



THE NEW ZEALAND

STAMP

MONTHLY

TWENTY CENTS



VOL. 1. No. 1.

APRIL 1968.

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THE NEW ZEALAND

STAMP MONTHLY

Vol. 1 No. 1. April, 1968.

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EDITORIAL

"How much for these bundles of old magazines?—6d — 1/- — 1/6 — 2/- Gone! The next lot is . . ."

But from those "bundles of magazines" came the seed to start a new stamp monthly. These magazines were copies of a New Zealand Stamp Monthly published 30 years ago by Mr. Walter Nicholas.

We idly flipped the pages, noted items, read a little, and some more, and spent the rest of the day totally immersed in reading through these delightful publications. Many pre-war readers of that magazine of that time would quite understand, and it was a pity that the second world war came. On its death toll, was a bright informative magazine.

From this interest that day, a seed was sown, it lay dormant, enquiries were made, some said "yes," none said "no", many questioned. Out went letters, back came replies, "Best of luck," "truly wanted," "Good wishes," "We will help . . .", "Pleased to offer . . .", "There is a definite need . . ."

Out went circulars, 3,000, articles started, advertisements arrived, subscriptions poured, typewriter clattered—we were away, and now here it is, our first issue.

It is our earnest hope that collectors will use the magazine, find in it news that they want, and look upon it as a companion in their hobby.

We hope collectors will use it to express their views, clubs and societies use it as an information centre, and by collectors' support we hope that the magazine will go from strength to strength. We want collectors to look upon it as their magazine and to let us know what they want in future copies. Please support our advertisers—for without their support there can be no magazine.

Times are changing and today New Zealand more than ever before, has to stand and fight for herself in world opinion and trade. With this fashions change and more and more countries are looking upon stamps no longer as payment for services to be rendered but as a lucrative source for overseas revenue. Some countries look upon their stamps as their shop window—and very rightly so.

From all this, stamp-collecting is gaining in popularity and still enjoys the name the "King of Hobbies." There are moves in the wind, more new issues and New Zealand collectors have been finding themselves at more and more of a disadvantage owing to the lack of news. Our main aim for this magazine will be the publication of news and background information of new issues, and keeping you informed of happenings in the world of stamps.

In this way we hope this magazine will become a part of New Zealand stamp collecting, and add hours of enjoyable reading to your hobby.

Yours sincerely,

LEN JURY,

Editor.

Messages . . .

I have been invited to include a few words in this the first issue of the "New Zealand Stamp Monthly." I am pleased to have this opportunity of congratulating the publishers on their enterprise in producing the magazine, and I am also pleased that a further agency for publicising New Zealand stamps has come into being.

Since assuming the office of Postmaster-General it has been confirmed in my mind that New Zealand is regarded highly in the philatelic world, and I am anxious to see this standing improved still further. Any enterprise which will help in this direction is naturally welcomed by me.

Let me assure you that the Post Office is fully alive to the necessity to be constantly striving towards improving its philatelic standards, and I do hope that through the medium of your magazine this fact will become more widely recognised.

I wish you well in the future.

W. J. SCOTT,

Postmaster-General.

In my capacity as President of the Federation of New Zealand Philatelic Societies (Inc.), I congratulate the publishers of this new monthly stamp magazine on their enterprise and on behalf of the Federation wish them every success in their venture.

Although the Federation publishes its own quarterly stamp journal, I consider that a monthly publication will meet the needs of many stamp collectors in this country. Rather than competing, I feel that it will be a matter of one journal complementing the other.

R. HERBISON.

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3c MAORI BIBLE—APRIL 23rd

THE FIRST TRANSLATIONS

—H. D. Mullan.



On 23rd April, 1968, a stamp will be issued to commemorate the centenary of the publishing of the Bible printed in the Maori language. Particulars of the Maori Bible stamp are:

Design: The design is from photographs taken at the Rangiatea Maori Church, Otaki. As illustrated, the stamp features a Maori Bible with green satin hand-embroidered sashes resting on a lectern. The lectern is expertly carved by a craftsman in the Raupunga (fern) pattern. The wood is Kauri. The Bible, which is shown open at the Book of Deuteronomy, is Bishop Hadfield's own Maori Bible and bears his handwriting inside. The green satin sashes are hand-embroidered in pink fuchsia design which in Maori interpretation signifies "opportunity". The border on the sashes is the hammerhead shark scroll design, signifying "authority and prestige."

Designed by: The Display Section Public Relations Division, General Post Office, Wellington.

Printed by: Thomas De La Rue & Co Ltd., by their Delacryl process.

Period of Sale: Unless stocks are exhausted earlier the stamp will be withdrawn from sale from all Post Offices on 29th June, 1968 and at the Philatelic Bureau on 31st December, 1968.

Size of Stamp: 25mm by 21 mm.

Sheet Size: 100 stamps per sheet (10 rows of 10).

Sheet Value: \$3 (printed in top right-hand corner of the sheet).

Plate Numbers: 1A 1A 1A 1A 1A and 1B 1B 1B 1B 1B. The printer's imprint and the plate number are below stamps 1, 2 and 3, in row 10.

The Maori had no written language. The task of preparing a Maori vocabulary and grammar was performed by members of the Church Missionary Society at the Bay of Islands. In 1830 Rev. William Yate arrived in New Zealand with a small printing press from which he printed a few hymns and a catechism.

The arrival of William Colenso in December 1834 saw the virtual foundation of the art of printing in New Zealand. In February 1835 Colenso produced the first book printed in New Zealand, "The Epistles to the Philippians and the Ephesians" in Maori, which had been translated by Rev. (later Bishop) William Williams. In 1836 Colenso printed 5000 copies of the first Maori New Testament.

Although the greater part of the translation of the Bible into Maori was the work of William Williams he would have had the assistance of other members of the Mission as well as other Europeans living in the district and not overlooking the advice of the Maori chiefs.

The first Maori Bible was printed in England. It bears the imprint A. W. M. WATTS RANANA (London).

THE BIBLE'S OWNER

In the early 1830s one of the most famous and war-like chiefs of New Zealand, the great Te Rauparaha, asked the Church Missionary Society for a missionary for the Otaki and surrounding districts. Subsequently the Rev. Octavius Hadfield arrived in 1839 to take up his duties.

In the early 1840s he built a church at Waikanae Mission but it was not until 1850 that the Rangiatea Church at Otaki was first used. Hadfield's Bible is shown on the forthcoming 3 cent Maori Bible stamp (April 24th) and is still used here.

Hadfield taught the Maoris to cultivate wheat and by 1850 there were several hundred acres at Waikanae and Otaki in use. Flour mills were erected in the area and for a time the industry flourished.

When Hadfield first arrived in the area, he witnessed a savage battle between rival tribes of Waikanae and Otaki areas. After a peace had been negotiated, Hadfield set up two headquarters, one in each area, so that he avoided any appearance of partiality to one tribe. The Ngati Raukawa tribe of Otaki looked upon the teachings of the Bible as poor substitute for rum and guns and it took Hadfield two years to win them over.

By 1850 the Otaki Mission was looked upon as a model—its new village of weatherboard houses, private gardens, and wheat fields. In later years as European population increased and liquor became more of a problem, the mission was unable to retain the same single-minded devotion.

Hadfield was an acknowledged authority on the Maori language, life and customs. Sir George Grey, during his first governorship, often sort his opinion. Hadfield's greatness came for him at a time of great anguish when he publicly defended the Maoris claim to disputed land in Taranaki. He was attacked in the Press as a PIOUS FIREBRAND and was accused of near treason. So great was the outcry against his criticism of Government, that Parliament summoned him for judicial questioning. For four hours he stood and replied, relying solely on memory, 89 carefully prepared written questions. No one could disprove his assertions in the House and these were later vindicated in fresh studies of the claim.

He was a man of wide intellectual interests and in his youth he learned to read Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and learnt to speak French, Portuguese and Spanish. He had a public reputation as a fearsome controversialist. He had, as he once said himself, more patience with vice than stupidity, for something could still be achieved with the vicious. The Maoris named him Rangatira Pae, the mild white man, because he opposed their ancient customs not by anger or disgust, but by gentle reason. From 1890-93 he was Primate.

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NEW DEFINITIVE DESIGNS

Timber

Design: The stamp features a stand of radiata pine trees and stacked milled timber.

Designed by: The Display Section, Public Relations Division, General Post Office, Wellington.

Printed by: Harrison and Sons Ltd., London, by photogravure.

Denomination: 10c.

Date of Issue: 2nd April, 1968.

Period of Sale: To remain on sale as part of the definitive issue.

Size of Stamp: 37mm by 21mm.

Sheet Size: 100 stamps per sheet (10 rows of 10).

Sheet Value: \$10 (Printed at top right hand corner of the sheet).

Plate Numbers: 1A 1A 1A 1A
The plate number and the printer's imprint appear below stamps 1, 2 and 3, in row 10, at the bottom left-hand corner of the sheet.

In line with the drive for increasing exports the Post Office has taken upon itself the task of advertising our wares by means of our postage stamps. April 2nd sees the new 10 cent design with the timber industry still as its theme.

The first timber exports from New Zealand were made way back in 1794 when a shipment of native white pine was taken for use as ship spars. By 1853 native timber accounted for over 30 per cent of New Zealand exports, but by 1860 this total had dropped to 2 per cent. Famous among these exports were the giant Kauris so renowned for shipbuilding.

Slowly New Zealand's native timber exports diminished, until they were finally stopped by law. At the end of the Second World War and up to 1950 our timber exports were negligible. After 1950 however, there have been dramatic increases. In 12 years, from 1952 to 1964, our newsprint exports rose from 9,000 to 168,000 tons. There have been similar increases in other timber products and today timber and products account for 5 per cent of value of our total exports. Most of our timber exports have been to Australia which in value has grown in twelve years from £4 million to £16 million.

Tiki



Design: As illustrated. The Tiki is shown in green against a background of pale green. The lettering is in red.

Designed by: Original design by Mr. J. Berry, O.B.E., Wellington.

Printed by: Harrison and Sons Ltd., London by photogravure.

Denomination: 15 cents.

Date of Issue: 19th March 1968.

Period of Sale: To remain on sale as part of the definitive issue.

Size of Stamp: 21mm by 25mm.

Sheet Size: 150 stamps per sheet (10 rows of 15).

Sheet Value: \$22.50 (Printed at top right-hand corner of sheet).

Plate Numbers: 1A 1A 1A 1A
The plate number and the printer's imprint appear below stamps 1, 2, 3 and 4, in row 10, at the bottom left-hand corner of the sheet.

It is commonly thought that this ornament is worn by women as a fertility charm, representing the human embryo. However early European visitors have recorded seeing men wearing the tiki and possibly it was likened to an embryo endowed with magical powers.

The word tiki is generally applied throughout the Polynesian world to carved human figures. The name possibly could be connected with the Myth of Tiki—the first man created by Tane. Best says the first was made for Hina-Te-iwaiwa, the Maori Moon Goddess and Patroness of Women.

In Niue the Tiki myth is unknown and there are no carved human figures. The correct name for the figure on the 15 cent is Hei-Tiki. Tiki usually refers to the much larger human figures carved in wood guarding the entrance to a Maori Pa and also the smaller wooden carvings to mark a tapu place.

NEW PRINTS OF THE N.Z. DECIMAL CURRENCY PICTORIAL ISSUE

It was hoped that the new prints of the 10 cent, 15 cent, 25 cent and 2 dollar decimal currency stamps would be available for release early this year. However, there has been some delay in the production and shipping arrangements for these stamps and consequently it is not possible to release the new prints as early as was first anticipated.

25c and \$2 (New Prints)

Production of the new 25c stamp for the definitive issue will commence shortly and this stamp as well as the reprint in modified colours of the \$2 definitive value will be released later this year. Particulars of the date of issue of these two stamps will be announced later.

NEW PICTORIAL VALUE 28c

Previously announced at 22c.

Due to the rate of postage for an airmail letter to Great Britain and Europe being increased from 22c to 28c following devaluation of the New Zealand dollar, the denomination of the proposed 22 cent has been changed to 28 cents. This stamp which features the Fox Glacier in Westland National Park will be issued on 30th July, 1968.

SERVICES STAMP ISSUE

To mark the important contribution being made by the New Zealand Armed Services a set of three stamps will be issued on 7th May, 1968, the 23rd Anniversary of V.E. Day. Particulars of the three Services stamps are:

Design: The three Services, Army, Air Force and Navy, are featured on the 4 cent, 10 cent and 28 cent stamps respectively. Each design depicts a present day serviceman and equipment of the relative service with an earlier serviceman and equipment in the background.

Designer: Mr. L. C. Mitchell, Wellington.

Printed by: Thomas De La Rue and Co. Ltd., London, by their Delacryl process.

Denominations: 4c, 10c and 28c.

Date of Issue: 7th May, 1968.

Period of Sale: Unless stocks are exhausted earlier the stamps will be withdrawn from sale from all Post Offices on 31st July 1968 and at the Philatelic Bureau on 31st January, 1969.

Size of Stamps: 37mm by 21mm (horizontal format).

Continued on Page 9.

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SERVICE STAMPS (Cont.)

Sheet Size: 100 stamps per sheet (10 rows of 10).

Sheet Value: \$4, \$10, and \$28 (printed on top right-hand corner of the relative sheet).

GIFT SETS

Gift sets of current definitive stamps specially packed in two types of attractive plastic folders with a Maori motif on the front are on sale at the Philatelic Bureau, all Chief Post Offices, Post Offices in tourist centres and overseas air and sea passenger terminals. Overseas clients and New Zealand customers in areas where the folders are not on sale are able to obtain them by post from the Philatelic Bureau, General Post Office, Wellington. One folder coloured blue, containing 12 stamps (4c to 10c) is sold at 85c and the other folder, coloured black, containing 17 stamps (4c to 50c) is sold for \$2.25. The folders are listed on the order form which is enclosed with Bulletins sent to overseas addresses.

NEW PLATE NUMBERS

Stamp: 2½c New Zealand Pictorial; Plate number: 2A 2A 2A 3A; Date issued: 11/10/67.

Stamp: 2½c New Zealand Pictorial; Plate number: 2B 2B 2B 3B; Date issued: 11/10/67.

Additional stocks of plate 1A, 1A, 1A, 1A and plate 1B 1B 1B 1B of the 2½c Pictorial stamp are now available from the Philatelic Bureau.

NEW ADHESIVE

The stamp printing firm of Harrison and Sons Ltd., have advised that in future instead of using gum arabic they shall be using a new synthetic adhesive of which the common constituent is Poly-vinyl alcohol. The new adhesive which is claimed to give better adhesion than gum arabic, was used for the first time in the production of New Zealand stamps with the printing of the new 10c and 15c definitive stamps.

**N.Z. LIFE INSURANCE
5c and 10c Decimal Overprints**

There are now 3 papers for the 5 cent and 10 cent. Ordinary paper, small print sold out immediately after release. Creamy chalk paper, now obsolete—the 10 cent of only short life. White chalk paper now current. Lamp shows two entirely different reactions for chalk papers. Creamy-deep bright violet. White-brilliant white.

(Sinclair-Brown)

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE?

A 4c Royal Society block showing the flaw reported in the Pacific Stamp Journal, 1967, November. Plate 1A 1A 1A 2A Row 7 No. 10.



Shifts in colour are often spectacular. Here is a good example kindly loaned by Mr. F. Watters, New Plymouth.



A unique discovery by Mr. I. Rutherford—New Plymouth.
A good example of a paper crease.

Mr. Bruce Henderson of Timaru reports the following varieties:—

New Zealand 1967 Christmas—Plate 1A, top row, 3rd last stamp—retouch of N Zealand.

Nuie 1967 Decimal Overprint—1c on 1d, 2nd bottom row, last stamp, the bottom left serif on the 1 of 1c is missing. This error is of course found in Plate no. blocks of the 1c.

Western Samoa. 6th anniversary of Independence, 25c Traquart—Bottom row, No. 3, several scratches and white irregular hair lines on Traquart's coat. (Constant on all sheets seen.)

WANTED: This page is for collectors' use to publish their latest discoveries. We will be pleased to include any notes that collectors care to send. If particular outstanding items can be sent so that they may be photographed please send by registered mail. All letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 513, New Plymouth.

POSTMARK CORNER

April could be called the "name changing month" for no less than seven Post Offices changed. Of these, six were in Christchurch. As suburbs have grown in Christchurch and more Post Offices were opened, many of the older Post Offices' names became obsolete as they no longer referred to their particular area. Thus to bring order to the situation once again, Shirley East became Shirley, Shirley became St. Albans; St. Albans became Merivale; Ferry Road became Philipstown, Moorehouse which was Moorehouse Ave. became Walker Street, Bryndwr became Greens Road. In Wellington Bel Air became Kenakena.

There is a move going forward to the Geographic Board to have Te Kuiti changed to Waitomo. This would be in keeping with the Caves that are only a few miles to the north. In reporting this, it was said that no person had heard of Te Kuiti overseas yet everyone knew Waitomo. So this could be a change in the name for yet another Post Office. There is a Post Office called Waitomo Caves.

Hillsborough Post Office via New Plymouth, is now only serving a few factory houses. This Post Office uses an old time English datestamp used in 1902, and

is one of the very few offices using this type of datestamp. It appears that this office could close in the near future.

Eureka (Hamilton) used a square circle datestamp. This is the last one of this type in use in New Zealand. It is one of the most used datestamps from the smaller type of office and yet is in very good condition, giving a clear impression when used.

Have you seen the new pictorial machine cancellations used at Rotorua, Taupo and Queenstown? These are a good idea and could be extended to other offices in due course.

Riversdale Beach and Lake Hawea both are seasonal offices and close on the 30th April, though it appears Riversdale Beach may open again in the school term holidays at August.

This is your column and I ask that any person who wishes can send in notes re Post Offices and you too can help other collectors.

STOP PRESS—A relief datestamp is in use at Tahora.

NEW POSTMARKS

25th March.

Whenuapai Post Office becomes Whenuapai Village Post Office.

New Post Office open named Whenuapai at a new location.

PUTTING THE STAMP ON EUREKA'S FAME

One little hand-held postage cancellation stamp continues to give Eureka, a township 11 miles from Hamilton, world-wide fame.

A farming district featuring a dairy factory, Eureka rates six lines in Dollimore's New Zealand Guide. A quarter of that comprises the explanation that "Eureka!" was the famous cry by Archimedes, but there is no explanation of how the town came to get such a name.

The Eureka Post Office is situated in the office of Mr. R. N. Campbell's grocery store. Yet Mr. Campbell is kept busy franking bundles of self-addressed envelopes for philatelists from as far afield as Canada, Wales and Switzerland.

The unique "square circle" stamp has been in continuous use since 1904, making it the oldest in the Commonwealth. It is now the only one still in use in the Commonwealth.

The stamp first became famous in 1964, during the town's golden jubilee, when it was discovered by the Auckland Postal History Society.



HURRICANE HITS COOK ISLANDS

The first warning of the disastrous December hurricane came from Nadi Airport, Fiji, through the usual meteorological service. It stated that "a severe tropical storm" was situated 300 miles west of Pukapuka Island in the Northern Cook Group. The storm was then developing into a hurricane and moving slowly eastwards.

Immediately Government Hurricane Safety Schemes were put into operation in the various islands in the path of the hurricane. Government posts were set up in outer villages and Safety Centres were opened. Village Councils, which run local village affairs, laid in food, kerosene, matches and other supplies in Government posts, ensured that safety precautions were being taken and that all families were aware of the warning. Families were evacuated from homes particularly close to the sea.

On December 15th the hurricane hit Pukapuka and totally destroyed the seawall at Yato village. It blew down many houses and numerous coconut trees which yield the main food supplies and copra export income of the islanders. The island of Nassau also received the force of this still developing hurricane again destroying many houses, breadfruit and coconut trees.

The isolated atoll of Suwarow was next in the path of the hurricane and although no official report of damage sustained has been received, news was radioed from a passing ship that the visiting Manihikian pearl shell divers and hermit Tom Neale were safe.

STORM BUILDING UP IN FORCE ALL THE TIME . . .

A satellite photograph taken of this hurricane showed that it covered 200 miles in diameter.

Palmerston Island, home of the descendants of William Mārsters, next received the blast of the hurricane and tremendous seas pushed along by the wild storm swept away all the island's boat sheds but luckily the main village escaped serious damage. Winds gusting at 80 knots carried waves right over the atoll and the wind blew down all the island's breadfruit trees as well as many coconut palms, vital to an islander's existence. Most other food crops were destroyed by the sea.

By the time the hurricane hit Aitutaki on the 16th December it had increased in force and was more violent. Seas had also increased in height. Many houses were blown or washed away and many others demolished by the gigantic seas and the Amuri school flattened by the wind. A Japanese yacht "Fast Lady" was hurled ashore and the crew from the Merchant Navy School of Navigation, Tokyo, narrowly missed drowning. Another visiting yacht, a trimaran from the USA broke adrift and was later found high and dry on a small islet in the middle of the lagoon with estimated damage of US\$3,000.

The villages of Amuri and Ureia were devastated and all inhabitants were evacuated. Electric generators were under several feet of sea water and power can only be restored when new equipment is obtained from overseas. The damage to subsistence and export crops was severe, hundreds of breadfruit, mango and pawpaw trees and acres of bananas were completely destroyed. But the islanders, working to an ancient Maori law, vigorously enforced by the Village Councils, are planting again the essential kumara, maniotā and tarotaru crops which together with emergency food supplies to be sent by the Government will be needed by the people to ensure adequate food for the months to come.

In Atiu Island in the Southern Group 60 to 70 per cent of the houses were levelled or badly damaged. All banana and some coffee plantations were destroyed and again losses to other food crops and trees were severe.

Mitiaro Island lost contact with the outside world soon after the hurricane hit and washed away both the Radio Station and Post Office.

RAROTONGA RECEIVES FULL BLAST OF SEAS AND WINDS

On the morning of 18th December the full force of the hurricane hit Rarotonga with the wind screaming in from the North. Tremendous seas generated by the storm over some 800 miles of ocean tore up the waterfront of Avarua, leaving only the piles of the main harbour wharf and flooding the Administrative centre and

Post Office, where several thousands of Christmas stamps bearing religious paintings were luckily undamaged. The fishing vessel "Hakua Nui" was carried bodily up and hurled at the Fruit Control building and Union Steamship company cargo shed, smashing both buildings and receiving damage to itself beyond repair. Waves destroyed the front wall of the Hotel Rarotonga, flooding many of the rooms with several feet of debris-laden sea water. The seawall along the waterfront was washed away and in parts the roadway was dangerously undermined and in other places bridge approaches collapsed.

The island's largest bakery was washed out by the heavy seas and limited bread supplies to feed the islanders has since been baked in temporary limestone ovens as in olden days. One of the island's cinemas was flattened. The famous stranded brigantine "Yankee" on the reef edge was lifted by the seas, completely turned round, lost both masts and was beached. It is now unworthy of further salvage efforts. All low-lying areas were flooded either by the invading seas or torrential rains and hundreds of people were made homeless.

Banana crops were a 90 per cent loss and other food crops seriously damaged.

In its final fury before leaving the Group, the eye of the hurricane passed right over Mangaia devastating the western shore. The main cargo sheds and fumigation sheds were left in a heap of debris. The Oneroa packing shed was blown away and many buildings deroofed. Once again all subsistence and export crops were seriously damaged by the rage of the storm.

AFTERWARDS . . .

In response to a radio appeal for voluntary help by the Premier, Mr. Albert Henry, 500 men turned up at 7 a.m. the morning after the storm and set about clearing debris and restoring power and communications. When the central area of Avarua was partially cleared and traffic able to move around the island, the volunteers returned to their villages where the Village Councils organised the local clearing up.

Continue Next Issue.

WESTERN SAMOA

TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

The 21st year of the establishment of the South Pacific Commission will be commemorated by the Western Samoa Post Office with a special stamp issue to be released on 22nd April 1968. The release date of the above unfortunately had to be advanced from the date originally announced.

Provided stocks are not exhausted earlier the new issue will remain on sale until withdrawn on 22nd July, 1968.

The South Pacific Commission is a regional body established under an agreement signed at Canberra on 6th February, 1947, by representatives of the Governments then administering territories in the Pacific, namely Australia, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. These Governments' aim in establishing the Commission was to encourage and strengthen co-operation in promoting the economic and social welfare and advancement of the non-self-governing territories in the South Pacific region administered by them.

Western Samoa has been interested in the work of the South Pacific Commission from the time it was established first as a territory within the scope of the Commission under New Zealand administration and later as an independent state. Western Samoa formally acceded to the Agreement establishing the South Pacific Commission in 1965, thereby becoming the first South Pacific territory to participate as a member Government.

The participating Governments are among them responsible for the administration of nearly all the Pacific Islands in an area that extends over about twelve million square miles, only 3 per cent. of which is land, from Papua and New Guinea eastwards to French Polynesia, and from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, southwards to Norfolk Island. Some three million people live in the area.

The Commission does not concern itself with political matters, but endeavours to assist the member governments and the Territorial Administrations in their task of improving the conditions of life of island peoples, particularly in the fields of health, economic and agricultural development, and so-

cial and educational advancement. In doing this the Commission strictly plays a consultative and advisory role.

SAMOA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

The Western Samoa Post Office placed on sale on 15th February, 1968 an issue to mark the development of Agricultural products in Western Samoa. The issue is the first of a series to be released on agricultural development. The release date of this issue has of necessity been deferred from November 1967 to February 1968 to meet printing and shipping requirements.

The issue which comprises 4 denominations—3 sene, 5 sene, 10 sene, 20 sene for a set of 38 sene, depict the following agricultural products—Cocoa 3 sene; Breadfruit 5 sene; Copra 10 sene; Bananas, 20 sene.

The artwork of the issue was prepared by Miss Jennifer Toombs of London while the stamps are printed by Jon Enschede en Zonen, Holland, on Western Samoa Kava Bowl watermarked paper, by the photogravure process.

Economic Development in Western Samoa is, and in the future, will depend to a large degree on the development of its Agricultural resources. Until secondary industries are introduced the economy will have to rely heavily on its three main agricultural products—copra, cocoa, and bananas.

However the diversification of plants and food crops is receiving the attention of the Government. The canning of local fruits is being actively pursued. The latter has been greatly encouraged by the recent establishment of the Food Processing and Cannery Laboratory at the Tropical College at Alafua.

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF SAMOA'S INDEPENDENCE

The sixth Anniversary of Western Samoa's Independence was commemorated by the release of a special issue on 15th January, 1968. The stamps depict portraits of the undermentioned people who served Samoa well during the 19th and early 20th century.

The 2 sene value depicts **THOMAS TROOD**, who was born in Taunton, Somerset in 1833. He went to Western Samoa in 1857 and became a prominent businessman. A close friend of Robert Louis Stevenson and British Vice-Consul during the German occupation.

DR. WILHELM SOLF depicted on the 7 sene was Governor of Western Samoa from 1900 to 1910 and later Minister of Colonial Affairs in the German Imperial Government. He once stated "My congenial duty is merely to guard (Western Samoa) as what it is—a little paradise". He was a just, kind, firm and wise ruler.

The 20 sene stamp depicts **JOHN C. WILLIAMS**. The son of Missionary John Williams he was United States Consul 1839 to 1853 and British Consul 1958 to 1873.

FRITZ MARQUARDT was chief of Police in Samoa from 1891 to 1895 (depicted on the 25 sene). He was the German equivalent of Thomas Trood. He was a long term resident in Western Samoa and a trader. He subsequently became head of the German community and was also a Magistrate. He was regarded as one of the better class European residents and is considered as second only to Dr. Solf of the same period.



THE STAMP MARKET CORNER



The constant and vigorous onslaught on the gold standard of the Western World, launched by a group supported by France, South Africa and the Soviet Union has seriously shaken the position of the US dollar and the British pound sterling, and this at a time, when stability is all important. Goldmining shares are rising fast and gold is being hoarded in ever increasing quantities by speculators, who hope to double their money in the near future, when the US is forced to increase the price of gold from its present US\$35 per ounce to double that figure. Whether the United States Government will succumb or not, shall not be discussed here, but what the price of gold would be, once it is freed from all connections with any currency and once it should float freely on a free market, is anybody's guess. A substantial number of experts think, the price of gold could drop to as low as US\$10 per ounce, since actual industrial demand is low, others argue that the price of gold has been held artificially low and has not changed for 30 years whereas all other raw materials have more than trebled in price since, particularly the non-ferrous metals. What has all that got to do with stamps, you may ask? In a roundabout sort of way, quite a bit.



There are very few stamp collectors, who do not put a spare copy of this or that stamp aside with the hope that one day these stamps will appreciate in value. And provided the purchases have been made prudently, the stamps will go up in price, but unlike gold, stamps have no intrinsic value of their own, they are mere bits of coloured paper. And yet, if one

prudent investor had spent \$1000 on gold in 1939 and another \$1000 on a decent stamp collection, he would get now no more than \$1,200 for his gold (the result of the pound devaluation of 1949), whereas his stamp collection would net him at least \$7 to \$8000 now. This increase is, on its own, by no means particularly great, there are better investments about than stamps, admittedly. But the point I am trying to raise is that stamps are a better investment than many others and can offer the collector not only the profit, but also the fun. Let's be honest, we as stamp collectors are by far more pleased when a stamp that we bought for 50c has jumped to \$3 than when our shares on the stock exchange have jumped by three points, though the later may represent a larger profit for us. Such is human nature. Stamps are giving us pleasure, but also to thousands and millions of other people all over the world. Hence stamps will invariably increase in price, provided they are the right sort of stamps. The demand for stamps is being created by the multitude of collectors and newcomers to the field, who through rising living standards can afford to pay more and more for their darling bits of paper. And since I cannot envisage that the collecting and hoarding instinct in homo sapiens is going to die out suddenly, after having been in evidence as long as mankind exists, it stands to reason that the backing of stamp prices will always be solid.



Modern times have brought home to many people how insecure are their material possessions. The 1923 inflation in Germany and the 1946 inflation of Hungary have wiped out the year-long savings of its people almost overnight. The French franc devalued gradually over the years to such an extent that de Gaulle had to make a new start to create confidence in the franc by calling 100 old francs one new franc, which only shows that the old money had depreciated from 100 to 1. The Italians

thing 100 Lire too small for a tip, when once it was enough money to keep one going for a fortnight. Investment in stamps can safeguard quite a bit against that sort of thing. One recent event should make that quite clear. Say for argument's sake you had an Australian Mint collection which you intended to sell in Melbourne at an auction. Had you sold in August last year, you would have received say A\$100.00 or NZ\$80.00. Had you sold this collection however after devaluation day, your return would be now NZ\$100.00 instead of \$NZ80, in other words your money would have been safeguarded against the effects of devaluation.



I shall attempt now and again to draw attention to some stamps that appear to have a good future. Since my ideas are not necessarily the same as yours, the readers, and since I can be often wrong, I want you to use your own judgment as well. One old axiom that holds good for all speculative stamp buying (and please remember, to buy one more copy than you need for your collection is "speculative buying") is: "Don't buy what everybody else buys." The stamps that go up in price are the ones that nobody bothered buying, when they were available. The 3 shilling New Zealand Tongariro stamp in blackish-brown and the 1/9 bistre-brown definitive are cases that prove my point. So, on this basis, I tip the current 10c and 15c stamp and I can only tell you that there appear to be no copies left here in Auckland. The 25c stamp will also be replaced shortly and should be got now, as well as the \$2 stamp. This latter item appears to me to have a very bright future indeed, the reasons for which I shall give in more detail next time.



AUSTRALIA AND TERRITORIES

Australia

WORLD WEATHER WATCH INTELSAT II

On March 20th Australia issued 2 stamps to commemorate "World Weather Watch". The stamps of 5c and 20c values were designed by Mr. John Mason of Melbourne.

The 5c shows a satellite in orbit around the Globe with signal emanating from it. The three centres of World Weather Watch, Moscow, Washington and Melbourne, are shown on a world map of weather patterns on the 20c stamp.

Australia also issued a 25c stamp on March 20th, commemorating Satellite *Intelsat II*. The stamp designed by Mr. Robert Ingpen of Melbourne, shows the satellite and the dish antenna of the ground station at Moree, N.S.W.

SPECIAL POSTMARKS

From 1st April until 30th September, 1968 at Ayres Rock—Ayres Rock Letter Receiver Pictorial Postmarker depicting Ayres Rock, one of the world's largest monoliths.

17th to 30th April 1968—A special postmark will be in use at Canberra, for the Conference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

The Ayres Rock cancel can be obtained by writing with cover to the Postmaster, Alice Springs, N.T. 5750, Australia, whilst the ECAFE cancel can be obtained by sending covers to the Philatelic Sales Section, Canberra City, 2600, Australia.

AUSTRALIAN £.S.D. ISSUES DEMONETISED

The Australian P.M.G. has announced that as from February 14th, 1968, old currency (£.s.d.) Australian postage stamps were no longer legal tender for mail articles or for any services for which payment may be made in postage stamps.

For the next three years, post offices will exchange old currency stamps for decimal stamps of equivalent value, provided the total value of the stamps tendered for exchange form a multiple of five cents but private embossed envelopes, lettercards, lettersheets, stamped envelopes, registration envelopes, wrappers and aerograms will not be exchanged for decimal values.

Norfolk Island

During 1968 the remaining six decimal overprint stamps will be replaced by the new definitive issue of decimal currency stamps featuring ships associated with the history of Norfolk Island. These stamps are printed in photogravure by Messrs. Harrison & Sons Ltd. of London. Full details of each stamp will be released before issue. All stamps will be issued in sheets of 50. When the last of the new definitive issue is put on sale, an attractive folding wallet containing the complete issue of ship stamps and with a short description of each ship will be made available.

As well as the definitive issue a 5-cent stamp to commemorate the 21st Anniversary of the inauguration of the air service to Norfolk Island by Qantas and a 5c Christmas stamp will be issued.

18th March, 1968

New Definitive Issue: 15c Southern Cross 1866; 20c The Pitcairn 1891; 25c Norfolk Whaleboat 1895; 18th June, 1968:

New Definitive Issue: 30c H.M.C.S. Iris, 1907; 50c The Resolution 1926; \$1 S.S. Morinda 1931.

Six page folder containing full set of ship stamps and description \$3.50.

STAMP ISSUE PROGRAMME FOR THE TERRITORY OF PAPUA & NEW GUINEA

The butterfly and folklore definitive stamps will be replaced by a new series of fifteen stamps which will feature Territory Sea Shells. Additionally two special postage stamp issues will also be made during the next twelve months. In announcing this in Port Moresby today, Mr. W. S. Peckover, the Acting Director of Posts and Telegraphs furnished the following details of the proposed postage stamp issues.

On 24th April, 1968, a special postage stamp issue, featuring Territory frogs will be made. This the second annual Territory Flora and Fauna conservation issue will consist of four stamps in the denominations of 5c, 10c, 15c and 20c. The stamps will be printed by photogravure by Helio Courvoisier of Switzerland.

On 26th June, 1968, a special issue of four postage stamps will be issued to mark the 1968 elec-

tions to the House of Assembly and the International Human Rights Year. Two of the stamps will be symbolic of the House of Assembly elections and the other two will feature the Human Rights motif. The stamps were designed by Mr. G. Hamori of Sydney and are to be printed by Enschede and Sons of Holland. They will be printed in six colours by the offset-litho process.

featuring shells will be issued in

The fifteen definitive stamps three groups of five stamps. The first group of five will be issued on 28th August 1968, the second on 30th October 1968 and the third and final group will be issued on 22nd January 1969. The stamps will be printed by Helio Courvoisier of Switzerland and were designed by noted Australian artist, Mr. Paul Jones of Sydney.

Christmas Island (Indian Ocean)

New Postage Stamps and Philatelic Facilities.

A new series of postage stamps depicting fish endemic to the Indian Ocean will be issued by the Territory of Christmas Island on 6th May, 1968. On that date Australian currency is being introduced into use in the Territory (replacing Malaysian currency) and the denominations of the new stamp series are accordingly expressed in Australian currency.

The new stamps will be valid for use only in the Territory of Christmas Island.

Postage Stamps

The series comprises 10 denominations, all stamp designs being the work of Mr. George Hamori of Sydney and were based on material furnished by the State Museum, Perth, Western Australia. The stamps have been produced by the multicolour photogravure process at the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne, in sheets of 100. All stamps are of horizontal format, stamp size being 37.5 by 25 mm. Denominations and designs are as follows:—

1c *Grammistes sexlineatus*; 2c *Zanclus cornutus*; 3c *Forcipiger longirostris*; 4c *Balistes vidua*; 5c *Pygoplites diacanthus*; 9c *Acanthurus glaucopareius*; 10c *Pterois volitans*; 20c *Chaetodon ornatissimus*; 50c *Acanthurus lineatus*; \$1 *Chaetodon meyeri*.

PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

FROGS

This is the theme for Papua and New Guinea's next issue on April 24th. Printed in four colour Photogravure by Courvoisier of Switzerland whose artists also did the designing.

Other technical details:—

SIZE: 36 x 26 mm. Horizontal format.

SHEET CONTENT: 50 stamps.

PERFORATION: 11½.

PAPER: Unwatermarked granite.

GUM: Yellow.

No printers imprint of Plate block numbers.

5 Cent stamp—*Hyla thesaurensis*.

This stamp depicts a juvenile of the tree-frog *Hyla thesaurensis*. Although all juveniles bear the characteristic pale, longitudinal stripes on the back, these markings are exhibited by only a few adults, and others are virtually any shade of brown, grey, green or yellow, or any combination of these colours. This wide variety of colour and pattern has resulted in the species being described as a new species on no less than five different occasions.

First reported from Treasury Island in the Solomon Islands in 1878 by the German Zoologist W. Peters, its geographic range is now known to include lowland areas throughout New Guinea, extending as far as the Moluccas.

This species attains a maximum body length of about 2½ inches. It shares with the closely related species *Hyla Luten*, and several species of South American frogs, the unusual feature of possessing bright bluish-green bones. The pigmentation is so pronounced that, from the undersurface of the limbs where there are no skin pigments, the bones can be seen through the skin. It has recently been discovered that in the South American species the colouration is produced by the presence of a bile pigment deposited in the bones, but the cause of the phenomenon remains unknown.

Hyla thesaurensis breeds in static or slowly moving water. Over one thousand eggs are laid in large shapeless clumps, and the tadpoles hatching from them take up to three months to complete their development into frogs.

10 Cent stamp—*Hyla iris*.

Hyla iris is a slender and extremely agile tree-frog rarely more than 1½ inches in length. Un-

doubtedly one of the most beautiful of the New Guinea frogs, it was named after Iris Goddess of the Rainbow. In addition to the range of colours visible when the frog is at rest, the unexposed surfaces are marked with violet, sky blue, pale cream and yellow. It is perhaps indicative of the poor state of knowledge of the New Guinea frog fauna that this species was first collected as recently as 1960 and described in 1962.

Primarily a montane species *iris* has been collected at about thirty localities, and its geographic range extends from Okapa to the headwaters of the Digoel River in West Irian.

Its breeding habits are most unusual for it lays clumps of bright green eggs in masses of clear jelly in the branches of shrubs overhanging streams and rivers. The tadpoles of many species which lay their spawn in static water normally hatch and fall to the bottom of the pond. During the first couple of days of free aquatic life their movements are unco-ordinated for they lack complete control of their tail muscles and are unable to swim properly. Although this does not appear to be a disadvantage to tadpoles in static water, they could not possibly survive in a fast flowing stream. After hatching from the egg and membranes the tadpoles of *Hyla iris* therefore remain for several days within the "nest" of jelly surrounding them, and only drop into the stream when capable of swimming strongly.

15 cent stamp—*Ceratobatrachus guentheri*.

This strange creature is a ground-dwelling species confined to the Solomon Islands. It was discovered by H. B. Guppy of H.M.S. Lark and described by G. A. Boulenger of the British Museum in 1884.

The frog fauna of the Solomon Islands includes several genera and numerous species not found elsewhere, and this particular animal is amongst the most unusual. It has a maximum body length of about four inches and is drab brownish or greenish in colour. It is characterised by the presence of small triangular flaps of skin on the tip of the snout, jaw, upper eyelids and posterior edges of the limbs.

It lives amongst leaf litter on forest floors and in such situations the triangular flaps tend to obscure the actual outline of the frog,

so that it harmonises with the background. Amongst dead leaves with serrated edges it would obviously be well camouflaged.

In common with most other ground-dwelling frogs of the Solomon Islands and New Guinea *Ceratobatrachus guentheri* probably lays its eggs on land well away from water. In such instances there is no free-swimming tadpole stage, for this period is spent within the egg membranes and eventually a miniature frog emerges.

20 Cent stamp—*Nyctimystes narinosa*.

At present about twenty species of the tree-frog genus *Nyctimystes* are recognised but many more undoubtedly await discovery. They vary in size from about two inches to almost five inches and many exhibit light markings on the back which, like those of *Nyctimystes narinosa* can be quite startling.

This frog was described in 1958 by the American zoologist R. G. Zweifel. This species inhabits montane rain-forests at altitudes of up to 10,000 feet above sea level. Tree stumps in rain forests are often completely covered with a cloak of mosses and lichens, and some of the latter may be brightly coloured. Against such a background *narinosa* is difficult to detect.

Although nothing is known of its habits and development, eggs dissected from gravid females are large and unpigmented. Other species of *Nyctimystes* with similar eggs lay them beneath flat stones on the floor of mountain torrents. The gelatinous material surrounding each egg is extremely firm, probably to protect the egg from the direct force of the current. The large emerging tadpoles have flattened, streamlined bodies and large sucker mouths by which they attach themselves to smooth rocks.

Papua and New Guinea.

National Heritage; Release date: 21st February, 1968; Designer: Paul Jones; Printer: Helio Courvoisier S.A.; Process: Photogravure; Watermark: Unwatermarked; Values and designs: As illustrated.

The stamps show local headdress as follows:—

5c Chimbu District headdress; 10c Southern Highlands District Headdress; 20c Western Highlands District headdress; 60c Chimbu District Headdress.

Continued on Page 16:

PACIFIC ISLANDS New Issues

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

Mid 1968, New Definitive set.

FIJI.

May: New Definitive set.

June 5th: (Provisional) 40th Anniversary of Kingsford Smith's landing.

GILBERT-ELLICE ISLANDS.

November 21-25th: Anniversary of Battle of Tarawa.

NEW HEBRIDES

May 23rd: 200th Anniversary Bougainville's voyage around the world.

August 5th: Concorde Maiden flight.

October 9th: Correction of French Cyphers on the 10 and 20 gold centimes and 3 gold francs.

1969: Timber.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

June 18: Ship series, 30c, 50c, and \$1.00 definitives.

September 25th: 25th Anniversary of the inauguration of the Qantas air service between Sydney and Norfolk Islands.

October 23rd: Christmas stamp.

PITCAIRN ISLAND.

1968: Handicrafts.

1969: New Definitives.

PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

April 24: Conservation issue (Frogs).

June 26th: Free elections and Human Rights.

August 28th, October 30th and January 22nd: Shell Definitive series in groups of five.

WESTERN SAMOA.

April 22nd: South Pacific Commission, 21st Anniversary.

June: Bicentenary of Bougainville's visit.

August: International Human Rights.

November: Agricultural series.

1969: Robert Louis Stevenson.

FIJI. NEW SHADE

Reprints 10d 1/- 2/6.

The Frame of the 2/6 val. is in a much deeper shade of purple, resulting in a very good variety. There is little difference in the 10d and 1/-.

PITCAIRN ISLANDS.

BLIGH SHADES

An unconfirmed report says the 1c and 8c Bligh stamps issued from Pitcairn Island are a completely different shade to those released through the Crown Agents.

FIJI'S NEW DEFINITIVES

A complete set of Fiji definitives is to replace the present current definitives first issued in 1961-1962.

It is anticipated that these will be placed on sale in May, 1968. The set comprises 17 denominations from designs selected from 268 entries received for our international competition held in 1966. Details of the stamps are as follows:

4d: Fijian Bures (Native houses) in typical island setting.

1d: Passion Fruit flowers common in Fiji.

2d: The rare Nautilus Pompilius sea shell found in Fiji waters.

3d: A white reef Heron (Belo, pronounced Mbello!) indigenous to Fiji.

4d: A beautiful indigenous Hawk Moth found only in Fiji (Psilogramma Jordana).

6d: A reef Angel Fish.

9d: Bamboo raft (Bilibili) commonly used in transporting produce down river.

10d: A Tiger Moth found only in Fiji (Asota Woodfordii).

1/-: A Black Marlin fish found commonly in Fiji waters with a game fishing boat outlined behind it.

1/6: A group of beautiful Sun Birds indigenous to Fiji.

2/-: The black and white winged sea snake Laticauda Colubrina or Dadakulaci in Fijian. Common in inshore waters.

2/6: Takia (Fijian outrigger canoe) in rather abstract colouring.

3/-: A Golden Cowrie shell — Cypraea Aurantium, very valuable and comparatively rare but known from Fiji reef waters.

4/-: A composition showing the "Cayzer" shaft at the Emperor Gold Mine at Vatukoula and a small ore body of native gold.

5/-: A group of Bamboo Orchids — Arandina Bamboosofolia. Beautifully coloured.

10/-: A Tabua (Ceremonial Whale's tooth) used in Fijian ceremonials.

£1: The Fiji Coat of Arms in a new setting and using the well-known Annigoni portrait.

PACIFIC NOTES

The islands of the Pacific have always had a certain romantic touch to them and this has spread to the stamp collector with the issue of attractive sets which in some cases have rocketed in value overnight. Over the last two years or so, we have seen fantastic rises in the catalogue value of

Papua and New Guinea and Norfolk Island.

Pitcairn Island's stamps are now on the way up with an increasing demand. If you have missed on the 1967 Dcentenary of Discovery set don't delay too long. Another stamp tipped overseas is the 8 shilling depicting Queen Elizabeth. Some people have been loud in their praise whilst others think just the opposite, however it does bear watching.

Some people have been considering the Papua New Guinea prices may fall. This I somehow doubt and I would not put off filling those odd gaps too long. In Norfolk Island Stanley Gibbons Ltd. have made a big price change with the 2d Ball Bay on White paper—from 90/- to £15. Another stamp I have always found very elusive is the 10/- Tropical Bird.

In closing I would like to leave the Pacific and write a note on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean. Their sets have often been neglected but with a new set coming that promises to be very attractive it may be wise to catch up on the others before it is too late.

Continued from Page 15.

The people of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea have no written record of their past history; instead of this the people have developed a unique and vigorous art style which has found many manifestations in carving, ritual and ceremonial adornment as well as in dance, song and legend. To a large extent these art forms were functional and reflected the mode of living and in fact form part of the unwritten history passed on from generation to generation.

Due to the impact of an entirely new civilisation, the art of carving and decorating, the songs, dances and legends have changed or become entirely lost. There is enough left, however, for the people of the Territory to identify themselves with national heritage. This makes it most important that this traditional, cultural heritage should be preserved and managed for future generations to build upon, wonder at, and be proud of.

With this ultimate aim in mind, it is planned to issue special series of postage stamps at yearly intervals to publicise and encourage the efforts of preserving the National Heritage.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH NEWS

March Releases

27th February, 1968

Barbados. 20th Anniversary of the Economic Commission for Latin America. 15 cents.

4th March, 1968

East Africa. Mountain of East Africa, 30 and 50 cents: shs 1/30 and 2/50.

Guyana. Definitive. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 15, 20, 25, 40, 50, 60 cents; \$1, \$2, and \$5.

8th March, 1968

St. Lucia. M.C.C., West Indies Tour 1968, 10 and 35 cents.

12th March, 1968

Mauritius. Independence Commemorative 2, 3, 15, 20 and 60 cents; 1 Rupee.

18th March, 1968

Cyprus. International Year for Year for Human Rights. 50 and 90 mils and souvenir sheets.

25th March, 1968

Guyana. Easter 1968. 5 and 25 cents.

St. Lucia. Easter 1968. 10, 15, 25 and 35 cents.

27th March, 1968

Gibraltar. 60th Anniversary of the Gibraltar Scout Association. 4d, 7d, 9d, and 1/-.

29th March, 1968

Antigua. Dedication of the N.A.S.A. Apollo tracking station in Antigua, 4, 15, 25, and 50 cents.

Amendment

Release of the Guyana Week Festivities issue, due on the 19th February has been postponed.

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

***Abu Dhabi.** International Human Right Year. 1st April, 1968.

***Antigua.** Tourist.

1st July, 1968

***Barbados.** Golden Jubilee of Girl Guiding in Barbados. April 1968.

***Botswana.** International Human Rights. 8th April, 1968.

***British Honduras.** International Human Rights. 1st June, 1968.

***British Honduras.** 20th Anniversary of the E.C.L.A. 1st April, 1968.

***Brunei.** Opening of the New Building in the state Dewan Bahasa Dan Jabatan Penyiaran and Penerangan, April, 1968.

***Brunei.** The Birthday of the Sultan of Brunei, 15th July, 1968.

***Ceylon.** 20th Anniversary of the W.H.O. 7th April, 1968.

***Ceylon.** Buddhist Temple Paintings, May, 1968.

***Cyprus.** Europa 1968. 29th April, 1968.

East Africa. 20th Anniversary of W.H.O. 13th May, 1968.

***Gibraltar.** 20th Anniversary of W.H.O. 17th June, 1968.

***Guyana.** 2nd Anniversary of Independence. 26th May, 1968.

***Lesotho.** 20th Anniversary of W.H.O. 8th April, 1968.

***Malaysia.** Installation of H.H. Yang di-Pertuan Besar, Negri Sembilan. April, 1968.

***Malta.** International Human Rights. 2nd May, 1968.

***Malta.** International Trade Fair. 1st June 1968.

Turks and Caicos. International Human Rights. 1st April, 1968.

Zambia. Trade Fair, 29th June, 1968.

DETAILS OF NEW ISSUES

Gibraltar.

60th Anniversary of the Gibraltar Scout Association.

On the 27th March, 1968, Gibraltar released a special set of four stamps to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Gibraltar Branch of The Scout Association. Designed by F. Ryman and printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd., by the photogravure process on C.A. Block watermark security paper, the stamps are printed in sheets of 60.

The 4d value carries a portrait of Lord Baden-Powell and 7d value features the Rock of Gibraltar and the Scout Flag over a silhouette of Europe; the 9d value features a symbolic design and the 1/- denomination shows badges over the years.

The 1st Gibraltar Troop was formed in 1908, and received permission from Prince Louis of Battenberg to call themselves "Prince Louis of Battenberg's Own." Their Scoutmaster was Mr. J. E. Bramble, and the first Scout Commissioner was Major O. H. Pedley, who remained Commissioner until 1938. Although the exact date of formation is unknown to the Headquarters of The Scout Association, they have on record that H. Rigby, of the Cobra Patrol wrote to them in October 1908 to enquire whether it would be in order for the Scouts to cover the fifteen miles walk test in pairs, since the test would have to be carried out in a foreign country. Permission was duly given.

A local Scout Council was set up in March, 1912 and was formally approved by Headquarters in London on 7th November, 1913. At that time there were four

Troops with a total membership of 108. The present membership is 33 adult members and 204 boys divided into four groups, which include a Sea Scout and Air Scout Group.

From the very early days the Governors of Gibraltar have accepted the position of Chief Scout and this position is now held by His Excellency General Sir Gerald Lathbury, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E.

During the Second World War, a number of families were evacuated from Gibraltar to London and a Scout Troop was formed in March 1941, and some 25 of the boys, which was called the 1st Gibraltar (London) Troop.

St. Lucia.

M.C.C.-West Indies Tour, 1968. Release date: 8th March, 1968;

Designer: V. Whiteley. Printer: Harrison and Sons Ltd.; Process: Photogravure. Values and designs: 10 and 35 cents in common design, as illustrated.

Cricket, as in all the other West Indian Islands, is immensely popular in St. Lucia and the M.C.C. normally plays one game there during its tour.

Although not as strong as that played in Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad, St. Lucia cricket is of an extremely high level and cricketers from the island are making an increasing impact in the cricketing world.

The Governor, Sir Frederick Clarke, whose portrait appears on the stamps, has been an active player and administrator in cricketing affairs all his life. He is at present a member of the West Indian Cricket Board of Control in addition to being President of the St. Lucia Cricket Association. He has captained the St. Lucia XI and was awarded a blue at Edinburgh in his university days.

This tour's match is being played on the 8th March which is also the release date of the issue.

Antigua.

On the 29th March, 1968, Antigua released a set of four stamps for the Dedication of the N.A.S.A. Apollo Tracking Station in Antigua. The set comprises the four values illustrated below.

Designer: G. L. Vasarhelyi; Printer: Harrison and Sons Ltd.; Process: Photogravure; Watermark: CA Block; Format: Vertical.

The four stamps depict the Dow Hill Tracking Antenna (4 cents) the lift off of the Apollo space

craft (15 cents), the Lunar excursion module in which men will land on the moon's surface (25 cents), and the space capsule making a fiery re-entry into the earth's atmosphere (50 cents).

The Dow Hill Tracking Station is part of the complex world-wide installations of the U.S. Apollo Project under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration programme to land a man on the moon by 1970.

The equipment installed includes a 30 foot antenna, two high speed computers for tracking and communications with the space craft and a power plant capable of generating two million watts. The station's telephone system with 50 to 75 telephones is capable of instant communication with Cape Kennedy and around the world. The station is directed by the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland and at selected times will be open to the general public.

Bermuda.

New Constitution.

Designer: R. Granger Barrett. Printer: Harrison and Sons Ltd.; Process: Photogravure. Watermark: CA Block; Set 60; Value and designs: 3d, 1/-, 1/6, and 2/6.

Bermuda's constitution has hitherto been contained in no single document and indeed has been partly unwritten. Some features of it date from the early part of the seventeenth century and although it has been modified over the years, so that today Bermuda enjoys universal adult suffrage and a wide measure of internal self-government, its general outline has until now followed that of the early North American colonies with the executive (the Governor, advised by his Executive Council) quite distinct from the legislature (the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly).

At a Constitutional Conference held in London in November 1966 it was decided to introduce a new written constitution on modern lines. The old styles and titles will be retained but the Executive Council will become a Cabinet, drawn from the legislature and appointed on the advice of the majority leader in the elected House of Assembly. He will also decide the portfolios to be held by his colleagues and the Governor will retain responsibility only for defence, external affairs, internal security and the police. The new constitution also contains provision to protect fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual and to

safeguard the independence of the judiciary and the public service.

The 3d and 1/- denominations are of common design and show the Mace used in the Bermuda House of Assembly. The 1/6 and 2/6 values are of common design and feature the House of Assembly and the Houses of Parliament.

Mauritius

The Government of Mauritius announces that the "Self Government 1967" overprinted definitive issue released on the 1st December, 1967, was withdrawn from sale on the 11th March, 1968. On the following day, the 12th March, 1968, Mauritius released the six value set of stamps illustrated on the opposite page together with the 4, 5, 10, 25, 35, and 50 cents and Rupees 2/50, 5 and 10 values of the current issue but not bearing the overprinted legend "Self-Government 1967."

Mauritius. Independence. Release date: 12th March, 1968. Designer: Printers' staff artists. Printer: Thos. De La Rue & Co Ltd.; Process: Delacryl. Watermark: Nil; Set 50; Values and designs as illustrated.

The completion of the 15-value definitive issue takes place on March 21st: 2c., Sombrero Lighthouse; 6c., Post Office; \$2.50 local scene (illustrated).

BIAFRA'S FIRST STAMPS

The "rebel" government of Biafra still in conflict with Nigeria, issued three stamps on February 5th for use in Biafran-held territory, where Nigerian stamps are no longer considered valid for postage.

Printed in Portugal by offset lithography, in sheets of 100, these multi-colour stamps are: 2d., a map of Biafra in red, black and green bands (the colours of the Biafran flag); 4d., Biafran Arms and Flag with date of declared independence (May 30th, 1967); 1s., Biafran mother and child above Independence inscription.

More Seychelles Provisionals

Recent increases in postage rates will result in three surcharged stamps among the current Seychelles definitives. They are 30c/40c., 60c/45c. and 85c/75c., which will provide stamps for three new rates. No date of release has yet been announced.

F.D.C.s Dated 1978

The Hounslow Post Office, England, cancelled the first day covers of the 1d., 1d., 2d., and 6d definitives with an "5 Feb. 1978" date until the mistake was discovered and altered to 1968. The Post Office declined to say how many covers had been wrongly dated.—P. Iveson (Hounslow).

B.I.O.T. Overprints Delayed Locally

The B.I.O.T. overprints on Seychelles, which were released by the Crown Agents in London on January 15th were first issued locally on January 17th, on which date stamps and post office staff reached Desroches Island following a delay occasioned by bad weather.—Crown Agents.

Ireland's "Europa" on April 29th

The 7d and 1s 5d Europa 1968 stamp for Ireland will be issued on April 29th. The design is the standard Europa type for 1968, by the Swiss artist Hans Schwarzenbach, featuring a key which symbolises the opening of the era of a unified Europe. The lettering is by the Irish artist Michael Biggs.

Rhodesian Ploughing Stamps

Additional details of the World Ploughing Contest issue to be released on April 26th have now been released by the Rhodesian P.M.G.

The designs of the 3d and 9d denominations are taken from sketches by Thomas Baines held in the

ODD NOTES GREAT BRITAIN

Definitives: July 1st.
Definitives (High values to £1) Sept 9th.
British Bridges: April 29th.
Concorde Maiden Flight: May.
T.U.C. Anniversary, May 29th.
Votes for Women: May 29th.
50th Anniversary R.A.F., May 29th.
Captain Cook: May 29th.
British Paintings: August 12th.
Christmas: November 25th.

"Pre-Olympics" for Maldives

The Maldivian Islands are due to release a set of six stamps this month as "Pre-Olympics." Designed by M. Shamir, of Israel, the stamps show these sports: Shot put (2L., 10L., 1r.) and Discus thrower (6L., 15L., 2r.50). The Olympic track is formed by pairing the two designs together. Five Olympic rings and the Maldivian crest appear on each stamp and the words "Mexico 1968". Printed in multi-colour photo-offset by Harrisons.

Anguilla Programme

Anguilla is to issue two four-value sets featuring boats and birds. Each set will be about 4s face value. The first set will probably appear in April.

Government's National Archives. The 3d shows an early plough made from the forked branches of a tree. This is pulled by an African woman and guided by a young man. The style employed is that found in many parts of Rhodesia in the form of rock or cave paintings.

The 9d value depicts an early wheel plough also constructed mainly of wood and drawn by two oxen. These ploughs were introduced to Africa by early settlers and missionaries about 1860. The one shown on the stamp has been taken from a sketch by Thomas Baines and the style of drawing is based on the technique made popular during this period by this famous artist-explorer.

The 1s 6d stamp will show a steam tractor and plough which saw service in the Umtali area about 1905. This was probably the first example of mechanised ploughing in Rhodesia. The 2s 6d value illustrates a modern tractor and mouldboard plough such as will be used in the contest.

Guyana

The Guyana Week issue, due on February 19th, has been postponed. A new date of release will be announced later. Two Easter stamps (5c and 25c) featuring Salvador Dali's picture "Christ on the Cross," will be issued on March 28th.

ST. LUCIA

A four-value Easter series will be issued on March 25th: 10c and 25c., Raphael's "Crucifixion;" 15c and 35c., Titian's "Noli me Tangere."

NEW DATE FOR "ANNIVERSARIES" STAMPS

The four "Anniversaries" stamps for the centenary of the T.U.C. (4d), 50th anniversary of the Suffragettes Movement (9d), the 50th anniversary of the R.A.F. (1s), and the 200th anniversary of Capt. Cook's discoveries (1s 9d), will be issued on Wednesday, 29th May, and not on Saturday June 1st as originally announced. Administrative difficulties of a Saturday release prevail over the wish of the T.U.C. that their stamps should appear on their actual centenary day, June 1st.

£1,100 FOR PENNY BLACK

A 1d Black, valued at £500 before the sale realised £1,100 at Robson Lowe's last week. It was lettered AA, printed from Plate 1a, was on a large piece (originally a cover used from Bath to Peckham, London) with a red "tombstone" cancellation and date-stamp of May 2nd, 1840, four days before the official postal validity of the stamp.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF FIJI

Fiji lies in the Easternmost part of the Melanesian group of islands in the South Pacific astride the International Dateline or 180 degree Meridian, which passes through the town of Waiyevo on the Island of Tavenui. Before the "bending" of the International Dateline was agreed upon, the unusual geographical position meant that you literally stepped from "today" into "yesterday" or vice versa by walking across the main street in Waiyevo.

The Fiji Group consists of some 300 islands with an area of over 7000 square miles and a population of half a million people made up of indigenous Fijians, Europeans, Indians, Chinese and other Pacific Island races. The principal islands are Viti Levu (Big Fiji) Vanua Levu (Big Land), Tavenui, Kadavu, Ovalau (site of the former Capital, Levuka) and the outlier, Rotuma, some 400 miles to the North of Viti Levu.



The islanders refer to their country as Viti (pronounced "Veete") and this was pronounced by the Tongans as "Feejee." Captain Cook heard terrible reports of the cannibal islands from the Tongans and adopted the phonetic spelling of their version of the name. In the early maps of the Pacific the name is often rendered as "Feedgee", but the present form has been used from the middle of the last century. Fijian orthography presents a number of problems. The missionaries who produced the first grammar and dictionary of the Fijian language substituted certain letters of the Roman alphabet for sounds which could not be conveniently denoted by a single letter otherwise. Thus "g" and "d" represent the sounds "ng" and "nd" respectively (for example, note that the stamps of Tonga were inscribed "Toga" until 1950). The letter "q" represents the Fijian sound "ngg" and the letter "b" represents "mb". Thus the word "beqa" is in fact pronounced rather like "mbenga."

The Fiji islands are scattered over a large area of the south-western Pacific. Suva, the capital, is about 1250 miles from the equator, 1960 miles north-east of Sydney and 1317 miles north of Auckland, New Zealand. The larger islands are of volcanic origin whereas many of the smaller islands are coralline in structure. The surfaces of the larger islands are rugged and mountainous, covered by dense forests, and luxuriant tropical vegetation. The south-eastern three-quarters of the main islands are subject to heavy rainfall, while the north-western quarter has much less. The islands are, on the whole, very fertile and cotton, coffee and rubber were grown at one time; but in recent years sugar has supplanted the others as the main crop. Bananas, coconuts, tobacco and sweet potatoes are other important crops and a large amount of agricultural produce is exported. Minerals have an important place in the Fijian economy, the principal exports being gold, silver and manganese, though copper, iron and bauxite are also mined to some extent.



The first European navigator to sight the Fiji islands was the Dutchman, Abel Jan Tasman, who discovered several of the lesser islands in the north-eastern part of the archipelago in 1643. Captain Cook sighted the southernmost island (Turtle island) in 1773 while Captain Bligh sailed through the archipelago on his epic voyage from Tofua to Timor after the Bounty mutiny in 1789. Subsequent discoveries were made by French, Russian and American explorers in the period up to 1840. In 1835 the British Missionaries, William Cross and David Cargill, arrived in Fiji and made the first attempt to Christianize the islanders and turn them away from their cannibalistic practices. It is ironic that one of the last victims of cannibals was the Rev. Thomas Baker who was killed and eaten in 1867, the only missionary to suffer this fate.

The westernization of Fiji, however, began on the little island of Bau, where beachcombers and runaway convicts from Australia settled in the early decades of the nineteenth century. These men helped the local chiefs to extend their dominion over the neighbouring islands. In 1837 (the year that Queen Victoria ascended the throne) a coup d'etat in Bau bought the twenty-year-old Seru, later known as Cakobau, to power. Cakobau was a ruler of considerable personality but he underwent numerous vicissitudes during the next seventeen years. In 1854 he had incurred the enmity of neighbouring tribes who were conspiring to overthrow him, and was heavily in debt to the American government. Just when it seemed that he would be overthrown King George of Tonga came to his rescue, defeated his enemies with a powerful war-fleet from Tonga and persuaded Cakobau to embrace Christianity. Three years later he dismissed his concubines and was baptised with his favourite wife, Litia.

Cakobau was statesmanlike enough to realise that Fiji would never be a strong, united country unless it came under the protection of one of the great powers, so in 1859 he made a conditional offer of cession to Britain who declined it. A similar offer made to the United States at the time of the Civil War was never even answered. Attempts were made by the European population of Fiji to stamp out the lawlessness of the more irresponsible elements and in 1871 a committee of them formed a government and elected Cakobau as Tui Viti or king of the entire archipelago. A "status symbol" of the new regime was the issue of postage stamps that year bearing a crown and the monogram "CR" (Cakobau Rex). This regime was considerably hampered by lack of revenues, by the oppression of many of the chiefs and the tyranny of sections of the white "plantocracy." Cakobau was fortunate, however, in having the help and advice of J. B. (later Sir John) Thurston, a planter who became successively British Consul, Premier in Cakobau's government, Auditor-General and eventually Governor of Fiji. In 1873 Cakobau again offered to cede Fiji to Britain and Thurston conducted the negotiations which came into effect on the 10th October 1874. Fiji has been administered as a crown colony ever since.

Fiji's earliest postage stamps, were the Fiji Times Express issues of 1870 and the Cakobau series which succeeded them. The Cakobau stamps were overprinted with various types of "V.R." monogram and in 1878 the stamps were actually printed on paper which had previously been lithographed all over with the VR monogram. Both wove and laid paper were employed for printing the 1878 series. The V.R. provisional issues were further complicated by the numerous varieties of surcharge which are of absorbing interest to the specialist.



In 1878 a new series, featuring the V.R. monogram surmounted by a crown and otherwise identical to the previous issues, was released. It is interesting to note that the original dies for these stamps were engraved on a very hard wood, perhaps the Australian Ironwood. A circular hole was drilled in the Cakobau dies and plugs of blank wood were inserted. These were then engraved with the new monogram and the background lines of shading continued into the surrounding frame (though the alteration can be detected under a magnifying glass). Stereos were manufactured by electro-typing from the wooden dies and printing plates of 100 subjects for each denomination. The stamps, in values of 1d, 3d, and 6d, were printed at the Government Printing Office, Sydney. No stamps of the 3d denomination were actually issued, the entire consignment being surcharged in words to convert them to the 2d denomination. Proper 2d stamps came into use the following year. The colours of the 1d and 2d stamps were respectively ultramarine and green, but a consignment of 50,000 of the latter value printed in blue by error was despatched to Fiji in April 1881. None of these was issued and the entire stock, less one specimen, was destroyed by burning. The solitary 2d ultra-

marine eventually passed into the hands of a London stamp dealer who sold it to a prominent collector in 1892 for £50. This stamp is listed in the Gibbons catalogue but is not priced and must rank as a rarity on par with the celebrated One Cent black on magenta of British Guiana.

A 4d denomination was introduced in 1883 and consisted of 1d and 2d stamps printed in mauve or purple and suitably surcharged. A definitive 4d stamp appeared in 1890. The first V.R. series was in use for twelve years and underwent numerous changes in perforation. The 1d, 2d, 4d on 2d and 6d stamps have also been recorded imperforate. High value stamps, in denominations of 1/- and 5/-, were introduced in 1881-2. The former was typographed while the latter was lithographed in two colours. Both stamps featured a profile of Queen Victoria facing left. A typographed version of the 5/- was produced in July 1900 but the stamps were never issued for postal use, although they were subsequently remaindered to collectors.



In January 1891 the letter rate to Britain was reduced to 2½d per half ounce and provisional ½d, 2½d and 5d stamps were created by surcharging various denominations either in figures or in words. Although there are many shades, as well as perforation varieties, in the basic stamps used for the provisionals, there have been no records of inverted or double surcharges such as are usually attendant on locally overprinted issues, a tribute to the meticulous care with which the work was carried out at the Government Printing Office in Suva.

A new series was typographed at Sydney and introduced in 1891. The ½d and 2½d denominations featured the royal monogram as before, but the 1d, 2d and 5d stamps depicted a Fijian canoe, framed by palm trees. There are numerous variations in shade and perforation in this series.

On the 28th February, 1890 the Crown Agents wrote to Messrs Thomas De La Rue Ltd., asking them to submit an estimate for the provision of stamps for Fiji in the Universal Unified Keyplate design then current in many of the colonies. De La Rue subsequently despatched essays in denominations of 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/- and 5/- to the Crown Agents but for some inexplicable reason they were never adopted. It was not until 1903 that the De La Rue keyplate designs were adopted in Fiji, for the definitive series portraying King Edward VII. The stamps, in denominations of ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 1/-, 5/- and £1, were typographed on Crown CA paper. In 1904 the ½d and 1d were reprinted on the Multiple Crown CA paper and the 1/- followed in 1909. Between 1906 and 1912 the d, 1d, 2½d, and 6d stamps were re-issued printed in monochrome, while the 1/-, 5/- and £1 stamps were printed on toned paper.

Between 1912 and 1923 keyplate designs portraying King George V were introduced in denominations of ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and £1. The 3d, 4d and 1/- values, which were printed on toned paper, were subject to considerable variation in colour between 1913 and 1923. Between 1916 and 1919 the ½d and 1d stamps were issued overprinted WAR STAMP to denote payment of the obligatory levy on correspondence raising funds for the war effort. The ½d is known with the overprint inverted or double, while the 1d is recorded with inverted overprint or with the overprint omitted in joined pair with a normal stamp.

Between 1922 and 1927 the stamps were gradually replaced by issues on the new Multiple Script CA watermark. On account of changes in the postal rates the 2½d denomination was discontinued and a ½d stamp introduced in 1922.

Fiji participated in the pre-war colonial omnibus issues, namely the Silver Jubilee series on the 6th May, 1935 and the Coronation set on the 12th May, 1937.

The accession of King George VI was the occasion of a new pictorial series, introduced on the 5th April, 1938. The ½d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 8d and 1/6 stamps were recess printed by De La Rue, while the remaining values were recess printed by Waterlow and Sons.

The ½d, 1½d and 3d stamps alluded to inter-island communications by the traditional method of out-

rigger canoe. This type, known as a camakan, is still commonly used among the smaller islands. The hull consists of a hollowed-out log, pointed at both ends. The triangular sail is made of strips of coarse matting stitched together with coconut fibre. A sailing canoe in full sail also appears on the colony's coat of arms. In the first printing of the 1½d stamp the designer inadvertently omitted to place an islander at the helm. This error was corrected in the 1940 printing. A native village and a chief's hut were featured on the 1d and 5/- stamps respectively. In contrast were the fine new buildings of the colonial government facing Albert Park in Suva, which were depicted on the 2nd stamp, superseding the map design in 1942.



The 5d stamp depicted sugar cane, representing the colony's largest agricultural industry. The 10/- stamp showed a paw-paw tree (*Carica papaya*). The fruit of this tree, known as the Mummy apple, forms an important item in the diet of the average Fijian. Fish also forms the staple protein food in Fiji and the 1/- stamp depicted a Fijian spearing fish at night by torchlight, a method which is to be found all over the world from Guyana to China.

The scenery of the islands was represented by the 2/-, which depicted Suva harbour, and the 2/6 which showed a stretch of the Navua River, some twenty miles to the south-west of Suva.

A map of the archipelago was shown on the original 2d denomination. In the first printing the 180 meridian was omitted from the design, but the figures were added in 1940. In February, 1941 the letter rate was increased to 2½d and the stamp was provisionally surcharged to create the new denomination. A definitive 2½d in the map design was released on the 6th February, 1942. The map was also depicted on the 6d stamp and it also was redrawn in October 1940 with the corrected inscription.

The coat of arms of Fiji were featured on the 1/5 stamp introduced in 1938. In 1950 stamps in denominations of 8d and 1/6 were released bearing the same design. The arms of Fiji were granted by Royal Warrant in 1908. The lion at the top of the arms was symbolic of Fiji as a British colony. The field was divided into four quarters, three of which depicted sugar-cane, coconut and bananas respectively, while the fourth showed a dove and olive branch which was the emblem of the Cakobau government. The crest consisted of a sailing canoe and the supporters were Fijian warriors armed with a spear and a club respectively. The motto, "Rerevaka na Kalou ka Doka na Tui" (Fear God and honour the King) is taken from the First Epistle of St. Peter ii, 17 and was adopted originally by King Cakobau. The top value £1, featured a police bugler sounding a call in the grounds of Government House.

This series was in use for sixteen years and during that period there were several changes of shade and perforation. Between 1954 and 1956 stamps bearing the portrait of King George VI inset were gradually superseded by similar designs portraying Queen Elizabeth. These were the ½d, 2d, 6d, 8d, 1/-, 2/6, 10/- and £1 denominations, the lower four values being recess-printed by De La Rue and the higher values by Waterlows as before. Bradbury Wilkinson were given the contract to print the remaining values of the series and introduced several new designs. The portrait of Her Majesty in the Garter robes, painted by Pietro Annigoni, was the subject of the 1d, 1½d, and 2½d. The other four designs publicised the industry of Fiji and showed copra being loaded on to a steamer at Suva (3d), the famous narrow gauge railway train transporting sugar-cane (1/6), the preparation of bananas for export (2/-) and a gold industry (5/-). Gold was discovered in Viti Levu exactly a century ago and subsequently large deposits were found on Vanua Levu. Commercial mining of gold began in 1931 and after a number of setbacks gold mining is now established as the colony's third largest industry in terms of value exported. The stamp shows the installations at the Emperor Gold Mine and two ingots of refined gold.

A new definitive series made its gradual appearance between 1959 and 1963, beginning with a 4/-

stamp showing a Kandavu parrot. The lowest denominations featured the Annigoni Portrait as before, but in different colours (4d, 2d and 2½d) and with altered lettering and ornament (1d and 1½d). Fijian traditions were represented by a drummer beating a Lali or ceremonial drum (6d) and the picturesque Yaqona (yanggona) Ceremony on the 10d. Yaqona is a drink prepared from the roots of the Kava (*Piper methysticum*) and formerly the ceremony of drinking it was limited to chiefs. Nowadays it has developed into a sort of entertainment for tourists, but all the ancient ritual has been preserved. The stamp depicts two young men, wearing the vesa or leg and arm-bands made of strips of vine, and carrying bilos as the ceremonial drinking cups are called.

The 1/- stamp depicted a map of the south-western Pacific showing the exact location of Fiji. The modern international airport at Nadi (Nandi), rebuilt and enlarged some years ago at a cost of £4 million, serves aircraft operating services between North America and Australia and New Zealand. The 10/- and £1 stamps depicted sugar-cane cutting and the arms of Fiji respectively. A photogravure 8d stamp featured a Hibiscus, one of the beautiful flowers found in Fiji. Every year since 1956 a Hibiscus Festival has been held in Suva and now ranks as the greatest tourist attraction offered in Fiji.

The series issued between 1959 and 1963 was recess printed by Bradbury Wilkinson, with the exception of the 8d and 4/- values, which were printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons. The stamps were produced on paper watermarked Multiple Script CA. Between December 1962 and 1966, however, a series printed on the new CA block watermarked paper was released. Most of the designs were identical to the obsolescent series, but four new subjects were introduced. A 3d denomination portrayed the Queen in the uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of the Brigade of Guards. A similar portrait was used for the New Zealand high values in their 1953-9 series, but the Fijian stamp reproduced the portrait in full colour. The 1/6 stamp showed a map of Fiji above a symbolic representation of the 180 degrees meridian and the International Date Line. The 2/- value featured a beautiful white orchid, the *Dendrobium prasinum* which only grows between 2,000

and 3,000 feet in Fiji. It its natural state it grows on the trunks and in the forks of small trees.

The 5/- stamp depicts the orange dove (*Ptilinopus victor*), one of three distinct species, the other two being the golden dove and the green dove, which are only to be found in the Fiji group. All of them have evolved from the green fruit dove which must have reached the islands from the Solomons or the New Hebrides. On account of an increase in postal rates the 8d Hibiscus stamp was replaced by a similar stamp of 9d value.

Since the Second World War Fiji has issued a number of commemorative and other special issues. The colony took part in the omnibus issues to mark Victory (August 1946), the Royal Silver Wedding (December 1948), the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (October 1949), the Coronation (June 1953), Freedom from Hunger Campaign (June 1963), the centenary of the Red Cross (September 1963), the centenary of the International Telecommunications Union (May 1965), International Co-operation Year (October 1965), Sir Winston Churchill (January 1966), the World Cup Football Championship (July 1966), the inauguration of the World Health Organisation headquarters in Geneva (September 1966) and the twentieth anniversary of U.N.E.S.C.O. (December, 1966).

Fiji has issued Health stamps, to raise funds for T.B. sanatoria, on two occasions. On the 17th September 1951 two stamps, recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson, showed children bathing and a barefoot Rugby footballer respectively. On the 1st April, 1954 two stamps were issued, showing a river scene and the Cross of Lorraine respectively.

Her Majesty the Queen has visited Fiji on two occasions, the first during the world tour which followed the Coronation and the second in the course of her visit to Australia and New Zealand in 1963. The first visit was marked by the release of the 8d Arms design additionally engraved "ROYAL VISIT 1953" while the latter visit was marked by special overprints on the contemporary 3d and 1/- stamps.

The First South Pacific Games were held at Suva in July 1963 and were marked by four stamps featuring running (3d) discus (9d) hoc-

key (1/-) and high-jumping (2/6). The Second Games, staged at Noumea, New Caledonia, in 1966, were commemorated by three stamps which depicted running (3d), putting the shot (9d) and diving (1/-).

Landmarks in communications have been commemorated, with the 1/- definitive stamp overprinted in December 1963 to mark the opening of the COMPAC Trans-Pacific Telephone Cable. A silhouette of the cable-laying ship Retriever was incorporated in the overprint. In October 1964 three stamps were issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first Fiji-Tonga airmails service. The stamps, in denominations of 3d, 6d, and 1/-, featured the flying boat Aotearoa, a Handley Page Heron of Fiji Airways and a map of the islands respectively.

The discovery of Rotuma has been marked by a set of three stamps commemorating the 175th Anniversary of its discovery by Captain Edwards in 1791 (released in August 1966).



A set of three stamps commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the death of Admiral Bligh of "Bounty" fame was released on the 11th December, 1967. It is a little known fact that Bligh was the principal discoverer of the Fiji islands, and that he saw and charted no less than thirty-nine islands including the main island of Viti Levu on which the Capital City of Suva is situated.

On 20th October, 1967, a four value set for Tourism was released.

A new definitive issue showing various aspects of Fiji natural history and life is soon to be released. The designs, which are by Victor Whiteley based upon prize-winning entries in a world-wide competition held by the Postal Authorities of Fiji, appear on centre pages.

THE FEDERATION OF NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETIES (INC.)

If you have heard of this body or are in doubt about its activities I trust that this article will convince you that the "Federation" does and will continue to play a very important role in promoting the hobby of stamp collecting in this country.

A collector usually joins a philatelic society or stamp club to enhance his knowledge of the hobby and so organise his own approach to stamp collecting. It was therefore only a logical step for philatelic societies and clubs to unite under one organisation in order to co-ordinate their views, exchange ideas, etc.

The Federation was formed on the 13th March 1948 and although there was at first reluctance on the part of some societies to join a central body, due no doubt to the fact that the average New Zealander is essentially an individualist and does not like being organised, almost all New Zealand philatelic societies and clubs are today members of the Federation.

The objects of the Federation, as stated in its official rules, are:—

To unite into one federation the various philatelic societies and philatelic clubs registered under the Incorporated Societies Act, 1908; to represent and voice the recorded opinion on all matters of interest to member societies and to advance generally the interests of philatelists; to serve as a clearing house of ideas and problems relating to philately and to circulate them among member societies; to create, stimulate and maintain a national interest in all matters pertaining to philately; to encourage independent projects which will tend to increase interest in or otherwise advance the interests of philately; to establish and promote goodwill and good fellowship among societies and clubs.

Now, how have these objects been put into effect?

I consider that the Federation's greatest achievement has been the promotion over the years, by the Federation and members of the executive, of inter-club meetings and philatelic weekends (or congresses), especially in the North Island. These meetings have enabled people to meet fellow collectors from other societies, exchange ideas, hear talks on a diverse range of philatelic subjects and generally enhance their knowledge. However more important than this is, I feel, the spirit of fellowship and goodwill engendered through the willingness of most collectors to share their knowledge for the advancement of their hobby.

Representations are made from time to time to the New Zealand Post Office for the improvement of stamp issues and services to collectors. That these representations have not always borne fruit does not reflect inactivity on the part of the Federation. The primary duty of the Post Office is to the general public and it has to try and strike a balance between the demands of the public and those of the stamp collector. No easy task. However the Federation's efforts on behalf of collectors is recognised by the Post Office and is evidenced by the attendance at most Federation meetings of either the Director of Postal Services or a senior member of his division.

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation is held in November each year when delegates from all societies throughout New Zealand meet and, among other things, elect an executive committee for the ensuing year. This committee meets at least three times a year and it has been the practice for several years to hold the annual and executive meetings at various centres throughout New Zealand. This enables society members in these localities to attend the meetings as observers and, although not entitled to vote on any resolution, are encouraged to put forward their society's views. They are also at liberty to question the executive on any matters relative to the Federation's activities. These meetings have been of great benefit as it has enabled many societies to see first hand what the Federation does, as well as helping the executive to meet various society members and to better appreciate local problems (if any) and conditions.

Many readers may not be aware that the International Stamp Exhibition held in Auckland in 1955 although organised by Auckland provincial Societies, was sponsored by the Federation. This was the first big achievement of the Federation which has since sponsored at least one other National Stamp Exhibition and also been responsible

for the organising of four Congresses, one in Auckland in 1955, two in Christchurch in 1956 and 1961 and again last year (1967) in Whakatane. At these Congresses papers on a very wide range of philatelic subjects have been presented by eminent philatelists, many of whom have been overseas.

A pre-requisite for any society joining the Federation is that the society must be incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act, 1908. If any society or club is in doubt about the procedure involved, rules etc, it need only write the Federation. Specimen rules will be supplied and other relative advice will be freely given. Also if a society at any time should experience a difficult period, usually the result of declining membership, the Federation if advised of the circumstances will arrange for either another society to take an active interest in its less fortunate counterpart or arrange for individual collectors, usually members of the Federation executive, to give talks etc. to the society in an effort to arouse interest. I can, without fear of contradiction, state that the Federation's interest in the welfare of member societies is not just a hollow gesture. If it had not been for the interest and encouragement given by Federation members to the Whakatane Philatelic Society in the late 1950's that society could well have foundered. Yet last year, as most readers will be aware the same society organised one of the best National Stamp Exhibitions ever held in New Zealand.

The Federation is also responsible for the quarterly publication "The New Zealand Stamp Collector." This magazine was first published by Mr. L. E. Vernazoni, the well-known Christchurch stamp dealer, in 1919 and was later edited and published by the late Mr. R. J. G. Collins, also of Christchurch. The Federation took over the responsibilities of publication in 1963 and although it is impossible to meet the needs of every collector in the scope of one magazine, it has played a very important role in stamp collecting within New Zealand and also for collectors of New Zealand stamps overseas. At least 500 copies are sent to overseas subscribers. The cost to collectors has been kept to a minimum only because the joint editors and contributors of articles have

never accepted any fees for their services. Theirs is truly a labour of love.

These are only some of the past achievements of the Federation. What about the future?

At the Annual General Meeting held in Hamilton last November a set of rules governing the conduct of future National Stamp Exhibitions was adopted unanimously by society delegates. The main purpose of the rules is to ensure a consistent standard in future stamp exhibitions in this country. I do not think that anyone can argue that such a step is not desirable. However the Federation executive committee at a meeting held in Christchurch on 8th March, 1968, was of the opinion that the adoption of the rules was premature and all societies and other interested parties such as stamp dealers, will shortly be requested to make submissions on the rules. These submissions will be referred to a sub-committee which will be required to bring down a report on the possible amendment of the rules in time for all societies to peruse them and instruct their delegates prior to the Annual Meeting in November.

Even though the rules may have been adopted prematurely it has certainly made many societies take an active interest in the Federation which in the end can do nothing but good. In promoting rules for the conduct of stamp exhibitions in New Zealand the Federation is mindful of the fact that it will have to take a far greater part in the promoting and organising of future stamp exhibitions both with technical and financial assistance. This it is prepared to do.

At present some societies pay or subsidise their delegates expenses in attending meetings but a large number of delegates pay their own travelling expenses which at times can be quite considerable. Such a state of affairs is in my mind neither equitable nor desirable. Later this year societies will be requested to approve quite a substantial increase in their annual subscription to the Federation and I hope that part of this increase in revenue, if approved, will be used to pay at least part of delegates expenses and thereby enable delegates to attend from societies which have in the past not been able to be represented because of the financial burden it would impose.

The Federation will as the occasion warrants continue to place before the Post Office the views of collectors in regard to stamp issues, services, etc.

Also I do not see any reason why the Federation should not promote organised tours to overseas stamp exhibitions. This would certainly be a new field of involvement but one well worth while investigating.

Club welfare will always be a matter of importance and at this stage I would like to point out to readers who are members of societies affiliated to the Federation, that the Federation is only the united voice of all societies. Its effectiveness and usefulness depends entirely on your continued support. I am convinced that the Federation can be an even greater force in promoting the hobby of stamp collecting in this country but only if your society takes an active interest in its affairs. Society's views on the improvement or extension of the Federation's services are welcomed. The Federation is there for your benefit. Use it!

Finally to those readers that are not members of any stamp society I would strongly recommend you to join such a society. Do not be put off by the words "philatelic" or "philatelist". They sound grand I know but only mean "pertaining to stamp collecting" or "a collector of postage stamps" respectively. You will find that all members of societies will be only too willing to help you and to share their knowledge with you. You in turn will get a lot more enjoyment and a greater sense of achievement from your hobby. If you do not know of any philatelic society or stamp club in your area you can write to either the Secretary, Federation of N.Z. Philatelic Societies (Inc.), P.O. Box 763, Wellington, or to myself, P.O. Box 16, Whakatane, and either of us will be only too happy to give you particulars of your nearest society or club.

R. HERBISON,
(President, Federation of N.Z. Philatelic Societies (Inc.))

YOUTH CAMP May 13th, 1968

Youth Philatelic Camp 1968 is open to any Boy or Girl aged 9 or over on May 9th, 1968.

The camp is situated 1 mile past Wainuiomata township on the Coast Road. It is at the Boy's Brigade Camp of 623 acres of land. The camp is near regular bus routes and is 35 minutes drive from Wellington. The camp will officially

start at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 9th May, but campers should arrive before this time. The camp will officially close at 2.45 p.m. on Monday 13th May. Enrolments for the camp close on Saturday 13th April.

Cost of the Camp: The cost of the camp is \$8.50. This includes food, bus transport, hire of camp, payment of cooks, hire of equipment (films etc), and other general expenses.

Camp Facilities: The camp is capable of sleeping over 100 in bunkrooms. It is ideally suitable for mixed camping. The camp has excellent new ablution facilities, hot and cold showers, etc. There is a large mess hall, a meeting room-lounge, and a recreational hall at the camp. A canteen will be run at the camp. The camp has a swimming pool and permission to use this will be given if the weather is suitable.

Camp Staff: The Director of the camp will be Rob Hunt. Rob has been responsible for the organising and directing of the first two Youth Philatelic Camps held at Spencer-ville in 1966 and 1967. He will be assisted by members of the Home Journal Stamp Club Committee, two "Camp Parents," and two cooks. There will be 8 to 10 senior stamp collectors from the Wellington area coming to speak at the camp. These include Mr. Marcel Stanley, winner of the "Prize of Honour" at the Amsterdam Philatelic Exhibition in 1967. The prize was a silver cigarette case donated and presented by Prince Bernhard. Also speaking will be Mr. Alan Sterry, Mrs. M. E. Chesterman and Mr. Murray Wing.

Camp Activities: Talks at the camp will be short, i.e., 20 to 30 minutes. There will be a wide variety of talks from instructions in correct stamp collecting to talks of a general nature and displays of parts of stamp collections. A number of philatelic films will be shown at the camp. These come from many sources, including some from overseas. There will be project work, debates, group discussions, swapping periods, competitions, quizzes and a Treasure Hunt at the camp.

This is a general outline of Youth Philatelic Camp 1968. For full details please write to Home Journal Stamp Club, P.O. Box 409, Christchurch. We will send you details of what to bring, camp transport and other general information. Enrolment for the camp closes on 13th April.

SOCIETY NOTES AND NEWS

If you are not yet in membership with a local philatelic society, or the specialist society which caters for your particular interest—don't delay—Join Now!

TARANAKI PHILATELIC SOCIETY

At our March meeting we had a number of interesting displays. First was a display of Czechoslovakian stamps sent up by the Czechoslovakian Embassy. The Post Office very kindly loaned us the original artwork of the Anzac stamps for display, and these were indeed works of art. Mr. Alan Acot also showed some pages of his 4d Anzac collection.

Other club members to put on displays were Mr. B. Hutchinson—covers and special cancellations, Military Post Offices. Mr. Kilgour showed a cover that had been saved from a ship sunk in action, and Mr Rutherford showed a letter written by Prime Minister Gladstone's secretary on wood of a sycamore tree that had been cut down on Mr. Gladstone's property.

Our monthly competition for this month was two pages of Thematics and was won by Mr. A. Acott.

A very enjoyable sale of material completed the evening. Next meeting: April 1st Full night sale. May: Annual General Meeting.

I. Rutherford.

ROTORUA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

At the March meeting the latest issue from Tonga commemorating the arrival of the United States Peace Corps in Tonga came under review. From the discussion that ensued the issue was not favourably received.

Next meeting: April 9th A.G.M.; 23rd Thematic Display by Lady Members.

May 14th: (1) Your Library; (2) Power of the Stamp (Mr. R. Kendall).

28th: Current Affairs: Mr. E. Rae.

POSTAL HISTORY OF N.Z.

March Meeting

Mr. R. M. Startup from Masterton gave a very interesting talk and display entitled—Postal History Today. His display consisted of a cross-section of postmarks, covers, and forged cancellations. Some of

these were old, some new, some rare and some common.

One of the highlights of this fine collection, included a cover from Washington Island (in the Gilbert/Ellice Islands). This cover was sent when a special office was set up there as part of the Fanning Island agency. This office was open only a very short time and today this cover with its special cancellation is regarded as one of the rarest cancellations from the Pacific.

Many readers may remember the series of articles in a New Zealand Weekly giving the story of hermit Tom Neale—on Lonely Suvarrow Island in the Cook Islands. Mr. Startup has in his collections two covers sent from Suvarrow Island with manuscript cancellations, at the time when a Radio Station was maintained there between 1949-1957.

Forgeries always hold a little glamour, especially those that have been well executed and the club were shown some very interesting examples by Mr. Startup. These were on high value first sideface stamps of New Zealand.

A special Rubber Cachet was used on a few covers that were sent by Airmail from Hastings after the 1931 Earthquake and one of these was included in this fine collection.

The next meeting in April, will be a display by members of sheets from their collection.

WAIKATO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Programme: April and May:

April 3rd—Mr. A. M. Page, Postal History Sidelines.

April 17th—My Favourite Page. May—1st Mr. K. J. McNaught. Errors on stamps.

May 15th—Mr. K. Orange, Modern Spain.

Miss M. Francis.

POVERTY BAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

March Meeting: Talk and display of—

- (1) 1d Universal Covers.
- (2) New Zealand Advertisement Stamps.

(3) Extensive sale of stamps.

M. G. Tomblason.

AUCKLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meeting: 5th March 1968. Nomination of Officers 1968-69. Auction Display of results Pim and Burns Cups.

Winner of the Burns Cup: New member, R. J. Johns.

No entries for the Pim cup.

Meeting: 19th March 1968: Speaker, Mr. L. Levene. Subject: Modern British Commemoration.

Meeting 2nd April, 1968: Speaker, Mr. A. G. Lineham; Subject: Modern Issues of the Commonwealth Auction.

Meeting: 16th April, 1968: Annual General Meeting.

N. A. Williams.

WELLINGTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY (Inc.)

The 46th Annual General Meeting of this Society was held on 26th February 1968.

Election of Officers resulted as follows:—

Patron, Mr. R. J. Searle; President, Mr. M. C. Stanley; Vice-president, Mrs. M. E. Chesterman; Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. G. Wing; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. B. K. Lawton. Exch. Supt., Mr. B. de Vries; Hon. Auditor, Hocking, Goodman & Co.; Hon. Librarian, Mr. A. R. Rowell; Executive Committee, Messrs R. E. Dalby, W. A. Greathead, J. M. Gregson, F. C. Kinsky, D. McL. Ross & W. N. Strachan.

After the formal business was completed Mr. M. C. Stanley, F.R.P.S.N.Z.; F.R.P.S. (London), gave a very interesting talk and display on the subject of "Proofs of New Zealand Postage Stamps." Those present had the opportunity of seeing many unique items for the first time. Included in the display were copies of early New Zealand Bank Notes featuring Chalon heads (full face Queens). Mr. Stanley pointed out that Chalon heads were used on Bank Notes before those on postage stamps. A very enjoyable supper was served by the ladies.

Programme for 25th March, 1968: Talk and Display by Mr. C. Dodson "Antarctica" followed by "Philatelic Problems Posed by the Audience" to be answered by a panel of experts (April programme not yet finalised).

Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. G. Wing, P.O. Box 2146, Wellington C.I., Meetings held fourth Monday each month (October fourth Tuesday) 8 p.m. at Medical Assn. (N.Z.) Council Room 2nd Floor 26 The Terrace.

M. G. Wing.

"VIVA NEW N.Z. STAMP MAG!"

GT. BRITAIN MINT & FDC'S:

1940 CENTENARY \$1 mint, \$4 FDC. 1949 U.P.U. 0.70, \$1. 1953 CORONATION \$3.50, \$5. 1957 46th PARL. 0.70, \$5. 1961 POSB \$1, \$1. 1963 F.F.H. \$1.75 NATURE 0.35, ord & phos on FDC: \$5. LIFEBOAT \$1.50, \$4.50. RED CROSS \$1.50, \$3.50. COMPAC \$1.25, \$3.50. SHAKESPEARE \$2, \$4. GEOGRAPHICAL \$1.50, \$4. BOTANICAL \$1.50, \$4. FORTH BRIDGE 0.45, \$1. CHURCHILL (phos) \$1.30, \$4. 700th PARL. 0.75, \$1.50. SAL. ARMY 0.70, \$1.25. LISTER 0.40, \$1. ART (phos) \$1.50, \$2.50. BATTLE OF BRITAIN (Phos) \$1.60, \$2.50. GPO TOWER 0.55, 0.75. UNO 0.40 0.65. I.T.U. (Phos) \$1.50, \$2.00. BURNS 0.35, 0.55. ABBEY 0.65, \$1. LANDSCAPES 0.70, \$1. WORLD CUP 0.45, 0.85. BIRDS 0.30, 0.75. WINNERS 0.40, \$1. TECHNOLOGY 0.55, 0.75. BATTLE OF HASTINGS 0.50, 0.50. 1966 CHRISTMAS 0.50, 0.70. EFTA 0.30, 0.50. FLOWERS 0.50 0.75. PAINTINGS 0.50, 0.65. SIR FRANCIS 0.30, 0.50. FIRST DEFINITIVES: 0.45. 0.60. SECOND. 0.45, 0.60. THIRD 0.15, 0.30. 1967 CHRISTMAS 0.40, 0.60 (2 FDC'S).

NOTE: SOME OF THE ABOVE FDC'S SCARCE

Booking September British High Values: 2/6 to £1 mint and FDC'S \$4.25, \$4.50. Also \$5 deposit for future issues. C.W.O., Minimum \$1 order please.

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THIS AND THAT

... from AUCKLAND

The former president of the New Zealand Federation of Philatelic Societies, Mr. G. Elliott gave a very interesting short talk recently at the Club rooms of the Wellesley Philatelic Society on repairs and faults on stamps. Mr. Elliott, who has a magnificent collection of New Zealand Full Face Queens knows what he is talking about. Like all of us, he has very often bought stamps for his collection, which later on at closer inspection proved to be faulty, having repairs, thins, tears, etc., which rendered the stamp in question useless for any display collection. Now this is an experience that very few collectors can avoid, and I dare say, we all have stamps in our collections that don't bear too close a scrutiny. What Mr. Elliott emphasised, however, and rightly so, was that such stamps should really have no room in our albums, because the total collection is always going to be judged by its poorest specimen.

Rather than throwing the stamps into the wastepaper basket, Mr. Elliott had the bright idea to make a side-line collection of these faulty stamps to illustrate the traps that collectors can fall into and the clever machinations of so-called restaurateurs and stamp-repairers, who thicken the paper on thin spots, add additional corners to stamps, glue tears together and clean stamps until they look like nothing before. A very keen eye indeed is needed, to spot the work of the restaurateur — a Quartzlamp might often help, but not always, and Mr. Elliott found with Full Face Queens the boiling of stamps was the only proof of their having not been tampered with. This method is, of course, not recommended for other stamps, since colours and dyes could easily fade or vanish.

But what Mr. Elliott had to say generally about second grade stamps, should for once be shouted from the roof tops. Yes, he is absolutely right, there are too many duds in our collections, and not only in the Full Face Queen range, but also with our more modern stamps. Look at any fellow collectors album and there you find, particularly among the used stamps, missing perf's, creases, heavy cancellations, imperf. stamps with two sides cut into, meter cancellations on quite cheap stamps and off centre stamps. Some mint stamps

boast a layer of stamp hinges that have accumulated over the years until they almost leave an imprint impression on the face of the stamp. With that remark I don't want to advocate the hinge-less collection of Mint stamps—though there is a growing number of collectors who like it that way—but surely there must be a difference in the condition-rating of a Mint stamp in favour of the one that is just hinged once lightly, with a decent hinge, against the stamp with four or five hinge-remainders on the gummed side.

Coming back to used stamps, have you ever tried to get decent, well centred fine used copies of the 1899/07 pictorials of New Zealand? The prices are still very low, but if one is fastidious about condition—and every collector ought to be—and wants only first class copies, the search will often prove fruitless. And that is where the fun comes in, the joy of philately, to hunt for these ordinary items high and low, until one day that wonderful copy comes to hand, just right, perfectly centred, no perf's missing, a lovely postmark, preferably showing the year's date, a beautiful stamp, to grace anybody's album page—and good luck to you, if you got it just under catalogue price.

... from WELLINGTON

Mr. R. J. Searle was recently elected Patron of the Wellington Philatelic Society (Inc.). Mr. Searle who had previously been made a Life Member of the Society has had a long association with the W.P.S. He has been a member almost since its inception. Over the period 1926-37 he was the Society's Treasurer. Always an active participant in the various activities of the Society Mr. Searle justly deserves the honour of being elected to the Office of Patron.

Mr. C. M. McNaught well known Wellington stamp dealer recently returned to the capital after his trip overseas, including the highly successful AMPHILEX.

The Post Office Philatelic Bureau in Courtenay Place continues to give valuable service to collectors. It also provides a useful link between local philatelic societies and prospective members.

"Ladies Night" The 1967 Ladies Night at Wellington Philatelic Society was rated one of the best meetings of the year. At the previous monthly meeting one of the new junior members was heard to remark "Isn't it a pity there is no meeting for the menfolk next

month." He was soon made to realise that everyone should attend.

The 15 cent Current Definitive has almost disappeared from the local scene (except at Philatelic Bureau) before its successor has been issued.

\$2 Current Definitive is difficult to obtain in used condition at present. Owners seem to be holding on in anticipation of an increase in value when it is replaced shortly. Dealers are certainly not getting the supply they require to meet the demand for this stamp.

4d Chalk Surfaced 1960 Pictorials. Very seldom seen mint or used in this area. Value for exchange difficult to establish in view of paucity of information. An enquiry to Stanley Gibbons (SG.786 a Mint 10d used 6d) resulted in a letter advising unable to supply and difficult to obtain at present. (How about a New Zealand dealer indicating a price?).

We hope readers have enjoyed this page. It is our intention to make this a regular feature and also include NEWS AND COMMENTS from Christchurch and Dunedin in future monthly magazines. As soon as we can find persons in each of these two centres to send forward news. If you know of someone who you think would be able to help please drop us a line so that we can get in touch with them urgently.

Fiji by De La Rue, in Photogravure

Earlier references to Fiji's new definitives did not include the information that they are being printed by De La Rue in photogravure in sheets of 60 on Block CA paper. The Crown Agents now announce the release date as "mid-1968 likely."

£6,458 FOR 12-PENCE BLACK CANADA

At the sale of the collection of the late Dr. George M. Geldert, President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the 12p black of Canada, on cover, realised \$15,500 (£6,458) in Harmer's New York Auction. Dr. Geldert's collection of Canada and B.N.A. brought a total of \$45,069 (£18,778).

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THIRTY YEARS AGO

In our daily lives there is often the argument that the good old days are the best, but seldom do we have the opportunity to compare. In fact I doubt if few are keen to turn back the clock, but I hope that these small articles will bring back reminiscences of days, by-gone.

Just over 30 years ago another New Zealand Stamp Monthly made its first appearance and in these articles I will be writing various notes from it for your interest.

Elder Shaw & Co, a firm that has just left the scene in New Zealand were offering for sale 1919 Victory set—3/9; Dunedin Exhibition set 3/-; and the 7d Faith in Australia 2/- each.

At this time the 1937 Coronation stamps of the British Empire were all the rage. It seems that collectors of the day had been caught napping when the 1935 Jubilee sets were issued and those collectors who had missed out obtaining a set through new issue services at approximately £5 were a couple of years later paying £30 per set. However it seems there were ample Coronation sets to go round and only one or two sets were in short supply.

One of New Zealand's foremost collectors today, Mr. M. C. Stanley sent in a report for the journal as Secretary of the Donbank Philatelic Society, Wellington. Mr. Stanley noted in his report that this society were treated for them, one of the first displays of stamps on a subject.

Next month Wilcox Smith sales in 1884.

Future Exhibitions

Some months ago the Federation adopted a set of rules for future National exhibitions in New Zealand. Owing to public demand the Federation have wisely decided to distribute copies of these rules to all societies for their submissions, which must reach Mr. C. Watts, P.O. Box 763 Wellington, by the 15th June. Societies will be notified of the original sub-committees finding from these submissions in time for their attention before the Federation Annual meeting in November. We have set out below Mr. L. Vernazoni's open letter (by kind permission), which all society members would do well to consider before their next club meeting.

AN OPEN LETTER TO NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

The philatelic societies in New Zealand that are affiliated to the Federation of New Zealand Philatelic Societies would do well to consider very carefully the "Rules for Philatelic Exhibitions" as drawn up by a sub-committee and which are to be presented at the next meeting of the delegates to the Federation.

It would appear that if the Rules are adopted in the present form a society desirous of promoting an exhibition will be obliged to hand over absolute control to the Federation, or to a sub-committee appointed by the Federation.

EXTRACTS FROM RULES.

1. No National Philatelic Exhibition shall be held . . . unless organised by a society . . . affiliated to the Federation . . . unless first approved. Every such exhibition and organising society shall be bound by these present rules in every respect. Dates and places . . . shall be settled by the Federation. The decision of the Federation shall be final.

2. The Federation . . . may forbid and stop the holding of any such exhibition if these rules are not complied with and may be expelling the organisers . . . or otherwise penalise . . . any person a member of such society . . . and in particular by directing every affiliated society to refuse benefits . . . by expulsion or otherwise.

Note. The Federation would have no power to prevent a society not affiliated to organise an exhibition, but evidently could prevent exhibitors at such an exhibition from participating in an exhibition controlled by the Federation.

12. Entries from principals of firms carrying on full-time activities in stamps may be accepted but not for competition . . . subject to entry fees and may receive awards. **What awards if not competitive?**

21. Exhibitors may receive awards . . . with the approval of the Federation.

22. There shall be no limitation by the organisers of the number of grades of the medals to be won. **Note. The organisers shall be responsible for the cost of the unlimited number of medals.**

26. No special prizes shall be accepted except . . . as the Federation may approve.

27. There shall be five jurors and ten judges or such other number

. . . appointed by the Federation which shall also appoint one of the jury to be chairman.

28. Persons engaged in commercial activities in stamps shall not be eligible to serve as jurors or judges. Note. Are they suspect? Would they be biased in their findings?

42. These rules may be repealed . . . added to or varied by the Federation at any time.

The (federation) executive . . . may delegate all or any of its privileges and powers . . . to a sub-committee appointed by and of the Federation for the purpose.

NOTE. In effect the Federation will have the authority to take complete control of any exhibition notwithstanding the wishes of the organisers. The Federation would be well advised to avoid disharmony and frustration amongst societies by deleting all authoritative measures and submitting the remainder of the rules as suggestions for the organising of exhibitions.

L. E. VERNAZONI,
Editor "Stirling Stamp News."

WANTED

We hope collectors will take the opportunity to use this magazine as an open forum to air their stamp views. Please send all letters to **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** P.O. BOX 513, NEW PLYMOUTH. Nom de plumes accepted as long as the writer includes his name and address with the letter.

NORFOLK ISLAND

Stamps from Norfolk Island continue to be in brisk demand in Australia. Recent auction prices for some of these may be of interest to readers and are:—

1953 Pictorial Set (6) un.h.M. \$13.50; f.u., \$12.00.

1960 2/8 Loc. Government un.h.M. \$10.00.

1960 Christmas stamp un.h.M. \$1.90; 1961 same 0.51.

Prices realised at the same auction for Papua and New Guinea were as follows:

1958 1/7 Cattle un.h.M. \$10.50; 2/5 Cattle f.u. \$2.30.

1963 10/- Rabaul un.h.M. \$3.80.

1961 Legisl. Council un.h.M. \$6.80.

1960 Postal Charges 2/6 un.h.M. \$16.00.

The Legislative Council set had a printing of only 100,000 and is only rarely offered at auction. I predict a further steady rise for this set in the future.

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JUNIOR PAGE

One of the earliest radio stations in New Zealand was Radio Taranaki. This station was opened in April 1929 as 2YB by the North Taranaki Radio Society. It later changed to 2XP and from 1st April, will operate as 2ZP. In August 1936 the Society broadcast its first stamp talk, by a local resident Herbert Mullan at the time a clerk in the Post Office. In those days broadcasting was cluttered with "Uncles", "Aunts" and "Cousins" of various descriptions. Mr Mullan not liking the "Uncle" style took the Pseudonym of "Simon Sam" from a stamp which he then owned. Stamp stories by Simon Sam may be heard from Radio Taranaki on alternate Sundays at 9.5 a.m.

PLUNKET

The story of a stamp, by Simon Sam.

This first Edition on the New Zealand Stamp Monthly, is dated 1st April, and what better subject for this story of a stamp than Truby King—for was not Frederic Truby King born on 1st April, 1858 and does not his home town commence its 128 year also on this 1st April.

Late in 1840 a young London clerk, Thomas King, attracted by advertisements of the Plymouth Company of New Zealand, decided to emigrate to this then almost unknown colony. On 19th November Thomas King, aged 18, occupation agent, sailed from Plymouth in the ship "William Bryan" with his friends Richard and Mary Chilman—sailed for an unknown destination somewhere in New Zealand.

The settlement was established near the Sugar Loaves on the Taranaki coast and there they landed 127 years ago yesterday. Thomas King married his friend Mary Chilman and set up home in the bush on what is now the Junction Road just outside the present New Plymouth boundary. Children were born to them—two of them, Newton and Frederick Truby were to become national figures; one in business, and the other in child welfare. Then war broke out, bush home was deserted and the family taken to Nelson for safety. The voyage down the coast was extremely rough and young King never completely recovered from its effects, and in Nelson his very life was despaired of.

Truby King lived the normal boy's life, he attended school con-

ducted by Henry Robert Richmond in the Stone Cottage on the New Plymouth foreshore (now removed and preserved as the Richmond Cottage). Young King had his heart set on medicine but his father who had represented his district in Provincial Council and in the General Assembly and had succeeded remarkably well in his business ventures, wanted the son to follow in his footsteps. Consequently his first job of work was as clerk in the Bank of New Zealand where his father was first manager. But the call of his life's work was persistent and in due time his father allowed him the means whereby he was enabled to attend Edinburgh University from which he graduated with distinction. In 1888 he returned to New Zealand with his wife and accepted the position of Medical Superintendent of Wellington Hospital. Shortly afterwards he left for Seacliff Mental Hospital near Dunedin. At the same time he became a lecturer on mental health at the University of Otago.

Truby King's nature was such that he could not conform to orthodoxy in medical practice if he thought there was something better. He once said "I am always at my best in the face of opposition or fighting for a forlorn hope." In 1907 Dr. King felt it was time to put his theories on child welfare on a firm and lasting foundation. In this way, in the City of Dunedin was founded the Society for the Health of Women and Children (now the Royal) with Lady Victoria Plunket (Wife of the Governor of the Colony) as Patron. A recent press message from London reported the death of Lady Victoria in her 93rd year—but she lives on in the Society which is more often known by name of its first patron than by its legal and registered title.

Dr. King was knighted in 1925 but so busy was he with the affairs of "Plunket" that he could not afford the time to attend the "ceremony" and had to wait until a more convenient time. Sir Truby, as he now was, gave his Wellington Home to Plunket and there when he died in 1938 they laid him to rest with a state funeral, an honour seldom given to a private citizen.

On the 50th anniversary of Plunket the Post Office issued a special postage stamp and what more suitable subject than a portrait of the "man" himself. The special pictorial postmark was used only at KARITANE, a name ever associated with Sir Truby and Plunket.

BIOT

BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

Reprint of current Seychelles Definitive Issue overprinted with letters B.I.O.T.

British Indian Ocean Territory was created on 8th November 1965 and consists of the Chagos Archipelago, 1,180 miles north of Mauritius, together with a group of smaller islands which includes Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches lying far to the west.

The Chagos, or Oil Islands, lying between 7 degrees 13 minutes and 7 degrees 27 minutes South latitude and 72 degrees 25 minutes and 72 degrees 34 minutes East longitude, consist of five groups of islands formed of coral. The largest Diego Garcia, is a horse-shoe shaped piece of land enclosing a lagoon some 13 miles by 4 or 5 miles. There are no permanent inhabitants but some 500 persons, mostly employees of the Diego Garcia Trading Corporation and their families live there in six camps. They are occupied in fishing, cultivating coconuts and refining oil. Exports are coconuts, poonac and copra, oil, salt fish and Tortoise-shell. The numerous islands are owned by, or leased to, trading companies in Mauritius to whom an efficient postal service will be of the greatest value.

The smaller islands, far to the west, have been included in the new Colony in view of their possible needs. This Western Group was formerly administered by Seychelles. Principal islands in the group are Aldabra, Farquhar, and Desroches, with temporary populations of about 100, 170 and 110 respectively, most of whom are employed on the coconut estates.

The present issue of stamps is an interim measure. B.I.O.T. will require its own distinctive postage stamps and, it is understood, its own postal administration is to be set up. Postal agencies in all the inhabited islands will use appropriate hand stamps for cancellation.

FOOTNOTE:

One of the reasons for the setting up of the British Indian Ocean Territory was the intensified use of the island of Aldabra as a Joint base by Britain and United States. However there has since been an announcement by Mr. Harold Wilson in line with his withdrawal from East of Suez that the Aldabra project will be abandoned. B.I.O.T. stamps may not last very long!

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