



the kiwi

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

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VOLUME 33, No. 6

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WHOLE 188

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 1984,
IN THE HAMPSTEAD ROOM, Y.W.C.A., GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 7LR. IT IS

KIWI DAY

AND STARTS AT 11.00 A.M. WITH THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
THE AUCTION WILL COMMENCE AT 1.45 P.M.

33RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd 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, 24th November, 1984, commencing at 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting.
2. President's Report and Review of 1984.
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.

The present holders of the Offices of Meetings Secretary
and Meetings Reporter have indicated that they do not wish
to seek re-election.

6. To elect a Committee.
7. Any other business proper to the Annual General Meeting, of
which due notice has been given in writing.

MARGARET COLE, HON. GENERAL SECRETARY

EDITORIAL.

Members will no doubt have seen that the collection formed by one of our Past Presidents, the late Harry Lacoste Bartrop, is to be sold by Christie's Robson Lowe on Wednesday, 24th October, 1984. Reading through the Catalogue for the sale calls to mind the occasions on which Harry showed to the Society. It is surprising how wide a field the collection covers.

I am sure that many of us would be delighted for some of these gems to join our collection. They would be a reminder of a fine gentleman who did much for our Society in its early days.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

A.J. Askew, 22, Southview Road, Warlingham, Surrey, CR3 9JE.

D.B. Ramsay, 48, Lodge Hill Park, Nairn, Scotland, IV12 4SB.

DECEASED

A.J.C. Kendall, 10, Squires Lane, Finchley, London, N3 2AT.

J.M. Shelton, 37, Windermere Court, Wembley, Middlesex.

RESIGNED

H.S. Casey, 18, Stratton Walk, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex.

Mrs. J.L.D. Craw, Springs Road, No. 4 R.D.,

Christchurch, New Zealand.

R. Davis, 79, Dartnell Park Road, West Byfleet, Surrey.

J.D. Goodman, 1, Bayley Road, Willaston, Nantwich, Cheshire.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

F.N. Cloke, Nethermead, St. Michaels Way, Wenhampton,

Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 9EH.

(previously of Wayland Cottage, Wenhampton.)

G.E. Green, "Freshfields", Sector Lane, Axminster,

East Devon, EX13 5BP.

(previously of Cheadle, Cheshire.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1984 - POSTAGE DUES

In the absence of Stanley Cross-Rudkin and John Smith, Allan Berry took the chair and opened the meeting at 2.30 p.m.

Gerald Pratt started the display with a fine show of fifty sheets of postal history. He explained how important a study of postal rates was in understanding covers which were charged as underpaid, and highlighted the three categories in which such covers could be placed. These were mail short paid for delivery within New Zealand, mail sent from New Zealand to overseas countries that was short paid, and mail coming into New Zealand that was short paid. After an introductory series of pages showing illustrations of the handstamps used to denote postage due, he went on to show covers within the three categories mentioned.

Allan McKellar displayed sixty sheets, the first section of which was devoted to the postage due stamps, and demonstrated the three designs used, and the various printings, showing the interest to be found in stamps with a relatively plain design. This was followed by a series of sheets with covers that had been charged postage due, all of which required some research to determine how and why the charges had been levied.

Contributions from F.R.Ribbens, E.W.Leppard and R.W.Ashby came next, with further examples of stamps and covers. Throughout the whole show, there was little duplication, and much to learn of this poorly studied facet of New Zealand postal history. The final contribution was a cover from Margaret Cole, which had all the experts present puzzled.

Allan Berry gave the vote of thanks to all the members who were kind enough to bring along material to entertain the small number of members who attended, and the meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

A.E.H.

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

3RD WORLD DAFFODIL CONVENTION IN NEW ZEALAND



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Hamilton on Thursday, 13th September, 1984, to commemorate the 3rd World Daffodil Convention. The design of the date stamp is based on the Convention logo.

CENTENARY OF TE AWAMUTU



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Te Awamutu on Thursday, 27th September, 1984, to commemorate the Centenary of Te Awamutu. The design features a rose.

CENTENARY OF DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Dunedin on Monday, 15th October, 1984, to mark the centenary of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. The design depicts the initials of the founder of the Gallery, Mr. W.M. Hodgkins.

AKAROA



A permanent pictorial date stamp will be used at the Akaroa Post Office to cancel mail posted from Wednesday, 24th October, 1984.

THE IMAGE MAKER - THE ART OF JAMES BERRY

This book, by J.R.Tye, is to be published by Hodder & Stoughton Ltd., New Zealand, on 19th November, 1984. It is the story of New

Zealand's most successful stamp, coin and medal designer, his struggle as an artist, and final world recognition.

James Berry, O.B.E., F.R.N.S.N.Z., was one of the world's leading stamp and coin designers. He dominated New Zealand stamp design for several decades, and also designed the decimal coinage used in that country today.

Copies of the book may be ordered at a pre-publication price of £10.95. Such orders should be addressed to Pamela F. Prior, Publicity Manager, Hodder & Stoughton Ltd., P.O.Box 3858, Auckland 1, New Zealand. Incidentally, Pamela Prior is James Berry's daughter.

1985 STAMP PROGRAMME

Seven stamp issues, covering a wide range of subjects, will be released by the Post Office in 1985, the Postmaster General, the Hon. Jonathan Hunt, announced on 30th August, 1984.

The full stamp programme for 1985 is as follows:-

- 16th January - Commemorative issue of three stamps for the Centenary of St. John Ambulance.
- 6th March - Special topic issue of six stamps showing Vintage Transport - Trams and Cable Cars.
- 24th April - Replacement of high value \$1-00 and \$2-00 definitive stamps with designs showing native birds.
- 12th June - Scenic issue of four stamps showing Bridges.
- 31st July - Health issue of three stamps and a miniature sheet showing the Royal Family.
- 18th September - Christmas issue of three stamps.
- 6th November - Special topic issue of four stamps and a miniature sheet showing New Zealand Military History and the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Further details about the new issues will be released by the Post Office in due course.

PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND DATESTAMP SERIAL NUMBER 7

GERALD ELLOTT

Work is in progress on Volume VII of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, to be published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand which will update information on New Zealand Stamps and Postal History pre-1874.

A special appeal is made to collectors who have examples of the Province of Auckland datestamp with the serial number 7 to forward details to Gerald Elliott, P.O.Box 59-090, Mangere Bridge, Auckland, New Zealand.



A Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all Members from the Officers and Committee of the Society.

FINDINGS FROM FILES.

IMPERFORATE STAMPS ON THE MARKET

ALLAN P. BERRY

After an interval of about three years, the problem of imperforate New Zealand pictorial stamps again came to the notice of the New Zealand High Commission. On 30th April, 1948, the New Zealand High Commissioner wrote to the Post Office Stores Department, 91/99, Pentonville Road, London, N.1., as follows:-

"You may remember that some time ago - it was in July, 1945 - we were rather perturbed at imperforate New Zealand stamps being offered at an auction. These imperforate stamps were postmarked 'Field Post Office No. 2', and we had our own ideas as to how they came on the market. We made certain investigations, but they proved fruitless.

"Now another pair of imperforate 8d. stamps postmarked 'Field Post Office' has been sold by auction in London. We have ascertained, confidentially, that the stamps were put into the auction by G.S., of ..., and this firm has advised us that the stamps were bought from E.S. Company, of ...

"Do you think it is possible, confidentially, to obtain the names of the persons who run the E.S. Company? It might, in these circumstances, be possible to find a connection between the vendors and the source from which we think the stamps emanated. I hope you will follow my train of thought - obviously I cannot be too explicit in writing."

There is a pencil note on this letter, indicating that the writer of the letter was referred to the Registrar of Business Names at Bush House. Clearly, enquiries were made at Bush House, as the next letter on the file, dated 12th May, 1948, indicates.

"...I have now obtained particulars of the E.S. Company and a copy of the note is enclosed.

"I have sent a list of the directors and shareholders to Mr. G of De La Rue's in the hope that it may help our enquiries. Do you know any of the names?"

The Post Office Stores Department wrote to the Investigation Branch of the G.P.O. on 14th May, 1948, saying:-

"I should be obliged if you could let me know, in confidence, any information that is available about the people mentioned in the attached - unless of course you prefer to deal direct with (the officer) of the N.Z. Office. (There is an official arrangement under which we advise the High Commissioner on stamp matters).

"Briefly, the aim is to find a connection between a possible leakage of imperforated stamps from De La Rue's works with improper use of a date stamp 'Field Post Office No. 2' in Iceland (or more probably in Cairo).

"We know nothing of the E.S. Company Ltd. but it looks rather a hole-and-corner affair.

"You will see from the old papers attached that Mr. C of the N.Z.P.O. was going to see the I.B. about it. Whether he did so I never heard."

The Government Chemists Department then became involved. There is a hand written memo, dated 26th May, 1948, which reads:-

"Photographs of imperforate stamps Flag 'A'.

"Specimen stamp and impression of Field Post Office stamp, in use in Iceland 1940 - 1942, at Flag 'B'.

"The Gov. Chemists Dept.

Will perhaps be good enough to furnish a report as to whether the specimen of the Field Post Office datestamp Flag 'B' is identical with that used on the imperforate stamps Flag 'A'".

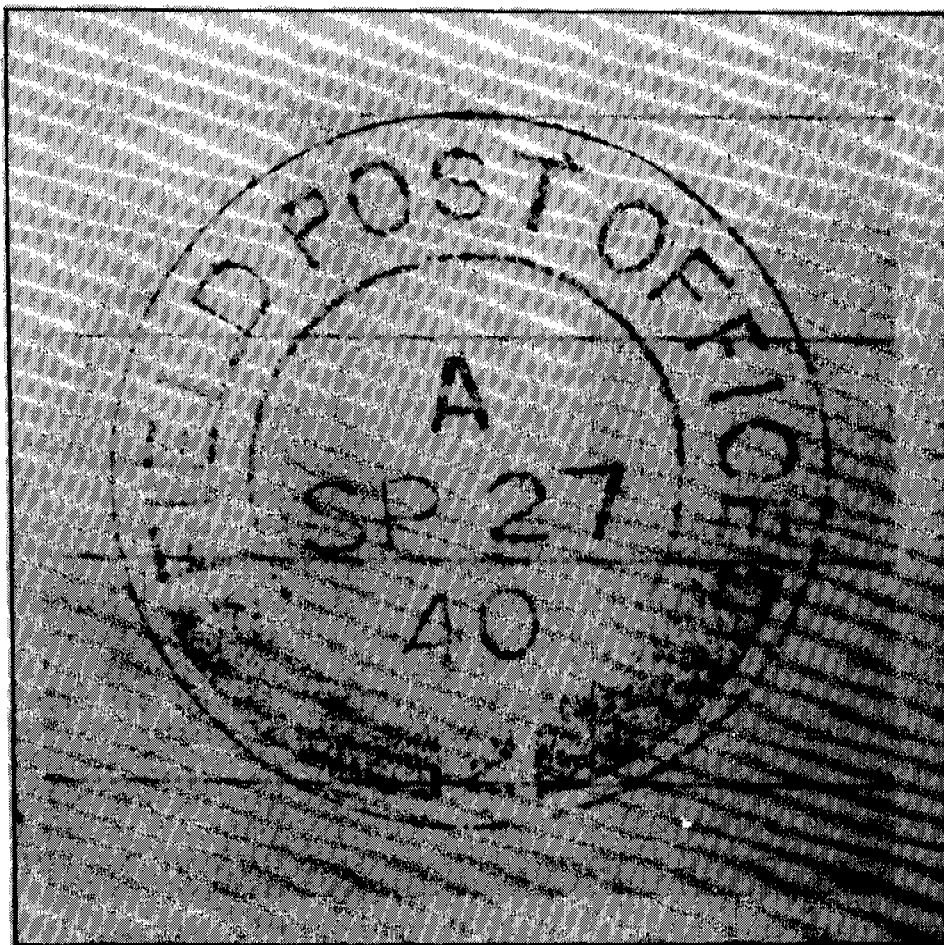
The report, dated 1st June, 1948, which is on the same sheet of paper, reads as follows:-

"Attached are the following photographs and transparencies.

"Photograph 1. An enlarged reproduction of the submitted photostat of two imperforate stamps numbered 363. (See 'The Kiwi', Volume 33, page 80, September, 1984).

"Photograph 2. An enlarged photograph of four of the specimen imperforate stamps.

"Photograph 3. An enlarged photograph of the Field Post Office stamp. (See illustration below).



"Transparencies of photographs 1 and 3.

"The photographs and transparencies are, so far as is possible equally enlarged with respect to the normal size of the

imperforate stamps. Superimposition of the transparency of the 363 stamps on the photograph of the specimen stamp reveal a small degree of discrepancy. This discrepancy is one of proportion rather than exact enlargement, the 363 stamps appearing approximately 0.5 mm (0.02 ins) wider than the specimen stamps for a similar length top to bottom. This discrepancy may be due to error in the original photostatic reproduction of the 363 stamps.

"Superimposition of the transparency of the submitted date stamp impression on the cancellation shown with the 363 stamps reveals marked discrepancies, at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ times greater in magnitude than those mentioned above, together with differences in the figure 2 and the black out markings.

"It may be concluded that the cancellation on the imperforate stamps shown in the photostat 363 was not made with the date stamp used for the submitted specimen impression."

The Personnel Department of the G.P.O. clearly handled this matter, as there is a letter from them to the Post Office Stores Department, dated 1st June, 1948, which reads:-

"I enclose herewith the stamps which you loaned to me. I have obtained photographs and the Government Chemist has reported that the date-stamp Field Post Office (supplied to the British A.P.O.) is not the one used on the imperforate stamps.

"I will return the papers, and the photographs, when the enquiries regarding the E.S. Company are complete."

The Investigation Branch of the G.P.O. wrote to the Post Office Stores Department on 7th June, 1948, saying:-

"It is clear that the datestamp impression was not made with the G.P.O. Field Post Office No. 2 stamp and it seems to us that either the impression is a complete fake or was made with the No. 2 stamp at one time in the possession of the N.Z. Forces in Egypt. The N.Z. Authorities might well get hold of that datestamp or alternatively an impression made by it and if it matches it seems to us that it is a reasonable bet that the stamps reached Egypt unperforated and were datestamped by a bad boy who wished to make a semi-honest copper or two.

"We have vetted the people named and there is nothing against any one of them. It may well be that they bought the stamps in good faith."

Next in order of date is a brief letter dated 9th June, 1948, from the Post Office Stores Department to the New Zealand High Commission, which reads:-

"...I enclose for your perusal the papers showing the result of the enquiries into the leakage of imperforate New Zealand stamps.

"I should be glad to have the papers back in due course, and interested to know the result of your enquiry from Messrs. De La Rue."

The papers referred to form the first extract from the files on this subject, published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 33, pages 79 - 84, September, 1984. The reply is dated 17th June, 1948, and reads:-

"...I have written to New Zealand in an endeavour to obtain an impression of the No. 2 date stamp used by the New Zealand Forces in Egypt, and will let you know if this comes to hand. Your help in this matter is very much appreciated and your file of papers is returned herewith.

"As I anticipated, nothing has transpired from De La Rue's enquiries."

The last letter on this subject is dated 10th August, 1948, and is from the New Zealand High Commission to the Post Office Stores Department. It reads:-

"...I wrote to the General Post Office in New Zealand, asking for an impression of the No. 2 date-stamp used by the 2 N.Z.E.F. in the Middle East. A reply has been received as follows:-

"...I have to inform you that as no date-stamps in use abroad were returned to New Zealand, it is not possible to forward an impression for purposes of comparison. The officer-in-charge of Postal Services in the Middle East is emphatic that the impressions on the imperforated stamps are not from date-stamps in use in that area..."

"In the circumstances, there does not seem to be any further action which can be taken to solve the problem."

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

THE ONE PENNY V.R. GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT STAMP.

ALLAN P. BERRY

Among an accumulation of some hundreds of these stamps recently acquired, a horizontal pair used on piece has turned up which appears to have an unrecorded perforation variety.

The pair, cancelled with the A-class date stamp reading N-Z WINTON 14 DE 96 A, is perforated 11 across the top, and 10 on the three vertical sides and across the bottom. Thus each stamp is perf. 11 x 10 x 10 x 10.

This piece has been seen by COLIN HAMILTON, who suggests that there are three possible explanations.

- i) Originally perf. 10 all round, reperf. 11 at the top to correct misplaced perf. 10.
- ii) Originally perf. 11 x 10, reperf. 10 at foot to correct misplaced perf. 11.
- iii) Originally perf. 10, top row omitted, corrected by a row perf. 11.

It is impossible to say which of these explanations is correct from the evidence of this piece, which shows no evidence of doubling of the perforations. From the published dates, any one of the three is a possibility. But the machine guaging 11 is known to have been used to correct misalignments of perf. 10 in the halfpenny value of the same issue. Therefore, it would seem that the first explanation is the most likely.

VOLUME VII OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND.

Work is in progress on Volume VII of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, updating information on New Zealand stamps and Postal History pre-1874, with Co-Editors M.C.Stanley (stamps) and K.J.McNaught (Postal History). M.C.Stanley will be responsible for the Stamp Chapters; J.J.Bishop pre-stamp Postal History; R.M.Startup, A.R.Marshall and K.J.McNaught the section on Postal Markings of the Chalon period; and G.J.Elliott the Chapters on Routes and Rates, and the Maori Wars.

POSTAL HISTORY PRE-1874.

K.J.McNAUGHT

There are numerous unsolved problems in the Section on Postal Markings of the Chalon period, the most serious relating to the Letter/Number date stamps from 1862.

L/Number date stamps.

I have examples of all numbers from L1 to L18, except L13 which I have not yet seen. The earliest date is December, 1862, (L14 = DE 10 1862; L12 = DE 13 1862), but the earliest proof date, in the Dunedin proofs found by R.J.G.Collins (see New Zealand Stamp Collector, Volume 45(3), pages 82 - 83, August, 1965) is L1 = JU 15 1862 (L10 = AU 25 1862; L8 = SE 25 1862) so L1 to L15 could have been issued some months earlier than December, 1862. (There were fifteen Canterbury offices open late in 1862 which had neither date stamps nor obliterations). Three of the eighteen offices which must have used the series L1 to L18 did not open until 1st January, 1863, so earlier dates are not possible with these offices. They are not necessarily L16 to L18 as these could have been pre-allocated, for example Leithfield (Kowai), along with Papanui, Woodend, Oxford (L3), Saltwater Creek and Hurunui, north of Christchurch; Heathcote along with Banks Peninsula offices Port Levy, Pigeon Bay, etc.; Rakaia South along with Ashburton, Orari, Pareora, etc.

If we can find an L16, L17 or L18 date stamp prior to 1 JA 1863, this will indicate that these particular date stamps were sent to offices open before 1st January, 1863, and this in turn will mean that L16, L17 and L18 were pre-allocated, that is, allocated on paper within some previously determined distribution pattern, e.g. alphabetical or geographical, before three of the offices were actually opened.

The challenging fact is that we are still unable to allocate any of the L/Number date stamps to particular offices, other than L3 to Oxford and L12 to Ashburton. I suspect that L1 was Papanui, L2 Woodend, L4 Saltwater Creek, L5 Leithfield if pre-allocated or Hurunui if not, L7 to L10 Banks Peninsula offices, L11 to L18 south of Christchurch, but we have no proof. I have tried various distribution patterns without being able to conclude that one pattern fits the evidence better than another, but alphabetical throughout all Canterbury is ruled out.

We badly need L/Number proving covers such as folded letters with the address of the sender, or envelopes endorsed by the recipient, for example, "Smith, Orari". Regrettably the L/Number

date stamps apparently were not used as receiving date stamps so a letter addressed to Smith, Orari, might not provide the information we are seeking. It seems that the L/Number date stamps were used to cancel the stamps only over the period from late 1862 (or 1st January, 1863) to 1866 or rarely 1867. From 1866 we find the stamps cancelled in manuscript from several of the offices involved; for example, Ashburton, Okain's Bay, Orari, Pigeon Bay, Port Levy and Saltwater Creek are known to have used manuscripts in the late 1860's and early 1870's.

I will be grateful for photocopies of any L/Number covers in the hope they will supply some clues. I would also appreciate information on early (pre-1863) or late (1867 and later) L/Number date stamps.

W/Number date stamps.

These are the best documented series as all numbers from W1 to W15 are now known and all have now been allocated with confidence, but we still do not know exactly when these were first introduced or whether they were all distributed at the same time. They could have been manufactured singly or in groups and distributed over a period of several months in late 1862 and early 1863. The earliest date I have noted so far is W5 = MY 23 1863, on a Greytown cover with the stamp obliterated 4 in rectangle of bars. W1 is known with MY 27 1863 date. Earlier dates are likely to turn up on covers from these or other offices such as Masterton W7 with stamp obliterated 6 in rectangle of bars, W9 with 7 in rectangle of bars, W12 with 12 in rectangle of bars or W14 with 14 in rectangle of bars.

It appears that at least some of the offices which received W/Number date stamps were earlier supplied with obliterators. I have Masterton's 6 in rectangle of bars on a 2d. Davies Print imperf. on cover received at Wellington on JY 22 1862. This cover has no W7 date stamp and no manuscript endorsement to show where it was posted. Clearly the W7 date stamp must have been supplied between 22nd July, 1862, and 23rd May, 1863. Covers of a similar kind should exist from this and other offices and should provide further information when the obliterators and W/Number date stamps were provided.

I will be grateful for any information on any pre-May, 1863, covers with W/Number date stamps and any early Wellington District covers from offices other than Wellington itself and Petre (Wanganui), before the W/Number date stamps were provided. Have you any W10, W11 or W13 covers, or a stamp with W2 or W8 date prior to 23rd May, 1863?

Nelson Letter/Number date stamps, A1 to M13, possibly O15.

I have recently found an 1865 example of A1 on stamp, completing the series A1, B2, C3, D4, E5, F6, G7, H8. We still do not know where A1, C3 and D4 were used. M13 is known and doubtfully attributed to Lower Moutere. The implications are that I9, J10, K11, L12 (could be different from Ashburton L12) and possibly N14 and O15 could also have been used. The M13 has a smaller circle than the A1 to H8 series and I have seen three or four examples of indecipherable small circle markings which probably were M13 or others in the missing series. Hopefully decipherable examples will

yet turn up. Documentary evidence suggests that the higher numbers were supplied in 1864. In the first eight the earliest date I have seen is my Takaka F6 cover of 11 NO 1862, but the Richmond B2 proof is dated AU 12 1862, so earlier markings are likely to be found.

Richmond continued to use the B2 date stamp into the early 1870's until this office was made a money-order office on 1st January, 1873, but, as the '186' of the year was a fixture, the Postmaster removed the figure '9', re-inserted this sideways and continued to use the B2 instrument as an obliterator without the day and month. I have seen H8 on a 2d. orange, first issued in 1871. We believe H8 was first used at Motueka which received a named date stamp about 29th October, 1868, when it was made a money-order office. H8 on a stamp of 1871 suggests that this date stamp was recalled to Nelson and sent out to another office which had neither date stamp nor obliterator.

We are interested therefore in any late usages of the Nelson Letter/Number date stamps, as well as any pre-1863 dates, as for other Postal Districts.

Southland Letter/Number date stamps.

Our evidence is that the letter was the first letter of the office name - L1 = Longbush; N1 = Nokomai; W3 = Waianawa. Only one each of L1 and N1 have so far been noted and about four W3. All are on cover only, as the offices involved were provided with obliterations to cancel the stamps. The obliterator on the Nokomai cover has not been identified. One of the Dunedin proofs, W1 dated SE 26 1863, is different from the Hutt W1 and must have been supplied either to Wallacetown or to Winton. The Waianawa W3 differs from the Upper Hutt W3 in having smaller W3 and the year is abbreviated to 63 or 64. The L1 is quite different from the Lyttelton District L1, with smaller L and 1 and set lower down. These are illustrated on page 44 of Magazine 4 of Zeapex '80, Auckland.

It is possible that some of the following offices also received Letter/Number date stamps, the more likely being asterisked:- Benmore = B1; *Gore = G1; Gummy's Bush (Gummie's Bush) = G2; Lowther (from Oreti North, later Elbow, then Lumsden) = L2; *Oreti North = O1 or O2; *Otautau = O2 or O1; Sandfly Bay (St. Johnstown, later Kingston) = S1 or S2; Stanley = S2 or S1; *Wallacetown = W1 or W2; and *Winton = W2 or W1. Sandfly Bay, (St. Johnstown, Kingston from 1864) at the south end of Lake Wakatipu is included because the nearby Nokomai received the N1 date stamp. Although shown along with Queenstown, Arrow River and Shotover River (Franktown) as Otago offices, both would more conveniently have been serviced from Invercargill, Southland.

Collectors are urged to watch for any of these possible Letter/Number combinations, and to send information to K.J. McNaught, at 627, Grey Street, Hamilton, New Zealand.

YET MORE MUSINGS

TOM HETHERINGTON

I am constantly learning of events in New Zealand history but even though new to me, they are usually the sort of thing that can

be expected to have taken place, and cause little further thought. However, the other day I sat up on reading that in 1959 a miniature sheet of six labels was produced to commemorate Bolt's seaplane flight of 1919. Who was Bolt? Where did he fly to and from? Did he carry mail? Does anyone know?

It is common enough for firms to perforate their stock of postage stamps with identifying initials. It was either in Victorian or Edwardian times that a firm in India did this on Indian stamps, reading N Z over I Co, meaning New Zealand Insurance Company. I have just seen a strip of £1-00 fiscal stamps with an oval rubber stamp reading 'New Zealand Insurance Co./ 28 Feb 94/Wanganui'. Did this firm perforate any New Zealand stamps?

There is nothing like being asked to give a show before a Society to make one polish up one's collection! I have been invited to show New Zealand at the Keswick Philatelic Society on Wednesday, 20th March, 1985, so if any of you are on holiday in the vicinity, you will be welcome to join me. I wonder how many of you are like me. I mount a page of stamps, sometimes after waiting half a lifetime to obtain sufficient of them to justify mounting, and then do nothing more but add the odd pencil note! All such sheets will have to be seen to. I have plenty of time and will feel on top of the world when the job is finished.

One expects to see the letters 'APO' in an Army Post Office, and 'RNZAF' can be safely ascribed to an Air Force cancellation, but when both appear on the same date stamp, what is one to think? Would not 'FPO' and a number have been more suitable for either or both? At least nothing would be given away to an enemy capturing mail. These thoughts started with a recent cover with date stamp 'RNZAF/1 JA 45/NZAPO'. It was pencilled 'Green Island'. This is a tiny island in the Bismarck Archipelago to the east of New Guinea. Another cover, acquired many years ago with date stamp 'NZAPO/8/150' was pencilled 'Sterling Island'. This one took me five years to run to earth. Eventually it was found on a map in the 1910 edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica! It is about 300 miles south of Green Island.

A short while ago I was musing over the place name New Zealand found in Britain (see 'The Kiwi', Volume 32, page 71, July, 1983). Another 'New Zealand Lane', has turned up in Driffield, six miles north of Derby. This received its name, according to one of the local inhabitants, in 1907, 'to commemorate something or other important in New Zealand'. Something important was the creation of the Dominion of New Zealand. It was not however until 1920 that the 'Governor General' was instituted. I understand also that there is a New Zealand Street in Leek.

The Editor's installment 'Findings from Files' in 'The Kiwi', Volume 33, page 27, March, 1984, contained a quotation from a Bradbury Wilkinson letter about two tons of waste stamps. It struck me as rather a lot of waste from the process of stamp printing. One expects the beginning and end of a printing run to be unacceptable and also the occasional faulty sheet, but where do two tons come from? This is the equivalent of 80,000 sheets of 240 normal size stamps, or roughly 20 million stamps!

I suppose we all - particularly as beginners to stamp collecting - experience the bewilderment of acquiring a valuable stamp,

usually for a song, but at the same time realise there must be a catch. Eventually the explanation is found and hopes of a minor fortune dashed to the ground. I had a poor copy of the Queen Victoria First Sideface definitive, 2d. value, perf. nearly 11, S.G. 158, which at today's price is all I could expect. However, three more have turned up, each on cover as a bonus. They were bought on two occasions as a gamble, with incomplete descriptions in the catalogue. I cannot believe my luck! There must be a catch! The covers are all addressed to Mr. I. Soloman, Draper, Cromwell, in 1879/1880. Is there any more correspondence to him?

NEW ZEALAND LAKES ON STAMPS - LAKE WAKATIPU

JOHN D. EVANS

Although Lakes have appeared very largely on the Scenic Stamps - 1972 New Zealand Lakes and later issues - the earliest ideas were from the selections from the State competition entries which were finally approved in 1895 for the Pictorials - eventually the London Prints of 1898. Of these, 'a scene or event characteristic of New Zealand in particular' was selected of Lake Wakatipu in the South Island for the 2½d. stamp and of Lake Taupo in the North Island for the 1d. stamp. These stamps were issued on 5th April, 1898, in New Zealand and in London. In passing, the 5/- value of the Pictorials in the foreground of the stamp includes a tiny lake covered in season by a profusion of crimson water lilies giving the pond the grandiloquent title of 'Red Lake'. But of course this is purely incidental to the pictorial of Mount Cook which the stamp is successfully designed to depict.

But to return to Lake Wakatipu. Illustrated is an enlargement of



a London Print, S.G. 253. The first European spied the Lake from the top of a mountain in 1853, but this was not followed up until 1856, when John Cubbin, a pioneer squatter, with three others were the first white men to reach it. Explorers were then hoping to find good sheep country and in February, 1860, W.G. Rees and Von Tunzelman reached what is known as Queenstown Bay on the Lake and on drawing lots, Rees drew the

eastern or Queenstown side and Von Tunzelman the position lying to the west of the Lake. Rees employed six men as drovers to drive his first mob of sheep to his station and his next step was to place a boat on the Lake. This was a whaleboat at the Bluff and Rees bought bullocks to pull it on sledges to the Lake and used it for transport of stores and cattle and, later, gold.

In November, 1862, on a Sunday off from shearing on Rees' run, Thomas Arthur and his mate struck gold at 'Arthur's Point' on the Shotover River near Queenstown, featured incidentally on the 40 cent value of the Scenic Stamp issue of 1981. Other rich fields were Maori Point and Skippers Creek. In the ensuing winter floods

many miners on the Shotover and Arrow Rivers in search of gold were drowned. By January, 1863, the Wakatipu Gold Fields had a population of about 6,400. The Provincial Government had a hard job to provide law and order and until a gold escort could be organised through to Dunedin gold was deposited with Rees, who took it down Lake Wakatipu in his whaleboat when he collected stores. Rees had applied in the early 1860's to the Provincial Council to purchase about 80 acres around his home and woolshed but was unsuccessful as these were required for the sight of a town which became Queenstown, at which the post office was opened on 1st April, 1863. Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 82, states that the later obliterations '20' within eleven horizontal bars and '25' within twelve horizontal bars were used at Queenstown. Members may remember the detailed articles started by John Robbins in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVII, page 18, and ending with a contribution by K.J. McNaught on page 102. During this series of articles I and Mrs. Grace Gordon Kaye took part, and during the discussion it was established that the obliterator '20' was used only at Greymouth and not at Queenstown and that the obliterator '25' was used at Queenstown. According to John Robbins this obliterator is uncommon - some six specimens being seen - but none earlier than 1867-1868. No doubt there are others but there appears to be no manuscript cancellation. The obliterator wore causing two of the lower horizontal bars to consolidate according



photocopies of the obliterator here illustrated. I have the worn state on the 6d. Queen Victoria First Sideface definitive of 1878 - S.G. 183. This was the year of the Great Molyneux Flood, caused by a combination of unprecedented

snow, a hot north-west wind which after several days started the melting process followed by thirty-six hours of continuous warm rain. The Molyneux River itself ran bank high and all low lying lands in the valley were submerged and all but two of the bridges



carried off. At Queenstown the Lake ran phenomenally high; over six feet of water flowed over the town and boats navigated by Rees and others in the streets did rescue work. The photograph on the preceding page of Queenstown in the flood of 1878 will give the reader a fair idea of the severity of the situation. Presumably the Post Office and the obliterator '25' were somewhere nearby; perhaps my 6d. Queen Victoria First Sideface definitive got out just in time! The floods extended right down the River and Balclutha was very badly hit, whilst the Clutha and Kaitangata district was for a time a large inland sea and although relief funds were raised it was very many years before the Molyneux Valley recovered from the great disaster.

From about 1875 the 'A' class datestamps were supplied by George De Lacy and Sons of London and by 1886 and probably before one of these was in use at Queenstown as I have Type 41 on a 2d. Queen Victoria Second Sideface definitive, perf. 12 x 11½, Die 2, S.G. 188c, first in use in that year. For those interested, page 114 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand illustrates Types 32 to 52, some twenty of these datestamps dated between 1876 and 1885.

And so to the stamp, the London Print, that introduced the Lake. It contains a view of Mount Earnslaw and the head of the Lake with flax, toi-toi, a New Zealand grass, and cabbage palms in the foreground. The scroll springing from the lower right hand corner bore the name of the locality mis-spelt 'WAKITIPU' and the name 'Mt. Earnslaw' appears in the left-hand lower corner. The following description of the scenic aspect is worth recording:-

"Stretching through the Southern parts of the South Island is a great chain of lakes renowned for the beauty of their scenery. Among these is Lake Wakatipu - the third largest in New Zealand - having an area of over 100 square miles. It is long and narrow extending some 50 miles, but with a mean breadth of a little over 2 miles. Although at an elevation of 1,000 feet it is very deep and its extreme depth is below sea level. Ringed about with majestic mountain peaks, it presents a wonderful sight in winter, with glistening snow covered peaks mirrored in the waters below. From Queenstown to the head of the Lake one passes through thirty miles of magnificent mountain scenery, finally eclipsed at the end by the sight of the snow-clad slopes and glacier-filled valleys of Mount Earnslaw rising to a height of over 8,000 feet."

Designed by E.T.Luke of Melbourne and printed by Waterlow & Sons the colour of the stamp was described originally as Antwerp Blue but the first issue on 5th April, 1898, - S.G. 253 - was in a very pale washed-out shade known as sky-blue, and the stamp was printed on thin, soft unwatermarked paper with perforations varying from 12 to 16. Shade variations range from blue to dull blue. The only re-entry - over which there is some doubt - appears on Row 11, stamp 9 on the plate. Two prominent lines sloping slightly upwards at the beginning of the bottom stroke of the small '2' of the 2½d. value figures. Perhaps worth looking for.

The 'Wakitipu' error had been discovered before the issue of the stamp as the following statement in forwarding the first shipment of the value on 20th January, 1898, by the Agent-General shows:-

"I regret to say that owing to an error in the original design, the word 'Wakatipu' on the 2½d. stamp has been incorrectly spelt 'Wakitipu'. The Hon. Minister's telegram, which was evidently intended to direct attention to the error, was so incorrectly transmitted that its meaning could not be understood. It came to hand in the following shape : 'In new stamps Wakatiu is spelled Wakatipu correct.' It was of course clear to me that there was some objection to the word. I therefore sent instructions to Messrs. Waterlow & Sons to leave it out altogether, but this could not be done, as the plate was already completed. It will, I fear, be necessary to have another plate made. I am sending the stamps which have been printed off to be dealt with as the Post Office authorities may deem fit, and steps have been taken so that a supply of the stamps in question, with the word correctly spelt, may be forwarded as soon as possible."

As a supply of 300,000 stamps had already been forwarded it was decided that the error should be issued. This decision involved the quick supply of a further plate.

"In preparing the new die the general design was unaltered, but the inscription POSTAGE and REVENUE which originally had been in very small letters below NEW ZEALAND, was given greater prominence by being included in a label at the bottom of the stamp. The descriptive title, 'Mt. Earnslaw', which had occupied this space, was omitted and the word 'WAKITIPU' was corrected to 'WAKATIPU'".

The sky-blue shade does not appear on the Wakatipu stamps, according to Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. Pale blue, blue and greyish blue are quoted by Campbell Paterson. Perhaps the pale blue is intended to refer to a bright palish blue shade which is quite scarce and found on thin paper. As to re-entries, seven are quoted in Volume 1, and a further ten in Volume 11 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, probably on account of the hurried preparation of the plate.

The first Local Print of the Pictorials was due to a decision to adopt the recess method of printing in Wellington and the necessary new plates were made by Waterlow and Sons which for the 2½d. value produced twelve horizontal rows of ten stamps. Apart from a slight difference in size, the detail of the design was the same as for the London Print. Waterlow and Sons advised against the use of watermarked paper because the watermark would be almost entirely obliterated by the steel plate printing process and eventually the stamps were issued without watermark. It had been assumed that the paper would be of a uniform quality but the supply caused difficulty not only in finding a gum which was sufficiently adhesive, but also in obtaining suitable inks. Some five varieties of unwatermarked paper for the Local Printings of 1899 - 1902 are known and the issue found with gums ranging from very dull to very shiny varieties. The colour of the London Print was closely reproduced and the stamps, perf. 11, were placed on sale on 29th May, 1899, S.G. 272 - 273. Blue, deep blue and dark blue shades are indicated, the dark blue suggesting a greater proportion of indigo. A distinct soft shade of blue only a little fuller than the sky-blue of the London Print is found on this

paper with shiny gum. No re-entry has been discovered in this plate, but Row 3, stamp 5 has a mark in the form of a vertical line between the 'W' and 'A' of Wakatipu which gives the appearance of a re-entry. Perhaps worth looking for.

This pictorial like the others suffered from the unsuitability of the various papers supplied to the printer and the adoption of a watermarked paper by A. Cowan and Sons was expected to give satisfactory results. In the case of the 2½d. value the NZ and star watermark appears upright. The printings with perf. 11 were completed at the end of April, 1903, and were issued in the May. A few sheets had double perfs. The perf. 11 machine was used until the end of 1906 when printings in deep blue were perforated by means of the rotary machine gauging 14 - S.G. 383 - but as no 2½d. value was provided in the set of King Edward VII definitive stamps this pictorial was retained until 1915, when it was superseded by the 2½d. King George V definitive stamp. Printings of this pictorial stamp issued during 1913 - 1915 show signs of plate wear and the resultant use of less ink produced a shade known as dark blue. So much for this pictorial stamp.

Lake Wakatipu does not appear again until the end of 1972, as part of the Post Office venture into the field of Tourist Publicity for its stamps, when it was decided to issue a set of four stamps depicting different New Zealand Lake Scenes. The 18 cent value shows a view of Lake Wakatipu also at Queenstown with the 'Remarkables' mountains in the background. The designs were based on photographs from the Library of the Tourist and Publicity Department with graphics completed by D.A.Hatcher. The printing was done by Courvoisier of Switzerland in sheets of ten rows of ten stamps, perf. 12½ - S.G. 995. The stamp was issued on 6th December, 1972. The Postal Services cannot be said to have given a blaze of publicity to the issue, the Scenic Stamp Issue leaflet saying:-

"Lake Wakatipu - the longest of the lakes in the South Island's Southern Lakes District. Lake Wakatipu is noted for its scenic attributes. It is shaped like an 'S' and is of glacial origin with a length of 52 miles and an area of 112 square miles, it ranks second in size amongst the Southern Lakes."

The Plate Block of four is quite a rare modern item from the 1,100,000 stamps issued until withdrawal from sale on 31st January, 1973.

Whilst both stamps featuring the Lake, the 2½d. of 1898 and the 18 cent of 1972, are 'easy on the eye' I do not think the philatelic interest of the latter is ever likely to compare with that of the former; on the other hand the Southern Lakes District and Queenstown, today a leading New Zealand Tourist Resort, are a far cry from W.G.Rees, his woolshed and his whaleboat of the 1860's.

References.

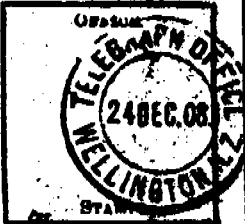
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Early Days in Central Otago, by Robert Gilkison, 1930.
A History of New Zealand Life, by W.P.Morrell and D.O.W.Hall, 1957.

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS CHRISTMAS GREETINGS CARD.

NORMAN COLLINS

Reverse



NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.		
Code	<i>Mr and</i>	
Office of Origin and Instructions:	<i>Dunedin Mrs Swift</i>	
Greetings.	<i>Royal Oak</i>	Time finished <i>2.15</i> m.
Words:	<i>Wellington</i>	Operator's initials: <i>BC</i>
<p><i>Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.</i></p> <p><i>E. Denny</i></p>		

Front



MAHUTA TE TOKO
MAORI CHIEF

The Christmas Greetings Card illustrated is dated 24 DEC, 1908, and appears to be official. An appeal for information was published in the Philatelist and P.J.G.B. of November/December, 1982, page 242, with no results. If any member can provide details such as the date of introduction, date of last use, any other illustrations used, and so on, I would be grateful to hear from them through our Editor.

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