



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

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the kiwi

VOLUME XXX No. 5

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WHOLE 169

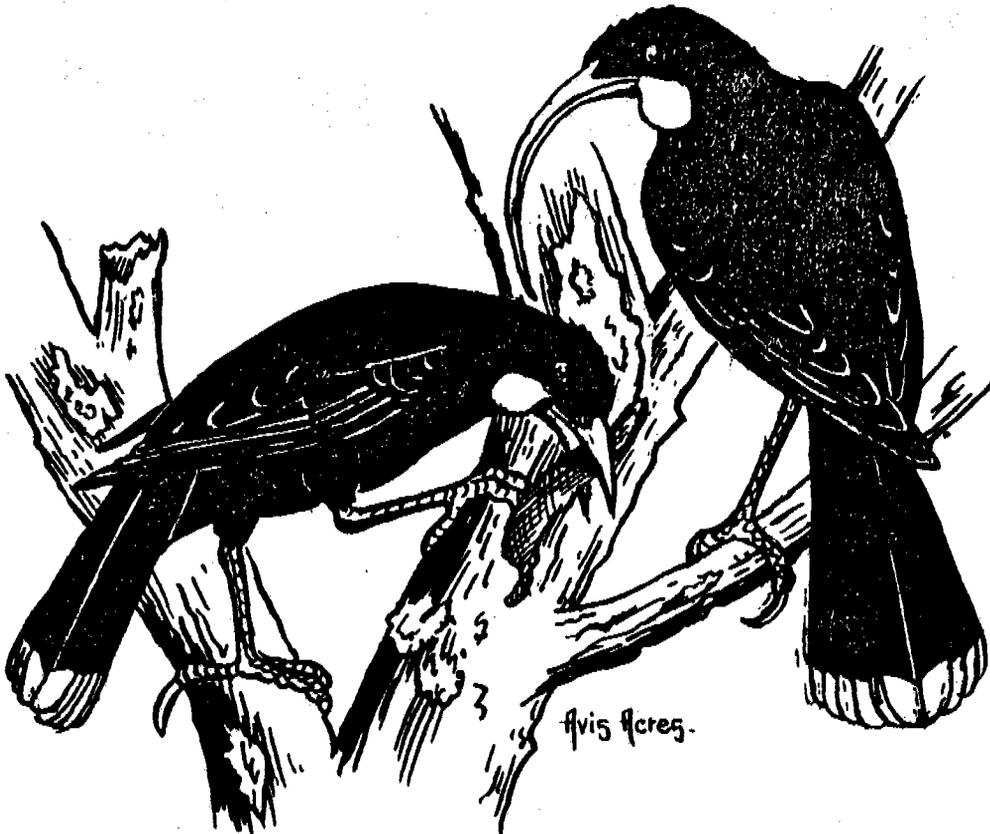
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1981,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

THE SUBJECT OF THE MEETING IS HEALTH STAMPS.

LEADER - NOEL TURNER

PLEASE BRING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING AND IF POSSIBLE
LET NOEL TURNER KNOW OF ANY SPECIAL ITEMS YOU WISH TO SHOW
AT GLADSTONE HOUSE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, LONDON, N22 6JT

THE HUIA BIRDS AND THE 3d. PICTORIAL 1898 - 1908



SEE PAGE 89.

EDITORIAL.

Those members who were present at the last Meeting were very agreeably surprised at the facilities available at the Y.W.C.A., 16-22, Great Russell Street, London. The room was light and airy, with plenty of natural light, yet with good artificial light should this be required. There are refreshment rooms, although the times at which these are open are somewhat restricted.

Nevertheless, a vast improvement on the 'dungeons' to which we had become accustomed in the past. We all owe our thanks to the Officers of the Society who were able to find this venue, and we look forward to a long association with this place.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

A.H.Baker, 61, Sugden Road, Long Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0AD.

N.W.Baxter, 129, Ecclesall Road South,

Sheffield, Yorkshire, S11 9PJ.

T.R.Browell, 23, Olympia Gardens, Morpeth, Northumberland.

P.Gray, P.O.Box 10-392, Wellington, New Zealand.

J.Hook, 13, Greenbank Avenue, Billinge,

Nr. Wigan, Lancashire, WN5 7BX.

Mrs. P.J.Molesworth, Beehive Cottage, Eltisley,

St. Neots, Cambridgeshire.

D.Powell, Elmstead, West Stour, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5AL.

J.W.Skilling, P.O.Box 626, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

Mrs. O.Wild, 19, Blanche Street, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL12 0ET.

G.C.Williams, 84, Baker Street, Potters Bar,

Hertfordshire, EN6 2EP.

DECEASED

E.H.Pyrah, 6, Clifton Park Road, Davenport Park,

Stockport, Cheshire.

R.D.Williamson, 23, St. Margarets Avenue, Sidcup, Kent.

C.Zentner, 29, Templars Crescent, Finchley, London, N3 3QR.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W.K.Jones, 21, Callender Terrace, Paraparaumu Beach,

Wellington, New Zealand.

(previously of Hamilton)

Lt.Col. R.B.Merton, 8, The Terrace, R.M.A. Sandhurst,

Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4NS.

(previously of Chesham)

Mrs. D.M.Noon, 53, Grundale, Kirkella, Hull, HU10 7LB.

(previously of Lincoln)

+ R.D.WILLIAMSON +

With regret we record the death of Reg Williamson of Sidcup on 6th June, 1981, after a protracted illness.

A founder member of the Society in 1952, Reg was elected a member of the first Committee and continued to serve until 1970. Of recent years his health was not good and his attendances at our meetings became unfortunately rare.

A thorough and painstaking student of his stamps, Reg produced well-researched displays, mainly of the Second Pictorials,

illustrated with beautifully precise drawings.

We regret the passing of one who served the Society well for so many years.

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 25TH JULY, 1981. POST CARDS

The meeting was declared open by our Chairman, Stanley Cross-Rudkin, at 2.30 p.m. He welcomed members present to our new and comfortable venue, including a new member, F.R.Wiggins.

The leader for the afternoon was Allan Berry. He led off his display with a representative range of Postal Stationery Post Cards. This was followed by a series of cards issued by the New Zealand Post Office, including Change of Address cards, Advice of Receipt cards, Dockets, the special cards produced for collectors of Pictorial Datestamps, and the full range of the Stamp Postcard Series. This was followed by other official cards, such as Railway Advice Cards, Public Trust Office cards, and Colonial and Foreign Parcel Post Cards. A range of Department of Education cards followed, with some Department of Health and Tourist Resorts cards and Muir & Moodie Postage Stamp cards. He concluded with a range of Picture Post Cards of Maoris and the Wellington to Napier Railway.

Joan Willis showed a number of Postal Stationery cards, while Brian Pratt showed a variety of Picture Post Cards with Penny Universals, some with pen cancels. Rita Gilders showed a detailed study of the early Queen Victoria Postal Stationery Post Cards, and the Boer War Post Cards. Phil Evans showed the revalued, devalued and otherwise treated Post Cards of King George V, with amusing commentary.

F.R.Wiggins showed Picture Post Cards of New Zealand Post Offices. Michael Burberry showed the Penny Universal Post Cards issued at the turn of the century. But Michael also brought along the proof block of 28 of the unissued R.M.S.Gothic stamp featured on page 57 of this Volume of 'The Kiwi'.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks proposed by Ian Fogg, who expressed surprise at the variety of Post Cards displayed by those who professed not to collect these items.

A.E.H.

REVIEW

Mostly Stamps That Never Were, by Peter Blackie. Published by Ponwinkle Publications, Tiki Road, Coromandel, New Zealand. Price \$NZ8.50, plus \$NZ2.00 postage and packing.

This little book should be required reading for everyone, not only philatelists, who have ever said 'What a terrible design the Post Office has picked' or 'I am sure I could design better stamps than that'.

Peter Blackie describes and illustrates designs that have and have not been used on New Zealand stamps. Many of the described stamps have not been illustrated due to the New Zealand Post Office policy which prohibits the publication of commissioned designs not used for stamp issues; indeed, without their approval for the publication of the written descriptions there would have

been no book.

I am sure that few people realize the hours of thought and research that go into stamp design before even the first rough sketches are made. How many of us have given thought as to why certain colours have been used, or why a set is upright or vertical. The bulk of the book describes designs accepted and unaccepted, but the latter part I find the most interesting, as it describes the guide lines laid down by the New Zealand Post Office for the information of the panel of Stamp Designers some eighteen months in advance of the proposed date of issue. The chapter 'Broad Outline' tells in a few numbered sentences the sequence of events in the production of a stamp design from the first receipt of the commission, the thumbnail sketches, trial roughs and perforations. Then follows mounting, photographing for personal records and posting. If the design is accepted the roughs are returned and the detailed Art Work begins. Sometimes the designer is also asked to produce designs for a Cover at the same time. For the Stamp Designer, the sense of achievement and the receipt of the Certificate of Mint Stamps and one addressed First Day Cover far outweigh the financial rewards.

Never again will I condemn a new stamp issue without first trying to see why the original rough sketches merited selection. Stamp designing is not as easy as it would appear, as I am sure you will agree after reading Peter Blackie's book.

E.A.C.

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

OPENING OF CHATHAM ISLANDS AIRPORT



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Waitangi, Chatham Islands, to mark the opening of the new Chatham Islands Airport on Tuesday, 30th June, 1981.

Mail posted in a special posting box at the Waitangi Post Office was cancelled with the special datestamp.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Auckland on Monday, 24th August, 1981, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry. The datestamp design features the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry logo. Mail posted in a special posting box at the Chemistry Department, University of Auckland, the venue of the Jubilee Conference, was cancelled with the special datestamp.

MILCOPEX 1981.

This Philatelic Exhibition was organised by the Milwaukee Philatelic Society from February 27th to March 1st inclusive at the Red Carpet Hotel, Milwaukee, U.S.A. The theme of the Exhibition was British Philately, and the organisers went out of their way to solicit entries from the United Kingdom and the Countries of the Commonwealth, especially Literature Exhibits.

Unfortunately, due to family problems encountered by the

Organising Secretary, the results have only just come to hand. There are a number of results of interest to Members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain.

Among the Philatelic Exhibits, New Zealand Postal History, entered by our Member A.R. Marshall, was awarded a Vermeil Medal.

In the Periodical Section of the Literature Class, the New Zealand Stamp Collector was awarded a Vermeil Medal. In the same section, 'The Kiwi' was awarded a Silver Medal.

In the Handbook Section of the Literature Class, the book 'The Second Type' Postage Due Stamps of New Zealand was awarded a Gold Medal, and New Zealand Railway and Revenue Stamps was awarded a Vermeil Medal.

PRESS RELEASE - JULY, 1981

GIBBONS EXPAND 'NEW ISSUE' BUSINESS WITH NEW ZEALAND AGENCY.

Stanley Gibbons Limited have been appointed sole agents for the new issue stamps and associated philatelic material produced by New Zealand (excluding Tokelau) in the United Kingdom, with effect from July 1st, 1981.

This is the first time New Zealand has been represented in the United Kingdom by a philatelic agency. Stanley Gibbons will sell the New Zealand new issues on a wholesale basis to the philatelic trade including their own retail and mail order outlets.

In a recent survey undertaken by Stanley Gibbons on stamp collecting, it was shown that one in ten people collect stamps in the United Kingdom - over four million people - mostly for a hobby rather than as an investment. Two thirds of this figure collect new issue stamps with New Zealand being a very popular territory. David Stokes, Managing Director of Stanley Gibbons, said "Last year we became the agent for the Norwegian Post Office in the United Kingdom. We see the acquisition of other select agencies, such as the prestigious New Zealand agency, as a vital part of building our business in the 1980's".

The first new issues Stanley Gibbons will handle are the New Zealand Royal Wedding stamp issue to be released on July 29th, 1981, and the popular Health Stamp issue on August 5th, 1981.

Editorial Comment.

The appointment of Stanley Gibbons as Agents for the New Zealand Post Office in the United Kingdom raises a number of questions of interest to both collectors and dealers.

In the past, the New Zealand Post Office has taken stands at Philatelic Exhibitions in this country and on the Continent. These have been manned by staff provided by the New Zealand High Commission in London. The material for sale has been provided by the Marketing Division of New Zealand Post Office Headquarters in Wellington, who have also provided a distinctive cachet for use at each of these Exhibitions.

Who will now provide the staff for the New Zealand Post Office stands at these Exhibitions, assuming that such attendance will continue. Will a separate stand be taken on such occasions, or will the New Zealand Post Office be represented on a stand with the other Post Office for which Stanley Gibbons are now the

Agents. Or will they be represented as part of Stanley Gibbons themselves.

Who will provide the material offered for sale on these stands, Stanley Gibbons or the Marketing Division of the New Zealand Post Office Headquarters. Will the distinctive cachets used in the past still be provided, and if so, by whom.

Collectors have been able to purchase direct from the Philatelic Bureau, Wanganui, New Zealand, and make payment through the New Zealand High Commission in London. Will this arrangement still continue. Will dealers in the United Kingdom be able to purchase material direct from the Philatelic Bureau, or will enquiries be sent on to Stanley Gibbons. What effect will the appointment of Stanley Gibbons as Agents for the New Zealand Post Office in the United Kingdom have on the price that both collectors and dealers have to pay for New Zealand new issues.

All these points have been put to both Stanley Gibbons and the New Zealand Post Office. It is hoped that their comments will be published in a future issue of 'The Kiwi'.

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION

The afternoon of the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on 28th November, 1981, will be devoted to the Annual Auction. Members wishing to sell via the Auction should note the following instructions:-

A list of the Lots for sale, such lists to be typewritten or in block letters only, please, to be sent to me at
W.Hasler Young, 20, Gaudick Close, Meads,
Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 7QF.

before 3rd October, 1981, to enable publication in the November issue of 'The Kiwi'.

Please state your estimate of the market value and your reserve for each Lot. This is a MUST. If you have no reserve, please say so. Also describe the Lot - fully but briefly.

MHH = Mint Heavy Hinged; MLH = Mint Lightly Hinged; M = Mint
UMM = Mint Perfect; FU = Fine Used; U = Used

In the case of used, please state what the postmark is like, and in all cases, indication of the quality of the perforations, etc.

At this stage, please send the list of lots only.

Maximum number of Lots from each member to be forty - 40.

All Lots to be mounted, carded or packaged ready for display and sale, a space of about one inch square should be left at the right hand corner for the Lot Number to be placed by the Auctioneer. Lots to have a value of NOT LESS than £2.00.

Please do not make Lots of items that would be better sold in the Packet. Commission charged is 10% on sales. All postages, poundage, insurance, etc. is payable by the vendor - i.e. return of unsold Lots and like correspondence.

It is with regret that Lots which comprise of periodicals, collections of books or pamphlets, boxes of stamps or other bulky and heavy items can no longer be accepted for Auction UNLESS the

vendor undertakes to deliver and collect from the Auction Room, or if sold, send or deliver to the purchaser direct.

APPEAL

Each year it is the practice of many generous members to offer items both philatelic or general, to be auctioned on behalf of the Society funds, a gesture that in these days of ever rising costs is greatly appreciated. Will you have a search around and see if you have anything surplus. No matter what it might be, we shall be delighted to receive it. Please let me know what you have before 3rd October - so that it can be published in the November issue of 'The Kiwi'. If not, we will always welcome it up until 2.00 p.m. on 28th November, 1981.

W.HASLER YOUNG

WATERLOW STUDY CIRCLE.

Some months ago, R.H.Keach, F.R.P.S.L., of the Belgian Congo Study Circle, conceived the idea of a Study Circle to look into the question of Waterlow stamp plates and printings - including both Waterlow and Sons, and Waterlow Bros. and Layton. An exploratory meeting was convened and took place on 20th June, 1981, in Bedford College, London. The New Zealand Society of Great Britain was represented by the Chairman. After some discussion, the formation of the Waterlow Study Circle was formally proposed by the New Zealand Society of Great Britain and accepted unanimously by those present.

R.H.Keach was elected Chairman, with Colin Hoffman of the Rhodesia Study Circle as Secretary/Treasurer. Colin Hoffman's address is 9, Oaker Avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester, M20 8XH.

It was felt that three meetings might be held in the next twelve months - in October, 1981, February and June, 1982. Membership would be open both to Specialist Societies and to interested individuals. All aspects of Waterlow's stamp printing would be studied, commencing with Printer's Marks on sheets of stamps. An initial joining fee of £2.00 (plus an A4 s.a.e.) will bring you the notes on the Waterlow Questions; annual subscriptions will be fixed at the next meeting and advised to members who can then decide if they no longer wish to continue their membership.

The New Zealand Society of Great Britain has been invited to prepare a paper on the subject of Printer's Marks on sheets of stamps to be presented to the Waterlow Study Circle on 31st October, 1981, together with a display illustrating the subject.

STANLEY CROSS-RUDKIN

VIA SYDNEY - SINGAPORE / - ENGLAND : DAMAGED BY SEA / WATER

The cover that was featured on page 55 and corresponding notes on page 59 of Volume XXX of 'The Kiwi' brought a prompt and authoritative response from a number of our members.

The evidence appears conclusive that this letter was being carried by the Empire Flying Boat G-ADUZ "Cygnus" which crashed at Brindisi, Italy, on 5th December, 1937.

From the letters that were sent to our Editor, the following has been compiled.

In October, 1937, Imperial Airways introduced "C" Class Flying Boats on the Karachi - England section of the air route Sydney - Singapore - England.

Mails which left New Zealand on about November 20th, 1937, and routed 'Via Australia - Singapore - England' were taken by sea to Sydney; possibly the R.M.S. Rangitiki was the means of transport for this leg of the journey, although this may not be the case.

At Brindisi, this New Zealand mail formed part of that on board G-ADUZ "Cygnus". Also on board was mail from Australia, Malaya, Hong Kong, Burma, Ceylon, India, Palestine and Egypt. The New Zealand mail was approximately 8,000 pieces bound for the United Kingdom, datestamped between 14th and 19th November, 1937.

G-ADUZ "Cygnus" crashed on take-off at Brindisi on 5th December, 1937. One member of the crew and one passenger were killed, the rest of the crew and six other passengers were injured. All the mail had been submerged for some time, but most was salvaged and dried out in England before delivery. Many envelopes had the stamps missing whilst some were so badly damaged that they had to be forwarded under cover of another envelope. Some, such as the cover illustrated, were sealed up with the official post office sea 'Found Opened and Damaged'.

Apparently, a number of cachets were used to explain the condition of the correspondence. As a result of the letters from members, one can list DAMAGED BY SEA-WATER in a single line, DAMAGED BY SEA / WATER in two lines, as on the cover illustrated, and DAMAGED BY / SEA WATER / IN AIRPLANE / ACCIDENT, boxed, in four lines. In the latter case, the use of the Americanised word AIRPLANE in a British cachet is interesting and unusual. A fourth in French was used in France on correspondence received there.

Further details can be found on pages 56 - 57 of Volume XXII of 'The Kiwi', in the comprehensive article on New Zealand Wreck Mails, by B.R.PEACE.

I am very grateful to fellow members DOUGLAS A. WALKER, R.M.STARTUP, LAWRENCE J. KIMPTON, FRANK SCRIVENER, TERRY BROCK and J.M.SHELTON who were kind enough to respond to my appeal for information about this cover.

J.G.STONEHOUSE

TWO INTERESTING NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE FIRST DAY COVERS

With reference to the article published in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXX, pages 19 and 32 - 34, the New Zealand Post Office Headquarters has written as follows:-

"The position with unaddressed First Day Covers is that they are produced primarily as a philatelic souvenir and as the stamps have been cancelled at the Philatelic Bureau, Wanganui, they cannot be sent through the post without being enclosed in an outer cover or envelope with the full additional postage being paid. The office concerned has been reminded of the correct procedure."

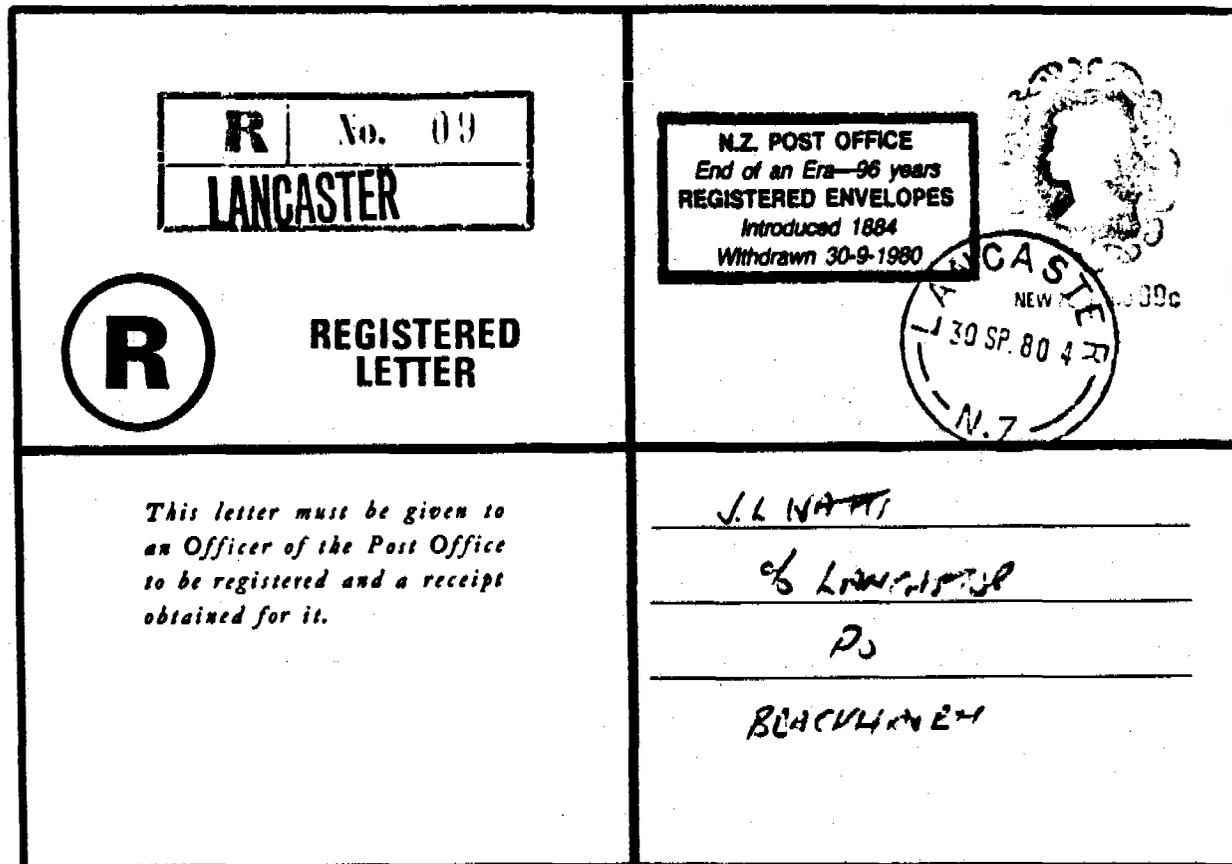
TED POLLEY's friend in New Zealand has also written:-

"Over here at the Post Office, everyone got a 'blistering' about the twice dated envelopes. None of us knew we are not allowed to use them for postage for letters enclosed, or even empty. Not even to send them locally. They have to be in another envelope."

So, now we all know! Oh dear!!

SOME ITEMS OF NEW ZEALAND POSTAL STATIONERY.

September 30th, 1980, saw the demise of a number of New Zealand Postal Stationery items, among them was the Registered Envelope after being available since 1884, a span of 96 years.



The last New Zealand Registered Envelope

If one has an interest in postal stationery, what should one do when the source of new issues is going to all but cease. You can either stop collecting and look for other avenues of interest in the philatelic world, or go over the collection and see if it is possible to fill in some of the gaps. It was the latter avenue that I pursued with some interesting results.

For the Students of Postal History, it soon becomes apparent that the New Zealand Post Office records of the turn of the century are either very scanty or do not exist. A couple of serious fires engulfed much of the early archives. Because of this when chasing postal stationery details, we have to rely heavily on the following publications :-

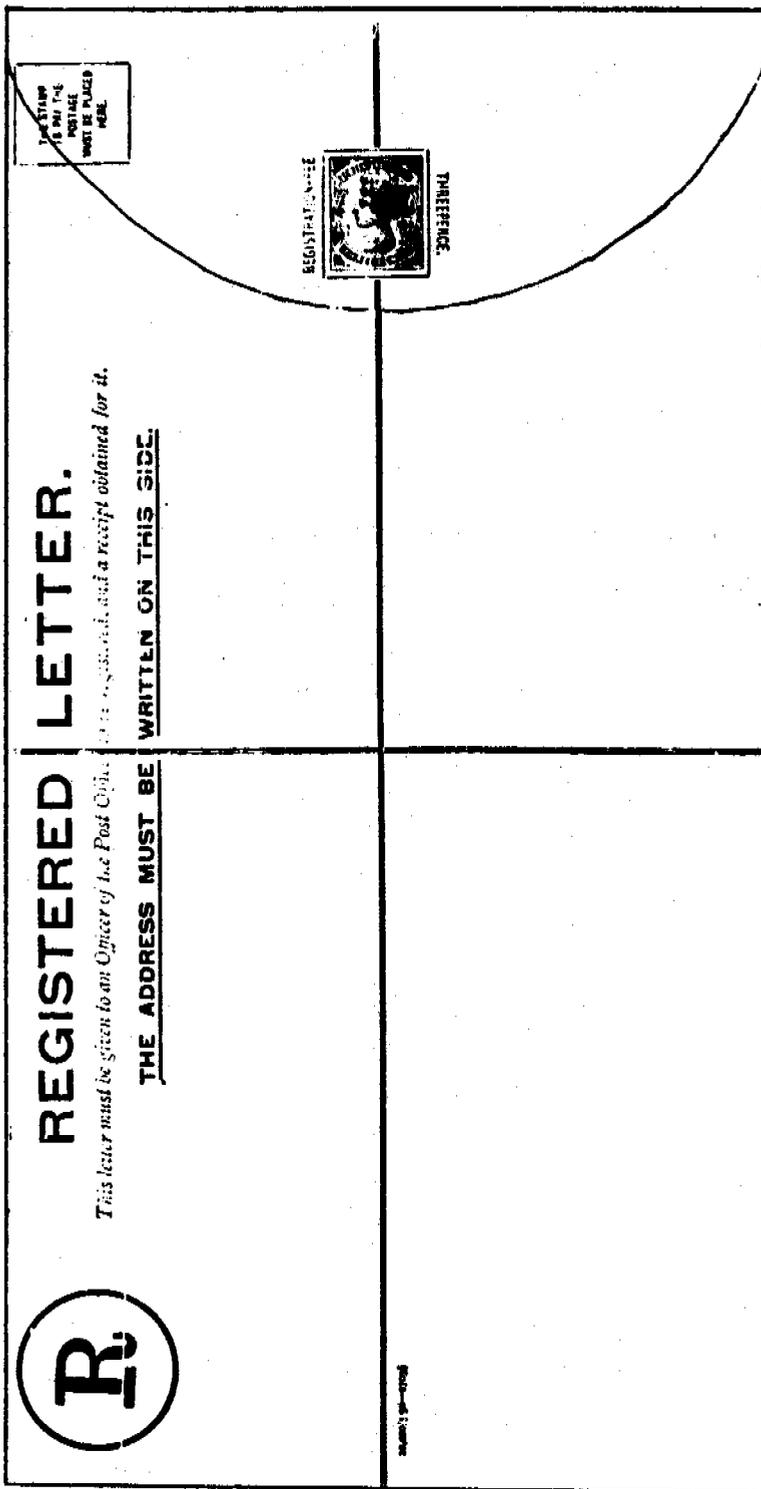
The Volumes of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand.

Postal Stationery of New Zealand, published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand.

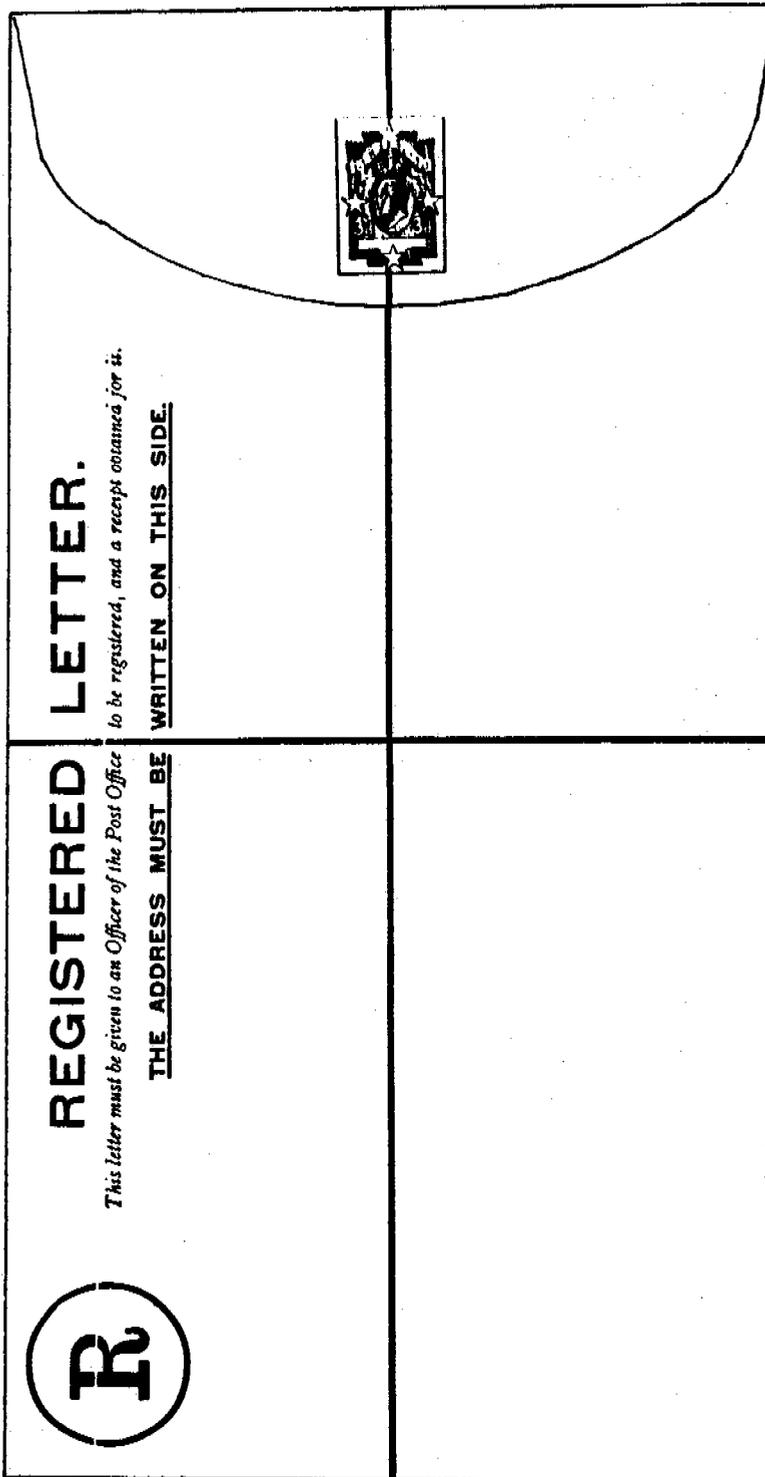
New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogues, Parts 1, 2 and 3, by Robert Samuel.

Higgins and Gage Postal Stationery Catalogue.

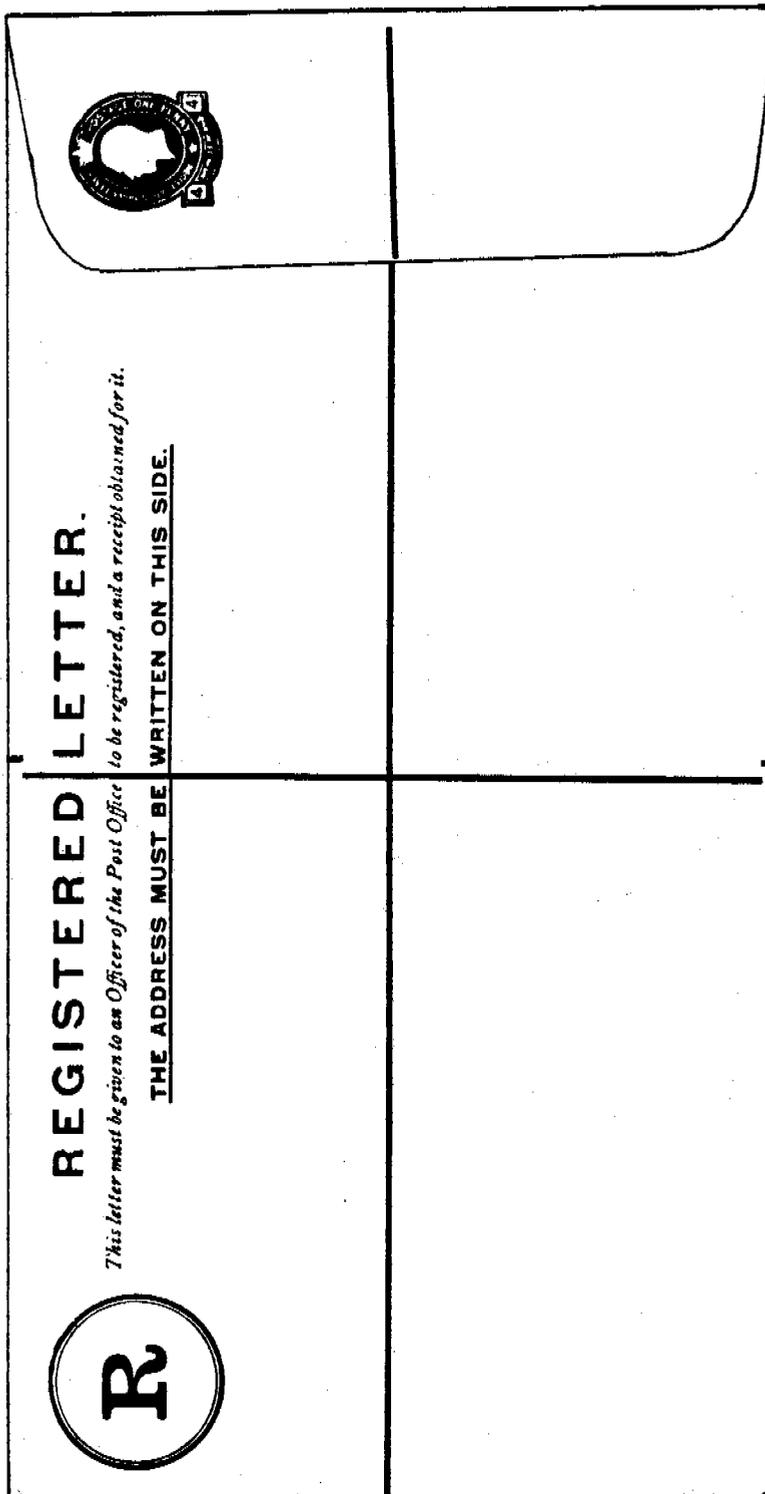
Study of these publications would tend to show that some of the



Item 1 - A2c Size K envelope. Illustration half size.



Item 3 - B5b Size K envelope. Illustration half size.



Item 4 - C5a Size K envelope. Illustration half size.

details stated in the later books have relied on the details as stated in the earlier ones, and as such, errors, if they existed, can be repeated. This is more likely to happen if examples of the items listed are not available to the authors for inspection.

I have been lucky enough recently to obtain some examples of Registered Envelopes that may assist fellow students in some details that have not been fully covered in any of the publications that I have come across.

For ease of reference I will refer to the listing in New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogue, Part 3 - Registered Envelopes.

Item 1. June 21st, 1898 - 3d. Queen Victoria. Printing order on the front.

A2c. 3d. Ultramarine. Size K. Env. No. 65a.

This shows the different layout of the printing of the 'K' size envelope. The 'R' is serif as compared to the normal 'R' used on Registered Envelopes. This type of cover is quite rare in the used state.

Item 2. 1900 3d. Queen Victoria. Without printing order on the front.

A3a. 3d. Greenish blue. Size G. Env. No. 67.

Variety - 'Env. No 67' (on reverse)
inverted at upper right.

A3b. 3d. Greenish blue. Size G. Env. No. 66.

I can now add :-

Variety - 'Env. No 66' (on reverse)
inverted at upper right.

Item 3. January, 1911. 3d. King Edward VII.

B5b. 3d. Blue. Size K. Env. No. 65a.

This item is quite intriguing. Robert Samuel lists it but with the note 'Envelope B5b is listed in Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, it has not been seen by the Editor of this Catalogue'.

Now one wonders if it had ever been seen by the Editors of the other reference publications, because

- a) The flap as reported is not square with rounded corners, it is semi-circular.
- b) Not mentioned is the fact that under the flap is the embossed lettering 'WATERLOW & SONS, LIMITED, LONDON WALL, LONDON.'
This is the only reference that I can find of Waterlow & Sons producing New Zealand Registered Envelopes. As this is not a feature of Envelope B5a, Size G, Env. No 66 that it is grouped with, perhaps they should not be grouped together.

From the illustration can be seen the serif 'R' which is peculiar to the size K Envelope.

Item 4. March, 1924. 4d. King George V.

C5a. 4d. Light brown. Size K. Env. No 65a.

The illustration shows the distinctive double ring round the serif 'R', a thin and a thick ring.

This envelope was printed by McCorquodale & Co. Ltd. and has the company imprint under the flap. My example has a minor difference in that it is missing the first hyphen in the front of Mc as is to be found in the standard marking. Because I have only one example of this cover I cannot substantiate if this is a constant variety.

It is hoped that this short article raises interest for members to check some of their early Postal Stationery and perhaps unearth

some other questionable points.

I would like to record my appreciation to the authors of the publications listed. Without their earlier works it would not be so easy to compare or establish later facts. Perhaps the lack of illustrations of type K envelopes is due to their size, but thanks to photocopying machines, we can now show these illustrations.

JOHN WATTS

FINDINGS FROM FILES.

1d. KING GEORGE STAMP.

The story of the preparation of the plate for the 1d. King George stamp made in 1925 - 1926 is found in the files at present in the custody of the National Postal Museum. There are some gaps in this story due to "pruning" of the files in 1942 in connection with the National Campaign for Waste Paper.

The story starts with a copy of a memorandum from the Prime Minister's Office, Wellington, to the High Commissioner for New Zealand, signed by W. Nosworthy for the Prime Minister. This memorandum is dated 1st July, 1925, and reads in part:-

Re Stamp - New Design.

Under separate cover I am forwarding a design for the new 1d. King George Stamp from which it is desired that a new die and plate be made.

The plate should be the size of the one now in use, 240 stamps to a sheet.

The Government Printer intimates that it would be an advantage to have a solid strip a quarter of an inch wide placed above the top rows of stamps, sufficient space being allowed between stamps and strip to allow for perforation, the strip to be cut at each vertical perforation. Gutters between stamps to be as deep as possible to prevent marking in the printing. Points for perforation to be fixed on the plate.

At the same time a new perforating head for the Barrett Machines should be obtained and forwarded with the plate. Extra care is to be taken to ensure that the comb perforation fits exactly to the new plate. Previously there has been trouble on account of bad fitting heads. 2 extra Cutting plates are also required.

A copy of this memorandum was sent by the High Commissioner to the Controller, Post Office Stores Department, Stamps Section, Somerset House, London, on 16th September, 1925.

On 10th October, 1925, the High Commissioner was asked to provide details of the plate - length, breadth, etc. These questions were passed to Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd., who replied on 19th October, 1925. Before giving the information requested, they state:-

Please note that the measurements for the 1d. stamp are the standard measurements, to which the 1¹/₂d. and 2d. plates supplied in August, 1919, were made, and that the last 1d. plate made by us (Universal Postage design) was supplied in May, 1909, and numbered 13. We believe that the dimensions of that plate were approximately the same as the standard measurements used later,

but possibly not quite so exact.

A copy of this letter was passed to the Controller on 21st October, 1925. Extracts from a memo dated 14th November, 1925, addressed to a Mr. Cook, read:-

I propose, with your agreement, to approach Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. for a quotation for the Master Die for the new 1d. stamp. An invitation to tender and a specification are enclosed for your approval.

With regard to the printing plate required by New Zealand for the new 1d. stamps, surface printing...I think the best plan will be on this occasion to entrust the work to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co....It is the intention of the New Zealand Government to order another plate for the new 1d. denomination if the first plate is satisfactory and in these circumstances we can get from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. during the production of the first plate reliable data on which we may be able to frame a specification for competitive tenders for the second plate.

Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. were invited to tender for the supply of "1 Steel Engraved Master Die for 1d. New Zealand Postage Stamps" on 17th November, 1925. A specification sheet is attached, the last paragraph of which reads:-

Any photographs, negatives, or other reproductions of the original design to be provided by the contractors and to become the property of and be delivered to the Controller.

The die and six proofs in black were to be delivered to the Controller.

The Controller wrote to the High Commissioner on 20th November, 1925. Extracts from this letter read:-

It is...desirable to have, for the purpose of making prints to check the accuracy of the new perforating heads, small supplies (say 20 or 30 sheets) of the paper used for...1d. stamps (240 set) by surface process.

This paper was forwarded on 26th November, 1925, by the High Commissioner. Extracts from the covering letter read:-

...the High Commissioner will be glad to learn if you now have all the particulars you require to enable this work to proceed; he will much appreciate the matter being treated as particularly urgent, as a cablegram, which came to hand a few days ago, advised that the present plate for 1d. stamps is wearing out.

On 28th November, 1925, Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. tender for "the new master die for 1d. stamp" of £167:10:- was passed to the High Commissioner, with the comment that "this price is considered to be fair and reasonable for work of this class and it is recommended that their tender should be accepted."

This tender was accepted by the High Commissioner on 30th November, 1925, with a note "...will be pleased if you will arrange with Messrs. Waterlow & Sons to give this matter their prompt attention, as considerable time has already been lost in putting this work in hand, and the Government is very anxious to have the new die at the earliest possible date."

There were delays in the production of the Master Die. The Controller wrote to Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. on 5th February, 1926, as follows:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant in which you state that the...die is half completed and will probably be delivered in a fortnight. This is very disappointing in view of the fact that this Department's letter of 3rd December stated that it was essential that the die be delivered within 2 months. Will you please look into the matter further and inform me whether the die cannot be completed at an earlier date?

Waterlow & Sons Ltd. replied on 9th February, 1926, saying:-

...we beg to say we much regret it is quite impossible to have the die and proofs ready before 17th instant owing to pressure of work. This engraving is the work of an Expert and we are entirely in his hands.

Again, they wrote on 17th February, 1926:-

...we regret to say the Engraver has not made the progress he anticipated and it will not be possible to have the die and proofs ready today as promised, but we are doing our utmost to complete by the end of this week.

On 10th March, 1926, the Controller wrote to Waterlow & Sons:-

I have to inform you that the proofs of the...die submitted with your letter of 3rd instant are approved.

On 9th April, 1926, the Controller wrote to the High Commissioner as follows:-

...I have to inform you that on completion of the Master Die by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. were asked to tender for the supply of the plate, but stated they were not prepared to do so unless the dimensions of the printing surface were enlarged, in which case their price would be £50.

Invitations to tender were, therefore, sent to Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. and Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. Messrs. Waterlow, although urged to submit their tender promptly, have not yet done so, but their representative, who foresaw no difficulty in the manufacture of the plate to specification, anticipated that it might be expected to exceed £100. The tender of Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. is £47:10:-, and as they offer delivery in three weeks to one month, it is recommended that it be accepted. This firm is quite reliable and well equipped to undertake work of this character.

A contract was placed with Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. on 14th April, 1926. Some impatience with the delay is evident, as the High Commissioner wrote to the Controller on 23rd April, 1926, as follows:-

I am directed by the High Commissioner to refer to the Printing Plate for New Zealand 1d. stamp, ordered from Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., and to say he will be glad if you will do all you possibly can to see that delivery is expedited.

This Department has been in touch with the Contractors, and they

state they expect to deliver in the time promised, viz., four weeks from the 15th instant.

A further cablegram has been received from the Dominion, urging delivery, and the High Commissioner will be glad to know how long you consider it will be necessary to retain the Printing Plate for the purpose of ordering the new Perforating Head and two extra plates.

On 1st June, 1926, Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. wrote to the Controller:-

We have to advise you that we have today delivered to the Offices of the Dominion of New Zealand one 240 set Stamp Plate and Bed, together with the original Die and 2 set Roll.

In connection with this, we would ask you kindly to return to us the I.O.U. for the original die...

A pencil note on this letter reads:-

...the New Zealand Government Offices confirmed receipt and stated die and roll sent on to New Zealand with plate.

Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd.'s account for £47:10:- was passed to the High Commission for payment on 15th June, 1926.

On 18th May, 1926, Messrs. Valters, Jackson & Co. Ltd. were asked to tender for a new perforating head and two cutting plates to fit the Barrett machines in use in New Zealand for the new 1d. stamp. This tender was accepted, the contract being dated 27th May, 1926. The firm were instructed to pack these items, following inspection, on 28th June, 1926.

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

THE HUIA BIRDS AND THE 3d. PICTORIAL 1898 - 1908

The Huia Birds are featured on the 3d. First Pictorial stamp issued on 5th April, 1898, in London - the London Print. It had been decided in December, 1894, to have a new issue of stamps to replace the Second Sideface issue. At this time, the 3d. Second Sideface was on issue with rotary perf. 10 in lemon yellow; not a very attractive stamp, often off-centre and of indifferent shade.

A design for the 3d. Pictorial value had been submitted by Mr. Luke, a Melbourne Artist, but this, with the designs of the other values, was not accepted. In March, 1895, the designs were thrown open to Public Competition, and eventually Mr. W.R. Bock's design of the 3d. value was in principle adopted. The stamp is quite an interesting one. The first printing of 300,000 stamps was in light brown showing "a pair of huias on a branch surrounded by a circular border inscribed 'New Zealand Postage & Revenue' in white letters on colour and broken at lower corners by Egyptian ornamentation. Value in words at bottom divided by shields of solid colour with figure 3 in white. Upper spandrels are filled with similar labels, having figures of value placed obliquely". So runs the official description.

The London Print was printed by Waterlow & Sons and placed on

sale in New Zealand and London on 5th April, 1898, perf. 12 to 16, on thin paper with no watermark. In November, 1898, the stamp was withdrawn from sale in England as a result of objections in New Zealand.

Despite the care in production of the plate, re-entries exist. It is perhaps rather quaint in this day and age to read in the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 1, page 145, published in 1938, that "in view of the quickening interest taken in this phase of philately by a large number of students, a comprehensive survey of the re-entries...has been attempted". Of the 3d. value, eight re-entries are described, of which two, Row 5, stamp 9 and Row 6, stamp 10, are illustrated.

Let us now consider the Huia Birds with the benefit of the sketch by Avis Acres reproduced on the front page.

The basic colour of the bird is black with a greenish metallic gloss. One distinct peculiarity of the bird is the difference between the bright yellow beak of the male, which is straight, and the long curved and flexible beak of the female. Each bird has orange wattles and the tail feathers are white tipped. The feet are bluish grey. Apart from small forest fruits, the favourite diet was said to be the "hu-hu", the grub of the wood boring beetle. It is on record that on the male splitting open the bark of a decayed log the female fed by extracting the grubs which were inaccessible to the male.

As early as 1845, Governor Grey predicted the early extinction of the Huia. It became a valuable object of trade both by Maori and European. The white tipped tail feathers were much prized by the Maori to be worn in the hair by those with the rank of Chief. The Maori fowler imitated the cry of the birds, a soft, flute-like whistle to lure them within reach of a slip noose at the end of a long stick.

It is said that the birds were once quite common but were almost restricted to the thickly wooded mountain ranges of the North Island. This must have been before 1845. Sir William Buller, the famous ornithologist, in 1870 commenting on the rarity of the Huia predicted "ere long it will only exist in Museums and other collections".

The Board of Experts appointed to make a final choice for the design of the stamp must have been aware of the great rarity of the bird in 1895, when the final choice for the 3d. value, along with the other values, was made. I suppose the rarity of the bird and its appearance were within the brief to issue a set of stamps "symbolical of the land". The issue was certainly very popular.

After the London Prints the 3d. value was issued locally on 5th May, 1900, from a different plate supplied by Waterlow & Sons, with perf. 11 by the rotary machine, in shades varying from a yellow-brown to deep brown, on paper without watermark. Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand illustrates one re-entry, Row 1, stamp 10, and refers to four others.

In 1902, the stamp was printed from the same plate on Cowan paper, perf. 11, with single line watermark NZ and star sideways. From early 1906, it was issued with perf. 14. The commonest shade of the perf. 11 stamp was yellow-brown which varied from pale to deep; shades of bistre-brown and true bistre exist.

This issue was replaced by the redrawn pictorial of 1907 which

required a new plate, in this case supplied by Perkins, Bacon & Co. in February, 1907. Stamps from this plate were issued in the following June perf. 14. In February, 1908, the perf. was 14 x 13-13½, superseded a few months later by perf. 14 x 15. The colour was a deep brown with yellow brown in the later issues. Two re-entries are mentioned in Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand - Row 4, stamp 1 and Row 5, stamp 1. The stamp was replaced by the King Edward VII 3d. value issued on 8th November, 1909.

Meanwhile, what about the Huia Birds. Sir William Buller kept a pair for over a year intending to present them to the London Zoological Society. The birds became quite tame in a matter of days. In captivity they soon became used to cooked potato, boiled rice and raw mince. It appears that owing to the carelessness of a servant the male bird was killed. The female pined and died about ten days later. However, whilst the reduced size 3d. Pictorial was on issue in 1907 the last verified sighting of the Huia had been made by Mr. A.W. Smith in the December, and the sighting was of two males and a female. Other climbers in the ranges have reported from time to time seeing the Huia but these reports have not been verified. Although the bird is now presumed to be extinct, opinion is still that it might exist in some inaccessible area of the densely wooded mountains of the North Island. That opinion says, after all, was not the Takahe, or Notornis, once on the list of extinct birds?

JOHN D. EVANS

References:-

The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 1.

The Journal of the New Zealand Federation of Historical Societies, Volume 1, number 9, pages 20 - 21.

VERY LATE USE OF 'A IN BARS' OBLITERATOR

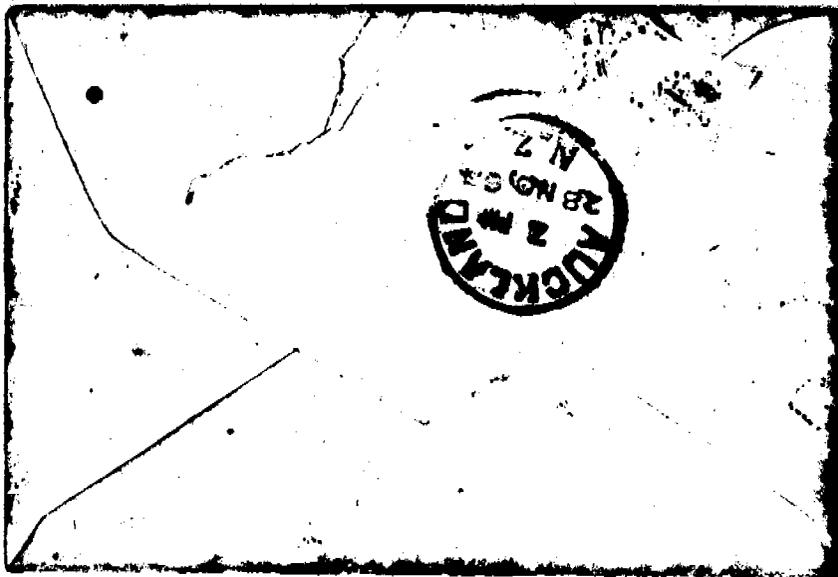
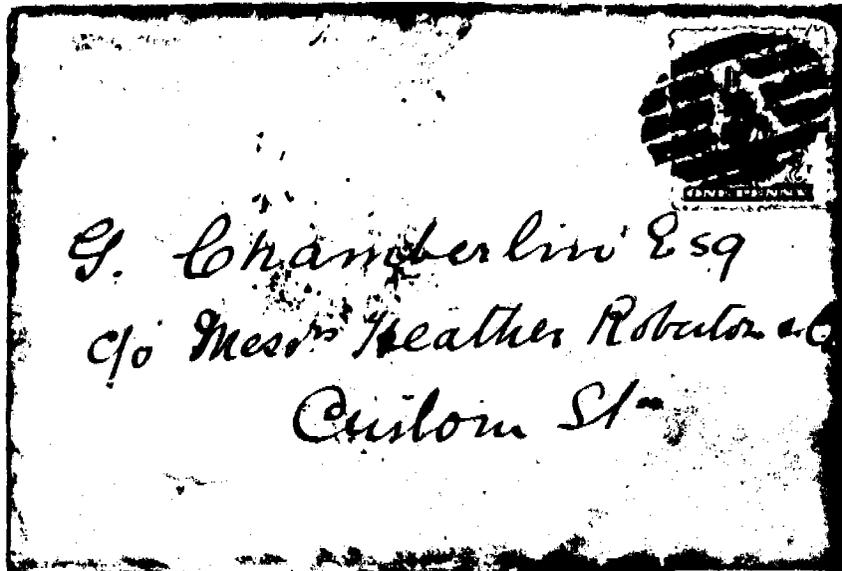
In addition to the single example on a Penny Universal in my collection, I have recently acquired a cover with this obliterator cancelling the Penny Universal stamp used to prepay the postage. This Obliterator is type 11, page 45 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

The cover is backstamped with the B-class datestamp of Auckland, dated 28 NO 03. There is no indication on the cover as to its origin. In an attempt to learn more about the cover and the reason why it was so treated by the Post Office, I wrote to the well known firm of Auctioneers in New Zealand from whom it was acquired.

In their reply, they state that this cover is known to have come from Ponui, as it was one of a group of covers all from the one correspondent and all from Ponui Island. They suggest that the 'A in bars' obliterator was used in place of a 'loose letter' cancellation, stating that since many New Zealand Post Offices held their obliterators for years after they theoretically went out of use, this seems a very logical conclusion to draw.

Ponui Island has never had a Post Office, according to New Zealand Post Offices, by R.M. Startup. A Telegraph Office was opened on 17th December, 1957, and according to the above book, it is still open.

According to page 44 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New



Zealand, obliterators of the type under discussion were used from time to time to cancel stamps on mail received from ships, when such stamps had not been cancelled at an office in the country of origin or by the Marine Post Office.

There is no doubt that this cover would have been received from a ship, had it really originated from Ponui Island. But this cannot be proved from the cover itself, and it does not explain why the Post Office clerk reverted to the old practice of applying the datestamp to the reverse of the cover, having cancelled the stamp with the obliterator.

I have other obliterators on Penny Universal stamps, such as 04 in an oval of medium thin bars. I would be grateful for any comments and information from members concerning the late use of such obliterators.

B.J. PRATT