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# THE KIWI



THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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WHOLE NUMBER 323

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> 2007 AT THE  
UNION JACK CLUB, SANDELL STREET, LONDON STARTING AT 11.00

THE SUBJECT IS 'CHRISTMAS'

FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE PAGE 46 OF THIS ISSUE OF *THE KIWI*

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

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

**Honorary General Secretary:**

Keith C. Collins 13, Briton Crescent,  
Sanderstead, Surrey, CR2 0JN,  
☎ 0208 - 657 - 4566

**Honorary Packet Secretary:**

B. T. Atkinson, 77, Wood Lane,  
Osterley, Middlesex, TW7 5EG  
☎ 0208 - 560 - 6119

**Honorary Treasurer:**

E.W. Leppard, 68, Chestnut Grove,  
Balham, London, SW12 8JJ  
☎ 0208 - 673 - 4710

**Honorary Editor:**

Andrew Dove, 12, Stella Avenue,  
Tollerton, Notts NG12 4EX  
☎ 0115 - 937 - 3762  
e-mail: DDOVEAF@AOL.COM

Internet Address: <http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~rgc/nzsgb>

**ENCLOSURES:**

With this issue of *The Kiwi* there are two enclosures:

- ❖ The postal auction catalogue for the disposal of excess material from the Society library
- ❖ An advertising leaflet from Auckland City Stamps

If either is missing, please contact the Hon. Secretary.

**SOCIETY NEWS:**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**New Members:**

A. Templeton, Gloucestershire,  
S. Tomlinson, Lincolnshire

**Deceased:**

Bernard Symonds

**NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY**

The next meeting of the Society will be held at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, on Saturday, May 26th, 2007. David Stalker will entertain with a display on 'Christmas'.

The meeting will start at 11 a.m. The display will cover all aspects of the stamps, labels etc. and will take the whole meeting (with a short break for lunch).

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHERN REGIONAL GROUP**

The next meeting of the Northern Regional Group will be held at St. Luke's Church, Orrell at 13.30 on Saturday May 13th, 2007.

This will be a members meeting with the theme of the 1900's or 2000's. You are invited to bring along any material coming from those periods. If you cannot find anything from these decades, bring along material from any period of your choice.

**EARLY NOTIFICATIONS OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY**

**2008 PHILATELIC WEEKEND**

The 2008 Philatelic Weekend which was mentioned in the last issue of *The Kiwi* will be held in Torquay between **September 26 and 28th, 2008.**

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## JOINT MEETING OF THE NORTHERN AND SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUPS

A joint meeting of the Northern and Scottish Regional Groups will be held in Carlisle on October 13th, 2007. Further details will be published in *The Kiwi*.

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## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Society publications are now available:

SP 1: *Aspects of Collecting New Zealand Stamps*.

SP 2: *Index to The Kiwi Volumes 1 to 50*. Printed and CD Version.

SP 3: *The Kiwi Volumes 1 - 50*. Full text on CD

Price: SP 1: £10 inc. P. & P.

SP 2 & SP 3, £30 in UK and £35 overseas airmail inc. P. & P. (Society members will receive a 40% discount)

Payment accepted in NZ\$, US\$ or £St. All orders to:

New Zealand Society of Great Britain  
9, Ashley Drive,  
Walton-on Thames,  
Surrey KT12 1JL

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD IN LONDON ON MARCH 31ST, 2007.

The Chairman opened the members discussion at 11.00 a.m. by reporting the very sad news of Bernard Symonds' recent death. The Society was represented at the funeral and he had written to Pam Symonds. He then reported that the Library would re-open on April 14th in its new home (see details on page 63 of this *Kiwi*) and that he would seek the Committee's agreement to accept Michael Wilkinson's offer to undertake the role of Library Liaison Officer.

**Derek Diamond** commenced the discussion by showing a photograph of an original (and probably unique) Dickie coil sent to him by John Watts for inclusion in the forthcoming book on the First Pictorial Issue. No agreement was reached on how the coil joins were made and if anyone has an example of a coil join on the halfpenny Mount Cook green stamps with the two vertical black lines, Derek Diamond would be most grateful for a picture of it. He then displayed 2 items to an overseas destination posted in 1909 with meter marks and then stamped with adhesives cancelled F.M.B. (Foreign Mail Branch). A third example with King Edward VII adhesives was however cancelled with a rectangular box of bars with Auckland written in the middle of the box. His question was: is this an exception or had official practice altered around 1910. He concluded with an example of the Post Office Postal Stationery envelopes impressed with designs from the First Pictorial issue. One used example of the One Penny envelope did not fit the size recorded by Robert Samuel in his Postal Stationery catalogue and confirmed in Volume IX of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Handbook. No explanation was forthcoming.

**Ernie Leppard** (back after an enforced absence due to illness and very warmly welcomed) showed his 1949 - 53 Royal Visits material. This collection of essays and proofs of these stamps, which were never issued since the visits of King George VI never took place, is unquestionably unique and Ernie donated to the Society Archive a colour copy replica of the display. Anyone wishing to examine these items should contact the Hon. Secretary.



**Don Scregg** described his recent visit to Tonga and showed examples of the unrecorded overprints. He explained why they were made and that the Postmaster had been dismissed after their existence became widely known. It was widely felt that this current example of entrepreneurial activity by a Postmaster most likely had predecessors in the history of philately which had gone undetected and, therefore, unrecorded.

**Paul Wreglesworth** concluded the session with early (1880) and recent (2006) examples of A.R. mail.

The afternoon was taking up with the 12 sheet competition which was judged by those present. The results were:

	<b>Name of Winner</b>	<b>Title of Entry</b>	<b>Award</b>
<b>Classic Section:</b>			
Winner	Ernie Leppard	½d Mount Cook	Kiwi Shield
Runner Up	Derek Diamond	1st Pictorials used for Fiscal Purposes	Certificate
<b>Moderns 1 Section</b>			
Winner	Philip Hoare	4d Mitre Peak, 2nd Pictorials	Stacey Hooker Cup
Runner Up	Ernie Leppard	1d Universal 1906 Royle Plate	Certificate
<b>Moderns 2 Section</b>			
Winner	Paul Wreglesworth	1960 1d Karaka	David Forty Salver
Runner Up	Don Scregg	1967 3c Puarangi	Certificate
<b>Open Class</b>			
No entries in this class			
<b>Postal History Class</b>			
Winner	Paul Wreglesworth	Postal Usage of the ½d Second Sideface	Barton Bowl
Runner Up	Don Scregg	The Dunedin Exhibition	Certificate

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### **NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN REGIONAL GROUP HELD ON FEBRUARY 17TH, 2007**

There were 9 members present with apologies from one more. First, we congratulated Don Scregg on his success at Kiwipex.

The members then showed as follows:

**Mike Hanson** showed some recent acquisitions: a Dunedin Exhibition Postal Stationary cover, a Health Cover, Railway Newspaper stamps, 1906 Railway stamp proofs, Patriotic covers and a 1920 6d Victory stamp on cover. Next was a study of the 1d Dominion which included flaws, flaws on cover, booklet stamps on and off cover – including a block of 4 with a ‘BIG TREE’ advertisement.

**Stuart Potter** showed Air Mails starting with a cover to New Zealand via the Hong Kong route which was dated 21 – 4 – 37. This was followed by a study of the flight on 2 JAN 1938. The study contained numerous different illustrated Pan Am covers with examples of both the red and purple cachets and included one example with cachets in both colours. Next was a study of the 30th Anniversary of the first Kingsford Smith flight in 1958 including stamps and numerous illustrated covers. This display finished with a study of the 1953 London – Christchurch Air Race, again with numerous different illustrated covers.

**Paul Wreglesworth** started his display with two covers from the John Woolfe collection, one with a MARINE RPO cancellation which had been posted on the S.S. City of Sydney and a wreck cover with a cachet reading DAMAGED BY IMMERSION IN SEA WATER. These were followed by a range of instructional markings from between 1896 and 1997. These included Avis de Reception (A.R.), irregularly posted covers, compulsorily Registered mail and Found Open and Officially Sealed labels on cover.

**Tony James** displayed a study of the 1970 4c Butterfly stamp showing the different papers, counter coils, errors, colour shifts and missing colours. He followed this with examples of the 20c value with a colour shift and 50c with missing colours.

**John Atkinson** gave the meeting details of the history of each ship that had been featured on the Historical Sailing Ships set of 1975.

**Don Scregg** started with his most recent acquisitions; a registered letter sent from the 1907 Christchurch Exhibition which was franked with 3 x ½d, 1 x 1d and 1 x 3d Exhibition stamps, an example of the No. 7 label on the reverse of a cover, Season Tickets for the Exhibition and a 6d stamp from the commemorative set used on a postcard. Afterwards, he entertained those present with a study of the 1960's Pictorials which included errors, mis-perforations, imperforate blocks, colour shifts, doctor blade flaws and unauthorised coils from Te Aro Post Office. He finished with an attempted reconstruction of the adverts from the 2½d Second Sideface and labels from New Zealand Railways showing various towns.

**Jack Lindley** gave the last display which was on the subject of Railways. This included stamps issued showing trains, railway newspaper stamps and railway charge stamps. Next were covers and postcards showing a wide range of RTPO from both the North and South Island. Lastly were stamps and covers with LOOSE LETTER cancellations and labels from the N.Z.R. Road Service. This was another fascinating meeting with a great variety of material. The meeting closed at 16.20.

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#### **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL GROUP HELD IN TAUNTON ON MARCH 31st, 2007.**

Chairman Evan Williams opened the meeting at 13.35 and welcomed Andrew and Rosemary Dove. He expressed his embarrassment and apologised for the poor attendance. There were only 4 members present (Messrs. Williams, North, Painter and Hunt). Apologies had been received from Russell Spence.

The writer was overwhelmed by the 192 sheets on display from Andrew Dove's Gold Medal collection of King George V material. This showed virtually everything and anything relating to the stamps of this reign. Early designs by H. Linley Richardson, die proofs, colour trials, papers, complex perforations, faults, shades, perfins, air mails, rare covers and much, much more.

This was a display to be savoured, which, rest assured, it was. Paul North gave a vote of thanks to Andrew for coming all the way from Nottingham and joined with the chairman in apologising for such a poor attendance. Thanks to Shirley North for the refreshments. The meeting closed at 15.50.

## THE ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION

A reminder that the Society Auction will be held at the November meeting of the Society. Full instructions for those wishing to enter lots will be published in the next issue of *The Kiwi*. There will be a limit on the number of lots that will be accepted.

The auction list will again be compiled by the Hon. Editor of *The Kiwi* and if anybody has already identified material that they wish to sell, he would be pleased to receive details as soon as possible.

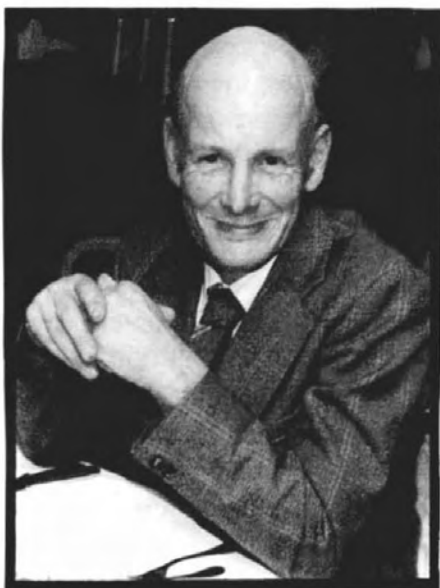
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### OBITUARY

#### BERNARD SYMONDS

1930 – 2007

JOS GREGSON



Bernard Symonds (1930 – 2007)

Bernard was born in Oxford in 1930 and educated at Radley College where he was a keen beagler and looked after the pack during the War. He was active in the Cadet Training Corps and after school did National Service serving in the 17<sup>TH</sup>/21<sup>ST</sup> Lancers. This gave him a lifelong fondness for all things military and he made serious studies of the life of the 'common soldier' in his Regiment. He was particularly moved by the appalling fate of the horses. Bernard's father, Colonel Ralph Symonds, was in the Oxford and Bucks Regiment and encouraged his interest in military life.

After National Service, Bernard went up to Christ Church College Oxford to read Agriculture. He soon decided that it was too academic for him and so left to attend the Royal Agriculture College (Cirencester) where he enjoyed happy student days.

Bernard met his wife Pam at a Vicarage at Northmoor in Oxford playing tennis. They were married in 1952 and he started work as a humble farm worker to make ends meet. Later, he was recommended for an agricultural managerial position in the Cotswolds and followed this by spending time working on an estate in Berkshire. With this practical experience behind him, he struck out on his own first buying a derelict farm in Hampshire which he improved before moving up to the Midlands. His first farm in Warwickshire was at Church Lawford where he kept a very large and successful herd of pigs and was one of early pioneers in supplying Walls.

After 13 years and with the children reaching 'college days' Bernard decided to scale down and, planning ahead, bought an all grass farm to move to an easier life tending beef cattle. Daughters Sarah and Liz, who were young ladies now, insisted it must not be too far away from Church Lawford so he bought Snowford Hill Farm. This is where he passed the rest of his farming life and where Pam is still looking forward to an active continuation of her horse establishment. Bernard was always an active supporter of her career with horses.

Bernard loved the freedom of the countryside and could never have been a city gent. He loved his cattle and looked after them with a professional and thorough approach. During the War, he had his first taste of the outdoor life as a child in Oxford by helping on a small farm up the road where there were cows and chickens. His taste for escaping had already started! His training in agriculture kindled a taste for innovation and he never flinched from being a guinea pig and trying something new. He had a very busy mind and was always looking for new ways of doing things and was willing to experiment.



Bernard was a workers 'worker'. He loved to use his hands and never stood on ceremony. He deplored ostentation and was the least vain man that you could imagine. He hated dressing up and never looked in a mirror. He loved to chat and always enjoyed a pint in good company. This lack of conventionality was remarkable as he came from a very cultured background – his father, the son of five generations of surgeons and his mother, the daughter of the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford – a true marriage of 'town and gown'.

His lifelong hobby of philately took over in his later years and provided a labour of love and many hours of pleasurable work. Bernard formed numerous very specialised collections including the Postal History of Rugby (the town) and also a serious thematic collection on Rugby Football. However, his major collecting interest was in the stamps of New Zealand where he put together several major collections, including one of New Zealand Booklets that he rated the best in the UK and one of the best in the world. I would not disagree with him.

We first met in 1971 at a stamp fair in Birmingham and have remained friends ever since. Bernard liked to have time off for good behaviour from his farming and his idea of this was for a total change of pace, often helping us on our stands at both National and International exhibitions in Great Britain. His wide knowledge of philately in general and his ability to chat to anyone from a Lord to a dustman were a tremendous asset to us. When I rang Derek Diamond to tell him of Bernard's death, he said instantly 'Don't forget to make sure that everyone knows how hard he worked to set up the Midland Group of the Society'.

He was fascinated by family history and pedigree and was an avid researcher. He possessed a very extensive collection of family portraits and early photographs. The family history that he put together makes fascinating reading. This was all done long before the craze of 'using the net'. He had, above all, respect for his forebears and instilled in his family the importance of knowing where you have come from. When you went in to the hallway of Bernard and Pam's house you were surrounded with early photographs and paintings and he always knew the exact relationships of the subjects to each other and to his own generation.

On the farm, he loved to see the success of his daughters Sarah and Liz when they went out to compete at both show jumping and eventing. He always attended the closer venues and walked the cross-country courses. He did at one stage threaten to take up course building seriously but settled for building several courses for the Pony Club camp which were always inviting and attractive to look at. He also welcomed the Pony Club to their annual camp in the farm buildings and to ride in the fields and was always there for the presentation of awards.

He was a loyal helper to the Irish Draught Society, always with Pam on their Society stands at the shows and generous with his time and sponsorship.

His heart problem was only found by accident in his 60's when he had a bout of pneumonia and was scanned. Apparently, a leaky heart valve of long standing came to light, probably caused by a spell of rheumatic fever as a child. He was successfully operated on and had 12 years of active life, only fading this last year, when it became apparent that the valve had had its shelf life and could no longer be repaired. Just after the original operation, Bernard had some problems with leakage at the source of the original replacement and once when he was working for us in a hotel in London, he passed out and crashed to the floor. On the next stand to ours was working the very attractive Norwegian wife of a fellow stamp dealer who had some nursing training and who ran across and successfully brought him around. I must say that Bernard came to with a very big smile on his face! I reminded him of this episode two days before he died and he just said 'That's our little secret' but I think that he would forgive me for passing it on now.

He had a wide range of interests which included:

- He avidly followed Grand Prix racing

- He had a boat moored on the Hamble for two years and never went downstream but always down to the sea. He had made plans to take a boating holiday in Ireland on the West Coast to experience sea fishing.
- He was fascinated by canal boat travelling and people. He had friends who lived on boats both in this country and on the continent.
- He closely followed Rugby Union, where his grandson, James, is a professional for the Newcastle Falcons.

The Society will remember Bernard for his regular attendance at meetings, his wide knowledge and for his willingness to put on a display at the drop of a hat from his many varied specialised collections. His contributions to the Committee and the running of the Society will be greatly missed.

**If you:**

*Need a new challenge*

*Have decided for any reason that you are not getting the satisfaction from your New Zealand stamp collection that you used to and would like to try a new subject/issue*

- *Would like a valuation on your collection carried out by experienced staff from the worlds leading New Zealand dealers*
- *Simply need some good advice about what to do next with your collection*

Then contact us for a confidential chat and – if appropriate – a free valuation and offer.

Remember that our advice is free, draws on a wealth of experience and is given with the confident knowledge of the New Zealand market over the past 60 years as it stands at present.

For a friendly discussion, simply phone Derek Redshaw, 76 Hermitage Road, St Johns, Woking, Surrey ☎01483 833 147 or Warwick Paterson in Auckland, ☎ (toll free) 0500 893 975.

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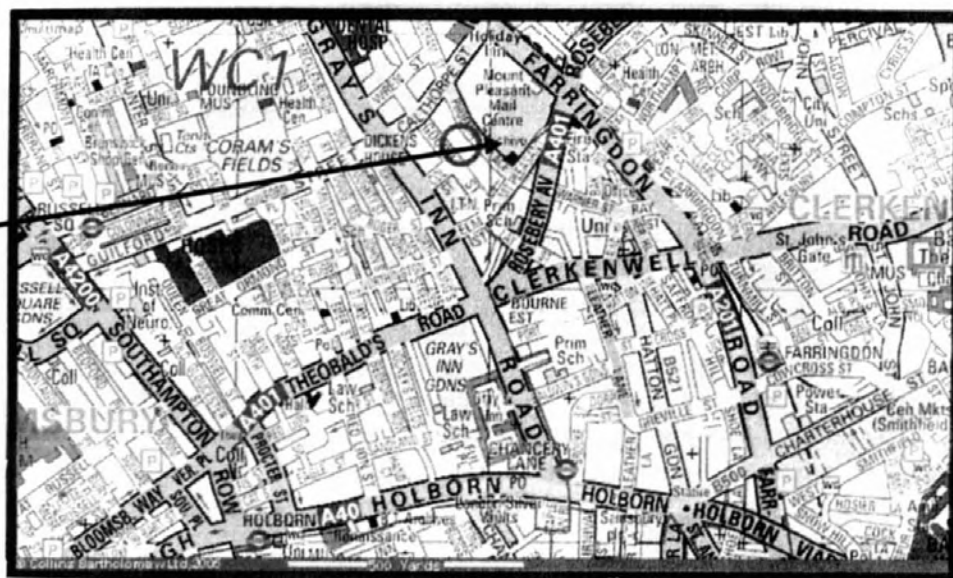
#### **THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY LIBRARY AT THE NATIONAL PHILATELIC LIBRARY**

Members will be aware that the Committee has agreed to the transfer of the Library to the National Philatelic Society (NPS) on permanent loan. This has now been completed and the NPS Library has been relocated from its previous home in Charterhouse Street to a new location in Freeling House which also houses the British Postal Museum, Archive and Library (BPMA). The Library re-opens on Saturday April 17th, 2007.

The library is housed at Freeling House, Phoenix Place London WC1X 0DL and is part of the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office Complex, the location is shown in the map below:



National Philatelic  
Society Library



### **Finding the Library:**

It is accessible by public transport as follows:

**Tube and Train:** Nearby Underground stations are: Farringdon (10 mins. walk), King's Cross St Pancras (15 mins. walk), Chancery Lane (10 mins. walk), Angel (15 mins. walk), Russell Square (15 mins. walk)

**Bus:** Routes 17, 45 and 46 go to Gray's Inn Road; Routes 19, 38 and 341 go to Roseberry Ave; Routes 55 and 243 go to Clerkenwell Road; Route 63 goes to Farringdon Road.

**Car:** NPSL is within the Congestion Charge Zone (applies Mon. – Fri). There are NCP car parks at Bowling Green Lane, Hatton Garden and Saffron Garden (all in the Congestion Charge Zone). Anybody with a disabled parking permit can park in the resident's parking spaces opposite Freeling House.

### **Opening Times:**

Opening times are Monday to Friday during BPMA opening times of 10.00 and 17.00 with late night opening until 19.00 on Thursdays. The Library will also be open for 6 Saturdays whilst the National Philatelic Society is meeting: for 2007, the dates are 14 April, 9 June, 11 August, 13 October and 8 December. The Library is closed on all public holidays and for two weeks during December for the annual stocktaking and on some other dates throughout the year for school and other group visits. Members are advised to visit the NPS Society website or telephone prior to visiting. It is recommended that members wishing to borrow or return material held behind the scenes should arrive during the core times of 11.00 and 15.00 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

### **Accessing the Library:**

The Members of the New Zealand Society are entitled to use all the facilities of the Library on the same basis as members of the NPS. They must identify themselves by showing the current Society programme card in order to gain access. You will then be treated in the same way as members of The National Philatelic Society.

### **Facilities available:**

The Search Room is well equipped to assist users to undertake research as effectively as possible. There are paper and computer catalogues, comfortable chairs and reading desks with lights and magnifiers as well as power points for personal laptop computers. Food may be consumed in the Reception Area and there are plenty of places to eat close by. Guide dogs are permitted in the Search Room.

### **Before your visit:**

You do not need to make an appointment to see Library material that is held on site. However, as with any library, it is always a good idea to contact us before your visit to either reserve records

in readiness for your arrival or to find out if we have material that will be helpful to you. It will also ensure that you make the best use of your time if you can plan in advance as non-Great Britain related holdings are either held behind the scenes or stored off site and require retrieval.

**On Arrival:**

Deposit coats and bags in the free locker within the Reception Area and retain the key. Ring the bell at Reception to gain entry, show your annual programme card as proof of entitlement to entry, and then sign in at the register located on the counter. You can then access the NPSL holdings unaided or ask the staff for material that is held behind the scenes.

**User Card:**

If you want to use the British Postal Museum and Archive material or bring into the search room a camera or laptop computer, a User Card will be necessary. This can be issued immediately on completion of a simple form so long as two forms of identification are provided. These should include something with your address (such as a recent utility bill) and something with your signature (such as driving licence or credit card).

**Writing Implements in the Search Room:**

Only pencils may be used in the Search Room. This is to protect the valuable records available. There are usually pencils in the pot at Reception that may be borrowed but we would recommend that you bring your own.

**Copying Facilities:**

BPMA has photocopying facilities and self-service microfilm printers. These facilities are available to NPS members at BPMA prices. Black and white photocopies of BPMA records can be made at a privileged price but only when BPMA staff are available.

Users may take copies of NPSL documents using their own equipment (film, digital cameras or camcorders) in the Search Room, providing that they register with the BPMA as a camera user. You must sign a copyright declaration after you have read the Photography Policy at the Reception Desk. Use of flash or tripods is **NOT** permitted. **Copyright regulations will always be respected.**

**Suggestions:**

Any suggestions for improvements in the Library holdings or the services provided should be sent to the Library Liaison Officer, care of the Hon. Secretary.

**Contact the Library:**

The Library may be contacted on Telephone No. 020 7239 2571. The NPS Website address is [www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps](http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps). E-mail address: [nps@ukphilately.org.uk](mailto:nps@ukphilately.org.uk).

**INFORMATION RECEIVED:**

**FORTHCOMING AUCTIONS**

**SIR GAWAIN BAILEY'S REMAINDER SALE**

Following the spectacular series of auctions of Sir Gawain Bailey's stamp collection, Sotheby's have announced one further addition to the series entitled 'Missed Opportunities'. A significant amount of the money raised will go to King's College Hospital in London to allow the creation of a new Unit to develop the technique of living donor liver transplants.

On May 2nd and 3rd, 2007, all unsold lots from the previous auctions will be sold without reserve at their London Salerooms. The New Zealand section of the sale will start Session 3 of the sale at 10.00 on May 3rd.

There are a total of 216 lots of New Zealand material. Looking through the catalogue, it is interesting to confirm the impression from the initial sale of New Zealand that stamps sold much

better than proofs etc. From the total of 216 remainder lots, only 38 are of stamps and the rest are proofs and essays with many of the lots of James Berry's artwork included. Most of the stamps are from the later definitive issues.

I am not sure how many lots you are likely to pick for £1 (the minimum bid) but this certainly offers an opportunity to add a little extra in the way of art and proof material to your collection.

For enquiries, contact Richard Ashton; e-mail: [richard.ashton@sothebys.com](mailto:richard.ashton@sothebys.com), ☎ 020 7293 5224.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FORTHCOMING SALE AT SPINK

Notification has been received that a sale to be held at Spink on July 25th, 2007 will contain a major section of New Zealand material. The sale will include both the collection of King Edward VII and King George V formed by David M. Cohen and Bernard Symonds collection including his remarkable collection of booklets.

Further information will be included in the next issue of *The Kiwi*.

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### PICTORIAL DATESTAMPS

#### Northland 2007 National Stamp Exhibition



Three special pictorial date stamps will be used to commemorate Northland 2007 National Stamp Exhibition being held in Whangarei 30 March – 1 April 2007.

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#### Ross Dependency Agency Pictorial Datestamp



A new permanent pictorial date stamp will be introduced for New Zealand Post's **Real Aotearoa** store at 101 Cashel Mall, Christchurch. The date stamp which features a penguin is depicted below and will be used for processing Ross Dependency mail from 21 March 2007.

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## **MEDIA RELEASES**

### **STAMPS MARK CHINESE NEW YEAR OF THE PIG**

**February 2007**

The humble pig is being celebrated by New Zealand Post in this year's Chinese New Year stamps issue.

The stamps feature three pigs unique to New Zealand; Kunekune, Arapawa and the Auckland Island pigs. All three have developed characteristics that mark them as being distinctly New Zealand breeds.

Kunekunes in particular have endeared themselves to the public and can often be found as pets because of their intelligence and unusual appearance.

The origin of the feral pigs of Arapawa Island in the Marlborough Sounds is uncertain but one theory suggests that they are descendants of pigs released by Captain Cook around in around the 1770s. It is believed around 100 Arapawa pigs exist. The pigs are protected by the Arapawa Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Auckland Island pigs are descendants of pigs introduced as a source of food by settlers in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Their future came under threat in the early 1990s under an extermination campaign but 17 of the animals were brought back to the mainland and their future looks assured.

Stamps General manager Ivor Masters says according to the Chinese, pigs have a lot of admirable characteristics.

'Those born under the Year of the Pig are considered sincere, pure and chivalrous. They are scrupulous, honest, intellectual and honest. However they can also be gluttonous, lazy and self indulgent.

'I am sure that collectors keen on the Chinese New Year series will find these stamps of interest.'

#### **Stamps**

45c – Kunekune

90c – Kunekune

\$1.35 – Arapawa

\$1.50 – Auckland Island

\$2.00 – Kunekune

The stamps and first day cover were designed by Cue Design of Wellington. The stamps were printed by Australia Post, Sprintpak, by Offset Lithography. They will be available from the usual outlets from 7 February, 2007.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **NEW ZEALAND'S FAUNA CELEBRATED IN UNIQUE STAMPS**

**28 February 2007**

New Zealand Post's latest stamp issue celebrates something that is uniquely New Zealand – its native animal species. The endangered tuatara, kiwi, Hector's dolphin, Hamilton's frog and yellow eyed penguin feature in this year's New Zealand Wildlife range.

All species are listed on New Zealand's Threatened Species List. Hamilton's frog, for instance, is one of the world's most endangered frogs and can only be found on Stephen's Island in the wild Cook Strait. The tiny Hector's dolphin, which as one of the world's smallest dolphins grows up to just 1.5 metres, is only found in New Zealand waters.

The unassuming but iconic kiwi, the most internationally recognised of New Zealand's birds is threatened because it is flightless and is vulnerable to many introduced predator pests.

Stamps general manager Ivor masters says 'producing this series of stamps offer collectors a chance to think about the conservation of our precious natural resources'.



'These animals are special because they can be found nowhere else in the world. The tuatara for instance is linked back to the dinosaurs of some 200 million years ago. Only the tuatara remained after all those species eventually became extinct about 60 million years ago. This makes the tuatara of enormous interest from an evolutionary perspective.'

'I think collectors and those with an eye for creativity or conservation will find these stamps of interest.'

Stamps:

45c – Tuatara

90c – Kiwi

\$1.35 – Hamilton's frog

\$1.50 – Yellow eyed penguin

\$2.00 – Hector's dolphin

The circular self-adhesive stamps and first day cover were designed by Peter Faulkner at Splashy, Hamilton, New Zealand. The stamps were printed by Southern Colour Print of Dunedin by offset lithography. They will be available from the usual outlets from 30 March 2007.

### REVIEWS OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

#### **THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND VOLUME IX – The Postal Stationery**

Author: Robert Samuel. Pp. 492. ISBN 0-9597883-7-9. Pub. Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, PO Box 1269, Wellington, New Zealand. Price: NZ\$140 to members and NZ\$160 to non-members + P&P. RPSNZ e-mail address: [rpsnz@orcon.net.nz](mailto:rpsnz@orcon.net.nz)

When Volume VIII of the Handbook was being compiled, it was suggested to Robert Samuel that he might wish to update the section on Postal Stationery. He declined and said that he felt that the subject warranted its own volume. How right he was. The new volume (IX) has just arrived and it is a worthy addition to the previous 8 volumes.

Sadly, Robert died in 2001 but at the time of his demise, he was completing the latest volume and it is a worthy memorial to a distinguished philatelist. A fair amount of the information in the new publication was, of course, contained in the 4 volume Postal Stationery Catalogue that Robert authored in the 1980's and 90's. The new book is much more accessible and provides the information in a literary rather than catalogue format.

The book is divided into the sections that one would expect – postcards, lettercards, envelopes, registered envelopes, newspaper wrappers and aerogrammes. Additionally, chapters cover the subjects of the 1932 Adhesive provisionals, the 6d KEVII Telegraph form, the honey seal stamps, stamped adhesive envelopes, Government Department printed franks and postal notes. Chapters 13, 14 and 15 describe the relevant issues from the Pacific Islands of Samoa, Cook Islands and Niue. The last chapter describes the undenominated stationery issued since 1987. The two appendices contain illustrations of the pictorial postcards and illustrated lettercards. The book is completed by a comprehensive checklist of the whole range.

For obvious reasons, Postal Stationery is an area that gives rise to a number of irregular and 'one off' issues. Although not everybody collects these items, the book contains a wide range of fascinating stories about the issue of these 'odds and ends'. For example, The St. John Ambulance Association Postcard (1973) which was overprinted '½c ADDITIONAL POSTAGE PAID' unnecessarily in Christchurch, thus creating a 3½c rate which did not exist is featured as well as the Marewa School unofficial 1c bisect which was produced after the 1971 rate increase. Stories like these make the book an interesting read whatever your collecting interest.

It is difficult to know what to say about a publication like this. The Royal have taken advantage of the latest developments in printing and production and the illustrations are particularly impressive. Although there is a cautionary note on the reverse of the title page about the accuracy



of the colour reproduction, it appears to this reviewer that it is as close as would be expected. As with Bob Odenweller's book on Samoa, the printing and production was undertaken in the Far East. It seems that this is now to be the standard way for producing high quality books at an affordable price.

If you have the other 8 volumes of the Handbook, then, of course, this is an essential addition to your bookshelf. If you have not yet obtained the previous volumes, you should still purchase this book as it represents a comprehensive, beautifully produced and fascinating review of this subject area. It is published in a limited edition of 500 copies and there will be no reprint so I would suggest that you order yours now.

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### **THE 'CHALON' ISSUES OF NEW ZEALAND (1855 – 1873)**

Author Ken W. J. Lynch. In 3 volumes, softbound. ISBN 0-9582544-5-1. Pub. KWJL Publications, PO Box 274, Auckland 1, New Zealand. Available in the UK from HH Publications, The Barn, Heaton Royds, Shay Lane, Bradford BD9 6SH.

Ken Lynch has kindly donated a copy of the 2007 edition of his publication to the Society library. He has also given copies of his regular update 'The New Zealand Chalons Quarterly' to maintain our run to Feb. 2007 (Vol. 6 No. 1 Whole No. 21).

This publication is very much a work in progress. One of the great pleasures of our hobby is that one can never be sure that a particular solution to a problem is the final answer. There is always something else out there. The aim of the author is to '*start where other handbooks and catalogues leave off*'. Although this is a laudable aim, it is likely to make it difficult to navigate and fully appreciate a publication as much of the information refers to material contained in earlier publications. Nevertheless the discursive nature of the discussion makes it an interesting and stimulating read.

One of the authors interests is in philatelic literature and members of the Society may remember an interesting article on some early members of the Society. This publication also makes use of previous articles: for example, at the end of Volume 1, there is a section on eminent philatelists which brings together a number of articles and obituaries which will be of interest to many readers.

Volume 2 contains an extensive bibliography of the Chalons which lists articles and notes on the subject published in a wide range of journals, books and auction catalogues.

### **FAKE NZ STAMPS SEIZED**

*(The following article appeared in CAPTAIN COQK, the Newsletter of the Christchurch (N. Z.) Philatelic Society (Inc.) in March, 2007 and is reproduced with acknowledgement)*

In early February it was reported that fake stamps with a face value of \$150,000 had been seized at the border. It is believed to be the first time such a haul had been found in New Zealand. The stamps had come from Asia and were destined for an Auckland address. A man appeared in the Auckland District Court accused of receiving counterfeit stamps and he was remanded in custody until the middle of the month.

At this point a Chinese man admitted to smuggling 75,000 fake \$1.50 and \$3.00 stamps into New Zealand by posting them to himself. Customs staff at the Auckland International Mail Centre intercepted \$150,000 worth of \$1.50 and \$3.00 New Zealand stamps. The staff noticed the colours on the fakes were slightly different when compared to the genuine articles. The man was allegedly going to sell the stamps to legitimate stamp dealers. One assumes that the 'dealer' in this case meant owners of shops etc. rather than what we understand to be a stamp dealer who would immediately be suspicious.

This appears to be the first time that New Zealand stamps had been postally forged on a large scale. A postal forgery is one which intends to defraud a mail organisation by using fake stamps on mail as opposed to an item intended to defraud a collector. The forged stamps are sold to people at a discount and think that they are getting a 'bargain'. Of course, plenty of irregular stamps, perhaps made by children, slip through the postal system because they are not worth chasing up, but this level of fraud is an entirely different situation. It is possible that this was not the first time that such stamps had arrived in the country – perhaps a small 'trial shipment' had arrived earlier and if this did happen it would be worth looking at recent overseas kilo-wear for examples. If you find one it may pay to keep quiet as it may be illegal to own such an item. Does anyone know the New Zealand legal situation?

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### **NEW ZEALAND 2007 STAMP CALENDAR**

Details of New Zealand Post's proposed programme for 2007 stamp issues are now available:

20 January	Scott Base, Ross Dependency 50th Anniversary – five stamps and set of five miniature sheets
20 January	Customised Advertising Labels
7 February	Chinese Lunar Year: Year of the Pig stamps and miniature sheet
7 March	New Zealand Native Wildlife
30 March	Northland 2007 Stamp Exhibition miniature sheet
24 April	2007 Anniversaries
9 May	Scenic
6 June	Southern Skies
4 July	Classic Kiwi
1 August	Clever Kiwis
31 August	Huttpex 2007 Stamp Exhibition miniature sheet
5 September	2007 Health set and miniature sheet
3 October	2007 Christmas
7 November	2007 Ross Dependency set Underwater Reefs

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### **NEW ZEALAND STAMP EXHIBITION DATES**

A programme of national stamp exhibitions to be held in New Zealand under the auspices of the New Zealand Philatelic Federation is now available:

Northland 2007	30 March – 1 April 2007
NZSDA StampShow – Christchurch 2007	26 – 27 May 2007
10th NZ National Philatelic Literature Exhibition	30 June 2007
NZSDA StampShow – Auckland 2007	10 – 11 August 2007
Huttpex 2007 – Lower Hutt	31 August – 2 September 2007
Tarapex 2008 – New Plymouth	7 – 9 November 2008
Timpex 2009 - Timaru	Sept. – Oct. 2009
Canpex 2011 - Christchurch	2011

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

#### **SOME COMMENTS ON THE MEETING REPORT ON 'AIRMAILS'**

**MIKE SHAND**

I was interested to read the meeting report on Lew Giles display of Airmails given to the Society in January (1): there are, unfortunately, a few factual errors that should be corrected.

First, the statement 'When Kingsford Smith gave up, his place was taken by Ulm': This is incorrect as Kingsford Smith never 'gave up' even after the near disaster of the 1935 Jubilee flight. When he was lost later that year, he was returning from London and was in discussions to form a Company to operate Tasman Airways. Had he not been killed, who knows when next he may have flown to New Zealand (although not in 'Southern Cross').

Moreover, 'his place was NOT taken by Ulm'. When Kingsford Smith arrived on the 5th crossing in January 1934, Ulm was there to meet him having arrived in December 1933. When Ulm returned to Australia in February 1934, it was he who carried the first Official air mail and not Kingsford Smith (*the report says 'it was on the 6th crossing that mail started officially'*),

although Smith did carry the second official mail on that flight. Ulm also carried the first official mail in the opposite direction (Australia to New Zealand) in April.

Secondly, in May 1935, the Southern Cross did not return because of 'engine trouble' but because of a broken propeller. When another engine began to lose oil, P.G. Taylor had his famous wing walking escapade which earned him a well deserved George Cross.

Thirdly, I think that somebody at the meeting might have mentioned the 1929 earthquake rather than the 1931 because all air mail had stopped after a single flight in 1922, it was the 1929 earthquake which got mail delivery by air going again.

*Editors Note: apologies for the errors which, as always, are the responsibility of the reporter and Editor and not the person giving the display.*

### THE FIRST UNSUBSIDISED AIR SERVICE

GERALD ELLOTT

Although I specialise in New Zealand issues before 1873, I am always interested in articles in *The Kiwi* which may not be in my period. When reading the article on the West Coast Air service, I noticed that the two covers illustrated which were carried on an 'Unsubsidised Flight' were both dated December 1934. The extract from the Gazette, however, clearly states that a yearly subsidy of £131 was paid for the year 1 January 1935 to 31 December 1935.

Does this has any significance?

### ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

#### Adelaide – Perth Airmail: the New Zealand Connection

Robert Clark

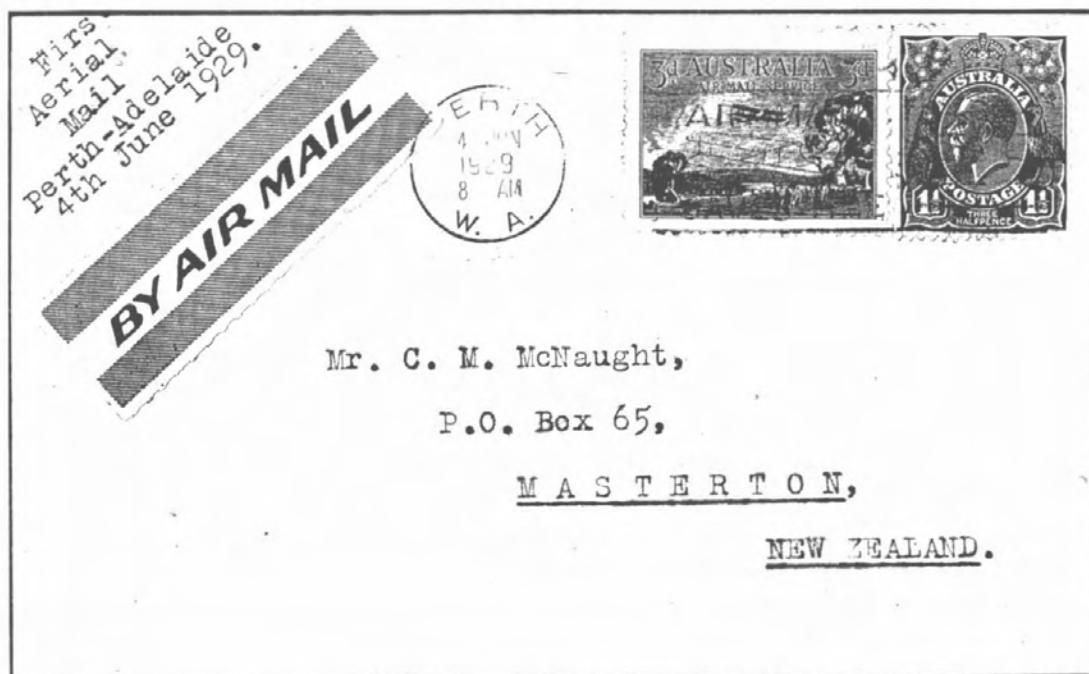


Figure 1: First Perth – Adelaide airmail, addressed to New Zealand



### Introduction:

In December 1934, *Imperial Airways* and their *Qantas* partners inaugurated a weekly airmail service to Australia. This became the regular route for airmail from New Zealand to the UK although the New Zealand – Sydney leg remained by sea until 1940.

Before December 1934, mail between New Zealand and the UK could use the weekly trans-Australian airmail service between Adelaide and Perth, inaugurated in June 1929 by *West Australian Airways (WAA)*. Figure 1 shows a cover carried on the first flight from Perth on 5 June 1929 and addressed to New Zealand. The postal rate was 3d airmail plus 1½d surface. The cover is franked with Australia's first airmail stamp which was specially issued on 20 May 1929 in time for this service (1). Covers from New Zealand could not be flown as New Zealand stamps were not accepted as prepayment of overseas airmails until July 1930.

### Connection with the P&O mail boat:

The *WAA* airmail contract had been specially set up to connect with the *P&O* mail boat service from the UK. The mail boat route was Southampton via the Suez Canal to Colombo in Ceylon and from there to Australia calling first at Fremantle (Perth) on a Tuesday and Sydney on the following Monday. Use of the *WAA* service enabled mail to be unloaded at Fremantle and flown from Perth, arriving in Adelaide on the Wednesday. The mail was then sent by train to Sydney where it arrived early on the Friday morning, 3 days before the mail boat (2).

The first acceptance from the UK for the *WAA* service left on 9 May 1929, but it was August before there were UK acceptances for New Zealand (1).

In the opposite direction, the mail boat for the UK left Sydney on a Wednesday and Fremantle on the following Monday. Mail could be sent by train from Sydney by the Friday overnight train, arriving in Adelaide on Sunday morning. The weekly *WAA* airmail service left Adelaide on a Sunday, arriving in Perth the next day to connect with the *P & O* mail boat (3). Hence mail could leave Sydney two days after the mail boat and catch up with it at Perth.

### Mail from New Zealand, 1930:



Figure 2: First acceptance from New Zealand, July 1930.



From July 1930, mail from New Zealand could use this route. The cost was 4d per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. airmail plus the normal surface postage rate of 1d. Figure 2 shows a cover sent on first acceptance from New Zealand. It is postmarked at Wellington on 1 July 1930 and was sent from there on 4 July to Sydney on the *SS Maunganui* and flown Adelaide - Perth on 13-14 July (1). In addition to Adelaide - Perth, the cover is routed on the *Imperial Airways* Karachi - London service which cost a further 7d airmail postage. It was therefore off-loaded at Colombo and taken to Karachi by surface, from where it was flown on 29 July (4). It has a Sutton Coldfield arrival mark of 7 August.

Neither the Adelaide - Perth service on its own, nor its combination with the Karachi - London service proved popular for mail from New Zealand. In the first year from July 1930, only 246 items were sent via the service for addresses beyond Australia, and of these 152 were for the combined airmail service (1). From 6 September 1930, the flight left Adelaide on a Saturday and so mail had to leave Sydney on the Thursday overnight train (3). Hence, if mail from New Zealand for the UK arrived in Sydney late on Wednesday or on a Thursday, use of the *WAA* service saved a significant amount of time, but otherwise there was no saving.

#### **Inclusive rate from UK, 1931:**

Having separate airmail and surface postal rates caused a lot of confusion and so the British Post Office introduced an inclusive rate with the first acceptance for New Zealand via Perth - Adelaide being on 12 March 1931. Figure 3 shows a cover sent to Timaru on the first acceptance at the inclusive rate of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The cover is not backstamped, but a similar cover to Christchurch described by Walker (1) has a backstamp of 15 April. That suggests that it arrived in Fremantle on Tuesday 7 April and was flown Perth - Adelaide on 7-8 April.



Figure 3: First acceptance at inclusive rate, March 1931.

New Zealand did not introduce an inclusive rate.

#### **First New Zealand airmail stamps, November 1931:**

New Zealand's first airmail stamps were issued on 10 November 1931. Figure 4 shows an example of the special Christmas Greetings cover produced by the *Air Mail Society of New*

*Zealand*. It is postmarked at Christchurch on 11 November, addressed to the UK and routed via both the Adelaide – Perth and the Karachi – London services. The franking is the 4d airmail stamp for the *WAA* service, the 7d airmail for Karachi - London and a GV 2d for the surface rate.

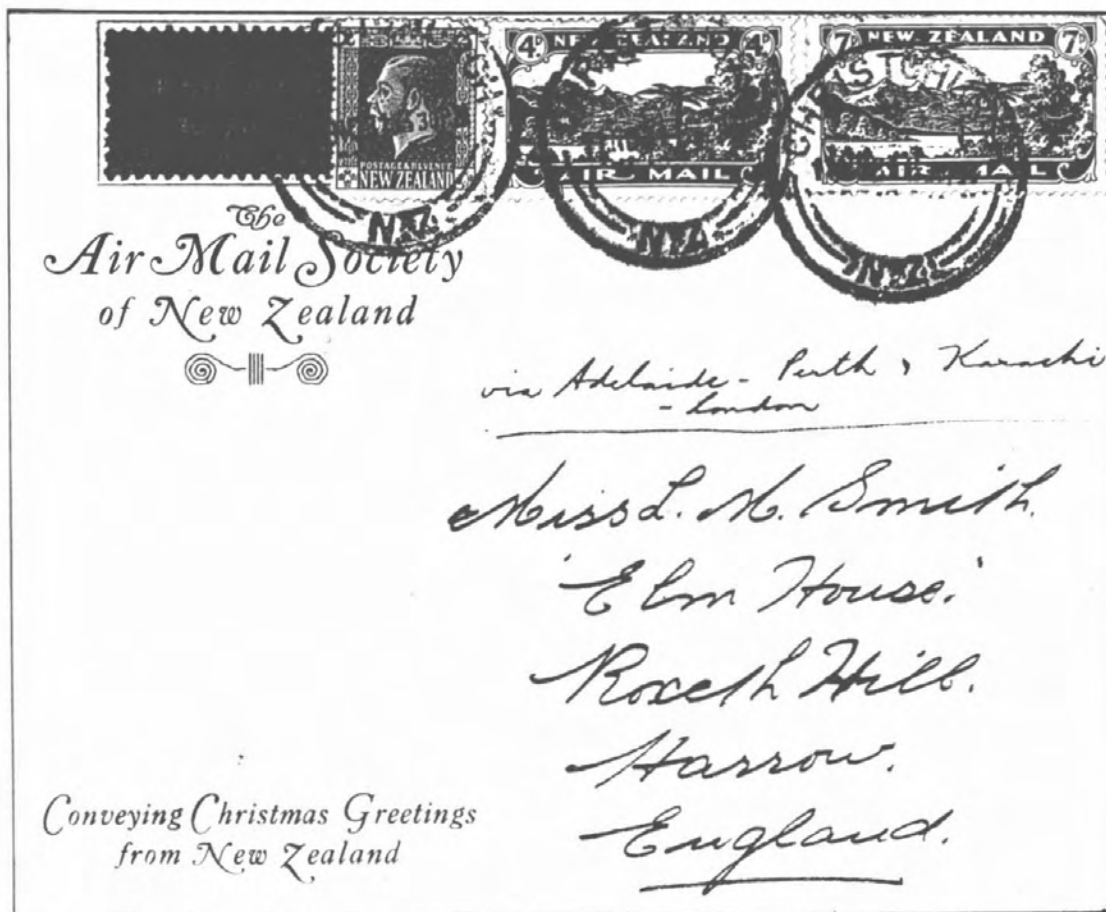


Figure 4: First acceptance with New Zealand airmail stamps, November 1931.

The cover was taken by overnight ferry on 12 November to Wellington and left there for Sydney on 13 November on the *SS Marama* (1). It was flown Adelaide – Perth on 21-22 November and Karachi – London on 10-17 December (4). Use of the *WAA* service did not result in any saving of time.

#### **Flown trans Tasman and Adelaide- Perth, February 1934:**

The first official airmail from New Zealand to Australia was on 17 February 1934. Figure 5 shows a cover flown on three different airmail services: trans-Tasman, *WAA* and Karachi – London. The rate for these services was respectively 7d (including 1d surface), 4d and 7d. Although this cover has no backstamp, I have a similar cover addressed to Perth which was backstamped on 25 February. It was therefore flown Adelaide – Perth on 24-25 February. A manuscript on the back indicates that was delivered in Glasgow on 23 March and so it was flown Karachi – London on 15-22 March (4).

Again, use of the Adelaide – Perth airmail did not speed up its journey as the arrival in Sydney was on Saturday 17 February in plenty of time for the mail boat which left on the following Wednesday.

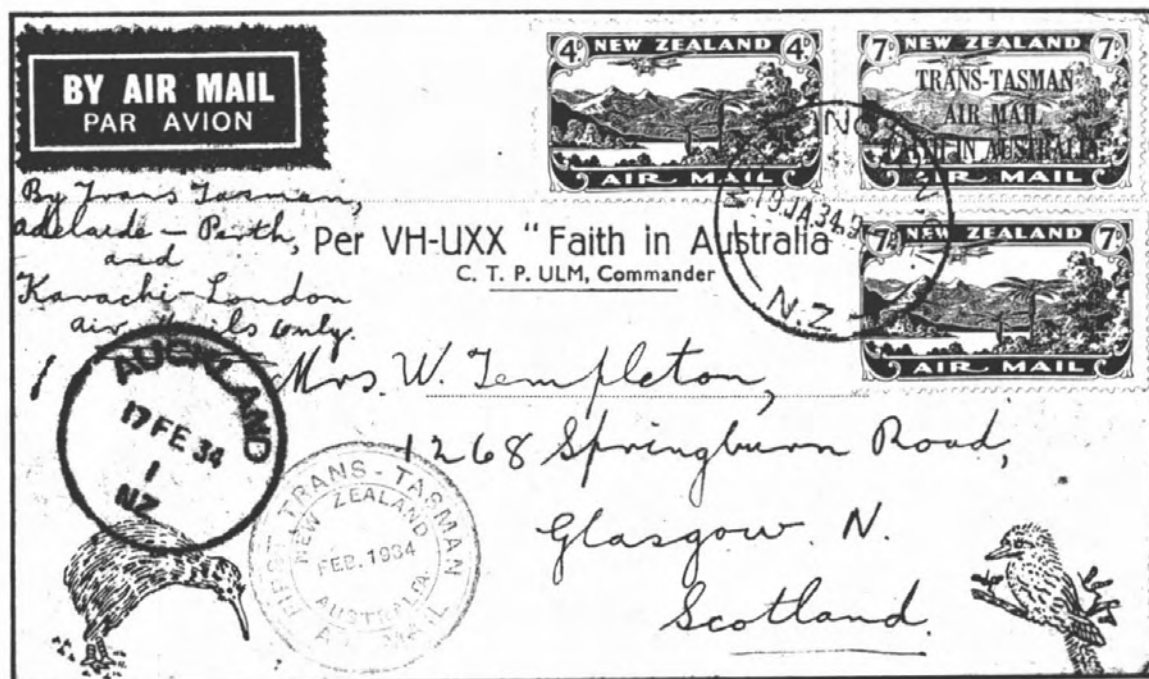


Figure 5: First New Zealand – Australia airmail plus Adelaide – Perth airmail.

# Unsubsidised service, April 1934:



Figure 6a: First unsubsidised service, also flown on first Australia – New Zealand airmail and third New Zealand – Australia airmail.

The West Australian Airways contract for a subsidised Perth - Adelaide airmail service was for five years. The much-travelled cover in Figure 6 is postmarked 2 April 1934 in Perth and the manuscript on the front states that it was flown on the first flight of the new unsubsidised service which was on 3-4 April. It is addressed to Auckland and was also flown on the first official airmail from Australia to New Zealand on 11-12 April. There is an Auckland backstamp of 12 April and a faint official cachet on the back. The franking in Australian stamps is 1/1 which covers: 3d Perth-Adelaide, 2d surface, 5d trans Tasman and 3d registration fee.

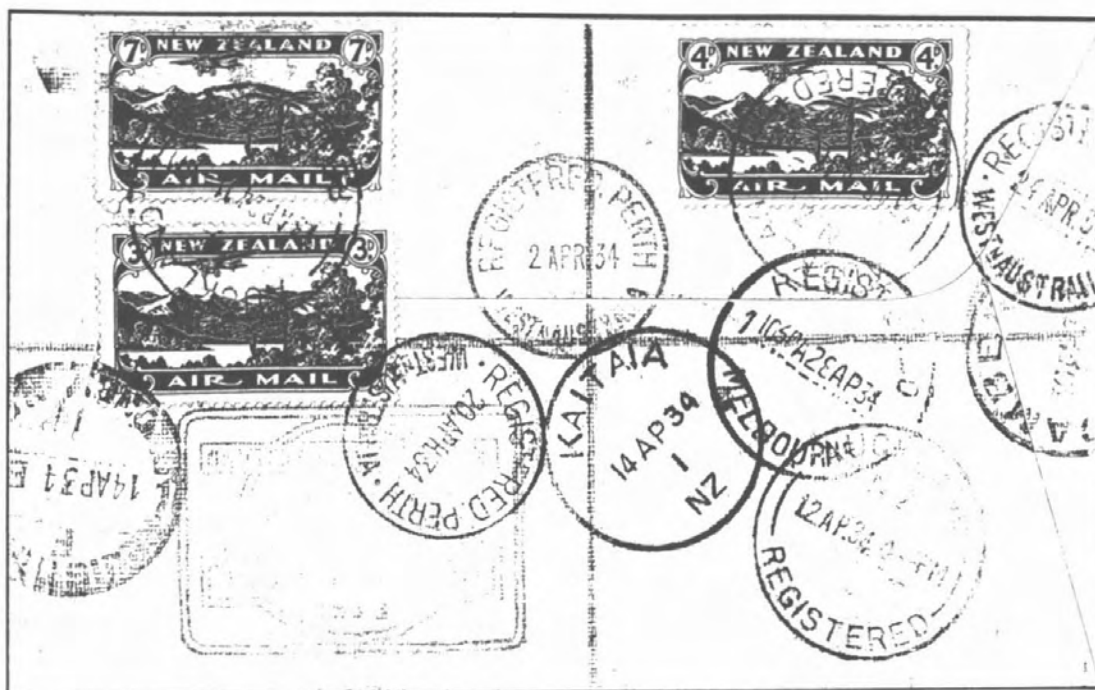


Figure 6b: Reverse of the cover in Fig. 6a showing New Zealand stamps for the return flight

After delivery in Auckland, the cover was re-addressed back to Perth and a typescript added stating: *Per Return Flight N.Z.-Aust. & Adelaide - Perth Air Service*. The back of the cover has the set of three New Zealand airmail stamps postmarked 13 April, a Kaitia postmark of 14 April, a Sydney backstamp of 14 April and a Perth backstamp of 20 April. The official trans - Tasman cachet is on the front. It was therefore also flown on the third official New Zealand to Australia flight.

The use of the Adelaide – Perth service for New Zealand mail to the UK stopped after the introduction of the Imperial Airways/Qantas Australia – UK airmail service in December 1934. *West Australian Airways* was sold to *Adelaide Airways* in June 1936.

#### References:

1. Walker DA 'Airmails of New Zealand' Vol. 2, Pub. Air Mail Society of New Zealand (1986). ISBN 0-9597787-1-3.
2. Legg WH 'Aspects of the London-Karachi, and the Perth-Adelaide Routes', *Air Mail News, Journal of the British Aerophilatelic Federation* (2001). Vol. 44 Pp 106-116.
3. Legg WH 'Aspects of the London-Karachi, and the Perth-Adelaide Routes (Part II)', *Air Mail News, Journal of the British Aerophilatelic Federation* (2001). vol. 44 Pp 178-183.
4. Wingent P 'Aircraft Movements on Imperial Airways Eastern Route' Vol. 1: 1927-1937, Pub. Winchester (1999). ISBN 9518598-6-2.

## WILLI FELS AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR CENSORS

ANDREW DOVE

One of my collecting interests is Military Postal History and I was delighted to acquire the cover illustrated in Figure 1. There is plenty of material available relating to the Soldiers who were despatched overseas but much less illustrating the effect on the Home Front. There is a paucity of information about internal censorship partly because all the records were destroyed in the local offices on the Governments instructions at the end of the war.



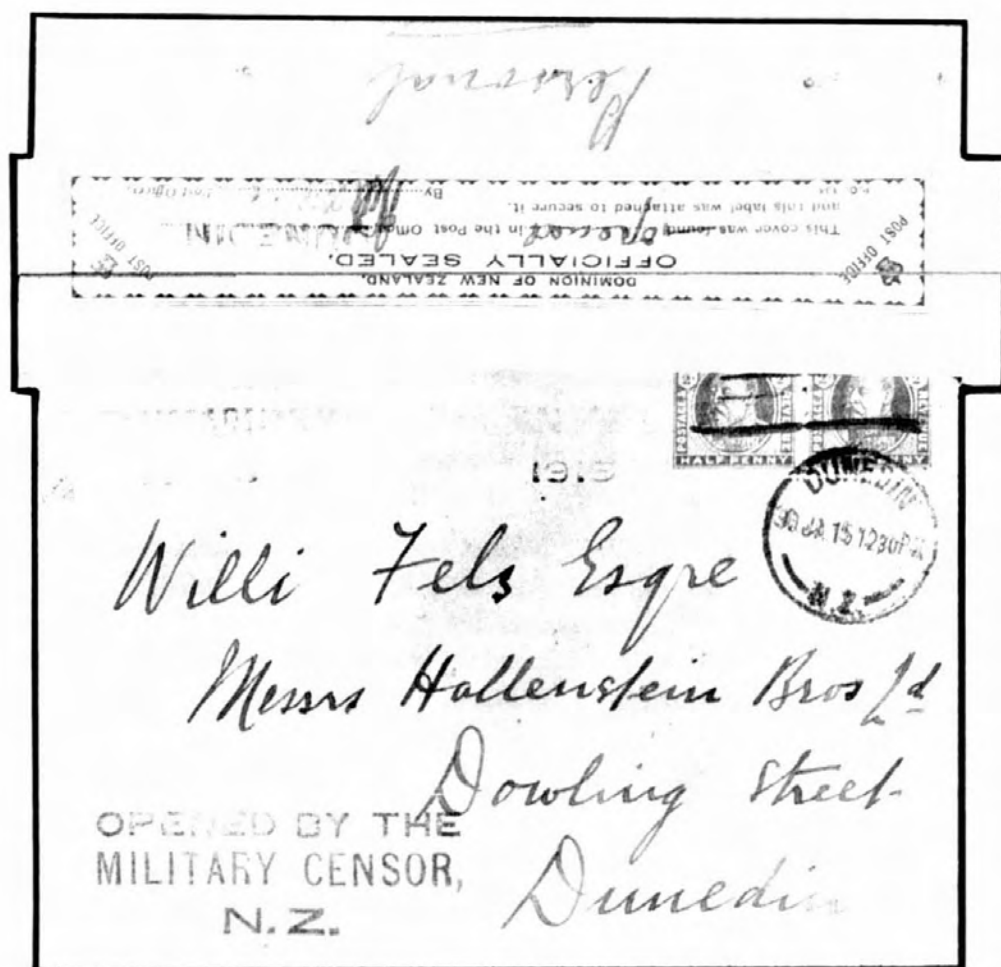


Figure 1. The envelope of the letter to Willi Fels (at 90% of actual size)

The letter was posted in Taumaranui on 27 JA 1915 and was addressed to Willi Fels Esqre at Hallensteins Bros Ltd in Dunedin. The Dunedin postmark applied on arrival is dated 30 JA 15. The major interest lies in the fact that this internal letter was opened by the Censor and re-sealed using an 'OFFICIALLY SEALED' label. This re-sealing with an official label is most unusual: normally envelopes opened by the Censor are closed with clear or brown paper tape.

The questions that arise are who was Willi Fels? and why was internal mail to him being censored: was it just because he had a German name or had he done something to cause suspicion?

Willi Fels was born on April 17, 1858 in Brunswick in Germany. Although he wished to go to University, he ended up managing the family woollen mills. In 1881, his uncle, Bendix Hallenstein, arrived from New Zealand with his four daughters, the eldest of whom soon married Willi Fels. In 1888, they emigrated to New Zealand and joined Messrs. Hallensteins. In due course, Willi became Managing Director of Hallensteins and the Drapery and General Importing Company (DIC) of New Zealand and was noted as a shrewd businessman. He became a naturalised British citizen in 1890. Although he did not take a great part in public affairs, he succeeded Bendix Hallenstein as German Consul in Dunedin but resigned shortly before the First World War. As with so many other families, the Fels were affected by the First World War as Harold, his only son, was killed in the Battle of Broodseinde in 1917.

He had a wide ranging interest in the cultural side of life and made a number of important collections. Some of these were donated to the Otago Museum including important Maori and Pacific ethnographic material and, shortly before his death, he gave 400 of his most valuable books to the



library of Otago University. He was appointed a Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George for services to the community in 1936 and died in Dunedin in June 1946 (1, 2).

This was interesting information found on the internet but it left the more interesting question of why the internal mail of this pillar of the community was being censored.

I found part of the answer during a recent visit to the National Archives of New Zealand in Wellington where a perusal of the index of the Army Department correspondence revealed a file entitled: *'Fels, (Mr.), Dunedin, Subject: CENSORSHIP OF CORRESPONDENCE :- Applies to have Correspondence exempt from Censorship'* (3).

The first document in the file is a letter from Willi Fels, dated 14th January 1915, to the Hon. James Allen, Minister of the Defence at the time. He makes reference to a meeting with the Minister that morning and requests Mr. Allen to ask Mr. H. D. Bell, Minister of Internal Affairs,

*'to exempt from censorship any correspondence from N.Z. or abroad to members of my family, myself and Mr. Alfred Fels' (his brother).*

He goes on to request Mr. Allen to

*'kindly explain to Mr. Bell, that I have been in Dunedin for 27 years, I was naturalised in 1890. I have ever since looked upon New Zealand as my home & I think I can claim that I have been as good a N.Z. citizen as any natural born British subject. Very few know N.Z. as well as I do, & it is absolutely inconceivable to me, that I would do anything, which might be injurious to the country of my adoption'.*

The letter received a favourable response from Mr. Allen as the next document is a telegraphic message, dated 16 January, 1915 from Mr. Allen to Mr. Bell informing him that he is sending him the letter and that he (Allen) is *'of the opinion that this should be granted and I know Fels well.'*

Unfortunately, Mr. Bell was not sympathetic to the request. A telegraph to Allen, dated 18 January 1915 says that *'personally I can see no reason for directing the exemption he asks for and I think any such exemptions could be a dangerous precedent for claims of others'.*

Nevertheless, there appears to have been some correspondence on the subject in which the Military Censors involved supported Bell's view that the censorship should remain.

The file recommences on February 3rd with two communications: first, Allen sent a telegraph to Colonel A. W. Robin, who was Quarter-Master General, reminding him that he had said he would discuss the situation with Colonel Gibbon, the Commander of New Zealand Military Forces and ex-officio, the Chief Military Censor. On the same day, F. H. Campbell, a Censor of Postal Packets, Dunedin, wrote to the Censor of Postal Packets, Dead Letter Office, Wellington stating:

*'Dear Sir,*

*I wired you yesterday that I could not recommend exemption from censorship in the case of Mr. Fels, Dunedin. Today a postcard came from Italy for him. The writer said 'I received your note dated 1/10/14, in which was enclosed another for Germany. I mailed it at once & I am sure it will reach safely, as the first censor had let it pass.'*

*(signed) Thomas B. Englefield  
14 Hotel Lauratis  
via Nazionale. Rome*

*This, I submit, strengthens my position*

*Yours faithfully  
F.H. Campbell, censor'*

It seems that by this time the censors had developed a determination that the censorship should not be lifted. On February 5th, F. H. Campbell wrote to the Censor of Postal Packets, Wellington:

Dear Sir,

*I wired you today re Fels. I would also bring under your notice the fact that, although correspondence is coming in for him, there is apparently nothing going out. At least, I have not come across any, and I would submit that his letters must be going out secretly. After consultation with the Assistant Postmaster here, I decided to open the letters of Messrs. Ahlfeld and Co. Both partners of the firm Ahlfeld and Kahlenberg are Germans, and have expressed on more than one occasion strong pro-German sentiments. Apparently there are no letters going out of Dunedin from them. I am also given to understand that Mr. F. W. Lyders, St. Clair, is strongly pro-German in his sentiments. I am told that, when any German success takes place, the Germans in Dunedin – or some of them – meet at his house and celebrate the event. That information was given me by Mr. Martin, Clerk in Charge of the Letter-carriers' Department.*

*Yours faithfully  
F. H. Campbell'*

On February 22nd, Allen replied to Willi Fels saying that he had two remaining concerns, first, the forwarding of mail through Italy and, secondly, the fact that he was not sending mail out of New Zealand at present. Accordingly, he was minded to retain the censorship unless Willi Fels could provide a satisfactory explanation on these two points.

It would appear that Fels was able to do so as the next letter from Allen to Colonel Gibbon is dated 3rd March 1915. In it, he says that he is of the opinion that it would be safe to let letters from New Zealand and Australia pass uncensored. Unfortunately, Fels letter/s of explanation are not in the file. In a memorandum dated March 8th, the Wellington Censors agree with the intention to allow New Zealand letters through but not Australian. The memo contains the statement that 'While no suspicion attaches to the Messrs Fels, it seems necessary to be on guard against indiscretion of their many friends in foreign countries'. The instruction was accordingly given.

Fels replied to Allen on April 1st asking him to make further representations. He states:

*'.....If I had committed any action, which could have raised a shadow of doubt against me, I should not follow up this matter further, but I feel it a slight on my character that my honesty and loyalty should be questioned by the Government, and I cannot rest until such an aspersion on my character, and my honour, is removed.....'.*

This sparked another series of letters between the censors and military hierarchy. Mr. Martin, Asst Censor of Postal Packets, in a letter of April 17th, reports that

*'So far no letter of a suspicious nature has been observed by me except one written by a German Resident in East Prussia which had been forwarded by the writer to an agent in Holland. This letter was sent in a cover addressed to Mr W Fels at Dunedin with a request that it be enclosed in a fresh cover and forwarded to the addressee a GERMAN resident of the Bismarck Archipelago. It was sent to you for disposal.*

*'The fact that Mr. Fels overseas correspondence which formerly was considerable is now nil leads me to conclude that it is not improbable that it reaches him under cover to some other name and address. If this be so Mr Fels probably finds such an arrangement inconvenient'.*

The Deputy Chief Censor (Postal), W. A. Danner responded to this with the reasonable point that; *'If Mr. Fels has ceased to write to addresses in foreign countries, it is natural that they would cease to answer'.* He also notes that he holds two letters sent from Germany (through friends in Holland) each of which contains an enclosure of a letter for a resident in German New Guinea which Mr. Fels had been requested to forward. On April 28th, Allen replied to Fels declining to mitigate the censorship.

The next letter in the file is from Willi Fels to James Allen and is dated May 20th. It includes an article from the Otago Daily Times published on the same day. It is under the letters to the Editor section and is from George Fenwick. A manuscript annotation describes Fenwick as Managing Director of the Otago Daily Times. The letter is long but is reproduced in full as it describes an interesting situation:

## PERSECUTION TO THE EDITOR

SIR, - To anyone who has lived in Dunedin for the past 15 or 20 years the set which is being made against the firm of Hallenstein Bros. and Co. (limited), and the businesses with which they are connected is almost inexplicable. As one who has been brought more or less in contact with the members of the firm from the time when the late Mr. Bendix Hallenstein founded the New Zealand Clothing Factory, and thereafter established throughout New Zealand the retail branches of that hive of industry which has for several decades given steady employment to many hundreds of our young people, I should be glad if you would afford me space for a few words on the position which has arisen. The late Mr. Hallenstein and his brothers, whose combined capital was the means of starting the clothing factory business and its retail branches, originally came to Australia, and the foundation of their fortune was there laid. Mr. Bendix Hallenstein, came to Dunedin from Melbourne in the very early years of the gold discoveries in Otago, and, settling in Queenstown, by steady application to the general storekeeping business he started in that goldfields township prospered. Thereafter he moved to Dunedin, and, as mentioned above, in conjunction with his brothers, the whole of them having been for years naturalised British subjects, put a large amount of capital into the new clothing factory venture. This capital cannot with a shadow of justification be called German capital. It was made in British colonies by naturalised British subjects. In like manner, the Hallenstein capital was instrumental in founding the Drapery Importing Company, familiarly known as the D.I.C., and this business also has given employment to large numbers of men and women in the various cities in New Zealand in which its branches are established. In the course of nature the original founders of these large industrial concerns passed away, and their respective shares in the businesses came into the hands of sons and daughters born in Australia or New Zealand. Mr. Bendix Hallenstein's daughters married gentlemen who are directors of Hallenstein Bros. & Co (Limited) and of the D.I.C., one of them a German who, for over 25 years has been a naturalised British subject. To anyone who knows Mr. Fels or the present - day members of the Hallenstein family it is utterly preposterous to say that any one of them is anything but absolutely loyal and true to British interests. If good citizenship and extreme liberality in giving to all worthy objects that come before the community for help count for anything, then the businesses of the New Zealand Clothing Factory and D.I.C. should be as heartily and genuinely supported as those of any other traders in the community.

As to the loyalty of the head of these firms to the British nation whose subjects they are, it is of the most complete type. They are in the first rank with the many patriotic men in this city who have devoted time and money to the Empire's cause. Hallenstein Bros. (Limited) came forward at the beginning of the war with the handsome subscription of £500 to the patriotic funds; they from the outset encouraged their employees to volunteer for the Expeditionary Force undertaking to pay all who enrolled half-pay for six months and to keep their positions open until their return. The personal views of the various members of the firm are, I know, so strongly abhorrent of the inhuman practices of the Germans in the conduct of the war, and their desire for the triumph of the Allies is so whole hearted and earnest, as I also know from personal conversations with them - extending with Mr. Fels to the enlistment of his only son with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force - that no fair minded man can, with the knowledge of these things, any longer harbour suspicion or doubts as to their genuineness.

It is, then, cruel and unworthy of members of this community to give their countenance to the efforts that are being made to damage the businesses of fellow - citizens who are loyal subjects of the Empire; it is a departure from the traditional British fair-play of which we are all more or less inclined to boast, and it is undoubtedly high time that that the thoughtless and unthinking should fairly consider the position and act in a spirit more worthy of their nationality and of the dictates of fair-play and justice.

As for the cowardly and vindictive mob who in Wanganui last Saturday night disgraced themselves by destroying the property of men whose shoes they are not worthy to black, they are only deserving of scorn and contempt. As Mr Asquith has said, it is conduct of that kind that is a reproach to the nation - I am, etc.

GEORGE FENWICK

This re-opened the issue and copies were again sent to the censors by Colonel Gibbon. Mr. L. Anderson, Asst. Censor of Postal Packets in Dunedin, reiterated his view with some force sending a telegram on the 31st of May to the Deputy Chief Censor in Wellington saying:

*'Re Fels. I am strongly of the opinion that all correspondence should be examined. For several weeks one overseas letter (of purely domestic nature) has been observed. The only possible deduction is that correspondence is passing through a medium.'*

Mr. W. A. Dammer the recipient of this telegram took a contrary view. In his annotation on the original letter from Lieutenant Colonel Gibbon, he says:



*'I do not agree with the deduction of the Asst. Censor, that so few letters are received from overseas, the correspondence is necessarily passing through a medium. At any rate nothing of a suspicious nature is going to Messrs. Fels direct, and it behoves the Asst. Censor to be vigilant and endeavour to locate the medium which eh suspects.....I have found them reasonable and sensible.....I recommend the exemption from censorship of their letters from Australia and the United Kingdom except for occasional examination such as any correspondence may receive.'*

And so it was and on June 7th, 1915, James Allen wrote to Willi Fels to inform him that it had been decided to release his correspondence from Australia and the United Kingdom from censorship in the future.

The last few pages in the file record a sequel to this incident when the Censor in Wellington wrote to Lieutenant Colonel Gibbon about 10 days later because he had intercepted a letter from Willi Fels to W<sup>m</sup> Fels in Chicago which contained a money-order for £15 – 8 – 0. The letter was not submitted for censorship as it should and had also been posted irregularly (unfortunately, the second page of the letter is missing and the nature of the irregular posting is unclear). The comment is made: *'This money is in reality a remittance from Messrs. Willi and Alfred Fels of Dunedin to W<sup>m</sup> Fels, Chicago, and I am convinced that it is intended to be re-transmitted to Mrs. Fels, sen. in Hanover'*. Colonel Gibbon wrote to the Fels on June 18th asking for an explanation. On June 21st, Fels replied that William Fels was a cousin of theirs who had been an invalid for some years and was unable to earn a living. He was a married man with a dependent family whom they had been supporting financially with a quarterly remittance. This explanation was accepted by Gibbon who responded to the Censor on June 24th who in turn wrote to the Fels on July 5th informing them that the letter had been forwarded.

So the file was closed and forwarded in due course to the Central Registry before its transfer to the National Archives.

So, the answer to my second question appears to be that the main reasons why the mail to Willi Fels (and his brother Paul) was censored was because they had a German name and had stopped writing to friends/relations/ contacts overseas during the War. An interesting vignette which shows the way that the national psyche was working at the time.

In retrospect, the treatment of internees and even naturalised citizens during the First World War reflects no credit on the country. The culmination was the passing in September 1917 of the Revocation of Naturalization Act (4) which allowed the removal of British naturalisation from anyone whose activities the Government considered to be outside the best interests of the country. Nevertheless, it appears that if you 'knew the right people', an exception could be made. It is interesting that the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Commander of the New Zealand Forces, the Adjutant – General and a number of senior Censors devoted much time and energy to this particular case and, on the whole, the more senior the person involved, the more sympathetic they appear to have been to Willi and Paul Fels dilemma.

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4. N. Z. Statutes (1917) Pp. 22-23



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