

Capital Philately

Incorporating PASTCARDS *and* Machinations.

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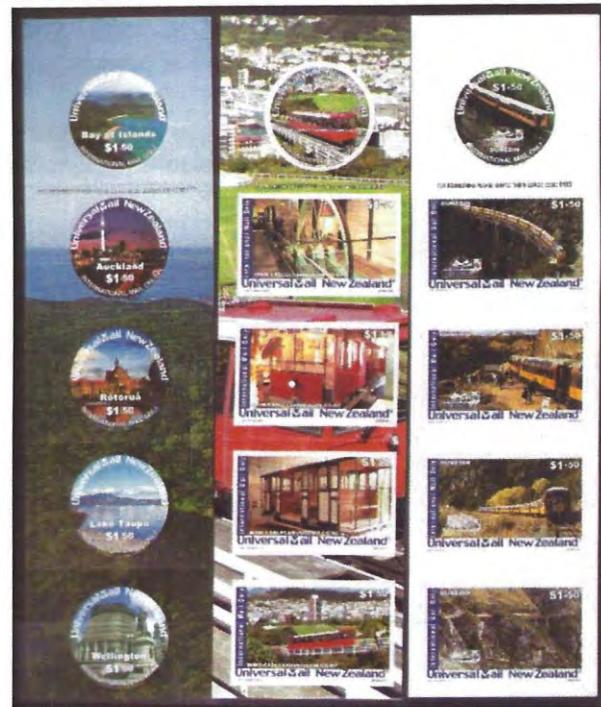
Inside this issue:

Hong Kong Machins – Part 2

*Opening up the New Zealand
Postal Service*

*Growing interest in Leeward
Islands' Postal Stationery*

and more.



Opening up the New Zealand Postal Service



The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

(Founded 1932)

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CAPITAL PHILATELY

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PASTCARDS

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December 2010 - Editorial

Welcome to the December issue of Capital Philately the first issue of our 29th volume. The issue for December 2011 will be the start of our 30th volume, a great milestone for our Society, and I hope to make it a great issue – so please start writing. I was very pleased to have five different authors for this issue and I would like to thank Judy Kennett and Don Costello for their shorter articles. They were unsolicited and are always welcome to an editor. They also illustrate that it is not hard to produce small filler articles and they are always appreciated.

A few of our members have been concerned about the lack of articles on Machins, although I would argue that this issue and the last had a major article on Machins, albeit Hong Kong Machins. In the last two years I have been almost totally reliant on one member for Machin articles and he has done his best to keep us up to date. What I really need is two or three collectors to write Machin articles. They are still of interest and much is happening in this collecting field – so please send in an article or two and you will have a willing audience.

On the exhibiting front, this year is a little quieter than 2010 although there are full world exhibitions in India in February and Japan in late July. We have a full national exhibition in Sydney, at the Randwick Racecourse from 31 March to 3 April and I encourage you all to go. There will be a great range of exhibits and a good range of national and international dealers. I am certainly looking forward to it. There is a national one-frame competition in Geelong in August. New Zealand's national exhibition is in Christchurch in November and these are always fun events. To round out the year there is also a FIAP exhibition in Wuxi City in China in November, which I hope to attend.

The Philatelic Society is also starting work on our next exhibition in March 2012 which will have a Polar theme as we celebrate 100 years since Mawson's expedition to Antarctica. I have already arranged to have some covers sent to the Antarctic for the opening of a new post office that relates to a 2011 expedition to Mawson's Hut. There will only be 100 available and unlike other postmarked covers which usually only travel as far as Kingston in Tasmania, these covers will have a special cachet indicating they were cancelled at the base.

Darryl Fuller

SOME NOTES ON THE 1992-97 HONG KONG MACHIN DEFINITIVES

Part 2

Daniel Tangri

(Cont. from
Capital
Philately Vol. 28
Nos 4)

Booklet stamps

Altogether, 11
stamp booklets
were released
containing
Machin

definitives. All of the stamps in these booklets differ from standard sheet stamps. The booklets fall into two convenient groups: 7-Eleven booklets (so named because they were intended to be on sale only at 7-Eleven stores) and prestige booklets. There were nine 7-Eleven booklets in total, listed by Stanley Gibbons as SG SB30-32, SB36-38 and SB40-42, and by Yang as Y SB27-29, SB33-35 and SB37-39. The two prestige booklets were both issued in conjunction with major stamp exhibitions in 1994 and 1997, and are listed by Gibbons as SG SB33 and SB46, and by Yang as Y SB30 and SB43.

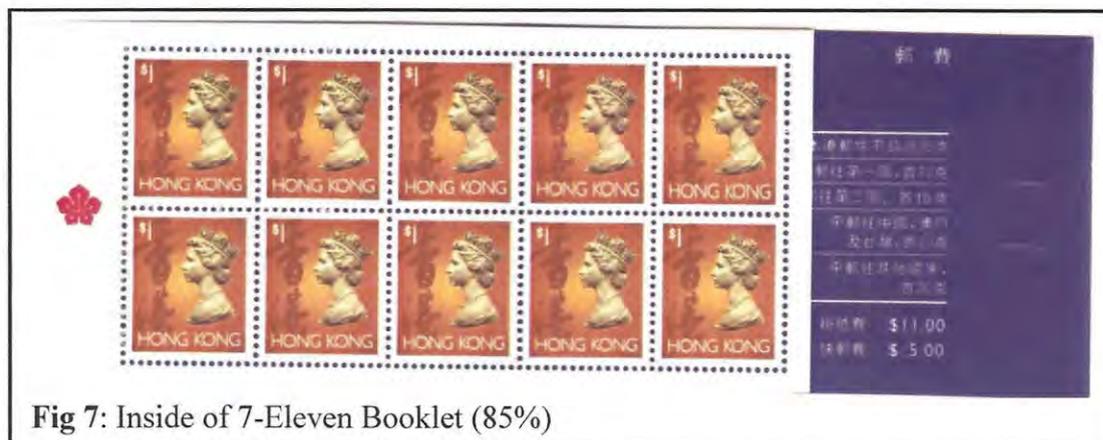


Fig 7: Inside of 7-Eleven Booklet (85%)

and eased congestion at post office counters.¹ In fact, the \$1 booklet (refer Figure 6) went on sale on 14 December 1993 and the \$1.90 and \$2.40 booklets on 28 December 1993. Yang adds that the booklets were only on sale at 7-Eleven stores and were not available at Post Offices.² This was certainly the intention, but is not strictly correct. I can remember, a week or so before postal rates changed in June 1995, waiting in line at the Revenue Tower Post Office in Wanchai and seeing counter staff tearing panes from \$1 booklets to sell to customers. As these booklets were about to be replaced with a new batch of 7-Eleven booklets reflecting the revised postal rates, my assumption was that the post office was clearing surplus stock.

The booklets were designed by Arde Lam and the first three were printed by Leigh-Mardon, well known to collectors of Australian stamps. They were printed in lithography and had folded card covers with scenes of skyscrapers on the front. Inside, a pane of 10 stamps in two rows of five with selvedge all around would be pasted by the selvedge at the left to the inside cover, and folded after the third column, leaving the first column of stamps visible. The selvedge was broader at the left and an abstract symbol



Fig 6: 7-Eleven Booklet Cover

7-Eleven booklets

The 1993-94 HKPO annual report recorded that stamp booklets of the three commonly-used denominations, \$1, \$1.90 and \$2.40, were put on sale from 10 December 1993 at 52 'strategically located' 7-Eleven stores. 'The arrangement has greatly increased the convenience to the public

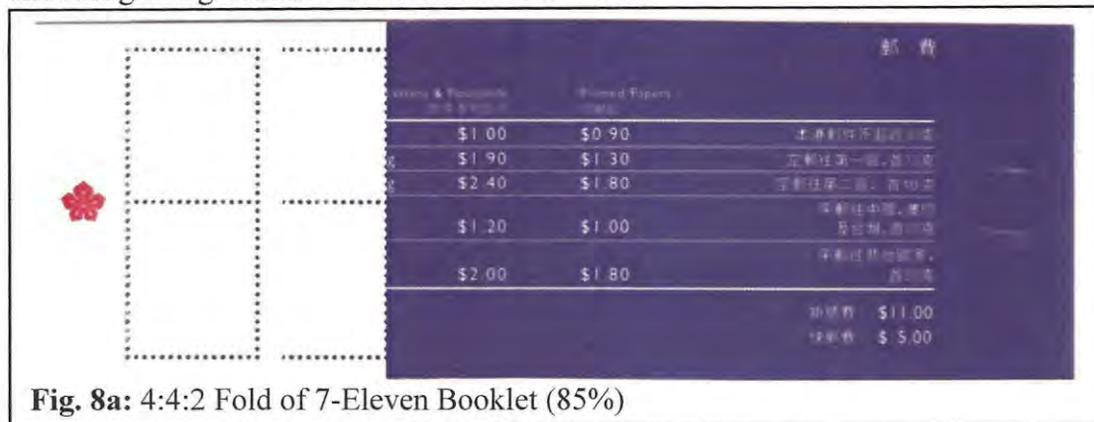
¹ *Hong Kong Post Office Annual Report 1993-94 (1994)* p.13. '10' December is probably a typographical error, as recent information provided by Ms Mary Chung of the HKPO confirmed the 14 December date (and the later release date for the other two booklets).

² N. C. Yang, *Yang's Postage Stamp and Postal History Catalogue of Hong Kong*, Hong Kong (2009) p.172 (henceforth Yang).

was printed there, but I have never seen any cylinder numbers on these booklets. The inside cover contained details on postal rates (refer Figure 7). The first three booklet panes were printed on a thicker, white paper which the Deegam Handbook identifies as fluorescent coated paper (FCP). This paper is violet under ultraviolet light, but does not fluoresce after the light is switched off. Incidentally, Yang refers to booklet stamps from the 7-Eleven booklets and the 1994 prestige booklet as being printed on glazed paper,³ and Hong Kong dealers will sometimes offer these

coarser, more stripped-looking quality to the shading on the head.

Leigh-Mardon struggled to standardise the colours of the first 7-Eleven booklets, and significant variations in the shading of the head cylinder can be observed. The security overprint can also be found with a range of variations from bright to very dull fluorescence, and one of my examples of the \$1 booklet has the overprint slightly out of alignment with the printed words 'Hong Kong'.



The Deegam Handbook lists three major varieties of the first three booklets - the \$1 with and without the security overprint 'Hong Kong' in fluorescent ink and the \$1.90

stamps as such.

Stamps from the first three 7-Eleven booklets can be readily distinguished from sheet stamps by the presence of this paper, and by the white gum on these booklet stamps compared to the blue-tinted gum then in use on sheets. In addition, there were clear differences in shades. Leigh-Mardon's lithography-printed \$1 stamps generally had a much deeper orange in the head and central background of the stamp than their Enschedé equivalents, which contributed to a richer red-brown shade for the Chinese characters spelling Hong Kong. Its \$1.90 stamps tended to have a paler green shade for the Chinese characters and the foreground colour, and its \$2.40 value also has a dull, pale blue shade, along with deeper grey on the head. Incidentally, Leigh-Mardon also used the modified Type B head used by Enschedé, but produced a

and \$2.40 on low OBA paper. In fact, the Handbook only tells half the story. In December 1994 I purchased examples of the first three 7-11 booklets which had a number of differences from the booklets I had bought in December 1993, and from examples I had also purchased earlier in 1994. These are clearly from a different printing, although I am not sure exactly when they were first released. The major difference is that none of the three values had a security overprint. The December 1994 examples had much lighter shading on the head on the \$1 and \$2.40 values, and all three values are on low OBA paper which appears white under ultraviolet light. Furthermore, the \$1 and \$2.40 booklets I purchased at this time had the panes folded twice

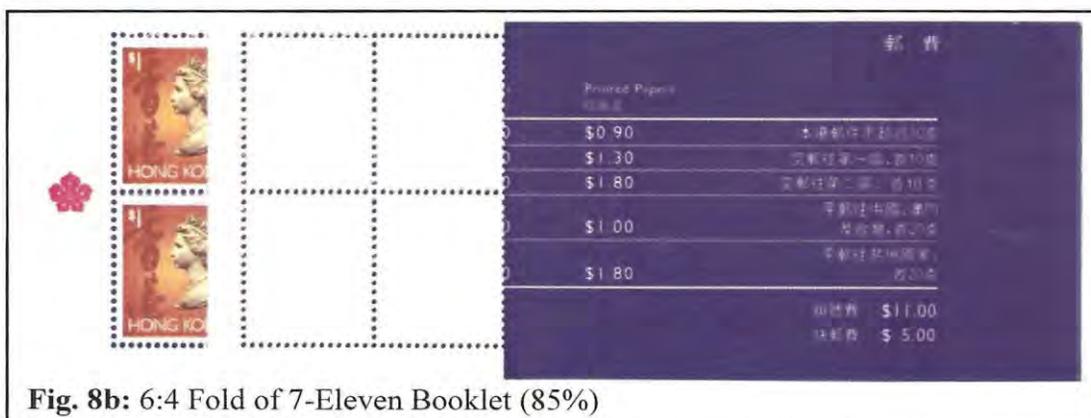


Fig. 8b: 6:4 Fold of 7-Eleven Booklet (85%)

³ Yang p.28.

rather than the standard single fold, with the first fold after the second column of stamps and leaving no stamps visible on opening the booklet (refer Figures 8a & 8b). Strangely, however, the \$1.90 booklet retained the standard single fold.

The next three 7-Eleven booklets were released on 1 June 1995. They now contained panes of 10 \$1.20, \$2.10 and \$2.60 stamps, again with selvedge all around. This time they were printed in lithography by Enschedé on OFNP with blue-tinted gum, and the covers were in new colours and with different scenes of skyscrapers, but were otherwise similar to the first three booklets. The final three 7-Eleven booklets were released on 2 September 1996 and contained panes of ten \$1.30, \$2.50 and \$3.10 stamps with phosphor bands. They were also printed by Enschedé in lithography on OFNP, but as was the case with the sheet and coil stamps issued by Enschedé at the time, the stamps had white gum. Once again, the folders had new colours and scenes of skyscrapers, but were otherwise similar to previous booklets.

As Enschedé printed the June 1995 7-Eleven booklets on the same paper as sheet stamps, there is much greater consistency between these booklet stamps and sheet stamps. However, as Enschedé used lithography for the booklets but gravure for the sheets, there are some minor differences. Under magnification, for example, there is a thicker and clearer delineation on sheet stamps between the edge of the profile and the background. In practice, it would be difficult to classify single stamps on this basis, so the best option for collectors of mint stamps is to look for booklet panes or examples with the margin attached (the booklet margins are much narrower than the margins on sheet stamps).

Strangely, there was less consistency in colour between Enschedé's booklet stamps issued in September 1996 and the sheet stamps issued at the same time. The heads on the \$1.30 and \$3.10 values have much less colour than the sheet stamps, and the central background on the \$2.50 value is a much brighter yellow than on the sheet stamp.

In relation to the Enschedé 7-Eleven booklets, there is one minor variety that is mentioned by Gibbons in a footnote. Gibbons states that the first booklets had matt inside card covers, and that 'a

printing later in 1995 showed both sides of the cover card glossy'.⁴ I purchased examples of these in April 1996, and not only were the inside covers glossy, but the white print on the inside for the postal rates was much clearer. There are also clear shade differences in the colours of the front and inside covers of booklets bought in April and May 1996, but I suspect these are trivial.

We have no information on the layout of the printers' sheets, including how many panes were in a sheet. It is clear that the booklets were guillotined from a printers' sheet. I have a copy of the final booklet, SG SB42, which retains guide marks at the right edge. This pane is about 5mm longer than all my other 7-Eleven booklet panes, indicating that the guide marks would be used to make the horizontal cuts to separate the booklet panes, and that the right edge would then normally be trimmed to remove the guide marks.

According to Ms Mary Chung of the HKPO, currently all definitive stamp booklets are produced and assembled by the printer. It is likely that the Machin 7-11 booklets were also assembled by Leigh-Mardon and Enschedé, but the HKPO no longer has records of requisitions and printing orders for booklets.⁵

Prestige booklets

The first prestige booklet was issued on 12 January 1994 and was a special production for the Hong Kong stamp exhibition held that year. The booklet was printed in lithography by Leigh-Mardon, stapled at the left, and titled 'A History of Hong Kong Definitive Stamps 1862-1992'. It contained three separate panes with six Machins, including a number of se-tenant pairs. These panes were also given numbers in the classic stamps definitive miniature sheet series (see below), and examples that have been removed from booklets are often sold as miniature sheets.

Each pane contained reproductions of earlier Hong Kong definitives, pictures of watermarks and a block of six stamps. The first pane (SG760a) contains five \$2 stamps and one 10c in the top

⁴ Stanley Gibbons *Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue* (2003) p.664.

⁵ Ms Mary Chung, Senior Manager (Public Relations), Hongkong Post, personal communication, 9 September 2010.

right corner, yielding two different se-tenant settings for the \$2 and 10c. The second pane (SG 761a) contains five \$1.80 and one \$1.70 stamp in the same layout, and the final pane (SG 762a) contains five \$1 and one \$5 stamp in the same layout. The Deegam Handbook notes that these panes were printed on OFNP with Crown CA watermark, the only Hong Kong Machins (and, I believe, the only Machins in total) to be printed on watermarked paper. The watermark is quite faint on the stamps, in part because the paper is rather

were at the base of the group). The third pane, SG 757db, had four \$2.50 and two \$2.10 stamps; again, the \$2.10 stamps were at the base of the group. The panes yield three se-tenant pairs. They were printed on OFNP with phosphor bars and have white PVAI gum.

Miniature sheets

A total of 18 miniature sheets were issued between 1992 and 1997 with Machin definitives. Six of these doubled as panes in prestige booklets, although the panes from the 1997 prestige booklet deserve separate catalogue status because the sheet is set into a wide pane, meaning that the miniature sheets and booklet panes were printed separately. By contrast, the three miniature sheets from the 1994 prestige booklet are, in fact, simply panes removed from that booklet (refer Figure 10).

Eight of the miniature sheets were issued as part of a series on classic stamps. They were numbered from 2 to 9 (the first in the series was issued in 1991 and contained one of the ‘post

box’ commemoratives from that year). All six of the sheets from the prestige booklets were in this classic stamps series. A further three miniature sheets were issued in 1996 to advertise the Hong Kong 97 stamp exhibition, and two more were issued in association with the Hong Kong 94 stamp exhibition. Of the remaining sheets, three were printed for stamp exhibitions in Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore, and one issued in 1994 commemorated the conference of Commonwealth

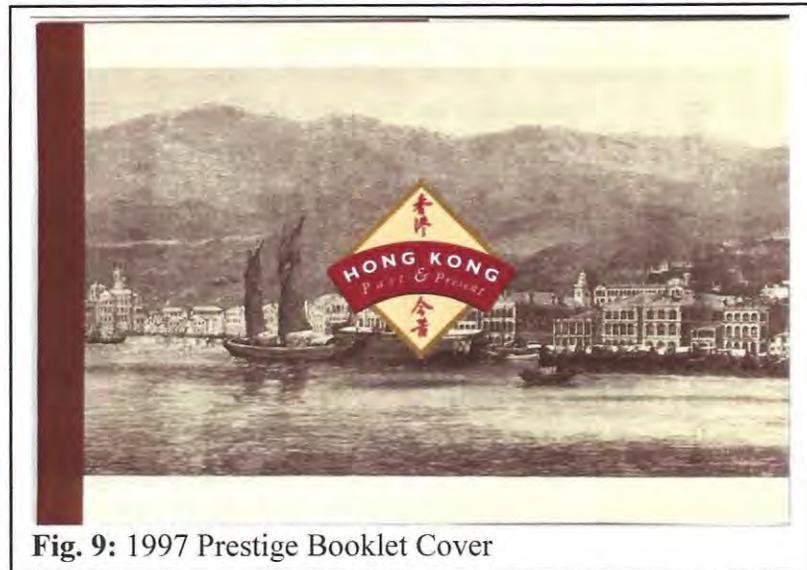


Fig. 9: 1997 Prestige Booklet Cover

stout. All the stamps have white PVAI gum.

The second prestige booklet was issued on 14 February 1997 and was a special production for the Hong Kong 97 Stamp Exhibition (refer Figure 9). The booklet was printed in lithography by Enschedé, stitched at the left, and titled ‘Hong Kong Past and Present’. Like SG SB33, it contained three panes illustrating classic Hong Kong stamps (in this case, commemoratives), but this time each pane contained an inset miniature sheet with the Machin stamps. The miniature sheets were also released separately, and the booklet panes differ in being much wider and taller, with thick margins to the left and underneath each miniature sheet.

The first pane (SG 757cb) contained four \$1.30 stamps and two \$5 stamps, with the two \$5 stamps at the top of a group of six. The second pane, SG 757cc, followed the same format with four \$3.10 and two \$1.60 stamps (although this time the \$1.60 stamps

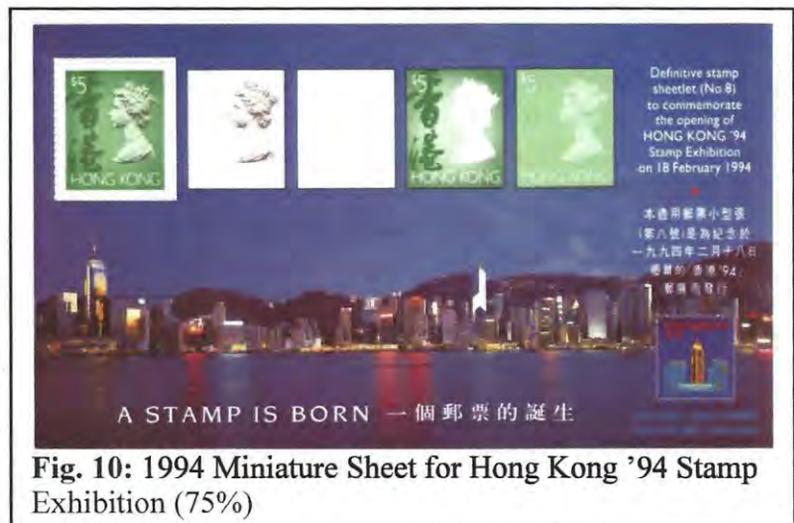


Fig. 10: 1994 Miniature Sheet for Hong Kong '94 Stamp Exhibition (75%)

Postal Administrations in Hong Kong. The only miniature sheets not linked in some way to a stamp exhibition or classic stamps were a sheet issued in 1995 to commemorate the anniversary of the end of the Second World War and another issued in October 1996 to commemorate the achievements of Hong Kong's athletes at the Atlanta Olympics (in a clear case of marketing, the miniature sheet included a photo of San San, Hong Kong's first ever gold medallist, who became an instant hit in the colony).

This list of topics shows that the miniature sheets were basically printed for philatelists or to gain commercial advantage from issues of popular interest. In essence, they functioned as commemoratives, but with a definitive stamp. Philatelic sales were quite significant at this period (and speculators were known to buy huge quantities of new issues and miniature sheets, which will probably ensure that these Machins remain affordable for a very long time). A miniature sheet issued for a New Zealand stamp exhibition in 1991, with one of the earlier Queen Elizabeth II definitives, had proven popular and remains expensive to this day, so it is likely that collectors lapped up new miniature sheets in case they also turned out to be valuable and the HKPO fed this demand.

Most of the sheets were printed by Enschedé by lithography on OFNP, except for SG MS 821, which is on FCP which is violet under ultraviolet light. The final three sheets contained stamps with phosphor bands. Four miniature sheets were printed by Leigh-Mardon by lithography on FCP. Three of these are simply the panes from the 1994 prestige booklet referred to above. The final sheet, SG MS771, was another one prepared for the Hong Kong 94 stamp exhibition, and is rather a fine piece of work showing registrations from each of the four cylinders used to print the \$5 value next to the real \$5 stamp. Titled 'A Stamp is Born', the sheet is fascinating in that it shows exactly what the cylinder printed. Thanks to the sheet, we know that the third cylinder actually printed colour over most of the stamp, but this would then be overprinted by the head cylinder and the major colour cylinder. The sheet also shows a cylinder registration for the fluorescent yellow 'Hong Kong' security overprint – although, as the registration is in fluorescent ink, it is impossible to see with the naked eye!

Eleven of the miniature sheets contained a \$10 Machin stamp, in the same size as the standard sheet stamp, and also with the large perforation holes at each corner. However, these miniature sheet stamps could be printed in a variety of colours, including vivid blues, greens, oranges and reds. The colours on the three \$10 stamps in the miniature sheets issued in 1996 to advertise Hong Kong 97 are especially striking. Some Hong Kong dealers remove the \$10 stamps from the miniature sheets and offer them as a set of singles – which perhaps shows that speculators who bought hundreds of these in the 1990s bought not wisely, but too well, and are constantly looking for new ways to offload their stock.



Fig. 11a: The normal stamp

One of the miniature sheets issued in 1993 to promote the Hong Kong 94 stamp exhibition, SG MS746, depicting the Hong Kong skyline at night, has recently been identified with the yellow colour missing (refer Figures 11a & b)). Initially this was considered to be a



Fig. 11b: Missing yellow on miniature sheet

rare error, and an example sold in an auction in New York in 2009 for US\$1,300. However, several more examples have since been discovered and dealers in Hong Kong now sell the sheet for US\$300.

Presentation packs

I have six presentation packs that were sold by the HKPO during my time in the colony, but I am aware that there were a couple more. The first presentation pack was offered in two versions, one

containing the high values and one without, and at the time I saw no need to buy both packs. A version of this 'low value' pack was also sold at the Hong Kong 94 stamp exhibition.

The 1992 'high value' pack is about B5 size and was issued in a clear plastic envelope with a flap at side. The pack has white card covers. The front cover shows a \$20 Machin next to the Chinese characters for Hong Kong and the text '1992 Hong Kong Definitive Stamps'. The rear cover has a price (\$126) and the address of the Hong Kong Post Office Philatelic Bureau (which was actually the GPO). It was issued on 16 June 1992 and contains the 16 denominations from 10c to \$50 released on that date. The inside cover of pack shows pictures of earlier definitive stamps, details on the printing of the stamps and comments that this is the sixth QEII definitive series and 'features the well-known Machin Head of Her Majesty the Queen'.

A second pack was issued in November 1993. The front cover was the same as before, but with the added text 'Denominations released as from 1st November 1993' (which is slightly confusing as the cover still says '1992 Hong Kong Definitive Stamps'). The text on the inside cover was unchanged. The pack was the same size as before, and also in clear plastic envelope. The price of this pack was \$128.50. It contained 16 stamps, 10c-\$50, with new values replacing older ones (for example, the pinkish \$2.30 was replaced by the blue \$2.40 value).

A third pack was released in 1995. The front and inside covers were as before, but the front cover now bore the legend 'Denominations released as from 1st June 1995' under the '1992 Hong Kong Definitive Stamps' heading. The pack was the same size as before, and also in a clear plastic envelope. The price was \$130 and the pack contained 16 stamps, 10c-\$50, with new values replacing older ones (for example, the blue \$2.40 was replaced by the chocolate \$2.60 value).

Two new packs were released in 1996. The first was a small pack, about the size of a standard Christmas card, in a clear plastic sleeve with no flap. Incidentally, this pack was the same size as the 'low value' pack from 1992. The front cover was redesigned and showed the \$1.20 and \$2.60 Machins. The pack was titled '1992 Definitive

Stamps (Low Value)' in English and Chinese and bore the legend 'Denominations released as from 24 April 1996' in English and Chinese. The price was \$37 (a contact strip was pasted onto the rear cover showing the price; all other packs had the price printed on the rear cover). It contained 12 stamps, 10c-\$5, and additional information inside. Alongside the standard details on printing and design, the text now read 'Since 1992, some of the denominations have been changed to cope with postage revision' and 'This is also the first set of definitive stamps coated with phosphorescent ink in order to cope with mail processing by Culler-Facer-Canceller machine (sic) which will be installed in mid-1996. Denominations at and below \$2 are coated with two bars for local mail; while denominations at \$2.10, \$2.60 and \$5 are coated with one bar for overseas mail'.

The second 1996 pack was in a larger size (the same as the 1992-95 three packs) in a clear plastic envelope with a flap at side. The front cover showed the new denominations - \$1.40, \$1.60, \$2.50 and \$3.10, and under the standard '1992 Hong Kong Definitive Stamps' heading read 'Denominations released as from 2 September 1996'. The price was \$135 and the pack contained 16 stamps, 10c-\$50. The text on the inside front cover was largely the same as previous packs, but noted that the \$2.10 value or below have 2 phosphor bars and the \$2.50-\$5 values have one phosphor bar.

A final pack was released in 1997, and described itself as a 'twin pack'. It is a sumptuous production, A4-sized with hard covers, with multiple colours on the cover (predominantly pink and blue). The front cover is split into two scenes - a narrow band at the left reads '1992 Definitive Stamps' with the legend 'Denominations released as from 16 June 1992' and has a picture of the \$2.10 Machin next to the Chinese characters for Hong Kong. A larger scene occupies the rest of the cover showing a photo of the Hong Kong skyline at night with the heading 1997 and the legend 'Denominations released as from 26 January 1997' and a picture of the \$2 Skyline definitive.

There are four pages inside, on double-folded cream paper. The first two pages contain a brief discussion of the stamps (in Chinese on the first page and English on the second), with brief notes

about the two definitive sets. In relation to the Machins, the text noted that these are the 16 denominations as available from 2 September 1996. It also noted that the new definitives could be used up to and after the handover. The next two pages then contain black mounts with the stamps. The rear cover has a barcode and the HKPO logo, and the price (\$270). The pack was probably issued to coincide with the Hong Kong 97 stamp exhibition, when the skyline definitives were released, and in a sense marks a symbolic postal 'handover' for the colony.

machine cancel for Lugoj on the same day. This envelope is at Fig 1.

Later I found two small postal stationery envelopes tucked inside Michel 'Ganzsachen-Katalog Europa Ost 2004/05', waiting to be identified. These are official Romanian postal stationery issues, and both have the price (1 leu) on the back. They carry postage of 55 bani, the current domestic rate. As both were sent to foreign countries, they have been uprated with current adhesives; indeed, one was sent by airmail, and has stamps both front and back.

THREE SMALL ENVELOPES FROM ROMANIA

Judy Kennett

Earlier this year, an online group interested in Romanian postal history (RPHB Group) had a message from a member, announcing that he had an old, tiny envelope. He gave the dimensions, 39mm x 36mm, attached a scan, and asked if any group member had seen or owned a smaller example. At the end of August he was in contact again, to say that the envelope was being auctioned in the UK on 1 September 2010, with an estimate of 100 English pounds.

While messages were first travelling back and forth among the RPHB Group, someone asked: 'Why were these small envelopes produced, and what was sent in them?'

One member said that they were chiefly used to send messages with greetings for important festivals, such as Easter and Christmas, but also for sending invitations, and sometimes visiting cards.

This set me to looking through some odd covers in a box, because I recalled seeing a small Romanian envelope among them. Sure enough, I found a plain envelope measuring 100mm x 60mm, posted at Timisoara on 19 APR 41, and censored. The plain white card with a hand written Easter greeting was still inside. On the back is a poor

The first (Fig 2) was posted at Brasov on 21.12.57 to Germany, with a 'Par Avion' cachet. Probably it carried either Christmas or New Year greetings. It measures 109mm x 69 mm, and is listed at Michel U 43 (1957).

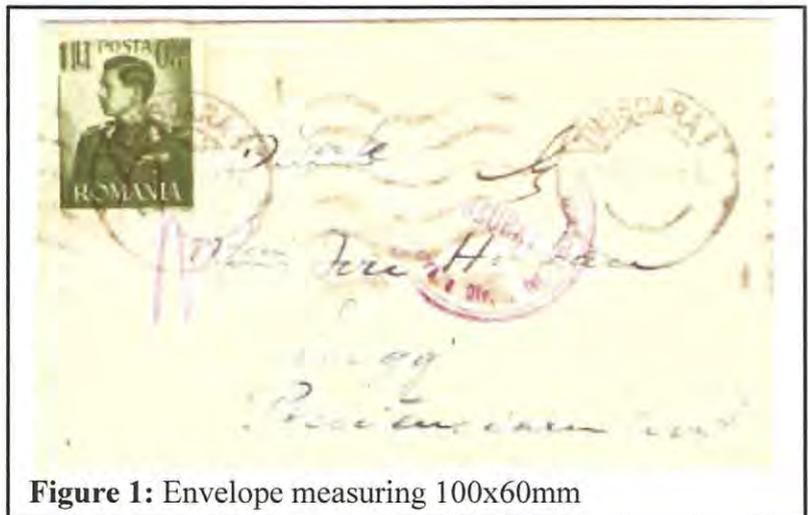


Figure 1: Envelope measuring 100x60mm

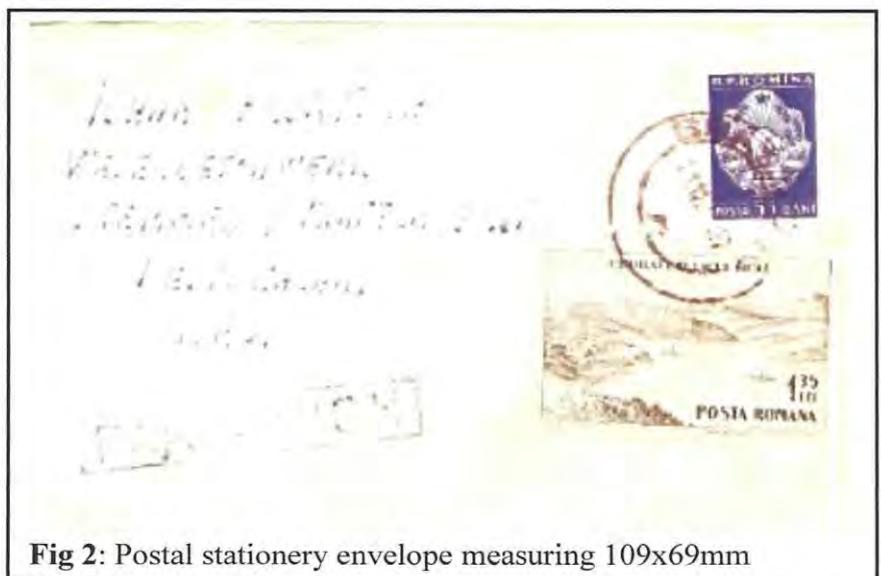


Fig 2: Postal stationery envelope measuring 109x69mm



Fig 3: Postal stationery envelope measuring 102x60mm

The second (Fig 3) was posted at Bucuresti on 15.12.58 to Czechoslovakia, no doubt Christmas or New Year greetings to a family member. The envelope measures 102 mm x 60mm, and is catalogued by Michel at U 36 (1956). There is a note in the catalogue to say that this envelope was issued with ten different 'pictures' on the left, including one of the 'Christmas man'. We call him Father Christmas, but here he is in his snowy European environment!

These small format envelopes, sometimes with pictures, were still being issued at the end of each year in Romania ten or more years later, but are no longer in the catalogue in the early 1970s. Was this an old custom dying out?

THE MEDICINAL PLANTS STAMP ISSUES OF YUGOSLAVIA

Don Costello

The Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia had a communist government from 1945 to 1991 but, unlike East Germany, it initially avoided the self-defeating policy of excessive stamp issues. Nor, from about 1953, did most of its stamp issues focus heavily on political themes.

Background: One of Yugoslavia's most attractive and extended stamp series featured medicinal plants. These issues ran from 1959 to 1973 and followed the same format as the earlier Floral Designs issues in 1955 (see SG numbers 792-799) and the Flowers issue in 1957 (SG 844-852). It's notable that the medicinal plants theme long preceded the relatively recent upsurge of interest (in the so-called 'developed' world) in

using herbal or other plant remedies as a 'natural' alternative to prescription medicines.

An intriguing point about the stamps was the lack of consistency in how the issuing country name was shown on them. Within a series, the Cyrillic alphabet might be used on some and the Roman alphabet form, 'Yugoslavija', on others. This randomness continues on today's Yugoslav issues.

The botanical name (but not the common name) of the depicted plant was shown on each stamp. This made it difficult for the non-botanist to work out which plant appears on the stamp. Fortunately, these days, computer search engines can readily inform us on any point of doubt. A plant's medicinal use is not always well known. For example, deadly nightshade (SG1161) and oleander (SG1242) are poisonous but the drug atropine is derived from deadly nightshade and oleander has alleged but unproven medicinal uses.

The stamp issues: The first medicinal plants issue was the 1959 set of 9, with values ranging from 10 dinar to 100 dinar (SG 928 936). The plants depicted were Dutch lavender, alder blackthorn, scopolia, monkshood, bilberry, common juniper, cowslip, pomegranate, and thorn-apple.

Later series were issued in:

1961 (SG 1000 to 1008): a set of 9 depicting yellow foxglove, marjoram, hyssop, hawthorn, hollyhock, soapwort, clary, blackthorn and pot marigold.

1963 (SG 1074 to 1079): a set of 6 depicting lily of the valley, iris, bistort, henbane, perforate St John's wort and caraway.

1965 (SG 1158 to 1163): a set of 6 depicting yarrow, rosemary, elecampane, deadly nightshade, peppermint and rusty foxglove.

1967 (SG 1240 to 1245): a set of 6 depicting arnica, common flax, oleander, gentian, laurel and African rue.

In 1969 and 1971, Flower sets interrupted the 2 yearly pattern of medicinal plants issues. The final medicinal plants series was issued in 1973. The 6 values (SG 1555 to 1560) ranged from 80 paras to 6 dinar and depicted birthwort, globe thistle, olive, 'corydalis cava', mistletoe and comfrey. Doubtless the series ceased because no more medicinal plants could be identified readily. Later comparable Yugoslavia issues adopted wider themes such as flowers, cultivated plants, and birds.

Medicinal plants stamps are inexpensive and were a favourite of stamp packet makers. Examples can still be found readily in cancelled-to-order format and with their original gum. They are colourful, but not flamboyant, and are of conventional size and shape. They probably were intended for postal use and to earn hard currency for Yugoslavia, but their theme was of wide appeal and apt for a largely rural economy. This comment cannot apply to many thematic issues from some 'sand dune' countries and from numerous 'developing' countries which formerly were colonies of European powers. These issues have been colourfully described as 'wallpaper'.

Conclusion: A wide array of plants having medicinal value was shown on these issues. They showed reasonably well known and lesser known plants. Australian aborigines who live a traditional lifestyle could certainly identify unique plants of medicinal value found in their own lands. Perhaps it's time for a comparable Australian stamp issue series.

At a time when remnant areas of native forests around the world are being rapidly clear-felled for the short term gain of timber production; when centuries old indigenous knowledge about medicinal plants is being irretrievably lost; and when scientists are racing against the clock to develop new medicines from plant species found on remote hillsides or in the very forests targeted by loggers, we should remember the message brought to us from 1959 to 1973 by Yugoslavia's medicinal plants stamp issues: many of nature's medicines have been with us for millennia and are found in or have been developed from medicinal plants. They still have a vital role to play.

Figure 1 shows stamps from the 1959 and 1963 sets.

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Fig. 1 A used 10d Dutch lavender from 1959, a used 30d bistort and a (mint) 100d caraway, both from 1963

OPENING UP THE NEW ZEALAND POSTAL SERVICE

David Miner

With a widely dispersed population, New Zealand folk found their postal service had become unsatisfactory by the early 1980's, with unacceptable delays. Some country residents south of Auckland did more than complain after receiving no satisfactory improvement – they established a mutual organisation in their district to privately distribute mail.

Letters and parcels could be submitted for delivery within the region, with stamps sold under the banner of "Stampways Document Exchange" from September 1988 (refer Figure 1). Letters from member-to-member deposited within the document exchange attracted a 15c charge, whilst mail dropped in DX PO boxes throughout the area

was charged at 30c (NZ Post charged 40c).

NZ Post took action via the courts claiming they had the exclusive rights to handle mail, and their case was successful, causing their rival to close. Nationwide publicity via the press caused much anger towards New Zealand Post and agitation through their Parliamentary representatives. This failed to cease and ultimately, after ten years, the legislation was amended to permit private operators to register with the Ministry of Economic Development for the right to perform postal services.

Competitive mail distribution was first introduced in Sweden, with New Zealand being the second

country to adopt this – today there are many, many countries permitting private operators, and Royal Mail (Great Britain) is even about to be sold by the United Kingdom government.

One condition attached to the legislation was that each private operator was denied the right to use the words "New Zealand", and would have to use a symbolic identifier on their canceller or their stamps, as submitted on their licence application.

It has been tough for the businesses which entered the postal business. Most have come and gone, either through failure, by amalgamation or sale. Those who operated in a "niche" district stood the best chance as they did not have to cover extensive areas with its associated higher petrol and wages

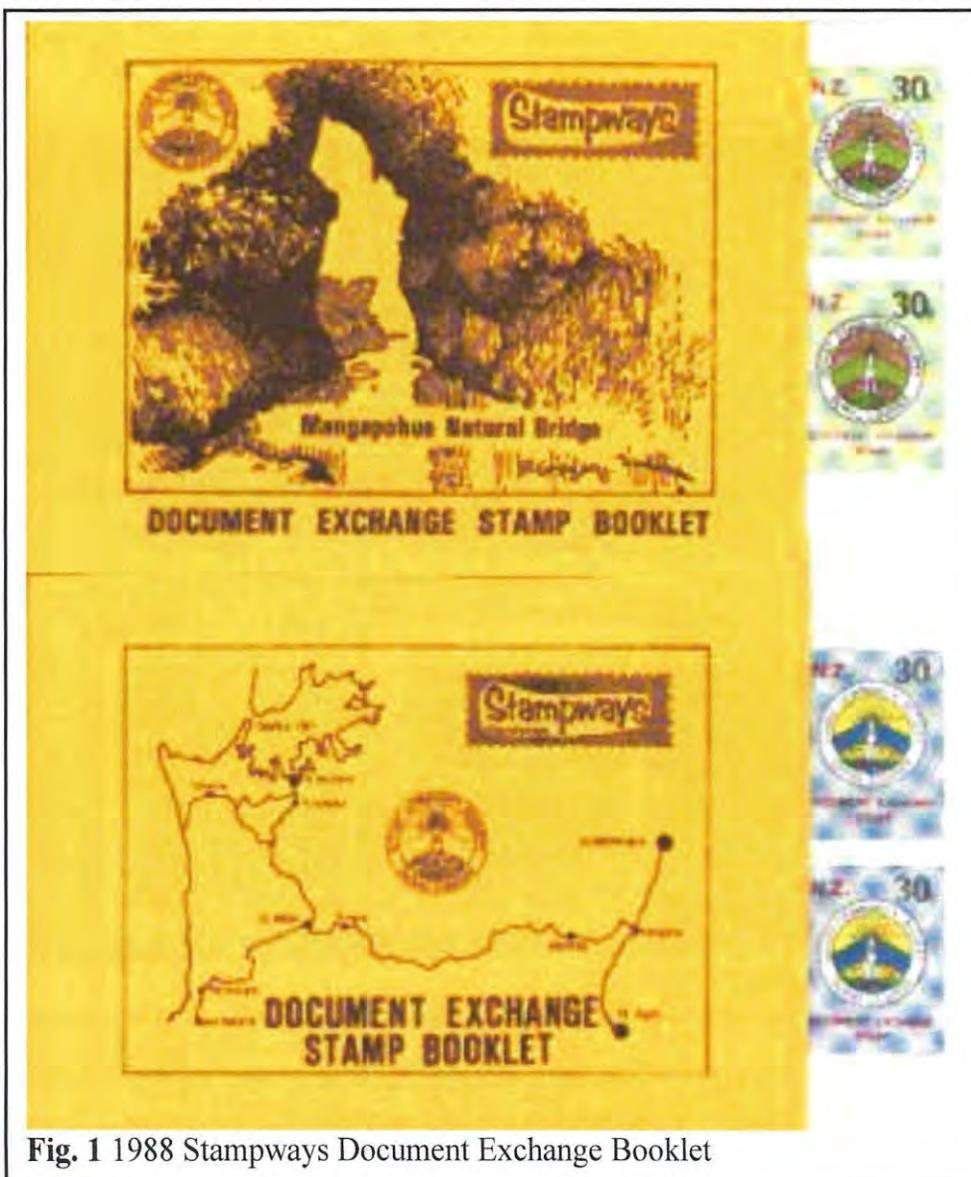


Fig. 1 1988 Stampways Document Exchange Booklet

outlay. Pete's Post elected to expand via franchises, each district recorded on the stamp (such as "Hamilton", "Hastings", "New Plymouth" "Taranaki") with "National" for the main operator. This has provided five identical design stamps every new issue (refer Figure 2).

apparent, but for a short time there was no alternative.

The solution appears to be that most private operators now contract the actual delivery of mail back to NZ Post for a fee bringing the system in a



Fig. 2 Pete's Post – same design on each stamp but with different district names

Designs cover many topics, and entrepreneurs have enticed businesses to advertise their name and/or product on stamps (for a nice fee). This trend continues, with philatelic societies joining in with their own issues (refer Figure 3).

full circle. One notable exception has been DX mail (New Zealand, not the same as the company in Australia) (refer Figure 4). They run huge trucks around the country and have been the most successful competitor, even buying out Postie's Choice, Pete's Post and Black Sheep.



Fig 3 Even Philatelic Societies are issuing their own stamps

The impracticality of seeing a row of different posting boxes in a line in every town soon became

New entrants join the throng, and old ones close. It appears to be a dynamic field for operators. Not all issued stamps, however, those who did not rarely

lasted long. The additional income from advertisers, and philatelic sales assisted viability. First Day covers and even miniature sheets have

The last one mentioned is a different type of operator (refer Figure 5). They are not registered with the Government - being exempt because they



Fig. 4 DX Mail one of the more successful private operators

been snapped-up quickly, and the 'crafty ones' now have special departments to cater for sales. On eBay an assortment of genuine used stamps will often fetch more than the original mint cost. Stamps with known low issue numbers can realise enormous prices from people desperate to own a complete set.

Names of the better known issuers include:

- DX Mail
- FASTWAY POST
- KIWI MAIL
- PETE'S POST
- POSTIE'S CHOICE
- BLACK SHEEP (also known as STAMPS AT WORK)
- NZM (New Zealand Mail)
- NATIONAL MAIL
- TODAY'S MAIL
- CARDCALL
- CROXLEY MAIL
- UNIVERSAL MAIL

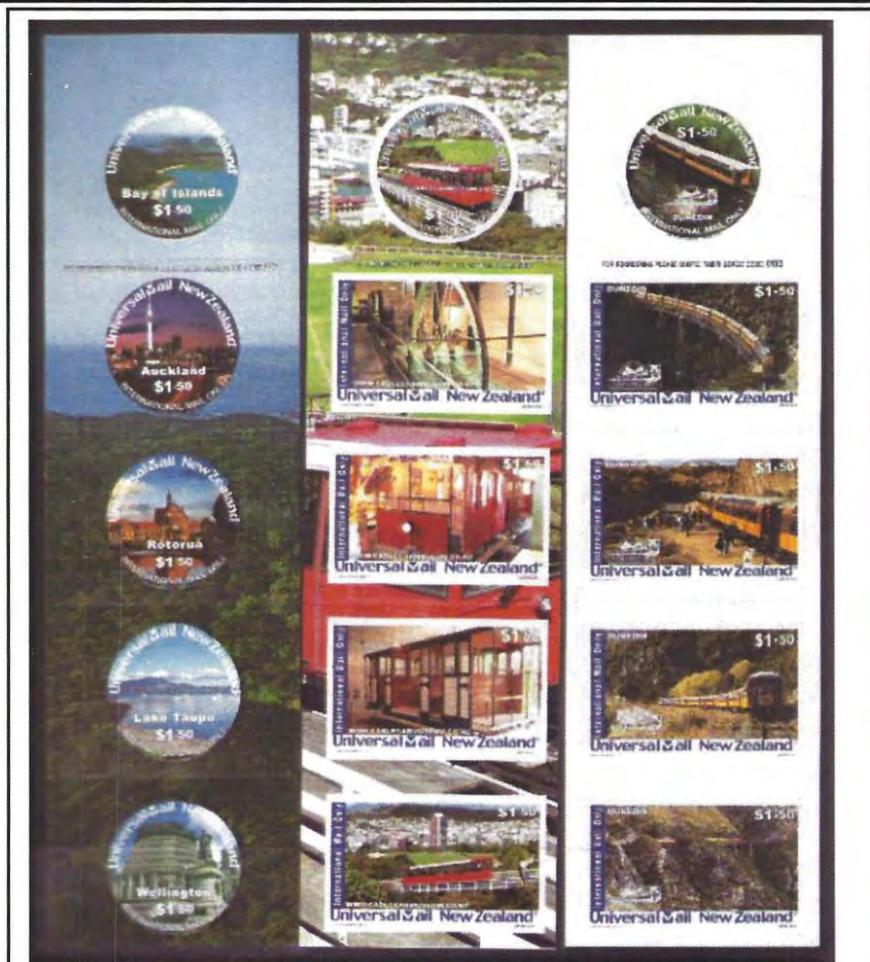


Fig. 5 Universal only operates with international mail

only handle overseas mail (stamps on postcards for the tourist market). Being established for that specific task they have created a distribution network through tourist shops. Especially designed unique stamps are available with target specific pictures on each, together with matching postcards. Booklets of 5 higher value stamps allow the tourist to show the family and friends back home, what the country is like. There are hundreds of different booklets and it would send a collector bankrupt to own them all.

Fletcher Building, TV, The Quakers, Radio NZ, Shell, Maui Gas and stamp clubs and stamp fairs joining the throng. Collectors around the world are clamouring for these products. The first CAL ever issued (to celebrate the Wellington Arts Festival) was a 40c stamp which has soared beyond NZ\$3,000 for a scarce copy – mint or used. A 45c BMW vehicle stamp has a \$500 price tag, the three (3) 5c ANZ Bank stamps go for \$100.

Will this phenomenon burst like a bubble (remember PHONECARDS?). It is doubtful because there is significant international interest, and there are many people looking for a new stamp collecting field. Incredibly all these stamps were intended for local use, however, they are being accepted on international mail (is the UPU asleep?).

The latter usage has undoubtedly excited the interest of overseas collectors which broadens the market. There was even one case where a wealthy South American was to marry, and paid for printing of CALs with the engaged couple's image, to send all wedding invitations out from New Zealand.



Fig. 6 Customised Design Labels (CALs)

Observing the popularity of Alternate Post Stamps, NZ Post formulated a “Me Too” strategy. They created a strategy where customers could submit their own design stamp, which if accepted, would permit the customer to order a quantity of that design to be printed. Based on the cost of a 50c stamp the price for your own design “stamp” was 82c for 1,000 down to 58c if you ordered 10,000.

These were christened “CALs” – customised (advertising) labels. Recently this title has been amended to “PPL” – personalised postage label.

These have been an absolute winner through expertly promoting the idea to businesses. An early supporter was the ANZ Bank, with Real Estate, Bookshops, Cash Managers, Lawyers,

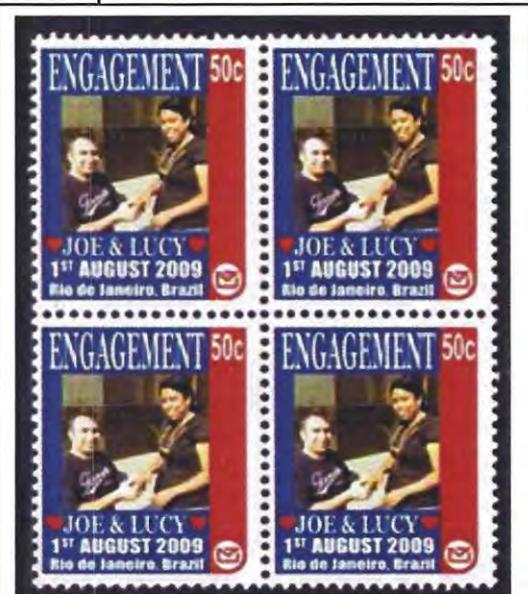


Fig. 7 CALs

THE GROWING INTEREST IN LEEWARD ISLANDS' POSTAL STATIONERY

Darryl Fuller

[Ed: This article was written about 18 months ago but not published so I have resurrected it.]

This is an article in two parts. The first is general commentary on the growing interest in Leeward Island's postal stationery. The second part illustrates the attraction of Leeward Island stationery by looking at examples of items that I have managed to find over the last year or so.

It was the sale of Paul Larsen's QV-KEVII Leeward Islands collection [a US collector who had a great collection of Leeward's stamps and stationery] in December 2008 that caused me to think about how the interest in Leeward Islands postal stationery has changed over the last 35 years. For the record, the auction of Paul's material by Victoria Stamp Company went very well with most lots selling, and a few surprising results especially the original key plate die proofs. There were 31 lots of stationery including a few proofs and all but one of these lots sold. The few stationery proofs sold below estimate as did some mixed lots but a number of stationery items sold well above their estimates. The only other surprise was the relatively low prices of the postal stationery with manuscript ship cancels compared to covers with stamps that had the same manuscript cancels. To my mind the stationery items, although selling above estimate, were still relatively cheap.

One of the issues with used postal stationery is the dichotomy between the item's value and its interest as postal stationery versus its value as postal history. There is always some competition between the two that often sees stationery collectors and postal historians vying for the same item. In addition, stationery is often a good source for examples of usage of a stamp so a third force comes into play. There is additional interest in Leeward Islands' material because an item can be of interest to a collector of the Leeward Islands or a collector of the individual colony.

I first started collecting the stamps of the Leeward Islands when I was about 16 years old. I was collecting Australia at the time but the 1970s boom meant I couldn't afford much, so I looked around for something else to collect. The Leeward

Islands looked a good choice as there weren't a lot of stamps, they were no longer issuing stamps and even back then there were only a few stamps that seemed out of reach at the time. So began a 35 year adventure. A few years after I started collecting the Leeward Islands I bought my first stationery lot in an auction. I knew virtually nothing about stationery at the time but these few mint items really interested me. I then started chasing Leeward Islands' stationery, which wasn't that easy back then – especially in Australia. However, it was an ideal time to start collecting postal stationery. It was relatively cheap and I had little if any competition. The few other collectors at that time, such as Paul Larsen, I knew nothing about. In about 1985 I decided that there was too much competition for the stamps so I focussed on stationery only. The rest is history and needless to say it was the best stamp decision I ever made. I have also been lucky in that key material was released onto the market when Paul Larsen (twice), Michael Oliver and to a smaller extent Eric Yendall, all decided to sell part of their collections of Leeward Island material.

Over the last 35 years I have seen the interest in Leeward Islands postal stationery increase greatly. Interest in the KGVI stationery grew strongly as collectors expanded their interest in KGVI stamps. Again I was lucky when it came to the KGVI stationery. I bought an accumulation of stamps and mainly First Day Covers in about 1978 in an auction in Australia. Where this lot came from I don't know but it was heavily duplicated and appeared to have been collected in the Leeward Islands. It included hundreds of copies of low value stamps in very variable condition. I searched through these and found a number of quite scarce postmarks and some useful KGVI errors, worth much more than the cost of the collection. In addition there were 8 covers with a KGVI £1 stamp on them used locally. I sold these off for many times the cost of the lot. However, for me the key was a few stationery cutouts including KGVI envelopes. This was where I noticed that the envelopes came with a range of interiors, blue or black and different patterns. I then started to chase these items and the result of my research has been published in the British Caribbean Philatelic

Study Group journal⁶. This was definitely the right time to specialise in this material.

More recently the other reigns of Leeward Island stationery are now holding their own. Collectors are starting to realise how scarce some of this material really is. In addition, the stationery remains attractive to postal historians as many registered envelopes represent multiple weight steps, there is a good range of destinations available (I have over 40 destinations in my own exhibit) and they often have higher denomination stamps on them - overall an attractive mix.

One final point I would like to make relates to the lotting of postal stationery items and I will use the sale of Paul Larsen's collection as an example. Thirty years ago the few proof items would have been individual lots, as would the manuscript ship cancels. The remainder of stationery items would have been handled one of three ways - slipped into stamp-related groupings, sold as one lot or at best sold as groupings by type. Imagine if this had been done to Paul's material this time round. I believe that there would have been limited bidding and the mixed lots would probably have gone to dealers. Instead the material was well lotted and many individual items sold for prices much higher than if they had been grouped. There were still one or two groups of material that I noticed sold below estimate, and one or two of the items from these should have been an individual lot - a postal stationery wrapper to New South Wales for example. But overall the material was well lotted and sold well. The sooner some major auction houses realise that there is value in splitting up stationery lots the better off both collectors and vendors will be.

Recent Finds

I am now in the position where, if I purchase a new item for my exhibit it usually means removing an item from the exhibit, hence I don't buy a lot. However, as the following examples illustrate, there are still gems to be found and there is often much to recommend an item besides it being stationery.

Some of these items were found on eBay but over the years I have found only limited Leeward

Island stationery material for my exhibit on eBay. There have been a few gems, including items I have missed such as a KGV registered envelope commercially used in Barbuda [subsequently purchased in another auction], but overall the range is not there when compared to stamps.

Queen Victoria 1d Postcard used in the British Virgin Islands

The card illustrated in Figure 1a is an excellent example of the postal history value of a stationery item. The QV 1d postcard is probably the most commonly seen item of Leeward Islands stationery. There were 30,450 issued in 19 printings. The survival rate has been relatively high and in general they are not expensive to buy. However, I have a number used to unusual destinations or with interesting maritime use. This particular card was an unsold lot in a European auction. I decided to purchase it because I didn't have a commercial usage of the card from the British Virgin Islands. This card was an attractive commercial usage, the writer seeking lumber to build a house. The card was missent to Baltimore rather than Texas but I am not sure whether it was ever returned to the sender. Overall the card is

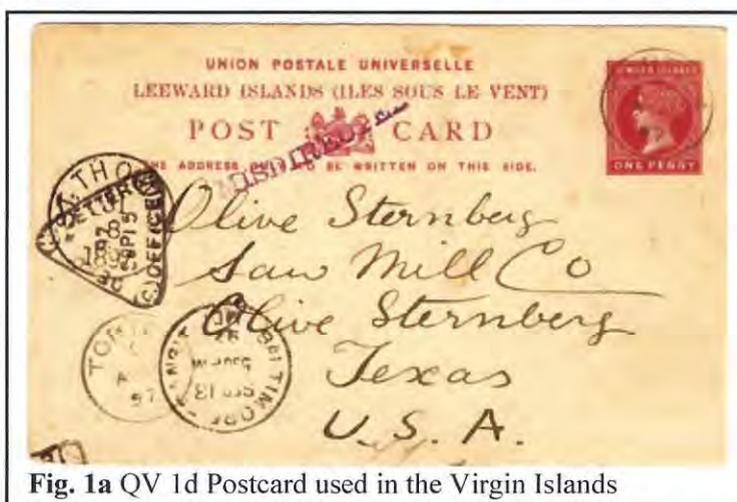


Fig. 1a QV 1d Postcard used in the Virgin Islands

quite attractive and a suitable addition to my exhibit.

However, it wasn't until I actually received the card that I realised it was also a very interesting piece of postal history. As West Indies collectors will be aware, any commercial mail from the British Virgin Islands prior to about 1910 is quite scarce. My own research on populations indicated that there were only 12 Europeans in the islands in the 1890 census. This card was written on Beef Island which is off the Eastern end of Tortola (see

⁶ D.J. Fuller, "Leeward Islands Postal Stationery: KGV I Airmail Envelopes", *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, 34, 71-74, 1994

Figure 1b). Today it has a bridge connecting it to Tortola and is the site of a major airport. However,

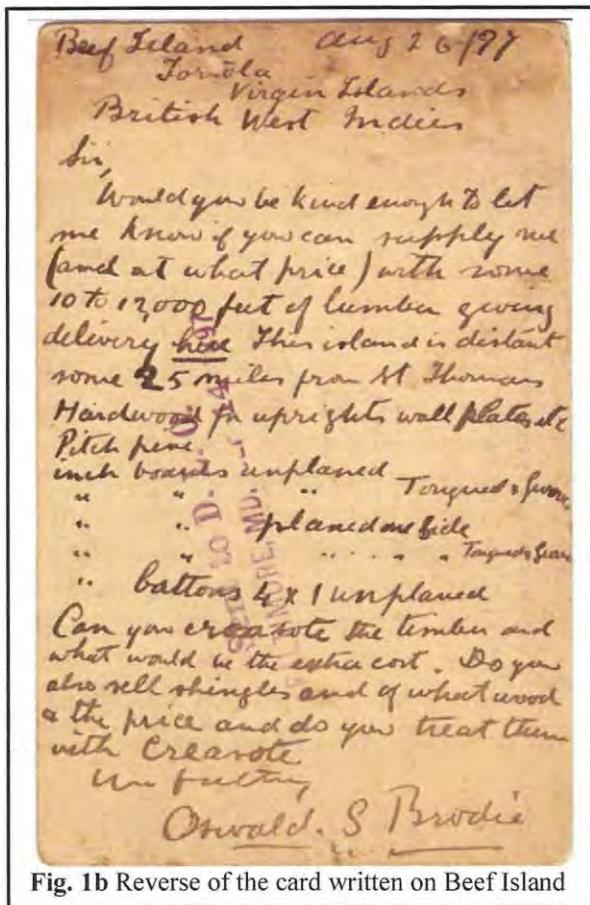


Fig. 1b Reverse of the card written on Beef Island

in 1897 there would have been little there. The card is dated August 26 1897 but was postmarked in Tortola on 30 August 1897. This suggests it took four days to reach the post office. As far as I am aware there was no internal mail system in the islands so the sender probably had to wait for someone with a boat who was travelling to Tortola. The card then passed through St Thomas (as usual) on its way to the United States.

The card is an excellent example of a common stationery item with strong postal history interest.

King George V ½d Postcard

Figure 2 illustrates a very fine commercial usage of a rare postal stationery card. This card was one of a set of six issued in 1926 in a new larger size, at a time when it was decided to stop issuing stationery for the individual islands. Of these six cards, all are very rare commercially used except this ½d card which is just rare. The six cards comprised ½d, 1d and 1½d single cards plus ½d+½d, 1d+1d and 1½d+1½d reply paid cards. To date only the ½d, 1d and the Volume 29, No. 1

message half of the ½d+½d cards are known commercially used. They all exist philatelically used to the German dealer Beckhaus and French dealer Schoeller. The printing figures for these cards are as low as 1,002 and only the ½d card had more than one printing. When I state that the ½d card is only rare it is because I have recorded 4 or 5 commercial usages, but this includes one to Harry Huber [well known philatelist and author] from Barbuda and another used in Montserrat in about 1940. Despite the fact that the multiple printings would indicate significant local use I have yet to find one used at the local rate. All examples seen to date have been uprated.

The card was posted in 1935 from someone in the telephone exchange in Antigua to a passenger on a ship at Trinidad. In order to reach the person in time it was sent airmail and this is what makes this postcard so interesting. Postcards sent airmail in the 1930s are not common and it is hard to find examples of airmail postcard rates. In this case the postcard rate is 1d plus 4d for airmail. What makes this card so interesting is that most cards sent airmail, when you can find them, will be to the UK or the USA. It is very rare to get an airmail postcard in this period sent from one small island to another within the British West Indies.

This card will definitely find its way into my exhibit but what I also like about this card is that fits another one of my collecting interests. I also collect Caribbean commercial airmails in the period from about 1929 to circa 1950 that were posted from within the Caribbean to another island in the Caribbean. This is, in fact, not an easy task as the vast majority of airmail covers in this period went to the UK, USA or Canada.

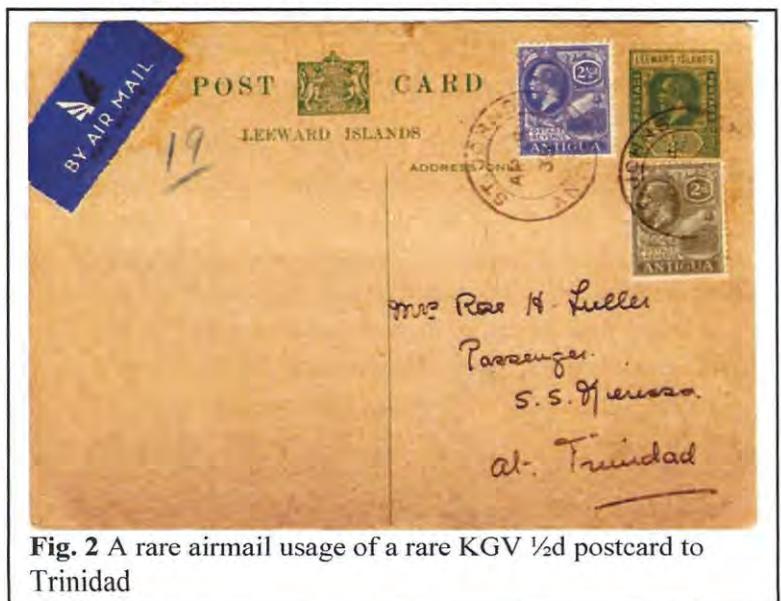


Fig. 2 A rare airmail usage of a rare KGV ½d postcard to Trinidad

Again this is an example of a postal stationery card that fits into at least three collecting areas – Leeward Islands, Antigua and commercial airmails.

1934 King George V 1½d “Airmail” Envelope



Fig. 3 A very rare KGV 1½d ‘airmail’ envelope used

The envelope illustrated in Figure 3 is another very rare item. I have labelled it an airmail envelope as I believe that this was its intended use but it is in fact a security-lined pelure paper envelope. For a long time this envelope was only known from a single used example. A search of the De La Rue records showed that there was a single printing of 5,350 in 1934. A similar 1d envelope was also issued at the same time. The 1d was unknown until I discovered a cutout back in the 1970s. Over the years a few more have shown up including one mint example of each, two used copies of the 1d envelope and three used copies of the 1½d envelope. The envelope illustrated is now the fourth known used copy. The question always arises as to what happened to the rest of these envelopes. They are far rarer than examples of the KGV envelopes which had lower printings.

As a stationery item this is a great rarity but as a postal history item it is fairly common. I purchased this item on eBay and it is without doubt the best bargain I have ever had on the site. The seller obviously didn't know the rarity of the envelope and listed the cover only on eBay in the UK, not on eBay.com. He correctly listed it at a starting price of £9.99 which would not be unreasonable for what is a fairly common Paquebot cover. The final price of around £18 was obviously a bargain for the stationery item but a good price for a paquebot cover of this nature.

In this case the postal stationery value far outweighs the postal history value for this envelope.

King George VI ½d Newspaper Wrapper

The fourth item, illustrated in Figure 4, is an example of the KGV ½d newspaper wrapper used in 1943. It is a complete wrapper but was torn completely across on opening. This wrapper had the highest printing of any item of KGV stationery with 14,400 printed, but used is one of the rarest items of Leeward Islands stationery. Very few of these wrappers were kept on receipt and this is a new find. It is only the third used example of this wrapper recorded by me. Interestingly all three are used in St Kitts. The postal history value in this item is as an example of the ½d newspaper rate which is not easy to find.

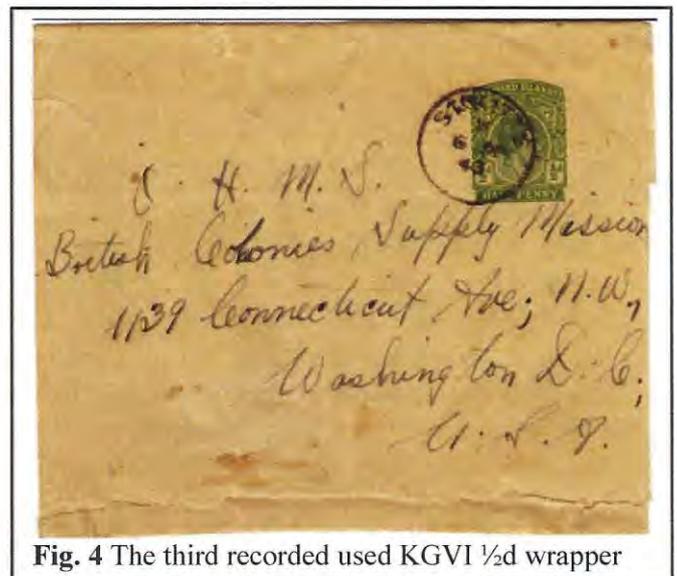


Fig. 4 The third recorded used KGV ½d wrapper

This item was a very fortuitous purchase on eBay also. It was in a mixed lot of Leeward Islands covers, the majority of which had little interest or value. The image of the seven covers was not large and normally I wouldn't look that closely at such a group. It was only luck that I noticed what looked like a newspaper wrapper in the lot. At first I thought it was the KGV ½d wrapper, which is also rare used, but I took the image and expanded it and saw this wrapper. I was quite excited and put a significant bid on it. Luckily for me, and for Leeward Islands stationery collectors, I did manage to purchase the lot for about \$10. So now there are three recorded used examples of this wrapper.

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SOME AUSTRALIAN TREES

Peter Cheah

Trees are important for our survival. A great number of items and materials for human use are derived from them. Trees also provide other organisms with food, shelter, and shade. They prevent soil erosion, regulate soil temperature and are an important component of the natural landscape. Wood from trees is also widely used as a primary energy source in many developing countries. Without trees or vegetation, the landscape would be a desert.

Trees can be either evergreen or deciduous. They come in all shapes and sizes and their foliage can be quite varied as between the species. They are able to grow from seeds or cuttings and can regenerate from stems of old trees. Trees also have an important role in many of the world's mythologies and religions.

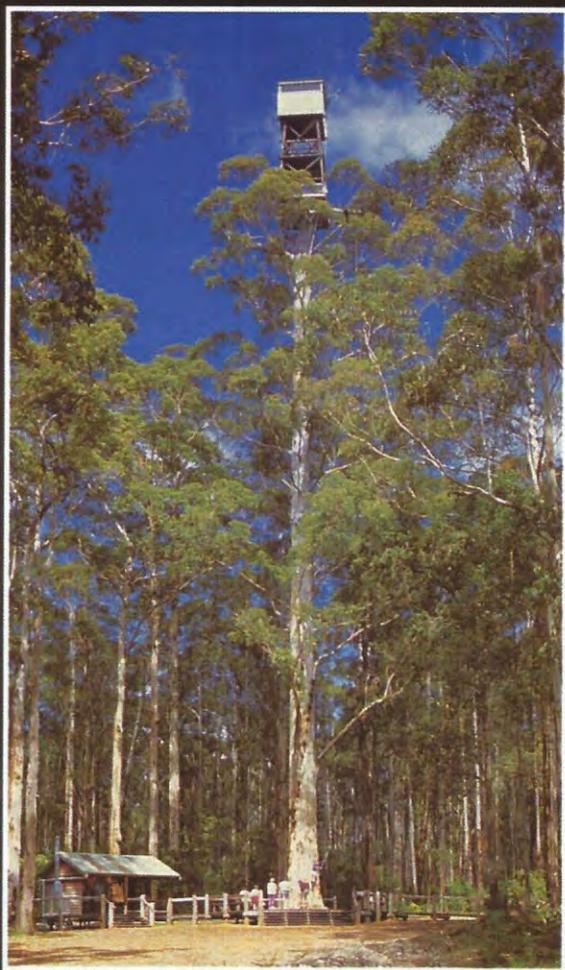
Of the top ten species of the world's largest trees so far measured, 3 are Australian, viz. the Tasmanian Blue Gum, the Australian Mountain Ash and the Australian Oak. The oldest known Australian tree specimen is the Tasmanian Huon pine said to be up to 2500 years old. As an aside, it is interesting to note that a plant called King's Holly, also found in Tasmania, is reputed to be more than 46,000 years old.

In a recently published book by Bob Beale, *If Trees could Speak*, he states-- "More than any other product of nature, trees gave us the raw material to build, shape and express what we are as a nation. They remain central to our daily lives, our character and hopes; they are literally at the root of our national identity".

Not surprisingly therefore, individual trees and forests are listed in national, State and conservation heritage registers. Trees have also been the subject of paintings, poems, songs, phrases and other social topics, like postcards. "Tree politics" is also a modern social cause celebre.

Much more could be said (and shown) about trees: their commercialisation in so many different fields, their end products, and their botanical and ornamental use in public and private gardens the world over. Various postcard themes could flow from this!

Sources: The Internet (various articles), data printed on postcards, and Bob Beale, "If Trees Could Speak – Stories of Australia's Greatest Trees", Allen & Unwin, 2007.

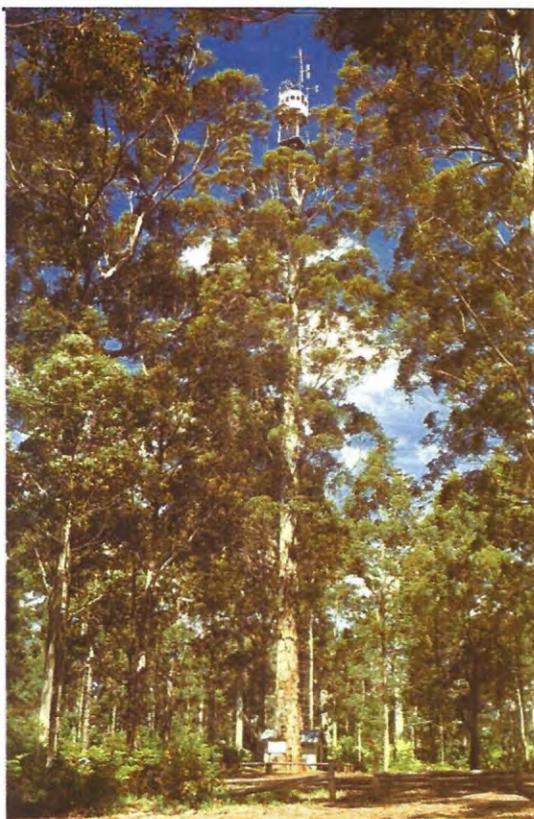


DIAMOND TREE MANJIMUP
W.A.

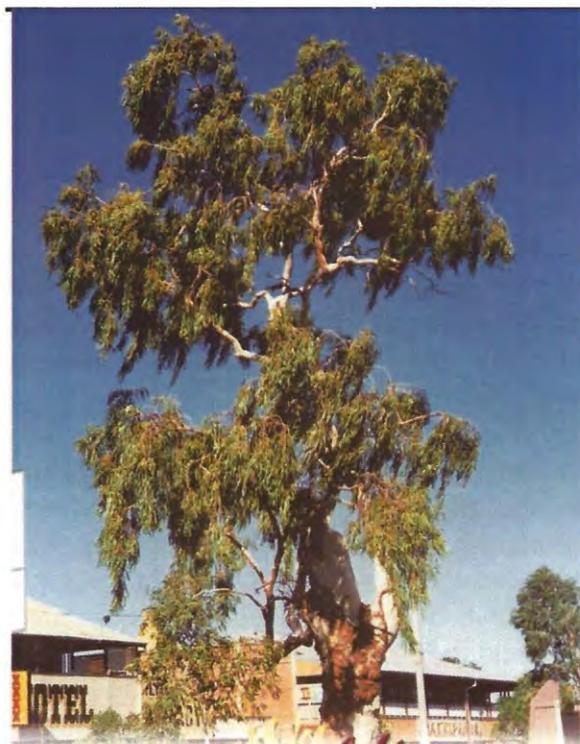


The **Diamond Tree** is a giant Karri located 10km south of Manjimup, WA on the South Western Highway. A wooden viewing platform, built in 1939, is located 52 metres up, and is the oldest wooden platform fire lookout still in use today.

The **Tree of Knowledge** in Barcaldine is no more, having been vandalized and poisoned just a few years ago. The significance of this ghost gum is that it is considered to be the site at which a political movement began that culminated in the formation of the Australian Labor Party.

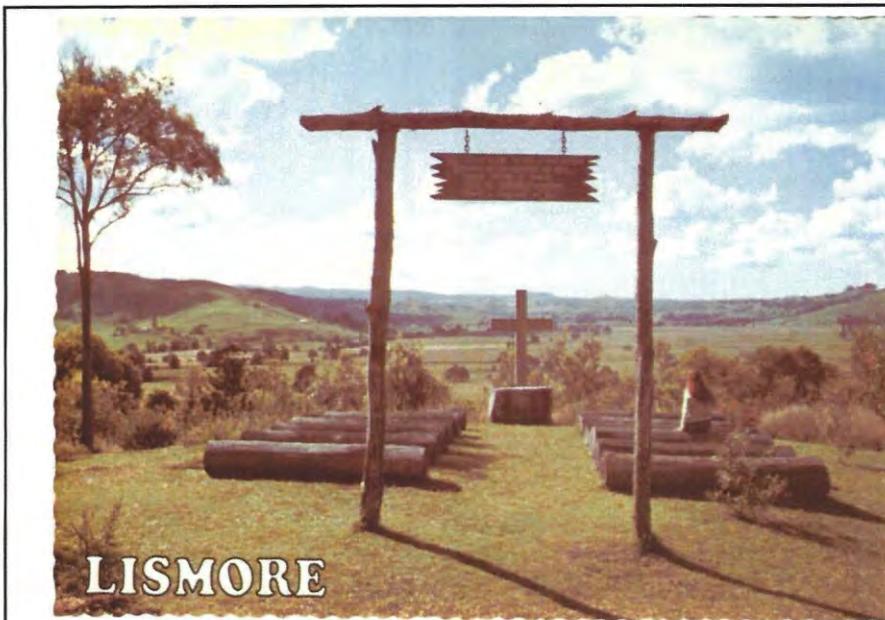


The **Gloucester Tree** is a giant Karri in the Gloucester National park, WA. At 72 metres, it is the world's tallest fire-lookout tree, and visitors can climb up to a platform in its upper branches for a spectacular view of the surrounding Karri forest. The Shire of Manjimup owns it.



Barcaldine

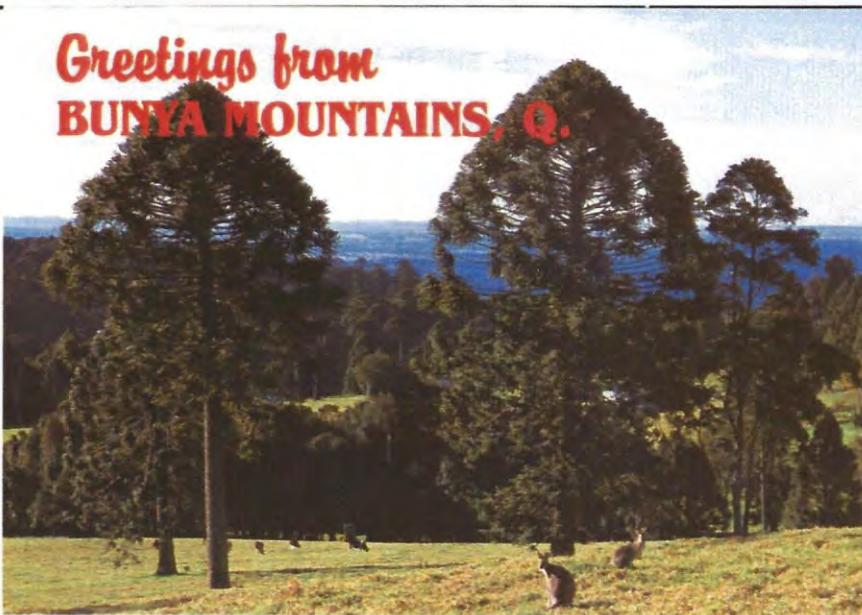
OUTBACK QUEENSLAND



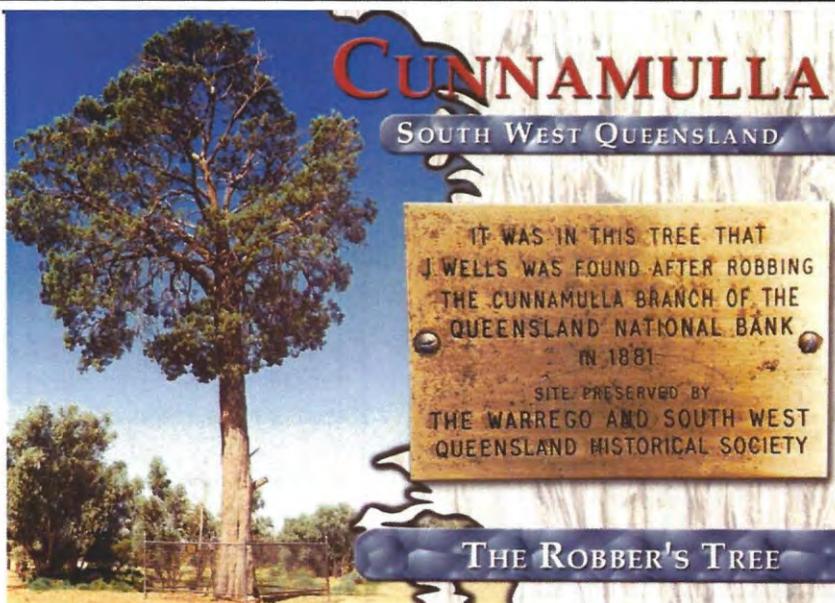
LISMORE

Unusual use of timber - logs used as 'pews' at an outdoor 'cathedral' in Lismore.

Greetings from
BUNYA MOUNTAINS, Q.



The day after the opening of the Federal Parliament in Canberra in May 1927, the Duke of York planted a **bunya pine** on the corner of **State Circle and King's Avenue**. This tree is still doing well and the accompanying postcard of *Bunya Mountains, Q* shows two examples of this species.



CUNNAMULLA

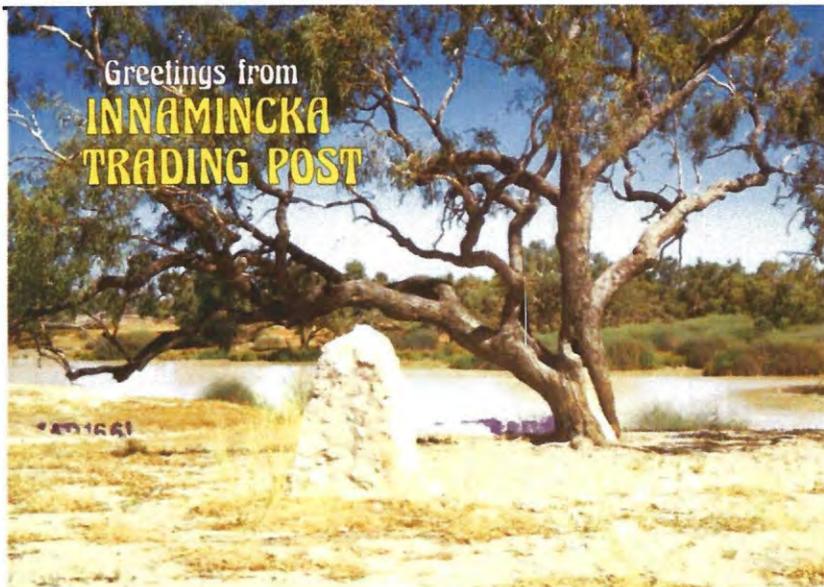
SOUTH WEST QUEENSLAND

IT WAS IN THIS TREE THAT
J. WELLS WAS FOUND AFTER ROBBING
THE CUNNAMULLA BRANCH OF THE
QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK
IN 1881

SITE PRESERVED BY
THE WARREGO AND SOUTH WEST
QUEENSLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE ROBBER'S TREE

The **Robber's Tree** so names after Joseph Wells robbed a Cunnamulla Bank in 1880. He hid in a tree afterwards but was quickly found and captured by irate townspeople. Wells was the last man in Queensland to receive the death penalty for his crime.



The **Dig Tree** at **Coopers Creek** is regarded as Australia's most historic tree and attracts many tourists. It was under this tree that the explorers Burke and Wills tragically died.



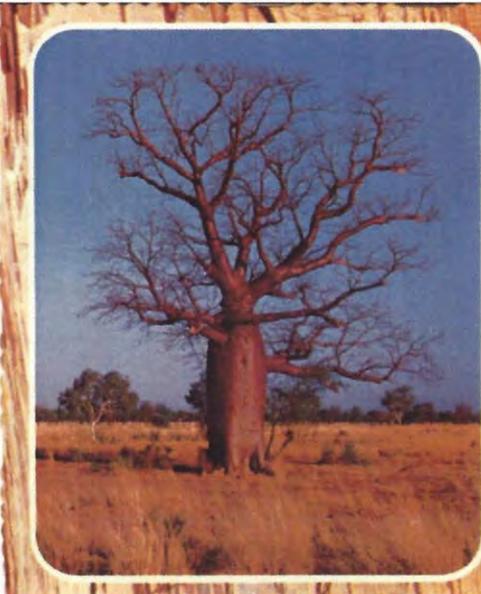
The **Old Gum Tree** in Adelaide is the spot where Captain John Hindmarsh proclaimed the colony of South Australia in 1836.



Greenough Leaning Trees are scattered throughout the Shire of Greenough, WA. This natural phenomenon is caused by the airborne salt content blown in with the winds off the Indian Ocean. The tree trunks lie horizontally to the ground and have become somewhat of an icon for the area.



The beauty of Canberra's autumn leaves can be seen around April in some of the inner city's tree-lined suburbs.



DID YOU KNOW —

That Aboriginal legend has it that the BOAB TREE was once a tall, proud but arrogant aristocrat of the plant world? It flaunted its proud and graceful shape among the spindly trees of the arid terrain. "How remarkable and how superior I am" it seemed to say. This made all other trees feel miserable. The gods, not happy with this, bewitched the seeds of this vain tree; and lol its seedlings grew upside down. From that time the Boab underwent a curious reversal. The bark developed folds and instead of growing tall it became grotesque and squat. But the Boab was not deprived of all good features. As the wet season approaches, masses of flowers and foliage arrive providing man and animal with shelter. The roots may provide water for the parched traveller and the rich seed pods were on the menu of the Aborigines.

The Boab Tree.



T10. ROSE SERIES P. 8401

GRAFTON'S MAGNIFICENT JACARANDAS IN FISHER PARK, N.S.W.

Jacaranda Trees in Fisher Park in Grafton NSW.



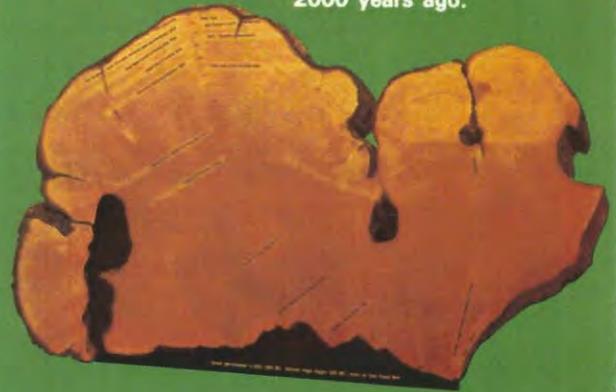
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