

The world's smallest stamp is 8x9.55 mm

It was issued by Bolivar, Columbia in 1863 and is called called the Bolivar 10c green.

Just for comparison, in 1913-14 China issued a stamp that was 248 mm by 77 mm.



Big thinking The US "Persian rug" revenue stamp from the 1871 series of document revenue stamps at 50x100mm with complex engine turning designs in 3 colours was worth \$500 150 years ago!!!

Emirates Post issues World's Biggest Stamp honours 'Mother in of the Nation'

The world's biggest stamp was issued by Emirates Post Group in recognition of social and political contribution of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak.

The 6 sided stamp, bearing the logo 'Mother of the Nation', measures 1.17 x 1.34m.



Haven't got enough stamp collections yet ? there are so many themes you can collect using only Xmas issues



A postman spent a lifetime amassing one of the world's biggest stamp collections to fund his retirement only to pass away before he could sell them ...

With the help of his wife, daughter and grandchildren, Alan Roy spent 70 years painstakingly peeling off about 2 million stamps from envelopes. The industrial-scale operation involved the family spending hours soaking thousands of the envelopes in water and carefully lifting the stamps off. Mr. Roy then meticulously dried them in rows on kitchen cooling trays in the family's small flat, eventually filling up 40 packing crates reaching as high as a house. On average Mr. Roy knocked out 80 stamps per day or nearly 30,000 per year. There are about 1 million GB stamps, 500,000 Irish, 400,000 from the rest of the world and 50,000 Christmas stamps starting back 70 years.



Meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at Stoke School at 7:15pm sales table, 7:30 meeting

Club Programme

Tuesday: Dec 9th 2014: Auction and Social Evening (bring Mates)

Entry: Bring something for the club to auction

...then hello '015 - first meeting is Feb 10th

Display letter: December will host the letter C



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Free to Full Members

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The Story of the Nelson Post Office

The early settlers could expect letters only every few months; usually from 5 to 7 months old. The first Post Office was open from 10 to 11 a.m. for ordinary business, but if an overseas boat arrived and it was before 4 p.m. the office was opened. At first there was little mail apart from that brought by "Home" boats, an occasional boat from Wellington, and some mail from Sydney, but no overland mails.

In 1841 the New Zealand Company dealt with mail at their tent on what is now Church Hill, but, when emigrants began to arrive, the Governor appointed two officials to the Colony of Nelson – a Customs Officer, Stephen Carkeek, and Henry Augustus Thompson, who was Chief Magistrate, Postmaster, Protector of the Aborigines, etc. He erected a marquee on Church Hill to serve as headquarters but it was found to be inconvenient and, for a short time, postal business is said to have been conducted from Thompson's house, in what is now Church Lane. William Stanton was clerk and secretary to Thompson. He described the small house (which, still stands) and the purchase by the Government of what was the original *Examiner* Office, a prefabricated wooden building on Church Hill on what was found to be Government land. Stanton helped to move the Courthouse and the Post Office to the wooden building. By October 1843 the British Government had decreed that Post Offices be under the control of the Customs Dept. During these changes it seems the Post Office remained on Church Hill and it was not long before complaints were being made about the small premises. A direct boat from Sydney brought mail to be sent on to other centres, while there were some overland mails to be dealt with. In 1855 a move was made to a cottage in Hardy Street on Acre 172, for 12 years. In February 1856 tenders were called for a regular mail every Wednesday and Saturday between the Post Office and Richmond, Spring Grove, Wakefield, and Waimea West.

There was also to be mail twice a week to Motueka, once a week to Golden Bay and to Picton and the Wairau. In 1858, when there were a number of small offices receiving mail, Benjamin Walmsley was made Chief Postmaster for the district and the agitation for a "proper" post office was renewed. The Provincial Government thought it should be the responsibility of the General Government to build it and matters were finally brought to a head when the Government ruled that if the Provincial Council made no move they would buy land, build a Post Office and charge them for it! This led to the purchase of the only available section, the triangular piece of land in Bridge Street where a substantial building in Grecian style building was erected in record time and opened by the end of 1863. These buildings, altered and modified are still in use.

The telegraph came to Nelson in March 1866. For the first time in New Zealand news could travel more rapidly than by ship or by horse and rider. At this time it was a separate department from the Post Office and for the first few years it was housed in a "wretched little shed". In 1876 the Telegraph Office was moved to a "fine new building" in Trafalgar Street, and occupied the top floor of the wooden building between Hardy Street and the Council Chambers (demolished in 1978).

By 1881 the Post Office building was in need of alteration and repair and it was decided to move it once again, this time to the same building as the Telegraph Office. It was while the Post Office was on this site that it became the custom for people to gather at 6pm to watch the arrival of the Mail Coach from Blenheim. After the turn of the century it again became necessary to find a new site where a "really substantial" Post Office could be erected.

Again this was difficult and the choice unpopular. The corner of Trafalgar Street and Haven Road was too far out of town, it was swampy, right away from the business quarter, a miserable site, opposite untidy sections that had been market gardens, a post office there would make Nelson the laughing stock of the colony. However work went ahead and the handsome building was opened in March 1906 by the Postmaster General, Joseph Ward. In 1970, the building was demolished as an earthquake risk.



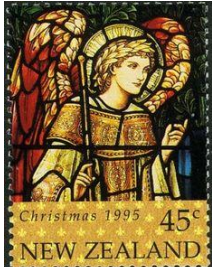
Bridge Street Post Office. – (N.P.M.)



Corner of Trafalgar Street and Haven Road 1906. – (N.P.M.)



Telegraph Office and Post Office. (Tyne Collection N.P.M.)





Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean, was linked to its original economic situation until 1993. Mainly ruled by a phosphate production commission, the island was part of the British Strait Settlements colony from 1901 to 1942, then of Singapore, from 1946 to 1958. Although it was placed under Australian control in 1958, the island retained an independent postal service until 1993 when Australia Post took control. The island issued its own stamps from 1958, 32 by the Phosphate Commission (1958- 1969), and 335 from the Christmas Is. Administration from 1969 to 1993. From March 1993 has Australia Post issued stamps, also valid in Australia, and vice versa.

Linked to the Straits Settlements 1901- 1958 Christmas Island was annexed by the United Kingdom in 1888 and exploited by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company from 1899. A post agency was opened in 1901, managed by the District Officer, the representative of the Straits Settlements colony. The agency sold stamps of this colony, figuring the British monarch. Mail travelled between Christmas Island and Singapore with cargo and migrant workers by the ships commanded by the company. Most of the small amount of mail was sent and received by the European population. During WWII, Japanese forces invaded the island. After the British forces liberated Christmas Island, BMA overprinted stamps of Malaya were in use in the island. The civil postal agency was reopened by the end of 1946 after which the local postal system followed the political changes in British Malaya. Administratively linked to Singapore in April 1946, Christmas Island received this colony's stamps in 1948, but the mail was transported by the Pan Malayan Postal Union. While Singapore prepared its accession to self-government, the UK decided to transfer Christmas Island administration to Australia, which had (along with NZ) controlled the phosphate company, (the British Phosphate Commission), from 1948. The Australian Christmas Island Act accepted the continuity of the Singapore legal system in the island, including the postal system. The Malayan dollar remained the currency because of the needs of South-East Asian workers. Consequently, the island's postal system was independent from Australia's and placed under the responsibility of the Christmas Island Phosphate Commission. For outgoing mail, specific postage stamps would be issued even if the Australian Department of Territories asked the Australian post office to produce them. Postal rates remained those of Singapore, placing this State inside the interior rate zone of Christmas Island. However, two modifications were made on the Singapore postal system in Christmas Island: the airmail postage rate to Australia was reduced and Australian cancelling stamps were sent in 1958 with the designation: "CHRISTMAS ISLAND / INDIAN OCEAN / AUST". The first philatelic issue was released on 15 October 1958. It was an adaptation of Australia's 1/7 stamp of March 1955, with a portrait of the Queen. The design was re-designed to include a black "CHRISTMAS ISLAND" with an encircled value in Malayan dollars overprint. The face values and part of the chosen colours were inspired by the last definitive stamps of Singapore in use in Christmas Island Stamps were printed in recess for the effigy and the word "Australia" and in typography for the overprint. The same royal effigy served for the registered postal stationery issued on 18 May 1959.

Under the Phosphate Commission's postal responsibility II 1963 – 1969

The first stamps were viewed as temporary, but it took 5 years to produce the next series. Under supervision of the Department of Territories, the Stamp Advisory Committee and representatives of the island, the Australian Post Office and Note Printing Branch's artists and printers worked on the project from photographs presenting its flora, fauna and mining industry. Finally, ten stamps were scheduled, these were issued on 28 Aug 1963. Two years later, the island participated in the omnibus issue for the ANZAC 50th anniversary. These two issues bore the designation "CHRISTMAS ISLAND" without any reference to Australia, eg. the new cancelling date stamps on which the "AUST" abbreviation disappeared. Nonetheless, on 6 May 1968, the monetary and postal systems of Christmas Island were brought closer to the Australian ones: the Malayan dollar was replaced by the Australian dollar and the Australian Post and Telegraphs Act came into force. Local adaptations remained possible, like the localisation in Western Australia of Christmas Island to calculate the postal rates, and the special low rate for letters to Malaysia and Singapore. A third definitive issue of 12 v was released on 6 May 1968 too, depicting Indian Ocean fish, but were not issued until 1968 to coincide with the monetary change. The designation "CHRISTMAS ISLAND / INDIAN OCEAN" appeared for the first time on these 1968 stamps and remained in use until 1993.

Under the local administration's responsibility III 1969 – 1993

On 1 Feb. 1969, postal responsibility on the island was transmitted by the Phosphate Commission to the Christmas Island Administration. It quickly created a philatelic office and in 1971 chose the Crown Agents for sales in the rest of the world. The stamp program was then decided locally, produced with the Agents' expertise and printed in Europe and Australia starting in the late 1980s. The philatelic program did not surpass 4 issues per year, major topics were local: fauna and flora, local history and daily life. Christmas stamps were issued from the 1970s, with some gaps around 1990: the seasonal issue was replaced by mini sheets announcing international philatelic exhibitions. Mail was moved by the ships exporting phosphate to Australia or the liners to Singapore. In June 1974, the mail transportation took advantage of the establishment of new regular air services between the island, Perth and Singapore.

Australian postal territory IV 1993- present

At the beginning of the 1990s, Australia decided to impose full Australian legislation to Christmas Island. In March 1993, Australia Post became the island's postal operator and responsible for its philatelic program. Christmas Island stamps issued after March 1993 are usable in Australia, and v.v. On 4 March 1993 the first five Australia Post stamps were issued with a new designation: "CHRISTMAS ISLAND / AUSTRALIA". The philatelic program topics remained limited. Australia Post promised 3 issues per year: a Christmas stamp that was issued every 2 years during the 2000s, a Chinese New Year stamp since 1995 (later a twelve stamp issue after 2002) and one issue on local life.



1901 Penny Universal NZ

Prior to 1901 the cost of sending a letter to the United Kingdom was fixed at 2 1/2d per 1/2 oz, and the rate of inland letters within New Zealand set at 2d. On 1 January 1901 Universal Penny Postage was introduced with the price for inland and overseas letters both being reduced to 1d. Reciprocal recognition of penny post throughout the British Empire, with the exception of Australia, was secured by the Government and although few foreign countries had been able to adopt a reciprocal penny rate, a large number agreed to deliver penny letters from New Zealand without any surcharge. *(Bring this back!!!!!!! Ed.)*

Female figure of 'Zealandia' representing New Zealand with a background image of a steamer (representing a mail boat) sailing past Mount Egmont (Taranaki).



Issue information

There was some concern at the time in Government circles that there would be a substantial fall in Post Office revenue, however postal volumes increased and by 1902 any losses had been more than made up. As well as being supplied in sheets of 240 stamps, booklets of stamps were also produced in addition to special coils for an experimental 'slot' stamp vending machine trialed at the General Post Office in Wellington. These were the first such experiments in the world. An extra 1/2d was charged on every stamp booklet sold to recover the cost of manufacturing the product. The stamp was in production through until 1908 when a revised surfaced-printed version was introduced. The initial plate was manufactured by Waterlow & Sons, later plates were also produced by Royle & Sons and Waterlow Bros. & Layton.



Technical information



Date of Issue: 1 January 1901
Designers: Guido Bach
Printers: Waterlow and Sons, England and Government Printing Office, NZ
Stamp Size: 20mm x 24mm
Sheet Size: 240 stamps per sheet; Booklets of 12, 24 and 30 stamps in panes of 6
Process: Recess printed - Intaglio
Perf. Gauge: Various combinations
Paper Type: Waterlow, unwatermarked and NZ and star watermark; Basted Mills, NZ and star watermark; Cowan, unwatermarked and NZ and star watermark



Tasmanian collector Cathie Chilcott got a call from police recently to say they had recovered her stolen stamp album which was taken in a burglary from her family home 33 years ago. As she had written her name in the front they were able to trace her and return the stamps.

NOTE FROM YOUR DEAR EDITOR a number of things in Microsoft went crazy this month and I can't seem to fix them so this edition looks a bit different. Sorry about this.



Champion of Automation

RJ Dickie invented, patented and marketed the world's first stamp vending machine. His machines were in use for 50 years, over 18,000 were used in Britain, with countless thousands more around the world.

Robert James Dickie was born in London on December 30, 1876. Twelve years later, he immigrated with his family to Wellington, New Zealand. He joined the staff of the Chief Post Office at Customs Street in 1891, and went to work in the foreign mail department.

Obsession with the Machine - It was Post Office policy at the time to shift staff around the various departments to give them a wider knowledge of the organisation. While Dickie was working at the front desk selling stamps, it occurred to him that tearing stamps from a large sheet by hand was a waste of time, especially since most of the stamps sold were for the same value. A machine, he thought, could do this job just as well as a person. It took 13 years before he started making plans for a prototype. Dickie sought the assistance of Wellington photographer and draughtsman, JH Brown, who made accurate drawings from his ideas. Later they enlisted engineer W Andrews to build the first model. They were the first patentees of the vending machine.

The First Model - Initially, the biggest hurdle they had to face was how to get stamps in a long roll of singles rather than in sheets. Dickie lobbied the Government printers to print stamps in a roll but they refused on the basis of cost. He solved the problem by buying sheets of stamps himself, cutting them into strips and building a spool mechanism that, in the inventor's own words was, 'pretty crude', but it worked. In June 1905 when the machine was ready Dickie triumphantly demonstrated his invention to the Post Office authorities. The new machine caused a stir when it was first seen. A feature in the Dominion from 1960 quoted their response to his invention: "The idea's all right", they admitted reluctantly, "but you've forgotten one thing. This machine, if placed outside for sale of stamps after hours, as you suggest, would contain quite a lot of money. The Post Office cannot risk public funds being left outside like that." According to the newspaper, Dickie returned home that evening 'crestfallen', but by the next day he had thought of a solution. He bought the stamps himself and took the money when the box was cleared. The machine was popular and, on the whole, successful, although it was withdrawn after two weeks and adjusted because some members of the public tried to 'cheat' the machine. During its first fortnight of use, it had sold 3,901 1d stamps.

Selling to the World - In 1906, Dickie sailed from Wellington to San Francisco on board the SS Sierra. He was working as a mail agent, but took his machine with him with hopes of securing the US patent. During the trip, a wealthy and business-savvy Tasmanian woman, named Georgine Kermode, approached Dickie and asked about the international rights for the machine outside the US and Commonwealth. They started a successful partnership with Dickie selling the machine in Britain, the US, Australia and New Zealand and Kermode owning the Continental rights. Together they

marketing ideas. In Dickie had one popular curiosity. wasn't until 1910 there were vending machines were made enough and the New Dickie's machine century. At the 1909



when Dickie was aged 33, it won the Gold Medal, Grand Prize and diploma **Against All-Comers**. Dickie returned to NZ and the Post Office where he stayed until his retirement aged 55. The rest of his working life was spent making improvements to the machine.

Loyal and Long Service to the Post Office - Dickie continued to tinker with mechanisms and machines, adjusting and re-adjusting prototypes and inventions; when he was interviewed in 1951, he was in the process of inventing a more efficient coin chute for public telephones. The vending machine that Dickie invented was eventually superseded in 1960. There was nothing wrong with the simple effective design or solid brass workings; merely the new machines took three-penny stamps while Dickie's machine was not adaptable to the new 3d coins. Stamp vending machines continued to be used in NZ until 1960, two years after Dickie's death in Wellington aged 82.



had a winning product and also came up with novel and effective 1907, in an attempt to gain British approval for the vending machines, machine set up in the lobby of the House of Commons where it was a Back in NZ although the Wellington machine proved successful, it that the Post Office decided to order more. By the time Dickie retired machines in use at almost all New Zealand Post Offices. At first the in England and imported into New Zealand, until the demand was great Zealand Government bought the New Zealand manufacturing rights. also made an impact in the US, a huge market even at the start of the

Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle,



Welcome: Alan welcomed 10 members at 7.30 and introduced his friend **Alan** and apologized for our guest speaker not being able to come this month. Leanne Edwards will be coming to a future meeting to show us her artistic skills.

Minutes

The October minutes were approved as appeared in the newsletter and passed.

Matters Arising:

The December meeting will include an auction.

There is no meeting in January.

Nik apologises for leaving out Stephen Grays entry to the 8 page competition.

Correspondence

In: none Out: none: Emails In: none E-Out: none

General Business: A committee meeting was held on Oct 26. The president reported the following points:

- We will have an Xmas tree entry this year
- Our finances are good. Yay !!!!!!!!
- The 4 page competition will be in May again and we will hold an open day in May as well.
- The Feb meeting will feature everyone talking about an album page from their stamp collection.
- The December meeting, as always, includes an invite to all long suffering spouses to come along and enjoy the festive supper and enjoy our last meeting of the year.

Items of interest:

- Klaus had part of his special commemorative album about Roland Hill, showing Samoa & Solomon Islands.
- Len had a letter with odd stamps from the USA, a South Georgia over print issue, and Chinese butterfly stamps.
- John Glaisyer brought some Washington Stamp Museum mementos.

Letter of the Month- S - Len Roberts - South Georgia; Robert Perrin - ships bells; Anne Ross - Sea life; Klaus Winter - Swaziland.

Winner: Len with South Georgia.

Special Display:

- Pam had 2 large (400 x 750mm) "stamps" painted on a ply board as paintings from a local artist as an alternative use for stamps.
- Allan had some chocolate boxes made up with damaged NZ stamps stuck all over, and some hand painted maxi cards.
- Nik revealed his plans to decorate his coffin with stamps.

Program: With no speaker, after supper the meeting was declared closed at 8:20pm.

Next meeting Dec 9

