



the kiwi

The Official Organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN
Affiliated to: BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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VOLUME XXVIII No. 6

NOVEMBER 1979

WHOLE 158

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 1979,
AT THE SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, MONMOUTH STREET, LONDON, WC2H 9HD.

KIWI DAY - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AUCTION

SATURDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 1979, AT 10.30 A.M.

PLEASE NOTE

The date is a week later than originally announced in the January issue of 'The Kiwi'.

The starting time is an hour earlier than has been usual in previous years.

At the close of formal business the presentation will take place of the Society's trophies and medals awarded at the Annual Competition in March, 1979.

It is hoped that all of this will be completed by 11.30 a.m. so that the room can be prepared and the auction lots laid out for viewing.

The Auction has attracted an astronomical number of lots and the Honorary Auctioneer will take up his gavel at 1.30 p.m. prompt, in the hope of finishing at a reasonable hour.

For the same reason it is regretted that it will not be possible to accept on the day any lots not previously advised and included in the Catalogue - except lots donated for the benefit of the Society's funds.

There will be a short break for tea at the Auctioneer's discretion, probably around 4.00 p.m.

During this break the raffle, which it is hoped will pay for the tea, will be conducted, tickets having been on sale throughout the meeting.

Items for prizes for the raffle will be gladly received by the Honorary General Secretary, or any other Officer of the Society.

28TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Notice is hereby given that the 28th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain will be held at the Shaftesbury Hotel, Monmouth Street, London, WC2H 9HD, on Saturday, 1st December, 1979, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting.
2. President's Report and Review of 1979.
3. Financial Report from the Hon. Treasurer.
4. Report from the Hon. Packet Secretary.
5. To elect a President, Vice-Presidents and Honorary Officers.
6. To elect a Committee.

The present incumbents of the Honorary Offices will be found listed on page 6 of this Volume of 'The Kiwi'.

Nominations for any of the Honorary Offices of the Society will be welcomed if received by the Hon. General Secretary not later than first post on Thursday, 29th November, 1979. Such nominations must be proposed and seconded, and must have the prior consent of the member so nominated.

7. Any other business proper to the Annual General Meeting, of which due notice has been given in writing.

T.H.BROCK, HON. GENERAL SECRETARY.

EDITORIAL.

Once again, a Volume of our Journal is completed. The variety of the contributions has meant, in my view, that most interests have at least had a mention. I am grateful to all members for their help and assistance, and I trust that this will continue in the year to come. I look forward to meeting you all on Kiwi Day.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

Mr. & Mrs. R.H.Chilton, 1, Oliver Place,
The Grove, Witham, Essex.
T.Johnston, 115, Newbridge Road, St. Annes, Bristol, BS4 4DR.
R.K.Sutton, 5, Myrica Grove, Hoole, Chester, CH2 3EW.
D.J.White, P.O.Box 776, Dunedin, New Zealand.
Paul K.M.Yap, C312, Laguna Park, Marine Parade Road,
Singapore 1544, Republic of Singapore.

DECEASED

E.N.Barton, 2, Hillrise, Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.
H.W.Moore, "Rockville", Butt Hill, Kippax, Nr. Leeds, Yorks.

LAPSED

H.F.Brooks, 4691, Booth Road, Oxford, Ohio 45056, U.S.A.
B.E.Maskell, 34, Southmead Close, East Street, Mayfield, Sussex.
A.E.B.Tindale, 1, Esplanade Court, Harrogate, Yorkshire.

RESIGNED

Miss V.Matthews, Flat 5, 48, Ryal Walk, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
R.F.Penn, "Gouldhurst", Shipham, Winscombe, Avon.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

E.N.Barton, 2, Hillrise, Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey
(previously of Canford Cliffs, Poole.)
J.D.Biddlecombe, 40, Goldsel Road, Swanley, Kent, BR8 8EZ.
(previously of Westerham, Kent.)
L.C.Harris, c/o Chailey Heritage, North Chailey, Lewes, Sussex.
(previously of Warrenwood Lodge, North Chailey.)
J.Hawkins, 44, Regents Way, Buxton, Lancashire.
(previously of 71, Howards Lane, London.)
Mrs. A.B.Hunt, 44, Windsor Road, Hailsham, East Sussex.
(previously of Yeovil.)
Miss R.A.Langman, Flat 1, 7, Alexandra Drive, Liverpool, L17 8TA.
(previously of Flat 3, 1, Alexandra Drive.)
L.J.Long, 65, Merlin Grove, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3HR.
(previously of East Dulwich.)
K.J.D.Miller, Flat 1, 12, Wellington Park, Belfast, BT9 6DJ.
(previously of Eglantine Gardens, Belfast.)
A.J.Peach, 83, Sunrise Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4JN.
(previously of Hearsall Avenue, Chelmsford.)
B.Rae, 17, Market Place, Lavenham, Nr. Sudbury, Suffolk.
(previously of Maidenhead, Berks.)
R.Stone, 29, Colyton Road, East Dulwich, London, S.E.22.
(previously of Elsie Road, East Dulwich.)
A.E.J.West, 1A, King George Avenue, Bushey, Herts., WD2 3NT.
(previously of Stanmore, Middlesex.)

+ ERIC N. BARTON +

Shortly before going to press, it was learnt that one of our Vice-Presidents, Eric Barton, died on 10th October, 1979. An appreciation will be published in the next issue of 'The Kiwi'.

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1979.

OFFICIAL MAIL AND GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT ISSUES.

Douglas Hague organised the exhibits, which extended from early Government House letters to the large number of missives that emanate from the numerous departments of a modern civilised state. They included wrappers for The New Zealand Gazette, electoral notice letters, Printing and Stationery Department labels, Treasury envelopes and letters to the Agent General's Office in London. The latter was the pre-cursor to the present New Zealand High Commissioner's Office.

The item I liked was a Government House letter to Viscount Northland at Eton dated 1897. He was the son of the then Governor, and was later killed in 1914. He thus failed to inherit his father's title, Lord Ranfurly.

Among the official stamps shown was a fine display of the King George V heads, which illustrated the blaze of colour and shades that this issue can produce. Also, the various Penny Universal plates and a rather unusual selection of Treasury cut-outs.

The Life Insurance Department exhibits included a wide range of material both on and off cover. A tribute to the diligence of our members, as on cover this type of item is rarely seen. It was interesting to learn that until recently these stamps could only

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be used on official Government Life Insurance Department covers within New Zealand itself.

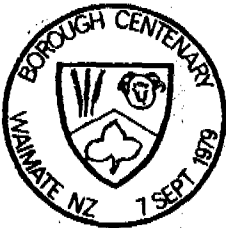
Our contributors to this vast mass of material were A.P.Berry, S.Cross-Rudkin, P.L.Evans, C.E.Golding, A.Greenwood, A.Harrad, K.Mann, Captain B.J.Pratt, F.Ribbens, and finally our enthusiast in New Zealand, John Watts, and to our organiser, Douglas Hague. One wonders how on earth he managed to drum them all up.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Ian Fogg, and the meeting closed at about 5.30 p.m.

I.G.FOGG

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

CENTENARY OF THE BOROUGH OF WAIMATE



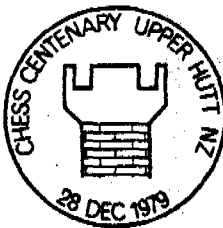
A special pictorial date stamp was used at the Waimate Post Office, on Friday, 7th September, 1979, to mark the centenary of the Borough of Waimate. The date stamp design features the Borough Coat of Arms.

CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF YOUNG MENS SERVICE CLUBS



A special pictorial date stamp was used to mark the International Conference of the World Council of Young Mens Service Clubs. The special date stamp was used to cancel all mail posted in a special posting box, erected at the venue of the conference, the Christchurch Town Hall, on Monday, 24th September, 1979.

CENTENARY OF NEW ZEALAND CHESS ASSOCIATION



A special pictorial date stamp will be used at Upper Hutt Post Office, on Friday, 28th December, 1979, to mark the centenary of the New Zealand Chess Association. The date stamp design features an artist's impression of part of the Chess Association's trophy. A special posting box will be provided at the Centennial Chess Championships, to be held in the Civic Hall, Upper Hutt, for receipt of covers to be cancelled with the special date stamp.

1980 STAMP PROGRAMME

In a press statement released on 6th September, 1979, the Postmaster-General of New Zealand, Hon. M.B.Couch, announced that three stamps marking the 125th Anniversary of the first New Zealand postage stamps will be issued by the Post Office on 7th February, 1980.

The stamps will feature reproductions of the first stamps which bore a portrait of Queen Victoria. The three stamps will also be released in a special miniature sheet edition, of interest to stamp collectors, to be sold at a 10c premium above the postage value of the stamps. The revenue from this premium will go towards

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the costs of staging ZEAPEX '80, New Zealand's first fully international stamp exhibition to be held in Auckland in August, 1980.

Also to be issued on 7th February are three stamps commemorating respectively the Centenary of Rotorua; the International Orchid Conference; and the hosting in New Zealand of the World Ploughing Championships.

Other stamps to be released in 1980 are:-

- 2nd April - A set of four stamps depicting early Victorian architecture in New Zealand.
- 4th June - A scenic issue of four stamps featuring large harbours.
- 6th August - Three Health stamps with a marine environment theme.
- 1st October - Three Christmas stamps.
- 26th November - Definitive issue of 15c, 16c, 17c, 18c and 19c stamps.

POSTAGE RATES.

Postage Rates were increased on 1st August, 1979. Members may like to add a line to the table of rates in recent years published in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVII, page 15, January, 1978. The principal new rates are :-

LETTERS INLAND (STANDARD LETTER).....	14 cents.
LETTERS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.....	25 cents.
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS.....	10 cents.
REGISTRATION FEE.....	85 cents.
AIRMAIL TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.....	50 cents.
AIR LETTER CARD TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.....	35 cents.
INTERNAL AIRMAIL.....	17 cents.

G.E.C.PRATT

THE 4c, 14c AND 17c PROVISIONALS OF 1979

In a letter dated 4th October, 1979, A.M.MADIGAN, Principal, Stamps Branch, Post Office Headquarters, Wellington, writes as follows:-

The 1979 Budget, presented on 21st June, contained an announcement that an increase in postal charges would take effect from 1st August. The major effect of this change was to increase the inland surface rates (standard letter) from 10c to 14c and the inland airmail rate from 12c to 17c.

An order for additional 14c stamps was placed as soon as the new rates were known but there is, as you know, no 17c stamp in the current definitive set. Considerable stocks of make-up values (e.g. 6c, 7c, 8c and 9c) were on hand, but from the unusually heavy demands made following implementation of the new rates it soon became evident that if continuity of supply of critical values was to be maintained, additional quantities of 14c, 17c and



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4c stamps would be required more quickly than they could be obtained from our overseas suppliers.

Accordingly, arrangements were made for the New Zealand Government Printer to produce the stamps required by overprinting existing stocks of stamps of values which had become surplus to requirements as follows:-

10c overprinted 14c; 8c overprinted 4c; 6c overprinted 17c.

Because of the expeditious arrangements made the first of the 14c overprints were available at post offices by the end of August, with the 4c overprints being available towards the end of September. The 17c will be available for distribution shortly.

A press statement concerning the arrangements made was released to news media (inland) about 10 days before release of the first overprinted stamps but, because of the operational need to distribute the stamps to different districts as they came to hand and the inability to provide advance warning to overseas customers it was impracticable to arrange a national "first day of issue" in the time available.

The overprinting was carried out by letterpress and the selvedge was removed from two sides (top and left) of the sheets of 8c and 6c stamps before overprinting. This ensured a more accurate feed through the printing press which significantly reduced the high level of spoilage normally encountered with overprinting. This action was not necessary with the 10c stamps.

1979 HEALTH STAMP ISSUE.

Following the publication in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVIII, page 89, of various comments arising from the fact that it was decided to issue the 1979 Health Stamps one week earlier than originally planned, A.M.MADIGAN, Principal, Stamps Branch, New Zealand Post Office Headquarters, has written as follows:-

I am not quite clear as to the point the author of the comments is trying to make, but there would appear to be some basic misconceptions about the matter.

The 1979 Health issue will actually be on sale longer than originally intended. Although released one week early, the counter withdrawal date of 2nd October remains unchanged. In spite of the postal rate increases of 1st August, which made the Health stamps inadequate by themselves on ordinary inland mail, sales are still being made and will continue to be made for the rest of the selling period.

The Post Office has never denied that one of the purposes of Health stamps is to assist in raising funds for the maintenance of Children's Health Camps. They are, of course, like other special issues, also intended to be used for the prepayment of postage. Indications are that 20% to 25% of sales are philatelic.

At the time Government made their decision to increase postage rates from 1st August, the 1979 Health stamps, planned to be released on that date, had already been printed and were in transit to New Zealand. Government was anxious to ensure that returns to the Children's Health Camps Board remained at a satisfactory level and, accordingly, decided to advance the issue

date by one week. This decision was made against the background of past experience that up to 80% of Health stamp sales generally occur in the first week. The advance in issue date also ensured that the stamps were fully suitable for inland mail, even if for only a restricted period. This was seen as being preferable to adhering to the original issue date and thereby incurring a high level of wastage of stamps which cost a considerable amount of money to print.

The sales returns for the period 25th July to 31st August are fully consistent with results achieved in recent years and, in my view, clearly vindicate the decision to advance the issue date.

Finally, I suppose it could be argued that strictly speaking no special issues are essential, as postal service requirements could be met by providing additional quantities of definitive stamps, but I don't believe this arrangement would suit the majority of philatelists any more than it would suit the Post Office.

HOKIANGA - OBLITERATOR NO. 3

The Numbered Obliterators, Numbers 1 to 18, arrived in New Zealand with the first Chalon Heads, the London Prints by Perkins Bacon & Co., in 1855. According to the Invoice there were thirty-six Brass Cancel Stamps.

These Obliterators contained a number within eleven horizontal bars. In many cases there were two Obliterators with the same number.

The Obliterator Number 3 was allocated to Hokianga, then a Sub-Office of the Auckland Post Office. It has been suggested that the second Obliterator of the same number was to be held in reserve. There is no doubt that several places used two obliterators. For instance, Wellington used two, both number 10 within eleven horizontal bars.

The first Obliterator Number 3, type 5 illustrated on page 35 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, was in use at Hokianga in 1855. By this time it must have lost some of its former importance. It was in an area where the white man first established himself in any way. It was a Headquarters of the Wesleyan Missionaries from 1827, and also a commercial ship yard on a small scale. Ship building had been started on the Hokianga River by a retired Naval Officer, Lt. Thomas McDonnell. Local trading with Maories also took place, but by 1841 the Seat of Government was set up further south in Auckland by Captain Hobson and its importance must have declined.

We read on page 36 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand that the obliterator Number 3 had a long life and was still being used at Rawene in 1923. The Post Office at Hokianga was renamed Herd's Point on 1st March, 1884, and on 1st October, 1886, the name was changed again, this time to Rawene by which name it is still known. On the other hand, Dr. K.J.L.Scott in his 'Notes on the Early Cancellations of New Zealand', published long before Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, states "this (Obliterator Number 3) is given in the records as being used at Hokianga. I have it on stamps of the issues of 1855 and 1856 - 1859. It is a very scarce cancellation."

Some years ago I bought from one of our members a 2d. Blue imperf. Richardson print, S.G.9, cancelled with Obliterator Number 3 and when I found from Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, published in 1955, that Obliterator Number 3 was in use until 1923 I wondered why the cancellation was very scarce, according to Dr. Scott. I did not then follow the matter up.

Recently, however, I bought a 6d. Deep Red Brown Davies Print, S.G.43, clearly cancelled with the Obliterator Number 3. This caused me to make some research through old Auction Catalogues for the existence of other examples. This has proved negative.

I knew well our member the late Dr. J.D.Riddell, who had one of the finest Postal History collections. Robson Lowe's Sale Catalogue of this collection on 11th March, 1975, records in Lot 124 a cover of 1871 from Hokianga to Wellington "bearing 2d. Blue cancelled by '3' in bars (Hokianga) backstamped at Hokianga, Auckland and on arrival." The photograph of this Lot however shows clearly that the cancellation is '2' in bars. This was used at Russell in the Bay of Islands which is on the other side of the peninsula from Hokianga.

I have a recollection that a stamp was offered at Auction some years ago cancelled with Obliterator Number 3, and it may be the same stamp as I recently purchased.

In view of the lack of information about Obliterator Number 3, Members looking through their collections of Chalon Heads may find a pleasant surprise in the form of a stamp so cancelled. I think Dr. Scott was probably right in saying this is a very scarce cancellation.

There was a second Obliterator Number 3, type 6 illustrated on page 35 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. This had thicker bars and has been noted, according to page 36, on the First Side-Face Queen Victoria definitive issue. It also states on the same page that Dr. K.J.McNaught has a cover showing that this Obliterator was used at Waipawa.

Returning to Lot 124 in the Auction Catalogue of the collection of the late Dr. J.D.Riddell, the other item was "1882 - 1897 (i.e. Second Side-Face Queen Victoria definitive issue) 1d. Rose cancelled '3' in bars which at this time was used at Rawene." This might have been type 5 or type 6 but this stamp is not illustrated in the Auction Catalogue. If it was type 5 it would show the use of Obliterator Number 3 at Hokianga after it was renamed Herd's Point, or at Rawene. If it was type 6 it was in use at Rawene.

I suppose there is a chance of tracing the other half of the Lot 124 to solve this problem.

Waipawa used another Obliterator Number 3 within eleven horizontal bars, illustration type 7 on page 53 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. I have this on 2d. First Side-Face Queen Victoria definitive stamp, S.G.153, showing its use from 1874. This shows that the original type 6 might have fallen into disuse by then.

JOHN D. EVANS

Editor's Note. A comprehensive article on the early Postal History of Hokianga was published in the Pacific Stamp Journal, Volume 26, Number 2, October, 1978. This has recently been reprinted in Stamp Collecting Weekly, Volume 134, Number 5, 2nd August, 1979.

MORE ON THE UNSTAMPED AEROGRAMMES OF NEW ZEALAND

References.

12. Ponwinkle News - October, 1978.
13. Ponwinkle News - November-December, 1978.

The following material was provided by our member GORDON READ of New Zealand, who has a very detailed and extensive list of the 1974 long type aerogramme forms. This is an attempt to put these findings into sequence with the other findings previously reported in 'The Kiwi'.

POST OFFICE NON PICTORIAL.

In 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVII, pages 97 - 102, types 23a, 23b and 23c were described. Items 23c(ii), 23c(iii) and 23c(iv) were described. Gordon Read adds 23c(v) where "Crease flaps" is 51 mm long.

The following varieties of 23c(v) are also reported:

The gum on the flaps varies from blue-green to grey.

The position and amount of gum is variable.

The etiquette and the side markings are in different positions.

Very likely these are new printings.

NON POST OFFICE NON PICTORIAL.


The following variations of the 1974 style aerogrammes are courtesy of Gordon Read:

13. Address lines are a series of dashes.

First fold here

If anything is enclosed, this form will be surcharged at rate for Air Mail Letters

First fold here


A Dickinson Robinson Group Product

SENDER'S NAME

AND ADDRESS

.....

.....

.....

Second fold here

Approved by the New Zealand Post Office
for posting in New Zealand to overseas or
inland addresses. N.Z.P.O. authority No. 101.

Second fold here

Number 13. The reverse shows the approval box on the bottom as well as dashes for sender's name and address.

14. As Number 13, except the address lines are a series of fine dots.

Diagram of an envelope template (Number 14). The envelope is shown with its flaps open. The top flap is labeled "First fold here" on both sides. The bottom flap is labeled "Second fold here" on both sides. The front panel contains the following elements:

- Top center: "If anything is enclosed, this form will be surcharged at rate for Air Mail Letters"
- Center: "Cruik" logo (a stylized 'C' with a crown) and "A Dickinson Robinson Group Product" (with a small "DRG" logo to the left).
- Left side: "SENDER'S NAME" and "AND ADDRESS" followed by five horizontal lines for writing.
- Bottom center: A rectangular box containing the text: "Approved by the New Zealand Post Office for posting in New Zealand to overseas or inland addresses. N.Z.P.O. authority No. 101."

- Number 14. The approval box is still below the now dotted sender's name and address lines.

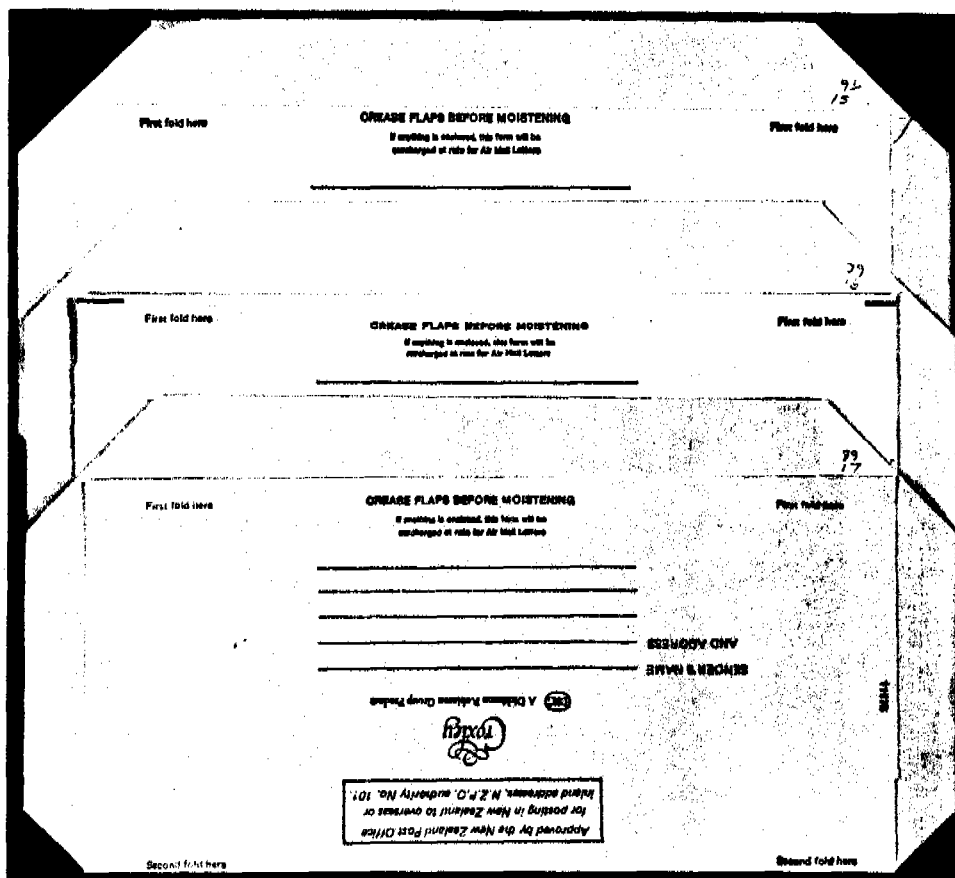
15. The "Crease flaps" is now added.

Diagram of an envelope template (Number 15). The envelope is shown with its flaps open. The top flap is labeled "First fold here" on both sides. The bottom flap is labeled "Second fold here" on both sides. The front panel contains the following elements:

- Top center: "CREASE FLAPS BEFORE MOISTENING" and "If anything is enclosed, this form will be surcharged at rate for Air Mail Letters"
- Center: "Cruik" logo (a stylized 'C' with a crown) and "A Dickinson Robinson Group Product" (with a small "DRG" logo to the left).
- Left side: "SENDER'S NAME" and "AND ADDRESS" followed by five horizontal lines for writing.
- Bottom center: A rectangular box containing the text: "Approved by the New Zealand Post Office for posting in New Zealand to overseas or inland addresses. N.Z.P.O. authority No. 101."

- Number 15. "Crease flaps" at the top with the approval box at the bottom.

16. "Crease flaps" 56 mm by 1 mm. On the top of the left side of the back panel is the number 17878. This is the bottom of the illustration 4. Note approval box at the top of the back panel.
17. "Crease flaps" 53 mm by 1½ mm. The printing date 11178 is inscribed on the back panel. Others showing no number and number 241078 are also reported. Approval box at the top back panel.
18. "Crease flaps" 55 mm by 1 mm.



The approval box in number 16, 18 and 17 (top to bottom) is at the top. "Crease flaps" is inverted at the bottom of the back panel. The top aerogramme has the date number 11178 on the mid left side of the back panel.

NON GOVERNMENT PICTORIAL.

10F. This item is added by Gordon Read. Air New Zealand will give them free to first class passengers. Certainly this is the most beautiful aerogramme in commercial use on an airline.



The side panels are multicoloured and very beautiful.

J.HILL AND G.READ

CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION PUBLICITY LABELS

In 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVIII, page 79, IAN MACKENZIE-CALDER asks for more information on the designs of these labels. I have made fairly extensive enquiries about these over a period of two or three years but still have not completed the full picture. However, the following are the results of the jig-saw to date.

As far as I can ascertain there is no published reference to the set of labels. At the time of the Exhibition's opening there were plans for a set of only six labels, but a seventh label was issued following the Prime Minister's death shortly after the opening of the Exhibition in November, 1906. The labels were all printed by Christchurch printing firms - the Lyttelton Times Company or the Christchurch Press Company. I have not, to date, discovered the names of the designers or the format in which the sheets were printed.

The sheets of labels were perforated 11 or 12 with the exception of Number 1 which for some reason was issued imperforate. Each label bears the words 'New Zealand International Exhibition, Christchurch, Nov. 1906 - Apr. 1907'. The following is a description of the designs.

Number 1.

This features a map of New Zealand and a small Maori Head at the bottom right corner. The design is predominantly red and yellow on a yellow-green background. This label is the only one that is not numbered, but it is generally accepted as Number 1.

Number 2.

The main design is of a large tattooed Maori Head over the word 'HAEREMAI' enclosed by a frame bearing the Exhibition title. Printed in brown and blue.

Number 3.

This is the familiar figure of the Kiwi with a border of clematis and is printed in a carmine shade.

Number 4.

Printed predominantly in crimson, a central multi-coloured vignette features a Maori woman bearing the Moko (tattoo) on her chin and wearing a greenstone Tiki (necklace).

Number 5.

As stated by Ian Mackenzie-Calder this green label features the Tui. The flowers incorporated in the border appear to be a representation of the mountain lily.

Number 6.

This design is of a Maori carving (thought to be a Meeting House Head Pole) and is in a brown-red colour.

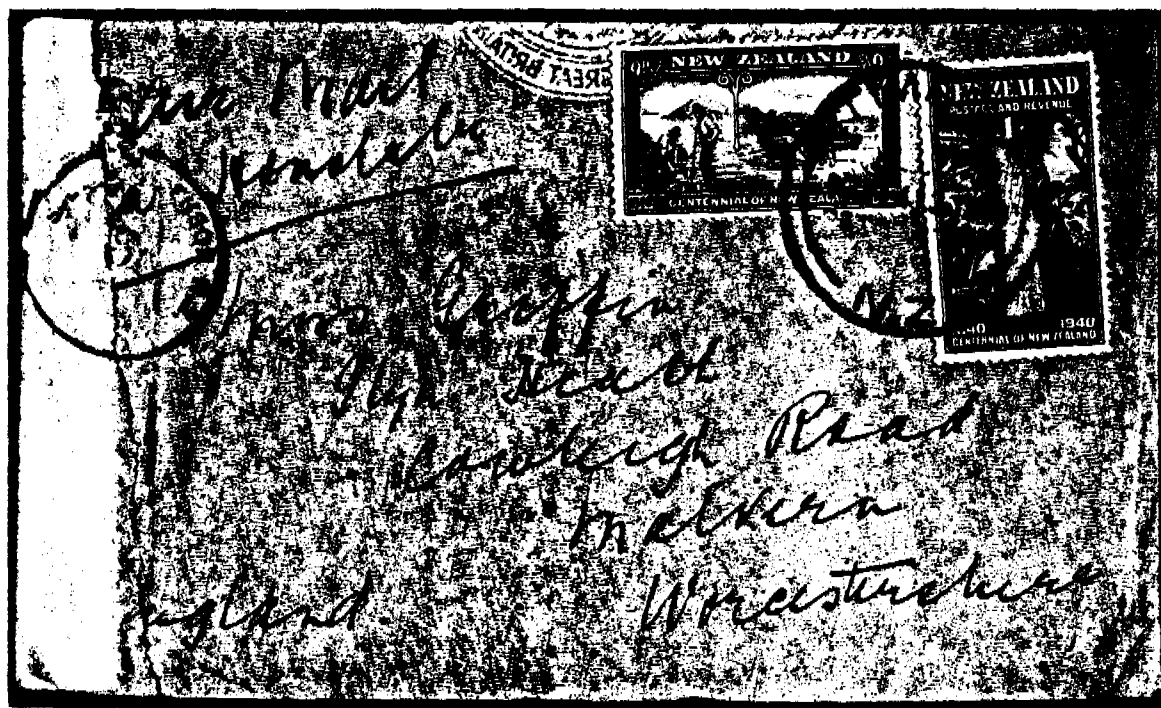
Number 7.

This posthumous portrait of R.J.SEDDON in the central vignette is printed in 'natural' colours whilst the predominant colours of the label are violet and silver.

DAVID CHURCHILL

SOME PROBLEM AIR MAIL POSTAGE RATES.

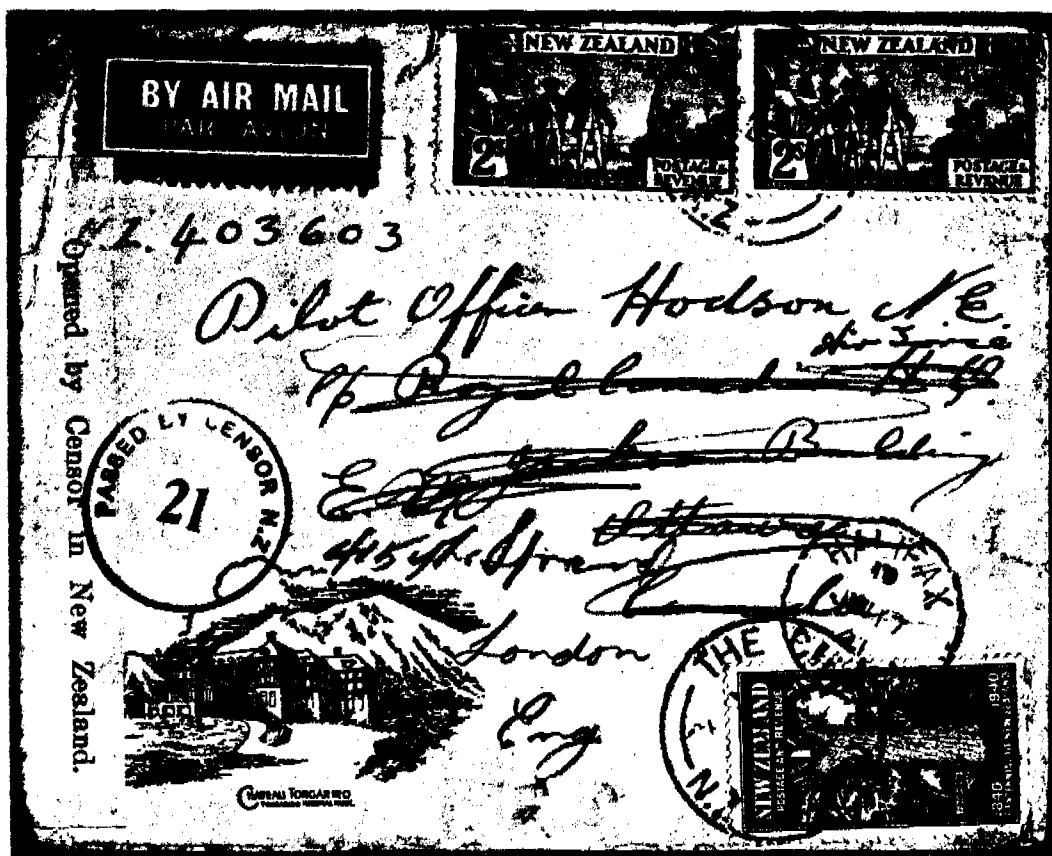
IAN WARN, a member of the Postal History Society, is seeking our help to explain the amount of postage prepaid on certain air mail covers from New Zealand in his collection.



From Timaru, New Zealand, to England, dated 12 FE 41. Addressed to a civilian. Endorsed by hand 'Air Mail Via Honolulu'. Postage paid 1/9. Two other examples have been seen with this rate and superscription. Ian Warn has not been able to explain this rate of postage.



From Wellington, New Zealand, an Official Cover to the High Commissioner's Office in London, England. Endorsed 'Via Khartoum, Lagos, Bathurst and West Africa Flying Boat'. Dated 13 AU 41. Postage paid 4/6. Again, Ian Warn has not been able to explain this rate of postage.



From The Chateau, New Zealand, to Canada. Forwarded to England. Dated 4 JL 41. Addressed to a serviceman. Postage paid 5/-. Again, Ian Warn has not been able to explain this rate of postage.

If any member can give details to explain these postage rates, I would be very glad to hear from them, so that the information can be passed on to Ian Warn.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MORE MUSINGS

New Zealand Postal History illustrates a number of exciting episodes, but possibly the effects of the discovery of gold is the most exciting of all. A number of Post Offices trace their beginning to the need to provide post office services to the thousands of diggers arriving from all over the world. One wonders if all the diggers were literate. Alexandra dates from 1864, while Clyde and Queenstown were established in 1865. The most famous of all the gold rush Post Offices was Gabriel's Gully (1865) where gold was first discovered by Gabriel Read in 1861, but that is another story. These facts have only recently come to my attention but I remember as a young man having my imagination fired by the large scale dredging for gold illustrated on the 9d. Centenary stamp. s.g. 624. Dredging in the Otago rivers started in 1890 and by 1900 had become a large industry with 187 dredgers in action. Unfortunately this did not last long and their numbers, and presumably the gold, rapidly diminished, the last one ceasing to

operate in the 1960's. However the gold rush, when over, produced a lot of additional settlers who joined the farming community. The success of the latter is far more important than the discovery of gold and has been commemorated on stamps on a far greater scale.

Since writing about the world's largest timber building in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVI, page 82, I seem to have acquired a proprietary interest in the street in which it stands, Lambton Quay, which is one of the more important highways in Wellington. Today, this building houses the Department of Education, but a recently acquired post card, obviously of Edwardian times judging by the ground length skirts of the ladies, describes this rather good looking edifice as "Government Buildings". Probably in its early days it housed all Government Departments. In 1907 it was of such growing importance that a Post Office was opened inside the building using its own circular datestamp. Parliament Buildings was in its logical position on the other side of the road. This had its own Post Office as early as 1903, but the building shown on the 1d. Peace stamp, S.G. 668, was erected in 1912. Business grew in the street and in 1942 a Lambton Quay Post Office was opened. I have covers cancelled from two of these post offices, but I am still waiting for Parliament Buildings to turn up.

Another early post card shows the other end of Lambton Quay, a busy street lined with Victorian office buildings, and a museum piece of an open topped tram. The views in both cards are spoilt with a festoon of overhead telephone wires. Happily all these have now disappeared underground. Since my original claim several larger timber warehouses have been erected in North America but I doubt whether any of them would ever use the quantity of timber found in Government Buildings.

A friend of mine, quite an authority on parcel post cancellations, once told me that my 1d. Field Marshal with WN in dotted circle was in fact a parcel cancellation. I remembered this fact and since then have been able to acquire a small collection of them. Imagine my delight on seeing the title of an article in 'The Kiwi', New Zealand Packet Obliterators, published in Volume XXVIII, page 14. This delight however was tempered after reading the article and finding that there were about 93 varieties of this style of canceller used in the various towns and cities. This new knowledge makes my parcel postmark collection rather insignificant. They were not satisfactory cancellers as dates etc. were not included as is the case in the more conventional circular date-stamps. They were, however, more attractive than the monster circular cancellers of nearly two inches in diameter used in the 1920's and probably later. One such in my collection almost obliterates a block of four $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps from Palmerston North in 1928. It is a bit odd finding $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps on a parcel! Is this canceller the world's largest circular date-stamp?

TAUMATAWHAKATANGIHANGAKOAUAUOTAMATEAPOKAIWHENUAKITANATAHU meaning "the summit of the hill where Tamatea the traveller played his flute to his lady love", is about 40 miles south of Hastings, and is the longest place name in the world. How is that for another New Zealand record? Fortunately, (or unfortunately?), it has no post office, and this is enough to stop me musing for the time being.

TOM HETHERINGTON

1979 CHRISTMAS STAMPS.

Three colourful stamps with different themes are featured in this year's Christmas issue, released on 3rd October, 1979.

"Madonna and Child" a sculpture by the fifteenth century Italian master Ghiberti, features on the 10c stamp; Christ Church in Russell, Bay of Islands is pictured on the 25c, while the 35c stamp depicts a Pohutukawa tree in bloom.

The original sculpture of Ghiberti's "Madonna and Child" is in the Samuel H. Kress collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., U.S.A. Sculptured in bronze, this fine example of the Italian master's style clearly emphasises the natural "warmness" of mother and child.

Born in 1378 this important leader in the Florentine Renaissance, specialised in bronze sculpture, although as a boy he trained as a goldsmith. An early success and a recipient of valuable public commissions, Ghiberti was already a prominent artist of 40 years of age when he, Donatello and Nanni di Banco each created a new sculptural style that formed the basis of most Italian sculpture of the Renaissance.

He admired antique art and aimed at making his figures lifelike but created sculptures with a personal mark of lyrical grace and technical perfection learned from his previous training.

He died in Florence in 1455.

Historical Christ Church in Russell, features on the 25c stamp. Built in 1835 when the town of Russell was known as Kororareka, it is the oldest surviving church in New Zealand.

The land was bought from the Maoris, with the stipulation that they were to have the same right of burial as the Pakeha (European) and without payment of any charge. In 1834 some members of the Pakeha population of the Bay of Islands, assisted by visitors to the Bay, raised money by subscription to build a church on this land. In that year a builder named Ben Nisbit was engaged to build the Church. The first service was held towards the end of 1835.

When it was first built, the church had a hip roof. When it was re-roofed in 1871 the roof was altered to the steep pitch that it has today. The church was unlined and was for some unknown reason, built north and south instead of east and west as is usual.

The congregations were not large; it seems the residents and moving population at the time were somewhat indifferent. Christ Church survived the sacking of the settlement during a Maori uprising in 1845, although fierce fighting took place only a few metres away.

The Rev. Samuel Marsden visited the new church on his last visit to New Zealand in 1837, and in January, 1839, Bishop Broughton, first Bishop of Australia, consecrated the graveyard.

During its early years the little church in the Bay also served as a courthouse.

A native Pohutukawa tree in bloom is pictured on the 35c Christmas stamp. It was the scarlet blossoming Pohutukawas along the shoreline of Whangaparaoa, that caused the migrating Polynesian Chief Tauninihi of the Arawa canoe to cast away his precious red feather head-dress upon seeing such beauty. Tauninihi lamented the loss of his head-dress when he found that the fragile flowers could not replace the feathers of his homeland.

The Pohutukawa, (*Metrosideros exelsa*), is commonly known as the New Zealand Christmas tree because of the profusion of red flowers it bears about Christmas time. Its wood is of great strength and durability, red in colour, heavy and compact. The rather tortuous branches are of great value for boat building. By boiling down the inner layers of the bark, early bushmen found a remedy for dysentery.

Auckland artist, Mr. D.A.Hatcher, designed the 25c stamp and completed all the graphic work.

The three Christmas stamps measure 25.7mm x 41.1mm and were printed by Courvoisier SA Switzerland, using the photogravure process.

HUGH MACDONALD

A New Zealand Post Office Feature Article.

MANUSCRIPT CANCELLATION.



The marking illustrated above was found on a 3d. Lilac, star watermark, perf. 12½ Chalon Head in the collection of our member Mrs. E.A.CARTER. The stamp is further cancelled NAPIER, 20th March, 1871. This marking is not recorded in either Volume III or Volume IV of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. The stamp was sent to our member A.R.MARSHALL for his opinion.

It was then recognised as being the same mark that can be found on certain covers addressed to W.Colenso in the Adam Hunter collection. Certain markings on these covers suggest that the mark was applied at Porangahau by one James Nairn. Research was undertaken to see if Nairn could in any way be linked with the Post Office at Porangahau.

Our member, R.M.STARTUP, checked his list of all staff employed by the Government on 1st January, 1871. This listed one Nairn, J. as Postmaster at Pourere (or Pourerere). This was a sheep station homestead further up the Hawkes Bay coast from Porangahau.

The tentative conclusion therefore is that this mark was applied at Pourerere Post Office in 1871. Further evidence is required to confirm this theory.

THREE STATESMEN FEATURE ON STAMPS.

Following the publication of an article by ALAN MEEK under this title in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVIII, page 42, our member IAN SAMUEL has sent the postcard illustrated on the next page. The titles emphasize how well thought of Richard Seddon was by his countrymen.

But the postcard also presents a further problem. The reverse of the card carries a Penny Universal stamp, cancelled with the G-class, or concentric circle cancellation of Masterton, type i, dated 10.30P / 14 MR 08. Yet there is no address shown to which the card could be delivered, only a personal message.

Was the card placed in an outer envelope? If so, how could the postal authorities see that the postage had been properly prepaid.

If any member can help with these problems, please let the Editor know, who will pass on such information to Ian Samuel.



NEW ZEALAND POST CARD.

Dear Blanche

Thanks awfully for answering so
 horribly sarcastically. Boy word. I would not
 enter into a wordy altercation with you for a pension.
 26 weeks I am sure you will be pleased to see when I
 next I am home. You will observe that this card was
 purchased before 1.30 p.m. Yes I and two others at the house
 kept ash Wednesday as up strictly and a sore trial it was and
 thank to your tip, warning I was straight to bed. Luckily
 we have a Catholic waitress. I am satisfied I am not
 as bad as your Post Card would make me out to be. There
 is a big turn out at the church (Catholic?) on Sunday. The
 archbishop, Father Devoy, O'Shea & Buckton, will be present.
 25th anniversary of one of the local priests' annunciation
 both at morning mass and vespers. Love and prophetic
 Dan Terry



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