

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

OBITUARY

N.Z. and Star Watermark 1874-1986

Simultaneously with the issue of the new \$4 'Bird' stamp, the \$4 Arms was withdrawn from sale. At about the same time, it was learned that new printings of the \$6, \$8 and \$10 Arms were being issued on unwatermarked paper. This suggests that after a continuous life of over 112 years the NZ and Star watermark has finally been laid to rest. Since the last of the 1970-76 Pictorials (the 15c) went over to unwatermarked paper, the Arms series have been the sole carriers of this "trademark".

R.I.P.

Hiiri o te Kaunihera



Ma te Tiamana e Whakapiri.

Maori Council Franks. We illustrate an item which will be quite unfamiliar to most readers, for these franks, although actually of 20th century origin, must be among the scarcest of all N.Z. postal markings. No doubt because of their scarcity, reference information is very sketchy indeed.

Volume 3 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" devotes about a page to the subject, recording (inter alia) that: "Maori Councils were set up to deal with native affairs, and from February 1, 1902, authority was granted to the councils to pass letters free. The envelopes were impressed with the seal of the council in blue, and the chairmen were required to sign their names." It then lists the 22 Councils, and the name of the chairman of each, as follows (I have numbered the list quite arbitrarily, for ease of reference later in these Notes):

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Araiteuru — T. Hipi | 12. Raukawa — T. Pitiera |
| 2. Arapawa — H.R. Pukekohatu | 13. Rongokako — A.H. Kumeroa |
| 3. Hokianga — T. Rawiri | 14. Takitimu — H.T.K. Pere |
| 4. Horouta — A.T. Ngata | 15. Tamatea — I. Hutana |
| 5. Kahungunu — T. Hapimana | 16. Taranaki — W. Tupito |
| 6. Kurahaupo — T.R. Kereama | 17. Te Arawa — R. Paerau |
| 7. Mangonui — H. Pikaahu | 18. Tokerau — R. Waikerepuru |
| 8. Maniapoto — T.M. Natanahira | 19. Tongariro — P. Paurini |
| 9. Matatua — T. Pouwhare | 20. Wairoa — W. Te Huia |
| 10. Ngapiwhatua — P. Uruamoa | 21. Wanganui — N. Poutini |
| 11. Pewhairangi — R. Waikerepuru | 22. Whangarei — H. Pirihi |

Volume 3 illustrates the seals of the Arapawa and Matatua District Councils, and states that examples of these two franks were in the collection of Mr. J.W. Grant at the time, but gives no indication as to the known existence of any others.

My own records cover the period from 1967 to the present day, and in that period I have noted just twelve examples of these franks, all with Chairmen's signatures corresponding with the list above, as follows:

No. 1 (two), No. 2, No. 3, No. 6, No. 8, No. 9 (two), No. 11, No. 16, No. 17, No. 18.

My list includes only those which I have seen 'in the flesh', or in illustration, and does not therefore take account of the two mentioned in Vol. 3, since the accompanying illustrations there bear no signature. For the same reason, I have excluded a second example of No. 16, which I have seen in illustration.

Of the 12 items on my list, all but two are on piece only, cut from envelopes, and all have the printed legend 'Hiiri o te Kaunihera' and 'Ma te Tiamana e Whakapiri' above and below the frank respectively. Writing in the Postal History Society of N.Z. journal 'The Mail Coach' (1 August, 1984 issue), Mr. Colin Capill states that in translation these words mean 'seal of the council' and 'with the Chairman's approval'. Six of the items noted are undated. The remaining six are dated, the earliest being 17/6/02 and the latest 12/4/04.

'On Maori Council Business Only'. As mentioned above, ten of the twelve franks I have recorded are on similar, and rather intriguing cut-outs. The other two are more revealing, but raise another mystery. One (No. 8) is on a complete printed postcard, and the other (No. 6) is on a printed envelope front. Both bear the printed heading 'On Maori Council Business Only'. Moreover, from the evidence of the front and the cut-out examples, it is apparent that there were at least two distinct types of the printed envelope — one with a black printed L-shaped frame enclosing the space for the frank, another without the frame. When it was sold in auction in 1967, the postcard was described as being the only example known to have survived from a printing of 4000 in Jan. 1902 (I presume this information was gleaned from a Printing Office code on the reverse). A similar code on the envelope front is unfortunately incomplete — all that remains is "1902—291B)". As far as I am aware, there is no mention of these interesting items of stationery in any of the usual reference works, although this is possibly not too surprising since these two examples seem to be the only conclusive proof that such things ever existed!

I'd be grateful for details of any other material relating to the Maori Councils franks and the related stationery.

MISCELLANY

Another wide-ranging, yet tiny selection from our stock. If you don't find exactly what you are seeking among these offers, which are of necessity limited by space, by all means please ask.

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---------|
| 701(a) | Second Sidefaces. Simplified set of 10, ½d – 1/-, mint. Centring a little variable (although much better than average for these), and a few small faults, but lovely appearance – colours are as glowingly fresh as we have seen. Minimum Cat. \$588. Our price, the set of 10 | £75.00 |
| (b) | As above. Set of 7 reprinted plate proofs (1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d, 1/-), each printed in black on thick unwatermarked paper, and imperf. Cheap at only | £20.00 |
| 702(a) | First Pictorial Plate Proofs, Imperf. 4d Terraces, pair in deep rose | £25.00 |
| (b) | As above. 6d Kiwi, pair in deep green | £27.50 |
| (c) | As above. 9d Pink Terrace, pair in purple | £22.50 |
| (d) | As above. 1/- Keas, pair in deep orange | £25.00 |
| 703 | First Pictorial ½d London Print (E1a). Block of 4 in the purple-brown shade, perfect mint unhinged | £10.00 |
| 704 | First Pictorial 1½d, Perf. 11 (E4a). Mint block of 4 in the scarce brown shade (S.G. 300). Good condition, but not quite tip-top, hence only | £50.00 |
| 705 | First Pictorial 4d Terraces (E11a). Marginal block of 6 including the excellent R8/8 re-entry (illustrated on Perm. Page E5 of the C.P. Catalogue). The variety block, mint unhinged | £70.00 |
| 706(a) | First Pictorial 4d Lake Taupo. Used copy, perf. 11, wmk'd (E12b) – scarce in itself, but infinitely more so in this case, as it shows the really major R1/3 re-entry (another of the varieties illustrated in C.P.) | £27.50 |
| (b) | As above. Unhinged mint corner block of 6, perf. 14 (E12c), including the same R1/3 major re-entry and, on R2/2, a prominent blue (centre plate) flaw in the top right corner, which was constant throughout all printings of this stamp. The double variety block | £40.00 |
| 707 | First Pictorial 6d Red, Perf. 11, Unwmk'd. (E14c). Lovely mint corner block of 4 in rose, showing the listed R1/1 (good) and R1/2 (minor) re-entries .. | £100.00 |
| 708 | First Pictorial 1/-, Perf. 11, No Wmk. (E18b). We list six different shade groups in this issue, and here they all are, in brilliant array. A mint set of 6, and what a delight to the eye they are. Cat. \$295, condition fine | £75.00 |
| 709 | First Pictorial 2/-, Perf. 11, Wmk'd. (E20d). Very fine fresh mint copy in green | £52.50 |

- 710** **First Pictorial 5/- London Print (E21a).** Used copy of outstanding appearance — quite the best looker we have seen. A faint crease at the top (clear of the design), however, although not impairing the stamp's visual appeal in any way, allows a price of **£45.00**

711 **OFFER OF THE MONTH (1)**

- 1d Universal.** Perfect unhinged mint block of 4 from the Royle plates, perf. 14 (G10a) in a brilliant deep bright aniline shade, approaching the listed blood red. An extra-special offer to Bulletin subscribers only **£15.00**

- 712** **1d Universal-Royle Trial Plates.** The distinctive plate nos. R1 and R2, each in matching block of 4. Stamps in the R1 block centred left, and some perf. tones — R2 block is fine. The two scarce early plate blocks, offered for the price of one at **£150.00**

- 713(a)** **1d Universal Surface Print (G11).** Plate proof block of 4 in carmine on thick card, imperf. **£15.00**

- (b)** **As above.** Similar plate proof block, but printed in black **£15.00**

- 714** **King Edward VII Plate Proofs/Colour Trials.** All items offered are imperf. and printed on thick card except where stated.

- (a)** 3d in black **£8.50**
(b) 4d yellow-green **£10.00**
(c) As above, but block of 4 **£40.00**
(d) 5d in black **£8.50**
(e) 6d in lake-red **£10.00**
(f) 8d in black **£8.50**
(g) 8d in indigo **£10.00**
(h) As above, but block of 4 **£40.00**
(i) 1/- in deep brown **£10.00**
(j) 1/- in lake **£10.00**
(k) 1/- in deep bright maroon **£10.00**
(l) As above, but block of 4 **£40.00**
(m) 1/- in black, printed on green paper **£10.00**

- 715(a)** **1d Dominion.** Top marginal block of 4 on Jones paper (J2a). The upper pair of stamps have notable blurring of the top frames — evidence of the pounding to which the top of the plate was subjected during printing, and which led to the introduction on some other plates of protective buffer bars. The block, unhinged mint **£27.50**

- (b)** **As above.** A similar block on Wiggins Teape paper (J8a). Being of later vintage than the 'Jones' printings the top row blurring is now considerably more extensive. Again mint unhinged **£42.50**

- 716(a)** **King George V 1/-, Perf. 14 x 14.** Unhinged mint copy in the true salmon shade, and guaranteed, of course **£27.50**

- (b)** **As above,** but hinged mint **£20.00**

- (c) **As above.** A used copy — although more lowly rated than mint, unquestionably scarcer in used £15.00
- 717 King George V ½d.** Two mint blocks of Jones paper (K13c) — one marginal, the other a corner block — illustrating graphically the varying thicknesses of paper supplied by this manufacturer £40.00
- 718 K.G.V. Surface-Prints — Sheet Numbers.** Set of 4 corner blocks — ½d (K13g), 1d (K15b); 1½d (K17c), 2d (K18d) — all with sheet serial number, and finest mint. Most unusual lot £52.50
- 719 Second Pictorial 1d Kiwi.** Die 2 booklet stamps (C.P. L2c, S.G. 557b) are readily recognisable by the vertical mesh paper and the distinctively heavy sky shading. But we'll make it even easier — all offered here have 'Parisian Ties' advertisement tab still attached, making identification absolutely certain. Mint copy, with wmk. upright or inverted (please state which). **N.B.** Last chance at this price — these go up steeply in the 1986 Catalogue Supplement. Each £3.50
- 720 Second Pictorial 3/-.** A superb unhinged mint plate block of the 1935 perf. 13½ x 14 issue (L14b). Another item which rises (to \$500) in the 1986 Supplement £175.00
- 721(a) King George VI Heads.** Complete simplified set of 22, including provisional issues (MQ1a — MQ19, as listed on Temp. Page M8 of the C.P. Catalogue). All mint unhinged £20.00
- (b) **As above.** A long specialised set of 41, unhinged mint, representing every C.P. Catalogue number from M19a, including all 'b', 'c', 'd', and 'e' listings. All fully identified. Seldom offered as a set £62.50
- 722(a) 1960 Pictorial 1/9d.** Marginal block of 4 of the original monochrome issue, including the R6/16 sky retouch (OV15a). Cat. \$90. The variety block, fine mint £32.50
- (b) **As above.** The same variety, but appearing on the left-hand stamp in a red-number counter coil pair (OC15b) £19.50
- 723(a) 1967 Pictorial 15c.** Unhinged mint copy of the original issue, with variety watermark inverted (OD12aZ) £5.00
- (b) **As above,** but in corner block of 4 with sheet value marking £22.50

724

OFFER OF THE MONTH (2)

1970 Pictorial 50c. We have acquired, at an extremely advantageous price, a small quantity of this stamp with the major error Buff Colour Omitted (P19aY). Cat. \$200, we can offer these few copies, superb unhinged mint, at a mere 25% of this figure. Each

£23.00

- 725(a) 1906 Christchurch Exhibition.** A complete unused set of exceptionally fine appearance, but tiny gummed-side imperfections make this a really splendid opportunity to fill an otherwise expensive gap at £47.50
- (b) As above.** At the time of going to press, we have three further mint 'Christchurch' sets available, in condition ranging from fine to superb, and priced respectively at £175, £225 and for the best of all £245.00
- 726 1948 Health.** Set of 12 corner blocks of 4, showing the complete range of selvedge markings in this issue – includes imprint/plate blocks (four different in each value) and sheet values (two different positions in each). The 12 blocks £13.50
- 727 1931 Air Mail Stamps.** The original set of 3 (3d, 4d, 7d), each being a top marginal copy. (The selvedge watermark inscriptions indicate that the trio are matched even to the extent of being from the same position in the sheet!). Very lightly hinged in selvedge only – stamps unmounted £65.00

"THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND"

We have available the following set and individual volumes, all post paid:

- 728(a) Complete Set.** Volumes 1 – 6 inclusive, plus the 1d Universal, 1d Dominion and Second Type Postage Due monographs. One set only – nine items, in fine condition £975.00
- (b) Volume 2.** The book which includes six beautiful colour die-prints of the Chalon Heads, in addition to a mine of reference information. Normal price £85, special offer at £65.00
- (c) Volume 4.** Normal price £145, again a special offer at £120.00
- (d) Volume 5.** The biggest tome of all, with over 800 pages covering the N.Z. Dependencies (Pacific and Antarctic) in exhaustive and authoritative detail £165.00
- (e) Volume 6.** Takes up with the issues of New Zealand proper again, where Volume 4 left off, and has a particularly good and extensive section on N.Z. fiscal stamps £65.00

MAORI COUNCIL FRANKS

As mentioned in this month's notes, these attractive and interesting franks appear to be of the utmost rarity – the five items offered below represent nearly half of the total number of examples known to us.

- 729 Araiteuru District.** Brilliant impression on cut-out from envelope with L-shaped frame. Signed by chairman T. Hipi £125.00
- 730 Arapawa District.** Another brilliant impression on similar cut-out, signed by chairman H.R. Pukekohatu (illustrated) £125.00

- 731 Hokianga District.** Very fine impression, on cut-out from the unframed type of envelope. Signed by chairman T. Rawiri, and postmarked Rawene 21 MY 03. £85.00
- 732 Matatua District.** Superb impression, on cut-out from framed envelope. Signed by chairman T. Pouwhare and postmarked Ruatuki, 26 SP 03 £100.00
- 733 Kurahaupo District.** The seemingly unique front from an "On Maori Council Business Only" printed envelope (unframed type), with light but perfectly legible frank (chairman T.R. Kereama's signature), and postmarked Awahuri, 3 JE 03 £250.00

COVERS MISCELLANY

An unusual and attractive selection of covers from stock. Study carefully!

- 739 2d First Sideface (C2).** 1879 Cover Dunedin to Cromwell, bearing a 2d First Sideface adhesive, cancelled by Dunedin duplex cancel and backstamped Cromwell. Very nice £10.00
- 740(a) First Pictorials.** 1900 Cover, Wellington to England, with 2½d unwatermarked perf. 11 adhesive (E8b). Cover marked in manuscript "via Frisco". All First Pictorials on commercial cover are elusive £7.50
- (b) As above.** 1905 Registered cover from Martinborough to Hobart, with 3d 1898 Pictorial (perf. 11) and 1d Universal adhesive, a superb strike of the rubber-stamped Martinborough registration marking, and Wellington registered transit marking, Lovely £12.50
- 741 ½d K.G. VII Cover.** May 1914 cover, from Masterton to England, with pair of ½d adhesives (H1a), and a brilliant strike of an early roller cancellation (Vol. III of the Handbook, page 163, type 28) £12.50
- 742(a) K.G.V Cover.** 1922 registered cover, Auckland to U.S.A., bearing a 5d recess adhesive (K7) and an Auckland registration label. All K.G.V recess stamps on cover are desirable £12.50
- (b) As above.** 1932 cover, Wellington to England, bearing an 8d red-brown adhesive (K10d), and marked in manuscript "per Karachi - London air mail, via Australia, R.M.S. Maunganui". £10.00
- (c) As above.** 1935 cover, Wellington to England, bearing a pair of 9d adhesive (K11), air mail etiquette, and marked in manuscript "Per Australia, Singapore, London". Lovely £12.50
- 743(a) K.G.VI Cover.** First Day Cover of the 1½d chocolate stamp (M4a) - this illustrated cover showing pictures (in blue) of the previous monarchs Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V £3.50
- (b) As above.** NOV 1953 cover, bearing a 4d K.G.VI adhesive (M8a) addressed to Miss Yvonne De Carlo, c/o M.G.M. Studios U.S.A., with additional rubber stamped

markings "CULVER CITY, CALIF.," and "UNCALLED FOR AT METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER". A cover for nostalgic (male) film buffs!	£5.00
744(a) Christchurch Exhibition. Postcard of River Avon Christchurch, with 1d Christchurch Exhibition adhesive (S2), and cancelled with the Exhibition datestamp (stamp Cat. \$55).....	£15.00
(b) As above. Five different postcards, (all used) of the Exhibition, one in full colour	£15.00
(c) As above. Five further postcards (all used) of the Exhibition, all differing from those in the previous lot, and all with the circular cachet POSTED AT TOP OF TOWER	£20.00
(d) As above. Exhibition postcard (different to those included in the two previous offers), 1d Universal adhesive cancelled by the Exhibition datestamp, POSTED AT TOP OF TOWER circular cachet, and the rare straight-line cachet THIS CARD WAS POSTED AT THE TOP OF THE N.Z.I.E. TOWER (the author of the recent publication "The Great Exhibition Christchurch", records having previously seen only 4 other examples of this cachet)	£65.00

RECENT ISSUES

\$3 and \$4 Bird Definitives (issued 23/4/86) — for a change these high face value stamps are of a superb design (congratulations to the N.Z.P.O.!).

Mint set of 2	£4.70
Used set of 2	£4.90
Imprint blocks (6 stamps), one each value	£27.50
Official Illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk.)	£5.00

One KIWI reprints

5c Mineral 1 KIWI reprint (a new departure in the Minerals series — see our June Bulletin note). Two imprint blocks, bottom selvage perforated and not perforated	65p
40c Fruit 1 KIWI reprint, two imprint blocks bottom selvage perforated and not perforated	£4.00
50c Fruit 1 KIWI reprint, one imprint block only seen so far, bottom selvage not perforated	£2.50

30c and 45c Bird Definitives (issued 1/5/86) — designs matching the above \$3 and \$4 stamps in quality.

Mint set of 2	55p
Imprint blocks (6 stamps), one each value	£3.65
Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	65p

New Booklets. Brightly illustrated Pictorial \$3 and \$3.30 booklets — each containing 10 of the new 30c bird stamps (another new departure — panes are two complete vertical columns of a sheet, attached by their top selvage).

Set of 2, perfs. as they come	£5.50
Set of 2, selected perfs.	£7.00