

THE KIWI

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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Affiliated to BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION and PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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WHOLE No. 80.

We sometimes hear that our Meetings (and the contents of THE KIWI) devote too much time to the classics and older stamps, and that not enough attention is given to the "moderns." Our next meeting will provide an opportunity to put matters right and we hope for strong support for the Leader.

OUR NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 28th at

SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, MONMOUTH STREET, LONDON.

On this occasion we shall study the Definitive and Commemorative Stamps of the Queen Elizabeth period. Members are invited to bring all the items on which they may have questions to raise, or where their own research has led to any kind of discovery. Be prepared to show your sheets - with or without "talk". Our member - E.K. Hossell of Highbridge, Somerset has kindly consented to act as Leader, and will show selections from his collection of this era. Having seen some of his items in our Competition, I am sure we are in for a marvellous show.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

Please book SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26th to be in London for our KIWI DAY. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Displays by Members, Informal Lunch, Annual General Meeting, Auction, and all the usual attractions. A "must" for every member who can raise the fare!

OUR LAST MEETING.

The meeting on July 27th was a "Full House" as expected, to meet our New Zealand speaker and member - Ken McNaught. He was introduced by the President who mentioned that Ken is a Research Scientist specializing in Plant Nutrition at the Ministry of Agriculture's Research Station at Hamilton N. Z.

In the first section of his talk, Mr. McNaught spoke on the die-states of the 1d, 2d, and 6d. second side face Queen issue. The background shading lines in these values proved to be too heavy. In 1886 this was corrected in the 1d and 2d dies by the simple expedient of deepening the horizontal lines on the die. This had the effect of increasing the white spaces between the coloured lines on the printed stamps, thus making the head stand out more clearly. These dies were again touched up in 1889 to 'open up' the shading lines on the Queen's head.

The three die states are, for convenience, referred to as Dies 1, 2 and 3; but it must be clearly understood that there was only one actual Die.

The 6d. Die was similarly treated, but in one operation, and much later, namely about 1892, as "Die 2" examples in this value have not been noted with dates earlier than 1893. The differences in the die states were clearly demonstrated by means of coloured slides projected by Royton Heath, to whom the Society's sincere thanks are given, for so kindly taking his projector to the meeting, and operating it; and for the use of his screen.

Seven plates of the 1d value (3 Die 1, 2 Die 2, 2 Die 3), five of the 2d. (2 Die 1, 1 Die 2, 2 Die 3) and three of the 6d. (2 Die 1, 1 Die 2) were used. During the stamping out or "striking" of the moulds in the preparation of the first plate of the 1d value, the outer frame line became damaged and white breaks appeared on some of the printed stamps.

These of course persisted in subsequent plates, as the damage was in the die itself. Members are recommended to refer to Mr. McNaught's write up in Volume 4 "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" for further details. Slides were also used to illustrate a sub-state variety in the 1/- value which occurred on about 15% of the moulds in the first plate, also a major plate repair to a damaged corner of one of the impressions on this plate; and finally the two "HALF" varieties in the ½d Black re-issue of 1899-1900.

The supporting display of stamps also included 'bulls-eye' frame markings, Hansberg proofs showing plate positions of various flaws in plates 6 & 7 of the 1d., 4 & 5 of the 2d., 2 and 3 of the 6d., and plate or plating cracks in the re-issue of the 2nd from Plate 4 (1889 plate) between May and September 1892. Several advertisement stamps were shown with both the advertisement and watermark inverted, including the 1d green

Our Last Meeting (contd)

advertisement, and the 4d deep brown advertisement. It is conjectured that these arose through printing the advertisements first, and the stamp designs afterwards.

In the second section, Mr. McNaught showed examples of all the different kinds of mixed perforation varieties - perf; 10 re-perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ or 11, perf: 10 x 11 re-perforated 11; comb perf: 12 x $11\frac{1}{2}$ re-perforated by line perf: $12\frac{1}{2}$; and briefly discussed the problems of definition of some of these varieties. For example, a 1d stamp perf: $12\frac{1}{2}$ at the top, $11\frac{1}{2}$ on the sides, and 12 at the bottom (the result of correcting a faulty perforating by the comb 12 x $11\frac{1}{2}$ machine) poses difficulties. It cannot be called "irregular compound" because compound perf's occur only with line machines. It is not a true mixed perf: as the top row gauging 12 is missing. We may have to call it "incomplete" or "defective" mixed perf's 12 x $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$. The 2d and 1/- First Side-Faces with false double perf's were shown. These have arisen from the displacement of a vertical row of perforations on one side of the central gutter strip between the panes, sufficiently far to one side to fall right alongside the adjacent row of perforations. Such varieties, associated with wide wing margins, are not the result of re-perforating, and are, therefore, not true double perforations.

For the 1d Universal enthusiast, there was a display of plate number blocks of the four Royle Plates of 1906-8! All four stamps in the block from the 3 dot (1907) plate had the value tablet strengthened and this was particularly obvious in the vertical lines at the ends of the value tablet. The two re-touch varieties recorded in Volume 1 from this plate also show this characteristic. This suggests that most, if not all, impressions on this plate were similarly treated. Some stamps show curvature of the bottom frame-line, especially below "One" Mr. Michael Burberry has independently come to the same conclusion. Three O.P.S.O. (On Public Service Only) covers were shown, all sent - as they should be - by the Post & Telegraph Department Wellington to foreign addresses (only that Department used overprinted "O.P.S.O." stamps). Several Flag Station covers were displayed for the Postal History enthusiasts; a page of 'Province of Auckland' markings; and the Anglo-French accountancy marking:- G.B. over LF 62 $\frac{4}{10}$ c. in lozenge shaped frame, used at Opunaki as an obliterator between about 1880 and 1887, after the use of these markings for accountancy purposes had ceased.

After members had inspected the sheets displayed on the frames, a vote of thanks was eloquently proposed by Campbell Paterson, who paid tribute to Mr. McNaught's eminence as a philatelic student in New Zealand, and to the outstanding talk and display given to our Society on this occasion. Mr. Hossell seconded the vote of thanks, and he voiced the opinion of many members present when he said it had aroused in him an interest in an issue which he had hitherto disregarded.

Our Last Meeting (Contd)

He thanked our guest member for his magnificent display, and for his lucid explanation of technical details. Truly this was a "Red-letter" day in the affairs of our Society.

THE 1953 HEALTH, 2d + 1d. with perforation adjustment.

As a new member I have no knowledge of whether the following findings have been previously publicised, but I feel it is of sufficient interest to warrant confirmation or further enquiry by those studying the period. Refer to The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Part IV, pp 308-310. It states 'Because of a mistake the stepping of the perforation head was for two spaces instead of three.' I have the two bottom rows with the cylinder no. in front of me. Each strike of the 3-row comb-head is complete (and each individual strike tends upwards.) Adjustment was decided upon but the comb-head descended before completion and out of alignment; completed the comb-head descends correctly and precisely - three rows from the original position. I hold a block of G.B. 6d def: showing the same sequence.

It is my opinion that this value was perforated 'in the web'. The sheets are not separated until they leave the perforator so this eliminates the statement that more than one sheet must have been affected. Working sideways (on the sheet) the perforator must run through both the 'top' and 'bottom' margins. It is normal in G.B. definitives perforated by this machine for one extension hole to be in the right margin but the left margin in this case will be imperf:

Could the owner of the top row of the sheet confirm or complicate this?

E.K. Hossell.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

The above was submitted with a photograph which, unfortunately we cannot re-produce in "KIWI" I suggest that the contributor produces the item at the September Meeting, of which he is the Leader. Knowing our Members - someone will come up with the answer!

N.T.

"O.P.S.O."

Members will recall that John Bradford of Leamington Spa, produced at one of our Meetings, examples of the O.P.S.O. overprint on mint blocks of four. The stamps were in perfect condition and the overprints very clear and bright. We were all puzzled because the stamps were not of issues upon which the overprint is known to have been made, but this overprint looked genuine.

I have been studying this particular overprint and I came across this note in Volume One of P.S. of N.Z.

"All remainders of the O.P.S.O. stamps on hand in the Secretary's Office were destroyed in January 1907 but the rubber stamp was kept."

"In 1913 it was found necessary to make sets for presentation purposes, and the rubber stamp was again used, but stamps other than those that had been in use with the overprint during the period 1891-1907 were treated."

"After the presentation sets had been completed, the rubber stamp was obliterated by being cut across with a knife."

Members will note the part of the quotation that I have underlined. The perfection of the blocks of four produced by John Bradford, is such that "presentation set" could well be the answer, and if John approves, I propose to publish this answer to the question "why on stamps not in use in the O.P.S.O. period?" (Later - John having read this note, before publication --- writes --- "this certainly seems to be the answer, but why did the Royal of New Zealand issue Certificates of Genuineness?" Which seems a fair question; anyone know the answer?)

NOEL TURNER.

THE PACKET.

To save the cost of postage, any Member able to deliver by hand to another Member, should advise the Secretary, so that their names may be placed together on the Packet List.

In any case, we expect that Members would be pleased to meet occasionally in this way.

BOOK REVIEW.
POSTAL STATIONERY OF NEW ZEALAND
by R.M. Startup.

At long last a proper listing of the Postal Stationery of New Zealand. The author - Robin Startup whom we are pleased to have as a Member of this Society.

There has been a need for this book for a long time, but how has Robin Startup with all his other interests and commitments - he edits the Mail Coach and has written books on many divergent postal history subjects - found the time and acquired the knowledge to write such an informative book on this subject which can only be a side-line to him.

As an improvement on the conventional separate listing of Envelopes, Post Cards, Letter Cards, Registered Envelopes and Wrappers he has produced a combined listing in date order. This relates each issue to changes in Postal Rates. Postal Stationery is above all the material for the Postal Historian. Each issue and provisional overprint is intimately tied to a change in postal rates and "Philatelic" use is rare.

The other great advantage of Postal Stationery is that it provides a firm platform for clear cancellations, superior to flimsy, tatty envelopes.

The illustrations are an aid to identification and there is an index of the issues of postcards and the other categories to assist those collectors whose collections are still arranged in this way.

The principal gap in knowledge is the listing of advertisements on Letter Cards during the last forty years until their disappearance from issues made last Autumn. It may have been a temptation to wait for better information, but there was a need for an early publication, so readers are asked to study their collections and to report through me all necessary additions or corrections.

Members of the Postal History Society of New Zealand will have received an order form with the June copy of Mail Coach, but copies are on the way by sea to Harris Publications (in Maiden Lane, W.C.2) and no doubt Campbell Paterson will have copies. The price is 15/- plus postage.

G.E.G. PRATT.

KORORAREKA 1843.

There recently came into my possession an early New Zealand letter, which may be of some interest to our Members.

It was written by The Rev. B. Quaife, a missionary at Kororareka on October 4th 1842, and is addressed to The Rev. A. Wells, Secretary, Colonial Missionary Society, Blomfield St, Finsbury, London. The markings are as follows:-

- A. Large red "6" applied in New Zealand, representing the postage paid to the point of departure which was probably Auckland.
- B. Circular arrival mark in orange-red about the size of a shilling - A at the top - 9 MY 9 through the centre - and 1843 at the foot - all straight lines.
- C. SHIP LETTER - also applied in this Country at port of arrival.
- D. Large black "8" indicating the postage payable by the recipient in London.
- E. Finally, (and the most interesting to me) a faint strike of New Zealand's first date stamp - KORORARIKA in the crowned oval.

Those members who possess Vol. 3 of the Handbook will know the details of this first date-stamp marking - but for those who do not - this is a brief outline. The date-stamp was supplied in 1840 to Kororareka (spelt in the date-stamp with an I instead of an E) and the year was engraved as a fixture in the head, with the result that the year remained unaltered for as long as the date-stamp was in commission. Some 1841 letters show a manuscript "I" superimposed over the "O". The day and the month were removed in 1842, but the year - 1840 - remained, sometimes altered in manuscript and sometimes not. In 1842 date-stamps were ordered for Auckland, Manukau, Hokianga, Wellington and New Plymouth.

The letter itself is written in microscopic handwriting in all available space on the double letter sheet. It mostly concerns the great difficulties that the Rev. Quaife was facing in his work but there are also references to a Treaty, to "the evil actions of the Government" and to the attitude of the native Maoris to Colonisation.

When I have completely deciphered the whole letter, I will select such parts as appear to be of general or historical interest, and will publish them in later issues of "KIWI".

Noel Turner.

NEW MEMBERS:

B.R. Williams	51, Markham Street, Chelsea, London. S.W.3.
A.W. File	9, Gilbert Road, Ramsgate, Kent.
P. Langlois	25, rue Jacques Dulud, 92 - Nevilly-sur-Seine, France.
Lt. Col. R.W. Chastaney	Star Hill, Holsbery Road, Truro, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

A.J. Greenwood	6, The Knoll, Hayes, Kent.
Major R.B. Merton	c/o 11th Hussars (P.A.O.) B.F.P.O. 30.

DECEASED:

A.R. McLeod	24, Saltash Road, Thornton, Blackpool. Lance.
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NOTES FROM NOEL TURNER.

EDITORSHIP:

We regret to report that we are still experiencing considerable difficulty in replacing Albert Hard as Editor. I have agreed to carry on 'pro tem' for this and the November Issue. May I appeal for volunteers? After all, it is your Society and your "KIWI" and the existing officers all have a job to do. The November Meeting is the A.G.M. and we would like to make an appointment and to be properly organised for the year to come. What about it? You can rely on assistance from many members.

APOLOGY:

The name at the top of page 7 of the last issue should read Peter Collins and not Peter Garnett. The notes were signed "Peter" and I mistook the handwriting of the one for the other! No answers yet to the interesting questions. What is your view?

MARCEL STANLEY:

Will be visiting England from New Zealand next year. If he reads this note, will he please take it as an invitation to visit us and give us a show? A letter now will help us to plan the occasion. Can I hear from you please?

BURGLARY:

Our member, D.B. Picton-Phillips of "Jambo", 4, Ernle Road, Calne, Wilts, recently suffered a serious burglary, in which many valuable N.Z. Stamps were stolen. Details have been published in the Philatelic Press. We hope that he will recover his material as a result of Police enquiries and with the help of the B.P.A.

"-----SSSH----YOU KNOW WHO -----"

This is a special note to eight of our Members. Will you please look behind the clock on the mantleshelf, find my demand for your subscription and let me have a Postal Order? If it comes quickly I wont say a word to anyone - except "thank you" - to you!

"COMING NEXT"

May I appeal for more contributions for 'KIWI'? Short paragraphs, lengthier articles, queries and questions - all will be welcome. If you are too shy to put your name to it - we can print anonymously! I still have some material for the November issue (apologies to the contributors for the delay) but I need more - and you, the members, are the people who can help me out!

VISITS BY MEMBERS TO SOCIETIES:

I shall be most grateful if Members will let me know when they are booked to visit Societies anywhere in the United Kingdom for the purpose of talking about New Zealand stamps. Most Societies are only too pleased to welcome visitors, and it would give Members of our Society a chance to meet other Members from their own areas if publicity can be given through the 'KIWI' to shows of this nature. Subsequently a brief report of what happened could be included in the 'KIWI' if Members will send me some notes.

SPECIAL WELCOME:

This month we extend a special welcome to our new Member Pierre Langlois of France. Pierre has joined the Society on the introduction of James Riddell, and I had the pleasure of meeting him when the P.H.S. held a conference in Paris in 1960. Our new member is an important person in French Philately, being Treasurer of the Academie de Philatelie, one of the Directors of the Federation of French Philatelic Societies, President of the France Britanique Philatelique Societe, Editor in Chief of the Magazine Philatelie Francaise etc. In this country he is also a member of the P.H.S. and of the Society of Postal Historians. Pierre hopes to visit us one day, but in the meantime we extend a very hearty welcome to him.

NOEL TURNER.

NOEL TURNER.

(Acting Editor)