

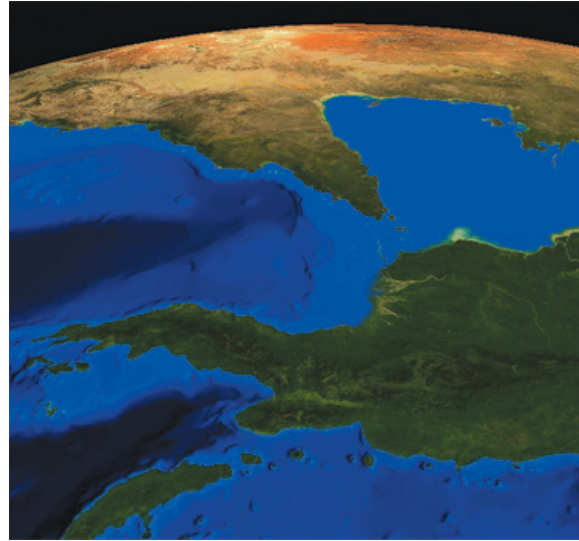
World of Stamps: **Papua & New Guinea and Papua New Guinea (1952-date)**

By Geir Sør-Reime

After WW II, Australia joined their territories of New Guinea (former German New Guinea) and Papua (former British New Guinea) into a combined territory known as Papua & New Guinea.

In 1972, the territory was renamed Papua New Guinea, and achieved independence under that name in 1975.

Papua New Guinea has a territory of 178,703 square miles and an estimated population of around 6.1 million.



The green jungle of Papua New Guinea bears a sharp contrast to the nearby desert of Australia.



Definitives, left to right: 1953 tree-climbing kangaroo (Sc. 122); 1958 plymill (Sc. 143); 1958 coffee (Sc. 146)

After the Japanese defeat in WW II, ordinary Australian stamps were used in Papua & New Guinea until 1952, when a recess-printed pictorial definitive series inscribed Papua & New Guinea appeared. Further values were added to this series in 1958-60 and 1961-62 (see also page 2).

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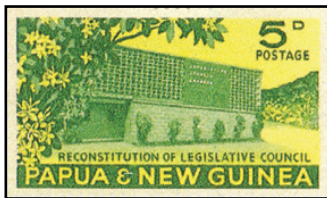


1961 definitives: natives, Sc. 153-154); Port Moresby harbor (Sc. 157); view of Rabaul (Sc. 162)



The territory's first commemorative stamps were issued 1961 for the reconstitution of the Legislative Council

and depicted the Legislative Chamber in Port Moresby. Further commemorative stamps during the 1960s were issued for the Anti-Malaria Campaign, the 5th South Pacific Conference, the 7th British Empire and Commonwealth Games, the centenary of the International Red Cross, the 1st South Pacific Games, and the 6th South Pacific Conference, among others.



1961 reconstitution of legislative council (Sc. 148)



Left, 1962 South Pacific Games (Sc. 176); right, 1962 5th South Pacific Conference, Pago-Pago (Sc. 167)



A new definitive series featuring birds was issued 1964-65, but was replaced already 1966, as Papua & New Guinea introduced a decimal currency. A decimal definitive series depicting



1965 wood carvings (Sc. 199)



1966 definitive (here Sc. 214)

1964-65 definitive (here Sc. 193) butterflies was issued 1966).

In 1967, a series of stamps commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Pacific War, and in 1968-69, a definitive series featuring sea shells was issued.



1967 25th anniversary of Pacific battles (Sc. 245-248)

A number of stamps of the 1960s featured local culture and artifacts, as well as the rich birdlife of the territory.



Left to right: 1964 carved heads (Sc. 180); 1966 illustrated myths (Sc. 221); 1968 headdresses Sc. 256); 1971 coil stamp Bird of Paradise (Sc. 291A)



In 1972, the change of the name of the territory from Papua & New Guinea into Papua New Guinea was marked with two stamps, which also marked constitutional development.

Also in 1972, three stamps were issued to





Left, 1972 constitutional development (Sc. 340-341) first issue with PAPUA NEW GUINEA only; right, 1972 National Day (Sc. 352-354)



celebrate National Day. Both of these 1972 issues also depicted the new flag of the territory, the flag that is now the national flag of Papua New Guinea.

Local culture was the theme of the new 1973 definitives inscribed Papua New Guinea.

1973-74 definitive, Mt. Tuvurur, Rabaul (Sc. 369)



Left, 1971 Primary industries, stacking jams and taro (Sc. 333); above right, 1971 dancers (Sc. 336); right, 75th anniversary of Papua area stamp issues (Sc. 389-94)

Also in 1973, stamps were issued to celebrate the 75th anniversary of stamp issues in the area, reproducing both German New Guinea, British New Guinea,



British Occupation of German New Guinea and Territory of New Guinea and Papua stamps.

Self-government was introduced 1973 and commemorated with two stamps. Queen Elizabeth, still the head of state of Papua New Guinea, visited the country in 1974, and two stamps commemorated that visit.



1973 self-government (Sc. 395)

In 1975, the Australian dollar was replaced by the Kina as the currency of Papua New Guinea. The Kina is divided into 100 toea. A 1975 set of five stamps depicted the new Kina coinage.



1975, new Kina coins (Sc. 410-414)

Traditional currency in the country was featured on a 1979 set of four stamps.

Independence was granted in September 1975, and two stamps (also united in a souvenir sheet) were issued to cel-



Traditional currency (Sc. 499-502)

brate independence.



1975 Independence (Sc. 423)



1975 Independence
(Sc. 423)

A new definitive series featuring traditional headdresses was issued 1977, in the new Kina currency. The 1982 definitives depicted corals, the 1987-88 series ships, and the 1991-93 Birds of Paradise. The original printings of some values of this series showed a capital “T” for the toea denominations (instead of minor “t”) and were replaced by reprints showing the correct “t”, but subsequently, also stocks of the “T” varieties were made available to collectors.



1992 definitives: Upper row 21t: 1. Original with upper case T (Sc. 770A) 2. Corrected, lower case t (Sc. 759) 3. May 1992 imprint 4. 1993 date imprint

Lower row: 90t: 1. Upper case T (Sc. 770D) 2. Overprinted 21t (Sc. 878D) 3. Corrected, lower case t (Sc. 765) 3. Overprinted 21t (Sc. 878C)

A 1984 single stamp was issued for the opening of the new Parliament House, built in traditional New Guinea architectural style.

Also in 1984, a set was issued to commemorate the centenary of the proclamation of British



1984 Opening of Parliament House (Sc. 602)





1985 10th anniversary of independence (Sc. 626)

and German protectorates over Papua New Guinea. Tourism was promoted by a 1985 set of four, and also a 1995 set of eight.

The 10th anniversary of independence was marked with a single 1985 stamp, and the 20th anniversary was commemorated with three 1995 stamps. The centenary of postal services in Papua New Guinea was

marked with a 1985 souvenir sheet. For the 25th anniversary of independence, four stamps with attached labels featuring prominent politicians were issued 2000.



Above, 1985 souvenir sheet for centenary of postal services in PNG (Sc. 631);
Left, 2000 25th anniversary of independence souvenir sheet (Sc. 991a)



The centenary of British New Guinea stamps was commemorated with a re-issue with revised inscription of the original 1901 set of British New Guinea in 2002.

Papua New Guinea has 18 provinces and

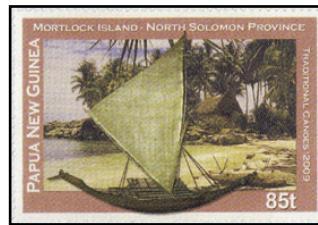


one autonomous province as well as a federal capital territory. Six provincial flags were featured on a 2001 set, followed by another six in 2004, and the remaining six in 2005. The flag of the Province of East New Britain has not yet appeared on stamps, the same goes for the flags of two new provinces created 2012.

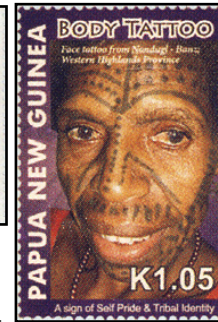


2001, Flag of Simbu province (Sc, 1014)

Most Papua New Guinea stamps also after independence have featured local customs, local scenery and local flora and fauna.



2009 Traditional canoes



2011 facial tattoos



1960 Postage-Due (Sc. J3)

In March 1960, stamps were overprinted to serve as postage due stamps, and in June 1960, a definitive set of postage due stamps were issued. Already in 1966, the use of such stamps was discontinued.

From 1970 onwards, Papua New Guinea has issued some stamp booklets. (See also page 9.)



1990 machine vend-ed stamp ('Frama') (Michel 1)

In 1990-91, Papua New Guinea also experimented with computer vended postage and issues special stamps for this (FRAMA system).



2003 stamp booklet 10xSc. 1099



1973 stamp booklet with ten of Sc. 362, booklet is Sc. 362a



Since 1953, the country has also issued pre-stamped aerogrammes, the last I have recorded were issued 2005. Until 1972, the indicia on these were inscribed Papua & New



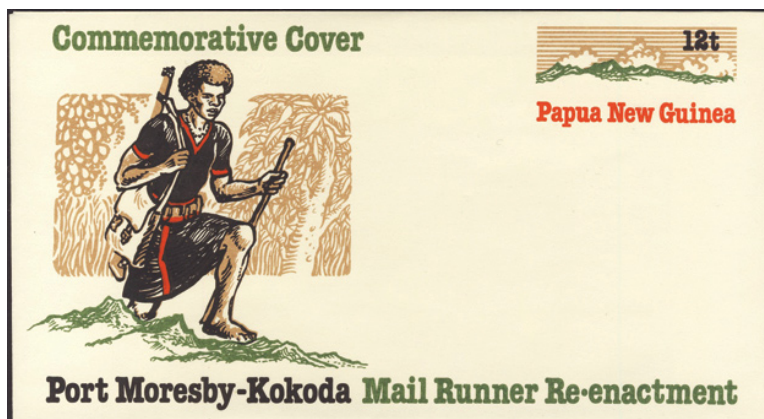
1972 aerogramme

Guinea, thereafter Papua New Guinea.

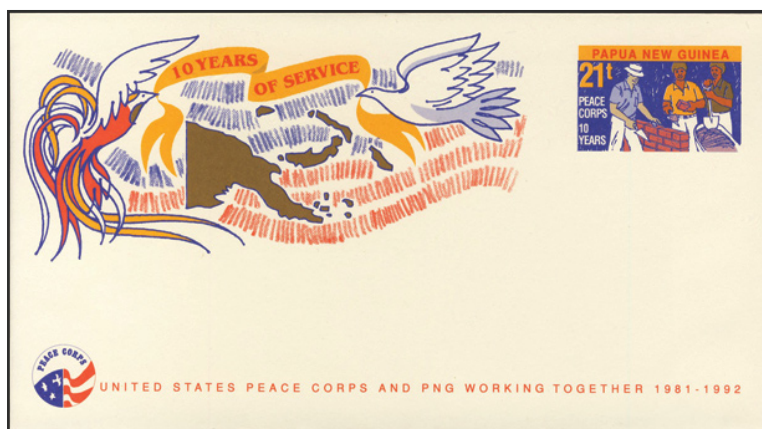
Between 1953-59, pre-stamped registered envelopes, and around 1966, ordinary pre-

stamped envelopes were also issued (all inscribed Papua & New Guinea).

Between 1984 and 2000, a number of colorful commemorative pre-stamped envelopes were also issued. (See page 10.)



1985 pre-stamped envelope for re-enactment of 1904 mail-running Port Moresby-Kokoda



1992 pre-stamped envelope for 10th anniversary of U.S. Peace Corps in PNG

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