EAST TIMOR; FROM COLONY TO INDEPENDENT NATION.

The earliest historical record of the island of Timor is in the 14th century and it was subsequently settled by Dominican Friars in 1556 and became a Portuguese trading post in the 1600s, becoming a colony in 1702, and after a battle, the Dutch established a colony in the western half of the island in 1749.

Portuguese Timor was located at the eastern end of the island with a small enclave in the western Dutch half. In 1949, after World War II the Dutch were ousted from their East Indies colonies and the nation of Indonesia was formed. The Portuguese held on until 1975 when Indonesia invaded Portuguese Timor.

By the 1990s the people of the former Portuguese Timor wanted independence and a brutal civil war with Indonesia ensued resulting in a United Nations peacekeeping force supported by Australia being based there.

Peace was finally achieved in 2002 and the first postage stamps were issued under the name Timor Leste.

This exhibit traces the development of the nation of Timor Leste from its post World War II Portuguese colonial period, to the present day using, stamps and covers from 1948 through the Indonesian occupation and the United Nations Peace keeping force to the stamp issues of the independent nation of Timor Leste.

It is the intention of the exhibit to concentrate on East Timor as a nation and limit the earlier periods of colonial and occupation to selected examples of stamps and postal usage.

Commercially used mail from Timor Leste is rare.

Currency; New Currency 1960 New Currency 2000 100 Avos = 1 Pataca 100 Centavos = 1 Escudo 100 Cents = 1 Dollar



PEOPLE IN NATIONAL DRESS AND CHIEFTAIN HEADS.

In 1948 a series of eight stamps were issued featuring people. The designs were, a Timorese Woman, Gong Ringer, Girl with a basket, Aleixo de Ainaro, heads of chieftains and a Warrior with a horse.

Lithographic print, perforated 14.







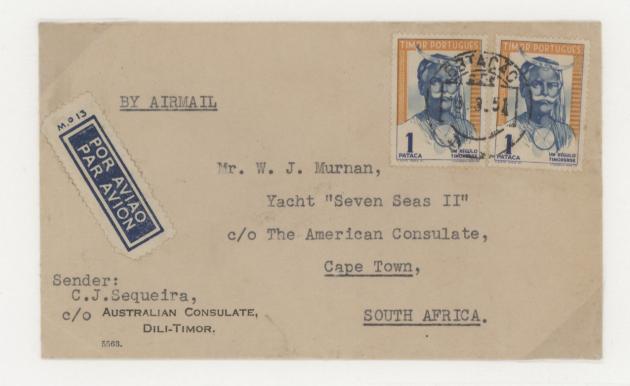












FLOWERS OF TIMOR.

An issue from 1950 showing a selection of flowers of Timor. Unfortunately apart from the 1a Blackberry Lily none of the others are named.

Unwaternarked paper, perforated 141/2.























COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES 1952 and 1953.

During 1952 and 1953 only four commemorative issues were made. Medical Congress issue which was a common design issue; the 400th anniversary of the Death of St Francis Xavier; Exhibition of Sacred Missionary Art and the Stamp Centenary issue.

Unwatermarked paper, various perforations.

1952 Medical Congress Perforated 13½



October 25th 1952 St Francis Xavier 400th Anniversary issue Statue of St Francis Xavier; Miraculous Arm of St Francis; Tomb of St Francis. Perforated 14







1953 Exhibition of Sacred Missionary Art, Lisbon.

Madonna and Child.

Perforated 13 x 13½







1953 Portugal Stamp Centenary Perforated 13.



MAP OF TIMOR ISLAND

The group of eight from 1956 featuring a map of the island was typical of the attractive stamp designs.

Unwatermarked paper, perforated 14 x 12½.











(Diário do Governo, 2.ª série, n.º 300, de 26-12-1957).

com a dienasta no artigo 9.º do Decre-





luminescente. Do avesso apresenta uma camada de goma adesiva, resguardada por uma capa de matéria plástica,

removivel no momento da anlicação. A capa, uma vez



NEW CURRENCY INTRODUCED.

New currency was introduced in 1960 100 centavos to 1 escudo and the map series was revalued by obliterating the old value with three bars and surcharging with the new value.

Unwatermarked paper, perforations as for the old currency series.





















NATIVE ART.

In 1961 there was an issue featuring native art. The designs included, carved elephant jar, house on stilts, Madonna and child, silver rosary, two men in a boat, silver box, Archer, Elephant, man climbing a tree, woman carrying a pot, cockfight.

Perforated 11½ x 12.

























SPORTS.

A stamp series of a common design used in other colonies depicting various sports including Duck Hunting, Horse riding, Swimming, Gymnastics and Soccer.

Unwatermarked paper, perforated 13½.



ANTI MALARIA PUBLICITY ISSUE.

Another issue of a common design with other colonies urging protection against the Malaria carrying mosquito.

Litho printed, Unwatermarked paper perforated 131/2



VARIOUS ISSUES.

Between 1964 and 1969 a number of single stamp issues were made commemorating various events. All were of the Common design type issued by other colonies. The issues included National Overseas Bank in 1964, International Telecommunications Union in 1965, National Revolution issue in 1966, 50th anniversary of the Appartition of the Virgin Mary to three shepherds in Fatima 1967, 500th anniversary of Pedro Cabral 1968, Admiral Courtinho and frigate 1969, 50th anniversary of the Ross Smith flight England to Australia 1969, Bicentenary of Dili at Capital of East Timor 1969.

Litho Printed on unwatermarked paper, various perforations.

1964 National Overseas Bank, 1965 ITU Centenary, 1966 National Revolution, 1967 Virgin Mary Apparition









1968 500th anniversary Pedro Cabral, 1969 Admiral Courtinho, 1969 Ross Smith flight, 1969 Dili Bicentenary.





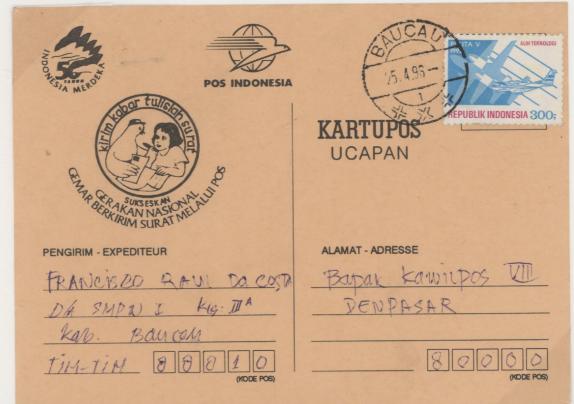




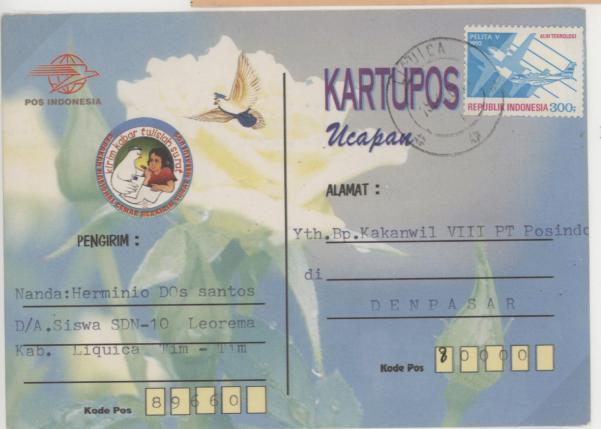


THE INDONESIAN OCCUPATION PERIOD.

After World War II the Dutch were ousted from their East Indies colonies and in 1949 the Independent State of Indonesia was formed. In 1975 Indonesia invaded and occupied Portuguese Timor until 2000. During this period the stamps of Indonesia were used in Timor and the only way to identify use in Timor is by postal use on cover.



BAUCAU



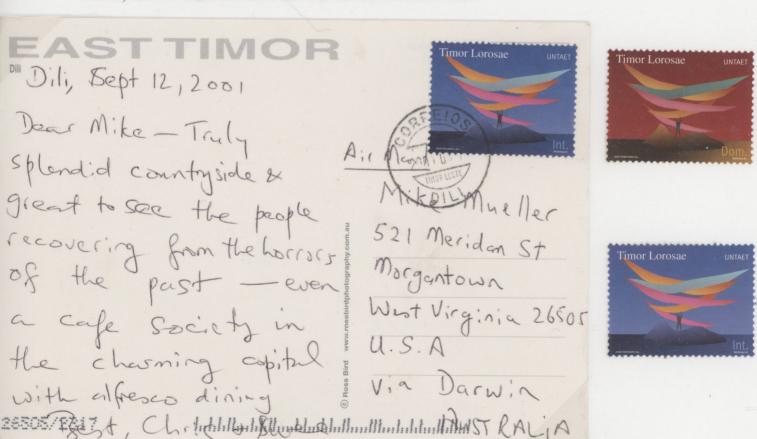
LIQUICA

THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING FORCE - INTERFET.

The peace keeping force was supported by Australia, and an Australian Forces Post Office A.F.P.O. 5 operated in the country to service the needs of the forces serving there from 1999 to 2002. Free postage was available to the Peace-keeping Force.



In 2000 two stamps were issued by the United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor, one for domestic mail and one for international mail.



INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR - TIMOR LESTE.

The first stamps issued by the Independent State of Timor-Leste on May 20th 2002. Designs include Crocodile, Palm Fronds, Coffee Beans and the National Flag.

Litho printed, unwatermarked paper, perforated 14½ x 14.











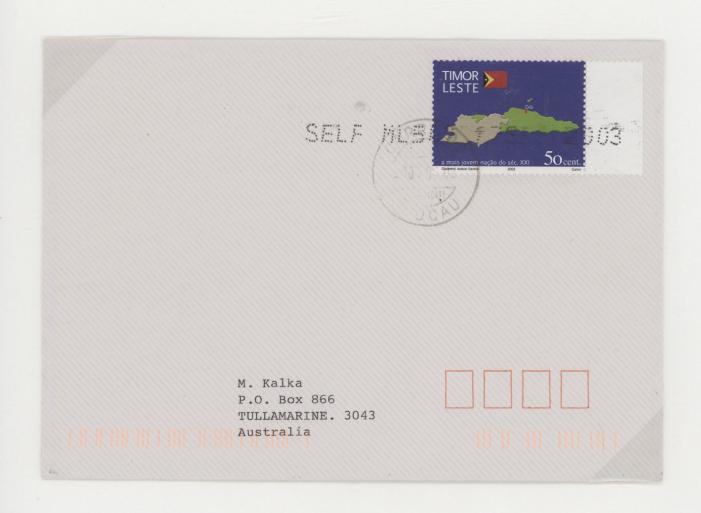
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Celebrating the first Presidential Elections, Xanana Gusmao and Timor Island. 20 May 2002.

Unwatermarked paper, perforated 141/4 x 14







FLAG AND COIN ISSUE.

28 November 2005 stamps featuring people a rooster and coin and President Nicolau Lobato.

Unwatermarked paper, perforated 121/4x 121/2.









20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AICEP Agencia para o Investimento e Comercio Externo de Portugal.

A Portuguese Global Trade and Investment agency established to promote and support development of Portuguese speaking communications through sharing information.

Issued 14 February 2011, Unwatermarked paper perforated 121/2.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY.

28 November 2010, stamps issued in sheets of 6 denominations featuring Reptiles

Unwatermarked paper perforated 12½.









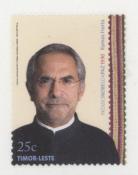






NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

In 2008 Timor Leste issued two stamps to commemorate the Nobel Prize winners Ramos Horta and Ximenes Belo.







500th ANNIVERSARY OF PORTUGUESE HISTORY.

Joint issue Portugal and Timor Leste celebrating 500 years of History

Issued 31 October 2016. No watermark, Perforated 121/2.



