



The Kiwi



The Official Organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN.

Affiliated to: BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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VOLUME 36 No. 3

MAY 1987

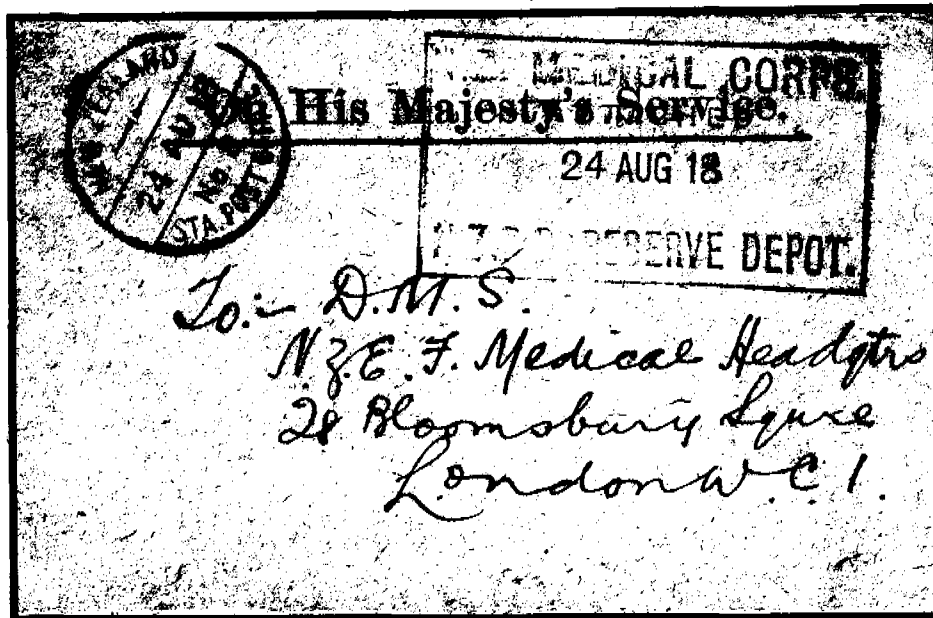
WHOLE 203

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 1987,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENTRIES OF NEW ZEALAND MATERIAL THAT HAVE
BEEN OR ARE INTENDED TO BE SUBMITTED TO LOCAL SOCIETY, SPECIALIST
SOCIETY, FEDERATION OR NATIONAL COMPETITION OR EXHIBITION ARE
ASKED TO BRING THEM ALONG.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE SHARED EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE OF ALL
PRESENT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO ATTEND THIS MEETING
THUS ENHANCING ALL EXHIBITS OF NEW ZEALAND MATERIAL.

NEW ZEALAND NUMBER 8 STATIONARY POST OFFICE.



SEE PAGE 47

EDITORIAL.

Observant members will have noted from the last issue of 'The Kiwi' that the Society has apparently acquired a new Honorary General Secretary. Not so! The same lady still holds the post, but we should all congratulate Margaret on her recent marriage, and send her all good wishes for the future.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

RESIGNED

R.F.Ames, 29, Oakwell Drive, Ilkestone, Derby.
D.Beech, 31, Andrula Court, Lordship Lane,
Wood Green, London, N22 5LJ.
B.Bell, 46, Beaconsfield Road, Epsom Downs, Surrey.
Mrs. I.R.Carter, 10, Brampton Way, Portishead, Bristol.
J.H.Dexter, 'Jimmies', 9, Farm Close, Elmer Sands, Bognor Regis.
N.Goodall, 27, Church Lane, Wistaston, Crewe.
M.J.Grant, 6, Main Street, Frankton,
Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 9NZ.
D.J.Kenefick, 33, Frensham Road, New Eltham, London, SE9 3RG.
P.Smith, 72, Eastwood Road, Boston, Lincs.
A.G.Swan, Flat 2, Tivoli Court, 64a, Surrey Road,
Bournemouth, BH4 9HU.
H.J.Taylor, 16, Hardenhuish Avenue, Chippenham, Wilts.
R.D.Tweed, Appletree Cottage, 149a, Southampton Road,
Ringwood, Hants.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

William Carson, P.O.Box 1836, Auckland, New Zealand.
(previously of P.O.Box 9893, Auckland, New Zealand.)
C.J.Clifford, Flint Cottage, Berghers Hill,
Wooburn Common, High Wycombe, Bucks., HP10 0JP.
(previously of Cookham, Berks.)
Cdr. G.R.Gibson, The Old Builders Wharf, Honey Street,
Nr. Pewsey, Wilts., SN9 5PS.
(previously of Warminster.)
R.F.Smith, 32, Pirbright Road, Farnborough, Hants., GU14 7AD.
(previously of New Malden, Surrey.)
J.H.T.Stawell, 39, Locks Heath Park Road, Locks Heath,
Southampton, Hants., SO3 6NA.
(previously of Thornhill, Southampton.)
A.J.Stringer, c/o Forest Cottage, Forge Lane,
Bourton, Dorset, SD8 5AU.
(previously of St. Albans, Herts.)
A.J.Todd, 46a, Box Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts., HP3 0DJ.
(previously of London, NW11.)
Eddy Van Beek, c/- Kometenlaan 44, 5505 PP Veldhoven,
The Netherlands.
(previously of 12, Vliebeek, 5501 AH Veldhoven.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1987 - THE ANNUAL COMPETITION

The meeting opened at 2.30 p.m. with Alan Baker, our Vice-Chairman in the chair. Apologies for absence were received from John Smith and Allan Berry, and there were 23 members present. Whilst judging

took place for the 17 entries submitted, Alan Baker introduced members' items of interest.

Tom Latto showed new acquisitions of Health Covers from 1935, 1936 and 1937. He also showed an interesting essay for the 1934 Crusader design, showing a Cross of Lorraine, together with a letter from the College of Arms and the issued plate block of four. This was followed by an essay for the Otaki Health Camp, with the query as to whether it was designed by James Berry or L.Mitchell.

Allan McKellar showed an 1890 cover franked with a 6d. Queen Victoria Sideface definitive to Canada, and asked where the marking 'Paid All' was applied. Two covers with meter marks followed with returned mail handstamps, one of which was apparently applied in the United States of America. Finally, Allan showed a Pitney Bowes meter mark.

Alan Baker showed an F.C.B.Bishop Penny Universal First Day Cover inaugurating the first day of the 20th Century, with a further appeal for information.

The competition entries then began to arrive, and the awards were announced as follows:-

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Classic Section | : | Noel Turner Trophy - Stanley Cross-Rudkin
Queen Victoria Second Sideface varieties. |
| Runner-up | : | John D. Evans Trophy - Allan McKellar
Railway Newspaper Stamps. |
| Modern Section 1 | : | Kiwi Shield - A.E.Harrad
Recess Issues of King George V. |
| Runner-up | : | Paua Musical Box - R.T.E.Standing
Penny Dominion. |
| Modern Section 2 | : | Stacey Hooker Cup - E.W.Leppard
Second Pictorial Definitives Blitz Perfs. |
| Runner-up | : | Paua Book Ends - Stanley Cross-Rudkin
Queen Elizabeth II low value varieties. |
| Modern Section 3 | : | David Forty Slaver - E.W.Leppard
1982 Map Stamp. |
| Runner-up | : | Teko-Teko Carving - Stanley Cross-Rudkin
1967 Pictorial Definitives and varieties. |
| Postal History | : | J.J.Bishop Trophy - Stanley Cross-Rudkin
Early pre-stamp and Chalon Head Cancels. |
| Runner-up | : | Barton Bowl - Mrs. Audrey Mallin
Trans-Tasman Airmails. |

The Judge for the afternoon, Neville Clifford-Jones, F.C.A., the Hon. Treasurer of the Royal Philatelic Society, presented the winning entries and commented on the quality and variety of the exhibits. He observed that the presentation of some of the entries needed improvement, and that perhaps some of the single stamp entries were a little restrictive.

Alan Baker read a letter from our Chairman, John Smith, asking that the winning entries be brought back to the next meeting, together with past or proposed entries for the British Philatelic Exhibition and Stampex.

Noel Turner proposed the vote of thanks to our Judge, thanking him for all his hard work and useful comments. He also thanked Phil Evans and Margaret, our Secretary, for the work they did in putting up and taking down the entries, and assisting the Judge in his work. The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.

E.W.L

REVIEW

FIRST WORLD WAR Patriotic Labels of Australia and New Zealand, by Alan Jackson. Published by the Cinderella Stamp Club of Australasia, P.O.Box 110, Chatswood, New South Wales 2067, Australia. Price A\$12-00, plus A\$1-50 postage and packing.

This is a 53 page A4 book, spiral bound with soft covers. In his introduction, the author states that this monograph is the first attempt to bring together in one place a comprehensive listing of all the known patriotic, propaganda and fund-raising labels issued or sold in Australasia during the First World War.

Although this field is clearly one for the Cinderella collector, it is highly likely that members will have come across one or other of the labels that are carefully listed in this book. It would be well worth while checking this listing if you do have any of them, especially if they are on cover. It is clear that the monograph is a valiant attempt, within the limits shown, to achieve its objects. But already your reviewer has demonstrated new information which has been passed on to the author. This is inevitable once such a book is written and published, and eventually one would expect a second, updated and enlarged edition.

The scarcity of some of the items has meant that some of the illustrations are not as good as they might be, being reproductions of reproductions. Yet there should be no difficulty in identifying any label listed.

Although perhaps of limited interest to most of us, the book deserves consultation, if only to add to the knowledge when a new item or new dating is discovered, which is most probable.

Being a limited edition, any interested reader would do well to place an order now, and would be well rewarded from its pages for the money invested.

THE CAMPBELL PATERSON CATALOGUE OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS.

By special arrangement with our member COLIN HAMILTON, of Campbell Paterson Ltd., the Society is able to offer copies of the above to members at £25-25 (a discount of £4-50 on the normal retail price). In addition, your Society's funds will benefit by a similar amount for each copy purchased.

Members not already possessing this invaluable reference work (in your Editor's opinion an essential collector's guide) are urged to take up this generous offer, thus doing a favour both to the Society and themselves.

Orders should be addressed to the Editor, and remittances made payable to the New Zealand Society of Great Britain.

NAPIER WAR TIME MAIL

R.M.STARTUP

The cover illustrated in 'The Kiwi', Volume 36, March, 1987, page 28, was posted on board H.M.N.Z.S. 'Achilles', which was allocated Censor stamp number 10 in September, 1939. See my book 'The Mails Went Through'. The faint impression of the 'ON ACTIVE SERVICE' rubber cachet was used on R.N.Z.N. vessels to indicate free postage mail. The cover would have travelled in a sealed bag from the

warship, placed ashore at the first port of call, and sent back to New Zealand. On arrival at Napier the cover was re-addressed and re-posted. Hence the Napier datestamp from the re-posting.

Wartime censorship was indeed carried out at Napier but the markings used were nothing like that shown on Tony Dodd's cover.

Editor's Note - I am extremely grateful to E.W. Leppard and Eric Gibbs, who also identified the cover as being from H.M.N.Z.S. 'Achilles'. But Robin Startup gives the full story as printed above of a very interesting item. The book 'The Mails Went Through' is now a very scarce item.

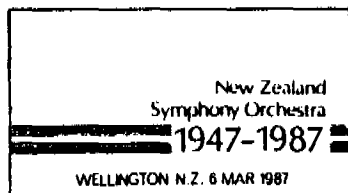
SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

CENTENARY NEW ZEALAND AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Wellington on Wednesday, 4th March, 1987, to commemorate the Centenary of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association. The date stamp depicts the Centenary logo of the Association.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ZEALAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Wellington on Friday, 6th March, 1987, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. The date stamp is based on the Orchestra's 40th Anniversary logo.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CHRISTCHURCH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

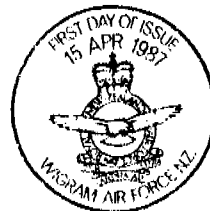
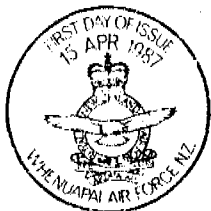


A special pictorial date stamp was used at Christchurch Airport on Friday, 27th March, 1987, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Christchurch International Airport. The date stamp features the Golden Jubilee logo of the Christchurch Airport Authority.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTWARD BOUND TRUST

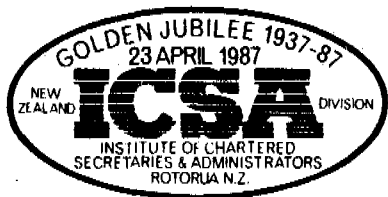


A special pictorial date stamp was used at Dunedin on Friday, 10th April, 1987, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Outward Bound Trust. The date stamp depicts the crest of the Outward Bound Trust.



Special pictorial date stamps were used at the Air Force Post Offices at Wigram, Ohakea, Whenuapai and Woodbourne on Wednesday, 15th April, 1987, on the first day of issue of the 1987 Military History stamp issue. This service was an extension to the usual 'First Day' cover postmarking service. The particular Area Post Offices are Henderson (Whenuapai Air Force), Fielding (Ohakea Air Force), Blenheim (Woodbourne Air Force) and Papanui (Wigram Air Force).

GOLDEN JUBILEE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SECRETARIES AND ADMINISTRATORS



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Rotorua on Thursday, 23rd April, 1987, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the New Zealand Division of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. The date stamp depicts the Golden Jubilee logo of the Institute.

BULLETIN DE VERIFICATION

R.M.STARTUP

With regard to the article under this title published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 36, page 22, January, 1987, Bulletin de Verification are international forms used to report defects in consignments of mail received. Such defects include the non-receipt of mail, the non-receipt of registered items, mail tampered with, bag in a bad condition, incorrect entries on forms AV2, AV7, etc.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT TWO PENNY VALUE

DESIGN WITH V.R.

COLIN HAMILTON writes:-

"With regard to the article on this subject ('The Kiwi', Volume 36, page 38, March, 1987), I am unable to offer any additional information on the particular variety you describe. However, I think that your feeling that it is due to damage rather than plate wear is well founded, for this reason.

"'Wear' and 'Damage' to the surface of any printing plate generally result in contrary effects in the printed stamp. In the case of surface-printing (as in the issue in question), plate wear is manifested as areas of extra colour, while damage shows as colourless areas.

"In recess-printing the effects would, of course, be precisely the opposite, wear being evidenced by lack of colour, and damage by additional colour, in the printed stamps."

ALAN JACKSON

The obliterator illustrated on the 2d. Queen Victoria First Sideface definitive stamp is not of New Zealand origin. Another example of it, on a 1d. Queen Victoria Second Sideface definitive stamp, was recorded in 'The Mail Coach', Volume 6, page 213, July, 1970, but no one was able to supply an explanation subsequently. It was mentioned that an obliterator with this same designation but of a quite different design was used at Baghdad, as a branch office of the Indian Post Office. If the present obliterator was used at Baghdad, can anyone explain how it came to be applied to a New Zealand stamp?



 NEW ZEALAND NUMBER 8 STATIONARY POST OFFICE.

E.W. LEPPARD

The cover illustrated on page 41, from New Zealand Number 8 Stationary Post Office, addressed to N.Z.E.F. Medical Headquarters, 28, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1., and dated 24th August, 1918, took a little effort to research. If I had read Robin Startup's 'New Zealand Post Offices in England' I might have saved myself a great deal of trouble, but I would have foregone the pleasure of the chase and access to much interesting information. A visit to the Imperial War Museum's Reading Library proved very fruitful. An appointment is necessary, and you do need to state which books you require to be brought up from their Archives. They produced two Volumes of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force Army Orders dated up to June, 1918. Army Order Number 398, dated 15th September, 1917, listed Stationary Post Offices up to and including Number 7 only. Later, the Imperial War Museum contacted me to say that they had found another slim Volume continuing these Army Orders from June, 1918, until 1919 and the disbandment of the New Zealand Army Headquarters at 28, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1., from where the Army Orders emanated.

Army Order Number 672, dated 31st August, 1918, lists in full the Establishment of the New Zealand Army Postal Corps, a branch of the New Zealand Engineers, at that date. This shows a Base Army Post Office, which was situated at Mount Pleasant, London, and eight Stationary Post Offices in England. Eleven Army Post Offices are listed for France, and two for Egypt. The strength of the Base Army Post Office is shown as 100 men, with a note that the strength was to be increased or decreased in the proportion of one Sapper for every 600 increase or decrease in the numbers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. The Establishment listed is based on a total strength of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force of 48,000 men.

The figure of 48,000 men is illuminating, as it also represents the total New Zealand casualties on the Western Front from 1916 to 1918, with 13,250 dead and 35,000 wounded. New Zealand must have been very hard pressed to maintain this establishment with reinforcements.

Army Order Number 672 shows that Stationary Post Office Number 8 was situated at the New Zealand Rifle Brigade Reserve Depot, which was at Brocton, Cannock Chase. The cover is dated one week before

the Establishment was promulgated in Army Orders, and the Post Office must have had a short life, as it was disbanded early in 1919. In the Second World War, the Camp was used to house German Prisoners of War.

A further Army Order lists a Major A.S.Brewis, M.D., as being transferred from Number 2 New Zealand General Hospital to the New Zealand Rifle Brigade Reserve Depot. Since the cover is addressed to the New Zealand Expeditionary Force Medical Headquarters, and carries the cachet of the N.Z. Medical Corps, attached to N.Z.R.B. Reserve Depot, it is likely that this Officer was responsible for sending this cover. It is backstamped with the New Zealand Base Army Post Office datestamp.

I would be grateful to hear from any member with covers carrying the New Zealand Number 8 Stationary Post Office datestamp, with dates earlier than 24th August, 1918, or early in 1919, through our Editor.

THE PAPERS OF THE SECOND PICTORIAL ISSUE

J.N.HOOK

During the course of many visits to stamp fairs searching out fine copies of the Second Pictorial issue, and always on the look out for a bargain, it never ceases to amaze me the number of dealers, full time as well as part time, who display for sale the multi-watermark stamps as single watermark, and always at the higher price.

I must admit that even after many hours looking at various stamps I still cannot figure out the mesh. I suspect that a great many collectors find the same difficulty. If any of the more experienced members of the Society can help with this, I am sure it would be appreciated. Mesh identification eases the problem in so many New Zealand stamps.

In the very fine Campbell Paterson Catalogue, readers are warned that the curling test is not entirely reliable. But I must say that I have found it to work quite well for the Second Pictorial issue.

I have recently been given a few copies of the 'New Zealand Stamp Collector' for the period 1945 - 1947, in which some of the articles make quite compulsive reading.

One such article appeared in Volume XXV, number 2, February, 1945, page 28. This was written by our member Dr. K.J.McNAUGHT, and is entitled 'Identification of Paper Varieties in New Zealand Pictorial Stamps, 1935 - 1945', which was condensed from a paper presented to the New Zealand Philatelic Society in July, 1944. I found it very helpful in identifying paper varieties. In this article, Ken writes:-

"Single or Registered Watermark...In this paper the spacing of the watermarks is such as to provide in the case of the small stamps one watermark for every stamp, hence the description 'registered' watermark paper. In small stamps one watermark only or portions totalling to one watermark should be found, certainly not more. The spacing between the N and Z of adjacent watermarks is about 1 cm., whereas in the multiple watermark paper it is nearer to $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. In the latter the letters of the watermark and the star are very much broader...If for example a stamp shows

part of the watermark ZN at the bottom of the stamps and a star vertically above it at the top of the stamp, it cannot be anything but single watermark. In the multiple watermark paper, the nearest watermark above is in the alternate position, that is to say diagonally instead of vertically above. Any stamp or stamps with selvedge showing portions of the marginal letters 'NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE' must also be single watermark on the paper. The multiple watermark paper does not have marginal letters."

Ken then goes on to describe the curling test, being careful of course with sideways watermarked stamps.

In wrongly described stamps offered by dealers, particularly the 2/- and 3/- values, if a single row of watermarks is visible with the ZN at the top of the star, they are invariably described as single watermark. In fact, the ZN would have to be at the bottom to be certain.

Ken McNaught states that the mesh on the paper with single watermark is not very distinct, likening it to a blanket having no criss-cross pattern visible, whereas the multiple watermark paper is like a linen sheet, having a distinct mesh. He then goes on to say that unfortunately, the later Jones paper, used from about 1937 to 1944, frequently showed very little sign of mesh.

I think that all things considered, I will stick to my curling test with a little help from Ken's article to confirm the more difficult specimens.

LEESTON - ANOTHER OBLITERATOR.

JOHN D. EVANS

I may be able to throw some light on the above article by E.W. Leppard, published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 35, page 80, July, 1986. The Post Office at Leeston was opened on 1st July, 1865. The only cancellation I have is on a 4d. Queen Victoria First Sideface definitive, perf. 12 x 11½, S.G. 182, issued in 1878. My copy is dated 14th September, 188?. The 4d. value of the Queen Victoria Second Sideface definitive was first issued in 1882.

According to Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 68, the Christchurch District Office allocated the number 36 to Leeston, which would, I think, be the number on the mail bag seal. An obliterator had to be issued when a post office also became a money order office. We find in 'New Zealand Postal Manuscripts', by A.R.Marshall, at page 115 in relation to Leeston:-

"M.O.O. 1st April, 1880. Locally made obliterators used."

It is a reasonable deduction that the six obliterators shown on page 67 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand which states that the material from which they were made must have been soft and unstable were the "locally made obliterators" used.

The examples illustrated in the article on the Queen Victoria Second Sideface definitives must have been used in 1882 or later. Presumably therefore the unrecorded example illustrated was another "locally made obliterator" used pending the issue of an "official" obliterator from the General Post Office. Presumably, A.R.Marshall will substantiate if need be "M.O.O. 1st April, 1880", and possibly when the "official" obliterator was issued.

POSTAGE RATES.

G.E.C.PRATT

With the further increase in Postage Rates in February, 1987, here is a summary of the principal changes over the last ten years.

Date	Standard Letter	Internal Airmail	Surface Letter to U.K.	Registration Fee	Airmail Letter to U.K.	Air Letter Card to U.K.
1/2/76	8 cents	10 cents	14 cents	30 cents	30 cents	18 cents
1/10/77	10 cents	12 cents	16 cents	35 cents	35 cents	23 cents
1/8/79	14 cents	17 cents	25 cents	85 cents	50 cents	35 cents
1/10/80	20 cents	25 cents	30 cents	\$1-00	60 cents	40 cents
1/4/82	24 cents	30 cents	35 cents	\$1-15	70 cents	45 cents
1/7/85	25 cents	35 cents	40 cents	\$1-30	75 cents	50 cents
1/5/86	30 cents	45 cents	55 cents	\$1-75	\$1-00	65 cents
2/2/87	40 cents	60 cents	70 cents	\$2-45	\$1-30	85 cents

The only new Definitive Postal Stationery is to be 40 cents Embossed Envelopes, and 40 cents Lettercards.

FINDINGS FROM FILES.

STAMP PRINTING - MACHINERY AND METHODS

PART 5 - RECESS.

P.L.EVANS

In the cabled enquiry, on 26th June, 1936, the New Zealand Government referred to one of the processes as "(b) rotary press dry printing as used New Zealand pictorial". This was not a familiar term in the industry; various other descriptions were used, though both Waterlow and De La Rue cautiously copied the cabled designation.

In their direct response to the High Commissioner's enquiry, Waite & Saville Ltd. said on 12th July:-

"...for this we can offer the 13" x 8½" Waite Inverted Die Press, which can be supplied either for hand feeding or to print from the reel. In the latter method, the reel prints are cut into sheets after being printed and numbered. Providing the stamps required were somewhere about the size of the British Postage Stamps (not the Jubilee Stamps), it would be possible to print approximately 50 to 60 stamps per sheet, and assuming the machine which runs at 1200 impressions per hour would give an output of 900 printed sheets per hour, this would give approximately 110 million stamps per year per machine, therefore necessitating 3 machines for a safe working margin."

On 1st August, however, Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd., as agents for Waite & Saville, wrote:-

"We note they have ruled out the Die Press as being too slow, which is what we thought they would do, although taking everything into account, we think this would have been a very satisfactory and simple way of producing their amount of stamps. One of the main difficulties we know is the small size of the machine available."

Harrison & Sons Ltd. had little to say about the recess process; in his letter on 25th July, B. Guy Harrison said:-

"I have not yet received a quotation from Paris in regard to the steel plate printing machine but I believe the cost of a machine to produce the quantity of stamps which you require would amount to about £3,000, this however, would include the necessary perforating apparatus which is part of the plant."

Presumably there was a further communication later, but this is not preserved in the file.

Waterlow & Sons Ltd. submitted a straightforward quotation, regrettably lacking in detail; dated 13th August, 1935, from Great Winchester Street, it reads:-

"With reference to your letter of 10th July respecting the possibility of your Post & Telegraph Department installing the necessary plant and machinery for the production of their requirements of Postage Stamps, and as arranged by our Mr. Clifford at the interview he had on Wednesday, 17th July, we give below our quotation for the necessary plant etc. to produce these

by rotary press dry printing process.

"It was understood at that interview you desired us not only to quote for the printing machines but that we should also quote for the necessary additional plant that would be required if it is decided to make the printing plates from the original dies.

"Our prices would therefore be as follows:-

"Requirements for an output of 250,000,000 Stamps per annum dry printed on gummed paper with one plate printing and comb perforation.

Plate Printing equipment

2 Plate Printing Machines	ø)	
2 Motors including Starter)	
and gears)	£8,953.--.
Inking Rollers and Pads for)	
both machines)	

"Linen Wipers are necessary for these machines at an average cost of 4s.7d. per 100,000 square inches of inking surface, but as we do not know the size of sheet you propose working we cannot quote a definite figure.

Warehouse equipment

1 Guillotine)	
1 Motor for above)	
2 Comb Perforating Machines	ø)	£1,225.--.
2 Motors for same)	
4 Hand Shears)	

"ø The Comb Perforating Heads for these machines would cost approximately £50. each, but it is not known how many of these would be required as the quantity is dependent on the varying sizes of stamps.

"The following additional plant will be required if it is decided to make the Printing Plates from original dies.

Plate making plant

Transfer Press)	
Bending and fitting machine)	
Milling machine complete with)	
Motor and Self Starter)	
Large size hand press for)	
proving)	£4,150.--.
Steel Hardening and Softening)	
plant)	
Metal Circular Saw for cutting)	
plates)	
Chromium facing and stripping)	
plant)	

"The above prices include packing and we estimate the additional cost of F.O.B. and shipping charges to Auckland or Wellington would be £320.--.

"Regarding the Plate Printing machines, it is assumed that with this small plant it would not pay to wash the Wipers and these would be either washed in some outside laundry or used repeatedly

to destruction - the same consideration applies to ink which we assume would be bought and not made in the factory.

"We estimate that the Plate Printing machines could be built in 11 months - these being the machines that would take the longest - all other machines would be ready earlier.

"Referring to the final paragraph of your letter under reply it is not possible to adapt rotary press dry printing machines for the reproduction of the photogravure stamps."

Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd., as printers of the successful 1935 pictorial stamps, naturally accorded every possible attention to this enquiry. The High Commissioner's summarising report on 16th August, 1935, said:-

"This firm submit quotations for a direct plate (recess) machine in their letter of the 29th July, and some additional information is given in their letter of the 1st August. From your knowledge of this firm's output, their suggestions will be abundantly clear and no comment is necessary. The machine cannot, however, be adapted for photogravure work, and this remark applies generally to all the machines mentioned: at any rate it has never been attempted. I also enclose copy of the firm's letter of the 15th July, as I feel sure the observations contained therein will be of use and interest to you."

The De La Rue letters, all signed by the Managing Director, Mr. B.C. Westall, justify extensive extracts.

The first letter, 15th July, 1935, said:-

"...we do not advise the High Commissioner to recommend flat plate direct plate printing machines. This particular process has been discarded by us, and also by the principal security printing houses of the world, many years ago. The reasons for its abandonment were as follows:-

"Firstly, it is too slow and expensive. It would take a battery of flat bed machines to get the output of one rotary machine. Secondly, the quality of work from flat bed machines is not nearly so good as from rotary machines. There are three principal reasons for this:

"1. The pressure exerted by the cylinders of a strong rotary press is far in excess of the small pressure exerted by a flat machine. The result is that the paper is forced home to the bottom of the line and consequently sharper printing is obtained and more ink is transferred to the paper.

"2. The point of contact between two cylinders is finer than between a cylinder and a flat surface. This, again, makes a sharper and better printing.

"3. It has been our experience that there is considerable variation in colour on the same sheet printed on flat bed machines. This particularly applies to stamps in the opposite corners of a sheet.

"4. The printing cylinder does not meet the plate cylinder in exactly the same position for every impression. The result is that no preparation can be made beneath the printing blanket to ensure that the best result from the plate is obtained."

The letter continues:-

"We shall be happy to tender for the supply of the necessary

machinery, but before doing so there is a certain amount of information which we shall require.

- (i) Are we to quote for the plate printing machinery only? Or are we to include a machine for transferring the printing plates by means of rollers?
- (ii) Is there any likelihood of the machinery being required to produce other documents than postage stamps, for instance, bonds, revenue stamps, etc.?
- (iii) In our view one rotary machine would have ample capacity to print the number of stamps required, as well as a considerable number of other documents. Our experience of our own machines has been that we have never encountered any breakdown of the machine which has caused a stoppage of more than a few hours. Consequently we take the view that it is not necessary to have a reserve machine. We shall be glad to know if this is confirmed.
- (iv) We shall be glad to know, in the event of our tender being accepted, whether the Government will be prepared to place with us a contract for the supply of printing inks. In our view this is a matter of the first importance. Direct plate printing inks are very different from letterpress or lithographic inks and their composition is a matter of great importance to the proper working of a machine. Our own inks are the product of a long study of the requirements of our own machinery and we would not desire to make our selves responsible for the proper operating of the machines if ink were supplied by an outside ink manufacturer.

"Finally, with regard to the alternative suggestion you raise as to the supply of web or sheet fed machines, we strongly advise that the idea of a web fed machine should be dismissed for the following reasons:

"First, instead of the plate a circular copper sheath has to be used. This is an extraordinarily difficult and expensive thing to make. Secondly, a web fed machine is only economical if all the stamps to be printed from the machine are of exactly the same size. As this is not the case with the present New Zealand Stamps it would mean either adopting a common size for all the denominations, or else the making of a heavy waste of paper from off-cuts. Thirdly, a web fed machine is much more difficult to operate than a sheet fed machine. Our latter type of machine is almost fool-proof. Fourthly, in direct plate printing the printing plate is occasionally slightly damaged. Now whereas on a sheet fed machine this is not a serious matter, for either a plate can be repaired by re-entering or, alternatively, a new plate provided at not too great a cost, on the web machine the cylinder is rendered useless. Lastly, for the comparatively small quantities of stamps that the Dominion require, a web machine would be actually more expensive in its operation than a sheet fed machine.

"For these reasons we would advise the High Commissioner only to consider machines of the sheet fed type.

"We would desire to point out that our machines have been

designed and built by ourselves and that we do not in general offer them for sale. It is true that we have supplied the Bank of England with a large number of these machines, but this was by a special arrangement. We trust that it will readily be understood by the High Commissioner that as printers of security documents we prefer in general not to make any attempt to construct presses for sale. For this reason we publish no catalogue. If as a result of this letter Mr. Manhire would care to discuss the matter further, the writer will be happy to wait upon him, or preferably, discuss it here where points in regard to the machinery may be more readily illustrated."

The High Commissioner's reply to this was dated 15th July, 1935, and the desired quotation was submitted on 29th July:-

"...we have now the pleasure of putting before you our proposal for the supply of a direct plate printing machine for the Post and Telegraph Department in New Zealand.

1. SIZE. The machine would take a plate 17½ inches wide by 14½ inches deep. This would print a sheet of 240 stamps of the 1d. size.

2. DIMENSIONS. The machine would be approximately 4 ft. wide, plus motor, by 7 ft. deep and 8 ft. high.

3. HORSE POWER. The machine would require a 9 h.p. motor.

4. OUTPUT. The speed of the machine would be 22 impressions per minute with an output (allowing for starting in the morning, washing up and changing rags) of 12 reams of 500 sheets per nine hours.

5. PERSONNEL. The machine would require:

One machine minder
One layer-on
One taker-off.

6. PRINTING. We would advise that the one-colour stamps should all be printed on dry gummed paper. The two-colour stamps can either be printed dry on gummed paper or on damped paper to be gummed after printing.

7. COST. The cost of the machine ex factory London would be £5,750. (Five thousand seven hundred & fifty Pounds).

The price does not include the motor and starter.

8. ENGINEER. We would send you a qualified engineer to supervise the erection and starting up of the machine. His expenses to be paid by the Government.

9. TRANSFER MACHINE. If the Post and Telegraph Department desire to make their own printing plates a transfer or rolling-in machine would be required. We would construct a Rolling-in Machine for

£1,400. (Fourteen hundred pounds) ex factory.

10. TRAINED EMPLOYEE. The transferring of plates is highly skilled work and should the Department desire to make its own

printing plates we would advise that one of its employees should be sent over to England for the purpose of being trained for this work.

11. BENDING MACHINE. In addition to the Transfer Machine, a small Bending Machine would be required which we would supply at a price of

£125. (One hundred and Twenty-five Pounds) ex factory.

12. WASHING PLANT. The printing machine has a number of wiping cloths which require periodical washing. Our washing plant includes a washing machine, a hydro, and a drying machine. These could be supplied by us at a price of

£500. (Five Hundred Pounds) f.o.b. London.

or, alternatively, the Department could purchase these machines from washing machine makers.

13. INKS. As the quality of work and the proper functioning of the machine depend to a very large extent indeed on the printing inks, we would advise that the Department should allow us to supply these inks. Our inks have been specially devised, after very lengthy research by our laboratories, especially for our own presses. In supplying plate printing machinery to the Bank of England and to the Government of Italy we made provision in both contracts that ink should be supplied by ourselves. As this is as much to the interest of the Government as to ourselves, we would ask that a similar provision should be made in the contract.

14. PRICE OF INKS. The price of our inks varies from 3/3d per lb. up to 4/6d per lb., according to colour.

In making an estimate of cost it would be fair to take an average between these prices for an issue.

15. CAPACITY. In addition to postage stamps, the machine would be able to print bonds, share certificates, etc., of a size up to the machine's capacity.

16. RESERVE MACHINE. As the output of the machine is considerably in excess of the number of stamps required annually by the Department, in our opinion it is not essential to have a reserve machine. There is no part in the machinery which is likely to cause a breakdown which could not be repaired by ordinary engineers within a week.

17. SECRECY. It will be appreciated that from our point of view it is of the utmost importance that our machinery should be kept secret and we would ask that in the event of the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs deciding to accept our offer, provision should be made for ensuring that no unauthorised persons should have access to the room in which the machinery would be installed.

18. TIME FOR EXECUTION. The machine would be ready for despatch about nine to ten months after receipt of order. Such of the incidental machinery as the Department may require would be ready for delivery within this period.

19. QUALITY OF WORK. Finally, we would undertake that the quality of printing on this machine would be equal in all respects to the recess stamps manufactured this year for the New Zealand Government.

"We would also be happy to advise on the quality of paper to be employed and generally to assist the Government in every way."

The third letter, on 1st August, 1935, said:-

"With further reference to our letter of 29th July and to the interview that the writer had with Mr. Manhire, we have pleasure to give you herewith the additional information required.

1. ENGINEER. The person whom we would send to New Zealand would be our Chief Engineer, Mr. F. Nicholls. This gentleman is the designer of all our present rotary plate printing plant and, further, is cognisant of all the subsidiary and complementary processes. After consideration we have come to the conclusion that it is essential to send Mr. Nicholls because, failing him it would be necessary to send at least two or three different operators. We hope it would be understood that Mr. Nicholls, being an extremely valuable servant to this Company, would only be detained in New Zealand sufficiently long to ensure that the work is under way.

2. TRANSFER MACHINE. With regard to your request for further particulars about the transferring machine, we give our advice that the New Zealand Government should obtain their plates from us rather than attempt to transfer plates themselves. Our reasons for this are:

(a) The length of time necessary to train an operator in this highly technical work.

(b) The operator's services would only be required for a comparatively short amount of time in the year.

Should, however, the Government prefer to make their own plates we would suggest that to start with we would either make or hand over our present plates, and that simultaneously we should train up an operator, and during the time that he learns the business we would continue to supply the Government with plates.

3. TRAINED EMPLOYEE. We would suggest that it would be advisable that a machine minder should either be sent over from New Zealand or taken on by us for services in New Zealand and we would train him for several months during the time the machine is being made. We would see to it that he would be employed upon the printing of any New Zealand Stamps that we may be required to print during that period. The machine minder need not necessarily be a direct-plate printer. Any letterpress or lithographic machine minder could be trained for this job. The machine itself is not difficult to operate - indeed it is less complicated than a lithographic, or even a letterpress, machine.

4. WASHING PLANT. The washing plant is not constructed by ourselves but purchased from the makers. Instead of purchasing on your behalf we shall be glad, if it is desired, to furnish

you with the names of the Firms from whom we purchase our own machinery.

5. ADDITIONAL ARTICLES. With regard to the various articles used in connection with direct-plate printing, we have to inform you that the principal, apart from ink and paper, are as follows:

- (i) Calicoes for wiping.
- (ii) American cloths and various materials for covering the printing cylinders.
- (iii) Material for covering the inking rollers.

As supplies of all these articles require testing by our laboratories, we would be happy to purchase them and supply to the Government.

6. PAPER. Further, we would be happy to purchase supplies of paper, if required. The suitability of paper for plate printing is of paramount importance. Mr. Manhire is aware of the difficulties that have arisen in connection with the printing of New Zealand Stamps owing to the fact that the paper was made to a specification first drawn out for stamps to be printed by another process. Not only is the matter of 'furnish' important, but also the exact finish of the paper. If we purchased supplies of paper for the New Zealand Government we would obtain advance sheets which we ourselves would print on our machines and would satisfy ourselves as to the suitability of the supply before allowing the paper to be delivered.

7. INK. As we have already explained, we would ask the Government to make a contract with us for the supply of printing inks. All inks, before delivery to New Zealand, would be tested on our own machines. Thus we would ensure that all materials are entirely suitable.

8. STEEL FACING OR ELECTROLYTIC PLANT. A small electrolytic department would be required for chromium or steel-facing the plates. We do not know whether the department already possesses such a plant, but if not our Mr. Nicholls would be able to advise them on the putting in of such plant which could be obtained from local sources.

9. SIMILAR CONTRACTS. With regard to your enquiries as to whether we have made any similar contracts, we have to advise you that we made a similar contract with the Bank of England and another with the Government of Italy. For both these institutions we supplied the direct-plate printing machinery and both entered into a contract with us to obtain their supplies of copperplate ink from us for a period of fifteen years. Further, we undertook to carry out whatever engraving was required of us. Both these contracts have been running for a number of years with complete satisfaction to our customers."

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