

NELSON PHILATELIC SOCIETY (Inc)

2015 June - No. 12345

16TH MAY OPEN DAY - a nice quick efficient set up on Friday pm saw us ready and waiting on Saturday for the hordes. You will all be pleased to know there was a steady visitor stream with some potential new members for next year. The displays were well appreciated and the press turned up as well. We even got a visit from long-time-no-see members Edna and Rien. The ads proved to be really successful so it seems we made a good decision. See more photos on page 5.



Mike talks on his display at the annual 4-page exhibit night.

SUBS ARE DUE soon (again)



\$20 with a \$5 discount if paid on or before the August meeting.



Pay On-Line to account:
Nelson Philatelic Society
03 0751 0224822 00



On Sept 9th 2015 Queen Elizabeth will have been in the same job for 63.5yrs (from 6th Feb 1952) & passing great-great grandma Victoria who ruled from 20 June 1837 to 22 Jan 1901- must be due a gold watch by now !!!

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

Club Programme

Tuesday: June 9th - AGM

Display letter: VEEEEEEEE - verily view
Vast, very venerable, victorious, van-tastic
Varieties!

The JULY & AUG MEETs
are
JULY 12TH
and
AUG 9TH

BOTH AT
1.30PM
(Sunday)



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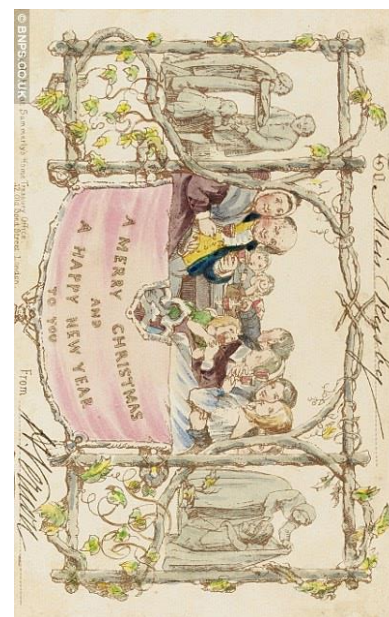
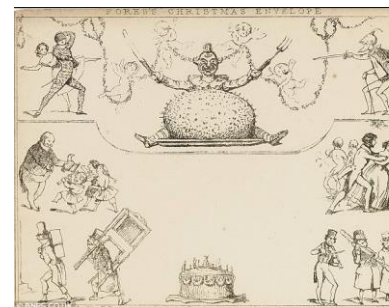
When the first ever greeting cards were launched in London in 1843, the response was anything but enthusiastic. Of the 1,000 originally printed, only a handful sold, probably because they cost a hefty one shilling, and it was many years before the tradition took a foothold. Three out of 18 cards produced 167 years ago, and still known to exist, are to be auctioned in New York and they are expected to fetch as much as £10,000 each. One of the cards shows a family feasting and drinking - with one child controversially being taught how to consume wine - while three other youngsters tuck in to a plum pudding flanked by depictions of charity, with the poor and dispossessed being helped out. A message in the centre of the card reads: 'A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You.' Another was sent to 'My very dear Father & Mother' from their 'Loving Son, Joe'.

The cards, which were hand coloured, were produced by Sir Henry Cole and published by Summerley's Home Treasury Office, 12, Old Bond Street, London. Although all-purpose cards had been available, and even Christmas envelopes existed, the Christmas card did not materialize until Henry Cole had the idea. He commissioned JC Horsley to create the festive image and inserted the greeting. A line at the top was for the recipient's name and another at the bottom was for the sender to sign.

Sir Henry Cole also modernised the postal system, managed the construction of the Albert Hall, and was a founder of the Victoria and Albert museum. Under the pseudonym Felix Summerly, he wrote children's books as well as being an inventor and designer. In his spare time, the life-long civil servant ran an art shop, and was devoted to his quest to 'beautify life'. JC Horsley contributed a fresco to the House of Lords and was rector at the Royal Academy, where he campaigned against the use of naked models. His design for the Cole's Christmas card was criticised for promoting drunkenness.

The cards were acquired by the late advertising entrepreneur Jock Elliott, who loved Christmas and spent years amassing almost anything to do with the festive season. He died in 2005 aged 84.

This 1843 card sent to a Miss Rusby by H. Vernon, features a Christmas scene including a child being given wine. Sotheby's expects it to fetch £10,000 at auction.



THE FIRST EVER CHRISTMAS CARDS

TECHNIQUE TO UNSTICK SELF-ADHESIVE STAMPS

1. Place several self-adhesive stamps on trimmed paper pieces into a ceramic or plastic container and submerge the stamps in lighter fluid. It will not dissolve regular water soluble stamp gum, but quickly softens and slightly dissolves self-adhesive gum without damage to the stamp.
2. Allow the stamps to soak in the fluid for 4-5 minutes. Using a pair of wide tipped tongs, carefully begin lifting a corner of the stamp from the paper. Continue by carefully sliding the tongs between the stamp and paper, the stamp should lift away fairly easily. If not, wait a little longer or add more fluid.
3. Remove the paper and place the stamp back in the fluid, back side facing up. Rub the back of the stamp to remove the gum residue with fingers or tongs. Place the stamp to the side to allow it to air dry. Repeat the process with the remaining stamps. It should get easier the longer the stamps soak. Add more fluid as necessary to keep the stamps covered.
4. Once the stamps are done, wash them with warm soap and water. You may then refill the tray with fluid and rewash the stamps to remove traces of any gum. Removing gum traces is important because trace amounts can stick and cause thins or tears later on. Allow the stamps to air dry again.

NOTE: Lighter fluid is highly flammable and a known carcinogen, it should be handled in a **well-ventilated** area as it evaporates quickly. Many collectors typically use lighter fluid to detect watermarks.



WWI: How did 12 million letters get there during World War One?

Up to 12 million letters a week were delivered to soldiers, many on the front line. How the General Post Office (GPO) maintained such an efficient postal service to soldiers and sailors during World War One is a story of remarkable ingenuity and amazing courage.

The power of post - Ever since the establishment of the Penny Post in 1840, the ability to communicate by letter reliably and cheaply had become a public expectation. For fighting soldiers it was essential to morale, and the British Army knew that. It considered delivering letters to the front as important as delivering rations and ammunition.

The Boer War of 1899 had established an expectation among soldiers that they would be able to stay in touch with those at home, but the logistics of doing so in WW1 provided a challenge on an unprecedented scale. The GPO was already a huge operation before war broke out in 1914, employing over 250,000 people, with revenue of £32m, making it the biggest economic enterprise in Britain, and the world's largest single employer of labour.

At its peak during the war, it was dealing with an extra 12 million letters and a million parcels being sent to soldiers each week. What characterised the GPO was the pride of staff in their ability to move millions of letters from anywhere to anywhere, safely and quickly. The men of the Royal Engineers (Postal Section), or REPS as it was universally known, was a part-time reserve unit in peacetime made up of GPO men who'd had a smattering of military training.

At the outbreak of war the unit almost immediately created a sorting office in London's Regent's Park - a gigantic wooden hut covering several acres. Called the Home Depot, it employed 2,500 staff, mainly women, to sort post. This operation was controlled by the GPO with questions in Parliament about forces mail answered by the Postmaster General rather than the War Minister.

Letters to the front - Outward mail was sorted by military unit. Each morning bosses would be informed by Whitehall of the latest movements of ships and battalions so each item of mail could be dispatched to the right place. On its outward journey to the Western Front, a fleet of 3-tonne army lorries would take the mail to Folkestone or Southampton, where ships would shuttle it across to Army Postal Service (APS) depots in Le Havre, Boulogne and Calais. Mail was taken from French ports by trains. Trains ran back and forth across Picardy under cover of darkness dropping some mail off along the route and unloading the rest at railheads where special REPS lorries took them to the "refilling points" for divisional supplies.



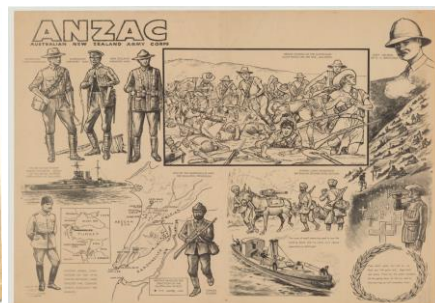
Letters from the front line - Regimental post orderlies would sort the mail at the roadside and carts would be wheeled to the front line to deliver it to individual soldiers. The objective was to hand out letters from home with the evening meal. It's said that no matter how tired and hungry the soldiers were, they always read the letter before eating the food.

Letters back were collected from the men from field post offices. These were equipped as comprehensively as a village sub-office, according to *Masters of the Post: The Authorized History of the Royal Mail* by Duncan Campbell Smith. Men could even buy War Savings Certificates there exactly as the population did back home.

The mail was date-stamped with the field postmark and sent to the base post office for its journey home. At the beginning of the war every letter home was opened and read by a junior officer. It was then opened and read again at the Home Depot to ensure that it contained no classified information about troop movements or casualties. Eventually men could opt for an "Honour Envelope" which meant the letter would only be read in London, saving the embarrassment of having their deeply personal endearments read by a censor who they knew.

At its peak this incredible operation delivered over 12 million letters a week and one million parcels. Wherever armed forces were engaged, REPS would follow, delivering to ships of the Royal Navy anywhere in the world, and to soldiers away from the fixed positions of the Western Front.

In Gallipoli more unopened letters from those killed in action were being passed back from the front than letters going forward. The GPO always ensured that returned letters didn't arrive before the official telegram telling the family that their son was dead. **There were 30,000 unopened letters every day.** Those postal workers who went to war were probably glad to be handling letters and parcels rather than rifles and bayonets, but their truly magnificent work was as important to the war effort as the weapons.



Price and product changes on 1 July 2015 On 1 July 2015, New Zealand Post will update the price of postage for sending some items within New Zealand and overseas. These price changes affect bulk mail services for some of our business customers. There will also be changes to PO Box annual fees, the rural delivery charge for items with tracking, and the prices of some FastPost and BoxLink priority services. The changes do not apply to the cost of Standard Post letters, which stays the same at 80c

Fast post:	Current	New postage from 1 July 2015
Large	\$2.10	\$2.20
Oversize	\$2.80	\$3.00

Box link:	Current	New postage from 1 July 2015
	\$1.30	\$1.40
	\$1.90	\$2.10

Domestic parcels - Rural delivery surcharge for Tracked, Courier and Courier & Signature parcels will increase from \$2.80 to \$3.20. **Registered Post service** will be withdrawn and will only remain available while current stocks last. The alternative service is the Courier & Signature service. Any stock of Registered Post products may continue to be used after 1 July 2015. **Standard compensation limit** for parcels sent within NZ using our Courier and Courier & Signature services will increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000 from 1 July 2015. You can still use existing postage included bags and tickets (that lists maximum compensation cover as \$1,500) after 1 July and the maximum compensation limit will automatically be the new amount of \$2,000.

International - Required postage will increase for International Express Courier service.

International Bulk Mail will increase by 4%.

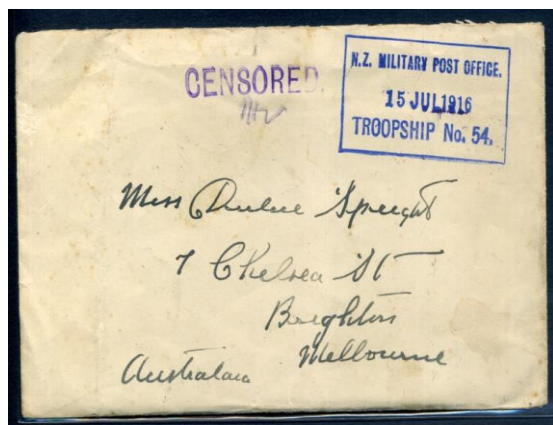
Additional compensation cover limit for International Air parcels over \$250 will increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The fee for additional compensation cover when using the International Air service will also increase from \$10 to \$12.50.

GoGlobal 10kg and 25kg box flat rate prices will be removed, postage pricing will now be based on the weight of the box using International Courier pricing (International Courier service is available to 46 countries).

International Tracked Air Satchel (IBPT) USA pricing will increase to align with Canada pricing. We will also standardize pricing to correctly align with International Air Satchel (IBP) parcel pricing and tracking costs.

WWI - our postal service

Galipoli, Palestine, the Somme, Paschendale, Verdun,



Post and Telegraph Corps badge



The Post and Telegraph (P&T) Department played a crucial role in New Zealanders' experience of the First World War. Men enlisted at their local post office, or received telegrams telling them they'd been called up. Training camps were awash with mail – Featherston had the fifth busiest post office in the country

Keeping in touch - In 1915 a typical New Zealander posted 112 letters & postcards and sent 12 telegrams. Only 6% of homes had telephones. Soldiers overseas were linked to their families by the military postal system, which aimed to deliver a morale-boosting package to each man every month. News of injury – or worse – was broken to loved ones by telegrams delivered by bicycle. The amount of money held by the Post Office Savings Bank also soared during the war. Many soldiers had their pay deposited directly in the POSB.

Nearly 3000 P&T employees signed up for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF); Some sorted mail in cramped dug-outs, laid telephone lines to the front, or operated bulky field wireless sets in places like Mesopotamia (Iraq). P&T men served throughout the NZEF – in the infantry, artillery and mounted rifles as well as administration positions

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/first-world-war-postal-service>

(Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 24-Feb-2015





Open Day – thanks to all those who helped set up and take down. Great displays.



Minutes of the Nelson Philatelic Society which met in the Woodstock Room
at the Stoke School - 14th May at 7:30pm

Welcome: Allan welcomed 11 members, one new member, and one potential new member to the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes were taken as read, as circulated in the Newsletter. Paula/Nik

Matters Arising: Open Day this weekend. Set up on Friday from 4pm onwards.

Correspondence:

In: Press releases: Fiji. **Newsletters:** Capital Stamp Show update no 2; Auckland Philatelic; emailed from Dunedin.

Catalogues: Kiwi Stamp Circuit; RPS catalogue; Auckland City Stamps.

Out: Sympathy card to Terrey Canton on the passing of his wife. Paula/Weldon

Emails In: nil **Out:** nil

General Business: Reminder that June is the Annual General Meeting. Allan and Paula are stepping down as they are at the end of their 3 year term. (as per last year's decision)

- Open Day 10-3pm – we need stamps for children and refreshments will be provided by Pam.
- Len Jury is talking on the NZ 1920 Victory Issue in Blenheim on Sunday 17th
- Circuit Books: Allan asked again for circuit book material

Competition – 4 page competition for the Lindup Trophy

Len R - unemployment relief, from 1930 to 1950

Mike P - Ostland, with Hitler portrait theme

Pam F - US hand painted covers from 1 artist

Mike C - Voortrekker monument, covers to celebrate 100 years since the move by the Boers into Transvaal in South Africa (1838)

Robert P - musical instruments

Kelvin T - trans-Tasman covers, 12-14 April 1934, by pilot Charles Owen

Mike Carter was the winner

Items of interest: Mike talked about an article about products for highlighting watermarks, instead of using lighter fluid. Not readily available in NZ but worth checking out on e-bay.

Two pages of photos from a website that showed products for an auction of envelopes with the values. Pam showed our ad for the open day.

Letter of the Month – W. Wurttemberg – Mike C; WWF: St Vincent Parrot – Barry; White's Point – Weldon – **Winner.** Women in Sport – Ann; Wallis and Futuna – Mike P; Western Samoa – Robert. The meeting was declared closed at 8.20pm.

Next meeting June 9th

Letter of month for June is V.

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NO WHITE HOUSE, AIRFORCE ONE or OVAL OFFICE BUTTTTTT... you can still be the boss...

remember our El Presidente is stepping down in June so nominate yourself or your elderly aunt, the kat, or pet rock, in fact anyone but me, your editor!

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STAMP TIP - *looking for anything on your theme, Type xxxx stamp image on GOOGLE and lots of pictures will arrive on your screen.*

Selling Your Stamps? (Part 2)

1. **Direct Sale: To a Dealer** - or Stamp Auction house buying on their own account. The merits of 'direct sale' are often under-estimated by collectors. Direct sale, intelligently handled, may yield considerable benefits. Auctions exist so that buyers compete to pay more for your stamps - true - but some collections simply are not suited to being sold via public auction. All you are doing is paying an auction to ensure that dealers compete to purchase your collection ... BUT - there are imaginative ways that you can obtain more from dealers without going to auction - and have the benefit of certainty too, whilst not waiting up to 6 months for your money ... The moral - know the strength of your collection and 'pick' the right people to participate in its purchase.

2. **Selling via Auction** - The most important thing to remember - is 'who buys complete stamp collections at auction?' Collectors want to buy stamps that are missing from their collections: Dealers want to buy complete collections to break out individual stamps/sets to supply to collectors. By breaking collections into individual parts dealers add value/profit. When you consign your collection as one lot to auction - 9 times out of 10, it is a dealer who will be buying it. Unless you are a collector that purchases collections, extract the stamps you need, and sell on the rest - you will be looking to buy specific stamps, sets or small 'runs'.

3. **So what is wrong with consigning stamps to auction?** Nothing, if it is the right kind of stamps. For example - you need to 'quiz' the auctioneer selected as to what they will actually going to do with your stamps. The point is that unless your collection includes valuable stamps/sets that the auctioneer agrees to extract and offer individually ... you are paying an enormous percentage of the value of your stamps for running an auction to sell to dealers. BUT, if your collection is one basically comprised of rarities - then an argument can be made for offering your collection individually. In this way you are going to reach collectors + if yours is a 'named' collection often there is a 'kudos' value/premium that stamps with provenance achieve. However - so large are the major auctions selling and buyer's premiums today - that even with collections of rarities - leading dealers can often offer to pay in excess of a fair auction estimate immediately - without risk, uncertainty of unsold lots, and immediately. The simple answer is get the auction to underwrite the minimum NET amount that they will guarantee you receive ... and then see by how much the 'trade' will improve upon this.