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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Most of our Members have had some contact with me in the past in connection with my work as Packet Secretary. Since last November I have also been Secretary of the Society and it is in that capacity that I now write these Notes. During the past three months I have come to realise, just what is entailed in being the Secretary of a Society such as ours. I always admired the work of my predecessor Mrs. Margarete Erskine and I now feel that the best tribute I can pay to her, is to try and emulate in some small way, the efficiency and enthusiasm that always marked everything that she did for us.

My new post would not be tenable were I not assured of her continued help and support, together with that of her husband and the rest of the officers. I join with all the members in wishing Mrs. M. Erskine a very happy period of office as our President.

OUR NEXT MEETING

SATURDAY ---- MARCH 29th ---- 2.30 p.m.
KINGSLEY HOTEL, BLOOMSBURY WAY, W.C.1

The meeting will bring to Town one of our keenest Members, Mr. Peter Davey of Truro. He is making the long double journey especially for the purpose and I would like him to be able to meet ALL our 'regulars' and as many of our other members as possible.

In his letters to me he expressed his eagerness to meet all the people he has heard about so often and I know that he is bringing with him a small portion of his vast and specialised collection of New Zealand. He confesses that this will be his first 'show', but I can promise you a feast of unusual items, many of which have surprised none other than our good friend Campbell Paterson. Please note the date, come early, and give our friend from the West Country a truly rousing welcome.

==== RED INK ALTERATION FOR YOUR DIARY ====

CANCEL MAY 28th ----- SUBSTITUTE MAY 7th.

Congress will be holding its meetings, MAY 28th to MAY 31st. so it has become necessary to change our date to MAY 7th.

MR. ROBSON LOWE will be with us on that day (6.30 p.m. at KINGSLEY HOTEL). and will be bringing some of his wonders. Certainly a date you will not want to miss -- so -- alter your diary NOW. MAY 7th -- not 28th. REPEAT. MAY 7th.

OUR LAST MEETING -----

For those members who were able to attend our last meeting, January 25th, 1958, will become 'C.P.' Day, for our Campbell Paterson gave us a most interesting display of material from the 'older era', (a little of the material he has acquired, and will take away from U.K.) Pity! -- In his response, after the vote of thanks, he spoke of the deep feeling that all New Zealanders held for the Mother Country, and it is with regret that I was unable to record his words, for all to read; in fact, for members of the Colonial Office, I feel sure his words would have brought advice and help, in these difficult times.

Mr. Campbell Paterson has on many occasions stated that he would be leaving these shores without notice, and I see from the latest philatelic publications, that his address is again in N.Z., so I must assume he is now on the high seas, and should this be the case, I feel sure that members will join me in wishing C.P. and his son 'Bon Voyage' and very happy memories of the G.B. KIWIS.

VISIT TO BROMLEY and BECKENHAM P.S. -----

On 5th March, 1958, The Society, under the leadership of our President, answered its second invitation; by giving a display to a local Philatelic Society. Our show was arranged as follows:-

There were Six displays of approximately 15 sheets each.

- 1) Health Issues - W.H.Young (for Noel Turner)
- 2) Universals. Waterlow Plates. - R. Heath
- 3) "Peace" - R.D. Williamson
- 4) Modern Issues - A. Greenwood
- 5) Air Mail Covers - D.V. Givan
- 6) Early Issues & Unusual Items - G.B. Erskine.

Sincere thanks are due to all the members who were able to attend, as by this means we are able to increase our knowledge and circle of friends, and also, advertise the N.Z. Society.

NEW MEMBERS.

We would like to welcome the following to the Society:-

Mr. Joseph MILLER,
54, Spencer Street,
Burnley,
Lancashire.

Mr. Francis G. PAYNE,
Larchfield,
Park Hill,
Bickley. Kent.

Mr. Peter H. Garnett,
"Pemaran",
110, Elm Drive,
Hove, 4. Sussex.

W.H. Young, Hon. Sec.

P A C K E T N E W S.

EXPLANATION OF THE 3d. SURCHARGE NOTED ON ALL ADVICE NOTES.

Members may remember that a year or so ago, all packets had to be sent from member to member by REGISTERED POST. As the G.P.O. thought fit to increase the registration fee to 1/- the cost per posting, per packet amounted to 2/6 or 2/9. In an effort to reduce this amount, I made enquiries of our Insurance Company, and obtained a policy of Insurance, at increased cost, to cover all packets, under £300 in value, to be conveyed by ORDINARY post. -- On condition that at all times, members obtain from the Post Office, at the time of posting, a "CERTIFICATE OF POSTING", this certificate to be sent to the Packet Secretary with the Advice Slip.

Owing to the extra cost of this Insurance to the Society (of which it could not bear the full amount) a small proportion (3d) was placed upon members receiving the packet. This, you will perceive, reduces the cost to each member by at least 9d.

W. Hasler Young, Hon. Sec.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER.

Please don't skip this bit of the Kiwi!! You have probably guessed what the Treasurer has to say, but that is something that must be said! There are still quite a number of Members who have forgotten that Subscriptions became due on January 1st. -- 10/6 for one year -- or the bargain rate of 21/- for two years. Bargain Rate? YES, - think of the Postage and Poundage you save! Still at the old address:-

GLADSTONE HOUSE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, LONDON. N.22

Send quickly! Send Now! Our Bank Manager is taking his holidays early this year, and joins me in this special appeal.

Noel Turner. Hon. Treasurer.

E D I T O R I A L.

The Secretary has already reported the last meeting held on January 25th at which Mr. Campbell Paterson displayed some wonderful material depicting the Overland Mail and, I would like to take the opportunity of enlarging on his remarks.

The items displayed were from the collection formed by Dr. K.J.L. Scott, who has entertained the members on more than one occasion with his studies of the Chalon Heads and, not forgetting to mention a Maori war dance performed with great gusto at one of our annual dinners. The Notes which follow on the "New Zealand Overland Mails in the early 1800" were supplied by Dr. Scott with the collection.

NEW ZEALAND OVERLAND MAILS IN THE EARLY 1800.

Before 1840 letters between the various New Zealand settlements travelled by chance ship. Local letters were sent by foot post or by canoe. Following the arrival of Governor Hobson in 1840 mails were carried for a short time, by mounted trooper, between Russell and Hokianga. The first overland mail of importance was opened in 1841 between Wellington and Wanganui. This was a fortnightly service, the mail being carried by Maoris. The rate for a single letter in 1842 was 1/-. In 1843 a similar service was inaugurated between Auckland and New Plymouth, this followed the coastal route via Kawhia. In 1844 the two services were linked monthly, the trip taking the runners about three weeks. The distance is about 400 odd miles and, the alternative route was via Sydney and took about three months. The tribes were not always willing to let the mails pass, and so these posts were uncertain and intermittent. In 1843 the rate for inland letters was reduced to 4d. per half ounce and in 1851 to 2d. per half ounce.

Letters carried by the overland posts of this period bear the town names, a handstruck "2", and a manuscript direction "Per Overland Mail", or something of this sort.

In May 1845 the overland mail between Auckland and Wellington was stopped for a while because it was unsafe to use this route.

In February 1847 the service was re-established for a short time to Wanganui but soon collapsed again because of war parties.

From 1850 onwards persistent efforts were made to establish post routes, especially in the Auckland and Waikato Districts, but such efforts were often defeated by hostile natives, floods and inadequate knowledge of the bush country. An Auckland - Napier service was opened in 1857 and the Hawkes Herald of October 10th 1857 contained the following note:-

"On Tuesday evening we had to welcome the arrival of the first mail from Auckland, the bearers of it being detained by the extreme severity of the weather. We are sorry the footsore natives should not on their arrival have received a better welcome than that of a bed on the island, without food or refreshment, but we hope better arrangements will be made before the coming of the next mail".

The Auckland - Napier route soon had branches to Tauranga via Tarawera and Maketu, and to Poverty Bay from Napier. The Auckland - New Plymouth service now followed the inland route the Waikato with the Napier service branching off at Otawhao (Te Awamutu).

The first overland service of consequence in the South Island, was opened in 1854 between Dunedin and Invercargill. By 1859 a Dunedin - Canterbury overland mail was functioning, with connections in the following year to Picton and Riverton, and other places in the following years.

The first mention of horses is a reference to the use of light carts in 1856; and coaches appear on the scene when Cobb's coaches replaced pack horses to convey the mail to the Otago Goldfields in 1862.

In 1860 the Wellington - Greytown service was extended to Masterton.

By 1863 the overland Christchurch - Dunedin mail was carried in three days, but sea service now became prominent, the principal centres being served by sea at weekly intervals.

The first through railway was the Christchurch - Invercargill line opened in 1878. The Auckland - Wellington main trunk line was not open for traffic until 1909.

The opening of the Otira Tunnel through the Southern Alps in 1923 marked the discontinuance of the last important coach mail service.

It is not possible to do full justice in describing the display in the short time available for viewing the exhibits but I did manage to make a brief note of the following:- A cover Paid at Wellington dated Oct. 7 1852 by Overland Mail by Maori Runner - charge 2d. in manuscript; a cover from Wellington to Auckland dated Oct. 25 1856 - with a handstruck 2d; a cover from Petre to Wellington Nov. 1 1855 with a handstruck 2d; a cover to Timaru per Coach Aug. 19 1873.

Several covers were seen bearing the Overseas Rate, e.g. New Zealand to England 6d. in manuscript and New Zealand to Sydney 6d. Chalon head.

Used abroad were represented N.Z. stamps used in Victoria, N.S.W.; Ireland, London and France.

Several types of Postage Due markings were displayed including the double lined circular mark with "Deficient Postage and Fine" in the perimeter and a manuscript 2d. Deficiency plus 2d. Fine in two lines across the centre; "Deficient Postage 2d. Fine 2d. in two lines in an oblong box and, "More to Pay" unboxed. There were examples of "Loose Letters" and "Marine P.O.'s". There was a Marine P.O. dated Ap. 16 64 which Mr. Paterson explained was part of a duplex cancellation with Otago between thin bars, a tracing of which is illustrated in Vol. III page 261. The complete cancellation consists of a circular date stamp with N.Z. at the top MARINE underneath, P.O. in the third row, month and date in the fourth and the year in the fifth and bottom row. Approx. 2 mm to the right of the date stamp is OTAGO between thin bars three above and three below. I knew there was a copy of the Marine P.O. in my collection, not knowing it was part of a duplex cancellation, it was examined with a glass to see if there was any trace of OTAGO at the right. Instead, the right side of OTAGO was superimposed on the left of the date stamp, the right hand "O" of OTAGO nearly touching the "P" of P.O. of the date stamp. My copy is dated Oc 24 66.

Could it be certain that this was a duplex or double cancellation? Back to page 261 of Vol. III where a strip of three of the 1/- green imperf. of the 1862 issue is illustrated, showing nearly two impressions of the Marine P.O. date stamp. If the canceller is duplex then the position of OTAGO and bars at the right relative to parts of the date stamp must be similar in both impressions. But in the left impression the "O" of OTAGO appears higher relative to the position of the "S" of S.E.18 than it does in the right impression. Also if one extends the bars above and below OTAGO to the left they strike the various parts of the date stamp in a higher position in the left impression than they do in the right.

From the foregoing it would appear that the date stamp and OTAGO were separate but I will have more to say about this aspect later. I should be pleased to hear what members think.

As so often happens when one is searching for information on a particular subject something unexpected turns up and, although this is nothing to do with the display the time is opportune to mention it. While examining the strip of three 1/- on page 261 already mentioned, it was seen that the first "O" in OTAGO in the left impression is thin and of regular shape whereas the same "O" in the right impression has thick sides tapering at the top and bottom. It matters not if the canceller was duplex or two separate stamps, at least the two impressions should be similar as they were produced at the same time, allowing for any overinking if ink was taken up between the strikes. The general appearance of the impressions look "too good" and have the appearance of being touched up, either on

the stamps themselves or perhaps the negative of the photograph used for the Handbook. A search was made through old auction catalogues, as very often these choice pieces are illustrated there, but no luck. Next a glance through "The History of New Zealand Stamps" by William Jolliffe published in 1913, where lo and behold at the bottom of Plate II in Appendix F is a photograph of the same strip. It was then in the collection of Mr. Chas. L. Pack. A comparison of the two photographs shows that either the postmarks on the stamps or the later photographs for Vol. III has been considerably retouched. In Plate II of the 1913 Handbook the left OTAGO is non-existent except for a few smudges and, the bottom half of the right OTAGO registers only. What can be seen of the first "O" in the right impression is the same shape as the similar "O" in Vol. III and it would appear that the left OTAGO has been drawn in, with "O's" of a different characteristic. If this assumption is correct it might explain the different positions of OTAGO relative the date stamp in the two impressions and it could therefore be a duplex canceller. In the Plate II photograph the bottom of the "A" including the cross bar of the right OTAGO registers only but in Vol. III the complete "A" is seen, as the top portion covers the white part of the Queen's face surely this would have registered in the Plate II photograph if it was on the original postmark. There are a number of discrepancies between the two reproductions, in Plate II the "5" in the left date stamp does not register at the bottom and, in the centre date stamp there is no bottom to the "65" and the top bar of the "5" is missing, but both these dates are complete in Vol. III, and the bottom of the two "5's" appears to be different.

No doubt Mr. Gordon Kaye will be able to give an answer to these queries and I am looking forward to hear his observations.

In the discussions that followed the display Mr. Erskine asked "when did "More to Pay" supersede "Deficient Postage and Fine" in separate amounts?" No member present gave an answer but Vol. III shows these as standard types in general use until there were superseded by circular markings.

Another question was "when was it made compulsory to use adhesive stamps in New Zealand?" Page 471 of Vol. III para 1 commences with "From the establishment of a recognised postal service in New Zealand until 1862, when the use of stamps to prepay postage became obligatory etc."

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks from Mr. Royton Heath seconded by Mrs. E.C.M. Moore and replied to by Mr. Paterson with the theme that New Zealanders treated Great Britain as their second home as already reported by the Secretary.

An extract from a letter received from Ivan J. Mackersey of Wellington in regard to Mr. J.D. Evans' cup winning exhibit "Mention is made of S.G.113 Plate 1 imperf. Does Mr. Evans or B.P.A. (at the time) know that in 1884 at least one sheet was reprinted from Plate 1? I have the pair from the late Dr. Meyer's collection, mentioned in Vol. 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. This reprint would be catalogued at least by Verne Collins & Co. If Mr. Evans' stamp is a light blue on star paper and un gummed in its original state then it fits in as a 1884 reprint".

A.A. Hard

Hon. Kiwi Editor.