

THE KIWI

Vol.1. No.8.

December 1952.



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Notes from the Secretary.

First, after wishing every member of the Society a very happy and prosperous New Year - a greeting in which I am joined by the officers and committee - I must apologise for the somewhat delayed distribution of this issue of "The Kiwi". Hard as we tried, it became quite impossible to complete this before the Christmas holiday together with the long and tedious incidental work of sorting, collating, stapling, folding, enclosing and addressing. However, now this issue is in your hands I hope you will be kind enough to say it was worth waiting for?

Very largely, this issue comprises a full report of our Annual General Meeting, it being agreed by the committee that this would be to the advantage of the large number of members who were unable to be with us at the Kingsley Hotel on that occasion.

Members' Meetings.

I am able to report that since the Annual General Meeting the new Committee has held its first meeting and got some way ahead with the 1953 programme. Arrangements have been made to hold Members' Meetings on alternate months throughout 1953 at the Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury Way, W.C.1., on the third Wednesday, commencing January; the dates are as follows:-

January 21st
July 15th

March 18th
September 16th

May 20th
November 18th

The meeting room will be available on each date at 6.p.m. and the meeting proper will commence at 6.30.p.m.; these will normally finish at 8.p.m. (or possibly before) according to the programme, but the room will remain at our disposal until 8.30.p.m. for those who wish to get together and chat.

We believe many members will appreciate this new venue; it is central and within easy distance of Holborn(Kingsway)and Tottenham Court Road Underground Stations and many West End to City bus routes pass the door. Refreshments will be available before the meeting and should any members care to dine in the restaurant afterwards the hotel management have offered full facilities.

At our first 1953 meeting (21st January) I hope a large number of members will be present and that all who can will bring along with them up to six sheets of material for display and, if they care, discussion.



continued overleaf..



Subscriptions Due.

I am asked by the Treasurer to remind all members that current subscriptions are now due and I do hope you will let me have your remittance within the course of the next few days; a form for this purpose is enclosed herewith and in order to record the details of members' particular interests and circulating packet requirements will you please complete the form in full. Those few members who have already paid their subscription for 1953 are asked to complete the first part of the form endorsing the lower part "Already paid".

New Members.

Forms are now available for membership applications, and we should like at least to double our membership during the current year; if each member makes just one introduction our objective would be easily achieved. Application forms will be sent on request.

Future Issues of "The Kiwi".

During 1953 "The Kiwi" will be issued during alternate months commencing February. The present editorship (Mr. Erskine and myself) is purely a temporary measure following the resignation of Mr. R.W. Lees. Our past President, Mr. Hugh Bramsdon has offered, also temporarily, some assistance. The committee would be very grateful if some member would volunteer to undertake these editorial duties; it is felt that amongst our wide and varied membership there must be someone who could and would be prepared to do this job. Incidentally, in response to popular demand, it has been decided, commencing with the February issue, to make certain alterations; the page size will be reduced from 13 x 8 to 10 x 8 as more convenient for filing; the pages will be punched with two holes on the left hand margin and stapled together only once (as this issue) in the top left hand corner; the contents will be divided into two, the first part containing purely Secretarial and Society items, the second part being reserved entirely for New Zealand philately proper.

Amended Rules.

As only slight amendments were made to the Provisional Rules at the Annual General Meeting, details of these are enclosed with this issue and members are requested to attach the slips to the Provisional Rules dated March 1952 a copy of which should be in their possession; we will thus avoid the immediate expense of a complete new printing and also the wastage of the small stock still on hand.

Annual General Meeting Report.

This meeting was conducted (almost completely) according to plan, i.e., as per Agenda published in "The Kiwi" No. 7. The President's Report was presented by the retiring President, Mr. Hugh Bramsdon, the Financial Report and Statement for 1952 by Mr. A.A. Hard, the Hon. Treasurer, and there was also a supplementary report by Mr. Hard on the working of the Exchange Packets. Mr. A.D.M. Curnow gave a most interesting and well received talk on the Postal History of New Zealand and, finally, 178 auction lots which had been on view during the earlier part of the afternoon were offered. Details of each of these items are given in full in the following pages.

The Provisional Rules with slight amendments were adopted and the election of Officers for 1953 completed, Mr. F. Stacey Hooker being elected President for the ensuing year. The retiring President, Mr. Bramsdon was elected Vice President; Mr. A.A. Hard, Hon. Treasurer and Exchange Packet Secretary, and Mrs. M. Erskine, Hon. Secretary. The committee elected is composed of Mrs. E.C.M. Moore, Major F.H. Fine, Messrs. G.B. Erskine, T.H. Hopkins and R.D. Williamson.

Although a large portion of the contents which follow comprises Society matters only, I do believe that both the verbatim report on Mr.Curnow's talk on Postal History and Mrs.Moore's contribution on the 1d Universal are two items which will be well received particularly by those members who are more philatelically-minded than Society-minded.

Once again a Very Happy New Year.

Margarete Erskine (Mrs.)
Hon.Secretary.

Retiring President's Report.
(Presented at the A.G.M.)

It is normally the privilege of the Secretary to present the Annual Report. Our present Secretary has, however, come into the picture so late in the year and under somewhat difficult circumstances that it was scarcely fair to ask her to do so on this occasion.

The first year in any Society's life is never easy and our Society has faced great difficulties with the resignation of two Secretaries in the year. Before the Society was five months old, our first Secretary, Mr.Hewitt, resigned owing to pressure of other work. Again with very little warning, Mr.Lees, who took over from Mr.Hewitt resigned in September owing to a change of work and address. These two resignations brought a host of minor complications and certain papers may have been lost in transit.

The Society was formed on the 23rd January last when the inaugural meeting was held at 44, Fleet Street. Since then, there has been a steady increase in members and at the end of October there were 113 members, including members from New Zealand and America. This augurs well for the future but I hope before another year passes our membership will rise to the 250 mark. I would like every member to try and secure at least one recruit in the coming year. There have been five general meetings during the year, the first at 44, Fleet Street and the rest at 151 City Road. I think I must at this stage make an appeal to members for more support at the general meetings not only by attending but also by helping to provide displays. The Committee feel, not unreasonably I think, that too much has been left to too few. Attendances have been low, though many members reside outside the London Area and, in fairness to those who give displays, I would like to see increased attendances. It has seemed too that members have been reluctant to give displays. It must be remembered that it would be almost an impasse if future displays were left to those who have already done their best. They cannot be expected to produce a never ending variety of displays and I do ask any members who can assist to let the Secretary know and give brief details. Too little interest has been shown in acquainting the Secretary with members' individual interests and when some attempt has been made to start a study circle or get members interested in a special study, there has been no support. The time has now come when the future of the Society rests in your hands. The Committee feel that members must back them up and come forward to help. No-one can increase our knowledge of the stamps of New Zealand unless members can, by discussion and study, pool their knowledge in the common task.

As regards the Committee, I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their support during a happy year of office. All have pulled their weight throughout the year. Without decrying the efforts of any, I must mention the valuable assistance afforded on every occasion by Mr.Erskine in spite of his arduous duties as Chairman of the British Philatelic Association. Seven meetings have been held, at Mr.Erskine's office through his courtesy, and I think, considering the difficulties, much has been accomplished.

I cannot end this Report without paying tribute to certain

members. First, I think, we must acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. Hewitt, who took the initial steps to get our Society founded, though I still wonder myself that it had not been done much earlier. I think also we must extend our thanks to Mr. Lees not only for taking over the Secretaryship at short notice but also to his successful hatching of "The Kiwi". By and large, I think we have the basis of a first class organ for disseminating information on New Zealand philatelic history. Next we must thank Mr. Stacey Hooker not only for providing the venue for our meetings but also for most interesting displays and for his valuable contributions to "The Kiwi". I am sure Mr. Hard would wish me on your behalf to thank Mr. Edsall for his support of the packet and we should also express our thanks to Mr. Hard for his work as Packet Secretary. Here again, the more general backing of all our members would be welcomed. I would also like to thank personally all who have given displays and attended the Meetings and finally I would mention Mrs. Erskine who took over the Secretaryship at a most difficult time in our career. I hope she may adorn that office for many years to come.

If members will pull their weight, the Society's future should be assured. Big things often have small beginnings, and I would ask every member - whatever his or her interests - be they Chalon Heads, the pictorials, the moderns, or Postal History - not only to make known through "The Kiwi" their mite of knowledge, but also to supply material for the packets and whenever circumstances permit, not only to attend the meetings but help provide displays for the benefit of one and all. The stamps and Postal History of New Zealand form a wide and ever expanding field and the Committee looks to you all individually to help plant that field with the seeds of your knowledge for the benefit of our hobby in general and collectors, present and future, in particular.

Hugh Bramsdon.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PERIOD DECEMBER 1951 TO 31st. OCTOBER 1952.

(Presented at the A.G.M.)

The initial expenses during the first ten months of the Society's existence must necessarily be high on account of the purchase of stocks of paper, stationery requisites, etc. Also the income from subscriptions for this period is not as great as it will be for a similar period next year. The membership stands at 113 and quite a proportion of these subscriptions have been at a reduced rate.

This trying period has had further setbacks by the unfortunate resignation of two Secretary-Treasurers, this entailed a change of firms for printing and duplicating etc, which is not conducive to running the Society's finances most economically. Nevertheless the Society's Income and Expenditure Account shows a small profit.

On the Income side:- £60. 4. 0d

On the Expenditure side: 59.14. 8d

As Packet Secretary, I have been forwarding remittances for the Packet Sales to the previous Treasurer for banking with the Society's account as agreed by the Committee and therefore I propose dealing with the Exchange Packet Account next. Here we show an excess of income over expenditure of £4.11.4d. Now we come to the Balance Sheet combining the two previous accounts; this shows a balance of £5.0.8d to be carried forward to 1953, which considering the trying circumstances of the first year represents in my opinion a reasonably satisfactory position.

Albert A. Hard.

Hon. Treasurer.

(The three accounts referred to above are set out on the opposite page).

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GT. BRITAIN.

Here is a list of lots actually sold together with the vendors' reserved prices followed by the prices realised at the Society's first Auction sale which was held at the Kingsley Hotel on the 15th November 1952. In the absence of Mr. Noel Turner, the Hon. Auctioneer, the sale was conducted by Mr. G. B. Erskine.

Lot.	Reserved at.	Price realised.	Lot.	Reserved at.	Price realised.
1.	12/6d	12/6d	94.	30/-d	30/-d
2.	30/-d	40/-d	95.	10/-d	10/-d
16.	20/-d	20/-d	97.	10/-d	10/-d
17.	16/6d	16/6d	99.	1/6d	3/-d
18.	45/-d	45/-d	100.	1/6d	5/6d
24.	3/-d	3/-d	101.	12/6d	14/-d
25.	12/-d	12/-d	106.	40/-d	42/6d
27.	18/6d	20/-d	113.	10/-d	10/-d
28.	7/6d	8/-d	114.	(N.R.)	5/-d
30.	1/9d	3/-d	115.	(N.R.)	7/-d
31.	15/-d	15/-d	116.	(N.R.)	5/-d
33.	(N.R.)	8/-d	117.	(N.R.)	5/-d
34.	(N.R.)	7/-d	123.	5/6d	12/6d
35.	(N.R.)	10/-d	127.	4/-d	4/-d
36.	(N.R.)	£5.0.0d.	128.	3/-d	3/-d
52.	12/-d	16/-d	131.	20/-d	20/-d
56.	63/-d	63/-d	132.	8/6d	8/6d
57.	(N.R.)	10/-d	135.	3/6d	3/6d
58.	(N.R.)	12/6d	142.	25/-d	32/-d
59.	(N.R.)	7/-d	144.	15/-d	17/6d
60.	(N.R.)	8/-d	145.	14/-d	14/-d
61.	50/-d	50/-d	147.	60/-d	60/-d
62.	25/-d	27/-d	149.	12/6d	15/6d
69.	3/-d	3/-d	150.	4/6d	5/-d
71.	1/6d	1/6d	151.	3/-d	3/-d
73.	1/6d	1/6d	153.	15/-d	15/-d
76.	20/-d	22/6d	159.	20/-d	23/6d
77.	2/6d	2/6d	167.	3/9d	4/-d
79.	2/6d	4/-d	171.	6/-d	6/-d
80.	22/6d	22/6d	172.	2/3d	2/6d
86.	15/-d	15/-d	173.	(N.R.)	5/-d
89.	20/-d	22/6d	174.	(N.R.)	1/-d
90.	30/-d	45/-d	175.	(N.R.)	5/-d
91.	22/6d	27/6d	176.	(N.R.)	2/6d
92.	4/-d	10/-d	177.	(N.R.)	20/-d
93.	4/-d	9/-d			

From the foregoing there are several points of interest to be noted. That only 71 of the 178 lots were sold indicates quite definitely the majority of the material offered carried too high a reserve price. Sales were made up of 32 postal bids and 39 bids in the room. The postal bidding was of interest; there were 68 for 46 lots and of the 32 which were successful 22 were secured for the postal bidder at less than the maximum price offered.

Another point is that the highest price realised during the sale was for a lot which carried no reserve. It is evident that the high reserved prices are really a waste of time, not only to the prospective purchaser and the auctioneer but also to the actual owners of the material.

The committee hope to organise another Auction early in 1953 when, it is hoped, all members will benefit by the experience gained from our first sale.

HISTORY OF THE POSTAL SERVICES OF NEW ZEALAND

By A.D.M. CURNOW.

When we consider that a postal system of a sort was known in Egypt before 4,700 B.C. and that ancient Babylon and China had courier systems, the history of postal services in the modern world and particularly in the new countries such as New Zealand seems barely to scratch the surface of Time.

I am going to tell you something of the story of the postal services in New Zealand. The story of the posts in New Zealand is the story of the pioneers themselves, of trail blazing, of the clearing of forests to make farms, of the discovery of gold, and of the exploitation of every modern means of transport and communication as it was introduced.

A New Zealand postal system was first mentioned by William Plowditch in 1831 when he was commissioned by the Postmaster-General of New South Wales to receive and dispatch mails at the Bay of Islands in the northily part of New Zealand. The Bay of Islands was the cradle of European civilisation in New Zealand. It was the scene of the first Christian service in New Zealand, conducted on Christmas Day, 1814 by the Rev. Samuel Marsden. It was the first place of European settlement, and attracted not only those whose business was the welfare of the Maori people, and those who had come to trade honestly, but also a certain number of escaped convicts from the Australian penal settlements. It was also a point of call for whalers and sealers.

In 1840, Britain, by concluding the Treaty of Waitangi with the Maoris, completed the process of establishing sovereignty over New Zealand, and in the same year the first post office was opened. The treaty was signed near the shores of the Bay of Islands, and the post office was opened at Kororareka, now known as Russell, also at the Bay of Islands. This post office is still in use today. At this time Russell was the seat of Government.

British settlements were springing up at Auckland and Wellington and it was not long before post offices were opened at these places and at Coromandel, Hokianga and Waimate, all in the North Island.

Postal charges were high by modern standards in the early days, and until 1855, when stamps were introduced a system of cash payment was used. In 1858, the Post Office became a separate department of the Government, and in 1862, prepayment of postage was made compulsory. At this time the charge for inland letter postage was 2d, and overseas, 6d.

Wherever settlements were established, the setting-up of post offices followed not far behind. The first post offices in the South Island were established at Nelson and Akaroa in 1842. Nelson was settled in that year, and the first settlers -- a party from France -- had settled at Akaroa two years earlier. In 1848, the Scottish Presbyterian settlers arrived at Port Chalmers in the Province of Otago, and in that year post offices were set up at the port and at Dunedin, the capital of the province. English settlers arrived at Lyttelton in 1850 to found the Province of Canterbury, and a post office was established there almost immediately. In 1853, a post office was established at Christchurch, now the largest city in the South Island.

In 1890, the letter rate to the United Kingdom was reduced

to 2½d, and in the following year, New Zealand joined the Universal Postal Union, which had been founded in 1875.

The most significant event in New Zealand postal history is probably the introduction of the universal penny post in 1901, by Sir Joseph Ward, then Postmaster-General and later Prime Minister of New Zealand. This event gave the postal services of the country an immense stimulus, and postings steadily increased. The number of postings doubled between 1907 and 1938, the peak pre-war year. In the 1951-52 financial year total postings were nearly 350,000,000.

Before 1840, the carriage of mails depended from one part of New Zealand to another and overseas, depended on the chance arrival and departure of ships. The first overland mail service was established between Wellington and Wanganui in 1841. Maoris covered the route on foot once a fortnight. A similar service was established between Auckland and New Plymouth, (then known as Petre) in 1843, and in 1844 the two services were linked once a month. Letters then took three weeks in transit between Auckland and Wellington. The hazards of delivery in those days must have been great, with frequent trouble between one Maori tribe and another, and between the Maoris and European settlers. Letters were frequently exchanged between New Zealand towns by ship via Sydney.

In 1854, a mail service was begun between Dunedin and Clutha in the South Island, and in 1857, a Maori foot service was established between Auckland and Napier, Canterbury and Otago were linked by an overland service in 1859, and services were gradually extended northwards in the South Island to Picton, and south to Riverton.

In the North Island, the establishment of overland mail services often had to wait on the cutting of paths through the dense forest which covered most parts of the countryside.

The earliest recorded transport of mail, apart from on foot and by sea, was by canoe on the Waikato River -- the longest river in New Zealand -- which runs through the centre of the North Island. Horses were not used until 1856, when dogcarts were introduced on the Wellington-Wanganui service. The first mention of coaches was made in 1862, when Cobb and Company began a service from Dunedin to the goldfields of Central Otago. Gold was found in Central Otago in 1861 by Gabriel Read, and the rush which followed brought a great influx of goldseekers from overseas. Prosperity came to Dunedin from the goldrush, as it did to Canterbury and Westland from gold discoveries a few years later on the West Coast of the South Island. Gold was an important factor in the development of the South Island, which until the beginning of the 20th century led the North Island in population and prosperity.

In 1863, mails were being carried overland between Christchurch and Dunedin in three days. About this time introduction of steam ships on coastal services led to their greater use for the carriage of mails. The usual time for mail between main ports was five days and between secondary ports, ten days.

Letters were carried for the first time by rail in 1863, when the first railway in New Zealand was opened between Christchurch and Ferrymead a distance of a few miles.

In the 1870s, New Zealand made great progress in all fields. In the North Island, particularly, the end of major troubles

between the Maori tribes and the Government, enabled the opening-up of the land for farming to go on unhindered. The great need was for improved communications, a loan of £10,000,000 was floated overseas for the construction of railways. In 1878, mails were carried by railway from Christchurch to Invercargill, and the first railway travelling post office was introduced. By 1909, rail transport had replaced sea services for the great bulk of mail. In 1923, one of the last great natural barriers to the speedy transport of mail was broken, with the opening of the Otira railway tunnel -- still the longest in the Southern Hemisphere -- linking the east and west coasts of the South Island through the Southern Alps.

In 1840, it took seven months for a Colonial Office despatch to travel from London to Governor Hobson in New Zealand. It often took two months for despatches to travel from Sydney to the Bay of Islands. The first regular overseas mail service was established between Auckland and Sydney in 1854, and later Wellington and Melbourne were linked. The provincial governments of Auckland and Wellington respectively were responsible for these services. The first regular mail service between England and Australia was established in 1855, and in 1859 a connecting service with New Zealand was begun.

In the 1860s mail from Britain took about five months to reach New Zealand. In 1866, when mail was shipped to Panama and carried across the Isthmus of Darien for the further sea voyage to Britain the time was reduced considerably. The completion of the American trans-continental railway in 1869 meant that letters could travel across the United States by rail from San Francisco to New York, and the time was reduced to 42 days. In 1897, letters took 31 days in transit. The previous year, the completion of the trans-Canada railway had given New Zealand an "all-Red" route to Britain for the first time.

There was no significant change in the overseas transit of mail until 1934, when the Empire air services were extended to Australia. It then became possible to send a letter to Britain in 14 days. The first direct air mail link with New Zealand was established on April 30, 1940. Behind this achievement lay the pioneering flights of such men as Ulm, who carried the first air mail both ways across the Tasman Sea in 1934, and of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, in his famous aircraft "Southern Cross". Ulm lost his life while attempting a flight to North America, and Kingsford Smith the following year while flying from Britain to Australia. The history of internal air mail services, which are widely used in New Zealand to-day, goes back to 1919, when the first consignment was flown between Auckland and Dargaville.

Motor-vehicles were first used for the carriage of mail in 1903, and they have a most important part in the distribution of mail to-day. New Zealand has a population of 2,000,000, more than 1,000,000 of whom live in the cities and large towns. There are, however, many large rural areas which depend on the rural mailman who operates under contract to the Post Office.

The Post and Telegraph Department in New Zealand to-day has a staff of 19,500, and transacts postal business amounting to nearly £3,800,000.

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The foregoing was a talk given by Mr. Curnow, (Press Officer at the New Zealand High Commissioner's Office, London) at the Annual General Meeting.

THE NEW ZEALAND "PENNY UNIVERSAL"

By E.C.M. MOORE

I must apologise to Members for not having fully explained previously what is meant by the 4.0'clock flaw. After the Reserve Plate was laid down the original Die was damaged slightly, and this showed on the Booklet Plate and on all subsequent plates, as a thickening of the edge on the lower right side of the right hand rosette, in about a 4.0 position on the clock face; hence the name. This flaw is recognised as a most useful guide in dividing the Penny Universals into two groups.

Plates 1, 2, & 3. Paper made by ALEX. COWAN & SONS
Unwatermarked and Watermarked.

After trial the Basted Mills paper was considered to be unsatisfactory and Messrs. A. Cowan & Sons were then asked to supply some paper. The first which this firm sent to New Zealand was unwatermarked, there were two qualities, one a medium thin paper and the other thinner and slightly brittle. This proved quite satisfactory to the Government Printers and Cowans were asked to supply a further quantity, but as it was considered wrong to use an unwatermarked paper, the next consignment was watermarked with the N.Z. & Star. The watermark is easily seen and is occasionally found inverted, reversed or inverted reversed. It was this paper which was used throughout the remaining printings of the Penny Universals and during its use it varied in thickness; it was never thick as the Pirie paper, but sometimes softer than the unwatermarked Cowan paper. The mesh is always horizontal and easily seen; in this it differs from both the Pirie and Basted Mills.

Plates 1, 2, & 3 were used for the printings on both Cowan papers, and according to the "New Zealand Handbook Vol I" the re-entries on these papers are the same as those noted for Plates 1, 2, & 3 in the July number of the "Kiwi".

By January 1902, when the stamps on the unwatermarked paper were issued, the Plates were beginning to show signs of wear and it would appear likely that some re-touches must have been made about this time. I have not seen any reference to this, but here I think should be a fruitful field for study. I have noted one or two things but it would be better to make further researches before committing these to paper. When the stamps on Watermarked paper were issued in April 1902, the Plates were getting so very worn that in many of the stamps there appeared no background and very little detail of the frame. Sometimes these stamps are confused with copies from the "Dot Plates" in worn condition, but the 4.0'clock flaw in the "Dot Plates" soon identifies them, as no matter how faint the design the flaw always shows.

The ink used for these stamps was carmine, there are some shades and stamps printed from worn Plates had a pink look, due more to the absence of the design than any change in the colour of the ink, though a stamp printed in deep carmine-lake is a recent discovery by Mr. H.T.M. Fathers.

The perforations are in the usual variety produced by the machines gauging 14 and 11. Perforation 11 in the watermarked paper is particularly scarce. Stamps are found imperf.

horizontally or vertically. A new variety also discovered by Mr. Fathers is on Cowan watermarked paper perforated 14 horizontally and double perfs. 11 vertically.

The gum used for the unwatermarked paper was dull and thin, at first a similar gum was used for the watermarked paper, but later it was of a better quality, white and shiny.

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REFLECTIONS ON OUR AUCTION.

The committee's report on the Auction sale of November 15th is of interest, but appears to be written mainly from the buyer's point of view. From the seller's point of view there are certain disadvantages in such a sale. One, strange to say, is that all potential bidders are N.Z. collectors, many of them with good collections. This means that competition for cheap and medium stamps is likely to be small. In other words such stamps will not sell at all, or only at ridiculous prices. Lot No. 116 (no reserve) is a good example. Stamps catalogued at about 36/-d sold for 5/-d. That alone, I would suggest, is a good reason for some reserve.

To say that the highest price obtained in the sale was for a N.R. lot is beside the point. £5 for Vol. II of the Handbook is a poor, not a good price.* Similarly, if I had put no reserve on lot 23, (a good copy of the lozenge wmk.,) and it had sold for £6 or £7, that would have been the highest price in the sale, but still very cheap. As it was, £11 seemed a reasonable reserve, and if the stamp didn't sell, I was quite happy to keep it.

Another lot, No. 32, was described by the auctioneer as having a low reserve, but it drew no bidding at all.

What does all this amount to? Surely this, that, while in a big London sale competition will ensure good bidding and reasonable prices and it is safe to fix a low or no reserve. In a sale such as ours bidding is likely to be apathetic for many lots and a low reserve will result in too low a price.

It is obvious - perhaps overlooked because it is so obvious - that without sellers there can be no sale, and therefore sellers as well as buyers need encouragement. It may be that this will not be forthcoming for sellers, if buyers do not want the majority of the stamps except at knock-out prices. If so, the prospects for good auction sales are not promising.

One practical suggestion. The postage involved in postal viewing and buying one or more lots is just over 2/6d. If the lots, or lot are worth in all less than 10/-d, I suggest that letters containing them should not be registered. The risk of loss and amount involved are so small that perhaps the extra insurance premium involved would be little or nothing, and the arrangement should definitely encourage postal bidding.

L.G. Jacob.

* (Above present market price. - Editor.)

"The Kiwi" is edited and produced by the Hon. Secretary: - Mrs. M. Erskine, 12 Elliot Road, Hendon, London, N.W. 4, to whom all communications in connection with the Society should be addressed.