

THE KIWI

JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



*1893 Adsons - Stamp Design Printed on Gum - Fact or Fiction?
(see page 96)*



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.

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*The Society is affiliated to: The Association of British Philatelic Societies
the New Zealand Philatelic Federation
and the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies.*



MOWBRAY COLLECTABLES

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as its major sponsor**

EDITORIAL

Thank you to those members who have responded to my plea for material for *The Kiwi*. No doubt I am not the only journal editor who spends an inordinate amount of time staring at blank pages, as editorial dead lines draw ever closer, in the knowledge that fantastic material sits within the collections of our members. The response I get to articles published is proof that others enjoy seeing these gems and learning from the knowledge that others have.

On the subject of fantastic material, one of our UK members has decided it is time to part with his collection of Health stamps. In the UK many of us have had the privilege of seeing some of Peter Favier's material, most recently at the Philatelic Weekend held last year in Bath.

Advance notification of this sale, which is being handled by Jos Gregson, can be found on page 85.



THE KIWI - ADVERTISERS IN THIS ISSUE

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Mowbray Collectables	Inside Front Cover
Ashford Stamps Ltd.	103
Steven Zirinsky	103

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.

THE SOCIETY WEB-SITE AS A RESOURCE FOR MEMBERS

The Kiwi (now downloadable in pdf format)

- * Vol. 1-63 (1952-2014) available to all in pdf format.
- * Vol. 64-67 (2015-18) available to members only.
- **password required - contact the editor of *The Kiwi*.**
- * Vol. 68 (current year) - available to *e-Kiwi* subscribers.



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

SOCIETY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In Memoriam:

Deceased:

JAW Smith

It is with great sadness that we report that John Smith (J A W Smith), a member of the Society for over 47 years, died recently at the age of 87.

I am sure many members will remember John, who joined the Society in 1971, became Chairman in 1984 and served as President from 1987 to 1998, being followed in that role by Ernie Leppard. John's philatelic interests included the 1935 Pictorials and early QEII issues of New Zealand.



COMPETITIVE AWARDS TO MEMBERS

SPRING STAMPEX

- Design Centre, London, 13-16 February 2019

Congratulations to Andrew Dove, seen here (right), receiving his award from Royal Philatelic Society London, President elect, Richard Stock.

Andrew's 'Traditional' exhibit 'New Zealand King George V Definitive Stamps' was awarded a **Large Gold** with a mark of 93 points.



AUCTION APPEAL

Advance details of this year's auction can be found on page 84

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 15 July 2019**, to allow a description to appear in the catalogue, otherwise at any time up to 12.00 noon on the day of the auction.

UPCOMING UK NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

2019

- * 29 May-2 June **STOCKHOLMIA 2019** - Waterfront Congress Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
- * 6 July **MIDPEX** - Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN.
[the Society will have a stand at the Exhibition]
- * 19-20 July **YORK STAMP FAIR** - The Grandstand, York Racecourse, York, YO23 1EX
- * 11-14 September **ABPS AUTUMN STAMPEX** - Business Design Centre, Islington, London.

2020

- * 19-22 March **NZ 2020 FIAP INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION**, Auckland, New Zealand.
- * 2-9 May **LONDON 2020** - Business Design Centre, Islington, London.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday **25 May 2019**

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

11:00 - Members Items of Interest and Recent Acquisitions

14:00 - Treasured Letters: New Zealand Mail in WW2 (Lorraine Maguire)

The afternoon session will be led by **Lorraine Maguire** who will focus on family letters and other items from her collection. Members are invited to bring related material for display.

MIDLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the Midland Group will be held on Saturday **26 October 2019** at the usual venue, St Anne's Church Hall (behind the Church) Parkhill, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8EU 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 **11 May 2019** 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 the Summer Meeting on Saturday **20 July 2019**. It will be hosted by David Edwards in Edinburgh starting at 12:30.

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



THE SOCIETY WEB-SITE AS A RESOURCE FOR MEMBERS

Campbell Paterson's Bulletin and Newsletter

The *Newsletter* produced since 1949 and the *Bulletin* between 1963 and 1993 are packed with offers, information and articles and form an incredible resource for researchers.

With the permission of David Holmes of Campbell Paterson, every copy (word searchable) is available to members via our website.

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



MEETINGS HELD

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD, IN LONDON, 30 MARCH 2019

The morning session was for items of interest and new acquisitions. **Lewis Giles** opened proceedings with a letter dated April 8th 1844 from Dr William England in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, to a Colonel Wakefield in Wellington. The letter had been carried by the captain or a passenger on a ship to Nelson, posted there on 3rd October 1844, as witnessed by a Crown within Oval datestamp (the earliest known), arriving in Wellington on 5th October. A manuscript '4' showed the sum due from the recipient on delivery. The letter asks if a memorial is to be erected to commemorate "the melancholy event" at Wairau on 17th June 1843. This was the only conflict in the South Island during the Maori Wars. Amongst the many settlers and Maori killed were Captains Richard England and Arthur Wakefield, brothers of the sender and recipient of the letter. The 'Wairau affair' and the Wakefield family's role in the colonisation of New Zealand have been widely recorded but suffice it to say here that a memorial was eventually unveiled at Tuamarina ('the calm beyond'), near Blenheim, on 9th March 1866.

Paul Wreglesworth showed four items of artwork produced by Geoffrey Francis Fuller (1925-2011), an art teacher at Hastings Girls High School, but not accepted for the 1960 Pictorial issue (see *The Kiwi*, January 2019, page 25). His designs for the 1d, 3d and 6d values were accepted and are kept in the archives at Te Papa. Each item is drawn in black but includes a swatch suggesting the main colour appropriate for the design.

John Stimson showed a 1887 cover sent via Great Britain to Cape Colony marked '1/8' in red, an accountancy mark, indicating the sum due to the British Post Office for its handling of the item. John had discovered that the archives at The Postal Museum in London (see <http://catalogue.postalmuseum.org>) include many papers, including drafts for approval, about the apportionment of revenue when mail is handled by more than one postal authority. He plans to write more on this subject after further research.

The subject for the afternoon was 'Postcards with Stories'. **Michael Wilkinson** noted that any aspect of a postcard could open a window to its postal or social significance. For example, a picture postcard of Bath, posted in Torquay in July 1925, to a Mrs Morrison in Dunedin reported that the writer was "going to London next week to do the Exhibition" – probably the British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley from April 1924 to October 1925. The card was underpaid and taxed 1½d deficient postage (then the minimum charge), paid by ½d and 1d second type NZ postage due stamps, the subscript 134 to the T10 lozenge indicating it had been handled by Bristol Post Office.



"Going to London next week to do the Exhibition."

A card sent on 29 December 1914 from W C Hill in Christchurch to Miss E Hill in Kings Heath, Birmingham, was concerned not with the outbreak of war but that the writer was "not doing any good in the Congress", which proved to be the New Zealand Chess Congress, in which the writer came 9th of 12 (*The Colonist*, 11th January 1915). In contrast three cards sent from Wellington on 22nd December 1913 to members of the

Phillipson family in Sparkhill told Mr P that the author was “worried by the happenings of late” and Mrs P that he was missing her and that he would be “glad to see the end of 1913”, but had no message for Miss P. A ‘real photo’ postcard sent from Rotorua to East Orange, New Jersey, in June 1918 notes that the picture is of “another ruin of guide’s house that was destroyed during eruption” – that being the eruption on 1st April 1917 of the Echo Crater at Waimangu. A 1939 Business Reply Card, with the 1d postage paid by Glaxo Laboratories at Bunnythorpe near Palmerston North, requests a free sample of Farex baby food for a Mrs Innes Jones of Timaru.

John Painter had sent scans of eight postcards showing the treatment of unpaid and underpaid mail between 1905 and 1922. Postcards qualified for lower postage rates than letters, but the regulations on dimensions, materials, the position and nature of written messages etc were complex and at times confused both customers and post office staff. Examples included items ineligible for the postcard rate because they had messages on the picture side, cards claiming to be ‘Book Post’ or ‘Printed Matter’, and a card for which “Auntie Mu” would have had to pay 3d postage due only to read that her nephew or niece had sent her some apples.

Johnny Barkley had sent scans of 8 cards dating from 1876 to 1924. Several were business rather than personal items - for example a 1876 card from the Timaru Herald stating that its offer of free copies for libraries etc had been so popular that in future 50% of the full subscription would be charged; an 1888 card about a Christchurch North election meeting to support John Ollivier (who was born in 1812 on the Isle of Wight and emigrated to New Zealand in 1853); and an invitation to the opening of the new Fellmongery Works of the Wellington Meat Export Company in 1899. Johnny would particularly welcome views on why an 1886 card from Nelson to Belfast, routed via Dublin and for which the correct postcard rate of 6d had been paid, had been marked “insufficiently stamped”.



An 1890 postcard to Ireland, prepaid 6d. Why was it endorsed “Insufficiently Stamped”?

Keith Collins showed examples of both types of the 1935 1d lettercard - the original version with a 1½ mm gap between the lines of the inscription about extra postage needed for overseas use, and the 1938 version with a ½mm gap. Messages in the cards to “dearest one” and about a crystal set indicated the priorities of the senders.

Margaret Frankcom’s display included two postcards of motorised sledges. One showed the sledge made by Mr CR Jones, engineering foreman of the Mount Cook Motor Company, in the early 1910s to carry mail and other essentials to settlements on the slopes of Mount Cook in winter – a task “too much for the horses”. The sledge was said to be “capable of 40 miles an hour”! An improved version was shown at the 1913-14 Auckland Exhibition (*Auckland Star*, 31 January 1914). Mr Jones died in 1918 age 34. His obituary states that at the age of 18 he constructed one of the first motor cars in New Zealand (*The Press*, 30 November 1918). The Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre (formerly the Hermitage Museum) does have a car that arrived at Mount Cook village in 1906, but there is no sign of Mr Jones’ sledge. The other sledge shown was one of the three,

later cannibalised into one working machine, used by Captain Scott and his team on their fateful expedition to the South Pole in 1912.

Other items shown included a 1901 postcard marking introduction of universal penny postage addressed to Beryl Penton whose father, Major-General Arthur Pole Penton, commanded New Zealand troops in the Boer War; a card showing New Zealand nurses in South Africa during that war – apparently only 3 of the 31 nurses sent were paid for by the New Zealand Government, the others being supported by patriotic donations; and a wooden card from Oamaru in 1926 urging customers to “Specify NZ Timbers and keep New Zealanders busy instead of supporting foreign workman by using imported wood”.



Captain Scott and his Motor Sleigh.

Michael Thomas showed a range of mostly unused cards from the 1900s and 1910s, several of which were hand tinted. He had acquired some of these at a Society auction. Many of the cards had messages on them, so they may have been posted in envelopes. The message on one card, showing the Manawatu Gorge north east of Palmerston North, reads “This road leads to the famous Mangatiti Pah where 300 Maoris were butchered by an opposing tribe in 1840. The skeletons are still lying there – come out here and I will take you up and show them to you”.

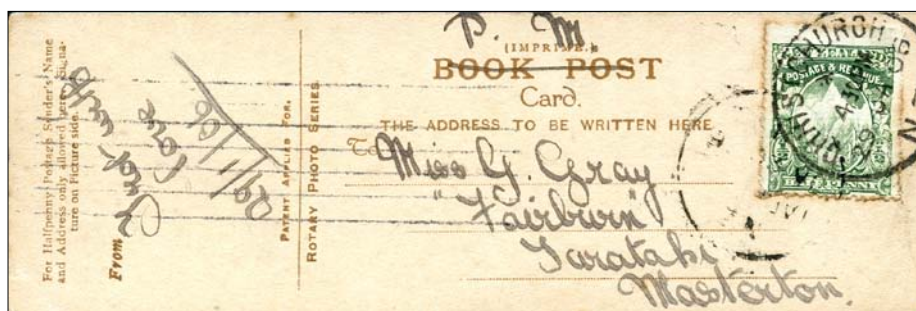


Manawatu Gorge and the road leading to the site of a massacre of 300 Maoris in 1840.

Lorraine Maguire displayed patriotic postcards sent from Christchurch to her father by his wife, three sisters and brother during the First World War. In 1916 her father, George Fairbairn, served on the Western Front and was wounded at Messines in 1917. He was treated at the New Zealand Military Hospital at Brockenhurst in the New Forest in Hampshire and then at the New Zealand Convalescent Hospital in Hornchurch, Essex, before returning to New Zealand. While the postcards simply send good luck and love, the story behind them could not be more poignant.

Items shown by **Paul Wreglesworth** included two examples of “Book Post Cards”, shaped for subsequent use as bookmarks, where the words “Book Post” had been crossed through and overwritten with “P.M.” (Printed Matter) so the cards could be sent at the printed matter rate of ½d. Such cards could not be used “to make any communication of the nature of a letter”. These cards were produced by the Rotary Photographic Company in England and the examples shown (right), used in 1906, carried pictures of English actresses Ellaline Terriss and Ida Ren .

Other items displayed by Paul included a postcard with a picture of a damaged railway carriage at Paekakariki. A landslip had dislodged a large boulder which hit the north bound Napier express. The rock passed through the side of the carriage killing one person, a young lady from Greymouth.



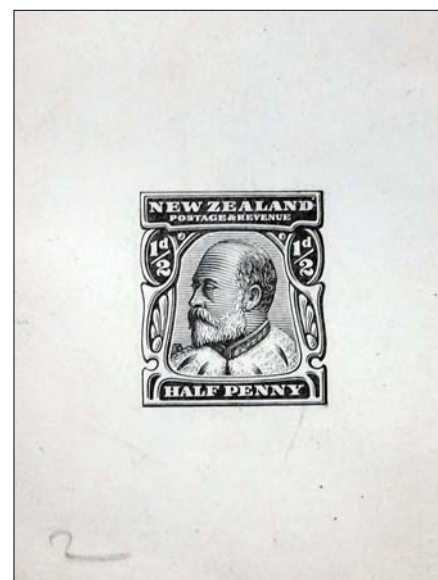
Two ‘Book Post’ cards
(above).
Reverse of one card
(left).
[reduced to 90%.]

A picture postcard of Christchurch, dating from around 1910, addressed to “The Householder, Christchurch” advertised a sale at Strange & Co’s department store in the city. The printed message reads:

‘Have you visited Strange’s Sale yet? It is a record!! They are holding a Special Bargain Carnival every day this week.’

An early example of junk mail perhaps? (see page 86).

Neil Jones concluded proceedings with a comprehensive collection of postal stationery cards, including a Perkins Bacon die proof for the 1907 postcard (shown right). This was based on the portrait of Edward VII used for the 1903 definitive issue of stamps for Canada.



NOTES OF THE MIDLAND GROUP MEETING, HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2019.

Terry Hancox started the afternoon by showing his fine display of 'Not Properly Issued' New Zealand stamps which included the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition set, including a fine used copy of the rare 1d claret stamp, which was originally deemed too dark and was recalled for destruction.

Other items included photo-proofs of stamps intended for the proposed visit of King George VI in 1949 which was cancelled when he was taken ill and could not travel.

Our guest for the day, **Clive Jones**, showed a fine collection of early ship mail both to and from New Zealand, covering shipwrecks, breakdowns, mail hold-ups awaiting replacement vessels and other problems which occurred.

Ian Samuel showed an Australian (Sydney Airport) cover to New Zealand which carried a Sterling & Co miniature sheet showing an essay for the proposed 1932 airmail issue which commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the first Trans-Tasman flight, by Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, in 1928. Ian also showed a few New Zealand aviation postcards and the 2011 maxi-sheet of cricket balls issued for the Cricket World Cup held that year in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

In part two **Terry Hancox** showed another of his favourite themes, the artwork of stamp designer Lindy Fisher, this time for the Ross Dependency issue of whales. Terry explained how Lindy developed the theme over several versions before arriving at the finished design.

NOTES OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND GROUP MEETING, HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2019.

John Atkinson displayed a range of New Zealand issues from 2017.

Stuart Potter showed his latest illustrated cover produced by Mrs Purdon (see *The Kiwi*, March 2019, p50) showing Parakao post office. This is only the second recorded example of this design painted by Mrs Purdon. Also shown was a cover posted on 1 April 1987, vesting day for New Zealand Post, when customers were allowed to post inland letters for just one cent. A postcard with glitter, endorsed 'PROHIBITED' was displayed and a range of postal stationery including an example of the first registered envelope.

John Hepworth brought a range of 'Instructional markings', mainly examples of military mail from WW1, WW2 and the Boer War. Amongst these were letters endorsed 'OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW', 'INVALIDED N.Z.', 'RETURNED TO NEW ZEALAND', 'MISSING', 'DECEASED', 'REPORTED KILLED' and the very scarce 'EXPEDITIONARY FORCE LOOSE LETTER H.M.N.Z.T. - No. 4' cachet which was used aboard Troopship No.4 SS *Tahiti* during the 1915 Gallipoli campaign.

Harold Howard displayed an advert for Big Tree Motor Oil and an example of a 1d Dominion stamp, from a booklet pane, with an advert for Big Tree. Then a block of 24 1d Dominion stamps from Rarotonga (Cook Islands) showing the 'broken shield' variety and a selection of covers showing usage of this stamp. Harold finished by showing three miniature sheets and two blocks which comprised the New Zealand Post 2018 Reward items.

Jack Lindley ended the session with imprint, plate and variety blocks of the ½c to 10c values from the 1967 Pictorial definitive issue.

A DATE FOR ALL YOUR DIARIES

2 LONDON INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION 2 TO 9 MAY 2020

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION - NOTIFICATION

The annual club auction will be held on 30 November 2019. The rules are as follows:

1. **By 15 July 2019** vendors should send a description of their lots for sale to the catalogue compiler:

Andrew Dove, e-mail address: dove697@btinternet.com - preferred method

or by post to: 12, Stella Avenue, Tollerton, Notts. NG12 4EX

Only a description of each lot is required with the vendors reserve price. The minimum reserve is £3.

The catalogue compiler will acknowledge receipt within 5 days. He will supply a copy of the auction list entry, including lot number/s, for proof-reading. Do **NOT** send items for sale to the catalogue compiler.

2. **Only the first 400 lots will be accepted.**
3. **Vendors** will be charged the full postage for the return of unsold lots.
4. **Scans of auction lots** can be placed on the Society website if scans (JPEG files) are sent to the catalogue compiler following receipt of the auction list for proof reading. Scans should include the lot number.
5. Lots should be contained in clear envelopes with the lot number clearly displayed on a small label (1cm square) in the lower right corner of the envelope.
6. Lots may be delivered to the venue before 11.30 on the day of the auction. Vendors unable to attend must send their material to the auctioneer, Brian Stonestreet, by 15 November 2019 at:

Brian Stonestreet, 32, Bedgebury Close, Vinters Park, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5QZ

7. Viewing will start at 12.30. The auction will commence promptly at 14.00.
8. Only members of the society are eligible to enter material in the auction
9. Successful purchasers attending the auction may take their lots away provided their account is settled.
10. Vendors may not remove unsold lots without the authority of the auctioneer.
11. Absent successful bidders will be invoiced by email or post. Prompt settlement will ensure prompt delivery.
12. Unsold lots and sales, less all expenses, will be returned to vendors once all sales income is received.
13. The Society will insure all items from the date of receipt until the time of purchase or return to the vendor.
14. The Society fee, payable by the vendor, is 10% of the hammer price.
15. The auctioneer may decline lots which are not as described or are considered to be of insufficient quality.
16. **Successful Postal bidders** with a serious complaint, on receipt of his/her purchases, must return them to the Auctioneer within one week of their arrival.
17. Postal bidders with a serious complaint must return the lots concerned with details of the complaint within one week of their arrival to:

John Stimson, Mead Cottage, Boulters Lane, Maidenhead, SL6 8TJ.

18. A list of unsold lots will be placed on the Society website as soon as possible after the auction and will remain available for purchase at the reserve price until 9 December 2019. Those wishing to purchase should contact: john.m.stimson@gmail.com.

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

ATTENTION COLLECTORS OF HEALTH STAMPS

THE PETER FAVIER HEALTHS COLLECTION TO BE SOLD

Peter has built up a very extensive collection of this popular issue with his main interest being the covers with dates, designs and the early history of the issue being prominent.

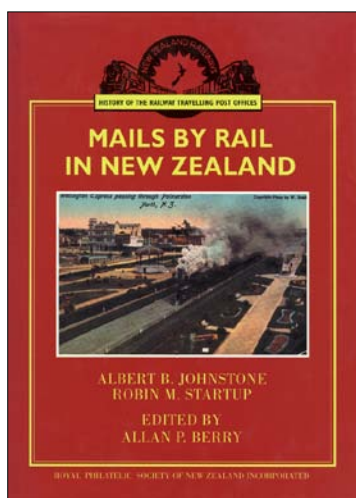
The collection includes such rarities as the Smiling Boy FDC bearing pairs, several 1934 FDC including the rare TAURANGA, the rare 1932 label in a block of four, a number of early Health Camp covers before the inception of the main camps, Mrs Purdon hand painted covers etc. Some of the material is ex-Tom Latto and there is a tremendous lot of useful information which will be offered as a single lot.

For a copy of the coloured and well illustrated catalogue send a cheque for £3 to JMA Gregson, 18 Willoughby Close, Alveston, Bristol BS35 3RW (or £5 from overseas, the latter may be paid in UK decimal postage). The email address is jos@josgregson.plus.com

The catalogue will be available from mid-June and the postal auction sale date will be 1 September. Coloured scans can be provided upon request.



KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH NEW ZEALAND TPOs



Those with an interest in New Zealand Railways and TPO cancellations will no doubt have, or be aware of, the book shown here (left).

Mails By Rail in New Zealand was written by Albert Johnstone and Robin Startup and edited by Allan Berry. It was published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand in 2001.

The book contains comprehensive details of all the datestamps known to have been used by the Railway Travelling Post Offices including 'earliest' and 'latest' dates of use, as known to the authors, at the time of publishing.

Inevitably, with time, further examples of the various cancellations have emerged which require correction to the published 'earliest' and 'latest' dates of usage.

Tony Nicholson, a member of the TPO & Seapost Society, with permission of the publishers, maintains a listing of all the datestamps and records any new dates that are identified. The list can be found at (www.tpo-seapost.org.uk/tpo2/tpnewzealand). Any new dates can be notified to Tony directly or via the Hon. Editor of *The Kiwi*. Some examples of 'new' dates that have been identified are shown below. The references (in bold) are those used in the original book.



DN2
AP 21 80



NU4
6 DE 28



C6
12 DE 04



K3
27 JL 31

[Note: stamps and datestamps shown above are not necessarily reproduced to scale]

PW

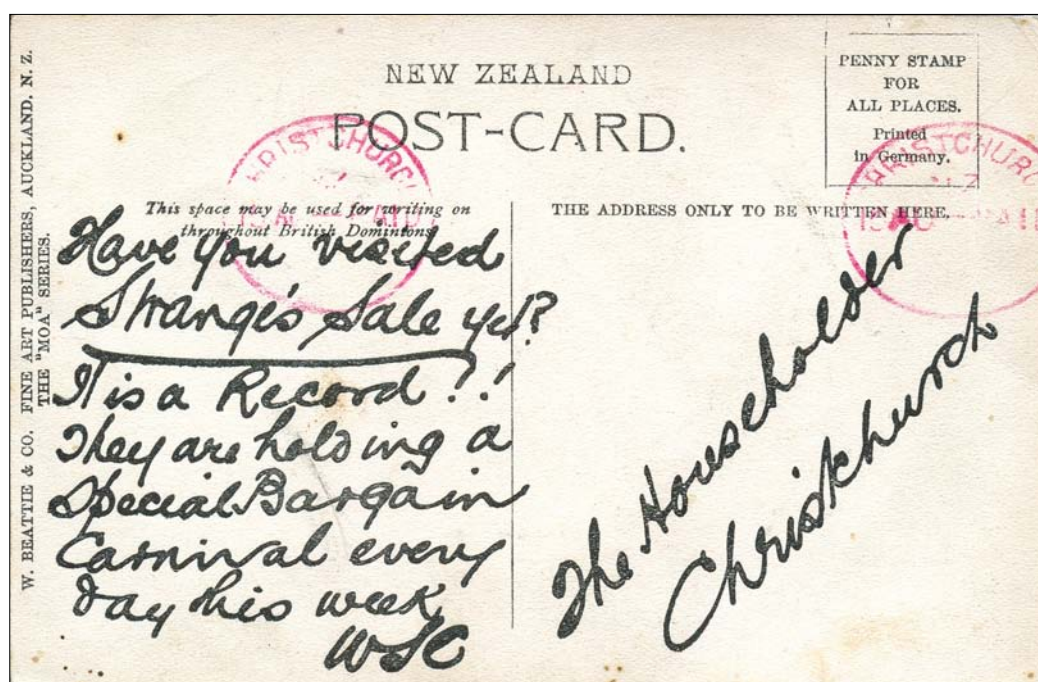
W. STRANGE & Co., CHRISTCHURCH

- EARLY JUNK MAIL?

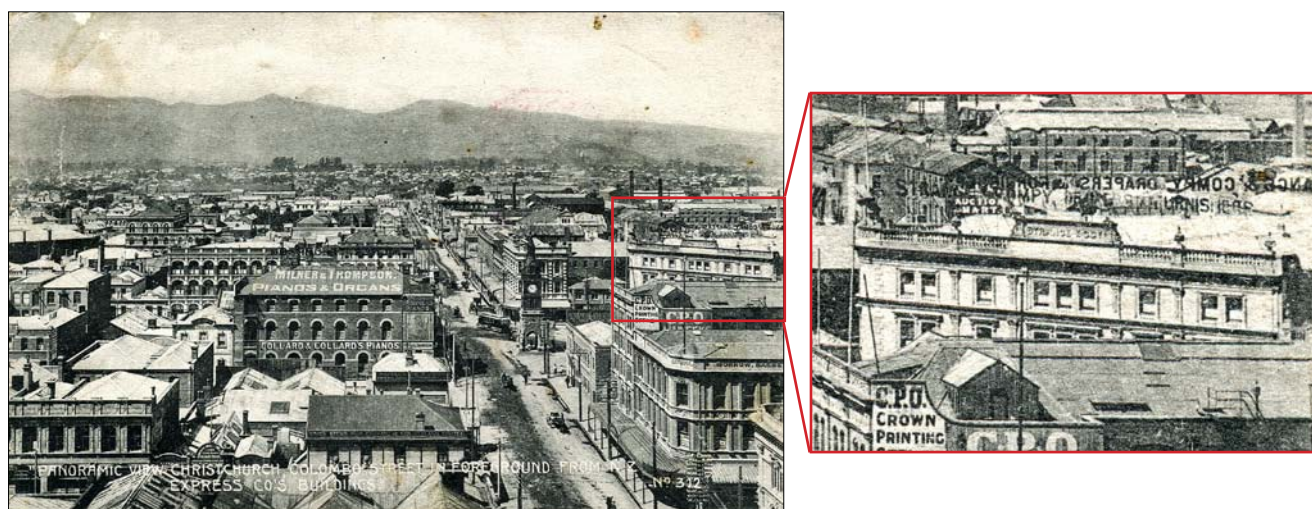
Paul Wreglesworth

At first sight the postcard below would appear to be unexceptional. Probably dating from around 1910, the picture side is a panoramic view of Christchurch, taken from the roof of the N.Z. Express Co.'s building with Colombo Street in the foreground. On the other side is a simple handwritten message and address.

However, on closer inspection, the message and the address (which is simply '*The Householder, Christchurch*') are not handwritten but printed in a bold type. The message is clearly an advert for W. Strange & Co., alerting residents of Christchurch to '*Strange's Sale*.' The Company were major retailers in Christchurch and, in its heyday, it was said to be the largest department store in Australasia. Collectors will know Strange's name as one of the businesses that advertised on the underside of the Second Sideface Definitive stamps in 1893. This must surely be one of the earliest examples of 'junk mail'?



Postage has been pre-paid (red 'PAID' cancel dated 15 AU ??), presumably as part of a bulk mailing.



The picture side of the card (reduced to 75%) shows (left) the view of Christchurch, the enlarged section (right) shows Strange's store which stood on High Street and Lichfield Street.

HAND ILLUSTRATED COVERS AND SKETCHES OF ARTHUR HERBERT MESSENGER

Terry Hancox

Readers will be aware of the hand illustrated covers produced by Mrs Purdon and, perhaps to a lesser extent, Herbert Duke. Specimens of their work appear irregularly, and perhaps because of their popularity, are beginning to achieve considerable prices in sales and auctions. Examples seen are postmarked late 1940s and through the 1950s. Yet there is another illustrator of covers in this time period not so well known, Arthur Herbert Messenger, A.H. Messenger, as he signs himself. There are only a few hand illustrated covers from A.H. Messenger, yet his style is unmistakable. (Figures 1 and 2).



Figure 1: Hand illustrated cover from A.H. Messenger dated '3 OCT 1951', featuring a Maori Chieftain.



Figure 2: Second cover dated 8 MY 52, featuring two Pixies posting a letter to 'Marie'.

The two envelopes, illustrated on the previous page, are dated 3 October 1951 and 8 May 1952, and both feature pen and colour drawings. The earlier cover (Figure 1) features a Maori chieftain, whilst the more detailed cover (Figure 2) features two pixies climbing a tree to post a letter to 'Marie'.

If the style of A.H. Messenger is familiar, readers are reminded to look at the miniature sheet prepared for the Tarapex '86 National Stamp Exhibition (Figure 3). The exhibition was held in New Plymouth, 17-27 October 1986 and promotional material featured designs from local artist A.H. Messenger. Born in 1877 at Pukearuhe, Taranaki, he spent his early life amongst the Maoris and garrison population at Pukearuhe Redoubt. It was here that his drawing skills were formed and many of his sketches featured subjects from this early experience. He died in 1962 leaving a good many sketches and paintings of early New Zealand life.



Figure 3: *Tarapex '86 Proof Miniature sheet containing five of A.H. Messenger's sketches.*



Figure 4: *Original artwork for the stamp at row 1/2 of the miniature sheet.*

The Chairman of the 'Tarapex '86' Organising Committee was given permission, by the Messenger family, to use some of his work for a stamp issue. Five suitable designs were selected, approved by the Taranaki Maori Trust Board, and used by the Post Office Design Studio to prepare the issued miniature sheet. A painting by Messenger featured in the presentation pack for the exhibition (Figure 5).

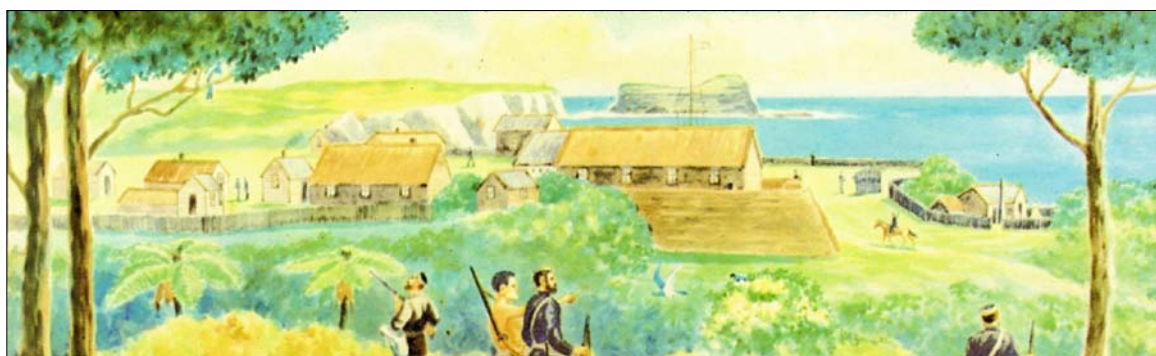


Figure 5: *A painting of Pukearuhe Redoubt by A.H. Messenger where he spent his early years.*

Further examples of the work of A.H. Messenger have appeared in the philatelic marketplace, perhaps being sourced from other sketches not used for Tarapex '86 (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Series of five sketches from A.H. Messenger featuring Maoris and early garrison personnel.

Epilogue:

Whilst some of these sketches may appear almost ‘cartoon-like’ the range of Messenger’s work shows great detail and illustrates the versatility of a truly gifted artist. Examples of his diverse body of work can be viewed on the web (Ref. 1).

Unlike Mrs Purdon and Herbert Duke whose work extends to hundreds of illustrated covers, those of A.H. Messenger are scarce. Details of any further examples held in reader’s collections would be welcome.

Reference:

1. ‘Arthur Herbert Messenger’. Available at <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/name-125127.html>

THE EXPRESS DELIVERY SERVICE AND ITS LIMITS

Andrew Dove

1. Introduction

Those interested in New Zealand philately will be aware of the 'Express Delivery Service' if only from the stamps issued in 1903 in an attempt to popularise the little used option.

The details of the Service were laid out in the *New Zealand Gazette* of 1901 (Ref. 1). Essentially, letters would be delivered by a telegraph message boy if the address was within three miles of a specified major Post Office. A basic fee of 6d for one mile and additional 3d for each mile had to be paid on posting. This fee remained the same from the establishment of the service in 1901 until it was discontinued in June 1948.

There has been some discussion in the literature of certain aspects of the service including the issuing of stamps, their use for ordinary postage (Ref. 2), and the introduction of a reciprocal service with some overseas country (Refs. 3 and 4). There does not seem to have been discussion about the nature of the service as it functioned.

This article describes some details of the way that the service worked and illustrates some Express Delivery letters which demonstrate some interesting points.

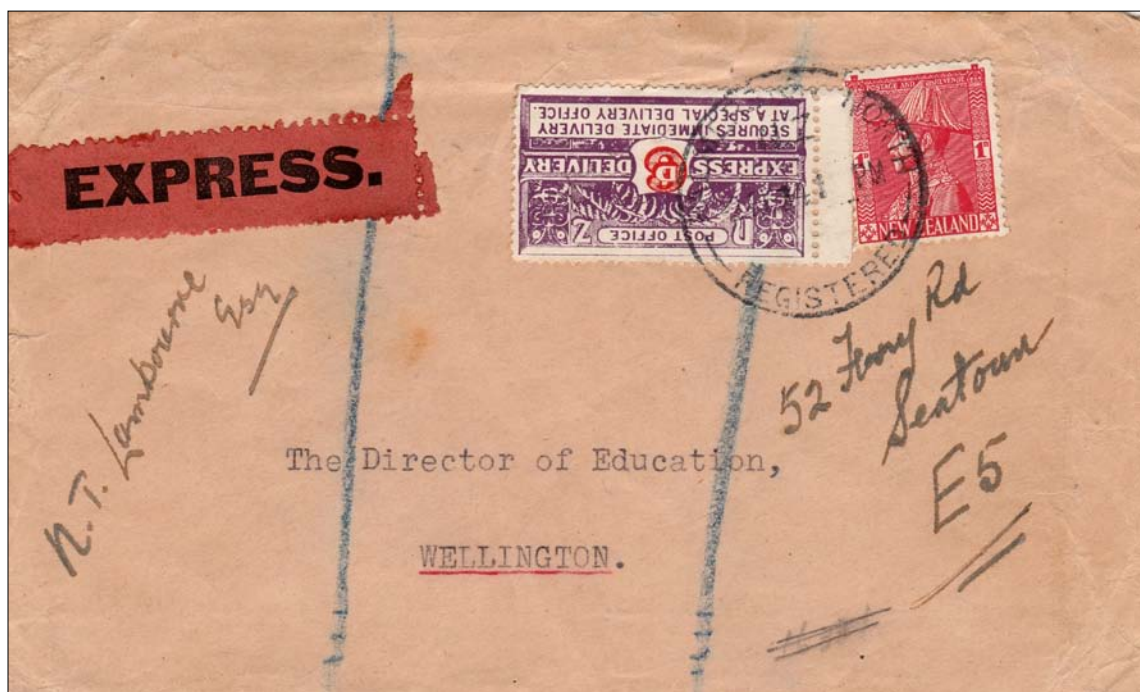


Figure 1: A Sparse address on an Express Delivery Envelope..

2. Acceptance for the Service

There is no comment in the regulations of any special requirement for handling Express Delivery letters. Presumably, the letter could be accepted at any Post Office and then entered the postal system for transfer via the postal channels. The preferential handling started on arrival at the items destination.

There is also no mention in the regulations of the way that the distance from the Post Office to the address should be calculated. As the fee was collected when the letter was posted, it may be that each office had a list of road names in the cities and towns offering the service or, possibly, the accepting officer accepted the senders estimate of distance. Considering changes to the geography of towns, it seems likely that any list would soon be out of date.

The possibility of miscalculating was mentioned in the Regulations:

‘All articles not fully pre-paid with the postage and delivery-fee would be treated as a rule as ordinary correspondence and delivered in the usual way. In certain cases, however, where the delivery-fee has been paid and the distance apparently miscalculated, or the postage inadvertently omitted, the articles will be delivered and the deficiency collected from the addressee and affixed to the letter in postage-due stamps’ (Ref. 1).

It is worth noting that only a single rate deficiency was to be charged, in contrast to the double deficiency charged for underpaid ordinary mail.

It seems that sometimes the receiving office was generous in its acceptance of items. For example, the letter shown opposite (Figure 1) appears to have been accepted at the Post Office in Palmerston North with the scant address *‘The Director of Education, WELLINGTON’* at the standard one mile rate fee. The more detailed address appears to have been added on arrival in Wellington. The address should actually read Ferry Street, located in Seatoun, about 3½ miles from the Post Office. The inadequate fee may have been disregarded because of the prominence of the addressee.

Examples of usage to addresses beyond one mile, which have been accepted with the payment of an additional fee, are uncommon. The cover below (Figure 2) shows a letter posted in 1906 in Auckland for an address in Mount Roskill, Auckland, a distance of about eight miles from Auckland Chief Post Office. This has been charged at 1d postage and 1/- Express Fee for delivery up to three miles away. 1s 1d seems very expensive for a local letter in 1906!



Figure 2: Letter showing the additional fee for the extra mile.

Examples of an excess charge being paid are unusual. The illustrations on page 92 (Figures 3a and 3b) show a letter, accepted at Dunedin at the 1 mile rate of 6d, but then surcharged 3d on the same day at the same office. Looking at a present day map, the address, 133A King Edward Road, is about 1.4 miles from the Post Office so it appears that the initial receiving officer made a mistake which was subsequently corrected.

It is also unclear how any excess, applied after the letter had left the original receiving office, was collected. Presumably the telegraph boy delivering the letter was trusted to take the excess fee and return it to the post office.

One wonders what action was taken if the addressee was not at home: no doubt, a notice would have been left and they would have had to visit the office to collect the letter. Hardly an express outcome for the correspondence.



Figure 3a (top) and 3b (bottom): Excess fee surcharged in Dunedin.

3. The Transit:

The preferential treatment for Express Delivery was from the arrival at the destination Post Office rather than any special handling in transit. Occasionally, one comes across examples where steps have also been taken to expedite the journey to the destination. The cover opposite (Figure 4a) is an Official letter posted on 11 AP 39 from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Wellington to a passenger on R.M.S. *Awatea*. This ship was on the Trans-Tasman crossing and was nicknamed 'Greyhound of the Tasman Sea'. As well as the Express Delivery, the letter has been sent by airmail and on the reverse there is an Express Transit label (Figure 4b).

The postage rate for inland airmail was 2d per ounce, or part thereof, so the cover would have weighed 1–2oz and, of course, there was the additional 6d for Express Delivery. Interestingly, there was no charge for express transit. This service was available from 1 December 1914 and a mail item would be forwarded to its destination by the first ordinary mail despatched after the time of posting. At this date, the fee was 6d. The lack of a charge for this letter may be because, having paid the higher charge for airmail carriage the ordinary

mail was irrelevant. In which case, it is difficult to understand why a sticker was applied. The Express Transit service was abolished in February 1976.



Figure 4a (above): An Express Delivery letter sent by airmail with Express Transit.

Figure 4b (inset right): The Express Transit label from the back of the cover.

[image shown at 75% of original]

4. The Delivery:

For the most part, the evidence of surviving examples of Express Delivery mail show that the Post Office was liberal in its interpretation of the distance the Telegraph boys would have to cycle to achieve deliveries. However, sometimes it seems that, after accepting an item and sending it to the destination, the Post Office changed its mind and decided it was too far away for delivery. An envelope is shown here (Figure 5) posted at Featherston Camp on 3 OC 18 to Wellington. The letter was written by Lieutenant Ernest Tomlin to his wife at 34 Tiber Street in Island Bay, Wellington.



Figure 5: '1918 cover endorsed 'Beyond Express Delivery Limits'.

This address is four miles away from the delivery post office and the envelope has been inscribed 'Beyond express delivery limits'. This is, of course, technically correct but one might have thought that having accepted it, the Post Office would have felt obliged to deliver it.

There is no indication of how the letter was handled once this observation had been made although the implication is that it was delivered in the normal way which would probably have meant a delay of a day or so. Nor is there any evidence that a refund of the 6d fee was made – unlikely one would have thought.

The envelope below (Figure 6) illustrates another problem. This registered letter was posted in Christchurch on 10 FE 41 (a few months before the service ended) going to an address in Timaru. On arrival it would have been delivered by the Telegraph boy but, in this case, it was redirected to an address in Dunedin.



Figure 6: 'Special Delivery' fee expended on a forwarded letter.

When the redirection instruction was added, in red ink, it seems that the Express Delivery label was struck through and 'expended' written by the label to confirm that the fee paid would only cover the cost of one express delivery.

It seems likely that the new address note and manuscript notation were added at the Post Office in response to a redirection order. It is possible that the original c/- addressee added it but it seems unlikely that she would have known or cared for the minutiae of the service.

5. A Question:

The final cover (Figure 7) is another military letter, posted through the Headquarters FPO, located at Gallipoli, and postmarked 25 MA 15. It is addressed to Blenheim and, on arrival, has been forwarded to Waipapa Road, Hataitai, Wellington. The 6d Express fee has been paid with a 6d King Edward VII stamp and cancelled with the Telegraph Office canceller. On arrival in Wellington the next day, three 1d postage due stamps have been added and cancelled.

An attractive item but the question is: was the 3d postage due charged for a deficiency in the express delivery charge paid as Hataitai Road is about 2½ miles from the Post Office? If so, the underpayment has been miscalculated and should be 6d. Alternatively, if the letter was returned to the Post Office to be forwarded, was it subject to the payment of postage? Mail for soldiers On Active Service was carried free but did this extend to carriage within New Zealand? If this latter were the case, the rate would be incorrect as the postage rate did not increase from 1d to 1½d until 23 September 1915 with the introduction of the ½d War Tax. It seems more likely that the surcharge was an incorrectly calculated Express Delivery fee.

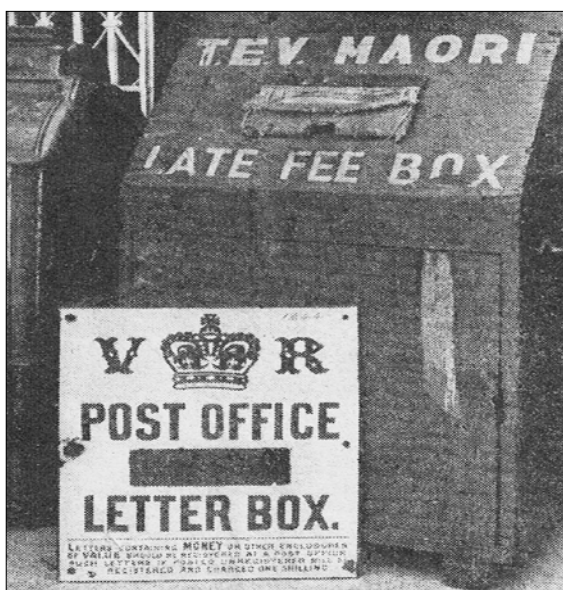


Figure 7: A letter sent from Gallipoli in 1915.

References:

1. Anon., 'Express Delivery and Special Messenger Service', *New Zealand Gazette*, No. 3, p30, 9 January 1901.
2. Thackery TC, 'Centennial of 6d Express Delivery Stamp'. *New Zealand Stamp Collector*. Vol.83 No.1, pp 21-23, March 2003.
3. Elliott GJ, 'EXPRESS Delivery' *The Mailcoach*, Vol.21 No.6, p260, August 1985.
4. Vincent BG, 'Express Delivery Mail' *New Zealand Stamp Collector*, Vol.83 No.3, pp72-74, September 2003.

MAIL POSTED SHIP-SIDE – LATE FEE MAIL



In the March 2019 issue of *The Kiwi* (p52) I wrote about the provision for Late Fee mail on the wharves at Auckland and Wellington during the 1930s. I reproduced a photograph of the Auckland ship-side post office where letters could be posted immediately prior to the departure of the ships.

I am grateful to Robert Duns of Christchurch for sending me the illustration here (left) of another Late Fee Box which was used alongside the *TEV Maori*.

The *TEV* (Turbo Electric Vessel) *Maori* was one of the Union Steam Ship Company's vessels that operated on the Inter-Island Service between Wellington and Lyttelton from 1952-1974.

The box shown here was amongst the collection held at the New Zealand Post & Telegraph Museum in Wellington, subsequently split into Telecom items sent to Ferrymead and Postal items deposited with Te Papa where it is assumed they are still held.

PW

NEW ZEALAND'S 1893 ADSONS - STAMP DESIGN PRINTED ON GUM

– FACT OR FICTION?

John Stimson

In February of 1893 the New Zealand Post Office placed on sale the then current Second Sideface stamps with advertisements on the underside. These underprints were commercial endorsements for a range of products and manufacturers. By collectors, all around the globe, these stamps are now fondly referred to as 'Adsons'.

However the general public, in 1893, were not so kindly disposed to the Post Office generating extra income from private enterprise, or to the idea of potentially hazardous ink being ingested whilst licking the gummed, advertising side of a stamp. So the contract with Wellington based advertising agency Truebridge, Miller & Reich was terminated in September of 1893, only seven months after the adsons were first introduced. Stamps with advertisements remained on sale until Post Office stocks were exhausted which, in some cases, was several years later.

The history of these stamps is covered superbly by Jim Robb in his book, *The 1893 New Zealand Advertisement Stamps* (Ref. 1).

This article highlights a small but controversial part of the overall story of the Adsons. One particular variety which is listed in Campbell Paterson's Catalogue, as CP DA2j(3)(Y), 1d, perf. 10, with second or third setting advertisement in red-brown or brown-red and importantly 'Stamp design printed on gum'. This variety does not appear in Stanley Gibbons' (SG) catalogues.

The first thing that I would say is that on my reading CP DA2j(3)(Y) must be meant to apply to stamps with normal watermark, not to those with reversed watermark, otherwise they should have a different catalogue reference number. So I think we are looking for normal watermark stamps with this apparent variety.

However I contend that all stamps I have seen stated to be CP DA2j(Y) 'Stamp design printed on gum' all show the watermark reversed and therefore should be correctly identified as CP DA2j(W) which is described as 'Reversed watermark'. As I set out my arguments in support of this assertion, let's first discuss what is not in doubt - the reversed watermark varieties.

On page four of his book (Ref. 1) Jim Robb describes how "... the printers and contractors were exploring ways of enhancing the quality of the advertisement prints on 1d and 2½d in May and June 1893" and that "Occasionally the advertisement rather than the stamp was printed on the surfaced side of the paper". These trials resulted in excellent advertisements but stamps with the design of poor quality and with the watermark reversed. These varieties (Figure 1) are scarce and sought after by collectors.



Figure 1: 1d rose and 2½d blue with reversed watermark, showing a distinctive 'rubbed' look to the stamp design. Both values have second setting adverts in red-brown printed on the 'surfaced' side of the paper.

Another related variety which is documented, but for which I can find no evidence, is 'advert printed on gum'. The first account of which was in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in 1925 (Ref. 2) when Dr Morris N Watt of Dunedin, in the earliest serious study of the settings of the advertisement stamps. He stated that "in the early printings, so great was the haste to get them on the market, that the printing was done on top of the gum on the back of the stamps". This is also cited in on page 128 of Volume I of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* (Ref. 3) although the evidence for this statement is unknown.

If there was any truth in the suggestion that the early advert stamps were printed on top of the gum I am unaware of any surviving mint stamps with adverts printed on the gum and with normal watermark. All used stamps with very faint adverts, with normal watermark, that I have examined I believe have come about through prolonged soaking in water. There is no evidence that the ink of the advert was applied on top of the gum. Neither Campbell Paterson or Stanley Gibbons list a variety “Advert printed on top of the gum”.



Figure 2: 1d rose pair with reversed watermark, showing a distinctive ‘rubbed’ or ‘rough’ look to the stamp design. The Cadbury advert proves second setting of adverts, in red-brown, printed on the ‘surfaced’ side of the paper. The scan shows a clear ‘NZ & Star’ watermark on the reverse (Adson) side of each stamp in the pair.

So how has the listing for the 1d Rose Adson, CP DA2j(3)(Y) “**Stamp** design printed on gum”, in the Campbell Paterson catalogue, come about?

The next mention of these adverts being printed on the gum is in 1969. Peter Collins writes, in Campbell Paterson’s *New Zealand Bulletin*, “Adson - a new theory” (Ref. 3).

‘We suspected that the stamp had been printed on the gum, disappearing when moistened - and the advert printed on the wrong side.’

The existence of these stamps was attributed, by Collins, to the order in which the stamps were produced which he deduced was:

1. The advertisement was printed
2. The paper was gummed
3. The stamp was printed

The article does not describe how the stamp was attached to the envelope. If the gum, applied in step (2), was used then the stamp design, and value, would have been hidden from view, with the advert showing on the face of the envelope. The New Zealand Post Office would surely not have accepted this for postage.

The alternative is that the process had a further stage:

4. A second application of gum - on top of the advert

The stamp could then have been applied correctly to a letter for posting, or ‘gum’ could have been applied independently by the sender of the letter, but there is no known evidence for a second application of gum, by printer or members of the public.

If the advertisement was printed as the first step in the production process, on the surfaced side of the paper, then the stamp would exhibit a reversed watermark. However this is not explicitly stated in the article. It is a shame that, at the time the article was published, scanning was not an option and no images, that might have supported the argument, were produced and published in the *Bulletin*.

Six years later, in 1975, Colin Hamilton reporting “Other Recent Discoveries” in the *New Zealand Bulletin* (Ref. 4) described another used example of the ‘design printed on the gummed side’. In this case a 1d. Rose Second Setting with a ‘Cadbury Bros.’ advert. Colin again says it is “reasonable to assume” the production process put forward by Peter Collins in the earlier article is correct, and was the result of not one but two errors on the part of the printer.

Error 1: Printing the advert on the side of the paper usually reserved for the stamp design.
(Thus creating a variety of watermark reversed).

Error 2: Applying the gum to the other side of the paper, before the stamp design was printed.

Once again the article does not suggest how the stamp might actually be affixed to a letter whilst showing the stamp design.

The story of the Adson printed on gum then jumps forward fifteen years to March 1990 (Ref. 6). Again, writing in the *New Zealand Bulletin*, Colin Hamilton re-iterates the order of printing - this time including a fourth step:

4. Perforating the sheets

He then writes:

'If it were otherwise, how does one arrive at a plausible explanation for the 1d stamp design printed on the gum (DA2j (Y) in the CP Catalogue? I have seen several examples of the latter, so I can vouch it does exist.'

Once again he misses the point: how was the finished product attached to a letter when the gum is on the same side (under) the printed design of the stamp.

So, summarising this theory, the basis of the three articles published in the *New Zealand Bulletin* over a 21 year period, the end product is a poorly printed stamp design on a used Adson stamp. However they do not satisfactorily describe how the stamp was produced, or used on mail. Furthermore the only examples referenced are used and so, without any known mint examples to support the theory, it is hard to accept as fact.

To publish, however, attracts comment and allows for alternative theories to be postulated that challenge established views. Such was the case, in September 1990, when Ken J McNaught published a response to Colin Hamilton's piece from March of that year in the *Campbell Paterson Newsletter* entitled 'Steps in Printing Second Sideface Stamps with Advertisements' (Ref. 7). Ken wrote:

'I have examined a number of 1d stamps with reversed watermark, with second setting advertisements in red, from which the stamp design had disappeared virtually completely, but I would not attribute any to have been printed on the gum. All are consistent with being from an experimental printing in early May 1893 on the reverse side of the paper. (see RPSNZ II p300).

It must be stressed that the paper used for the sidefaces, though not chalk-surfaced, was treated on the printing side with a filler of some kind to provide a smoother printing surface and to improve its ink-retention properties. These 1d stamps printed on the untreated side of the paper are notorious for peeling of the stamp design ink on soaking and especially over-soaking.

I remain unconvinced that these stamps had the design printed on the gum. I am therefore unable to accept Colin's contention that gumming was carried out before the stamp printing. With Adson stamps I am confident that gumming was always carried out at the step before perforating.'

Ken McNaught's views in this article are now widely accepted as the most plausible explanation of the printing sequence and production process for Adson stamps. Indeed, in talking to other collectors of New Zealand Adsons, there is now a consensus that the description of this variety in the Campbell Paterson catalogue is misleading, and that their interpretation of 'printed on gum' was meant to imply that these stamps were not printed on the gum, but on the unsurfaced side of the paper that would normally be gummed.

My response to this though is that this is the process that produces the variety 'reversed watermark' which is already listed separately in the Campbell Paterson catalogue as DA2j (W).

So by going into print with an opinion and suggestion I am soliciting feedback from readers on the following proposition:

Adsons - Stamp Design Printed on the Gum - Fact or Fiction? - Fiction!

I contend that all stamps attributed to CP DA2j (Y) 'stamp design printed on gum' that I have seen should be correctly identified as the variety 'reversed watermark' CP DA2j (W).

The only way a separate listing for CP DA2j (Y) could be justified is if someone were to produce a mint example of the 1d stamp with 'stamp design printed on gum'. Any examples should NOT have a reversed watermark.

The author would love to hear from anyone with additional supporting, or contradictory, evidence to the assertions made. In particular anyone with mint examples where the stamp design, or the advert is clearly printed on top of the gum. To contact the author, John Stimson, see page 75.



1d rose Second Sideface adson with reversed watermark, - advert printed on 'surfaced' side of paper.

Extreme example of the stamp design being lost through soaking.

This pair was incorrectly identified and sold as 'stamp design - printed on gum' CP. DA2j (Y).

References:

1. Robb JA, *The 1893 New Zealand Advertisement Stamps*, pub. The Christchurch (N.Z.) Philatelic Society Inc. 2006.
2. Watt MN, 'The Advertisements on the New Zealand 1882-1897 Issue', *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* (Old Series), Vol 24, p171-173, 1925.
3. Collins RJG and Fathers HTM, *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Vol 1*, pub. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, p128, 1938.
4. Collins P, 'Adson - A New Theory', *New Zealand Bulletin**, pub. by Campbell Paterson Ltd, (Woking, UK), Vol. VII, No.5, p2, December 1969.
5. Hamilton C, 'Other Recent Discoveries - 1d Second Sideface', *New Zealand Bulletin**, pub. by Campbell Paterson Ltd, (Woking, UK), Vol. XII No.9, April 1975.
6. Hamilton C, 'Adson - A New Slant on an Old Variety', *New Zealand Bulletin**, pub. by Campbell Paterson Ltd, (Woking, UK), Vol. XXVII, No 8, March 1990.
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* CP Newsletters and Bulletin's are available to members in the Research Archive section of the Society's website at: <http://www.nzsgb.org.uk/research.html>

THE LIFE STORY OF A RARE 1859 COVER FROM WELLINGTON TO LIVERPOOL

Klaus Møller



Figure 1: *The front and back of the cover sent from Wellington to Liverpool in 1859, bearing a 1/- Richardson blue paper print (from the author's collection).*

The Cover and the Stamp:

The cover illustrated above (Figure 1) was offered as Lot 1607 in Auction 227, held by Corinphila of Switzerland on 26 November 2018 (Ref. 1). It is recorded as Item 590702(1) in a recent census of dated covers bearing London and Richardson Blue and White Paper Prints (Ref. 2).

The stamp on the cover is the 1/- denomination (SG6) of the first stamps produced in the Colony. It was printed by John Richardson in Auckland on 28 September 1857 on locally sourced unwatermarked blue paper (Ref. 3). This detail is noted on the certificate issued by the Royal Philatelic Society London (Figure 2).

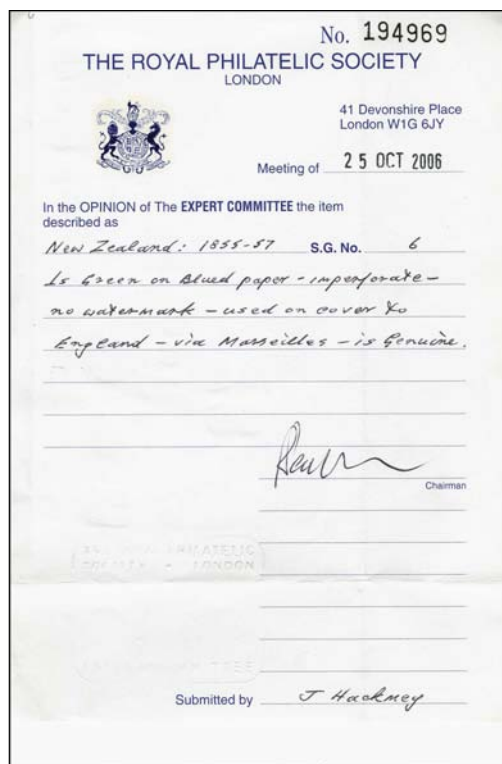


Figure 2: Certificate No. 194969 issued by the RPSL in 2006 for the cover shown as Figure 1, indicating that (in the opinion of the Expert Committee) the cover is genuine. [image reduced].

Rarity:

The cover is one of only six known bearing a full 1/- Richardson Blue Paper Print, SG6 (Ref. 2), i.e. much rarer than covers and dated pieces bearing the celebrated bisected version (SG6a) of the same stamp, of which there are 26 known examples (Refs. 2 and 3).

One of the other five known examples is a 'sister cover', posted by the same sender to the same addressee exactly a month later (Item 590802 in Ref. 2). This 'sister cover' is in the Rhodes Collection in the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, New Zealand. In those days it was not uncommon for important documents to be sent in duplicate, in case one of the envelopes was lost en route.

The stamp is affixed to the cover near the lower left corner of the front side, which is contrary to the recommendation made by a Board of Enquiry established in 1855 to propose how the first New Zealand stamps were to be issued and used:

'... persons posting letters be requested to affix the stamps on the right hand upper corner of the face of such letters, in order that the stamps may be quickly observed, and the transaction of Post Office business facilitated' (Ref. 3).

This deviation happened occasionally, especially when there wasn't enough room left for the stamp(s) at the top right of a pre-addressed cover (as is marginally the case here).

Cancellation and Postal Markings:

The stamp is cancelled and tied to the cover with a superb strike of a Perkins, Bacon '10' obliterator. Two of these obliterations, labelled '10A' and '10B' respectively by McNaught (Ref. 4), were supplied to the Chief Post Office in the Province of Wellington, together with the initial supply of stamps (the 'London Prints') in 1855. This particular strike was made by obliterator '10B', which had larger numerals than '10A', and which was in use in Wellington from 1855 to 1862-63.

The back side of the cover features very clean strikes of both an unframed Wellington despatch c.d.s. for 'JY 2 1859' and a framed Liverpool 'E13' arrival c.d.s. for '8 OC 59'. This indicates the letter took 98 days to reach its destination - considerably longer than normal, especially considering that an extra fee was paid to have it sent via the fastest route (see below).

Routing and Rate:

As indicated by the annotation at the top left of the front side, this letter was sent "Via Marseilles". That is by ship via Australia and Suez to Marseilles, and from there by rail through France to connect with mail boats across the English Channel. This route was introduced on 27 March 1857 as a faster alternative to the traditional sea route from Suez through the Straits of Gibraltar to Southampton. It therefore incurred an extra charge of 3d per ¼oz (Ref. 5), a fee that covered the French transfer charge. Thus, the current item must have weighed between ¼oz and ½oz. If it had been sent by the traditional sea route instead the charge would have been 6d rather than 1/-.

Carriage:

The explanation for the long delivery time can be found in the sailings that most probably carried the cover.

In 1859 mail from New Zealand to the UK linked up with mail from Australia to the UK carried by ships of the P&O Line, which had just won the delivery contract after the cessation of the unprofitable Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Ref. 6). The letter apparently missed the sailing of the P&O *Northam* which departed Sydney on 14 July 1859 and called at Melbourne on 17/18 July. It was instead carried on the next sailing. The P&O *Salsette* departed Sydney on 15 August, called at Melbourne on 18/19 August, and arrived in Suez on 25 September after having called at Port Louis in Mauritius on 9/10 September. It was then carried on the P&O *Panther*, which departed Alexandria on 30 September, called at Malta on 3 October, and arrived at Marseilles on 6 October – from whence it was carried quickly by train through France, by mail boat across the Channel, and by train to Liverpool.

But how was the letter carried from Wellington to Australia, and why did it miss the sailing of the *Northam*? The answer lies in the following:

- The letter had missed the departure of the Australian Steam Navigation Company's Royal Mail Steamship *Boomerang* which left Wellington for Melbourne on 28 June - see the "Shipping Intelligence" column of *The Wellington Independent* dated 1 July (Ref. 7). This would have connected with the sailing of the *Northam* from Melbourne on 17/18 July with ample time to spare.

- So the letter was instead sent on the *Prince Alfred* which departed Wellington for Nelson on 5 July, as stated in the "Shipping Intelligence" column of *The Wellington Independent* for the same day (Ref. 7). The *Prince Alfred* subsequently departed Nelson for Sydney on 7 July – see the "Shipping Intelligence" column of *The Nelson Examiner* on 9 July (Ref. 7).

- But the *Prince Alfred* did not arrive in Sydney until 16 July, as reported under "Arrivals" in the "Shipping" column of *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 18 July (Ref. 8). Elsewhere in the same column it is stated that the *Prince Alfred* had a continuation of westerly gales throughout the passage, obviously causing delays. The letter therefore unexpectedly missed the sailing of the *Northam* from Sydney by two days.

Thus, if the letter had been posted four days earlier then it would have been carried on the *Northam* from Melbourne and arrived in Liverpool on 14/15 September. Likewise, if the *Prince Alfred* had not experienced severe weather conditions across the Tasman Sea then the letter would also have been carried on the *Northam*, but from Sydney rather than Melbourne.

It is worth noting that, while the sender paid an extra 6d to have the letter sent "Via Marseilles", it arrived in Liverpool on 8 October rather than 15 October, as it would have done if it had been sent "Via Southampton". In other words, the extra 6d reduced the shipping time from 105 days to 98 days, that is by only one week.

Provenance:

The cover has an outstanding provenance: Marcel Stanley, “Yeroc” (Royce Bowen), John Woolfe, and Joseph Hackmey - four of the most prominent Chalon philatelists of our time.

Acknowledgement:

I would like to sincerely thank Gerald Elliott for his comments, and in particular for guiding me to the most likely passage for the cover from Wellington to Sydney.

References:

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8. *Trove* held at National Library of Australia (web site: <https://trove.nla.gov.au>).

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KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH II COUNTER COILS

– SOME QUESTIONS

David Stalker

I am trying to make some sense of the coil joins and selvages of the KGVII and QEII counter coils with reference to the joins on the middle values – i.e. the 1/- and 1/3d KGVII and 9d, 1/-, 1/6 and 1/9 QEII.

For the KGVII counter coils there can be narrow joins of about 7-8mm and wide joins of about 18 mm (taking the gap from perforation to perforation). There are also examples with joins of intermediate sizes. However I cannot find any reference to why there were variations in the size of the joins.



Question 1: Was there any particular reason for the variability in the coil join gaps or was it simply a consequence of differing sheet selvage sizes?

For the QEII counter coils there are some statements on selvage sizes and trimming in Volume IV of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand (Ref. 1) and in the monograph by Bernard G Cox (Ref. 2) in which it is stated that “the early QEII mid-value sheets had wide selvages and all the ‘Vertical-Upright’ coil pairs are found with 19-22mm section joints, as are the ‘Sideways’ 1/- pairs”. However this is clearly not quite the picture, as it would appear, from the examples that I have that the 9d and 1/- values have a narrow gap of about 7-8mm and the 1/6d is the only one with the wider gap.



These coils were the only QEII ones with the stamps aligned horizontally. They were too wide for the dispensing machine and were actually kept in the cash drawer and sold from there (Ref. 1).

Question 2: Are there any examples where the coil join gaps for the 9d and 1/- values were the same as for the 1/6 (i.e., 19-22mm).

Question 3: Were the 9d and 1/- selvages trimmed, as seems likely?

The issues of April 1955-June 1956 are all with 22mm coil join gaps and upright section numbers. Some sheets from the 23rd June 1956 1/- coiling which had been normally numbered were reworked and the numbers guillotined off and the remaining selvedge reprinted on the 7-9mm gap. In between there had been an experiment with sideways numbers on some rolls but this was abandoned. Further coilings in 1956-1957 all had 19-22mm wide gaps. From October 1957 there is reference to the "Security" width selvedge which resulted in 12-14mm coil join gaps. This is found on the 1/- and 1/6 values only.



Question 4: What was the 'Security' width selvedge and why was it introduced?

Perhaps some specialists in the KGV and QEII definitive issues could elucidate me on the questions above.

References:

1. Collins RJG and Watts CW, *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Vol IV*, pub. Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, 1964.
2. Cox B, *Counter Rolls (Coil Pairs) of the Queen Elizabeth II Issue*, May 1960.

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REQUEST FOR HELP FROM MEMBERS

David Stalker is looking for help from members regarding aspects of the early QEII definitive issue.:

1. Booklet Pane Flaw

Going through one of Derek Diamond's collections of QEII definitives that I acquired recently I have come across a flaw on the June 29 1959 issue of booklets with a clear flaw on one of the 3d vermilion stamps (Row 1, Stamp 3 in the pane illustrated below). This is the issue on thicker white esparto paper.

The flaw on the top right stamp, just above the Queen's left shoulder and extending out into the margin, looks decidedly like a plate scratch which has picked up the vermilion ink. It is easily seen.

I cannot see any reference to this flaw in the *Postage Stamps of New Zealand* Vol.IV or Vol.VI nor in the Campbell Paterson Catalogue or in any back issue of *The Kiwi*.



Booklet pane stamp Row 3/1
[enlarged to 150%]

2. Unofficial Counter Coils

In a collection 'Ex. Ernie Leppard' acquired some years back I have come across two 'home made' counter coil sections from the 3d surcharged 2½d stamps (shown right).

The existence of these was brought to the attention of C. W. Watts at the time as evidenced by an abstract from the *Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Newsletter* (Vol. XVI, No.4, Dec.-Jan 1962) which was with the material:

'A crudely made counter roll numbered pair has been forwarded to me for inspection. It is reported that an enthusiastic counter clerk at a North Island post office manufactured his own rolls. Vertical strips from full sheets were joined together and the tip selvedge of one strip affixed to the bottom selvedge of another. A biro was used to number the selvedge. It is understood that the 2½d pictorial was similarly 'treated'. Just goes to show the lengths some officials will go to make things easy for themselves! Or does it? No doubt the work was a compliment to the counter appliance'.



Two numbered coil joins from what appears to be an unofficially produced counter roll.

I am aware of the unofficial 'Te Aro' counter coils from late 1969/early 1970 but cannot find any reference to these earlier ones illustrated here. It is interesting to note that there was no 'official' counter coil produced from this 3d stamp surcharged 2½d and these coils are made up with the stamps aligned vertically as opposed to horizontally as with other low value counter coils.

These coils, although not officially sanctioned appear genuine. I would be delighted to hear from members with further information regarding these coils or who have thoughts regarding the booklet flaw.



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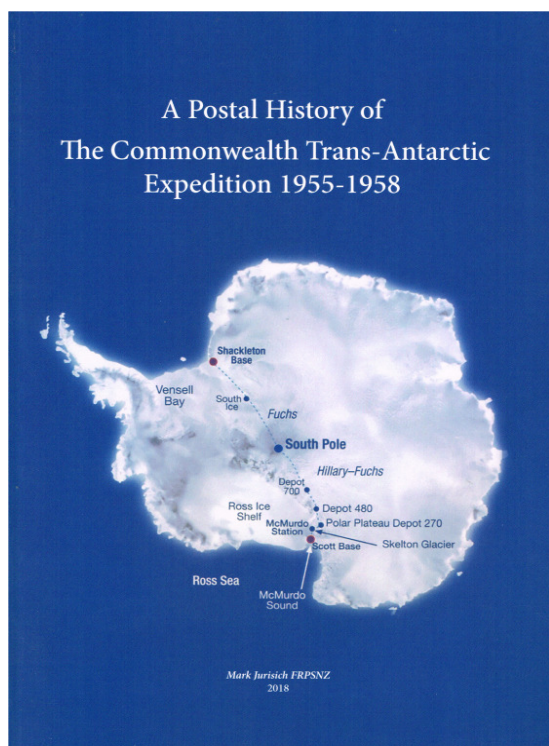
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