latvian stamps from this era, you'll see a tiny sliver of a military map used by the Germans during World War I.

The Spanish Prisoner

A 1910 letter from Spain proves there is nothing new under heaven.

**by Roy Lingen
October 5, 2003**

I am sure that everyone in the world with an email address has received dozens, if not hundreds of "Nigerian Scam Letters". They are now spreading beyond Nigeria, and coming from e-mail addresses in other places, including Europe and the UK.

Did you know that this is not a new phenomenon?

Most authorities will tell you that these "Nigerian 419 letters" (named after the legal code that applies to them) are a modern version of the very old "Spanish Prisoner" scam - a term that I am sure few people would have heard before the 1997 David Mamet film of the same name.

The idea behind these scams is that a valuable piece of property is being held by authorities, or in secret storage and needs some "bailing out", by the payment of bribes, storage fees, court costs, or some other excuse. Of course the entire scam is intended to extract this "advance fee" out of the unsuspecting (but greedy) victim, and to keep doing so with further "complications" until the victim is bled dry, gives up, or makes the (sometimes fatal) mistake of going to meet the con artists and putting himself in their power. The item was, of course, usually illegally (or at least semi-legally) acquired, encouraging the intended victim to maintain secrecy.

This leads to two questions: What has this to do with philately? and "Why was the old version called the "Spanish Prisoner" scam? An item I found recently should answer both questions at once.

This cover was mailed from Madrid Spain, to Keyser, West Virginia, USA on March 12, 1910. It is franked with 10c and 15c values of the King Alfonso XIII stamps of 1909, paying the common 25c UPU rate to the USA - nothing special so far. The surprise was inside.

I actually began to collect some of the Nigerian scam letters before they became so commonplace. I even have a few of the - pre-email versions that were actually mailed. Imagine my delight when I looked inside this Spanish envelope and found an original Spanish Prisoner letter!

For your reading enjoyment, take a trip into the past:

Madrid 12 -3 - 1910

Dear Sir,

Although I know you only from good references of your honesty, my sad situation compels me to reveal [to] you an important affair in which you can procure a modest fortune, saving at the same time that of my darling daughter.

Before being imprisoned here I was established as a Banker in Russia, as you will see by the enclosed article about me of many English newspapers which have published my arrest in London. [*Ed. note: Unfortunately, the article did not survive.*]

I beseech you to help me to obtain a sum of 480,000 dollars I have in America and to come here to raise the seizure of my baggage, paying to the Registrar of the Court the expenses of my trial and recover my portmanteau [*ed. note: a large luggage case*] containing a secret pocket where I have hidden the documents indispensable to recover the said sum.

As a reward I will give up to you the third part *viz.* 160,000 dollars.

I cannot receive your answer in the prison but you must send a cablegram to a person of my confidence who will deliver it to me.

Awaiting your cable to instruct you in all my secret, I am Sir, Yours truly,

Demidoff

First of all answer by cable, not by letter, as follows:
Gonzalves
Jacometrozo 23 Tercero A - Madrid
YES - Watson [*ed. note: The name of the addressee*]