

NELSON PHILATELIC SOCIETY (Inc)

2015 February

No. 371

New Zealand's latest: 75 Years - Connecting New Zealand and the World - issued Jan 14



2015 marks the 75th anniversary of New Zealand's national airline and this stamp issue explores the role Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL), National Airways Corporation (NAC) and Air New Zealand have played in connecting New Zealand and the world.



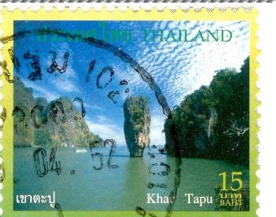
Also known as Year of the Ram or Goat, the sheep is the eighth animal in the Chinese lunar calendar, and is known to be gentle and calm. Stamp out 14 January 2015.

Your intrepid editor is pleased to announce that Richmond Library has acquired the 2014 edition of Stanley Gibbons all 6 volumes at a horrid £275 plus shipping !!!!

These are able to be taken home for 3 weeks at a cost of \$1.50 for each 3 week period. This can be extended for a further 3 weeks, you can take home all 6 if you want, but please folks, try not to be greedy we all need to use them.



Summertime & the beaching is easy



2015
International
Year of Soils



Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at Stoke School, sales table 7:15pm, meetings begin at 7:30

Club Programme: Tuesday: Feb 9th 2015

Bring a page or two from your stamp album and show us what you like to collect.

Display letter: **N** no naughty natters, nunky nothings, Nigerian Nightmares, nor *neuwe zeelanderz* necessarily needed now

Special display board: the good, the bad, and the ugly. Show us your worst, Ugliest, least display-worthy stamp.



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Free to Full Members

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chEatBAY Charmers



As an international stamp exchange forum, eBay is unsurpassed. However, the words "caveat emptor" are the most important ones that you can read. **Good** sellers change auction descriptions or remove items they are advised are fakes, fully and accurately describe their items, and unquestionably issue refunds. The **bad** sellers ignore emails, poorly describe or mis-describe items, and might refund buyers after numerous rounds of emails and threats. And lastly there are the **ugly** which is what this article is about.

1. Scam auctions Straight out listing something they don't have:

a) Selling "nothing", by using images, and sometimes also descriptions, for material they don't possess, and which are "borrowed" from the Internet or scanned from auction catalogues. These are usually very highly priced items offered for sale at a small % of their real value because the objective is to make a "quick buck" from dupes and run. Such sellers present no problem to the experienced collector, since most highly priced stamps are well documented both as to total number and location. *Warning signs: Seller has zero feedback. None of the bidders has feedback in excess of five. Refusal to use escrow. There is no mention of certification accompanying the item. Potential buyers signed onto eBay on the same day item appeared in listings. Seller does not live in same country as prospective buyer.*

b) Failure to deliver, by taking your money, then claim the non-existent item has been sent, and refuse to refund you. Fortunately, this little scam doesn't last very long.. *Warning signs: few, if any, repeat buyers, will only accept cash payment. A large % of negative and neutral feedbacks. Former buyers spell out the fact in feedback.*

2. Dodgy sellers of forgeries, forged overprints and fakes and the "grey area" where you get something, but what you get is not "as described".

a) Forgeries, most obvious is a forgery not described as such, including stamps, overprints, or a cancellation. Some stamp forgeries are highly collectible but most are worth nothing. With advances in technology, various tools to create forgeries have become more readily available. Colour laser-printed reproductions are increasingly offered on eBay, sometimes offered as proofs, sometimes as forgeries or replicas, but also sometimes as genuine, especially if the provenance of items is lost through resale. An experienced seller should be able to distinguish between the real thing and a forgery almost immediately or, if not, at least be able to tell from the provenance of the stamp, which is the more likely, however "clever" sellers are able to place forgeries for sale on eBay, describe them as such, but intimate that the stamp could possibly be the original. *Warning signs: Stamp sold "as is" with no returns. Selling price is higher than scrap paper but nowhere near the price of "the real thing". Seller will not answer email questions before auction terminates. CV of real stamp is given prominent position in listing. Private auction to prevent bidders from being notified of the mis-descriptions.*

b) Fake overprints, Overprinting often requires very little skill and a minimum of equipment using a rubber stamp or typewriter. Overprinting of stamps originally overprinted does require skill, since the size and shapes of the original letterings and their colours were often carefully recorded, as were the number of stamps that were overprinted but not so stamps which were never originally overprinted. New varieties frequently appear in the major catalogues, and who is to say that this overprint is a previously unrecorded example. These stamps are not worth the value of the same stamp in used condition. *Warning signs: Stamp is worth a lot more overprinted than as mint never used. All overprints from the same seller are on cheap stamps. Stamps from different countries have the same overprint. The overprint is on a used stamp. If the overprint overlies the cancel, it is a forgery.*

c) Fake cancellations, Though less demanding in terms of skill than forging stamps, forging good cancellations requires significant philatelic knowledge. To be successful, the forger needs to know the style and dates that a particular cancellation was in use and have the manual dexterity to affix it to a cover such that it would appear natural. It is not uncommon for the stamp and the envelope to have significant value in and of themselves, and the cancellation serves merely to enhance that value. *Warning signs: Item is sold "as is" with no returns. Selling price is higher than scrap paper but nowhere near the price of "the real thing". Seller will not answer email questions before auction terminates or will answer in general terms only. Catalogue value or rarity of genuine item is given prominent position in listing. Listed private auctions, to prevent bidders from being notified of the fake cancels.*

d) Dodgy sellers of altered stamps or stamps with hidden faults. These sellers promote altered stamps either outright as the real thing, or add an "as is" caveat so that items cannot be returned once they are found to be not as described. Stamps with hidden faults may also be sold by such sellers, using the same "as is" escape clause. *Warning signs: Stamp sold "as is" or "what you see is what you get" with no returns, Selling price is higher than the low catalogue value variety but nowhere near the price of "the real thing", Catalogue value of high value variety is given prominent position in listing, Seller will not answer email questions before auction terminates. Scans are too small to determine whether the stamp could be the purported variety.*

The seller may additionally put one or more of the following in the description to entice bidders: *I do not know much about stamps. This is from my grandfather's collection. The collection was found in an attic Estate collection.* The seller may just hint at the "rare" nature of the variety, using terms such as "type IV" or "first colour", rather than attributing a catalogue number directly to the stamp. More misdirection may come from the suggestion that "no scans have been manipulated". All of these misrepresentations add up to trying to make the bidder believe that the seller really doesn't know which items these are, and they may just be genuine. Make sure you also go through the seller's feedback and check the negatives and neutrals, as these will tell you the story of the problems faced by bidders who have learned that their items are not as described or have faults, and have had problems returning them.

4. Private auctions, This format was designed for items of an adult nature, where bidders may be embarrassed but also used legitimately for expensive items which require genuine bids, such as a charity auction where bidders are rich and/or famous. The private auction format has no place in the Stamps category, avoid sellers who run them. Sellers run private auctions solely to prevent concerned collectors from being able to contact bidders about mis-described or misrepresented items before the sale closes or after the sale ends. Sellers usually try this tactic after bidders who have been contacted refuse to go through with the transactions.

Warning signs: Item is sold "as is" with no returns. Selling price is higher than scrap paper but nowhere near the price of "the real thing". Seller will not answer email questions before auction terminates or will answer in general terms only. Catalogue value or rarity of genuine item is given prominent position in listing listed private auctions, to prevent bidders from being notified of the fake cancels.

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Conclusion The chances are high that at some point you will fall afoul of one of the types of sellers described above. Just chalk it down to experience and move on. Hopefully,



The winner is

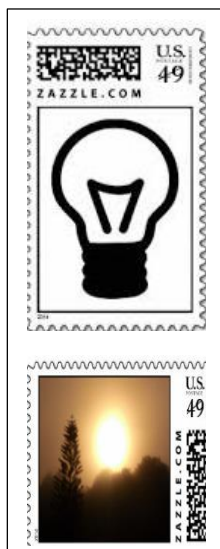


I know it was you, oh lucky Black Cat \$6 mill LOTTO luckster here's what you can afford now \$\$\$\$\$\$



**INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF LIGHT
2015**

Zazzle was founded in 1999 by Robert Beaver with sons Bobby and Jeff. It is an online retailer that allows users to upload images and create their own merchandise (clothing, posters, etc.), or buy merchandise created by other users, as well as use images from participating companies. Zazzle's proprietary technology enables individuals, professional artists, etc. to create and offer billions of unique products for customers worldwide. Users are allowed to open their own shop for free and set the profit they wish to make on each item (Royalty) **Zazzle.com** offers digital printing, and embroidered decoration on their retail apparel items, as well as other personalization techniques and items including stamps for all sorts of subjects.



Leaf postcard by Diana Gibbons

The European craze for collecting and sending postcards arrived in New Zealand in the early 1900s, reaching its peak in popularity just prior to the outbreak of WW I. Novelty postcards from Stewart Island made use of natural materials abundantly available on the island and were a unique souvenir. Since about 1900 it became customary for tourists visiting Paterson's Inlet Post Office to dispatch dried leaves of the shrub Rangiora as 'postcards'.

The practice of sending tree leaves through the postal system gave the New Zealand Post Office problems. A circular of 1 March 1906 stated: *'The transmission of tree-leaves posted loose and bearing written communications to the United Kingdom or to countries in transit through the United Kingdom is forbidden'*. In September 1912 it was again mentioned that *'Loose-tree-leaves are not to be accepted for transmission by post to any address'*. Despite these warnings postcard senders were not discouraged and, in February 1915, another memo stated: *'Loose tree-leaves are prohibited, and if posted are to be sent to the Dead Letter Office for disposal'*.



Stewart Island's first Post Office and store opened on Ulva Island in Paterson Inlet in 1867. There were no roads and a scattered population. When the monthly mail-boat arrived, a flag was hoisted on a hill top. Settlers would climb in their boats and row or sail out to collect their mail and stores.

Sticking together

In philately, **gum** is the substance applied to the back of a stamp to enable it to adhere to a letter or other mailed item. The term is generic, and applies both to traditional types such as *gum arabic* and to synthetic modern formulations.

History. Before postage stamps existed, people receiving letters would have to pay for them based on how many papers were in the envelope, and how far the letter had traveled. On the first GB stamps the gum was called *cement* and was made from a mixture of potato starch, wheat starch and acacia gum.

Types and application. Originally, gumming took place after printing and before perforation, usually because the paper had to be damp for printing to work well, but in modern times most stamp printing is done dry on pre-gummed paper. On early issues, gum was applied by hand, using a brush or roller, but in 1880 De La Rue came up with a machine gumming process using a printing press, and gum is now always applied by machine so it is spread uniformly. The greatest manufacturing problem of the gumming process is its tendency to make the stamps curl, due to the different reaction of paper and gum to varying moisture levels. In the most extreme cases, the stamp will spontaneously roll up into a small tube. On Swiss stamps of the 1930s, Courvoisier used a gum-breaking machine that pressed a pattern of small squares into the gum, resulting in so-called *grilled gum*. Another scheme has been to slice the gum with knives after it has been applied. In some cases the gum solves the problem itself by becoming "crackly" when it dries. The appearance of the gum varies with the type and method of application, and may range from nearly invisible to dark brown globs.

THE GUM on British stamps is composed of polyvinyl alcohol and dextrin. The dextrin is derived from starch (e.g. potato) and the vinyl alcohol is a synthetic derived from petroleum. The gum used on ready-stamped stationery items is a blend of polyvinyl acetate and dextrin with the exception of aerogrammes, where the gum is a blend of polyvinyl acetate and polyvinyl alcohol. Slimmers may be interested to know that a single standard postage stamp contains 5.9 calories and Special or Commemorative stamps 14.5 calories. To avoid offending any religious groups or vegetarians, no animal products are involved.

***** **Health risks.** A 1965 British study of the transmission of bacteria and viruses on gummed paper found that *"Although pathogenic bacteria and viruses were not isolated from sample envelopes obtained from various sources, the gums used in manufacture were found to exert a protective effect against death from desiccation on the bacteria and viruses which had been introduced into them"* and it was *"possible to demonstrate bacterial multiplication in the gum used for the manufacture of postage stamps."* The authors added the warning that *"postage stamps are often handled very carelessly when issued over the counter, and yet the purchaser will usually lick them without hesitation. The present work shows how readily bacteria can adhere to the surface of gummed paper which has been slightly moistened; and the finger is a suitable source both of moisture and of bacterial contamination."*

Self-adhesive stamps. In recent years, the use of self-adhesive stamps, otherwise known as **pressure-sensitive stamps**, has become widespread. This relatively new form of stamps has a release carrier backing that has the same pressure-adhesive backing as the stamp itself. Therefore, the stamps can be released easily from the backing and placed onto a postal envelope. The first use was by Sierra Leone in 1964, and the USA trialed it on a 1974 Christmas stamp; this was judged a failure and was not reintroduced until 1989. In the 1990s, the U.S. Post Office began transitioning to using self-adhesive stamps. By 1995, only 20% of the 35 billion stamps the Post Office produced every year were self-adhesive, yet by 2013 almost all U. S. stamps issued had become self-adhesive.

Philately. For collectors, gum is mostly a problem. In 1906, trouble had constantly arisen due to the gum on the under face of the stamps. There was an official notice that stated that stamps were going to be prepared with 'hard' gum, and were intended for use in the summer or humid season to prevent the premature sticking together of the stamps, or the sticking to the paraffin paper when in book form. It is rarely of use in differentiating between common and rare stamps, and being on the back of the stamp it is not usually visible.



reverse of an Allied Occupation of Germany stamp

Nevertheless, many collectors of unused stamps want copies that are *mint, never hinged* which means that the gum must be pristine and intact, and they will pay a premium for these. While not so much of a problem for modern issues, the traditional way of mounting stamps in an album was with the use of stamp hinges, and some experts claim that very few unused stamps from the 19th century have not been hinged at some point in their existence. This means that old unused stamps are inevitably under suspicion of having been regummed, and the detection of regummed stamps is an important part of philatelic expertisation. In 1913, a famous stamp called the Clermont steamer had an adhesive that was inscribed; "Hudson-Fulton Celebration". Stamps that had words inscribed on the adhesive were of even more interest to philatelists who made a special point of collecting picture stamps. However, it has always been desirable for the dedicated philatelist to maintain the integrity of the backing gum, and many collectors take great pains to remove any paper residue that has collected on the gum without removing the gum itself. Such stamps were considered more desirable than stamps without their backing gum. Stamps printed on the gummed side by mistake have become valuable varieties.



Quick
post



Your rural mail will be delivered if your mailbox:

- has a minimum size of 400mm deep x 270mm wide x 270mm high, with a flag fitted to indicate mail is awaiting collection.

- provides access by a front-opening, non-locking hinged door and fitted with a mail slot large enough for large magazines to be placed inside without bending or opening the door. The mail slot should be no less than 250mm x 30mm. Mail should drop out of sight to keep it secure.

- is located to allow easy, all-weather access and positioned so your Rural Post owner-driver can reach it without leaving their vehicle. The best location may not always be by your gate.

- it's important you comply with local bylaws, traffic regulations and phone/power cable requirements.

- has the street/road number of your property (if available) clearly printed on the box in numerals at least 25mm high.

- the recommended height of your mailbox mail slot is between 1m and 1.2m from the ground. This allows easy and safe access without the Rural Post owner-driver having to get out of their vehicle.



How much do you REALLY know about stamps?

Remember these?

Dahomey, Kambuchea, Zaire, Ryuku Islands.

What are these called now?

Aden, Basutoland, Bophustwana, Ciskei, British Honduras, Ceylon, Gilbert & Ellice Islands, New Hebrides, KUT, Nyasaland, Sarawak, South West Africa, Venda, Rhodesia, Tanganyika.

Do you know what these terms mean?

Alphabet stamps, CTO, combination cover, Mulready cover, Essay, Maltese cross, Duty plate, Key plate, Fugitive colours, Gutter margin, NVI stamps, Line perforation, Postal union colours, Se tenant stamps, Re entry, Tied covers

From early GB issues with letters in the corner of the stamp
Cancelled to order stamps on them
Introduced same time as penny blaks
Unadapted design for a Multiready design
First GB stamp cancel design
Has the names and values on it
Colours
Has the main design on it
Designed to fade if the cancellation marks are removed
Non value indicated
Cover with cancel stamps
2 or more stamps
Red green and blue
Joined together
on the stamp

Unusual stamp creations



Hologram NZ



Tonga - metal stamps



Grenada - embroidered stamp



Tonga - metal stamps

Welcome: Allan welcomed 13 members to this Christmas Meeting. He especially passed on the very best wishes from Rien and Trudy. Apologies also came from Steven Grey. Allan wished everyone the very best of the season and a safe and happy time.

Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read as published in the December Newsletter. *Paula/Nik*

Matters Arising:

- No 'e' on Ann please.
- Festival of Christmas tree entry did not happen.
- Open day is 16th or 23rd May 2015 to be checked and confirmed later.
- Meetings for July 12th and August 9th are moving to Sunday afternoon. 1.30 – 3.30pm.
- No January meeting.
- **First meeting February 10th please bring one page from an album or a collection and be prepared to talk about it (briefly). This means YOU**

Correspondence

In Newsletters x 2; Announcement of the Capital Stamp Show October 2015; Catalogues x 9

Out: xxxxxxxx

Emails In: xxxxxx

Out: xxxxxx

General Business:

- Circuit Books: Reminder that the circuit booklets are available for you to take to fill over the summer.

Items of interest: Calligraphy envelope – Nik also asked about the post marks. He then showed the stamps he is using to make Christmas cards. Christmas Carols - Ann – 'just because it's Christmas and because I like what I did with them'

Letter of the Month- C

Copra - Mike

Cayman Islands - Len

Canada Christmas - Ann

Cape of Good Hope - Robert

China Treaty Ports - John G (THE WINNER)

Special Display –

Program

A Dutch Auction and supper followed.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.10pm.

WARNING WARNING

the president **WILL NOT** be standing for re-election in June this year under any circls. - start thinking now or we go without!!!!!!!

Next meeting Feb 10th 2015

Who We Are.

The Society was formed in 1888 by a keen group of stamp collectors based in Wellington, New Zealand who formed "The Philatelic Society of New Zealand". Even from the very beginning their aims were based around research, publication of the results of their studies and the formation of a library of philatelic literature. The Royal prefix was granted in 1946, and since then our Patron has been the Governor-General of New Zealand. The Society aims to be the hub for the more advanced collectors of the stamps and postal history of New Zealand, as well as experienced collectors, researchers, writers, exhibitors and judges of all philatelic tastes within New Zealand. Nine of our members have signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. We are loosely affiliated with the other "Royals" around the world, namely London, Cape Town, Canada, Victoria, Sydney & Zimbabwe. We now have about 380 members, with 50% residing outside New Zealand. The Society also takes on some responsibility for the advancement of the hobby and relating the wishes of collectors to the stamp issuing authorities of the time. Our members are involved in local and international exhibitions at all levels, from exhibiting to judging, and we try to have a table at most shows.

What We Do.

The RPSNZ supports New Zealand Philately in a variety of ways:

We publish the quarterly journal [The New Zealand Stamp Collector](#).

We publish monographs, and the renowned ongoing series of handbooks *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*

We hold [monthly meetings](#) with interesting displays and speakers,

We maintain a significant [Library](#) and [Archive](#) for members to use

We have a close relationship with other bodies, including Federation, other local societies, the Alexander Turnbull Library and NZ Post

We hold bi-annual [postal bid sales](#) of material from members and estates

We have a world-recognised [Expert Committee](#) for providing opinions on New Zealand postal items & some Pacific Is. items.

Our [office](#) is manned for several hours a day, three days a week.

