

TERRITORY of PAPUA – First Rates Period 1906-1912

After the Proclamation of the Territory of Papua on 18 September 1906, the letter rate was 2d within the Territory and to Australia.

Postcard rates were 1d to Australia and 1½d to Other Places. Registration fee for all mail was 3d

Mail within the Territory



1907, November 9, Port Moresby to Fly River, Daru, single 2d letter rate.
Backstamped Thursday Island 9.11.07 and Daru 15.11.07



John Cowling was a coconut plantation owner and trader on Thursday Island and along the Fly River.

1911, January 2, Kanosia to Port Moresby, single 2d letter rate.
Backstamped Port Moresby 4.1.11



1909, June 11, Samarai to Dogura, single 2d letter rate.

G.E.Downton was a member of the mission established at Dogura by the London Missionary Society, which today is the site of the largest Anglican Cathedral in the country.



1911, May 15 Ioma to Samarai, single 2d letter rate.
Backstamped Buna Bay 19.12.10

Whitten Bros. were the local Storekeepers at Samarai.

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Mail within the Territory



1910, September 23, Daru to Kanosia, single 2d letter rate.
Backstamped Port Moresby 1.10.10

→ Papua Rubber Plantations Ltd ran a mail service between Port Moresby and Kanosia from 1 January 1910. The service was terminated when Kanosia Post Office closed in 1917.



← (E) 1910, May 15, Nepa to Samarai, single 2d letter rate. Relief datestamp in use 29 January 1910 until 15 August 1910

One of two surviving covers from Nepa with this datestamp (with name removed)



1911, February 13, Kulumadau to Port Moresby, single 2d letter rate + 3d Registration fee.

Use of Stamp Duty stamps at this time was Contrary to Regulation.



(E) 1912, May 22, Samarai to Kokoda, single 2d letter rate (underpaid 1d)

Use of Stamp Duty stamps was allowed at Samarai for a period in May 1912 due to postage stamp shortages.



(E) 1910, October 26, Nepa to Port Moresby, single 2d letter rate.

NEPA – PAPUA datestamp only introduced after 15 August 1910.

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Mail within the Territory



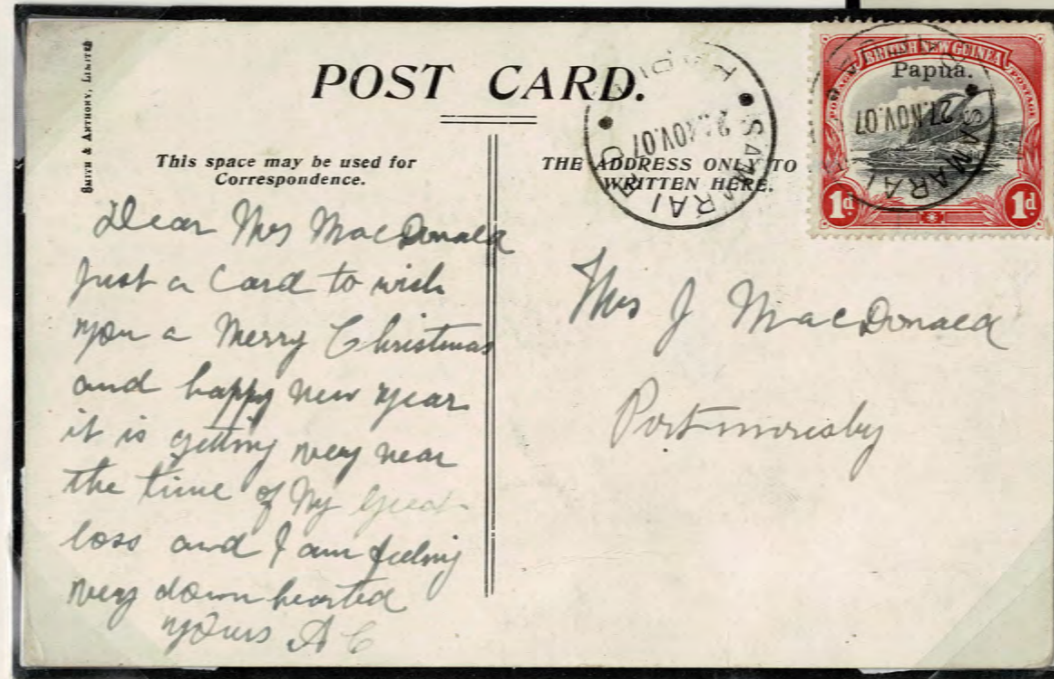
(E) 1910, May 11, Nepa to Samarai, single 2d letter rate. Backstamped Port Moresby 10.6.10 and Samarai 17.6.10

Recorded twice on cover, the rare BONAGAI handstamp (with name removed) only used at Nepa from 29 January to 15 August 1910.

Whitten Bros. were the local Storekeepers at Samarai

1910 Port Moresby to Buna Bay, single 2d letter rate
Backstamped Buna Bay 19.12.10 →

Clunas & Clark were the local Storekeepers at Buna Bay



← (E) 1907, November 27, Samarai to Port Moresby, 1d local postcard rate.



1909, Samarai to Cape Nelson, single 2d letter rate.

Rev. A.K. Chignall taught at London Missionary Society located at Wanigela, near Cape Nelson.

1911, September 19, Kulumadau to Port Moresby, double 2d letter rate (½d overpaid). Backstamped Port Moresby 29.9.11 →

When Bonagai Post Office closed in late 1907, the BONAGAI S.E./D. datestamp was then transferred to Kulumadau.

This is the earliest date in 5 months rare use of the handstamp at Kulumadau which ceased on 290 February 1912.



TERRITORY of PAPUA – First Rates Period 1906 - 1912

Mail to Australia



1908, August 17, Samarai to Sydney, →
single 2d letter rate.
Backstamped Sydney 5.9.08

Sir Robert Bear was a well known Bookseller in Sydney, specialising in pornographic material.



← 1907, May 23, Rigo to Melbourne, 1d postcard rate, cancelled in transit at Port Moresby.

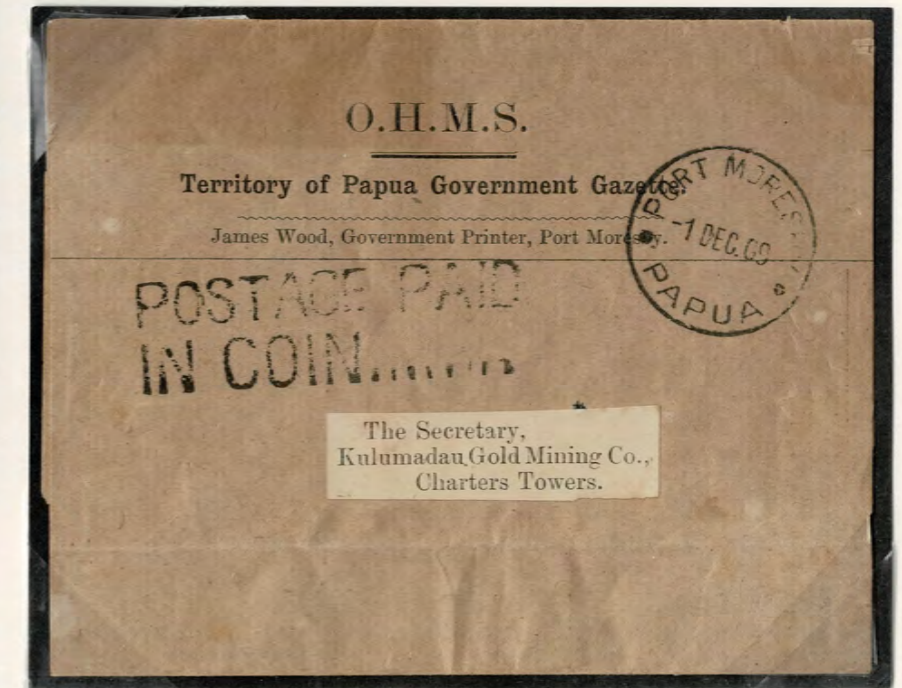
Until Rigo Post Office opened on 1.6.13, all mail was sent overland to Port Moresby, via Police Runners.



1909, January 12, Cape Nelson to Gawler, South Australia, makeshift parcel label, 8d for a parcel up to 1 lb + 3d Registration fee (1d overpaid), cancelled in transit at Samarai with generic REGISTERED handstamp.

The blue sticker is endorsed "Wanigera/January 3/1909", proving the origin as the Anglican Mission Station at Cape Nelson, which had no post office at the time.

A.K. Chignell was a Missionary/teacher at the Anglican Mission.



(E) 1909, December 1, Port Moresby to Charters Towers, 1d newspaper rate, paid in cash.

This Government Gazette wrapper is the later of only two recorded, both to overseas destinations, with the handstamp POSTAGE PAID/IN COIN..... applied at Port Moresby. Local posting of the Government Gazette was free within 7 days of printing.

Because the generic Queensland handstamps were silent as to their origin they continued in use after the Territory was Proclaimed late in 1906.

1911, September 12, Samarai to Thursday Island, unstamped postcard.

Taxed 2d on arrival for 1d deficiency + 1d fine, but apparently unpaid.

The reverse of the postcard is a real photo of a group of men following a day "catching snakes".



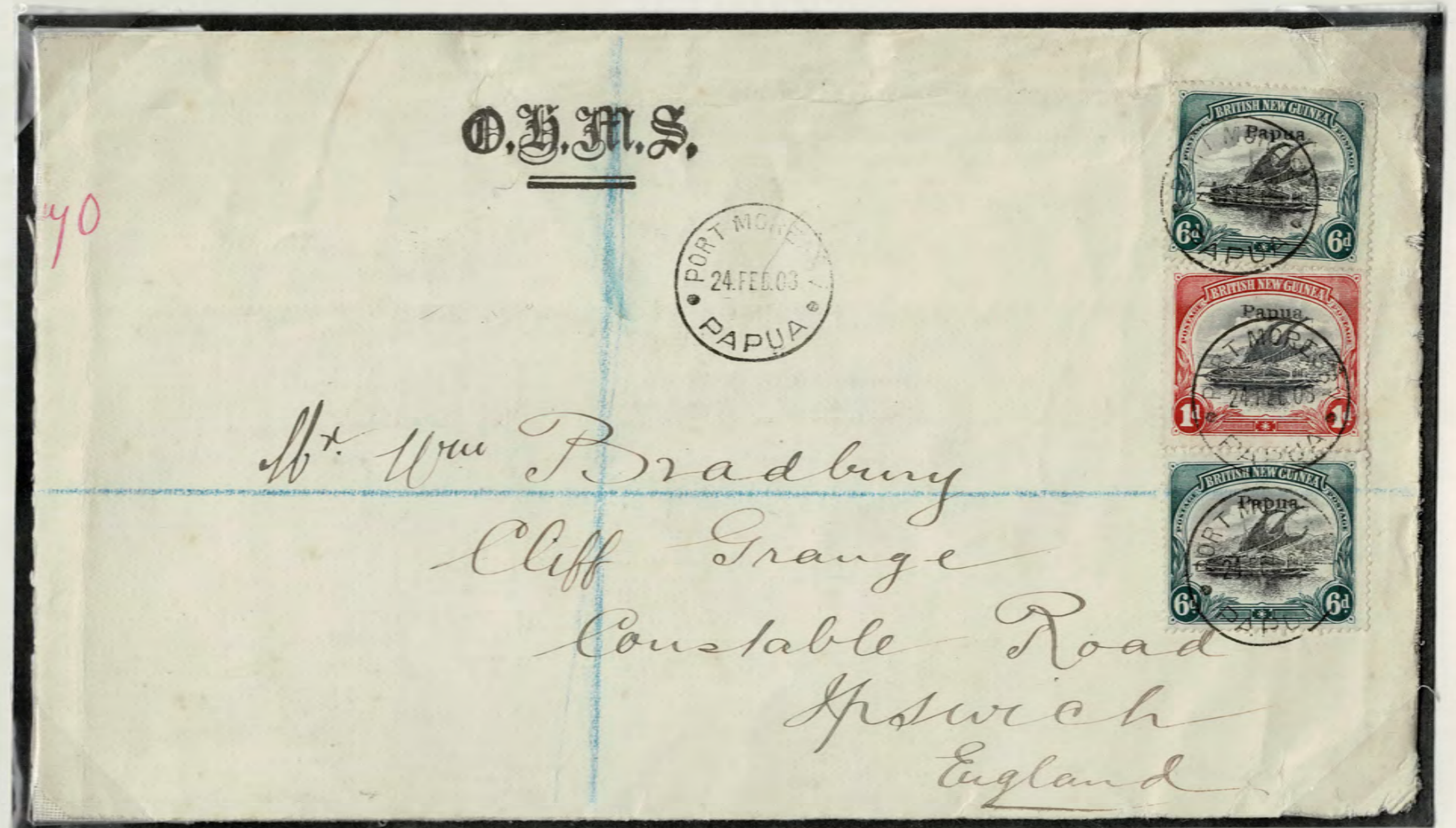
← (E) 1909, October 16, Ioma to Halifax, England, single 2½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Samarai 25.10.09, Sydney 12.11.09, London 19.12.09 and Halifax 20.12.09

TAMATA N.D. – PAPUA datestamp used as relief canceller at Ioma from December 1906 until February 1911. Scarce Oval R Registration cancel applied at Samarai.

1907, April 13, Samarai to Hong Kong, 1d postcard rate. Hong Kong 13.5.07 arrival datestamp. →



(E) 1909, May 22, Daru to London, England, triple 2½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Brisbane 3.6.09 and London 11.7.09



1908, February 24, Port Moresby to Ipswich, England, Official mail at quadruple 2½d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Cooktown 5.3.08, Brisbane 12.3.08, London 17.8.08 and Ipswich 18.4.08

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Mail to Australia

1907, July 19, Port Moresby to Sydney, single 2d letter rate. →
Backstamped Cairns 17.8.07 and Sydney 23.8.07



← 1908, December 19, Samarai to Gawler East, South Australia, part parcel label showing being posted as a Registered letter, double 2d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. REGISTERED SAMARAI BNG handstamp on label.

1907, September 20, Port Moresby to East Melbourne, 1d postcard rate.

The photo postcard shows Natives of Cape Nelson on reverse.



1908, 31 October, Samarai to Kadina, South Australia, single 2d letter rate.
Backstamped Adelaide 30.11.08 and Kadina 30.11.08



1911, June 26, Port Moresby to Powlett River, Victoria, double 2d letter rate + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Wonthaggi, Victoria 18.7.11

OHMS free postal privileges did not apply to overseas mail, therefore requiring normal postage to be paid.

TERRITORY of PAPUA – First Rates Period 1906 - 1912

Mail to British Empire



← 1906, October 23, Port Moresby to London, England, single 2½d letter rate.

Between 18 September 1906 when the Territory of Papua was proclaimed, and 8 November 1906 when stamps overprinted Papua were issued, use of British New Guinea stamps was permitted.

1912, September 26, Samarai to London, England single 2½d letter rate. →

This letter may well have been a double weight letter, as GPO Port Moresby Notice dated 28.9.12 notified a new 1d rate was to be introduced from 1 November 1912.



1908, August 15, Port Moresby to Birmingham, England, single 2½d letter rate (½d overpaid) + 3d Registration fee. Backstamped Cooktown 11.9.08, Brisbane 19.9.08 and London 26.10.08



1912, August 2, Buna Bay to Hants, England, single 2½d letter rate. Backstamped Brisbane 27.8.12 and Christchurch, Hants 7.10.12



1907, September 15, Daru to London, England, single 2½d letter rate. Backstamped Thursday Island 17.9.07, Hong Kong 30.9.07 and London 29.10.07.

TERRITORY of PAPUA – First Rates Period 1906 - 1912

Inwards Mail from British Empire



1911, December 12, Bournemouth, England to Buna Bay, 2d single letter rate + 3d Registration fee. →
 Backstamped Bournemouth 12.12.11, Brisbane 16.1.12, Buna Bay 14.3.12, and Buna Bay 16.3.12 on face.

A.E. Oelrichs was Resident Magistrate at Buna Bay at this time.

← 1909, April 16, Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia to Dogura, single 2½d letter rate. Backstamped Sydney 12.5.09 and Samarai 10.6.09

A.K. Chignell was a long time teacher at, and documented much about life within the Anglican Mission at Dogura.



1911, January 30, Halifax, Canada to Port Moresby, 2c Empire Letter Rate + 5c Registration fee. Backstamped London 7.2.11, Brisbane 15.3.11 and Port Moresby 9.4.11

Canada adopted the British Empire Letter Rate in 1898, one of the first countries to do so.



1907, April 22, Sydney to Port Moresby, 1½d overseas postcard rate.

J.H. Maiden, Director and Government Botanist, Sydney acknowledging receipt of 1905-06 Annual Report