



THE KIWI



THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD AT THE UNION JACK CLUB ON
SATURDAY, MAY 26TH, 2012 STARTING AT 11.00**

11.00 – 13.00: DISCUSSION OF STAMPEX ENTRIES

14.00 – 16.00: 'MY FAVOURITE SHEETS'

For further information, see page 47 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 £20.00**

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THE ANNUAL AUCTION

Notification of the Annual Auction is contained on page 56 of this issue of *The Kiwi*. If you are planning to enter material, please note the deadlines for submission of lots.

Please also note that only the first 400 lots received will be included. Last year, some prospective vendors were disappointed as they were too late in submitting their lists. Early notification of material to be included is advised

SOCIETY NEWS:

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members:

We welcome:

G. L. Henshilwood, Glasgow
H. McGregor, Lancashire
H.J. McMackin, Los Angeles
N. Walker, New Zealand

Deceased:

D. Chandler
R. Startup
R. Sturman

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The morning of the next meeting of the Society on May 26th will be used for any member who is planning to enter Autumn Stampex to bring their displays as they are developing. This will be an opportunity to ask for advice and assistance, if any is needed.

In the afternoon, the meeting is an open meeting for all those attending who are invited to bring along their favourite sheets. Displays of about 15 – 20 sheets will be welcome. In the past, these meetings have been most informative and enjoyable but, obviously, depend on participation by attendees.

NEXT MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH GROUP

The next meeting of the Scottish group will be held on April 21st, 2012 starting at 12.30. The venue will be the home of David and Roslyn Edwards, 3 Marshall Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5HR.

Members are asked to bring along a display of 20 or so sheets plus any interesting recent acquisitions.

For further information, please contact Michael Kirwan: Michael@kirwans.net, ☎01314473420.

NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHERN GROUP

The next meeting of the Northern Regional Group will be held at St. Luke's Church, Orrell, on Saturday May 19th, 2012, starting at the usual time of 12.00.

This will be a members meeting so bring along material of your choice: as much as you want.

NEXT MEETING OF THE MIDLAND GROUP

The next meeting of the Midland Group will be held on Saturday 27th October, 2012. Ian Samuel will give a postcard tour of New Zealand in the 1960's. The journey will include many places off the normal tourist trails.

The venue: St Anne's Church Hall, Park Hill, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8EU. The meeting will start at 14.00.

For further information, please contact Ian Samuel ☎0121 449 0849.

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD ON MARCH 31ST, 2012

The Chairman opened the meeting by inviting those present to show items of interest. This was followed by a lively discussion about all the items displayed by the following members: B. Atkinson, K. Collins, D. Diamond, L. Giles, F. Monaghan, D. Tetley, M. Wilkinson and P. Wreglesworth. Not all the questions were answered and it was recommended that unresolved problems should be put on the Society's web-page so that more knowledge could be brought to bear. The topics covered were very varied but aspects of marine mail postmarks and the Centenary of the British Antarctic Expedition of 1911 – 1912 dominated.

After a lunch break, the chairman commenced the meeting by conveying the immensely sad news of the death of Robin Startup. This was the loss of a member whose contribution had been immense and whose loss was immeasurable. He then reported the exciting news that two Society members, Dr. Robin Gwynn and Patrick Maselis had been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in October. He offered the Society's warmest congratulations to both and noted that that there would now be five members with that distinction. The Anniversary was moving from the planning phase into implementation with the availability of a new 60 years Index of *The Kiwi* – the result of considerable effort by Andrew Dove. He then introduced the speaker for the

afternoon, Beverley King, who was to give a display and a talk entitled 'Across the Pacific: New Zealand to San Francisco and Vancouver'.

The following is a summary of the information imparted by Beverley during the afternoon: the various aspects covered in this description were fully illustrated by the display.

The first attempt to operate a regular steamship service from North America to New Zealand was in 1870 when the north Pacific Transportation Company began offering departures from San Francisco on the 10th of each month for Honolulu, Auckland, Sydney and Melbourne.

The service only lasted for a year but then a new company was formed, the California and Australia Mail Steamship Line, whose principals were Messrs. Holiday and Webb. The company became better known as the Webb Line. Three large paddle steamers operated for two years before the company went out of business.

Despite this failure, interest continued in developing a steam ship service from San Francisco and, during 1873, the Californian and Australian Steamship Company was created, with finance provided by British and American backers. The plan was to operate five chartered ships on the route. This time, the enterprise only lasted one year!

In 1875, the Pacific Mailship Company was given a ten year contract by the New Zealand Post Office to operate the Pacific route. Founded in 1848, Pacific Mail was already an established operator of regular services from San Francisco to Hong Kong and Japan. The contract with Pacific Mail ran its full ten years expiring in October, 1885. When it was due for renewal, the company withdrew from the South Pacific trade.

A new contract was then signed for a service to be run jointly by the Oceanic Steamship Company of America and the Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand. Both were well established operators who provided a successful service across the Pacific between San Francisco and Auckland and Sydney for the next 15 years.

Although a regular steamship service was now operating between Australia, New Zealand and the United States, there were many commercial and political interests attracted by the idea of an 'all red route', that is a route travelling exclusively through the British Empire. This would entail the use of a Canadian Pacific steamer across the Atlantic from the United Kingdom to ports on the East Coast of Canada, the mail then being transported by train to the West Coast port of Vancouver to join another British steamer to complete the journey across the Pacific to New Zealand and Australia.

In 1893, an Australian, James Huddart, formed the Canadian-Australian Royal Mail Line to operate the Pacific sector of the 'all red route'. A regular service commenced using two vessels, soon to be increase to three. However, James Huddart went bankrupt and the New Zealand Shipping Company took over the company and its ships allowing the service to continue without interruption.

In 1910, the Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand purchased a half share in the service and, in future, all ships used on the service would be owned and operated by them.

On the 14th June, 1900, Hawaii became a territory of the United States. This meant that the Union Steam Ship Company vessels operating to San Francisco could no longer carry passengers on the sector between California and Hawaii. Consequently, the New Zealand Company withdrew from the San Francisco trade leaving it entirely to the American owned Oceanic Steamship Company. They decided to replace two ageing vessels with three larger ships. These entered service during 1900 as the *S.S. Sierra*, *Sonoma* and *Ventura*. This trio became very popular on the South Pacific trade routes but, in 1907, an economic downturn in the United States and heavy losses incurred on the service forced the Oceanic Company to withdraw from the San Francisco

trade. The vessels were laid up leaving Australia and New Zealand with no direct connection to the USA.

On the positive side, the service to Vancouver on the West coast of Canada, had been expanded over the previous few years and was proving a great success. A notable addition to this service was the *S.S. Niagara* in 1913.

In 1908, the Union Steamship Company began a new service from Wellington to Tahiti to connect with a service being operated by the Oceanic Steamship Company from San Francisco to Tahiti. This arrangement remained in place for one year but, at the end of 1901, the Union Line decided to extend their service to San Francisco from Tahiti, once again providing a through service. The *S.S. Tahiti* was added to the service in 1911.

In 1912, the Oceanic Steamship Company decided to resume their service from San Francisco and Honolulu to Sydney so, once again, two companies were providing the link between Australia and New Zealand and the United States.

After the end of the First World War, there was a delay before the Frisco service was fully restored but the Vancouver service was not so badly affected and, by 1922, both services were running normally again. In 1925, the Oceanic Steam Ship Company was purchased by the Matson Line but the service to the South Pacific continued unchanged for the next few years.

In 1925, the *S.S. Aorangi* joined the *S.S. Niagara* on the Vancouver route.

During 1932, the Oceanic Steam Ship Company, as a subsidiary of the Matson Line, introduced two brand new liners to the Trans-Pacific route, the *S.S. Mariposa* and *S.S. Monterey*. The newcomers immediately rendered all existing ships on the route obsolete. The *S.S. Monowai* was withdrawn from service. At the end of 1936, the New Zealand Company withdrew completely from the San Francisco route.

After the Second World War, the Matson Line planned to restore the *S.S. Mariposa* and *S.S. Monterey* to the route but the cost of refitting made this uneconomical and neither ship was used on this route again. Instead, the Matson Line used a variety of war-built former troopships for eighteen months before abandoning it completely.

The *S.S. Aorangi* had survived the war as well and, after a lengthy refit resumed the service from Sydney and Auckland to Vancouver in 1948. For the next five years, she struggled to survive when providing a single ship service and, in June 1953, the aged liner was withdrawn and the Vancouver service was terminated. To fill the gap on the trans-Pacific services, the British Orient Line began to schedule occasional voyages from Sydney and Auckland to both Vancouver and San Francisco with the Peninsula and Orient Line (P&O) joining them a few years later.

In 1957, the Matson Line resumed the trade from San Francisco to the South Pacific using two new vessels, the *S.S. Mariposa* and *S.S. Monterey*, on the route. The new liners had been rebuilt from cargo ships and were smaller than their pre-war namesakes but, for over a decade, they enjoyed considerable success. In 1971, Matson sold the entire operation to the Pacific Far East Line who maintained the two ships on the Pacific trade route until 1977 when both ships were withdrawn. After more than 100 years, this brought to an end the era of regular passenger line services between North America and the South Pacific.

The establishment of the first Marine Post Office in New Zealand occurred when an office of this name was opened on Saturday, December 1st, 1860 at Auckland. Although designated as a Marine Post Office, in reality, it was just a 'Foreign Section' of the Auckland Post Office.

Large quantities of letters were being received and despatched at that time as English Mails were coming to New Zealand en route to Melbourne. A mail agent was placed on each ship carrying mail and, in 1864, a letter box was placed on the poop deck of each of the steamers. This was to allow for the posting of letters after the mails had closed at the shore post office. An

additional sixpence, in postage stamps, was payable for this service. Duties for the mail agent included sorting bulk mail en route, providing postal facilities for passengers and crew and handling mail at the ports of call. On appointment, mail agents received an 'A' Class date stamp of one of eight different types. The last remained in use until the middle of July, 1901.

Through the years of their usage, there has been a wonderful array of Marine Post Office cancellations in brightly coloured inks which are displayed during the main presentation. These cancellations ceased to be used with the closure of the Oceanic service in 1907.

Marine Post Offices were resumed from 1923 on the Wellington – San Francisco service and the Auckland – Vancouver service. Their use ceased in 1938. With seven ships using Marine Post Office cancellations during this period, the scene was set for a very interesting philatelic furore which, again, is presented in depth in the display.

During this latter period, two postal agents were assigned to each ship as it crossed the Pacific. Their services were resumed because the Post Office believed that the agents would be valuable in helping to expedite the delivery of mail especially to New Zealand residents outside the main ports of Wellington and Auckland. The agents could sort the mail before the arrival of the ship ensuring that that various cities could receive their mail about 12-14 hours earlier than under the old system. Their presence also permitted the Post Office to accept letters up to the time of departure and to ensure that all necessary shipboard postal markings were applied. If postal items came aboard outside the mail bags, they were classified as 'Loose Letters' and so marked. Mail received during the voyage was cancelled 'New Zealand Marine Post Office' accompanied by the name of the ship.

The mail services of these two routes made good time between New Zealand and London: in 1925 – 26, for example, the average for letters sent by either route was under 31 days. The mails by the Wellington – San Francisco line usually took less time than the mail sent by way of Vancouver and across Canada. In the three years between 1926 and 1929, the average time from Wellington to London via San Francisco was 29 days. On one trip, the *Tahiti* reached San Francisco in 16½ days, the mails travelling the whole distance to the mother country in 27 days! Ship mails were unlikely to improve on this record: the only better way would be by aeroplane.

The Wellington – San Francisco route was discontinued in 1936. The Union Steamship Company decided not to apply for a renewal of the contract when the Matson Line of San Francisco, operated by the American Oceanic Steamship Company, began a service to Sydney by way of Auckland. The Auckland – Vancouver Marine Post Office service ceased in 1938.

AND FINALLY:

New Zealand's little known final Marine Post Office was in use between 1963 and 1969! Huddart Parker's *S.S. Wanganella* – one of the Tasman trio – having been withdrawn was purchased to provide accommodation for the workforce engaged in the construction of the power station at Manapouri. She was moored at Deep Cove and the Post Office took this name when it opened on 13th November, 1963. The office was open seven days a week and mail for despatch was conveyed by float plane to Invercargill once a week. It closed on 8th November, 1969 when the construction work was completed.

The Chairman concluded the afternoon by thanking Bev King for the immense effort that she had made to provide such a wide ranging display, and the passion with which she had conveyed its content. He noted that the role of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans in New Zealand mail could be the subject of another display now that the Pacific Ocean Route had been covered so fully.

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN GROUP HELD ON FEBRUARY 11TH, 2012

Nine members were present which was a good attendance considering how bitterly cold it was. This was a Members meeting and the following members showed:

Harold Howard: The new 1d Dominion Plate 133 plating guide, the Best of 2012 Miniature sheets, the new Heart Foundation booklet, a nice offset on a 1d Dominion and various covers with 1d Dominion franking including one showing a bow flaw on the stamp. He concluded with two blocks of four of the 1d Dominion overprinted Victoria Land, one of which showed the 'Q' flaw.

Paul Wreglesworth: Material brought back from his recent trip to New Zealand including the Christchurch Philatelic Society Dinner Menu from 14th January 2012, a special exhibition CAL on cover, various covers with different CALs. He continued with a number of Second Sideface covers, including one with deficient postage, one with postage dues and a Second South African War cover.

Stuart Potter: A copy of Allan Berry's unpublished book on the Patriotic Covers of World War II. He reminded those present that this had been described in a recent *Kiwi* and could be downloaded from the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand's website. He continued with WWII censored letters and POW airletters, airmail covers, including those from the Empire Airmail scheme to destinations such as the Falkland Islands, India, Bahrain, South Africa, Ceylon and South West Africa.

Dave Tetley: A range of covers on the theme of New Zealand railways including T.P.O.s, station postmarks, commemorative postmarks and postcards cancelled with T.P.O. cancellations.

John Hepworth: Returned mail showing a variety of Instructional Markings including: NOT KNOWN, UNCLAIMED, GONE NO ADDRESS, NOT KNOWN ON RURAL DELIVERY, NOT KNOWN BY POSTAL CONTRACTOR, NO SUCH RD, BOXED CLOSED etc.

John Atkinson: Brought along his entry to his local philatelic society competition on the subject of the ANZACs. Included in the sheets was a replica Gallipoli medal, an imperforate Victoria Cross Sheet, full sheets of the 1936 ANZAC commemorative stamp issue, photographs from the First World War of the Transport ships at Albany in Western Australia and of the New Zealand troops marching through Albany during their stay there.

Mike Hanson: Mint and used World War II Airletters, POW mail from Germany and Italy and 1898 First Pictorials used on cover with values from ½d to 5d.

Jack Lindley: concluded the displays by showing both issues of the Second Pictorial Definitives with plate blocks, varieties and booklet panes.

Again, an excellent meeting with lots of interesting material and discussion. The meeting closed at 15.00.

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MIDLAND GROUP HELD ON FEBRUARY 18TH, 2012

Andrew Dove showed his display 'New Zealand and the Second South African War' which covered the New Zealand Contingents postal history during the war of 1899 to 1902.

In all, ten contingents totalling more than 6,000 men left New Zealand for South Africa but only eight saw some form of active service; the last two contingents arrived just after the war had ended.

A great deal of patriotic fervour was generated in New Zealand over the deployment of their volunteer troops and many printed postcards and envelopes were produced to provide aid for them. Separate issues were made for each contingent and Andrew showed items of each issue as well as one complete set of sixteen of the mint pictorial postcards plus two used examples in the different grades of card used for the printings. He also included a very interesting pigeonogram flimsy used on a specially arranged fund-raising day trip to Great Barrier Island in 1902.

In South Africa, initially there was no specific postal service for the soldiers so letters home used Transvaal, GB, Orange Free State stamps and some 'On Active Service' were carried free. Many examples were on display. Other interesting items including a letter from a member of the Second Contingents Hotchkiss Brigade, a short lived specialist gun team, and captured Boer Official railway envelopes used to send letters home.

In the second part, Andrew showed covers and letters where he had been able to find details of the service of the senders or recipients. Two covers were shown addressed to a trooper in South Africa but most were from the soldiers to New Zealand addresses. Particularly interesting was the fact that healthcare professionals were not sent out by the Government with the troops at first, but a number volunteered and made their own way to South Africa where they joined or were seconded to the Royal Army Medical Corps. These included 29 female nurses and several identified covers and items from them were displayed. Another interesting fact mentioned was that more than 2,000 Māori men volunteered but were not accepted by the British Imperial Authorities on the grounds that it would not be 'appropriate' for indigenous Empire citizens to be involved in a 'white man's' war. However, a few Māori men beat the ban as one cover to a Māori address was shown.

One important legacy of the New Zealand involvement in the war was the decision by the Government to build a territorial army of about 30,000 men. This led to army training camps being set up after the war and some postal material was shown from this period.

Andrew was sincerely thanked for his very interesting and well researched display and for his special service to the Society through his Editorship of *The Kiwi*.

**NOTES OF THE JOINT MEETING HELD BY THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN PHILATELISTS
HELD AT STAMPEX ON FEBRUARY 25TH, 2012**

The meeting had arisen out of a suggestion that collaboration of the soldiers of the two countries should be the subject of a philatelic celebration.

About twenty people attended and were entertained by displays from five members of each society. The subjects covered included the mobilisation and transport of the contingents, the medical cover provided, the postal services for mail during the Gallipoli campaign and an overview of the whole campaign. Two of the displays were focussed specifically of the careers of two particular Australian soldiers: these included correspondence with home, documents describing their careers and notifications of death and details of their final resting place.

The history of the ANZACs (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) since the formation was created in December 1914 was proud. After fighting in Gallipoli in 1915 – 16, they continued in existence and fought on the Western Front, during the Sinai-Palestine campaign and, in the Second War, in Greece and more recently, in Vietnam. The success of the co-operation was based on a mutual respect. Indeed, General Birdwood, the ANZAC Commander, wrote in his foreword to the official war history *'Going around, as I did, the trenches of all, it was to me a constant source of satisfaction and delight to find New Zealanders and Australians confiding in me the highly favourable opinion which, apparently to their surprise, they had formed of each other!'* (1).

A composite feature of the displays was the sense of reality about war that they gave. It is hard from our backward looking viewpoint to appreciate the conditions under which the men fought and died together, about 10,700 Australians and New Zealanders died on the Peninsula. Looking at some of the artefacts on display, one could begin to appreciate the courage and ruggedness of those men.

Following a spirited and enjoyable discussion, the Chairman of the New Zealand Society thanked those who had offered the material for display and the meeting closed at 16.00.

Reference

1. Waite, Maj. F. *'The New Zealanders at Gallipoli'*. New Zealand Government (Whitcomb & Tombs, Ltd.) (1919).

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF
LONDON ON THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2012.**

The Development of Postal Services in New Zealand until the Introduction of Adhesive Postage Stamps (1824-1855): A display and talk by Patrick Maselis;

The President welcomed 97 Fellows and Members and 2 guests to the meeting. A good number of members of the New Zealand Society were present.

Patrick explained that the display was split into seven time periods:

1822 – 1840: There was no postal service during this period and any letters had to be carried through a private arrangement with the Captain of the ship. During this period, also, there was a Belgian connection through Baron Thierry, an eccentric who purchased 16,000 hectares with Sovereign Rights around Hokianga. On the strength of this purchase, the Baron declared himself King of New Zealand. A letter written by Thierry from Pitcairn was included in these early frames.

1825 – 1831: this period saw the development of a rudimentary service as an extension to the creation of a service in New South Wales. These frames included a letter written from the French ship, the *Astrolabe*, whilst it was exploring the area around the Coromandel Peninsula. This is the only recorded letter from the early exploration of the country.

1831 – 1840: during this period, the New South Wales Postmaster commissioned two traders from Te Wahapu to receive letters and transmit them on to Sydney although the arrangement was unofficial. On display was the earliest known example of mail transmitted through this route still in private hands.

1841 – 1843: following the granting of the Royal Charter establishing New Zealand as a Crown Colony, there was a period of 27 months during which postal matters were controlled locally. Local initiatives were also being undertaken as evidenced by the letter to Yorkshire cancelled with a straight line 'NELSON' mark which was made locally.

1843 – 1848: for an unknown reason, the British Government assumed control of the postal service. One of the envelopes from this period was cancelled with a Crown Circle mark from Hokianga which had the year, 1842, engraved into the canceller. This meant that all letters posted until about 1860 had the same year of posting in their cancellation.

After 1848: an ordinance passed on November 18, 1848 returned control of the post office to the Colonial authorities. Thereafter, a variety of routes was used to send the mails overseas although by far the favourite destination was the United Kingdom. One of the more unusual routes included the letter being carried overland between Calcutta and Bombay. The only known survivor from this route was included in this section of the display.

The last section showed mail carried by Māori couriers who could travel up to 30 miles a day.

Andrew Dove proposed a vote of thanks for the fascinating display and the clarity of the explanations of the complex aspects of this period. He noted that, although Baron Thierry failed to become King, he affected the country significantly as the Treaty of Waitangi was created to stop further adventurers and the Māori Land Courts are still trying to resolve the issues arising from the Treaty.

Dr. A. F. Dove FRPSL

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – Update Number 2

- Good progress continues to be made with the arrangements for celebrating our Anniversary within 'Australasia 2012' at Autumn Stampex. Between Wednesday 26th and Saturday 29th September, the programme of events – exhibition, talks and displays, and two dinners – outlined on pages 10 & 11 in the January 2012 issue of *The Kiwi*, will take place. Bookings for both dinners, for example, have now reached significant levels. The Committee of the Society have provided substantial funds to all activities involved and to obtain benefit members have only to participate – exhibit, purchase the publications and attend the Anniversary Dinner.
- The Society is delighted to confirm that the following major players in New Zealand Philately will be present – Dr. Robin Gwynn, RDP, Len Jury, John Mowbray, Warwick Paterson, Paul Wales and John Watts.
- **New publication now available.** Thanks to the truly great efforts of Andrew Dove, Special Publication No. 5, An Index to The Kiwi: Vol. 1 (1952) – Vol. 60 (2011) is now available in CD format from the Hon. Treasurer at the members price of £5.00 incl. P&P
- Reminders of Significant Deadlines:

A.S.A.P.	The Booking Form for the Anniversary Dinner was issued with <i>The Kiwi</i> No. 2 stating that the latest date for receipt of remittance is 31 August. (Contact Brian Stonestreet: ☎01622-675784)
May 26 th	Society meeting to review Page one for competitive entries for Stampex
August 19 th	Deadline for receipt of entry forms for Stampex
September 25 th	Hand in date for personally delivered entries for Stampex

N.B.: Accommodation at the Union Jack Club and tickets for the Three Society Dinner on Friday 28th are being allocated strictly on a first come, first served basis as space is limited.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Society publications are now available:

SP 1: *Aspects of Collecting New Zealand Stamps*. (Out of Stock)

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

SP 4: *New Zealand Stamps Overprinted "O.P.S.O."*

SP 5: *Index to the Kiwi Volumes 1-60*. Published on CD only

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, i.e. £18 for UK and £21 for overseas))

SP 4: £24 incl. £1.50 P&P.

SP 5: £5 incl. P&P

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

OBITUARY

ROBIN MCGILL STARTUP RDP FRPSL FRPSNZ

(July 22nd 1933 – February 16th 2012)

Many readers will be aware of the death of the world famous Postal Historian and author, Robin Startup, at the age of 78. Robin had been a member of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain for many years contributing more than 110 articles and notes to *The Kiwi*.

The Startup family moved to Masterton in 1947. Robin completed his education at Wairarapa College and began his working life in the Department of Social Welfare. Later, he moved into the administration of the health service and stayed with the Wairarapa Hospital Board until his retirement. He lived with his sister, Stancy, in the same house in Masterton for 45 years.

Robin was interested in the whole range of historical research. He had studied his family history and was a keen student of the local history of the area surrounding Masterton. His main interest, of course was in Postal History and this formed his focus for all of his adult life. It would seem that he started early: in 1955, the Introduction to Volume III of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* includes the paragraph: 'Mr. R. M. Startup of Masterton, although only a young student, has made a careful investigation of the Official Diaries relating to World War II. He published a book on the subject and made it available to the editors. He also made a study of the slogan cancellations and offered his data for perusal.' It would seem that, even during his teens, Robin research skills were well developed.

During his lifetime, Robin published at least 60 books on postal history. These ranged in subject from his monumental *New Zealand Post Offices* (first edition published in 1967) and *History of New Zealand Military Postal Services 1845 – 1991* (1992, jointly authored with Ted Proud) to many histories of local postal services and chronicles of changing times within the New Zealand Post Office.

In addition to his books and magazine articles, Robin will be remembered for creating the journal *The Mail Coach*. He started this privately in 1956 to share the results of his research. The initial publication continued until 1958 and was resurrected by The Postal History Society of New Zealand in 1964 and has continued as their Society Journal until the present day. Robin remained as Production and Circulation Manager as well as Editor until 1967.

Robin's contribution was recognised by a wide range of philatelic honours culminating in his election to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2008, the eighth New Zealander to do so. His visit to Manchester to sign the Roll the next year was the only time that he left New Zealand. He and Stancy took the opportunity to travel around England and visit some of areas from which their family had originated. Unusually, his election to the RDP was on the basis of his published research. Although Robin had extensive collections of Postal History and exhibited widely in New Zealand, his displays were not of the nature to win high awards at an international level.

To recount Robins's honours, extensive and impressive though they are, does not give the reality of the man. A large number of collectors around the world will have felt a personal sense of loss at the news of his death. He was a modest man who pursued his interests and shared them with such endeavour and skill that he rose to great prominence amongst philatelists. He was probably fortunate that his most exhaustive research was undertaken in the 1950's and 1960's. He was, for example, given free range to explore the New Zealand Archives in Wellington, something that would not happen today. At that time, as well, people still wrote letters, rather than firing off e-mails, allowing a rather more measured and leisurely approach to correspondence than nowadays. His correspondents around the world were aware that he had devoted the last few years to putting his archives in order to allow them to continue to be used in perpetuity. AD

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION NOTIFICATION

The annual club auction will be held on November 24th, 2012 and managed by a team of club members under the direction of the auctioneer – Brian Stonestreet. The rules are clearly stated below and will be strictly applied to assist in the smooth running of the event.

1. Vendors must send a written description of each lot for sale to the Editor of *The Kiwi* to arrive not later than July 20th, 2012. Each lot description must state the vendor's reserve price. No market estimate is required. Do **NOT** send items for sale to the Editor – only a description of each lot. The minimum reserve is £3. The Editor will acknowledge receipt of lot descriptions within 5 days. He will subsequently supply a copy of the auction list entry for proof-reading and this will include notification of the lot numbers. Please include your e-mail address with your description of lots: where possible, the auction catalogue collator will communicate electronically.
2. Vendors should attach the correct Lot number to each lot. Lots should be contained in clear envelopes. Labels should be at least 1 cm. square and located in the SE corner of the lot. Vendors unable to attend the auction must send their material to: Brian Stonestreet, 32, Bedgebury Close, Vinters Park, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5QZ to arrive not later than November 17th, 2012. Vendors attending the auction must deliver their lots to the auctioneer not later than 11.30 on the day of the auction.
3. Viewing will commence at 12.30. The auction will commence promptly at 14.00.
4. Only members of the Society are eligible to bid in the auction.
5. Successful purchasers attending the auction will be given their lots during the auction on condition that they settle their account before leaving.
6. Vendors may not remove unsold lots without the authority of the auctioneer.
7. Successful purchasers not present will be contacted by email or telephone. Provided that payment is sent by return, lots will be despatched as promptly as possible.
8. Unsold lots and sales less all expenses will be returned to vendors once all sales income is received.
- 9. Only the first 400 descriptions will be accepted for sale in the auction of November 24th, 2012.**
10. The Society will insure all items from the time of their receipt by the auctioneer until the time of purchase or return to vendor.
11. No postage costs are paid by the Society. A lotting fee of £0.50p per lot is payable by the vendor. The Society fee remains at 10% of the hammer price and will be paid by the vendor.
12. Failure to abide by rules 5, 6 or 7 will render the person ineligible to participate in future auctions.
13. The auctioneer has the right to decline lots that do not conform to their description or which, in his view, are of insufficient quality to sell.
14. Any postal bidder with a serious complaint on receipt of his/her purchases must return them to the Auctioneer within one week of their arrival.

APPEAL

Each year it has been the practice of generous members to offer items, philatelic and general, to be auctioned for Society funds. This is much appreciated. Please see what you have that is surplus to your requirements. No matter what it is, we will be delighted to receive it, preferably by July 20th, 2012 to appear in the catalogue, otherwise at any time up to 12.00 noon on Kiwi Day.

Remember to bring your catalogue to the auction. Copies available in the room will cost £1.00.

THE EXCHANGE PACKET

The changeover of the Honorary Packet Secretary from Bernard Atkinson to John Hepworth is now complete with only a couple of minor blips. All packets sent out by Bernard have now finished their circuits and all monies have been received by him. From now on, all correspondence relating to the packet should be sent to John at the address shown in the Society Officers section of *The Kiwi*.

Packets take two distinct routes and booklets which have a reasonable amount left in them after one circuit are combined with new booklets and recirculated on the second route. In this way, no member should see the same booklet twice. The starting point for a circuit is different for each packet so that every member gets a chance to see some material earlier on the circuit. There are now four packets circulating, with two more about to start their journey which should take 3-4 months.

In the few months that I have been involved with the packet, some snags have become apparent and I list these in the hope that members will try and avoid these problems in the future:

- Errors in the completion of the packet slips:
 - No dates added
 - No forwarding details given
 - Incorrect addition of purchases/insurance.
- Please indicate that you have telephoned ahead to the next recipient
- Incorrect address used on mail to me.

However, the biggest problem is the delay in forwarding the packet. I sent out two packets within 2 days of each other. One packet is now over half way around (15 members) but the other is only a quarter way through the route – 7 members in almost 4 weeks is not good enough. Such delays give concern about possible loss of the packet and allows packets to catch up so that members receive two packets very close together. Please pass on the packet within the stipulated 48 hours.

There is always a need for more booklets for circulation and I would encourage all members to consider moving surplus material in this way – good for you and good for the Society. Empty booklets are freely available from me. I would also encourage more members to receive the packet – there is always the chance that you will find some item for which you have been searching.

John Hepworth
Hon. Packet Secretary

INFORMATION RECEIVED:

INFORMATION RECEIVED MEDIA RELEASE

Celebrate 75 years of the RNZAF with a commemorative stamp and coin issue

15 February 2012



Since its inception in 1937, the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) has made a significant contribution to war – and peace – time efforts in New Zealand and around the world. In 2012, the RNZAF is celebrating 75 years of service, and New Zealand Post is commemorating the anniversary with a highly collectable stamp and coin issue.

The 75 Years of the RNZAF stamp issue is made up of 15 x 60c large stamps – each portraying a different aspect of the RNZAF. From the beginning of the Air Force to the future, a broad range of

services is portrayed and each stamp tells a story about the vast range of duties carried out by the RNZAF. All 15 stamps are displayed together on the 75 Years of the RNZAF stamp sheet.

The stamps also available on a set of three first day covers and in a unique 36-page miniature sheet booklet – the premium product in the stamp issue. Each of the 15 stamps appears twice throughout the booklet, and it's the only way to obtain the eight unique miniature sheets. The booklet also contains a timeline of the history of the Air Force in New Zealand, and throughout it you'll discover more about each of the 15 aspects of the RNZAF portrayed on the stamps.

The 75 Years of the RNZAF Coin is the only New Zealand legal tender coin that has been officially authorised by the RNZAF to commemorate 75 years of military air operations in New Zealand. The limited edition 1oz, 0.999 pure silver proof coin with colour combines a number of graphic elements that are of great significance to the RNZAF in celebrating its 75th anniversary. There is a worldwide mintage of only 2,000 coins, and the coin is uniquely presented alongside an RNZAF pin.

The stamps, first day covers and miniature sheet booklet designed by Strategy Design and Advertising, Wellington. They have been printed in offset lithography by Southern Colour Print of Dunedin.

The stamp and coin issues are available from the 15 March 2012 at all New Zealand PostShops, REAL Aotearoa stores in Wellington and Auckland, the Whanganui Collectables and Solutions Centre.

CENTENNIAL STAMP & POSTCARD EXHIBITION, CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND (JAN 14TH-15TH 2012) – 'KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON'

PAUL WREGLESWORTH



Figure 1 Robin Gwynn RDP in front of his Large Gold Medal display of Adsons

In January this year, I was honoured to travel to New Zealand, at the invitation of the Philatelic Foundation, to deliver the latest in their series of Robert Samuel Memorial Lectures. Earthquake drill is not generally the first thing you expect to receive on checking into a hotel, but such is the reality of life in a city still feeling aftershocks on a daily basis.

Originally scheduled to coincide with Christchurch Philatelic Society's centenary celebrations (CPS100), in October 2011, the event was understandably postponed as the city struggled to recover from a series of major earthquakes that have struck the area over the past 18 months. With aftershocks rippling through the city on an almost daily basis it would be understandable if the organising committee (Canpex) had decided to call it a day - but they are a determined lot in Christchurch!

The Centennial Stamp & Postcard Exhibition was re-scheduled for January 14th-15th 2012 and with an alternative venue (Addington Raceway) secured, the committee, supported by a small army of local volunteers, put on what turned out to be a very successful event.

The two days were well supported by large numbers of visitors. With several dealers in attendance and more than 120 competitive exhibits occupying more than 400 display frames there was plenty to occupy them. The judges awarded 6 Large Gold and 12 Gold medals which was testament to the high standard of the exhibits on display.

New Zealand material was well represented in the top awards with Gold Medals for exhibits of New Zealand's AR Service, Otago Postal History, New Zealand Postal Stationery (1876 -1932)

and Penny Universal (1901-1908) and Large Gold Medals for New Zealand King George VI, and New Zealand Advertisement Stamps 1893. The latter eight (yes 8!) frame entry from Robin Gwynn was runner up to the Grand Award.

For those more interested in modern issues a series of CPS100 commemorative philatelic items were produced to coincide with the event and a special CAL was produced for the Exhibition Awards Dinner featuring an image from the Scott Antarctic Expedition with a team member sitting astride a case of a sponsor's canned food products. The CAL was used on the dinner menu and cancelled with the opening day cancellation (14th January). Just 100 were produced and these are the only first day items for this CAL produced. An example will be offered in our Society auction in November with the proceeds going to Society funds.



Figure 2 The Canpex Dinner CAL.

RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS

Lot	Description	Realised (Est.)
Auckland City Stamps: January 31st, 2012		
1732	1d Universal, Dickie slot machine single, FU at Hobart (CP S3a)	NZ\$350 (350)
1763	1919 1d Dominion bklt. pane. Mint. CP W4b(y)	NZ\$200 (200)
2019	1936 Health FDC. Jones H36	NZ\$450 ((250)
2089	1905/6 Life Insurance 1d blue No VR. UM. CP X8b	NZ\$960 (1200)
2170	1940/58 £3.10s Rose. CP Z49b	NZ\$2750 (2750)
2400	1900's Maori Council/Matatua District cachet on OPSO piece tied by part cds	NZ\$200 (250)
J.R. Mowbray: February 7th, 2012		
418	RPSNZ Handbook Vol. 1	NZ\$420 (600)
970	1915 KEVII 3d Chestnut 2 perf. pair. CP H3e	NZ\$490 (500)
1295	1960 1/9 bistre. Set counter coil pairs with red numbers.	NZ\$265 (375)
1637	1948 Otago Centennial 18 different commem. covers with complete sets and commem. cancels	NZ\$50 (75)
2205	2004 BMW CAL commercially used	NZ\$275 (250)
Grosvenor: March 7th and 8th, 2012 (The Charles and Francis Kiddle Collection of Adson's)		
1052	Adson: 4d green 2 nd setting in brown. Perf. 12x11½. CP DA6b. 6 used copies	£450 (150/200)
1053	Adson: 5d olive-black 3 rd setting in mauve. Perf. 12x11½. 6 used copies. CP DA7a	£480 (150/200)
1055	Adson: 6d brown 2 nd /3 rd setting in mauve. Perf. 12x11½. CP DA8g	£420 (250/300)
1058	Adson: 1d Rose 3 rd setting (desc. as 1/2) in red-brown. Perf. 12x11½. Separated used pair. Used. CP DA2k(1)	£580 (350/400)
1059	Adson: 1d Rose 3 rd setting in lilac. Perf. 12x11½. Strip of four used. CP DA2k(Z)	£580 (700/900)
1098	Adson: 1d Rose.1 st setting in red-brown. UM block of 12 from the left of the sheet. CP DA2j(2)	£780 (350/400)

1099	Adson: 1d Rose 2 nd setting in lilac. Mint block of 6. CP DA2j(4)	£230 (150/200)
1100	Adson: 1d Rose 2 nd or 3 rd setting in lilac. Mint block 6. CP DA2j(4)	£260 (150/200)
1108	Adson: 2d lilac adverts in red-brown. Mint block 54 (6x9) being 9 of 10 rows from the upper left pane. Small imperfections. CP DA3g(4)	£4,000 (2000)
1135	Adson: 5d olive-black, 3 rd setting in mauve. M. block of 9. CP DA7d(1)	£1,400(600/700)
Auckland City Stamps Public Auction: March 24th, 2012		
511	1906 Letter to London with Christchurch Exhibition No. 2 & 3 labels tied by London cds	NZ\$600 (250)
541	KGV 4d Plate 20 Deep Bright Aniline shade FU	NZ\$550 (500)
619	1977 8c Postafix Coil join strip of 8 used on piece with coil join in idle – 4 normal stamps and 4 with missing dark green veins	NZ\$1300 (1250)
634	2006 Kapa Haka 45c used on cover	NZ\$5600 (4000)
662	1933 Health Kiwi Exchange Club FDC	NZ\$1500 (1500)
Prestige Philately: March 30th, 2012		
58	Chalon 1d carmine-vermilion superb used with part strike of 'Otahuhu' cancel. SG 35	A\$850 (500)
124	Chalon 2d Perf. 10x12½. Bright orange shade. Vert. pair vfu.	A\$340 (150)
137	First Sidefaces: 3d Die Proof in black on glazed card. Stamped Oct 17 1872 and 'BEFORE HARDENING'	A\$675 (500)
139	First Sidefaces: Set of 6 Colour Trials with 'Specimen' handstamp.	A\$525 (500)
156	Second Sidefaces: 1891 – 1895 2½d blue Perf. 10 block four, well centred lower stamps UM. SG 220	A\$525 (350)
157	Second Sidefaces: 1891-1895 4d blue-green. Perf. 10. Lower marginal block 4. lightly mounted	A\$1050 (750)
169	First Pictorials: ½d – 5s set of plate proof pairs in issued colours	A\$800 (1000)
206	First Pictorial 1½d. Perf. compound of 11 and 14. Unmounted.	A\$2400 (1250)
248	1915 KGV 3d Die proof in carmine (ex. Darge & Baillie)	A\$1500 (750)
264	1926 1d Field Marshal Die Proof in carmine on glazed card. Endorsed '22/2/26' (ex. Baillie)	A\$1350 (600)
278	1931 Health Smiling Boys FDC. V. good condition	A\$2300 (1500)
329	1998 Scenic Skies Commemorative issue with ornamental frame displaced 12mm to right. Imprint block.	A\$3200 (4000)
398	1838 Entire headed 'Bay of Islands NZealand/28 th March 1838. Signed James Clendon. to London with two strikes of 'INDIA LETTER/MARGATE'	A\$1600 (750)

PACW & AD

WELLINGTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY LITERATURE AUCTION

Wellington Philatelic Society is holding a postal philatelic literature auction with a closing date of April 30th. Members on e-mail have already been notified but if any other readers are interested, they should contact the Hon. Secretary, Bob Gibson at bob@gibsonz.com. He will be pleased to forward a copy of the catalogue.

AUSTRALIA 2013

Information is now available for those planning to exhibit in or visit the international stamp exhibition which will be held at the Melbourne Royal Exhibition Buildings between May 10th and 15th, 2013. The exhibition is to celebrate the Centenary of Australian Federation.

Anybody planning to enter should note that the entry forms have to be received by the UK Commissioner by July 31st, 2012.

Full details are contained on the website: www.australia2013.com.

A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: STAMPS OVERPRINTED 'CLEANED'

Members of the RPSNZ may have noticed an article in the last issue of the *New Zealand Stamp Collector* by Geoff Rickards on the subject of stamps that were overprinted 'CLEANED' by the Post Office after Mr Jones had tried to sell them through club packets.

Geoff is keen to locate any further examples and would be very grateful for details which may be sent to the Hon. Editor for onward transmission.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

A FIRST WORLD WAR POSTCARD FROM SLING CAMP

PAUL WREGLESWORTH

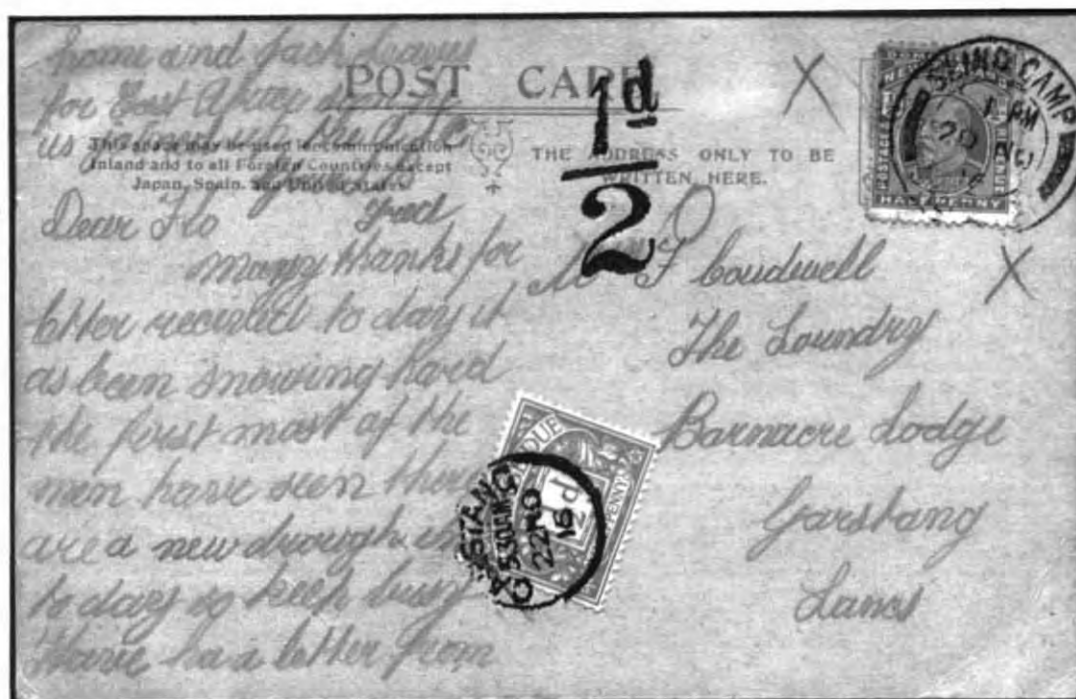


Figure 1: The reverse of the postcard (80% actual size)

Figure 1 shows an interesting card addressed to Garstang, Lancashire posted from Sling Camp with a New Zealand Edward VII halfpenny stamp postmarked 20 NO 16. The stamp was, of course, not valid for postage within the UK and the card has been endorsed with a large '1/2' due mark. A British 1/2d postage due stamp has been added and cancelled, on receipt at Garstang, on November 22nd. The front of the postcard (Figure 2) records the visit of King George V to review the troops.

Sling Camp was originally built as an annexe to Bulford Camp on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire. Originally named 'Sling Plantation' after nearby woods it was occupied by New Zealand forces in 1916 and, at that time, it was officially called the 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade Reserve Camp.

The Camp was located in the middle of Salisbury Plain and remained the chief New Zealand Training Camp throughout the War. It was not well regarded by those living there indeed, the Official War History describes it as '*- Sling unloved, bleak, and lonely*' (1).



Figure 2: The front of the postcard showing the King at Sling Camp

The camp also housed a number of high profile New Zealand conscientious objectors including Archibald Baxter and two of his brothers who were sent all the way from New Zealand to make an example of them.

At the end of the war the camp housed some 4500 New Zealand troops and the camp became a repatriation centre. However delays in demobilising troops led to unrest and rioting. The ringleaders were arrested and, somewhat ironically, shipped back to New Zealand.

To occupy the troops, they were put to work carving the image of a large kiwi in the chalk of the hill that overlooks the camp. The story surrounding this iconic image was covered by John Hicks in a previous article in *The Kiwi* (2) and the cleaning and restoration of the image was covered by John Watts in his article (3). The site is now maintained by the Ministry of Defence.

The 'Chalk Kiwi' was commemorated on a stamp issued by New Zealand Post in 2008.



Figure 3: 2008 ANZAC stamp

References:

1. Ed. Drew Lt. HTB '*The War Effort of New Zealand. A Popular History of (a) Minor Campaigns in which New Zealanders took part; (b) Services not fully dealt with in the Campaign Volumes; (c) The Work at the Bases*'. Pub. Whitcomb and Combs Ltd (1923)
2. Hicks J 'The Kiwi on the Beacon Hills in Wiltshire'. *The Kiwi* (1987). Vol 36 No. 1, pp 20-21.
3. Watts J 'The British Kiwi'. *The Kiwi* (2008) Vol 57 No 3, pp 62-63.

NEW ZEALAND REPLY COUPONS (Part 3)

JOHN WATTS

In 1957, another change in design was agreed at the Lausanne Congress. The new coupon measured 105mm x 74 mm, the watermark was the multiple 'UPU' and the globe underprint used in the Vienna design was stretched to fill the majority of the new design with the UPU logo positioned in the top left corner.

It was also agreed that it would no longer be necessary to show a country name or selling price.

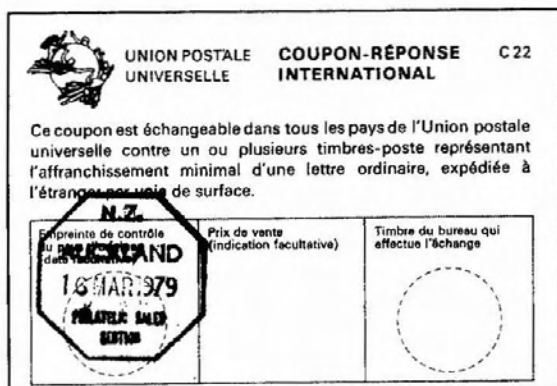


Figure 19: Lausanne Design Front



Figure 20: Lausanne Design Reverse

During the lifespan of this design, there were a number of postage rate increases:

February 2 1976	36c
October 1 1977	40c
April 1, 1982	70c
July 1, 1985	\$1.30c
February 2, 1987	\$1.85c
September 25, 2000	\$2.99c

However, with no requirement to display the selling price, the only changes to the coupons during their currency would be to the script that was used in the layout of the twelve different re-prints.

At the Washington Conference in January 1991, it was agreed that with the changing arrangements for the movement of international mail, the coupons could be exchanged for stamps representing the minimum postage rate for sending letters abroad by air mail.

At the conference held in Beijing which commenced on January 1st, 2001, a new design was agreed which was introduced on January 1st, 2002. The size doubled to 148mm x 105mm and the name of the country issuing the coupon and date of validity were re-introduced on the front.

A radical change was the appearance of a long Bar Code on the reverse. The writer has never seen a New Zealand version of the 5th UPU Coupon so a Great Britain version is illustrated in Figure 21.

The bar code is broken down to read:

- Country – G.B.
- Two 8 number groups: the first denoting the date of printing and the second, the end of the validity of the coupon.
- 7 number group: serial number
- The value of the coupon in hundredths of an SDR – 074. Special Drawing Rights

- (SDR) in the International monetary Fund (SDR's)
- (e) Pair of letters changing from AA to AB etc. for each batch of 10,00 Coupons

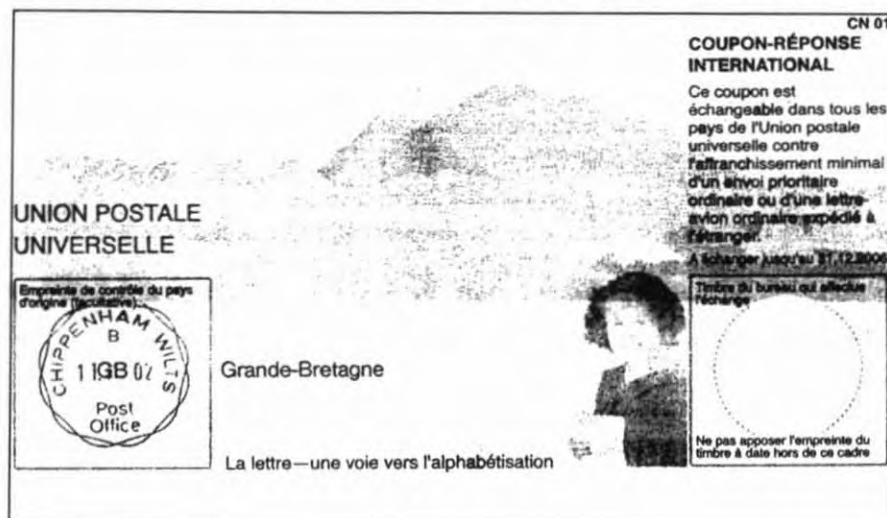


Figure 21. Beijing Design

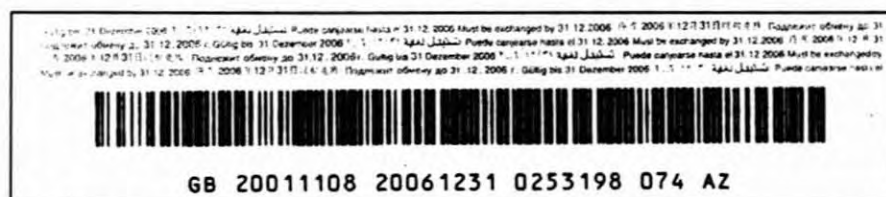


Figure 22. Beijing Design showing Bar Code on reverse

The next change to the sixth design was agreed at the Bucharest Congress which started on July 1st, 2007. The new design was called the Beijing Model 2 and was designed by a Ukrainian, Volodymyr Taran.



Figure 23. The Front of Beijing 2 Model

The printing was in blue and showed two stretched hands about to touch. This was based on the famous painting in the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican which depicts God giving life to Adam. Shown obliquely behind the hands is a perforated stamp with the UPU emblem faintly discernible, all in gold. Below the country name is a hologram of the UPU emblem.

The size was slightly different to the previous design at 149mm x 103mm.

The watermark is a multiple 'UPU' and an 8 pointed star with a centre circle. The letters UPU are in a cross formation with the 'P' in the centre.



Figure 24. Reverse of the Beijing Model 2

The Bar Code shows the date of the printing (20.2.2008) and the end of the validity date (31.12.2009). The date appears above the right hand box which was used for the acceptance date stamp.

To mark the Centenary of the UPU's International Reply Coupon scheme, this design had '100ans 1907 – 2007' printed over the gold stamp image. This commemorative version was sold by 37 member countries but New Zealand was not one of them.

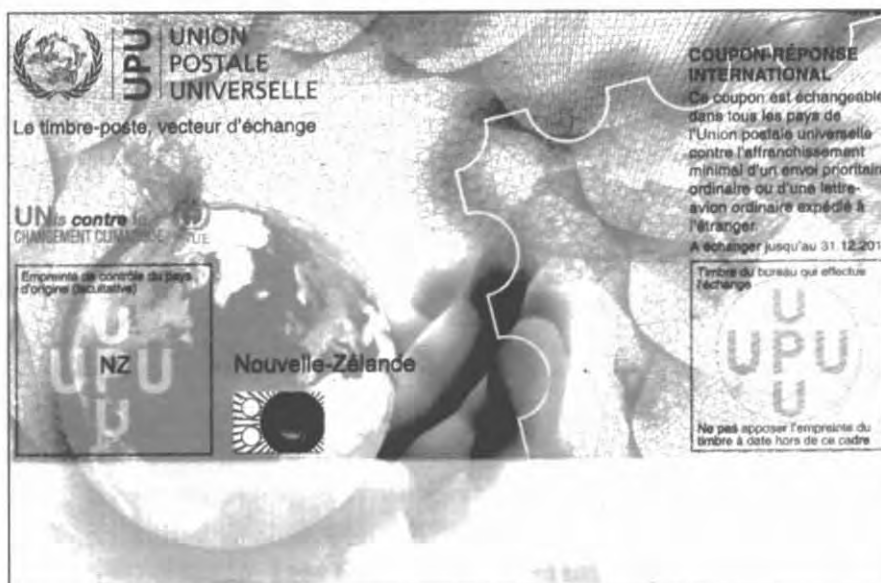


Figure 25. Front of the Nairobi Design

The Nairobi Congress that was planned for 2008 was transferred to Geneva because of civil unrest in Kenya. A new design, the seventh, was selected from ten designs. The successful designer was Rob van Goor of Luxembourg Post.



Figure 26. Bar Code on the Nairobi Design

The size, watermark and detail of the hologram is the same as the Beijing 2 design with the addition of an AV visible security marking.

The Bar Code contains the printing date (8.6.2010) and the validity date (31.12.2013).

The cost of the coupon in New Zealand was \$2.99.

A new optional feature was that issuing countries could have their national flag included on the coupon. New Zealand chose not to use this facility.

The logo of the United Nations (PNU) now appears on all IRCs and is accompanied by the slogan 'UNis *contre* le CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE' (Unite Against Climate Change).

The new coupon was issued in New Zealand in mid 2009 but for about 6 months in the middle of 2010, there was a limited supply until supplies were re-stocked. Coupons are ordered in batches of 1,000.

The number of International Reply Coupons printed each year has been recorded by the UPU. The greatest was in 1971 when 21.9 million and the lowest since 1934 was 2001, when only 1.9 million were required. Currently, about 2.2 million are sold around the world each year. The IRC is not available in all countries in the UPU but all member countries are required to accept them for payment of postage.

With its small population, New Zealand would only place an order when stocks are low and the current version would be issued by the UPU. Because of this, some of the various types and variations would not have been used in New Zealand.

IMPERIAL REPLY COUPONS

In 1926, Empire Reply Coupons were introduced to allow countries in the British Empire to take advantage of the lower British Empire Concessionary postage rates. When introduced, the rate was 2½d as compared with current International rate of 5d. The new coupon was printed by Waterlow & Sons Limited, London.

The size of the coupon was 109mm x 80mm and the paper contained a watermark showing an upright GvR surmounted with a crown. The second type of coupon was printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd., St. Martins Lane in London.

There were a total of eight different variations of this design. The changes were mainly in detail of the script. With the accession of King George VI, the watermark was changed to a cipher showing 'GVIR' surmounted with a crown. With the increase of the postage rate to 3d in 1952, the stock of the 2½d value coupons were re-rated to the new value by the use of a rubber stamp.

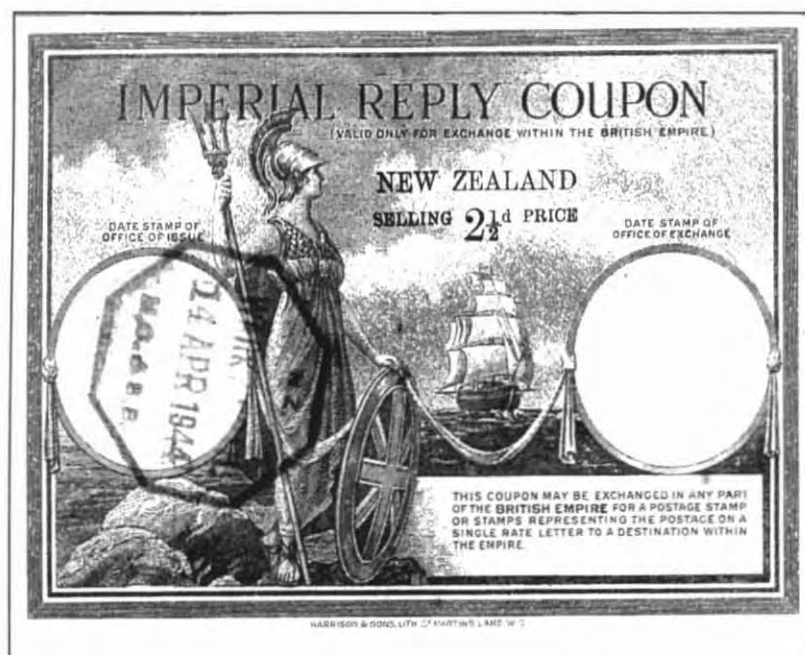


Figure 27: 1927 Type II Design of the Empire Reply Coupon



Figure 28: Type VII coupon re-valued

(To be continued)

INFORMATION, PLEASE ON A PROTECTIVE OVERPRINT

A. DOVE



I recently came across the stamp illustrated on the left. It is a copy of the 2d 1946 Peace Issue with an overprint on it reading 'J. / B. & Co. / Ltd'. It also has a crayon cancellation so was, presumably, used on a receipt.

Can anybody give me any information about the company or any other examples of similar protective overprints?

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