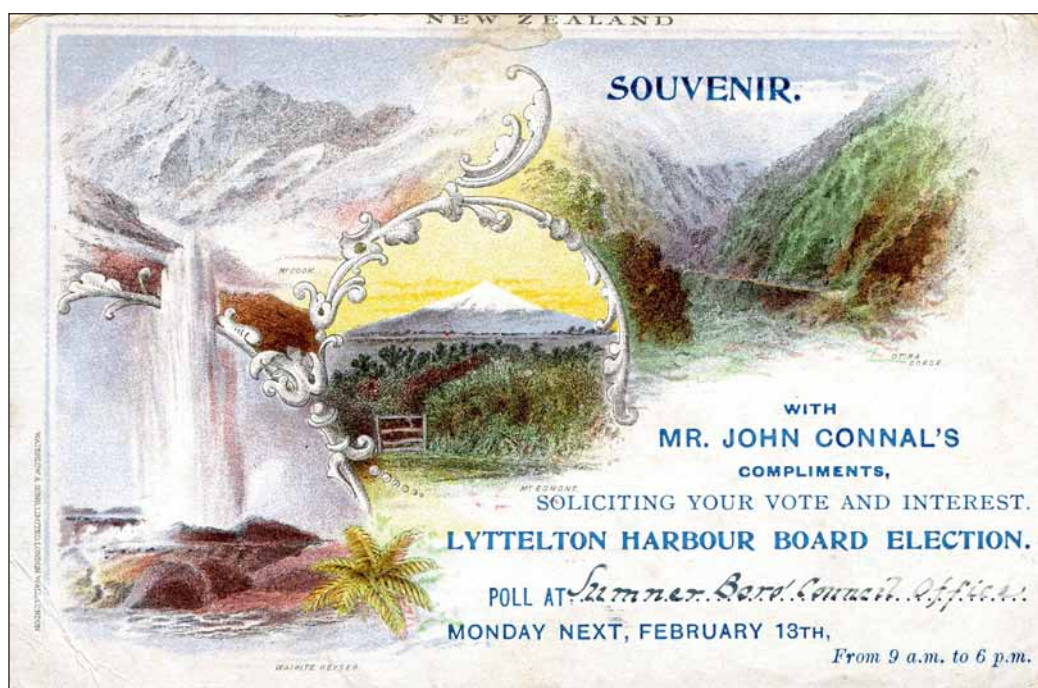


THE KIWI

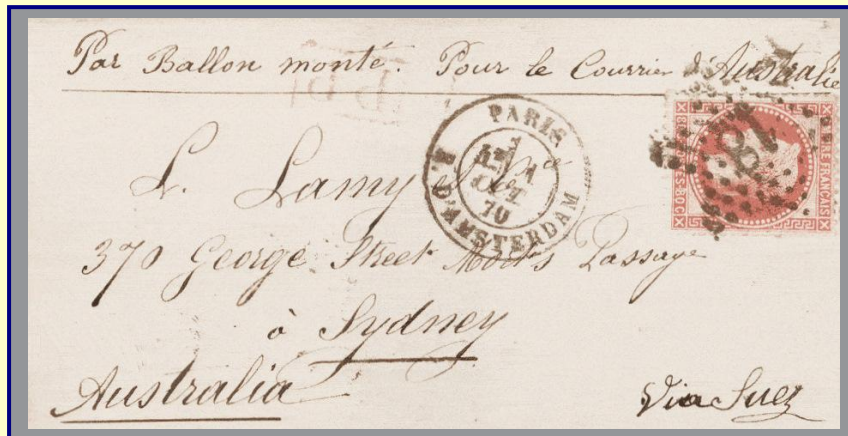
JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



Private Postal Stationery - Topic for the May meeting (see page 115)



Superb material for the discerning



The above cover was an example of the world's first airmail and is the only known Paris ballon post cover addressed to Australasia. In 2009 Mowbrays Australia sold this 1870 Siege of Paris ballon monté cover for NZ \$238,625 – then a record Australasian price for a philatelic item.



The above 13 August 1855 cover from Auckland to Birmingham, England, bears a pair of New Zealand's very first 1d full-face queen stamps. Only three covers bearing 1d SG1 FFQs are known – this being the earliest recorded date. It was acquired in 2009 by John Mowbray for a client for NZ \$138,000.

Mowbray Collectables buys and sells collections, stamps and postal history. What can you offer? Contact our friendly staff in the first instance.

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the New Zealand Philatelic Federation
and the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies.*



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EDITORIAL

Firstly, on a sad note, you will see opposite notification of the death of Eric Lewis who was the last remaining founder member of the Society being listed in the very first issue of *The Kiwi* back in 1952. Eric had remained active in philately in societies in the midlands until very recently.

On a more positive note it is good to see members, young - and not quite so young, entering exhibitions and winning prizes. It is to be hoped that many more members will be encouraged to enter our biennial 16 page competition at the philatelic weekend to be held in Bath at the end of September. If you are unable to attend we can accept scanned or photocopied entries although the material must all be owned by the exhibitor. More details on page 114.

The judge for the competition this year will be Chris Harman RDP FRPSL, a past president of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Chris has also offered to give us a talk, during the weekend, on the Perkins Bacon Chalon issues. Chris is very knowledgeable on this subject and this is a good opportunity to learn from an acknowledged expert.

Finally a big thank you to those members who take the time to respond to articles that appear in *The Kiwi* which helps to advance our knowledge. Robert Duns has been in touch to say the large wooden frames, featured in the last issue, have survived - but alas not the stamps within them. More on this subject in the next issue.

CORRIGENDUM

Volume 67, No.3

Page 82 - The date of the Midland Group Meeting, reported on this page, was 17 February 2018 and not 2017 as shown.



THE KIWI - ADVERTISERS IN THIS ISSUE

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Mowbray Collectables	Inside Front Cover
Steven Zirinsky	120
Ashford Stamps Ltd.	120

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Classic Stamps Ltd.	Inside Back Cover
Auckland City Stamps	Back Cover

"Please mention the NZSGB when you speak with our advertisers"

THE KIWI - CURRENT ADVERTISING RATES

	Full (single insertion)	Full (3 or more consecutive)	Half (single insertion)	Half (3 or more consecutive)	Quarter (single insertion)	Quarter (3 or more consecutive)
Full Colour	£90	£75	£75	£60	£50	£40

NZSGB - CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Membership rates are £20 (within the UK) and £25 (overseas) - with printed copy of *The Kiwi*.

Members who prefer to receive an electronic version of the journal (*e-Kiwi*), downloadable from the Society's web-site, as an alternative to the paper copy pay £20 regardless of country of residence.

Payment can be made by various means including PayPal ('gift' option). Details from the membership secretary esmegdiamond@gmail.com or via the web-site.

SOCIETY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members:

A warm welcome to:

D H Wickham, East Sussex

Deceased:

G Goodens, Hull

* E Lewis, Smethwick

* It is noted with particular sadness the passing of Eric Lewis who was a founder member of The New Zealand Society of Great Britain and is listed as a member in the first issue of *The Kiwi* in April 1952.



COMPETITIVE AWARDS TO MEMBERS

Congratulations to members who were successful at:

Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) - Perth, 20-21 April 2018

Member	Subject of Entry	Class	Frames	Mark	Award
Alexander McCulloch	The Recess Printing of George V Stamps 1915-1926	General (Post 1900)	4	84	Large Silver Gilt & Bridge of Allan Trophy
Lachlan Philby	Lord of The Rings Stamps from New Zealand	Junior	8 sheets	-	Alba Salver

- see page 118 for more information.

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION

A reminder to all members that the Annual Auction will be held, following the AGM, at the November meeting of the Society. Please look out any unwanted items and forward details so that they can be included in the catalogue. Without philatelic material to sell there will be no auction. Full details were published in the May issue of *The Kiwi*. Descriptions of lots should be sent to: Dove697@btinternet.com

UPCOMING UK NATIONAL EVENTS

2018

* 20-21 July

ABPS York Fair - York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX
National Exhibition including all classes including Open Philately, Picture Postcards and Ephemera.

* 12-15 September

ABPS Autumn Stampex - Business Design Centre, London.
Full National Exhibition. Key Participant - Civil Censorship Group.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday **28 July 2018**

at the **Union Jack Club**, Sandell Street, London, SE1 8UJ

14:00 - **Cinderellas**

Jack Lindley will lead this session, and members are invited to bring relevant material

There will be a committee meeting in the morning starting at 11:00 am

MIDLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the Midland Group will be held on Saturday **27 October 2018** at the usual venue, St Anne's Church Hall (behind the Church) Parkhill, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8DU starting at 14:00. Will members please bring along some items of interest or a mini display.

Group Contact: - Ian Samuel ☎ 0121 449 0849

NORTH OF ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the North of England Group will be held on Saturday **8 September 2018** at St. Luke's Church, Lodge Road, Orrell starting at 12:30. Members to display new acquisitions or items of interest.

Group Contact: - Jack Lindley ☎ 0161 705 1074 e-mail: lindleyjack@aol.com

SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the Scottish Group will be held on Saturday **22 September 2018** at 12:30 and will be hosted by Adrian Philbey, Glasgow. For further details contact Adrian.

Group Contact: - Adrian Philbey ☎ 0141 562 5817 e-mail: adrian.philbey@ed.ac.uk



THE SOCIETY WEB-SITE AS A RESOURCE FOR MEMBERS

The Kiwi (now downloadable in pdf format)

- * Vol. 1-62 (1952-2013) available to all in pdf format.
- * Vol. 63-66 (2013-17) available to members only.
- **password required - contact the editor of *The Kiwi*.**
- * Vol. 67 (current year) - available to *e-Kiwi* subscribers.



Society web-site: www.nzsgb.org.uk

RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND 2018 - BOOK NOW!



LANSDOWN GROVE HOTEL BATH

28th - 30th September 2018



There are only a few rooms remaining now from the original block of rooms allocated to us by the hotel and these can only be held until the end of July at the concessionary rate we have negotiated. Please let Michael Wilkinson know as soon as possible if you require accommodation for the weekend.

Booking will be handled through the Society and NOT directly with the hotel.

The total cost for the weekend is £265 for a single person and £165 each for couples, to include two nights bed & breakfast, meeting room hire, morning and afternoon refreshments and the gala dinner on Saturday evening. To reserve accommodation for the weekend a deposit of **£25 per person** should be sent to:

Michael Wilkinson, 121 London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1BH

(cheques should be made payable to 'The New Zealand Society of Great Britain')

Programme

A number of sessions on specific subjects are planned and some displays have been invited to introduce and outline the topic. We are keen that those attending should have the opportunity to participate and, if you have material that fits into a session please contact John Stimson and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Planned topics include:

- Health stamps and health camps
- Registered postal stationery
- Photographic proofs
- Postage dues

We also hope to have a presentation on 'The Chalon Heads' from our competition judge Chris Harman who is an expert on Perkins Bacon and the Chalon issues from New Zealand and other countries.

Raffle

A raffle to help defray costs will be drawn on the Saturday evening. Members and friends of the Society have been most generous in previous years in securing prizes, so if you can add to the prizes already offered this year please contact Michael. He would be delighted to sell raffle tickets to all members for £1.50 each or £5 for five – just let him know how many you and your friends want!

Biennial Society Competition (16 Pages)

We are delighted to have secured the services of Chris Harman RDP FRPSL, a past president of the Royal Philatelic Society London, to judge this Competition on the Saturday afternoon. So get your entries ready so that we can impress him with our expertise. This is a single class Competition on any aspects of New Zealand philately and postal history, with certificates for all entrants and the H Gordon Kaye Commemorative Salver for the winner. All material in entries must be the property of the entrant.

Previous competition judges have emphasised the importance of the first page, including a plan. Please let Michael Wilkinson have a copy of your first page (this can be a draft) or, as a minimum, the exhibit title by 1 September. The Competition is open to all members and those not attending may send photocopies or scans to Michael to reach him by Monday 24 September.

MEETINGS HELD

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD, IN LONDON, 26 MAY 2018

The morning session was for items of interest and new acquisitions. **Paul Wreglesworth** had further information about the elaborately framed New Zealand stamps he had displayed at the previous meeting (see the May 2018 issue of *The Kiwi*, page 106). The frames still exist, although they no longer contain the original display of stamps. Further information will appear in *The Kiwi* in due course.

Lewis Giles displayed a cover carried on the first official airmail flight in New Zealand, from Auckland to Dargaville (a distance of about 130 km) in December 1919, signed by the pilot George Bolt, and a postcard carried on the return flight.



A cover carried on the first official flight from Auckland to Dargaville and a card carried on the return flight.

The Government had given the Post & Telegraph Department authority for this flight “to investigate the practical utility of the conveyance of mail matter by air” (see also www.airmailsnz.com).

Johnny Barkley, making a welcome visit from Northern Ireland, displayed a range of early mail from New Zealand to Ireland, the majority from the South Island. Amongst many items of note was a cover addressed to Gilbert Burns, nephew of the poet Robert, at Todd Burns & Co department store in Mary Street, Dublin. Posted at Bluff Harbour on 22 January 1858 the cover was carried on the *Simla* from Sydney, arriving in Southampton on 6 April and Dublin a day later. A vertical strip of three imperforate Richardson print 2d Chalons, cancelled with the Bluff Harbour manuscript cancel, paid the standard letter rate of 6d. Johnny would welcome information from members about other early mail from New Zealand to Ireland.



1858 cover from Bluff Harbour to Dublin. Postage paid with three 2d Richardson print Chalons.

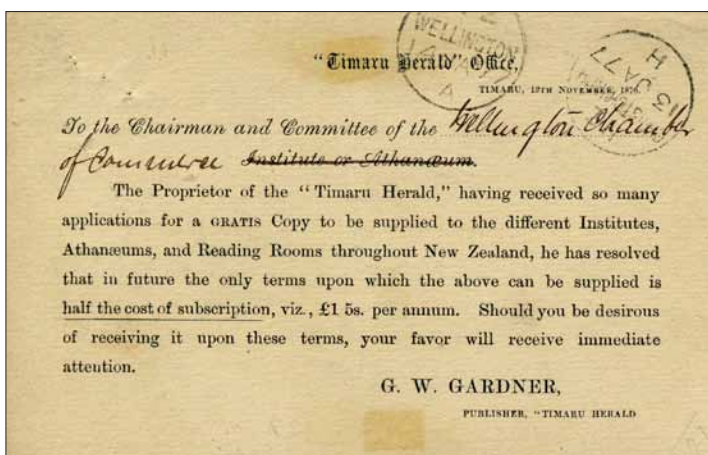
Michael Wilkinson sought information about a cover bearing a 4d Queen Elizabeth definitive carried by the Royal New Zealand Air Force, “on double flight New Zealand to England and return”, in June/July 1956 to commemorate the centenary of the institution of the Victoria Cross. The cover was signed by the pilot, J Baylis, and enclosed other crew signatures. The ultimate destination of this particular cover was Qualicum Beach in British Columbia, Canada, arriving on 24 September. Michael also showed two airmail covers, Auckland to Invercargill 'non-stop' in December 1933 and the intended first airmail from New Zealand via Australia to England in May 1935, though the first leg had to be undertaken by ship when technical problems grounded Kingsford Smith and his Southern Cross in Australia.

John Stimson concluded the morning session by discussing a study that he and **Paul Wreglesworth** were undertaking of the incidence of vertical hairline 'scratches' on the 2½d value of the Second Sideface issue. Examples have been found only on stamps with advertisements printed in green, and so from the second setting of the adverts, and used between September 1893 and May 1894. To date 32 examples had been found, mostly as single stamps, and in many cases can be assigned to specific sheet positions using the advertisements or other characteristics. An example is shown here (at 200%) with an advert, 'Beecham's Pills for Constipation' which is unique to advert position 235, which is Row 10, Stamp 6 in the lower left pane when viewed from the front of the sheet. There was some debate about whether the white lines were caused by scratches on the printing plate that had subsequently been polished out or by extraneous matter adhering to the mechanism for clearing excess ink from the plate before printing, but there was no doubt they were mechanical in origin since they were precisely vertical in all cases. John concluded by inviting members to search for more examples to inform the study as it progressed.



Vertical scratches through the Queen's face on stamp with advert, in green, 'Beecham's Pills for Constipation'.

The subject for the afternoon was Private Postal Stationery. The session was led by **Johnny Barkley** and proved to be a fascinating social snapshot as well as of great philatelic interest. To date he had found examples from 518 companies and individuals, including 274 from the Victorian era, with no doubt many more as yet undiscovered, so presenting a challenge to anyone hoping to compile a catalogue. Johnny focussed on private printed postal stationery (PPPS) cards which were standard issue postal stationery cards that had been privately printed by businesses or individuals and these differ from those printed to private order (PTPO) cards which were produced, to order, by the Post Office on behalf of businesses such as Austin Walsh, Kempthorne Prosser, etc. PTPO stationery are well documented in Volume IX of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*.



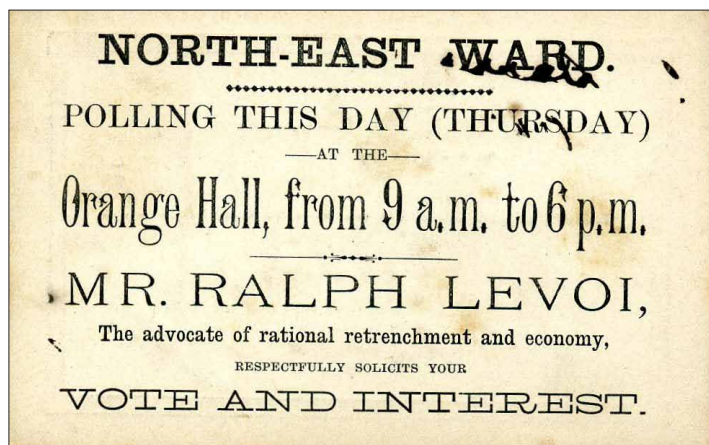
An 1877 stationery card printed for the 'Timaru Herald'.

The items promoted a great range of products and services, and were also used for such functions as soliciting votes at elections (apparently posted on election day with confidence that they would be delivered before the polls closed).

The earliest card in Johnny's collection was produced for the *Timaru Herald* (shown left). Printed on the first issue of Queen Victoria stationery cards and it was posted in January 1877 around two months after the postal stationery cards were first issued. With examples from all the reigns the latest card he currently has is from 1991; a QEII 40c Blue postcard, printed for Stampex '87 with a calling

notice for Philatelic Distributors Ltd.

The cards were printed for various uses. Businesses would print cards to inform of representatives or salesmen calling, advertisements, to inform that goods had been dispatched and as order forms. Individuals or



"Polling This Day.... at the Orange Hall" in September 1889.

ago with a card printed for Ralph Levoi who was running for the Christchurch City Council. The card (pictured left) was initially of interest due to the poll taking place in an Orange Hall.

The Orange Order was established in Armagh, Northern Ireland in 1795 to celebrate the victories of the Protestant William of Orange (King William III) in Ireland during the 1690's and the deposing of the Catholic King James II. When Protestants left Ireland in search of a better life, in countries such as New Zealand, they took Orangeism with them.

Raphael (Ralph) Levoi was born in London in December 1844 and emigrated to New Zealand in the 1860's where he worked as a Superintendent for the New Zealand Accident Insurance Company. According to the *Lyttelton Times* of 13 September 1889 this was the third time that Levoi had stood for election to Christchurch City Council. On this occasion he secured just 89 votes. James Rowe was elected with 488 votes.

Post Office Printed To Private Order (PTPO) cards were first produced in 1892 (15 years after the first issue of postal stationery cards in New Zealand), with the production of the Austin Walsh postcard. Businesses had spotted the opportunity that pre-stamped cards presented and were arranging for cards to be printed privately almost as soon as they were issued. Jonathan displayed examples of both forms (PTPO and PPPS) for some well known companies including Kempthorne Prosser (Private Printings - 1885, 1890, 1895 and PTPO - 1899, 1901, 1904 and 1908), Sargood, Son & Ewen (Private Printing - 1899 and PTPO - 1902) and R & E Tingey & Co Ltd (Private Printing - 1923 and PTPO - 1909).

Paul Wreglesworth contributed to the meeting with a number of cards from businesses more commonly associated with advertising on the underside of the Second Sideface stamps in 1893 including Kaitangata Coal, Birnbaum & Son (Patent Odourless Waterproofs) and Dodgshun & Co.

Stephen Schumann had sent scans from California of stationery submitted by private companies to the Post Office for the addition of postal impressions with the value of the user's choice, usually ½d or 1d. Stephen described this as from his 'junk mail' exhibit since most items were used to mail statements and invoices and then thrown away. Part 5 of Robert Samuel's *Postal Stationery Catalogue* (1993) surveys the field and notes that Government Printing Office records list 61 stamped-to-order envelopes prepared between 1900 and 1953 which were unknown in collectors' hands at the time, though four have since been found. Amongst those were envelopes embossed with the personal crest of Dr Russell of Christchurch which he had impressed with 1d and 2d Queen Victoria dies.



Un-posted examples of 'stamped to order' envelopes for Dr Russell, with his personal crest on the flap.

NOTES OF THE SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING, HELD ON 21 APRIL 2018.

Six members attended an informal meeting of the Scottish Group in Perth on Saturday 21 April 2018 during the 89th Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS). Alexander McCulloch was awarded Large Silver Gilt, and the Bridge of Allan Trophy, for his exhibit on 'New Zealand: The Recess Printing of George V Stamps 1915-1926', which included die proofs, plate blocks, colour variations and paper types for this issue. In the Junior Competition, Lachlan Philbey was awarded the Alba Salver for his 16 sheet exhibit of 'Lord of The Rings Stamps from New Zealand' and a medal for his single sheet display of 'Scouts on Stamps in the Commonwealth' including New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Great Britain.



Alexander McCulloch with his exhibit of George V Stamps which won the Bridge of Allan Trophy.



Lachlan Philbey, winner of the Alba Salver, in front of his 'Lord of the Rings' exhibit, with Richard Cuthbertson, President of the ASPS.

NOTES OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND GROUP MEETING, HELD ON 29 MAY 2018.

Seven members attended, sharing a range of material.

Harold Howard showed a range of hang-sell CAL booklets including those for the Heart Foundation, Sister Cities, Red Cross, Royalpex 2017, all beautifully written up.

Mike Hanson displayed a selection of postal stationery including a used example of 1939 GVI Ancient Order of Foresters envelope (2000 printed). General Assembly franks, a range of different types of coil strips including examples used on cover and Auckland Exhibition 1d values showing varieties.

Peter Williams had examples of Universal Mail stamps including a number of 'pieces' cancelled at Kelly Tarltons Underwater World in Auckland (one example shown here). This was followed by envelopes with town inscriptions, a 1954 envelope with 'NOT ON BOARD RANGITOTO' and a selection of Lighthouse stamps and window envelopes.



Paul Wreglesworth displayed a series of QV 1½d lettercards uprated to overseas rates. 1899 postage dues first issue showing the different types, early usage and a range of covers including two with Second Sideface stamps.

John Atkinson described some of the bird definitives and displayed the 1937 Coronation stamps and covers.

Jeff Hook exhibited a range of flaws and retouches from the 4c on 2½c surcharged butterfly definitive stamp.

Jack Lindley closed the session with a display of Health stamps, 1960 to 1990, including plate and imprint blocks and a range of varieties found on these issues.

NEW ZEALAND POST - UNSCHEDULED ISSUE

Perhaps not surprisingly, given the worldwide publicity following the engagement of Prince Harry to the American actress Meghan Markle, New Zealand Post added an extra issue to their 2018 programme to celebrate the Royal Wedding on 19 May.

Born on 15 September 1984, Prince Henry Charles Albert David, or Prince Harry as he is better known, is much admired around the world. As an unlikely successor to the throne, he has been freer to socialise, to date, and to be more adventurous than his older brother. However, his wedding marks a shift in focus away from youthful adventures towards a future family.

A miniature sheet featuring six stamps, each with a face value of \$2.70, was released on 21 May. The stamps depict Prince Harry and Meghan Markle with two of the images from the official engagement shoot, and four specially selected images of the happy couple on their wedding day.

image reduced



Technical Details: Stamps and miniature sheet designed by Dave Burke, Auckland, New Zealand

Printed in four colours by Collectables and Solutions Centre, New Zealand Post, Whanganui, New Zealand

Paper is 'Tullis Russell' 104 gsm gummed stamp paper and perforations gauge 14.4 x 14.615

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NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY
of GREAT BRITAIN

Welcome to the New Zealand Society of Great Britain

The Society exists for the study of the stamps and postal history of New Zealand and its Dependencies. Although the majority of our members are based in Great Britain, we have a large number of international members.

As well as our journal, *The Kiwi*, which is published six times a year, we have published several monographs and more are planned. *The Kiwi* contains articles of both a general and specialised nature together with other useful information on the stamps and postal history of New Zealand. It also provides a valuable forum for debate and correspondence between members as does our Discussion Board.

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

All aspects of New Zealand philately and stamp collecting are dealt with by our members: from Chalon Heads to modern issues; postal history including air mails; health, Christmas issues, commemoratives, Antarctica and revenues as well as definitive postage stamps. Our members range from

Have you got a computer and access to the web?

Then check out the Society's web site for details of meetings, back copies of *The Kiwi*, publications, a research archive containing much original work produced by our members and links to past copies of New Zealand Post bulletins and to back copies of Campbell Paterson Bulletins and Newsletters.

www.nzsgb.org.uk

NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE STAMPS – ERRORS & VARIETIES

1970 2½c Magpie Moth; 1971 4c on 2½c Provisionals.

For those who visit the Society's website, you may have found PDF copies of the monographs written by Terry Hancox under the generic title of *New Zealand Postage Stamps – Errors and Varieties*. These are free to view and download and, if you have the technology, free to print for non-commercial use. They can be found on the website at www.nzsgb.org.uk/research.html.

To achieve a reasonable experience for those of us with variable internet bandwidth, the monographs are stored with the illustrations in the quality best suited to viewing across the web, not necessarily the best for printing.

Terry has been asked by some members if he could produce printed copies of these monographs, especially the one covering the 1970 2½c Magpie Moth and 1971 4c on 2½c Provisionals. This is a monograph, A4 in size and extends over 118 pages, illustrated in colour throughout. To this end, Terry has commissioned a limited printing of 50 copies of this monograph, each of which will be numbered and signed.

These are now available from Terry, at a cost of £12 to include 2nd class postage within the UK. For enquiries, other options and for members living outside of the UK, please get in touch with Terry via email at TAHNZstamps@gmail.com.



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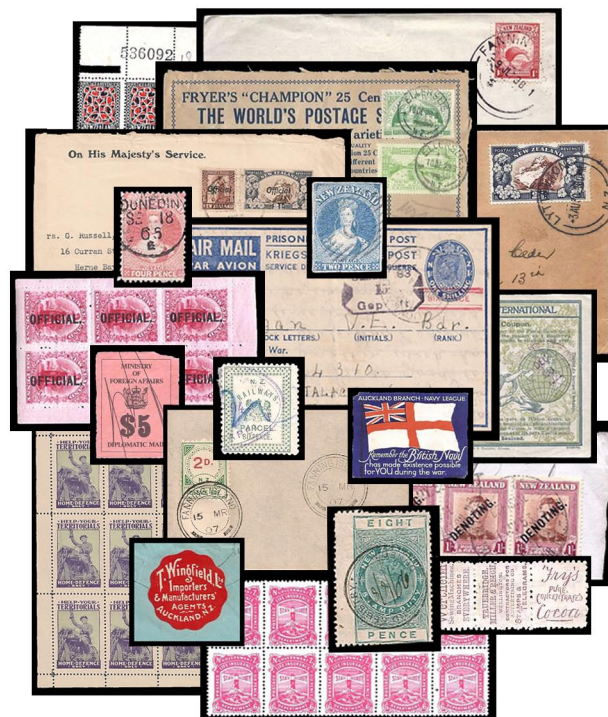
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THE 1960 PICTORIAL DEFINITIVE ISSUE

- A CLOSE LOOK AT THE PERFORATIONS

Paul Wreglesworth

The introduction, in 1960, of the Third Pictorial Definitive series saw a departure from the well established engraving processes and a move to the relatively new (for New Zealand at least) multicolour photogravure technology for stamp printing. Two well established firms, De La Rue & Co. Ltd. and Harrison & Sons Ltd., were entrusted with the job of printing all the stamps required and, although both were to print the stamps by photogravure, their production processes were very different. The techniques for producing the printing plates or cylinders, the quality of paper, the printing machinery and the methods of perforating all differed.

Whilst all aspects are worthy of study this article will look primarily at the perforations although, because of the technology employed by the two firms, it is not possible to do so without some understanding of the broader printing process.

It would be an over simplification to say that De La Rue and Harrison used comb perforating heads for all the 1960 Pictorial Issue stamps they produced. Both used single and double combs (Figure 1), Harrison used a triple comb and De La Rue used a special 'H' comb on their Chambon printing presses (Figure 2). The Chambon perforations are often described as 'experimental' but were used quite extensively by De La Rue for the lower values in the series. Misaligned strikes of the Chambon head can produce a narrow or wide perforation half way down the vertical sides of alternative stamps in a vertical row (Figure 3). These are very collectable and attract a premium over misaligned strikes of the comb heads where narrow or wide perforations can be found at the corners of the stamps (Figure 4). The Chambon perforations will be the subject of a separate article.

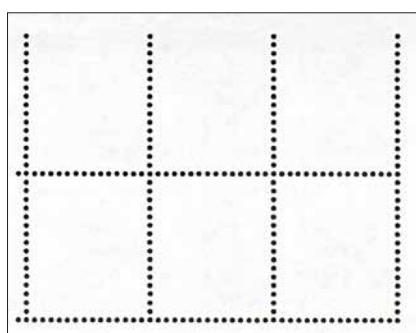


Figure 1: Double comb perf head
- comb pins pointing up.



Figure 2: Chambon
- 'H' comb.



Figure 3: Misaligned strike of the Chambon 'H' comb head on the 2d value resulting in a wide perforation halfway up the top stamp and a narrow perforation halfway up the bottom stamp in the block.



Figure 4: Misaligned strike of a comb head on the 3d value on chalky paper.

De La Rue were responsible for the printing of seven values from ½d to 8d which they did on web-fed presses and all perforating was done on the web as the paper left the press. The three types of comb head they used are summarised below (Table 1). The table is based on one created by Arthur Dexter and printed in the *Campbell Paterson Newsletter* in 1966 (Ref. 1). Although I have updated this to reflect new information that I am aware of I would be grateful for any additional information that readers can provide.

Value	Single Comb	Double Comb	Chambon
½d	111		111, Booklet
1d	1111, Booklet	1111 (ordinary and chalky)	1111 (chalky), Booklet
2d	1111 (Both)*, 2112, 2212, 2222, 2231, 2232	2251	2251, 2263
3d	1111 (Both)*, 2111, Booklet	3337 (ordinary and chalky)	2111, 2112, 2113, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2235, 2237, 3335, 3337 (chalky), 2347, 3347, Booklet
4d	1111 (Both)*	1111, 1221, 2333 (chalky)	1111 (Both)*, 1221, 2333
6d	111	111 (ordinary)	111 (chalky)
8d	1111		1111, 1121

Note: *(Both) indicates the two 2d green cylinders 1, two 3d dark blue cylinders 1 and two 4d blue cylinders 1. (Ref. 2)

Table 1: Summary of perforation usage recorded on De La Rue printed cylinder combinations.

The comb heads were used with the pins pointing upwards (Figure 1) or downwards and examples of both are shown here (Figures 5 and 6).



Figure 5: Misaligned strike of a comb head on the 8d value from cylinder combination 1111. Although minor the shift is sufficient to give a narrow perf at the top corners of the upper row of stamps and just below the bottom row of stamps indicating the comb head was pointing upwards in relation to the stamps.



Figure 6: Misaligned strike of a comb head on the 8d value from cylinder combination 1111. Narrow perfs can be seen in the lower corners of the bottom row of stamps. The repetition of blind perf holes at the same point on the vertical side of both rows is indicative of the single comb head.

Sheets of stamps destined to be made into booklets and coils were printed by De La Rue in exactly the same way and therefore the characteristics associated with the different comb heads can be found in these formats as well (Figure 7). In general De La Rue's process of perforating sheets as they left the printing press led to fewer examples of complete double strikes of the comb heads, although those that have surfaced seem to be extreme (Figures 8, 10 and 11).



Figure 7: A pane of the 3d value from a stapled booklet showing comb characteristics.



Figure 8: A block of the 1/2d value showing complete double strikes of the comb head over two rows of the sheet.

Characteristic of all De La Rue's printings is an extra perforation hole at each end of the long horizontal rows of perforations. These can be seen in the two blocks below (Figure 9). This is also indicative of the comb heads moving vertically relative to the web as it leaves the press. Some sheets of the 4d value (from cylinders 2333) perforated with the double comb head are missing this extra hole in every other row.

The differences between single and double comb heads can be difficult to spot without close examination of the characteristics of a row of perfs and, sometimes, gaps between two perf holes that repeat through the sheet may be the only determining feature. Blind perfs, caused by individual broken or bent perforation pins, if they repeat can be helpful in distinguishing which head has been used. See the 3d block below (Figure 9).

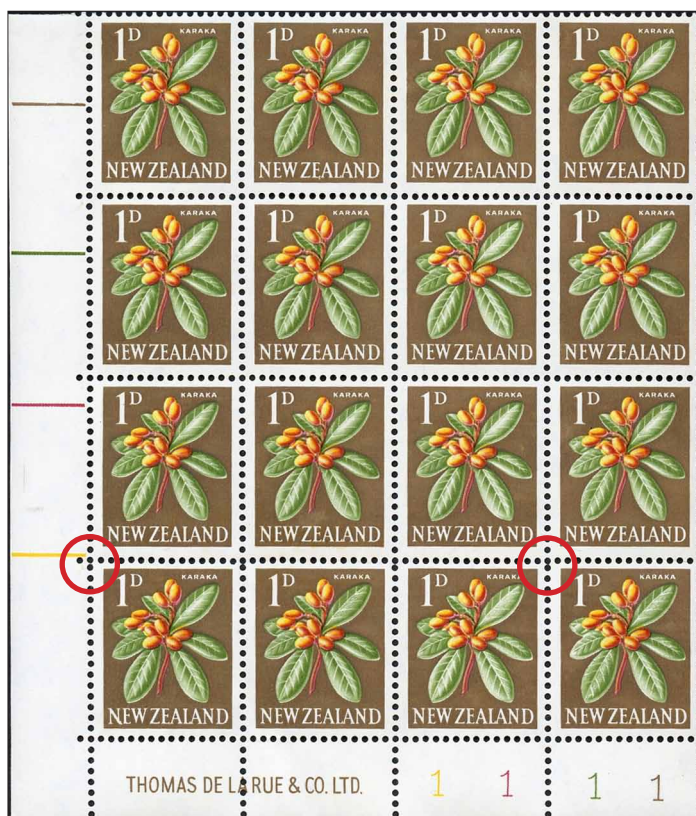


Figure 9: A block of the 1d (chalky paper) and 3d perforated with the double comb. Note the blind perfs on the 3d block.



Figure 10: A cylinder block (1111) of the 1d value with double strikes of the single comb on all three rows of the stamp. It is difficult to see how this block of stamps is still intact!



Figure 11: A cylinder block (2251) of the 2d value with a double strike of the double comb head at the bottom of the sheet.

In 1961 an increase in the postage rates required the addition of two new stamps, 2½d and 5d values. Despite these forming part of the low value flora series of stamps the printing was entrusted to Harrison & Sons Ltd. The first printings of the 2½d value were printed from tandem cylinders (1A–1B) on rotary web-fed presses. However they were cut into double sheets before being perforated and there are guide holes in a square in the left margin (1A cylinders) and right margin (1B cylinders). These first printings were perforated vertically using a double comb head. Reprints (2A–2B and 3A–3B) were made from tandem plates, bent into cylindrical form, for use on sheet fed presses. These were then perforated using a single comb head moving horizontally. The final reprint of this value (4A–4B) saw a return to tandem printing on the web before guillotining and perforating vertically with the double comb head. Partial double strikes are reasonably common on the 2½d value (Figures 12 and 13).



Figure 12: A partial strike of the double comb head moving vertically.



Figure 13: A partial strike of the single comb head moving sideways, from left to right, across the sheet.

When Harrison & Sons produced the 5d value they printed them in single sheets on a sheet fed press after which they were perforated using a single comb head sideways across the sheet. A number of sheets are known to have been produced with an extra strike of perforations down the left side of the sheet (Figure 14).



Figure 14: A complete extra strike of the single comb head down the left side of the sheet.



Figure 15: A block showing blind perforations, due to damaged pins, right across the top two rows of the sheet.

In 1966 Harrison & Sons printed the 7d value in tandem sheets (1A–1B) on sheet fed presses which were subsequently perforated, vertically, using a double comb head. This value had a relatively short life and no perforation errors have been reported.

All low value stamps (½d-8d) in this definitive series had perforations gauging 14½x 14, regardless of the printing company or method of production.

All the middle values (9d-1/9d) were printed by Harrison & Sons on sheet fed presses and perforated using a double comb perforating head, vertically for the horizontal values (9d, 1/- and 1/9d) with the perfs gauging 14¾x 14 and horizontally for the vertical values (1/3d and 1/6d) with the perfs gauging 14x 14¾. Partial double strikes of the comb head are found on most of the middle value stamps and examples are shown on the opposite page (Figures 16, 17 and 18).

The usage of the two comb perforation heads by Harrison & Sons with the three low value stamps they printed is summarised below (Table 2) and usage of the double comb head, used with the middle values is shown on the page opposite (Table 3).

Value	Single Comb	Double Comb	Comments
2½d	2A2A2A2A, 2B2B2B2B, 3A2A2A2A, 3B2B2B2B	1A1A1A1A, 1B1B1B1B, 4A3A3A3A, 4B3B3B3B	Single comb used sideways. Double comb used vertically.
5d	1A1A1A1A		
7d		1A1A1A1A, 1B1B1B1B,	

Table 2: Summary of perforations, by cylinder/plate combination, recorded on Harrison printed low value stamps.



Figure 16: A partial extra strike of the comb head, on the 9d value, moving vertically from the top of the sheet.



Figure 17: A partial double strike of the comb head, on top row and selvedge, of the 1/- value.



Figure 18: An extra strike of the double comb head, moving sideways, on the 1/6 value.

Value	Double Comb	Direction of Perforating
9d	14A 14, 14A 15	vertically
1/-	9B 9C, 10B 10C	vertically
1/3d	1A 1B 1C	sideways
1/6d	6D 6E	sideways
1/9d	7 (original), – (multicolour)	vertically

Table 3: Summary of perforations, by cylinder/plate combination, recorded on the Harrison printed middle value stamps.

The high value stamps (2/- to £1, including original and multicolour versions of the 3/-) were also printed by Harrison & Sons on sheet fed presses.

Two different heads, a triple comb and a single comb, were used by Harrison & Sons for these values. Both gauged $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14$ (for the horizontal format values) and $14 \times 14\frac{3}{4}$ (for the vertical format values). With vertical stamps (2/-, 5/- and £1) the triple comb head was sometimes used from the left and sometimes from the right and with horizontal stamps (2/6d, 3/- and 10/-) from the top and sometimes from the bottom of the sheet. At one end of the comb there was one extra pin which produced an extra hole in the selvedge opposite each long row of perforations. On sheets perforated from the left, for example, this extra hole would be in the top selvedge and in sheets perforated from the right the extra hole would be in the bottom selvedge. Sheets printed vertically would have the extra hole in either the left or right selvedge. Sheets perforated with the triple comb head had two perforation guide holes in the selvedge.



Figure 19: A partial double strike of the single comb head, on the 2/6d value, where the sheet would have been perforated sideways.

By comparison the single comb head was used vertically on vertical format stamps (2/- and 5/-) and horizontally on horizontal format stamps (2/6d, 3/- and 10/-). The single comb head was not used to perforate sheets of the £1 value. Reprints of the 2/-, 5/- and 10/- on chalk surfaced paper, in 1966, were only perforated with the single comb head. The extra perf hole is now found in the side selvedge of vertical format stamps and in the top or bottom selvedge for horizontal format stamps. There is only one perforation guide hole in the selvedge of sheets perforated by the single comb head. Features of both perforating heads are shown below (Figures 20 and 21). Examples of partial double perfs, from the single comb, are known on the 2/- and 2/6d values as shown on the vertical strip of the 2/6d value on page 126 (Figure 17).

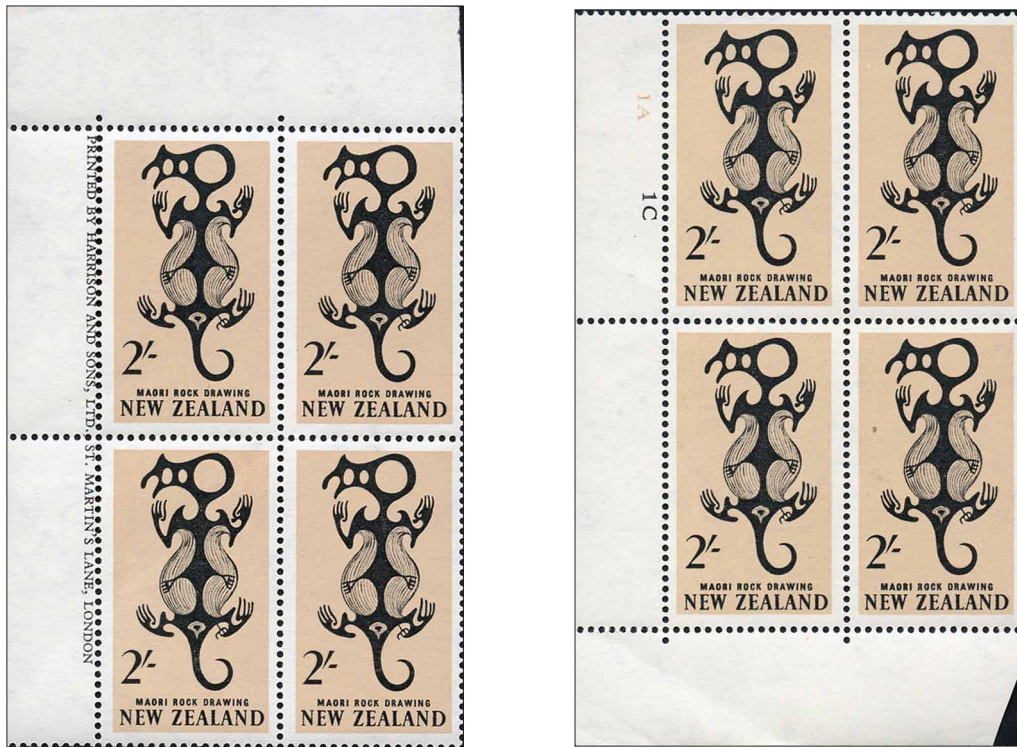


Figure 20: Blocks of the 2/- perforated by the triple comb head with extra perforation hole in top or bottom selvedge .

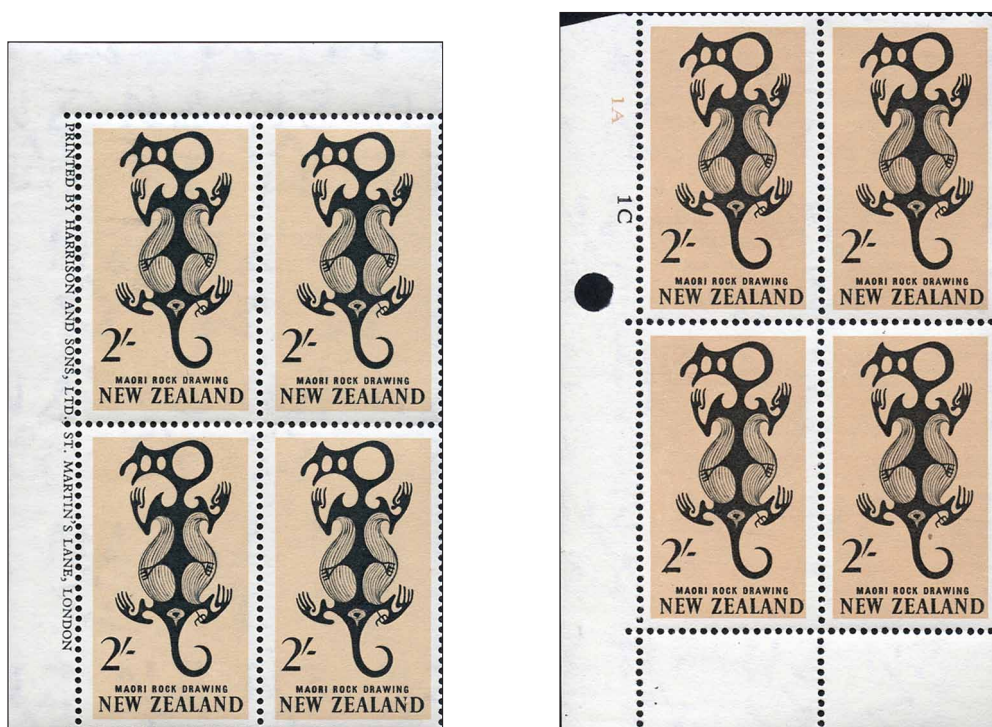


Figure 21: Blocks of the 2/- perforated by the single comb head with extra perforation holes in the side selvedges indicating vertical progression of the perforating head. The single guide hole can be seen in the right hand block.

Sheets perforated with the single comb head were trimmed closer to the stamps so have much narrow selvages than sheets perforated with the triple comb head.

Because of the number of stamps perforated in a single strike of the triple comb identifying stamps which have been perforated with this head is quite difficult without having large blocks, or part sheets, to study. Damaged pins on the comb head, which can give rise to blind perfs at regular intervals can help. The block of £1 stamps shown here (at 80% original size) (Figure 22) has evidence of damaged pins at several points in the comb which, as the perforating head moves across the sheet, results in blind perfs every third stamp.

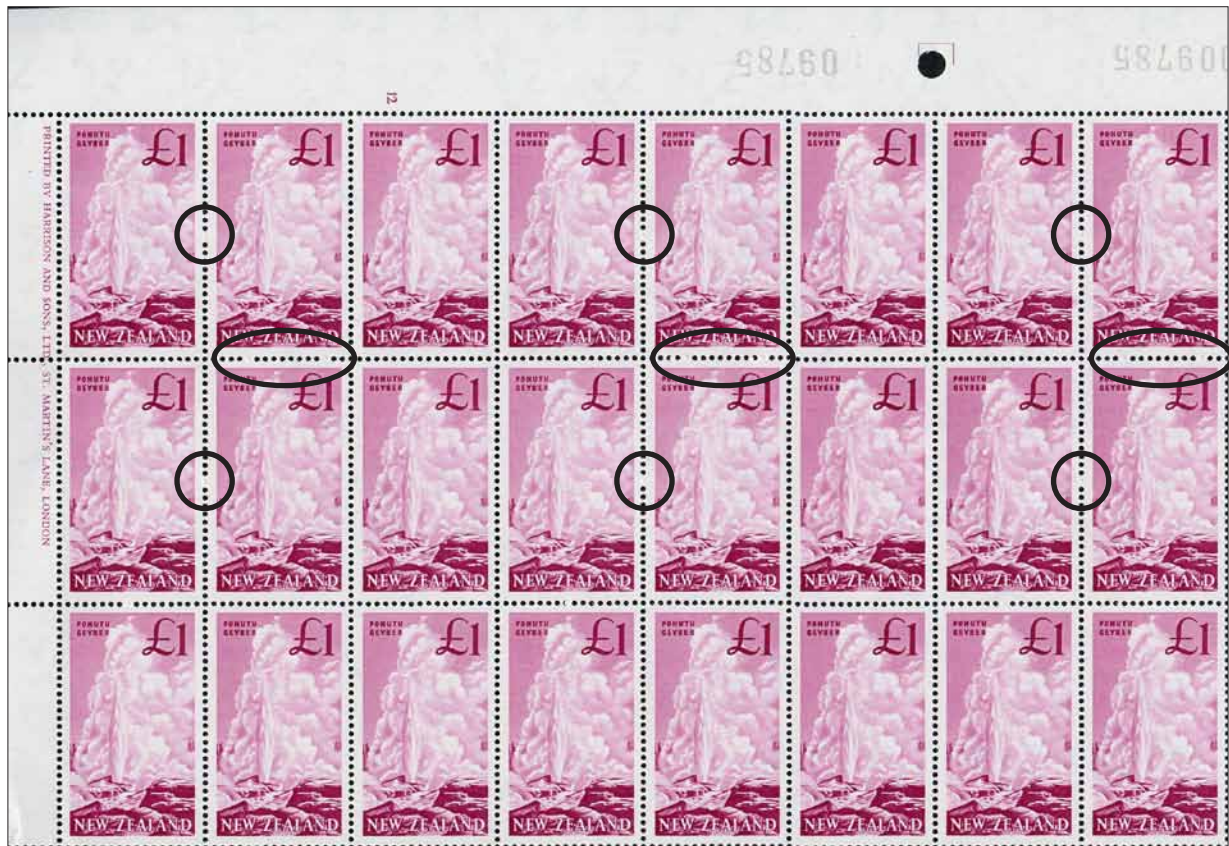


Figure 22: Blind perforations at regular intervals proving the triple comb head was used to perforate the £1 value.

A summary of the perforations found on the high value stamps printed by Harrison & Sons. Ltd. is presented here (Table 4).

Value	Triple Comb	Direction of Perforating	Single Comb	Direction of Perforating
2/-	1A1C (ordinary)	sideways	1A1C (ordinary and chalky)	vertically
2/6d	2A2C	vertically	2A2C	sideways
3/-	5 (original)	vertically	- (multicolour)	sideways
5/-	3 (ordinary)	sideways	3 (ordinary and chalky)	vertically
10/-	13 (ordinary)	vertically	13 (ordinary and chalky)	sideways
£1	12	sideways		

Table 4: Summary of perforation usage recorded on the high value stamps printed by Harrison & Sons.

References:

1. Dexter A R, *Campbell Paterson's Newsletter*, Vol. 18 No. 4, p6, August 1966.
2. Naish DEG and McNaught KJ, *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Vol VI*, p47, pub. Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, 1977.

NEW ZEALAND'S ALTERNATIVE MAIL SERVICES

PART 6: DX MAIL

Klaus Møller and Tony Ward

Introduction and Background:

Please refer to the first article in this series (Ref. 1) for a general introduction and some background, to Parts 1 to 5 (Refs. 1 to 5) for descriptions of earlier alternative mail providers - and to Part 3 (Ref. 3) for an introduction to the Postal Services Act 1998, which de-regulated the postal system in New Zealand as from 1 April that year.

Editor's Note: In the interest of space not all the items illustrated in this article are shown at their original size.

10. DX Mail:

Early Days:

In common with Fastway Post (Ref. 5), DX Mail:

- Was one of the first providers of alternative mail services
- Is still in existence, and
- Got a “kick start” from having been an established “document exchange” operator when the Postal Services Act 1998 came into force on 1 April that year

DX Mail grew out of New Zealand Document Exchange Limited (NZDX), which had been delivering documents between its members (usually legal and accountancy firms) for about two decades before the act came into force (Ref. 6).

The company registered as an Alternative Postal Operator on 29 April 1998. In August of the same year it trialled a free cross-town delivery service in the Christchurch Business District (CBD) for a period of one month. This was so successful that it was extended to Wellington, Auckland, Hamilton, Whangarei, Dunedin and Nelson two months later.

An access agreement was reached with New Zealand Post in September 1998. This allowed the company to have mail delivered through the New Zealand Post network, and also allowed New Zealand Post to use the NZDX box network. Letters franked with NZDX stamps or markings to be delivered by New Zealand Post had to be lodged at a Mail Service Centre, together with documentation stating the numbers of letters being posted and the total amount payable to New Zealand Post. Just as for other early Alternative Postal Providers, legal wrangling with New Zealand Post over conditions occurred later in the year, but this was apparently settled by the Commerce Commission.

Not long afterwards, on 19 October 1998, the company commenced general mail services. This coincided with the official issue of their first stamps, the ‘Truck Series’ (Figures 1(a) - 1(c) and 2), although some of these had been used already on 14 October for commemorative postings. Letters posted within the CBD of the city concerned cost 30c (60c for large envelopes), with mail outside the CBD costing 40c. Higher rates applied to other destinations, and to different sizes and weights.

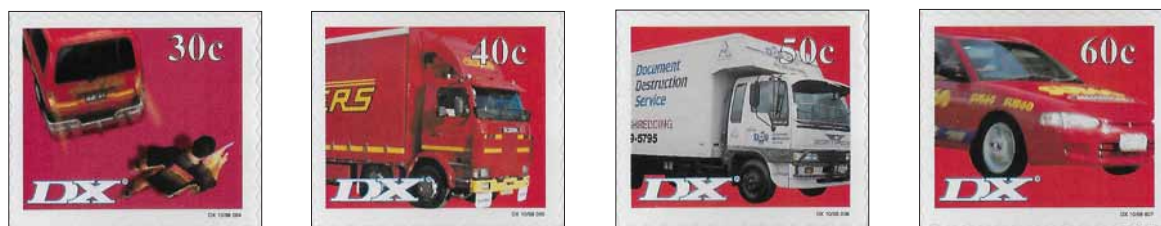


Figure 1a: The initial ‘Truck Series’ issue - low values, 30c to 60c.



Figure 1b: The initial 'Truck Series' issue - high values, 80c to \$2.00.



Figure 1c: The 'Truck Series' stamps were made available in limited edition sheets.

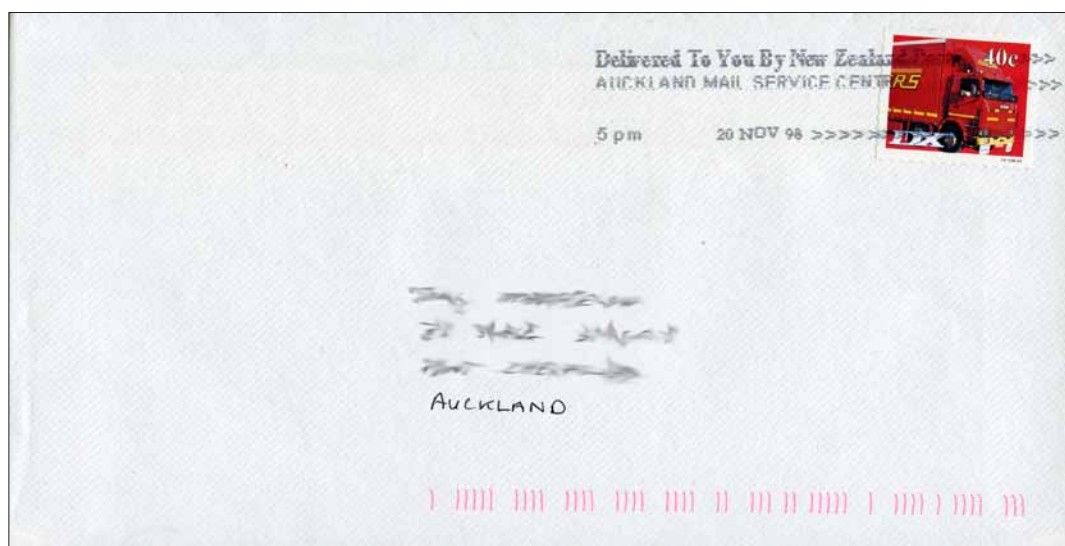


Figure 2: An example of the 40c truck stamp postally used in November 1998.

Four stamps were then issued on 30 December 1998 (Ref. 6) under the theme, Space “The Unknown Future”. A 30c denomination illustrated a space walk and three different 40c stamps celebrated the 30th anniversary (1969-1999) of man landing on the moon (Figure 3). The stamps were printed in sheets of 25 (Figure 4), but as they were printed onto a background view of the earth, taken from the moon, there are in fact 24 different stamps in this set (11 of the 30c stamps and 13 of the 40c stamps).

Examples of early issues commercially used are difficult to find. Examples of the ‘Space Issue’ are shown on page 131 (Figure 5).

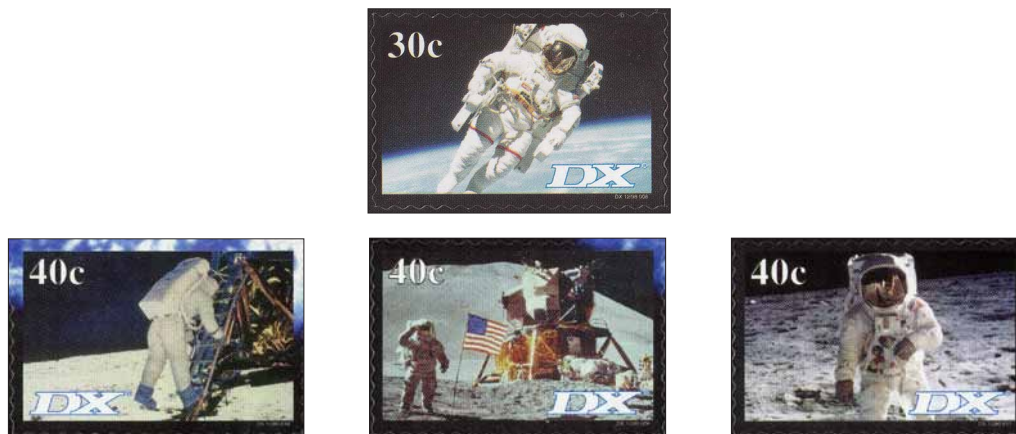


Figure 3: The 'Space Series' stamps issued in December 1998.



Figure 4: The 'Space Series' stamps were printed in sheets of 25 against a background view of the earth. The back of each sheet was printed with the theme 'Space "The Unknown Future"'.



Figure 5: Postally used examples of the 30c (used within the CBD) and 40c 'Space Series' stamps.

On 7 July 1999, DX Mail announced that it would be printing and distributing 'company specific' labels with personalised designs for its major clients (Ref. 6). These were promoted by 'The Complete Stamp Company', and the concept was widely profiled in the news media. The first set, depicting cats and dogs, was issued for the SPCA (Figure 6).



Figure 6: A set of five stamps produced for the SPCA and issued in July 1999.

In July 1999 stamps were issued for a range of businesses including Bomac Laboratories, 3 News, Telstra Business, Queen's Arcade and a range of drink brands. Some examples are shown below (Figures 7 and 8). All are self-adhesive stamps, printed on glossy paper by Impressions International Ltd, with 'perforations' gauging 9.1, and come in sheets of 25 (5x5). Others are recorded in References 6 and 7.

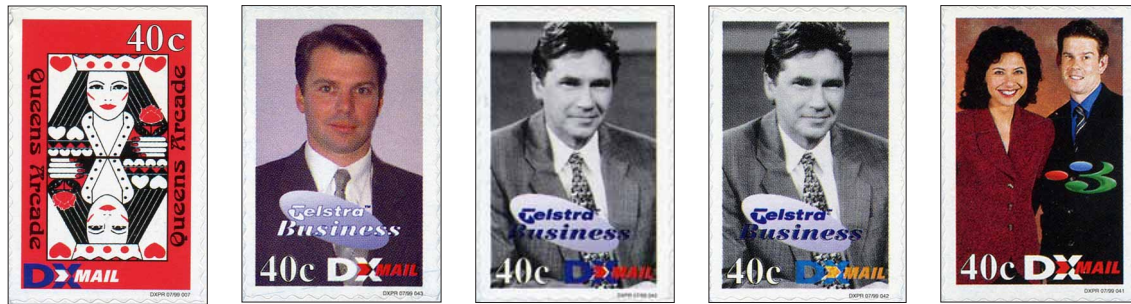


Figure 7: Promotional stamps issued in July 1999 for Queen's Arcade, Telstra Business and 3 News.



Figure 8: Stamps issued to support drink brands and used commercially. Both covers show the DX Mail cancel with one also showing that it was carried by New Zealand Post, dated 24 AUG 00.



Figure 9: Promotional leaflet with images overprinted 'specimen' and a stamp order form on the back.

These were heavily publicised to collectors through a series of advertising brochures in the form of copies of sheets of stamps with each image overprinted 'specimen'. The back of each sheet was an order form for stamps, sheetlets and first day covers (Figure 9). Some 'specimens' from these sheets were used on mail and passed through the post.

In December 1999 DX Mail issued two Christmas stamps (40c and 80c) and the following year a 90c stamp was produced to cover the increase in the postal rate for an A4 size envelope (Figure 10).



Figure 10: 40c and 80c Christmas stamps issued in 1999 and, 90c (right) in 2000.

A series of six definitive stamps, 30c, 35c, 40c, 70c, 80c, and \$1.00, all in large format, were issued in December 1999. A new 40c stamp, now a lighter shade, and a new 90c denomination were added in October 2000 with perforations now gauging 10.1. In June 2003 a small format 40c was released with a 45c introduced in May 2004 to satisfy an increase in the postage rate (Figure 11).

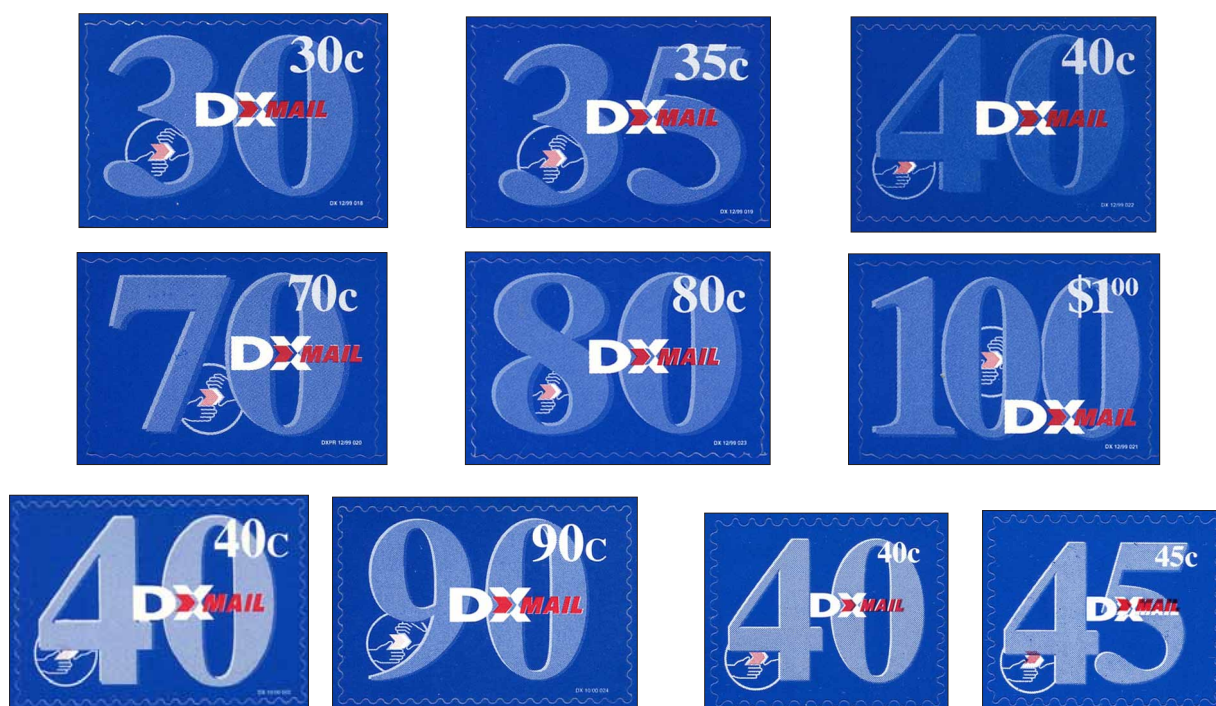


Figure 11: A series of definitive stamps were issued by DX Mail between December 1999 and May 2004.

In July 2002 DX Mail produced their first self adhesive stamps in coil format. The first issue was a series of \$1.50 scenic stamps (Figure 12).



Figure 12: A 'cancelled' strip of the first DXMail stamps produced in coil format.

Two further scenic stamps, \$1.50 and \$2.00, were released in October and November 2002 respectively. These self adhesive stamps, featuring White Island and a Sperm Whale (Figure 13), were produced in sheetlets of 25.



Figure 13: \$1.50 and \$2.00 scenic stamps issued in 2002.

A series of personalised promotional stamps were produced in coil format for a number of hotels. A series of three stamps, 40c, 90c and \$1.50, was produced for the Museum Hotel in Wellington (Figure 14). Single \$1.50 stamps were issued for the Heritage Hotel, Queenstown in October 2002 and for Scenic Circle Hotels in February 2003. These were followed by a stamp for Base Backpackers, issued in coils of 100 stamps, in March 2004 (Figure 15).



Figure 14: Three different value coil stamps for the Museum Hotel, Wellington.



Figure 15: Coil stamps for Heritage Hotel, Scenic Circle Hotels and Base Backpackers.

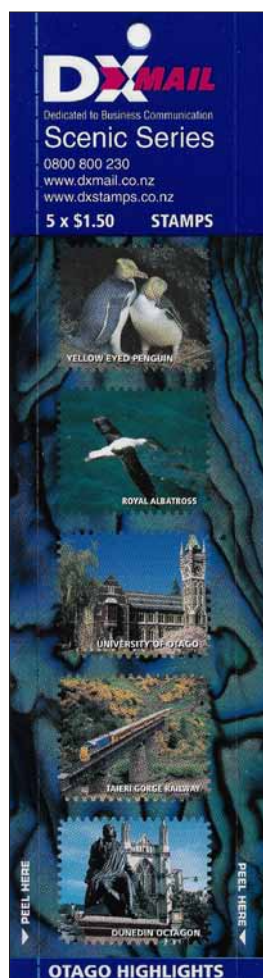


Figure 16:
Otago Highlights
booklet.

DX Mail produced their first booklet in October 2002. Titled ‘Scenic Beauty of New Zealand’, this was in ‘hang sell’ format with a plain blue cover and contained ten of the self adhesive scenic coil stamps.

On 1 June 2003 they released nine different booklets in the ‘Scenic Series’ containing five \$1.50 stamps directed at the tourist market, with images reflecting different facets of New Zealand. These were ‘Otago Highlights’ (Figure 16), ‘Central Landmarks’, ‘Natural New Zealand’, ‘Northern Sights’, ‘Origins of Aotearoa’, ‘Portals to the Sea’, ‘Scenic Queenstown’, ‘Southern Reaches’ and ‘West Coast Wonderland’.

Whilst the scenic stamps were aimed at tourists sending postcards home to friends and family the business sector was still the most important one for the company. This was catered for by a variety of pre-paid labels (Figure 17), rubber stamps and printed envelopes (Figure 18). Several of these are illustrated and described in John Hill’s book (Ref. 6).



Figure 17: Pre-paid labels produced primarily for business customers.
The three upper labels were for use within the DX network only.



Figure 18: Examples of some of the DX Mail pre-printed envelopes and rubber stamps



Figure 19: Example of a NZDX pre-paid envelope which was not intended to be posted.

Nowadays:

Today DX Mail is one of 18 subsidiaries of the Freightways Group, a dominant provider of courier services in New Zealand. On its web site (Ref. 8) Freightways describes DX Mail as “a niche player in the New Zealand postal services market, catering specifically to business mail customers nationwide” and “the only dedicated alternative to New Zealand Post providing a fast and cost effective service to targeted customers”.

In 2010 DX Mail acquired Universal Mail, a company providing postcard services for tourists wishing to communicate with friends and family in their home countries. Universal mail will be covered in a later article in this series. Following their acquisition DX Mail absorbed the business into their own and phased out the Universal Mail brand.

On its own web site (Ref. 9), DX Mail claim that:

- It handles over 50 million items of mail per year.
- Its services include ‘postal’ and ‘box-to-box’ nationwide delivery, worldwide delivery through leading international freight couriers, and a special postcard service for tourists.
- Postal items left at one of the 230 DX Exchanges, dropped in one of the conveniently located DX Mail boxes, or collected by courier late in the day are sorted at one of the company’s 14 nationwide

mail centres, and delivered the next working day locally, or within three working days nationwide.

- Documents despatched by any one of the 6,000 or so DX box holders in the country late in the afternoon are delivered to the recipient box holder by 9 a.m. on the next working day.

In terms of stamps and postal stationery the company currently offers:

- Postcard stamps and matching postcards that feature a location (towns/cities, regions), tourist attraction, events, picturesque scenery, wildlife, and culture. These target the tourist industry and are available from local souvenir shops, museums, art galleries, bookshops, i-SITES, and gift shops, from Cape Reinga to Bluff (Figure 20).
- National Stamps ('NSB' in a booklet of 10 and 'NSR' a roll of 100) to be used for sending documents to a street address, a PO Box, or a Private Bag within New Zealand. These have no denomination, but the number required to send the document varies depending on envelope size and weight, and whether it is 'Standard Post' or 'Fast Post'.
- Pre-paid envelopes in various sizes for delivery to both domestic and foreign destinations.

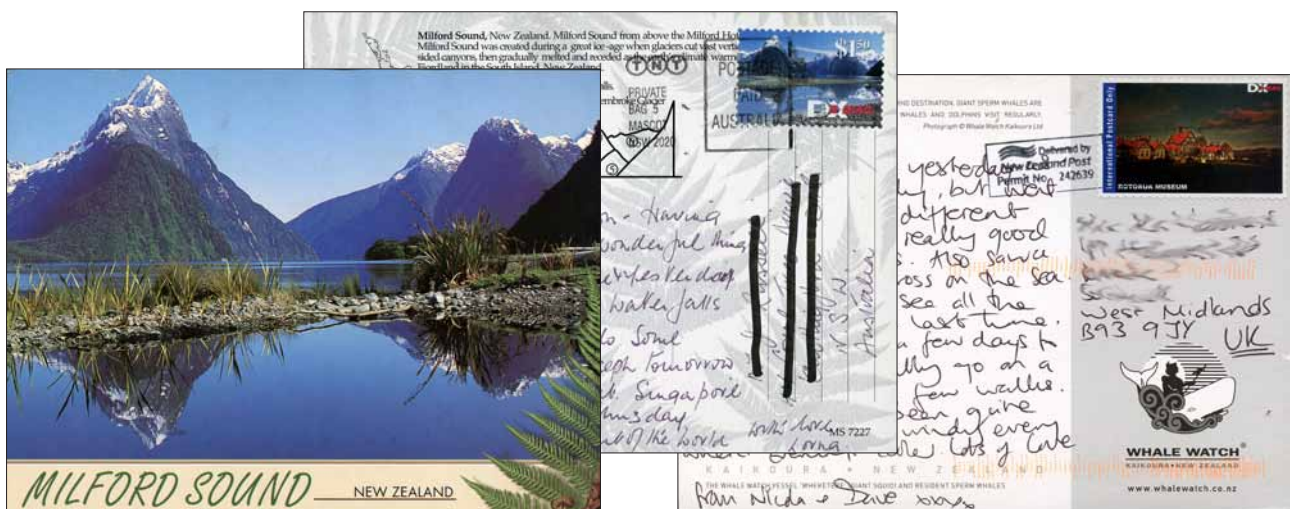


Figure 20: A postcard of Milford Sound (left) with matching image on the \$1.50 DX Mail stamp (centre). The postcard (right), to the UK, with a DX Mail 'International Postcard Only' stamp was carried by New Zealand Post.

References:

1. Møller K and Ward T, 'New Zealand's Alternative Mail Services-Part 1', *The Kiwi*, Vol.66, No.2, pp48-52, March 2017.
2. Møller K and Ward T, 'New Zealand's Alternative Mail Services-Part 2', *The Kiwi*, Vol.66, No.3, pp86-91, May 2017.
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7. *The 2004 Tasman Catalogue of New Zealand's Alternate Postal Service Providers*, pub. Stirling & Co. Ltd, Christchurch, New Zealand.
8. Freightways Ltd. website: www.freightways.co.nz.
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FLIGHT TO THE LIGHTS 2018

- LIMITED EDITION CAL

Tony Ward

In 2017 130 enthusiasts boarded the first commercial flight from Dunedin aboard an Air New Zealand 767, flying towards Antarctica, to see the Aurora Australis (Southern Lights). This 'Flight to the Lights', organised by Otago Museum director Dr Ian Griffin, proved so popular that it was repeated again this year on the evening of 22/23 March.

The flight this year was aboard an Air New Zealand 787 Dreamliner (Figure 1) taking off from Christchurch which has the longer runway required. Tickets were sold in pairs, allowing everyone to have a window view. Prices ranged from \$3980 for a pair of economy seats, \$7600 for two premium economy seats and \$6000 for a single seat in business class.

The flight left Christchurch on the evening of 22 March carrying just over 150 passengers all keen to get a view of this spectacular natural phenomenon. The boarding card for one lucky passenger is shown to the right (Figure 2).

The flight covered 4,531 nautical miles during a flight time of 9 hours, 38 minutes with the aircraft reaching an altitude of 41,000 ft; above the clouds but under the aurora.

The flight plan (Figure 3) shows the aircraft to criss-cross the aurora position



Figure 1: Air New Zealand 787 Dreamliner.



Figure 2: Boarding card for the 2018 Flight to the Lights.

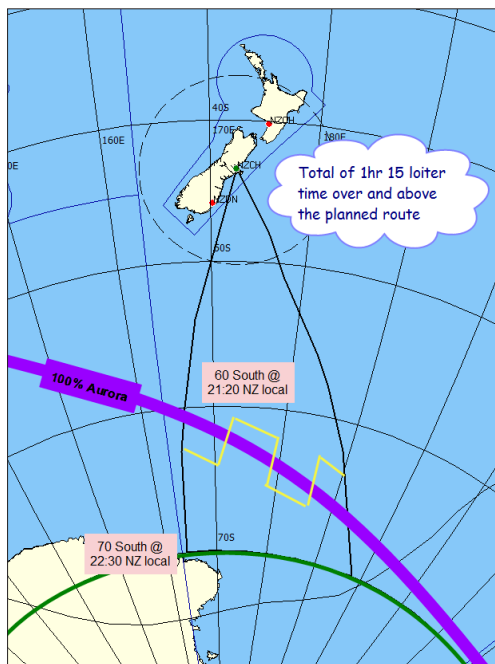


Figure 3: The flight criss-crossed the aurora.
(image courtesy of Chris Wilson, Air New Zealand)



Figure 4: Spectacular views from the plane windows.

©2018 Mike White

A special Customised Advertising Label (CAL) was commissioned for the 2018 'Flight to the Lights'. Designed by Mike White of Christchurch the stamp was based on vintage travel posters and printed by New Zealand Post.

500 stamps were printed and 100 special covers were produced (Figure 5), each with a block of four stamps cancelled with the Christchurch MSC postmark for 22 March 2018. All 100 envelopes were numbered, carried on the flight and then cacheted (rubber stamped) with the flight details. The first 50 of the flown envelopes were sold to passengers on the flight. Envelopes No. 50 to 82 are all signed by Mike White, who carried the envelopes on the flight. The remaining 50 envelopes are being made available to the philatelic market via Steven McLachlan of Shades Stamp Shop, Christchurch.

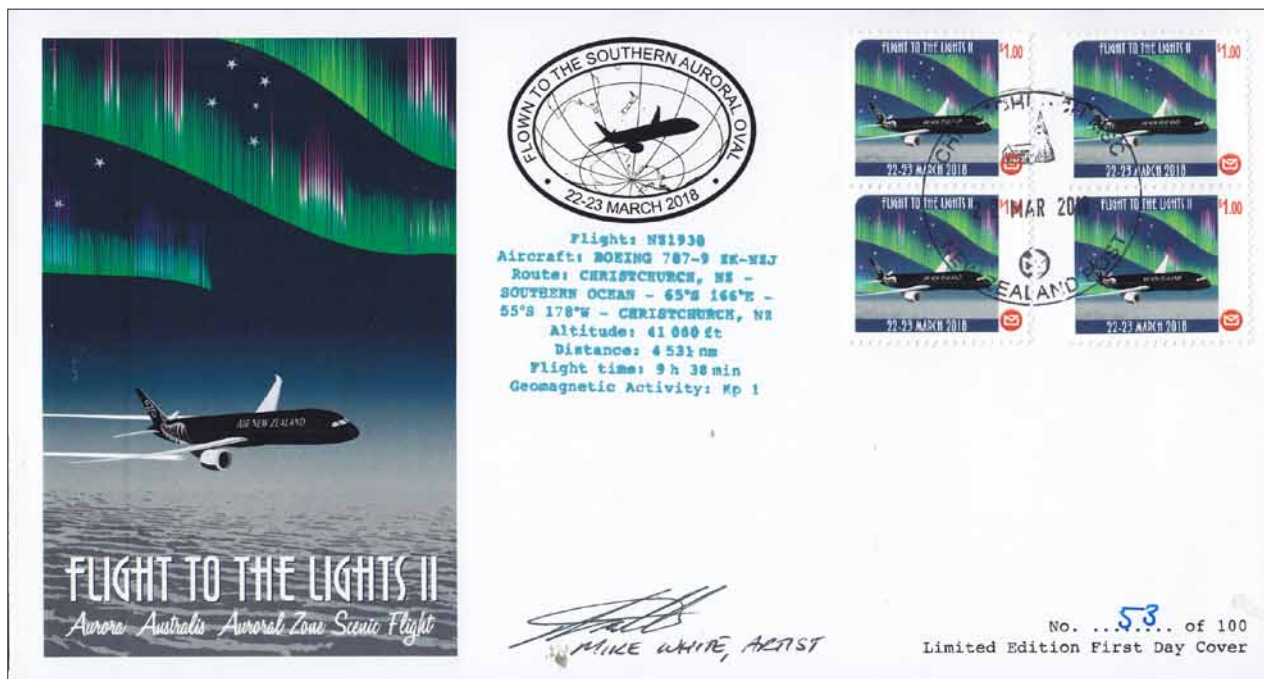


Figure 5: One hundred covers were carried on the flight. 23 covers were signed by the CAL designer:

This accounted for 400 of the stamps. Of the remaining 100 a sheet (50 stamps) was kept intact for archival purposes, allowing for a couple of single gift stamps and 12 blocks of four (Figure 6). Of these 12 blocks one was broken up and used on four local covers (Figure 7).



Figure 6: Block of four of the CAL.



Figure 7: One of four known used on local mail.

The eleven remaining blocks sold quickly to collectors so this will be a particularly scarce CAL.

Single stamps will be included in the 2018 CAL pack which should be available to collectors, from the New Zealand Post Office, early in 2019.

1908 KING EDWARD VII REGISTERED ENVELOPE

- 2d ON 3d MANUSCRIPT PROVISIONAL

Johnny Barkley

From 2 January 1908 the cost of registration was reduced from 3d to 2d. As new postal stationery envelopes were not yet ready postmasters were instructed to alter the value on existing stocks of the envelope by pen. Very few examples of these exist and, to be of any real significance need to be in used condition, with the postmark applied over the manuscript alteration (Ref. 1).

The two envelopes shown here were found in a mixed accumulation of covers and the used example, postmarked Christchurch 1 FEB 08, meets the criteria described above. It is one of two known used examples and the earliest known usage. It has been successfully expertised however the mint example, whilst it would appear to be a companion piece, must be considered of less significance.



Examples of the provisional surcharged envelopes, size 'G', square cut flap, with value altered in red.

Reference:

1. Samuel R, *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Vol. IX*, p266, pub. Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, Wellington, 2006.

REQUEST FOR HELP FROM MEMBERS

1964 HEALTH MINIATURE SHEET PLATING

Plating the 1964 Health miniature sheets poses collectors a problem – being able to find enough examples to identify the 12 different sheets that exist for each denomination – 24 different miniature sheets in total. And they are quite expensive as miniature sheets go. It is also expensive on the pocket when, most often, it is not possible to purchase the exact sheet that you require to fill that gap in your collection, so you buy and hope.

I am in that position. Over the years I have managed to find 23 different sheets, but number 24 has eluded me completely. Perhaps it was never issued, or used exclusively for first day covers? I am therefore appealing to readers to check their collection, to see if by chance, they have the ‘missing’ miniature sheet. Of course I cannot tell you what characteristics to look for precisely but, by elimination, I can tell you what it doesn’t look like and what to check for.



Figure 1: *The master sheet containing twelve separate miniature sheets.*

First some background. The 1964 Health miniature sheets were printed as a master sheet of 12 individual miniature sheets arranged in 4 rows of 3 and then guillotined into the individual sheets. For illustration purposes I have numbered these from 1 to 12. I am missing one miniature sheet of 2½d+1d stamps, position number 9 in the sheet plan shown here (Figure 1).

To check the sheets in your collection you will need a good magnifying glass and good light. But first some background.

By looking at the perforations that were applied from the top of the master sheet, moving downwards, each column of miniature sheets can be differentiated from others by reference to small perf shifts that are constant.

Miniature sheets from column 3 (sheets 3, 6, 9 and 12) from the master sheet all show the same perf characteristics with the 3rd perf hole from the bottom, between columns 3 and 4 of the miniature sheet, biased slightly to the right (Figure 2). This hole is level with the full stop of the value ‘1d’ on the stamp on the left. This occurs in three positions (strikes) on the miniature sheet as shown below. This is a small displacement, so take care.



Figure 2: *Miniature sheets from column 3 (sheets 3, 6, 9 and 12) show a small displacement of one perf hole.*

Step 1: If your copy does not have this perforation characteristic, then set it aside. Only continue if it does show this perf displacement.

Step 2: If your example is imperf through the top selvage then set it aside. This is sheet #3. We are only interested in miniature sheets that have perforations running vertically through the top selvage.

Step 3: If your sheet has the two varieties shown below (Figures 3 and 4), set it aside. This is sheet #9.

Step 4: If your sheet has the variety, row 2/1, shown below (Figure 5) set it aside. This is sheet #12.

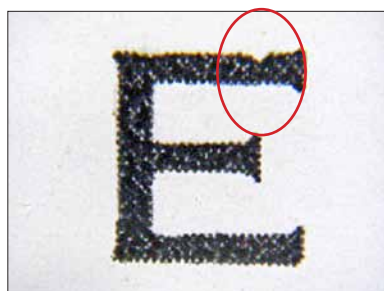


Figure 3: nick in upper arm of E.

MS#9:

The top arm of the 'E' of 'MINIATURE' has a 'V' shaped indent towards the right end.



Figure 4: smudge of blue below 'AL' of 'ZEAL'.

MS#9:

Row 1/3: Long smudge of blue between the top layers of cloud below the 'AL' of 'ZEAL'.



Figure 5: line from left arm of 'U' of 'TARAPUNGA'.

MS#12:

Row 2/1: The 'U' of 'TARAPUNGA' has a flat cap at the top of the left arm.

If you have reached this point without having discarded the sheet, then it is highly likely that you have the 'missing' miniature sheet.

I would be pleased to receive a scan of the miniature sheet (600 dpi or better) for use in completing my research. The source will be acknowledged. I need at least two copies to allow me to identify the constant fly speck varieties that are common to this sheet, where I can describe the characteristics of this 'missing' miniature sheet #6.

A free copy of my completed monograph to the first two members who can provide appropriate images.

If you can help please contact me, Terry Hancox, at TAHNZstamps@gmail.com or via the Hon. Editor.

1963 CHRISTMAS STAMP – THE 'NOSEBAG' FLAW

I received an enquiry from a member who wanted to know more about the so called 'nosebag' flaw which is found on the 1963 Christmas stamp. I thought other members might be interested in this and maybe I will show some other notable flaws in future issues of *The Kiwi*.

The 1963 Christmas stamp was printed, in sheets of 60 (6x10) in multicolour photogravure by Harrison & Sons. Two plates were used, 1A 1A 1A 1A and 1B 1B 1B 1B. Volume VI of the RPSNZ Handbooks (p 206) lists five flaws. The 'nosebag' flaw, "large orange spot on donkey's nose", is one of four from the B plates, at Row 3, Stamp 8.



The 'nosebag' flaw

Row 3, Stamp 8

Plate 1B 1B 1B 1B

SG Cat. 817c

CP Cat. SC4a (U)



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The web site is up and running allowing orders to be placed directly once you have registered. Currently there are over 20,000 stamps, covers, postcards etc on the site and all are illustrated.

Email us if you have any problems registering or navigating around the site.

There is a search facility allowing you to search for your Interests. e.g. Entering the word 'Railway' brings up nearly 200 different items.

Website categories include:

- NZ definitive issues from Full Face Queens to the current issues.
- NZ Commemoratives from the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition onwards.
- NZ Health and Christmas issues.
- Booklets.
- Air mail stamps and covers.
- Life Insurance.
- Postage Due and Express stamps and covers.
- Postal fiscals and Revenue stamps.
- Cinderellas.
- Various miscellaneous issues and covers. Postal fiscals and Revenue stamps.
- New Zealand Postal History.
- New Zealand Postal Stationery.
- Antarctic stamps, Postcards and Postal History.
- Various British Commonwealth and Foreign Country's stamps and covers.

IMPERFORATE 2012 ROSS DEPENDENCY MINI-SHEET.



One of the only 20 mini-sheets released by NZ Post and sold to raise funds for the 2012 CPS Stampshow.

All 20 sheets sold quickly and this one has come back in an estate lot. Available for sale and listed as **INV-32792** on the Classic Stamps web site.

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