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The custom of sending Christmas cards was started in the United Kingdom in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole. He was a civil servant who had helped set up the new Public Records Office, (now called the Post Office), where he was an assistant keeper, and wondered how it could be used more by ordinary people.

Sir Henry discussed the idea of Christmas cards with his friend John Horsley, who was an artist. They designed the first card and sold them for one shilling each. That is only about eight cents today, but in those days it was worth much more. About 1000 cards were printed, which are very rare and cost thousands of dollars to buy, as shown below.



Xmas postcards were very popular in the early 1900s, as the postage was cheaper than that of a letter. Here is an early one from New Zealand.



New Zealand post and telegraph services used this pictorial telegram form from 1966 to 1968.



Air mail aerogrammes were very popular in the 1970s, as overseas rates were the most expensive, and with their weight being so light they were a popular way of sending Xmas messages.



Today in the United Kingdom, people have the choice of sending their mail by first or second class. First class is the quickest with delivery to most places next day, while second class takes about three days.



novel stamps

Over the last few years, many Postal Authorities have issued stamps which are both novel in design and also material. Tonga has had embossed self adhesives and at the other end of the spectrum, Austria had embroidered stamps. Here are six issues which are unique.



Self Adhesive Stamps

Tonga first issued self adhesive stamps in 1963. The stamp shown above in the shape of Tongatapu issued in 1966 was a real break from tradition in stamp design, and again was self adhesive, with a very decorative embossed surface, edged with gold.

The other stamp shown above is another highly embossed stamp from 1966, a very attractive one to commemorate Queen Salote of Tonga who died in 1965.

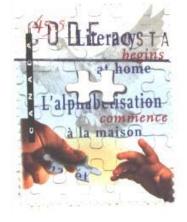


Embroidered Stamp

In 2005 Austria post issued their first embroidered stamp showing the Edelweiss flower with the edging mimicking perforations.

Design Cut Out Stamp

A design cut out from stamps is more unusual than stamps of various shapes and sizes. The first Canadian stamp with a part of the design cut out was issued in 1996 to commemorate Literacy Year.



Round Stamps

Our very own round Kiwi stamp is also amongst the unusual shapes in philately releases.

Issued on 31 December 1999, this purple issue was the last stamp issued by New Zealand Post in the 20th century. This issue is overprinted with a gold sunburst design in each corner.

The \$1.10 gold round kiwi stamp was issued on 6 March 2000.





Scented Stamp

Swiss Post issued a chocolate scented stamp in May 2001 to mark the 100th anniversary of Chocosuisse, the Association of Swiss Chocolate Manufacturers.

Each stamp looks like a piece of chocolate. The illusion of a bar of chocolate is heightened by the foil wrapping in the sheet margins. Gently rubbing the surface of the stamp releases a sweet smell of chocolate.



Hologram Stamps

The first country to issue a Hologram stamp was Austria. Shown is one from the first country to use a hologram on a postal envelope as part of the postal rate - the United States of America on 13th December 1989.

Congratulations

2016 has been a very busy and exciting year for those young collectors who can enter exhibitions overseas. Everyone had a brilliant year and the results were outstanding.

April – Canberra

Amv Rosenfeldt Lachlan Smith Ryan Smith Annalise Smith Sharon McTaggart Rose McTaggart May – New York Warrick Wright August – Thailand Annalise Smith **Rvan Smith** October – Taipei Annalise Smith

Ryan Smith

Warrick Wright

Amy Rosenfeldt

Lachlan Smith

Ciara Gibson

Rose McTaggart

October – Adelaide

Gold Gold Vermeil Vermeil Vermeil Large Vermeil

Large Vermeil

Large Silver Vermeil

Large Silver Vermeil Large Vermeil

Gold

Gold Vermeil Vermeil

DID YOU KNO

The largest stamp in the world is the one to the right, used by the USA in 1865 for posting newspapers.



entries for our There was a great number of National Exhibition held in November in Christchurch

National Class

Amv Rosenfeldt Annalise Smith Ciara Gibson Conor Smith Hadley Muller Lachlan Smith Leyton Wright Rose McTaggart Ryan Smith Sharon McTaggart Warrick Wright Isabella Beach Louisa Slack **Youth Development** Brianna Gibson Hadlev Muller Larissa Laubach Bodie Walker

Right: Three City of Sails members with their Achievement Awards. Also in 2016 Leyton Wright received his Silver Bronze Below Right: Samantha Rowe receiving the Best Youth Award at North Shore in October from Len Jury.

Timothy Brown

Sharon McTaggart

Anna McTaggart

Large Silver Vermeil Vermeil Vermeil Large Silver Larae Vermeil Silver Vermeil Large Vermeil Vermeil Large Vermeil Vermeil Large Silver

Large Silver Vermeil Silver Bronze Silver Silver Bronze Large Vermeil Vermeil





e Smaller stick it onto W Stamp Want it! ;; So

After a hinging session at Pukekohe Juniors recently, Esther Downs made this collage



For a change our word puzzle this newsletter has hidden It's a Kiwi thing slogans - good luck. Remember the words can also go backwards or diagonally across.







It's a Kiwi thing ...



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Beach cricket

Bungy Jump

Stamp Camp 2017

Advance Notice

Stamp camp next year will be held at

Ardmore, Auckland.

Dates are from 9th to 15th July 2017.

More details in our March newsletter.



Trout fishing Whale watching Windy Wellington Whitebaiting





\$1.00



\$1.00



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