

THE KIWI

Secretary and Treasurer:
NOEL TURNER
Gladstone House
High Road, N.22
Tel: BOWes Park 4888



Packet Secretary:
ERIC N. BARTON
"Carliol"
Waynefiote Tower Avenue
Esher, Surrey
Tel: 37-83493

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
Affiliated to BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION and PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

~~KIWI EDITOR: MAJOR GRAHAM C. MONK, ~~3 Spinnwood, ~~Paynesfield Road, ~~Tatfield, ~~Nr. ~~Wentworth, ~~Kent~~~~~~~~~~~~
~~Tel: ~~Tatfield 502~~~~~~

27, West Road, Barton Stacey,
Nr. Winchester, Hants.
Tel: Sutton Scotney 507.

VOLUME XVII No. 4.

JULY 1968

WHOLE No. 91.

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 31st JULY AT

SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, MONMOUTH STREET, LONDON.

TIME: 6.15 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

SUBJECT: MEMBERS EVENING.

Those showing on this Members Evening, are all members who have never shown to the Society before. The following displays will be given:-

Postage Dues	- R. Peete
1d Universals	- Mr. & Mrs G.A. Powell
Moderns	- F.L. Roberts
½d Mt. Cook	- R.D. Tweed

This promises to be a varied and worthwhile evening to which we can all look forward, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will come along to support our friends, all of whom were willing volunteers.

REPORT OF THE LAST MEETING - 29th MAY - MODERNS.

Unfortunately our two leaders were late in arriving, due to being lost in London because of wrong directions from a well known member, whose offices are near London but who shall remain nameless.

Mr. Bartrop very kindly started the meeting, and then handed over to the two leaders John Bradford and Derek Bowstead for the evening.

A brief description of the displays that were shown is as follows:-

Norman Hoggarth. A short study of the 1960 Pictorials. These were mostly perforation varieties, misplace printings and doctor blade flaws. Perhaps the most notable varieties however, were those showing plate nos. in the wrong place. Several blocks were shown with the plate nos. at the top left hand corner of the sheet instead of at the bottom left hand corner of the sheet. These were caused by errors in guillotining. Doctor blade flaws were well represented and gave a very different shade to the stamps. The 2/- value also showed partial double perforations as well as doctor blade flaws. The 3/- showed misplaced colours.

John Bradford. Selections from the 1946 Peace Issue. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d value was shown in detail. Various types of paper, colour varieties, and double perforations of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d were numerous. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d value showed many instances of doubling. The 4d value was also shown - this being illustrated by many instances of doubling to the centre plate.

Derek Bowstead. King George VI. The display started with a photograph by Dorothy Wilding from which the design of the stamp was taken. The study illustrated the difficulty in obtaining the colour and paper for the issue. Numerous flaws were shown. Perhaps the most notable items in the display were the colour varieties on the 2d value.

Mrs. Bowstead. Our grateful thanks to Mrs. Bowstead who is not a member of the Society, but came along as a guest. Members were shown a very delightful study of nine sheets of the 2/- value of the 1935 Pictorial. This detailed the flaws on Plates 1, 2, and 3. The whole was illustrated by some very neat drawings.

Ted Hossell. Having whetted our appetite with a display of missing colours, Ted went on to show Plate block 2333 of the 4d on white paper with heavy chalk surface content, Plate block 14A 15 of the 9d on white paper with no chalk reaction, Plate block 1A 1A of the 15c first issue with wmk inverted, and

examples of the new synthetic adhesive PVA first used on the 15c with amended design and colours. He also showed the Royal Society decimal values, these being the first issues printed Photo-Litho Offset (Delacryl) by De La Rue.

Harry Bartrop Our President showed seven sheets of Officials, including examples printed on the gummed side of the paper. Most of the stamps shown were in Plate blocks.

David Burton. Modern covers and various oddments.

John Bradford.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

This issue of Kiwi includes the final part of the article on the 1d Universal by our NZ member Martin Tombleson. This paper was presented by him to the Congress at the NZ National Stamp Exhibition at Whakatane in April 1967.

The New Zealand Stamp Monthly. This new NZ monthly stamp magazine which made its debut in April, has been well received by NZ collectors, and looks set for a bright future. Articles are of a general rather than a specialised nature. Although the magazine covers stamps of the world, the main emphasis is on NZ and South Pacific stamps, and includes plenty of background information about the design of NZ new issues. The magazine includes a Junior page, details of Societies, and many small items of general interest, in an attempt to cater for all tastes. (Subscription rates overseas - \$2.80/yr. N.Z.S.M., PO Box 513, New Plymouth, NZ.)

Province of Auckland Cancellation. I have recently acquired a copy of the 2d blue (SG 113) cancelled with Serial 2 dated Nov 67. This is not included in the numbers previously recorded in Kiwi. (See January 65, May 65, March 67.)

Future Articles. I have had a request from O. Constantine for specialised information on the 1960 Pictorials. I am desperately short of articles on moderns, and usually have to rely on the same people for contributions time after time. I am sure that there must be many members who have made a study of the modern issues, and could help by contributing something to Kiwi. If you think you might be able to help, please get in touch with me.

Congratulations to our President, Harry Bartrop, who won the main award, the Renton Trophy, with a display of early NZ, at the Annual Convention of the Wiltshire Federation of Philatelic Societies.

Stamp Collecting of June 13th included an interesting article on the story behind the NZ Maori Bible Centenary stamp issued on the 23rd April.

Amendments to Kiwi Numbering. I have had a few queries regarding the numbering of Kiwi's published in the 1959/61 period. I have compiled a complete list of the amendments required from 1956 to date, and will publish this in the next issue of Kiwi.

Report of the Display given by John D. Evans at the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Spring Convention, Crawley, on Saturday 27th April.

The Convention was held in the New Town's Civic Hall and is recorded as being the largest convention that Sussex has had for attendance.

Some 150 people attended, and saw the magnificent display of Chalon Heads from 1855 to 1871 given by Mr. John D. Evans. He commenced with a sheet of the 1d, 2d, and 1/- Perkins Bacon used copies in beautiful condition, followed by an extensive display of each value commencing with the 1d imperf Richardson on blue paper of 1855 and white paper of 1858. This was followed by the Davies prints imperf and Roulettes of 1862, the 1862 issue of perf 13, and a comprehensive range of the perf 12½ issue. Each value followed the 1d in profusion, giving a highly unusual display of the numerous shades of the colours of the New Zealand Chalon Heads. Also shown were items Rouletted 7 accidental imperf. A number of the shades were established by dated copies. The complete display consisted of some 70 sheets and held the whole audience's interest for one hour and a quarter with a half way break for viewing. Other members of the Society in attendance were Peter Garnett, John Hinvest, and Councillor John Young a new member.

John Evans' comment was:- John Hinvest let me in for this, but I enjoyed it very much!

John Hinvest.

NOTES FROM NOEL TURNER.

PACKET: The attention of members is drawn to the fact that when passing the Packet to the next member on the List, you MUST send Eric Barton a Certificate of Posting whether you have made any purchases from the Packet or not. If purchases have been made, then you MUST, in addition, send him an Advice Slip and a Postal Order or Cheque for the amount of the purchases. Our Packet is being run in a truly efficient manner, and all credit is due to Eric Barton for the work that he does at no expense to the Society. We regret that it will be necessary for us to withdraw the name of any member who fails to send notification to Eric as stated above. The non receipt of a Certificate of Posting leads to worry as to whether the Packet has gone astray, and long distance telephone calls are sometimes necessary. Please co-operate in the manner set forth above.

NEW MEMBERSHIP LIST: With this copy of 'Kiwi' you should be receiving the new Membership List. Please carefully read the front page of instructions as, by complying with the suggestions made, you will save the cost of the production of a new List for several years.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS: You will observe from the above that we have produced a new Membership List. For the moment this is only being circulated to Members in the British Isles. If any of our Overseas Members would like a complete list of other Members in their country, this can be supplied upon application to me. Alternatively if you would like one of the full lists I shall be pleased to send it.

BUXTON: A Study Circle for New Zealand was arranged for the Wednesday evening during Congress at Buxton. Ted Hossell was to have acted as Leader, but at the very last moment he was prevented from attending. In spite of telephone calls and letters, we were unable to arrange for someone else to take his place. Our apologies to all concerned. Next year, at Bristol, we will organise "in depth" and I feel sure that we shall again ask Ted to Lead, with, perhaps, a "No 2" and plenty of material available.

Salvaged Mail:

A two line cachet in green ink reading SALVAGED FROM AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT LONDON 8-4-68 was applied at Auckland on some of the mail salvaged from the Boeing 707 which crashed at London (Heathrow.)

THE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN PERFORATED N.Z.

by

R. Samuel.

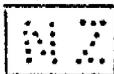
In my opinion, these NZ perfins of GB should be ranked as NZ 'official' stamps, although I doubt if the philatelic purist would be prepared to accept such a status. However, there has been quite a change in philatelic thought in recent years, and there is now a much more 'liberal' approach to the subject. About 1940/1 the late Ray Collins mentioned these NZ perfins in 'The NZ Stamp Collector' and stated that they should not be classed as NZ officials, but by 1961 he had changed his mind and considered that they were worthy of the status which has always eluded them.

The stamps concerned are GB definitives perforated with the initials N.Z. Four different perfins are known to have been used. The stamps were used by the Office of the High Commissioner for NZ, NZ House, London.

I have written to NZ House on at least two occasions, but they have been unable to give much assistance. I was informed that the perforating was done by the London firm of J. Sloper & Co. Ltd. Sloper's however, denied responsibility for the perforation of any of the stamps I had enclosed, and added that their records had been destroyed during the war.

The earliest recorded use of one of these NZ perfins was Nov 1935, but I have recently acquired a copy of the 2½d George V (SG 422) dated 1930 (month not shown), and this has now been added to my check list at the end of this article. The latest date in my collection is Sept 1964, but I understand that these stamps were still in use as late as Feb 1967. It is quite possible that they are still in use, but probably only for stamps on receipts or for high value stamps for use on parcels.

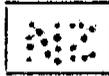
Details of the four different perfins known to have been used are given below. The perforating appears to have been carried out with considerable care, and variations of position are scarce. Normal copies show the initials upright and reading correctly when viewed from the front of the stamp.



Pf 50

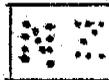
Pf 50 The letters are five holes in height. This perfin has been

recorded used from November 1935 until July 1940.



Pf 51

Pf 51 The letters stand four holes in height. The letter "Z" is grossly malformed, giving the appearance of a reversed "S" It is known used from August 1941 until March 1945.



Pf 52

Pf 52 The letters are four holes in height with a space of 3mm between the two letters. It is known used from March 1941 until March 1943.



Pf 53

Pf 53 This perfin is very similar to Pf 52 but there is a space of only 2mm between the letters. It has been recorded used from October 1942 until September 1964, and is thought to be still in use (February 1967)

The use of four punches, and the closeness of the introduction of three of them, pose problems. Any future research must be aimed at:

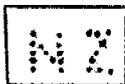
1. Establishing the manufacturer of each punch and/or the firm responsible for the perforating. Was perforating done at NZ House? or by Slopers? or by some other firm? It is possible that over the years, more than one firm supplied punches or did the perforating.
2. Establishing the format of each punch. Was a complete row perforated in one operation? a block of stamps? or just a single stamp? I have blocks or strips of all four punches, and it would seem that all were single die punches capable of perforating only one stamp at a time. If this was the case then it is very doubtful if Slopers did the perforating! There are several different examples of damaged letters (missing holes) on Pf 50 and these

would make an interesting study. I must admit that I have not looked into this aspect at all thoroughly. It must be mentioned that if more than one stamp was perforated in the one operation then two punches would be required - one for the small stamps and one for the larger size stamps.

3. Establishing the order in which the various punches were used. I have listed the four punches as Pf.50, 51, 52, and 53, but it seems that 52 was introduced before 51. A more satisfactory order of listing may be established at a later date when more details are known.
4. Establishing the reasons for the change from one die to another. The fact that three different punches were introduced during 1941-42 would suggest that at least one punch was lost during the Blitz. Pf.51 looks to have been made very hurriedly by someone not expert in this work.

A check list of the stamps known to have been perforated is given below. This list is not believed to be complete and is published as a basis for further research. Details of any additional items not in the list would be most welcome.

CHECK LIST.



Pf.50 "NZ" five holes in height.

George V issue: Shaded background, Multiple block watermark.

2½d Blue	SG 422
6d Purple (ordinary paper)	SG 426a

George V issue: Solid background, Multiple block watermark.

1½d Red-brown	SG 441
2d Orange	442
3d Violet	444
4d Deep Grey-green	445
1s Bistre-brown	449

George V issue: Re-engraved High Values (Background around portrait consists of horizontal and diagonal shading lines.)

2/6 Chocolate	SG 450
---------------	--------

Edward VIII issue:

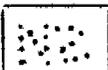
½d	Green	SG 457
1d	Scarlet	458
1½d	Red-brown	459

George VI issue:

½d	Green	SG 462
1d	Scarlet	463
1½d	Red-brown	464
2½d	Ultramarine	466
3d	Violet	467
4d	Grey-green	468
6d	Purple	470
10d	Turquoise-blue	474
1s	Bistre-brown	475

George VI issue: Recess printed High Values.

2/6	Brown	SG 476
-----	-------	--------



Pf.51 "NZ" four holes in height. Malformed "Z"

George VI issue: Original colours

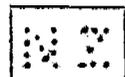
½d	Green	SG 462
2d	Orange	465
3d	Violet	467
6d	Purple	470
1s	Bistre-brown	475

George VI issue: Recess printed High Values.

2/6	Brown	SG 476
	Variety: Perfin inverted	
2/6	Yellow-green	476a

George VI issue: Lighter colours.

½d	Pale green	SG 485
1d	Pale scarlet	486
3d	Pale violet	490



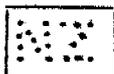
Pf.52 "Z" four holes in height. 3mm between letters.

George VI issue: Original colours.

2½d	Ultramarine (with perfin inverted, reversed and misplaced)	SG 466
3d	Violet	467
4d	Grey-green	468
6d	Purple	470
1s	Bistre-brown	475

George VI issue: Recess printed High Values.

2/6	Brown	SG 476
10s	Dark Blue	478



Pf. 53 "NZ" four holes in height. 2mm between letters.

George VI issue: Original colours.

6d	Purple	SG 470
1s	Bistre-brown	475

George VI issue: Recess printed High Values.

2/6	Yellow-green	SG 476a
5s	Red	477
10s	Ultramarine	478a

George VI issue: Lighter colours.

½d	Pale green	SG 485
1d	Pale scarlet	486
2d	Pale orange	488
2½d	Light ultramarine	489

George VI issue: Colour changes.

2½d	Pale scarlet	SG 507
-----	--------------	--------

George VI issue: Pictorial High Values.

5s	Red	SG 510
10s	Ultramarine	511

Queen Elizabeth issue: Multiple crown watermark.

1s	Bistre-brown	SG 584
1/3	Green	585
1/6	Grey-blue	586

Queen Elizabeth issue: Recess printed High Values.

2/6	Black-brown	SG 595a
5s	Rose-red	596a
10s	Blue	597
10s	Bright ultramarine	597a

FORCES MAIL - WORLD WAR II

"EGYPT PREPAID" CANCELLATIONS.

The British Forces Postal History Society and the Egyptian Study Circle, are embarked in a detailed study of these markings. Serial numbers were allocated from time to time, to the various Allied contingents in Egypt, including the New Zealand contingent.

A considerable list was included by Robin Startup, when he published "The Mails Went Through" but Mr. Benians of these two Societies has now asked for our help to fill in the details for a publication he is preparing to cover all Allied contingents.

The following serial numbers appear regularly on NZ mail, and are fairly well recorded. Further information is requested about periods of use.

21	FPO MAADI ?	May-Oct 41.
22	No. 1 N.Z.G.H. ?	July 41 - July 43
25	Base P.O.	March 1942 - July 43
30	FPO MAADI	March - Sept 1942
40	FPO N.Z.G.H. ?	Apr 41 - Dec 42
42	FPO No. 1 MAADI	? Dates
50	FPO No. 3 ISMALIA	June - Oct 1941
62	FPO No. 2 N.Z. Hospital	? Dates
87	FPO MAADI	? Dates

Other serial numbers have also been recorded on mail carrying N.Z. adhesives or addressed to New Zealand, but little is known, and information is requested about every recorded use.

Serial 14	In use August 1941	53
16		57
19		65
23		72
26	Geneifa Jan/Feb 42	80
28	N.Z. Club Cairo April/July 42	89
37		92
38	Maadi Aug 42	93
43		94
46	N.Z. Club July/Oct 43	N.Z. P.O. Cairo
52	July 41 to Jan 42	

I should be glad to have, to pass on to Mr. Benians, any information that members can provide, in particular, of any registered covers identifying a named New Zealand Field Post Office with a serial number.

G.E.C. Pratt.

THE 1d UNIVERSAL

Part 4

by M.G. Tomblson

Enough about the stamps themselves. Now for perforations.

You will have noticed examples of missing perf pins, and wondered if they could help to position stamps. I was fortunate enough to be able to check a full perforated sheet with 23 groups of one to three missing perfs. However, I was unable to find any pattern in the missing perfs, they seemed to be completely haphazard, not following any sequence that I could see.

We have been told that the perf 11 machine was used to re-perf stamps when the 14 machine was out of alignment. I am going to suggest that on odd occasions a sheet was withdrawn from the 14 machine only partially perfed, and finished on the 11 machine - or even issued partially imperf. My reasons here are that I have stamps from the Reserve plate with perf 11 on four sides and an off-centre perf 14 on one side only.

We can have double perf 11, so this machine also came out of alignment at times.

Quite often only part of a sheet was badly perfed, so we can find stamps with only partial mixed perfs. I have one block of 9 stamps mixed vertically with the top row showing varying amounts of the mixed perfs.

I think the most spectacular perf variety in the Universals is the double comb perf $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ on the Royle stamps. My copy is a vertical selvedge pair with both stamps double perfed, and the two double lines and corresponding side lines make it an item well worth viewing.

There are two forgeries in my collection. I would like more but they don't seem to come my way. The first is a wide perfed Dot plate stamp trimmed to imperf. It is evidently supposed to be a Slot Machine stamp, but close examination shows traces of perf 14 in a couple of places. The other had me wondering for a while. It is a nice pair on Pirie paper, perf 14

with one line of perf 11 to make a mixed perf. The imitation perf 11 gives the appearance of having been pushed in with a large pin, the holes are slightly jagged and worn. In the case of genuine perf 11, the holes are round, or if not punched out, the circle is impressed on the paper. In this case the circle is not visible, only a rough hole in the centre and blurred edges.

There is one most interesting item in my Slot Machine section. It is a wide margin imperf Reserve plate stamp which would appear to be one of those sold privately by Mr. Parker after June 1906. However, it bears a Wellington datestamp dated 1905. All slot machine stamps of 1905 have, at the least, two holes in the gutter between the stamps, so I am wondering if this is a proof or trial printing accidentally issued, an unrecorded imperf Reserve plate stamp, or just a datestamp error.

Some of the hardest Universals to find are the watermark varieties. I have looked at many stamps and have not found any. Those few I do have, have come from other collections. Maybe this scarcity is because the front of the stamp is so attractive no one looks at the back! I must admit that, except for the Basted Mills printings which were done intentionally, there is no philatelic significance in these hard-to-find stamps.

Throughout these writings it may appear that I am criticising those who have gone before. This is not my intention. I am merely trying to fill in a few gaps in existing records and to share my minor findings with others. I salute the contributors to the Handbooks, because they have done a wonderful job, and made collecting considerably easier for us beginners. I appeal to all collectors, if you have any information that is not in the Handbooks, please do not keep it to yourselves, make it into some sort of story, even bare facts, and let it be published so we can all share in your findings. Do not be afraid of being proved wrong - it is only by our mistakes that most of us learn, and I am sure that if the Handbooks had never been published, an awful lot of new information would not have been subsequently recorded.

Here are some tit-bits for postal history students.

Somewhere I have seen it authoritatively stated that plate 12 of the 1d Dominion was first used in 1912. I am afraid this is erroneous. Plate 13 was first used on 8th November 1909, and I have copies of stamps from plate 12 dated 21st and 24th December 1909 and 13th January 1910. This proves my contention that both plates were used from almost the first day of issue of the 1d Dominion, 8th November 1909.

Volume 3 states that Ocean Bay, in Port Underwood, opened

on 1st January 1904. My copy is dated 30th April 1901.

Another one is Orangiema, 18 miles NE of Waitotara, Taranaki. Volume 3 says it closed on 24th February 1922, but my nice block of 4 is dated 23rd December 1925.

One last matter of curiosity and interest. I have a horizontal pair of 1d Dominion which must be from a booklet printing. They are the only stamps that I have seen that have horizontal lines of shading in the curved ornament above the 'O' of ONE, and the second one is deformed in the top right corner. Does anyone know anything about these ?

In closing, I am going to suggest that any worthwhile collection of Universals is nowhere near complete unless it has the territorial overprints, a representative collection of the surface printed Universal and the 1d Dominion. These are all part of the 1d Universal postage theme, and collectors should endeavour to have as few gaps as possible, even of these comparatively uninteresting issues.

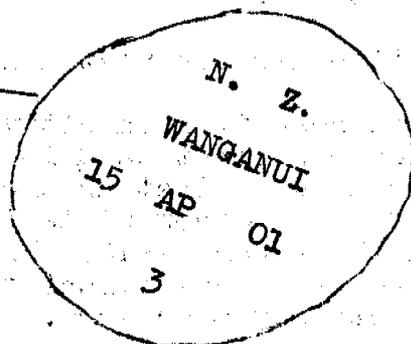
A HANGOVER FROM THE QUIZ.

At the meeting on the 30th March the following question by R.W. Stoddart was raised at the Quiz.

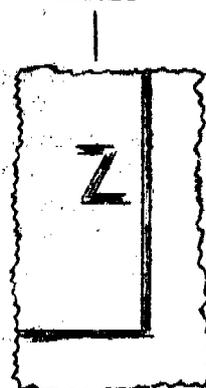
"I have a fiscal stamp similar to illustration Z 2 in C.P.'s Catalogue. It is YELLOW, with all over pattern, i.e. no clear panels at top and bottom. Lettering is as diagram below, the 2/6d and COUNTERPART being apparently overprinted in GREEN. Perhaps one of the earlier issues of doubtful status mentioned by C.P. (temp. page Z.1.) but any further information would be of interest, particularly the significance of the word COUNTERPART. Postmarked as shown."



P/MK



Watermark as shown here looking on the front



Mr. Bartrop pointed out that the only mention he could find in the Handbooks was on page 513 of Vol. 1. where it states, " In 1901 an error appeared, the plate for the 2/6 stamp for use on the counterpart of documents being employed by mistake instead of the ordinary duty type plate. The counterpart stamp was normally in yellow, but this printing was in deep grey-brown." Thus it would appear that the Counterpart stamp was for use on the counterpart of documents. Turning to my dictionary I find that the word counterpart means 'a thing so like another as to be mistakable for it' - or translated, I take this to mean an identical copy. Perhaps one of our more enlightened members can help!

As we have discovered so often in the past, once our President gets his teeth into something he doesn't let go. This time he was intrigued by the postmark. He produced two copies of the long type fiscal stamp bearing similar postmarks to that shown on Mr. Stoddart's counterpart stamp. The first was a ten shilling stamp cancelled with the Wanganui stamp dated 10 FE 00. The stamp was embossed and had clearly been fiscally used. The other example was a pound stamp, not embossed, cancelled with the Wanganui stamp dated 31 AU 88. In both cases the serial no. 3 appeared in the cancellation, as in Mr. Stoddart's example.

Mr. Bartrop drew attention to page 516 of Vol. 1, where it states, " At some of the smaller towns in the eighties, the cancellation on stamps used fiscally on legal documents was similar in type to - and in some cases was identical with - the postal cancellation." Interest was aroused as to whether any ink marks had been cleaned off the pound stamp. To settle this issue, Campbell Paterson took the stamp away for a closer inspection under the ultra-violet lamp. There were no traces of any cleaned-off ink marks, and no indication that this stamp had been fiscally used. In all probability it had been used for postal purposes. Thus Mr. Bartrop's two stamps confirm the statement made in the Handbook.

6d FLOWER WITHOUT WATERMARK.

There was a report in Stamp Collecting of May 30th, that the 6d Pikiarero had been found without the usual multiple NZ and Star wmk. One sheet only was reported. Campbell Paterson replied that his firm handled a sheet of this stamp in which the paper was unwatermarked, but that it had been offered as "apparently without watermark" as certain features about it led to the conclusion that it was a freak due to faulty paper manufacture. For this reason the stamp will not appear as a variety in the OP catalogue.

THE VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY.

The recently issued (May 29th) 1/9d Great Britain stamp to commemorate the bicentenary of Capt. Cook's first voyage of discovery in the South Pacific in 1768 has interested many NZ collectors. The stamp designed by Clive Abbott, features the explorers signature and his ship the "Endeavour." Printing was by Harrisons in photogravure on non-watermarked paper. The stamp has the usual phosphor lines.

Cook was born on the 27th October 1728 in Whitby, Yorkshire. He left school at an early age to become a farmer's boy. At the age of 18 he became an apprentice to the coal shipping trade, and turned down the chance of command of his first ship at the age of 27 in order to join the Royal Navy and fight against the French. He joined the RN as an able seaman, but within four years had risen to the rank of master. He made a name for himself by accurately sounding and charting the St. Lawrence whilst under fire from the French guns, whilst Wolfe planned the capture of Quebec. As a result of this exploit he was later sent to chart the coast of Labrador and Newfoundland.

Cook also studied astronomy, and it is possible that this pastime, together with the good name he had already established for himself, helped in his selection to command the Endeavour on her voyage of discovery in 1768.

In 1716, Edmund Halley (the man who discovered Halley's comet), foretold that the transit of the planet of Venus across the sun would take place in 1769. Knowing he would not be alive to see it, he left detailed instructions for observations to take place. These observations would enable the astronomers to calculate the distance from the earth to the sun.

In June, 1766, Capt. Samuel Wallis discovered Tahiti, and the Royal Society of Astronomers realising that this was a good spot to view the transit, requested the British Government to send out an expedition. The King signified his approval, and in April 1768 the Admiralty informed the Royal Society that the bark Endeavour (370 tons) under the command of Lieutenant James Cook would transport the astronomers to the South Pacific.

Cook was also given the additional task of searching for the continent believed to lie to the south.

The Endeavour sailed from Plymouth on the 26th August 1768, just two months before Cook's 40th birthday. He reached Tahiti on the 11th April 1769 and landed on the 13th. On the 13th July 1769, the Endeavour left Tahiti, the transit of Venus having been observed successfully on the 3rd June. Cook took with him a young chief named Tupia and headed south to complete the second part of his task.

Cook's re-discovery of N.Z. on the 7th October 1769 is a landmark in N.Z. history, and was the first recorded sighting of N.Z. since Abel Tasman discovered the west coast on the 13th December 1642.

Editor.

THE 1/- BISECT.

A bisected copy of the 1855 1/- green on blue paper (SG 60), on piece, recently fetched £650 in a London sale.

AIRMAILS.

Mr. H. Barrett is looking for assistance with a problem which a scarcity of material does nothing to help. He writes:-

"A special printing of the 1931 7d. airstamp was produced to frank the first official airmail from N.Z. to Australia, flown by C.T.P. Ulm in "Faith in Australia". On March 29th Kingsford Smith flew the Southern Cross from N.Z. to Australia. No special stamps were produced, but to distinguish this flight, special covers were issued and cancelled with a distinctive datestamp. Of the 41,000 covers issued, 1,500 had printed errors, e.g. March 1935 for March 1934, and OOT for OCT. These errors are easily recognised and are much sought after, but little attention is paid to the engraved datestamp. I have found three separate cancellations differing in the position of letters 'TASMAN AIR.' Can anyone help?
KAITAIA

G.C. MONK
Honorary KIWI Editor.