



The Kiwi



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

Affiliated to: BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION
and to NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIC FEDERATION

Hon. Gen. Secretary: MRS. MARGARET FRANKCOM

Queens House, 34a Tarrant Street, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9DJ. Tel: 0903 884139

Hon. Treasurer: E.W. LEPPARD

68 Chestnut Grove, Balham, London SW12 8JJ. Tel: 01-673 4710

Hon. Packet Secretary: B.T. ATKINSON

77 Wood Lane, Osterley, Middlesex TW7 5EG. Tel: 01-560 6119

Hon. Editor: ALLAN P. BERRY

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

VOLUME 38 No. 3

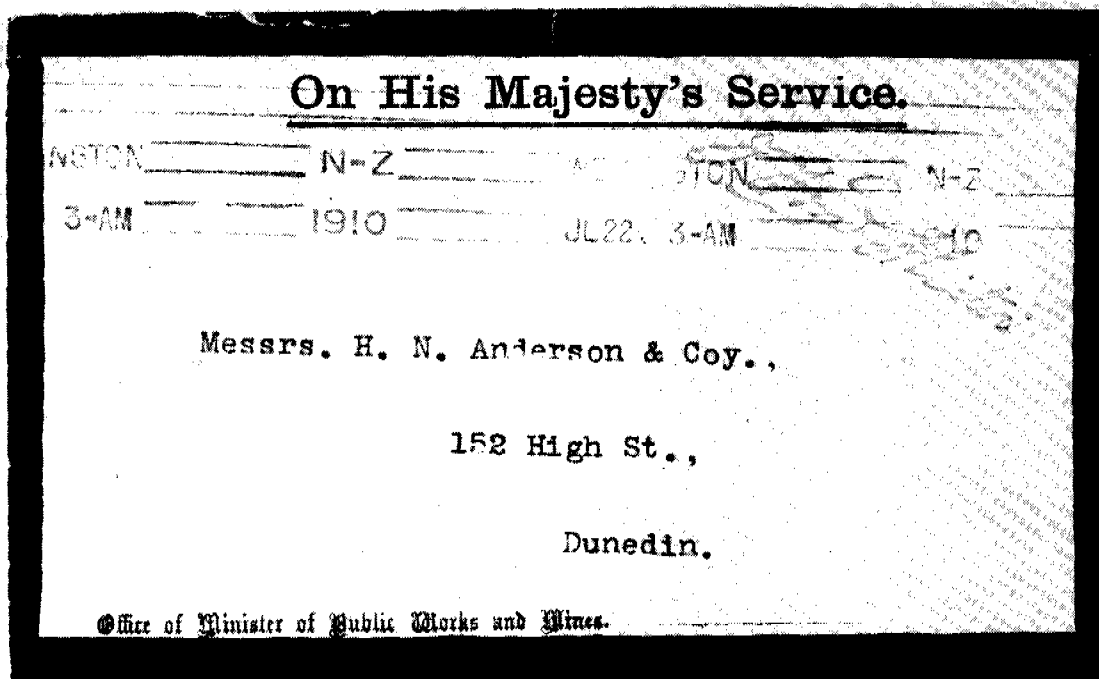
MAY 1989

WHOLE 215

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 3RD JUNE, 1989,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

OUR MEMBER GEORGE GIBSON WILL GIVE A GENERAL DISPLAY
OF MOST ASPECTS OF NEW ZEALAND PHILATELY AND POSTAL HISTORY.
THIS PROMISES TO BE A MOST INTERESTING MEETING, WITH SOMETHING
FOR EVERY MEMBER.

OFFICIAL MAIL - AN INTERESTING COVER



SEE PAGE 59

EDITORIAL

Perceptive readers will notice immediately that there is a change in the layout of this issue of 'The Kiwi'. When I became Editor some fourteen years ago, the camera ready artwork was produced on an old Olympia portable typewriter, with much Tippex being used to correct mistakes. This machine went the way of all, much to my regret. It was followed by Silver Reed EX42 electronic typewriter, with eraser tape fitted, which is still in use. The latest is an Amstrad PCW9512 Wordprocessor, with all sorts of refinements. I am still trying to beat it into submission, but I trust that the change will meet with the approval of all members.

The Annual Society Competition at the last meeting attracted a nice number of entrants, and new members did very well indeed. Congratulations to all.

Elsewhere, there is a note from New Zealand Post which shows that our views are at least considered, and that there are good reasons for the issue of many items by that Company. So far as possible, members will be kept informed of developments as they arise. I am grateful to my friends in New Zealand who keep writing to me, and to all who help with copy for our journal.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

P.E.George, 7, Fir Tree Close, Hilton,

Yarm, Cleveland, TS15 9TX.

R.W.Stoddard, 163, Flatts Lane, Normanby

Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS6 0PP.

RESIGNED

B.R.Bergin, Court Lane, Stoford, Yeovil, Somerset.

Mrs. D.M.Claydon, Hazlehurst, Tiverton Road,

Bampton, Nr. Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9LJ.

J.Fender, 9, School Road, North Berwick, East Lothian.

P.Garnett, 32, Sunningdale Road, Worthing, West Sussex.

S.J.Harper-Scott, 2, Croft Close, Histon, Cambridge.

G.Jacobs, Bickton, Fordingbridge, Hants., SP6 2HA.

DECEASED

N.L.Forrest, 4, Park Drive, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent.

E.Jenner, 47, Shernolds, Loose, Maidstone, Kent.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A.J.Askew, 5, Talisman Way, Epsom Downs, Surrey, KT17 4BT.

(previously of West Ewell, Surrey.)

E.van Beek, Reuzenberg 41, 5508 BA Veldhoven, Netherlands.

(previously of Ketelberg 46, 5508 EZ Veldhoven.)

M.L.Blinkhorn, Potters Way, Springfield Lane,

Broadway, Worcestershire, WR12 7BT.

(previously of High Street, Broadway.)

T.H.Brock, 24, Glebe Road, Welwyn, Herts., AL6 9PB.

(previously of Southgate, London.)

S.D.Crawford, P.O.Box 47070, Trentham, New Zealand.

(previously of Beauchamp Place, London.)

N.H.Willis, 7, Chatswood Place, Ballyhannon Road,

Portadown, Northern Ireland, BT63 5XS.

(previously of 72, Brownstone Road, Portadown.)

John Gartner, P.O.Box 439, Gisborne, Australia 3437.

(previously of Mount Macedon, Australia.)

J.H.Gerrard, 28, Pine Dean, Great Bookham, Surrey, KT23 4BT.

(previously of New Malden.)

NEW ZEALAND POST COMMENT ON THE JANUARY EDITORIAL

DAVID BIGNELL writes:-

I note your views about the \$1 Kiwi Round Stamp. My comment here is that the vast majority of views I have received concerning these stamps are totally supportive. Most people appreciate the fact that we have issued a stamp which is different in shape and has an interesting printing process. Additionally, the sales of these stamps have been very good.

As for postal stationery being issued without prior warning I would comment that because of the competition we face from commercial competitors here in New Zealand we can no longer afford to give very long lead times in terms of publicity about such material.

A key reason for the size of the Fast Post labels here in New Zealand is to enable letters bearing these labels to be readily identified by the culler-facer-canceller machines. However, I have drawn your comments to the attention of the Business Manager who has responsibility for this business.

The views which you have expressed about the number of stamps issued together with the views of others have not been lost. During 1989 we intend to issue nine stamp releases only. We will adhere to this policy unless something quite unforeseen occurs.

We did not issue a stamp programme for 1989 last year as we were unable to settle on one or two dates for stamp issues. However, such a programme will be published in the April edition of Focus.

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 1ST APRIL, 1989 - THE ANNUAL COMPETITION

The meeting was opened at 2.35 p.m. by our Chairman, Alan Baker, with an apology for absence received from Allan Berry. He then introduced Francis Kiddle, F.R.P.S.L., the Honorary Librarian of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, our Judge for the Annual Competition. With administrative support from Margaret Frankcom and Ann Carter, Francis Kiddle went off to engage in his task of judging the twenty-two entries.

The remaining twenty members present were then entertained with a display of 'Cinderella and Ephemera', led by Ernie Leppard. Starting with an early print of the Post Office at Auckland, he rapidly filled the stands with a variety of items including the early Fiscals, Beer and Wages Tax Revenues, the 1906 and 1925 Exhibition Labels, a 1940 Centennial post card in the form of a jigsaw puzzle, World War 11 Forces Christmas greetings (none are believed to have been produced for 1943), a menu for a Press lunch given in the Antarctic by the Hillary/Fuchs Expedition, Radio Ham cards, and many more.

Allan McKellar's show included Air Mail Etiquettes, Local Post Labels, Railway Newspaper and Social Security stamps, while Frank Scrivener's display centred on the Otorohanga Document Exchange, set up in an attempt to circumvent the restrictions of New Zealand

Post regulations. Jean Robinson showed some Long Fiscals, which, although they had been 'holed', still had the silver inserts intact, and raised the question of their value. Finally, Frank Wiggins put up a range of photographs of H.M.S. New Zealand, some showing her passing through the Panama Canal, and one of the original ship of that name, which was later renamed H.M.S. Zealandia.

Francis Kiddle, having completed his task, then returned to the room. He gave his comments on the various entries and, in summing up, complimented all entrants on the extremely high general standard of the submissions, and the results were announced as follows:-

Classic Section	:	Kiwi Shield - Mrs. Jean Robinson Queen Victoria Second Sideface.
Runner-up	:	Paua Musical Box - John G. Evans Queen Victoria First Sideface.
Modern Section 1	:	Stacey Hooker Cup - Douglas Hague Penny Dominion.
Runner-up	:	Paua Bookends - Mrs. Sue Terry Penny Dominion.
Modern Section 2	:	Noel Turner Trophy - John Smith Second Pictorials 6d. value.
Runner-up	:	John D. Evans Trophy - Ernie Leppard 2d. Kaka Beak.
Modern Section 3	:	David Forty Salver - Ernie Leppard Modern Native Birds.
Runner-up	:	Teko-teko Carving - John Smith First Decimal Definitives.
Postal History	:	J.J.Bishop Trophy - Mrs. Audrey Mallin George Bolt.
Runner-up	:	Barton Bowl - Ernie Leppard Prisoner-of-War Mail.

Alan Baker thanked Francis Kiddle for all his work and particularly for his comments on the quality of the entries. He then closed the meeting at 4.45 p.m.

A.G.

SPRING STAMPEX 6TH TO 11TH FEBRUARY, 1990

The New Zealand Society of Great Britain is to mount a display of New Zealand Philately and Postal History in an upper hall at the Spring Stampex to be held from 6th to 11th February, 1990, at the Horticultural Halls, Westminster. This will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Treaty of Waitangi, which was signed on 7th February, 1840. With 80 frames, each of 9 sheets, it will give the Society an opportunity to show the Stamp World the wide range that New Zealand Philately and Postal History encompasses. We want to show as wide a range as possible, from Chalon Heads to Modern Issues. The Public Record Office has given permission for copies of the Treaty of Waitangi to be shown, with the two texts, Maori and English, side by side. The Proclamations claiming Sovereignty of Queen Victoria of the North and South Islands will also be shown.

Will members who are willing to provide either 18 or 36 sheet

displays please write to Ernie Leppard at the address shown on the front page of 'The Kiwi', indicating the sort of display they are able to provide, with details of its subject matter. We would like to publish a list of the Exhibits in the extra, special issue of 'The Kiwi' which is also planned for the same time.

As the Society will be holding a meeting at the end of January, 1990, would prospective exhibitors indicate whether they can bring their sheets to this meeting, or to the Horticultural Halls at Westminster on 5th February, 1990. Alternatively, they can be sent to Ernie Leppard by Registered Post.

The Society will also require volunteers from 5th February to 11th February, 1990, to help mount and dismount the display, and to act as Stewards during the six days the Exhibition is open to the public. Will you please also let Ernie Leppard know if you can help and the days that you can give for this important occasion.

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

BIRDPEX '90 PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.



A special pictorial date stamp was used for the first time on Monday, 20th March, 1989, to publicise the Birdpex '90 Philatelic Exhibition, which will be held in Christchurch in December, 1990.

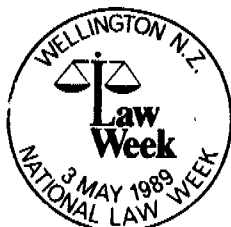
25TH ANNIVERSARY ROTORUA MARATHON



29 APRIL 1989
ROTORUA N.Z.

A special pictorial date stamp was used at Rotorua on Saturday, 29th April, 1989, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Rotorua Marathon.

NATIONAL LAW WEEK



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Wellington on Wednesday, 3rd May, 1989, to mark National Law Week.

REVIEWS

New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogue : Part 2 - Lettercards, by R.D.Samuel. Published by Shades Stamp Publications, P.O.Box 394, Christchurch, New Zealand. Price NZ\$16-00, surface postage included

Have you ever wondered how to put a value on your New Zealand Lettercards? Now I have found the answers that I could not find in Campbell Paterson or Stanley Gibbons. This Catalogue describes the

first Lettercard of 1895 and continues the listing through to those of Queen Elizabeth II. All the details of the Victorian Lettercards, such as card colour, printing, inks, perforations, overprints and varieties are displayed in such a manner as to make reference easy. Later listings include details of advertisements displayed on the Lettercards. Now all I have to do is to find Lettercard BC22a of 1st June, 1932, catalogued at \$400, for 20 pence in the 'odds and ends' box at the local stamp fair and I will be hooked on Lettercards for life!

Stampways Coast Community Society Document Exchange, by Dr. Ross Marshall. Published by Stampways Limited, P.O.Box 275, Otorohanga, New Zealand. Price NZ\$3-00 plus postage.

This is an interesting history of a very short lived local post in the area known locally as 'The Coast'. It was started on 1st December, 1987, and continued until 11th November, 1988. It came into being as a direct result of the creation of New Zealand Post Limited. It was run by the rural contractor, Perry's Buses, with stamps and stationery being produced by Stampways.

There is no doubt collectors go through a lot of heart searching regarding the collection of local posts. The 23 pages of this booklet will be a great help to those who decide that their collections would be incomplete without these local stamps and covers.

New Zealand Air Mail Etiquettes and Air Mail Labels, by James Stapleton. Published by The Air Mail Society of New Zealand, Inc., P.O.Box 29-144, Christchurch, New Zealand. Price NZ\$5-00, surface postage included.

This is an eight page A4 monograph by an acknowledged expert in the study of New Zealand Air Mails. Now that Air Mail Etiquettes have been withdrawn by New Zealand Post, hopefully on a temporary basis, it is appropriate that this short monograph should be published. It covers all types issued since the first in 1930, covering all issued by the Post Office in sheet form or in stamp booklets, as well as those issued by Airlines through Post Office outlets. In addition, Air Mail Labels produced for Air Parcels are listed, and those for the new services such as Surface Air Lifted and 'Fly-Phone' service. It is an interesting monograph, on a much neglected subject, well worth the modest sum asked.

NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIC FEDERATION QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire sent out with the last issue of 'The Kiwi' did not provoke the response we had hoped for. At the time this issue is being 'put to bed', the results have not been coordinated, but hopefully, this will be done and the results published in the next issue. Thank you to all those who took the trouble to send in the completed questionnaires.

Various reasons have been given by members for not filling it in. The main one was that the member concerned does not collect modern issues, and that, therefore, it was not relevant to their interests. While this view can be appreciated, it must be remembered that today's modern issues are tomorrow's old stamps. There are other points, which will be covered in the report.

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL PARKS
(9) MOUNT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK

CECIL BRISTOW

This is another of the National Parks which is dominated by mountains, the back-bone of which traverses the Main Divide from the Humboldt Mountains in the south, where it shares part of its boundary with Fiordland, to Mount Brewster in the north and is edged by the Haast River for its boundary.

It is 161 Km long and 32 Km wide with an area of 287,000 hectares, and is the second largest of the National Parks.

The Maoris named it Titiraurangi, 'the land of many peaks piercing the clouds'.

Mount Aspiring soars above the surrounding peaks to a height of 3,036 metres and is the highest and most glaciated peak outside Mount Cook National Park. Two large glaciers flank the mountain and these feed the Waiatoto and Waipara Rivers, both of which run turbulent paths through rough forest to the Tasman Sea at Jackson Bay.

With the opening of the Haast Pass in 1965, the Main Highway 6 was able to link Westland with Otago Province. Haast Pass is the lowest pass, at 563 metres, in the Main Divide. Although it was well known to the early Maoris, it was crossed by a European in 1863 by a prospector, Charles Cameron.

These early prospectors found the region of the Park a most unfriendly area. A.J.Barrington and two companions made one of the most arduous explorations ever undertaken. Barrington left a very detailed diary of difficult river crossings, terrifying descents of sheer precipices, snow storms, bitter cold, starvation and eternal rain. They were the first Pakehas to find the then unnamed Olivine Ice Plateau in the south-west of the Park. This is at the highest part of the Olivine Range and is 12 Km long and 3 Km wide. It is one of the bleakest parts of New Zealand. In order to get back to their base at Lake Wakatipu they experienced a journey of desperation. Hungry - one of their meals was a rat, described as 'the sweetest meat we had ever eaten' - and cold, they emerged from the bush frost-bitten and barely alive. It was to be 70 years later, in the 1930's, before men trod the Olivine Ice Plateau again.

These glacial waters are the start of the Arawata River which flows into the Tasman Sea at Jackson Bay.

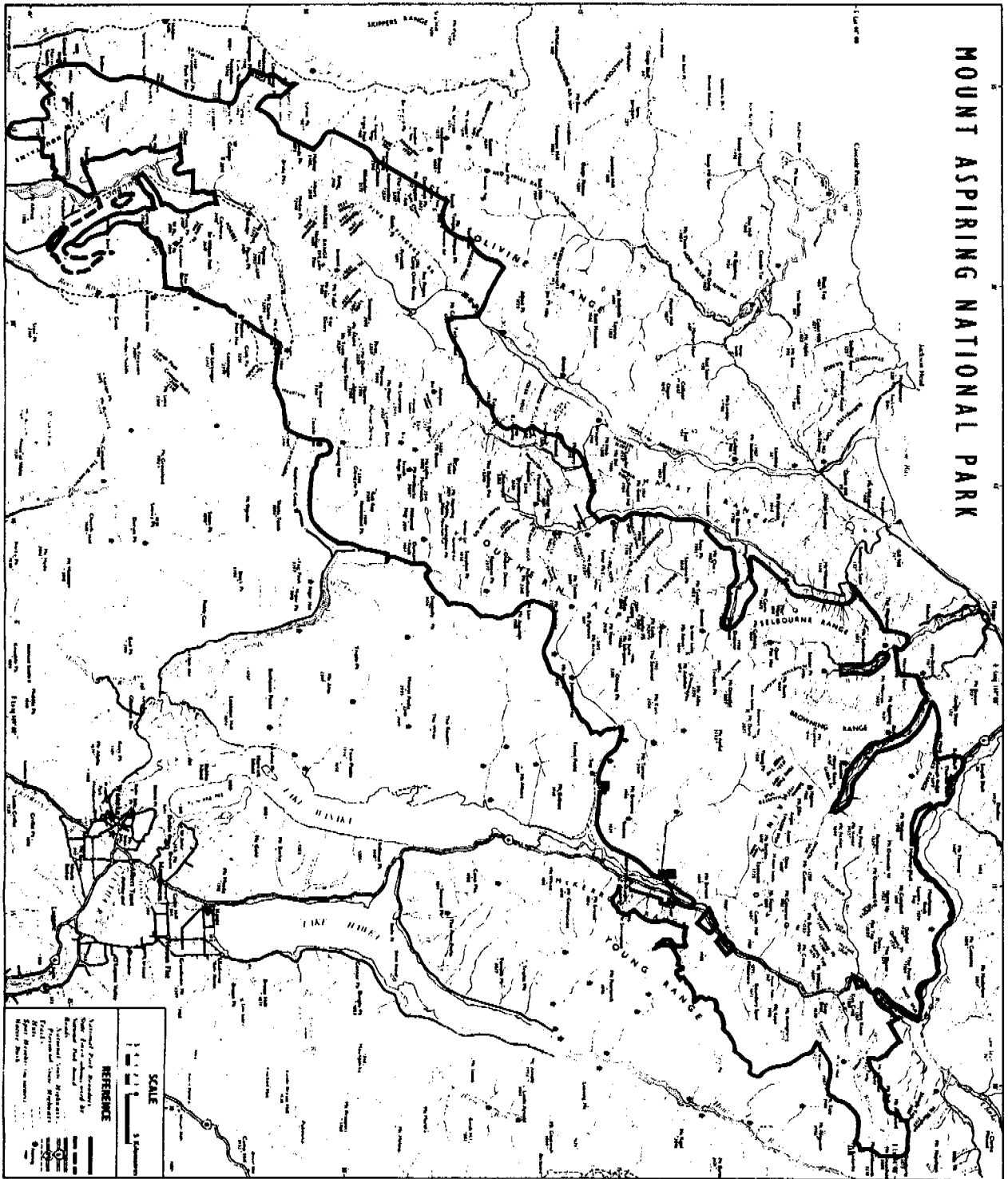
In 1883, surveyor and prospector Gerhard Mueller and Charles Douglas - who is regarded as one of the greatest European explorers of New Zealand - traversed and mapped much of the Westland side of the Park area.

In 1885 they travelled up the Arawata River and named many of the features they found. The Williamson River and the Andy Glacier which fed it, got their names in memory of Andy Williamson who had been in the area two years previously.

Mueller named the Olivine Range after a mineral of that name. Other names reflect his interest in ships. Rivers and tributaries got such titles as Steward, Stoker, Binnacle, Funnel, Rudder, Cook, Second Mate, Bilgewater and other nautical terms.

In 1891, Charles Douglas travelled up the Waiatoto River. Over

MOUNT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK



50 years of age, he found it hard work humping supplies and equipment against current and rain. He had his dog Betsy Jane with him helping to relieve his misery, and she vies for the title of New Zealand's most travelled dog. Later he climbed Mount Raglan, 2,259 metres, the last 600 metres in his socks because the rock was too smooth for his boots to grip.

Another renowned character who lived in the area for the next 45 years was Arawata Bill - William O'Leary, prospector of legendary fame. He is commemorated by O'Leary Pass in the Barrier Range. His trail-marking blazes and cairns were appreciated by later mountaineers when visiting parties roamed the area in the 1930's.

Much of the Park is a cold, rocky wilderness but down in the valleys and gorges the picture changes. Silver, Red and Mountain Beech abound, with Rimu, Rata and Totara being found in various areas.

Hares and deer play havoc with the bush and smaller plants, but the hunting of deer by helicopter has reduced the herds since the danger was first pointed out in 1922. Now there is a tussle between the hunter and the conservationist.

The Haast Highway has enabled many more people to view parts of the Park than just the tramper or climber. The Matukituki Valley gives good access to the eastern boundary of the Park, and there is access from Queenstown in the southern area.

Mount Aspiring National Park offers only its fringes to the casual visitor. Further in lies an uncompromising land which only the expert, fit and fearless, may visit.



ADDITIONAL CENSOR MARKINGS

E.W.LEPPARD

The illustrations on page 52 show the reverse of four covers, all addressed to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva during the wartime period 1939 - 1945. All show additional censor markings of either a single letter and/or number, either in a circular frame or unframed. Two of the covers also have the German censor label which is tied to the covers with the Wehrmacht handstamp in red.

Our member, RODNEY STONE, who is making a study of such items (see 'The Kiwi', Volume 35, page 62, May, 1986) reports seeing the letters B to H and the numbers from 23 to 168 and suggests that they may be the identification marks of individual censors, perhaps of different grades.

Mail to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva without the Prisoner's name, number or Camp number was a scheme whereby

Censor in New Zealand.

Opened by Cen

140

DE BOULIQUEN. c/o M Philip. Hall.
14 Domest. Avenue. Epsom
Huckland.
New Zealand.

P.C.—90.

OPENED BY EXAMINER

68

B

Geoffnet

Opened by Censor in

168

relatives could enquire about a Prisoner's location and the cover is often marked with the I.R.R.C 'Coupon Response' cachet, meaning that they were able to respond to the enquiry. A forty word message could be included with the enquiry for onward transmission to the Prisoner concerned. RODNEY STONE reports that German censorship for mail for Switzerland commenced on 11th November, 1942; after their occupation of Vichy France it was carried out in Paris from 21st January, 1943. The location code for Paris was the letter 'x', which appears in the Wehrmacht Red Handstamp. A further German censor marking occasionally seen is 'A.x.' in a circular frame. The 'A' stands for 'Ausland Brief Prufstelle' - 'Overseas Letter Censor Office' - the 'x' again the location for Paris.

NEW SERVICES FROM NEW ZEALAND POST

TONY DODD

Members may be interested to have details of further promotional activities of New Zealand Post as I discovered during a recent visit to our local Post Office.

PROOF OF DELIVERY SERVICE

Basically, there are two services, both using numbered adhesive labels, one set in blue and the other in red. The receipt portion is retained by the sender and the remainder is affixed to the envelope. If the blue label is selected then a Postie or Rural Delivery Contractor can sign the receipt at the other end on a segment which can be peeled off and is retained in the Post Office as proof of receipt. If the red label is chosen the addressee signs the segment as notification of receipt. Figures 1 and 2 show examples of both types of sender's receipt.

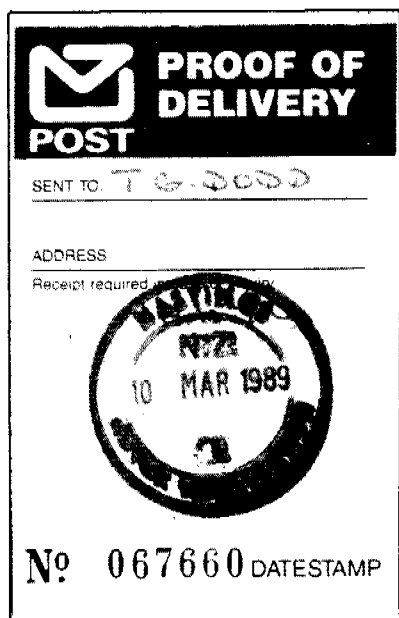


Figure 1

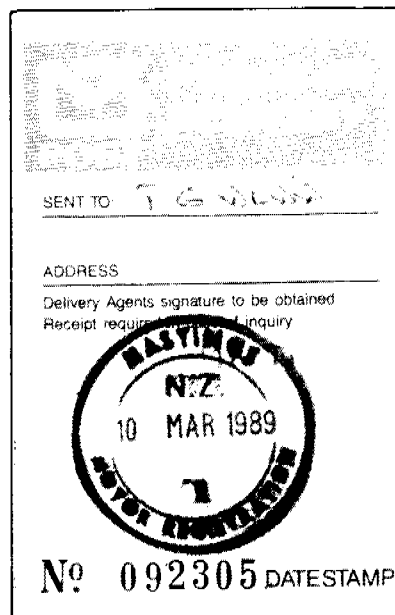


Figure 2

The blue system costs 75 cents and the red \$1-59 and each can be used for envelopes or parcels travelling within New Zealand.

Choice of Fast Post or Standard Post is given, the above are in addition to the Standard Post fee of 40 cents, or the Fast Post fee of 70 cent. Figures 3 and 4 on page 55 show the envelopes which match the receipts shown at Figures 1 and 2 above. I am told that this service is in addition to the 'A.R.' system available for Insured or Registered mail, which has been in force for very many years.

PERSONALISED STATIONERY

Now being offered from the Post Office, who arrange for the printing and supply of printed sheets and envelopes printed with your name and address. A choice of two printing styles and range of six different colours are offered. A 'small set' of 12 printed sheets, 12 plain sheets and 12 envelopes cost \$9-90, and a 'large set' of double the quantity \$18-70.

PERSONALISED ADDRESS LABELS

Different sized labels for 'Return Address', 'Letterhead', 'Cheque Identification' and 'Ownership Identification', each in capital letters in black, with background choice of five different colours. Orders are placed with New Zealand Post and the cost is \$6-60 for the first set of labels, 102 small or 40 large, and \$3-30 for each additional set.

I am not certain how long the above services have been available but I imagine that they have been introduced during the last two months or so, possibly on a phased basis over New Zealand. The material listed in the last two categories above have been contracted out to printers by New Zealand Post and do not bear the New Zealand Post logo. Personalised Stationery is advertised as available by post within 14 days of the placement of the order, and the address labels within seven days.

DIE PROOFS OF THE 3d. 1935 PICTORIAL DEFINITIVE

ALLAN P BERRY



COLIN FRASER of Christie's Robson Lowe was kind enough to show me the Die Proof here illustrated. It is on moderately thick, cream paper, and is printed in green. I understand that examples also exist in red-brown and black. The existence of these Die Proofs was first reported by Colin Fraser in the March/April issue of the 'Philatelist and PJGB'. The article came to the attention of OTTO HORNUNG, who was able to research the items in greater depth. The results were published in 'Stamp Mail', Volume 1 number 10, page 22, December, 1988.

It is clear that the engravings from which these die proofs were taken were the work of the Czech engraver, Bohumil Heinz. It was the custom in the 1930's for Security Printing firms to look around for experienced engravers. One such was Bohumil Heinz, who created such a good impression that he was given a number of assignments by the then Crown Agents. His work was then sent either directly to the Crown Agents or to De La Rue.

As was the custom of all good engravers, Bohumil Heinz took

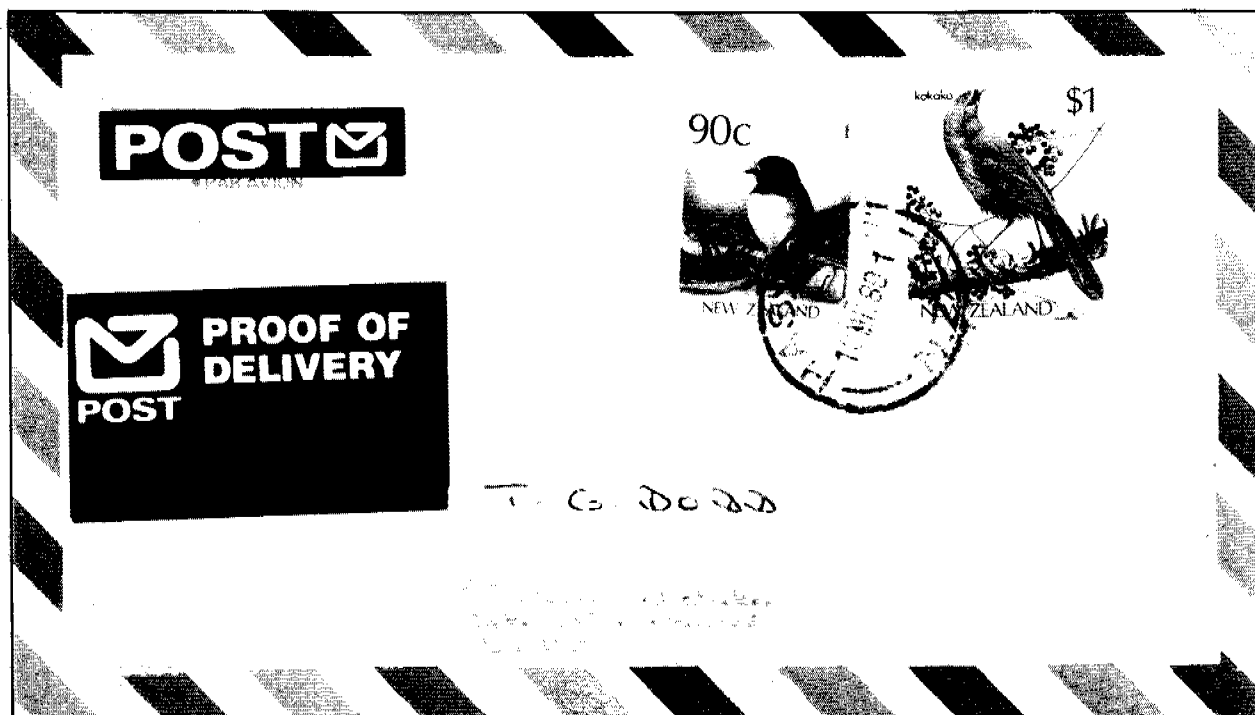


Figure 3

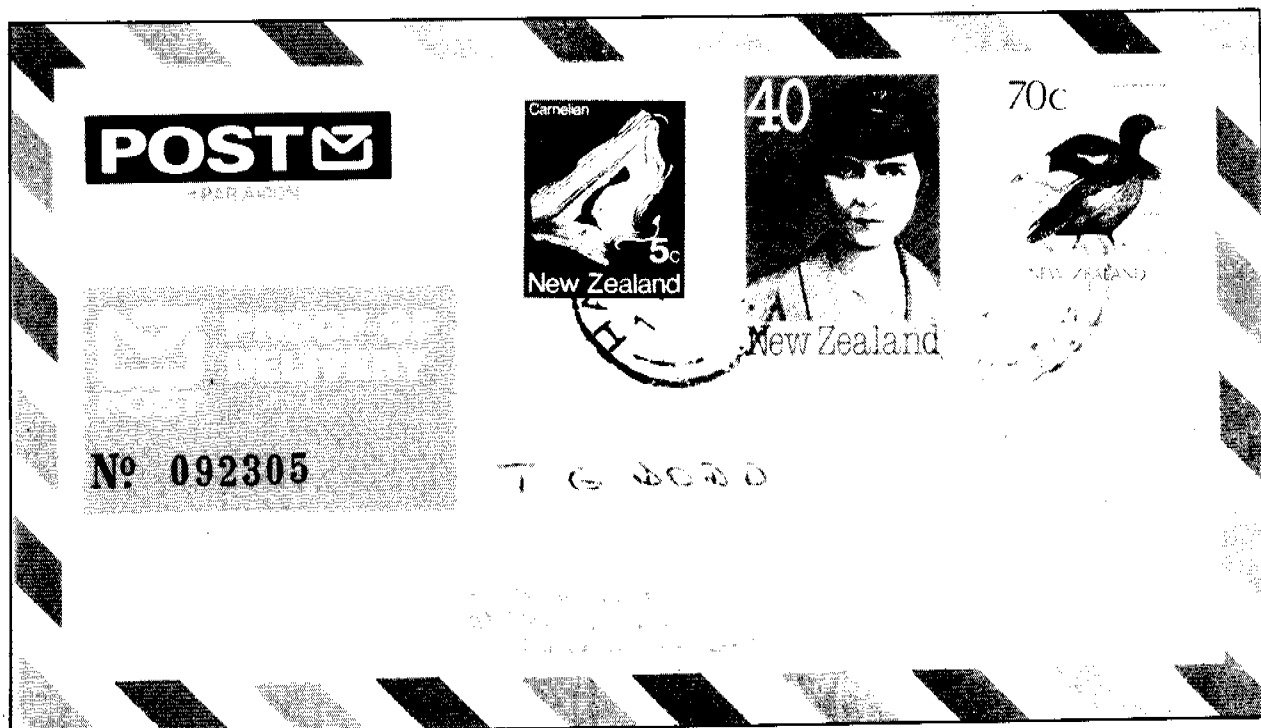


Figure 4

proofs of his work, and retained them for his records. When he died in Czechoslovakia in 1941, during the Second World War, his widow kept all his records. These passed to his daughter when the widow died in about 1956. Recently, they have come on the market through Artia, the state trading organisation of Prague.

All the Die Proofs are marked with a handstamp reading 'zkusmy tisk', meaning 'trial print', and a small handstamp with the signature of B.Heinz.

The only item of New Zealand interest is that illustrated of the 3d. Maori Girl's Head definitive of the set of 1935 Pictorial Definitives. The engraving is not complete. The country name and value were done by De La Rue's own in house engravers.

GRT. BARRIER ISLE

ALLAN P. BERRY



NORMAN WILLIAMS has shown me an impression of the handstamp illustrated. It is on very small piece, torn in such a way that part of the outer circle is missing at the bottom right hand corner. It is on brown manila type paper, and is rather fragile. The illustration is enlarged, the actual handstamp measuring only 17 mms across.

The handstamp reads 'GRT. BARRIER ISLE' around the inside of the circle, and in the centre, the word 'PAID' appears above '1D.', placed horizontally. The whole is struck in black.

Naturally, Norman Williams first thought that this must be a marking from the Great Barrier Pigeon Post services. However, there is no mention of such a mark in any of the Volumes of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, nor is there any reference to it in the book by J.Reg Walker, 'New Zealand - The Great Barrier Island 1898-99 Pigeon Post Stamps', in which a chapter is devoted to the cancellations and other markings.

Of course, it is perfectly possible that this mark has nothing to do with New Zealand. But if any reader can identify it, both Norman Williams and I would be pleased to hear from you.

PER FRENCH MAIL

A.J.WOOLFE

I recently acquired the item illustrated on page 57, which has certain features of interest. It is a street plan of Christchurch which has been folded and addressed to London. It has been franked with a 1d. Second Sideface Queen Victoria definitive which has been cancelled at Christchurch on 19th July, 1893. Presumably, as it has been marked 'Plan only', it was accepted as printed matter to be charged at only 1d. - it certainly weighs several ounces.

It has been annotated in the same handwriting as the address 'Per French Packet'. That it travelled by this route is confirmed by the French paquebot marking of Ligne T, the Australia to Marseilles Ligne, for 27th July, 1893. Examination of 'Salles' shows that this was the date the 'Armand Behic' left Sydney.

The question arises as to what if any advantage was obtained by the use of this route rather than the usual route via San Francisco, particularly on mail to the United Kingdom. There is

CHRISTCHURCH
STREET + PROPERTY
PLAN

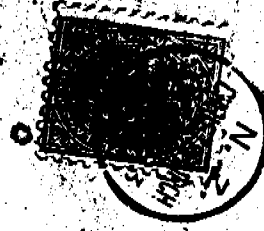
Per French Packet

J. P. R. Ravening Esq
4 Plowden Buildings

Temple

England

Plan only



no United Kingdom arrival marking, unfortunately, to indicate the time taken to complete its journey.

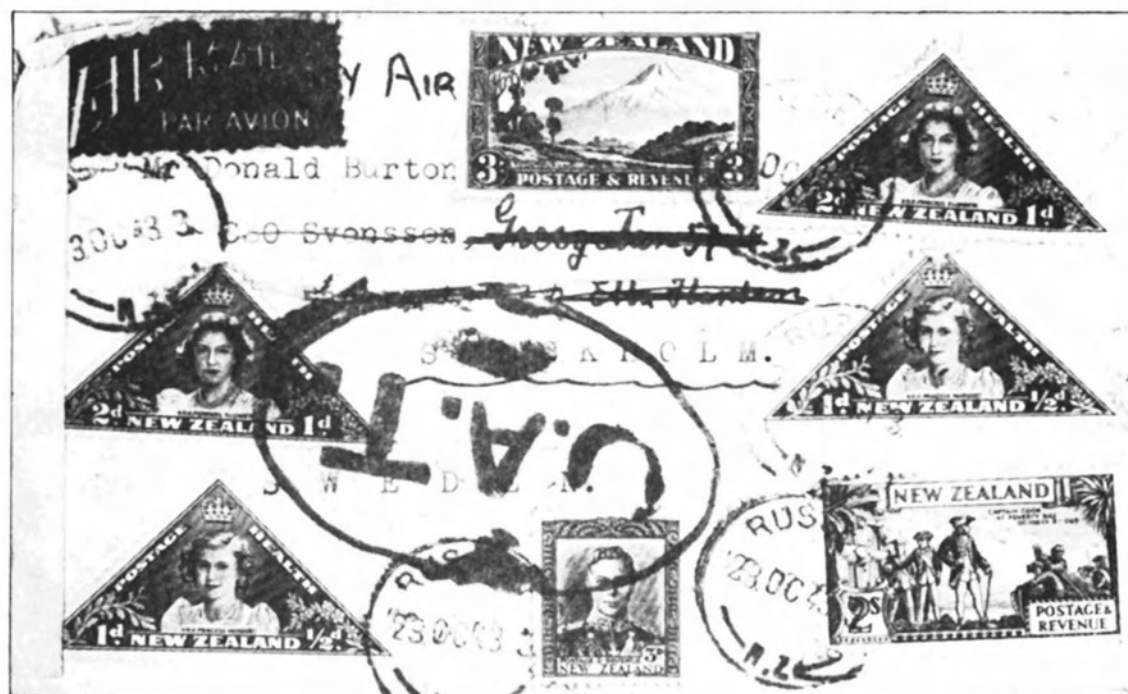
The Christchurch Post Office appears to have accepted the route as indicated as routine.

I would be grateful if any student of routes and rates could advise what, if any, advantages were obtained by this instruction, which I do not recall seeing previously on New Zealand Mail.

ONWARD AIR TRANSMISSION

E.W.LEPPARD

The cover illustrated below was posted in Russell on 23rd October, 1943, addressed to Stockholm, Sweden. The reverse shows a Stockholm meter arrival mark of 28th December, 1943. The postage paid was 5/9, which prepaid the air mail rate for Trans-Pacific - America and Atlantic crossing. As my article in 'The Kiwi', Volume 38, page 20, January, 1989, notes, from Post Office Circulars dated 31st March, 1943, mail to Sweden was sent by a special route.



Enquiries from various sources have turned up another similar cover to Sweden dated at Remuera on 23rd February, 1943, again with a large red 'O.A.T.' marking in a large oval. These markings were applied to mail arriving in London for Onward Air Transmission. Previous articles by GEORGE BRANAM in 'The Kiwi', Volume 37, page 87, September, 1988, have recorded instances of returned mail. Mail that could be transmitted when a route opened up were packeted up and only the top cover of such a packet received the 'O.A.T.' marking.

GEORGE BRANAM's further article quoting excerpts from the New Zealand post and Telegraph Official Circulars - see 'The Kiwi'

Volume 38, page 34, March, 1989, - is reinforced by the further quote from these circulars for 1942, which lists two air rates to Sweden:-

By sea to the west coast of America and thence by air. Postage 4/- per half ounce. No superscription required.

By sea to England and thence by air. Superscription 'United Kingdom - Sweden'. Postage 7d. per half ounce. Air Transmission United Kingdom - Sweden included.

George mentioned that he had only a short time to delve into the Archives in Wellington. It would seem that further postage rate and route information can still be obtained.

The second cover shown to me had postage rated at 3/6, which was thought to have been a three ounce letter using the second routing. The cover shown with 5/9 would have used the first routing but has travelled the first section of the journey by air instead of by sea for the extra 1/9.

The special route from London to Sweden is very interesting. Sweden at this time, a neutral country, was surrounded by German occupied territories of Norway, Denmark and the Baltic States, with Finland allied to the Germans against Russia, but contact and mail was maintained from London from 18th March, 1942, to 14th July, 1944. This route was from Leuchars in Scotland, and later from Shoreham on the South Coast, by twin engined long range fighter plane, the Mosquito, stripped down to bare essentials so that its speed could outpace anything the Germans could put up against it. With a ceiling of only 20,000 feet, the route was through the Skagge Rak between Norway and Denmark so as not to overfly any occupied territory and risk being shot down.

A further route to Sweden was possible through Lisbon, but mail from this route would have been subject to German censorship and followed a tortuous, possibly rail, routing across Germany. The Editor and I would be glad of reports of any further covers that follow interesting wartime routings, and reports of 'O.A.T.' markings on mail to destinations other than Sweden.

OFFICIAL MAIL - AN INTERESTING COVER

ALLAN P. BERRY

The cover illustrated on page 43 was shown to me by COLIN HAMILTON of Campbell Paterson Ltd. At first glance, it appears to be a typical example of the early, franked Official Mail of New Zealand.

Closer examination leads to some questions. But first, the cover ought to be described in detail. It is superscribed 'On His Majesty's Service', and evidently comes from the 'Office of Minister of Public Works and Mines'. It has a mourning border and has been datestamped at Wellington on 22nd July, 1910. It carries a facsimile handstamp signature of J.H.McAlister.

Clearly, the mourning border has been added following the death of King Edward VII 6th May, 1910. The New Zealand Official Year Book for 1910 shows that there was a separate department for both Mines and Public Works, but that the Minister in Charge was the same for both, namely, Hon. Roderick McKenzie.

The same book also shows that J.H.McAlister was Private

Secretary to the Minister.

The Franking System for Official Mail was abolished at the end of December, 1906, and was followed by the introduction of stamps overprinted 'Official' for Official Mail. So, what system is being used on this cover? I am sure there is an explanation.

THE FATHER OF HEALTH STAMPS

TOM LATTO

In an article on page 87 of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, December, 1988, headed 'The Origin of Christmas Seals', the role played by Elimar Holboell in establishing the first Christmas seals is described. An employee of the Danish Postal Service and aware of the shortage of medical facilities for sick children, particularly those suffering from tuberculosis, he conceived the idea that people would be prepared to buy 'special' stamps at Christmas time in aid of those children. When put to the postal authorities in Denmark, they accepted the idea and with the support of the business community the scheme got off the ground. By Christmas, 1904, the first Christmas 'seal stamps' were available at Danish Post Offices. This idea was quickly adopted by Sweden and then by Norway. Inspired by the contribution being made, through the sale of these seals, to improving medical facilities in Scandinavia, Miss Emily Bissell, Secretary of the Red Cross of Delaware, U.S.A., introduced similar seals locally in December, 1907. The concept subsequently spread nationwide.

Holboell died in 1928, aged 62, and his gravestone carries the words 'Father of a Christmas Stamp'. He was commemorated in 1955 by the Belgian Postal Authorities, who depicted his portrait on a 2 Franc plus 50 cent stamp, S.G. 1571.

However, as all New Zealand philatelists know, Mrs. Kirstine Nielson of Norsewood was familiar, through correspondence with Denmark, with these Christmas seals, and, in 1926, suggested to the New Zealand Postal Authorities that they should consider introducing a similar scheme. Whilst in favour of the concept, but not with the seals themselves, the New Zealand Authorities finally decided to issue surcharged stamps in 1929; such stamps having been approved for International use at the 1924 U.P.U. Convention held in Stockholm. Originally known as Charity stamps, the first was issued on 11th December, 1929, in time for the internal posting of Christmas letters and parcels.

Money collected from the sale of these stamps in 1929 to 1931, now called Health stamps, was put into a fund, referred to as the Christmas Seal Fund, and was used by the Government to finance the capital cost of constructing the first permanent Children's Health Camp at Otaki. Known initially as the Raukawa Camp, it was opened in 1932 and has functioned ever since as one of the now seven permanent Health Camps.

Hence, as Elimar Holboell's concept of Christmas seals was the catalyst for subsequent events in New Zealand he can surely be described not only as the 'Father of Christmas Stamps' but also the 'Father of Health Stamps'.

These stamps continue to this day, and can be the fascinating basis of a specialised collection, both of the Health Stamps and the covers on which they are used.