



# Dunedin Stamp & Postcard Club

## NEWSLETTER

April 2018



Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### CLUB NEWS

#### This Month:

This month's meeting will be at St. Anne's hall, Whitby Street, Mornington on Thursday 26 April at 7:30 pm.

We will have two speakers taking the place of the late Barry Longstaffe, who was to have spoken about postcards. Firstly Russell Edwards will be speaking about his Vietnam collection, also Sinclair McLaren will share something with us.

#### Last Month

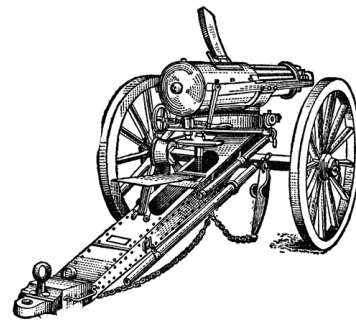
Minutes from the previous meeting.

Present 16.

The meeting opened with a short account from Don White of Greg Francis, who passed away this week. A minute's silence was observed.

Apologies were received from Jane Dennison and Bobby Todd.

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### THE ARMISTICE STAMP SHOW DUNEDIN

*This is a full national stamp and postcard exhibition.*

*The event coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> 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 [armisticestamp-show.com](http://armisticestamp-show.com) plus you can also find it in Facebook.*

[facebook.com/ArmisticeStampShow2018](https://facebook.com/ArmisticeStampShow2018)



## General Business:

It was suggested by Alex that we put a free advertisement in the midweek one week before each monthly meeting. Mark to organize this.

Val suggested we should try a monthly afternoon meeting. Mark will contact the church and enquire what afternoons are available.

## Philatelic Focus:

Russell Flett shared a boarding pass from the original "Wahine".

Russell Edwards related a story re sent but uncanceled stamps.

George Stewart from Invercargill, our Federation representative, showed 3 different displays and encouraged us to make an effort and enter something into the Armistice Stamp Show.

## Philatelic News

The April issue from New Zealand Post concludes the five year series commemorating the centenary of World War 1. The title of this issue is Back from the Brink.



1918 Back from the Brink is the fifth and final instalment of New Zealand Post's WW1 stamp and coin programme. It takes a look at the final year of this bloody battle, and tells the story of the toll it took on the servicemen and how they adapted on their return home.

By 1918, the war that had meant to be over and done with by Christmas 1914 was beginning to drain those at home and fighting overseas. With nerves frayed on both sides: those at home jumping at the dreaded knock of the telegraph boy while those on the Western front were running on little more than rations and empty rumours.

The stalemate of the trench warfare was yet to be broken despite the use of technology such as tanks and planes. The only glimmer of light for the allied forces was that America had finally come to the party and was gathering its forces. The Germans were being forced back and losing men they could no longer replace; increasingly things were looking up.

On 11 November 1918 the end of the war was firmly in hand. The Germans signed the Armistice, although formally it was cease fire, everybody knew that the war was finally over. All that remained was to get the weary and fatigued men home, a huge undertaking when many of the 56,000 men were already wounded or mentally traumatised. New Zealand had lost a total 16,700 people during the war, the highest number per capita of the dominions of the British Empire.

The central figure in this year's issue is Arthur Gordon, a heroic soldier who lost both of his legs while running a message back to headquarters. On Arthur's return home he learnt to live as normal life as possible with his new prosthetic limbs. Despite his disability, Arthur never let his circumstances get him down, instead he became an advocate for disabled servicemen and made it his goal to procure better treatment for his fellow servicemen.

## The New Zealand Teddy Error

In 1996, New Zealand Post produced a stamp issue in relation to Children's Health. The issue was supposed to be a standard surcharged issue, with a denomination of 40c and a surcharge of 5c.

The issue was focused on the safety of children, and the stamps, designed by Helen Casey, and printed by the Dutch security printer Enschede, shows a child in a child restraint, and a teddy bear accompanying it, wearing a seat belt.



From the stamp it is clear that the child and the Teddy bear are sitting in the back seat, and are facing the driving direction. This is in violation of the laws of New Zealand, where children must be facing the opposite direction in a car, as a security measure.

This resulted in a last minute withdrawal of the original stamp, and the stamp was then re-designed, so the Teddy bear was no longer part of the stamp. All the copies of the original stamps were recalled by the New Zealand Post, and the error was not supposed to be publicized.

The stamp was also printed as self-adhesive coil stamps in New Zealand, and a small number of these stamps were distributed and sold over the counter in Rotorua and Auckland before it was recalled. It is believed that about 1000 of these incorrect stamps were sold.



The Health sheetlets were printed by the Dutch security printer Johan Enschede and they also had printed sheetlets with CAPEX overprint, which were meant for the CAPEX exhibition in Canada. It was believed that all the sheetlets with the erroneous stamps were destroyed after they arrived in New Zealand and both sheetlets were printed and issued without Teddy Bear on the stamps.

However, about one year later one set of these sheetlets, which contained the recalled stamps, showed up at an auction in Amsterdam. An investigation, on behalf of the NZ post, revealed that the Dutch security printer Enschede had unknowingly taken out a few copies of the original sheetlets, and included them in Christmas presents for the employees of the company.

It is not known how many of these sheetlets survived Christmas, but they surely became one of the rarest New Zealand philatelic items: the withdrawn self-adhesive stamp is valued now at about 1.600 Euro, the "non-issued" sheetlets however are valued at 12.000 Euro each in the latest Michel catalogue.

## RAF Centenary

On 20 March Royal Mail issued a set of 6 stamps in setenant pairs and a miniature sheet commemorating the centenary of the formation of the Royal Air Force as a separate military unit. Previously air forces came under the umbrella of the army.

## Fascinating facts

As you probably know, one of the most striking characteristics of a stamp, and the easiest form of recognition, is the name of the issuing country on the stamp. As part of an international agreement among postal authorities, all countries are required to print the name of the country on the stamp, among other things, in order to recognize the issuer.

But then, what is this? This stamp doesn't carry the name of any issuing authority, and it is not just a crazy coincidence. As the rule states there can be "No rule without an exception", and there is an exception to the name rule. Great Britain is the only country in the world, which does not have to print the name of the country on the stamps. Here is why.



Following The Great Post Office Reform in Britain, and after trying a wide range of alternative payment options for sending mail, a breakthrough was made, as Britain moved to a postal system which incorporated fixed rates for sending letters. This in turn led to the development of proof of payment, where an adhesive label was added to the letter. The reform took place in 1839, and already in 1840, the first ever postal stamp was issued - the Penny Black.

As the stamp was issued for national postage purposes, there was no reason to add the issuing country to the stamp. Even after cooperation with foreign postal services began, the design was respected, and it was agreed that British stamps did not have to include the name of the country, as long as the stamp included the current royal regent of Britain in the design. This agreement still holds today, and there seems to be no rush to change it.



The first time a British stamp included the word "Britain" in the design, was in a special commemorative issue in celebration of the Festival of Britain in 1951, as seen above.

## USPS plans two forever stamps to celebrate U.S. airmail



Two new intaglio-printed forever stamps celebrating the centennial of United States airmail service will be issued on separate dates in 2018.

The horizontal stamps share identical designs but differ in color. A blue stamp will be issued May 1, and a carmine red stamp will have its first-day ceremony "later this summer," according to the Postal Service.

The stamp design features a Curtiss JN-4H biplane, the U.S. Army airplane that inaugurated the nation's airmail service in 1918, and which is immortalized in the first three airmail stamps issued that year by the U.S. Post Office Department (Scott C1-C3).

On the new stamps, the plane is shown in flight from the front with its single propeller turning. "United States" is lettered in a curved tablet above the plane illustration, and "Air Mail" is inscribed along the bottom edge. Centered directly below the plane is "Forever," flanked at left and right with "Est." (for Established) and "1918."