



# ***THE KIWI***



**THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**

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**VOLUME 51, NUMBER 2, MARCH 2002**

**WHOLE NUMBER 291**

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 6TH, 2002 STARTING  
AT 14.00 AT THE UNION JACK CLUB, SANDELL STREET  
THE SUBJECT IS "THE SECOND PICTORIALS" (See Page 27)  
THE SOCIETY DISPLAY TO THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY WILL BE GIVEN ON  
MARCH 21ST, 2002. (See Page 26).

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The Society is affiliated to: The Association of British Philatelic Societies, The New Zealand Philatelic Federation and the Midland Federation

**Annual Subscription £12.00**

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## **SOCIETY NEWS:**

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

We welcome:

B.H. Bretherick, Lytham St. Annes  
G. Chadwick, Lytham St. Annes  
P. Jude, N. Somerset  
Mrs. B. Kingsley, Kent  
D.A. Stephens, Newcastle upon Tyne

### **RESIGNED:**

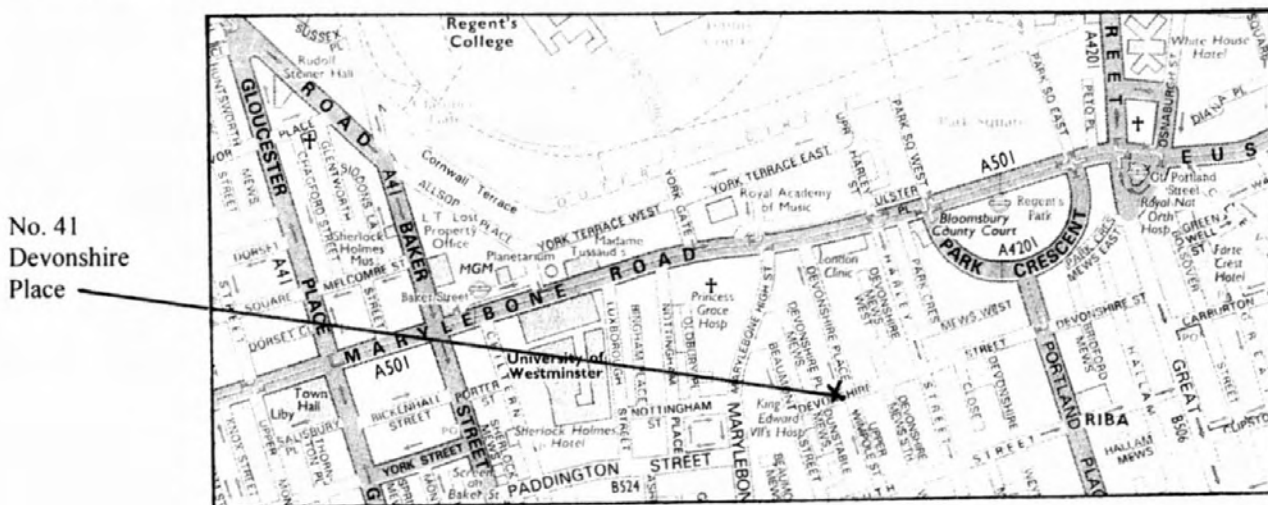
K.W. Fletcher, R. Harrower

## **DISPLAY TO THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LONDON ON MARCH 21st 2002**

The New Zealand Society of Great Britain will give a display to the Royal Philatelic Society of London at 41, Devonshire Place (see map) on March 21st, 2002. The display will open at 13.00 and close at 18.00. At 16.00, there will be a presentation by the President of the Royal Society to the New Zealand Society and at 17.00 a celebratory glass of New Zealand wine will be available.

**Please remember if you are not a member of the Royal and wish to attend the display, you need to notify Ernie Leppard in advance (☎ 0208 673 4710).**

The Committee look forward to meeting as many members as possible at this special occasion.



### **NEXT MEETING OF THE MIDLAND GROUP**

The next meeting of the Midland Group will be held at the Carr's Lane Meeting Centre on April 13th, 2002 starting at 14.00.

Jack Lindley, convenor of the Northern Regional Group, will entertain with stamps and postal history.

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### **PREVIEW OF NEXT LONDON MEETING**

The next meeting will include a display of the Second Pictorials by Keith Collins. Please bring along any items of interest.

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### **NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 26TH, 2002**

Derek Diamond opened the meeting with twenty three members present. He handed over to Ernie Leppard who orchestrated the rest of the meeting. There followed a preview of the display that the Society will give to the Royal Philatelic Society of London in March (details elsewhere in this issue).

The showing will comprise 52 frames each containing 12 sheets, a total of 624 sheets. All the components, except one, were shown at the meeting and, together, they made an extraordinary display. The subjects included are: Pre-stamp Postal History (Margaret Frankcom), The Two Penny Chalon Head Issue (Derek Diamond), Chalons (Tony Stephens), Maori Wars and Forgeries (Ernie Leppard), Overseas Mail Routes in the 'Chalon' Period (John Woolfe), Second Sideface Issue (Paul Wreglesworth), First Pictorials, Proofs and Essays (Ernie Leppard), First Pictorials, Stamps (Derek Diamond), 1d Universal (Ernie Leppard), Christchurch Exhibition (Alan Baker), WWI Troopships (Bernard Atkinson), KGV (Andrew Dove), 2nd. Pictorials (Philip Hoare), Health (Alan Baker), RTPOs (Ernie Leppard), Booklets (Bernard Symonds), Internal Air Mails (Lewis Giles), Proposed Royal Visits (Ernie Leppard) and KGV & QEII (John Smith).

Chronologically, the display covers more than 120 years and the contents illustrate the whole range of New Zealand philately. Starting with postal history illustrating the development of the country, and the later opening up of the interior by trains and aeroplanes. Each stamp issue was covered in detail and included much proof and essay material as well as the scarce and very rare variations.

Some displays showed research in progress whilst others showed the depth possible in a single stamp.

The extent and the quality of the material make it impossible to comment on specific displays but one or two items caught the writers eye (in no particular order): the internal cover carried in the 1840's, the essays for the First Pictorials, the Christchurch 1d Claret, the complete early booklets, five pioneer airmail covers and the designs for the Royal Visits that never were.

Overall, an extraordinary collection which must be the best display of New Zealand philately to be given in London for 25 years. Unfortunately, the writer did not view the last display to the Royal and is, therefore, unable to compare.

The only complaint heard was that 2 hours was too short a time to appreciate the extent of the material. However, it will be on show for 5 hours at the Royal. I would most earnestly recommend that all those who have an interest in the subject make every effort to view it there.

Derek Diamond closed the meeting by saying that it seemed inappropriate to give a vote of thanks as so many members had participated. However, he thanked all those who had contributed but especially thanked Ernie Leppard for all of his efforts in making the whole thing happen.

A.F.D.

## FROM THE COMMITTEE

A number of important matters were discussed at the Committee meeting held on Saturday 26th January, 2002:

1. The Celebration Weekend: More than 50 members have now indicated that they will be attending the weekend meeting on November 22-24, 2002. The programme is taking shape with two eminent New Zealand philatelists indicating that they will be attending and willing to give a display. Hopefully, the programme will provide ample opportunity for participation. More information in the next *Kiwi*.
2. 50th Anniversary Booklet: the commemorative booklet has now been printed and all members who have renewed their membership will receive a free copy within the next six weeks. Additional copies are available through Keith Collins: cost £7.50 (NZ\$25.00)+ p.&p. Comments on the booklet will be gratefully received.
3. Competitions: there was discussion about the implications of the changes to the competitions agreed at the AGM. The trophies currently used will continue to be awarded for the 12 sheet competition. The awards for the 16 sheet competition will be certificates with a trophy awarded to the best entry. The judging will be against National criteria and the level reached will reflect this.

There is a small amendment to the Regulations for the 16 sheet competition: **"The use of photographic essays and proofs are acceptable for inclusion in competition entries"**.

The first 16 sheet competition will be held at the November weekend and will be judged by Francis Kiddle, RDP. To allow proper planning for the event, entry forms will be needed. These will be circulated with the appropriate issue of *The Kiwi*. As this is the first of the new style competitions, it is important that there are as many entries as possible. Start planning now!

4. Future Programme: there was discussion about future subjects for meetings. A number of suggestions were made but the Committee would very much like suggestions from members. If there is something that you would like to see, let Keith Collins know.
5. Proposal to produce a series of Publications: the Anniversary booklet is labelled "Special Publication No. 1". Discerning readers will realise that the implication is that there are more to follow. A Publications Sub-Committee has now been formed to oversee future publications. Further information will be published soon.
6. Packet Secretary Report: As always, Bernard Atkinson would like more material for the packets. As there is no Auction this year, the packet becomes an even more effective way of selling material that is surplus to requirements.

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**OBITUARY**  
**ROBERT SAMUEL**  
**1940-2001**

One of New Zealand's most prominent philatelists and President of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, Robert Samuel, has died aged 61.

A chartered accountant, Mr. Samuel devoted much of his spare time to his avocation, becoming an expert in postal stationery and writing a catalogue on the subject which is used around the world.

He was regarded as the authority in this subject, being of forthright opinions and always willing to push a goal through to completion. He was an international (FIP) judge and represented New Zealand in many stamp exhibitions overseas, as recently as in 2001, and wrote extensively for a number of philatelic publications.



Mr. Samuel was born and educated in Dunedin and lived for a time in Timaru, where he qualified as an accountant, before moving to Christchurch.

He also became an expert on the perfins of New Zealand and promoted the use of them at philatelic exhibitions for over 30 years.

Mr. Samuel held various offices in the Christchurch Philatelic Society, one of New Zealand's largest, and started its Newsletter, *Captain Coqk*. He had been elected to Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand and the Royal Philatelic Society of London. He was also an active member of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain, the American Philatelic Society and United Postal Stationery Society, amongst many others.

Stamp exhibitions were one of his main interests and he had a long term involvement with the Pan-Pacific Philatelic Exhibition, which later became the Philatelic Foundation Christchurch (Inc.).

Mr. Samuel practised as an accountant in Christchurch for many years and only last year retired from that profession to become a licensed auctioneer dealing with stamps. Unfortunately, illness prevented him from taking up his new career.

This year, however, he just completed a book on the postal stationery of New Zealand which will shortly be published as Volume IX in the Royal's "Postage Stamps of New Zealand" Handbooks series.

He is survived by his partner Cheri Williams and two daughters from an earlier marriage.

Memorials are suggested to the Robert Samuel Memorial Lecture Fund of the Philatelic Foundation Christchurch (Inc.), P.O.Box 1129, Christchurch, New Zealand. For many years Robert Samuel had suggested that speakers be financed to travel to New Zealand to provide a series of philatelic lectures. Unfortunately, that suggestion never came to fruition in his lifetime. The Robert Samuel Memorial Lecture is a development from that concept. The publication of the lectures will also reflect Robert's interest in philatelic literature.

Stephen D. Schumann & Robert Duns.

## **COMING EVENTS:**

### **NORTHPEX 2002**

As previewed in *The Kiwi*, arrangements are now well under way for Northpex.

A Kiwi Society breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday 6th April at the Fairview Lodge (which is adjacent to the Event Centre where the exhibition is being held), commencing at 8 a.m. It will be over by 9.45 enabling those involved with the exhibition to be available when the doors open at 10 a.m.

Two new publications will have their New Zealand release at the meeting:

1. Aspects of Collecting New Zealand Stamps - The Society 50th Anniversary Booklet.
2. New Zealand Pictorial and Special Event Postmarks 1882 - 2002.

The breakfast is a chance for all members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain, local and overseas, to meet and is open to others who wish to experience a full "English Breakfast" and experience the wonderful atmosphere of a Kiwi Society meeting.

Price for the breakfast will be \$20 and tickets will be available at the exhibition.

Other activities that will be taking place close to the time of the Northpex 2002 Exhibition include two talks by Kiwi Society members:

\*On Monday evening, April 4th, Robin Startup will be giving a talk to the Postal History Society in Auckland on the subject of *The 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force*.

\*On Monday evening, April 8th, Don Scregg will be giving a talk to the Wellesley Philatelic Society in Auckland on the subject of *The 1920 Victory Issue*.

\*John Woolfe will give a talk and display on Early New Zealand Postal History: date time and venue to be announced.

Anybody requiring further details of any of these functions should make contact with John Watts: Tel./Fax 09 444 2156, Email J-Watts@Zfree.co.nz

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## **INFORMATION RECEIVED:**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

20 December 2001

#### **STAMPS CELEBRATE SUPERSTARS IN THE YEAR OF THE HORSE**

New Zealand Post will mark the Year of the Horse with its latest stamp issue, the sixth in the Lunar stamp series. *New Zealand's Group One Winners* features six of the superstars of New Zealand horse racing and will be released on 7 February 2002.

"The horses depicted on the stamps represent six of New Zealand's best in their competitive environment," says Linda Morgan, Stamps Design and Marketing Manager. "Both the thoroughbred and standardbred industries in New Zealand produce world class horses and New Zealand Post acknowledges this achievement in the Year of the Horse.

Christian Cullen (40c) thrilled all sports fans in the late nineties with his spectacular front running displays and Lyell Creek (80c) completely dominated all Australasia's trotting races with his winning streak of 20 consecutive victories.

The "*Hawera Hurricane*", Yulestar (90c) has won many of Australasia's major races including the 2001 Interdominion. Sunline (\$11.30), Australasia's highest-ever stakes earner, was voted Australian Racehorse of the Year for two consecutive years.

Ethereal (\$1.50) set Melbourne alight in November 2001 when she became only the third mare in history to win the elusive Caulfield-Melbourne Cups double and New Zealand's champion sire Zabeel (\$2.00) has been Australian champion sire twice and is already the sire of 18 Group One winners.

The stamps, first day covers and miniature sheet were designed by Kevin Dunkley, Wellington and printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin.

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#### **REVIEW OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**"PLAINS MAILING. THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE ASHBURTON COUNTY".**

Author: V.T. Hanson.

Postal History Society of NZ Handbook No. 48.

Pub. NZ Postal History Society, PO Box 99-673, Newmarket, Auckland, NZ.

ISBN 0-908 588-58-5

Price: NZ\$22.00 + P&P

Ashburton County is a clearly defined area situated on the East coast of the South Island about one hours drive south of Christchurch. Interestingly, many of the settlements were developed by farmers from the United Kingdom and named after their place of origin. This monograph records meticulous research into the Post and Telephone offices of the County.

Each office is described and a brief history of the settlement given. Included are details of the postmasters with dates of their appointments. Cancellations known and their earliest and latest known dates are also listed.

This is an interesting publication, not least because it links the names of the settlements with overseas references. Thus, the entry for "Eiffelton", a farming settlement 16km southeast of Ashburton, has illustrations of the Eiffel Tower and a related French cancellation.

If I have a criticism, it is that the illustrations are not always well presented and related to the text and this detracts from readability.

Overall, a worthwhile addition to the New Zealand philatelic library.

\*\*\*\*\*

**"MUIR & MOODIE STAMP CARDS"**

Author: John Watts

Postal History Society of NZ Handbook No. 49

Pub. NZ Postal History Society, PO Box 99-673, Newmarket, Auckland, NZ.

ISBN 0-908 588-59-3

Price NZ\$30.00 + P&P

The name of "Muir and Moodie" will be familiar to readers as the publishers of postcards reflecting the scenery and people of New Zealand in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One series of cards has images of late 19th century stamps in a semi circle above a vignette showing a contemporary scenic picture.

This monograph is the culmination of the endeavours by the membership of the PHSNZ to list all the vignettes, an undertaking started in 1968 which had previously resulted in two lists and, not surprisingly, some confusion. This book brings the previous lists together and will, no doubt, provide the definitive reference system. The text charts the merger of the Zieher Stamp card and the Muir and Moodie vignettes to create the series of stamp cards. All 99 vignettes are illustrated and it is believed that this provides the definitive reference numbering. Additionally, much information is given about the background to the issues.

The pamphlet has many colour illustrations and is an excellent read for those interested in the whole area of postcards and the development of the Tourist industry. Highly recommended.

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**"ILLUSTRATED FIRST DAY COVERS OF NEW ZEALAND PART 1: HEALTH"**

Author: Stephen Jones

Available from: Stephen Jones, 12 Lone Tree Grove, Lower Hutt, New Zealand  
or David Holmes Philatelist Ltd., P.O.Box 27-646, Mt. Roskill, Auckland, New Zealand.

Price \$30 + P & P.

Collecting First Day Covers (FDC's) is very popular within the stamp collecting fraternity worldwide and, therefore, most stamp issuing agencies provide FDC's.

In New Zealand, Health stamps have held a unique place in stamp collecting since they were first issued in 1929. At the time, the money raised from the stamp sales was used to overcome problems suffered by deprived children. Many organisations and private citizens became involved in supporting the "Health" camps where children benefited from fresh air and a wholesome diet.

Health stamps carried a surcharge by virtue of a special Act of Parliament. In 1935 the New Zealand Post Office issued the first 'official' illustrated FDC with the Health stamp affixed. More than 50,000 covers were sold. This set the trend for the annual issue and the public responded by giving the covers to children to start their own stamp collections.

Before long, stamp dealers and philatelic clubs took note of the success of the new covers and private issues began to appear. For example, in 1937, almost 50 different designs were available. There was some criticism that this was diverting income from the Health Camps. In fact, it



probably increased sales of the stamps as collectors sought to collect as many designs as they could.

The publication produced by Stephen Jones is a catalogue providing an illustrated history of the covers issued in the pre-decimal period, enabling collectors to readily identify items missing from their collection. Each entry is fully described and details of printer, artist and publisher provided. The different sizes and colours of each issue are also listed.

As a collector of this material for many years I wish that I had this publication available to me as I was ferreting through dealer's boxes at stamp fairs and exhibitions.

Each cover is clearly illustrated and although colour would have been preferable, no doubt the cost would have been prohibitive. The accompanying text allow items to be readily identified.

The numbering system is simple and concise and will, no doubt, soon become the standard. The scarcity ratings should only be used as a guide because experience has shown that an item can be scarce in one area but more easily found in another, particularly in the locality in which it was published. Using a scarcity scale of 1 to 7 does seem to be a little inhibiting and I suspect that a scale of 1 to 10 would have allowed some of the really scarce items to stand out more.

The author has provided a list of suggested values and comments that scarcity and value do not necessarily go hand in hand. This is borne out by the fact that there is a considerable difference in the value guide for different covers rated scarcity band 7, from \$450 to \$20. I hope that dealers do not use the price guide to re-price their stock and that collectors read this as result of the Author's personal experience. The old adage remains: pay for an item what it is worth to you in your collection.

I congratulate Stephen for producing this publication. It is well laid out and easy to use. Its interest is not limited to the serious philatelist but will also provide a useful reference work for a stamp library. This is the first of three volumes promised covering "Illustrated FDC's" and could well raise enthusiasm for an area of philatelic study/collecting that is popular in other parts of the world.

John L. Watts

## RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS

JOHN WOOLFE

### Spink 18/7/2001:

1902-9 1/- Orange-red, pre 1898 paper wmk. inverted (CPE18c)	£650
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### Classic 21/9/2001:

KEVII Official 5d umm with full offset on gum	£50
First Pictorial ½d with full offset (CP E1a(x))	£125
1931 Health Smiling Boys. Umm corner blks of 4	£700

### Phillips 11/10/2001:

1898 Illus. envelope "Wanganui up-river Steam Packet Tourist Steamer Line"	£70
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### D. Holmes 27/11/2001:

1951 Stampless postcard endorsed LEMNOS with INFANTRY BRIGADE cds used at Sarpi Rest Camp (Greece)	£65
1917 Christmas Greetings from the Camel Corps	£65
1942 NZEF/NZ APO55 cachet ex Norfolk Island. Used Oct/Nov 1942	£550
POW Aerogramme KGV 1/- Good Mint (Samuel GA5A)	£120
1930 OHMS Stampless GPO cover with RMS Marama cds	£115
1930 Printed Matter envelope with ½d KGV tied by RMS Tahiti cds	£95



Classic 7/12/2001:

1st. Pict 6d Official used with Official offset on reverse printed before gumming	£200
1996 Teddy Bear error sheet issue used on cover canc. 18/7/96	£1250
1996 Teddy Bear error self-adhesive on cover canc. 25/6/96 (v. early date)	£2100

Spink 13/12/2001:

1872 cover to Kandy, Ceylon. Franked 3d.x2 +2d	£1725
1872 Envelope Hokitika to Locarno franked p. 12½ 3d. pair + 3d. single. Canc. 3 x W goldfield cancellor	£1,500 (+VAT)

Alan Craig 22/11/2001:

1898 29 Hand Painted Essays of values 1d - 5/-	£2000
1898 1d + 9d uprating 3d Registered cover to London	£240
1900 1/- Local Print on cover	£420
1898 3d London Print with offset	£260
1909 Printing and Stationery Dept. Parcel label franked 3 x 2d Official and 2 x 6d Official	£680

## **RECENT EVENTS IN NEW ZEALAND POSTAL SERVICES:**

### **FURTHER INFORMATION ON UNIVERSAL MAIL (NZ)**

#### **ROBIN M. STARTUP**

The Dominion newspaper in Wellington printed an update on Universal Mail (NZ) in its December 6, 2001 edition.

Universal Mail (NZ) has been licensed by National Mail to use its postboxes for overseas mail. Its stamps feature images of well-known New Zealand places. Also, it is encouraging companies to boost their profit profile by putting their own brand or logo on specially made stamps.

The first company, Kelly Tarlton's Antarctic Encounter and Underwater World, signed such a deal yesterday. About 20 companies were expected to arrange for their own stamps.

About 40 of National Mail's blue boxes in Wellington have re-opened.

By buying about 80 percent of National Mail, its former Managing Director, Paul Meier, has personally financed much of the new venture.

Mr. Meier said Universal Mail stamps featured images such as the Sky Tower, Beehive and Mitre Peak. "Conceptually, it's a very cool concept which will help a lot of tourist businesses in New Zealand."

The idea would promote New Zealand's tourist industry overseas, stop the tide of people drifting from postal mail to e-mail and encourage stamp collecting, he said.

The distinctive rectangular and round stamps, for postcards and letters, are bigger than other stamps and sell for \$1.50 and \$2.00, respectively.

Universal Mail registered as a postal operator with the Economic Development Ministry in August but removed itself from the register two months later when it entered into a private contractual international arrangement.

National Mail stopped trading as a postal operator last December after two years of losses totalling \$10.85 million.

Murray McBeth, the director of Pete's Post, which used to run a complementary mail service with National Mail, said he believed the new business was being unprofessional. Competitors needed to be notified so arrangements could be made if mail from one company was placed in another's postboxes, he said.

Mr. Meier said Universal Mail had such an arrangement with NZ Post. A similar arrangement would be set up with Pete's Post when the need arose. Unused boxes would eventually be taken off the streets, he said.

There were plans for Universal Mail branches overseas but Mr. Meier said he was keeping his plans secret till February.

As mentioned above, Pete's Post has an arrangement in place with NZ Post to deliver out of area mail. The cover illustrated in Figure 1 shows the consequence of this.

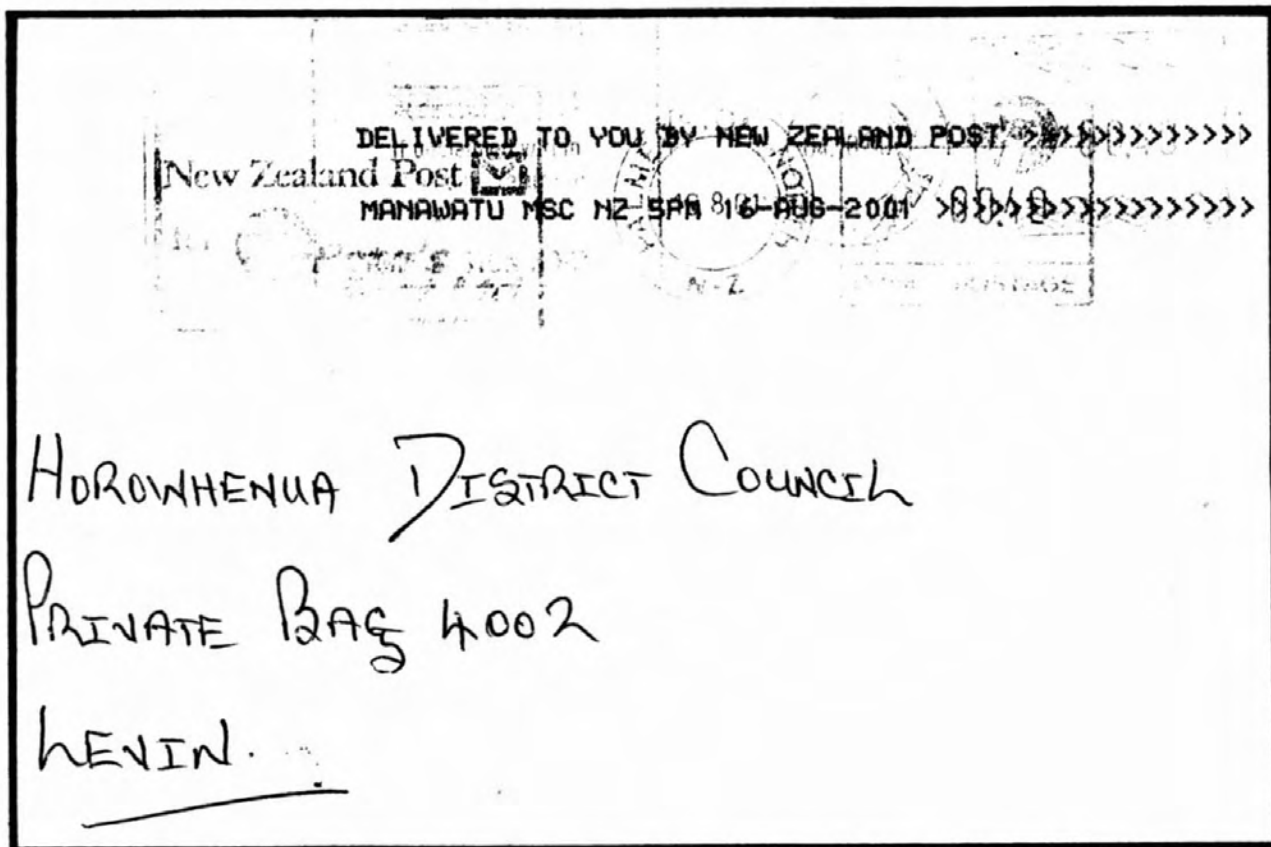


Figure 1

Pete's Post has the contract to handle Palmerston North city council mail. They run this through their own franking machine (the upper impression with wavy lines in the frank) and deliver it within the city using their own delivery staff. Where the letter is to be delivered outside their delivery area, such as this cover, addressed to Horowhenua District Council, Pete's Post must then run it through a NZ Post authorised franking machine (the lower impression) and lodge it with NZ Post - hence the Manawatu MSC inklet cancel and delivery by NZ Post.

### **RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS ARTICLES:**

#### **INFORMATION ON THE "PER LURLINE" MARKING**

**IAN CAMERON**

In response to Keith Collins request for further information about a cover bearing this strike (1), I am able to offer some information. "Lurline" was, in fact, a ship not a Shipping Line. Interestingly, ships belonging to the Matson Line traditionally had a name beginning with the letter "M". I am not sure of the origin of the name Lurline but wonder whether it might be first name of one of the Matson's Line founders or the first name of one of female family members.

The vessel was built in 1932 by Bethlehem S.B.Corp. Ltd. to the order of the Matson Navigation Co. for their passenger and cargo service between San Francisco and Honolulu. Her gross tonnage was about 18,500 tons and she was fitted with steam turbine engines producing a maximum speed of 19½ knots. I believe that the original passenger complement was about 700 and she had a cargo space for 211,000 cubic feet of which about 50,000 cubic feet was insulated.

The Lurline was one of three sister ships, the other two being "MONTEREY" and "MARIPOSA", these two were employed on a Trans Pacific service to Sydney, Australia, where they were marketed as "THE FLOATING HOTELS". They were handsome ships with their white hulls and yellow funnels with royal blue tops and the owners "M" painted on a blue circle on the yellow part.

Like most commercial vessels, "LURLINE" had a varied career. Briefly:

- 1942    Converted for War Service as a Troopship
- 1946    Refitted and Overhauled
- 1948    Re-commenced on the San Francisco - Honolulu Service
- 1963    Sold to Greek interests and re-named "ELLINIS". Passenger accommodation increased from 1854 to 1968.

I have no further information as to the fate of the ship.

LURLINE - Number 2: In 1963, Matson Shipping renamed her original sister ship "MONTEREY" as "LURLINE" to continue the inter-state service.

Reference:

Anon. "Report of Meeting held on July 28th, 2001". *The Kiwi* (2001). Vol. 50. No. 5. P. 94.

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## **THOUGHTS ON THE WWI FIELD AMBULANCE**

**ROBIN M. STARTUP**

The postcard illustrated in Bernard Atkinson's article (1) has been posted through the Rifle Brigade Field Post Office. The text, therefore, would not be MTD or MOUNTED FIELD AMBULANCE. In January 1916, there were three brigades, each with its own Field Ambulance in the New Zealand Division: NZ Mounted Brigade, NZ Infantry Brigade and NZ Rifle Brigade. Thus, the Field Ambulance most likely to be serving with the Rifle Brigade would have been 3 NZ Field Ambulance.

Unfortunately, the Unit using PASSED BY CENSOR 3816 has not been identified. The other puzzle is why this card should have been datestamped with the Field Ambulance internal unit stamp AFTER it had been accepted by the Field post office. The only thing I can think of is that the Field post office sorted the card for delivery to the Field Ambulance rather than it being included in the mails for the New Zealand Base Army Post Office.

Reference

1. Atkinson B. "World War I Field Ambulance". *The Kiwi* (2002). Vol. 51. No. 1. Pp. 18-19.

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## **MORE ON THE TEMPORARY POST OFFICE AT WAITANGI, BAY OF ISLANDS, FEBRUARY 1940**

**ALLAN P. BERRY**

Following the publication of my article on the temporary post office at Waitangi in *The Kiwi* (1), a further state of the datestamp can be reported. Robin Startup has a cover dated 6th February 1940 where the first 'T' of 'Waitangi' has been corrected by hand, the missing letter being written in.

Robin writes that these relief datestamps were made from flanged slugs, held in place by the screw-on circle of metal at the base of the handle. If a slug were fractionally lower within the



instrument, it would not make a clear impression and may not make an impression at all. Judging from the width of the slug and slot between the other characters it is most unlikely that the 'I' slug had fallen out.

Reference:

1. Berry AP. "The Temporary Post Office at Waitangi in 1940". *The Kiwi* (2002). Vol. 51. No. 1. Pp. 22-23.

## **ORIGINAL ARTICLES AND READERS QUERIES:**

### **WORLD WAR I TROOPSHIP MARKINGS: THE DIAMOND MYSTERY**

**GORDON DARGE**

Philately creates many mysteries for specialist collectors and conflicting clues lead one into many areas of conjecture. Philatelic items may not be jewels but there are certainly many gems amongst them, including the item discussed in this article.

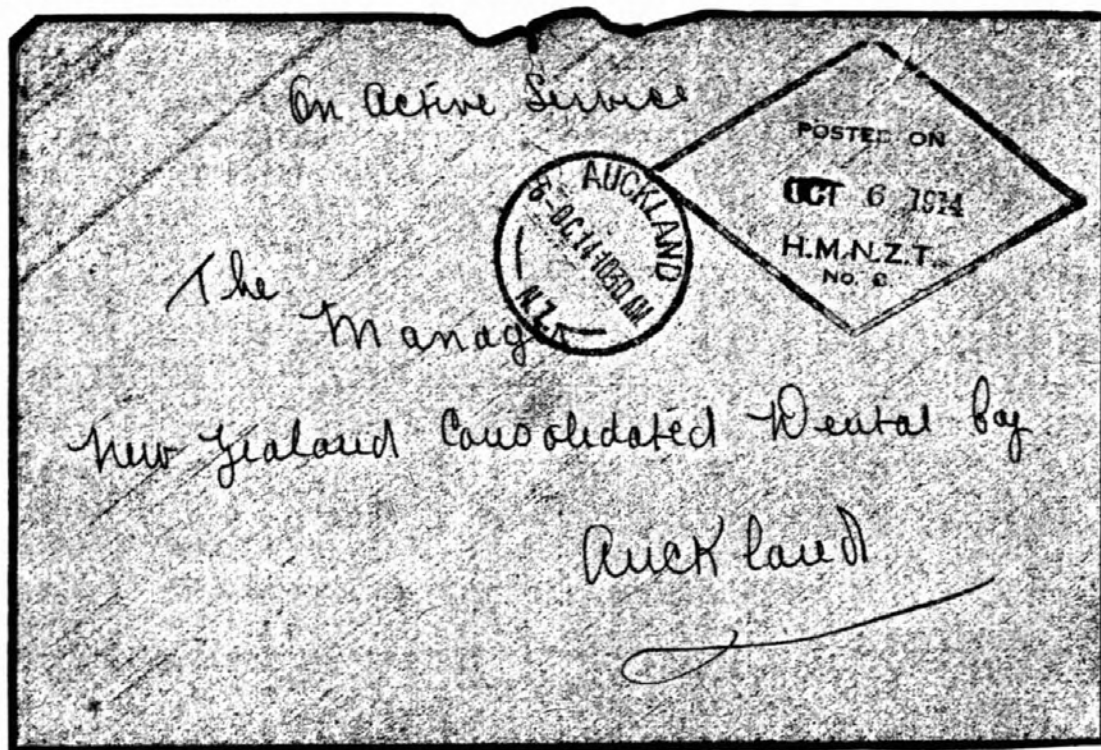


Figure 1. Cover at actual size.

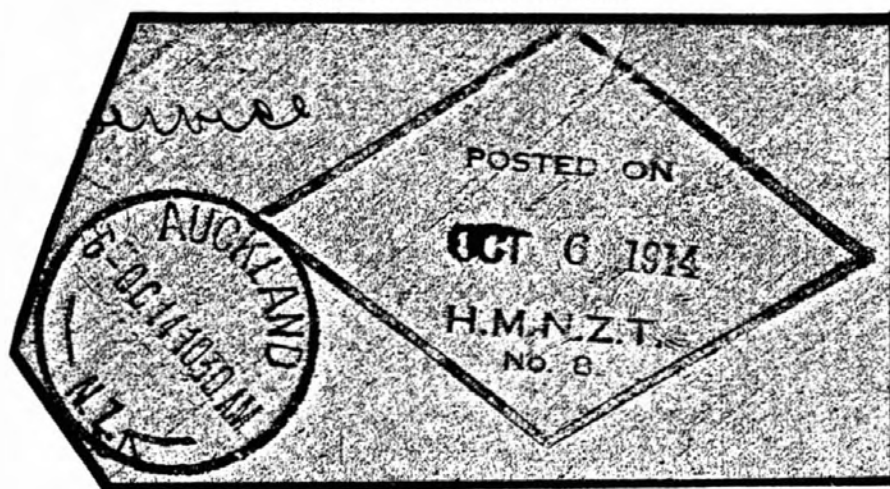


Figure 1a. Marking increased in size by 141%.



Towards the end of September, 1914, ten ships sailed from several New Zealand ports bound for Wellington with soldiers of the First Reinforcement. The fleet is usually referred to as the Main Body.

Two vessels left from Auckland (No. 8, *Star of India* and No. 12, *Waimana*), two from Lyttleton (No. 4, *Tahiti* and No. 11, *Athenic*) and two from Port Chalmers (No. 5, *Ruapehu* and No. 9, *Hawkes Bay*). They sailed to Wellington where they joined the remainder of the fleet (No. 3, *Maunganui*, No. 6, *Orari*, No. 7, *Limerick* and No. 10, *Arawa*).

All vessels were given identifying numbers. Rectangular rubber cancelling stamps were issued to all ten ships prior to departure. In addition, oval shaped rubber stamps were issued to the two ships departing from Auckland (No. 8 and No. 12).

As well as the rectangular and oval cancellers, a third shape was issued to two or, maybe, three ships: a diamond. The mystery that intrigues me concerns the issue and usage of this shaped postmark. The ships concerned are No. 5, the *Ruapehu* (a Port Chalmers ship, sometimes called *Ruapeha*), No. 8, the *Star of India* (an Auckland ship) and, possibly, No. 9, the *Hawkes Bay* (the second Port Chalmers ship).

The diamond cancellations are illustrated in three major works: *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* Volumes III and IV (1, 2) (Figs 2 & 3), *Startup and Proud New Zealand Military Postal History* (3) (Figs 4 & 5) and *Firebrace British Empire Campaigns in the Middle East* (4) (Figs 6 & 7).



Figure 1 (Handbook Vol. III)



Figure 2 (Handbook Vol. IV)



Figure 3 (Startup & Proud)



Figure 4 (Startup and Proud)



Figure 5 (Firebrace)



Figure 6 (Firebrace)

Unfortunately, as with most publications, no indication is given as to whether the illustration is taken from original material or from previous publications. However, observation of the illustrations raises interesting questions.

First, Troopship No. 5: the illustrations in the Handbook (Fig. 2) and Firebrace (Fig. 6) are very similar and may be the same mark. The strike illustrated in Proud and Startup (Fig. 4) is very different although it is very similar to the No. 8 markings shown in Figures 3 and 5. My reading would be that Fig. 4 is an adaptation of Figures 3 and 5.

Secondly, Troopship No. 8: the illustrations in the Handbook (Fig. 3) and Proud (Fig. 5) appear identical. I believe that Fig. 5 is either a copy of 3 or they are illustrations of the same strike. Firebrace's illustration (Fig. 7) is very different. It has the same date as the other two but is much neater and better "composed". It also bears the number "9". I would be very interested to know the source of this illustration.

From these illustrations, it is a tenable argument that only one strike of each marking has been used for the illustrations in these definitive publications: for H.M.N.Z.T. 5, Figs. 2 & 6 and for H.M.N.Z.T. 8, Figs 3 & 5. I would suggest that Figs. 4 & 7 are composites of these.

Firebrace was clearly troubled by the fact that this extremely rare cancellation was apparently used on two ships, one from Auckland and the other from Port Chalmers. It would clearly be logical that the canceller was produced in one place and issued to the ships departing from there. Further, one can understand that this should not have been Auckland as distinctive oval cancellers had already been provided for the two Auckland ships. His explanation (5) was:

"These datestamps, similar but not identical, are of an irregular diamond shape and were made locally at Port Chalmers. The datestamp for *Hawkes Bay* as illustrated in the "Postage Stamps of New Zealand" Vol. IV as Troopship No. 8 but it is thought that when drawn, No. 8 was a misreading of No. 9. The recorded dates are when the ships were at Wellington before the issue of the oblong and oval stamp and when this issue was made, the diamond types were withdrawn."

Although this is a neat explanation, it appears to be incorrect as the ships from Port Chalmers initially sailed on 22 September 1914 but returned to port to await an escort. I have been unable to ascertain the date on which the Port Chalmers ships finally sailed for Wellington but the whole fleet sailed on October 15 1914. It seems likely that the diamond cancellation for HMNZT No. 5, dated Oct 7 1914 was used whilst the ship was still at Port Chalmers. Whilst it would have been logical for just the two Port Chalmers ships (5 & 9) to have been issued with the diamond cancellation, my example raises a further major question about this explanation.

My cover not only clearly has 'H.M.N.Z.T. No. 8' on it but also a strike of the Auckland postmark dated 6-Oct. 14 10.30 a.m. This confirms that it most likely that it was the *Star of India* (No. 8) that carried the diamond cachet and not the *Hawkes Bay* (No. 9).

To summarise, the only published report of a diamond canceller for H.M.N.Z.T. No. 9 that I can find is by Firebrace. There is no dispute that one diamond canceller was issued to H.M.N.Z.T. No. 5, *Ruapehu*. I believe that the evidence strongly suggests that the second was issued to H.M.N.Z.T. No. 8, *Star of India*, an Auckland vessel. Events surrounding its issue are unknown but give rise to a number of interesting speculations.

One may postulate many possible convoluted reasons for the distribution of the cancellors. For example, the *Star of India* (Troopship No. 8) may have been in Port Chalmers when the diamond cachets were issued and was then ordered to Auckland. Meanwhile, *Hawke's Bay* (Troopship No. 9) may have arrived at Port Chalmers after the issue of the diamond cachet. Indeed, one can continue speculation until the cows come home for it may have been an error in the posting or the delivery of the diamond cachet. Maybe, it was despatched to the *Star of India* rather than the *Hawkes Bay*.

There is also an interesting question about its place of use. It is known that cancellors were taken from the ships to the shore camps when the troops were disembarked. Dated examples, although scarce prove their use whilst ashore. Could these have been used in the same way? Alternatively, both ships travelled a short distance prior to their recall and it may be that these cancellors were used during that journey. If so, few soldiers would have written letters during that short time and any mail left on board would probably have been cancelled with the cachet and passed on to the local office for delivery.

It has also been suggested that some of the rarer Troopship cancellations, for example the 'J' Class Hospital postmarks, were used exclusively by crew members. Although the evidence is, at best, suggestive, it is interesting to note that my cover is addressed to "The Manager, New Zealand Consolidated Dental Coy, Auckland". To my mind, this would suggest that the writer was either a dentist, and most likely an officer - maybe of the crew, or a dental technician seeking supplies, again, possibly a member of the crew. PURE CONJECTURE but, I believe, interesting, nonetheless.

Collectors are requested to examine any other examples of these covers although I am doubtful that many exist. I would certainly be most interested if any collector can solve this riddle.

References:

1. Ed. Collins RJG & Watts CW. "*The Postage stamps of New Zealand Vol. III*". Pub. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand (1955). P. 349.
2. Ed. Collins RJG & Watts CW. "*The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Vol IV*". Pub. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand (1964). P. 489.
3. Startup RM & Proud EB "*History of the New Zealand Military Postal Services 1845 - 1991*". Pub. Postal History Publishing Co., P.O.Box 74, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8PY (1992). ISBN 1 872465 625. P. 54.
4. Firebrace J. "*British Empire Campaigns and Occupations in the Near East, 1914 - 1924 A Postal History*". Pub. Christie's Robson Lowe (1991). ISBN 0 85397 439 X. P. 406.
5. Firebrace J. "*British Empire Campaigns and Occupations in the Near East, 1914 - 1924 A Postal History*". Pub. Christie's Robson Lowe (1991). ISBN 0 85397 439 X. P. 402.

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### A LITTLE BIT OF NEW ZEALAND IN DERBY?

BEVERLEY KING

Figure 1 shows an illustration taken from the 1995 Edition of the AA Road Atlas of Great Britain, mapped at 4 inches to the mile. On the west of the city, near the A52 is an area called "New Zealand". Despite considerable efforts, I have been unable to locate this area. Interestingly, the 2001 AA Street by Street map of Derby, 3.6 inches to the mile has a New Zealand Square in this area but no indication of any wider application of the name. Can anyone help?

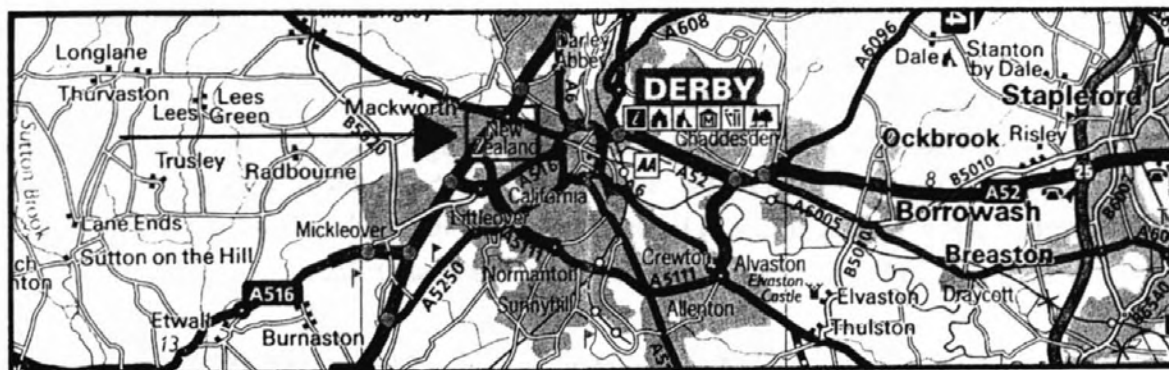


Figure 1



## A MAJOR NEW POSTAL HISTORY DISCOVERY

JOHN WATTS

The cover illustrated in Figure 1 was discovered recently in a dealers stock in England. It was described as a Takapuna cover.

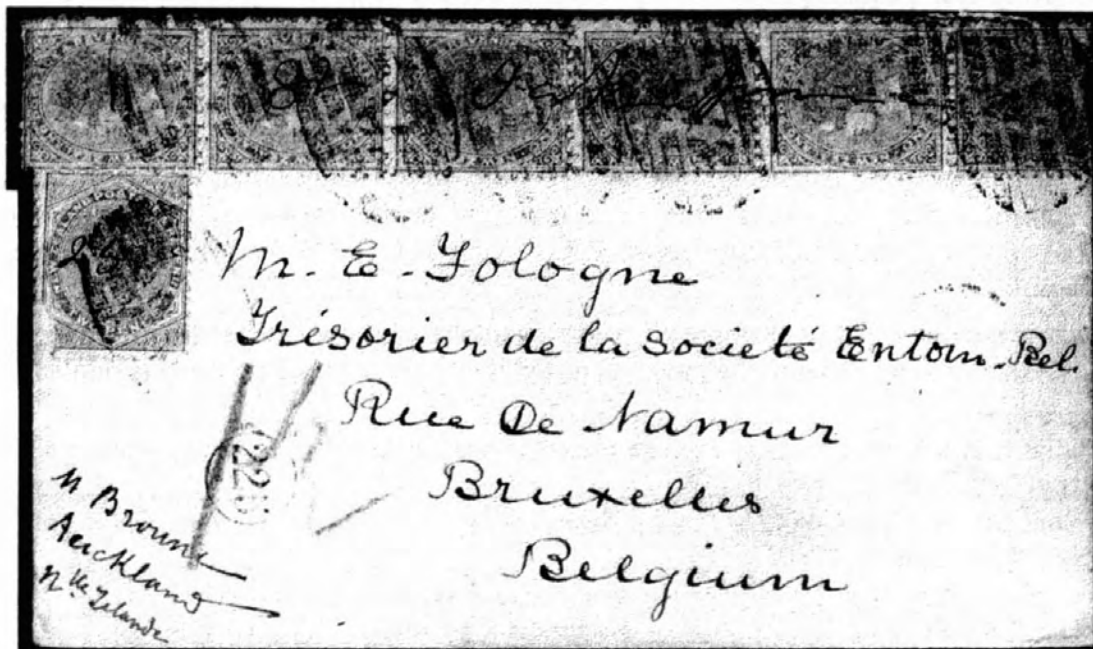


Figure 1: The Takapuna cover

The first Post Office to serve this area was opened on 1.1.1867 as Takapuna (1), it was also known as Takapuna Lake, which fitted in with one of the three districts formed on the Auckland north shore in 1866:

1. Flagstaff (now Devonport)
2. Lake (now Takapuna)
3. North Shore (now an area of Northcote & Birkenhead)

This Post Office was closed in 1868 and it was not until 1 September 1880 that a second Post Office was opened to serve the area called Lake Takapuna.

On 1 July 1882 a telephone office was added to handle telegrams and, at this time, the name reverted to Takapuna.

To date, the earliest recorded Takapuna cancellation is an 'A' class dated 15.8.1894. However, this new discovery has a manuscript marking dated 15.11.82. The stamps have been cancelled with the Auckland large 'A' obliterator and the cover has been stamped with an Auckland 'A' class datestamp 25 NOV 82.

The cover is addressed to Belgium and the postage of eightpence, paid by six 1d and one 2d 2nd Sideface stamps, is the correct rate for ½d to Europe via Suez and Southampton.

This important postal history find will be on view at Len Jury Ltd. at Northpex 2002.

Many thanks to Robin Startup for information about the Post Offices.

### Reference:

1. Startup RM "New Zealand Post Offices". Pub. Postal History Society of New Zealand (1993). ISBN 0-908588-42-9. P. 226.



## A NEW ZEALAND POST PERSONAL UPDATING SERVICE?

BOB BROWN

In the early 1980's, I decided to expand my NZ collection to include the decimal issues. I became interested in the period shortly after decimalization when the airmail rate to the U.K. was fixed at 28c. This odd figure arose because of the reciprocal devaluation of the NZ\$ with the £sterling devaluation in late 1967 ("the pound in your pocket ..."etc.).

At decimalization in July 1967, the standard rate for an airmail letter to the UK of up to half an ounce was 2/3. This was converted to 22c, which was then increased to 28c. in December. Heavier letters were assessed at multiples of 28c. Since there was no definitive valued at 28c. issued until July 1968, there are many colourful combination frankings to be found on covers. Amongst them are the many First Day Covers sent to UK collectors during this period and, later, up to October 1971 when the rate was cut to 23c. Many covers, particularly philatelic material, bear multiple frankings with stamps that were left uncanceled after going through a machine canceller. These were quite often picked up on further sorting before despatch and cancelled by handstamp.



Figure 1

The cover shown in Figure 1, posted in 1971, illustrates this additional cancellation. The machine cancel was applied at Otaki on 20 April 1971. The uncanceled stamps to the left were later cancelled by a "Wellington FMB" cds of 23 April 1971.

However, there were one or two covers in my collection which baffled me as the additional handstamp appeared to have been applied later than normal sorting would indicate was usual.

The cover in Figure 2 comes into this category. Although the 10c was cancelled by Christchurch slogan dated 2 May 1969, the 18c of the contemporary Law Society Centenary commemorative issue, was cancelled by a Christchurch cds as late as 6 May 1969 to uprate the letter to 28c. Moreover, the cover bore a "Second Class Air Mail" handstamp on the front, plus a circular sticker on the unsealed rear flap stating "Not a Letter Rate Item/Lift to Inspect/G.P.O. Authority P.O.S.1". A check of contemporary airmail rates show that the second class rate was 10c. So, how was this cover uprated and how did the sender pay for the uprating?



Figure 2

The cover shown in Figure 3 that I recently found in a local postcard shop seems to provide a possible answer. Although I had already decided to stop adding 28c covers to my collection, the "Greetings from Kiwi-Land" and to "Pommie-Land" amused me and it was only 50p! When I got home and examined it, the other endorsements provoked more interest, however...

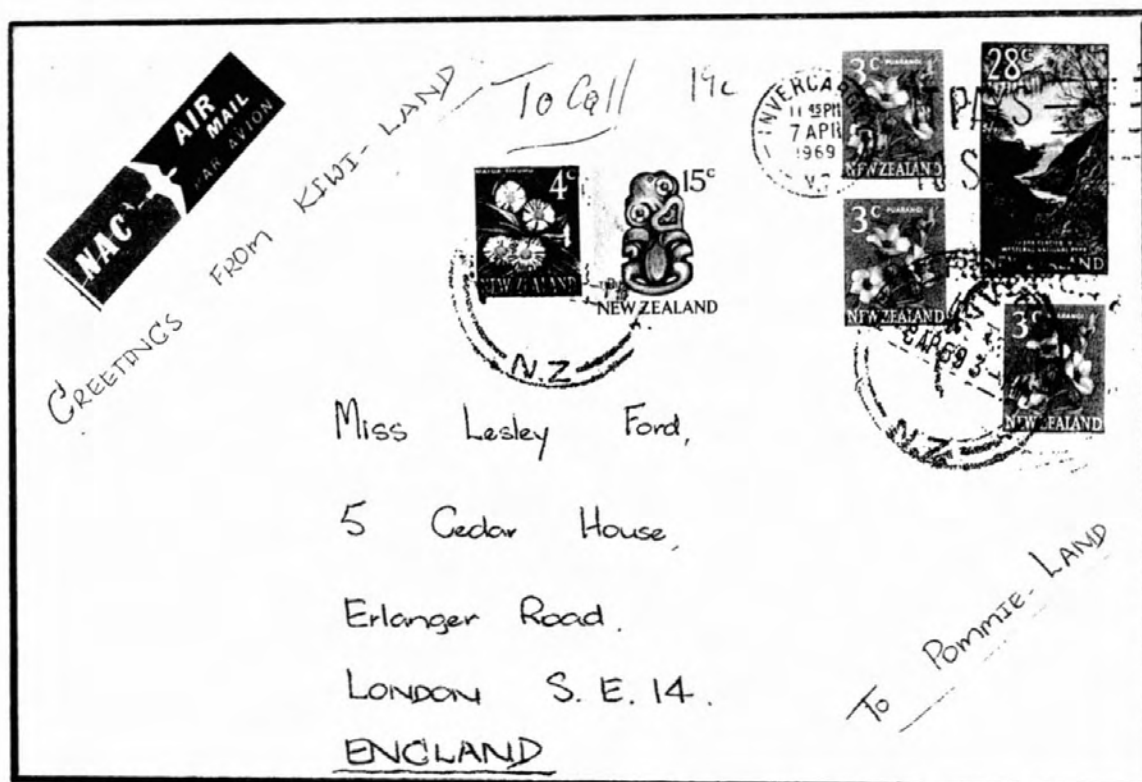


Figure 3 (Reduced in size to 80% of actual)

For a start, the cover bore four cancellations on the front and, unusually, a UK arrival machine cancel on the reverse. The Invercargill slogan is clearly dated 7 April 1969 and ties the 28c and two of the three 3c definitives. The third 3c has a partial Invercargill cds which is blurred but appears also to be dated April 7 1969. In contrast, the 4c and 15c to the centre of the cover, totalling 19c, appear to carry an Invercargill cds of 8 April 1969, which is also applied over the incomplete cancel to the lower 3c at right. At top, in biro, is annotated "19c" with a note in similar writing "To Call", underlined. In similar writing, on the back of the envelope, a number "66460" has been written alongside the senders address in Invercargill. The 19c, together with the 37c franking gives a total of 56c (double-weight 28c).

It is, thus, possible to postulate the following sequence of events:

The letter was originally posted in Invercargill with 37c postage and was machine cancelled. Whilst a follow up to handstamp the uncanceled 3c is undertaken, the envelope is weighed and found to be over the half ounce allowed, and thus liable for 56c to be sent via airmail as the NAC sticker requests. Rather than charge for "Postage Due" in the UK, the postal employee takes advantage of the senders address supplied on the back by consulting the telephone directory and calling the sender. She agrees to meet the cost of uprating the cover by payment of an additional 19c and, presumably on April 8, calls in to pay for the additional franking. The cover is then sent on (probably to Christchurch) and arrives in the UK on April 14.

This could be verified if someone has a contemporary Phone Directory of Invercargill or if somebody could confirm that 66460 would be an appropriate number for an internal call in the town. If so, it would be a remarkable illustration of a post office procedure which provided a personal service to customers to avoid the possible cost of "Postage Due" to met in the UK or to being delayed by being downgraded to sea mail.

This does not, however, meet the circumstances of the cover in Figure 2 which bears no senders address. However, since the letter was unsealed, it may be that the Post Office employee simply opened the envelope and contacted the sender using information from the enclosed contents.

Have any members similar covers to add to my theorisings?

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### CANCELLATION ON A CHALON

TONY STEPHENS



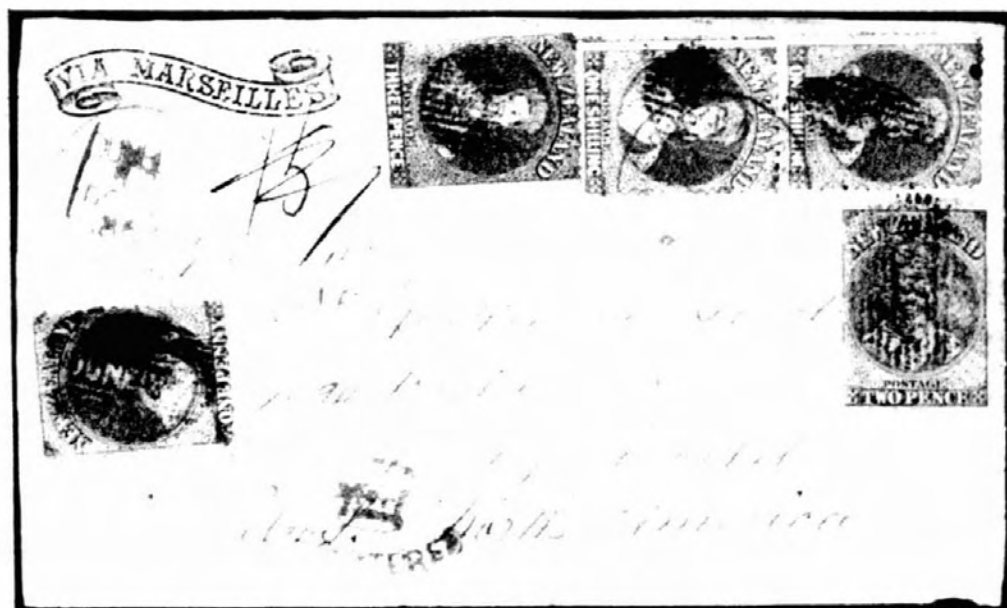
Figure 1

Illustrated in Figure 1 is a 2d Chalon, Davies Print of 1862 - 1864. It is cancelled "3/ al". Can anybody tell me whether this is a manuscript cancellation showing correct postal usage or a fiscal cancellation?

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