

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

1987 Health Stamps. Mr. D.L. Gardiner of Cambridgeshire has shown us a mint set of these with remarkable variations in the frame colours. The right-hand stamp in the 40c se-tenant pair has the frame in a definite yellow colour (normally orange), while the 60c frame is a bright turquoise green (normally dull dark green). All other colours in these stamps, and the other 40c, are within the normal range. Mr. Gardiner also mentions a miniature sheet in his possession with what sounds from his description like the same abnormalities of colour. Does any reader have similar examples?

Tauherenikau Military Camp. Following my note and illustration of the oval rubber datestamp of this Camp (see N.Z. Bulletin, April 1988), Mr. Robin Startup of Masterton, N.Z., writes: "This is the first time I have seen a complete strike of this datestamp. I have been researching and recording N.Z. forces postal history for over twenty years — with the aim of eventually producing a series of handbooks — and though I had note of a partial strike (on stamp) of an oval datestamp from Tauherenikau your cover provides, at last, its entirety. . . . An oval (rubber) datestamp, is also recorded from Featherston Camp, this reading FEATHERSTON M.C. (top) and PARCELS (at foot), but again is rare. Trentham Camp is only known to have used octagonal Parcels datestamps, though in this field I am not surprised at all at what may pop up!"

Mr. Startup goes on to provide considerable detail on the background to these World War I camps. This will I'm sure be of interest to many Bulletin readers, particularly since it is the kind of information which is not readily available elsewhere. He writes:

"When the Main Body N.Z.E.F. was formed in Sept–Oct 1914, the force was assembled in camps at Auckland, Wellington (Awapuni), Christchurch and Dunedin. Sailing was delayed to wait for convoy protection and during that short spell units were placed at Trentham and Hutt Valley. Following the departure of the convoy Trentham became the training and assembly camp for the despatch of reinforcement troops. Though Trentham had been used for territorial training, and had the national rifle range adjacent, it had not been planned as a military camp and troops were very largely living under canvas.

"In July 1915 an epidemic of spinal meningitis and measles hit the camp and caused considerable concern. Two urgent steps were taken to remove the causes of the problem,

as by now it was clear the war was not to be quickly finished. At this time, in midwinter, Trentham was a damp, miserable, muddy place, overcrowded and ripe for epidemics.

"Firstly, most of the troops were moved out of Trentham, to the racecourse at Tauherenikau (12/7/15) in the Wairarapa valley, to farmlands at Rangiotu (12/7/15) south west of Palmerston North, and to a former racecourse at Waikanae (13/7/15) on the west coast north of Wellington. The dates quoted are those when the camp post offices opened.

"Secondly it was decided to convert Trentham into a hutted camp for specialist and final training before despatch of reinforcements, and to establish a new camp at Featherston (29/11/15) for basic training. Pending construction of Featherston a tented camp was set up at Maymorn (8/10/15) a little north of Trentham and on the other side of Upper Hutt. Of the post offices at these camps Waikanae closed 19/8/15 (a life of one month), Maymorn 27/1/16 and Rangiotu 30/5/16.

"Tauherenikau and Featherston camp sites are about 45 minutes' drive south of where I live, and a recent Sunday afternoon was spent in working out on the ground their precise location. Tauherenikau was a tented camp at the east end of the racecourse, itself on the north bank of the Tauherenikau river. About three miles south by highway is the town of Featherston and midway between the township and the racecourse the Featherston camp was located on farms either side of the highway. When Featherston camp was opened, in January 1916, for training, Tauherenikau became a satellite camp. Featherston was largely a hutted camp on the west side of the highway, while on the east side were the camp shops and satellite tented camps. The main camp was serviced by a railway siding line running about two miles from Featherston station on the through Wairarapa railway line.

"It seems that the original plan was to call the Featherston camp Tauherenikau M.C. No. 2, and a datestamp with this was engraved. But when the new camp P.O. was opened the decision had been made to make it a major camp, and both the camp and the P.O. were named Featherston Military Camp.

"In 1916 the Featherston M.C. post office had the fifth largest volume of business of any P.O. in New Zealand — this gives some idea of its size.

"After the camp closed around 1922 many of its buildings were moved to other camp sites or converted to civilian use, but in 1941 the site was taken over and made a prisoner-of-war camp for Japanese POWs. The POW camp was left standing after 1946 and used for Public Works Department housing and offices, but rather deteriorated. In the early 1950s it was decided to by-pass the difficult stretch of railway over the Rimutaka ranges, by means of a tunnel over five miles long. The camp was taken over by the tunnel contractors and used to house workers and their families. The tunnel was brought into use in 1955 and after clearing-up had been completed the camp was abandoned to the Public Works again. Gradually the buildings were removed and the site reverted to farmlands. Until now these farms have remained Defence property, but they are being re-sold back to the original owners' descendants.

"Apart from a war memorial site alongside the highway, a concrete kerb and some piles of scrap concrete in the fields, today you would not be aware, unless you knew, that substantial camps once stood there.

"Featherston remained the main basic training camp for the remainder of the Great War, with Tauherenikau used as need be — the P.O. was open for various periods, but it is no longer possible to accurately record these".

NEW ZEALAND AIR COVERS

Continuing our popular listing of these first flight covers, this time internal flights from the 1940's (All "Handbook" references to Volume 1, The Internal Air Mails of N.Z.).

- | | | |
|--|---|---------|
| 701 | 21 June 1940. Special "All-up" emergency flight, occasioned by the suspension of the Inter-Island steamer when the mail steamer 'Niagara' was lost by enemy action. This G.B. 1940 Stamp Centenary F.D.C. is backstamped Christchurch 21 June 1940, and signed by pilots MacLeod and Smillie (Handbook pages 60/61). Seldom seen | £75.00 |
| 702 | 6 Nov. 1944. Inauguration of Dunedin — Invercargill and return service. Set of two covers, one in each direction (Handbook page 66) | £20.00 |
| 703 | 22—24 Feb. 1945. Emergency flight, due to floods in Canterbury and North Otago, by the RNZAF on behalf of N.Z. railways as rail track and bridges were severely damaged. This cover is dated 23 Feb 1945, Christchurch—Dunedin (Handbook page 68). Scarce | £65.00 |
| 704 | 2 Dec. 1946. Inauguration of daily North Island Coastal Circuit. No less than 15 of the 20 anti-clockwise stages (Handbook pages 74/75), on matching NZ National Airways Corporation covers | £125.00 |
| 705 | 20 Jan. 1947. Inauguration of Northland Gisborne—Tauranga—Auckland—Whangarei—Kaikohe—Kaitia service. Eighteen different stages, eight from the northbound route and ten from the southbound route (one cover has a correct arrival marking but no despatch mark). All 18 covers are matching, one of those described in the Handbook pages 75/76 | £150.00 |
| 706 | 23—27 Sept. 1947. Last airmails from Nelson, Westport, Hokitika to Upper Okuru and Okuru. A complicated series of flights (as borne out by the Handbook pages 78—80). Nine different stages, all on special envelopes as mentioned in the Handbooks, together with five related photographs | £110.00 |
| <p>Note: We have seen odd examples of covers from these flights previously, with indications that quantities flown on certain stages were extremely small.</p> | | |
| 707 | 29 Sept. 1947. Designation of Paraparaumu as commercial air terminal for Wellington. This cover is addressed, and backstamped, to Auckland (Handbook page 81) | £10.00 |
| 708 | 30 Sept. 1947. Final flight Hokitika-Greymouth-Westport-Nelson route. Six of the seven stages, each on a specially produced cover. Two covers carry the AIR SERVICE INTERRUPTED cachet — all details as in the Handbook pages 81/82 | £85.00 |
| 709 | 1—2 Oct. 1947. First flight Hokitika—Westport—Nelson service. Six of the eight stages, again on specially produced envelopes, with two covers carrying the AIR SERVICE INTERRUPTED cachet (Handbook pages 82/83) | £85.00 |
| 710 | 1—3 Oct. 1947. First flight Hokitika—Waiho—Haast—Okuru. One special cover, Hotitika — Jackson Bay stage (Handbook page 83) | £10.00 |

711	17 Nov. 1947. Inauguration of same-day service from Invercargill. Illustrated cover (Invercargill — Dunedin)	£10.00
712	8 and 16 April 1948. Inauguration of non-stop service Wellington to Gisborne. Two matching covers, outward journey accepted on 8th April but delayed until the 9th (with AIR SERVICE INTERRUPTED cachet); the return leg flown on the 16th April due to the delayed outward flight. (Handbook page 85). A superb pair of covers	£35.00
713	9 Aug. 1948. Inclusion of Greymouth in Hokitika—Westport—Nelson service. Complete set of all four stages, on specially produced covers (Handbook page 87), together with four photographs. Lovely set	£40.00
714	27 Sept. 1948. Inauguration of Auckland—Rotorua—Hamilton—Wellington, via Palmerston North, service. 11 of the 13 stages on special covers, as mentioned in the Handbook pages 87/88	£115.00
715	19 Nov. 1948. Golden Jubilee Great Barrier Island Pigeonram stamps. Commemorative envelope bearing special sticker and special cachet, together with an insert giving a history of the service (Handbook page 89)	£10.00
716	15 Dec. 1948. Re-opening of Gisborne—Tauranga—Auckland service. Three of the four stages, each on a special envelope, as mentioned in the Handbook pages 89/90	£25.00
717	20 Dec. 1948. Inauguration of 'Lodestar' service, between Gisborne — Auckland, and return. Set of both stages, on special covers (Handbook pages 90/91)	£20.00
718	16 July 1949; 50th Anniv of Great Barrier Stamp Agency Pigeonram. Pair of numbered covers (a limited edition) — odd nos had a commemorative label in red, even nos carried a blue label. (Handbook pages 91/92). Nice	£15.00

N.Z. HEALTH CAMP POSTMARKS

A fine listing of complete sets of covers from these Camps, 1970 to date. Sets are of matching covers, each bearing a complete set of the relevant Health stamps tied by a different Health Camp Postmark, six in each set to 1982 (Gisborne, Glenelg, Maunu, Otaki, Pakuranga and Roxburgh) and seven in each set from 1983 (Rotorua — later Princess of Wales Camp, Rotorua — added to the previous six). In most cases, one set of each only available.

719	1970	£16.00
720	1971	£21.50
721	1972	£10.75
722	1973	£10.75
723	1974	£10.75
724	1975	£10.75

725	1976	£10.75
726	1977	£22.50
	N.B. Two of the covers in the above 1977 set are the scarce ones bearing stamps from large sheets. Stamps from miniature sheets were used on the great majority of 1977 F.D.C.).	
727	1978	£15.00
728	1979	£15.00
729	1980	£15.00
730	1981	£15.00
731	1982	£15.00
732	1983	£17.50
733	1984	£17.50
734	1985	£17.50
735	1986	£17.50
736	1987	£15.00

737 "THE MAIL COACH"

We have available a complete run of this Postal History Society of N.Z. publication from Volume 1, No. 1 to Volume 16, No. 12 (September 1964 – August 1980). The first eight volumes (quarto size) are hard bound in matching green gold blocked covers, the remainder (A4 size) are housed in four ring binders. A superb library for anyone interested in N.Z. postal history. Price, post paid £135.00

1898 – 1908 PICTORIALS, MINT AND USED

Concluding our extensive listing of offers from this issue over the past few months.

738(a)	9d Perf. 14 (E17d). Unhinged mint copy in reddish purple	£23.00
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4 in purple, also mint unhinged	£90.00
(c)	As above. Set of two shades as listed (purple and reddish purple), fine mint ..	£29.00
(d)	As above. Finest used copy	£4.25
(e)	As above. The two Catalogued shades, fine used	£9.00
739(a)	1/- London Print (E18a). Unhinged mint copy in brownish-orange	£70.00

(b)	As above. Set of three first-class shades — orange-red, dull red, brownish-orange — as listed in C.P. Good to very fine mint	£110.00
(c)	As above. The same three shades, finest used	£60.00
(d)	As above. Superfine used example (our choice of shade)	£20.00
740(a)	1/- Perf. 11, Unwmk'd (E18b). Finest mint copy	£17.50
(b)	As above. Lovely mint block of 4 in bright orange-red. Upper pair faint crease (invisible on face)	£57.50
(c)	As above. Wonderful set of six, showing the complete range of Catalogued shades. Fine mint	£120.00
(d)	As above. The same superb shade coverage, but finest used. Six stamps	£57.50
(e)	As above. Single copy, finest used (cheapest shade)	£5.25
741(a)	1/- Perf. 11, Wmk'd (E18d). Single copy in brown-red, bright red, orange-red or orange-brown, fine mint, each	£18.50
(b)	As above. Marginal block of 4 in deep red, superb unhinged mint	£110.00
(c)	As above. Single copy, finest used	£3.00
(d)	As above. Set of six used, in all the C.P.-listed shades. Beautiful!	£20.00
742(a)	1/- Perf. 14 (E18e). Very fine used copy	£3.00
(b)	As above. One set only of all five Catalogued shades — the scarce pale red is a 1907-dated copy	£25.00
(c)	As above. Short set of two used shades — but in extreme contrasts of red and orange-brown	£9.00
743(a)	1/- Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 12½ — 13½ (E19a). Fine mint copy, centred to left	£75.00
(b)	As above. Finest used copy, in this case well-centred	£25.00
744(a)	1/- Reduced Design, Perf. 14 x 15 (E19b). Very fine mint examples in the normal orange-red, and the scarce orange-brown . Superb contrasts. Cat. \$ 885 (S.G. £420), a really keen buy at only	£275.00
(b)	As above. Absolutely first grade used copy (orange-red)	£13.50
(c)	As above, but not-so-fine	£5.00
745	2/- Milford Sound, London Print (E20a). Fine mint copy showing the good R12/4 re-entry, listed in C.P. (EV20c)	£87.50
746(a)	2/- Perf. 11, Unwmk'd (E20b). Fine mint example in the grey-green shade .	£52.50

(b)	As above. A brilliant marginal pair in blue-green, showing the re-entries on R6/10 (listed and illustrated in C.P.) and R7/10 (minor). Very light hingeing on selvage and upper stamp, otherwise perfect in every respect	£150.00
(c)	As above. Finest used copy in blue-green	£30.00
(d)	As above. Set of three, good to very fine used, in all the listed shades	£65.00
747(a)	2/- Perf. 11, Wmk'd (E20d). Fine mint copy in blue-green	£55.00
(b)	As above. Superfine used, blue-green or green, each	£30.00
748(a)	2/-, Perf. 14 (E20e). Finest mint, green or deep green, each	£45.00
(b)	As above, but fine used, either shade, each	£22.50
749	5/- Mt. Cook, London Print (E21a). Mint copy, previously hinged but fine, fresh and beautifully centred	£125.00
750	5/- Perf. 11, Unwmk'd (E21b). Fine hinged mint copy	£115.00
751(a)	5/- Perf. 11, Wmk Sideways (E21c). Mint copy, centred to top, otherwise fine	£75.00
(b)	As above, but fine dated used	£110.00
752(a)	5/- Perf. 11, Wmk Upright (E21d). Mint copy in a brilliant deep rich shade. Centred to right, otherwise very fine	£115.00
(b)	As above. Example in dull red, fine used	£125.00
753(a)	5/- Official, Wmk Sideways EO21e). Fine mint	£120.00
(b)	As above. Last but certainly not least, a marginal block of 4, unhinged mint, and fresh as the day it was issued	£875.00

LIFE INSURANCE DEPT — USED BLOCKS OF 4

A rare offering.

754	1947—65 Pictorial Issues. Set of eleven blocks, ½d—1/-, complete as listed in C.P., including both ½ds and both 4ds	£75.00
755	1967 Decimal Provisionals. Set of ten blocks (1c/1d x 2, 2c/2½d, 2½c/3d x 2, 3c/4d, 5c/6d x 2, 10c/1/- x 2). The additional blocks of the 1c and 2½c are on the cream paper, those of 5c and 10c on the hard white paper. The ten blocks, Cat. \$ 522	£195.00
756	1969 — 78 Pictorial Issues. Set of eleven blocks (½c, 2½c, 3cx2, 4cx2, 8c, 10c, 15cx2, 25c/2½c). Complete per C.P. listings with the exception of the extremely scarce 15c (X33b)	£35.00
757	1981 Issues. Set of six blocks, 5c—50c, complete	£7.50

ROSS DEPENDENCY MULTIPLES

Seldom, if ever, in the past have we been in a position to offer such an array of blocks of these Antarctica issues. In most cases only one of each lot available, so don't delay.

758(a)	1957 (RD4-7, S.G. 1-4). One block of 4 of each value, used with Scott Base c.d.s.	£35.00
(b)	As above. 8d block of 4 used (Scott Base cancel), in the scarcer blue shade (RD6a(2), S.G. 3Ea)	£8.50
759(a)	1967 (RD8-11, S.G. 5-8). Set of 4 marginal blocks of 4, unmounted mint. A scarce set	£167.50
(b)	As above. The same set of 4 blocks, but used (Scott Base c.d.s.). Even scarcer.	£185.00
760	1972 (RD12a-17a, S.G. 9-14). Used set of six blocks of 4, again Scott Base cancels. Becoming very elusive	£18.50
761(a)	1979 (RD12b-17b, S.G. 9a-14a). Set of 6 stamps, each in unmounted mint block of 4. This set was only available for a three year period	£13.75
(b)	As above. The same set, but used blocks of 4 (Scott Base cancels)	£16.00
762(a)	1982 (RD18-23, S.G. 15-20). Unmounted mint set, each in block of 4 ..	£5.20
(b)	As above. A similar set of blocks, used with Scott Base cancels	£9.80
(c)	As above. Set of six imprint/plate blocks, one block each value (6 stamps each block), unmounted mint	£9.00

RECENT ISSUES

1988 Personal Message Stamps. Issued 18/5/88, five 40c stamps se-tenant. This issue **only** appeared in special booklets (therefore, there are no imprint/plate blocks).

Mint booklet pane (of 5 stamps)	£1.35
Complete booklet, includes one pane	£1.35
Official Illustrated First Day Cover (Wanganui pmk)	£1.55
Superb used booklet pane (genuinely used on registered packets between N.Z. and the U.K.).	£1.75
These booklets were issued by the N.Z.P.O. as unbroken strips of 5 booklets. It is possible, therefore, to obtain:	
(i) Mint vertical strip of 5 sets, se-tenant	£6.75
(ii) Brilliant used vertical strip of 5 sets (again genuine usage).	
Highly unusual	£10.00

1988 70c Bird (Paradise Shelduck) Definitive. Issued 7/6/88. This new value differs from the other values in the current Birds set in that it is smaller ('Mineral's' size), the printers imprint appears under R10/1-3, and four coloured dots (green, pink, blue, black) alongside R10/1.

Mint single	50p
Imprint block of 6	£3.50
Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk)	70p