



the kiwi

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

Hon. Gen Secretary: MISS MARGARET COLE

13 Southey Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 1NN. Tel.: 01-542-4959

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

VOLUME 33 No. 3

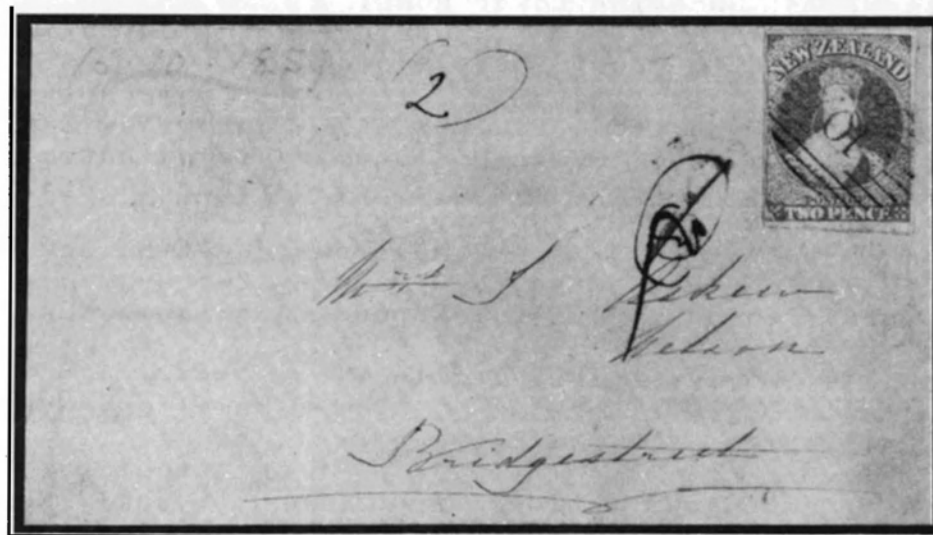
MAY 1984

WHOLE 185

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 2ND JUNE, 1984,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

THE SUBJECT WILL BE NEW ZEALAND LETTERCARDS,
BY OUR MEMBER, MARTYN JACKSON.

THE POSTMARK THAT CAUSED A SCANDAL



SEE PAGE 51.

STAMPEX '84.

This year, there were no entries specifically related to New Zealand at this Exhibition. But our member, R.D.Gwynn, was awarded a Large Silver-Gilt Medal for his entry 'A Century of Disaster Philately - 1856-1954'. Many congratulations.

EDITORIAL.

This year, the Annual Competition attracted many more entries than we have come to expect. This was very good news for the Officers and Committee of the Society, and we hope that this level will be maintained in the future.

As will be seen from the Report of this Meeting, there is a new trophy which has been given to the Society. This is the David Forty Salver, given in memory of one of our deceased members, who found great solace in the collection and study of New Zealand Stamps and Postal History through a long and painful illness. This year the David Forty Salver was awarded to the best entry submitted by a member who had not previously won an award in the Annual Competition.

Your Committee have not yet finally decided to which category this new trophy should be awarded. There are various possibilities - a new novice class; a new thematic class; an aero-philatelic class. These are three that have been considered. Your views, as members, would be appreciated. Please would you all write to me and let me have your views.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

D.J.Armitage, 73, Sheering Lower Road,
Sawbridgeworth, Herts., CN21 9LG.
B.R.Bergin, 'Egmont', Court Lane, Stoford,
Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 9UQ.
T.D.Canton, Stampland Ltd., P.O.Box 517, Napier New Zealand.
M.J.Kirke, P.O.Box 2474, South Hedland, Western Australia, 6722.
W.Menuz, 2854, Cherry Avenue, San Jose, California 95125, U.S.A.
M.J.Price, 41, High Street, Hurstpierpoint,
Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 9TT.
R.F.Smith, 14, Amberwood Rise, New Malden, Surrey.
R.J.C.Wooders, P.O.Box 33-453, Takapuna, Auckland, New Zealand.

RESIGNED

L.E.Duncan, 14, Cowley Drive, Temple View,
Hamilton, New Zealand.
Mrs. M.W.Phillipson, 122, Villiers Street,
Leamington Spa, Warwicks.
P.T.Wagstaff, 'Orchards', Widermerpool Road, Wysall, Notts.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

D.W.Francis, 28, Broadleas Road, Devizes, Wilts., SN10 5DG.
(previously of 11a, Radnor Close, Devizes.)
G.C.Monk, 2087, Hopewood Drive, Falls Church,
Virginia 22043, U.S.A.
(previously of Washington D.C. 20008, B.F.P.O. 2.)
R.L.Monk, 20, The Shrublands, Cooden,
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TH39 3SJ.
(previously of Forest Row, Sussex.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 31ST MARCH, 1984 - THE ANNUAL COMPETITION

The meeting was opened by our Chairman, John Smith, who introduced A.R.Butler, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., a Past-President of the

Royal Philatelic Society, London, and our Judge for the 1984 Annual Competition. He also welcomed Roy Halden of Reading, a new member attending a meeting for the first time. It was also nice to see Rita Gilders again, after a long illness.

There was a very good entry this year for the various classes in the competition. While the judging was in progress, John Buchanan gave a display on the story of New Zealand and its scenic stamps and so on. He started with the arrival of the Maoris, the early European Settlers, the move of the capital from Auckland to Wellington, then covered the Boer War and the First World War.

This was followed by the Centenaries of various Provinces and Cities, and the scenic stamps showing the Harbours, Marine Life, Rivers, Waterfalls, and Flora and Fauna.

The results of the Competition were announced as follows:-

Classic Section	:	Noel Turner Trophy - Michael Burberry, First Pictorials.
Runner-up	:	John D. Evans Trophy - John Evans, Second Sideface Issues.
Modern Section 1	:	Kiwi Shield - Stanley Cross-Rudkin, Niue.
Runner-up	:	Paua Musical Box - R.T.E.Standing, Penny Universals.
Modern Section 2	:	Stacey Hooker Cup - J.A.W.Smith, Queen Elizabeth 11 9d. value.
Runner-up	:	Paua Book Ends - Stanley Cross-Rudkin, Queen Elizabeth 11 1/- value.
Postal History	:	John J. Bishop Trophy - T.H.Brock, Early Internal Air Mails.
Runner-up	:	The Barton Bowl - R.D.Gwynn, Disaster Philately.

A new trophy was awarded for the first time this year. This was given for the best entry submitted by a member who had not previously won an award in the Annual Competition.

The David Forty Salver was awarded to Alan McKellar for his entry of the Penny Dominion.

Our Chairman thanked Ron Butler for taking so much trouble over the judging, and for his helpful comments to those who had entered. The meeting closed at 5.15 p.m.

A.E.H.

REVIEWS.

Index to Suffix Letters, by L.G.Dale. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, P.O.Box 38-503, Howick, Auckland, New Zealand. Price NZ\$2.00, plus 80 cents postage.

The sub-title to this booklet is 'an index to aid the identification of partial impressions of New Zealand postal markings by use of the last three letters of the Post Office name'. It is an 18 page, A4, listing in which the last three letters of office names have been put into alphabetical order, and showing against them all the possible full names. It is a useful tool that has taken much patience in preparation, and is an essential

acquisition for the post mark collector who wishes to identify the possibly rare marking where the first part of the name is missing. If this is your interest, then it is a very necessary addition to your library.

Marlborough - Notes on Early Postal History, by R.M.Startup.
Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand,
P.O.Box 38-503, Howick, Auckland, New Zealand. Price NZ\$2.00,
plus 80 cents postage.

This is a further addition to the many books, pamphlets and articles written by Robin Startup covering the postal history of various districts of New Zealand. It starts with extracts from the National Archives and other sources concerning the establishment of postal services in Marlborough, the history of which has been often vague and contradictory. This makes fascinating reading, and also shows what can be learned from a study of sources that one would not normally consider fruitful for such an exercise. The booklet finishes with a list of all the Post and Telephone Offices that have been open at one stage or another within the 1983 boundaries of the Blenheim Postal District. It is a very worthy addition to the increasing list of such publications, and as such is very welcome.

New Zealand Stamps, 1954 - 1958, The Middle Values, by
A.L.Neeson. Available from Stirling & Co. Ltd., P.O.Box 949,
Christchurch, New Zealand. Price NZ\$5.00, plus NZ\$2-50 Air Mail
Postage, or NZ\$1-00 Surface Postage.

The stated object of this little booklet is to describe and illustrate the various stages of the varieties of the 9d., 1/-, 1/6 and 1/9 values of the Queen Elizabeth II definitives of 1954 - 1958. The format is well chosen, in that the plating and description of the variety is given on the left hand page, with appropriate illustrations on the opposite, right hand page. Using against my own collection, I had no difficulty in confirming the identification of varieties made from other sources, such as Volume IV of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. It is a useful and cheap booklet for the philatelist who wishes to collect and study this narrow field of New Zealand stamp issues.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY LIST AS AT 1ST MAY, 1984.

Item	Lending Fee Code
73. New Zealand Railway Charges Stamps - Design and Printing, by J.W.Brodie.....	C
74. Postal History of the Manawatu, by R.M.Startup.....	C
75. New Zealand Postal Manuscripts, by A.R.Marshall.....	E
Lending Fee Code : A = 40p, B = 60p, C = 80p, D = £1-20, E = £1-00	

Please ask for a Library Application Form if you are making your first request. Please note that all library requests must include the lending fee either as Postal Orders or Cheques, made out to the Society. Items must be returned after two months from receipt; this can only be extended if there is no waiting list and this

extension is obtained from the Hon. Librarian in writing. Items are available in strict rotation in cases where there is more than one request for the same item. We regret that items from the Library are not available for loan to overseas members.

Hon. Librarian, New Zealand Society of Great Britain,
B.T. Atkinson, Esq., 77, Wood Lane, Osterley, Middlesex, TW7 5EG.
Telephone (01)-560-6119. Callers welcome.

DISPLAYS TO LOCAL SOCIETIES.

Stanley Cross-Rudkin will be giving a display to the Ringwood Philatelic Society on Tuesday, 10th July. This Society meets at the Greyfriars Community Centre, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, and the meeting starts at 7.30 p.m.

Stanley Cross-Rudkin will be giving a display to the Petersfield and District Philatelic Society on Monday, 3rd December. This Society meets at Churchers College, Petersfield, and the meeting starts at 7.30 p.m.

All members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain are invited to attend these displays. Your Editor would like to hear from any member who agrees to give a display to a local society so that it can be announced through the pages of 'The Kiwi'.

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

CENTENARY OF HUNTERVILLE



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Hunterville on Friday, 2nd March, 1984, to commemorate the Centenary of Hunterville.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF KAITAIA



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Kaitaia on Friday, 16th March, 1984, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Kaitaia. Mail posted in a special posting box at the Kaitaia Post Office was cancelled with the special date stamp.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF N.Z. TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Trentham on Friday, 16th March, 1984, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the N.Z. Table Tennis Association. Mail posted in a special posting box at the Trentham Post Office was cancelled with the special date stamp.

AIR NEW ZEALAND INAUGURAL FLIGHTS



Special pictorial date stamps were provided for use at the Chief Post Office, Wellington, to postmark covers forwarded in special philatelic mails carried on inaugural Air New Zealand 737 flights as follows:-

2nd April, 1984 - Wellington to Nukualofa and Apia

3rd April, 1984 - Wellington to Nandi, Rarotonga and Papeete

The covers were back date stamped at the final destination.
9TH WORLD HEREFORD CONFERENCE



A special pictorial date stamp was used on Thursday, 5th April, 1984, to cancel mail posted in a special posting box in the foyer of the Christchurch Town Hall, the main venue for the 9th World Hereford Conference.

RE-ENACTMENT OF TRANS-TASMAN AIRMAIL FLIGHT



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Auckland on Wednesday, 11th April, 1984, to date stamp mail carried on a flight to Sydney, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Trans-Tasman airmail flight by Charles Ulm.

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS



A special pictorial date stamp was used on Tuesday, 24th April, 1984, to cancel mail posted in a special posting box at Queen Elizabeth II Park, Christchurch, the venue of the First International Swimming Championships.

METHVEN



A permanent pictorial date stamp will be used at the Methven Post Office to cancel mail posted from Tuesday, 1st May, 1984.

PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND DATESTAMPS.

JOHN D. EVANS

Since the table concerning these datestamps was published in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXXI, page 35, March, 1982, the datestamps with Serial Number 1 has been reported by Warwick Paterson with an earlier date of use. The strike is on a copy of the 1d. Chalon Head, dated 2nd October, 1864. The notes by Robin Startup in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXX, page 62, September, 1981, show that this datestamp was used at Ngaruawahia. It is, I think, consistent with the earliest known use of Serial Number 2, JU 30 64, and of Serial Number 3, SP 27 64, during the Second Maori War.

WORLD WAR 1 INLAND POST CARD

ALLAN P. BERRY

The Post Card illustrated is a recent acquisition which poses certain problems. As can be seen, it is an Inland Post Card, with the endorsement Postage Free, addressed to the Secretary, Ladies' Patriotic Committee, Box 15, Masterton, New Zealand. Apparently, this was a branch of the Liverpool Equipment and Relief Fund.

The reverse, also illustrated, shows that the card was a receipt for a Gift Parcel from the Wairarapa Patriotic Committee, which the recipient was asked to sign and return together with any remarks and suggestions.

In this case, the recipient has written:-

"Tea & sugar would be a great deal better than chocolate & cocoa in this country, and that is the general opinion, as you ask for any suggestions."

This is signed by one Tpr. P.W.Mossman, who was evidently stationed in Palestine.

The card is cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE - N.Z / B 28 AU 18. This is type 43, illustrated on page 360 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. A note on page 362 states that this was a British Army type issued to the New Zealand Military Post Office.

According to 'The Postal History of the British Army in World War 1', by Kennedy and Crabb, this datestamp was allocated to the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade in the June, 1917, reorganisation, presumably because the Brigade had ceased to belong to the New Zealand Division some time previously, having joined the ANZAC Mounted Division in March, 1916. The same allocation is given in Volume 11 of 'History of the British Army Postal Service', by E.B.Proud.

There is also the censor marking 'PASSED CENSOR (crown) No. 3237' in a triangular frame, struck in purple. This is type CM3 of Kennedy and Crabb, and type C of E.B.Proud.

There is much information which it would be interesting to know. Can any member give any information about the Ladies' Patriotic Committee of Masterton; or the Liverpool Equipment and Relief Fund; or the Wairarapa Patriotic Committee?

What exactly is the status of this card? It is marked 'Inland Post Card', yet appears to have been used from Palestine. Was there no postage payable on this card, as indicated by the

'Postage Free', or had some arrangement been made with the New Zealand Post Office, whereby postage was paid on an assessment basis? Could it be an item of 'Official Postal Stationery'?

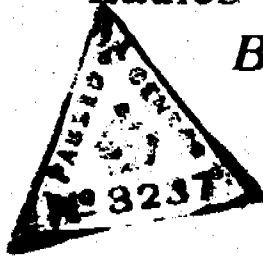
If any member can help, I would be glad to hear from them.

INLAND POST CARD.



**POSTAGE
FREE.**

The Secretary
Ladies' Patriotic Committee,
Box 15,
Masterton,
New Zealand.



LIVERPOOL EQUIPMENT AND RELIEF FUND.

415

*Received Gift Parcel from the Wairarapa
Patriotic Committee.*

Please state any remarks or suggestions you have to offer.

And it would be a great deal better
if it could be done in this country, as
that is the general opinion as you ask for
any suggestions.

Signature J. P. McManis

NOTE.—Please Sign and Post This Card.

JOHN D. EVANS

In Part 1, published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 33, page 30, the White Terraces shown on the 4d. Pictorial of 1898, S.G. 258, and the 1d. of 1900, S.G. 299, were discussed. The other Terraces were the Pink Terraces, a view of which appears on the 9d. Pictorial of 1898, S.G. 267. The specification for the Pictorials issued with



the G.P.O., Wellington, Circular of 20th March, 1895, was followed by the Report of 20th May, 1895, to the Postmaster General which stated that 'a nine-penny stamp has also been decided on for parcels sent outside the Colony' and the Board of Experts accepted the design for the stamp of W.R.Bock of Wellington. On the issue of the first 80,000 stamps in England and New Zealand on 5th April, 1898, the 9d. value, oblong horizontal, is the Pink Terrace, Rotomahana, with

tree-fern and nikau palm at sides. The Pink Terrace was similar to the White Terrace depicted on the 4d. value of the series but was much smaller and situated on the opposite side of the Lake Rotomahana. Tourists were paddled for a quarter of a mile from the White Terraces and then landed at the foot of the Pink Terraces. The Pink Terraces covered about $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres and their smooth surfaces were flushed a delicate salmon pink brightened by various shades of yellow. All the colours were kept bright by the clean water washing over them to a depth of about two inches.

The Pink Terrace as shown on the 9d. stamp illustrated is described by J.A.Froude in Oceana:-

"The Pink Terrace was formed on the same lines as the White, save that it was narrower and was flushed with pale-rose colour. We ascended the shining stairs where the crystals were even more beautiful than those which we had seen, falling like clusters of rosy icicles, or hanging in festoons like creepers trailing from a rail. At the foot of each cascade the water lay in pools of ultramarine, their exquisite colour being due in part I suppose, to the light of the sky refracted upwards from the bottom. The crater at the White Terrace had been boiling, the steam rushing out from it filled the air with cloud, and the scorching heat had kept us at a distance. Here the temperature was twenty degrees lower, there was still vapour hovering over the surface, but it was lighter and more transparent and a soft breeze now and then blew it completely aside. We could stand on the brim and gaze as through an opening in the earth into an azure infinity beyond. Down and down, and softer and softer as they receded, the white crystals projected from the rocky walls into the abyss, till they seemed to dissolve not into darkness, but

into light. The hue of the water was something which I had never seen, and shall never see again on this side of eternity. Not the violet, not the harebell, nearest in its tint to heaven of all nature's flowers, not turquoise, not sapphire, not the unfathomable aether itself could convey to one who had not looked on it a sense of supernatural loveliness. Comparison could only soil such inimitable purity."

It was a ritual to bath in the Pink Terraces and the water gave a sense of luxury, making the skin feel smooth and soft. It was usual for the women to bath at the top of the Terrace while the men stayed below. The ritual was a cold bath at first, then baths of increasing warmth until the water became really hot followed sometimes by a cold bath to finish before dressing for the return from the excursion. As the party mounted Terrace after Terrace Mount Tarawera dominated the landscape casting its reflection on the mirror of Lake Rotomahana below.

The colour of the 9d. stamp was a purple-lake with no great range of colour noticeable. There was no watermark and the perfs. were combinations of 12 to 16. The pigment used for the colour was susceptible to light and exposure which had the effect of reducing the brightness and producing a slate appearance. Except to illustrate the point, stamps with slate appearance are undesirable material and used copies often have a slate appearance partly due to the effect of water and partly to exposure. The London Print has twenty-two re-entries most of which occur in the figures '9', 'New Zealand' and 'Postage'. These are set out in Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. Campbell Paterson's Catalogue refers to two of these in detail and to the existence of others and for those interested appears to place a premium of about 50% above the catalogue value of the normal stamp.

A few words about the Nikau Palm, which occasionally grows to 30 feet in height. I am told the top of the stem is fleshy and sometimes eaten, but by whom I cannot say, except that I have never heard of it in England. The ripe berries like a huge bunch of coral are a vivid red, the size of a large pea and extremely hard. The berries strangely enough have been used by early settlers for bird shooting when ammunition was scarce. Yet the berries are relished by the Kaka, the wild parrot on the right of the 1898 1/- value, S.G. 268! The nikau leaves were used by the Maoris in the construction of their whares or native huts; altogether a very useful palm.

Early in June, 1886, Sophia, the Maori guide to visiting parties, was becoming agitated about the way hot springs were behaving as the ground thudded and shook, and she had the strange feeling that all was not well. Lt. H.S. Bates of the 65th Regiment made a drawing of the Queen's Redoubt in 1863, the Field Headquarters near Pokeno of the forces in the Second Maori War and is no doubt the same officer who in 1860 had visited the thermal area and described the effect. He wrote:-

"The sensation of sleeping on this island is very much like sleeping over a powder magazine or over a boiler of a Yankee Steamboat. The subterranean fire cannot be far distant here; it is possible to ignite a match by digging about a foot deep into the ground and holding a match there."

Soon after midnight on 10th June, 1886, an earthquake was felt, followed by others and violent jolts that ended the sleep of everyone for miles around including the residents of Ohinemutu. Mount Tarawera was in full eruption and at first a small cloud on the summit was shot through with flashes of lightning of great brilliance; ten miles away the ground underfoot was quaking continuously and three craters had broken out on the mountain. The noise which to those in buildings such as Tourist Hotels seemed to be rain turned out to be volcanic dust, and soon afterwards rocks started falling and some inhabitants were knocked down by falling stones. By 1245 a.m. the mountain appeared to be one huge fire and the Lake Tarawera below gleamed like a red mirror. The whole of Lake Rotomahana was ripped open to form a gigantic fissure the water and mud bottom being hurled high into the air to crash on the settlement of Wairoa in enormous quantities. The site of the old lake became a line of active craters, which filled with molten rock which did not overflow and being highly charged with steam, exploded instantly and blew into the air to cool and fall as lava, ash and dust. Thus perished the White Terraces and the Pink Terraces. A twelve mile rift in Mount Tarawera was caused by the explosion. The convulsions of the earth that radiated out from Tarawera were felt more than 100 miles away and the detonations were heard over an even wider area wakening people in Nelson some 300 miles away and making people in Auckland 133 miles in a direct line in the opposite direction think that heavy guns were being fired. Investigations established that in all 153 people were killed and the destruction of property, tourist hotels, wild life, animals and birds was enormous.

Whereas the 1d. stamp showing the White Terraces was withdrawn on the issue of the Penny Universal on 1st January, 1901, the issue of the 9d. stamp showing the Pink Terraces rumbled on, as it were. The first Local Print was issued on 19th August, 1899, S.G. 283, perf. 11, some thirteen years after the disaster. The paper supplied by Waterlow and Sons was thick, spongy and absorbent, causing difficulties in finding a sufficiently adhesive gum and also suitable inks and for these reasons this issue is found with gums ranging from very dull to very shiny varieties. The lightest shade closely resembled that of the London Prints. Other shades range to deep purple, S.G. 282, generally found on the thicker paper. Nine re-entries are classified in Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand; most of these affect the bottom right hand corner of the stamp.

Experiments to produce a more suitable paper led to the adoption of a paper with watermark NZ and star supplied by A.Cowan and Sons and the 9d. value was issued in May, 1903, perf. 11. No new plate was required and so the same nine re-entries appear. The inks used were susceptible to the effects of light, particularly of strong sunlight and colour changlings resulted. It is therefore important to keep the three shades known on stamps with perf. 11, namely, purple, S.G. 368, brownish lake and reddish purple, in mind. In the Annual Report of the Postmaster General for 1901 it was stated that:-

"new stamp perforating machinery has been imported by the Government Printer, and is now being set up."

The new machines first guaged 11, but at the Printer's request for smaller holes were adjusted to guage 14. These machines often produced a roughly cut perforation and towards the end of their life late in 1906 were used for the 9d. value. The stamp with this perforation is found in the purple and reddish purple shades, S.G. 395, watermarked as before. The value continued in use until 1915 still of course depicting the Pink Terraces, and being used one supposes 'for parcels sent to places outside' - now the Dominion, and the plate was satisfactory for the 16 years of service.

The White Terraces with the Pink Terraces have been described as the Eighth Wonder of the World, and their irreparable loss in 1886 cannot be compensated even by New Zealand and other philatelists for whom the interest in the 4d. and 9d. stamps of the First Pictorials has been kept alive by the hobby of stamp collecting.

Lake Rotomahana as the tourist will see it today is shown on the 23 cent value of the 1972 New Zealand Lake Series, a stamp of a series becoming increasingly scarce, being the first of the Scenic Stamps.

References - Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand.
Tarawera, by Eugene and Valerie Grayland.

FINDINGS FROM FILES.

DIES OF NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE STAMPS

ALLAN P. BERRY

This particular extract from the files now held at the National Postal Museum, London, starts with a letter from a firm of Solicitors to The Solicitor to the General Post Office, E.C.1., dated 2nd April, 1947. This reads:-

"We act for the New Zealand Government in England and have recently been instructed in the following circumstances. The New Zealand Government had been approached by the Executors of a person who had formerly held a responsible position in the New Zealand Government High Commissioner's Office in London, with reference to certain dies of New Zealand Stamps known amongst Philatelists as the 'Queen Victoria low neck issue', which were believed to have been first printed in 1855. It was suggested that the testator had been given the dies by the late Sir Joseph Ward, who had at one time been Postmaster General in New Zealand.

"It was suggested that the Government might like to acquire the dies but the New Zealand Government did not feel justified in acquiring what they believed to be the property of the Crown, which came into the possession of the deceased holder without any proper authority.

"We are informed by reputable Philatelists that Stamp dies do come into the market but on very rare occasions. It has now been proposed by the Secretary of External Affairs that we should consult the British Post Office Authorities in this matter as they might be able to offer some useful advice as to the best course of action.

"We should be much obliged if you would offer us any assistance in this matter and perhaps you will indicate what is

the practice of the British Government in dealing with old Stamp dies."

This generated enquiries within the Departments of the General Post Office. A note to the Postal Services Department, Overseas Mail Branch, from the Solicitor to the General Post Office, dated 3rd April, 1947, reads:-

"Will the Postal Services Department please let me have its observations on the annexed letter from, the Solicitors acting in England for the New Zealand Government? ... state that the New Zealand Government has been offered certain dies by the personal representatives of a person who formerly held a responsible position in the High Commissioner's Office in London. The New Zealand Government did not feel justified in purchasing dies, which in their view were the property of the Crown. In the last paragraph of the letter enquiry is made about the practice of the British Government in dealing with old stamp dies. Will the Postal Services Department please say what is the practice? I suppose that a contractor for printing stamps is required to deliver up the dies at the expiration of the contract. Is this correct?"

A letter on the files, dated 9th April, 1947, is addressed to the Stores Department, Stamp Section, although it is not clear from which department it emanates. This reads:-

"The present Contracts provide for the safe custody of dies, printing plate, etc. and dies, printing plates, etc., must be surrendered to the Department or destroyed under the control and direction of the Department when they are no longer required. Master dies no longer required would be preserved by this Department as part of the official records. When the Inland Revenue Department had charge of the arrangements for printing postage stamps it appears that their arrangements were similar to those now followed, but perhaps you can say whether such is the case.

"Please furnish any other information at your disposal which you think may be helpful in connexion with this enquiry."

The Stores Department, Stamp Section, replied to this letter on 21st April, 1947, but again, it is not clear to which Department the reply is addressed. It reads:-

"It has been confirmed by informal discussion with...the Stamping Department that Inland Revenue practice was as described in the foregoing and that if the contract under which the 1855 stamps were produced was controlled by the I.R. Department the disposal of dies and plates would have been properly attended to.

"The present practice of the New Zealand Government in London is based on standard Conditions of Contract supplied to them by this Department in 1932. These stipulate that all dies etc. shall be the property of the High Commissioner and shall be delivered up with the last delivery of stamps. In practice, however, security printers prefer to destroy the dies and the New Zealand Government arranges for this to be done. It is not known what the practice was in 1855.

"According to Stanley Gibbons, the July 1855 stamps were first printed by Perkins Bacon & Co. in London, and a further supply was printed by J. Richardson in Auckland later in the same year. A further issue in 1862 was printed by John Davies at the G.P.O. Auckland, and the design seems to have been current until 1874. It is quite possible that the dies were duly handed over to the New Zealand Government in 1855 for use in Auckland and afterwards given away as suggested. It is known, however, that when Perkins Bacon & Co. went into liquidation some ten years ago, a quantity of material of this kind came on to the market and there is an alternative possibility that the leakage occurred in that way."

The three letters were drawn together, and a covering letter sent to the Solicitors Department, dated 25th April, 1947. It is not clear from which Department this letter was sent. It reads:-

"Please see the foregoing report. There is no objection to the gist of what is said in it being passed on to the solicitors acting in England for the New Zealand Government.

"For the July 1855 stamps in question a master die was probably prepared from which working dies or plates for the actual printing of the 1855 and subsequent issues were probably taken. Examination by an expert of the dies being offered to the New Zealand Govt. might show whether they are 'master' or 'working dies' and might afford a clue to whether they were used for the printings made in London or New Zealand. Whether the arrangements made by the New Zealand Government at the time with their printers it is unlikely that they would be such that the Govt. did not retain absolute ownership and title to the master die or dies.

"The printing of British postage stamps was taken over by the P.O. from the Inland Revenue only about the year 1914. Since that time the control of printing dies and plates has been rigid, but the P.O. has no experience of the arrangements made for the earlier issues when the interest in stamp collecting was not so keen and the control of items of philatelic interest was probably more lax than it is today. The Inland Revenue Department are probably the best fitted to advise on the course to be followed in the case of the dies now in question and your correspondents might be advised to approach that Department if they wish for further advice. (Only recently the Inland Revenue Department investigated a case concerning postage stamps of early issues which came to light in similar circumstances and which there was reason to suppose might have been taken by a responsible official from the official records), but in that case only stamps, not dies, were concerned."

All this information was finally incorporated in a letter to the Solicitors acting for the New Zealand Government in England, from the Solicitors Department of the G.P.O. This is dated 28th April, 1947, and although it repeats much of the above, it is worth quoting:-

"It is understood that the present practice of the New Zealand Government in London is based on certain standard conditions of contract which were supplied to them by the Post Office in 1932.

These conditions stipulate that all dies, etc., shall be the property of the High Commissioner and shall be handed over to him with the last delivery of stamps. The practice is for security printers employed by the High Commissioner to destroy the dies by arrangement with him.

"According to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, the July 1855 stamps issued by the New Zealand Government were first printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. in London, a further supply being printed by Mr. J. Richardson in Auckland later in the same year, and yet another supply by Mr. John Davies in Auckland in 1862. The design is understood to have been current until 1874, and it is possible that the dies were handed over to the New Zealand Government in 1855 for use in Auckland and afterwards given away as suggested in your letter. It is understood, however, that the original printers, Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., went into liquidation about ten years ago and there is a possibility that the dies may have come on to the market in connection with the liquidation.

"Until 1914 the printing of British postage stamps was under the control of the Inland Revenue Department. Since that date the printing of stamps has been under the control of the Postmaster General. It is the practice to provide in contracts let by him that dies must be destroyed or surrendered to the Post Office. Master dies no longer required would be preserved by the Department as part of the official records. It is understood that similar arrangements were in force under the Inland Revenue, but it is suggested that the Inland Revenue Department might be able to furnish you with some information about the practice in force with regard to dies before 1914.

"I shall be happy to give you any further assistance in my power."

There is no indication on the files of the final outcome, or of the fate of the dies in question.

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

THE POSTMARK THAT CAUSED A SCANDAL

MARGARET COLE

Last year, the cover illustrated on page 37 came into my possession from the Adam Hunter collection when it was sold at auction. The brief write-up with the cover sent me off on a search which has raised almost as many questions as it answered. All that the write-up said was:-

"This cover was posted from Motueka, near Nelson, to Nelson 15/10/59 but bears the cancellation 10 Wellington. The Postmaster at Motueka was prosecuted for removing used stamps from letters and using them again."

I wrote off to New Zealand but the Postal Division of Post Office Headquarters in Wellington was unable to help. From 8th December, 1852, until 1865, the Motueka post was handled by a voluntary mail office and there was no record of the volunteers.

However, if I could find out the name of the person prosecuted it may be possible to find further information.

There the matter rested for some months until I made contact with Robin Startup in New Zealand. He is in the process of compiling a list of people who worked in the early New Zealand post offices, and was able to give me the name I needed, and to suggest further avenues to explore. One of these was to study the local paper of the time, the 'Nelson Examiner', as the case had probably come to trial in the local Resident Magistrates Court.

The following story has been pieced together from the court report, letters and editorials in the 'Nelson Examiner', and with the help of the Motueka and District Historical Association. Descendants of the protagonists still alive in the area were unable to help.

In 1859, the Motueka Postmaster was a Richard Sutcliffe, who landed in Nelson with the New Zealand Company ship the 'New Zealand'. At the time the company did not accept single men as settlers and it has been suggested that he may have married his cousin Sarah McCulla for that reason. They were married in Lancashire. Sarah was six years older than him, being 28 to his 22 when they arrived in Nelson. The passenger list gives his profession as shoemaker, but it is known that he had a private school before he became a store keeper. He was Deputy Postmaster in Motueka from 4th February, 1857, and in about 1858 he replaced Daniel Giblin as Postmaster. At the time of the trial he and Sarah had a thriving business in the High Street, and a large family.

My first surprise came when I began reading the account of the trial. Sarah Sutcliffe, not Richard, was the defendant, and although she was defended by counsel, she did not give evidence herself. The case was heard on Monday, 5th December, 1859, before J. Poynter, Esq., Resident Magistrate, and the charge was 'of having sold three postage stamps to Elizabeth Askew of Riwaka, the same already having passed through the Post Office, and being defaced by it's official stamp; whereby the revenues of the Post Office had been defrauded'.

The Nelson Postmaster, Captain Walmsley, and his son, Dugdale, who was a clerk in the post office, gave evidence. Captain Walmsley began by explaining that all letters sent from Motueka were obliterated when they arrived in Nelson; Motueka being only a branch office had no obliterator of its own. He went on to say that he had 'received information from another source that postage stamps passed current at Motueka, after they had passed through and been defaced by officials of the Post Office'. He had asked his son to keep a particular watch on the mails from Motueka, and on 15th October three letters with previously used stamps were found. Unfortunately young Dugdale obliterated one, before realising that it had previously been obliterated. The other covers were, however, produced as evidence.

All three letters were posted by Miss Elizabeth Askew of Riwaka, the fertile plain across the Motueka River. Captain Walmsley wrote to her as follows:-

"Post Office, Nelson 14 November 1859

"Miss Askew, May I trouble you to inform me, if at any time during the last month you have addressed any letters to either

Miss Wallis, Richmond; Mr. R. Ray, Nelson; or Mrs. T. Askew, Nelson; and if they had any postage stamps affixed thereto, and if so by whom they were affixed? B. Walmsley, Post Master."

Two days later he received a reply signed by Miss Askew, but the body of the letter was in Mr. Sutcliffe's writing.

"Riwaka. 16 November 1859 Sir, In reply to yours of the 14th. instant, I beg to state that the letter referred to, I posted at Motueka and affixed the postage stamps to them myself, but since posting them I find that the stamps had been used before, and by some mistake had got amongst my writing materials, and it being in the evening I put them on the letters without noticing them. I am very sorry I have made the mistake; and I may also state that when my brother Thomas called upon me about the mistake, I told him that I had bought them from the Postmaster in Motueka, but upon searching among my papers, I found the stamps I had bought. Elizabeth Askew."

However, said Mr. Walmsley, when he saw Miss Askew at a later date she contradicted the statement saying that 'she never read it, neither was it read over to her, or she certainly would not have signed it.'

Elizabeth Askew then appeared in court to give evidence, and described how she came to have purchased stamps. Mrs. Sutcliffe, not Mr. Sutcliffe had sold her the stamps. She had purchased 6 and paid a shilling. Four of the stamps were separate and there were two which 'had never been cut asunder.' She put three of those given to her already separated upon three letters which she posted at Riwaka. 'I do not know if they were defaced, but as I got them so I used them'. She went on to say that she had no other stamps in her possession at the time, and at a later date when she went to Motueka she heard that there had been some trouble about the stamps. Some days later Mr. Sutcliffe had visited her and asked her to sign a letter, 'as there had been some unpleasantness at the Post Office in consequence of her having used defaced stamps, but if she would sign a letter everything would be quietly arranged.' She had signed it thinking that she would benefit Mr. Sutcliffe and he wrote the letter produced in court, but she had not been acquainted of it's contents. None of it was true, - she had posted the letters in Riwaka, and had never searched for, or found any stamps among her writing materials. It was only after she had signed the letter that Mr. Sutcliffe had given her the letter from Captain Walmsley, with its seal broken! The implication that Mr. Sutcliffe had intercepted her mail and read it, was obvious.

She was closely questioned by the counsel for the defence, Mr. Kingdom, but she stuck to her story. Indeed the reporter states that she was 'severely cross-examined but without in any degree having her evidence shaken.'

In summing up the Magistrate said that 'unless Mr. Kingdom could show Miss Askew to be unworthy of belief he did not see how her evidence could be set aside.' Mrs. Sutcliffe was fined £30 plus costs.

At that time the 'Nelson Examiner' appeared on a Wednesday and a Saturday. The trial took place on a Monday, with the account of

the trial appearing two days later. Opposite the report was a notice to correspondents, stating that Richard Sutcliffe had written to the paper but it could not be published as it 'contains statements conveying the gravest imputations on the principal witness examined. We may however state that if her evidence had not been credited, she herself would have been the party liable to prosecution,...we do not see how anyone can venture to sell a single postage stamp in future, if liable to such heavy penalties upon the unsupported evidence of a single witness, with such strong motives to bias her testimony.'

It is not difficult to see where the editors' sympathy lay. Nor were they alone in their opinion that 'if his statement be correct his case is doubtless a very hard one.' For the next few weeks letters to the editor from outraged local people were printed including one impassioned plea for the introduction of trial by jury, as in England.

"Let me ask your readers if it were possible that any British jury could convict, had a jury arbitrated on the case which has cast obliquy, disgrace and loss on one of our oldest and most industrious fellow colonists, who has by degrees worked his way with unblemished character from the position of humble mechanical tradesman, through the honourable office of schoolmaster to the post of prosperous storekeeper, a keeper of more than one trust estate and a district postmaster?

"Is it creditable that the striving wife of the post master, with a large family, besides the store to attend to, (and that store yielding a profit of 20 - 100%) could have had the time or inclination to earn a few twopences by the rather difficult manipulation of getting used stamps off old letters so neatly as to pass them off for new, even before they had been attached again to other letters, for if one attached the difference between the stamps which had been previously used and really new, would not be half so glaring."

One writer wondered if the person aggrieved may find it practicable to obtain a reversal of the decision against him, by application to the Supreme Court. Another signing himself 'Delta' stated 'the sympathy is inestimable, and is evidenced in a pecuniary subscription, very numerously signed for one who is in no pecuniary want.' It was also suggested that the substitution of the old stamps for the genuine ones could have taken place at the public house at Riwaka, presumably used as the local post office, or on the road, 'for a joke, or any other reason at all.' However, regardless of local feeling, Richard Sutcliffe was dismissed as Postmaster, being replaced by William Gibbs on 21st January, 1860.

At the time, the Postmaster at Riwaka was none other than William Askew, whom I believe to be Elizabeth's father! He had been appointed on 15th February, 1857. Further research is needed on this point, but if he was her father, it may explain why little credit was given to her story by local people, with the possibility of substituting used stamps so readily available.

Elizabeth's brother Thomas became the Riwaka Postmaster on 1st April, 1862, and a Miss Askew (Elizabeth?) was Post Mistress from 1st January, 1883, until 1st January, 1893.