



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

# the kiwi

Hon. Gen Secretary: TERRY BROCK

26 Old Cross, Hertford, SG14 1RD. Tel.: Daytime 0992-54911 ; Evenings 0992-56427.

Hon. Treasurer: I. G. FOGG

42 Oxford Road South, Chiswick, London, W4 3DH. Tel.: 01-994 1747

Kiwi Editor: ALLAN P. BERRY

24 Irwin Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5PP. Tel.: 0483 67185

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WHOLE 176

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 1982,  
IN THE HAMPSTEAD ROOM, Y.W.C.A., GREAT RUSSELL STREET,  
LONDON, WC1B 3LR. IT IS

KIWI DAY

AND STARTS AT 10.30 A.M. WITH THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.  
THE AUCTION WILL COMMENCE AT 1.45 P.M.

## 31ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Notice is hereby given that the 31st Annual General Meeting of  
the New Zealand Society of Great Britain will be held at the  
Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LR, in the Hampstead  
Room, on Saturday, 27th November, 1982, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting.
2. President's Report and Review of 1982.
3. Financial Report from the Hon. Treasurer.
4. Report from the Hon. Packet Secretary.
5. To elect
  - i) A President.
  - ii) Vice-Presidents.
  - iii) A Chairman.
  - iv) A Vice-Chairman.
  - v) An Honorary General Secretary.
  - vi) A Packet Secretary.
  - vii) An Honorary Treasurer.
  - viii) Other Officers of the Society.
6. To elect a Committee.
7. To discuss the possibility of Regional Meetings.
8. Any other business proper to the Annual General Meeting, of  
which due notice has been given in writing.

T.H.BROCK, HON. GENERAL SECRETARY

## EDITORIAL.

The 1982 British Philatelic Exhibition has come and gone. It is somewhat disappointing to report that there were only four exhibits of New Zealand related material. Although all four did creditably, I am sure that there are many other members who could have had as much success. It is not too soon to start preparing for 1983. You can always have a trial run in the Society Competition in March, 1983, where the Judge is willing to give constructive criticism. Give it a go - it is not as difficult as you think.

ALLAN P. BERRY

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### MEMBERSHIP

#### NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

D.W.Francis, 11a, Radnor Close, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 5BH.

I.Salmon, DRORM, HMS Centurion, Grange Road,  
Gosport, Hants., PO13 9XA.

#### DECEASED

F.O.Hart, 27b, Leafield Street, Blenheim, New Zealand.

#### RESIGNED

W.G.Chalmers, 1, Honister Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex.

R.W.Gillam, 62, Doncaster Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

#### LAPSED

Dr. A.F.Dove, 19, Kennet Way, East Oakley, Basingstoke, Hants.

(Moved away and no new address.)

Y.J.Vezina, Box 876, Niagara Falls, Canada.

(Moved away and no new address.)

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. K.Banbury, Unit 3, 4, Rongo Road, Auckland, New Zealand.

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### MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1982 - BOOKLETS

The meeting opened at 2.30 p.m. and our Chairman welcomed Alan Breen, a visitor to our Society from Christchurch, New Zealand.

Phil Evans, the leader for the day's display, started the ball rolling with examples of the King George V booklets, demonstrating the lay-out of the plate and the build-up of the booklets. He also showed examples of the booklets of the Second Pictorial issue and the 1960 Pictorial issue.

Michael Burberry showed the first experimental booklets, and the first definitive booklets of 1902 with plate proofs. He also showed some excellent drawings demonstrating the development of the 4 o'clock flaw on the Penny Universal stamps.

Frank Scrivener showed Penny Universal booklets and Penny Dominion booklets, in the latter demonstrating the difference between the electrotypes plates and the steel plates. There were also examples of the Penny Field Marshal booklets.

E.W.Leppard showed Penny Universal booklet panes overprinted Official and a selection of the Penny Kiwi and the 1960 numbered panes. This was supported by John Smith who demonstrated the Penny Kiwi panes with re-entries. He also showed the Penny King George VI booklet panes with the plate number 5, with inverted and upright watermarks.

Alan McKellar followed with Queen Elizabeth booklet panes and a

variety of the covers from the 1960 Pictorial booklets. Allan Berry showed plated panes of the 1970 booklets, and the special booklets produced for Panpex '77.

Bernard Simmons showed a variety of the booklets of King Edward VII, including the halfpenny panes with stars, the first issue of King George V, with varieties of wide bars and continuous bars. A feature of this was a plate proof and a booklet pane, both showing the famous Row 3, stamp 15 re-entry.

Rex Greatrex finished the day by showing booklets from countries other than New Zealand, the object being to show how booklets could be mounted and displayed. This started a debate on whether or not booklets should be exploded. The general agreement was that any booklet prior to 1945 should remain intact, and that the treatment of later issues should be left to the individual.

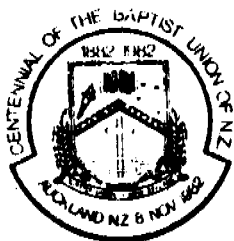
Stanley Cross-Rudkin, our Chairman, gave a vote of thanks to all who had displayed and contributed to the discussion. The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m., 22 members having been present.

A.E.H.

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### SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

#### CENTENNIAL OF THE BAPTIST UNION OF NEW ZEALAND.



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Auckland on Monday, 8th November, 1982, to commemorate the Centennial of the Baptist Union of New Zealand. The design features the crest of the Baptist Union of New Zealand. Mail posted in a special posting box at the Baptist Tabernacle Church, Queen Street, Auckland, the venue of the Centennial functions, was cancelled with the special datestamp.

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### REVIEW

'A' Class and Allied Datestamps of New Zealand, by R.S.Craddock. Handbook Number 19 of the Postal History Society of New Zealand, P.O.Box 38-503, Howick, Auckland, New Zealand. Price NZ\$25.00, plus NZ\$1.00 postage.

This book has been 'on the stocks' for a long time, and it is a delight to welcome it at last. In the foreword, Ross Craddock describes advice given to him not to make the effort, as it would take many years to complete. New Zealand Postal Historians can be grateful that Ross has persisted, although he has made it clear that it is far from complete, and that there is much room for collectors to enlarge and build on the foundations he has laid so ably.

The book starts with notes on the Temporary Datestamps of 1862 to 1888, followed by a description of an actual 'A' class datestamp. There is a description of the Precursor and Duplex cancellers, to assist in differentiating these from the true 'A' class datestamps.

The bulk of the book is devoted to a listing of the datestamps, listing the post offices where they were used, with subdivisions of the various types, earliest and latest dates so far recorded, and any relevant comments. There are short sections recording 'A' class useage on R.T.P.O. and R.P.O., New Zealand Marine Post

Offices, Telephone Offices, Paid Markings, Fiscal use, Forgeries, and, finally, a section devoted to problems.

The 290 pages of the book are A4 size, printed on both sides by photolithography. The type is clear, and the layout easy to follow. But the book, as almost can be expected, suffers from poor binding and a soft cover. This is a penalty that has to be paid for a book produced for a limited market and under financial constraints. But the repeated use that such a book will be subject to means inevitably that it will need rebinding before long.

Nevertheless, this is a must for New Zealand Postal Historians. It is a most welcome addition to the bookshelf, and gives all of us an opportunity to increase our knowledge, and also to add to that already recorded.

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#### BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1982.

Congratulations to the following members who gained awards in this year's British Philatelic Exhibition:-

Silver Medals	- A.E.Harrad, with felicitations of the Jury.
	- A.P.Berry.
Silver-Bronze Medal	- J.G.Stonehouse.
Bronze Medal	- J.D.Evans.

The New Zealand Post Office was represented at the Exhibition by their United Kingdom Agents, Stanley Gibbons Ltd. On this occasion, a special cachet was not available. The reason given was that there was insufficient time to arrange for this to be made in New Zealand.

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#### OTAKI HEALTH CAMP 50TH JUBILEE

The 50th Jubilee of the opening of the Otaki Health Camp (the world's first permanent Health Camp) was commemorated on 2nd October, 1982. On that day the Camp Post Office, usually opened only for First Day sales of Health Stamps, was re-opened. To commemorate this special event, Maurice Conly, designer of this year's popular Health Stamps, designed a special cover, featuring the Health Camp itself.

Only 2,000 covers were produced and posted on the 2nd October, each with a set of the 1982 Dog Health Stamps. 1,500 were available to collectors at £2.00 each. 500 covers were signed by Maurice Conly and the Camp Senior Officer of the Health Camp, Heather Gay. These were available at £4.00 each.

These covers will be available until stocks are exhausted from the Postmaster, Otaki Health Camp, Private Bag, Otaki, New Zealand. All covers will be sent by surface mail. Those wanting covers airmailed should enclose £1.00 extra per order. Payment may be made by money order, draft, or cheque.

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#### THE FEILDING DUPLEX.

K.J.McNAUGHT

The Feilding Duplex reported by Robson Lowe in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXXI, page 75, September, 1982, is unrecorded. It seems

unbelievable that a duplex for such an important office has remained unobserved for all these years. My immediate reaction, therefore, is to question whether this is genuine.

Two features of the datestamp impression are unusual.

1. The omission of the 8, 9 or 0 before the year figure 1 - but this may have no significance as the illustration is only a present day strike.
2. The blurred condition of the mail index letter or number which is indecipherable - but this could be due to corrosion over the past 80 to 100 years.

I must concede that the impression otherwise looks genuine.

We are asked to offer an explanation. On the contrary, I feel that Robbie owes it to us to explain how he comes to be in possession of such an instrument. It would be interesting to have more details. Is there any indication of the source of the instrument? Is it accompanied by a set of type? Has it a handle and if so, is this of the standard pattern for hand-operated datestamps or just a crude imitation? This could give a clue to its authenticity.

Regrettably, a disturbingly high proportion of 'Postal Fiscals' appear to be cleaned fiscals with either forged datestamps or forged duplex markings similar in general appearance to this 'FG'. My thoughts are that this might be one of the actual instruments used by the forger to create 'Postal Fiscals'. I have 'AN' with wider 'N' than in the genuine duplex and with taller letters 'ASHBURTON' than in the genuine datestamp and varying in space between datestamp and obliterator parts, on £1-10-0 1867 type, perf. 12½, and on 1880 type 2/- and 5/-; 'D' in slightly larger vertical oval of bars than the genuine and with much wider space between the 'D' and the flanking bars, on an 8d. first type; 'GH' Greymouth duplex - genuine was 'G' only - with variable space between datestamp and obliterator and taller letters in the datestamp than in the genuine; 'N' much larger than in the genuine Nelson; 'TU' with wider 'U' than in the genuine and smaller N.Z. in the datestamp, on 4d. 1867 type, perf. 12½, and on £4 1880 type with NZ watermark; 'WG' on cleaned £3 1880 type with much larger 'WG' than in the genuine obliterator of Wanganui duplex.

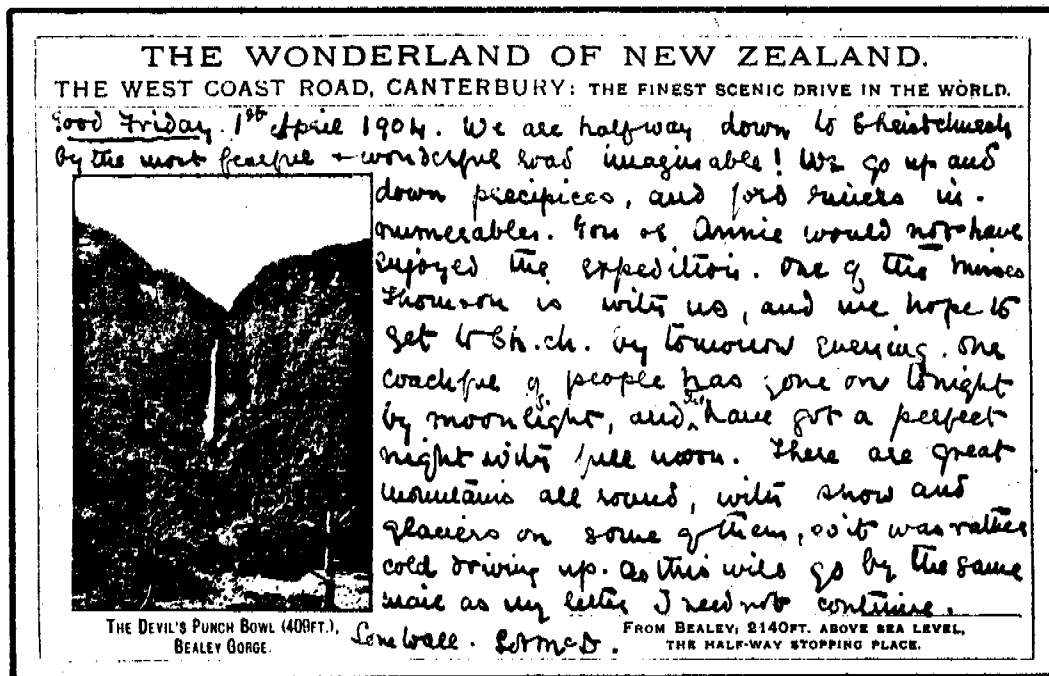
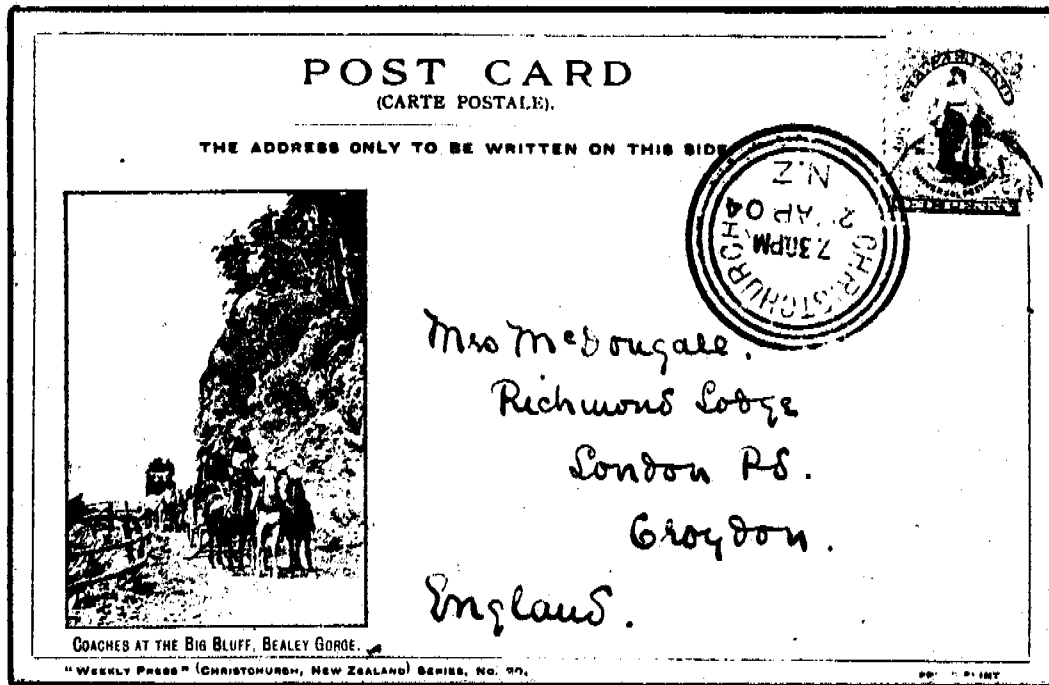
R.J.G.Collins included some of these markings on page 539 of Volume III of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand as "problems". All these markings are presumed to be forgeries because all are on Duty Stamps and none have yet been noted cancelling stamps on documents.

Is the Feilding duplex yet another forgery? Or is it a genuine unissued or unused duplex instrument which was stolen or "mis-laid" before it could be used? Alternatively, was it a genuine duplex used for a very short time before being discarded or "lost"?

#### THE WONDERLAND OF NEW ZEALAND.

Through the courtesy of our member, L.BESTOW, we are able to illustrate another of the "Weekly Press" (Christchurch, New Zealand) Series of postcards. This is No. 20 in the series, and this particular example was used from Christchurch on 2nd April, 1904. The front is a pale pink, and the reverse a pale greenish-yellow. Like the previous example illustrated in 'The Kiwi',

Volume XXXI, page 61, the writer gives a brief description of coaching in those days. It is interesting to recall that most of the coaches in those days carried mail on behalf of the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department, as it then was.



## FURTHER MUSINGS.

TOM HETHERINGTON

It only had a Post Office for three years, from 1st August, 1927, to 22nd December, 1930. The long term population never rose above about 14, although on one occasion, when a film was being shot, it rose to 80 or so, but only for three days! This is White Island, or Whakaari, only about a square mile in size, and about 30 miles from Whakatane in the Bay of Plenty. It was named by Lt. James Cook, as reported in his journal on 1st November, 1769. The island consists of a volcanic crater, breached on the east, in which are found many minor craters, a lake golden with a film of sulphur, and deposits of minerals of every imaginable colour. Eruptions of steam occur regularly, giving the island the local description of "the weather vane of the Bay of Plenty". Its scenery is so spectacular that a place was claimed in the short set depicting islands, issued on 4th December, 1974. We can all acquire the stamp, but the island cancellation is one of the rarest in New Zealand. The full story of the island is told in an attractively illustrated book, "Island Volcano", by W.T. Parham, published by Collins (N.Z.) Ltd., in 1973. See 'The Kiwi', Volume XXIV, page 1, January, 1975.

Members more senior than I have already met the problem, and newer members have it coming to them! It is, how and where to store back numbers of 'The Kiwi'? My three spare loose leaf binders are full, and so are my bookcases. Of course, I can always buy more binders - and another bookcase! 'The Kiwi' is too valuable to scrap. How often, with a new acquisition, do I vaguely remember something in 'The Kiwi' and with the aid of the annual indices find out all about my new stamp or cover.

I was musing about National Parks in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXXI, page 52, May, 1982. Since then, John Rabarts of Coromandel has pointed out that Hauraki Gulf is not a National, but a Maritime Park. Both he and Cecil Bristow have sent extensive information on Parks generally. It appears that there are National, Maritime, Forest, and Farm Parks, and in addition there are Nature, Scientific, and Scenic Reserves in New Zealand!

It was very satisfying to find one of my covers adorning the front of 'The Kiwi', Volume XXXI, March, 1982. It was the Editor who recognised its importance. In spite of him putting it on show on his recent visit to New Zealand, no further information is yet available. How many of you have unusual covers or other items? Have they all been mentioned in 'The Kiwi'? Have you seen identical ones in other collections? If you have any such items, let the Editor see them or bring them to a Society meeting. Within our Society new facts of New Zealand (and other) postal history are constantly being unearthed. Who knows, you may be able to add to it.

Many years ago I noticed a high percentage of Otago and Southland cancellations in my collection. It was a bit of useless information remembered, but the last packet contained a book of Chalon Heads and all 27 of the recognisable cancellations were from the south. Remembering the early observation, I then went through the whole of my collection to 1898 and found, from 106

recognisable cancellations, 25% were from the two southern provinces. Now these provinces have only about 15% of the New Zealand population today and 100 years ago the population percentage cannot have been greater. Why, then, was letter writing on such a scale from the south? Were the people of the south more literate than the rest of the country? The Scots tradition of education may be the answer, but it strikes me that here is scope for a bit of research quite outside philately. It would be interesting if other members would do a count in their collections.

#### TIME OF CHANGE IN FUNCTION OF OBLITERATORS

K.J.McNAUGHT

In Part 11 of my notes on the late use of obliterators ('The Kiwi', Volume XXXI, page 63, July, 1982) I suggested the changed function must have taken place shortly after the general issue of datestamps in 1887 and I used 1889 - 1890 as a practical reference time.

Since then I have realised that I have two Auckland District postcards which indicate that the obliterators were still being used in the original way at Walton on 27th July, 1889, and at Tamahere on 26th June, 1890. The Walton card to nearby Morrinsville, with the printed stamp obliterated 'A over 223' in oval of nine bars, is clearly a proving card. The sender's address is Walton, the date 27th July, 1889, is the same as Walton's datestamp and the G.P.O. Register of 1885 - 1893 unambiguously records that Walton received an obliterator 'A over 223'. This could not have been the case where the stamp was left uncanceled at Walton and was obliterated at another office.

However, it is not possible to be dogmatic about the Tamahere card of 26th June, 1890, addressed to Auckland. Though the markings on this card are exactly comparable to those on the Walton card, the obliterator number conflicts with the entries in the Register of 1885 - 1893. In this, '207' is the recorded number of the obliterator supplied to Tokatea. The card certainly could not have passed through Tokatea office in transit to Auckland to receive the obliterator 'A over 207' in oval of eleven bars at Tokatea, consequently we are forced to conclude that there has been a recording error in the Register.

The evidence of these two postcards suggests that if new instructions were in fact sent out, the time must have been after June 1890. It may therefore be safer to use the changeover from perf. 12 x 11½ to perf. 10 in the Second Sideface Queen Victoria definitives, in 1891 - 1892, as a more appropriate reference time than 1889 - 1890.

It is likely that general instructions were sent out to smaller offices in 1887, along with the newly provided datestamps, to cease cancelling stamps in manuscript and instead to cancel stamps with the datestamp. In the case of offices with obliterators only, similar instructions would apply. It is possible that no specific instructions were given to offices which already had both datestamp and obliterator and the use of obliterators to cancel stamps on outward mail was allowed to lapse, especially as this eliminated unnecessary extra work in using two instruments.



## FINDINGS FROM FILES.

### THE KING EDWARD VIII POSTAL STATIONERY

ALLAN P. BERRY

The story of the preparation of the dies and stereos for the Postal Stationery of King Edward VIII can be found in the files now in the custody of the National Postal Museum.

Once again, it shows the co-operation between the Controller, Post Office Stores Department, Stamp Section, Somerset House, London, and the High Commissioner for New Zealand.

The story starts with a copy of a memorandum addressed to the High Commissioner from the Prime Minister's Office, Wellington, signed by F. Jones, for the Prime Minister. It is dated 9th May, 1936, and reads:-

"New dies are required by the Post and Telegraph Department for embossing envelopes with  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. postage. Dies of similar denominations are also required to enable stereos to be cut for impressing other postal stationery. It is desired that the dies be similar in design to the proof forwarded herewith, except that an effigy of His Majesty King Edward VIII be substituted for that of the late King George V.

"A suitable photograph of His Majesty is not available in this dominion, and I shall be glad if you will take action to procure one and obtain the necessary approval. The successful contractors should be advised regarding the purpose for which the dies are required, as the dies prepared for cutting stereos will be the reverse of those for direct embossing.

"As the dies are urgently required, you are authorised to approve the proofs, which should be forwarded to New Zealand with the relative die.

"A specimen die showing the size of the shank required on dies for direct embossing is forwarded herewith and should be made available to the contractors."

A copy of this was sent to the Controller by the High Commissioner with a covering letter dated 12th June, 1936. This letter includes the note:-

"Many thanks for giving me the address of Sir Godfrey Thomas. We are taking steps to procure a suitable photograph, and I will let you know what transpires in due course."

The specifications for the embossing dies and for the dies for stereos were drawn up with the assistance of the Royal Mint.

The specification for the embossing die reads:-

- One Master Punch or Die (King's Head).
- One each Working Punch for  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. denominations.
- One each Dies for  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. denominations for embossing envelopes.

To be similar in design to the exhibited proof marked A except that:-

- (i) the effigy of H.M. King Edward VIII (reproduced from the exhibited photograph) to be substituted for that of the late King.
- (ii) the Crown to be similar to that in the print marked B.

A specimen die is exhibited showing the size of shank required. Embossed Proofs of the effigy to be furnished - for submission to H.M. the King - for approval before the dies are made.

All intermediate dies and punches to become the property of the New Zealand Government.

The four exhibited items referred to may be inspected at the Office of the High Commissioner for New Zealand.

The specification for the dies for stereos for stamped postal stationery reads:-

One Original die, King's effigy.

One each Working dies ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. denominations) suitable for making stereos for printing Stamped Postal Stationery.

The design to be of the same size and similar to the new embossed design...

Actual size photograph of drawing to be submitted for approval before work on die is commenced. Die proofs to be submitted before hardening.

All drawings and designs (originals or copies) and all intermediate tools to become the property of the New Zealand Government.

Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd. and Waterlow & Sons Ltd. were invited to tender. The form of tender for the embossing die had attached to it the specification given above. Apparently, this caused problems to both firms. On 14th July, 1936, Waterlow & Sons wrote to the High Commissioner:-

"We do not understand the second item...but have quoted for every punch we consider necessary. The values, borders etc., for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. denominations would be engraved on the dies on which the King's effigy had been previously hubbed in. The finished cameo dies would not be suitable for making a complete hub from, for the purpose of reproducing other dies, which we believe is what is in your mind."

On the same day, Thomas De La Rue also wrote to the High Commissioner:-

"Our method of manufacture is to use a Master Punch and to strike as many impressions as may be required and engraving around each Head the necessary lettering and design. This obviates the necessity of making a working punch for each denomination. If we are favoured with your order, the dies would be made in one piece of steel and not screwed together as your pattern die. The die, however, would be exactly the same size and have exactly the same shank as your pattern. From our long experience we find our style of die is the best both from the amount of use that they may be subjected to and also from the results obtained."

On 20th July, 1936, the High Commissioner wrote to the Controller:-

"...I am sending you herewith copies of the tenders and covering letters received in respect of the embossing dies and dies for stereos, as follows:-

	Embossing Dies	Dies for Stereos.
Thos. De La Rue & Co. Ltd.....	£81:00:0	£ 81:00:0
Waterlow & Sons Ltd.....	£33: 2:6	£160:00:0

...nothing has been heard from the Mint. I think you intend to speak to the latter on the matter and also to discuss with them the suggestions of both Messrs. De La Rue and Waterlow to omit working punches for the embossing dies. Apparently they will take impressions for the working dies from the master punch and engrave the borders  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. as required.

"Unless you have any other suggestions it looks as if the decision is clear cut, i.e. Waterlow's to get the embossing dies and De La Rue's the dies for stereos.

"I shall be glad to have your advice as soon as possible so that the necessary acceptances can be sent to the firms and the work put in hand."

The Controller replied on 21st July, 1936, as follows:-

"...I have ascertained from the Mint that they did not quote as they are now too busy to undertake additional work. I took the opportunity of consulting them on matters arising in connection with the quotations received and they state that Waterlows do excellent work and we need not hesitate to allot the order to them; also that the considerable difference between the two quotations for the stereo dies is probably due to the fact that De La Rue are better equipped for such production. The Mint are satisfied with the method of production as detailed in the firms' letters. In these circumstances I agree with you that Waterlows should be given the order for the embossing dies and De La Rue for the stereo dies. Another copy of the photo. will be necessary and this can, I believe, be obtained from Hugh Cecil Portraits Ltd., 8, Grafton Street, W.1.

"I suggest that in each case the Master dies be retained at your office as further embossing dies or stereos would no doubt be ordered here."

From now on it is more convenient to separate the story into its two parts. Considering first the embossing die. There is a hand-written note dated 4th August, 1936. This notes that a drawing had been submitted by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. The criticisms read:-

"General effect no very good. Head rather too long... arranged for head to be redrawn rather smaller and with modification of outline of nose."

An additional note dated 6th August, 1936, reads:-

"Sir Godfrey Thomas stated that he did not need to see proofs of the above."

On 10th August, 1936, there is a further note which reads:-

"Waterlows submitted a new drawing...and this was approved."

On 15th September, 1936, there is the hand-written note:-

"Die cut and proof impression submitted. The curve between the upper part of the nose and the lower part of the forehead seemed too deep, the end of the nose not quite correct and the curve of

the upper part of the neck not sharp enough. Further proofs to be submitted."

A letter from the High Commissioner to the Controller of the same date reads:-

"I have written...confirming that alterations are considered desirable, and for your record I send you herewith one proof of the King's effigy embossed in blue cameo and one in red cameo.

"When further proofs are to hand I will let you know, and we will have a further look at them."

The next notes are not dated. They read:-

"Further proofs were submitted and these were approved. Proofs were then furnished of the dies before hardening and were approved on 3rd November, 1936..."

Apparently the dies were then hardened and completed, and forwarded to the Controller from the High Commissioner on 17th November, 1936. The covering letter reads:-

"Will you please arrange for these to be critically examined, and notify...in due course if they are in order and may be accepted.

"It will be remembered that proofs have to be sent out with the finished dies, and unless you recommend any other course I propose to send one each of all received to date, including the last approved one."

The Controller replied on 18th November, 1936, saying:-

"...They are found to be in order and it is recommended that they be accepted. It is agreed that a copy of each of the proofs should be forwarded to New Zealand."

The High Commissioner, acknowledging this letter on 19th November, 1936, wrote:-

"It is noted that they are in order, and they will be forwarded to New Zealand in the next mail box."

There is not so much information concerning the stereo dies produced by Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd.

On 4th August, 1936, a drawing incorporating reduced photo was approved. A note states that a proof was to be submitted of the die before hardening. The next hand-written note reads:-

"De La Rue submitted a proof of the stereo die which was returned as unsatisfactory. A second proof was also returned for modification. A third proof, although not so entirely satisfactory as we had hoped, was considered to be as good as they could produce and was approved 3rd November, 1936.

"The stereos were duly made (pull enclosed) and delivered to the High Commissioner's Office together with the original dies."

This is the final note concerning the stereo die. The story of both is completed by a receipt signed by an Officer of the New Zealand High Commission dated 16th November, 1938, for the following proofs from the Edward VIII embossing and surface printing dies:-

Embossing Die.

- 1 proof of effigy of King's head blue cameo (1st pull).
- 1 proof of effigy of King's head red cameo (1st pull).
- 1 proof of effigy of King's head red cameo (2nd pull - approved 30.9.36).
- 1 approved proof of the ½d. die dated 3.11.36.
- 1 approved proof of the 1d. die dated 3.11.36.

Surface Printing Die.

- 1 approved proof of die without value, dated 5.11.36. (approved 10.11.36).
- 1 pull from ½d. stereo die dated 8.12.36.

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

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KAWARAU AND CROMWELL - GOLD MINING AND DREDGING.

JOHN D. EVANS

After the sensational discovery of gold at Dunstan published in the Otago Daily Times of August, 1862, claims for gold were established further south, on the west side of the river at Kawarau. Kawarau was at the junction of the Kawarau and Clutha rivers and the triangle of land was known by pioneer gold miners as 'The Point'. By November, 1862, Cobb & Co. were advertising a five horse coach from Dunedin 'for the Dunstan - through in three days'. This service was extended to Kawarau in 1863, a distance of 156 miles from Dunedin. Kawarau became a mining township and a post office was opened on 1st November, 1864, using an obliterator 'O 32' within thirteen horizontal bars as copied from a sketch of the obliterator in 'Notes on the Early Cancellations of New Zealand' by Dr. K.J.L.Scott. By this time the triangle of land became known as 'The Junction'. The fast flowing river passed through a deep gorge shown in the photograph of National Publicity Studios reproduced below, Figure 1.



The first bridge over the Kawarau Gorge was constructed in 1866 and is seen in the photograph, and to mark the occasion a bullock was roasted whole and free beer was served out in the township's jollity.

The Township in that year was renamed Cromwell, when it became a Municipality. What was the reason for the name? At that time names were given mostly by Mr. J.T.Thomson, the Chief Surveyor and Engineer of Otago Province, who made a quick survey of the whole district before the arrival of squatters or gold diggers. It was his duty with the consent of the Council to place the names decided upon on the map. In giving names the Surveyor generally did so in groups; thus with names from the English Parliamentary War we get Cromwell, Naseby and Hampden. In passing it may be noted that the Surveyor named the mountain range and a town Dunstan after St. Dunstan, but the name of the town was changed to Clyde on 22nd May, 1865. The Bank of New South Wales Gold Office was established at Cromwell in 1867 and the Figure 2 illustrated below shows the primitive nature of this office where deals were no doubt arranged and the horse drawn gold escort gave protection.



*Photo: National Publicity Studios*

The Kawarau Gorge  
Figure 1

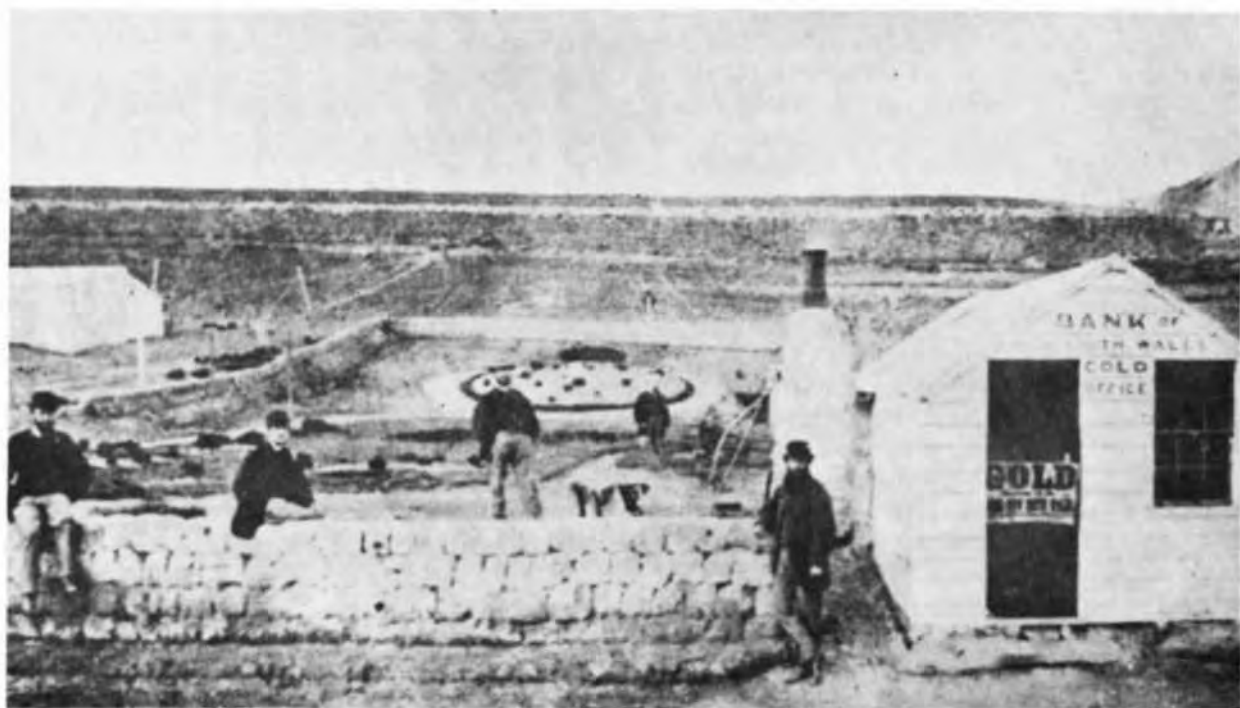


Figure 2

All low-lying lands in the valley of the gorge were submerged in what is known as the Great Molyneux Flood of 1878 in which of the nine fine bridge structures which the colonists had built with great expense and labour all but two were washed away; one of these was the bridge at Cromwell and the other at Inchclutha.

The bridge at Cromwell was replaced in 1891 and on the occasion to commemorate the Centennial of the Settlement of Otago Province in 1948 the town of Cromwell and the bridge were selected as the early discovery of gold had a great influence on the prosperity of the Province. The 2d. stamp of this Centennial Issue (S.G. 693) was designed by the late James Berry, of whose ability Peter Collins wrote so vividly in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXXI, page 19, January, 1982. The stamp was issued on 23rd February, 1948, being recess printed in emerald green and light brown. There were two plates for the centre and two plates for the frame so that it is possible to get plate markings A1, A2, B1 and B2, the imprint being under the first and second stamps of the bottom row and the letter and number below the imprint under the first stamp. Though not scarce by the catalogue my experience is that when on offer they soon become 'not available'. An enlargement of the stamp as below, Figure 3, illustrates the old coaching days which are represented in the design by a silhouette of a coach and six horses in the distance.



Figure 3

In 1948 the population of Cromwell was 700 and the bridge in the design which can be seen from the photograph above as different from the bridge of the Kawarau Gorge was opened in 1891 when a coach and six chestnut horses seen in the silhouette were driven on to the middle of the bridge for the opening ceremony. Gold



mining equipment is included in the lower corners of the stamp.

Meanwhile the era of gold dredging had started in primitive form in 1861. As this was first used with a spoon dredge on the Molyneux River at Dunstan. This was simply a pontoon or two boats with a platform built across them with a hand winch and a long wood-like contrivance of wood and iron. The first steam dredge by the Dunedin Steam Dredging Company was used on the Molyneux River near Alexandra (formerly known as Manuherikia Junction) in 1884 and this was successful enough to be followed by a number of others and during this era the invention of the elevator greatly helped returns of gold.

As far as the Kawarau was concerned steam dredges had been used in about 1884, but the electric dredge worked on the Kawarau River by the Electric Company in 1897 produced rich returns, 658 ounces of gold being won in five days. A second dredge was worked in front of an old coal pit at Cromwell and paid back the whole of her cost before she had worked her whole length. Great excitement prevailed and in January, 1902, the Dunedin Investors Guide gave a list of 431 gold mining companies quoted on the Dunedin Stock Exchange mostly dredging and another list of 147 ventures which failed.

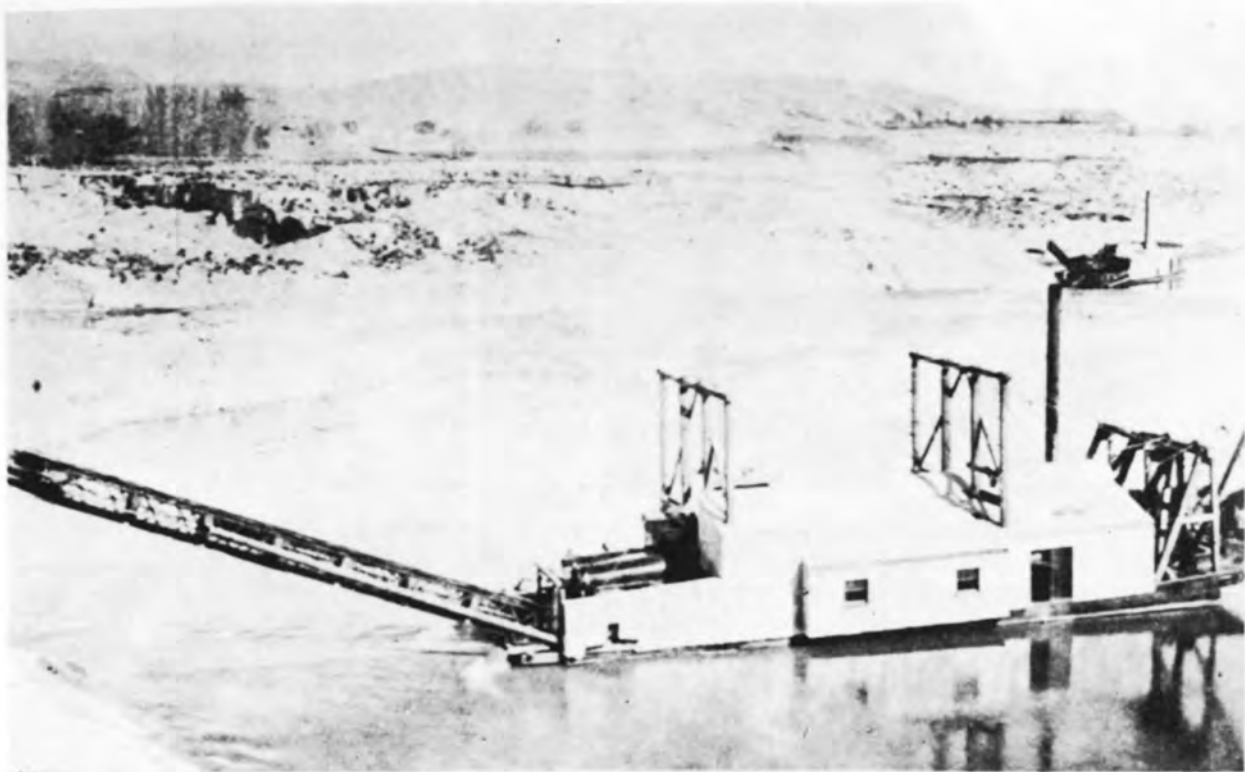
In 1903 there were 53 dredges working on the Molyneux River and its tributaries and 71 in other parts of New Zealand. From all over the world men came to Otago to investigate the dredging industry and Dredge Masters became dredge 'experts' in other countries where dredging began to be operated and could command enormous fees for their advice. The industry however waned and the dredges of the early 1900's had little in common with the massive enterprises of later years. The Molyneux Hydraulic Dredge at Alexandra is shown, Figure 4, illustrated on the next page.

Finally the big dredge which ceased operations in 1952 on the broad river flat above Cromwell won reasonable but never sensational returns, and I am told is remembered mostly for the masses of unsightly rocks and debris which mark the scene of its activity.

The lure of gold and the mass fever which it produced in the early days and the resultant contribution which the industry made to progress and land settlement led to the selection of the subject as part of the Centennial Issue of 1940 and the subject was treated on the 9d. stamp (S.G. 624); a two panel design, a photograph of an enlargement is shown on the next page.

On the left panel two gold miners are working in the dress of 1861 by the early method with pan and shovels. The right hand panel was a portrayal of the then most up-to-date dredge working in New Zealand - in fact, the Kanieri Dredge copied by James Berry the designer of the stamp. The stamp was issued on 2nd January, 1940, in olive green and orange, printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. on esparto paper with perf. 13½ and watermark multiple NZ over star. Two plates, A and B, were made for the dredge and one plate numbered 1 for the rest of the design. Plate markings A1 and B1 are found at the bottom selvedge under the imprint. The plate marking B1 is said to be much the scarcer and the number 1 after wear was recut and is regarded as a separate variety. The value tablet is of interest, showing the Tewhatewha, a Maori weapon - a typical additive of a Berry design. This axe-shaped club was a





The 'Molynaux Hydraulic' dredge, Alexandra

*Courtesy EVENING STAR, Dunedin*

Figure 4



Figure 5

favourite weapon made from hardwood and bone and was the weapon of a leader. It was also used to signal men or to beat time to a war dance or canoe song. It was included in the 1½d. value of the 1940 Centennial Issue.

The era of gold mining and dredging in New Zealand can be an absorbing Postal History subject and it is fitting that the beneficial effect of the industry was recognised by the issue of the two stamps in the set of each of the two Centennials.

References - Early Days in Central Otago, by Robert Gilkison.  
The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 11.

2d. ON 1½d. QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE WITH STARS.

#### THE 'BAIN' FORGERY

ALLAN P. BERRY

Following the publication of the report of a new and dangerous forgery of the 2d. surcharge on the 1½d. Queen Elizabeth Definitive with stars in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXXI, page 43, May, 1982, many members have expressed interest and concern about other forgeries of this surcharge.

Perhaps the most dangerous of these is that which has become known in New Zealand as the 'Bain' forgery. The first mention of this that I can trace is in Campbell Paterson's Newsletter, Volume 32, number 2, September, 1979. The description given is as follows:-

"The figure '2' and letter 'd' and dot are not notably different in shape and size from the genuine. There is (using the dividers) a slight variability in the relative positioning of the '2' and the dot in the forgery which does not appear to be present in the genuine. The decider, however, must be that in the genuine, the ink used is jet, shiny black, with no 'show-through' to the design below. In the forgery the ink lacks this intensity and is 'matt' in appearance. There is a little 'show-through', and above all there appears a 'halo' effect around the outer limit of the overprint, most noticeable in the dot."

The latest description of this forgery appears in Peter Oldham's Philatelic News, Volume 17, number 6, August, 1982. Reading this prompted me to write to Peter to see if an illustration of this forgery could be obtained. In his reply, Peter writes:-

"A photograph, even if it is blown up to a large size, is unlikely to show the defects. They are hard to see even with a high powered magnifier."

The description from Philatelic News reads:-

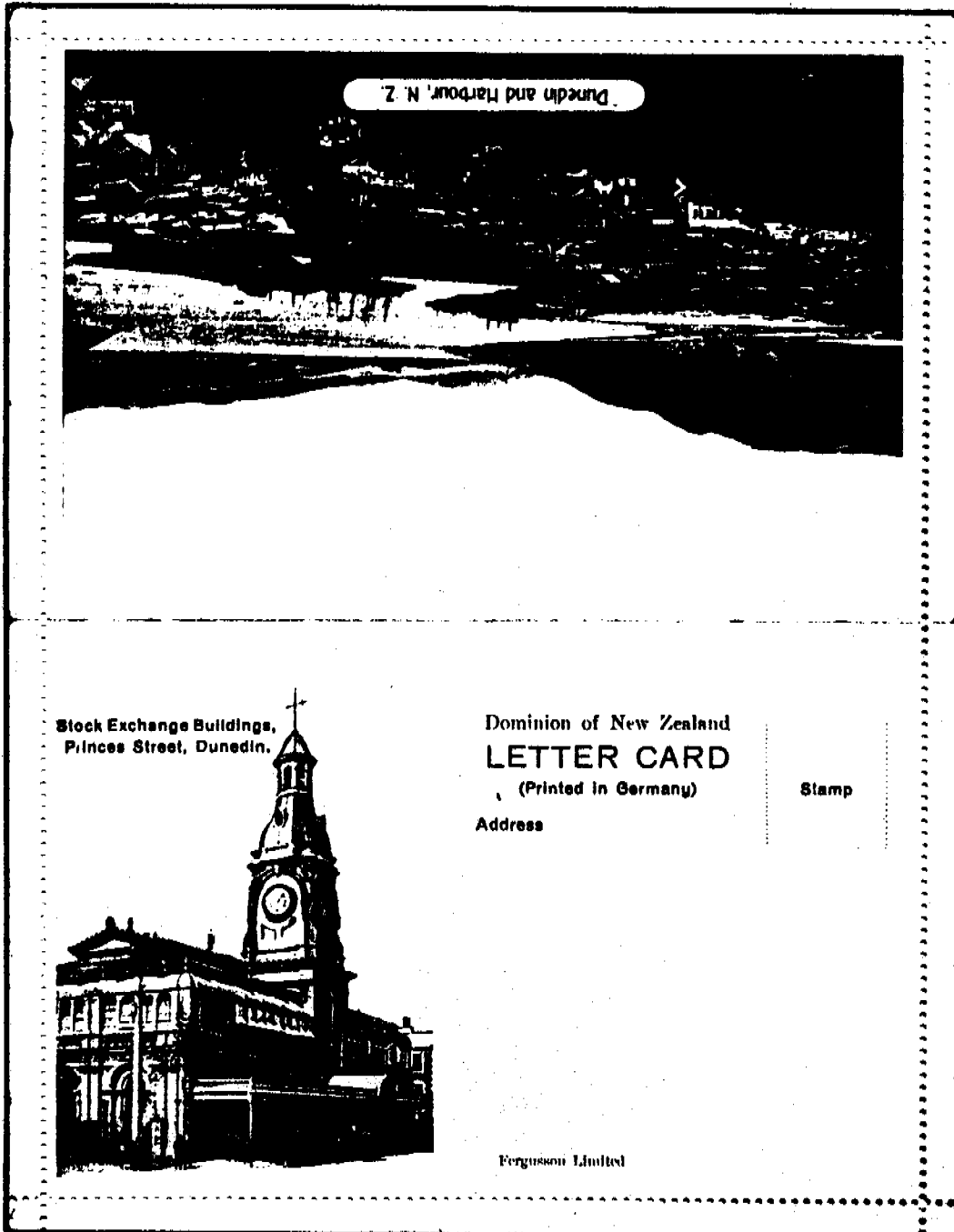
"The forgery itself has minor variations as also does the genuine stamp, but in general the things to look for are a very slight mis-shapen top to the 'd', ink which is a fraction less dense, and a rim around the black spot."

Peter also states that it is now advisable, in his opinion, for prospective purchasers to obtain an Expert Committee's certificate for any copy of this stamp offered for sale.

AN ILLUSTRATED LETTER CARD

ALLAN P. BERRY

The item illustrated below was clearly printed in Germany, and published by Fergusson Limited, who were responsible for many Post Cards on sale in New Zealand during the early years of this century. Can any member provide further information, especially of other Letter Cards of the same era, but with different illustrations.



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