

# LONG LIVE THE SULTAN! – *The World and Stamps of Bruce R. Henderson*

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**Bruce Ronald Henderson (until 1978, since around 2000), a.k.a. Bruce Grenville (from 1981 till around 2000) and Martin Renwick (1978-81), is one of the most prolific yet charming producers of fantasy philatelic material of our time.**

Bruce himself calls his project an art project, and in a way, we could consider his total production as a kind of illustrated novel consisting of hundreds of stamps. Seen together, his stamps tell a story about model countries and utopian fantasies.

In 1983, Bruce wrote an article entitled '*Occussi-Ambeno – A Modern Satirical State*', published in an anarchist magazine.

This 4-page article starts with the following statement: **'To anarchists, the idea of something as bizarrely improbable as 'The State' actually being taken seriously by most of the dwellers on this planet, would elicit considerable humour were it not so lethal an institution. Because of this and intrigued by the opportunities that could be provided to parody the State, several comrades and I set up an imaginary State in 1968 – the Sultanate of Occussi-Ambeno.**

**During its time of 'existence', Occussi-Ambeno actions have been rather mind-boggling and have far exceeded in scope what any of the founders ever dreamed. Voluminous quantities of paperwork have been generated and all sorts of people have become entranced with the concept, got involved and contributed their particular talents to the enterprise.'**

Bruce was born in Wellington, New Zealand in 1950, and lived mostly in New Zealand's South Island when young but in Auckland more recently, although he also had a kind of Australian 'exile' from 1978 to 1981.

Henderson has operated in most side-lines of philately. Some of his products could be classed as local stamps (cf. Timaru below), others as fantasy issues or issues of imaginary nations, while others are illustrations adapted from well-known books. Some call these mythical lands "**bogus states**", though their operators prefer to use the term "**Fifth World**" to describe them, and that is the term Bruce constantly uses.

Henderson has himself classed much of his activity as part of the **artistamp community**: artists creating art in the grammar of stamps, without purporting that they are postage-stamps.

Henderson has also participated in what I would call role plays, where stamps etc. are just requisites in a role play or game between imaginary states. His stamps frank the correspondence between the ministries of the various lands.

This article is based on a number of sources, primarily produced by Henderson himself, including circulars, catalogues and leaflets, and a large collection of personal letters from Henderson to me dating from the 1970s.

Bruce wrote an essay himself in the book *Artistamps* by James Warren Felter (AAA Edizioni, Bertiole, Italy, 2000) entitled '*Voyages to Imaginary Countries*'. Here, he discusses Occussi-Ambeno, Fantippo, ICIS, and Upper Yafa.

Information on later issues has been found on Henderson's own websites, and on the vendor-pages of 'Spameater' (owned by Bruce) on TradeMe.co.nz, a website similar to eBay.

The first two parts of this article were originally submitted for publication in CP when L.N. Williams was the editor, and the manuscript was submitted to Henderson and his comments were incorporated into the text. Although accepted for publication the original article never appeared in CP. The text has been rewritten for this version, but facts remain unaltered from the older, unpublished, version. Bruce has kindly read over the text and made corrections where needed.

## Part 1. Bruce R. Henderson - The early years 1968-1978: Timaru Cycle Mail, Queen Maud Land, Waikoa Island, and Occussi-Ambeno

Most known besides the **Timaru cycle mail**, are the **Sultanate of Occussi-Ambeno** phantasies.

To support his claims of the latter being genuine postage-stamps originating from this province of former Portuguese Timor, now Timor Leste, he established an **Occussi-Ambeno Consulate** in Auckland, New Zealand, with an associated **Occussi-Ambeno Overseas Philatelic Bureau** to handle stamp marketing and sales. He even established a news agency (**Markpress**) to distribute press releases of imaginary events of Occussi-Ambeno. I have in my possession several different Markpress News Feature Service bulletins, one dated at **Baleksetung** (the name given by Henderson to the capital city of Occussi-Ambeno), 3rd April 1975, quoting statements on the political situation in Timor made by the Regent of Occussi-Ambeno, Prince **Khalid Wasfd Ibrahim Abdullah**, during a banquet given for an American business delegation.

It is perhaps already now wise to mention that the real Occussi-Ambeno used to be two tiny Christian kingdoms under Portuguese suzerainty, as opposed to the overwhelmingly Muslim neighbouring country of Indonesia (which occupied East Timor, including Occussi-Ambeno, from December 1975 till October 1999).

Occussi-Ambeno's website can be viewed here:

<http://okusi1.tripod.com/>

The sultanate was actually conceived by **Geoffrey Mills**, a close comrade-in-arms of Bruce's at Timaru. Mills became the first ruler, **Sultan Sir Waals Abdullah**, while Bruce became Postmaster-General, and a third compatriot, **Ross Alexander**, became Rajah of Umm al Qitair Province, **Sir Razzi Skleeb**. Sadly, the print technology then available meant Bruce was unable to show Waals' photo on any stamps at that time.

## *Timaru Bicycle Local Post*

Henderson's first project was the '**MOULINS SERVICE**' bicycle mail in **Timaru**, New Zealand, operating from December 1968 to April 1969. This was probably his most successful venture, as he got the whole philatelic world to believe that he had organized a real local mail service in Timaru, served by schoolboys using bicycles to deliver mail.

A separate article was devoted to this service in L.N. and M. Williams' book *Cinderella Philately* and they also wrote an illustrated article about it in the *International Encyclopedia of Stamps* (published by IPC Magazines Ltd., London, in 6 volumes 1970-71) on page 1837. They were also described in *Cinderella Stamps of Australasia* by Bill Hornadge (Dubbo, NSW, 1974, page 81). A short note also appears in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly's Now & Then Column* by Arthur Blair, in the May 1985 issue (page 74).

According to Bruce, two schoolboy cyclists delivered mail for several hours every afternoon between 2 December 1968 and 12 April 1969. According to Bill Hornadge 'No evidence has been forthcoming to show that the service met any community need or that it was other than a philatelic 'stunt' by the youthful organisers.' Bruce did comment on the latter statement by saying '**It was in fact well-patronised by local civilians and stores, and kept 3 cyclist schoolboys busy for around 2 hours every afternoon 3.30 → 5.30 pm, delivering the letters and packages. Everyone was saving a third on postage, and getting same-day delivery. Pillboxes from the chemist were a biggie most days, and they all had the embossed-gold stamp on.**'

According to Hornadge, there were two issues of stamps for the Timaru Bicycle Post. The first printing consisted of a **1 cent** black on orange stamp inscribed 'Postal Service Timaru' and a **2 cents** black on deep red inscribed 'Local Post Service, Timaru'. The second printing included a **3 cents** green on orange ('Timaru Postal Service'), **5 cents** blue on deep red ('Local Post of Timaru'), **7 cents** red and black on orange ('Timaru Local Post') and **15 cents** embossed gold on deep red ('Timaru Postal Service'). In addition, all stamps were inscribed 'POSTES MOULINS' and were gummed and rouletted. Later printings of the 1c, 3c, and 7c were on lemon-coloured paper, as stocks of the orange ran out.

The name of the venture, Moulins Services, is from the French spelling of Geoffrey Mills' surname. The boys had been studying French at school, and needed to find some use for this seemingly-useless linguistic knowledge.

## *Waikoa Island*

One of Bruce's next projects was an attempt to organize off-shore island local posts in New Zealand similar to the British ones. Like Britain, there are many small off-shore islands and islets in New Zealand. This project was not supported by the New Zealand Post though the owners of such islands were keen, and the only result of the project was the fantasy stamps of the imaginary **WAIKOA ISLAND**. The stamps of Waikoa Island are of a common design, showing a coat-of-arms with a ship. Several overprints also exist. The first Waikoa Island stamps appeared in 1965 according to Henderson, but they did not appear on the market until around 1968 or 1969. Some of the first two issues exist with a **Sataoa**/Western Samoa cancel. Sataoa is a small coastal village on the island of Upolu. They also exist with the cancel of **Suwarrow**/Cook Islands, in both cases applied by favour. The stamps with Suwarrow cancel also have a manuscript overprint

reading '**Suwarrow/Island/1970/TN**'. These were overprints by the hermit then dwelling on that island, Tom Neale. Neale's autobiography, *An Island to Oneself* (Collins, 1966), was written with assistance from Noel Barber, who wrote an introduction to it, and deals with Tom's life up to his second departure from Suwarrow. The autobiography sold well and allowed Neale to fund a much greater store of provisions for his third stay. Bruce corresponded regularly with Tom on his lonely isle (mail being carried by the occasional yachts that called there) and sent Tom various Waikoa and Cook Islands stamps and covers, and Tom enjoyed creating philatelic mementos with his handstamps. Tom kept half the covers to distribute to his other correspondents.

The first Waikoa issue, allegedly issued in 1965, consisted of six values: **1 cent** blue, olive, red and black; **2 cents** red, blue, green and black; **4 cents** green, blue, black; **9 cents** blue, red, black; **10 cents** olive, green, violet and red; and **50 cents** purple, yellow, blue and black. This was Bruce's first-time doing multicolour letterpress. After printing, the stamps were painted with Arabic gum on the backs, left to dry, then run through his mother's sewing machine *sans* thread, to perforate them. These stamps were printed on strips of white paper in a row, with an 8 point caption in the lower right selvedge: **Chan Hui Shudian Printing, Minaue, Waikoa Island.**

In 1970, two of the values were overprinted in embossed gold for the birth centenary of Lenin: '**LENIN/1870-1970/Birth Centenary**'. The stamps were surcharged with new values too, viz. **12 cents** on the 9 cents and **\$1** on the 2 cents value. There also exists a miniature sheet with two of the \$1 stamps. In 1972, two 1965 stamps were overprinted and surcharged for the 1st General Assembly of the (fictitious) **International Anti-SST** (supersonic transport) **League**, held in **Mevu Town**. The 50 cents stamp was changed to **6 cents** and the 1 cent stamp to a **30 cents** stamp. At that time, Waikoa Island had been made a 'protectorate' of the Republic of Mevu (we will come back to that later on).

In October 1972, the political regime of Mevu changed and the **National State of Mevu** was proclaimed. Again, two 1965 stamps were overprinted. The overprint reads '**National State/of Mevu/Proclaimed/9th October 1972**'. The overprint was applied to the **2 cents** and **50 cents** values.

The final issue for Waikoa Island by Henderson was a 1973 set to protest against the French nuclear bomb tests in the Pacific. The **1 cent**, **10 cents** and **50 cents** values of the 1965 series were now overprinted '**Oppose/the French/Bomb Tests/1973**' in brown.

In September 1973, various Occussi-Ambeno stamps were overprinted '**WAIKOIA/ISLAND**', and some were surcharged with new values also. The reason for this was that I had taken over Mevu and Waikoa Island in July 1973, but did not produce new stamps (other than one each July 1973 stamp) for these entities until much later, so the Occussi-Ambeno stamps were used for the interim period. Altogether eight stamps, including three Quatair stamps, were overprinted for Waikoa Island. These are called "**Occussi-Ambeno Post Offices abroad**" in the Occussi-Ambeno catalogue, and were done at my suggestion.

### ***Queen Maud Land***

In 1967 and 1968, Bruce produced fantasy stamps inscribed **QUEEN MAUD LAND**,

purporting to have been issued by research parties operating in this area of Antarctica. The Queen Maud Land stamps were at the time marketed through a holding company with an address on **Pitcairn Island**; Henderson remained in faraway Timaru in New Zealand, however. I have personally never seen any of these stamps; I have only received a list of the issues from Henderson, which states that two stamps commemorating the **10th anniversary of the first crossing of Antarctica** by Hillary and Fuchs were issued in 1967 with **\$2** (green and red) and **\$5** (yellow and blue) denominations. Both perforated and imperforate versions exist. A **25 cents** stamp entitled '**Search for knowledge**' was added in 1968, showing the Lamp of Knowledge. It was turquoise, red and embossed gold on buff paper. These were printed, gummed, and perfed in the same way as the Waikoa Island issues discussed above.

### ***Occussi-Ambeno***

The Occussi-Ambeno project also started in 1968. At first, the idea was to produce stamps for an imaginary 'province' of this small enclave of what at that time was **Portuguese Timor**. In 1968, Henderson marketed type-set stamps inscribed '**Province of UMM AL QITAIR, Occussi-Ambeno Sultanate**' (the name 'Umm al Qitair' was a homage to the Arab Sheikdom of Umm al Qiwain, a prolific stamp-issuer, and much admired by a Kiwi stamp-producer). In 1969, these were followed by similar stamps inscribed '**OCCUSSI-AMBENO**' only, purporting to be valid for the whole country. However, Bruce continued to produce concurrent stamps for the Qitair/Quatair province, and from 1970 also for another province, **Feripæga**. During 1982, yet another province, **Tarantar**, got its distinctive stamps, and later, two other provinces, **Jade** and **Dragon**, got their own stamps.

Henderson's Occussi-Ambeno project developed rapidly, with him producing both stamps and various impressive letter-heads and other stationery on his small Adana letterpress machine and on photo-copiers. Diplomas, knighthoods, certificates and even passports, entry visas, airline and ship travel tickets, and electoral rolls were produced. I have also seen personal cheques for the **State Bank of Occussi-Ambeno**.

As stated, the first Occussi-Ambeno stamps were issued for the province of Umm al Qitair, and were simple, typographed labels. The first two sets were inscribed '**Province of UMM AL QITAIR/OCCUSSI-AMBENO SULTANATE**'. The first, October 1968 set was a **definitive** issue of three stamps (**3c, 19c, & 83c**) inscribed 'POSTAGE/& REVENUE'. In November 1968, two stamps commemorating the **installation of the Rajah, Sir Razzi Sckleeb** were issued (**1c** and **12c**). The stamps that followed had the name of the province changed to **UMM AL QUATAIR**, and also in November, two stamps commemorated **Bruce Henderson** (perhaps a bit prematurely, but why shouldn't the printer get a few perks?) (**4c** and **\$2**) and two commemorated 'the Success of the Great Proletarian **Cultural Revolution in China**' (**2c** and **\$2**). That set was done because widely-held opinion at the time was that the radical disturbances in China were the worst thing since Hitler, so the Chinese got a little on the plus side from this set. In December, a stamp commemorated the **75th birthday of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung**. Approximately half the printing had a spelling error, "**Birtday**" instead of "Birthday". This was corrected when spotted for the remainder of the printing. As you can gather from the themes of Quatair's stamps, that province had a **Marxist** government.

In March 1969, a Qitair **3c** stamp similar to Occussi-Ambeno's '**Stoned Bear**' definitives appeared. On these and an '**Imperial Crown**' definitive issued in September 1969 (**\$1**),

the name of the province is again spelled **Umm al-Qitair** (now with a hyphen), whereas an April 1970 stamp in the same design as the Occussi-Ambeno stamp celebrating the **2nd anniversary of Occussi-Ambeno independence (3c)** showed the name as **UMM AL-QUATAIR**.

In December 1970, four pictorial stamps (also issued in miniature sheets) commemorating the birth centenary of Lenin were issued (**1½c, 3c, 9c** and **42c**). These were inscribed '**UMM AL QUATAIR**' (without hyphen). Henderson was a thematic collector who was making a Lenin collection, so these stamps were aimed at his own collection. Some were overprinted for Mevu and Waikoa later.

Then in March 1971, the communist government seceded from the sultanate and the **People's Republic of Quatair** was proclaimed. This event was a homage to **Biafra**, which had seceded from Nigeria earlier. Several previous issues, plus general issues of Occussi-Ambeno were overprinted '**LIBERTY!/ PEOPLE'S/REPUBLIC/ OF QUATAIR/ 1971**' and a row of stars obliterating the name of Occussi-Ambeno; some were also surcharged with new values. One of these stamps was additionally overprinted for the **Solidarity Week**, and two stamps received additional overprints for '**Racial Harmony Year**' and '**Read Mao Tse-Tung's Thoughts**'. In May 1971, the Lenin issue was reprinted with revised inscriptions, now reading '**People's Republic of Quatair**' and '**47 Years Without Lenin**' (**4c** and **20c**). These were a homage to the early Soviet 1934 set "10 Years Without Lenin."

Soon afterwards, forces of the Occussi-Ambeno sultan managed to re-occupy the province, and Occussi-Ambeno 'Stoned Bears' definitives and Quatair Lenin were overprinted '**QUATAIR/Freedom for/Quatair Province./Mil.Admin. 1971**' (**3c, 4c, 8c, 20c, & 99c**).

According to Henderson, the first stamps of Occussi-Ambeno were Indonesian (sic!) stamps overprinted '**Kantor Post Jendral, Baleksetung, Okusi-Ambeno**' and surcharged in Occussi-Ambeno currency (cents and dollars), released in April 1968, and these stamps additionally overprinted '**Tahun Kemerdekaan/Independence**' to celebrate Occussi-Ambeno **independence** and released in June 1968. I have never seen these stamps or any images of them, but they may have actually existed. In June 1969, two of these stamps are said to have been further **surcharged**.

The first actual stamps of Occussi-Ambeno as a whole were the March 1969 '**Stoned Bears**' definitives, again quite simple typographed stamps and with sewing-machine perforations. These are printed on thick pale yellow paper with 72 point hollow capitals as a watermark. The watermark does not appear on all the stamps.

Three values were issued: **3c, 8c** and **99c**; the latter stamp was also issued in a miniature sheet with the marginal inscription '**Long live our great & wise ruler, H.H. Sultan Sir Waals Abdullah!**'.

A '**Floral**' definitive was added soon afterwards, a **7c** stamp, printed in black (it was re-issued in brown in February 1971, when a similar **1c** value was added). Reprints of the two **7c** stamps were in fact made in April 1983 and issued in imperf sheets of six each, also with added marginal inscriptions commemorating the **MINICON 2 Science-Fiction Extravaganza**, a convention in Auckland at which the Occussi-Ambeno Post Office had a stand. Bruce was a keen science-fiction buff, and was involved with the

theatricality of the conventions, held annually. At one such convention, he entered **Upper Yafa** (one of his later countries) in their art exhibition. The display consisted of several A3-size sheets mounted with various covers with a bewildering array of transit markings on, and stamps, pencils, stickers, cards, books, and souvenirs, and captions with each, as though at a philatelic exhibition. It was highly praised by attendees, who were amazed by the concept of such a fantasy land, the detail, stamps, and postmarks.

Occussi-Ambeno's first commemorative stamp was a July 1969 overprint on the **3c** 'Stoned Bears' stamp commemorating the **lunar landing of Apollo 12**. The overprint reads '**Lunar/Landing/1969**'. The first human landing on the moon was widely publicised and also shown on live television, so to the young printer in Timaru, a commemorative stamp seemed the obvious thing. The stamp was promptly printed and issued.

In April 1970, a **5c** stamp commemorated the **2nd anniversary of independence**. A similar stamp was also issued for the province of **Quatair** (the now accepted spelling, after a referendum among the Quatairians to choose from one of the five alternatives) and also for the province of **Feripæga** (being that province's first stamp). The Occussi-Ambeno stamp was also issued in a miniature sheet.

Sadly, a famine struck the sultanate in late 1970/early 1971, and the 'Stoned Bears' stamps were overprinted in violet to serve as **famine relief** semi-postals in February 1971. Values are **2½c + 1c** on 8c green, **5c + 2c** on 99c red, & **12c + 4c** on 3c blue. This issue also exists with inverted overprint. In April 1971, the **third anniversary of independence** was celebrated with a '**Third Year/1968-1971/Independence**' overprint on the **8c** 'Stoned Bears' stamp.

In March 1972, the Sultan's **dignity was raised** to a Majesty, and he also took the title '**Guardian of the Eastern Seas**'. This was commemorated with overprints on the 99c 'Stoned Bears' and the 7c 'Floral' stamp, as well as on the 'Stone Bears' miniature sheet. The new values were **6c** and **50c**.

That was more or less the end of the simple typographed stamps of Occussi-Ambeno; it remains only to be mentioned that in addition to the **2nd anniversary of independence** stamp of the Province of **Feripæga**, three **air mail** stamps featuring the Imperial crown were issued for that province in January 1971.

In November 1972, a single stamp commemorating the **International Book Year** was issued. This was also typographed, but unlike previous issues, this was printed on gummed paper and in Toledo, Ohio. It featured the logo of the book year, is imperf, and carries a **10c** value.

The December 1973 issue featuring **famous men of history**, six stamps and a miniature sheet, was partly printed (by electrostencil) in Norway (the portraits and frames in red), with texts added in typography in various colours by Henderson. Values and artists are **2c** (Shakespeare), **3c** (Cervantes), **5c** (Leonardo da Vinci), **6c** (Schiller), **15c** (Mozart), and **27c** (Rutherford). Similarly produced stamps for the 25th Anniversary of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** were issued in February 1974: **6c** and **12c**. Both these issues were imperf.

In 1974, Geoffrey Mills (in his persona as Sultan Waals) was struck by a crisis of conscience, and announced his abdication. Bruce now became the new Sultan, **Michael Ismail Abdullah**. The 1973 Famous Men set was overprinted in November 1974 with overprints commemorating the centenary of the **Universal Postal Union**, the **Interregnum** (with a regency acting for the juvenile Crown Prince Michael Abdullah), and to support the independence of **Sikkim**. Values are UPU: **6c & 27c**; Interregnum: **2c & 5c**, and Sikkim: **3c & 15c**.

In July 1975, the Book Year stamp was surcharged **12½c** (on 10c).

The Bicentennial of the **American Revolution** was commemorated in February 1976 with two stamps (**20c** and **30c**) printed by offset on yellow gummed paper in the USA. They were imperf and printed both in individual sheets of eight and in a miniature sheet combining both stamps. Also in 1976, two stamps printed in the same process as the Famous Men stamps, promoting the **abolition of all nuclear bomb tests**, were issued: **9c** and **15c**, and these were perforated. Later in 1976, several previous issues received a typographed surcharge converting them into **air mail** stamps: **12c, 18c, 25c, 36c, & 60c**.

Then, the revolution in Portugal and the subsequent upheaval in the former colonies opened the 'Gates of Heaven' for Henderson. Both political and philatelic circles began to take his project seriously, and with the help of experienced philatelic marketers, the Madrid-based **Philanumismatica** company, who had got in touch with Bruce after seeing one of his early philatelic bulletins, the first multicoloured photogravure stamps of Occussi-Ambeno appeared on the market in 1977. Covers containing press releases about these issues and franked with Occussi-Ambeno stamps were apparently permitted into Spanish mailbags and distributed throughout the world. I know that the Danish stamp dealers, Aarhus Frimærkehandel (at that time publishers of the AFA catalogues) offered them as *bona fide* issues in their monthly magazine, stating however, that these (i.e. the 'Ships' and 'Birds' issues) were the last issues of Occussi-Ambeno to be offered by them, due to the high cost of the issues (a practice also applied to Trucial States issues by the same company).

In May 1977, the first Philanumismatica issue appeared, a set of seven stamps and a souvenir sheet depicting **sailing ships**, were issued. The miniature sheet also incorporated an ancient map of the island of Timor, and as they were released and sold at the **Amphilex 77** stamp exhibition, at Amsterdam, it also displayed the title of that exhibition, both on the stamp and in the selvedge. The minisheet is found both perforated and imperf.

In August 1977, a similar set, this time depicting **birds** and consisting of eight stamps and two different miniature sheets was issued. The two miniature sheets have a crowned oval where a portrait of the Sultan should have been, but no portrait could be found in time, so we are left with a golden oval. Both these sets are among the most beautiful stamps of any country.

In December 1977, an embossed miniature sheet portraying **Queen Elizabeth II** celebrated the 25th anniversary of her reign, and a similar sheet, in May 1978, for the 25th anniversary of her coronation. The Sailing Ships miniature sheet (both perf and imperf) was also overprinted to mark the same occasion, and received in addition the logo of the **London 1980 stamp exhibition** on the selvedge.



Several further stamp issues were planned as part of the Henderson-Philanumismatica collaboration, but due to Henderson's move to Australia, the other issues announced for that period: Opening of the **National Mosque** at Baleksetung, **Famous Anarchists** of the World and Anniversary of **Legalising of Narcotics**, were all deferred and did not appear until 2007.

Philanumismatica continued to produce Occussi-Ambeno stamps (now with a **Madrid** address for the Occussi-Ambeno Overseas Philatelic Agency) without Henderson's participation or knowledge, including sets for Sir **Rowland Hill** in 1979, and 1984 **Olympic Games** in **Sarajevo** and **Los Angeles**.

### *The Mevu Connection*

The fantasy '**Republic of Mevu**' project was initiated by me during the winter of 1970 as a philatelic game with no profit motive whatsoever.

During 1971, however, I felt it too time-consuming to continue, and I therefore handed over to Henderson all stock and archives. I had at that time developed an exchange of mail system between Occussi-Ambeno and Mevu. Henderson took over in 1972 and he released a number of stamps, which, contrary to my own practice, he offered at 'face' to collectors.

In October 1972, he decided to change the name of the state from '**Republic of Mevu**' to '**National State of Mevu**', which eventually prompted me to take it back again, and the '**Democratic People's Co-operative Republic of Mevu**' was proclaimed on 16 July 1973, from which date I have been responsible for the 'legitimate' Mevu stamps.

Henderson was responsible for a few Mevu issues. The first were overprints on stamps I had produced. In August 1972, two stamps were issued for the **New Constitution** (overprinted '**New/Constitution/8th August 1972**') and with new values in Mevu currency (100 tanos = 1 Reis): these were **3t** and **Rs 1.40**. Later the same month, two commemorative stamps issued for the 1st General Assembly of the International **Anti-SST League** (see Waikoa Island also) were surcharged '**Mevu Currency Revaluation 1972**' and new values: **1t**, **2t**, **5t**, **12t**, and **65t**.

In September 1972, he issued two imperf stamps and a miniature sheet for the **Munich Olympics**: **6t**, **18t**, and **Rs 1.25**.

In March 1973, a set of stamps marking the establishment of the **National State of Mevu** was issued by Henderson. Again, these were overprints on previous issues: '**National State/of Mevu/Proclaimed/9th October 1972**': **2t**, **4t**, **6t**, **8t**, **10t**, **15t**, **18t**, **Rs 1**, **Rs 5**, and **Rs 100**. The 15t is overprinted on an earlier green issue I had prepared but not issued.

During a short period in 1973 (July-October), before I could produce new stamps, temporary Occussi-Ambeno post-offices were set up (at my suggestion) in the two towns of Mevu: **Amundsen Harbour** and **Char**, as well as on **Waikoa Island**, which had become a protectorate of Mevu in 1972.

At these offices, Occussi-Ambeno stamps overprinted with the name of the town (**Amundsen Harbour**, **Char** and **Waikoa Island**) were used. There were seven different

stamps overprinted for Amundsen Harbour, three different for Char and eight different for Waikoa Island.

We will return to later Mevu issues of Henderson in the next part of this article.

Finally, a few words to explain the title of this article, **LONG LIVE THE SULTAN!** A law of 1972 orders that all mail sent in the country **MUST** have the words ‘**Long Live the Sultan!**’ written, stamped, or printed on, below the address. Most Occussian mail in consequence has a red rubber stamp with these words on the envelope.

*To be continued*

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*Illustrations:*

## Timaru Bicycle Post

*Fig. Timaru01:* 1969 registered cover with two of the Timaru Bicycle stamps, as illustrated in *The International Encyclopedia of Stamps* (page 1837)

*Fig. Timaru02:* 1968 1c from first issue.

## Waikoa Island

*Fig. Waikoa01:* 1965 set, partly cancelled with Sataoa/Western Samoa cancel

*Fig. Waikoa02:* 1970 Birth centenary of Vladimir Lenin

*Fig. Waikoa03:* 1972 1st General Assembly of International Anti-SST League

*Fig. Waikoa04a-b:* 1973 National State of Mevu, also FDC

*Fig. Waikoa05:* 1973 Protest against French nuclear bomb tests

*Fig. Waikoa06:* 1973 Waikoa Island overprint on Occussi-Ambeno stamp

## Occussi-Ambeno

*Fig. OA01:* 1969 ‘Stoned Bears’ set

*Fig. OA02:* 1969 ‘Stoned Bears’ miniature sheet

*Fig. OA03:* 1969 ‘Floral’ stamp (7c black)

*Fig. OA04:* 1969 Lunar Landing overprint

*Fig. OA05:* 1970 2nd anniversary of independence

*Fig. OA06:* 1971 Famine Relief

*Fig. OA07:* 1971 3rd anniversary of independence

*Fig. OA08a-b:* 1972 'Floral' stamps  
(including 7c brown) and FDC

*Fig. OA09a-b:* 1972 Raising of  
Imperial Dignity and FDC

*Fig. OA10:* 1972 International Book Year

*Fig. OA10b:* 1972 International Book Year, FDC

*Fig. OA11:* 1973 Famous Men of History

*Fig. OA12:* 1974 25th anniversary  
of Declaration of Human Rights

*Fig. OA13:* 1976 Bicentenary of the  
American Revolution, miniature sheet

*Fig. OA14:* 1976 Anti-Nuclear issue

*Fig. OA15:* one of the  
1976 air mail overprints

*Fig. OA16a-c:* 1977 Sailing ships,  
set and miniature sheet

*Fig. OA16d:* 1977 Sailing ships, FDC

*Fig. OA17a-b:* 1977 Birds set and miniature sheets

*Fig. OA18:* 1. 1977 25th accession  
anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II  
2. 1978 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her coronation

*Fig. OA19:* 1978 overprinted miniature sheet for the  
Coronation anniversary, also publicity for London 1980

**OCCUSSI-AMBENO:** Bruce's map showing the  
provinces and towns of Occussi-Ambeno

*Fig. Feripaga01:* 1970 2nd anniversary  
of Occussi-Ambeno independence

*Fig. Feripaga02:* 1971  
Imperial Crown definitives

*Fig. Quatair01:* 1968 definitives

*Fig. Quatair02:* 1968 installation  
of Razzi Sckleeb as Rajah

*Fig. Quatair03:* 1968 commem-  
orating Bruce Henderson

*Fig. Quatair04:* 1968 Chinese Cultural Revolution

*Fig. Quatair05:* 1968 75th birthday of Mao Tse-tung  
(always check spelling on these stamps, as many  
have the "missing h in Birthday" error)

*Fig. Quatair06:* 1969 'Stoned bear', perf. and imperf.

*Fig. Quatair07:* 1969 Imperial Crown

*Fig. Quatair08:* 1970 2nd anniversary  
of Occussi-Ambeno independence

*Fig. Quatair09:* 1970 birth centenary of Lenin

*Fig. Quatair10:* 1971 Secession of  
People's Republic of Quatair

*Fig. Quatair11:* 1971 Solidarity Week

*Fig. Quatair12:* 1971 Racial Harmony Year,  
and Mao Tse-Tung's Thoughts

*Fig. Quatair13:* 1971 47th  
death anniversary of Lenin

Fig. *Quatair14*: 1971 re-integration of Quatair into Sultanate

## Mevu

Fig. *Mevu01*: 1972 New Constitution overprints

Fig. *Mevu02*: 1972 Currency Revaluation overprints

Fig. *Mevu03-04*: 1972 Munich Olympics

Fig. *Mevu05*: 1973 National State of Mevu

Fig. *Mevu06*: 1973 Occussi-Ambeno P.O. in Amundsen Harbour (capital city of Mevu)

Fig. *Mevu07*: Ditto, on letter to Occussi-Ambeno

Fig. *Mevu08*: 1973 Occussi-Ambeno Post Office at Char (a town in Mevu)

Fig. *Mevu09*: Set on FDC for the 1973 National State issue

## Part 2. Martin Renwick - 'The Australian 'Exile' – 1978-81

In 1978, Bruce suddenly relocated to Australia, according to him because of some problems with Philanumismatica, and soon acquired another small Adana hand-driven printing press, enabling him to produce overprints on both Occussi-Ambeno stamps and stamps of other countries, as we will see in the later part of this article. In early 1981, Bruce returned to New Zealand, now using the surname Grenville instead of Henderson.

During his exile in Australia, he used the name **Martin Renwick**.

In the CP July 1990, **Norman Williams** discussed several aspects of Bruce's activities, and also referred to an official police inquiry of 1977, which 'failed to reveal that any criminal offence has been committed by Henderson'. Inventing fantasy lands is still legal: novelists and film-makers do it all the time, and are well rewarded for it. In both that 1990 issue, and in earlier issues, Norman Williams referred to Henderson's activities as 'scam'. (After Norman's death, Henderson issued a Sedang stamp in Norman's memory!)

"Norman was convinced I was only running Occussi-Ambeno as a money-making racket. It was really about keeping the fantasy country going, and indulging in mail-exchange with similar Fifth World lands," contends Bruce.

### ***Occussi-Ambeno***

Not many Occussi-Ambeno issues appeared during his Australian 'exile', only three sets consisting of overprints on the Sailing Ships and Birds issues. Apparently, his philatelic activities were concentrated on the West Papua and South Moluccas issues, as he had met activists from both in Perth, and urged them to philatelic action.

The first Occussi-Ambeno issue was a June 1979 issue for the International **Year of the Child**, using the same block as was also used to produce similar issues for West Papua and the South Moluccas (see below). This overprint was applied to one stamp from the Birds series, **8c**, and three from the Sailing Ships set, **10c**, **25c**, and **\$2** on 6c.

In December 1980, two Birds stamps were overprinted for the '**BALPEX 1980**' stamp exhibition in Baleksetung, **10c** and **90c**, and in January 1981, two Birds stamps and the Silver Jubilee miniature sheet stamp were overprinted for the **10th anniversary of Baleksetung University: 20c, 45c, and \$3**. The miniature sheet was surcharged also.

Two similar sets were also produced for the provinces, one each for Feripæga and Quatair. The 1977 **Feripæga** overprint for the **Marriage of the Rajah** was applied to one Sailing Ships and two Birds stamps, whereas the 1977 set for **Quatair** marked the **Festival of Art & Culture** and was applied to two each of the Sailing Ships and Birds stamps; all stamps of which Henderson had big stocks.

Also in 1977, six of the sailing ships stamps were overprinted and surcharged to serve as **fiscal stamps**.

A 1979 overprint with the effigy of **Sir Rowland Hill** on the 'Ships' set was produced by Philanumismatica.

### ***Papua Merdeka (West Papua)***

During his Australian 'exile', Henderson also launched a new project in collaboration with the OPM, the stamps issued by '**Organasi Papua Merdeka**' or the West Papua liberation movement. Various stamps of Papua (&) New Guinea and 1950s issues of the South Moluccas were overprinted '**O.P.M.**' or '**Papua Merdeka**' (*Free Papua*) by Henderson and marketed by the **Berani Singa** company he founded in Perth, Australia. Bruce was learning Malay via cassette tape recordings at the time, and the firm name means *Brave Lion*. Use of Malay (the language spoken in Occussi-Ambeno) increased.

The Free Papua stamps were produced for the liberation movement, and there is evidence to support that this at least was the case for the overprinted stamps of Papua New Guinea.

The first issue which was marketed by Henderson, comprised six stamps of Papua New Guinea overprinted '**O.P.M.**', issued in 1978: **2c** with OPM in blue or in black (on SG 162a); **5c** in blue or in black (on SG 163); **10c** black (on SG 248) and **25c** in black (on SG 153). In February 1979, Papua New Guinea coil stamps were overprinted '**PAPUA MERDEKA**' and surcharged in Indonesian currency: **Rp 10** on 2c (on SG 162a); **Rp 20** on 2c (SG 162a); **Rp 70** on 5c (SG 163) and **Rp 200** on 5c (SG 163). Then, in March 1979, 'Flowers' stamps of the South Moluccas were overprinted '**O.P.M.**' and surcharged in Indonesian currency (**Rp 10** on 25k; **Rp 25** on 40k; and **Rp 100** on R3).

The final, April 1979 issue for the International **Children's Year**, was also overprinted on other South Moluccas stamps. They were overprinted with the logo of the ICY, '**PAPUA MERDEKA**' and new values in Indonesian currency (**Rp 5** on 4k; **Rp 10** on 5k; **Rp 25** on 20k; **Rp 70** on 22½k; **Rp 225** on 30k; **Rp 340** on 60k; & **Rp 500** on 2½k.)

These stamps are listed in the Dai Nippon Philatelic Society's *Catalogue of Vienna and Philadelphia Printings and Sub Areas of the Republic of Indonesia*, 4th Edition 2003.

### ***South Moluccas***

Simultaneously with the Papua Merdeka project, Henderson also overprinted earlier South Moluccan propaganda stamps for contemporary events, and announced that these overprinted issues were made under the authority of the **South Moluccas government-in-exile** (in Cotonou, Republic of Benin). This exile government (which still exists) had large stocks of their colourful 1950s issues, and were happy to part with some sheets to overprint. I have a copy of a letter he received from their office in Cotonou, dated 28 May 1979. Henderson had also produced a South Moluccas stamp in 1974 by overprinting one of the 'Mammals' stamps for the birth centenary of **Sir Winston Churchill**, and also changing the denomination (from 3k to **R3.00**). The Churchill stamp was done mainly for an Australian friend who thematically collected Sir Winston, and remarked that no South Moluccas stamp yet graced his collection.

Bruce and a fellow-Occussian, **Jerry Cullum**, were collectors of South Moluccas, so both wanted to expand their collections of 1950s issues with some "recent" content. The two later collaborated in compiling a catalogue: *Catalogue of the stamps of the South Moluccas* (Auckland: NZ Philatelic Traders Society, 1975.)

A 1975 overprint celebrating the 25th anniversary of **South Moluccan independence** (declaration) was not made by Henderson. It was done by Jerry Cullum, Bruce's co-author of the South Moluccas catalogue.

In 1979, Henderson produced two overprints on South Moluccan stamps: two stamps (**3k** and **10k**) for the International **Year of the Child**, and two stamps for the birth centenary of **Albert Einstein** (**12½k** and **R2**). He continued to urge the Moluccans to be more stampiferous, but they seldom did mailings so the stamps had little use.

*To be continued*

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### *Illustrations*

#### Occussi-Ambeno

*Fig. O.A20:* one of the 1979 International Year of the Child overprints

*Fig. O.A21:* 1980 BALPEX 1980 overprints

*Fig. O.A21b:* Ditto, FDC

*Fig. O.A22:* 1981 10th anniversary of Baleksetung University overprints, one stamp with inverted overprint

*Fig. O.A23:* 1977 Stamp Duty overprints

*Fig. Quatair15:* 1977 Festival of Art & Culture overprints

*Fig. O.A24:* 1979 Sir Rowland Hill (death centenary) overprints on Ships set

#### Free Papua

*Fig. FreePapua01:* 1-2 1978 issue (*Dai Nippon* 117-01 and -03)  
3. 1979 issue (*Dai Nippon* 118-04)

*Fig. FreePapua02:* 1979 International Year of the Child (*Dai Nippon* 120-07)

The following illustrations are copied from the *Dai Nippon* catalogue

Fig. *FreePapua03*: 1978 (*Dai Nippon* 117-05)

Fig. *FreePapua04*: 1979 overprint  
on South Moluccas (*Dai Nippon* 119-02)

Fig. *FreePapua05*: 1979 overprint  
on South Moluccas (*Dai Nippon* 119-03)

## South Moluccas

Fig. *SouthMoluccas01*: The two 1979 issues

# Part 3. Bruce Grenville - Return to New Zealand – the Occussi-Ambeno revival and the International Council of Independent States, 1981-1990

After coming back to New Zealand, in 1981, it took some time before he started producing Occussi-Ambeno stamps again. He first had to find a press, not an easy thing to do at that time. Eventually, he found the same model of press he had used in Timaru: the Adana 8-5. He bought a similar press in Australia. Since his return, he has used the *nom d'artiste* Grenville (*Green city*).

## *Occussi-Ambeno*

The first new issue was in fact an old issue, a re-issue (from new plates) of the **7c** 'Floral' definitives (in both colours) in sheets of six and with rough perforations. The sheets also exist imperf with an additional overprint in the margins for the **MINICON 2 Science-Fiction Extravaganza**. This set was released in April 1983. In June 1983, a pictorial set for **WINDYCON 1983 – New Zealand's 5th National Science Fiction Convention** consisting of three stamps was issued. Two showed space-helmeted futuristic folks while the top value, **42 cents**, showed **Douglas Adams**, author of *The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and several other science fiction books, which were enthused over by the SF cogniscenti. Adams visited Auckland a year later, and was asked to autograph a dozen envelopes with his stamp on and postmarked that day: he was flabbergasted to see his face on the stamp. After signing, Bruce and Douglas kept half the pile each. This 50:50 division is the basis for all the other countries that he prints stamps for.

Bruce was concerned about the problem of perforating his issues, so asked an engineer to construct a perforating machine. An old Addressograph machine was converted by having a row of punches welded to the top of a hinged block, and these plunged into holes drilled in the deck. The gauge is perf 8. This perfer was first used for the Windycon issue.

In November 1983, a set of three stamps (also issued combined in a miniature sheet) commemorated the **200th anniversary of human flight in balloons: 6c, 30c, & 50c**. In these two last issues, Bruce's interest in ancient scripts became evident, as the stamps also have the country name in Maurian script, the old language of Libya, and now adapted for Occussi-Ambeno.

A single **30c** stamp commemorating the 2nd anniversary of the Tanjung (in Dragon Province) Solar-powered **Desalination** plant was issued, featuring a portrait of Dr **Paul Stoker**, the inventor.

The final 1983 issue was a long set commemorating the **45th anniversary of the Spanish revolution**, featuring artworks by Pablo Picasso. The set consisted of five different stamps and three different miniature sheets, printed on thick gloss paper.

In 1984, Philanumismatica issued two sets of stamps for the 1984 **Olympic Games**: a set of three stamps and two miniature sheets for the **winter games in Sarajevo**, and a set of five stamps and two miniature sheets for the **summer games in Los Angeles**. These were produced without the knowledge of Bruce, but he has added them to the Occussi-Ambeno catalogue.

Bruce's only 1984 issue was a single **15c** stamp for the VENEZIA 84 International **Anarchists Conference** in Venice, September 1984. The initial printing of this stamp had the same rough perforations as the 1983 issues (gauge 8), but during the production phase, Bruce met a Christchurch printer with a vintage treadle-powered perforating machine, so journeyed to Christchurch, stayed a week, and did lots of perforating while enjoying the museum and the local poetry and craft-printing scene there. The rest of the printing was with a gauge 12 perforation. Bruce continued to make journeys to Christchurch to do perforating until in 1986 he was able to locate and purchase his own perforator: a giant treadle-powered iron machine, built in 1895. It too is gauge 12.

In 1984, I had initiated the **International Council of Independent States**, initially only with my own Antarctic fantasy states as members, but at the end of October 1985, Occussi-Ambeno became the first outside country to **join the ICIS**. This was celebrated with two attractive diamond-shaped stamps from Occussi-Ambeno, **30c** and **70c**, featuring the ICIS logo. Each stamp is printed on coloured gummed paper. These were the first stamps designed by **Murray Menzies**, a Dunedin artist and keen Occussian. He later became Secretary-General of the ICIS for two years, and is still active in cinderella philately today. Murray researches renaissance art, and has published *The Pagan Leonardo* (Lulu, 2012), a book on the topic: he "tips in" a sheet of stamps with each book.

Occussi-Ambeno's membership in the ICIS, where I was the Secretary-General from 1984 until I withdrew my states from the organisation in late 1990, was the start of a closer co-operation (again) between Bruce and myself (see more on ICIS below).

Occussi-Ambeno's first 1986 issue was designed by me and commemorated the **15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Occussi-Ambeno and the Republic of Mevu**, **35c** and **\$2** (although the Republic of Mevu was dormant between 1975 and 1979) and showed a map with flags highlighting the geographical location of both states. This set was printed on yellow invisible-gum paper. The next 1986 issue, for the **Heb-Sed Festival**, **4c** and **\$1.30**, was even more influenced by Egyptology than the 1983 issues, and now, the country name was also written with hieroglyphs, a practice that continued with a few exceptions until around 2000.

The first 1987 issue consisted of two stamps for the '**Safe Sex Campaign**', **18c + 5c** and **60c + 5c**, followed by two stamps for the **ICIS Year of Housing**, **10c** and **\$1.30**. In 1988, two stamps with the theme of '**Peaceful appropriate technology**', **12c** and **30c**, appeared, as well as two stamps for the **ICIS Year of Food** (designed by me), **30c** and **\$2.40**.



Four stamps marked the very significant **20th anniversary of Occussi-Ambeno's independence** (two of these were designed by me, and two by Judith Wolfe): **30c**, **45c**, **\$1.05**, and **\$3**, on 16 November 1988.

In 1989, a single **1c** stamp commemorated the ICIS **Year of the GPTO** (General Postal Treaty Organisation, ICIS's parallel to the Universal Postal Union), a single **75c** stamp featuring a sphinx for the **21st anniversary of independence**, and two of the 20th anniversary of independence were overprinted to mark the **5th anniversary of the ICIS**, **15c** and **60c**. There was also a distinct issue (omnibus for all ICIS members) of **\$2.25** for the same event.

It should be noted here that the ICIS Year of Food, the 20th anniversary of independence (my design but not Judith's) and the 5th anniversary of ICIS were also printed for other member states of the ICIS.

Several of the 1990 and later issues were also printed for several countries in addition to Occussi-Ambeno (and its provinces).

Later in 1989, a set of two stamps, **30c** and **90c**, commemorated the '**200th anniversary of the Visit to Occussi-Ambeno by William Bligh**' (of HMS *Bounty*). In actual fact, Bligh landed on Timor, but in the town of Kupang in Dutch Timor after he and his crew had sailed 6,700 kilometres for 47 days in a small, open boat after the mutiny on HMS *Bounty*. From Kupang, the *Bounty* crew sailed for Batavia, and there is no extant historical record to suggest that he ever visited Occussi-Ambeno. But apparently, Occussian folklore suggests otherwise. These stamps were designed by **Keith Kissel**, about whom more later.

Further in 1989, two stamps (**5c** and **\$1.65**) celebrated the **Sultan's 39<sup>th</sup> Birthday** (showing Bruce in an elegant costume), a set of four stamps honoured **Great printing inventors** (**2c**, **\$1.20**, **\$1.35**, and **\$2**) and a **45c** stamp for the **World Starcross Championships** were issued. Starcross is a game similar to "noughts and crosses" and "Go" but is played on a printed sheet. It's designed to keep printers in business, as unlike "noughts & crosses" and Senet, the Starcross board is complex shaped and must be red. The stamp is unique in that is the first time a stamp has been designed to be used TWICE: first to pay the postage of the mail, and then, when the envelope is received, the recipient can use it to play Starcross with a friend! Bruce invented this game while in Australia.

For details on **Starcross** and how to play it, please visit this site:

<http://www.angelfire.com/art/okusi/starcross.htm>

The final issue of 1989 was printed in Canada as part of the *International Art Post, 1989 Edition* by Canadian artist Anna Banana and is **15c** with a colour photo of Bruce on his bike, commemorating the **21st anniversary of the Timaru Bicycle Post**.

The first issue of 1990 was a Captain Bligh stamp overprinted for the **Round the World Flight of Occussi-Ambeno's Swiftair Zeppelin**. A stamp portraying Samuel Hahnemann for the **200th anniversary of homeopathy**, three stamps for the 150th anniversary of the **Penny Black**, a single for the 130th anniversary of the discovery of Antarctica by the **Wilkes Expedition**, an overprint on an appropriate technology stamp

for the **first airship flight from Occussi-Ambeno to Sonn ** (another fantasy state), a set of two stamps commemorating the **20th anniversary of the Republic of Mevu** (designed by me) and a multicolour stamp for the **ICIS Year of Plankton** were also issued.

When I withdrew from the ICIS in late 1990, Bruce (signing as **Norbert E. Ching**) took over as Acting Secretary-General of the ICIS briefly, before an election gave the position to **Murray Menzies** in Dunedin.

During the period up till 1990, Bruce also produced stamps for several provinces of Occussi-Ambeno. In addition to **Ferip ga** and **Quatair**, stamps were now also issued for the province of **Tarantar**. A definitive series of three for Tarantar showing a Buddha figure was issued in 1982, printed on self-adhesive paper and perf 8, and a similar stamp was issued in 1989, but the latter on buff paper and perf 12.

All three provinces participated in the omnibus issues commemorating the 5th anniversary of the ICIS, Captain Bligh's visit and the Starcross Championships in Baleksetung. Some time during the late 1980s, a new definitive stamp for Ferip ga was issued, too.

During this period, a single stamp was also issued for **Jade Province**, showing the provincial arms, a griffin.

### ***International Council of Independent States – ICIS***

The International Council of Independent States – ICIS – was founded by me in 1984 as a co-operation forum between operators of fantasy nations. An article by David Priest in the CP, July 1990, details the story of ICIS, and also reproduces a map of the member states at that time. After I left the organisation in 1990 and Bruce took over as Acting Secretary-General, several other states joined. Henderson now operates a website for ICIS:

[www.angelfire.com/art/icis/](http://www.angelfire.com/art/icis/)

I then joined another organisation called AON – the **Assembly of Oneiric Nations** – which is also an organisation for operators of fantasy states (*Oneiric* = dreamstate) – but where philately is absent and no stamps were issued by any other members than me.

After Occussi-Ambeno became a member of ICIS, Bruce started a push to commercialize the organisation and one of his proposals (which eventually was backed by other members) was to issue stamps similar to the United Nations stamps for the ICIS headquarters (and as it turned out, also for the ICIS **Southern Regional Office** run by him as well).

The first **ICIS HQ** stamps were issued in September 1988 and were heavily promoted by Bruce, a fact that forced me to issue statements that I had no commercial interests in his ventures. A stamp booklet with some of this first definitive set was produced to celebrate **Jean-Marc Rastorfer's marriage**. The booklet had a back cover space for autographs and included a stimulant dispenser. One of the ICIS members was specialising in stamp booklets of the world, so the ICIS frequently issued booklets from

then on. The Rastorfer booklet won the **Best Printed Ephemera Award**, from the USA magazine *Graphic Arts Monthly*, and were a hit with the wedding guests too.

Two of the values were overprinted for the **Seoul Olympic Games**. Later in 1988, the **ICIS Year of Food** and the **20th anniversary of Occussi-Ambeno** 'omnibus' issues were also produced for ICIS HQ. In 1989, stamps were issued for the **ICIS Year of the GPTO**, the **5th anniversary of ICIS**, **Captain Bligh's Visit to Occussi-Ambeno**, and the **Starcross Championships**. All intricately printed in numerous different colours.

All these issues were denominated in Norwegian currency, for use in my office.

Further issues for ICIS HQ in Norway were produced by Bruce, but were not put into use, as the office in Norway closed when I left the organisation. The reasons behind this and my controversy with Henderson are explained in detail in the CP July 1990, which also reproduces a press release from me concerning this.

From 1989, Bruce also produced ICIS stamps denominated in dollars and cents, for use by the ICIS **Southern Regional Office**, first in New Lynn, then Dunedin, New Zealand, and the ICIS **Western Regional Office**, based in Salt Lake City, Utah. These included the 1989 **5th anniversary of ICIS** and **Captain Bligh's Visit to Occussi-Ambeno**, the 1990 **Homeopathy bicentenary**, the 1991 **Impeachment of Mr Menzies** and three **definitive** stamps issued in 1992.

### *Mevu* and *Port Maria*

Above, there have been references to both the **Republic of Mevu** and the **International Council of Independent States**, both initiated by me.

After I had resumed the operation of the Republic of Mevu in early 1979, and Bruce was back from Australia in the early 1980s, contacts between us were re-established.

From 1986, Bruce printed some of the new Mevu stamps, several of which I had designed, but the majority of Mevu stamps I produced myself.

After 1984, Mevu was one of thirteen fantasy states making up the **Antarctic Confederation of City Republics**, and in addition to the Republic of Mevu, Bruce also printed stamps for the **Republic of Port Maria** (situated on the Marie Theresa Reef in the Pacific, a reef that ham radio buff Don Miller claimed to have DX-ed from).

The first revived Mevu stamp that Bruce produced was the 1986 pair for the **15th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Occussi-Ambeno and Mevu**. This was Mevu's first gummed and perforated issue. Then followed the two 1988 issues: **ICIS Year of Food** and **20th anniversary of Occussi-Ambeno independence**.

In 1989, he produced the **5th anniversary of ICIS**, **Captain Bligh's visit to Occussi-Ambeno**, the **ICIS Year of the GPTO** (this an overprint on one of the Bligh stamps) and the **Starcross Championships**. Mevu went on to win the Gold Cup at the championships, and Bruce considered a '**Mevu Winners**' overprint, but most stamps had been sold or distributed by then, so that idea was sadly dropped. Bruce also printed a 1990 **Homeopathy bicentenary** stamp for Mevu, but it was never issued there.

Originally it was also planned that he should print the 1990 stamp for the 20th anniversary of Mevu, but in the end, I produced this stamp myself.

Bruce's first issue for the **Republic of Port Maria** was a set of two 1989 **definitive** stamps showing a portrait of **Empress Maria Theresa** of Austria. The reef is not named after her, but after the whaler that reported the reef, but the Republic has chosen the Empress as the symbol of the country. Then followed the familiar 1989 stamps for the **5th anniversary of ICIS** and here a single stamp for **Captain Bligh's visit to Occussi-Ambeno**.

Later in 1989, a long series of definitives with a revised frame design compared to the first two 1989 stamps was released. This is known as the **Second definitive**. Two of these values were then overprinted for the **ICIS Year of the GPTO**. The overprint is in unusual metallic ink. There was also a 1989 stamp for the **Starcross Championships**. In 1990, a miniature sheet containing three of the 1989 definitives was issued to celebrate the **10th anniversary of the Republic of Port Maria**, and one of the 1989 definitives was also overprinted for the **World tour of the Occussi-Ambeno zeppelin airship**. The last Bruce-produced issue for Port Maria that was approved by me, was a 1990 stamp for the **ICIS Year of Plankton**, a beautiful abstract design in full-colour, unusual at that time. A 1990 **Homeopathy** stamp was printed by Bruce, but not released in Port Maria. Also here, the original plan was that Bruce should print two Port Maria stamps for the 20th anniversary of the Republic of Mevu, but in the end, I produced it myself.

After the termination of the co-operation between Bruce and myself, he has continued to produce Mevu and Port Maria stamps, and these will be treated in the next part of this article.

## ***Kemp Land***

The **People's Democratic Republic of Kemp Land** is an Antarctic fantasy state, the brainchild of Australian philatelist **Matthew Campbell**. He started issuing stamps for Kemp Land in 1977, overprinting **Australian Antarctic Territory** stamps with a rubber stamp reading '**Kemp/Land**' and in 1979, AAT stamps overprinted '**Antarctica/liberated**'. In 1982, he produced a stamp that was supposed to portray '**The Great Leader Eric Gardo**'. In 1984, he overprinted in manuscript stamps of the **Cayes of Belize**, writing '**KEMP LAND**' over the original country name.

After that, he continued to design the Kemp Land stamps, but I produced them, but from 1988 onwards, Kemp Land participated in the Bruce-orchestrated omnibus issues, and Bruce also printed Matthew's designs, or used his suggested topics. Bruce edited a hardcover catalogue of Kemp Land stamps later: *Catalogue of Kemp Land Stamps*, by Simon Quaritch (Grey Lynn: Lancaster Publishing, 1997). All stamps in this catalogue have a **SQ** prefix, a homage to the **SG** prefix for countries in the Gibbons catalogue.

As an aside, Kemp Land is now notorious for having been awarded the "**Philately Bad Taste Award**" by *Stamp Magazine* UK (December 1999 issue, page 71) for its Michael Hutchence issue. The design is a photo of the late rock star, with a hand-drawn noose around his neck, and protruding tongue. Matthew did the design after the INXS singer's death, and submitted it to Bruce, who added the inscriptions and made the plate and printed it, in a "garish purple" as the *Stamp Magazine* commentary described it. Kemp Land has also shown Hitler, Trotsky, rock bands, poets, Shackleton, Lenin, Mao,

sandflies, cats, philosophers, dogs, steam trains of the Antarctic, Kim Jong-il, roses, missiles, lighthouses, and many other unusual topics on its stamps over the years, and new issues continue to appear.

### ***Stamps produced for other fantasy states***

Several other fantasy states became members of the ICIS, and although all these primarily produced their own stamps, especially in the 1988-90 period, several of them participated in one or more of the Bruce-orchestrated omnibus issues that he printed. Bruce has always been eager to help new states get established in philately, recognising that antique perforating machines are not the easiest things to find these days.

#### ***Kingdom of Aldabra***

The Kingdom of **Aldabra** is a fantasy state located on this Indian Ocean island, and operated by **Mark Rose** of Seattle, Washington. Aldabra was a member of ICIS, and in 1989, Bruce printed an Aldabra stamp for the **5th anniversary of the ICIS** without permission from Mark, and the stamp was never validated for postage, although Mark used them on his mail.

#### ***Kingdom of Edelweiss***

The Kingdom of **Edelweiss** was another Antarctic fantasy state, operated by **Alexander M. Cheek** (probably best known as an art cover exchange participant) of Greensboro, North Carolina. Edelweiss was said to be located in the Marie Byrd Land area of Antarctica and was proclaimed on 6th November 1986. Bruce produced the 1988 ICIS **Year of Food**, the 1988 **20th anniversary of Occussi-Ambeno independence** (released in 1989 in Edelweiss), the 1989 **5th anniversary of ICIS**, the 1989 **200th anniversary of Captain Bligh's visit to Occussi-Ambeno** (here, Bruce used a completely different design, incorporating portraits of both Bligh and **King Alexander the Great** of Edelweiss as well as a detailed drawing of the *Bounty*, since Alex was a big-time nautical buff and had sent Bruce his new photo, but Edelweiss also issued two stamps in the omnibus design), the 1989 **Starcross Championships**, the 1990 **150th anniversary of postage stamps** and the 1990 stamp for the 150th anniversary of the **Wilkes Expedition** (the latter also exists overprinted for the Occussi-Ambeno **airship round the world trip**). Edelweiss used the British sterling currency, which for Bruce meant he was able to use all the £ characters that are found in metal type fonts.

#### ***Sonné Empire***

The **Sonné Empire**, situated on the mythical Atlantic island of **Katlivarheim**, was operated since 1975 by **Tim Gabbasov** a.k.a. **Tim Bolotnikoff** of Brisbane, Australia. The Sonné Empire and some other states in the same archipelago were members of the ICIS, and Bruce produced several issues for Sonné. Among these were the 1990 set for the **20th anniversary of the Republic of Mevu**, and the **first zeppelin airship flight** between Sonné and Occussi-Ambeno. (An Occussi-Ambeno stamp was also overprinted for the flight in the other direction.)

#### ***Chyan***

In the same mythical archipelago, the **People's Republic of Chyan** (with Chinese influence apparently) is located. It was established in 1989, and the first stamps were produced by a young Brisbane Chinese philatelist **Ho Tran**, a school acquaintance of Gabbasov/Bolotnikoff, but from 1992, Chyan stamps were printed by Bruce. Ho's *Guide to Chyan* gives the location as "an island in the Atlantic Ocean, 1350 km west of Portugal" and its capital is **Fuchuan**. Ho produced 26 stamps, some inscribed only in Chinese or with "PRC" as the only English text. His best stamp was a 'Smoke & Choke' design for the **anti-tobacco campaign**.

There was a 1992 **definitive** series (in the same design as the 1990 stamps), which also exists overprinted for various events, like the 1992 Chyan **victory over Sonné** forces, the **Visit of the Sultan of Occussi-Ambeno** and the **ICIS Year of Fruit** (1993). The 1992 definitive has just two values, **15 sen** (the inland printed matter and postcard rate), and **30 sen** (the inland letter rate) and these are printed on coloured paper with shiny gum. In 1993, a new definitive using the same plates was produced, but this time, the stamps are on white paper with invisible gum. The values run from **15 sen** to **2.25 Mon**. There were also later issues, including **Doctor Who**, a **scuba diver with octopus**, and **Fire Engines**.

### *Archipelago of Tui Tui*

**Tui Tui** is a micronation, based on a floating home in Seattle, Washington, but also participates in the virtual lands game, and is a member of ICIS. The country is run by the co-tyees **Dogfish** and **Dragonfly**.

For Tui Tui also, which otherwise produces a lot of very nice stamps on their own, Bruce produced some of the omnibus issues, too. The first was the 1988 **ICIS Year of Food**, followed by **20th anniversary of Occussi-Ambeno independence**, the 1990 **150th anniversary of the first postage stamp** and the 1990 **20th anniversary of the Republic of Mevu**.

Most of these are shown on a website Bruce made for Tui Tui a few years later:

<http://www.angelfire.com/art/okusi/tui.htm>

*To be continued*

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#### *Illustrations:*

#### Occussi-Ambeno

*Fig. O.A24:* 1984 VENEZIA 84 International Anarchist Conference, both perforation varieties

*Fig. O.A25:* 1985 Occussi-Ambeno membership in the International Council of Independent States (ICIS)

*Fig. O.A25B:* 1985 Occussi-Ambeno membership in the International Council of Independent States, FDC

*Fig. O.A26:* 1986 15th anniversary of diplomatic relations Occussi-Ambeno – Republic of Mevu

*Fig. O.A26B:* 1986 15th anniversary of diplomatic relations Occussi-Ambeno – Republic of Mevu, FDC

*Fig. O.A27:* 1986 Heb-Sed Festival

*Fig. O.A28:* 1987 Safe Sex Campaign

*Fig. O.A29:* 1987 ICIS Year of Housing

*Fig. OA30:* 1987 Appropriate Technology

*Fig. OA31:* 1988 ICIS Year of Food

*Fig. OA31a:* 1988 ICIS Year of Food, original artwork

*Fig. OA31b:* 1988 ICIS Year of Food, proofs

*Fig. OA31c:* 1988 ICIS Year of Food, issues from various countries

*Fig. OA32a-b:* 1988 20th Anniversary of Independence

*Fig. OA32c:* 1988 20th Anniversary of Independence, FDC

*Fig. OA32d:* 1988 20th Anniversary of Independence, essays, original artwork, proofs

*Fig. OA32e:* 1988 20th Anniversary of Independence, proof

*Fig. OA32f:* 1988 20th Anniversary of Independence, issues from different countries

*Fig. OA33:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. OA33a:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS, FDC

*Fig. OA34:* 1989 ICIS year of the GPTO

*Fig. OA35:* 1989 Preserve the Sphinx

*Fig. OA36:* 1989 Visit of Captain Bligh

*Fig. OA37:* 1989 Birthday of the Sultan

*Fig. OA38:* 1989 printing inventors

*Fig. OA38a:* 1989 printing inventors, FDC

*Fig. OA39:* 1989 Starcross championships

*Fig. OA40:* 1989 21st anniversary of Timaru Bicycle Post

*Fig. OA40b:* 1989 21st anniversary of Timaru Bicycle Post, maximum card

*Fig. OA41:* 1990 Round the World flight of OA airship

*Fig. OA42:* 1990 Homeopathy

*Fig. OA43:* 1990 150th anniversary of Penny Black

*Fig. OA44:* 1990 150th anniversary of Wilkes expedition/discovery of Antarctica

*Fig. OA45:* 1990 airship flight to Sonné

*Fig. OA46:* 1990 20th anniversary of Republic of Mevu

*Fig. OA46b:* 1990 20th anniversary of Republic of Mevu, original artwork

*Fig. OA47:* 1990 ICIS Year of Plankton

*Fig. Feripaga03:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. Feripaga04:* 1989 visit of Captain Bligh

*Fig. Feripaga05:* 1989 Starcross Championships

*Fig. Feripaga06:* circa 1990 definitive

*Fig. Jade01:* 1989 provincial arms

*Fig. Quatair16:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. Quatair17:* 1989 Captain Bligh's visit

*Fig. Tarantar01-03:* 1982 definitives

*Fig. Tarantar04:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. Tarantar05:* 1989 Captain Bligh

*Fig. Tarantar06:* 1989 Starcross Championships

*Fig. Tarantar07:* 1989 definitive.

*Fig. Tarantar08:* 1990 150th anniversary of Penny Black

## ICIS

### a. ICIS HQ, Stavanger, Norway (1984-90)

*Fig. ICIS01:* 1988 definitives for HQ in Norway

*Fig. ICIS02:* 1988 overprint for Seoul Olympics

*Fig. ICIS03:* 1988 ICIS Year of Food

*Fig. ICIS04:* 1988 20th anniversary  
of Occussi-Ambeno independence

*Fig. ICIS05:* 1989 ICIS Year of the GPTO

*Fig. ICIS06:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. ICIS07:* 1989 Captain Bligh

*Fig. ICIS08:* 1989 Starcross Championships

*Fig. ICIS09:* Unissued  
1990 for Homeopathy

### b. ICIS Southern and Western Regional Offices

*Fig. ICIS10:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. ICIS11:* 1989 Captain Bligh

*Fig. ICIS12:* 1990 Homeopathy

## Mevu

*Fig. Mevu10:* 1986 15th anniversary of  
diplomatic relations Occussi-Ambeno and Mevu

*Fig. Mevu11:* 1988 ICIS Year of Food

*Fig. Mevu12:* 1988 20th anniversary  
of Occussi-Ambeno independence

*Fig. Mevu13:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. Mevu14:* 1989 Captain Bligh

*Fig. Mevu15:* 1989 ICIS Year of the GPTO

*Fig. Mevu16:* 1989 Starcross Championships

*Fig. Mevu17:* Unissued 1990 Homeopathy stamp

*Fig. Mevu18a:* Bruce's proof for the  
1990 20th anniversary of Mevu stamp

*Fig. Mevu18b:* The issued 1990 stamp  
for the 20th anniversary of Mevu

## Port Maria

*Fig. PortMaria01:* 1989 First definitives

*Fig. PortMaria02:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS



*Fig. PortMaria03:* 1989 Captain Bligh's  
Visit to Occussi-Ambeno

*Fig. PortMaria04:* 1989 Second  
definitives (*note added border*)

*Fig. PortMaria05:* 1989  
ICIS Year of the GPTO

*Fig. PortMaria06:* 1989  
Starcross Championships

*Fig. PortMaria07:* 1990 10th anniversary  
of Republic of Port Maria minisheet

*Fig. PortMaria08:* 1990 Airship  
around the world flight

*Fig. PortMaria09:* 1990  
ICIS Year of Plankton

*Fig. PortMaria10:* Unissued  
1990 Homeopathy issue

*Fig. PortMaria11a:* Bruce's proof for  
the 1990 20th anniversary of Mevu stamp

*Fig. PortMaria11b:* The issued 1990 stamp  
for the 20th anniversary of Mevu

## Kemp Land

*Fig. KempLand01:* 1988 ICIS Year of Food

*Fig. KempLand02:* 1988 20th anniversary  
of Occussi-Ambeno independence

*Fig. KempLand03:* 1989  
5th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. KempLand04:* 1989 Captain  
Bligh's visit to Occussi-Ambeno

*Fig. KempLand05:* 1989  
Starcross Championships

*Fig. KempLand06:* 1990 Homeopathy

*Fig. KempLand07:* 1990 150th  
anniversary of Penny Black

*Fig. KempLand08:* 1990 20th anniversary of  
Republic of Mevu, proof and issued stamp

*KempLand09-10:* 1990 various issues, design by Matthew,  
printing by me and perforating by Bruce

## Other fantasy states

### Kingdom of Aldabra

*Fig. Aldabra01:* Bruce's unauthorized 1989 stamp  
for Aldabra (for the 5th anniversary of ICIS)

### Kingdom of Edelweiss

*Fig. Edelweiss01:* 1988 ICIS Year of Food

*Fig. Edelweiss02a-b:* 1989 20th anniversary of  
Occussi-Ambeno independence, one of the  
two stamps, and both on a FDC

*Fig. Edelweiss03:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. Edelweiss04:* 1989 Captain Bligh  
(special Edelweiss design)

*Fig. Edelweiss05:* 1989 Captain Bligh  
(omnibus design)

*Fig. Edelweiss06:* 1989 Starcross Championships

*Fig. Edelweiss07:* 1990 cover with the 1990 Wilkes Expedition stamp and also the same stamp overprinted for the Occussi-Ambeno airship round the world trip, on special cover for that flight

*Fig. Edelweiss08:* 1990 150th anniversary of Penny Black

## Sonné Empire

*Fig. Sonne01:* 1990 for 20th anniversary of Republic of Mevu (cropped from cover)

## Chyan:

*Fig. Chyan01:* 1990 original issue (here as stamp imprint on envelope)

*Fig. Chyan02:* 1992 & 1993 definitives (not complete sets)

*Fig. Chyan03:* 1992 Victory over Sonné

*Fig. Chyan04:* 1992 visit of Occussi-Ambeno Sultan

*Fig. Chyan05:* 1993 ICIS Year of Fruit

## Archipelago of Tui Tui

*Fig. TuiTui01:* 1988 ICIS Year of Food

*Fig. TuiTui02:* 1988 20th anniversary of Occussi-Ambeno independence

*Fig. TuiTui03a-b:* 1990 150th anniversary of Penny Black, set and FDC

*Fig. TuiTui04a-b:* 1990 20th anniversary of Republic of Mevu, specimen set and FDC

# Part 4. Bokhara, Sedang and Upper Yafa, bringing ‘dead’ countries to life – and creating new ones – 1990-2000

The early 1990s saw Bruce shifting much of his creative attention towards ‘dead’ Cinderella nations like Sedang and Bokhara, but he also ‘revived’ the Sultanate of Upper Yafa, created stamps linked to books like the stories of Doctor Dolittle and of the Land of Muggy, and also created completely new stamp-issuing entities like the Free State of Kolkis, the Republic of Raoul and several others. He also continued printing the Kemp Land stamp designs of Matthew Campbell. Naturally, he also continued producing Occussi-Ambeno stamps.

In addition to, and mostly replacing typography, Bruce now started using a mono colour offset printing machine to print the stamps.

Probably most surprising, the Karenni Provisional Government based in Thailand joined the ICIS in 1991, and authorized Bruce to produce Karenni stamps, which the Provisional Government in fact used on correspondence (mailed via Thailand).

Although my records are not complete for this period, I have a fair overview of his activities and products during 1990-2000.

### ***Khanate of Bokhara***

Many readers of CP will be familiar with the 1886 **Bokhara** stamps, which were treated in great detail by **Wolfgang Baldus** in his book *The Classic Postage Stamps of Bokhara* (Munich, 2011). Although no definite conclusions as to their status can be established, they are most probably bogus. Baldus also briefly mentions and illustrates a few of Bruce's modern Bokhara stamps.

Bruce's first issues were typographed 'replicas' of the **1886** stamps, printed on either thick white paper, or thinner paper with invisible gum. Then he proceeded to overprint these with classical Arabic text, as well as creating a pictorial set of 1897. This also received numerous overprints.

Having re-established the Khanate, Bruce then handed it over to an Auckland friend, **Grant Harris**, who relished the role of Khan, and designed several stamp issues, including **Rug Knots of Asia** (Bokhara is traditionally renowned for carpets), the death of **Princess Diana**, 1998 **Happy New Year**, and **Camels**. When Grant heard the theory about the **Muppet** 'Bert' being an evil character, he designed a stamp for that, which also attacks (then USA president) **George W. Bush**, labelling him as "Earth's real terrorist". This stamp gained Bokhara much kudos from the Moslem world.

More on Bokhara can be seen on their Consulate's website:  
<http://www.angelfire.com/country/bokhara>

### ***Kingdom of Sedang***

Most readers of CP will be familiar with the 1889 issue of the **Kingdom of All the Sedang**, produced by **Marie David Mayrena** for his Indo-Chinese kingdom.

In 1989, Bruce decided to continue the story and created a mythical history of Sedang from 1889 till today. He also produced a number of stamps allegedly issued from 1934 until now.

The **1934 coat-of-arms** set resembles the 1889 originals, but has a more elaborate frame. According to the new history, these '1934' stamps were overprinted in 1939 to commemorate the **50th anniversary of independence** and the first stamp issue. In 1941, the 1934 issue was overprinted in Kanji to mark the **Japanese occupation**, and in 1946, the Japanese overprints were further overprinted to celebrate **liberation**. A new series in similar design to the 1934 issue (but new colours) was issued in **1949**, and in 1961, these were overprinted in gold to mark the **coronation of King David Jules II**. In 1964, the 1949 stamps were overprinted to celebrate the **75th anniversary of independence**. Bruce's **Kingdom of All the Sedang** joined the ICIS in 1989, and issued (in real time) an overprint on 1949 stamps for the ICIS **Year of the GPTO**. Also in 1989, a long set celebrating the **centenary of independence** was issued (showing

Bruce's cat, seated on his perforating machine!), and in 1990 one of these was overprinted for the **round the world flight of the Occussi-Ambeno airship**. In 1990, two stamps were also issued for the **150th anniversary of the first postage stamps**. There were also two 1990 stamps for the **ICIS Year of Plankton**, and in 1992, stamps marked the **coronation of King Marie David III**.

New stamps in the 1934 design were issued in **1992** too, as were definitive stamps portraying the new king.

There was a 1999 issue portraying New Caledonian author **Paul Bloc** and a scene from his book *Les filles de la Neama*. Further 1999-2000 issues are detailed in the next part of this article.

It should be noted that there is a rival **Kingdom of Sedang** organisation based in Montréal, Canada, that also started issuing new Sedang stamps from 1996. Their first issue featured **heraldic beasts** of the Kingdom of Sedang, and a 1997 set featured their **flag** for Sedang. Their last issue seems to be a 1998 stamp for the **Lunar Year of the Tiger**. They also issued stamps for the **regency of the Comtesse de Kasara** and a stamp commemorating former Viet Nam emperor **Bao Dai**.

### ***Sultanate of Upper Yafa***

The South Arabian **Sultanate of Upper Yafa** had a very brief period as a stamp-issuing country between 30 September and 30 November 1967, in which period 94 stamps as listed by Michel were issued.

For Bruce, that was not enough, so in 1998, he re-started issuing Upper Yafa stamps, when a new **definitive** series was issued. Diamond-shaped stamps for the **Lunar Year of the Tiger** were also issued in 1998, showing a tiger. There were also two stamps commemorating **God, the Creator of the Universe** (which the UY Philatelic Bulletin described as “serious topicals”.) These show Koranic verses, since Islam forbids actual photos of deities.

In 1999, stamps were issued for the 125th anniversary of the **Universal Postal Union** and for the 50th anniversary of the **Geneva Conventions**.

Upper Yafa also joined the ICIS in 1998. Its stamps are denominated in Omani currency.

### ***Kāmā of Lunāmon***

This fantasy state is said to be located ‘on a high glacier valley close to the Nepal-China border’ and was created in 1989 by **Keith Kissel** of Dunedin, New Zealand. The state is served by the **Elsenarre Post International**, hence its stamps are inscribed **Elsenarre**.

**Lunāmon** joined the ICIS in 1989, and Bruce printed some of their stamps, although Keith, a noted artist, did the designs.

There is a **definitive** series from 1989, though I am not sure whether Bruce printed it, but he did print the 1989 issue for the **5th anniversary of ICIS**, the 1989 **Captain Bligh** issue, the 1989 **Marijuana Festival** stamp, two 1989 ‘**World Peace Campaign**’ stamps and a **seasonal greetings** stamp. In 1990, the Captain Bligh issue was overprinted for the **Occussi-Ambeno airship round the world trip** and for the **Lunāmon Rock**

**Festival**, and there was a stamp for the ICIS **Year of Plankton**. Also in 1990, there was a single stamp for **2000th anniversary of the Imperial Palace**.

### *Free State of Kolkis*

In October 1990, Bruce (now disguised as **President Shevek Brewer**) advised the ICIS that the **Free State of Kolkis**, situated on the mythical Pacific islands of Hinomui (which is the name of a van, Hino Mui) and Waipunamu (which is very similar to Waipounamu, the Maori name for New Zealand's South Island), wanted to become a member of ICIS. Its first stamp was issued 12 October 1990 and featured the **national arms**, with lots of Masonic symbols on. The capital is **Masonburg**.

Later in 1990, another stamp was added (overprinted on the margin of an Australian cinderella minisheet), and in 1992, a stamp portraying **Heinrich Hertz** (electromagnetic waves, 'hertz' being the unit to measure these) was issued.

### *Karenni* – the Karenni State of Burma

Modern stamps for **Karenni** were first produced for the **Karenni Provisional Government** by **Jean-Marc Rastorfer** of Lausanne, Switzerland. After the Karenni Provisional Government joined the ICIS in 1991, Rastorfer authorized Bruce to produce further Karenni stamps. These were in fact used (as propaganda labels) on correspondence mailed by the Karenni Provisional Government from Thailand.

The first issue I have seen from Bruce is a stamp featuring the Karenni **state arms**, overprinted on the same Australian cinderella sheetlet as the Kolkis issue described above. Then there is a 1992 issue featuring a **map** of Burma, Thailand and the neighbouring countries, showing the location of Karenni, and are printed on invisible-gum paper. These also exist overprinted for the 1993 ICIS **Year of Fruit**. There is also a 1994 issue featuring the **Karenni arms**.

### *Federal Republic of Corterra* (also known as the United Kingdom of Coralland)

Corterra was a self-proclaimed micronation on several Kiribati islands (Malden, Starbuck, Caroline (Victoria), Vostok (Edwards) and Flint (Elizabeth)), proclaimed in 1974. The government was based in Salt Lake City, Utah. It joined the ICIS in 1988. The following year; the name changed from **Coralland** to **Corterra**. In 1989, a single stamp celebrating the **15th anniversary of independence** was produced, but it seems that specimens in collectors' hands are all overprinted SPECIMEN. I suspect, but cannot prove, that Bruce did print the stamp.

The Salt Lake City address was also the address of the ICIS Western Regional Office.

### *Occussi-Ambeno*

In 1993, he once again had a full-colour stamp in Anna Banana's **International Art Post** series, featuring a portrait of Bruce (here named as **Sultan Michael Ismail the First**) in front of a file cabinet at his studio. A giant Starcross game is projected on to the wall behind him, although only part of it shows on the stamp, and you need to know to look

for it. Another attractive stamp appeared (in the same edition of Anna's stamps); this time using a photo taken by Bruce showing some of his friends doing street-theater in costume outside a McDonald's restaurant in Auckland, protesting at the company clear-felling Amazon jungle areas to raise cattle. The **75c** stamp is titled '**Save the rainforests!**' Anna Banana's editions were the best way to obtain full-colour stamps at that time.

That same year, an air mail stamp featuring **Hermes** was also released (here, there is no Egyptian country name). This stamp exists overprinted in 1994 for the **10th anniversary of ICIS** and with a 1995 overprint for the **Terra Candella** (another fantasy country) **Flood Relief**.

In 1995, a coup took place, and Bruce (in his alias as Sultan Michael Ismail) was deposed as Sultan by **Gary Dean**, an old friend from Australian days, who had been fascinated by the story of the sultanate. This was a very amicable coup, as Bruce was happy to leave the tedious administration work to someone else, and the new Sultan, **Sri Gare the first**, was happy to let Bruce continue as Postmaster-General, the job he really enjoyed. Dean built the website for Occussi-Ambeno, and has been shown on some stamps, as well as on the **gold and silver coins** that Bruce organised later.

Visit the site at <http://okusi1.tripod.com/>

In 1996, a set of three stamps for the **Festival of Hathor** was released, and in 1997, four stamps commemorated the **600th anniversary of Gutenberg's invention of printing with loose metal type**, the process that Bruce has continued to use down to the present. The same year, four stamps commemorated the death centenary of **Heinrich von Stephan**, the initiator of international postal co-operation.

In 1998, stamps were issued for the Lunar **Year of the Tiger**, for the **World Book Day**, the ICIS **Rose Conference**, and a **Zeppelin air mail** stamp. The 1999 issues included a set for the **PalmPex stamp exhibition** depicting a butterfly (which gained a front-page story in the Palmerston North, NZ, newspaper, the city where the exhibition was held, the day before the show opened), and a stamp for the Lunar **Year of the Rabbit**.

As you have probably gathered from the frequency of airship stamps, Bruce is fascinated by zeppelins and collects these thematically. He describes his website built for the Occussi-Ambeno zeppelin airline, **Swiftair** (made during his web-design training course) as his "best website ever". It shows illustrations of many classic zeppelin covers, plus even a "**Balon-monté**" from the siege of Paris in 1870. View the site here:

[www.geocities.ws/swiftair/](http://www.geocities.ws/swiftair/)

### ***Kingdom of Raoul***

Raoul Island is the largest of the Kermadec Islands, a New Zealand dependency and where New Zealand has maintained a meteorological station since 1937.

In 1991, Bruce established a '**Kingdom of Raoul**' allegedly located on the island, and lists the 1937 Kermadec Islands local stamp as the first stamp of the country. The next was released in 1991 by Bruce, featuring an aircraft carrier of the Raoul Navy (!). A definitive series featuring a **lighthouse** and a **sailing ship** was also released in 1991. In 1992, some of these were overprinted for the ICIS **Year of the Atmosphere**, and in 1994 for the **10th anniversary of the ICIS**. Later, the Kingdom was dissolved and the

**Republic of Raoul** was proclaimed in 1998. The Republic, headed by prominent Melbourne dominatrix **Aveline de Rais**, issued stamps with BDSM themes in 1998 and 1999. She particularly relished being dictator of the small island, where women were the ruling elite, and the only males were slaves.

A catalogue of Raoul stamps is available on

<http://www.angelfire.com/country/raoul/stamps.htm>

### ***Kemp Land***

Throughout the 1990s, Bruce continued to print Matthew Campbell's designs for Kemp Land stamps, always in a pleasing arrangement of colour schemes.

In 1992, a series of stamps reproducing statements by 'The Great Leader, Chairman **Eric Gardo**' was issued, and one of these was overprinted in 1993 for the '**Antarctic Biennale**'. Also in 1992, a real stamp of Western Samoa (that Matthew had bulk-purchased from a dealer) was overprinted **KEMP LAND** and '**ICIS Year of the Atmosphere**'. Further **thoughts from Chairman Eric** followed on 1994 stamps, as did a triangular stamp portraying **Kim Jong-il** for the '**Antarctic Academy of Arts and Sciences**'. The **armed forces** of Kemp Land were also honoured with 1995 stamps.

Later in 1995, stamps commemorated the 20th death anniversary of **Hank Snow**, a fighter for freedom from the evil Australians, and a series highlighting the '**Framnes Mountains National Park**'.

A photographic portrait of **President Eric Gardo** appeared on a 1996 stamp, for his 80th birthday. There was also an issue for '**Galaxy Master Battenberg's visit to Antarctic UFO bases**'. Five stamps and a miniature sheet were issued for the 1996 **Atlanta Olympics**.

In 1997, stamps paid homage to **Mark Chapman** (the man who murdered John Lennon) and a stamp for the **Pacifica 97 stamp exhibition**. There was also a 1997 set commemorating the visit of the President of **Neu-Schwabenland** (in Antarctica) to Kemp Land, and a set commemorating the '**20th anniversary of the All-Antarctic Federation of Philatelists**'.

Also in 1997, stamps were issued in memory of rock musician/actor **Michael Hutchence** (known from the band INXS).

In 1998 there was a gold overprint for **Matthew's marriage** and a set portraying **famous philosophers**, and a gold stamp commemorating **Princess Diana**. A stamp was also issued for **World Book Day**. A 1999 set commemorated the **China 99 stamp exhibition** and there was another issue for the '**14th World Glacier Hiking Championships**'. The latter also exists overprinted '**WINNER:/GEIR SØR-REIME**', reflecting Matthew's humour. This was a homage to the GB 1966 "England Winners" overprint on the World Soccer Cup stamp. In 2000, a set of three stamps commemorated the '**Antarctic Festival of Clowns**'.

### ***West Vinland***

West Vinland is part of the mythical North Atlantic island of New Vinland, located in the same archipelago as the Sonné Empire (see previous chapter).

**West Vinland** was given to Occussi-Ambeno by Sonné as a reward in a political deal, and became a 'colony' of Occussi-Ambeno in 1990. It was later invaded by Tyr, a Sonné puppet state, but after Katlivarheim Island, where Sonné and Tyr were located, sank, an uprising led to independence as the **Free Vinland Republic** in 1993. Naturally, Bruce produced stamps both for the West Vinland colony and for the Free Vinland Republic.

The first stamps were issued in 1990, consisting of Occussi-Ambeno stamps overprinted **WEST VINLAND** (in four scripts: English, Chinese, Egyptian hieroglyphs, and Occussian, the four official languages). Two **definitive** stamps were released in 1991, showing the Egyptian deity **Ontywey** and with the name of the colony around the four sides in the four official languages. One of these was also overprinted for the **ICIS Year of Music**. The same stamps were overprinted for the **opening of a hydro-power station** in 1992, and new values were added to the definitive series, and definitive stamps were overprinted for the **ICIS Year of the Atmosphere**. The 1991 definitives are both on coloured paper with shiny gum, while the 1992 definitives in the same design are on white paper with invisible gum.

In 1993, a popular uprising proclaimed the Free Vinland Republic, and the 1992 definitive stamps were initially overprinted **'FREE VINLAND FIGHTS FOR GODS, FREEDOM & COUNTRY!'** (a homage to the Yemen Royalist overprints from 1962-63).

In 1994, some of the 1992 and 1994 definitives were overprinted for the **10th anniversary of the ICIS**. A new **definitive** in a similar design to the 'colony' series, but now inscribed FREE VINLAND in the four official languages was added, and two of the new definitives were overprinted for the **Peace Treaty of Mabus**, where neighbouring Liegerland recognized Free Vinland as an independent country, and formally ended the war.

In 1995, stamps for the Lunar **Year of the Pig** and definitives overprinted for **flood relief for Terra Candella** were issued.

In 1997, a single stamp was issued for the **Pacifica 97 international philatelic exhibition**, a typographed gold overprint on a label issued for the exhibition.

That was followed in 1998 with a stamp for the Lunar **Year of the Tiger**, and there was also a stamp for **World Book Day**, and in 1999, a single stamp commemorated the 125th anniversary of the **Universal Postal Union**.

A complete catalogue of West Vinland and Free Vinland stamps can be found at

<http://www.geocities.ws/freevinland/>

## *Fantippo*

In 1992, Bruce printed a number of stamps for the African kingdom of Fantippo, based on the children's book *Doctor Dolittle's Post Office* by Hugh Lofting, published in 1924. Besides producing stamps that are claimed to date from 1894 till the early 20th century,



he also produced contemporary stamps, like a 1992 overprint for the ICIS **Year of the Atmosphere**.

Lofting's 1924 book describes a country which (in the 1890s according to the book) became a prolific stamp-producer, vying with today's Guyana, Samoa, and the Trucial States for massive output. As a child, Bruce was intrigued by the concept, and resolved to bring Fantippo to life when he was able to. One of the early stamps is illustrated in the book, and appropriately, the first One Penny stamp of Fantippo is printed in black. The "**Penny Black**" was later reprinted in silver, as posties were unable to see the postmarks on black stamps.

Some of the stamps are depicted on the website

<http://www.angelfire.com/trek/fantippo>

### ***Land of Muggy***

Another philatelic fantasy based on a novel are the stamps inscribed **Land of Muggy**, based on novels by New Zealand author Geoffrey P. Weston.

According to Wikipedia, the novels are based on a three-dimensional map called **The Land of Muggy** that **Geoff Weston** and his brother **Barry** created in 1962, where they played war and empires. The novel is an alternative history based on stories they created about the Land of Muggy. The trilogy is called *The Surkling*.

The first Land of Muggy stamps were issued around 1992 and they are detailed on the website

<http://www.angelfire.com/journal2/muggy/MUGGYSTAMPS.htm>

It seems that stamps were issued in 1992, and then in 2001, 2003 and 2004. Most Muggy stamps are designed and laser-printed by Geoff Weston, then perfed by Bruce, though Bruce has used his classic letterpress technology to do a few issues for Muggy. These include a long **shield** design in fluorescent pink, and sets for the **Geographical Society**, the **Historical Society**, and a **map** of the land.

*To be continued*

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#### *Illustrations*

#### **Khanate of Bokhara**

*Fig. Bokhara01:* Selection of Bruce issues:

1st and 2nd row: replicas of 1886 issue,  
3rd row: 1897 Pictorials,  
4th row: overprint for centenary of first stamps, 1986;  
5th row: 1991 overprint celebrating joining the ICIS

*Fig. Bokhara02:* 1998 New Year stamp

*Fig. Bokhara03:* 1990 150th anniversary of Penny Black

*Fig. Bokhara04:* 1998 Muppets, Bert is Evil

*Fig. Bokhara05:* 1999 Camels

## Kingdom of Sedang

*Fig. Sedang01:* 1889 Paris print

*Fig. Sedang02:* 1934 set

*Fig. Sedang03:* 1939 50th anniversary of independence

*Fig. Sedang04:* 1941 Japanese occupation

*Fig. Sedang05:* 1946 liberation

*Fig. Sedang06:* 1949 definitive

*Fig. Sedang07:* 1961 Coronation

*Fig. Sedang08:* 1964 75th anniversary of independence

*Fig. Sedang09:* 1989 ICIS Year of the  
General Postal Treaty Organisation

*Fig. Sedang10:* 1989 Centenary of Independence  
(including embossed commemorative sticker, top left)

*Fig. Sedang11:* 1990 airship trip

*Fig. Sedang12:* 1990 150th anniversary of the Penny Black

*Fig. Sedang13:* 1990 ICIS Year of Plankton

*Fig. Sedang14:* 1992 Coronation

*Fig. Sedang15:* 1992 definitive, arms and King

*Fig. Sedang16:* 1999 Paul Bloc

*Fig. Sedang17a-b:* 1996 Toronto-based  
Sedang exile-government issue

*Fig. Sedang18:* 1997 ditto.

*Fig. Sedang18:* 1997 ditto, Lunar Year of the Ox

## Sultanate of Upper Yafa

*Fig. UpperYafa01:* 1998 definitives

*Fig. UpperYafa02:* 1998 Lunar Year of the Tiger

*Fig. UpperYafa03:* stamps from the above issues on cover

*Fig. UpperYafa04:* 1998 God, on FDC

*Fig. UpperYafa05:* 1999 125th anniversary of UPU

*Fig. UpperYafa06:* 1999 50th  
anniversary of Geneva Conventions

## Kämä of Lunämon

*Fig. Lunämon01:* 1989 definitives

*Fig. Lunämon02:* 1989 5th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. Lunämon03:* 1989 Captain Bligh

*Fig. Lunämon04:* 1989 Marijuana Festival

*Fig. Lunämon04b:* 1989 Marijuana Festival, FDC

*Fig. Lunämon05:* 1989 Campaign for world peace

*Fig. Lunämon06:* 1989 Seasonal greetings

*Fig. Lunämon07a-b:* 1990 airship, set and FDC

*Fig. Lunämon08:* 1990 Lunämon Rock Music Festival

*Fig. Lunämon09*: 1990 cover with 2000th anniversary of Imperial Palace and ICIS Year of Plankton issues

## Free State of Kolkis

*Fig. Kolkis01a-b*: 1990 1st issue

*Fig. Kolkis02*: 1990 2nd issue

*Fig. Kolkis03*: 1992 Hertz issue

## Karenni

*Fig. Karenni01a-b*: 1990 cover with 'stamps' produced by Jean-Marc Rastorfer in support of the Karenni struggle

*Fig. Karenni02*: Similar Jean-Marc Rastorfer cover

*Fig. Karenni03*: 1992 cover from Karenni Provisional Government sent via Thailand and with Bruce-produced Karenni stamps affixed

*Fig. Karenni04*: 1991 Karenni arms

*Fig. Karenni05*: 1992 map

*Fig. Karenni06*: 1993, map stamp overprinted for ICIS Year of Fruit

*Fig. Karenni07*: 1994 – state arms

## Corterra

*Fig. Corterra01*: 1989 15th anniversary of independence

## Occussi-Ambeno

*Fig. O.A49*: 1993 International Art Post featuring Bruce in his studio

*Fig. O.A50*: 1993 Hermes

*Fig. O.A51*: 1995 Festival of Hathor

*Fig. O.A52*: 1997 Heinrich von Stephan

*Fig. O.A53*: 1997 Printing pioneers

*Fig. O.A54*: 1998 Lunar Year of the Tiger

*Fig. O.A55*: 1998 ICIS Rose Conference

*Fig. O.A56*: 1998 World Book Day

*Fig. O.A57*: 1999 PalmPex stamp exhibition

## Kingdom/Republic of Raoul

*Fig. Raoul01*: 1991 definitives

*Fig. Raoul02*: 1992 ICIS Year of the Atmosphere

*Fig. Raoul03*: 1997 cover with one 1991 definitive and the 1994 for 10th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. Raoul04*: 1994 10th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. Raoul05*: 1998 'Slave hunting'

*Fig. Raoul06*: 1999 'Leather'

## Kemp Land

*Fig. KempLand11*: 1992 Thoughts of Chairman Eric

*Fig. KempLand12:* 1993  
1st Antarctic Biennale overprint

*Fig. KempLand13:* 1992  
ICIS Year of the Atmosphere

*Fig. KempLand14:* 1994 More thoughts of Chairman Eric

*Fig. KempLand15:* 1994 Kim Jong-il

*Fig. KempLand16:* 1995 Armed forces

*Fig. KempLand17:* 1995 Hank Snow

*Fig. KempLand17B:* 1995 Framnes  
Mountains National Park

*Fig. KempLand18:* 1996 Eric  
Gardo's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

*Fig. KempLand19:* 1996 Galaxy  
Master Battenberg's visit

*Fig. KempLand20a-b:* 1996 Atlanta  
Olympics, set and minisheet

*Fig. KempLand21:* 1997 Mark Chapman

*Fig. KempLand21B:* 1997 20th anniversary  
of All-Antarctic Federation of Philatelists

*Fig. KempLand21C:* 1997 Michael Hutchence in memoriam

*Fig. KempLand22:* 1998 Matthew Campbell's wedding

*Fig. KempLand22B:* 1998 Princess Diana commemoration

*Fig. KempLand23:* 1997 Visit of  
President of Neu-Schwabenland

*Fig. KempLand24:* 1998 philosophers

*Fig. KempLand24B:* 1998 World Book Day

*Fig. KempLand25:* 1999 China 99 stamp exhibition

*Fig. KempLand25B:* 1999 14th World  
Glacier Hiking Championships

*Fig. KempLand25C:* ditto, overprinted  
'WINNER: GEIR SØR-REIME'

*Fig. KempLand26:* 2000 Antarctic Festival of Clowns

## West Vinland

*Fig. Vinland01:* 1991 ICIS Year of Music

*Fig. Vinland02:* 1992 Opening  
of hydro-electric power station

*Fig. Vinland03-03b:* 1992 definitives

*Fig. Vinland04:* 1992 ICIS  
Year of the Atmosphere

## Free Vinland

*Fig. Vinland05:* 1993 Independence set:  
'Free Vinland fights for Gods, Freedom & Country'

*Fig. Vinland06:* 1997 registered cover with 1993 Fight,  
1994 definitive, 1995 Lunar Year of the Pig and  
1994 10th anniversary of ICIS

*Fig. Vinland07:* 1998 cover mailed via  
New Zealand, with 1998 World Book  
Day and a mix of 1994 Fight and definitives

## Fantippo

*Fig. Fantippo01:* 1897 Canoe Races

*Fig. Fantippo02:* 1992 ICIS  
Year of the Atmosphere

*Fig. Fantippo03:* 1993 Opening  
of Museum of African Art

*Fig. Fantippo04:* 1994  
ICIS Year of Fruit

*Fig. Fantippo05:* 1998  
Calligraphy Symposium

*Fig. Fantippo06:* 1949  
75th anniversary of UPU

*Fig. Fantippo07:* 1993 cover from  
Fantippo to Mevu mailed via Tui Tui

## Land of Muggy

*Fig. Muggy01:* 1992 The Geographical  
Society of Muggy (part of set of two)

*Fig. Muggy02:* 1992 The Historical Society  
of Muggy, showing the western gate tower of Bez

*Fig. Muggy03:* 1992 map of Muggy

## Part 5. The colour laser revolution – Occussi-Ambeno and other Bruce Henderson productions after 1990

In 2000, Bruce attended a course on digital colour printing, design and in making websites and movies. In a letter from December 2001, he now signs as Bruce Henderson.

So, Egyptian inscriptions and typography aside, it is colour laser printing from here on.

As I have had little contact with Bruce after 2002, this final part of my review of his stamp productions is more cursory than the others, and is based on his own websites, with the exception of the Kemp Land issues, which I have received through Matthew Campbell.

Other issues than those mentioned most probably exist, as do stamps with other country names.

### ***Occussi-Ambeno***

The first multicoloured laser stamp from Occussi-Ambeno was a single stamp issued 11 April 2000 featuring an **orchid**, followed by two May 2000 stamps depicting a **Monarch butterfly**. Bruce was breeding these butterflies for some years.

Other 2000 stamps included the ICIS **Police Conference**, the **Music Symposium** (depicting cats), a set showing **vintage cars**, a set honouring '**heroes of ecology**', a tribute to deceased mail artist **Michael Bidner**, a set featuring the discovery of the lost

**Doctor Who** film, a stamp for the **Chadpex stamp exhibition**, and a stamp for the Lunar **Year of the Dragon**.

In 2002, there were stamp issues for the **birthday of Sultan Gare** and the Lunar **Year of the Horse**. In 2003, a stamp commemorating the **centenary of the first aeroplane flight** was issued.

My records for the ensuing years are scanty, but I have noted a 2006 **airship** set and a 2006 single for **Count von Luckner** ('the Sea-Devil') and a set of four in 2008 for the **40th anniversary of Occussi-Ambeno independence**. Two of these stamps showed both sides of Occussi-Ambeno's first **gold coin**, issued in 2006, while the other two stamps show the lighthouse that graces the reverse of the coin.

In 2010, there was a set of four for **World Hepatitis Day**, a single stamp for '**the Visit of US President Obama to Occussi-Ambeno**', and in 2011, two stamps commemorating Pakistani politician **Shahbaz Bhatti**. This is a joint issue with West Papua (see below), testifying that Bruce at least produced the West Papua stamps (but most probably did not design them).

Of more recent issues, I have noted a 2012 set for the **centenary of the sinking of *Titanic*** and a 2015 set for the 150th birth anniversary of Finnish composer **Jean Sibelius**.

Bruce made a website for the Occussi-Ambeno Post Office, illustrating all its stamps, and it can be viewed here:

<http://www.angelfire.com/art/okusi/>

Provincial stamps have included stamps in 2000 for **Tarantar Province** featuring the **Vaneigem Camel Post** and a 2010 set featuring works by **Leonardo da Vinci**. In 2008, a set featuring **Tarot cards** by Angelo Parrasio was issued, and in 2011, a long set entitled '**Foldings of Drapery**' (by Angelo Parrasio and Leonardo da Vinci) appeared. The Tarantar Province stamps are all designed by **Murray Menzies**, a prominent Dunedin artist, who is Mayor of Vaneigem City in Tarantar (and also held office as Secretary-General of the ICIS from 1990 till 1992.)

In 2008, the first stamps of **Dragon Province** were issued, featuring a Dodo, a space ship, the Tanjung Lighthouse and a White Heron bird.

### ***ICIS Headquarters***

After the ICIS HQ was moved to New Zealand from 1990 onwards, two ICIS stamps were issued in 1992 for the **Impeachment of Mr Menzies**, and in 1992 and 1993, **definitive** stamps featuring the ICIS emblem were issued, followed in 2000 by definitives featuring **Monarch butterflies**, which Bruce was breeding at the time.

The ICIS website can be seen at

<http://www.angelfire.com/art/icis/>

### ***Kingdom of Sedang***

A rather strange issue appeared in 1999, commemorating the former editor of the CP, **Norman Williams**. Norman had strongly condemned Bruce's 'revival' of Sedang issues in 1990 issues of CP, so Bruce thought it appropriate to show that there were no hard feelings over this small disagreement, sentiments that were appreciated by Norman's family when presented with the stamps. There was also a 1999 issue for Bruce's discovery of a lost episode of **Doctor Who**, and a stamp depicting a cactus (a photo from his mother's garden) for the Lunar **Year of the Dragon**.

In 2000, a stamp marked the **new millennium** with a view of Stonehenge.

Other stamps noted are 2000 **16th Asian Writers' Congress**, 2000 **Save the Labradors**, and a 2003 issue commemorating Austrian-born artist **Friedensreich Hundertwasser**. In 2012, two stamps commemorated German author **Karl May** (death centenary).

### ***Bokhara***

I have noted a 2004 set for the **centenary of railways** and a 2005 set of four depicting **budgies**.

The Bokhara Consulate in Auckland has an interesting website:

<http://www.angelfire.com/country/bokhara/>

### ***Upper Yafa***

Bruce has continued to produce Upper Yafa stamps, and I have noticed a 1999 set of four devoted to **Jean-François Champollion** (1790-1832), the man who deciphered the hieroglyphs, using the Rosetta stone, found in 1799.

In 2004 there was a set of five stamps reproducing art by US artist Theodor Seuss Geisel (known as **Dr. Seuss**, 1904-1991).

I have also noted a 2005 set illustrating fairy tales by **Hans Christian Andersen** and a 2015 set devoted to **space research**.

### ***Republic of Raoul***

In 2000, colour laser printed issues also appeared for the Republic of Raoul. I have noted a stamp marking **Raoul-Tui Tui friendship**, the **President for Life**, a **horse riding** champion salute and a **flower** stamp. The latter shows the rare Kermadec koromiko, once thought to be extinct, but a single bush was recently located growing on the island, and has now been propagated and grown in gardens around New Zealand.

### ***Bounty Island***

**Bounty Island** is a sub-Antarctic island that is claimed by New Zealand. It is uninhabited, but according to Bruce, there is a monastery inhabited by a sect of reticent monks, and a small town, **Mooring**. This has not prevented Bruce from producing stamps inscribed Bounty Island. I know of a 2004 set of four stamps, including one showing the **Bounty Island Shag**, a seabird. Another shows the **wooden horse of**

**Troy.** The monks have yet to open a web site, but Bruce made a web page showing some of their stamps:

<http://www.angelfire.com/art/okusi/bounty1.htm>

### ***Free Vinland***

In 2003, a stamp commemorating the **centenary of Richard Pearse's first flight** and a set of eight depicting **guitars** were issued. Four stamps depicting **helicopters** were issued in 2008, and 2013, two stamps honoured **L. Ron Hubbard**, famous science-fiction writer.

The Free Vinland website includes a well-illustrated stamp catalogue, here:

<http://www.geocities.ws/freevinland/>

### ***Liegerland***

The **Republic of Liegerland** is said to be located on New Vinland, the same island as West Vinland (now Free Vinland). It was the former Tyrian colony on the island, and achieved independence in 1994 at a similar time as Free Vinland, after the evil rulers on Katlivarheim disappeared as their island sank in an earthquake. In 2003, a set of four stamps with scenes from **Winnie the Pooh** were released. These show the original black & white drawings by **E. H. Sheppard** from the **A.A. Milne** books, and Bruce colorized them for the stamps. He consulted a Pooh expert on the colour scheme, and was told he had a free hand, but to be sure to make Piglet in pink, and Eeyore in grey. This was a very popular set. Bruce has produced stamps for Liegerland since 1994. Liegerland's capital is **Mabus**.

Liegerland idolises the great humanitarian and physician Dr. **Albert Schweitzer**, and showed his face on the first definitive set. Each value of this set was typographed in two colours, and on paper with invisible gum. The set was later overprinted for various events, including the 1994 **Peace Treaty** with Free Vinland, and the **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICIS**. Later, Liegerland overprinted a Schweitzer stamp for **flood relief for Terra Candella**, then celebrated the 1997 **Pacifica stamp exhibition** and 1998 Lunar **Year of the Tiger**. Another set showing **Doctor Schweitzer** appeared in 2002; this time in full colour. This country was handed over to Bruce's friend **Mark Portnick**, a non-philatelist, who was dismayed by the flood of mail-orders arriving, so he has not been keen on new stamp issues, other than the odd omnibus that Bruce prints for him. Their best recent set was 2015 **Space pioneers**.

According to the website, Liegerland has a large number of South Chinese immigrant workers, and so the two official languages are Cantonese and English. Chinese texts are shown on some stamps.

Liegerland was the subject of an interesting full-page article in *Global Stamp News*, USA, June 1995, page 60, which gives much of the historical background. This article can be read on Liegerland's website:

<http://geocities.ws/liegerland/>



## ***Kemp Land***

As mentioned above, Bruce took over the production of Kemp Land stamps in 1990, and from 2000 onwards, these were colour laser printed. None of the post-2000 issues feature the characteristic drawings by Matthew Campbell, though most of the subjects were suggested by Matthew.

In 2000, stamps were issued for the Lunar **Year of the Dragon** (portraying in fact Matthew Campbell holding a Yemen cover from his collection), the **33rd Congress of the Democratic People's Party** (of Kemp Land) featuring an **orchid, cats**, a vintage **Albion typographic printing press**, Antarctic **dogs**, the **anti-sandfly campaign** (sic!) and an overprint on a dog stamp entitled '**Death to the Wreckers 2000**'. (According to a circular, 'Wreckers' are people trying to 'sabotage life and industrial production in Kemp Land').

There was also a 2000 issue honouring **allies**: the Sultan of Occussi-Ambeno, **Sultan Sri Gare I**, as well as two values featuring North Korean leader **Kim Jong-il** and Upper Yafa's **Sultan Bogdo Akhbar Sahbee** (Bruce in Arabic dress).

The 90th **anniversary of the Norwegian Antarctic Expedition** under **Roald Amundsen** was the theme of a 2001 set.

In 2003, a stamp commemorated the **first anniversary of the assassination of General Matthew Campbell**. This stamp, showing Matthew in Kemp Land army uniform, was requested by Matthew, with a black frame around it. Bruce remarked to Matthew that should he be run-over by a train or vehicle and killed, the gendarmes would be most perplexed to find the stamps mourning his death in his wallet!

That year also saw a stamp portraying British **Princess Camilla** (married to Charles, the Prince of Wales), and a set showing **mushrooms**.

In 2004, there were stamps featuring **poisonous spiders** of the Antarctic, **Fender guitars**, and **nude paintings** by the New Zealand artist **John Winton Burke**.

**Lighthouses** were shown on a 2005 set, and there were also stamps for the **60th anniversary of the fall of the Third Reich**. In 2006 a beautiful set depicted **roses**.

The '**700th anniversary of the betrayal of the Knights Templar**' was the theme of a 2007 stamp, and that year, **war tax stamps** were also issued. An issue entitled '**Old Steam trains of Antarctica**' was also made 2007: this set occurs in both "normal" size and bantam-size. The latter are slightly smaller than the size of UK Machins.

**Great poets** were portrayed on a 2008 set, and there was also a set commemorating the **centenary of Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition**.

The **300th anniversary of the pianoforte** was celebrated with 2009 stamps, and there was also a set devoted to **great rock bands** of the world.

A set called '**Revolutionary Heroes**' was issued in 2010 and included portraits of Claus von Stauffenberg (who headed the 1944 plot to depose Hitler), Leon Trotsky, Mao and Lenin.

## *Heliopolis and Nichtsburg & Zilchstadt*

**Heliopolis** is a fantasy state operated by **Erik Victor McCrea**, an American numismatist who primarily produces low-mintage coins based on poetry, again based on ancient Egyptian symbolism. In 2004, Bruce printed a set for him, two stamps featuring **Sun Parakeets**, as “every country needs stamps”, not just coins!

McCrea also operates a fantasy state called **Nichtsburg & Zilchstadt**, and also here, Bruce produced a series of four stamps in 2004. McCrea suggested the subjects, then Bruce did the designs. McCrea has produced several coins for this state too. His website shows the coins and stamps:

<http://erikmccrea.tripod.com/zilchstadt.html>

## *Republic of the Spratly Islands*

The **Spratly Islands** are located in the South China Sea and are disputed between a number of surrounding countries, including China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia.

There have also been real micronations in the area, including the **Republic of Morac-Songhrati-Meads** and the **Kingdom of Humanity**. Recently, Bruce started issuing stamps inscribed **Republic of the Spratly Islands**. A 2008 stamp celebrated the **60th anniversary of independence** of the Spratlys. I have noticed a 2009 **definitive** set and a 2009 set honouring **famous revolutionaries**. This set includes Rosa Luxemburg, Karl Marx, Max Robespierre, and Ho Chi-minh, to the delight of many thematic collectors for whom these folks are seldom seen on stamps today. **Women’s Day** was highlighted on a 2014 stamp, and in 2015, a stamp showing the **flag** of this fantasy state was issued.

## *Tarajara*

The background to Bruce’s stamps for the fantasy state of Tarajara was a New Zealand and Australian joint army exercise in 2004, where the enemy was a state named **Tarajara**, situated somewhere in the Pacific. As soon as the story was reported in New Zealand newspapers, Bruce decided to follow up with stamps. They are inscribed **‘Republique du Tarajara’** as the state was supposed to be French-speaking. Some of these are ‘backdated’ to create a kind of history of the state before the 2004 anti-French exercise. Issues include **flowers**, the **Matariki Festival**, **mushrooms**, **20<sup>th</sup> century statesmen** (including Sir Winston Churchill, Tsar Nicholas the second, Pol Pot, and Teodoro Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea). Most controversial of all was a set called **‘Atrocities of the Kiwis’**, which as you would expect from a country being attacked by New Zealand, showed four serious cases of atrocities which the New Zealand establishment spend a lot of time trying to sweep under the carpet. To promote this stamp issue, instead of the usual 200 philatelic bulletins photocopied and sent to collectors and dealers, he got the bulletin mass-produced on glossy paper, then spent the next six months hiking around Auckland suburbia and many other towns of New Zealand that he happened to be visiting, and dropping them into letterboxes of homes. This was a pleasant evening peregrination, in whatever town he was visiting. There was no contact address to order the stamps, but they were sold on Ebay and Trademe until they ran out.

## *Taniquah*

The **Kingdom of Taniquah** is supposed to be a Maori-speaking island somewhere the South Pacific. Bruce has printed stamps for this fantasy state at least since 2007.

In 2007, several issues appeared, including one in the omnibus series for the **700th anniversary of the betrayal of the Knights Templar**, a set of four honouring the artist **Prince**, four stamps featuring **bears**, and four stamps honouring **Lenin**.

A 2008 set celebrated the **birthday of the King**, four 2009 stamps showed **lighthouses**, and in 2011, four stamps celebrated the **birthday of the Prime Minister**.

The country is led by its enthusiastic young king, **Tane Potaka**, a keen philatelist and archaeologist. The website has more information:

<https://sites.google.com/site/taniquah/>

## *West Papua*

As we noted earlier in this article, Bruce was engaged in the production and distribution of stamps of the Free Papua Movement of the western part of Papua (part of Indonesia).

An artist has created a series of designs of virtual stamps of the **Republic of West Papua** in 2011, with motifs relating to the area and the struggle for independence from Indonesia.

These can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151059704555010.794296.53611440009&type=3> and <http://westpapuapostoffice.blogspot.no/?m=1>

Similar stamps, but inscribed **West Papua** only, are now offered at the same web shop that offers Bruce's creations, and it seems likely that he is printing and distributing these stamps, although an Australian artist does the designing and marketing of them. In the web shop, the following series are offered:

2010: **Diwali** (set of five), **Barack Obama visit** (set of ten), **aircraft** (miniature sheet), **St. Valentines Day** (miniature sheet).

2011: **Easter** (miniature sheet), **Ramadan** (miniature sheet), **Shahbaz Bhatti** (set of two), and two stamps for **Christmas**.

<http://www.trademe.co.nz/antiques-collectables/stamps/pacific-islands/auction-958200334.htm>

## *East Turkestan*

In East Turkestan (in China) there are people fighting for independence from China, and in 2013, Bruce printed a set of stamps for the **East Turkestan Republic**, honouring science-fiction author **L. Ron Hubbard**.

## *Latvian Tobago*

In fact, settlers from present-day Latvia (at that time **Courland**) settled the Caribbean island of Tobago in 1654, and stayed there, with interruptions, until 1689. In 2009, Bruce (who collects Latvia and has Latvian friends) produced a set of two stamps commemorating this history. The stamps are inscribed **LATVIJAS TOBAGO** and are denominated in pre-Euro Latvian currency. They show a photo of a **sunset at Pigeon Point**, Tobago, and **raspberries**, the favorite crop of the Latvian settlers, and one that always finds an appreciative clientele. There was a similar set in 2008, which had the Latvian inscriptions wrong, so few were distributed. Each set shows the year in small print in the design. Knowing how tricky it can be to identify stamps, Bruce always tries to insert the year of issue in each stamp design he does, just to make life easier for future collectors.

## *Mevu and Port Maria*

According to a letter received from Bruce in December 2001, he produced stamps for **Mevu** and **Port Maria** as training when he attended the multi-media training course during 1999 to 2000. He also created websites for the two entities. All of this was without my knowledge and I immediately asked him to stop producing stamps for 'my' countries (concurrently with my own issues).

At least until 2008, Bruce continued to produce Mevu stamps (inscribed **Mevu – Antarctic Post**, like the early Mevu stamps). There is a 2004 issue depicting **penguins**. In 2005, a set featured **icebergs**, and another set for **save the whales and orcas** was produced, and a 2008 issue entitled '**Stop global warming**'.

The Mevu website is:

<http://www.angelfire.com/country/mevu/>

**Port Maria** stamps were produced at least until 2005. These include in 2000 a three-stamp set featuring **beneficial fungi** (plus an ornate stamp booklet), a stamp for the **20th anniversary of independence**, another for **Bruce's discovery of a lost episode of the Doctor Who** TV series, a stamp for **sea safety**, and a stamp showing a **16mm movie projector** (old 16mm movies is another of Bruce's interests, and he has a large library of historic films.) In 2005, he produced a set of three for **A.A. Milne** ('**Winnie the Pooh**') and another stamp for the **Doctor Who** series.

Others probably exist.

## *Suburban Stamp Club*

Bruce is/has been a member of the **Suburban Stamp Club** in Auckland, New Zealand, and in 2008 he produced a label celebrating the **40th anniversary of the Club**, depicting a **Kiwi bird**. These were affixed to a souvenir certificate handed to the members at the Club's celebration luncheon, and cancelled with the rubber-stamp used by the club in its circuit books. A **Fairy Tern** (another endangered bird) appeared on a similar label issued in 2009 for the **41st anniversary**.

He has also produced a number of other labels not purporting to be postage stamps, as well as airline and ship tickets, letterheads, cards, pencils, passports, beer labels, and self-adhesive car stickers for his various lands.

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*Illustrations:*

## Occussi-Ambeno

*Fig. O.A58:* 2000 Monarch butterfly

*Fig. O.A60:* 2000 Michael Bidner in memoriam

*Fig. O.A61:* 2000 from 'Heroes of Ecology' set

*Fig. O.A62:* 2006 Baron von Luckner

*Fig. O.A63:* 1. 2007 Eradication of Fleas  
2. 2006 Airships

*Fig. O.A64:* 2008 Lighthouses, gold coin,  
and Sultan, for 40th anniversary of independence

*Fig. O.A65:* 2010 World Hepatitis Day

*Fig. O.A66:* 2010 Visit of US President Obama

*Fig. O.A67:* 2011 Bhatti

*Fig. O.A68a-c:* 2012 Sinking of Titanic

*Fig. O.A69:* 2015 150th birth  
anniversary of Sibelius

*Fig. Dragon01:* 2008 set

*Fig. Tarantar09:* 2008 Tarot Cards

*Fig. Tarantar10:* 2011 Foldings  
of Drapery

*Fig. Tarantar11:* 2010 Leonardo Art

## ICIS

*Fig. ICIS13:* 1993 Impeachment  
of Mr Menzies

*Fig. ICIS14:* 1992 definitive

*Fig. ICIS15:* 1993 definitive  
(issue also included a \$1.20  
stamp in the same design)

## Sedang

*Fig. Sedang19:* 1999 L.N. Williams in memoriam  
(part of sheet with one tête-bêche stamp)

*Fig. Sedang20:* 2000 New Millennium

*Fig. Sedang21:* 1999 Rediscovery  
of lost Doctor Who episode

*Fig. Sedang22:* 2000 Asian Writers' Congress

*Fig. Sedang23:* 2000 Save the Labradors  
(a \$2 value in the same design also exists)

*Fig. Sedang24:* 2000 Lunar Year of the Dragon

*Fig. Sedang25:* 2005 Hundertwasser  
(one of a set of three)

*Fig. Sedang26:* 2012 death centenary of Karl May

## Bokhara

*Fig. Bokhara06:* 2004 centenary of railways

## Upper Yafa

*Fig. UpperYafa07:* 2000 The Sultan's 50<sup>th</sup>  
birthday (Bruce dressed as Sultan of Upper Yafa)

*Fig. UpperYafa08:* 1999 200th anniversary  
of discovery of Rosetta stone

*Fig. UpperYafa09:* 2005 Hans  
Christian Andersen fairy tales

*Fig. UpperYafa10:* 2015 space exploration

*Fig. UpperYafa11:* 2014 10th  
anniversary of Peppa Pig

*Fig. UpperYafa12:* 2004 Dr. Seuss  
(one of a set of five)

## Raoul

*Fig. Raoul07:* 2000 issues  
1. Raoul-Tui Tui friendship  
2. President for Life  
3. Flower  
4. Riding champion

## Bounty Island

*Fig. Bounty01a-c:* 2004 issue

## Free Vinland

*Fig. Vinland08:* 2008 helicopters

*Fig. Vinland09:* 2013 L. Ron Hubbard

## Liegerland

*Fig. Liegerland01:* 1994 stamp

*Fig. Liegerland02:* 2003 Winnie  
the Pooh (one of four)

## Kemp Land

*Fig. KempLand27:* 2000 Lunar  
Year of the Dragon

*Fig. KempLand28:* 2000 33rd Congress  
of the Democratic People's Party

*Fig. KempLand29:* 2000 Cats  
(one of a set of five)

*Fig. KempLand30:* 2000 Antarctic dogs

*Fig. KempLand31:* 2000 'Friends and Allies' –  
Sultan of Occussi-Ambeno, North Korean Leader,  
Sultan of Upper Yafa

*Fig. KempLand32:* 2001 90th anniversary  
of Norwegian South Pole expedition

*Fig. KempLand33:* 2003 1st anniversary of  
assassination of General Matthew Campbell

*Fig. KempLand34:* 2003 Princess Camilla

*Fig. KempLand35:* 2003 Mushrooms  
(one of a set of four)

*Fig. KempLand36:* 2004 Spiders

*Fig. KempLand37:* 2004 Fender guitars

*Fig. KempLand38a-b:* 2004 nude paintings

*Fig. KempLand39:* 2005 lighthouses

*Fig. KempLand40:* 2005 60th anniversary  
of fall of Third Reich

*Fig. KempLand41-41b:* 2006 Roses

*Fig. KempLand42:* 2007 Knights Templar

*Fig. KempLand43a-b:* 2007 War Tax

*Fig. KempLand44a-b:* 2007 Old  
steam trains of Antarctica

*Fig. KempLand45a-b:* 2008 Poets

*Fig. KempLand46:* 2008  
Shackleton expedition

*Fig. KempLand47:* 2009 Pianoforte

*Fig. KempLand48a-b:* 2009 Rock Bands

*Fig. KempLand49:* 2010 Great Revolutionaries

## Heliopolis

*Fig. Heliopolis01:* 2004 stamps

*Fig. Heliopolis02-03:* Coins  
produced by McCrea

*Fig. Nichtsburg&Zilchstadt01:* 2004 stamps

*Fig. Nichtsburg&Zilchstadt02:* Coin  
produced by McCrea

## Spratly Islands

*Fig. Spratly01:* 2009 definitives

*Fig. Spratly02:* 2009 revolutionaries

*Fig. Spratly03:* 2015 flag

*Fig. Spratly04:* 2014 Women's Day

*Fig. Spratly05:* 2008 60th anniversary  
of independence

## Tarajara

*Fig. Tarajara01:* 2004 cover with  
two stamps supposedly issued in 2003

*Fig. Tarajara02a-b:* Selection of  
Tarajara issues from the Trademe website

## Taniquah

*Fig. Taniquah01:* 2007 Knights Templar

*Fig. Taniquah02:* 2007 Prince

*Fig. Taniqub03:* 2007 Bears

*Fig. Taniqub04:* 2007 Lenin

*Fig. Taniqub05:* 2008 Birthday of the King

*Fig. Taniqub06:* 2009 lighthouses

*Fig. Taniqub07:* 2011 birthday of Prime Minister

## West Papua

*Fig. WestPapua01:* 2010 Diwali

*Fig. WestPapua02:* 2010 Obama

*Fig. WestPapua03:* 2010 airplane

*Fig. WestPapua04:* 2010  
St. Valentines Day

*Fig. WestPapua05:* 2011 Easter

*Fig. WestPapua06:* 2011 Ramadan

*Fig. WestPapua08:* 2011 Christmas

*Fig. WestPapuaB01-B05:* Various  
'Republic of West Papua' virtual stamps

## East Turkestan

*Fig. EastTurkestan01:* 2013 L. Ron Hubbard,  
first issue of East Turkestan

## Latvian Tobago

*Fig. LatvianTobago01:* 2009 set

## Mevu

*Fig. Mevu19:* 2008 Stop global warming

*Fig. Mevu20:* 2005 Save the whales on FDC

## Port Maria

*Fig. PortMaria12:* Various 2000 issues

*Fig. PortMaria13:* 2000 20th  
anniversary of independence

## Suburban Stamp Club

*Fig. Suburban01:* 2008 label  
for 40th anniversary

*Fig. Suburban02:* 2009  
label for 41st anniversary

### **General illustrations:**

*Fig. Henderson01:* Bruce dressed as Sultan of Occussi-Ambeno  
(Photo by Neil Christopher, Official Royal Photographer)

*Fig. Henderson02:* Bruce in his mother's lakeside garden  
(Photo by Lucy Henderson)

*Fig. Henderson03:* Bruce on bike, for 1989 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Timaru Local Post  
(Photo by Ross Gardiner)

*Fig. Mills01:* Geoffrey Mills, Occussi-Ambeno's first Sultan.  
He now lives in Wellington, but has forsaken philately.