

## Newport Philatelic Society

<https://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/>

### Newsletter 29th Release: Number 89 March 2021

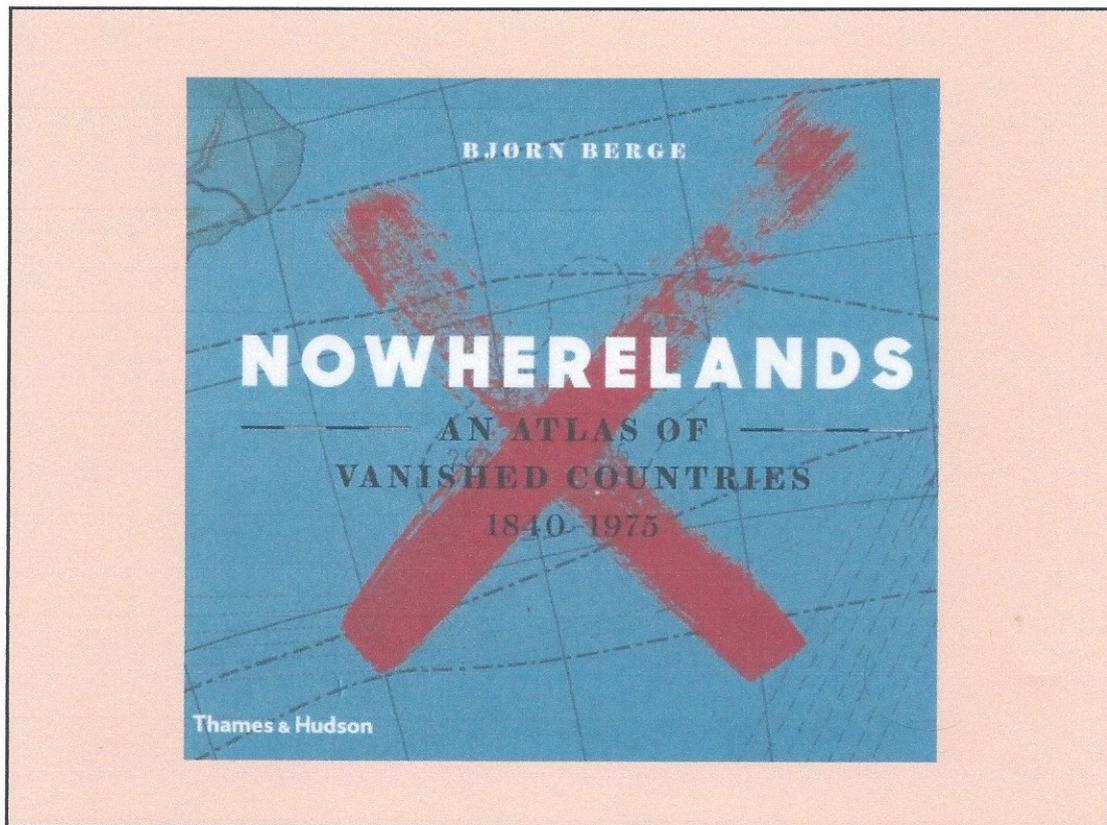
#### Introduction:

Welcome to the 29<sup>th</sup> issue of the newsletter. In this issue I have included my slide presentation with my notes on “Vanished countries” from the last society video meeting for those members who were unable to attend. The society now has a Zoom license so we can arrange unlimited video meetings and the committee is working on a suitable programme for the rest of the season. We have made contact with some speakers who are happy using zoom for their philatelic presentations and we are putting together a programme for members to enjoy. If anyone has any areas or suggestions for a video meeting topic then please let me know as the committee wants to encourage all to participate and contribute to all future meeting ideas.

A recent E-Bay purchase from Russia, anybody want some Russian stamps?



## Vanished Countries: Les



A Christmas present in 2020.

A selection of countries which existed by virtue of a stamp or overprint.

There are over 1000's such countries so this is only a snapshot.

Sometimes described as "Dead" countries.

Stamps can prove the existence of a country but equally inevitably they tell lies and are often used for propaganda.



Kingdom of Two Sicilies  
1816-1860

Created when the Kingdom of Sicily and Naples combined and became the biggest Italian sovereign state before Italian unification (1861)

This is the first stamp from 1858, King's coat of arms the rearing horse and three bent human legs and the other motif is the triskelion (triangular shape thought to date back to a representation of the shape of greater Greece).

A poor kingdom, all off the early stamps are orange/brown probably from cheap soil based pigment dissolved in linseed oil. Kingdom remained until 1860 when it was overthrown by what was known as "the expedition of the thousand" led by Garibaldi, the icon of Italian unification.

The Garibaldi biscuit was named after Giuseppe Garibaldi, an Italian general and leader of the struggle to unify the Kingdom of Italy. Garibaldi made a popular visit to South Shields in England in 1854. The biscuit was first manufactured by the Bermondsey biscuit company Peek Freans in 1861 following the recruitment of Jonathan Carr, one of the great biscuit makers of Carlisle.



Heligoland 1807-1890, first stamps from 1867, this stamp is from 1869.

Originally Danish, then British from 1807 until 1890, then swapped with German for island of Zanzibar, taken as a war prize (1945-1952) by Britain, extensively used for bombing practise!, then eventually returned to Germany.

Famous as a health spa destination, the lyrics for the German anthem were written there. Heisenberg (famous for his quantum theories) spent much time for his health there.



New Brunswick 1784-1867, stamps from 1851, this stamp is from 1860, thought to be the first steam ship on a stamp and thought to be based on the steamship SS Hungarian.

On February 8, 1860, Hungarian left Liverpool, England for Portland, Maine, under the command of Captain Thomas Jones. She called at Queenstown, Ireland, (collected the main cargo at that time which was Irish immigrants during the potato blight and departed from there on February 9, 1860. On the night of February 19, she wrecked on Cape Ledge, the west side of Cape Sable, Nova Scotia, with total loss of life. The wrecked ship, and survivors who clung to her, were visible from shore, but unreachable due to high seas and gale-force winds that did not relent until six days later.

Newspaper articles were published for months after the incident. Most messages about the disaster were sent out from Barrington Telegraph and relayed to major cities. News of the wreck following soon after that of her sister ship Indian "threw a sense of gloom over the whole of British America". All 205 people on board were killed.

Also released at the same time is thought to be the first train stamp, the postmaster was a director of the European and North American railway!



A little extra for you from New Brunswick!

What could be considered the first true “commemorative” stamp of youthful Prince of Wales in commemoration of his visit to the Province of Canada in 1860.

Over the next few years the appearance of these commemorative postage stamps caused a backlash among some stamp collectors in the early years of stamp collecting, who balked at the prospect of laying out ever-larger sums to acquire the stamps of the world. This led to the formation of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps in 1895 to blacklist these excessive stamps. The organization broke up after unsuccessful attempts at getting collectors at large to comply with their wishes. My how the world has changed!



Correintes 1856-1875.

A province of Argentina, first stamps from 1856, Stamps are similar to the early French stamps, but poorly made, initially the value was in the bottom panel but then this was blocked out and the colour of the paper signified value.

Issued as postage stamps and a means of payment. Pen cancellation was the norm!  
The paper was made of packaging paper, made from sugar cane, and taken from imported goods.

The Yacyretá Dam is in the northeast of the province. It is one of the largest hydroelectric dams in the world.

On 28 September 2004, Guaraní became an official language of Corrientes, alongside Spanish. It is the only Argentine Province with an official language other than Spanish.



Labuan 1846-1906, an island now part of Malaysia, was part of North Borneo and part of the British "Straits Settlements".  
First stamps in 1879, this is 1892 stamp.

Labuan was part of the Majapahit Empire until its collapse in the 14th century. Then, it was ruled by the Sultan of Brunei until 1846 when it was ceded to the British in that year. It was a strategic re-fuelling station for British steamships and was subsequently established as a free port. Labuan was a British naval base used to fight the pirates in Brunei Bay and was also the only significant coal-mining centre of the then British Empire in the Far East in 1987.

Now part of Malaysia is now a duty free port and financial centre. Island is mainly flat with high point of 85m, and it has two annual monsoons, April-June and September to December!



Schleswig 1864-1867

Stamp from 1864/5, Schleswig is a city in the borderlands between Germany and Denmark, the region has been owned by Denmark, Germany and was independent for a very short time.

Now the original area is mostly part of Germany as the state of Holstein Schleswig.

The annual Wacken Open air festival is considered to be the largest heavy metal rock festival in the world!



Danish West Indies, 1754-1917, colony in the Caribbean

First stamps in 1856, this example is from 1900.

Part of a triangle of trade, arms slaves, sugar, however, once slavery abolished, islands became uneconomic, tried to sell to USA in 1867, however, earth quakes and fires, stopped the USA buying and it was also offered to Germany around this time, eventually sold to the USA for 25 million dollars in 1917, becoming the Virgin Islands.

The island of Saint Thomas, one of the three main islands, is home to one of the oldest Jewish communities in the Western Hemisphere as Sephardic Jews began to settle the island in the 18th century as traders and merchants. The St. Thomas Synagogue in Charlotte Amalie is the second oldest synagogue on American soil and oldest in terms of continuous usage.



Van Diemen's land. 1803 – 1856 Stamps from 1853 to 1856.  
Had water and favourable land but the land needed to be cleared, so unsurprisingly it became one of Britain's largest penal colonies.

1820 there were between 3000 and 7000 aboriginal natives, by the beginning of the 1850's only 16 remained.

Many were killed in a human chain which swept the island from coast to coast those that survived this sweep were imprisoned in concentration camps.

Many were also killed by imported disease to which the indigenous population had no protection.

In 1822 of the 12,000 people, 60% were prisoners!

Because of the stigma of the name in 1856 the land became Tasmania.

The last aboriginal inhabitant died in 1856.

In 1877 the penal settlement is closed down.

In 1901 is placed under Australian rule.

The state is named after Dutch explorer Abel Tasman, who made the first reported European sighting of the island on 24 November 1642. Tasman named the island "Anthony van Diemen's Land" after his sponsor Anthony van Diemen, the Governor of the Dutch East Indies. The name was later shortened to Van Diemen's Land by the British. It was officially renamed Tasmania in honour of its first European discoverer on 1 January 1856. Known locally as TAS or "Tassie".



Elobey, Annobon and Corisco, 1777-1909, total area of 36 sq. kilometres.

Was part of Spanish Africa and today is the islands part of Equatorial Guinea. Volcanic chain of small islands used originally as safe harbour and trading posts for goods coming out of Africa.

Had its own stamps from 1903 to 1910, example shown is from with a blue control number on the reverse of the stamp.

The 1907 stamp shows Alfonso XIII of Spain, first issue was an image as a young man, many surcharged versions of increasing face value.

On the flag of equatorial Guinea is a silk cotton tree, also known as a "God" tree, under which it is said the first treaty between Spain and a local ruler was signed!

Annobon is named after the Portuguese Ano Bom (Good Year)

Elobey is actually really two islands Elobey Grand and Elobey Chico!



Vancouver Island 1849-1866

Stamps printed by De La Rue, London.

1866 Merged with British Columbia and in 1871 became part of the unified Canadian province.

Vancouver Island was actually named Quadra and Vancouver Island after the Spanish navigator Juan de la Bodega y Quadra and the British naval officer George Vancouver. However, as Spanish influences faded and British influences grew (for example, the name of the province, British Columbia), Quadra was dropped.

The Pig War was a confrontation in 1859 between the United States and the United Kingdom over the British–U.S. border in the San Juan Islands, between Vancouver Island and the State of Washington. This island was occupied by both British and American citizens. In 1859, a pig owned by a British employee of Charles Griffin got onto the farm of an American farmer named Lyman Cutlar. The pig fed on Lyman's potatoes and this made him kill the pig. The Pig War, so called because it was triggered by the shooting of a pig, is also called the Pig Episode, the Pig and Potato War, the San Juan Boundary Dispute and the Northwestern Boundary Dispute. Aside from the death of one pig, this dispute was a bloodless conflict.

I have not got one of these, too expensive!

### **Final Notes:**

We will use video meeting using zoom each fortnight until the end of the season or until we are allowed to meet. Our next meeting topic is the letter "J", so all members are asked to contribute one or two sheets on the letter J. If you can please email a photo, pdf, or any other electronic format of your sheet(s) I will collect them together for the night of the meeting (17<sup>th</sup> March). Stay safe all. Please keep in contact with your fellow club members and if you have not already done so please let Bev know your current contact details so we can keep everybody up to date with any developments.

Thanks to Roy who spotted this useful website which has resources and interesting topics with advice from beginners to experts on all things stamps.

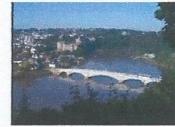
<https://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/collecting-resources/start-stamp-collecting/>

Any mistakes and errors are all down to me, so as before, my genuine apologies for every one of them! If anyone is receiving the newsletter in error or no longer wishes to receive it please let me know and I will remove you from the circulation list.

Until next time.

Les Ashton-Smith

**P.S.**



### Chepstow Postmarks (1951)

A registered cover from Chepstow to Lytham St. Annes sent in 1951. The sender used the two Festival of Britain stamps (issued 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1951, Cat: 255/6) and the cover has a Chepstow Registered label (No. 9739) the postmark is a circular Chepstow Mon with \*.

