



The Kiwi



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

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

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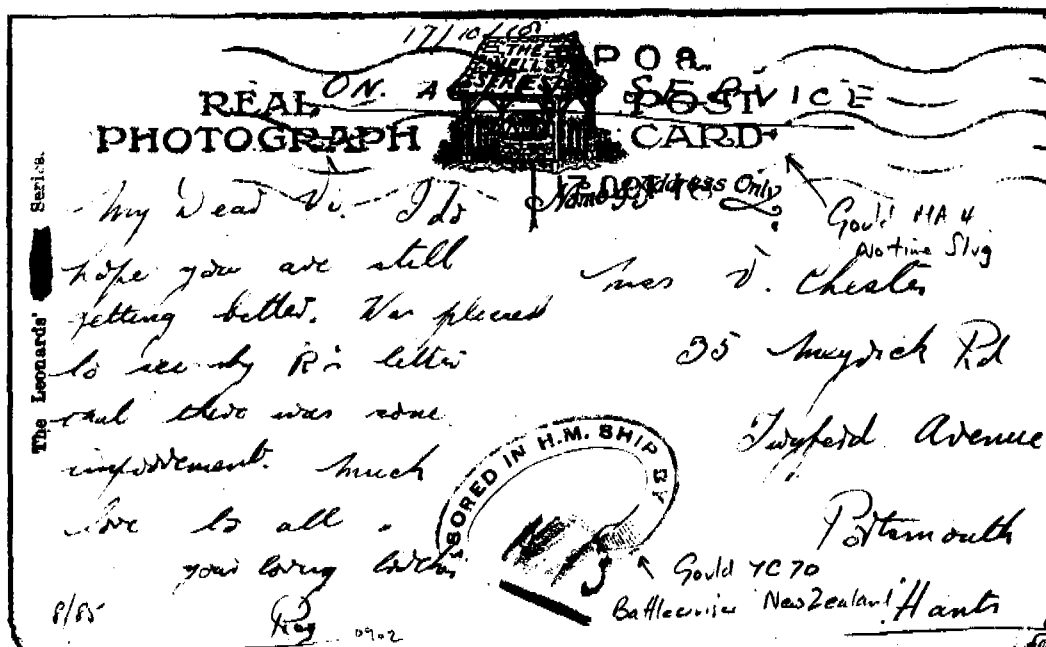
SEPTEMBER 1989

WHOLE 216

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1989,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

THE SUBJECT WILL NEW ZEALAND FORCES POSTAL HISTORY
BERNARD ATKINSON WILL DISPLAY WORLD WAR 1 POSTAL HISTORY
ERNIE LEPPARD WILL DISPLAY WORLD WAR 2 AND LATER

H.M.S. NEW ZEALAND



SEE PAGE 96

EDITORIAL

According to information to hand from New Zealand, it was announced on 3rd July, 1989, that Government Life is to change its name to Tower Corporation on 1st October, 1989. Enabling legislation is being passed through Parliament to give effect to this name change, and when it comes into effect, the special stamps used by Government Life will be withdrawn.

Thus will end an era in the history of New Zealand philately. It is of particular interest to your Editor, whose specialist field these issues have been for many years. Perhaps readers should make a point of getting up to date with the current issue before they are withdrawn. We are unlikely to see similar stamps again from any country in the future.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

Richard Ashton, c/o/ Sotheby's, 34/35, New Bond Street,
London, W1A 2AA.

T.R.Beach, 33b, Hylton Street, Wanganui, New Zealand.

H.A.Tyler, 17, Main Street, Bishopthorpe, York, YO2 1RA.

LAPSED

I.MacEwan, 4, Mills Road, Brooklyn, Wellington 2, New Zealand.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

S.D.Crawford, P.O.Box 12121, Thorndon, Wellington, New Zealand.
(previously of P.O.Box 47070, Trentham, New Zealand.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 29TH JULY, 1989

THE SECOND PICTORIAL DEFINITIVES OF 1935 - 1947 - WALLY JACKSON

The meeting was opened at 2.30 p.m. by the Chairman, Alan Baker, with apologies for absence from Allan Berry, George Riley and Peter Marks. Nineteen members were present. After a few short announcements, the Chairman introduced our Member Wally Jackson, perhaps best known for his presentations on New Zealand Postal Stationery, but whose subject on this occasion was the Second Pictorial Definitives of 1935 - 1947, including those issues overprinted 'Official'.

A brief introduction outlined the reasons for the new issue, namely the excessive wear of the plates for the then current King George V definitives and the criticisms of their dull designs. No objections were presented by the authorities to a 'pictorial' issue. A competition in 1931 invited designs for fifteen denominations, each showing some facet of New Zealand, with awards of £25 for accepted designs and £15 for designs not accepted but where all or part of the design might be used by the authorities during the five years following the close of the competition in September, 1931. From over 1,500 designs submitted, fourteen were accepted, some with modification, but because of technical difficulties, plates and proofs were not available until 1934.

No short report could do justice to Wally's fascinating and comprehensive display, which he divided into four sections, with a brief viewing time between and after.

The first part showed some of the rejected designs from the

competition and led on to the original 1935 issue, with single watermark, including the Die 1 penny stamp, and the Die 2 booklet issues.

The second part showed the multiple watermark issue, with the Die 3 penny.

The third part was devoted to the 'Blitz' issues, with all the attendant difficulties of defining who printed what, with whose plates, and who perforated the sheets.

The fourth part showed the 1942 issues and the 1943 issue of the 6d. stamp.

Each section was given the full treatment regarding proofs, papers, printings and perforations. Examples of varieties and other items of interest were included. Only a couple of exhibits can be listed here. A vertical strip of the last stamps in each row of the 5d. 'Swordfish' had letter watermarks on nine, and no watermark on one. A proof of the 6d. 'Harvester' could possibly have been from the die provided by the designer, T.Archer of India, the only non-New Zealander with an accepted design. His die was not used in the production of the plates, but Wally's proof showed some subtle differences from the issued stamp.

John Smith, himself a specialist in the issue, gave the vote of thanks, and expressed the view of all present - that we had seen a remarkable display and enjoyed a most knowledgeable presentation.

The meeting closed at 4.55 p.m.

A.G.

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

OFFICIAL OPENING OF NORTH SHORE AND WAIKATO MAIL CENTRES



Two special pictorial date stamps were used on Wednesday, 9th August, 1989, one at the North Shore Mail Centre and one at the Waikato Mail Centre to mark the opening of both offices. A special pre-stamped envelope was also released to mark this event, which was available from both mail centres and all New Zealand Post philatelic sales outlets.

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION

This will be held on Kiwi Day, Saturday, 25th November, 1989. Members who wish to place items in the Auction should note the following instructions:-

A list of your Lots, typewritten or in block letters please, should be sent to:-

I.G.Fogg, 42, Oxford Road South, Chiswick, London, W4 3DH to reach me before Saturday, 30th September, 1989 so that the catalogue can be printed in time for distribution with the November issue of 'The Kiwi'.

Please state your estimate of the market value and reserve for

each Lot. This is a must. If you have no reserve, please say so. Also describe each Lot briefly - e.g. UM = Unmounted Mint; FU = Fine Used, etc. Lots may be sent with your list, but in any case must be in my hands prior to the Auction. All Lots to be mounted and carded ready for display. A space about one inch square should be left at the bottom right hand corner for the insertion of the lot number. Lots handed in on the day of the auction must have their lot numbers clearly shown. Estimates for individual Lots should be for not less than £4-00. Commission is 10% of sales, and all postage, poundage, insurance, etc. is payable by the vendor. There is a lotting fee of 20p per Lot. Lots which comprise of periodicals, books, boxes of stamps and other bulky items cannot be accepted unless the vendor undertakes to deliver and collect from the auction room, or, if sold, to deliver to the purchaser direct.

APPEAL

Each year it has been the practice of many generous members to offer items, both philatelic and general, to be auctioned on behalf of Society's Funds. This is much appreciated. Do please see what you have surplus to your requirements. No matter what it is, we will be delighted to receive it, preferably by 30th September, 1989, so that it can appear in the catalogue, otherwise any time up to 2.00 p.m. on Kiwi Day.

Do remember to bring your catalogue to the auction. Copies available in the room will cost £1-00.

SOTHEY'S SALE OF SPECIALISED NEW ZEALAND - 11TH DECEMBER, 1989

This sale will comprise approximately 1,000 lots of specialised New Zealand issues from the Queen Victoria First Side Face definitives through to approximately 1935. Included in the collection are unique Artist's Essays, die proofs, plate proofs and specimens, together with a wealth of rarities from the issued stamps.

A de-luxe hard bound catalogue with numerous plates of illustrations will be produced. The published price will be £25-00, but in view of the interest that this sale will generate amongst New Zealand specialists, it is being offered to members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain for £15-00, including postage.

Interested members should write to:-

Richard Ashton, Sotheby's, 34-35, New Bond Street, London, W1A 2AA

OFFICIAL MAIL - AN INTERESTING COVER

COLIN CAPILL

The cover illustrated on page 43 of 'The Kiwi', Volume 38, and discussed on pages 59 - 60, demonstrates an exception to the abolition of the franking system that took place at the end of December, 1906.

In the Post Office Circular for 10th January, 1907, authority to frank letters and packets on the Public Service was granted to the Private Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Mines, and to the Private Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Public Works.

On 6th January, 1909, Robert McKenzie became Minister for both the Public Works Department and the Mines Department. He held the post until 28th March, 1912.

J.H.McAlister was his Private Secretary, and as such, he would have had franking authority. The cover illustrated is an example of the use of the authority to frank. A very similar cover, dated 19th May, 1910, is in the Ross Marshall collection.

NEW ZEALAND FORCES CARD INDEX SYSTEM DURING WORLD WAR 11

E.W.LEPPARD

O. C.	Date Stamp of P.O. where mailed
	MAIL IN UNIT ORDERLY ROOM
	If Mailed in a Civil P.O. Postage should be paid
NEW ZEALAND ARMY BASE POST OFFICE	
35 STRAND	
LONDON, W.C.2	

The postcard, the front of which is illustrated above, and the reverse on page 84, is an example of the Card Index system used by the New Zealand Forces in the United Kingdom during the Second World War. In fact, the system was first introduced by the New Zealand Postal Authorities during the Gallipoli Campaign of the First World War. Mail to soldiers who had left their units, either on leave, by transfer, or on being wounded, had to be returned to the sender back in New Zealand to await the sender being notified by the soldier of any change of address.

Often the Dead Letter Office handstamp was applied to such returned mail, and this was very distressing to the next of kin. As a result, the Card Index system was adopted whereby Chief Base Post Office could keep a record of the movements of servicemen in and out of units. Other forces, such as the Australians and the British, soon copied this New Zealand system.

During the Second World War, the system was again adopted at an early date, with other forces, such as the Australians, the British and the South Africans, soon following suit. The Dead Letter Office handstamp was still in use, causing similar distress. With pressure from the general public, the wording was changed to Returned Letter Office in August, 1944.

NOTIFICATION OF ADDRESS

(NOTE—In order to expedite the delivery of mail, etc., this card is to be used by personnel to advise their address to the Army Base P.O. as well as any change of address, so soon as such a change is indicated.)

1. NEW ADDRESS

No. Rank

Name
(BLOCK LETTERS)

Unit

Station

Place

2. OLD ADDRESS

Unit

Station

Place

Signature

Date

DO NOT WRITE HERE

NOTED	
Letters	Parcels

*This card is not to be used for
changes of address due merely
to temporary absence from
Unit or Station.*

The illustration is of a card used in the United Kingdom, showing the New Zealand Army Base Post Office at 35, The Strand, London, W.C.2. This Post Office was first opened at the Strand Theatre, 7, Agar Street, London, on 28th February, 1942. It moved to the address given on the card on 13th October, 1943, where it remained until its closure on 31st March, 1947.

It would be extremely interesting to know if examples from the Middle East still exist. Perhaps readers can help.

PHILEXFRANCE 1989

ALLAN P. BERRY

It is not normally the custom for the results of Philatelic Exhibitions to be reported through the pages of 'The Kiwi', unless they are held in the United Kingdom or New Zealand.

However, as your Editor was able to visit the French International Exhibition in Paris in July, it is perhaps appropriate to report that our member Robin Gwynn was awarded a Gold Medal for his exhibit of New Zealand Queen Victoria First Sideface Definitives, and Barry Scott a Gold Medal for his exhibit of New Zealand Pre-stamp Postal History. Congratulations to both.

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL PARKS
(11) WHANGANUI NATIONAL PARK

CECIL BRISTOW

This is New Zealand's eleventh National Park, and the first to be created since Mount Aspiring National Park in 1964. It was created by Order in Council of 6th December, 1986, and was officially opened on 7th February, 1987, by the Governor General, supported by the Ministers of Land and Conservation at a ceremony held at Pipiriki, a small village adjacent to the large central core of the Park.

The Park is centred on the Wanganui River, and it is comprised of three major sections. Starting at Te Maire, 17 Km downstream from Taumarunui, a series of relatively small blocks of land, linked together by the river, extend in an almost continuous chain of 41 Km to Whakahoro. At that point the huge central core of the Park begins, extending 92 Km southward to downstream Pipiriki. Across its width the Park extends between 15 and 20 Km. The third section is one of 7,000 hectares to the south, stretching from Ranana to Atene to within 35 Km of the city of Wanganui, and once again, linked to the rest of the Park by the river.

The bed of the Wanganui River is not part of the Park. It flows through it, providing access similar to the highways through Arthur's Pass or the Milford Road through Fiordland National Park.

The Maori legend concerning the formation of the river has been quoted elsewhere, in the Egmont National Park article. Before the settlement of Europeans the river had for centuries been the home of thousands of Maori people. It is in the traditional homeland of the Ngatiruanui people. The river is not normally fast-flowing and despite several well-defined rapids, it is navigable by small boats all the way to Taumarunui, a distance of 231 Km.

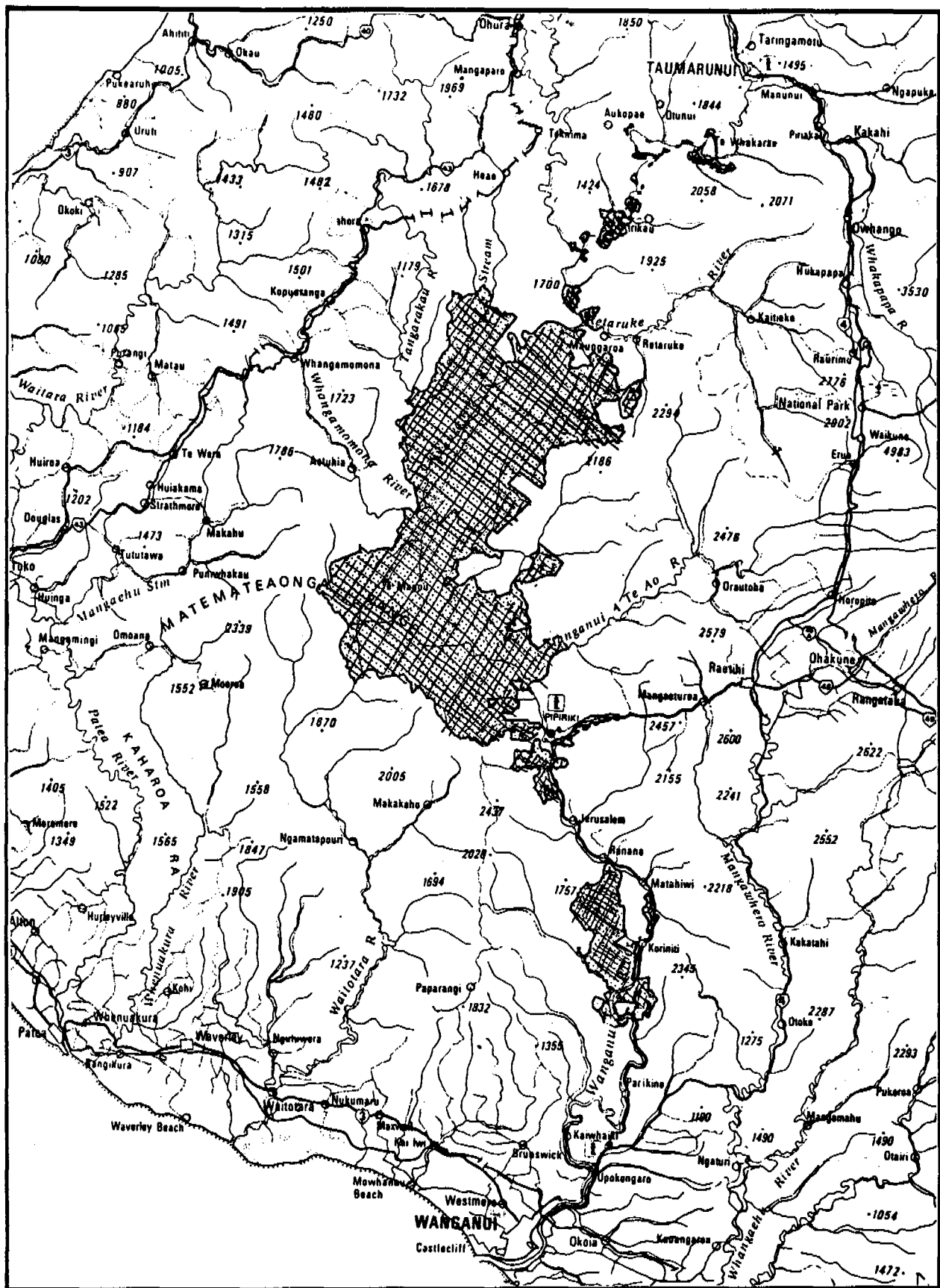
The Maoris trapped eels for food and plied their great canoes on the river. There were many villages along its banks and though they are now mostly deserted, many artefacts are still to be found. A priceless heritage of unique Maori carving art has been preserved at Koriniti.

Seventeen kilometres from Koriniti - 65 Km from Wanganui - lies Jerusalem, Hiruharama in Maori, the site of an old Mission Station. The present church was built in 1893 and received national prominence in the late 1960's when the controversial James K. Baxter founded a commune for the young.

Ten kilometres north of Jerusalem is Pipiriki, once a staging post where passengers changed from small craft to steamers en route downstream. Now only jet-boats provide access to the magnificent reaches further north.

The procedure for establishing a new National Park is a long and arduous one. Whanganui investigation began in 1978, a preliminary assessment was made in 1981 and in 1984, after a round of public submissions and extensive public relations work by the Department of Lands and Survey and the Wellington Parks and Reserves Board, a final report was presented. Happily, there was strong local support in the region for the scheme and 33 months later the Park was created.

Strangely, although it is centred on the Wanganui River, it has



been named Whanganui National Park. There are no stamps as yet that can be linked directly with the Park, unless those which complement the Maori Culture Collection at Koriniti be considered.



NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIC FEDERATION QUESTIONNAIRE - RESULTS

360 questionnaires were mailed out with the March, 1989, issue of 'The Kiwi'. A total of 65 were returned, a disappointing response rate of 18%. On those returned, not all questions were answered. Some indicated that they did not feel qualified to answer certain questions, as they had no personal experience to go on. Others informed your Editor that, as they did not collect modern issues, the matters covered by the Questionnaire were of no interest to them.

The results from certain questions can be tabulated. Dealing with these first -

- 1) What is your opinion about the number of New Zealand stamp issues per year?

Too few = nil About right = 22 Too many = 43

- 2) What is your opinion about the number of postal items produced by New Zealand Post per year?

Too few = nil About right = 13 Too many = 45

- 3) Do you view New Zealand Post issues as -

Too gimmicky = 40 Sensibly balanced = 22 Too conservative = nil

- 4) Should the shape of New Zealand stamps be standardised?
 - a) Commemoratives - Yes = 17; No = 49
 - b) Definitives - Yes = 45; No = 21
- 5) Do you consider the shape and size of current First Day Covers to be suitable?

Yes = 43 No = 14
- 7) Should annual Health issues be retained?

Yes = 60 No = 8
- 8) Should the charity surcharge on Health stamps be increased?

Yes = 39 No = 26
- 9) Is a definitive registration stamp needed?

Yes = 13 No = 50
- 10) Do you know of any common postage rate(s) not included in the current definitive range?

Yes = 3 No = 61
- 11) Is the number of pictorial date stamps

Excessive = 29 Adequate = 34 Insufficient = 1.
- 12) On a scale of 0 - 5 (0 = very poor; 5 = excellent), how would you rate the service collectors receive over post office counters?

0 = nil; 1 = nil; 2 = 4; 3 = 12; 4 = 6; 5 = 6.
- 17) On a scale of 0 - 5 (0 = very poor; 5 = excellent), how would you rate the cancellations normally used to postmark letters at the present time?

0 = 3; 1 = 11; 2 = 16; 3 = 23; 4 = 9; 5 = 1.
- 19) As a collector, how would you describe yourself.

(a) beginner = 2 (b) medium = 39 (c) advanced = 24

Certain other questions do not lend themselves to answers in a tabulated form.

Question 6 asked - which subject(s) would you like to see depicted on New Zealand stamps? The answers covered a very wide range of subjects, but the most votes were given to:-

Wildlife (18); Trees (14); Ferns (14); Flowers (13); Birds (10).

Other written comments included -

Only New Zealand related subjects.

Those that retain emphasis on New Zealand.

One would have thought that most subjects have been exhausted during the last five years.

Their current subject selection seems to be perfectly adequate.

Over past five years subjects have been quite good and varied.

Question 13 asked - How long should each issue of commemoratives be available over post office counters? The answers ranged from 2 weeks (1) to 2 years (1). Between these two extremes, the most votes were given to -

One month (8); 3 months (12); 6 months (15); 1 year (9).

Question 14 asked - what do you think has been the most appealing New Zealand stamp or set issued during the last five years? Whilst once again, a vast range of stamps were listed, by far the most votes were cast for -

Endangered Birds (22); Bird Definitives (11)

Question 15 asked - what do you think has been the worst New Zealand stamp or set issued during the last five years? Again, a large number of stamps were mentioned, but most votes went to -

1986 Health stamps (10); 1987 Health stamps (12);

International Year of Peace (12); Round Kiwi stamp (10).

Question 16 asked - what do you think is the most appealing New Zealand Philatelic item produced in the last five years? There was one item that came out far and away as the most appealing item in the last five years, and this was the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Miniature sheet, with 14 votes.

And finally, question 18 asked - have you any other comments or suggestions you would like Federation to draw to the attention of New Zealand Post? These are all of great interest, where given, and a selection follows:-

Don't go overboard on Postal Stationery items or it will cut out collectors as stamps did.

Philatelic Bureau does not supply information on stamp details by Newsletter.

Re-nationalise it!

Postmarks like Germany or Switzerland please. Circular datestamps showing towns.

Get some new cancelling machines to avoid smudged and illegible cancellations.

Produce less stamps and issue less gimmicky products.

Don't kill the goose (the collector) that lays the golden egg. Go easy on children's designs.

Closer liaison between Departments. They sometimes appear to be working at cross purposes.

There should be Official Health Miniature Sheet First Day Covers to complement the normal First Day Covers.

New Zealand Post policy is tending to favour too many miniature sheets.

No more gimmicky issues in order to maintain credibility with collectors.

Surcharges for imprinted stationery are outrageous. Such items

should be sold at face value. Service from Wanganui Philatelic Bureau by post is slow, slow, slow. There should be more philatelic counters, not less. Pen cancellations of stamps should be forbidden. Less photographs used - they are ineffective when reduced to stamp size.

Control of reprints of definitive issues.

Why is advance information of Tokalau no longer supplied?

Continue with Philatelic Counters - most helpful.

The Fast Post label is far too big for most normal airmail and is unrecognised overseas. Why overseas collectors save used New Zealand stamps I cannot imagine. Too many prestamped envelopes are not available at Post Office counters.

Combine order forms and stamp issue information as from the old Philatelic Bureau system.

Cut out the gimmicky issues.

Air mail etiquettes are required for overseas mail, particularly post cards. Fast Post label is far too large.

The glaring omission from the Questionnaire is any question relating to policy of design acceptance. The sooner it is realised that stamps are not suitable vehicles for abstract or far out design ideas, the better.

Health Miniature Sheet First Day Covers. About six issues per year only, including Health, Scenic and Christmas.

The New Zealand stamp collector will not continue to pour money into unnecessary issues/accessories for much longer - stop milking them!

Better care of circular datestamps of outlying Post Offices.

All the forms will now be sent to the co-ordinator at the New Zealand Philatelic Federation. Many thanks to all who took the trouble to fill in and return them to your Editor.

COMMERCIAL MAIL NETWORK - BOX LINK

TONY DODD

Many readers may not have heard of 'Box Link', but covers and items of mail are now appearing through the New Zealand Post network with cachets bearing this marking.

New Zealand Post introduced this service on 1st February, 1989, as a counter to other organisations endeavouring to wean mail delivery from the original Government Department which in the past had sole rights.

Box Link is a contract entered into with large firms and bodies on an annual basis and allows New Zealand Post to quote special rates to transit mail from agreed offices, usually to branches or affiliates elsewhere in New Zealand, but not in the opposite direction.

Until now, I have seen items identified in two ways. Either by a special envelope provided by New Zealand Post, such as the one used by the Land Transport Division, Ministry of Transport, to

BOXLINK



POST

TO:

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

LAND TRANSPORT DIVISION

P.O. BOX 11

HASTINGS

COMMERCIAL MAIL NETWORK

FROM:

PHONE:

their office in Hastings, illustrated at Figure 1 on page 91. Alternatively, the firm under contract is permitted to utilize special cachets which they arrange to design and print or apply under authority. The cachets I have seen are always in red, and examples are:-

AMP No. 1 and AMP No. 2, Wellington - Figures 2 and 3

Air New Zealand, Napier Branch - Figure 4.

Gough, Gough & Hamer, Ltd., Christchurch - Figure 5.

Land Transport Division, Ministry of Transport, Wellington - Figure 6.

AMP Wellington - Figure 7.

Undoubtedly there are others.

Special Box Link boxes are positioned in the larger Post Offices where this type of mail can be deposited so that it can be handled specially and expeditiously. There is even a Box Link box in the Hastings Post Office, but, I am told, to date it is not used for the purpose as no one in our City has contracted yet. However, all sorts of other mail and miscellany are put into it!

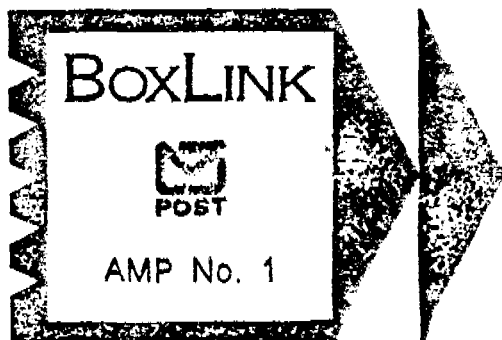


Figure 2

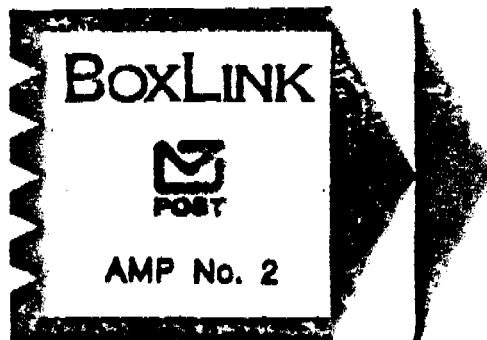


Figure 3

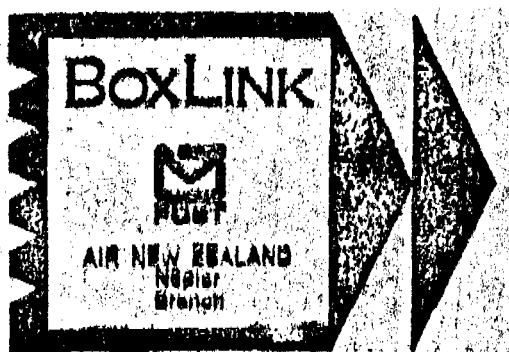


Figure 4

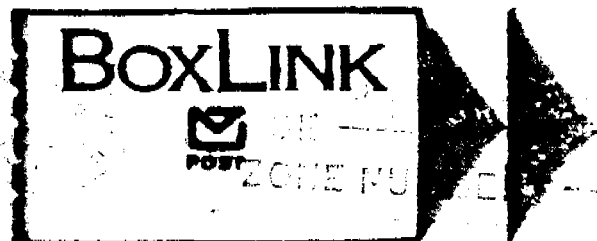


Figure 5



Figure 6

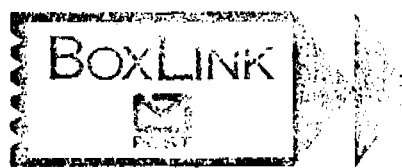


Figure 7

ONWARD AIR TRANSMISSION

E.W.LEPPARD

Following the publication of my article on this subject in 'The Kiwi', Volume 38, page 58, May, 1989, on the wartime routing of mail to Sweden, I have been sent from the Forces Postal History Society further details of the special wartime mail flights to Sweden extracted from 'MERCHANT AIRMEN', an Air Ministry account of British Civil Aviation from 1939 to 1944, which may be of interest to members.

From 6th September, 1939, British Airways Ltd. operated a weekly service from Perth - Stavanger - Oslo - Stockholm and Helsinki. Following the Russian attack on Finland, the Helsinki connection terminated on 6th November, 1939. British Airways used a Lockheed 14 and three Junkers JU52/3 on this route, the latter three being purchased in 1937 for the night mail to Hanover. One of the three, G-AFAP, was captured on the ground at Oslo Airport on 9th April, 1940, following the German invasion of Norway. A further nine flights to the end of 1940 were made from Perth to Stockholm using Lockheed 14 G-AGBG, formerly with Polish Airlines.

Early in 1941, B.O.A.C., now incorporating British Airways, was asked to recommence a regular service between Scotland and Stockholm, to be known by the military codename Scrutator. The first flight, from R.A.F. Leuchars, near St. Andrews, Fife, was in February, 1941, with the only available plane G-AGBG still bearing its Polish name Lowicz. From its identification letters 'BG' it became known as 'Bashful Gertie, the terror of the Skagerrak'. On 17th July, 1941, the first converted Hudson, G-AGDC Loch Lomond, was added. The first Lockheed blew an engine at Bromme, Sweden. Three further Hudsons were added to the fleet - Loch Leven, which crashed in June, 1942, Loch Lyon and Loch Loyal. Other planes tried included converted Whitley bombers, Douglas Dakotas and the Curtiss-Wright CW-20 Saint Louis. The majority of these flights were for diplomatic mail and returned with ball bearings, of which Sweden had headed the world in pre-war production. It is believed that a little civilian mail was carried on some of these flights, but they mostly carried passengers, freight and diplomatic mail. These early flights had little interference from the Germans.

An R.A.F. Mosquito was first used on 6th August, 1942, when a diplomatic bag was carried. From 4th February, 1943, Mosquitos were allocated to B.O.A.C., numbering six from April and May, 1943, registered from G-AGGC to G-AGGH. Such was the importance of this route for mail and the collection of urgent cargo such as ball bearings, and so fast were these planes that for a time, daylight flights were allowed. It proved a bad move, as the Germans went to great lengths to interrupt the route, and several Mosquitos were shot down by cannon fire. Of these, G-AGFF was lost on 17th August, 1943, G-AGGG on 25th October, 1943, G-AGKP on 18/19th August, 1945, and G-AGKR ten nights later. From the first two lost, the service reverted to night flights. These Mosquito flights ended on 17th May, 1945, by which time 530 round trips had been completed with something like 300 tons of mail being carried, of which the majority was diplomatic.

An early service to Sweden from Shoreham on the south coast was in operation from October, 1939, but this was discontinued in

April, 1940. Rates quoted between the United Kingdom and Sweden are:-

30th October, 1939	Letters - 5d. per ounce, plus 3d. per extra ounce. Postcards - 2½d.
14th March, 1942	Letters - 1/3 per half ounce. Postcards - 7d.
1st April, 1943	Letters - 8d. per ounce, plus 5d. per extra ounce. Postcards - 4d.

It is reported that no service by surface or air was available for months prior to the 1942 date and the high rates were to discourage all but essential correspondence. The reduction in 1943 is perhaps an indication that the service had become more routine. However, no surface route was available and all mail under paid was returned to sender. Mail from New Zealand as previously indicated was allowed at the all air paid service of 5/9, the previously indicated rate of 3/6 could possibly have been the civilian rate of surface transmission trans-Pacific and trans-America and by air from New York onwards, and it is unlikely to have been a three ounce letter at 7d. per half ounce, as previously suggested.

POSTAL STATIONERY REGISTERED ENVELOPE WITHOUT IMPRINT

C.G.CAPILL

Postage rates in New Zealand were increased on 1st August, 1979, the standard letter rate becoming 14 cents, and the registration fee 85 cents. Some time before the end of that year, registered postal stationery envelopes with a 99 cent postal imprint were issued. They measured 163 mms x 114 mms, whereas previous registered envelopes measured 163 mms x 102 mms. The printed inscription was placed on the left hand side of the envelope, instead of across the top as before.

A note in R.D.Samuel's loose leaf edition of 'New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogue' states that registered envelopes were withdrawn from use at all post offices from 30th September, 1980, and from sales at the Philatelic Bureau on 31st December, 1980. These envelopes therefore were only on sale for a little over a year.

Illustrated on page 95 is a mint example of one of these envelopes missing the vermilion postal imprint, being one of several examples that were apparently purchased in Auckland. Nothing is known of the origins of this postal stationery error. Were the imprints accidentally omitted from a small number of envelopes? Or were they sold by the Post Office when supplies of those with the normal imprints became exhausted prior to their withdrawal? Alternatively, were they sold through some other outlet, such as stationery shops?

It seems that when the Post Office orders stationery it is supplied to them already printed with the inscriptions they require. They then send them to the Government Printer where the postal imprint is applied. They are then distributed to post offices throughout the country for sale.

If any reader can throw light on this modern mystery would they

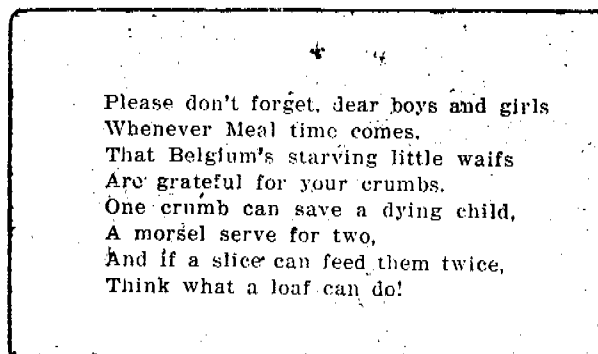
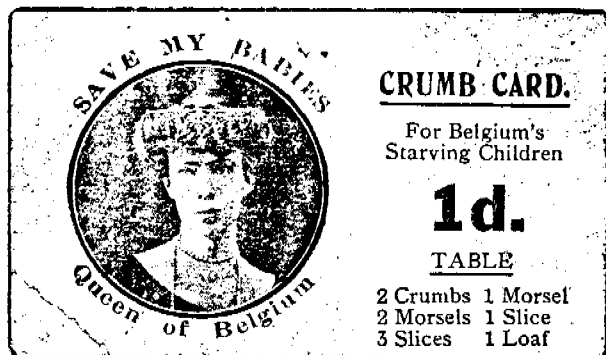


Figure 1

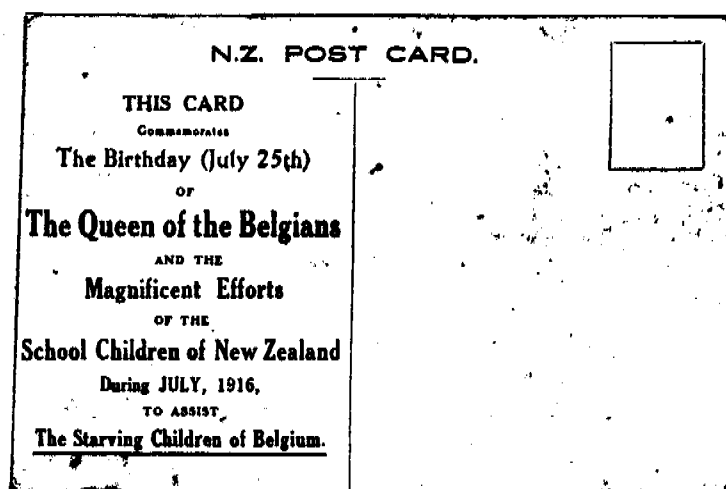


Figure 2


H.M.S. NEW ZEALAND

E.W.LEPPARD

Following the publication of my articles in 'The Kiwi', Volume 37, page 93, September, 1988, and Volume 38, page 78, July, 1989, I now illustrate on page 79 from my collection a postcard showing the gartered censor mark of H.M.S. NEW ZEALAND.

The postcard is dated 17th October, 1918, and shows that the Dreadnought had by that time moved to Scapa Flow - FPOa - ready to take the surrender of the German Fleet at the end of the First World War.

do so through the Editor. Details and date of use of any used examples of the envelope without the imprint would be welcomed.

 REGISTERED LETTER	
<i>This letter must be given to an Officer of the Post Office to be registered and a receipt obtained for it.</i>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

NEW ZEALAND BELGIUM RELIEF FUND - SCHOOL CHILDREN HELP

JOHN WATTS

During the First World War the New Zealand public were extremely generous with the contributions to the Belgium Relief Fund and the interest of the school children was captured by the suffering of the children in this small European country ravaged by war. Queen Elizabeth of the Belgians as a mother was able to make a plea for aid that struck a chord in the children's heart and their pockets.

The 'Crumb Card' illustrated full size at Figure 1 on page 96 was distributed to New Zealand children and the poignant message on the reverse would have conjured up a picture that few children could resist, leading them to give some of their pennies.

By the end of the War, the contributions from the Dominion Schools was £18,364 - a large sum for those days considering the size of the population.

A special card was issued on behalf of the Belgian Queen, thanking the children for their efforts. The picture, illustrated at Figure 2 on page 96, reduced to 60 % of its normal size, shows the Royal Family printed in black and white and the reverse side shows the 'Thank You' message. As of this time, I have not seen any of these cards that have been through the post and I can only suppose that they were kept as souvenirs.