

THE NEW ZEALAND

STAMP

MONTHLY

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20c

VOL. 1. No. 2

MAY, 1968.



NEW ZEALAND AND BRITISH PACIFIC ISLANDS

If your collecting interests cover any of the countries in this group then we can almost certainly be of help to you with your hobby. Amongst our services are the following:

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STAMP MONTHLY

Vol. 1 No. 2. May, 1968.

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CONSIDER

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3c PUARANGI MINT matching sets of "flaw" and "retouch" positional blocks from plate 1B1B 1B2B—unobtainable elsewhere.

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*Write for details of the Newsletter.

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"Collectors Are Happy People"—Goethe

23rd ANNIVERSARY OF V.E. DAY

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF V.E. DAY

On this anniversary I would like to pen a few words to those stamp collectors who remember or took part in events before and after V.E. Day.

Since this epic day a new generation of New Zealanders has grown—a generation who know nothing of the fear or smell of war, or its consequences. A generation for whom many died. A generation for whom much has been given and now much is expected.

The generation synonymous with drugs, sex, odd cut dress, and "Viet-niks"—in freedom obtained by death and ultimate victory.

Take off those glasses!—Blinded by a small minority. Last month New Zealand suffered some of the worst disasters in her history. Think back now—to the efforts of this new generation in the moments of disaster—in their efforts to help resur-rect the damage of those storms.

Men and women of V.E. Day and Anzac Day—You have every reason to be proud of your sons and daughters of today.



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).

Colours: The 4c stamp (Army) is printed in shades of brown, the 10c stamp (Air Force) is predominantly dark blue, while the 28c Navy stamp is light blue.

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).

Please Note

Mr. F. Boric of Aotearoa Stamp Co., has advised that the telephone number in his advertisement in the April N.Z.S.M. should be 43-079.

New Zealand And V.E. Day

With the issue of stamps to commemorate V.E. Day, many people may wonder in what direct way was New Zealand connected with the war in Europe, especially in the final stages to V.E. Day against Germany. Many will remember New Zealand's troops exploits in North Africa and the rout of Rommel.

New Zealanders first taste of war in Europe began when troops were sent to Greece to help stem the German tide. This was a belated attempt and led to the eventual withdrawal from Greece to Crete and the dramatic evacuation from that island.

From Crete, of the 7002 New Zealanders who landed, 671 died, 1943 were wounded (488 of these

(Cont. Page 5.)

UNITED STAMP AUCTIONS**P.O. BOX 35, NEW PLYMOUTH.**

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UNITED STAMP AUCTIONS**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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(N.Z. and V.E. Day Cont.)

captured and 2100 became prisoners. This was a severe loss for such a small force.

After regrouping and reinforcements the New Zealand Division started out on its highly colourful and successful desert campaign in North Africa culminating in the surrender of German Troops and the Italian First Army.

**TANK AND PYRAMID**

Such was the Division's fame and reputation and although many of these troops returned home and the reinforcements largely inexperienced, Churchill urged that it be allowed to continue into Europe.

In November 1943 this Division entered the line in Italy. Orsogna, Cassino finally captured on 18th May 1944—the drive to Florence—reaching the Senio. From the Senio, the last campaign was mounted towards Trieste. On 2nd May, 1945 the German garrison in Trieste surrendered to the New Zealanders. German forces in Italy had officially surrendered on 2nd May but many Germans in Trieste had refused to give themselves up to Yugo-slav Partisans.

THE AIRFORCE

The main concern of the R.N.Z. A.F. was to supply trained air crew for service in the R.A.F. The first air ace of the war was a New Zealander—Flying Officer "Cobber" Kain.

During the Battle of Britain, four New Zealanders commanded fighter squadrons and 195 flew as fighter pilots in this battle. New Zealanders were also in Bomber and Coastal Commands. Other New Zealanders served as night fighter pilots when the Germans turned to night bombing and 16 of the 90 raiders shot down in May 1941 were claimed by our countrymen.

While there were no official New Zealand Squadrons in the R.A.F. one squadron had such a strong New Zealand Flavour that

**SPITFIRES**

it adopted the Fernleaf emblem and became an "unofficial" New Zealand squadron.

Most R.N.Z.A.F. men attached to the R.A.F. served however in heavy units of Bomber Command which fought the greatest campaign of the war against Germany and suffered the heaviest losses. Here was written some of our greatest pages. New Zealand losses in the R.A.F. were almost a third of the 11,000 New Zealanders who served in the Air.

**AT LEFT LANCASTER BOMBER AND SPITFIRE****THE NAVY**

Early in the war a New Zealand ship hit the headlines when the Archilles was one of three cruisers which defeated the powerful pocket battle ship—Admiral Graf Spee, off the River Plate.

However the only ship to be near the European theatre was the "Leander" which served as Senior Ship in the Red Sea force for five months in 1940.

Over 7,000 New Zealanders served in the Royal Navy in many theatres of the war although their identity was submerged in the vastness of the war at sea they nevertheless won many friends for New Zealand.

**CRUISER ARCHILLES AT LEFT****FLASH BACK -
WORLD WAR II****THOSE LAST DAYS IN EUROPE**

During April 1945 the war was rapidly coming to an end. Since mid-March the Germans had been making various unofficial attempts to negotiate peace terms. On April 28th unconditional surrender had been offered to the United States and Great Britain but not to Russia. Owing to this factor this offer was rejected by the allies. Throughout all negotiations the Germans had offered terms with this proviso of no surrender to Russia. This was seen by the allies as an effort to split the Allied Command of U.S.A., G.B. and U.S.S.R.

One and a half million prisoners including 150 Generals or Admirals had been captured by the allies during that month.

May 1st. Grand-Admiral Donitz took over command of Germany and her armed forces. A passage from his broadcast that day bears repeating:—"The Fuhrer has appointed me as his successor. Fully conscious of the responsibilities I take over the leadership of the German people at this fateful hour. It is my first task to save the German people from destruction by the Bolshevists, and it is only to achieve this that the fight continues. As long as the British and Americans hamper us from reaching this end we shall fight and defend ourselves against them as well. The British and Americans do not fight for the interests of their own people but for the SPREAD OF BOLSHEVISM."

From Finland it was announced that the last German troops had been driven from there on April 27th. May 2nd. Berlin captured by Russian troops. Conflicting reports of Hitler's death—suicide or from wounds.

May 3rd. The whole German defence system in North Germany collapsed. Hamburg—Germany's second largest city surrendered to the British Army. Trieste surrendered to New Zealand Troops although Yugo-slav. troops had been active in the city for some days before.

May 4th. All German forces in North-West Germany, Heligoland, Denmark, and Holland surrender to Field Marshall Montgomery.

(Cont. Page 7.)**SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO N.Z.S.M. TODAY**

NEW ZEALAND

Choice items from our comprehensive stock

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1862. 3d Brown-lilac Full Face. Unused copy with large margins \$30. Ditto but in mint block of 4 with huge margins.

\$200. 1864 Accidental imperf 3d Lilac mint at \$30. Used with huge margins at \$15. Ditto but deep mauve shade at \$35. Large margins. Express Delivery. 1st type. Perfs and paper. The set of 5 mint at \$8.50.

1898 Pictorials. ½d to 5s London print and 1900 ½d green to 6d red. The set of 20 values in brilliant mint blocks of 4 at \$100.

1900 6d Kiwi. Pair imperf. vertically \$35. 6d rose double print \$60; Ditto vertical pair

\$125; 6d Lisbon Superfine \$1.25. Ditto in block of 4. Two with letter wmk. \$8.50.

Queen Elizabeth. 2½d on 3d wide and narrow setting set-tenant \$2.50. 10s fine used \$3.50. 1s 9d white paper, full set Nos. 1 to 19 of coil joined pairs \$40. Sets of other values etc in stock.

Coat of Arms. £1 mint 14 by 13½ unsurfaced at \$15; 30s mult invt at \$40. 3s 6d on 3s 6d sans serifs at \$12; 4s with complete offset \$10.

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11 L	Far East	\$1.20 per 100
11 LS	Far East	85c per 100
12 LS	Pacific Islands Mint and used	\$1.50 per 55

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ZEALANDIA STAMP CO.

P.O. BOX 55

PLIMMERTON

WELLINGTON

WHEN REPLYING TO ADVERTISEMENTS SAY YOU SAW IT IN N.Z.S.M.

(Last Days, Cont.)

May 5th. Grand Admiral Donitz orders all U-Boats to cease hostilities.

May 6th. He orders all German shipping to cease any acts of war and warns that no ship must be scuttled or rendered unserviceable. Donitz also orders all guerilla fighting in occupied Germany to stop.

May 7th. V.E. Day. 2.41 a.m. Unconditional surrender to the three Allies at General Eisenhower's G.H.Q.'s at Rheim. The Germans broadcast news of their surrender to their people that same day. German troops in Norway also surrender although never defeated in that territory.

May 8th. Grand-Admiral Donitz broadcasts to the German people and announces that from 23.00 hours all guns are to be silent. At 3 p.m. Mr. Churchill (as he was then) announced to the World that



war in Europe was over. The final act of surrender was signed in Berlin at 00.16 hours May 8th.

Today Germany in the West as we know it has risen from those ashes of defeat into one of the most respected, efficient, and prosperous nations—a leading nation in the Western World.

Let us flashback to the special message broadcast to the German people when surrender was announced.

"Once again we must set ourselves to stride along a path through the dark future. We must recognise law as the basis of all relations between nations. Respect for treaties will be as sacred as the aim of our nation to belong to the European family of nations as a member of which we want to mobilise all human, moral and material forces in order to heal the dreadful wounds which the war has caused. THEN WE MAY HOPE THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF HATRED WHICH TODAY SURROUNDS GERMANY ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL GIVE PLACE TO A SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION AMONG THE NATIONS WITHOUT WHICH THE WORLD CANNOT RECOVER.

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE ?

Misplaced green colour as well as perforations shown on this block, obtained in Auckland and sent for reader's interest by Mr. E. Resetar.



Mr. I. Rutherford showed us this interesting variety with a red smudge in the region of the figure 8 of the current 8c flag.

PAPER CREASE ON 25c BUTTER

Remember this variety pictured in the April N.Z.S.M. It is no longer unique—at least one other New Plymouth reader has a similar block and we are told that there could be two other blocks, although these could have been broken and used on commercial mail—so keep those eyes peeled.

NEW PATCHED IN STAMP COMES TO LIGHT

Mr. B. Henderson reports from Timaru a block of 9 Cook Island Overprint on New Zealand 2d Peace with the centre stamp patched into position. Earlier instances are recorded in Volume V of the Postage Stamps of N.Z. on Page 234. Noted here are the 8d values of Niue and Cook Island of the same issue.

STOP PRESS

Mr. R. Savill, Christchurch, has just notified us that at least two sheets Bible Stamp have been sold at Christchurch WITH GOLD LETTERING OMITTED.

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.

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

25c and \$2 (New Prints)

The new 25c stamp for the definitive issue as well as the re-print 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

This stamp which features the Fox Glacier in Westland National Park will be issued on 30th July, 1968.

COUNTER COILS

The delay in producing coils of the current stamp issue is due to the fact that, since the changeover to decimal currency, priority has had to be given to the manufacture of coils of stamps for stamp vending machines. However the counter coils are being made up as quickly as possible and supplies will be released as soon as sufficient stocks are on hand.

Items of postal stationery which are currently available from Post Offices are as under:

Envelopes bearing 3c postage, 4c each. Letter cards bearing 3c postage, 3½c each. Postcards bearing 2½c postage, 3c each. Wrappers bearing 2½c postage, 3c each. Registered letter envelopes bearing 3c postage and 15c registration fee, 20c each. Aerogramme forms, unstamped, ½c each. First Day Covers, 2c each.

Also, postage stamps of the 2½c and 3c denominations are available in coils of 400 stamps at a cost of 20c a coil in addition to the value of the stamps. The selling price of these coils is \$10.20 for the 2½c value and \$12.20 for the 3c value. These coils are, however, available on demand only at offices which receive frequent requests for them.

NEW ZEALAND PRICE CHANGES BY STANLEY GIBBONS, APRIL, 1968

1931 Health Pair (Red and Blue Boys). These go up to £20 Mint or Used from £12 Mint, £11 Used.

1953 10/- Queen on Horseback, rises to 45/- Mint, 35/- Used, from 35/- Mint, 30/- Used.

POSTMARK CORNER

BY A. F. WATTERS

The first copy of the New Zealand Stamp Monthly has been printed and it is a really wonderful magazine and far beyond any expectations I had.

This month sees the opening of three new Post Offices and the closing of one.

BRANSTON (Christchurch). This office opened on the 1st May (in response to a petition signed by over 275) is in the store in the Branston Block. A staffed P.O. was asked for or an agency as an alternative.

HAMILTON NORTH. At the end of May this office will open in a new building at the corner of Rostrevor and Victoria Streets. (This is really a re-opening, for a Post Office was situated near this corner 1st February, 1921, to 2nd December, 1940.) Due to demand, a new office was opened Whitiara on the 16th October, 1946, and as this office is only two blocks away, it could close, though no official word has come from the department as yet.

ARMAGH (Christchurch). Towards the end of May, this office will open and Armstrongs will close. Armstrongs Christchurch, as it was first called, was the first large store to open a Post Office in New Zealand—6th August, 1957. The word Christchurch was dropped from the machine datehead by this Post Office over the last year or so.

EDGECUMBE (Rotorua). A new Post Office building was opened by the Minister of Works and M.P. for the Bay of Plenty, Mr. Allen, on the 26th April.

TE WERA. This relief datestamp has been withdrawn and the repaired datestamp back in use.

Wellington and Christchurch Post Offices are using a new three lined slogan, W.H.O. 20th Anniversary, 1968.

The Post Office at **Canton Island** which came under the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Commission, closed on the 6th February, 1968. I was sent a registered cover from Canton Island on the last day, duly marked. It was sent to me under cover from the Post Office, Tarawa, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, on the 13th March, 1968. It is interesting to note that the Canton Island datestamp shows the time as 12.5 p.m.

This closes a Post Office, that in the early days of flying, was a very important refueling stop, but now with the big jets, it became of little use.

LANDBOUSKOU — AGRICULTURE SHOW, KIMBERLEY. (Republic of South Africa) A special datestamp will be used each year at a temporary Post Office at this show in the latter part of April. This advice is to hand from the Philatelic Bureau, Republic of South Africa. British Postal Orders are acceptable.

U.S.A. I have just read a most interesting book. The new edition of the U.S. Directory of Post Offices. It shows that at the 1st July, 1967, there were 32,626 operating Post Offices. (The previous year there were 33,162 Post Offices operating.) It is made up of 4868 first class, 7226 second class, 12,944 third class and 7,589 fourth class Post Offices. The "class" of a Post Office is determined by the annual business. First class have receipts above \$58,159, second class \$11,631 — \$58,158 and third class \$2,203 to \$11,631. Those with receipts less than \$2,202 are fourth class. These are on a par with our own small country store type Post Office, the only difference is that our ones have datestamps, but in U.S.A., the only ones to have datestamps are those that were once a third class, and still have the old stamp. The mail is collected by post van and taken to a larger P.O. The Directory usually appears early in the fiscal year (September approx.) and costs \$2.75 U.S. plus postage from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., 20402, U.S.A.



Tracing of Tahora Relief, mentioned in April N.Z.S.M.

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POSTAL HISTORY

As defined by Robin Startup, Editor of the Mail Coach, Journal of the Postal History Society of N.Z. Inc.

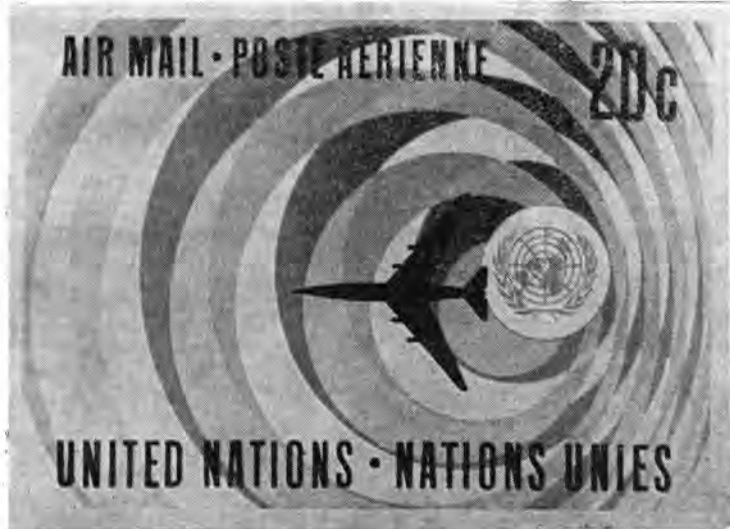
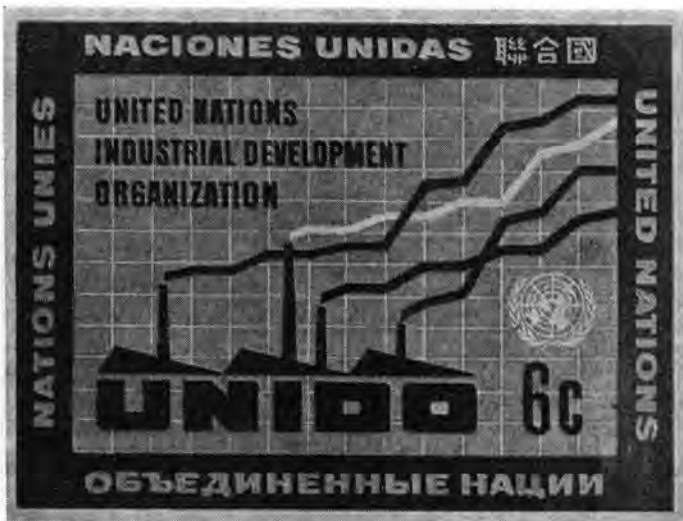
Over recent years there has been quite some discussion of just what is postal history. Does it include postage stamp collectors? Does it include the field of postal marking collectors? Or does a collection of postage stamps include postal history? These are just some of the many queries. Interestingly enough the term "postal history" does not have a definition in the glossary in Volume 4 "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", and other philatelic Dictionaries only look at it vaguely. Mr. Startup was intrepid enough to attempt a definition at a recent Postal History meeting and, as this may be of interest to readers, here it is:

Postal History. The history of the receipt, carriage and distribution of communications by post, and everything associated therewith.

He does not claim this definition to be perfect, but he does feel it briefly summarises the scope and intent of our subject. Firstly, "history". This is the study or recording of our subject, stretching from the earliest days or from some stated point in the past, down to the happenings of today and, even beyond into the future. This work may be carried out by writing articles, making notes, collecting photographs, cover pieces, or stamps. But each item serves some definite purpose within our study.

Secondly, "the receipt, carriage and distribution". These three words contain the field that is of most interest to our members. By "receipt" is meant an actual article, such as a letter, the method of payment of fees, how such fees are indicated on the article, what markings are used on that postage indicia, and what markings are used to determine the method of carriage. It also includes a study of the office or building where the article is received, the staff employed therein, and the equipment that may be used. By "carriage" is included the study of mail routes, and the method of conveyance, whether by land, sea or air; and any stamps or markings applied between receipt and delivery. By "distribution" is included the method of delivery to the addressee, the staff and equipment employed in delivery services, and also markings or labels that may

NEW UNITED NATIONS STAMPS



be applied to articles during distribution or delivery, or on account of their non-delivery.

Thirdly. By "communications by post" is included the matter that is handled—whether card, letter, parcel, paper or simply a message in some form. By "post" we specifically refer to the organisation known as the Post Office, but we can include private enterprise delivery organisations, and the telegraph or telephone systems.

And finally, "everything associated therewith". Includes any matter worth studying or collecting that is connected with our study and that may not have been mentioned above.

Two United Nations stamp issues were made on 18th April.

The first, to commemorate the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (U.N.I.D.O.), incorporates two denominations, 6c and 13c. The stamps have the same design, but the 6c is coloured blue and red, and the 13c brown and blue. They feature an industrial design by the Danish Artist, Ole Hamann.

On the same date, a United Nations 20c Airmail stamp will be issued as part of the United Nations definitive series. Also designed by Hamann, it is coloured light blue, dark blue, green and purple.

SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO N.Z.S.M. TODAY

HURRICANE HITS COOK ISLANDS

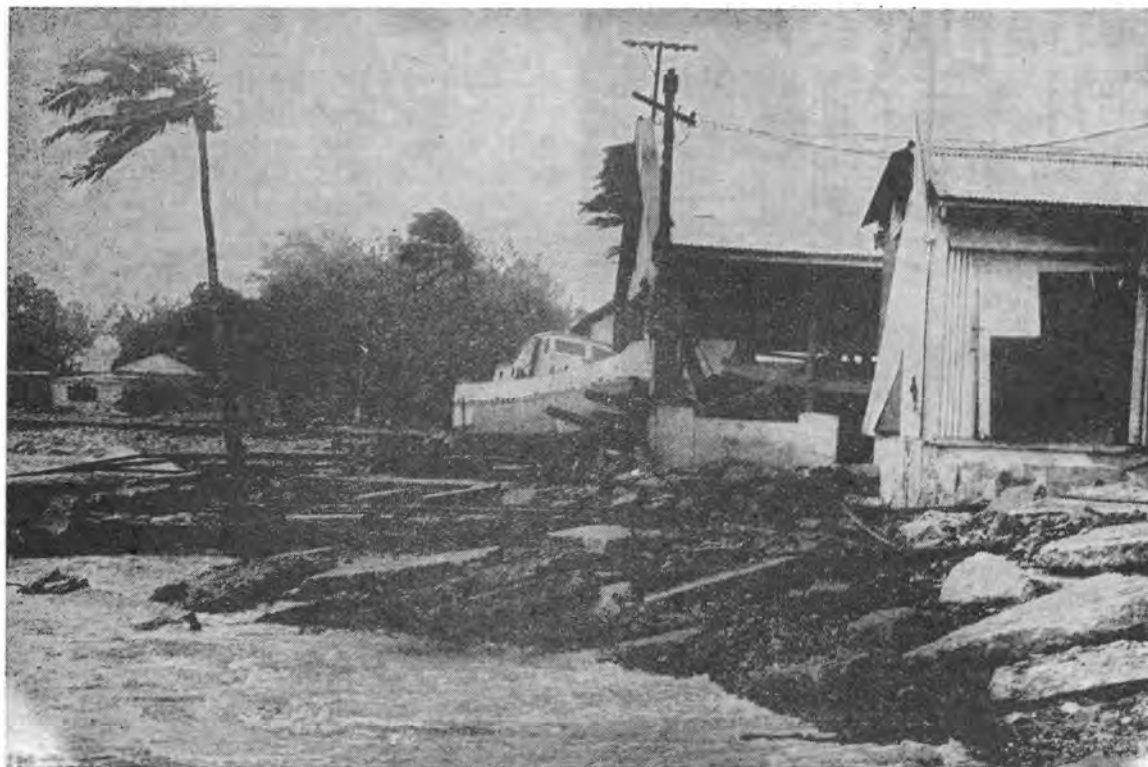
(Continued from last issue)

Hardship was suffered by very many islanders who lost their homes and staple food crops. A serious blow was dealt to the main agricultural economy. Damage caused by this hurricane was officially estimated at hundreds of thousands of dollars to Government buildings, community buildings, private homes, port and shipping facilities and both export and subsistence crops.

Replanting the food crops has been the first and most necessary step towards rehabilitation and this has already been started with great energy. The major reconstruction to replace the essential Government and community buildings, harbours and homes and again build up export crops is a considerable and costly task which by necessity, the Cook Islands has to undertake.



Johnson's Studio, Rarotonga, Cook Islands



Fishing vessel "Hakua Nui" hurled by the sea up to the Fruit Control Building

COOK ISLANDS POLICY STATEMENT

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE COOK ISLANDS

The definitive postage stamps of the Cook Islands are scheduled to remain on sale for long periods of time, with additional quantities being reprinted as needed, incorporating any minor modifications desirable at the time of reprinting.

The previous definitive postage issue was first placed on sale in June, 1963, and an airmail series in April, 1966. The current definitive postage issue has been placed on sale in parts, following the introduction of the new decimal currency in July, 1967.

On 28th November, 1966, and 4th December, 1967, special Christmas stamps were released for use on the Holiday mails, and withdrawn after the season was over.

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

It is the policy of the Cook Islands to release only two or three commemorative stamp issues each year, and these of lower face value, though we are aware that this schedule is very modest compared to many other post offices of the South Pacific area.

In addition to ordinary definitive stamps and annual stamps for use on the Christmas mails, the Cook Islands has issued six commemorative stamp issues since 1964, as follows:

All of the stamp issues released prior to April, 1968, have been sold out, excepting the definitive decimal currency postage stamp issue which is still available.

STAMP PROGRAMME FOR 1968

Two commemorative issues are scheduled for 1968:

(1) An attractive series of stamps commemorating the 200th anniversary of the discovery of the South Pacific by James Cook, after whom the islands were named (face value 64c), scheduled for release during May or June.

(2) A colourful stamp issue honouring the International Olympic Games, scheduled for release during September or October.

On 12 February seven denominations were released with emergency surcharged surtax for the benefit of hurricane victims. These stamps remained on sale at the Post Offices for a month.

During 1968, the postage stamp series in the new decimal currency will be completed with the release of the few higher denomination postage stamps needed.

Editor's Footnote: The face value of Definitive, Airmails, Decimals Overprints and new high values etc. issued in the same period to April 30th, 1968, will total over \$40.

ROYAL VISIT

The Cook Islands were honoured by the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, on July 5th to 7th, 1967, representing Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and to mark the occasion, a cachet envelope was prepared and special cancellation used on the mail.

COOK ISLANDS ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL DECIMAL STAMPS

On Tuesday, 30th April 1968, the Cook Islands placed on sale \$4 and \$6 definitive postage stamp denominations.

The stamps follow the style of the lower denominations, but are double size. The design includes a full colour portrait of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, plus a montage of the colourful flowers of the Cook Islands.

The two stamps have been produced in six colour photogravure, in sheets of fifteen stamps, and are of exceptional beauty.

Since 1932, postal needs have required stamps to the £5 denomination, because of the isolation of the Cook Islands, and today the postal requirements for higher denomination stamps has been increased by the indefiniteness of mail service to the Cook Islands, with much of the mail carried by Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft to New Zealand from whence it is forwarded on.

As these are higher denomination stamps, the quantity produced has been limited.

Commemorating	Issuance Date 1965	(Number of Stamps)	Face Value
Solar Eclipse, Manuae Internal Self-Government	May 31	(1)	6d
	September 16 1966	(4)	3/11d
Sir Winston Churchill	January 24 1967	(6)	12/2d
Second South Pacific Games	January 12 (Postponed Dec. 1966)	(6)	4/1½ (42c)
75th Anniversary of first Cook Islands Stamps Paul Gauguin, Painter of the South Pacific	July 3	(4)	3s (30c)
	October 24	(6)	54c



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THE STAMP MARKET CORNER

DEVALUATION is haunting the English speaking world! Whenever one opens the financial page of the newspaper, one is confronted with rising national deficits, rising imports, falling exports, and falling reserves, enough to shake the confidence of any man in the stability of his savings. The object of devaluation is to make the manufactured products of one country more attractive to the buyer from a foreign country. In other words, while our cheese nets the farmer just as much as it did before devaluation, it will cost the foreign buyer now less. How does this situation affect postage stamps?



ALL NEW DEFINITIVES PHOSPHOR LINED

We have just witnessed an interesting example in the stamps of Great Britain. Normal expectation would lead one to believe that the prices of Great Britain stamps would drop in foreign markets, as a result of devaluation. Instead of that, Great British stamps have not dropped on the Continent and the U.S., they have even hardened and prices in Great Britain have shot up considerably in the last few months. The explanation for this phenomenon, which is so highly pleasing to the investment-minded collector, could be lying in the fact that Great Britain stamps found of late such strong collector support abroad, that prices are not governed by internal, but by external conditions. Bearing that in mind, it will pay the collector to have a good second look at Great Britain stamps. I wish to draw particular attention to the rising demand and inherent qualities of the phosphor-lined commemoratives. Prices for these issues have gone up tremendously in the last year or two, and the catalogues cannot adjust their prices fast enough. I am sure the stamps will rise still further, particularly since at first nobody paid much attention to them,—however it is anybody's guess, when they will start levelling out.

Most of these sets were not printed in larger numbers than one or one and a half million, which is a

very small number indeed for a stamp-collecting country like Great Britain.

The BIG BRITISH BOOM has manifested itself not only in the phosphor-lined stamps, but also in the earlier issues and I mention here particularly the so-called Sea-Horses, the high values of the King George V period. The re-engraved issues of 1934 have jumped from a catalogue value of £9.10.0 in 1966 to £41 in 1968, and there is not a hope of getting them at half cat.!

So complete all the missing gaps in your collection and fill those empty spaces, while there is still time,—but do not sacrifice quality for quantity, for it is only the best copy that will always command the best price. No matter how attractive the price may be, I would shy away from a heavily hinged Mint copy or a heavily cancelled used stamp. My personal taste,—which you are at liberty not to share,—go even against light parcel postmarks, in used stamps. These light parcel postmarks are still only just a smear, so I prefer the nice round cancellation that one usually gets only after much searching.



OVERCATALOGUED

The low values of the 1961/63 Papua & New Guinea commemoratives are vastly overcatalogued. Quite a few collectors tried to cash in on these high prices, only to be bitterly disappointed. An auction lot of these stamps, containing



TIME WILL COME

hundreds of used 5d Malaria, Legislative Council, Pac. Conf. etc. stamps, with a total catalogue value of \$100, fetched a mere \$10 recently in Melbourne.

Despite the disastrous drop in the price of the VATICAN, there is no lack of interest for this enclave of Rome and collector demand will in time, again dominate the market. If you have a good collection of Vatican, hang on to it, your time will still come. But who was responsible for the quick sellout of the 180 Lire value of last year's Christmas set? Since it cannot be entertained for a minute that the Vatican Post Office deliberately cut down the number of stamps, it stands to reason that dealers and collectors are still trying to create artificial shortages by hoarding with the object of raising the price. It remains to be seen, who is the one, who gets burned fingers.



LARGE PRINTING

TIPSTERS in the stamping field very often find a yardstick for their hunches in the number of stamps issued. If the figure is low, then obviously the stamp in question is usually thought to be a good one. If the figure is high, the nothing will convince the tipster that the stamp will rise in value in any foreseeable future. But tipsters can be wrong. The market is often quite unpredictable and defies all forecasts. No New Zealand stamp printed to the tune of 20 million could ever be considered a good investment item. Yet the 1960/61 Christmas stamps managed to increase their value out of all proportion to the number printed. Look at their prices now! The Great Britain Paintings stamp of 4d face value had, I believe, a printing of 150 million, and yet dealers are now offering double face value for these stamps! Obviously, most of these stamps were used up for postage. So get your set now, while the price is still reasonable.

E. HOFFMANN

New 5c Canadian Commemorative

A four-colour 5c stamp to be released on May 8th will commemorate Canada's participation in the Unesco sponsored 1965-1974 International Hydrological Decade. The predominantly brown I.H.D. stamp was designed by Hungarian-born, Canadian-by-adoption Prof. Imre von Mosdosy, of Agincourt, Ontario. Versed in widely varied fields of art and design, Prof. von Mosdosy has to his credit hundreds of stamp designs for many countries, but this is his first Canadian design. Photogravure in three colours and steel engraving in one colour have been utilised by the British American Bank Note Co., Ottawa, to print 24 million of the new stamp.

Centred in the design is a weighing rain gauge flanked on the right by white lettering on the dark brown background "International Hydrological Decade," "1965-1975" "Decennie Hydrologique Internationale" and "Canada". To the left of centre a small red 11 pointed Canadian maple leaf is superimposed on the World in space. The symbolic representations of water and precipitation is in white on the basically blue World. White is used for the sun and radiating rays in the upper left corner and for the denomination at the lower left. Inks are combined to achieve the near ochre in the central gauge and the World's land mass.

Canada is one of 97 member states co-operating in the international study whose purpose is not only to increase knowledge in the developed countries but to increase the ability of the under-developed countries to gain knowledge of their own water resources. At the national level, Canada has served for four years on a Co-ordinating Council of 21 member countries which has representatives from the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R., France, and England as permanent delegations.

Efforts of the Canadian National Committee are currently concentrated on 185 study projects in a scientific field which covers the entire history of the cycle of water on earth. An important aspect of study is the effects on man and the effects of man's activities on water. Although Canada is estimated to have one-seventh of the world's fresh water in her lakes, and about one-tenth of the world's fresh water in her rivers, more than one-half of the surface waters flow north and therefore, are not immediately usable by the 90 per cent. of the population inhabiting an area within 200 miles of the southern border.

Estimates place the proportion of sea water as 97 per cent of the world's total. Two thirds of the remaining 3 per cent is immobilised in polar regions and in glaciers. Consequently, for his fresh water needs man must depend on the remaining 1 per cent. of the world's supply.

NARWHAL STAMP

The Narwhal of Canada's Arctic seas, or sea unicorn as it was known to early explorers, will be illustrated in its natural environment on a four colour Wildlife 5c stamp to be released on April 10th.

It will portray the partially submerged male narwhal, identifiable by the remarkably elongated tusk, swimming in the blue green waters of Canada's Arctic Seas against a background of ice floes. Greys and black are used to achieve a realistic colouring of the animal and a black denominative 5 is inserted in the upper left corner. Black descriptive wording in the lower right corner includes "Canada" surmounted by the English, French and scientific identification: "Narwhal," "Narval," and "Monodon monoceros." Twenty-four million Narwhal stamps will be printed by

the British American Bank Note Company Ltd., Ottawa.

The narwhal is a small whale rarely exceeding 16 feet in length. It owes its name, "corpse whale" in old Norse, to its curious colouration: slate blue in new born young, becoming flecked with intense white patches and splashes. In old age most of the lower half is pure white. The most remarkable characteristic is the tusk which develops in the upper left jaw of the male. This tusk may grow to a length of 7 feet, and measure 3 to 4 inches in diameter at the base. In Artic Canada, narwhals are mainly confined to the north and east coasts of Baffin Island and the Repulse Bay area in northern Hudson Bay.

Other Canadian Issues to follow:
300th Anniversary, Voyage of the Nonsuch—June 5.

LaCrosse—July 7th.

150th Anniversary, Birth of George Brown—August 7.

100th Anniversary, Birth of Henri Bourassa—September 4.

Christmas (two denominations)—October 9.

50th Anniversary, 1918 Armistice—November 6.

50th Anniversary, Death of John McCrae—November 6.

Japan

Two postage stamps having for their designs the sceneries of the Yatsugatake-Chushin-Kogen Quasi National Park, are to be issued as the 24th set of the Quasi-National Park series.

The Park occupies a tract of land 39,857 hectares in area extending over the two prefectures of Nagano and Yamanashi, and having in it the Yatsugatake range followed in the north by volcanic highlands such as Mt. Tateshina, Mt. Kirigamine and the plateau of Utsukushigahara. It was designated as Quasi National Park on June 1st, 1964.

The stamps were issued on 21st March.



MT. TATESHINA



MT. YATSUGATAKE

AMERICAN FLAGS NEW U.S. SERIES

Designs of 10 United States stamps illustrating historic flags of America have been announced by the U.S. Postmaster-General. They include the Union Jack as part of the Grand Union Flag of 1776 which incorporates the Union Jack.

Flags that Americans carried as colonists and as citizens of a new nation will be reproduced as individual stamps (repeated in vertical rows) on the same sheet. The series will be issued with first day ceremonies on July 4th at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the Allegheny Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America, will dedicate its flag Plaza and programme and service centre.

Some of the flags in the series exist today, faded and tattered. Others did not survive, and the stamp designs for these are based on descriptive documents and contemporary paintings. Some of the flags may be popularly known by another name. Included are flags with stars but no stripes, flags with stripes, flags with stripes but no stars, and flags with neither. The geographical range of the local flags is from Vermont to South Carolina.

FORT MOULTRIE FLAG (1776)

This is said to be the first flag that Americans displayed in the South during the Revolutionary War. It flew above Fort Sullivan in Charleston Harbour, when the seaport was attacked by the British Fleet. During the 10 hour bombardment, the flag was shot away. Sergeant William Jasper left the defence, recovered the flag and raised it, for which brave act he was presented with Governor John Rutledge's sword. A 2,000-man landing force was repulsed and the British withdrew. The flag is blue with a crescent and the word "Liberty" in white. The fort was later named Fort Moultrie to honour its defender, Colonel (later, General) William Moultrie.

FORT MCHENRY FLAG (1795-1818)

This flag, which has probably been seen by the most people, inspired Francis Scott Key to write the "Star Spangled Banner." A large garrison flag, 30 feet by 42 feet, it stands in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. It flew atop Fort McHenry in 1814 as

Key watched the rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air, during bombardment by the British Fleet in Chesapeake Bay. This flag of 15 stripes and 15 stars was the national banner from 1795-1818.

BUNKER HILL FLAG (1775)

By tradition, and some evidence the Colonial flag on Breed's Hill was blue, with a red cross set in a white canton and a pine tree in the upper left portion. Artist John Trumbull, who witnessed the battle, painted a different version—a red flag with a pine tree in a white canton. He was not always accurate. The first named version is preferred by Historians.

The Americans lost the fierce battle which began on June 17th 1775, but the British lost 1000 men, twice the American losses. One-eighth of all British officers who died in the Revolutionary War (American War of Independence) did so at Bunker Hill.

GRAND UNION FLAG (1776)

This flag was raised in January 1776 by General George Washington near Cambridge, Massachusetts, as the Continental Army came into being. It also served as the first

Navy ensign. It was the first national flag of the United States. The flag contains seven red and six white stripes. In the canton, the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew are combined.

PHILADELPHIA LIGHT HORSE FLAG (1775)

A highpoint for this colourful troop was at the war's end, when it presented to the Continental Congress, flags captured from the surrendered British Army at Yorktown.

When organised the troop consisted of 28 young men from elite Philadelphia families. The troop often served as escort to General Washington. Members also carried despatches guarded prisoners and spies. The troop participated at the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine and Germantown.

The flag is preserved by the First City Troop in its Philadelphia armoury. It is one of the first flags to contain 13 stripes, these being blue and silver in the canton. Set in the field of yellow is a blue decorative device. Above it is a horses head and at either side is an Indian and an angel. The scroll beneath contains the words "For These We Strive."

United States

NEW \$1 AIRLIFT POSTAGE STAMP

Issued on April 4th at Seattle, Washington, and the stamp will cover low cost rates for parcels to and from servicemen based overseas and in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

The \$1 stamp will also be valid for paying regular rates for other types of mail. The preferential rate for servicemen has been in effect since January 7th.

FIRST NAVY JACK (1775)

This rattlesnake flag with the ominous warning "Don't Tread on me" against a field of seven red and six white stripes, was hoisted in 1775 to become the first Navy Jack. It is believed that Commodore Esek Hopkins of Rhode Island, flew this jack when he captured the town of New Providence in the Bahama Islands.

Until about 1795 American privateers and merchantment flew a striped flag, sometimes without the rattlesnake. The South Carolina naval ensign was a rattlesnake flag, but the stripes were blue and red.



WASHINGTON'S CRUISERS' FLAG (1775).

Until the Grand Union flag became the first Navy ensign, Washington's six cruisers carried a white flag with a green pine tree, above which appeared the words "An Appeal to Heaven." This flag was later modified and adopted by the Massachusetts naval force.

One of the cruisers, the Lee, captured the British brig, Nancy, which carried a cargo of 4,000 muskets, 31 tons of musket shot and other supplies which the colonists needed desperately. The Lady Washington, in turn, was captured and its flag deposited in the British Admiralty, in London.

BENNINGTON FLAG (1777)

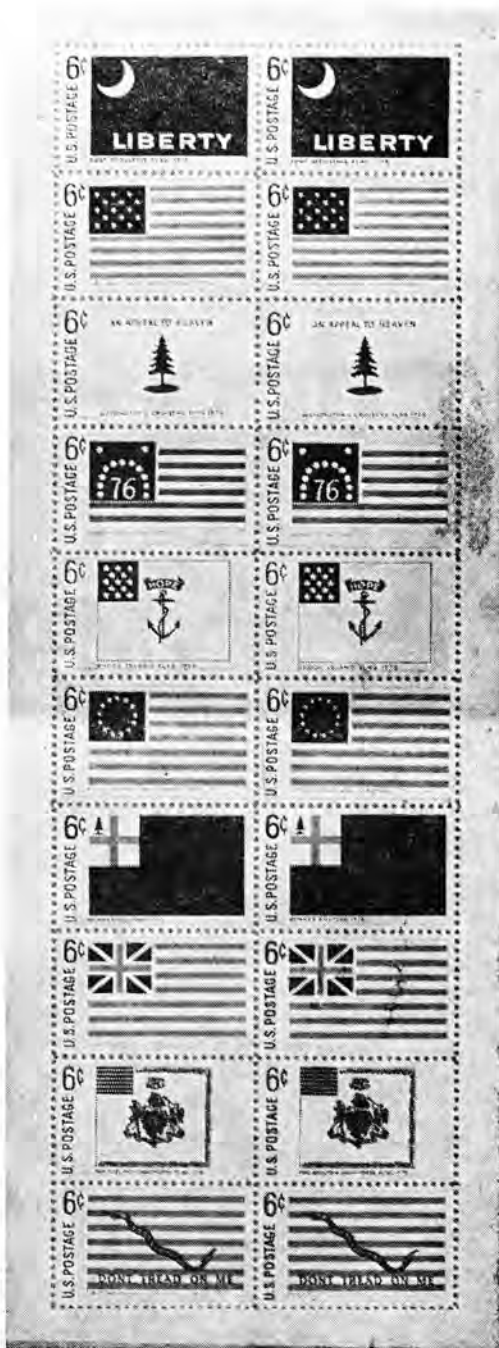
Many authorities believe this flag is the first stars and stripes to be carried by ground forces and to be raised in victory. This flag is preserved by the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association of Bennington, Vermont. It has seven white and six red stripes. In the field 11 stars form a semi-circle surrounding the figure "76". A star also appears in both upper corners of the field. Bennington militia carried the flag, possibly in the Battle of Bennington in which General John Stark defeated General Burgoyne's forces.

RHODE ISLAND FLAG (1775)

The First Rhode Island Regiment carried this flag in battles at Brandywine, Trenton and York-Town. In 1777, Colonel Christopher Greene and his 400 troops decisively defeated a force of 1,200 Hessians. The flag has 13 white stars in a canton of blue. A blue anchor set on white appears beneath the word HOPE. This flag is in the State House at Providence.

FIRST STARS AND STRIPES (1777)

The Continental Congress resolved on June 14th, 1777 that the flag of the United States "be made of 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the new union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." The fact that Congress did not stipulate how the stars were to be arranged resulted in varieties. In one of these the stars are arranged to form a circle.



Vertical rows Nos. 1 and 2 of an upper pane of sheets of Historic American Flags Stamps

SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO N.Z.S.M. TODAY

PACIFIC ISLANDS New Issues

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

20th May, 1968, New Definitive set.

FIJI.

May: New Definitive set.

June 5th: 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.

PITCAIRN HANDICRAFTS

As we go to press we are notified of a tentative date of issue—August 5th, 1968.

FIJI

New printing of the 3d value on both 1A and 1B plates.

PITCAIRN ISLANDS

Reprint ½c—new shade now emerald.

TOKELAU ISLAND

10c on ½d reprint. Centre light.

NAURU POSTAGE STAMPS

The recently issued provisional series of postage stamps will be augmented by a supplementary series of four values to be issued by the Republic on 15th May, 1968. As with the initial series, previous designs are being utilized overprinted "Republic of Nauru". As before, the stamps are being produced by the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne.

For the convenience of collectors and dealers, philatelic facilities associated with the sale of the new stamps and the lodging and servicing of first day covers are being arranged, on behalf of Nauru, by the Australian Post Office. The new stamps will be valid for postage only in and from Nauru.

Details are as follows:

Photogravure printed, sheets of 60. 4c and 7c, size 25 x 30 mm; 30 and 35c, size 30 x 25 mm. 4c Calophyllum (Iyo) flower; 7c Black Lizard; 30c Poison Nut Flower; 35c Reed Warbler (bird). (Value of full set is 76c Australian currency.)

TONGA—MORE DECIMAL OVERPRINTS

On the 6th April, 1968, Tonga Post Offices throughout the Kingdom placed on sale an Emergency Decimal Provisional series to coincide with the first introduction of the regular 1968 series of coins bearing the head of King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV. The overprinting in bold lettering and figure of the original 1953 definitives are as follows: (These will remain on sale until the new definitives arrive.)

Regular Postage Series:

1 seniti, 51,480 copies; 2 seniti, 39,480 copies; 3 seniti, 38,280 copies; 4 seniti, 30,000 copies; 5 seniti, 28,260 copies; 6 seniti, 21,120 copies; 7 seniti, 20,340 copies; 8 seniti, 23,520 copies; 9 seniti, 12,480 copies; 10 seniti, 13,560 copies; 20 seniti, 8,100 copies; T \$2 Pa'anga, 8,100 copies.

REGULAR AIRMAIL SERIES

11 seniti, 9,000 copies; 21 seniti, 9,000 copies; 23 seniti, 10,320 copies.

OFFICIAL AIRMAIL SERIES

40 seniti, 8,100 copies; 60 seniti, 8,100 copies; T \$1 Pa'anga, 8,100 copies; T \$2 Pa'anga, 8,100 copies.

NEW HEBRIDES

200th Anniversary, Louis Antoine De Bougainville's Voyage Around THE WORLD—1768.

The issue comprises six stamps (3 in English, and 3 in French,) and will be released on 23rd May, 1968.

LOUIS-ANTOINE BOUGAINVILLE. (1729-1811).

A French navigator born in Paris, Bougainville was a lawyer, a soldier, and then Secretary at the Embassy in London (where he published a treatise on Integral Calculus). After expeditions with Montcalm to "New France" (Canada) and the Falkland Islands, he became a colonel. After the Paris peace treaty he entered the Navy.

In 1765 he received instructions from Louis XV for a voyage around the World. His expedition left Brest on 5th December, 1766, and it consisted of the frigate *La Bouteuse* and the store ship *L'Etoile*. Bougainville sailed through the Magellan Straits in January, 1768, reached Tahiti in April the same year, and from 22nd to 27th May, 1768, passed through the New Hebrides.

He first sighted Maewo, to which he gave the name Dawn Islands ("Ile Aurore") and he christened Pentecote ("Pentecote") by the name of the festival of that day. He next saw Mera Lava which he called Star Peak ("Pic de l'Etoile") and on Aoba, he thought he saw some lepers, so he christened it Lepers Island ("Ile des Lepreux"). Bougainville next sailed between Santo and Malekula, and gave his name to this strait; the whole of the group was baptised the Great Cyclades Archipelego ("Archipel des Grandes Cyclades"). Where the New Hebrides are concerned, the interest of this voyage lay in showing the island nature of Quiros' discovery; the latter had in 1606, at Big Bay, thought he had discovered the mythical southern continent.

Bougainville's account of his voyage first appeared in book form in 1771. It met with great success and largely contributed to the spread of theories on the goodness and moral value of man in a state of nature. Botanical scholars named the bougainvillea in honour of this famous explorer.

EASTER

GUYANA
(25/3/68)



ST. LUCIA
(25/3/68)



ANGUILLA
New Definitive Issue



BRITISH SOLOMONS
(20/5/68)



BRITISH HONDURAS

20th Anniversary
Economic Commission of Latin America
(1/4/68)



EAST AFRICA MOUNTAINS

(12/2/68)



SPECIAL ARTICLE—The Equator
Page 29

NIGERIA

20th Anniversary
World Health Organisation
(7/4/68)



TWO ZAMBIA

Definitives
(16/1/68)



SPECIAL ARTICLE
Page 9

NEW HEBRIDES

Louis Bougainville's Voyage
(23/5/68)



NORFOLK ISLAND—SHIPS

Part 3 of Definitive Set
(18/3/68)



WESTERN SAMOA

South Pacific Commission
(22/4/68)



GRENADA: Churchill's Paintings
(23/3/68)



GUYANA: Cricket
(8/1/68)



JAMAICA: Constabulary
(28/11/67)



BRITISH COMMONWEALTH NEWS

FROM THE CROWN AGENTS

APRIL ISSUES

1st April

Abu Dhabi. International Human Rights Year. 35, 60, 150 fils.

Turks and Caicos Is. International Human Rights Year. 1d, 8d and 1/6.

People's Republic of Southern Yemen. Overprinting of Federation of South Arabia definitive issue with legend "People's Republic of Southern Yemen". 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 50, 65, 75, 100, 250 and 500 fils and 1 dinar.

7th April

Ceylon. 20th Anniversary of the World Health Organisation. 50c.

Nigeria. 20th Anniversary of the World Health Organisation. 4d and 1/6.

8th April

Lesotho: 20th Anniversary of the World Health Organisation. 2½ and 25 cents.

Botswana. International Human Rights Year. 3, 15 and 25 cents.

Malaysia. Installation of H.H. Yang di-Pertuan Besar, Negri Sembilan. 15 and 50 cents.

16th April

British Honduras. 20th Anniversary of Economic Commission for Latin America. 5, 10, 22 and 25 cents.

Seychelles. The 40, 45 and 75 cents definitive values surcharged with 30, 60 and 85 cents respectively.

24th April

Hong Kong. Pictorial issue. 10, 20, 40, 50 cents and \$1, \$1.30.

Malawi. Wild Flowers. 4d, 9d, 1/6, 3/- and Souvenir sheets.

29th April

Cyprus. Europa. 20, 30 and 150 mills.

OLYMPICS FEATURE IN COMING ISSUES

Antigua: Tourist, 1st July, 1968.

Bermuda: New constitution, 1st July, 1968. Olympic Games, 24th September, 1968.

B.I.O.T. New Definitives, 23rd October, 1968.

British Honduras: Human Rights, 1st June, 1968. New definitives, September, 1968.

British Virgin Is. Carnival, August, 1968.

Brunei: Birthday of the Sultan of Brunei, 15th July, 1968.

Cayman Is.: Human Rights, 3rd June, 1968.

Olympic Games, 2nd September, 1968.

Ceylon: Buddhist Temple Paintings, May, 1968.

East Africa: 20th Anniversary of W.H.O., 13th May, 1968. Olympic Games, October, 1968.

Gibraltar: 20th Anniversary of W.H.O., 17th June, 1968. Int. Human Rights, 26th August, 1968. Christmas, 1st November, 1968.

Guyana: 2nd Anniversary of Independence, 26th May, 1968. Savings Bonds, June, 1968. Olympic Games, September, 1968.

Lesotho: Rock Paintings, 1st August, 1968.

Malawi: Definitives, September, 1968.

Malta: International Human Rights, 2nd May, 1968. Int. Trade Fair, 1st June, 1968. Fourth Centenary of Grandmaster La Valettes death, 1st August, 1968.

Nigeria: 5th Anniversary of Independence, 1st October, 1968.

Swaziland: Independence, 6th September, 1968.

Zambia: International Human Rights, 23rd October, 1968. Trade Fair, 29th June, 1968.

British Honduras

20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA.

On the 1st April, 1968, British Honduras released a set of four stamps to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

Designed by Sylvia Goaman, the stamps have been printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd., in the photogravure process on C.A. block watermark paper in sheets of 50. The stamps feature orchids, which grow profusely in British Honduras. The Premier of British Honduras, the Hon. G. C. Price, who is an orchid enthusiast, assisted in the selection of the varieties shown.

Cyprus

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

On December 10th, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following this historic act, the Assembly called upon all member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinc-

tion based on the political status of countries or territories."

The twentieth anniversary of the adoption and proclamation of the Rights will be marked by the observance of the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights and the stamps illustrated in this magazine, are issued to commemorate this event.

Guyana

EASTER, 1968.

On the 25th March, 1968, Guyana released two special Easter stamps of common design, values 5c and 25c, featuring the Salvador Dali portrait of Christ on the Cross.

Permission to reproduce the portrait was given by the present owners, the Corporation of the City of Glasgow, Scotland.

The stamps have been printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd., in the photogravure process on unwatermarked paper in sheets of 50.

St. Lucia

EASTER, 1968.

On the 25th March, 1968, St. Lucia released four special Easter Stamps in two designs, the 10 and 25 cents in common design and the 15 and 35 cents in common design as illustrated. The stamps were printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd., in the photogravure process on C.A. block watermark paper in sheets of 50.

Easter, one of the most important events in the Christian liturgical calendar, perhaps even of greater significance than Christmas, is for the first time being commemorated by St. Lucia with a special issue of stamps, giving prominence to two famous paintings featuring two events in the Holy Week calendar.

The 10 and 25c values feature Raphael's Crucifixion and the 15 and 35c values, Titian's "Noli me Tangere" or the Visitation of Mary Magdalene to the Tomb, where she is not allowed to touch the risen body of her Saviour.

Both these paintings are in the National Gallery, London.

Guyana

The Minister of Communications in Guyana has decided that the future stamp issuing policy will be to release not more than six special issues a year, each of modest value and not likely to exceed \$1.20.

Malaysia

INSTALLATION OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN BESAR, NEGRI SEMBILAN.

Commemorative postage stamps of the 15 and 50 cents denominations were issued on the 8th April, 1968, to mark the installation of his Highness. The stamps have been printed by the Government Printing Bureau of Japan and were designed by Zakariah Noor; they are being printed in the photogravure process on unwatermarked paper in sheets of 50. The design depicts the portrait of His Highness, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar and the Negri Sembilan crest.

These stamps were placed on sale at all post offices in the territories of Malaysia for one day only, on the 8th April, 1968, but they will continue on sale at all post offices in the State of Negri Sembilan, at the Stamp Bureau at Federal House, Kuala Lumpur, and at the G.P.O.'s Penang, Johore, Bahru, Kota Kinabalu and Kuching for a period of three months from the date of issue.

His Highness Tuanku Ja-afar ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman was born in Kland, Selangor, on 19th July, 1922. He was educated at the Malay School Sri Menanti, Kuala Pilah from 1928 to 1933, after which he studied at the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, Perak until 1941. His Highness then went to the Raffles College, Singapore, but his studies were interrupted by the Second World War.

During the Japanese occupation, His Highness served in the Land Office, Seremban, and after the liberation, as an Assistant District Officer in Rambau, Negri Sembilan from 1946 till 1947. A year later he was transferred to the Selangor State Secretariat where he served for a few months before he proceeded to Nottingham University for further study and where he graduated in law, obtaining an LL.B degree. He also attended several courses overseas, after which he held various important Government posts both at home and abroad. Prior to his assignment overseas, His Highness was an Assistant District Officer Parit, Perak; Assistant State Secretary in Ipoh, Perak, and District Officer, Tampin.

The appointments he has held overseas include Malayan Attache in Washington, U.S.A.; First Secretary at the High Commission, London; Deputy High Commissioner, London; Malaysia's Am-

Nigeria

20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

Nigeria is commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the W.H.O. by an issue of stamps comprising two values which will be printed by the Nigerian Security Minting & Printing Company Ltd. Release was on 7th April, 1968.

Man's most important possession — often least considered till it fails—is good health. Without this, material wealth has little meaning. Unfortunately a large part of the world's population possesses neither health nor wealth, and the more affluent countries have been concerned for many years in raising the standards of health and hygiene in those areas where famine and disease are all too common.

In 1946, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations decided to convene an International Health Conference and appointed a preparatory Technical Committee and Agenda for the Conference, which was duly held in New York during June and July, and appointed a Constitution for a World Health Organisation. An Interim Health Commission was the direct outcome, and it began its far-reaching work on the tiny budget of \$300,000 voted to it by the Assembly.

W.H.O. is, of course, one of the agencies of the United Nations which enjoys the facility of its own postage stamps, and these have been issued from the Geneva Headquarters in various forms since 1948.

Nigeria has joined with many other Commonwealth countries in issuing a set of stamps, commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the World Health Organisation.

There are two values. The 4d denomination features the W.H.O. symbol alongside the silhouette of a man being immunised against smallpox and measles, symbolising a campaign against these two particular diseases. The 1/6 denomination features a mosquito with the words "Innoculation against Malaria". This was another massive campaign sponsored by W.H.O. throughout Africa.

bassador in the United Arab Republic, Cairo, and Malaysia's High Commissioner to Nigeria and Ghana. On 18th April, 1967, His Highness was elected the Yan di-Pertuan Besar, Negri Sembilan.

ABU BHABI AND DUBAI FEDERATION

Abu Dhabi and Dubai are to federate on March 30th into a nucleus around which it is hoped the remainder of the Arabian Gulf emirates will amalgamate in due time.

This development has aroused keen interest in the other Trucial States, and in Qatar and Bahrain, where closer political affiliations with neighbouring countries are regarded as essential because of Iranian territorial claims, and the pending withdrawal of British forces from the area.

The philatelic consequences could mirror the present situation in Malaysia, with a general definitive issue, and distinctive supplementary issues for each of the federated states.

GHANA'S COCOA RESEARCH ISSUE

A four-value issue was released on March 18th by Ghana to publicise the country's Cocoa Research Institute, which last year commemorated its Silver Jubilee: 2½ np., 4 np., 10 np. and 25 np. The designs illustrate cocoa pods and beans, the Ghanaian flag and aspects of the research work. All four values are printed in sheets of 12 stamps set around a reproduction of "Still Life with Fruit" a well known painting by Jan Paul Gillemans (1818-75). Printing is by Harrisons in multi-colour photogravure.

CHURCHILL PAINTINGS FROM GRENADA

Grenada issued on March 23rd, a set of stamps reproducing paintings by Sir Winston Churchill: 10c and 25c, ships at anchor; 12c, seascape; 15c and 35c, waterfront scene; 50c, Sir Winston at work on a seascape. Designed by G. L. Vasarhelyi, the stamps (all in horizontal format) have been printed by Harrisons in multi-colour photogravure in sheets of 50. The figures of value and decorative side-panels on each stamp are printed in gold.

Q.E. MALTA: IMPERF. FIND

A completely imperforate sheet of the current 3d Q.E.11 definitive stamp of Malta has just reached the market and was shown at Stampex.

The sheet was purchased at the G.P.O. Valletta, in 1966, when a large batch of these 3d stamps was bought in order to frank envelopes in connection with the Malta State Lottery. This is the first imperforate error to have come from Malta since 1893.—S.C.

ZAMBIA

BACKGROUND TO NEW DEFINITIVE ISSUE

The Republic of Zambia came into being as an independent State within the Commonwealth on October 24th, 1964—United Nations Day—just nine months after achieving internal self-government. It is the first British dependency to be granted Republican status immediately on attaining independence.

With its population approaching four million people of all races, Zambia is a vigorous young country pressing forward eagerly to the future. Economically, in spite of setbacks due to external influences, it is already one of the most stable countries in Africa and it is spreading this basic strength through forceful development plans. At the same time industrial and business interests throughout the world are being invited to stake a claim in this land of rich natural resources and share in the country's future.

Zambia is a big country, spreading over more than a quarter of a million square miles in a key position on the African sub-Continent. Bounded in the south by the great Zambezi River, Zambia cradles within its borders some of Africa's finest forests, most beautiful lakes and rivers and breathtaking waterfalls. The mightiest and most spectacular fall is, of course, the incomparable Victoria Falls where the Zambezi, over a mile wide at this point, plunges into a narrow gorge with a roar like thunder, sending up clouds of spray which are visible for miles around. Such a natural phenomenon has made the nearby town of Livingstone one of the world's most famous tourist centres.

The country is also renowned for its wealth of wild life, offering some of the best game-watching and hunting areas in the world.

Outstanding is the fabulous Luan-gwa Valley National Park where game-viewing on foot provides an attraction unique in Africa. Of the lake shore resorts, Kasaba Bay on Lake Tanganyika, set in the middle of a game reserve, is fast becoming one of Zambia's leading tourist at-

tractions, very popular with visitors from Europe.

The vast potential for development is stressed by the fact that the nation's wealth, at present, comes from a tiny corridor barely 90 miles long and 30 miles wide. This is the area known as the Copperbelt which is the second largest producer of copper in the Western world and whose riches yield more than £200-million annually.

Along a strip of land flanking the 500-mile railway line from Livingstone to the Copperbelt are the developed farms which support the bulk of the country's agricultural production, worth nearly £20-million a year. This area is being rapidly expanded into other areas by ambitious development plans.

The people of Zambia live and work together in an environment which varies from sophisticated modern cities and towns to country villages and rural simplicity. The capital, Lusaka, with a population of over 150,000, is only hours away from London and Europe by air and it is easily reached from the coast. A new airport, costing over £6-million, was opened recently at Lusaka with a runway of 13,000-feet to cater for the Jumbo jets of the future.

Tarred highways and busy transport routes connect the main commercial and industrial centres and their surroundings of neat suburban homes, well-stocked shops, modern theatres, cinemas and 625-line television. Here parks and gardens nestle in vast areas of unspoiled Africa; here are horse races and wild life, modern department stores and oil-lit farmsteads, a myriad of bicycles and the latest cars, high opportunity and low taxes, disc jockeys and tribal dances, chambers of commerce and the village council, traditional dishes and Canterbury lamb and, always sunshine.

Zambia has all the sharp contrasts of light and shadow which are so characteristic of this great continent. Besides the modern facilities and inexpensive living,

there are plentiful reserves of labour and in almost every sphere there is development and yet more development. The country is also fast becoming a major tourist centre and in order to exploit the many and varied natural attractions the National Tourist Bureau has extended its sphere of operations to Britain, Europe and the United States of America.

The need still exists for assistance in the form of both skills and capital, but Zambia's own financial strength does mean that foreign assistance can be planned and co-ordinated.

The designs of this new definitive issue (16th Jan., 1968) feature the activities mentioned above, combining old and new and thus portraying the country's character.

NEWS FROM MALAWI

The long-delayed "Flowers of Malawi" set in the usual four values are now promised for issue on April 24th. There will be a miniature sheet. A set of "Old Locomotives" is to be issued in July, again with a miniature sheet.

There is to be a complete range of new definitives in September. In the meantime, owing to the running down of stocks, the 2d and 1d are to be reprinted, the 2d value for the second time. The present reprint shows very little change except for a slightly darker colour.

One interesting point is that the recent Christmas issue, which sold very well, only appeared in sheets marked Ia and with perf. 14 x 14½. It would appear that there was also an issue with perf. 14, but this was not on sale in this country. Perhaps this was sheet Ib. On the issue as a whole, there were no worthwhile flaws and no missing colours, I am glad to say.—P.V. Turner (Blantyre).

SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO N.Z.S.M. TODAY

GREAT BRITAIN NEWS

BRIDGES FROM WHEN-TO 1965

British bridges, ranging from prehistoric times to 1965, are featured on the series of four pictorial stamps issued in Great Britain on April 29th, 1968.

The earliest example is the prehistoric clapperbridge known as Tarr Steps, on Exmoor, near Dulverton, Somerset. This is on the 4d purple, green, brown-black and gold, designed by Jeffrey Mathews, who also designed the 3d and 1/6d stamps issued by Britain in 1965 for the 20th Anniversary of the U.N.

The 9d green, brown, blue, red-brown, brown-black and gold pictures Aberfeldy Bridge, in Perthshire, built to the design of William Adam in 1733. The stamp design is by J. Andrew Restall, Fellow in Minuscule Design, whose previously successful designs were the 9d Battle of Britain issue of 1965 and the 1/3d and 1/6d of the British Technology series of 1966.

The Menai Straits suspension bridge is shown on the 1/6 blue; green, orange, black and gold; the stamp being designed by Leonard Rosoman, whose 1966 "Landscapes" set of four, were Britain's first non-commemorative pictorials. The Menai Straits bridge, built in 1826, is probably the best known work of Thomas Telford, the civil engineer born in 1757. The Bilingual inscription "Pont Menai-Menai Bridge" makes this the first British postage stamp to bear a Welsh inscription.

The present century is represented by a viaduct on the M4 motorway at the point where the Staines feeder-road joins the M4, just west of the Chiswick fly-over, where it begins. This is on the 1/9d green, mauve, black, yellow and gold. Built in 1965, this viaduct is almost two miles in length, and is the longest elevated road in Europe. The design is by Jeffrey Mathews.

Printing. The 4d and 1/9d stamps will be printed by sheet-fed rotary, and the 9d and 1/6d by sheet-fed flat-bed. Printing is by Harrison's in photogravure on unwatermarked paper. The entire printing will be phosphor-lined.

Special "Bridge" Cancellation

In addition to the usual first day of issue postmarks available at over 100 head post offices for philatelic postings, the Post Office provided

a pictorial cancellation for the Bridge stamps at Bridge, Canterbury, Kent, on April 29th.

UNIQUE PENNY BLACK FIND

Harmers to sell block on first day letter.

A unique 6th May, 1840-double letter-sheet franked with a block of ten (5 x 2) Penny Blacks has recently been discovered in Scotland and will be auctioned by H. R. Harmer Ltd. in a specialised sale of Great Britain and British Europeans on May 27th. It is expected to bring over £1,000.

The letter to James Burnie Esq., Kirkcudbright, was from a London firm of lawyers and the 10d rate is explained by the reference in the letter to legal documents enclosed.

Despite filing creases through the left hand pair and across the bottom row, the block, cancelled with the red Maltese Cross, has excellent margins on three sides, and is of fine appearance. The 6th May date-stamp on the reverse is a remarkably clear strike and the date is also in MS. at the bottom of the letter.

The unique piece was sent to Harmers by Mr. W. G. Morris of Kirkcudbright, the president of the local Philatelic Society, on behalf of the elderly owner to whom it was bequeathed some ten years ago by an Aunt.

It was exhibited by Harmers at the London "Stampex" Exhibition opening on March 22nd at the Central Hall, Westminster.

ISSUE DATE OF G.B. FOUR-IN-ONE SET ADVANCED TO MAY 29th.

Britain's four-anniversaries-in-one set, originally scheduled for issue on Saturday, June 1st, will now be released on May 29th. Reason for the change was given by a G.P.O. spokesman on February 28th as "operational and staffing difficulties".

Because of the four-in-one nature of the issue, the G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau is waiving its requirement that envelopes should bear the complete set to qualify for the first day of issue postmark. In consequence, envelopes bearing one or more stamps will be accepted for handstamping.

As appropriate alternatives to the "Omnibus" postmark of the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, the following towns with special relationship to the events being celebrated,

will use first day of issue handstamps.

Aldeburgh, Suffolk, birthplace of suffragette Dame Millicent Fawcett; Hendon, London N.W.4, the "spiritual" home of the R.A.F.; Manchester, where the T.U.C. was founded; and Whitby, Yorkshire, the home of Captain Cook for many years.

NO SHORTAGE OF POST OFFICE TOWER STAMPS

The 3d and 1/3d Post Office Tower stamps of Great Britain have been on sale at the G.P.O. Tower ever since it opened on May 19th, 1966. The stamps are supplied, in special envelopes, from machines in the base of the Tower, four 3d stamps dispensed for 1s, and a pair of 1/3d stamps for 2/6.

Post Office Presentation Packs are on sale at the Tower for 2/6d, but, for operational reasons, may contain either plain or phosphor stamps (but are not mixed in individual packs). At some future date, all the stamps in the packs will be phosphor.

The Post Office holds about two years' supply of these stamps at present, and there is no reason to believe that there will be a shortage.—S.C.

GIBBONS' FLOTATION VALUES COMPANY AT £1,600,000

When Stanley Gibbons went to the public April 4th with an offer of 950,000 5s shares, the offer was by tender with a minimum of 12/6d per share. The overall capital is 2,568,000 5s shares, which at a minimum of 12/6d makes the company worth at least £1,600,000.

The published details of the share offer disclose that the group turnover has risen from £326,000 in 1958 (with profits, before taxation, of £29,492) to £2,150,000 in 1967, profits before taxation for that year being £221,657.—S.C.

MAJOR G.B. PERF. ERROR

A sheet of the current 3d stamp of Great Britain has been found with the last vertical row of 20 completely imperf., the perforations on the sheet stopping at the 11th row, which is therefore, imperf. at the right-hand side.

The sheet was purchased at the Edgbaston, Birmingham Post Office at the beginning of January, and was acquired by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., who withheld news of its discovery to ensure its degree of rarity before offering it in blocks of 24 (12 x 2) at £325 per block.—S.C.

WORKS OF ART BY THE MILLION—GREAT BRITAIN

The new stamp policy has brought a revolution in stamp design. During 1966, nine special issues were sold, a total of 30 different stamp designs.

And with more designs needed every year, British artists are finding a new outlet for their talents. Stamps have become miniature works of art, perfectly and skilfully reproduced by the million.

The basic idea for a new stamp first finds its way to the Postal Services Department, G.P.O. headquarters, where all suggestions are handled for special issues—50 or more a year from outside organisations and members of the public.

The Postal Services Department compiles for the Postmaster-General, a full list of suggestions received, and a short list of events or items which might be worth marking by a special stamp issue is drawn up.



PRINTING FROM A TO Z

When the Postmaster General has made his decision on the stamp programme for the coming year, the Council of Industrial Design is asked for the names of suitable artists. The Council, who have a list of artists who specialise in a particular field, pick those they consider best suited for the job. The Post Office stipulates that of the three artists asked to submit designs for each issue, one should be a new artist. "The stamp designer must know about printing from A to Z", said Mr. David Gentleman, who has designed Winston Churchill, Battle of Britain, World Cup and Battle of Hastings stamps among others. "A design may look wonderful as a piece of art work, but it may well present problems too great for the printer to solve. A stamp design should have unity and simplicity and should not be crowded with symbolism or heraldry."

Artists have from four to six weeks to complete the job. They submit their design, four times larger than stamp size, and they are then sent to the Post Office Photographic Section.



CHALLENGE

The Section produces a black and white stamp size photograph of each design, and these, with the original art work, are sent to the Stamp Advisory Committee. The Committee, without knowing which design belongs to which artist, makes a first and second choice.

The chosen designs are sent to the printers who produce full-colour stamp essays. The Stamp Advisory Committee can now see what the design and colour look like when printed in stamp form, and can confirm, or amend the original recommendation.

The Postmaster General then writes to the Queen enclosing his recommended first and second choices. Sometimes the Queen agrees with the recommended choice, sometimes not. The agreed designs go back to the Printers. Either to Harrisons at High Wycombe, who print all the lower value stamps, or to Bradbury Wilkinson at New Malden, who print the stamps from 2/6d to £1.

The printers send proof sheets to the Post Office Supplies Department, whose job is to check the proofs, stamp by stamp under a magnifying glass, comparing them with the approved essays. If everything is in order, one sheet is sent to the printer.

Harrisons, at their factory at High Wycombe, print stamps for nearly every country in the world. But now they are finding the British stamps are providing them with their greatest ever challenge.

The strip of six Battle of Hastings stamps issued in October, was printed in a blend of nine colours.



9 COLOURS

It was the first time that Harrisons had ever used nine colours to print a stamp. Four basic colours—red, yellow, blue and black—are ample for normal full-colour printings.

When Harrisons receive the art work for a new issue, they must first determine how many printing colours are needed. Then they photograph the art work and master negatives are made, twice the size of the stamp.

Any re-touching is done, at this stage only, to the master negative. Each master negative is photographed up to 960 times by a special "step and repeat" camera which produces the images on a large glass sheet. Elaborate machinery, precisely lined to the timing of the camera shutter, moves the glass sheet between shots, producing neat rows of pictures of the stamp. These are known as multi-positives.

There is one glass sheet for each colour and the image on each sheet is transferred to a screened carbon tissue, and from the tissue to the copper printing cylinder.

Proofs are taken from the etched cylinders, and girls examine each stamp with a powerful magnifying glass. They mark the spots, showing faults in the etching.



91,500,000 RECESSES

Correcting the blemishes is painstaking work. For example, the bird stamps needed eight printing cylinders carrying a total of 91½ million recesses. Each tiny recess had to be perfectly etched and coincide exactly to give perfect colour reproduction.

But all this work would go for nothing if care were not taken with the paper. Like the guy ropes of a tent, paper stretches and contracts according to moisture content.

Consistency is maintained by an automatic humidity control and air conditioning plant. To print the bird stamps, 394½ miles of paper in reels 11¼ inches wide were used—12½ tons of stamps!

(Cont. Page 22)

PROGRAMME DILEMMA

Probably one of the most difficult operations of a small Philatelic Society Executive is to arrange a programme which will be of sufficient variety to hold the attention of its members throughout the year. This may not apply to Societies situated in the big cities, but in smaller communities it is a big problem as experience has shown. No doubt there are many reasons for this, but it would seem that this is due mainly to the fact that the greater majority of collectors in New Zealand chief interest lies in the issue of New Zealand stamps. That this should have been the position many years ago is understandable, when the country was really isolated, but in these days when anywhere in the world is only a matter of a few days flight away, it is hard to realise why such a parochial outlook should persist.



DULL AND DRAB?

Shortly after becoming a member of the local club, the question was raised at a meeting, why no interest was taken in the stamps of Great Britain, and the opinion generally expressed was that they were "dull, drab and uninteresting", yet quite considerable enthusiasm was shown over a talk on New Zealand full face "Queens". In all fairness, can it be said that the full face Queens can in any way rival the early issues of Great Britain's Queen Victoria stamps for varieties and production? Now, many of those who complained of drabness, state that present issues are "gaudy" and too many.



PICTORIAL INTEREST



HISTORICAL

Surely it is the wish of philatelists to widen the scope of collecting, thereby bringing fresh interest to the hobby, and how better can this be done than by taking an interest in another country. To those who have seen the stamps of France, West Germany, Canada, Switzerland, U.S.A. etc., will have noted their production, their art, their colouring and all that goes to make a stamp are there, and often the design will be of pictorial and/or historical interest. No reference is being made to the prolific issues of some of the new countries, certain European and South American countries, as it is obvious that so many of these issues are unwarranted, but in the named countries the stamps are used in considerable numbers for commercial purposes, which is after all, the main purpose for which stamps were instituted.



THEMATIC PHILATELY?

It is realised that Thematic collecting has boosted the sales of many issues, which lead to the question "Is Thematic collecting Philately?", but like the question "Mint versus Used?", it is an entirely different question.

Another point which springs to mind is disposal of a collection, the property of a moderate or average collector. If such a collection is composed of New Zealand stamps only, the seller will often be disappointed with the offer received. And why? Simply because the collection is composed mainly of stamps his counterpart (the moderate or average collector) already possesses.

No doubt what is said here will be contested in certain quarters, but if it brings forth constructive criticism, that is all to the good.

So to members of the smaller societies in particular, if you wish to lighten the task of your committee and you are not already doing so, take up another country apart from New Zealand, bring your collection to the notice of fellow members, who in many cases will follow suit.

W. W. VINSEN

(Works of Art.—Cont.)

Humidity control is needed for a different purpose in the paper gumming process—to prevent curling. Here the paper, previously specially coated to improve the quality of the printing surface, has liquid gum arabic applied.

Inks for stamps also present special problems. They must not contain any arsenic or other toxic matter, must remain fast to the paper when soaked and must not fade when exposed to strong light.

As well as the colours, the printers must also apply the invisible lines used for automatic facing. They use a special phosphor ink, developed by Post Office engineers and Harrisons together over the last five years.

After printing, the sheets of stamps are perforated to the standard Post Office specification.

Girls examine the finished sheets for flaws, flicking through hundreds of sheets at amazing speed.

Any flawed sheets are collected, counted and burned by security officials.

Some sheets are made up into reels for slot machines, others are cut out into books of stamps.

All the stamps are delivered to Post Office Supplies Department for distribution throughout the country.

(Reprinted with acknowledgements to COURIER, the G.P.O. staff newspaper).

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!

Twelve months ago a young man joined his local stamp society and has since enjoyed himself so much that for this issue we asked Mr. Rutherford to write a short article so that any reader who at present does not belong to a society will delay no longer in getting in touch with his local club.

JOINING A SOCIETY

The only way to secure the maximum pleasure from any activity, is to understand the fundamentals, be it stamps, swimming, or any other sport or hobby.

Each collector has his or her own way of collecting stamps and displaying them in their albums. Apart from my own albums in which I thought I had some good stamps, I tended to hoard away stamps in Plate blocks, and miniature sheets, which I thought would yield a good profit within a few years.

However after joining the local Philatelic Society I soon learned that there were many other styles of collecting. I also did not realise that there were so many tools to the trade, as a carpenter would say.

It wasn't long after my application for membership to join the society had been accepted, and I started to mix with a very interesting and social group of fellow collectors, that I started to understand talk of colour shifts, retouches, flaws, commemorative and definitive sets plus other stamp talk.

There are many benefits to be obtained from joining a Society such as—receiving Circuit Books, Latest information on new issues, and always the gaining of knowledge about stamp collecting.

Participation in competitions is one of the many channels through a society to learn how your mounting and annotations could be improved, or how the standard of your work compares with that of fellow members.

These are but a few of the many ways from which a member or officer of any society can reap pleasure and interest by participating fully, and wholeheartedly with other collectors in their society.

Since I have been a member I most certainly have profited in learning the arts of the trade, and shall never regret the fact that I decided to further my limited knowledge of collecting by joining in and participating.

So why not make enquiries and roll up to the next monthly meeting of your nearest Society, and see what you can gain by joining. I am sure you'll be welcomed and enjoy every moment as part of a wonderful hobby.

I. RUTHERFORD.

TARANAKI PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The April meeting on April 1st, opened with a Novice Section at 6.15 p.m. with 15 school children.

Miss M. Lea, organiser of the Novice Section, spoke about the proper use of catalogues from our Library, and also explained to them the forthcoming Home Journal Philatelic Camp at Wainuomata.

Many children showed interest in the Camp and in entering for the Stamp Exhibition at the Taranaki Winter Show in June, 1968.

The winner of the monthly competition was Roger Smith. The prize was kindly donated by Senior members of the Society.

The President opened the Society's annual stamp sale by welcoming new members, Mr. Weston, Waitara, and Mr. Zumbuhl, Mangatoki; and visitors Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher from Dannevirke.

Members were asked for support for the Philatelic Convention in Palmerston on the 29th June, as we are to be the Host Society.

A very good attendance was attracted by the large number of lots at the sale where were very keenly contested. The sales were ably handled by Mr. C. Lilley.

I. R. RUTHERFORD.

WELLINGTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY (INC.)

Change of Venues:—

As from the April Monthly General Meeting the Wellington Philatelic Society will be meeting in the Clubrooms at the new Y.W.C.A. Building, 1st floor 355 Upper Willis Street, at 8 p.m. There will be no alteration to the usual custom of holding meetings on the fourth Monday of each month except on Public Holidays when the meeting is held on the

following day (Tuesday) as will be the case in October.

The Programme for May and June:
27th May—"Carnival". A programme by Mr. J. M. Gregson (previously stationed in British West Indies): Slides, Singing, Dancing and a display.

24th June—"Marlborough Postmarks." Display and talk by Mr. G. C. Dodson.

The Wellington Society (Inc.) was originally founded as the Donbank Philatelic Society. "Donbank" was a young men's boarding establishment associated with the Y.M.C.A. in Wellington. We are indebted to our esteemed Life Member, Mr. A. D. Rowse (now of Auckland) for the following details of our Society's very beginnings:—

In 1921 Harold London, "Hoc" Dollimore, Stan Rinaldi, Ben Hayes, and Mr. Rowse used to have informal meetings to exchange stamps and to talk about the hobby. On their return from Christmas-New Year 1922 these gentlemen discovered that there were several other collectors at "Donbank" and it was suggested that a proper club be formed. Mr. Harold London was the prime mover.

Notices were posted on the Donbank notice board as well as at the Y.M.C.A. in Willis St., calling for an inaugural meeting on 19th March 1922. It was decided to form the Club and the first officers were appointed. Three members of the then N.Z. Philatelic Society (Messrs E. G. Pilcher, Geo. Harrison, and R. J. G. Collins) attended the inaugural meeting to give the new club the benefit of their experience (The N.Z. Philatelic Society of course is known today as the "Royal.") Tentative plans have been drawn up by the Wellington Philatelic Society to celebrate the 50th Anniversary in 1972, possibly with an International Philatelic Exhibition.

M. G. WING.

POVERTY BAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

April meeting: Mr. A. H. Scott. Philatelic aspects of a trip to Europe.

May: Mr. H. G. Nicholls will speak on later United Nations issues. Mr. B. J. Cowie will speak on the 1948 Allied Zones (Germany) Definitives.

M. G. TOMBLESON

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Airmail Society of New Zealand.

Hon. Secretary: J. C. Stapleton, P. O. Box 1646, Christchurch.

Meetings: First Wednesday each month*, 7.30 p.m., at St. Elmo Courts (Shell Oil (N.Z.) Social Room), corner Montreal and Hereford Streets.

Ashburton Stamp Club

Hon. Secretary: R. Walkham, 6 Cross Street, Ashburton.

Meetings: Fourth Wednesday each month at Repertory Theatre. Juniors—7 p.m.; Seniors—8 p.m.

Auckland Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: R. A. Dexter, P.O. Box 1932, Auckland, C.I.

Meetings: First and third Tuesday each month*, 8.00 p.m., in hall, 1st floor, Horticultural Society Headquarters Building, 57A Symonds Street, Auckland.

Christchurch Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. I. M. Hunt, P.O. Box 1891, Christchurch.

Meetings: Third Tuesday each month, 7.30 p.m. at Canterbury Manufacturers' Assn., 263 Cambridge Tce.

Dunedin Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: R. Skottowe Webb, P.O. Box 753, Dunedin.

Meetings: Fourth Thursday each month†, 7.45 p.m., at Kiwi Lounge, R.S.A. Building, Moray Place.

Hastings Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. D. O. Musson, P.O. Box 864, Hastings.

Meetings: Third Wednesday each month, 7.45 p.m. at Old Folks Assn. Rooms, Heretaunga St. East.

Hawke's Bay Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: Geo. S. Snadden, P.O. Box 475, Napier.

Meetings: First Wednesday each month*, 7.45 p.m., at Orange Lodge Hall, Carlyle Street.

Hutt Valley Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: J. H. Fredrickson, P.O. Box 657, Lower Hutt.

Meetings: First Tuesday each month* 7.30 p.m., Supper Room, Horticultural Hall, Laings Road, Lower Hutt.

Manawatu Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: W. R. Silcock, P.O. Box 206, Palmerston North.

Meetings: Second Wednesday each month*, 7.30 p.m., in the Lower Hall, Y.W.C.A., Church Street, Palmerston North.

Nelson Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: S. O. Merlo, P.O. Box 16, Nelson.

Meetings: First Tuesday each month*, 7.30 p.m., at Garrison Band Rooms near Trafalgar Park. Also in June, July and August on

third Tuesday and second Tuesday in January.

N.Z. Stamp Collectors' Club

Hon. Secretary: E. G. Whitley, P.O. Box 1805, Christchurch.

Meetings: Second Wednesday each month*, 7.30 p.m., in Canterbury Manufacturers' Assn rooms, 263 Cambridge Terrace, Christchurch.

Poverty Bay Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: P. T. Smith, P.O. Box 519, Gisborne.

Meetings: Second Wednesday each month, 7.30 p.m. at Pensioners Hall, Palmerston Road.

Postal History Society of N.Z.

Hon. Secretary: Rev. J. S. G. Cameron, P.O. Box 1605, Auckland.

Meetings: Second Wednesday each month*, in hall, Horticultural Society Headquarters, 57A Symonds Street, Auckland.

Rotorua Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: W. W. Vinson, P.O. Box 32, Rotorua.

Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesday each month, 7.30 p.m., at Rotorua Primary School, Arawa Street.

Royal Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: D. E. G. Naish, P.O. Box 1269, Wellington.

Meetings: Second Monday each month*, 7.45 p.m., at B.M.A. Council Room, 26 The Terrace.

Southland Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: Mr. P. Laing, P.O. Box 300 Invercargill.

Meetings: First Saturday each month*, 8.00 p.m., at Supper Room, Town Hall.

Taranaki Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: A. F. Watters, 5 Tor Street, New Plymouth.

Meetings: First Monday each month*, at 7.45 p.m. Red Cross Rooms, Devon Street West (next Road Services.)

Tauranga Stamp Club

Hon. Secretary: L. J. Toner, P.O. Box 2125, Tauranga South.

Meetings: First and third Tuesdays each month at Bethlehem.

Thames Valley Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: F. Jans, Brunton Cres. Thames.

Meetings: Second Wednesday each month in Thames.

Upper Hutt Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: Miss S. F. Yost, 8 Ngata Grove, Trentham.

Meetings: Third Monday each month, 8.00 p.m., in the Library, Heretaunga College, Ward St., Upper Hutt.

Timaru Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. F. W. Walker, P.O. Box 237, Timaru.

Meetings: Second Tuesday each month, 7.30 p.m., at Centennial Rooms, George Street.

Waikato Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: Miss M. Francis, P.O. Box 663 Hamilton.

Meetings: First and third Wednesday each month, 7.45 p.m., at Whitiara Bowling Club Pavilion (north end of Hamilton). No meetings December, January. First meeting of year third Wednesday of February.

Wanganui Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: Spencer Smith, 35 Jellicoe Street, Wanganui.

Meetings: Second Wednesday each month*, in United Friendly Societies' Board Room, Guyton Street, Wanganui.

Wellesley Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: P. A. Jillyman, P.O. Box 3623, Auckland, C.I.

Meetings: Second and fourth Monday each month (no meetings fourth Monday in December, second Monday in January, or Labour Day), 7.30 p.m. Building and Display Centre, Cnr. Victoria and Elliott Streets (Conference Room). Entrance Darby Street.

Wellington Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: M. G. Wing, P.O. Box 2146, Wellington.

Meetings: Fourth Monday each month† (October, fourth Tuesday), 8.00 p.m., at B.M.A. Council Room, 26 The Terrace.

Whakatane Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: A. D. Lonergan, P.O. Box 114, Whakatane.

Meetings: Second and fourth Thursdays, 8.00 p.m., each month, at Club rooms, McGarvey Road, Whakatane.

Whangarei Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. P. Holcroft, P.O. Box 463, Whangarei.

Meetings: First Tuesday each month*, 8.00 p.m., at Library Whangarei Intermediate School.

* Except January.

† Except December.

WAIKATO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

May 15th: Mr. K. Orange, Spain.
June 5th: Sale.

June 19th: Mr. J. Moore, Imperial Russia.

Meetings held at Whitiara-Bowling Club Pavilion, north end of Victoria Street, Hamilton, first and third Wednesdays, at 7.45 p.m.

DUNEDIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

May 23: Phunny Philately. Dr. N. R. Grimmet.

May 30: Stamp Bourse. Auction, Swap, Sell.

THIS AND THAT

from AUCKLAND

Collectors of Great Britain stamps might have heard of them, but many others have not, and references in the Philatelic Press have often been overlooked. I am talking about the now much advertised PRESENTATION PACKS of the British Post Office. Beginning with the Shakespeare issue, the British P.O. issued a special folder, containing the full set of stamps, accompanied by a suitable text relating to the subject matter on the stamps. This folder is being sold at a premium and has been issued for the following sets: Int. Geograph. Congress, Internat. Botanical Congr., Forth Bridge, Churchill, Parliament, Battle of Britain and P.O. Tower. The folders have so far included just the ordinary sets, not the phosphor lined ones. The presentation packs have somehow caught on against all expectations, and dealers stocks are now too low to satisfy the demand, with a resulting steep rise in prices. A new "pack" for all the phosphor-lined stamps issued in 1967 is being offered now by the Post Office for £1. It contains stamps with a face value of 17/1d, leaving the Post Office a profit of 2/11 to cover the costs of the folder and printing descriptions.

SHAREMARKET INVESTORS put a value of £4 million on the shares of Stanley Gibbons Ltd., when the shares of this firm were first put up for official listing at the London Stock Exchange. I believe Stanley Gibbons to be the only firm in the world, that has official Stock Exchange rating, and it is encouraging to find that ordinary non-collecting investors thought the shares worth 28/1 against the opening price of 20/-. Employees of Stanley Gibbons were invited to buy in before official listings started at the special price of 12/6 per share and those who availed themselves of the opportunity were able to more than double their money within a month.

GHANA has issued a miniature sheet in a new sheet for U.N. Day 1967, similar to that of the U.N.O. Min. sheet. Unfortunately the price does not show any similarity with the U.N.O. sheets. They will cost the collector something like \$3 and the four stamps of the set will cost even more, \$3.85. It looks as if Ghana, which has already lost many friends among philatelists, is trying hard to lose the few that it still has.

ONLY THREE MONTHS after federation with St. Christopher and Nevis, ANGUILLA broke away from it and proclaimed its independence. This event could, of course, not be overlooked by the Post Office, and so it came about that stamps, held by the Island Press Inc. of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, were overprinted with "Independent Anguilla". Official reports showed that no more than 3050 of the ½c values were overprinted and no more than 175 of the \$1 value, with 225 for the \$5 value. An enquirer, who wanted to order some of these stamps at that time, was told in writing that the stamps would only be sold over the counter. However, he consoled himself, since the reply envelope carried a 4c, a 15c and a 25c stamp of these overprints. These three stamps are now being offered by dealers for £32, while the whole set is being offered for not less than £1000!! The whole issue seems to me very doubtful and certainly cannot be compared with the overprints in aid of Tristan da Cunha, that were unofficially issued in St. Helena in 1961, and which also have been traded at fantastic prices. But, if you have a mere £1000 or \$2014 spare, buy this Anguilla set by all means. I could think of better stamps to buy for my album.

No matter what so called experts tell us, you will hardly convince a collector that a meter cancelled stamp is as good as a stamp with a round cancellation. However with ever increasing use of meter and ribbon cancellers in New Zealand and the rest of the world, the fine used stamp with round cancellation is harder and harder to find. It can often be very annoying, if one receives stamps with wavy lines from a dealer, who advertised them as fine used. But then, opinions among collectors differ even about round cancellations. Some like to see a faint full impression showing date and location of Post Office, others would rather have just the corner of the stamp touched, showing nothing of place of origin and date. You clearly cannot make everybody happy in this world.

E. HOFFMANN.

... from WELLINGTON

The strength of any organisation in the future lies in the juniors of today. The Wellington Philatelic Society recognises the validity of this contention and makes every endeavour to assist its junior members. Recent examples are as follows:—

1966 Philatelic Youth Camp — Christchurch — two junior members sponsored to the extent of £5 each.

1968 Philatelic Youth Camp—Wai-nuiomata — Several Committee members will give talks and displays—books, magazines and duplicates will be donated etc.

1968 Scots College Gala Day (30/3/68). Assistance given by committee member with stamp display etc. run by College Stamp Club.

1968. In August a Junior Members Night has been scheduled.

Wellington does not claim to be the only Society looking to the needs of Juniors and they acknowledge with pleasure that the Hutt Valley Philatelic Society has also been very active in this direction.

On this same theme, the writer of these notes was intrigued to see College boys on the Suburban Unit recently reading their library books. An enterprising local stamp dealer with a large school-age clientele had placed an advertisement on the loose paper cover in a prominent position.

With reference to the invitation at the beginning of Society Notes and News in the April Issue of N.Z. S.M., to non-members to join their local philatelic society or specialist group, also the mention of the same topic in Mr. Ray Herbison's article on the Federation in the same issue, I feel that this publicity is timely. On an average I visit the Post Office Philatelic Bureau in Courtenay Place about 3 or 4 times a week and non members of Societies seem to outnumber members by about ten to one.

Both the Royal and the Wellington Philatelic Societies who used to meet in the Medical Association of N.Z. Board Room have had to find

(Cont. Overleaf).

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.

NOTES OF INTEREST

CANADIAN PRINTING CHANGE

Technical difficulties encountered by the printing company in the operation of recently installed equipment has caused the Narwhal (April 10th) and International Hydrological Decade (May 8th) stamps of Canada to be produced by the four-colour lithographic process instead of in the one-colour steel and three-colour photogravure previously announced.—S.C.

LONDON NOTE

A visitor to the recent Stationery Trade exhibition was struck by the numerous "Backing Britain" Union Jack packs of Stationery and envelopes with corner sachets. The one that impressed him most with its effective design was inscribed—Made in West Germany.

THIS AND THAT

(Cont. from Page 25).

a new venue for future meetings. Arrangements have been made by both Societies to use the Club-rooms at the new Y.W.C.A. Building 355 Upper Willis St., (The Medical Association Board Room is being refurbished and may not be available for private letting in future).

The local stamp auctioneer in Petone has been conducting weekly evening sales for some time now and the response has been excellent. Usually there is a packed house with plenty of enjoyment for all. The auctioneer also has a kindly disposition towards youthful bidders, and it is good to see him knock down some bargains to them when the seniors are tardy with their bids.

Mr. C. M. McNaught may have returned to the capital as reported in the April notes but he is now overseas again this time in the Pacific Islands.

M. G. WING.

GREAT BRITAIN PRICE CHANGES BY STANLEY GIBBONS

1924 Wemby Pair 41/6 M., 47/6 U.

1925 Wemby Pair £6.15 M., £7.5 U., from £5 M. and £5.10 U.

1929 2½d U.P.U. Now 22/6 M. or U.

1939-48 George VI. High Values. 2/6 brown from 30/- M. to 45/- £1 Brown up to 85/- M., 40/- U. from 65/- M., 30/- U. £1 Silver Wedding M., from £4 to £5.

In the Q.E. Definitive issues there are many changes, especially in Tudor and St. Edward Crown Wmk. values and the graphites and graphite-phosphors.

Nearly all high value phosphor commemoratives from 1962 N.P.Y. to 1965 Commonwealth Arts are well up.

1962 N.P.Y. 1/3 and 1963 F.F.H. 1/3 both go up to 42/6 M., 30/- U.

Nature 4½d from 7/6 M or U., to 18/- M. and 14/- U.

1963 Lifeboat 1/6 to 42/6 M. and 37/6 U.

1965 Commonwealth Arts, 1/6 to 16/- M. and 13/- U.

SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE

Commemorative 2½c and 12½c stamps were issued on April 10th for the inauguration of Mr. J. J. Fouché as South Africa's second state President. The 2½c will be printed in double panes.

NEW RHODESIAN DUAL-CURRENCY VALUES

Two new dual-currency stamps, printed by Mardons at Salisbury, were issued in Rhodesia on March 11th; 1s 6d—15c, 2s—20c—Robertson Stamp Co., (Johannesburg).

These are printed on Chromo paper in cylinder 1A. The imprint runs beneath two stamps in the centre of the bottom margin; the cylinder number appears beneath the first stamp in the bottom left-hand corner, and the traffic light block is now incorporated in the cylinder block, the colours appearing on the left of the same stamp.—Salisbury Stamp Co., (Pvt.) Ltd.

AUSTRALIAN POSTAL STRIKE "STAMPS"

During the recent postal strike in Australia, the Melbourne firm of H. A. Bachrach organised an emergency mail service in co-operation with Save Time Services of Melbourne. The strike began with mail van drivers, thus preventing movement of mail from one post office to another, although letters posted in a locality for local delivery were handled normally for the first week of the strike.

The Bachrach operation, which began on January 18th, was the carrying of correctly franked mail (letters and parcels) from a central depot in Melbourne to various suburban post offices, where the letters were posted for local delivery. The scheme is reported to have had the verbal approval of the Postmaster-General in Melbourne.

Five adhesive labels were issued to cover the additional charges, as follows: 6c red, letters up to 1oz; 10c green, letters over 1oz; 25c slate, City Area parcels; 50c parcels within five miles of G.P.O.; \$1, parcels to other suburban areas.

Parcels were delivered direct to the addresses and did not pass through the post. All letters were posted at the suburban points, the labels being, in effect, "local" postage stamps for the carriage from the central depot to the suburban post office concerned. The Australasian Stamp Catalogue, published at Dubbo, N.S.W., is to list these in the section covering private and semi-official issues.

COSTA RICA

The forecast Boy Scout issue for the 50th Anniversary of the movement in Costa Rica was issued on March 15th; values and quantities are: 15c (1½ million), 25c (250,000), 50c (2 million) and 65c (100,000).—Adalberto Gorbitz (Turrialba).

BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

A considerable amount of philatelic mail addressed to Hadley Bay last winter will be delayed there for a year, as new supplies of stamps were left behind at Port Stanley when the relief ship—the Perla Dan—sailed for Hadley Bay during the Christmas Rush Informant: The Base Leader.

30 YEARS AGO

WILCOX SMITH SALES 1884

The N.Z.S.M. of 1937 published an interview with the principals of Wilcox Smith and Co. Commencing business in 1883, the firm had in 1884, sold New Zealand Full Face Queens at 5/- per 100, and Sydney Views (first issue N.S.W. Aust.) at 2/6 each to an English firm. Up to 1937, the firm had supplied many Royalties, including King George 5th, and the King of Egypt. They had sold many great rarities to Mr. Ferrari of Paris.

Germany at that time had prohibited all sending of any unused postage stamps through the mail, even for swapping transactions or the payment of small debts, unless a permit was received from the Reichsbank.

This issue also carried news of the tragic Hindenburg Zeppelin crash. From the 324 pounds of mail specially carried for collectors, only 137 covers were saved.

Prices August, 1937: An Auckland firm were advertising 1898 5/- Mt. Cook Stamps at 11/- each. The 2/- and 5/- First Sidefaces commanded prices of 20/- and 17/6 each respectively. Another advertiser was offering to buy the 1931 Red and Blue Boy Health sets at the princely sum of 1/9 per set, and the 6d Christchurch Exhibition at 5/- each.

In market notes, the writer advised that the 1931 Airmails were becoming harder to procure.

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.

DOLLARS FOR JAMAICA

Jamaicas House of Representatives has decided to decimalize the island's currency in the Autumn of 1969. The basic unit will be the Jamaican dollar, with a value equivalent to ten of the present shillings. The dollar will consist of 100 cents.

MOUNTING OF STAMPS

"I'd like at some time in the near future to mount my collection on blank album pages and provide an opportunity for self expression. What would be some of the basic requirements to do a good job of it?"

Without patience, stick-to-itiveness, imagination, good taste and a steady hand, one might just as well not start.

Patience is needed in gathering the write-up material, in finding a suitable pattern in which to lay out a single or set including the write-up, and the carefulness to attain an artistic balance. On a printed page you can affix all the stamps concerned in a matter of minutes.

Usually one does not just "put" the stamps and write-up on a blank page and "that's it". You have to have **stick-to-itiveness** to experiment and re-do a page when you spoil it or if it doesn't "look" right.

Imagination is that quality which will brand your pages as yours, through the development of a style. It doesn't mean **super-fancy arrangements** or garish hand decoration. It's a striving for artistic excellence through simplicity and a "little something different", either in material or presentation.

Good Taste is something which can be developed by most people who are willing to learn by keeping their ears and eyes open. This would include knowing about colours—those complimentary, clashing, contrasting—and avoiding unharmonious combinations. One does not have to affix stamps in the order of their rising or descending denominations. Try getting a pleasing arrangement of the colours ignoring the value sequence. Good Taste also has to do with the geometrical placement of the stamps or other philatelic material on the page.

One great visual aid is seeing the collections of others. Belonging to a stamp club helps here. See what others are doing; select ideas for your own use.

Above all, don't plunge into using blank pages without first having prepared yourself with information, and the development of the necessary mechanical and mental skills. Otherwise you'll fall flat on your face

Good luck collectors !!

(An extract from the Wellesley Newsletter).

STRIKING GOLD IN THE ATTIC

W. F. DEAKIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF STANLEY GIBBONS LTD., 1955

Why do people collect stamps? 'All those small pieces of paper', as someone who doesn't share my enthusiasm for them once put it to me, 'What do you see in them?' It's not an easy question to answer to anyone who hasn't been bitten by the bug. I suppose the simplest answer is that all of us collect something or other, if it's only junk in old drawers, or old shoes which really ought to have been thrown out years ago, or letters that everybody else has long forgotten! So why not stamps? They're interesting they lead you into all manner of unexpected backwaters of history; they take up little space, cause no mess; they become increasingly exciting the more you get to know about them; and, above all, they present a perpetual private challenge. For you can be an ardent collector all your life and still go on learning things new to you about them.

I mentioned 'letters that every one else has forgotten'. Anyone whose family has long been addicted to this habit may easily have some pleasant surprises in store for him. For old letters are often kept in old envelopes. And old envelopes have old stamps on them. One of the rarest stamps in the world came to light in this way. In British Guiana, in 1870, a schoolboy who had just started to collect stamps began rummaging for samples amongst a collection of old family letters. He found a fair number of old stamps of that colony. One of these turned out to be an 1856 1 cent black on magenta. Eight years later it was sold for £110. It is now worth something over £7000—at which price it was withdrawn from a public auction some years ago.

If that seems a long way away now there are plenty of more recent, and nearer, samples of valuable stamps turning up unexpectedly. Solicitors' offices often prove rich repositories. For it is often their professional responsibility to keep safely stored away correspondence of such weighty long-windedness, that nobody, not even solicitors, ever wants to look at

(Continued overleaf)

STRIKING GOLD IN THE ATTIC (Cont. from Page 27)

again unless they are actually forced to. Hitler found one good way of forcing them to do so by beginning the bombing of London. In almost countless offices solicitors' files were turned out for sorting into wanted and unwanted, so that what mattered could go somewhere else for safe keeping, and what didn't could go, patriotically, for the waste-paper drive.

As the process went on, valuable stamps began to emerge in hundreds. Finds worth £50 or £100 became fairly frequent. This can always happen. So anyone finding an old hoard of letters or documents is well advised to save intact and have them checked.

It is not just age, either, that the stamp collector covets. Nor is it just examples of rare stamps, like the 1847 'Post Office Mauritius', whose printing was hurried ahead so the Lady Gomm, the then Governor's wife, could use this, the first issue in any British colony, to send out invitations to a ball she was to hold, and of the original 1000 of which only some 26 now remain (worth £5000 each unused, or £3500 used). To the collector any sort of irregularity—or plain imperfection—can make a common stamp desirable.

I remember, myself, some eighteen years ago, explaining this to a man who walked into the firm I was then with in the Strand and handed over to me an old album he had collected when he had been a boy, fifty years or so back. He didn't think they were worth much. Nor were they, as I soon saw flipping through the pages. But on the last page of all, stuck down anyhow like all the rest and not even mounted, was a blue West Australian stamp of 1854. The remarkable thing about it was—the centre had somehow been printed upside down! That made it worth £300, then. Now it is worth nearly £1000.

Even more unexpected was the case of the old lady who rang me up out of the blue five years ago. She had hurried into a crowded post office to buy a half crown's worth of penny stamps for Christmas cards (she had the halfpennies already). When she got home with them she found she couldn't tear them apart for the the very good reason that the perforating machine had somehow missed the whole block. The sum paid for these was a very nice Christmas present.

If ever this happens to anyone reading this, don't, whatever you do, attempt to separate them. For

in singles they are almost valueless—since there's nothing to prove that they aren't ordinary stamps, printed slightly out of true and then cleverly trimmed. They only sell, to collectors, in pairs or blocks.

But stamp-collecting, as a hobby that absorbs the attention of thousands of men, women, and children all over the world, does not just base itself, of course, on the rarities and the freaks. Stamps have an interest, and often beauty, of their own, in nearly every individual case. For it was not many decades after stamps began that countries began to realize that the designs they chose had a definite connexion with national prestige, and even, to no little extent, could stimulate the interest of peoples of other countries in them. They could even act as miniature tourist publicity! Historical events and places, pictures of cities and landscapes, animals, birds, fishes, insects, crops, nowadays even industrial products, have all been faithfully, and artistically, reproduced on stamps.

Some schoolmasters have even been known to allege that pupils who collect stamps are more interested in both geography and history—and often more knowledgeable about both subjects—than those who do not. Certainly, many schools, both famous and faithfully local, make a point of encouraging stamp-collecting, under supervision of a master who forms a school philatelic society.

Between this, the assorted-packet type of collector, and the minority who specialize in expensive rarities, there is a middle level of stamp-collector who goes in for the not-so-common stamps of all kinds, worth anything from a few shillings to £50. And it is for the benefit—if that is the right word—of these collectors that certain dubious gentlemen operate their calling—if you can call it that! Forgers abound.

There are plenty of opportunities for them to make a quick profit on their own undoubted skill: opportunities arising almost entirely out of the prejudices of the collectors themselves. Is a slightly torn stamp worth only a peccadillo of its value untorn?—a forger will make a good living out of repairing torn ones. Is a certain face value, or a certain water-mark, capable of rendering a fairly common type of stamp valuable?—I can arrange a little thing like that, says the forger!

And often he does so with a skill which baffles all but the expert. Sometimes you can only say you

know that a stamp is wrong somehow, without being able to say how, or why. People who really know stamps get a sort of instinct about them. Their looks, their thickness, their feel in the fingers—all three can give them away.

There are some men who like working on stamps for their own sake. There is one real genius in Europe whose work has taken in real experts all over the world. 'My stamps are not forgeries, but faithful reproductions', he used to claim (he has retired now). So faithful were they, that if, by some wry chance, they passed into the hand of someone of a mind to do so, they could too easily be passed on as genuine. And were. Though their author certainly denied that that was any fault of his.

Forgers, mostly, don't go in for work like that. They prefer tricks, like removing the cancellation mark on a stamp which is far rarer unused than it is used. They can do this very well by various forms of highly skilled bleaching; well enough, indeed, to deceive even the expert's eye. But not well enough to deceive his ultraviolet inspection lamp, which reveals the actual physical impression of the cancelling stamp, or pen, itself. They are also experts at rebacking stamps taken, at some time, off an envelope without the aid of water, so that part of the stamp was torn away with the envelope. Here, feel will often reveal the trick, especially if the stamp is polished by the pressure used to bind on substitute backing.

These tricks are all part of the fascination of the hobby. Some stamps are unpredictable. Their value varies, and can often only be guessed at until the best buyer can be found. Which is why dealers often have to offer so much in cash, and the rest split fifty-fifty between owner and dealer when a buyer is found.

But they keep their value better than many other things you can invest in. In the Stock Exchange crash of the early thirties, one man I knew had put half his fortune into stamps. The other half he lost in the crash. But the stamps he was able to sell for enough cash to set his whole business on its feet again.

So if stamp-collecting appeals to you at all, don't dismiss it lightly. It's a hobby a person never tires of, nor can get too old for. There's only one golden rule for a beginner: if you suspect you have found something valuable, take it to a reputable dealer.

THE FROZEN EQUATOR

Reprinted from Stamp Collecting, the British weekly Philatelic newspaper.

It is surprising how many people imagine the whole of the African continent to be either burning desert or steaming jungle. They find it hard to believe that at, or quite near, the Equator, great mountains throw their heads into the sky and remain clad with ice and snow throughout the year.

Yet such is the case, and the phenomenon occurs in East Africa, comprising Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. On a high plateau where the three countries join, are the mountains of Kilimanjaro, Ruwenzori and Mount Kenya. These are the three giants and there are many lesser peaks.

The first Europeans to push inland and see these peaks were two German missionaries of the Church Missionary Society, Rebmann and Krapf. It was in 1848 that Rebmann first saw Kilimanjaro and, in the following year, his colleague, Krapf, had his first sight of Mount Kenya. Their reports of vast inland lakes were dismissed as unlikely, and it was not until 1856 that Burton and Speke reached the shores of Lake Tanganyika, and confirmed their reports. Later that year Speke reached the southern shores of Lake Victoria, and in 1862, discovered the source of the Nile at Ripon Falls.

Mount Kenya's 17,040ft. peak was scaled in 1899 (50 years after Krapf's first sighting) by H. J. Macinder, who, on the descent saw, not a burning desert or steaming jungle, but a lush, rolling emerald green plain (now known as Macinder Valley), that looked as though it could grow anything. It is on the slopes of Mount Kenya and the lesser peak of Mount Meru, that the famous Meru coffee is grown, held by many to be the world's best coffee (50 cent stamp—The set pictured in centre pages of this magazine.)

Tea, cotton, groundnuts and copra are the chief of many other crops grown under the benign influence of the mountains, while the surrounding country, split by rivers and vast lakes, has been for cen-

turies the happy hunting grounds of elephant, buffalo, antelope, eland, gazelle, zebra, lion and many lesser animals.

The mountains are nearly all extinct volcanoes of so long ago, that erosion has filled the craters. In some cases, Ruwenzori in particular, a ring of jagged peaks now surround a level valley where the crater once vomited forth. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak, at more than 19,000ft., is often hidden by cloud, and when its peak does appear above the cloud, it has been described as a "large lump of ice floating in the sky" (1s.30c stamp).

In sharp contrast to the "lump of ice" are Mount Kenya's 17,000ft. high jagged peaks, while the Ruwenzori peaks, at 15,000ft., are the legendary "Mountains of the Moon." Here, it is said, were the sacred fountains, alleged to be the source of the Nile. The landscape is certainly reminiscent of what we have come to believe as the inhospitable surface of the moon. Perhaps the first explorers of that planet will see a similar landscape and name it "The mountains of Ruwenzori" (2s.50c stamp).

NEW VENUE FOR 1969 STAMPEX

After 15 years at the Central Hall, Westminster, Stampex is to move to a new venue in 1969.

The Central Hall authorities are converting the lower ground floor into a cafeteria, and it will, therefore, no longer be available to Stampex. Without it, the exhibition cannot be staged there.

The Stampex Committee has therefore been examining other possible halls. The only other in Central London which will really accommodate Stampex properly, and provide it with adequate display space, is the New Hall of the Royal Horticultural Society, in Vincent Square, London S.W.1., just behind the Army and Navy Stores in Victoria Street. The hall is well laid out and easily accessible. It also has good bar and restaurant facilities and there is space for parking cars.

1969 Stampex will be held at the new venue during the first fortnight of March. This will not be the first philatelic association with the Royal Horticultural Hall, for the London International Stamp Exhibition of 1923 was held there under Royal patronage, King George V being its most distinguished visitor.

Unwatermarked Paper

Shortly to be replaced the 5s 10s and £1 Castle stamps of Great Britain have appeared on unwatermarked paper.

COMFORTING FORECAST is that Jersey and Guernsey will probably decide to put their stamp sales arrangements (the export side, that is) in the hands of the Crown Agents' Stamp Bureau. Let's face it: for a British Commonwealth territory with maximum sales centred on the U.K., the Crown Agents are best placed to do the job efficiently and economically. My guess is that if things are managed reasonably, the price developments of Gibraltar, Malta, and Cyprus since independence will be flickering candles compared to the flash of the values rocket taking off on the issues from the Channel Islands after April 1st, 1969. And the management is sufficiently experienced to make certain that quotations don't come down like the proverbial stick at the end of the operation.

The proximity of the Channel Islands to the French coast and their long Norman connections will also build French (and with it, Common Market) interest. Consider, after all, what influence Imperial Germany's budding philately had on Heligoland stamps back in the 1880's and 1890's and you can fortell what is going to happen to the Channel Islands. Philately—I need hardly add—has increased its scope since Victorias reign. I suggest that you obtain, at almost any price, back issues of Jersey, Guernsey etc., (including the 1940 fore-runners, the wartime issues and the Liberation sets of 1948) and sit tight.

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JUNIOR PAGE

TE IKA A MAUI

THE STORY OF A STAMP

by Herbert D. Mullan

(Simon Sam of Radio Taranaki) Radio stamp talks every second Sunday at 9.05 a.m. Next talks May 5th and 19th.

In 1923 the Government decided that postage on letters should be reduced to one penny. That had been the rate from 1st January 1901 but it had been increased during the war years and was now 1½d.



1923 MAP STAMP

To commemorate this return to universal penny post a new stamp was produced with a rather poor outline map of New Zealand. The South Island seems to have come adrift and we see Farewell Spit off the South Taranaki coast! The first outline of the New Zealand coast was made by an artist on one of Abel Tasman's ships in 1643. This has been reproduced on the 2d centennial of 1940, and covers only the west coast from the north cape area to about where Hokitika now stands.

Tasman named this discovery Staten Land but it was shortly changed to New Zealand after the Dutch province of that name.

The next visitor—and map maker—was an officer of the Royal Navy, Lieutenant James Cook, commander of H.M. Bark Endeavour. Cook's first sight of land was on the east coast near the site of the present city of Gisborne—a point of land still retaining the name of its youthful discoverer, Nicholas Young, in Young Nick's Head.

As far as history tells us Cook and his men were the first Europeans to speak to the Maori people and from them the visitors learned that the name of the northern island was Te Ika a Maui; on the map

Cook left for us it is shown as AEHEINOMOUWE which is as near as he could get to the Maori pronunciation. The same map shows the southern island as TOVYPOENAMMU, Land of Greenstone.

Aotearoa is the Maori name for New Zealand, though it seems at first to have been used for the North Island only. When the Maori people told Cook that the name of this land was The Fish of Maui, what did they mean by that: did they tell him the old old story of Maui tiki a Tauranga the mighty Polynesian who fished up this land from the depths of the ocean?

Some year or two ago we motored along the East Coast—around the East Cape. As we left Ruatoria early one morning we saw in the distance the sacred mountain Hikurangi (5753ft). As we stopped on the roadside to look over the rugged country to Hikurangi a Maori gentleman told us the story of Maui—the canoe of Maui resting on the top of the peak where it had lain since Maui came this way in the misty ages of the years. He told the story of Maui—how he was preserved from danger and lived to become the great benefactor of the race. He gave them fire; he introduced as Peter Buck tells us, the earliest daylight saving enactment in the Pacific; and many other wonders he did for them. How then did his canoe come to be resting on this lone mountain peak near Ruatoria.



FIRST MAP OF NEW ZEALAND



FIRST MAP OF COAST LINE

Maui's brother's were going fishing but they refused to take their younger brother with them. Not to be denied the pleasure of a pleasant day on the ocean Maui hid himself in the canoe and did not show himself until it was too late to return to land.

He told his brothers that he knew of a place where the fish were large and easily caught. They sailed on until Maui told them they could now fish. They caught many fine fish until at last Maui said he too would fish. He had no hook and no bait and they laughed him to scorn. By some strange coincidence Maui had brought with him the lower jaw bone of a famous ancestor, Murirangiwhenua; he struck himself sharply on his nose and smeared the blood on his bone which he used as a hook. The fish he caught was of such a size and fought so well that the canoe was all but capsized and the brothers were in fear of their lives until at last the great fish lay panting (does a fish pant) safely fastened to the canoe. Maui now told his brothers that they were on no account to meddle with the catch while he went home to bring the tohunga (priest) so that he might perform the necessary sacred rites over the catch. But they disobeyed him and began to cut pieces off the side of the great fish. The fish writhed and squirmed causing the mountains and valleys which today make up the greater part of the North Island—this fish of Maui.

The Maori people tell us that had the brothers waited the return of Maui with the tohunga all would have been well and the North Island would today have been comparatively level. Look at this 1d map stamp again and see the fish hook at the southernmost part of Hawke's Bay, the hacked tail in the north and the eyes in Lake Wairarapa and Port Nicholson. And here on the top of Hikurangi rests the sacred canoe of Maui—he who fished up this island from the ocean.

The pakeha historian and your school teachers will tell you that the North Island was once beneath the sea and that it arose by earth disturbances many ages ago. But the Maori story teller knew better when he told me the story of Maui and his mighty fish as we sat by the roadside that pleasant morning and looked across to the sacred Mount Hikurangi—which they tell us is the first place in the world to catch the rays of the rising sun.

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