



the kiwi

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

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VOLUME XXX No. 2

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WHOLE 166

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1981,
AT THE SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, MONMOUTH STREET, LONDON, WC2H 9HD,
STARTING AT 2.30 P.M., WHEN

THE ANNUAL COMPETITION

WILL TAKE PLACE.

Details of the Competition will be found on pages 8 and 9 of the
January issue of 'The Kiwi'. Entries accepted from 2.15 p.m.

During the Judging, all those present will be asked to comment
on philatelic problems submitted by members. Please bring along
your problems but above all, come yourselves - if at all
possible, with entries for the Competition.

TWO INTERESTING NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE FIRST DAY COVERS



SEE PAGE 32.

EDITORIAL.

In this issue of 'The Kiwi', a start is being made in publishing a series of articles based on files now in the custody of the National Postal Museum. The 'Findings From Files' will be factual, culled from the papers held in these files. These articles may well call for comment, and I trust that specialist members whose interests are covered will write to me with such comments, to highlight new information, and pinpoint lacunae in our knowledge.

Once again, I wish to express my gratitude to W. Raife Wellsted, the Curator of the National Postal Museum, who drew my attention to these files, and who has permitted publication of 'Findings From Files'.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

A. Dibley, 19, Pelorus Street, Hamilton, New Zealand.

A. J. Durant, 5, Cross Knowle View, Davyhulme, Manchester, M31 2DE.

G. Graham, 43, Hythe Road, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 6JR.

A. H. Kay, 15, Napier Crescent, Laverstock,

Salisbury, Wilts., SP1 1PJ.

D. J. Kenefick, 33, Frensham Road, New Eltham, London, SE9 3RG.

J. R. Mowbray, P.O. Box 63, Otaki Railway, New Zealand.

E. Peterkin, Flat No. 1, Latimer Court,

Brookvale Road, Southampton, SO2 1QX.

Tauranga Stamp Club Inc., P.O. Box 666, Tauranga, New Zealand.

DECEASED

A. C. Klein, "Donegal", Joy Lane, Irish Village, Whitstable, Kent.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. A. E. Deacon, 70, Rectory Road, Farnborough, Hants., GU14 7HZ.
(previously of 61, Hanover Gardens, Farnborough.)

C. Ryder, 6, Birch Lea, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 2AR.
(previously of Nicosia, Cyprus.)

J. A. Stephen, Rowland Hill Stamps, Worcester House,

Worcester Street, Kidderminster, Worcs., DY10 1ER.

(previously of Oxford Street, Kidderminster.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 1981.

NEW ZEALAND CINDERELLAS.

The Meeting was opened by our Chairman, Stanley Cross-Rudkin, who read a letter from our member, Mrs. K. Banbury. We were all sad to hear of her recent illness, and the good wishes of all members were expressed for a speedy recovery.

The display opened with the cover illustrated on the front page of the last issue of 'The Kiwi', shown by our Editor, Allan P. Berry. This was accompanied by a 'Plant a Tree' label, advertising the Waikato Winter Show of 1936.

Noel Turner displayed a set of Auckland Exhibition labels, a set of die proofs for the proposed Railway Stamps of 1905, a 2/- Lands and Deeds stamp used in London (!), and a 1d. Honey Bee stamp used on cover dated April 1st, 1939! Other members showed the Christchurch Exhibition labels, which were backed by Michael Burberry's full sheet of label number 6, and examples used on

cover, the Exhibition stamps being cancelled in New Zealand, but the labels in New South Wales!

Our leader, Francis Kiddle, concluded with a fine display of the Stamp Duty issues overprinted 'Specimen', Beer Duty stamps in remarkably fine condition, Mortgage Indemnity Fee, Fine Paid, Denoting, $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Discount stamps, and so on. A puzzle shown by Colin Hamilton was a 'Mother's Chair Appeal 1/-' label that came from New Zealand, but may not have originated from there. Any ideas?

The vote of thanks was proposed by our Chairman at the end of a most interesting meeting.

R.G. & A.E.H.

REVIEW

The Mails of North Canterbury, by John R. Slattery. Published by Stirling & Co. Ltd., P.O. Box 949, Christchurch, New Zealand. Price \$15.00, plus \$1.00 postage and packing.

The depth and quality of research that has gone into the compilation of this volume, which covers a geographical area of only about 25 by 20 miles makes it a must for the bookshelves of all who are interested in New Zealand postal history.

For the person who just loves to gain knowledge there is a vast amount; for the photographer there are photographs of stores, houses and railway stations past and present that have the magic words 'Post Office' on the front. For the architect there are floor plans and photos of the changing face of the second Department Building at Kaiapoi, with and without the clocktower. There is a wealth of information on the opening and closures of post offices in the region, and for railway buffs notes on the railways and T.P.O.'s of the area. For the British reader there is an interesting snippet of information about G.B. stamps, 4d. and 6d., which were on sale in the main offices. This was before the advent of the International Reply Coupon and stamps could be sent with letters to 'The Old Country' so the family could reply. The changing face of the date stamp is shown from offices large and small, from the earliest to the Pitney Bowes machine cancel. The book fills gaps in our knowledge of the 5th National Scout Jamboree at Kaiapoi. Have you got one of the 30,000 letters posted at the camp? Many covers are shown, both early and modern, to and from New Zealand. The lists of postmasters and postmistresses may bore some people but it is the insights these lists allow into the lives of the people who worked for the post office that I feel make them fascinating reading. For instance, there were two temporary closures of the Coutts Island Post Office in 1931. Why? Because members of the Postmistress' family had scarlet fever! These lists tell you not only the names of the officers but the site of the offices which in some cases changed many times with the appointment of new officers. The growth of the telephone system is also shown; in 1908, Amberley had 8 subscribers, in 1919, 41, and in 1978, 637, when the automatic exchange was introduced.

The book ends with an interesting observation. In 1855, there was one post office, by 1905, that had risen to 34, but by 1980, that figure had shrunk to 19. I am sure the friendliness of the rural post office is much missed in some parts of the area.

SPECIAL DATESTAMP.

CENTENARY OF PAHIATUA



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Pahiatua on Tuesday, 3rd March, 1981, to mark the Centenary of Pahiatua. Mail posted in a special posting box at Pahiatua Post Office was cancelled with the datestamp. The design of the datestamp incorporates the 'Tui' which forms part of the town's crest.

AN INVITATION FROM THE NEXT NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

As a member of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain since 1963, I am particularly pleased to extend a very warm welcome to its members to participate in PALMPEX '82.

New Zealand 'Nationals' have traditionally enjoyed the support of entries from Great Britain, Australia, North America and elsewhere, and we are sure that PALMPEX '82 will be no exception. The exhibition will be held in a modern, air-conditioned building (16,000 sq. ft.), and security will be professionally organised. Marcel Stanley, one of our vice-patrons, is co-ordinating what should be a striking Court of Honour, and the Chairman of the Jury will be Gerald Elliott. Everything is set for a thoroughly successful exhibition, and we look forward to many entries from members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain. Our United Kingdom liaison officer, Allan P. Berry, will be glad to give Home Country members more information, on receipt of a stamped, self addressed envelope.

ROBIN GWYNN, CHAIRMAN, PALMPEX '82.

'RECOVERED BY ALLIED FORCES'

Following the publication of the notes on this cachet in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXIX, pages 69, 77, and 102, our member K.J.McNAUGHT has reported an example with an earlier date. He writes as follows

"Mine is the unframed 1/- value with "(see Note on Flap)", dated DUNEDIN 25 AU 43. It is addressed to Private W.Wood, No. 17000, 57 P.M. 3200, Italy. It has a British 'Tombstone' octagonal censor mark DDA/13. The 'RECOVERED BY ALLIED FORCES' marking was applied in purple."

AN INTERESTING MARKING - BCM/AIR FIELD

Recently I acquired a First Day Cover of the 1937 Health Stamp. In itself, this is quite ordinary. It carries a horizontal pair of the stamp in question, cancelled with the large C-class datestamp of Blenheim dated -1.0C.37.840A.M. The cover, which is addressed to Carterton in the North Island, also carries an Air Mail Etiquette.

On the reverse, in the bottom right hand corner of the cover, there is a single lined unframed mark reading BCM/AIR FIELD. This does not appear to be a postal cachet; nevertheless, if anyone can give me any information concerning this marking, I would be glad to hear from them, through our Editor.

T.D.LATTO

WEST COAST CANCELLATIONS WITH GOLD FIELDS ORIGINS.

Continued from Volume XXX, page 18.

Following the last article, which dealt with cancellations with gold fields origins in the Hokitika area, there is another place which appears to have been a centre of attraction of a gold field, but very near to Hokitika itself. This is

KANIERE

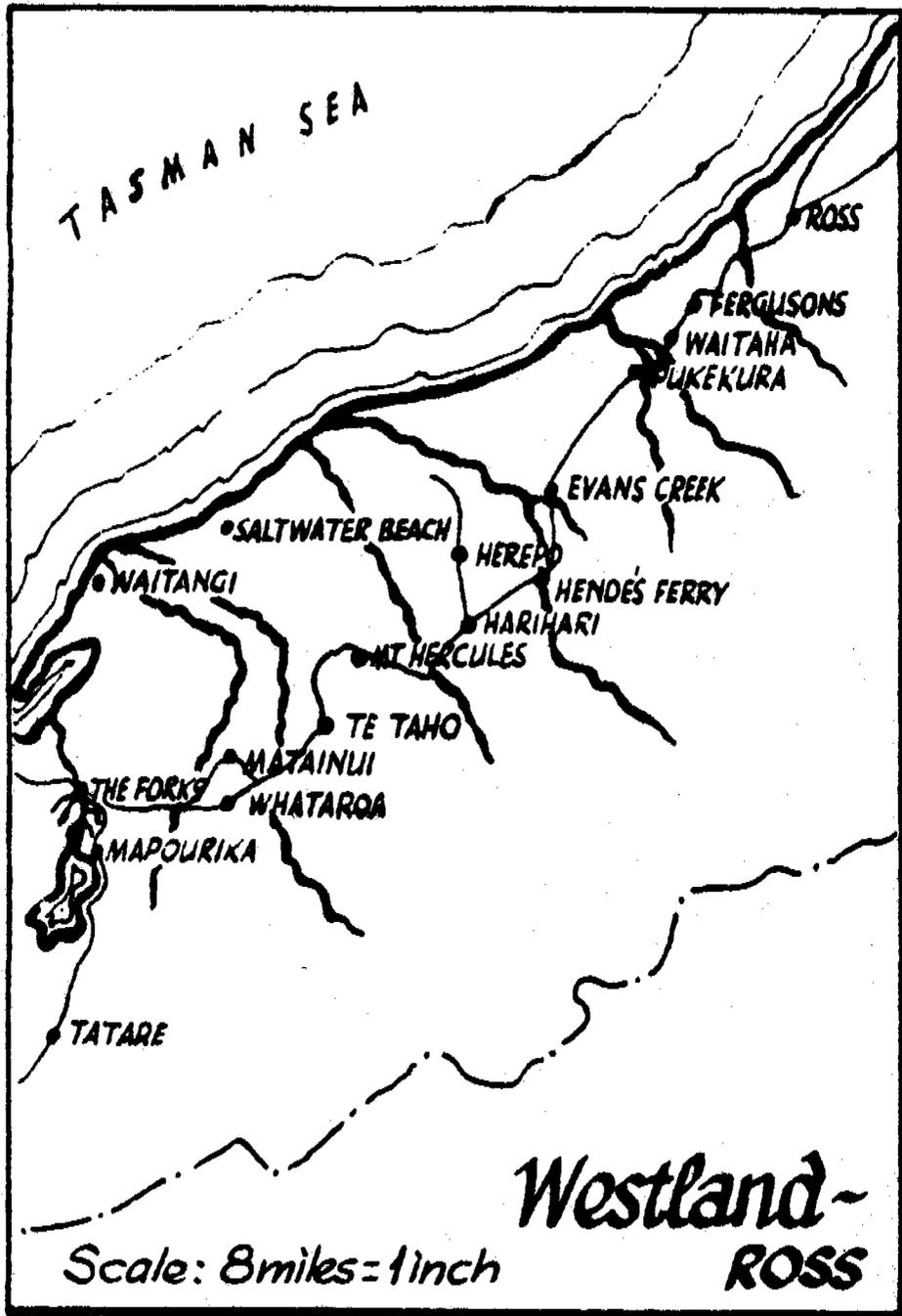
This place was on the North Bank of the Hokitika River about three miles east of Hokitika and was a gold field in the gold rush era. It was named after the Kanierie River which flows into the Hokitika River. The Office was opened on 20th April, 1865. I am not aware of any manuscript cancellation. However, as a District Office, the Obliterator 'C over 4' within seven horizontal bars was used at Kanierie and this is illustrated on page 74 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. I have not seen 'C over 4'. The place was listed as Kauierie in 1865 but this was an error for Kanierie. I understand it is also listed as Five Mile as an alternative name but if so this must not be confused with Five Mile Beach (where an Office was opened on 28th May, 1870) some five miles south of Okarito to be later mentioned.

We now move further south according to plan and have to consider
TOTARA (ROSS)

On my Blackie's Map of New Zealand published in about 1861 the Totara River is a small river which flows into the sea about fifteen miles south of Hokitika. A Post Office at Totara was opened on 25th August, 1865. An early gold miner there was G.A.E. Ross and the name of the Office was changed to Ross after him about 1st November, 1865. The gold field was also known as Totara Diggings, Jones' Diggings, Ross Flat and Ross Totara. On the next page is a sketch map again taken from R.M.Startup's Westland Postal Services, 1860 - 1960, which shows the position of Ross. Ross originally used a manuscript cancellation which is illustrated on page 103 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand as "Ross 2/7/66". From page 73 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand it will be found that Ross also used 'C over 6' within seven thick horizontal bars and 'V over 4' within seven thick horizontal bars which latter was later transferred to Kumara. From what is said below it would appear that the earliest known manuscript cancellation "Ross" was dated 8/5/66 on a 2d. blue Chalon Head perf. 12½. Obviously there was considerable gold field activity because we read in "New Zealand Life" that in November, 1866, Archdeacon Harper visited the area and found about 5,000 men at Ross "chiefly in deep sinkings; winding and hauling gear visible everywhere; steam engines at work; work going on day and night." "New Zealand Life" tells us that in 1866 there may have been 27,000 men on the West Coast which two years before had all of it been practically uninhabited.

No wonder mail facilities were required. Mail from Ross was routed via Hokitika, because nearly all known covers from Ross were backstamped Hokitika.

The 'V over 4' obliterator problem was first raised by G.K. Molland in 'The Kiwi', Volume XV, November, 1966, page 3, just 100 years after Archdeacon Harper's observations. There followed



in 'The Kiwi', Volume XVI, page 77, September, 1967; Volume XVII, page 26, March, 1968, and page 38, May, 1968, a considerable and detailed analysis of the manuscript cancellation, the 'C over 6' and the 'V over 4' obliterations, both of which are illustrated on page 74 of Volume III of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. As a result of copies and covers then held by well-known New Zealand Postal Historians both in New Zealand and in England, the upshot of these deliberations was that the first manuscript cancellation "Ross" was dated 8/5/66 as above stated. As to the 'C over 6' obliterator, the earliest known use was on 24/9/67 on a 6d. Chalon Head perf. 12½ on cover to Carlisle. The latest known use was on a 2d. Second Side-Face Queen Victoria definitive, perf. 10, 1894 print. As to the 'V over 4' obliterator the earliest known uses were 1870 and 15/2/71 on cover; and the latest known use at Ross on cover on 7/9/71. It was of course recognised that for a time the obliterations 'C over 6' and 'V over 4' were both used at Ross but at the time (1967 and 1968) the likely increase in mail due to the gold field was not mentioned by the contributors to 'The Kiwi'. It seems reasonably clear that the two obliterations were used at the same time owing to that need. From the issues of 'The Kiwi' above stated it can be established that in 1967 and 1968 four manuscript cancellations, twelve 'C over 6' and six 'V over 4' cancellations were known used at Ross. Volume VI of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand states that 'C over 6' (type 10 in Volume III, page 74) has not been seen but it was reported in 'The Kiwi', Volume XVII, page 26, March, 1968, that Gerald Elliott had a cover with 'C over 6' within seven horizontal bars on a 6d. brown Chalon Head Davies print, also with manuscript 'Ross 24/9/67' on front. This is the cover addressed to Carlisle above mentioned. Volume II of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand states that the obliterator 'V over 4' was transferred to Kumara and a long outstanding question has been and still is, when? The Post Office at Kumara was opened on 1st July, 1876, just over five years after the latest known use of 'V over 4' at Ross. But so far as I know at present the earliest known use of 'V over 4' at Kumara was on 16th July, 1886, on 6d. Second Side-Face Queen Victoria definitive which was part of the Dr. J.D.Riddell collection.

Kumara, however, is on the southern banks of the Taramakau River, eighteen miles north of Hokitika. The latest known use of 'V over 4' seems to be on 18th March, 1889 ('The Kiwi', Volume XVI, page 80, September, 1967) and at that time covers were backstamped at Wellington or Christchurch.

In continuing the research for West Coast Cancellations with Gold Fields Origins perhaps the more relevant question is why was the 'V over 4' obliterator transferred? I think an intelligent guess at the answer is that by 1876 - 1886 the gold return at Ross was falling and so the obliterator not being necessary was transferred. There was a Kumara Gold Rush, described in "New Zealand's Last Gold Rush", by William F. Heinz, A.H. & A.W.Reed, Wellington, 1977. I cannot say whether this is accurate not having seen the book, but it looks highly probable.

On my present information there do not appear to be any other offices with Gold Fields Origins south of Ross until we get to the area between Okarito and Bruce Bay and the next article will deal with cancellations with Gold Fields Origins in that area.

ADDENDUM.

The use of the 'V over 4' obliterator at Ross is mentioned as being used at the height of the gold rush there and the latest known use on cover from Ross was stated to be on 7th September, 1871. The Auction after the Annual General Meeting of the Society is always an interesting affair, interspersed with the humour of our Auctioneer, Noel Turner, and the tenseness of the bidding members. That held on 30th November, 1980, was no exception and I was relieved to get to the moment when Lot 90 was knocked down. I had a bid on 'the book' and on further examination of Lot 90 it proved to be a 'V over 4' obliterator on a 6d. Blue Chalon Head, S.G. 136, on cover to Islington in North London, posted from Ross on 25th June, 1873, by the backstamp. The backstamp of Hokitika, some 16 miles away to the north of Ross, is of the same date, and the backstamp of Christchurch is dated ? July, 1873. This shows the cover proceeded by the Mail Coach Service via Arthur's Pass in the Southern Alps to Christchurch. On the face of the cover is the red circular London Arrival Mark of 8th September, 1873. The cover therefore went by sea via Suez to Southampton and not overland via Brindisi in Southern Italy which would have required a 4d. stamp as the surcharge to be applied in New Zealand. The cover establishes that the latest use at present known of the 'V over 4' obliterator at Ross is 25th June, 1873, so that it is between that date and 16th July, 1886, when the obliterator on present knowledge was first used at Kumara, some 18 miles north of Hokitika, that the date of change has yet to be established.

The issue of The Mail Coach, Volume 17, pages 11 - 12, November, 1980, states from Official Records that during 1865, 3,027 letters and 174 Newspapers were received and despatched at Ross, just before Archdeacon Harper recorded 5,000 being at Ross in the gold rush in 1866. No doubt in later years there were many more letters but the scarcity of these items today shows how few survived.

JOHN D. EVANS

To be concluded.

VIA SYDNEY - SINGAPORE / - ENGLAND

A further example of this cachet has been shown to your Editor by our member, F.R.RIBBENS. The cover is franked with stamps to the value of 1/6, it is addressed to England, and the stamps are cancelled with the Napier C-class datestamp. Unfortunately, the date of the cancellation is not clear, except for the year, which is 1938.

Thus all the covers with this cachet so far recorded have come from Napier. The suggestion, therefore, that this cachet was used at the Napier Chief Post Office is becoming more and more likely.

ALLAN P. BERRY

A PROBLEM OF IDENTIFICATION SOLVED ?

On page 121 of Volume XXIX of 'The Kiwi' there was published a photograph of three gentlemen posed around a Stamp Vending machine. Members were asked if the people depicted could be identified.

From New Zealand, our Member, JOHN WATTS, writes with answers to

these problems. This was in the form of a photocopy of an article taken from a philatelic magazine which John can no longer identify. The same photograph appears, with the caption as follows:-

R.J.Dickie (left), his partner, J.H.Brown (standing), and the engineer who produced the first working model, W.Andrews (right), photographed with the first Dickie machine.

At John Watts' suggestion, and with acknowledgement to the philatelic magazine, as yet unidentified, from which it is taken, the whole article is reprinted below.

R.J.DICKIE - STAMP VENDING MACHINE EXPERT.

Quite a title - this one of Stamp Vending Machine Expert - and there is quite a story behind it, too! It all began in 1891 in Wellington, when a 15-year old boy named Robert Dickie joined the Post Office, then called the Post and Telegraph Department, as a messenger in the Circulation Branch. By 1904, he had risen to the rank of clerk in the Foreign Mail Branch of the General Post Office. It was then that in Mr. Dickie's own words, "...the idea of a machine to sell postage stamps (by means of a coin in the slot) became an obsession with me. I kept banishing the idea from coming into being, but at last, the urge would not let me sleep, and for peace of mind, started working on the making of a model."

Together with a more mechanically minded friend, a Mr. J.H.Brown, also of Wellington, Mr. Dickie succeeded in constructing the machine he had imagined, and in June, 1905, the first model of his automatic stamp-vendor was installed on trial in the vestibule of the General Post Office. The mechanism was simple, but necessitated the use of stamps made in a continuous roll. Since stamps were only issued in sheet form, Mr. Dickie and Mr. Brown had to cut the sheets into strips before the machine could be operated. The trials went well for a fortnight until members of the public caused a breakdown by inserting lead discs instead of pennies!

The two inventors then spent some time improving their contrivance and the second public trial a month later was entirely successful.

Since Mr. Dickie, as a foreign mail agent, was required to make the sea trip to San Francisco, they decided to take the machine in the hope of obtaining patent rights in the United States. During the voyage, they met a wealthy Tasmanian lady, a Mrs. Kermode, who expressed great interest in the machine. Foreseeing the market value in the automatic stamp-vendor, she offered to obtain the patent rights in all countries except Britain, the United States, and the Colonies. Mrs. Kermode was true to her word, not only giving Mr. Dickie the royalty on sales in these other markets, but also forming a financially sound company in London.

In 1907, a model of the new, improved Dickie stamp-vending machine was installed in the British House of Commons. The public of the day seemed to view the novelty as an entertainment not to be denied them, and spent much time trying to "beat" the machine by inserting foreign coins and pennies attached to silk threads. The Dickie machine stood firm against these attacks and disgorged every unwanted object - even old, worn down pennies, British though they might be.

Inquiries by the hundred were received from the Continent and from America for the rights to manufacture this first practical stamp-vending machine. At the 1909 Seattle Exhibition, Mr. Dickie's invention was awarded a gold medal. About the same period, commercial production was begun at the English firm of George Salters and Co. Ltd. and by the end of 1909 there were 10 Dickie models on trial in different parts of New Zealand.

By 1913, the machine had proved its immense value, both to the public and to Post Office staff, and 100 models were ordered from England for extended use throughout the country.

In 1918, the New Zealand Government purchased the patent outright, and the Dickie machine was at last being manufactured on home ground in the Post and Telegraph Workshops.

Since this date, of course, the story is well known. The stamp-vending machine of 1904, modernised with the passage of years, is still much in evidence outside any New Zealand Post Office. Gradually they are being replaced by the push-button type of vending machine (again the invention, in 1960, of two New Zealand Post Office employees), but their term of service - already 60 years - ensures them a permanent place in the history of Post Office development.

And the title of Stamp Vending Machine Expert? This was the official name given to Mr. Dickie by the postal authorities. For the rest of his working life, Mr. Dickie was actively employed as mechanical supervisor of his machines, and continually sought ways and means of improving his design.

A "quiet, methodical officer of good appearance and address", he retired from the Post and Telegraph Department in 1931. Mr. Dickie's favourite occupation in later years was tinkering around with numerous gadgets he had devised, and displaying to visitors his large collection of worthless coins rejected by his stamp machines.

He maintained a deep interest in his invention all his life, even paying a visit to England to see the vast workshops where the Dickie machine was being mass produced. In fact, right up to his death in 1958, he still lived up to his title of official expert on the coin-in-the-slot, stamp-vending machine.

FINDINGS FROM FILES.

Four files have come to light from material returned to the National Postal Museum from the Post Office Supplies Department at Hemel Hempstead. These are now in the custody of W. Raife Wellsted, the Curator. He was kind enough to draw them to the attention of your Editor. All are labelled New Zealand Stamps, and show some insight into the co-operation of the British and New Zealand Post Offices in the production of stamps. From time to time, extracts of interest will be published in 'The Kiwi', by kind permission of the National Postal Museum.

The first extract is accompanied by a letter dated 8th April, 1925, and is addressed to a W.M. Cook, Esq., at the Post Office Stores Department, Stamp Section, Somerset House, London, W.C.2. It is from the General Post Office Wellington, and reads:-

"As promised....I now enclose....setting out the present practice of the Stamp Duties Department in connection with the

production of New Zealand stamps, etc."

The sheets that were with this letter are entitled:-

STAMPS:- N.Z. METHOD OF PRODUCTION

Stamps - Recess Printing "Hoe" Machine

(a). The higher values, viz., from 4d. to 1s. are printed from steel recess plates on special watermarked paper, one hundred and twenty (120) stamps to the sheet.

Cook Island Issue.

(b). Cook Island issues of the values of ½d. to 1s. are all worked from recess plates, sixty (60) stamps to the sheet. These stamps are in two colours. Each island has its own issue, viz., Niue, Aitutaki, Penrhyn and Rarotonga.

Samoa Issue

(c). Samoan stamps of the values of ½d. to 1s. are printed from recess plates, one hundred and twenty (120) to the sheet.

Stamps, postal-notes, etc., surface printing "Summit" Wharfedale.

Stamps

(d). Stamps of the value of ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d. and 3d. are worked from steel surface plates on special coated and watermarked gummed paper. Two hundred and forty stamps to the sheet.

Duty Stamps.

(e). Stamps varying in values from 2s. to £1,000 are all worked from electros, sixty (60) stamps to the sheet.

Letter-cards

(f). Letter-cards are printed from electros on blue-tinted card, twelve (12) on a sheet. They are gummed after printing, cut up two (2) on a sheet; then a machine perforates slits to single cards and folds.

Post-cards

(g). Post-cards are printed from electros on a buff-tinted card sixteen (16) on a sheet.

Insurance stamps

(h). Insurance stamps are printed from zinc plates on the special coated and watermarked gummed paper, one hundred and twenty (120) stamps to the sheet.

Newspaper wrappers

(i). Newspaper wrappers are printed from electros on buff-tinted, watermarked paper, eight (8) on a sheet.

Postal Notes

(j). Postal-notes of the values of 1s., 1s.6d., 2s., 2s.6d., 3s., 5s., 10s., 15s. and 20s. are all printed from electros on special watermarked paper, ten (10) notes to a sheet.

Railway News Stamps.

(k). Railway news stamps for use in the Railway Department only, are printed from stereos in values from ½d. up to 6d. on ordinary gummed paper.

Postage Due Stamps

(l). Postage-due stamps of various values are printed in two colours, one hundred and twenty (120) stamps to the sheet, on special coated watermarked and gummed paper.

Overprints

Overprints are all printed from electros or stereos.

Plates, Recess

The plates used in printing stamps items (a) (b) and (c) are

steel, recess plates, made by Messrs Perkins and Bacon, London, and Messrs Bradbury and Wilkinson, London. Items (a) and (c) have one hundred and twenty stamps to the sheet, and (b) has sixty (60). These plates are well made, and give general satisfaction.

Surface Plates

The steel plates used for the surface printing are made by Messrs Perkins and Bacon, London. There are two hundred and forty (240) stamps to the sheet. These plates are very serviceable and last a number of years, in fact since changing over the Universal penny stamp from recess- to surface-printing, only one plate has been used. In view of the fact that we are so far away from London, it would be advisable to adhere to the steel plate rather than the steel-faced, copper plate in use for the printing of British stamps, as the steel plate used by us will last a good deal longer.

Electros

Electros of postal-notes, letter-cards, newswrappers, post-cards, duty stamps, etc., are all made in the Government Printing Office Electro and Stereo Department, Wellington, from dies, etc., supplied by the Stamp Duties Department. They can be renewed from time to time at short notice.

Paper, etc.

The paper for the surface printing is supplied by contract, and is a special coated and watermarked gummed paper. The sheets are numbered, and the watermark is made to register on each stamp. The suggestion made that an "All over" watermark be substituted for the present registered mark is quite feasible, and from the printer's stand-point offers no difficulties. It would be an easy matter for us to trim paper after printing, to ensure that the margins left on paper would be insufficient for printing stamps on. I think the numbering of the sheets could be dispensed with also, as all paper is issued on requisition by the Stamp Duties Department. It is carefully checked by officers of the Stamp Printing Branch together with an officer from the Audit and Stamp Duties Department, before being printed. A special check is also made by the Stamp Printing Department of all good and spoiled sheets before they are delivered to the Custodian of Stamps. Plate glazed paper could be substituted for the coated paper in use at present at a considerable saving, but naturally the printing would not look as well as at present. Recess paper is also numbered, and here again the same procedure is adopted in checking, etc., so that numbering should be unnecessary.

Paper for post-cards, letter-cards, newswrappers, duty, stamps, etc., is all requisitioned for and checked in the same manner as the postage paper.

Machinery.

As stated, the whole of the surface printing is done on Dawson's "Summit" Wharfedales, Royal size. These machines have been in use for a number of years but are still capable of dealing with the work of the Department. The recess printing is done on a "Hoe" machine. Whilst good work is turned out on this machine, it is a much slower process than the surface-printing, and consequently is much more costly.

The sheets of stamps are all perforated on Barrett's comb perforators. These machines give a very satisfactory perforation.

A rotary perforator is used for perforating postal-notes.

A coiling machine is used for making up coils of 480 stamps for the stamp-vending machines.

A gumming machine, with drying oven attached, is used for doing all the necessary gumming in the Department; a good quality, dry, tasteless gum powder being used.

Booklets

Stamp-booklets of the value of 2s. each are made up with advertisements between the sheets of stamps in the book.

Postage Due Stamps

The specimens of postage-due stamps forwarded from Britain appeal to me as being much more artistic than our own, and as they are worked in only one colour they could be copied to advantage.

Stamp Printing Branch,
13th March, 1925.

From an undated memo on the file which from various clues from its content must be contemporary with the above, certain other interesting facts emerge.

There were two Royal "High Art Summit" machines manufactured by Wm. Dawson & Sons, Otley, Yorkshire. These machines run at a speed of from eight hundred to one thousand sheets per hour.

The "Comb" perforating machine was manufactured by Barrett & Co. of London. This firm is now out of business but their successors Messrs W.R.Catten & Co. can supply machines or parts of a similar kind if ordered.

The "Recess" or "Intaglio" machine used was made by Messrs Hoe & Co., New York. This machine can print from four plates of one hundred and twenty, or two hundred and forty stamps to the sheet, at the rate of about five hundred sheets per plate per day. That is with four plates on, the machine could turn out two thousand sheets per day. The demand for the higher value stamps is not sufficient to warrant running more than one plate at a time on the machine. The paper used for Recess printing is watermarked, but as it is damped before printing it cannot be gummed until all printing is completed.

The Intaglio process is very much slower than the surface printing and consequently much more costly. The plant at present in use is capable of dealing successfully with the work of the Department but, if in the near future a greater output was required, it may be necessary to go into the question of improving the plant. Perhaps....it would be worth while investigating the possibilities of "Offset" printing in producing stamps. This process has made rapid strides in the printing world, and I understand has been used successfully in some quarters for Stamp, Bank-note printing and work of a similar nature.

For your guidance I append an approximate estimate of a years output of Stamps etc. printed by the Department.

Postage Stamps	176,218,000
Letter Cards	2,438,000
Post Cards	2,037,000
Newspaper Wrappers	304,000
Duty Stamps	2,098,000
Postal Notes	2,576,000

This memo is signed J.R.Donald. Stamp Printer. It is undated.

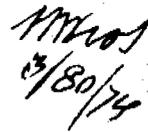
MANUSCRIPT MARKINGS.



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3

The manuscript markings illustrated above are from the collection of our member, R.S.STRANGE.

Type 1.

This marking is taken from a 1d. Brown Chalon Head, watermark large star, perf. 10 x 12½, showing advanced plate wear. The stamp is further cancelled with the Obliterator '20' of Greymouth. It is similar to type 11, illustrated on page 98 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. Our member, ROSS MARSHALL, has identified this as originating from Arnold Post Office.

Type 2.

This marking is taken from a 2d. Blue Chalon Head, watermark large star, perf. 12½. The stamp is further cancelled with a 'C' obliterator. Our member, ROSS MARSHALL, believes that this was used at Ohinetahi Post Office, although there is no proof to substantiate this. If so, it would have preceded the home made obliterator and date-stamp used at that post office. The marking is similar to type 366, illustrated on page 457 of Volume IV of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

Type 3.

This marking is taken from a 2d. Orange-Vermilion Chalon Head, no watermark, perf. 12½. The stamp is further cancelled with the obliterator '15' of Nelson. It is similar to type 224, illustrated on page 105 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. Again, our member, ROSS MARSHALL, has identified this as originating from Waimea West Post Office.

Manuscript markings are still of great interest, particularly if they are apparently unrecorded. Both your Editor and Ross Marshall would greatly appreciate seeing any with a view to recording them.

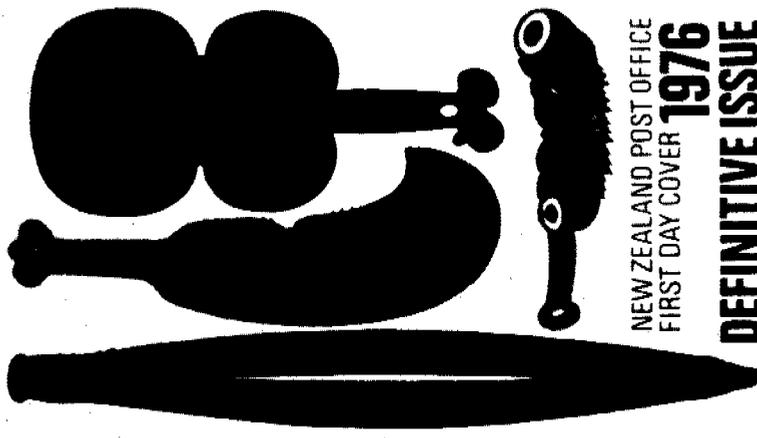
ALLAN P. BERRY

TWO INTERESTING NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE FIRST DAY COVERS

The two covers illustrated, one on page 19, and one on page 33, are both in the collection of E.J.POLLEY, to whom they are addressed. The sender is not a philatelist, but, being aware of Ted's interest, sends him material from time to time.

The New Zealand Post Office Unaddressed First Day Cover for the 1976 Definitive issue was, as usual, unsealed. Into the envelope was placed a Christmas Card, and an Air Mail Etiquette and an 18c Christmas Stamp was added. The cover was then addressed to Ted Polley, posted, and the stamp cancelled LEAMINGTON -8 DE 76 1. As should have been expected, the missive was delivered without difficulty.

The New Zealand Post Office Unaddressed First Day Cover for the 1979 International Year of the Child is an entirely different



NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE
FIRST DAY COVER **1976**
DEFINITIVE ISSUE

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



1p
NEW ZEALAND
POSTAGE
24 NOV 1976
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
WELLINGTON



12c
NEW ZEALAND
POSTAGE
24 NOV 1976
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
WELLINGTON

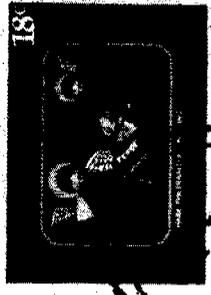


13c
NEW ZEALAND
POSTAGE
24 NOV 1976
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
WELLINGTON



14c
NEW ZEALAND
POSTAGE
24 NOV 1976
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
WELLINGTON

Mr. E. J. Poley



18c
NEW ZEALAND
POSTAGE
24 NOV 1976
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
WELLINGTON

ENG 640701

proposition. This time, a letter was placed in the envelope, it was sealed and addressed. An Air Mail Etiquette was added, as were a 2c Roses Definitive stamp and a 23c Small Harbours Special Issue stamp. These stamps were cancelled LEAMINGTON 20 JE 79 1, and the missive was delivered without difficulty.

For the first cover, the Postage Rate for the unsealed envelope to England at that time was 18c, and this was paid by the stamp added to the cover. But in the case of the second cover, the Postage Rate should have been 35c. Certainly, 35c worth of stamps are present on the cover, and no postage due has been levied. But 10c of these stamps have been cancelled at an earlier date.

The New Zealand Post Office First Day Covers may be considered souvenirs, since the stamps affixed do not pay for a postal service. In the case of the second cover, however, it may be that the 10c stamp was counted as helping to make up the 35c rate. Or was it simply that no one noticed just what had been done.

In an attempt to find out if this procedure had been authorised, Ted wrote to his friend and asked him for further information. This brought forth the reply that unfortunately, memory failed the friend, but "if the cover was thus spoilt, send it back and I will try and get the Post Office to replace it!"

LATE USE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 OFFICIAL STAMPS

Following the publication of an article under this title by R.J.E.Jenkins in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXIX, page 102, our member K.J.McNAUGHT writes as follows :-

At the time of the decision to withdraw official stamps, most Government Offices were using commercial meter franks for payment of postage on letters. Franked adhesive paper strips or parcel labels were used at some of the larger offices for bulky articles such as parcels, but at many offices stamps were used on any mail which could not be directly franked.

After official stamps were withdrawn from general issue on 31st March, 1965, Government Offices holding stocks of official stamps continued to use these until the stamps were exhausted. Stamp requisitions after this date were met by supplying current postage stamps of the 1960 Pictorial Series. There is no particular significance, therefore, in the proper use of official stamps after 31st March, 1965.

I cannot answer R.J.E.Jenkins' questions, but clearly it was normal practice not to recall official stamps or withdraw them from use. The existence of large numbers of used King George V stamps overprinted Official and dated late 1935 to 1937, up to two years after the normal stamps had been withdrawn, suggests that residual complete sheets of some values were not destroyed, but were overprinted Official for use by Government Departments. This is why only the 1d., 1½., and 1/- Pictorial stamps on Single Watermark paper were overprinted Official.

The fact that both residual Official and normal stamps were being used at the same time means that combination frankings are found. I have examples on cut-out pieces or parcel labels used on large envelopes containing plant samples or parcels of soil samples sent to the Laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at Hamilton from the Ministry's offices at Gore,

Kaikohe, Kaitaia, Lambton Quay, Oamaru, Rangiora, Rotorua, Tauranga, Te Kuiti and Upper Hutt. They are dated between May, 1965, and June, 1967, mostly 1965. The 1967 piece, with Rotorua roller cancellation, has not only two of the 1/- Queen Elizabeth II Official stamps, plus three of the 4d. and one of the 9d. 1960 Pictorial stamps, but also a 2/- King George VI Official stamp covering the 5/9 parcel rate. The packet or parcel rates covered in my examples, namely 1/3, 1/9, 2/6, 3/6, 4/3, 5/3, 5/9, 6/9 and 9/9, lend themselves to such mixed frankings.

THE SEVENTH HEALTH CAMP.

In 'The Kiwi', Volume XXIX, pages 91 and 100, the question of the Health Camp at Nelson was raised.

This is a camp that was not run by the King George V Memorial Health Camp Federation; instead, it was supported by the Nelson District Executive.

The camp was run only on a part time basis and as the Health Stamps are generally issued about August time, which is the New Zealand winter, the camp would be closed.

The camps that have special post marks are open all the year round catering for children that have problems other than under-nourishment that was one of the main reasons for setting up the Health Camps during the days of the depression. Today there is so often a need to provide an environment within which a child that has become nervous or unhappy can regain its health and learn to adjust to community living. The Health Camps provide such a happy surrounding.

Covers have been issued by the Nelson District Executive over a number of years, the earliest one that I have is that shown with the 1938 stamp and first day cancellation. I have another cover used in 1940 that is almost the same design except that it has the addition of the words 'First Day' above the words Official Cover. The next cover I have shows a picture of the Nelson Camp. I have this design with the 1951 Health Stamps, cancelled on the first day of issue, the earliest date I have found for this type.

In the September article mentioned above, the cover illustrated is referred to as the 'Official Cover'. This is not quite correct. The cover was issued by Mr. Keith Collinson of Palmerston North, from a sketch by Mrs. Eileen Wright. The printer was Dudley Rabone & Co., the blockmaker was Palmerston Photo Engravers Ltd., both companies of Palmerston North. The same basic design is found without a date used for the first day of issue of the 1949 set.

To add a little more to the lesser known camps, another design is shown. This was issued in 1964 by Mr. Herb' Mullan (of Simon Sam fame) of New Plymouth, which was printed by McCleod & Slade of the same town. This cover shows ten camps, the additions apart from Nelson being Hamilton, Timaru and Invercargill, again private camps.

Very soon there will be an additional Health Camp postmark to collect. This will be Rotorua, a new camp in the course of construction.

JOHN WATTS

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION YET? PLEASE DO SO NOW

Help the Children.



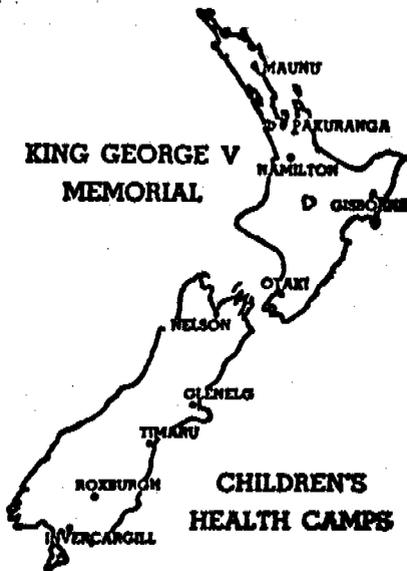
" Better to hunt in fields
For health unbought,
Than fee the doctor
For a nauseous draught."
—DRYDEN.



OFFICIAL COVER OF
The Nelson Children's Health Camp Assn.
Incorp.



*J. W. Adams
Greymouth*



*Mr. A. N. Joyce
P.O. Box 976
Auckland*