

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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VOLUME XXVI

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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

By Colin Hamilton

Christchurch Exhibition Datestamps. Confronted with a heading like this, readers may be excused for expecting what follows to refer to the exhibition of 1906-07. Not this time!

There were three other occasions when temporary post offices with distinctive datestamps were opened at exhibitions held in Christchurch. These were, respectively, in 1882, 1900-01 and 1922-23. The notes here are concerned only with the last of these.



Fig. 1



Fig. 23



Fig. 32

Volume 3 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" states (on page 320): "In 1922, a small exhibition was held at Christchurch, and a special datestamp was used at the post office at the exhibition buildings. On one occasion a mistake was made in setting up the date in this datestamp with the result that the year was shown as 1912". On page 319 of the same Volume there is an illustration of the datestamp, reproduced here as fig. 1, and on page 557, the exhibition post office is listed as opening on Nov. 18, 1922, and closing on Jan. 6, 1923. "New Zealand Post Offices" by Robin Startup, lists the same opening and closing dates, and additionally indicates that the post office was situated at King Edward Barracks. That is the sum total of the published information I can trace, and over the last twenty years or so, I don't think I have seen more than one or two (incomplete) examples of the datestamp. All the more surprising, then, when I chanced recently upon no less than **twenty-four** of them — all complete or virtually complete strikes on neatly cut-out pieces, and all of different dates, ranging from Nov. 21st 1922 to Jan. 6th 1923 (the latter being the last day of opening).

An analysis of the dates revealed that all up to and including 27th December (there were 18 of these in all) showed the figures '122' after the month (as in fig. 2). In the remaining six, ranging from 30th December to January 6th, the corresponding figures were '221' or '231' (as in fig. 3). Comparing figs. 1 and 3 (note that both are of the same date), it is evident that the final digits — '2' and '1' respectively — are mail index numbers, and that the mistake in setting up referred to in the Handbook was in fact a transposition of index number and year which lasted from, at the latest, 21st November (and more probably from the exhibition opening date of 18th November), until it was corrected sometime between 27th and 30th December.

As regards the find itself, it is inconceivable that this lot was put together piecemeal over a period. Far more likely it was assembled systematically at the time of the exhibition, by someone who made it his (or her) business to visit the post office each morning expressly to post a letter to obtain that day's postmark. But if so, why the numerous gaps? There are 26 possible dates missing from the series — even allowing for a few days' closure over the Christmas and New Year period, that still leaves over 20 days missed. And why the unnecessarily extravagant expenditure on postage? Only half of the stamps used are of the minimum ½d denomination required — the others range from 1d to 2½d. Possibly not questions of vital importance, but nonetheless intriguing! Finally, in three instances, adhesive stamps were not used. In these, the exhibition c.d.s. is on meter mark, from the Model D Moss machine which had been installed at the exhibition (Vol. 3, page 431, Type 17). Examples of this mark, like the datestamp, must be scarce.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the passing, after lengthy periods of ill-health, of two personalities well-known in N.Z. circles. Stanley Cross-Rudkin died on June 8th, and Noel Turner on July 7th.

Both were past Presidents of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain. Noel was a member from its earliest days away back in the early 1950s, and for a period in the late 1960s and early 1970s, it is no exaggeration to say that he was the N.Z. Society. Certainly he was the driving force which kept it alive as an entity during that period.

Stanley Cross-Rudkin's interests lay primarily in the King Edward VII definitives, while Noel Turner, though admitting to a predilection for earlier Healths, could at the drop of a hat produce something of almost any period, invariably of unusual interest, from one of his fabled "shoe-boxes".

Both will be missed, and we extend our condolences to their respective families.

G.C.H.

PENNY UNIVERSAL PLATE VARIETIES — MINT BLOCKS

A really major listing, of major philatelic interest — probably the finest and most comprehensive array of this type of material it has ever been our pleasure to offer.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 801(a) London Plate. Corner block of 9 including the re-entries at R3/22 (good) and R3/24 (major). Condition of stamps superb unhinged, top selvage a little crinkled | £75.00 |
| (b) As above. Marginal block of 8 showing the major re-entry on R7/7. One or two imperfections scarcely impinge on facial appearance | £37.50 |

- (c) **As above.** The good R8/11 re-entry in superfine mint block of 4. Two other stamps in the block (R8/12 and 9/12) show double vertical guide line at left £30.00
- (d) **As above.** Corner block of 6 including the re-entries on R9/3, 10/1 (both major) and 10/3 (minor). Superb unhinged £45.00
- (e) **As above.** The good R10/12 re-entry, in finest mint block of 4. The re-entry stamp, and R9/12 above, also show double vertical guide line at left £30.00

- | | |
|--|---------|
| (f) As above. The last word in 'London' varieties — a complete collection of all fourteen re-entries listed for the London Plate, shown in four blocks of 4, three blocks of 6, and one block of 12. The set of eight blocks (46 stamps, all but one being superb unhinged mint!). Brilliant | £575.00 |
|--|---------|

- 802(a) **Early Local Plate No. 1.** The good R7/17 re-entry in fine mint block of 4 on Cowan wmk'd paper, perf. 14 x 11 (G5d). Stamps Cat. \$850 (S.G. £480) as normals — our incredible offer, the block at only £185.00
- (b) **As above.** Marginal block of 6 (with part selvage arrow), including the R10/8 and 10/9 re-entries. The block is on Basted Mills paper, perf. 14 (G3b) centring is magnificent (a rare occurrence on this paper), and condition superb unhinged mint. What more could anyone ask? The double re-entry block £100.00
- 803(a) **Early Local Plate No. 2.** Corner block of 4 (Cowan unwatermarked paper, perf. 14 — G4a), showing the good R1/1 re-entry. Again superfine mint unhinged £52.50
- (b) **As above.** Marginal block of 10, same paper and perf., including the R5/20 (major) and 6/21 (good) re-entries. Apart from reinforced perfs in the selvage, superb unhinged mint £97.50
- (c) **As above.** Another block, matching the previous item in all respects, but on Basted Mills paper, perf. 11 x 14 (G3c) £97.50
- (d) **As above.** Block of 4 on Cowan watermarked paper, perf. 14 (G5a), lower left stamp being the R5/20 re-entry. Upper stamps have some light stains, lower pair (including the variety) stain free and mint unhinged £8.50
- (e) **As above.** Marginal block of 4, Cowan unwatermarked, perf. 14 (G4a), with arrow in side selvage, and including the good R6/2 re-entry. The positional block, perfect unhinged mint £52.50
- (f) **As above.** Top marginal block of 18 (again G4a), with selvage arrow between columns 18 and 19, and showing the unlisted and unrecorded re-entry on R6/17. Although not a major variety, this one is as good and clear as several which are recorded. Mint unhinged, and Cat. \$540+, but centring varies from good at the left to mediocre at the right of the block, hence only £117.50
- (g) **As above.** The excellent R8/4 re-entry, in very fine mint block of 4 on Basted Mills paper, perf. 14 (G3b) £47.50

- (h) **As above.** Mint block of 4 on 'Pirie' paper, perf. 14 (G2b), including the R9/11 re-entry. Condition not perfect, but an attractive block £37.50
- 804(a) Early Local Plate No. 3.** A magnificent, beautifully centred block of 4 on 'Pirie' paper, perf. 11 (G2a) in carmine lake, upper left stamp being the R3/1 re-entry £50.00
- (b) **As above.** The R4/19 and 5/24 re-entries (both minor, but listed) in an unhinged mint marginal block of 10 on Basted Mills paper, perf. 11 x 14 (G3c). Superb block, despite typical rather variable centring £70.00
- (c) **As above.** R4/19 again, in mint block of 4 (same paper and perf. as previous item, but better than average centring) £32.50
- (d) **As above.** The good R6/14 re-entry in mint marginal block of 10 (with part selvedge arrow), again G3c issue £72.50
- (e) **As above.** A brilliant mint unhinged block of 6 (G3c) including on the upper middle stamp, the major R7/16 re-entry — original impression was placed no less than 2½ mm too high £97.50
- (f) **As above.** Corner block of 6 (again G3c), with full selvages, showing the excellent R8/24 re-entry, with extensive doubling of the mast and rigging of the ship, and of the vertical lines of shading on the globe. The block, superb mint unhinged £95.00
- 805(a) Reserve Plate. (G6a).** The R5/4 re-entry, in mint block of 4. Beautiful appearance, but the variety stamp has a small unobtrusive tear, hence, the block £90.00
- (b) **As above.** Superb corner block of 8 (4 x 2), including three re-entries — at R9/4, 10/3 (both major) and 10/4 (good). Mint unhinged, a showpiece block. Cat. \$ 680 as eight normal stamps £225.00
- (c) **As above.** Marginal block of 6 including the R10/10 re-entry. Small parts of the central selvedge arrow and the scratched plate number 4 show at the extreme right of the selvedge. All stamps mint unhinged. The block £200.00

(To be concluded)

807

SECOND PICTORIAL 2/- — A C.P. REFERENCE SET

Three used copies, one each from plates 1, 2 and 3, showing the differences illustrated on Temporary Page L10 of the C.P. Catalogue.

The inexpensive set, fully identified £2.50

NEW ZEALAND AIR COVERS

The concluding part of these Internal Flights (next month Overseas Flights). Many fine illustrated covers are included in this listing. As usual, all 'Handbook' references are to Volume 1, The Internal Air Mails of N.Z.

808	18 DEC 1950. Dedication of Christchurch International Airport. Illustrated cover (designed by James Berry), with special cachet and signed by pilot Fantham. Only 31 carried (Handbook pages 94/95). Also included is a superb photograph of the event. Lovely	£35.00
809	17 DEC 1951. Dedication of New Hokitika Airport. One of the special covers issued by The Hokitika Borough Council (Handbook page 95)	£10.00
810	26 MAR 1953. Inauguration of 'Heron' Service, Wellington, Blenheim and Nelson. Complete set of all four stages, each with a special cachet (not mentioned in the Handbook page 99) in colours of red, mauve and black. Nice set	£20.00
811	1 NOV 1954. Four of the eight stages, from the service that linked Wanganui to Auckland, New Plymouth, Palmerston North and Wellington. Each on specially printed air envelope (Handbook page 103/104). Most attractive ..	£20.00
812	5 FEB 1955. First N.Z. Helicopter Flight, Western Springs — Auckland. Commemorative cover with cachet (Handbook page 105)	£3.50
813	13 — 16 SEP 1955. Two covers, from the 1955 Christchurch Stamp Exhibition, issued by the N.Z. Airmail Society, printed with special Silver Jubilee crest in (respectively) deep blue and pale blue. Opening and closing day cancellations. Also included are two photos relating to the Society's involvement in the exhibition. Once again, nice covers	£12.50
814	17 — 19 NOV 1956. West Coast Airways, Hokitika — Haast (17th) and Haast — Hokitika (19th). Two special covers, together with two apposite photographs ..	£12.50
815	24 APR 1957. Christchurch — Timaru, and return. Two specially printed covers of Timaru joining the N.A.C. network	£10.00
816	27 APR 1957. First official Douglas DC—3 service, Auckland — Napier and return. Illustrated pair of covers	£10.00
817	27 MAY 1957. Trans-Island inaugural flight, Christchurch — Nelson and return. Plain covers each with a special cachet in black and blue respectively (together with a photograph of the Beechcraft 'plane used for the flight) ...	£12.50
818	27 MAY 1957. Timaru joins Dunedin network. Pair of special covers. Timaru — Dunedin and return, together with two photos	£12.50
819	23 AUG 1957. Timaru to Invercargill and return, pair of illustrated covers (in blue and red respectively)	£12.50
820	3 FEB 1958. First Viscount ("City of Wellington") in N.A.C. fleet, used between Christchurch — Auckland and return. Both stages on two covers, one with cachet "INTRODUCTION OF JET AIRMAIL"	£10.00
821	19 NOV 1958. Diamond Jubilee Gt. Barrier Island Pigeongram Service. Specially illustrated cover, with pigeongram cachet	£3.50

822	31 MAR 1959. N.A.C. Viscount ("City of Christchurch") inaugural flight, Christchurch — Auckland. Airmail envelope with large special cachet. Apparently only 79 carried	£20.00
823	6 APR 1959. N.A.C. Viscount ("City of Auckland") introduced on Christchurch — Palmerston North and return service. Two covers together with 2 photographs	£12.50
824	20 JULY 1959. N.A.C. Viscount flights linking Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. Set of all four stages, each on specially produced covers	£20.00
825	20 JULY 1959. N.A.C. DC-3 flights on the re-opening of Rongotai airport, Wellington, linking Wellington to the South Island. No less than eight different stages, each on illustrated cover showing the route used. Also included are six photographs. Superb	£42.50
826	24 OCT 1959. Wellington Airport Official Opening. Special cover, cancelled with the commemorative handstamp issued for this event	£5.00
827(a)	16 DEC 1959. Fortieth Anniv. of First Official Air Mail flight in N.Z. Pair of commemorative covers, Auckland — Dargaville and return, and special handstamps	£10.00
(b)	As above. The Air Mail Society of N.Z. also produced a vignette celebrating this flight. This single cover also bears a copy of the vignette which is tied by the Society's cancellation	£7.50
828	14 JUNE 1960. Bay of Plenty Airways, first flight Auckland, Tauranga and Whakatane. Set of all three stages	£15.00
829	22 DEC 1960. N.A.C. inauguration of Fokker Friendship service between Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. No less than six stages, each on special cover	£20.00
830	13 MAR 1961. Fokker Friendship service between Christchurch — Invercargill and return. Two covers	£8.00
831	27 MAR 1961. Fokker Friendship service Wellington, Nelson, Blenheim route. Complete set of all four stages, together with four photographs	£20.00
832	22 MAY 1961. Fokker Friendship flights linking Wanganui into the service. Five different stages	£15.00
833	23 MAY 1962. Fokker Friendship flights in and out of Dunedin, Momona airport. Complete set of all six stages together with six photographs	£27.50
834	6 MAR 1964. 50th Anniv. cover of J.W. Scotland's first Timaru — Christchurch flight, complete with special cancellation	£5.00
835	21 MAY 1964. Commercial cover with "1st N.Z. Hydrofoil Dedication and Christening Ceremony, Waiheke Passenger Terminal, 20 MAY 1964" cachet ..	£7.50
836	22 MAR 1965. South Pacific Airlines of N.Z., first service flights, Rotorua — Alexandria stage, cover complete with S.P.A.N.Z. cachet (also included are copies of newspaper cuttings on S.P.A.N.Z.)	£7.50

- 837(a) 1965 OCT/NOV. Balloon Flights — Set of 3 special postcards:** (i) 16/10/65 Moera cancel with "FLIGHT CANCELLED BALLOON BURST" cachet; (ii) 23/10/65 Auckland cancel, Balloon came down at Motutapu Isl., the mail then carried by road to its destination; (iii) 7/11/65 Christchurch cancel, when the balloon came down mail was taken to Ashburton. Also included are three superb photographs £20.00
- (b) As above. 7 NOV 1965 postcard with imprinted "CAPTIVE FLIGHT".** Only a small number issued with this imprint £10.00
- (c) As above. 7 NOV 1965 postcard inscribed on the back in pencil, "Dropped overboard — landed edge of Heathcote River".** Also included is a photograph of balloonist Scheer displaying the wet mail bag he dropped overboard £10.00
- (d) As above. Larger postcard (148 x 104 mm), obviously intended for the German market (addressed to W.G., and most of the wording in German).** Cancelled 16 OCT 1965 together with the Balloon Burst cachet £10.00
- 838(a) 25 AUG 1970. 50th Anniv. of first crossing Cook Strait by air, Christchurch — Wellington. Illustrated cover and commemorative cancellation** £4.00
- (b) As above. A similar cover, but signed by the original 1920 pilot, Euan Dickson** . £10.00
- 839(a) 28 AUG 1970. Another Cook Strait 50th Anniv. cover, Wellington — Blenheim cancellation** £4.00
- (b) As above. Similar cover, but signed by Captain Dickson** £10.00
- 840 N.A.C. Pamphlet, describing the Viscount/Douglas fleet. Most unusual and a must for the aircraft buff** £7.50
- 841 Union Airways. Map and Air Log pamphlet. Superb** £7.50

CURRENT DEFINITIVES

During the past 12 months or so numerous reprints have appeared, not to mention a change of paper on certain values. Stocks are strictly limited and once sold replacements for many are unlikely to be available — **so don't delay.** All stamps are unmounted mint.

A) Minerals

- 842(a) 1c perf. 12¼ x 12½ (PB1a). Mint single** 90p
- (b) As above. Marginal block of 4** £3.50
- (c) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, plate dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 1, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each** £6.50
- (d) As above. Sheet value block of 4** £4.50
- 843(a) 1c perf. 14¼ x 14 (PB1b) — Original Fine/White paper. Mint single** 5p
- (b) As above. Marginal block of 4** 20p

(c) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, plate dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 3, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	30p
(d) As above. Sheet value block of 4	20p
844(a) 1c (PB1b) — Later Coarse/Cream paper. Mint single	3p
(b) As above. Imprint block of 6 with 5-kiwi reprint marking	15p
845(a) 2c perf. 12½ x 12½ (PB2a). Mint single	£2.00
(b) As above. Marginal block of 4	£7.50
(c) As above. Sheet value block of 4	£10.00
846(a) 2c perf 14¼ x 14 (PB2b) — Original Fine/White paper. Mint single	5p
(b) As above. Marginal block of 4	20p
(c) As above. Imprint/plate block of 6, plate dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 1, bottom selvage perforated or not perforated, each	30p
(d) As above. As (c) but dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 2, bottom selvage not perforated only ..	30p
(e) As above. As (c) but dots 1: 1: 1: 1: 3, each	30p
(f) As above. Sheet value block of 4	20p
847(a) 2c (PB2b) — Later Coarse/Cream paper. Mint single	3p
(b) As above. Imprint block of 6 with 4-kiwi reprint marking	15p

(to be continued),

RECENT ISSUES

1988 Scenic Issue (Walkways). Issued 8/6/88. 70c, 80c, 85c, \$ 1.30 plus miniature sheet.

Mint set of 4 stamps	£2.55
Four imprint blocks, one each value (6 stamps per block)	£17.75
Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk)	£2.75
Miniature sheet (featuring the \$ 1.30 stamp as part of the complete Routeburn Track). This mini sheet carries a 40c surcharge as a donation to the 1990 International Philatelic Exhibition in Auckland. Mint	£1.20
Mini Sheet on F.D.C.	£1.40

1988 Australian Bi-Centennial, 40c (issued 21/6/88)

Mint single	30p
Imprint block of 6 stamps	£2.10
Official Illustrated F.D.C. (Wanganui pmk.)	50p
This issue was a joint venture with Australia (which issued a near identical stamp). We have joint F.D.C.'s showing both stamps cancelled by different commemorative cancellations	£1.00