

# Nelson Philatelic Society (Inc)

2016 July - Issue 388

## JOIN THE NELSON STAMP CLUB



### Annual Joint Meeting with the Blenheim Stamp Club

The members of the Blenheim Stamp Club have invited us to join them on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September at their venue for this year's annual combined meeting. In accordance with tradition this will run from about 10am till about 3pm.

Hopefully we can send over a couple of cars full of members plus some items for display and discussion.

**Next Meeting : Sunday 14th August at 1.15 pm**

Earlier time allows members and visitors time to review the Sales Table, Set up Displays, etc, before the official meeting Starts at 1.30 pm.

### Meeting Dates

Aug 14th	Sunday	1.30 pm	Buy, Sell, Swap, Auction
Sept 13th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Allan - Israel
Sept 18th	Sunday	10.00 am	Meeting at Blenheim to about 3pm
Oct 11th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	8 Page Competition
Oct 15th	Saturday	9.00 am	Open Day to 3.30pm
Nov 8th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Robert—Display
Dec 13th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Xmas Supper & Auction

### This Issue

1. Meeting Dates
2. Collections Collide —Pokémon
3. Internet Users Want Accurate Stamp Descriptions.
4. What to do you do with Stamps with Foxing or Rust
5. Jokes Page
6. Famous Stamp Collectors/ New Postage Stamp to Benefit Para Wetland in Marlborough.
7. Office Bearers / Editor
8. Meeting Minutes



### Hey Kids !!

Why not go on a Pokémon Stamp Hunt. ??

In particular, the Pokémon anime stamps have turned out to be hot and collectible among Japan stamp lovers. Also a few select small countries, predominantly in Africa, had already featured their own Pokémon anime stamps.

Check Out Next Page



## Collections Collide—Pokemon

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pokémon, the Japanese cartoon and game series about catching and battling monsters. I've been a huge Pokémon fan for years! What does that have to do with philately? Well, stamp collecting and Pokémon might have more in common than you think.

Card collecting and stamp collecting are fairly similar hobbies. While Pokémon cards may not have quite the historical value of postage stamps, they certainly inspire a similar passion.

Japan has printed several postage stamps featuring the beloved characters. A set of the characters was issued in 2005; and additional Pikachu stamps were issued alongside other anime characters for the Philanippon 2011 stamp expo.

If we're going to compare stamp collecting with Pokémon card collecting, however, I want to draw attention to a series of souvenir sheets issued by several countries around 2001. What draws me to these stamps in particular is how similar they are to trading cards.

Each sheet includes one stamp and a large, decorative border that includes a description of the pokémon. The sheets themselves are slightly larger than one of the trading cards. The stamps are perforated, but each stamp is placed awkwardly in the middle of the sheet. If you wanted to separate the stamps for use, you'd have to rip through the entire sheet to get to it. Although they are valid for use, it is clear these stamps were intended to be collected, rather than used postally.

These card-like stamps were issued primarily by Caribbean island nations, although two were issued by West African countries, one issued by a South American country, and one issued by an Oceanian country. Many of these countries are known for issuing hundreds of stamps primarily for philatelic purposes. Their stamps feature numerous pop culture references and historical commemoratives to appeal to collectors of all subjects. These kinds of stamps are sometimes called "wallpaper" because they are large, plentiful, and relatively cheap.

These countries also issued sheets of six stamps, each featuring a different pokémon. I have chosen not to include them in this post, because they do not fit the "card-like" description. If you are interested in collecting Pokémon stamps, however, you might want to check these out as well!



Following is a list of the card-like stamps I was able to find, in case you'd like to catch 'em yourself:

- Horsea – Guyana (South America)
- Charizard – Antigua And Barbuda (Caribbean)
- Pikachu – Grenada/Carriacou & Petite Martinique (Caribbean)
- Jolteon – Grenada (Caribbean)
- Togipi – Grenada (Caribbean)
- Nidoking – Dominica (Caribbean)
- Meowth – St. Vincent & The Grenadines (Caribbean)
- Chinchou – Antigua & Barbuda (Caribbean)
- Farfetch'd – Micronesia (Oceania)
- Enti – Liberia (West Africa)
- Articuno – Gambia (West Africa)
- Lugia – Sierra Leone (West Africa)

### Seven of the card-like souvenir sheets from various countries

These "wallpaper" stamps might not be particularly special philatelic pieces, but it's nice sometimes to see two awesome collections come together.





## Internet Users Want Accurate Stamp Descriptions

Many of our club members buy and sell items through eBay or Trade-me and should read this extract from an article in 2 September edition of *Linn's Stamp News*.

A recent survey shows that approximately 10 percent of all stamps and covers listed on eBay are described inaccurately. The worst example occurred in 1999 when a Canadian carpet cleaner offered what he claimed was a rare United States 24c 'Inverted Jenny' error airmail stamp of 1918. It sold for \$35 000. He was not selling the stamp but an electronic image of it that he lifted from an auction house web site. Other users made the buyer aware of the scam before money changed hands. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police were asked to investigate, and fraud charges were later filed against the suspect.

On 12 August, images of two stamps taken from the Stanley Gibbons illustrated price list on its web site were used to sell other items on eBay. Both stamps are unused examples of early British stamps that Stanley Gibbons offered on its web site. A 1840 Penny Black from plate 1 was listed by Gibbons as ... *example lettered EA good clear margins and lovely fresh appearance* with a certificate of authenticity from the Royal Philatelic Society. Price: \$5070. Using the Gibbons image, the eBay seller described his item as 'Great Britain 1840 - 1d black - mint VF - low start - no reservations. Posted 7 August with a minimum bid of \$9.99, the item closed five days later at \$811, having attracted 15 bids from 12 bidders. Two of them withdrew their bids, one noting the Gibbons image and the other saying, 'there seems to be a serious problem with this item.' The second stamp was the 1880 2/- brown described by Gibbons in its price list as *very fine unused ... lettered RF, centred slightly high, nevertheless, an extremely fresh and presentable example of this rare Victorian issue, Brandon and Diena certificates*. Price: \$10 140. The eBay seller described the image as *1865 2s brown — mint*, adding 15 years to the age of the stamp. Like the Penny Black, it started at \$9.99 and drew a top bid of \$1526 in 24 bids from nine bidders, only one of whom retracted. *Linn's* queried the seller, asking why the Stanley Gibbons' images were used and whether the seller owned the actual stamps. No reply was received. Richard Purkis, a director of Gibbons, told *Linn's* that the seller had appropriated at least six images from [www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com)

The survey of eBay descriptions of stamps and covers was conducted 3 August by postal history dealer Richard Frajola, a high-profile presence on eBay's stamp chat board who goes by the username of 1covers. He is spearheading a petition to get eBay managers to recognize the problem of misleading and fraudulent descriptions and to do something about it.

Frajola said he believes 'the actual fraud rate, using a more standard definition of fraud, is probably significantly higher. Fraud is rampant in the collectible categories on eBay. Some of the frauds being committed, such as the sale of fakes and forgeries as genuine, cannot be determined using only high-tech solutions. Although it is sometimes not possible to determine if a listing is accurate, it is often easy to be certain that a listing is fraudulent. In the stamp category on eBay, which is the area I am most familiar with, I estimate the fraud rate at roughly 10 percent of all lots listed in the category.'

Frajola said eBay listed 121 000 lots 3 August in the stamp category. He sampled 100 lots in each of 10 main subcategories, and he estimates that 12 000 probably involved one of the following forms of fraud:

1. Forged stamps being offered as genuine stamps. He said these could - in many instances - be determined by examination of the electronic images, or scans.
2. Faked covers being offered as genuine. This involves covers with stamps substituted or missing, as well as postmarks faked. This is often evident by examining the scans.
3. Manipulated or repaired stamps and covers being offered without description of the manipulation. And major faults or repairs not mentioned in the description. This is often evident by examining the scans.
4. Material being offered 'as is' that is, or should be, known to be something other than as described. This includes material that has been manipulated by the seller or seller's agent directly, as well as misidentified stamps and rarities that should be accompanied by a certificate of authenticity before being offered. An example would be an obvious forgery, or a misidentified stamp or cover, offered 'as is' in an attempt to deceive, Frajola says.
5. The sale of postage stamps that are commonly referred to as illegal issues. These are simply labels that have the appearance of real postage stamps. They were never valid postage in any country that is a member of the Universal Postal Union. These so-called stamps often bear the names of fictional countries, including supposed Russian republics or sub republics using various spellings. They are produced to deceive collectors and many appeal to topical collectors because they depict musicians, actors or other notable celebrities. Frajola feels they should not be placed in the postage stamp category except as cinderellas or they should be clearly identified as being fantasy labels rather than postage stamps.

## WHAT DO YOU DO WITH STAMPS THAT HAVE FOXING OR RUST ?

Foxing, rust, staining... The arch nemesis of stamp collectors has about as many names as forms. Though I try to be very picky with what I include into my stamp albums, every once and awhile I notice that some stamp in my collection has developed the dreaded red brown spots. Usually I just go *sigh*, and bin the stamp... But sometimes it's not so easy, especially if the stamp in question is not so common. My question is, what do you do with stamps that show any signs of foxing / rust?

As an example, this 1958 United Kingdom stamp for the 6th British Empire and Commonwealth games. In my opinion stamps in condition as this belong to junk bin. But what if the damage / rust was just on tip of one or two perf tips?



### **Do You:**

- Throw them away? Or
- Include them in the collection, and not worry about it? Or,
- Include them in the collection (possibly isolated from other stamps, and try to come up with better copy? Or,
- Try to remove any signs of foxing/rust/staining with chemicals?
- Or do something else – what?
- My personal approach has varied quite a lot.

Way, way, way back I used to save stamps even if they had some very clear foxing if it didn't disrupt the design in any major way. I was a blue-eyed novice, and believed that the situation would stay "as is" till the end of days. Well, years taught me that foxing is an ongoing progress, and stamps with even the smallest brown spot can (but do not necessarily) look far worse in a decade or two.

These days I try to avoid foxed stamps like a plague. If the stamp (or sometimes entire collection/lot I receive) is of more susceptible, I usually dig out my UV and see what the stamps look like under it (blacklight makes any foxing, as well as mold etc. damages, to show up much more easily). I confess of being guilty of destroying hundreds, if not thousands of (common and cheap) foxed/rusted stamps each year. I see foxing as permanent physical damage (similar to say thins or creases), and as such it makes the stamps "not collectible" grade. The sooner I bin any such stamps, the better for all.

Of course it's not all that black & white... I do make exceptions, and place some rusted and "not so common" stamps in a separate container. So in a way I'm balancing between the first and third option on my list.

I'm very well aware that there are also lots of chemical methods / solutions (like Foxit, Chloramine-T, Hydrogen Peroxide etc) to stop the foxing process, and remove/ lessen the signs of foxing. Sometimes a simple quick bath in boiling hot water is enough to remove any signs of the staining... But this is where I draw the line. I acknowledge a lot of these methods are used to restore old books, paintings etc. without larger issues by conservation Specialists. But I'm not a specialist, and as such I have very little interest to storing and using chemicals in my home.

1930 Argentina, Revolution. Stained stamps like this can be cleaned with chemicals. But would you include such a cleaned item in your collection? And how would you proceed if trading / selling such a cleaned item? I confess that I'm also a "victim" of what I've been taught. In the stamp world, any kind of restoration is commonly deemed far more sinister than letting the item go bad by its natural route. But is it the right or wrong approach? I acknowledge that in the long run restoration is likely the only way to slow down the inevitable decay all paper products will suffer. And I know there are lots of other collectibles (such as fine art, old cars, comic books etc) where properly restored works are worth more than the tatty originals... So maybe the stamp world should change too?



# Jokes

A young collector asked an old advanced philatelist how he made his collection so advanced and valuable. The old guy had a look at the young nuisance and said, "Well, young man, it was in 1940 when I got a bunch of old letters from an uncle, I soaked off the stamps, dried them and put them in a presentation folder. I spent four days on this, after which I sold the stamps at my school for a cool 4 dollars. "The next morning, I invested those four dollars in some more stamps on paper. I spent the next four days on them and sold them afterwards for 6 dollars. I continued this system for a month, by the end of which I'd accumulated a fortune of 200 dollars. "Then my uncle died and left me his collection worth two million dollars..."

Larry's stamp collection was stolen, and Susan, his wife, called the insurance company:

"We had that collection insured for fifty thousand and I want my money".

Agent: "Whoa there just a minute, Susan. It doesn't work quite like that. We will ascertain the value of the collection and provide you with a similar one of comparable worth".

Susan, after a pause: "I'd like to cancel the policy on my husband..."

One day a man decided to go sit on his porch and watch the sun rise and set.

The next thing you know there is a blonde running to her mailbox.

She kept running back and forth from her house to the mailbox for a good ten minutes.

Finally the man got tired of wondering, and asked,

"Why do you keep running back and forth to the mailbox?"

The blonde replied, "My computer keeps saying I've got mail."



A woman took a package to the post office to mail and was told it would cost \$2.40 for fast delivery or \$1.30 for slower service.

"There is no hurry," she told the clerk,

"just so the package is delivered in my lifetime."

The postmaster glanced at her and said, "That will be \$2.40, please."





## Famous Stamp Collectors

The stamp collection assembled by French/Austrian aristocrat [Philipp von Ferrary](#) (1850–1917) at the beginning of the 20th century is widely considered the most complete stamp collection ever formed (or likely to be formed). It included, for example, all of the rare stamps described above that had been issued by 1917. However, as Ferrary was an Austrian citizen, the collection was broken up and sold by the French government after the First World War, as war reparations.

A close rival was [Thomas Tapling](#) (1855 – 1891), whose [Tapling Collection](#) was donated to the [British Museum](#).

Several European monarchs were keen stamp collectors, including [King George V](#) of the United Kingdom and King [Carol II of Romania](#). King George V possessed one of the most valuable stamp collections in the world and became President of the [Royal Philatelic Society](#). His collection was passed on to [Queen Elizabeth II](#) who, while not a serious philatelist, has a collection of British and Commonwealth first day covers which she started in 1952.

The 32nd President of the United States of America, [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was a stamp collector, he designed several American commemorative stamps during his term.

Late in life [Ayn Rand](#) renewed her childhood interest in stamps and became an enthusiastic collector.

Several entertainment and sport personalities have been known to be collectors.

[Freddie Mercury](#), lead singer of the band [Queen](#), collected stamps as a child. His childhood stamp album is in the collection of the [British Postal Museum & Archive](#).

[John Lennon](#) of [The Beatles](#) was a childhood stamp collector. His stamp album is held by the [National Postal Museum](#).

### New Cinderella Stamp to Benefit Para Wetland in Marlborough

A Marlborough wetland will benefit from the sales of a new Cinderella stamp from Fish & Game.

The stamp is due to be released on Tuesday to mark World Wetlands Day, with sales going towards conservation work at wetlands around the country such as Para Wetland in Marlborough.

Fish & Game chief executive Bryce Johnson said the stamp was part of their Game Bird Habitat Stamp programme, which was set up to raise funds for projects aimed at protecting and enhancing wetlands.

Para Wetland, which lies alongside State Highway 1 between Blenheim and Picton, was New Zealand's largest remaining lowland wetland and was largely owned by Fish & Game, Johnson said.

The stamp featured a painting of grey duck by Whangarei artist Sandra Whyte.

Funds from game bird hunting licences and other related Fish & Game products also went towards conservation work at wetlands.

Hunters paid \$2 towards wildlife habitat conservation with every game licence they bought. In return, they received a habitat stamp on their licence, Johnson said.

"Wetlands are vital for wildlife because they provide valuable habitat for native species. The general public can buy the stamps and other products too.

"I urge them to buy a habitat stamp because every dollar helps preserve wetlands and establish new areas for birds to shelter and breed."

- The Marlborough Express



## CLUB OFFICE BEARERS 2016-2017

<u>Patron</u>	<u>Rien Van der Wouden</u>	<u>548 6269</u>
<u>President</u>	<u>Robert Perrin</u>	<u>538 0378</u>
<u>Past President</u>	<u>Allan Smellie</u>	<u>547 1140</u>
<u>Vice President</u>	<u>John Glaisyer</u>	<u>546 8534</u>
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Allan Smellie</u>	<u>547 1140</u>
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Mike Carter</u>	<u>547 7516</u>
<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Robin Ashley (Pam Frahm)</u>	<u>544 3116</u>
<u>Librarian</u>	<u>John Glaisyer</u>	<u>546 8534</u>
<u>Committee</u>	<u>Len Roberts</u>	<u>547 7516</u>
	<u>Kelvin Trower</u>	<u>544 7743</u>
	<u>Pam Frahm</u>	<u>5444005</u>
	<u>Sue Smart</u>	<u>545 2287</u>
	<u>Robin Ashley</u>	<u>544 3116</u>

### Message From the Editor

I have decided to try and make the newsletter as interesting as possible, but need input of what members would like to add.

Had no feedback forthcoming so far....

I would like everyone to email me a little information about what your are collecting interests are, with a couple of photos of favourite pages. If a computer is not available hand written is ok.

Few suggestions of mine are

A Stamp Buy, Sell, Wanted and Exchange Page.

List of members and their collecting interests.

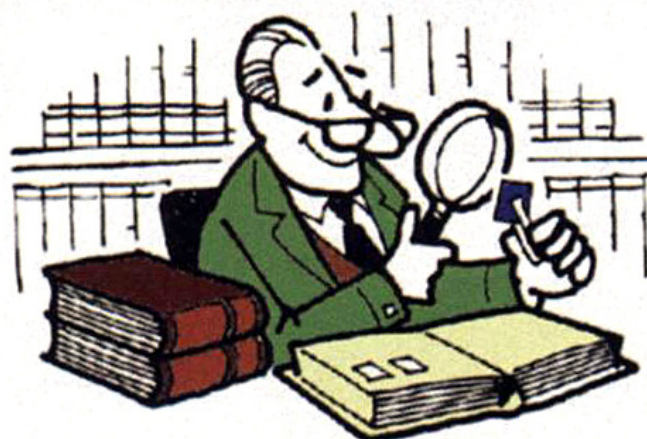
A crossword, if someone has time to make one.

Items of interest, members collections.

My email is

Robin.ashley1951@gmail.com.

Cheers Robin



## July Meeting Minutes 2016

Minutes of the July Meeting of the Nelson Philatelic Society held in the Woodstock Room of the Stoke Primary School on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016, at 1.30pm.

The meeting was constituted

**Welcome:** President Robert welcomed all members with a special welcome to Edna Matheson and Jim Bonnington as well as some members of the Postal History Society, our guest speaker Rob Packer and associate, and 1 visitor, Paul Henare

**Mitchener Cup:** Following our usual practice of "Stamps first", the 3 entries based on the letter "J" were introduced:

**Ann** "Jewellery"

**Sue** "Jamaica"

**Robert** "Jubilee"

After a "show of hands" vote, the winner was declared to be **Ann**.

**Items of Interest:** Weldon introduced some "pre-paid" competition envelopes sent out by "Elastrator" company but which covered a period of post charge increases and resulted in some rather large "extra" payments having to be made by the company.

**Minutes:** Having been circulated, taken as read and confirmed. Allan/Ann, Agreed

**Matters arising:** Sue advised that her name had been incorrectly listed in the Office Bearers list. Please note it should read Sue **Smart**.

**Correspondence:** (Allan advised that having been out of town the box had not been cleared in the last week.

**Inward:** Various catalogues and brochures tabled  
Companies Office ... re filing of annual Financial statement  
Campbell Paterson .. annual catalogue supplement and invoice

That inward correspondence be received and outward approved". Allan/ Robert, Agreed

**Outward:** Companies office filing as requested.

**Actions:** That in light of the \$70 cost of the CP supplement and the lack of use of the catalogue by members it be returned un-opened. Mike/Allan, Agreed

**General Business:**

Mike introduced us to the "Fun Philately" Newsletter published by Philatelic Youth Council of NZ. An advertisement for "Exhibition Protectors" was highlighted. Moved Kelvin, seconded Mike, "that 200 be purchased for on-selling to club members packs of 25 for \$20.

There being no further business, Robert advised that the "Letter/Topic of the Month" for the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1.30pm, would be the Topic "**Winter**", and that our Programme would be a " Bicker, barter, buy sell exchange" time as well as a possible input from himself.

**(please bring material for the BBB sell exchange).**

The meeting was declared closed at 1.55pm and our Speaker Rob Packer invited to speak to us.