



the kiwi

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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MARCH 1976

WHOLE 136

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1976, AT THE NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB, 1, WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON, SW1A 2HE, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M. THIS IS COMPETITION DAY, AND FULL DETAILS WILL BE FOUND ON PAGES 22 - 25 OF THIS 'KIWI'. IN ADDITION, MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING ALONG ANY ITEMS OF PHILATELIC INTEREST DATING FROM 1953 TO THE PRESENT TIME. YOUR CHAIRMAN WILL BE CO-ORDINATING THE PROCEEDINGS, SO PLEASE CONTACT HIM ON ARRIVAL.

HON. SECRETARY AND HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Committee is pleased to announce that these important posts, previously so efficiently carried out by Cyril and Rita Gilders, have now been filled.

HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY

Terry Brock, 19, Woodhall Close, Bengeo, Hertford, Herts., SG14 3ED. Tel. No.: 0992-56427.

Terry Brock will have responsibility for the Society's general correspondence and membership formalities.

HONORARY ASSISTANT & MEETING SECRETARY

David Crow, 205, Royston Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 4BT
Telephone Number - 0702-63055

David Crow will be responsible for the details related to the organisation of the years programmes of meetings which will include bookings, speakers, attendance, registry, etc.

HONORARY PUBLICITY OFFICER

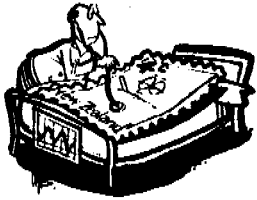
D.S.Hague, 127, Princess Avenue, Palmers Green, London, N13 6NE
Telephone Number - (01)-888-5058

Douglas Hague has assumed this post, with the object of seeing that the Society receives as much publicity as possible.

EDITORIAL.

The last issue of 'Kiwi' contained a number of errors, which were entirely the fault of your Editor. For these, please accept my sincere apologies. However, I am surprised that only one member took the trouble to point them out to me, which makes me wonder how many of you bother to read those pages of 'Kiwi' which are given over to Society News and so on.

POST- OP



IT PAYS to be a postmark
—especially if you're ill.

A group of overseas doctors (who are also philatelists) are keen to get their tweezers on datestamp impressions from Post Offices in New Zealand Hospitals.

Of course everyone knows philately is more a disease than a hobby — but has anyone come up with a cure?

Without wishing to make excuses, the reason for these errors creeping in were due to the fact that the last issue was prepared against a very tight deadline, while your Editor was not in the best of health. The attached illustration is taken from New Zealand Post Office News, Issue 57, December, 1975. Yours truly is represented by the 4 cent stamp! The important errors are corrected in this issue, the others I will leave you to spot for yourselves. No prizes to be awarded!

One or two members have written to me, advising me that they have not received certain issues of the 'Kiwi'. To the best of my ability, I have dealt with these myself, but I would like to point out that I am only the Editor, and that publication and distribution is still handled by my predecessor, E.N.Barton, Esq., 11a, Haig Avenue, Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset, BH13 7AJ. Such requests should be addressed to him, and I am sure he will handle them with the efficiency and help he has given to the Society and its Members in the past.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

RESIGNED

A.W.Badenoch, 149, Harley Street, London, W1N 2DE.

A.R.Brodie, 119, Kennington Park Road, London, SE11 4JL.

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

B.P.Flack, 28, Morley Drive, Vicars Cross, Chester, CH3 5PG

L.Neil Jones, 7, Hanover Close, Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

M.J.Wood, 81, Park Way, Pound Hill, Crawley, Sussex, RH10 3BS.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

E.W.Amos, Castle House, Knockholt, Sevenoaks, Kent.
(previously of Deer Leap Cottage, Knockholt.)

D.B.Clayson, 3632 50 102nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68124, U.S.A.
(previously of the University of Nebraska.)

B.M.Hargreaves, "Endrick Lodge", Seddon Road, Hale,
Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 2UH.
(previously of Sale, Cheshire.)

ANNUAL COMPETITION

This annual event was announced on page 7 of the last issue of the 'Kiwi', and I am afraid that this is where the gremlins crept in and made a bit of a mess of the announcement.

Herewith is the fully checked, authentic, and, I sincerely hope,

accurate announcement for you all. Remember, we are expecting a bumper entry this year, so please do not let us down.

Following the deliberations of the Committee, the details of Sections, allocation of marks, and trophies, now follows.

CLASSIC SECTION

AWARDS

Condition.....	30 pts.	Stacey Hooker Cup and
Completeness.....	20 pts.	Silver-Gilt Medallion
Presentation.....	25 pts.	
Philatelic Knowledge...	25 pts.	Runner-up :-
	100 pts.	Paua Book Ends

In this section there is a handicap of a 5 per cent deduction from the grand total gained on all "Chalon" entries.

MODERN SECTION 1. This Section now includes entries of the King George VI period.

Condition.....	20 pts.	Noel Turner Trophy and
Completeness & Rarity...	30 pts.	Silver-Gilt Medallion
Presentation.....	25 pts.	
Philatelic Knowledge...	25 pts.	Runner-up :-
	100 pts.	John D. Evans Trophy

MODERN SECTION 11.

As Modern Section 1.	Kiwi Shield and
	Silver-Gilt Medallion
	Runner-up :-
	Paua Musical Box

POSTAL HISTORY SECTION.

Knowledge and personal study displayed.....	40 pts.
Originality and importance of the Exhibit.....	25 pts.
Relative Condition.....	15 pts.
Presentation, including write-up.....	20 pts.
	100 pts.

AWARD :- John J. Bishop Trophy and Silver-Gilt Medallion

The Barton Bowl will be awarded, at the discretion of the Judge, to the best non-trophy winning entry showing the greatest merit.

Each entry shall consist of twelve normal sheets, each sheet to be contained within a protective cover and numbered in order of sequence. It is desirable that a short note, of not more than eighty words, should be placed at the back of the first sheet, between the sheet and the plastic cover, giving for the aid of the Judge, the theme of the entry, and calling attention to any items of interest and rarity.

Postal entries should be sent to the Competition Secretary :-
W.H. Young, Esq., "Parkwood", Bletchinglye Lane, Rotherfield,
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Such postal entries should arrive with Mr. Young not later than Tuesday, 23rd March, 1976.

Entries will be accepted on the day if produced to Mr. Young or

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one of the Officers of the Society, Immediately on arrival, and before judging starts.

To repeat the final paragraph of the last announcement concerning the Annual Competition, your Officers are hoping for, indeed, they are expecting, a massive entry for this year's Annual Competition. All the trophies are well worth winning, so do have a go, and Good Luck to you all!

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEETING HELD SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY 1976 - FORCES MAIL.

John Watts opened the meeting with apologies for absence from A.P.Berry, G.C.Hamilton, R.Martin, Capt. B.J.Pratt and Noel Turner. One member, F.W.Benions, attending his first meeting, was made welcome. It was announced that T.H.Brock and D.C.Crow would as from now take on the appointments of General Secretary and Meetings Secretary. Their help is opportune, as the loss of Cyril and Rita Gilders has been sorely felt. We are glad to hear that Cyril is getting on well. For the next meeting, the Annual Competition, members with any odd interesting items of post-1953 vintage were asked to bring them along. These will be used to form the nucleus for discussion during the period of judgement of entries.

The afternoon's entertainment was conducted by Gerald Pratt. He exhibited Forces Mail and related material from both World Wars. They included markings from Military Camps in New Zealand and port markings from France. It was interesting to note that the three New Zealand brigades shipped to France in World War 1 were designated postal letters one, two and three. These were followed by alphabet letters in addition to the brigade numbers to identify the dates. It is doubtful if many people here realize just how many troops New Zealand sent to Europe. In World War 1 they numbered 120,000. A massive contribution for a country of, at that time, one and a half million. Also on show were pictures from the trenches and old news paper articles. For World War 11, material from Egypt was dominant. Divisional markings included K.W. for New Zealand, and B.W. for Australia. Items from the Pacific theatre were also shown, as were items from the Korean War. Army markings from the Pacific were particularly difficult to identify - they had no dates. Air Force forwarding offices had numbers ranging from 300 to 350. It was also pointed out that many squadrons filled by New Zealand personnel were R.A.F. and thus on casual observation did not appear to be the New Zealand units, which of course they were. When Japanese Officers surrendered it was customary for them to give their swords to their opposite numbers. Our speaker, when his opposite number surrendered, was also presented with a pedigree of both the Officer and his sword. Both these items were exhibited. It would be nice to see the sword itself, should this ever be possible.

The vote of thanks was given by F.W.Benions. I understand that Mr. Benions is the co-author of a book soon to be published on New Zealand Forces Mail. This will be a must for everyone interested in this field of enquiry. In an area where markings were designed to fool enemy intelligence it is beyond the scope of the amateur reporter to give more than a brief precis.

I.G.FOGG

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THE EXCHANGE PACKET.

Material of all grades is badly needed for the Packet. Please help. Remember those odd items you filed away? Put them to the Packet and they will help finance your current interests.

I hope shortly to launch a new service for Members. It will be in addition to and not in place of the Exchange Packet. Briefly, it will comprise the more valuable New Zealand items, such as the Chalon Heads, and such a service is intended to deal with the club books which are not suitable for circulation in the club box.

Such books will only be sent to those members who request it. You will receive the package by registered post. Take whatever you want, and send the package on by registered post to the next member on the list, which will be included in the package. Payment will then be sent to the Packet Secretary in the usual way.

Should you be interested in receiving such a package, will you please write to me along the following lines :-

NAME.....(PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS)

ADDRESS.....(PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS)

I wish to receive the additional packet. I understand I am to be responsible for the material whilst it is in my hands, and until I have posted it by registered post to the next member on the list.

SIGNATURE.....

I.G.FOGG, 42, Oxford Road South, Chiswick, London, W4 3DH.

RELIEF DATESTAMPS - A DISCOVERY.

The article on relief datestamps in the 'Kiwi' editions of May and July, 1975, has led a Society member to forward to me two specimens which he had turned up in some general postmark material of the 1930's. Both were of great interest.

One, from Kaingaroa Forest, was previously quite unrecorded. What made this relief particularly interesting was that it was dated 6 DE 37, - that is, just five days after this office opened. Obviously, the engraved datestamp did not arrive in time for the opening, and a relief was used as a stopgap measure. This in itself was an unusual occurrence, as there are only two or three other recorded occasions from this period when a relief had to be used when a new office was opened - generally, the engraved datestamp was always available on time. Nowadays, things are no longer so efficient, judging from the large number of new offices now opening using reliefs. This example also illustrates the perennial problem with reliefs of fitting a long name into the limited space in the curved slot - the office name has been abbreviated to KAINGAROA FT.

The other specimen forwarded was of TAUPŌ, dated 31 OC 36. Nothing out of the ordinary in that, you might think. But this was only the second example of this usage so far discovered.

I am glad the member concerned took the trouble to forward these two items, because not only do they provide new and valuable information, but they also prove that this is a field in which even the ordinary collector could well possess a piece of considerable rarity, without realizing its significance.

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REVIEWS.

New Zealand Registered Mail - User Cachets.

compiled by A.I.Breen, I.D.Campbell, and R.M.Startup.

This is one more of the outstanding Studies published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, and continues the series on Registration Markings for which Professor Ian Campbell has been so largely responsible, and for keeping the lists up to date by regular addenda in Mail Coach.

This new study describes the markings used by Government Departments and large users of the Registration Service, who send so much Registered Mail that they (and the Post Office) need a procedure by which Registered packets can be listed and numbered in the office of the sender rather than by hand at the Post Office. This involves their being allocated their own labels or cachets and Serial Numbers.

These labels and cachets have been in use since 1910, only two years after Registration Labels were first introduced. They have not been fully listed previously, though a preliminary description was given in Mail Coach, Volume 8, Number 11, July 1972, pages 201 and 213 to 216, and elsewhere in the Mail Coach. There is a brief reference to them on page 9 of Professor Ian Campbell's "Illustrated Handbook of New Zealand Registration Labels, 1908-65"

The Authors invite readers with such material to provide additional information.

GERALD PRATT

Cook Islands - Early Postal History.

by F.B.Howard-White, M.C., F.R.P.S.L.

Unfortunately, your Editor has been unable to find a member of the Society with sufficient knowledge of this subject to review this, another Study produced by the Postal History Society of New Zealand. However, an idea of the scope of this 20 page Study can be gathered from the Author's introduction, which reads :-

"The archives of the London Missionary Society (now the Council for World Mission) are world-wide in scope and a considerable number of them relate to the South Seas.

"Permission to examine them having courteously been granted by the School of Oriental and African Studies (in whose custody they now are), the following paper describes the outcome.

"Missionaries sent out from England to the South Seas were the first to introduce Christianity into the Hervey or Cook Islands.

"By abstracting details of all postal markings and the names of visiting vessels from the extensive letters that they wrote from their various mission stations, it has been possible to build up the early postal history of those islands.

"Allusion is also made to anything in that correspondence that merits special notice, augmented by particulars culled from the official history of the London Missionary Society."

ALLAN P. BERRY

Copies of these monographs can be obtained from the Postal History Society of New Zealand, P.O.Box 25-105, St. Heliers, Auckland 5, New Zealand. The price is \$NZ1.00 per copy, post paid.

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CHALON HEADS - 3d. VALUE

It is a curious fact that recently, in 'Kiwi', Volume XXIV, Number 3, page 49, there was reported an accidental imperf. copy in lilac of this stamp, postmarked 11th August, 1864; and in the same Volume, Number 5, page 98, the suggestion is made that there was a small imperf. printing in 1864. Before dealing with these two finds, if such they are, there is a third and much older question, which I hope may be finally cleared up, over the existence of the 3d. value Brown Lilac shade perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, SG 116, CP A 3 d(i).

Dealing with the third question first, I remember at the Annual General Meeting in November, 1964, discussing with Noel Turner, then the Hon. Treasurer but to a large extent then as now the chief architect and preservationist of the Society, the publicity of the Chalon Head by articles in the 'Kiwi', because it was then being said that collecting these stamps was becoming "out of range" with the result of failing interest in this early issue.

As a result, I wrote an article on the 3d. value which appeared in 'Kiwi', Volume XLV, Number 3, page 11, in which in passing I referred to various shades, some of which are now included in Campbell Paterson's Catalogue as new Classifications for which I understand Mr. Marcel Stanley of New Zealand was responsible, and these are to be found as A 3(d)(2) to (10) in the current Campbell Paterson Catalogue.

In my article in 'Kiwi', Volume XLV, Number 3, page 11, I mentioned that SG 116, the Brown Lilac shade perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, was a certified existing stamp, but doubts whether it ever existed had been expressed.

This comment produced, nearly two years afterwards, in 'Kiwi', Volume XVI, Number 1, page 13, a letter from Marcel Stanley in which he stated that at the time of the introduction of the Government Comb Perforating Machine, Perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, in 1864, there were still stocks of sheets of imperf. Brown Lilac stamps and some of these sheets were thus perforated. Marcel Stanley adds the useful tip that if the perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ does not show characteristics of the Comb perf. then the chances are that the stamp is a colour changeling from usually a mauve stamp. The 3d. Lilac and Mauve stamps of 1867 were perforated on the 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ line machine.

My reply to this was that Dr. Button had suggested in the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 11, page 277 that the 3d. was an instance of the colour having been affected by the use of the gum which had stained the paper and attacked the pigment. Dr. Button, originator of the above theory, questioned the bonafides of the Brown Lilac shade, and Volume 11 states "this is a problem that will require further investigation".

I pointed out in my reply that since 1947 from specialised Auction Catalogues I could trace eight copies between 1947 and March 1960, the latter being a copy from the famous C.W. Meredith Collection. No further investigation as to the existence of SG 116 appears to have been carried out.

After publication of my article in 'Kiwi', Volume XVI, Number 1, page 13, I do recall our dear and I so regret late President, Harry LaCoste Bartrop showing me at a subsequent meeting of the Society a certified as genuine copy of SG 116 and I also recall

NEW ZEALAND.

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Mrs. Gordon Kaye, now I think our best authority on the Chalon Heads, mentioning to me that the research her late husband had with that of Benjamin Goodfellow been responsible for a great deal of the research into the existence of SG 116 on which the statement in Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand was based I think in 1938, that "a few sheets in the Brown Lilac were perforated 12½ but copies in this shade are rare and should not be confused with discoloured copies of the later shades", i.e. Lilac and Mauve.

And so, the problem which required "further investigation" according to Volume 11 in 1949 has not so far as I know had any further investigation as far as the Volumes of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand are concerned. I hope some reference will appear in Volume VI.

There are very few copies of SG 116. Of the eight copies above referred to, four have R.P.S. Certificates and one of these, ex the C.W.Meredith collection I was able to acquire at the Auction on 10th September, 1975, described as a "fine" copy with R.P.S. Certificate. The Certificate and the above research shows some of the history of this Stamp as follows :-

1930 28th March. The Certificate shows the Stamp was submitted by Col. C.G.S.Harvey, D.S.O., who was elected to the Royal in 1942 and is now an Honorary Fellow. The Certificate is signed by the late Sir John Wilson as Chairman of the Expert Committee.

1960 16th March. Stamp then catalogued at £35.00 and offered for £15.00 at the Auction of the "Fine Collection formed by C.W.Meredith, F.R.P.S.L., of Dundee".

1975 10th September. Stamp purchased by me. New Zealand Catalogue value \$110, S.G. Catalogue value £75.00.

Can we hope that the further investigation will confirm the existence of SG 116 and after due consideration find unproven the suggestions of Dr. Button of sometime before 1949?

Secondly, the "find" of the small printing in 1864 mentioned in 'Kiwi', Volume XXIV, Number 5, page 98. I have sent to John Robbins, the author of this find, a suggestion that no such printing existed, but that a 3d. perf. 13 at Dunedin in 1864 is probably a changeling. I hope and expect that subsequent research and an examination of this stamp will satisfy all concerned that no such small printing (unrecorded in Lilac) existed in 1864.

Thirdly, the "find" of an accidental imperf. copy of the 3d. value postmarked 11th August, 1864, - more than two years before the conversion of the Comb perforating machine to a line perforating head. This is said in 'Kiwi', Volume XXIV, Number 3, page 49, to be in a Lilac shade and, as the announcement is abstracted from Campbell Paterson's New Zealand Bulletin, I have little doubt that the shade is correct, but is the statement correct, namely "this predates the earliest recorded accidental imperf. by something approaching three years".?

No Lilac shade except Brown Lilac is known before 1867, so that the explanation must be that a stamp of a shade of Brown Lilac of the 1862 printing has either been incorrectly described as Lilac or is a colour changeling to that shade. Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand states at page 63 that 28 lbs of ink were

supplied with the 3d. Plate and the colour was described as Lilac, but the stamps of 1862 are known only in Brown Lilac and the colour was kept uniform. The ink, according to Volume 1, had a tendency to fade and copies are found in which there appears to be a smaller amount of Blue in the mixture - this however would produce a shade of paler brown lilac, not lilac. I do not think after fifty years of research that one can suddenly find a single copy of a Stamp and say that accidental imperf. existed in 1864 before any perforating machine has ever been recorded as breaking down, to produce copies known as accidentally imperf. Until a further copy appears I say that the conventional date of 1867 for accidental imperf. remains.

JOHN D. EVANS

MRS. GORDON KAYE writes :-

Mr. John Evans has very kindly allowed me a preview of his article on the Chalon Heads - 3d. Value.

Mr. Evans has studied these particular stamps in great depth and he has much supporting material in his collection. A comparison with Mr. Robbins' stamp is awaited with interest.

Historically, the period of use of Davies' first printing of 120,000 in Brown Lilac was limited to six months. This was from 1st January, 1863, to June, 1863, when its requirement was greatly reduced by the change in the Marseilles rate to 4d. the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., although it continued to meet the foreign newspaper rate. In 1867 the Legislature decided that the interprovincial letter rate should be 3d. for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., to come into force at once (March). The balance of the Brown Lilac printing was then issued to the Post Offices.

The same criteria applies to the discovery of an alleged "accidental imperf." copy of the 3d. Value, dated 11th August, 1864. (Campbell Paterson's New Zealand Bulletin, Vol. XII, No. 9, April, 1975, and reprinted in abstracted form in the 'Kiwi', Vol. XXIV, No. 3, May, 1975, page 49.) The first breakdown of the perforating machine took place in 1867, as is proved by all the known copies of the "accidental imperf." on entire.

DR. K.J.McNAUGHT, commenting on John Robbins' original article writes as follows :-

The reference to the paper being whiter than normal raises the question whether this stamp has been treated with a bleaching agent. If so, the reddish component of the brown-lilac may have been bleached out, leaving an apparent lilac. This possibility should be considered.

JOHN ROBBINS replies to this point as follows :-

While it is possible that the paper may have been bleached, this does not explain all the differences. There is the unusual thinness of the paper, quite unlike that of any other 3d. imperf.; there is the other record of a 'lilac' with an 1864 date; and, what I did not mention, the colour is deeper in tone than that of the normal stamp. Also, the quality of the ink is different; the usual printing is rather blurred (particularly when looked at under a glass) due, in my interpretation, to the use of an ink of poor rheological properties. In the new specimen the printing is much cleaner.

JOHN EVANS, to whom these last two comments were sent, finally comments as follows :-

Bleaching is possible, usually by the use of peroxide, sometimes diluted in unbalanced quantities when an attempt is made to clean a stamp or alter its shade. No suggestions are made of any deliberate bleaching, but there is a possibility. As to the thin paper, the final printings of the 3d. Value were on thin paper - see Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 79, but it is well known that the Star Paper varied considerably in thickness. For instance, on page 636 of the same Volume one finds "Very thin, almost pelure paper was used in 1864-5 and in 1871."

EDITOR'S NOTE :-

I do not think that any of the problems discussed above can be resolved until such time as the stamps in question can be compared one with the other.

SOME NEW STAMP VARIETIES - FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

JOHN ROBBINS' article published in 'Kiwi', Volume XXIV, Number 5, pages 98 to 101 has prompted further correspondence over and above that referred to in the previous article.

DR. K.J.McNAUGHT writes as follows, and, where relevant, John Robbins' comments have been added in brackets.

2d. Chalon. The roulette 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ is most unlikely to be genuine on a plate 2 stamp.

(I think that the roulette was made by somebody playing about on an already perforated stamp; perhaps by a clerk in some firm with not enough to do!)

1/- Chalon. From the description, this seems like a rebacked stamp.

(I thought of rebacking; but the stamp appears to be homogeneous and if rebacking was attempted why wasn't the job done properly so that there were no thins.)

1d. Universal. Basted 14 x 14 x 11 x 14 & 11 double. This is a most abnormal combination - irregular compound, plus mixed perfs, plus double 11. It is usual for the reperforation to be better centred than the original perfs, but sometimes the reperforation is no better, or worse, than the original. The suggestion that the stamp was reperforated by the 14 machine is possible, as I know of a collector in Invercargill who has an 8d. Pictorial perf. 11 all round and reperforated 14 on one side to correct a badly aligned perf. 11.

K.G.V.1/-. A.A.Orton, a member of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain, has contributed notes for Volume VI of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand on King George V stamps perforated in two steps, using two machines of the same gauge. A.A.Orton would be most interested to inspect pairs such as those described, in order to check against "proof strikes" from the different machines. However, I doubt whether a shift of only $\frac{1}{2}$ mm would be considered by A.A.Orton to constitute sufficient evidence of use of two machines, or two separate perforating operations. It is far more likely that this merely indicates that a minor adjustment was made to correct the alignment during the perforating of the particular sheets.

(The displacement is rather more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. If realignment was

attempted the results were not entirely successful. In one case the bottom stamp is well centred and in the other the top stamp. The degree of misalignment is typical of that met with in the recognised two-perf. pairs. Furthermore, would it be part of the operating practice to stop a comb perforating machine in the middle of its operation; I thought that the feed forward mechanism was automatic once operations had started.)

K.G.V.1/- imperf. Singles always have to be treated with reserve. Rarely we find abnormally tall stamps, and of course abnormally short stamps, and therefore this is no final proof, but why not consider the possibility that this was from one of the 1922 sheets issued with the top four rows imperf. According to Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 317, one such sheet was found at the Wairoa Post Office.

(While this could be one of the Wairoa stamps, if so, it travelled a long way before being used. Furthermore, I would not describe the shade as vermilion but as orange-vermilion. I would also hazard the opinion that the stamp is from the later plates. Although the Handbook is not explicit, the location of the paragraph relating to the Wairoa issues does imply that they are from the earlier plates.)

COLIN HAMILTON writes as follows :-

Not having seen the actual examples that John Robbins discusses in his article, I cannot comment directly, but I venture to make one or two general observations which are, I think, pertinent.

K.G.V.1/-. Mr. Robbins suggests that some sheets of this value might have been perforated in two separate stages, either by the same machine, or by two machines both guaging $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$. In theory this is quite possible, and a proving piece demonstrating such an occurrence would be of major interest and significance. Alas, a pair or block showing horizontal misalignment of two consecutive sets of perforation holes (as described by Mr. Robbins) is not in itself conclusive. By far the most likely cause of a misalignment of this kind would be a deliberate lateral adjustment made by the machine operator to correct a developing inaccuracy (for example, if the sheet concerned had up to that point been passing through the machine slightly out of true). Another possibility would be an accidental misplacement during the passage of the sheet through the machine.

Similarly, longitudinal misplacements of successive strikes can and do occur, either due to "understepping" (resulting in partly overlapping perforations), or due to "overstepping" (resulting in an imperforate gap between strikes).

I have seen examples of all these variations, some very slight, some quite spectacular, in issues ranging from the First Sidefaces and the 1d. Universal (Royle perf. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$) to the 3 cent Christmas stamp of 1970. Perhaps the most notable of all occurred in a sheet of the 2d. + 1d. Health Stamp of 1953, where the misalignment was both lateral (slight) and longitudinal (very considerable). It should be noted that in this case the direction of perforating was horizontally across the sheet.

Having said all that, however, I cannot emphasise too strongly that if two sets of se-tenant perforations (whether they be misaligned or not) are demonstrably the products of different

perforating heads, even if of the same guage (such as occur in a few values of the King Edward VII definitives), that is an entirely different matter - one in which I, and I am sure many others, would be keenly interested!

In describing another copy of the K.G.V. 1/-, which he believes to be from an imperforate sheet, Mr. Robbins states: "...the horizontal dimensions are such that the stamp could just have been taken from a normal sheet.....Vertically, however, the dimensions are too great for the stamp to have come from a normally perforated sheet". In considering such a possibility one must take account of the fact that the heads used to perforate the 1/- were invariably of the single comb type, and perforating was invariably from bottom to top of the sheet (so that the vertical sides of all stamps were perforated by the short rows of the comb). The width of any stamp so perforated is pre-ordained, and fixed absolutely, by the distance between the short rows of the comb. On the other hand, the depth of such a stamp can vary, as mentioned earlier. It follows, therefore, that when assessing the likelihood of a single copy being genuinely imperforate (given the circumstances applying to the 1/-), the vital consideration is its overall width; its vertical measurement has no relevance in this connection. If perforating were performed across the sheet, precisely the opposite would apply, of course.

1d. 1898. The description by Mr. Robbins is consistent in all respects bar three with the item being a cut-out from the 1d. postal stationery envelope of 1899-1900. The three exceptions are:

- (i) That it shows the design of the 1898 1d., rather than the redrawn version of 1900.
- (ii) That it shows the Row 5, stamp 6 re-entry from plate 1 (incidentally the only re-entry recorded in this position occurs on plate 1 from the redrawn die!)
- (iii) That the vertical laid effect in the paper is at half-inch intervals.

The electros used to print the "stamps" on the 1899-1900 envelopes were taken up from the impressions in the top right corner of plate 1 made from the redrawn die. One of these impressions was that which printed Row 1, stamp 4 in the issued sheets of stamps, and showed a prominent re-entry, with doubling characteristics which could conceivably be confused with those on Row 5, stamp 6 from the same plate. Finally, the paper used for the envelopes showed vertical laid characteristics at one-inch intervals.

If Mr. Robbins' description is accurate, I have no idea what it is he has. But if on re-examination it tallies with the details outlined above, then almost certainly it is a postal stationery cut-out as suggested.

From Postal Auction No. 8, Donald F. Ion, 49, Arawa Street, Rotorua, New Zealand.

Boer War 1½d., Perf. 11, 1900. Mint pair double perfs. Partly patched over (officially?).

This item could be added to the list given at the end of the article entitled "Gummed and Perforated Afterwards", by John D. Evans, published in 'Kiwi', Vol. XXIV, No. 6, pages 117 - 118.

SHEDDING 'LIGHT' ON "GRASS ROOTS"!

A glance at the 3d. value of the 1940 Centennial Set shows it features the landing of the "early settlers" at Petone Beach in 1840. These people were mainly from Devon and Cornwall in the United Kingdom and were settled by the New Zealand Company at Taranaki, the settlement becoming known as New Plymouth.

Our young friends in New Zealand may like to know a little from whence these people came. PLYMOUTH was originally a little place called Sutton, which due to its strategic importance became one of Britain's chief ports dating as far back as the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth, and that great sea captain Sir Francis Drake, who circumnavigated the world in 1577 in a ship named the Pelican, later renamed the Golden Hind.

Drake became Mayor of Plymouth in 1581, and in 1588 he defeated the Spanish Armada in the English Channel.

The Pilgrim Fathers set sail from Plymouth in 1620 to discover a 'new world' in America.

Plymouth boasts a huge Citadel built by King Charles II after a three year seige during the Civil War.

In 1698 the Eddystone lighthouse was built on a dangerous rock of a mile long about 13 miles out to sea. The lighthouse was built of wood by a Mr. Winstanley of Essex who having great confidence in his building decided in November, 1703, to do some repairs and stay in the lighthouse for a few days. On the night of the 26th the greatest storm ever recorded occurred and in the morning, the lighthouse, Mr. Winstanley and his builders had all disappeared.

A Mr. Lovet was granted a lease of the rock for 99 years, and the patent for building a second lighthouse. His designer was a silk merchant named Rudyard of Ludgate Hill. This building was of oak and iron, the bottom being filled with 500 tons of stone. We were at war with France at the time, and on one occasion a French privateer took off all the builders and imprisoned them in France. Louis XIV, who was king at that time, on hearing of their capture sent them back again, saying though at war with England, he was not at war with mankind. The lighthouse, completed in 1708, stood for 47 years. During the night of 2nd December, 1755, the top of the lantern caught fire, and Henry Hall, a lively 94 year old keeper on watch did his best to put out the fire, but the fire being above him caused molten lead to run down his throat. Calling the other keeper to help they found the fire gradually burned downwards and drove them both out onto the rock. A Mr. Edwards observed the fire from the mainland and sent out a boat to the lighthouse. The sea was so rough the men had to be hauled through the sea by ropes to the boat. Henry Hall lived for 12 days, the lead from his stomach weighing 7 ozs, 5 drs. is reported to be in Edinburgh Museum, though it is quite expected to be at Trinity House in London.

Mariners, experienced in having a light on the rock, were anxious for a replacement, so Trinity House placed a Light Vessel to guard the position temporarily.

In 1756, they approved a design for a new lighthouse by a clock-maker named Smeaton, a Fellow of the Royal Society, who recommended him. Smeaton's base and tower were entirely of stone, which at first met with displeasure from the Elder Brethren. He

designed his tower from the trunk of an oak tree. After a tedious five days over the rough roads from London to Plymouth in March, 1756, he hired a field by the harbour and erected workshops and built boats for both living in and carrying the stones to the rock. The hardest rock on Exmoor and Dartmoor were sought for building the tower. Dartmoor granite is calculated by modern geologists to be about 275 million years old. Though most of the stones weighed one ton, some were two and a half tons, all were accurately cut and dovetailed and fitted into place in the workshop, to leave as little work as possible on arriving at the rock. Each stone was numbered and a model made of wood so that in an emergency any of them could be replaced. The experiments he carried out in cement making resulted in the formulae used today. On 16th October, 1759, the light shone out from this the first rock built lighthouse in the open sea, for which 988 tons of granite had been used at a cost of £40,000.

At first the light was provided by 24 candles, then in 1810, by 24 oil lamps with reflectors behind them. Incidentally, this is how the Wakefields would have seen the lighthouse when the ship 'Tory' sailed for New Zealand on her 96 day run, Colonel William Wakefield choosing Port Nicholson as a landing place, prior to the purchase of Taranaki. In 1845 a dioptric lens was used with a single light in the centre.

In 1870, cracks were observed in the rock supporting the lighthouse, and another one was built by Sir James Douglass, Engineer-in-Chief to Trinity House. It was opened by the then Duke of Edinburgh in 1882. This was an improved model of larger stones. It contained 4,600 tons of granite and was completed at a cost of £60,000. The light was 140 feet above the water, whereas Smeaton's was 96 feet. Inside the lighthouse cut into the stone of the living room are the words "Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it". This, the fourth lighthouse built on the rock is the one featured on the 3d. value of the 1st August 1947 Pictorial set of the Life Insurance Department stamps.

Smeaton's tower was dismantled and re-erected on Plymouth Hoe as a memorial to its builder. During dismantling, the son of Sir James Douglass, who was supervising the work, was accidentally knocked off the gallery, but fortunately for him a big wave rolled over the rock at the exact time of his 70 foot drop, so that he fell into the water unharmed and swam to the attendant steamer.

Modern Plymouth is separated from the Duchy of Cornwall by the River Tamar, bridged by Brunel's masterpiece of engineering, the Royal Albert Bridge. This cost a quarter of a million pounds to build, and was opened by the Prince Consort in 1859. On the Plymouth side is the famous Royal Dockyard at Devonport, which was started in 1691 by King William. Some ships, the pride of the Royal Navy, are opened to the public on Plymouth Navy Days. Cornwall became a Duchy in 1337 when the Black Prince was made the First Duke of Cornwall. Prior to World War II, when Plymouth was blitzed, the fishing fleet from all the fishing villages of Cornwall joined their neighbours in herring fishing during mid-November to mid-February, somewhere in line from Eddystone Lighthouse to Bigbury Bay, the fish being landed at Sutton Harbour.

Since those days Plymouth has welcomed home many famous sailors such as Sir Francis Chichester after his solo voyage around the

world. It has seen the sailing of replicas of the "Mayflower" and the "Golden Hind" also.

This year, Plymouth Philatelic Society are hosts to the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. They certainly have a reputation to live up to!

To those of us from this Society "Taranaki" may seem worlds away but on looking out from Smeaton's Tower, we can imagine that we see LAND AHOY ! ! !

BETTY MITCHELL

AN APPEAL FOR INFORMATION.

I have for some time tried to obtain detailed information about two flights carried out in New Zealand, one by C.T.P.Ulm, and another by Charles Kingsford Smith, but so far have met with little success.

It occurs to me that one or two members might be able to help. Can anyone add to the following information :-

12TH DECEMBER 1933 - AUCKLAND-INVERCARGILL NON-STOP FLIGHT.

This was carried out by C.T.P.Ulm in the converted Avro Ten airliner "Faith in Australia" and was marked by the acceptance of an official airmail. Special souvenir envelopes were printed and these depicted Ulm together with the Avro Ten in flight over a map of the route. The printing was in black on white and the envelopes were put on sale at selected post offices throughout the Dominion. All items sent on the flight received a double rectangular cachet "BY AIR MAIL/AUCKLAND-/INVERCARGILL/PER "FAITH/IN AUSTRALIA"/12TH DECR., 1933" in six lines impressed in PURPLE ink. A total of 3,000 items are said to have been carried and signed items appear to be scarce.



I would be interested to learn at what time the "Faith" left

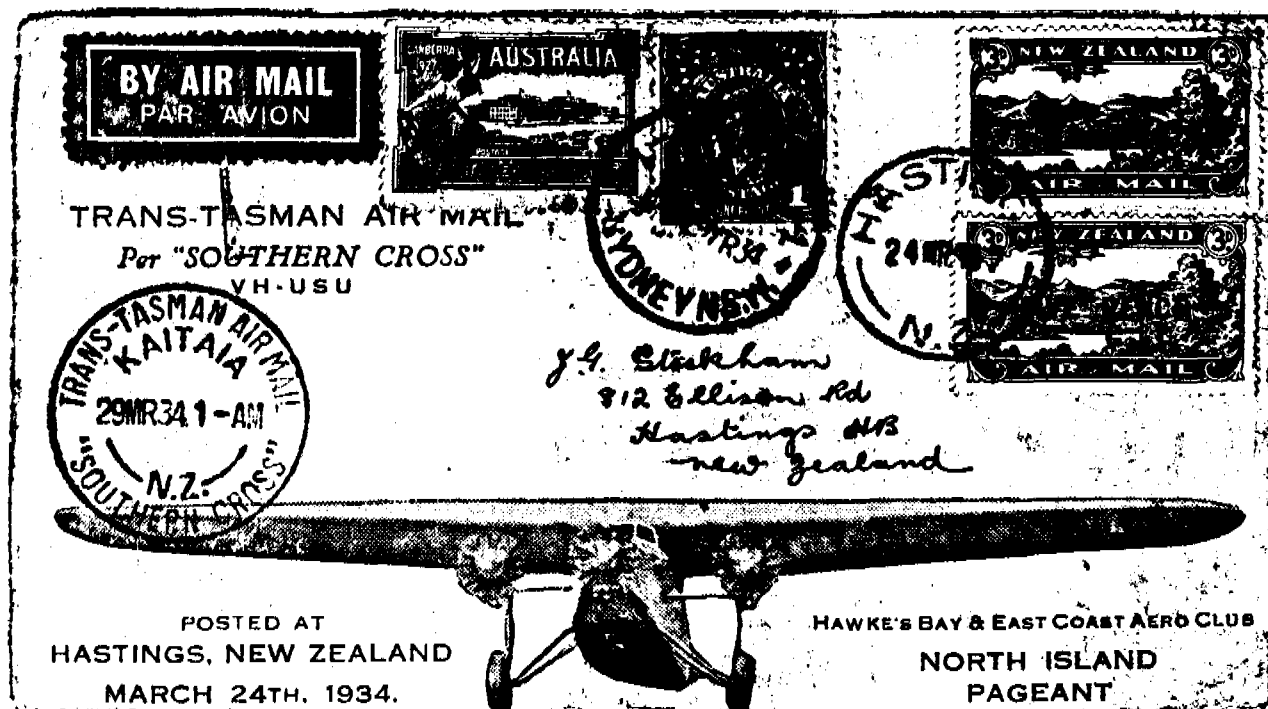
Auckland, how long it took to reach Invercargill and which air-fields were used. In addition I would like to know whether some passengers were carried in addition to the crew of Ulm, G.U.Allan and R.N.Boulton. It is to be remembered that two lady passengers, Mrs. C.Ulm and Miss N.Rogers, had made the Tasman crossing in the aeroplane only eight days before. They might well have travelled on to Invercargill.

Attempts by me to get photographs and information from Invercargill have proved a dismal failure.

25TH-27TH MARCH 1934 - HASTINGS-HUKATERE FLIGHT.

This flight could have taken place on any of these dates but as Kingsford Smith intended to leave on his sixth Tasman flight on the 28th March, it is more likely to have been the 26th, a Monday.

"Smithy" and the "Southern Cross" had been present at the North Island Pageant at HASTINGS on the 24th March at the invitation of the Hawkes Bay and East Coast Aero Club. Special Souvenir envelopes were prepared by the latter and these depicted at the foot a crude representation of the "Southern Cross" together with an instruction that the cover would be posted at Hastings on 24th March, 1934, for subsequent transmission over the Tasman Sea per "Southern Cross".



I believe 90 covers only were posted at Hastings on the 24th followed by a few more on the 25th. Of this total it appears only 30 were subsequently carried across the Tasman Sea by "Smithy" in the "Southern Cross" on the 29th March. Several of these items were signed by both Kingsford Smith and T.J.Pethybridge and all received the special Kaitiaia "Southern Cross" cancellation in black impressed as a cachet. One can safely assume that all of these covers would have been carried by air in the "Cross" from Hastings to Hukatere on the Ninety Mile Beach.

I should be very interested to know the following :-

- a) The number of covers printed.
- b) Were the covers available to the general public at the Pageant or, as is most likely, were they only available to officials of the aero club and visiting dignitaries?
- c) Were the covers carried at the Pageant?
- d) Actual numbers posted.
- e) Date of the flight to Hukatere.

The number purported to have been posted at Hastings compares unfavourably with the number supposedly carried on the Trans-Tasman flight. I have seen five of these covers and every one was flown across the Tasman!!!

As with the previous query I have been totally unsuccessful in obtaining copies of photographs or cuttings of the event.

A.G.MATHIESON

THE Q.E.11 QUEEN'S HEAD DEFINITIVES.
BLURRED PRINTS OF THE MIDDLE VALUES.

Our member, Les Marx, of Te Awamutu, thinks the notice in 'Kiwi', Vol. XXIV, No. 6, page 118, November, 1975, about Blurred Prints was not full enough and the following points should be added.

The 9d., 1/- and 1/6 are recorded as 'double print, one albino, blurred centre'. Two pieces of the 1/9 used, both with full top selvedge, show a pressure line parallel with and near the top edge. This pressure line is accepted as evidence of an albino print, so the 1/9 now joins the other values in the scarce major used state. A total of five 1/9's are known used, and one mint (in coil pair). No doubt the basics of these findings will appear in the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume VI, and the Campbell Paterson Catalogue in due course.

A further item of interest is a 9d. used with both the frame and centre printing blurred. (C.P. Catalogue No. N9a (W).).

Finally, theories are advanced to explain the cause of these varieties, but no definite proof has been forthcoming.

From Laurie Franks Ltd. Postal Auction for February 3rd, 1976.

'Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand states that no datestamps were recorded for Troopships Numbers 13 to 29. Last year we sold privately a post card with double framed, rectangular "Commander's Office / date / H.M.N.Z.T. No.13", and now two more have turned up.

One is a very clear strike on a Ceylon Picture Post Card, dated 22nd January, 1915.

The second is from the same writer, on a Port Said Picture Post Card, a poorer strike, dated 28th January, 1915.'

URGENT SUBSCRIPTIONS

These were due January 1st, 1976. Rates are U.K. Members - £2.00, Overseas Members - 'Kiwi' by surface mail - £1.00.

'Kiwi' by air mail - £2.50.

If yours is still unpaid, please remit immediately to the Treasurer, whose address appears on the front page of this issue of 'Kiwi'. Further reminders are costly, and will only put a strain on Society Funds.