



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

# the kiwi

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WHOLE 167

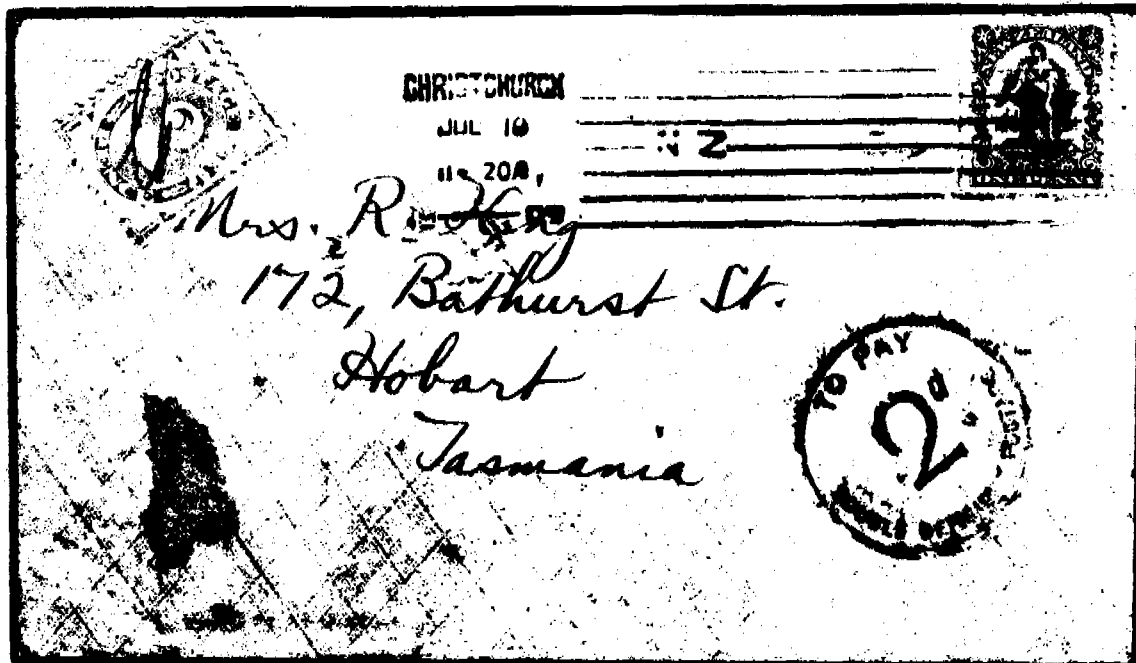
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 1981,  
 AT THE SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, MONMOUTH STREET, LONDON, WC2H 9HD,  
 STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

A MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTORY MEETING ON BIRDS ON NEW ZEALAND STAMPS  
 LEADER - JOHN D. EVANS

Birds on New Zealand Stamps appear on issues from 1898 to 1974.  
 Most of the Leader's collection is thematic. Please bring for  
 display and talk any material you think will be of interest,  
 including studies, re-entries and retouches, particularly of  
 the more modern 'New Zealand Bird Stamps'.

It would be a kindness to forewarn the Leader, whose address is  
 38, Sea Lane, Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex, PO22 7RX.

PENNY UNIVERSAL ENVELOPE WITH AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE DUE



SEE PAGE 41.

## EDITORIAL.

The number of entries in the Competition this year was disappointingly low. This is strange, in view of the fact that there are a number of magnificent trophies available. The classes are so arranged that there is opportunity for every member, whatever their particular interest, to win one of these. The comments of our distinguished Judge, C. Angus Parker, were most helpful and constructive to those who did submit entries.

Those members who were kind enough to bring along problem items were rewarded by a lively discussion. Some are reported elsewhere in this issue of 'The Kiwi'; it is hoped that others will form the basis of articles in future issues.

ALLAN P. BERRY

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### MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

A.J.Graham, 43, Bourne Park Close, Kenley, Surrey, CR2 5BS.

T.N.Stephens, 29, Valetta Park, Emsworth, Hants., PO10 7HJ.

DECEASED

J.A.Milliken, Kilfenora, Silchester Road,  
Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

RESIGNED

K.Dixon, c/o Merseyside P.S. Royal Institution,  
Colquitt Street, Liverpool.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

N.L.Jones, The Ferrings, Quarry Hay, Chew Stoke, Nr. Bristol.  
(previously of Waterlooville).

S.I.Larsen, 79, Moorhouse Street, Morrinsville, New Zealand.  
(previously of Hamilton, New Zealand).

T.I.Samuels, "Two Gables", 35, Ascot Road,  
Moseley, Birmingham, B13 9EN.  
(previously of Sheffield, Yorkshire).

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### MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1981 - THE ANNUAL COMPETITION

The meeting was declared open by our Chairman, Stanley Cross-Rudkin, who welcomed members to the Society's Annual Competition. The entries having been removed to another room for judging, the meeting was handed over to Allan Berry, who led off with two problem covers. One was an Air Mail Cover - or was it? The second was a cover addressed to England, bearing two King George V  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps cancelled in Sydney, the problem being how this came about with this particular cover. Stanley Cross-Rudkin showed a 6d. pale blue Chalon Head of 1873 perf. nearly 12 by  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , asking how this could have come about. Frank Scrivener showed a Chalon Head with an unidentified pen-cancellation; two examples of the 2d. Queen Victoria Second Sideface definitives with identical scratch flaws, recognised by Rita Gilders as being known and plated; a 4d. King George V stamp from plate 20 with an unrecorded flaw that led to some discussion. The question was asked whether anyone knew how many designs were recorded for the Post Cards issued by the New Zealand Government Department of Tourist and Health Resorts. John Woolfe showed a cover from New Zealand recovered from the wreck of the Centurion in 1939 - a rare item.

Finally, our distinguished Judge, C. Angus Parker, came to the front to talk about the entries that had been placed before him. It was immediately clear that he had spent a great deal of time studying each entry, and the comments given were heard with interest and respect. The winners were as follows :-

- Classic Section : Noel Turner Trophy - Allan P. Berry,  
Life Insurance Issues.  
Runner-up : John D. Evans Trophy - J.D.Evans,  
6d. Chalon Head.  
Modern Section 1 : Kiwi Shield - Captain B.J.Pratt,  
Penny Universal Postage.  
Runner-up : Paua Musical Box - J.A.W.Smith,  
King Edward VII.  
Modern Section 2 : Stacey Hooker Cup - D.Churchill,  
Queen Elizabeth II Blocks.  
Runner-up : Paua Book Ends - D.W.Bradbury,  
1969 Captain Cook.  
Postal History : John J. Bishop Trophy - D.Churchill,  
First Flights of New Zealand.  
Runner-up : Barton Bowl - T.Brock,  
Early Airmails.

The meeting ended with a hearty vote of thanks to our Judge on behalf of all present, proposed by Noel Turner.

R.G. & A.E.H.

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### STAMPEX 1981

Congratulations to the following members who gained awards in Stampex 1981.

Bronze-Silver Medal - A.G.G.Riley, J.A.W.Smith.

Bronze Medal - D.Churchill, N.H.Willis.



As is now the custom, the New Zealand Post Office had a stand at this Exhibition. For those members of the general public who requested it, the cachet illustrated was used. I am very grateful to the staff manning the stand for providing the strikes from which this illustration is taken.

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### REVIEW

A Guide to National Stamp Exhibitions, by Patricia E. Capill.  
Published by Palmpex '82, P.O.Box 1717, Palmerston North,  
New Zealand. Price NZ\$5.50, posted air mail.

Whilst this booklet is entitled A Guide to National Stamp Exhibitions, the first thing that one notices is that four fifths of the contents are a guide to exhibiting rather than Exhibitions!

Part one explains what constitutes a stamp exhibition, the types of competitive exhibition, where and when they are held and the purpose of such exhibitions. One major omission in this first section is that Stampex is mentioned as Britain's annual national stamp exhibition, no mention being made of the British Philatelic

Exhibition! I find it interesting that entries at some national exhibitions consist of as many sheets as one may wish to enter for judging, with only the prescribed number of sheets nominated by the entrant to be displayed to the public.

Part two discusses the various types of exhibit; the planning and layout for maximum effect, and the writing up and mounting to gain the best possible marks. It discusses the criteria used in judging and the percentage marks for various aspects of the exhibit. Some of the illustrations are rather blurred and indistinct and I feel that diagrams rather than photos would have been more satisfactory.

All in all an informative and well presented booklet, aimed at encouraging competition both national and international.

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### SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

#### FOURTH WORLD ANGUS FORUM



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Christchurch on Wednesday, 25th March, 1981, to mark the Fourth World Angus Forum.

Mail posted in a special posting box at the Christchurch Town Hall, the venue of the forum, was cancelled with the special datestamp.

#### CENTENARY OF PHARMACY IN NEW ZEALAND



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Christchurch on Monday, 13th April, 1981, to mark the Centenary of Pharmacy in New Zealand. The first Pharmacy Act came into force on 1st January, 1881, and provided for the registration of pharmacists. A Pharmacy Board was established by the Act and its successor by latter legislation is the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand.

The datestamp design features a simplified version of the special centennial logo designed for the Society by John Castle.

Mail posted in a special posting box at the Christchurch Town Hall, the venue of the centenary conference, was cancelled with the special datestamp.

#### 11TH MEETING OF INTELSTAT SIGNATORIES



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Auckland on Monday, 13th April, 1981, to mark the 11th Meeting of Intelstat Signatories.

Mail posted in a special posting box at the Hotel Intercontinental, the venue of the meeting, was cancelled with the special datestamp.

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### 1981 STAMP PROGRAMME - ROYAL WEDDING

On 20th March, 1981, the Postmaster-General of New Zealand, the Hon. Warren Cooper, announced that two stamps will be released by the Post Office on 29th July, 1981, to commemorate the wedding of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer.

One stamp will depict the Royal couple and the other St. Paul's

Cathedral. The stamps will be printed se-tenant, i.e., side by side on the same sheet, and each will carry a 20c denomination.

Further details and photographs of the stamps will be released by the Post Office at a later date.

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### PALMPEX '82

Bulletin No. 2 is now to hand. This contains the Classification of Competitive Entries, and a List of the Rules. Clearly, if any member is contemplating submitting an entry, then a copy of this Bulletin is essential.

The production of a Postage Imprint Label (shades of Panpex 77) is also announced, by permission of the New Zealand Post Office, who also arranged the design and printing. A copy was used to part pay the postage of this Bulletin.

Various other souvenirs are also announced, to assist in the raising of funds, all of which seem to be priced very reasonably.

Your Editor has a small supply of application forms for membership of the Supporting Society, which will be sent on receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope. Alternatively, you can write to Palmplex '82, P.O.Box 1717, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

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### PENNY UNIVERSAL ENVELOPE WITH AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE DUE

As most members must have long since realised, I have something of a bee in my bonnet about the Penny Universal, particularly the more unusual items. When I sent a photocopy of the item that is illustrated on the front page to our Editor, he asked me if I would write it up for the benefit of the readers of 'The Kiwi'.

At the January, 1980, meeting of the Society, which concerned Registered Mail, quite a number of the covers shown were addressed to Australia. Some of these were correctly rated, and some were not. Those that were not correctly rated did not show any "Postage Due" markings. When showing my own material, I passed comment on this, and asked how often the States of Australia charged deficient postage. Up until then, I had never seen one, and I had been looking for about ten years. A week after the meeting, I acquired the cover illustrated, which, although not Registered, does show "Postage Due" markings.

I think that everybody must know that on Tuesday, 1st January, 1901, Penny Postage came into being for most Countries within the Universal Postal Union. A few of these, amongst them the United States of America, France and Germany, felt that they could not reciprocate but would agree to accept and deliver letters so charged. Australia was the notable exception. They would not only not reciprocate, but threatened to return letters only charged one penny, or charge Postage Due.

The correct rate to Australia at this time, according to the Australians, was 2d. for ordinary mail, plus 3d. for registration. Over 60% of the envelopes and cards in my collection are addressed to Australia, and only carry 1d. postage. None of these show any sign of Postage Due, until this recent acquisition. This cover is dated July 10th, 1907, so that Australia was still being naughty even as late as this.

If my collection is representative of the period, why are

"Postage Due" covers so scarce? Did the Postmaster in Hobart, the destination of most of my covers, disagree with Government policy? If he did, how did he hang on to his job for so long? Or was it just too much trouble to sort out the envelopes, affix Postage Due stamps, and apply the appropriate cachet? This cover appears to come from the Tattersall hoard, and there are a great number of these about. Members comments would be appreciated.

B.J.PRATT

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### THE TAKAHE, OR NOTORNIS.

How fascinating can a bird and its history be? The Southland Centennial Association must have provided part of the answer with its suggestion that the Takahe bird associated with Lake Te Anau should be included in the stamps commemorating the Centennial of Southland in 1956. The relevant stamp was eventually the 8d. value C.P. S71a, S.G. 754, which was recess printed by De La Rue & Co. on Wiggins Teape 'Royal Cypher' grade paper, watermark multiple NZ and star, comb perf. 13 and issued in sheets of 160, 8 rows of 20. No regular varieties appear to have been reported, but spots of red do appear on some copies which I suspect are transient particles of foreign matter.

The bird certainly had a struggle for recognition over the years. Very few birds go through cycles of being extinct and then being found still in existence. The Takahe first came to the attention of Europeans in 1847 when ancient bones were found near the mouth of the Waingongoro River in Southern Taranaki. The species was named the extinct Mantell's Southern Bird. However, in 1849 a specimen was found alive and was promptly eaten, according to history, in Dusky Sound.

Two years later, in 1851, another Takahe was captured and eaten in Thompson Sound.

Another 18 years passed, until 1869, when a third specimen came to light actually and historically. This bird was killed by a Rabbiter about 9 miles south-east of Te Anau. After this, the existence of the Takahe appeared to have come to an end. But after a lapse of 29 years, in 1898, it is recorded that one more bird was caught by a dog on the Southern Shore of the Middle Fiord of Lake Te Anau. It is assumed that the bird came to an untimely end. It is now said that the bird can live up to 20 - 25 years, so that it must have bred somewhere then unknown to man, rabbiter or dog. However, neither the bird nor the seekers were to be outdone. Dr. G.B.Orbell, an ornithologist, spent nearly 30 years, starting in the 1920's, picking up information about possible hiding places of the Takahe, which means "wandering at large".

By plotting references to the bird on a map, Dr. Orbell found that the area surrounded by the sightings of the Takahe was one of the least explored in New Zealand. Maori history suggested the existence of a lake unmarked on maps, which the Maoris called Kohaka-Takahe, meaning "nesting place of the wanderer".

In April, 1948, Dr. Orbell and two friends went into this area, and an unknown bird-call of two deep notes, repeated twice, was heard and recent footprints near the lake were found. It is now known that in both sexes the alarm note is a deep, resonant thumping sound and perhaps this is what the party heard.

In November, 1948, the party again went into the same area where a male Takahe and then a female were netted; a third bird ran off towards the bush, squawking.

According to publications supplied by the Wildlife Service, there are about 250 of the birds, which are flightless and about the size of a Farmyard Hen, in the Murchison Mountains, where they nest at an altitude of 750 to 1,300 metres. The bird has a red and almost triangular beak; head and chest are sky blue, the back greenish and the tail olive green, and the legs are a flesh colour. The bird's fertility rate is poor, only one in three eggs being fertile. The bird is specially protected by the Wildlife Service. A few are kept in Mount Bruce Native Bird Reserve, and in 1972 after fourteen years effort, two chicks were born but later died.

As to the 8d. stamp, the number printed was 2,000,000 and unsold stocks were withdrawn from sale on 31st August, 1957.

After seeing coloured photographs of the bird one is disappointed that the slate-purple of the centre of the stamp depicting the bird was preferred to the bird's wonderful natural colours, which with the carmine or deep rose-red of the frame would have produced a more natural subject and outstanding stamp. Perhaps multicolour was not available to this extent in 1956; if it was, more is the pity that it was not adopted.

JOHN D. EVANS

#### References.

The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume IV, page 243.

Remarkable Animals of New Zealand, by G.Kreuger.

Birds of New Zealand, by Gordon R. Williams.

25TH OR 26TH OCTOBER, 1934

The sixth Health Stamp, referred to as "The Crusader", appeared in 1934 but doubt exists as to the actual date when this stamp was first issued.

Stanley Gibbons' Commonwealth catalogue refers to 26th October, whilst, up to 1979, Campbell Paterson's catalogue had stated 25th October, which was apparently in line with views held in New Zealand. However, in the latest 1980 catalogue supplements issued by Campbell Paterson, it is implied that this

Health stamp appeared in Wellington on 25th October, but at other post offices on 26th October.

As I possess a cover, believed to be First Day, clearly marked with a c.d.s. TAURANGA - N.Z 25 OC 34.1 - see illustration - this obviously puts the Campbell Paterson statement in doubt.

In view of the question mark surrounding the date of issue of this particular Health Stamp, members of the Society could help to clarify the situation by advising the Editor of the post mark details of any 1934 Health Stamp 'First Day Covers' that they may have in their collections.

T.D.LATTO

Any member willing to visit Thurrock and District Philatelic Society, Grays, Essex, on 1st September, contact Terry Brock.

## WEST COAST CANCELLATIONS WITH GOLD FIELDS ORIGINS.

Continued from Volume XXX, page 26.

The sixth of these articles dealt almost exclusively with the cancellations at Ross. We now move further south again down the West Coast to the Gold Fields in the Okarito - Bruce Bay area. Here again I must record my indebtedness to the sketch map of this area from R.M.Startup's Westland Postal Services 1860 - 1960. From this map we deal first with :-

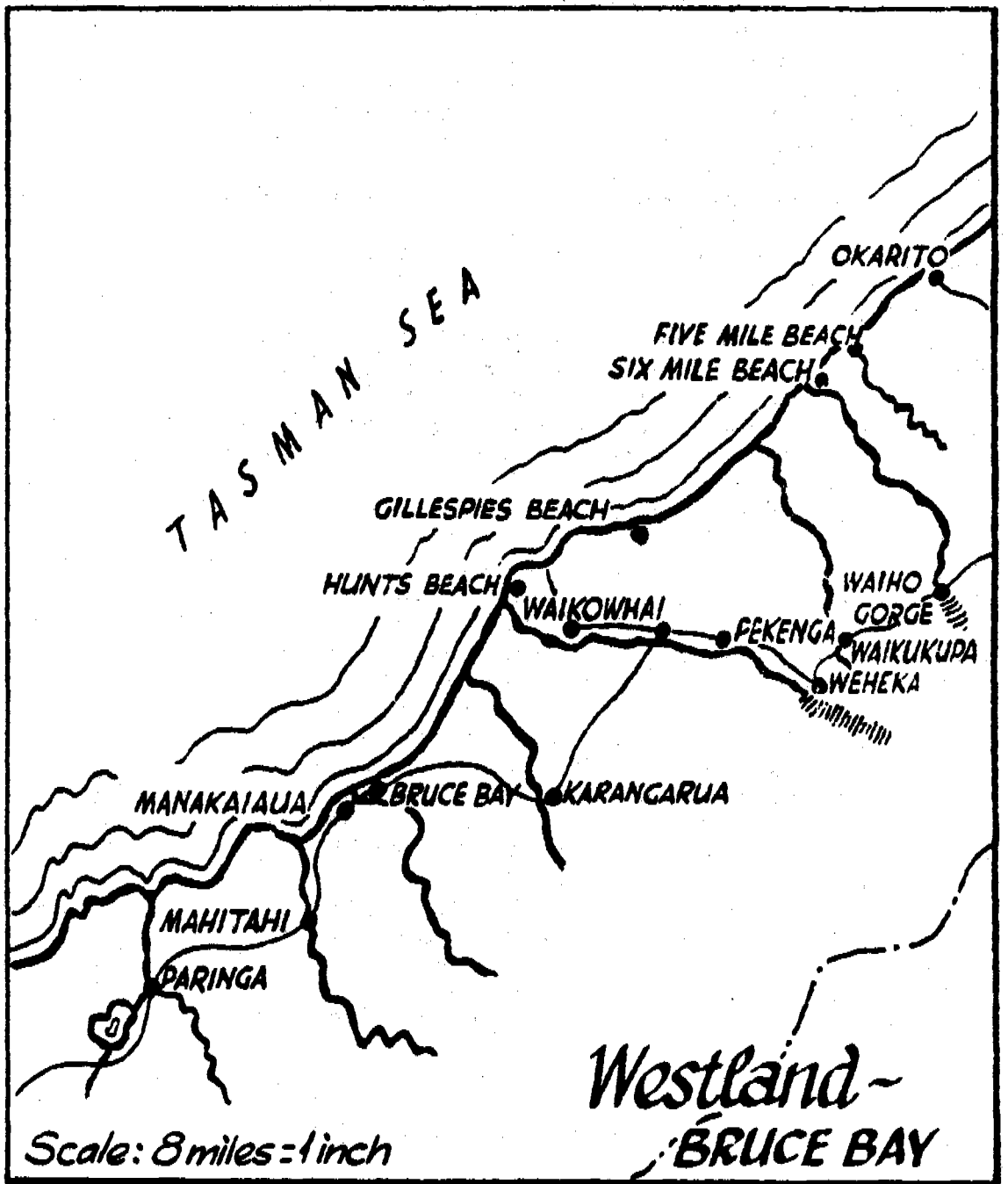
### OKARITA, later OKARITO.

Towards the end of 1865 rich deposits were discovered just above high water mark on the beach. "New Zealand Life" already quoted and referred to in previous articles says that the gold was in a layer of black sand a few feet below the surface. At the height of the rush there were about 3,000 miners at work. One reads that the name means 'place of the bulrush' and was taken from the extensive lagoon there. The Post Office was opened as OKARITA on 1st February, 1866, but the name was altered to OKARITO about 1st January, 1874. A manuscript cancellation was used in 1866 and this is illustrated on page 102 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. A William Chambers was the first Postmaster. I have a 6d. Brown Chalon Head perf. 12½, S.G. 122 with manuscript cancellation OKARITA dated 5th May, 1866, which is a different handwriting to that shown on page 102 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. This could easily be due to the wife or friend standing in for the local Postmaster during illness or absence. The stamp I have is also cancelled with the 'C' within seven horizontal bars, number 2 on page 65 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, showing that this was applied at Christchurch. The route probably was to Hokitika via Arthur's Pass by coach to Christchurch. What a pity the recipient or some early collector removed the stamp from the cover! Okarito does not seem to have had any number allotted as a District Office either when in the Christchurch District or when in the Westland District from 1st January, 1868. It had an obliterator 'C over 5' within six thick horizontal bars, illustrated on page 74 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. According to the same Volume, this obliterator was later transferred to the Timaru District, which is on the east coast of the South Island, and was established on 1st January, 1879. After this, I doubt whether any cancellation at Okarito could be said to have a gold field origin.

### BRUCE BAY.

This is said to have been named after the steamer 'Bruce' which visited the place in 1865. No office was opened until 1st March, 1885. The office was about 11 Km or 7 miles north-east of Bruce Bay. The name was changed to Jacob's River on 5th February, 1935. Jacob's River was the early gold miners' name for the Wakawhio River which flows into Bruce Bay. Those who failed to get rich claims at Okarito above mentioned moved southwards as far as Bruce Bay or even farther and found gold bearing beaches. However, none were as rich as Okarito. No number was allotted to Bruce Bay as a District Office and I know of no manuscript cancellation or obliterator used at the office. This may be due to the fact that, speaking generally, by 1885 when the office was opened the gold





return was falling. The name was changed to Manakaiaua on 22nd September, 1952, but this has no relation to any cancellation with gold field origins which may have been years before at Bruce Bay. This office was closed on 28th February, 1969. There was another office called Bruce Bay about 2 miles north of the original Bruce Bay Post Office, but this was not opened until 5th February, 1935. It has no gold fields origins, being required, I understand, for the farming community.

#### GILLESPIE'S BEACH or GILLESPIE'S.

This beach is 118 miles south of Hokitika and north of Bruce Bay. It was named after J.E.Gillespie who discovered gold there. An office was opened on 28th March, 1870. No manuscript cancellation seems to be known but Gillespie's Beach was allotted the Number 16 as a District Office. Volume VI of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand says an obliterator numbered '6' was used at Gillespie's Beach, but I have not seen it. The office was closed on 17th October, 1912.

#### HUNT'S BEACH.

This beach is on the coast near but south of Gillespie's Beach. A Post Office was opened here on 1st April, 1871. The beach was named after Albert Hunt, an explorer and gold prospector. There does not appear to be any manuscript cancellation and Hunt's Beach was not allotted any number as a District Office. The office was closed on 1st March, 1873, and as it had a life of less than two years any cancellation is likely to be of some rarity.

Many of the goldmining townships of tents and calico huts faded away and as they did so Post Offices were closed. Some permanent settlements in the south of the West Coast in the 1870's and 1880's received their mail either by pack-horse from Hokitika which took about a fortnight to arrive or by a monthly steamer or sailing ship.

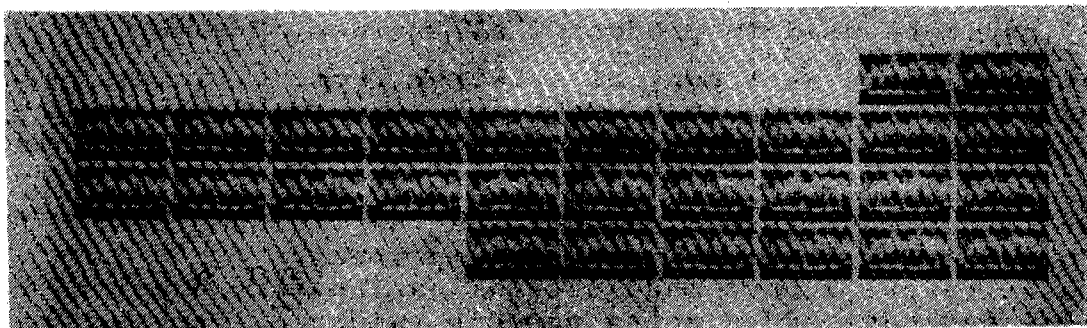
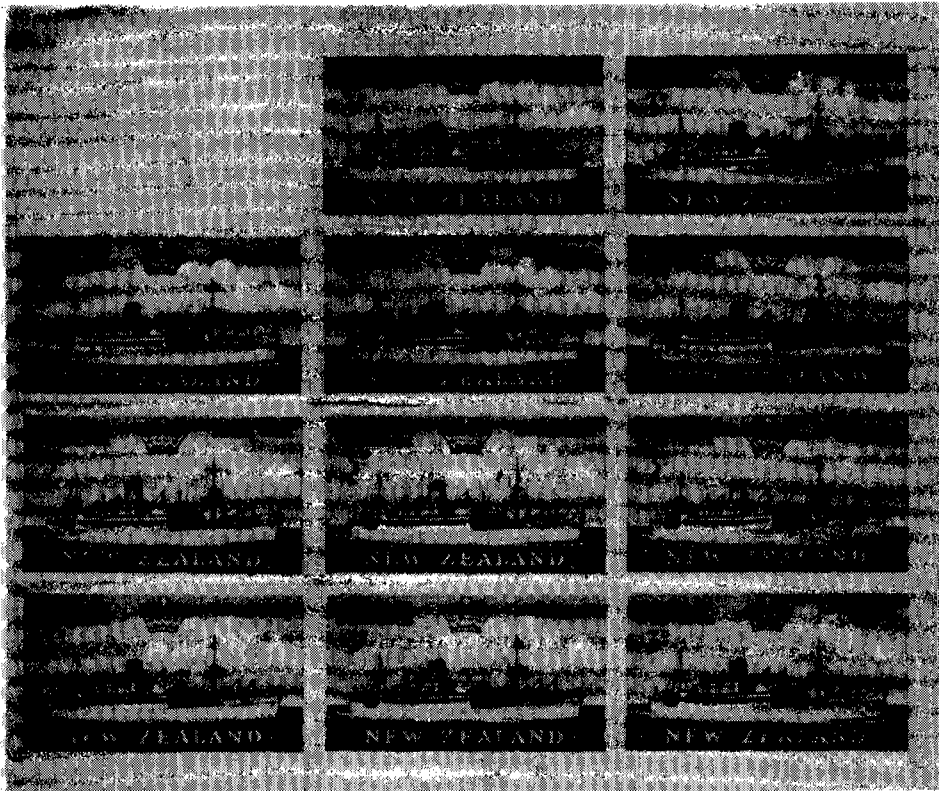
In the north of the West Coast coal mining in the Brunner area had been established by 1874 and the formation in 1878 of the Westport Colliery Company amalgamated many existing coal leases in the District and coal operations developed on a larger scale. Further south from Hokitika lands were being taken up for farming. So with gold mining passing its peak coal mining and farming took its place in those now far off days. For the Postal Historian of today, however, the West Coast Cancellations with Gold Fields Origins are an opportunity for research which has been quite fascinating to me. I hope these articles which have appeared in 'The Kiwi' will promote interest and further knowledge on an interesting subject.

JOHN D. EVANS

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#### THE NEW ZEALAND "GOTHIC"

Owing to the death of King George VI on 6th February, 1952, the Royal Visit to New Zealand by Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip was abandoned. A set of stamps commemorating the visit had been prepared for issue, as had a set for the previously abandoned visit in 1949. In the latter, the 3d. value had shown H.M.S. Vanguard but in the 1952 issue the vessel had been changed to the R.M.S. Gothic.



An unusual plate proof of an incomplete plate of this unissued stamp has been seen comprising two complete horizontal rows of ten, positions 9 and 10 in the row above, and positions 5 to 10 in the row below.

Presumably it had been intended to make a complete plate of sixty impressions and the paper on which this proof is printed is not large enough to determine which rows were represented; the guide lines suggest that the four rows are the top four.

Although the stamps are printed in a suffused shade of blue, positions 5 to 8 on the third row are less suffused and appear to be in a different shade.

Pencilled in the lower margin are the initials R.T.B.

One cannot help but wonder if this is as far as the printers had got with the production of the plate when the sad news was released of the sudden death of the King.

ROBSON LOWE

## FINDINGS FROM FILES.

### THE 2/- and 3/- NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE STAMP ISSUE, 1926.

From the undated memo mentioned on page 31 of Volume XXX of 'The Kiwi', which was signed by the then Stamp Printer, J.R.Donald, we read:-

#### NEW 2/- & 3/- STAMPS

I understand these are to be similar in size to the Cook Island 1d. Pictorial issue. One Steel "Surface" plate of each value would be required. The plate to consist of eighty stamps, eight rows of ten stamps to the row. The space allowed for perforation between the top and bottom of the Stamps in the Cook Island sheet could be reduced to conform with space allowed between sides. On no account should the size of the stamp exceed that of the Islands issue. Points for perforating should be fixed to plate.

#### COMB PERFORATING HEAD 2/- & 3/- STAMP.

A perforating head to fit the Barret machines in use at present will be required to be forwarded with plates. Care to be taken to ensure that the Head fits the plates accurately. Two extra cutting plates should also be sent with "Head".

#### PAPER.

A special size, coated, Gum paper with a watermark to suit Stamp should be used in the production of these Stamps. If the Commissioner of Stamp Duties will reduce the size of the Duty Stamps to that of the Island issue, the paper and perforating machinery could be used in producing all values of same.

On the file, there is a copy of a letter from H. Linley Richardson, the designer, to G. McNamara, the Acting Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department, dated 22nd July, 1924. This reads:-

Enclosed herewith please find enclosed the finished design for new 2/- and 3/- New Zealand postage stamp issue.

For the engraver, I have made several explanatory drawings round the design, and have added notes for His guidance. Perhaps the most important of these being the retaining of the balance of lights and darks, as in the original.

When proofs are submitted later from the firm of engravers in London, may I suggest that it would be well to have the original design accompany them.

G. McNamara wrote to A. Markham, Secretary, New Zealand Post Office, Delegate to Postal Union Congress, c/o Secretary, General Post Office, London, E.C.1., on 30th July, 1924, as follows:-

In reference to the proposed new 2s. and 3s. postage-stamps: I now forward the finished design prepared by Mr. H. Linley Richardson, Wellington, which has been approved by Cabinet. I understand that you propose to arrange for the making of plates in London, and that you have all the necessary information.

The next note on the file is dated 11th October, 1924, and shows that contact was made by A. Markham with a Mr. Sparkes at the Post Office Stores Department. Receipt of various items is noted, and it was agreed that "Waterlows should be asked for a quotation

for the master dies and plates - to be engraved by Mr. Harrison."

Many details are minuted as discussions proceeded. The design was subjected to some criticisms, where comparisons are made with contemporary British stamps. These criticisms are as follows:-

The King's ear is more prominent than in the British stamps.

The tip of the nose is not shapely and the nostril is not the same as in the British stamps.

The collar tends to make the neck look thick and to throw the chin forward.

Should the four bars (vide columns) be equidistant? This query relates to each of the four sets.

A final question is asked - should His Majesty see and approve of the design?

It is pointed out that "the only steel plates for British stamps are those for recess work. British & India stamp surface plates are grown."

The favoured type of surface printing plate was "printing surface nickel (grown) next layer copper (grown) with lead compo back."

The plate size, suitability to machinery in use in New Zealand, and cost are all discussed. Perforations are mentioned, and the point is made that "if Cook Island stamps have hitherto been printed in New Zealand and if new stamps (printing surface) are made same size, is there any need for new perforating head? Will not existing one suffice?"

Inks - "Are they sensitive to removal of writing ink and postal cancellation ink?"

Paper - "If postal cancellation ink only, what is the necessity for coating?"

Some of the points discussed in these minutes were referred to New Zealand. The first of these queries are dated 23rd October, 1924. The cable reads:-

Is a master plate only required or printing plates in addition? If the latter, how many and will nickel or steel surfaced copper plates similar to those used for British stamps be acceptable?

Is a slot required in margin of plate for any mark or symbol? Are border lines required on plate?

The answer was conveyed to the British authorities on 4th November, 1924. It states "...required one steel surfaced copper surface printing plate for each value. Slot not required. Suggest break in border in line each perforation."

A formal invitation to tender was sent to Waterlow & Sons Ltd. on 18th November, 1924. This specified steel engraved master dies for each of the 2/- and 3/- New Zealand stamps, and a surface printing plate (80 set) for each value. It appears that the quote should be for producing the plates by a choice of two methods:-

- a) Electro grown copper plate, steel faced, lead composition back.
- b) Plates similar to those for British Unified Stamps, i.e. Electro grown nickel surface, electro grown copper, lead composition back.

This tender had to be submitted by noon, 26th November, 1924. On 4th December, New Zealand was cabled with the tender figure

"Two hundred and thirty seven pounds the lot quoted...Delivered 3 months...considered reasonable."

The order was finally placed by the Post Office Stores Department on 8th January, 1925.

Having placed the order, further problems came to light. On 4th February, 1925, Mr. Cook of the Post Office Stores Department wrote to the High Commissioner for New Zealand as follows:-

...the engraver entrusted with the work offers the following remarks on the design which he has been instructed to follow:-

1) The wavy lines of background, if reduced to scale, will not give the desired effect of the sea; The lines in the die should be firmer and the waves longer.

2) Lines of the character used for the portrait will not produce a good effect in a surface printed stamp; for a good printing result they should be firm and unbroken, like the lines of the portrait on the British Postage Stamps.

3) The border note showing the enlargement of the lozenges appearing in the frame of the design is in the form of a square placed diagonally and not in that of a lozenge. Is it intended that the lozenge shape should appear in the design? The proportion of spacing between the lines in the border note will in any event be maintained.

4) Should the portrait of the King be copied exactly or may it be slightly modified to bring it into agreement with the portrait of His Majesty as approved for British Stamps? All the artist's effects would be retained if this were done.

The engraver, who is also the engraver of the King's Head in the present British Stamps, suggests that he be given latitude to make these alterations, and it is thought that without them the design will not give the effects desired by the artist when surface printed in stamp size.

I have, therefore, to ask you to be good enough to communicate with the General Post Office at Wellington accordingly, with a view to ascertaining whether such latitude as is desired by the engraver may be allowed.

I might add that this Department has every faith in the technical opinion of the engraver, and considers that his advice should be followed.

A copy of this letter was sent to the Post and Telegraph Department in New Zealand by the High Commission. A cable reply from New Zealand is conveyed to the Post Office Stores Department in a letter from the High Commission dated 25th March, 1925. This reads:-

Agree Engravers suggestions 1 2 4 provided mass light and dark of whole design strictly retained as in original lozenge square maintaining proportion.

A letter dated 6th July, 1925, to Valters, Jackson & Co. asks them to quote for "...the new perforating head and cutting plates now required. The head is needed for use with new printing plates now being obtained and an extract from the specification for the plates is appended for your information."

Valters, Jackson & Co. replied on 10th July, 1925, as follows:-

One Perforating Box with two extra cutting plates to fit Barrett

Machine in use by New Zealand Government to suit stamps according to dimensions of your letter of 6th July, price complete Thirty pounds ten shillings, net. As explained...it will be necessary for us to have a sheet of impressions to work to.

On 17th July, 1925, a letter was sent to Mr. Markham, at the G.P.O., Wellington. It reads:-

I enclose for your observations four proofs (two in black and two in blue) of the new master die for 2/- and 3/- stamps together with the original design. The value tablets will, of course, not be completed until after you have approved the engraving of the general design.

I find that the business of Messrs. Barrett & Co. has now passed to Messrs. Valters, Jackson & Co.,...they have quoted a price of £30:10:- net for the supply of one perforating head and two cutting plates to fit the Barrett Machine now in use in your stamp printing department. The price quoted includes delivery to London docks.

Will you please advise me if this price may be accepted and if so, inform me

- (1) whether it is desired that the perforating should be done down or across the sheet, i.e. should the comb have nine or eleven rows of pins.
- (2) how many perforation holes, excluding the hole at each corner, are required on each side of the stamps and what should be the size of each perforation hole.

Messrs. Valters, Jackson & Co. wish to have a specimen print of the sheet to be perforated before making the head, but they expect to complete manufacture in two to three weeks from receiving a specimen sheet of stamps.

If the proofs of the master die are approved perhaps you will cable in order that the production of the printing plates may be put in hand at once. Proofs of the plates will be shown to Valters, Jackson & Co. before they proceed to make the perforating head.

A cable reply dated 17th September, 1925, is confirmed by a letter of the same date. This reads:-

I have to confirm my cable message of today, in reply to your letter of the 17th July last, approving the proofs of the master die for the 2s. and 3s. postage stamps of this Dominion, and authorising the acceptance of the quotation of Messrs Valters, Jackson and Company to supply one perforating head and two cutting plates. As also indicated in the message, the perforating should be done across the sheets - i.e., the comb should have eleven rows of pins.

A sheet showing the size of the perforating holes is attached. The number of holes required on each side of the stamps can hardly be determined here; but with the specimen perforations attached and proofs from the actual printing plates, Messrs Valters, Jackson and Company should have no difficulty in satisfactorily determining the number themselves. It is very much to be desired, of course, that the heads be made to fit absolutely accurately.

The plates and perforating head were finally ordered from respectively Waterlow & Sons Ltd., and Valters, Jackson & Co. on 17th October, 1925.

The next letter on file, however, suggests that the plates were in fact made by The Royal Mint, London, E.1. A letter from them to Waterlow & Sons Ltd. dated 14th December, 1925, reads:-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 10th. inst., regarding 2/- and 3/- Stamp Plates for New Zealand, and in reply to point out that the details given regarding the desired position of the perforation points are not sufficiently clear to enable us to decide exactly where the two points should be placed. In order to remove any doubt on this question, I propose to have two points placed at each end of the plates, as indicated on the accompanying rough sketch, and it will be a comparatively easy matter for your people to remove the two which are not required. I should be glad if you would confirm by return, this proposed arrangement.

With regard to the closing paragraph of your letter I much regret that owing to extreme pressure in the electro-typing shops here, and to the forthcoming Christmas holidays, I do not now see my way clear to promise you these plates earlier than during the first week in January.

The sketch referred to is not on file. Nevertheless, the position of the points as indicated is approved in a letter to Waterlow & Sons Ltd. dated 22nd December, 1925.

One steel engraved master die each for the 2/- and 3/- New Zealand stamps plus a surface printing plate for each value, one original die proof and three sheet proofs for each value, plus fourteen sheets of waste were delivered on 19th January, 1926, by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. Their account for £237-0-0 is also on file, carrying the same date.

Nevertheless, all is not finished. On 22nd January, 1926, the plates were returned to Waterlow & Sons Ltd. with the following letter:-

I am sending you by bearer the stamp plates for 2/- and 3/- New Zealand Stamps for correction. The following defects have been observed on the plates:-

2/- plate.

First row, first stamp piece from right - Dent in hat.

Third row, seventh stamp piece from right - small dent top of hat.

3/- plate.

First row, first stamp piece from right - slight depression between back of head and border.

I also enclose one proof of each plate and four sheets of New Zealand Watermarked Paper, 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

The official order for the perforating head was not placed until 1st March, 1926. Nevertheless, the two accounts from Waterlow and Sons Ltd. and Valters, Jackson & Co. were passed on to the New Zealand High Commission for payment on 26th February, 1926, with separate letters. Each letter ended with a note to the effect that "the account for services rendered by this Department...will be furnished later".

I am very grateful to the National Postal Museum for allowing access to these files, and for permission to publish extracts from them.

ALLAN P. BERRY



## 1981 FAMILY LIFE STAMP ISSUE

If all New Zealanders were asked to describe their own families, and say which four activities best typify their family life, there could be as many different replies as there are New Zealanders.

But ask them to describe the ideal New Zealand family and choose four of its activities, and they might well come up with something similar to what appears on the four stamps in the 1981 New Zealand Family Life stamp issue.

The 20c stamp shows a family of three young children and their young parents 'at play'.

Competitive sports play an important part in the New Zealand ideal of childhood, and games skills are generally encouraged at family level. Physical culture has long been an important aspect of adult life as well, encouraged perhaps by the country's challenging terrain, temperate climate, and abundance of sunshine and good food.

So the sight of a sporting Mum and Dad out playing with the children, while not commonplace, would be highly approved by passers-by.

'The family at play' hints at this society's much vaunted egalitarianism in that Mum and Dad are not afraid to be seen 'playing kid's games', shedding for a while the power of their accustomed parental roles to place themselves on an equal footing with their children, submitting to the same rules.

On the 25c stamp are a story-book elderly couple; Grandpa with his bald pate and braces, Grandma complete with colonial lace collar, hair in a 'bun' and with knitting ready to hand. The relationship they are shown sharing with their young grandchildren appears to give great mutual satisfaction. The old and the very young both tend to have more time to enjoy each other's company than the rest of their busy, achievement-oriented families, but the young and the old do not generally live together.

The nuclear family household consisting of one set of parents and their children is the most common family living arrangement in New Zealand. Grandparents tend to be indulgent visitors rather than participants in the business of daily family life - at least in the dominant Pakeha (European) culture. In Maori, Chinese and several other ethnic groups grandparents and other members of the extended family tend to maintain closer ties and make more frequent contact. They are also more likely to share the same household.

The Maori word 'whanau' which appears on all four stamps carries connotations of deeper kinship ties relating a larger group of people than does its English translation 'family'.

The nuclear family 'at home' is shown in an extremely popular pastime on the 30c stamp - reading a book.

New Zealand is third in the world for per capita spending on books, and has considerably more bookshops per capita than most other Western nations including Britain and the U.S.A. Overseas visitors have been impressed by the size of children's sections in bookstores and by the existence of shops specialising in children's literature. Public library membership figures also compare favourably.

New Zealand parents generally regard learning to read as one of

the most important tasks of childhood, and recognise the importance of reading aloud to their children to ensure reading readiness when the child reaches school age.

Few parents or other child-minders can escape the tyranny of "just another page" of the bed-time story before the youngster goes to sleep. The irresistible appeal of being read to seems to have primeval roots, originating with the teacher-story-tellers of pre-literate times. Just as today most parents recognise the importance of literature and other mass media in shaping their children's values, in ancient times story-tellers shapes cultural beliefs and ideals into myths and legends for ready absorption by their eager (or drowsy) listeners.

The designer of the 1981 Family Life issue, Allan Derrick of Invercargill, found the subject of the 35c stamp the most difficult to portray, as he puts it "without giving offence".

The subject is the family at church, and he has devised a non-denominational Christian church setting.

The suggestion in the background of a preacher addressing a multitude has broader implications than the self-centered family, embracing the concept of the family of man.

Many religions share the concept of a divine parent or parents to whom all humans are as children. In many others there are divine children who have considerable power and magical talents, but perhaps less discretion than their all-powerful parents. The family as a hierarchy appears to have universal significance, indicating perhaps that the form is maintained in response to some deeply felt emotional and other human needs.

The look being exchanged between mother and daughter in the illustration on the stamp suggests the ideal human relationship of mutual love and respect that the preacher could well be exhorting the congregation to extend. While the father, typically, engages his intellect on what is going on up front, the little son is tolerantly allowed to obey his nature and turn around to see what is going on behind.

The strength of the family unit, which is a quality Mr. Derrick was asked to bring out in these designs, is expressed by the bold outline around each of the family groups.

Sensitive to the fact that both the ideals and the reality of family life may be different for large numbers of New Zealanders Allan Derrick chose an impersonal stylised approach in his designs which has a bright contemporary feel. In doing so he attempts to show that these are not representative families but are stereotypes.

STEPHANIE KING

A New Zealand Post Office Feature Article.

From Philatelic News, Volume 16, number 1, March, 1981.

Many stamps issued by the New Zealand Post Office have been outstanding. Many have been mediocre and many down-right rotten, but the Family Life issue is scraping the bottom of the barrel. Bordering on the comic strip format, it is neither attractive or descriptive. Each stamp contains the word 'Whanau' which the Post Office say is a Maori word meaning 'the extended family'. To the vast majority this word will mean nothing.