



THE KIWI



THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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WHOLE NUMBER 331

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD IN AT THE LIVERMEAD HOTEL
IN TORQUAY BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 26TH AND SEPTEMBER 28TH 2008
FULL DETAILS ARE CONTAINED ON PAGE 87 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 **Annual Subscription £15.00**

OFFICERS OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

HONORARY PRESIDENT

VACANT

Honorary General Secretary

Keith C. Collins
13, Briton Crescent,
Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 0JN
☎0208-657-4566.
e-mail: keithccollins@aol.com

Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Professor Derek R. Diamond,
9, Ashley Drive, Walton on Thames,
Surrey KT12 1JL
☎01932-223280
e-mail: drdiamond@mac.com

Honorary Packet Secretary

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

Honorary Editor

Dr. Andrew Dove,
12, Stella Avenue,
Tollerton
Nottinghamshire NG12 4EX
☎01159-373762
e-mail: ddoveaf@aol.com

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

ENCLOSURE

AUCTION CATALOGUE

When you receive this issue of *The Kiwi*, there will either be a copy of the Auction catalogue enclosed or you will have received your copy by e-mail.

As advertised in previous issues of *The Kiwi*, if Derek Diamond **does not have** your e-mail address, you should receive a printed copy and if Derek Diamond **has** your e-mail address, you will **only** receive a printed copy if you have requested one in writing from Derek.

If anybody requires a printed copy but has not received one, please contact Derek Diamond - ☎01932 223280.

SOCIETY NEWS:

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome:

P. Maselis, Belgium
W. L. B. Wallis, Wiltshire

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

THE PHILATELIC WEEKEND

TORQUAY

SEPTEMBER 26TH – 28TH, 2008

A reminder to all members that the booking form was enclosed with the last issue of *The Kiwi*. If anybody has lost their form and wishes to book, contact details for the Livermead hotel are Tel 01803-299666, e-mail enquiries@livermead.co.uk.

The Livermead Hotel is easy to find: for those travelling from Exeter, follow the signs to Torquay then the signs to the Sea Front. When you reach the Sea Front, turn right and the hotel is about 600 yards along on the left. The postcode for those who want to google it and obtain a map is TQ2 6RQ.

The provisional programme for the weekend has now been agreed:

Friday 26 th	19.00	Finger Buffet
	20.00	Registered Mail – Len Jury
Saturday 27 th	09.15	Members Displays: 1. Coasts and Islands of New Zealand
	11.00	Deadline for the delivery for Competition entries
	11.00	Members Displays: 2. Special Days in New Zealand Philately
	14.00	Western Regional members displays
	16.00	Annual Competition results and critique
	19.00	Society Dinner
	21.30	Drawing of Raffle
Sunday 28 th	09.15	Members Displays 3. Back of the Book – CP Sections X, Y, Z
	11.00	Queensland Chalons etc. – Alan Griffiths
	13.00	End of weekend

There is still plenty of space for members to participate in the themed displays: if you wish to contribute, please contact Lewis Giles: Tel. 01634 846696, e-mail lewisgiles@tiscali.co.uk.

The 16 sheet competition will be judged by Alan Griffiths who is an international judge with much experience. He has agreed to feed back on the entries and, from previous experience, his comments will be very constructive and helpful.

Two dealers, Ian Perry and Paul Wales, will also be in attendance so come along prepared to find those elusive wants.

Previous weekends have been very successful and enjoyable: we look forward to meeting everybody in Torquay in September.

RAFFLE

During the weekend, a raffle will be held to help defray the cost of the weekend. To date, we a total of 17 prizes from our sponsors:

1. Ross Dependency error block of 5c prepared for Canpex 2000 souvenir which was rejected due to the skewing of the blue frame prior to the application of the silver text over-print
2. 1d Dominion overprinted Victoria Land, UHM and well centred. Cat \$185
3. Robert Samuel Postal Stationery catalogue – all 5 sections

4. 'A Postal History of Ross Dependency' by Mark Jurisch (2003)
5. 'The Postal History of Campbell Island' by Mark Jurisch (2003)
6. Stanley Gibbons New Zealand Catalogue (2006)
7. Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogue (2006)
8. Stanley Gibbons G.B. Concise catalogue (2008)
9. A £100 voucher from Derek Holmes
10. One years subscription to *Stamp Magazine*
11. A £100 credit voucher from Mowbray Collectibles
12. New Zealand Post Mini Sheet 'One Hundred of New Zealand Rugby' (2003)
13. New Zealand Post Souvenir Miniature Sheet Booklet (2006) 'Hawkes Bay Earthquakes'
14. New Zealand Post Prestige Booklet (2004) 'Extreme Sports'
15. New Zealand Post Souvenir miniature Sheet Booklet (2002) 'Architectural Heritage'
16. A £50 credit voucher from Ian Perry
17. A £25 credit voucher from Ian Perry

Our thanks to our sponsors: Classic Stamps, Stanley Gibbons, Derek Holmes, Stamp Magazine, Mowbray Collectables, New Zealand Post and Ian Perry.

Tickets cost £1 for 5 and are available from Derek Diamond. They will also be on sale during the Philatelic Weekend. The raffle will be drawn after the Dinner on September 27th.

THE SCOTTISH GROUP AUTUMN MEETING

The autumn meeting of the Scottish Group will be hosted by Alexander and Fiona McCulloch at Ardwall, Gatehouse of Fleet on Saturday 4th October, 2008 from 12.30 with lunch being provided. Those attending are requested to notify the Group's Co-ordinator, John Studholme (tel. 01875 852171, e-mail: john.studholme@btinternet.com) by September 27th, 2008.

Please bring some sheets (c. 10 to 20) from your collection on any subject, as usual, PLUS one item of interest that you have acquired recently.

There will also be an opportunity to purchase some NZ stamps so bring along your 'wants' lists.

NEXT MEETING OF THE MIDLAND GROUP

The next meeting of the Midland Regional Group will be held on October 11th, 2008 starting at 14.00. It will be held at Warwick and Warwick Auction Rooms in Warwick, CV34 5DB. We are delighted that Andrew Dove will be showing his Large Gold medal winning collection of King George V material. Please make a note in your diary now and attend if at all possible. We have to decide at the start of the meeting whether we can continue to exist as a separate group.

The venue is easy to find: follow the signs in Warwick for 'Hospital' which is at the east end of Millers Road. Scar Bank (for W&W) is a small side road halfway along Millers Road on the north side. W&W is 50 yards up on the left hand side.

For further information, contact Ian Samuel 0121-449-0849.

NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHERN REGIONAL GROUP

A REMINDER

A reminder that the Annual Competition of the Northern Group will be held at Orrell on September 13th, 2008. Full details were published in the last issue of *The Kiwi*.

NEXT MEETING OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the Western Regional Group will be held at 13.30 on September 20th, 2008.

It will be at our new venue: St. James Church, St. James Street, Taunton.

If any members are entering the 16 sheet competition at Torquay or have completed their entries for the Western Regional display will they please bring them along to show us.

Any queries, please ring Paul North: ☎01392 877054.

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

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD IN LONDON ON JULY 26TH, 2008

The Chairman, Derek Diamond, opened the meeting by informing those present that the auction catalogue was complete and contained more lots than for many years. It would shortly be e-mailed out or sent with the next *Kiwi*. He also reminded members of the importance of booking for the Torquay Weekend: he was uncertain how many had already booked but it seemed that the hotel was filling up. He also asked members to purchase raffle tickets.

Derek then handed the meeting over to John Smith who was going to entertain in his inimitable way on the subject of 'King George VI Definitives'.

John started by explaining that he aimed to give a comprehensive display of the subject but there were a number of complex areas and one of the problems is that some of the 'varieties' could be classified under the heading 'fly-speck philately' and were difficult to see even with a magnifying glass! Many of the changes made to the stamps were a result of shortages created by the Second World War.

John had started collecting this issue in earnest about 40 years ago when a Dr. Selby died. His collection was being dispersed by Robson Lowe in Bournemouth and had included a section of KGVI which had been put together when the stamps were freely available. It appeared that Dr. Selby had worked with Campbell Paterson to define the shades and, consequently, these were well represented. Subsequently, John had added a number of the scarcer items on display as they became available.

The display started with a number of imperforate plate proofs which had recently been acquired from a New Zealand auction. As always with proofs, they gave a clear impression of the colour

and appearance intended by the designer and printer. The frame used had been designed for a proposed definitive issue for King Edward VIII. The portrait originally suggested had been taken by the Bertram Park Studios but this was considered unsuitable and a portrait taken by the Dorothy Wilding Portraits Ltd. was preferred. This portrait also had to be modified as the King felt that his head was at an unnatural angle. The pose was modified and approved but, interestingly, the original portrait was used for the 1/- stamps of Niue and the Cook Islands.

The next sheets demonstrated examples of all the papers used for the issue. There were a total of thirteen although some were only used for one printing. The original paper was produced by Wiggins Teape and was of a high quality with 70% Esparto and 30% Wood Sulphite. As time passed, the quality diminished with an increasing amount of rag and wood pulp and there was also difficulty in obtaining suitable pigment for the inks.

The first values were the ½d, 1d and 1½d which were issued in 1938. The 1½d was included because New Zealand was to be included in the 'Empire Air Mail Scheme' and this would be the standard rate. The colours of the ½d and 1d changed in 1941 to comply with UPU requirements after postal rates increased in the War. The variations of each value were fully explored in the display with a wide range of the shades and other changes. The position of the plate blocks of the 1d varied over time: to start, they were located in the side selvage with the imprint mark in the middle lower margin. A problem arose because collectors requested plate and imprint blocks and their provision necessitated tearing 3 blocks from the sheet. Bradbury Wilkinson solved this by moving the plate number to the lower margin over the imprint for the last plates, 25 and 26.

The variations of the single colour higher values were also fully displayed with perforation, paper and colour varieties. An interesting watermark variety occurs on the 5d, 6d and 8d wherein the dandy roll was obviously deformed giving rise to a misshapen watermark. This used to be catalogued but has now been relegated to a footnote.

The display of the two colour high values demonstrated the shade variations particularly well. For those who struggle with the colour descriptions, this made an excellent reference point.

The first printing of the 1s was with an upright watermark: it proved difficult to register the paper correctly and it was rotated through ninety degrees for the second printing. With the third printing using a new centre die, the watermark reverted to upright. There was an interesting error on the 1/3 where a 'make-ready' proof was issued in error: it appears that the centre was printed and on 7 stamps, marked up with crayon for correction: the frame was then mistakenly printed and the sheet issued.

The showing of the 3/- included an interesting run of 9 blocks including row 14/4 and Row 15/4 with a progressive flaw, the re-entry correcting it and further flaws developing in the re-entered impression. There were some unusual perforation varieties which arose because a few sheets had been perforated from bottom to top leaving an imperforate bottom margin rather than the usual top margin.

The next section covered the counter coils which were initially stamped with a rubber number stamp but later metal. This was followed by a small section showing the 1941 surcharges which occurred during the War when postage rates were increased. Due to wartime shortages, it was important to conserve paper stocks and the obsolete ½d and 1½d were overprinted with the new rates. John showed an example of the 're-inserted 2^d' which occurred when a part of the overprinting forme broke and, rather than destroy the affected sheets, the affected stamp in each sheet was separately overprinted. He also showed a rare example of a positional block before the damage occurred.

The display finished with an exposition of the 'Official' overprints which were complex with a wide range of papers used.

During the afternoon, some of those attending also displayed interesting items: Neil Jones showed a range of plate proofs, John Dicker demonstrated the way that he mounted his examples to try and define the shades and John Buchanan showed the 1945 Health Issue including some large used blocks and a range of illustrated first day covers.

Derek thanked John for a comprehensive and very interesting display and the meeting closed at 16.00.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

A Committee Meeting was held on Saturday, July 26th, 2008. A number of matters were discussed:

- **Membership:** there is good news about membership this year as the number has stabilised after dropping in the previous two years. This seems to be in part thanks to Warwick Paterson's good offices in publicising the Society through the Catalogue. There have also been fewer members who did not renew their subscription. However, membership numbers are a key factor in the viability and vitality of the Society and the Committee would ask that all members take every opportunity to encourage people to join.
- **Library:** the listing of the library has now been transferred into the current format and will soon be added to the NPS Library catalogue. We are hoping to have a joint meeting with the NPS next year and will try and ensure that the library is open to allow members to explore the contents.
- **Programme for 2009:** a provisional programme for 2009 has been developed: if any member has any views on the contents or ideas for future meetings, can they contact the Hon. Sec. For next year:
 - January:** A workshop on Perforations: Derek Diamond will lead but this will be a members meeting and it is hoped that any queries and problems will be brought along for discussion.
 - March:** 12 Sheet Competition: after discussion, it was agreed that this would be judged by those attending again.
 - May:** Computers and Stamp Collecting: Led by John Stimpson: again, members contributions would be very welcome.
 - July:** Social Philately: the first part to focus on life in New Zealand for the early Settlers and the second part on other aspects of social philately.
 - October:** A Meeting at the Congress at Ardingly. This will comprise members displays and it is especially hoped that local members will contribute.
 - November:** Annual General Meeting and Auction.
- **Publications:** The Chairmans publication on the First Pictorial issue is making steady progress and has generated a lot of interest amongst collectors of the issue. No definite publication date is yet available. The Society has also been offered the opportunity to publishing a monograph on the OPSO overprints. Further information will be published as available.
- **2012:** 2012 will see the 60th Anniversary of the Society. A suggestion has been made that we might be involved in an Australasian Stamp Competition in partnership with the Pacific Islands Study Circle and the Australian Stamp Society. This would be held at Stampex and would be a National scale of competition with international judges and

entries. The feasibility of the project is under discussion and further information will be published in due course.

- **The Packet:** as always, more material is needed for the packet: early high value material would be particularly welcome.

TWO APPEALS FROM THE HON. EDITOR

Firstly, you may have observed that this issue of *The Kiwi* is only 16 pages long. The reason is that I am running short of material to publish: *The Kiwi* depends entirely on contributions that I receive. I am very grateful to those who already take the trouble to record their findings or try to solve their problems and would urge everybody to try and contribute to the journal.

Secondly, due to changing circumstances, it is likely that *The Kiwi* will require a new Editor in the near future. If anybody is interested in becoming the Honorary Editor of a prestigious philatelic journal, could they please contact me and I would be delighted to discuss the post with them.

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.

It's as easy as that and what's more, it will cost you nothing.

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INFORMATION RECEIVED:

HONOUR FOR A MEMBER

We offer our congratulations to **Gerald Elliott** who became a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honour List. The citation records that the award was for Services to Philately.

We believe that this is the highest award yet given to philately in New Zealand.

INFORMATION RECEIVED
MEDIA RELEASES

Ngā kai Matariki, nāna I ao ake ki runga.
'The food supplies of Matariki; by her scooped up.'

28 May 2008

Ko tēnei te mihi atu ki a koe I runga I nga tini āhuatanga o te wa.

On 5 June New Zealand Post will release the inaugural Matariki stamp issue, marking the dawn of the Māori new year.

For many Māori, the appearance of the seven stars of Matariki – the Pleiades constellation – in the June night sky traditionally signals a turn from the depth of winter to a time of renewal and reflection.

James Te Puni, Sales and Marketing Manager for New Zealand Post's stamps business, said there has been a resurgence of interest in Matariki in recent years and New Zealand Post is pleased to make a contribution to this indigenous tradition.

The initial appearance of Matariki was closely observed for indications of what the approaching seasons will bring. Apart from the promise of things to come, Matariki brings closure to the journey and experiences of the old year and remembrance of those who have passed on.

The issue, comprising six stamps, first day covers, miniature sheet, presentation pack and Limited Edition, created by talented Māori designer Len Hetet, is the first in a series to be released annually during Matariki that will explore various aspects of Māori culture and heritage.

'The issue reflects a fascinating journey, celebrating not only the constellation itself, but the connections to the sea, land and family,' said Mr Te Puni. 'It also portrays aspects of the Māori worldview, in which the Sky Father Ranginui, the Earth Mother Papatūānuku and their children personify the dramatic forces of nature.'

New Zealand Post worked with a number of partners in developing the concept for the Matariki stamp issue, including Toi Māori Aotearoa, Te Taura Whiri I te Reo Māori, the Māori Tourism Council, the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and Te Puni Kukri. In addition, Professor Hirini Moko Mead has made a written contribution to a Limited Edition publication describing the stamps and Matariki traditions.

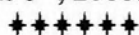
Mr Te Puni said that, in the first of the Matariki series, Mr Hetet has drawn on Māori artworks some of which the Hetet family have either created, or are held in their family collection.

The stamps including moving images of the natural environment to illustrate different aspects of the original traditions.

- '**Ranginui**', a 50 cent stamp, depicts the seven stars in the sky domain of Ranganui. Tradition says that in the beginning Ranganui and Papatūānuku were in close embrace with their children in the darkness between them. The children decided they must separate their parents to illuminate the space in which they lived. Tāne, the god of forests and birds, forced Ranganui into the heavens, leaving Papatūānuku as the earth below – the foundation of life and all human activity.
- '**Te Moana Nui A Kiwa**', also a 50 cent stamp, features the decorated prow of a war canoe facing the great waves of Kiwa – the Māori name for the Pacific Ocean. It symbolises discovery and adventure, the human need to see beyond the horizon and the spirit that drove Māori forefathers to set out into the unknown.
- The \$1.00 stamps, '**Papatūānuku**', celebrates the land as the foundation of sustenance and a place on which to stand in Matariki, which appears when the harvest is completed, food is available for celebrations and preparations are made for the next growth cycle.

- The \$1.50 stamp, '**Whakapapa**' (genealogy), presents Matariki as also a time of reflection; of remembering and celebrating the lives of family members who have passed on and farewelling them into the spirit world. In the image, three cones symbolise the family group witnessing the start of a new day.
- The \$2.00 stamp, '**Takoha**', depicts the passing of a tiki neck pendant from one generation to next. Meaning a pledge or token, Takoha is integral to Māori life, particularly at Matariki when the celebrations require people to unite and to share what they can to make it an occasion to remember. Gifts also represent social contracts handed through generations for safe keeping.
- The \$2.50 stamp, '**Te Tau Hou**', acknowledges Matariki as a major milestone in 21st century Māori life, one that is marked by art exhibitions, festivals and a special celebration hosted by Te Papa. The image is of a carved symbol of humanity setting its focus on Matariki celebrations, while the moon rising over a distant horizon promises new beginnings.

The stamps, first day cover and miniature sheet have been designed by Len Hetet of Ocean 64 Ltd., Wellington and printed in offset lithography by Southern Colour Print of Dunedin. They will be available from the usual outlets from June 5th, 2008.



STAMP ISSUES LINK CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND OLYMPIC ACHIEVERS

25 June 2008

Two stamps issues released by New Zealand Post on 2 July 2008 link generations of Kiwi achievement.

The annual *Children's Health* stamps and *Beijing 2008 Olympic games* stamp issues share a similar design, illustrative and textual styles that reinforce the connection between the children of today and our sporting champions of tomorrow.

Children's Health – Investing in the Future

New Zealand Post has been supporting Children's Health Camps (Te Puna Whaiora) since 1929 when the first Health Stamps were released.

The 10-cent surcharge that's added to the stamps help fund New Zealand's Children's Health Camps, which are managed by the New Zealand Foundation for Child and Family Health and Development and provide services for children and families at risk of adverse health, education and social outcomes.

Over \$30,000 was raised for this cause in 2007 and New Zealand Post is appealing to New Zealanders to strengthen their support this year.

'While not every child can grow up to be an Olympic competitor, they all have the right to fulfil their true potential. We are proud to help invest in their future by trying to raise funds through the sale of these stamps,' says Ivor Masters, General Manager Stamps.

This year's theme is 'Investing In The Future' and the range includes two 50 cent stamps, a \$1.00 stamp, a miniature sheet and two first day covers.

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

And for those New Zealanders who do achieve the pinnacle of their chosen sport, we are celebrating their accomplishments on the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games range.

The Olympic Games stamps depict four sports in which Kiwis have excelled – cycling, rowing, kayaking and athletics – and capture the drama, the action and the excitement of this four-yearly international event. These have been developed in partnership with the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC).

Encouraging messages such as; ‘inspire’, ‘excel’, ‘passion’, ‘celebrate’, ‘succeed’ and ‘motivate’, link this range with the Children’s Health stamps.

The Beijing 2008 Olympics Stamp range includes two 50 cent stamps, a \$1.00 stamp and a \$2.00 stamp, as well as a compilation of all four stamps on the first day cover.

For both issues, the stamps, first day covers and miniature sheet have been designed by Martin Bailey of Auckland and printed in offset lithography by Southern Colour Print of Dunedin. They will be available from the usual outlets from 2 July 2008.

RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS ARTICLES:

DX MAIL – A COMMENT

ALAN TUNNICLIFFE

I am puzzled by the envelope illustrated in Alan Deal’s note in the May Issue of *The Kiwi* (1). I assume that the ‘24 JAN 2008’ is the marking referred to. However, all incoming mail from the UK is handled by DX’s mail centre in Auckland and sometimes does not receive any marking – whether on the stamp or not. I think that, in this case, the letter did not receive any mark. If Alan Deal’s friend has a PO Box, the local Post Shop would not need to put any marking on the mail. The markings that I see on my incoming mail from the UK is inconsistent but I am not aware of any date mark similar to this rubber stamp being used by DX Mail.

I must confess that I am not sure who or where this date stamp would have been applied.

Reference:

1. Deal A. ‘DX Mail – A Satisfactory Outcome’. *The Kiwi* (2008). Vol.57 No. 3. P. 56

PONU I ISLAND

ALAN JACKSON

Following the recent articles in *The Kiwi* about the Chamberlins of Ponui Island (1, 2), I enclose copies of three items from my Postal History collection. They contribute to the story and may prove of interest to readers.

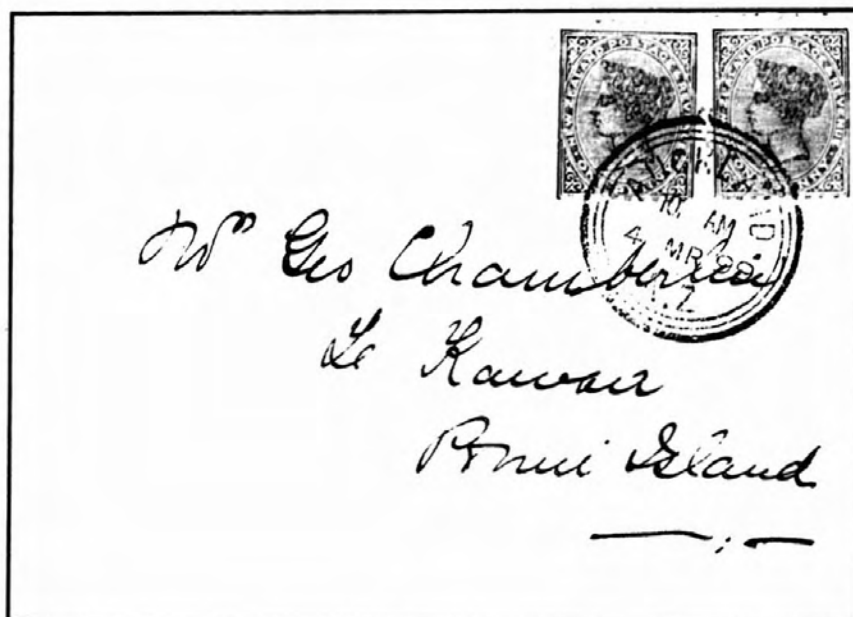


Figure 1. Envelope posted to Ponui Island

Figure 1 shows an envelope posted in Auckland on 4 MR 99 to 'Mr Geo Chamberlin, Te Kawau, Ponui Island'. The envelope bears no other postal markings. George Chamberlin was the runholder on the island at this time and was the same addressee as on the original label illustrated in *The Kiwi* (1). I am sure that Allan Berry was correct in suggesting that George was a descendant of the original 1853 Pakeha purchaser of the island, Charles Chamberlin.

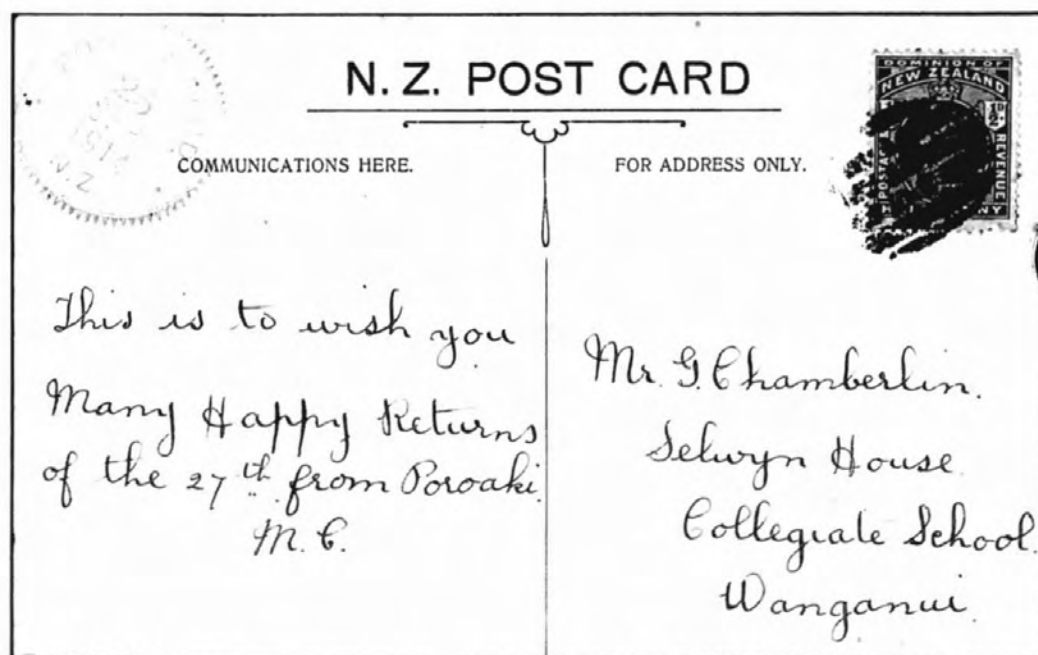


Figure 2. Card posted with private handstamp mark

Figure 2 is a picture postcard which was sent as birthday card from the island in 1914 to 'Mr. G. Chamberlin, Selwyn House, Collegiate School, Wanganui'. Presumably, this was a scion of the family away at boarding school. At the upper left is a violet handstamp reading 'PONUI ISLAND / N.Z.' and dated 25 SEP 1914. This must have been a private handstamp as no Post Office operated on the island (only the Chamberlin family lived there to the best of my knowledge). I have not seen this marking recorded previously. The 1/2d KEVII stamp is cancelled with a six barred 'A' obliterator. This cancellation was used at Auckland for many years on loose letter mail received by sea. Mail from the Chamberlins would have been received uncanceled at Auckland in a sealed bag and would then have been cancelled with the obliterator and forwarded to its destination. Normally no date stamp impression was added, so it can be difficult to date local mail received from islands in the Hauraki Gulf in the early 20th Century.

Figure 3 shows a telegram cancelled at the island with the 34mm J – Class datestamp used at the telephone office from 17 December 1957 to 3 June 1977 (note that '17.12.51' in Robin Startup's *New Zealand Post Offices* (3) is a typographical error). The late Frank Watters of New Plymouth (to whom the telegram is addressed) was industrious during the 1950's, 60's and 70's obtaining cancellations from the large number of telephone offices still open at the time. He would pay the relevant fee to have a telegram transmitted to himself care of each office and arrange for the telephonist to send the telegram (replete with cancellation) back to him through the post under cover. This was the only practical way for him (and other collectors) to obtain examples of the datestamps in use at telephone office since the offices were not permitted to use their stamps on items of mail (although some did). The later telephone office datestamps were very similar in design to postal datestamps and did not include the words 'Telephone Office'. The Ponui Island datestamp is an example of this type. The last remaining telephone offices closed in the late 1980's. Frank Watters, in arranging his Telephone Office souvenirs, always sent himself the same

message 'Enjoy Yourself! Frank, incidentally, pursued his hobby with much gusto despite the considerable handicap of being blind for much of his adult life.

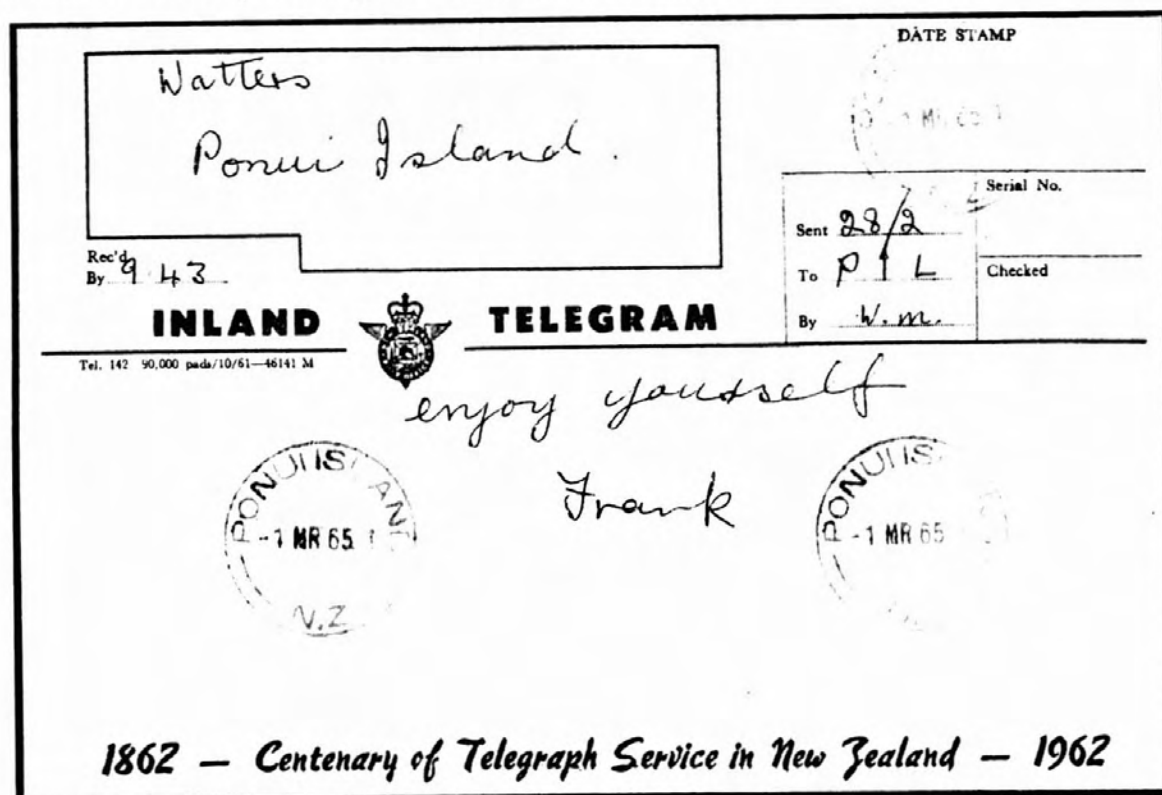


Figure 3. Telegram sent by Frank Watters (75% of actual size)

References:

1. Lewis E, 'Help Please with an Unusual Postage Label'. *The Kiwi* (2008). Vol. 57 No. 1. P. 18.
2. Berry A., Startup RM & Elliott G 'Help Please with an Unusual Postage Label'. *The Kiwi* (2008). Vol. 57 No. 2. P. 39.

QUESTIONS OF HEALTH 2

Patching in the 1940s – 'The Princesses'

Alan Baker

In 1977, I wrote about the 'Fantail' Health Issue and, optimistically, called it 'Questions of Health No. 1' (1). I am now horrified to realise that was 10 years ago and this is only No. 2. The reason is fairly obvious and is not the lack of material. However, I have another interesting question to put before you and hope to obtain some information.

I was recently successful in buying an auction lot of the 1944 'Princesses' issue. This consisted of a block of 16 2d value with the centre bottom 4 stamps officially patched in but with the selvedge missing. This is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. Enquiries showed that it had originally come from the Sterling stock. The illustration of the back of the block shows the thin patching strips. The patched-in stamps were described as replacing the plate block which in this issue is placed centrally below the bottom row of 12. I had thought that although this might be correct, it seems unlikely that the plate block was deliberately chosen and removed for sale as such. However, following John Smith's display on Saturday, I have had a rethink.

John made the point that with the King George VI definitives, one of the problems that arose was that the Post office accepted orders for specific positional blocks and this led to a significant number of broken sheets which were difficult to use up. I wondered whether my block was a result

of a similar problem. If this is the cause of the patching, the question is how common was this practice: this is certainly the first example that I have seen. John, himself, said that he was not aware of any patching of the King George VI issue.



Figure 1. The Front of the Patched Block

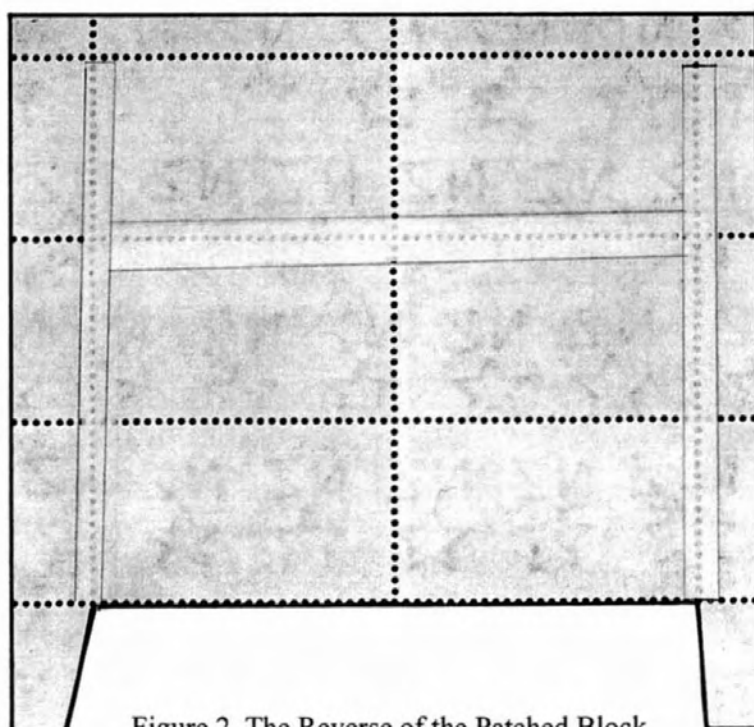


Figure 2. The Reverse of the Patched Block
(The patching paper strip is outlined in pencil)

I have a possible explanation which may be incorrect, I am sure that readers will correct me if so. My hypothesis runs: if the Post Office sold the plate block on request to a collector, it might expect that there would be a number of sheets left unsold and that the broken sheets could be

disposed of as remainder stock. If, however, there was a high demand for the issue, there might be a need to issue the broken sheets to post offices. For audit purposes, the Custodian of Stamps would probably require complete sheets to be issued – hence the need to patch in a new block.

There are two specific pieces of evidence which could support this theory and I would be grateful for any assistance from readers: first, is there any way of being sure that it was the imprint block that was removed and, secondly, does any body know whether this issue was completely sold out? Unfortunately, I have been unable to find printing and disposal numbers for it.

Another possibility is that the removed stamps had been damaged during printing/perforation or handling and then replaced to allow the sheet to be issued. It has been suggested that the removed bottom selvedge might have been used for the patching. In fact, the strips, although not dissimilar under magnification, amounts to strips with a total length of 220mm and an average width of 4mm and there would not have been sufficient material in the missing selvedge if the plate number and imprint were removed. This might be a reason for thinking that the removed stamps were from elsewhere in the row which would be possible in a row of 12.

I had not previously come across patching as late as this and had always thought of the process as relating more to earlier issues such as the Universals where it was done, presumably, to conserve scarce expensive paper. The 'Princesses' were, of course, issued during the Second World War when the scarcity of watermarked paper may well also have been a good reason for rescuing a sheet of stamps.

Enquiries show that other wartime issues were sometimes patched, although this seems to have been unusual. It would be most interesting to have further information about this wartime practice. How widespread was it and was it limited to any particular printer? In fact, in the literature available to me, including the series '*Findings from Files*' written by Allan Berry and published in *The Kiwi*, I can find no published information about the general subject of patching. Have I missed something obvious?

Reference:

1. Baker A 'Questions of Health 1 – 1965 Piwakawaka' *The Kiwi* (1997). Vol. 42. No. 2 Pp. 28 -9.

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE

ANDREW DOVE



Figure 1: The front of the card (60%)

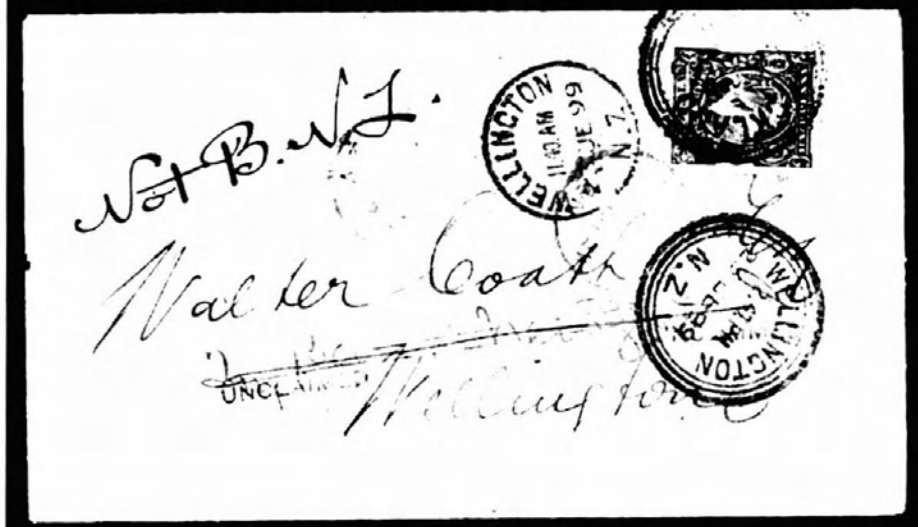


Figure 2. The Header of the Reverse (75%)

I recently purchased a postcard: the front (Fig. 1) shows an ink sketch of Amiens Cathedral with the initials S.M.. The banner on the reverse (Fig. 2) suggests that it was one of a series published by the N.Z. Y.M.C.A. I am, of course familiar with the other stationery produced by the Y.M.C.A. in both World Wars but cannot recall coming across a series of postcards before. Has anybody any further information?

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Email: stamps@cavendishphilauc.demon.co.uk