

THE KIWI

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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WHOLE 143





the kiwi

The Official Organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN
Affiliated to: BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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JUBILEE DAY

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EDITORIAL.

During my recent visit to New Zealand, many philatelists expressed great concern with the stamp issuing policy currently being pursued by the New Zealand Post Office. This concern echoes my own feelings, and while matters have not deteriorated to the same extent as they have in Australia, there is a great danger that the New Zealand Post Office will be losing the support of serious philatelists in all countries.

At virtually any Post Office in New Zealand while I was there, I could purchase nine different eight cent stamps. There is the prospect of a further five due for issue very shortly. Recently, we have had the farce of the "Commemorative Post Card".

Was a Miniature Sheet really necessary to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee? Are five se-tenant stamps really necessary to commemorate Education in New Zealand? For that matter, is this latter issue itself really necessary?

Perhaps the New Zealand Post Office pays too much attention to Stamp Collectors, and not enough to true Philatelists. The comments of members would be appreciated. They will be passed on to the New Zealand Post Office, where I am sure they will receive attention, and hopefully, a reply.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

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MEETING HELD SATURDAY 26TH MARCH 1977 - THE ANNUAL COMPETITION

This gathering advertised as twelve eight four got away to its usual good start. Phil Evans briefly introduced the Judge, A.R. Butler, who was already hard at work. Two new members, Dr. Dove and E.A. Greatrex were made welcome. As is the wont with competitive events there was that little bit more tension in the air as the entries started to issue from the judgement tables. Incidentally, next year it should be at least twelve eight five. There is a fine Jubilee Goblet, presented by Fred East, to add to our prizes. Our Society is fortunate to have members who contribute generous gifts such as this. Fred is our Vice Chairman, which reminds me that our ex-Chairman John Watts, who is now in New Zealand, has not forgotten us and writes from time to time.

Dr. Dove gave a short lecture on the 1946 Peace issue, which he illustrated with a selection of items from his award winning Stampex entry. It was interesting to learn that the idea for this issue went as far back as 1941. It was suggested that this may account for the word Peace rather than Victory, as at that time the outcome was in some doubt. Also, all the designs were the work of James Berry and for this reason other designers were granted 'ex gratia' payments for their efforts. Paper creases, transient flaws, offsets and plate blocks were among other things shown. Permanent flaws were surprisingly few, considering the complexity of the designs.

The competition entries were of a high standard. In particular I liked the Postal History items. As often happens with Postal History, elusive stamps seem to turn up on the covers. Of note was a 4d. golden yellow Full Face Queen double perf. at foot.

The competition results were as follows :-

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Classic Section | 1) M. Burberry - 4d. First Pictorial. |
| | 2) S.F. Cross-Rudkin - The Waterloo Trial
Plates of 1906. |
| Modern Section 1 | 1) J.A.W. Smith - The Penny Kiwi. |
| | 2) G.C. Phillips - King George V 1d.
Embossed Envelopes. |
| Modern Section 2 | 1) E.K. Hossell - Queen's Head Definitives. |
| | 2) J.A.W. Smith - 1960 Pictorials. |
| Postal History | 1) S.F. Cross-Rudkin - Early New Zealand
Markings. |
| | 2) M. Burberry - Coastal Settlements,
1846 - 1858. |

The vote of thanks was proposed to the Judge by Noel Turner.

I.G. FOGG

EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF JAMES BERRY, O.B.E.

The Mezzanine Gallery at New Zealand House provided an excellent setting for the Exhibition of Stamp, Medal and Coin designs of that remarkable man James Berry, O.B.E., which took place there in February.

It may not be generally realised that Jim Berry is a Londoner, having been born in Dulwich in 1906. He emigrated to New Zealand in 1924 but still has tremendous affection for the City of his birth as indicated by his sensitively designed City of London

medal commissioned by the Britannia Commemorative Society in 1974. From 1933 onwards Jim Berry had many successes in competitions for designs and in 1942 became an artist/designer on his own account.

International recognition of his work came in 1947 when in a competition sponsored by Stanley Gibbons to select the best twelve stamps produced in the two years since the War, five of those chosen were James Berry designs, the New Zealand Peace Issue nine-penny value taking first place. I was privileged to talk to Jim at the recent Exhibition and he told me that this is his own favourite stamp design.

The Exhibition at New Zealand House was the brainchild of two of our friends at the High Commissioner's office, Mr. F. CALNAN and Mr. D. BUNTING. The first class display and lighting techniques did full justice to Jim Berry's work, and I hope that a number of you were able to attend and share the enjoyment I experienced at seeing the material shown there.

Of particular interest was the artwork for the stamps intended for the projected Royal Visit in 1949. It will be recalled that the visit was cancelled as was the later one planned for May, 1952. Also shown, under the heading "The Development of a Design", were the rough layouts for the Canterbury Centennial illustrated with pencil and pen-and-ink drawings bearing the artist's comments. Featured too were trial designs for the New Zealand airmail issue. As might be expected, the Peace Issue was well represented and included the original design for the 1½d. value which depicted Winston Churchill in the V frame against the Union Jack in the background. In those days protocol forbade the portraiture on Commonwealth stamps of persons other than the Royal Family. So the design was altered and St. Paul's Cathedral substituted.

Of course, Jim Berry has designed stamps for other countries, for example Western Samoa and Tonga. These were represented, as were numerous coins and medals for which he is responsible, including the New Zealand decimal coinage. In spite of the three heart attacks he suffered in 1962, Jim Berry fought his way back to health and has gone from strength to strength in the field of art work. He is presently designing a medallic history of Australia and is extending his painting in oils, some of which were on show at New Zealand House. He was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List in 1968 "for services in the field of stamp and coin design".

Jim plans to be in the United Kingdom until about mid-May. A cordial invitation was extended to him on behalf of our Society to attend the March meeting, although this date might coincide with the visit he is due to make to the United States of America, some time within the next two months. However, he asked me to convey his warm regards to all members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain during this, our Jubilee Year.

DOUGLAS HAGUE

PANPEX '77

The culmination of about four years hard work for a small group of Christchurch Philatelists came to fruition at Panpex '77 on 5th March, 1977. I was privileged to attend this Exhibition and to witness from the sidelines the amount of hard work that the

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Organisers put in to make it the success it undoubtedly was.

Throughout the Exhibition, the standard was extremely high. The Exhibition attracted entries from many countries. Classes were arranged to cater for all. My comments are confined to the New Zealand material only.

In the Court of Honour, pride of place was given to the Chalon Portrait, loaned by Robson Lowe Ltd. J.A.Robb showed pages from his collection of the Second Sideface issue. Gerald Elliott showed a selection of covers from the Maori Wars, and Marcel Stanley a selection of Essays, Proofs and Specimens of the 1898 Pictorials.

The Award of Honour went to Dr. K.J.McNaught for an in-depth collection of New Zealand Stamps and Postal History, 1840 - 1940. This set the tone for the whole Exhibition. Of Society members who sent entries, the following gained awards.

Gold Medals	J.J.Bishop, R.D.Gwynn, K.J.McNaught.
Silver-Gilt Medals	W.K.Jones, R.D.Samuel (2, 1 with felicitations), M.G.Tombleson (with felicitations).
Silver Medals	R.D.Gwynn, K.J.McNaught (2), J.W.Rabarts, R.D.Samuel, R.M.Startup, J.T.Welch.
Bronze Medals	W.K.Jones, R.D.Samuel, R.M.Startup (2), M.G.Tombleson (2), The New Zealand Society of Great Britain in the Literature Section for the 'Kiwi'.
Certificates of Merit	J.J.Bishop, J.W.Rabarts, R.D.Samuel, R.M.Startup.

J.J.Bishop was awarded the Postal History Society of New Zealand Trophy for the best Postal History Entry.

R.D.Samuel was awarded the Mr. & Mrs. G.H.Hunt Trophy for the best entry of Postal Stationery.

Coffee Mornings were organised as an integral part of the Exhibition, when eminent philatelists showed pages and presented problems for general discussion. These included Marcel Stanley discussing the perforated issues of the Chalon Heads, John Bishop showing New Zealand Pre-Stamp Covers, K.J.McNaught seeking help with the letter/numeral datestamps of New Zealand, and J.S.White discussing the problems presented by Plate II of the 2d. Chalon Head.

Similar sessions were organised in the evenings, one of interest being devoted to the Cinderella material of New Zealand.

I would commend to the Organisers of any future Exhibition such sessions. They were extremely popular and interesting.

While in New Zealand, I was able to attend meetings of the Air Mail Society of New Zealand, the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand and a meeting of the Federation of New Zealand Philatelic Societies. At all three, I was able to speak of the aims and objects of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain. At the meeting of the Federation of New Zealand Philatelic Societies, a member of the Post Office Staff was grilled in depth on the stamp issueing policy of New Zealand. I cannot imagine this happening in the United Kingdom!

Throughout my time in Christchurch, I was entertained as an honoured guest. As one American remarked, we all suffered from a surfeit of New Zealand hospitality. My thanks to all concerned.

ALLAN P. BERRY

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STAMPEX 1977

Congratulations to the following members whose New Zealand entries gained awards at Stampex 1977.

Bronze-Silver Medals :- K.I.Bennett, A.H.Rose.

Bronze Medals :- Dr.A.F.Dove, P.Marks, A.G.G.Riley,
E.G.Ward.

Diploma :- F.G.Fifoot, A.B.Johnstone (Literature).

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

Through the courtesy of A.M.Madigan, Acting Principal of the Stamps Branch of the New Zealand Post Office, your Editor is now receiving advance notice of the Special Datestamps being used in New Zealand. As many of you will be aware, the Philatelic Bureau, Private Bag, Wanganui, operates a special pictorial datestamp standing order service (minimum deposit \$5) for customers wanting these items for their collections. Such standing orders are filled using a special, unaddressed postcard that bears a 25 cent postage imprint.

This does not stop any person ordering such a special datestamp on his own account from the Post Office concerned. But due to the fact that the 'Kiwi' is only produced every two months, it is unlikely that all of them will be notified to me in time to give them the necessary advance publicity.

I intend to run this section for a few issues, and I would be very grateful if members would let me know if they consider it worth while.

- 1) MOTAT. A special steel pictorial date stamp will be used to cancel all mail posted in an agency office at the Museum of Transport and Technology (Inc.), (MOTAT), Auckland from Saturday, 9th April, 1977. The Post Office is an addition to the Museum's shopping street, set in the period 1900 - 1920.

- 2) 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASSEY UNIVERSITY.



A special pictorial datestamp will be used at Massey University to cancel mail posted in a special posting box to mark the 50th Anniversary of Massey University, on Friday, 6th May, 1977.

The design of the date stamp features a reproduction of the University Crest.

The address is the Postmaster, Massey University.

- 3) 15TH MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL.



A special pictorial datestamp will be used at Auckland to cancel mail posted in a special posting box provided for the opening day of the 15th meeting of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Council on Thursday, 19th May, 1977.

The address is the Chief Postmaster, Auckland.

Collectors wishing to order these datestamp impressions direct from the Post Office concerned should ensure that their covers arrive at the addresses given at least two days before the event. The outer wrappers should be endorsed with the name of the event.

ALLAN P. BERRY



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THE CANCELLATIONS OF OAMARU.

I have read John Evans' article in the 'Kiwi', Volume XXV, No. 5, page 108 with interest, because I have been studying the cancellations of Oamaru for some time. However, the statements in Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand are, I feel, inadequate. My own provisional analysis of the situation is as follows.

'19', First Type.

The illustration in the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 111 is clearly of a Perkins, Bacon type obliterator, but the figures are larger. The evidence that it was used at Oamaru is not stated, but this is likely when one considers the demography of the South Island around 1860. It is clear that the illustration in Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand has been traced from an actual specimen, but I would like to hear if anyone has seen an example of this obliterator recently.

'19', Second Type.

Although the '19' second type has been listed for many years as having been used at Oamaru there appears to be no real proof of this. It is the author's opinion that the '19' second type was used at Waimate and that its ascription to Oamaru arises from misinterpretation of the evidence. This can arise in two ways:-

i) Oamaru was using the '01' obliterator from 1862 (see next section). Although this is a 12-barred oval, and the '19' is an 11-barred oval, it is possible for poor strikes to be misread as '19', and this is known to have occurred.

ii) Mail moving south from Waimate would pass through Oamaru, and thereby acquire an Oamaru date-stamp on the back. If the Waimate date-stamp had not been applied, either by mistake or, in the earlier years, because Waimate did not then have a date-stamp, the cover would naturally be considered as having originated at Oamaru. The earliest recorded date for the '19' obliterator appears to be 1865. In several provinces the normal practice was for date-stamps to be issued some time after obliterators. Covers of later date can most if not all be attributed unequivocally to Waimate.

The '01' Obliterator.

Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand allocates the '01' obliterator to Duntroon, but this post office did not open until 1876, and thus this is clearly a re-allocation.

In my opinion, the original allocation of the '01' obliterator was to Oamaru. It is a twelve barred obliterator, four above, four below and four alongside the numbers. It can easily be misread as '10', and this has doubtless occurred on many occasions. Also, if the '0' is not completely inked, as is not uncommon, it could be read as '19', a further possible source of confusion.

The evidence for the contention that the '01' obliterator was used at Oamaru is as follows:-

i) A cover of 1862, thirteen years before the Duntroon post office was opened. This is addressed to England and shows a pair of Richardson print 6d. stamps, each of which has the '01' obliterator. The front of the cover has the Dunedin Otago c.d.s. of MY 9 1862. There is no back-stamp. A cover from the same family correspondence has the '18' obliterator of Dunedin on the

front and the Dunedin Otago c.d.s. of AP 19 1862 on the back.

The '01' obliterator has never been listed for Dunedin. Further, the application of a Dunedin c.d.s. to the front of the cover is indication that the cover originated outside Dunedin itself. The Postmaster General's report for 1861 commented on the fact that there were many towns that did not have date-stamps, and one can but conclude that the cover originated at a place that had not yet had a date-stamp issued to it. Clearly this was in Otago Province.

ii) The series of cancellations '02' to '05' covers the townships from Otepopo (later Herbert) to Waikouaiti. These fall in a line along the East Coast of the South Island. Extension of this series would locate Oamaru at an easy day's walking distance north of Otepopo. Port Chalmers lay not much further to the South of Waikouaiti.

iii) The '01' cancel is not uncommon. Apart from the cover already mentioned, I have recorded it on perf. 13 stamps, 1d. and 6d. and on a number of perf. 12½ stamps. It is noticeably commoner than the '19' obliterator on Chalon issues. Furthermore, I have a cover of 1872 originating at Oamaru and showing the '01' obliterator.

The Duplex Obliterator and the '0' Killer.

The date of issue of these obl iterators is not given in Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. Provisionally, one would be tempted to assume that, as in the instances of Invercargill and Hokitika, they were issued on the occasion of the town becoming an area Chief Post Office. However, I am convinced that an earlier date is the case for Oamaru, and the most likely period is 1874/75.

The evidence that suggests this conclusion is:-

i) The '01' obliterator is scarce on the side-face issues, though relatively common on Chalon issues. I do have a cover of March, 1874.

ii) The duplex for Oamaru is an early type, with three thin bars alongside the letters. From the mid-1870's duplex date-stamps were of a type with only two thicker bars.

iii) Duntroon opened in 1875, when it was still under the authority of the Dunedin Chief Postmaster. Probably it would have received an obliterator at an early date. The use of the '01' implies that that had already been superseded.

The Squared-Circle Obliterator.

The history of this is well documented. It appeared in 1891 and continued in use until 1905. The relatively long life was because the corners of the obliterator helped to protect the centre, with the important details, from wear.

The 1898-type c.d.s.

This type was issued to most, but not all, of the Chief Post Offices. It was a circular date-stamp, 24 mms diameter, with the name round the top and a code number just beneath. Some were later modified to take time slugs instead of code numbers. The earliest date I have recorded for this type of date-stamp is 1895 at Dunedin. Other towns did not use the type until later years. At Oamaru the type was used simultaneously with the Squared-circle type. Clearly it took over the bulk of the use since after 1898 strikes of the squared-circle obliterator are comparatively uncommon, and by 1902 the obliterator was showing marked signs of

wear. Between September and December, 1902, the worn obliterator was replaced by a new one of the same type, which had time slugs in place of code numbers. By September, 1905, this in its turn was decidedly worn.

The Quadruple-Circle Obliterator.

This type has four concentric rings intended, as in the case of the squared-circle type, to protect the centre from wear. It first came into use in 1895 as a replacement for the squared-circle date-stamps at the major post offices. The Oamaru case represents an unusually late use, commencing in late 1905 or early 1906, and it had time slugs in place of the earlier code numbers.

Later types of normal date-stamp have the numbers on bands so that the information can be changed without taking the head of the date-stamp to pieces.

The A-class Date-stamp.

This is the little 'coin circle' date-stamp, with the name across the circle, that is so characteristic of the smaller New Zealand post offices. They were also much used at the larger offices, but here they were applied to the backs of incoming mails, and strikes on adhesives can be far from common. Indeed, Oamaru is a case in point, since I have only seen it once, on a 1d. Second Sideface stamp. There was also a non-normal type, with a very thick outer circle, over 1 mm thick, which was used for parcels and Newspaper packets.

The above notes take the story of the cancellations of Oamaru well beyond the period of the '19' obliterator. The history of several decades is not without interest, and similar histories could doubtless be prepared for other places.

JOHN ROBBINS

LETTERS FROM NEW ZEALAND (2)

This is a series of three letters written by the same author to England. The first was written immediately before departure from Gravesend, on board the "Tudor", 1785 tons, Captain F. Wherland. She arrived at Lyttelton on 23rd September, 1865. The second letter was written immediately after arrival in New Zealand, and unfortunately, one page is missing. The third letter was written a year later, after the family had settled down in the new land.

Gravesend, June 10th, 1865

Dear Brother and Sister,

We left the Docks yesterday at two o'clock P.M., the tide then being in. They had great difficulty to move her, tried her in the morning but did not succeed, but by the help of a powerful steam tug they were able to get her at the downs, where we stop'd for the return of tide at three o'clock this morning and when we got up found our ship at anchor opposite Gravesend where she will be examined by the Gov't inspector. It is thought she will sail from here this afternoon or tomorrow.

We are I am thankful to say well, except Mrs who last evening was not so well as I could wish but is much better this morning. One little incident occurred this morning which has freshened in our minds the leaving of our dear friends in Devonshire. Mrs in looking over her bag found an envelope which contained a well

known ringlet, a treasure we did not know we possessed.

We have all our wanted boxes in our cabin except one and by driving in nails and putting a little addition to our shelving have found places for keeping most of our things, and shall be able to come to our boxes at almost any time. There is a cow on board our ship, about twenty sheep, from twenty to thirty pigs and a large quantity of ducks and fowls. We have a butcher on board.

It is calculated we have about three hundred on board, including the ships crew. It is not likely I shall have another opportunity of writing for many weeks. I almost dread crossing the line as Mrs scarcely knows how to bear the heat at times although we have a nice place as any I have seen in the ship. I sincerely hope she may be enabled to do so. Please give our best respects to all enquiring Friends. Mrs. and the boys join with me in kind love to you Father and the Children.

I remain your affectionate Brother,

Adieu perhaps for ever.

Christchurch, October 14th, 1865.

Dear Brother and Sister,

I am at last favor'd with the opportunity of informing you and our dear Friends in England of our safe arrival in New Zealand in good health.

You will doubtless think it a long time since we left you but having had a rather long voyage, and landing ten days after the mail went out, this being the first chance I had to write to you. I will give you first a few particulars extracted from my diary relating to the voyage.

We set sail from Gravesend June 11th about twelve o'clock with a strong breeze, favorable for sailing down the channel, most of us felt the sensation of sea sickness before night, but myself nor the boys were not what is called sea sick during the voyage, but it fared otherwise with Mrs she being very ill the first week, we had a fine run through the Channel. We passed the coast of Dover on the evening of the 11th and saw the coast of France and a great number of ships. We passed the Isle of Wight on the 12th, passed Torpoint on the 15th and entered the Bay of Biscay on the 16th, passed the coast of Portugal on the 17th. Sunday 18th we had service on deck by Mr. Bluet who was chaplain on board. Passed the Azores on 19th, the weather now getting much warmer and the days shorter, saw a ship in the distance, as we passed signalled and found her to be the Cosmopolite from Rotterdam to Batavia with 240 soldiers on board. On 28th sighted a French ship from Bordeaux to San Francisco. 29th the boxes were taken up, a man was ill in the small pox, but by using every precaution to prevent infection it went no further. On the 30th we entered the Tropics and a child was born in the ship. July 5th a child died from croup and committed to the deep next morning. 7th showery day, the first rain we had seen for 5 weeks, after which we had frequent showers and calms. I think we were becalmed a fortnight at various times, the weather now was very warm and the days short the thermometer being at 94 degrs in shade. 15th we crossed the line. 25th saw two beautiful dolphins at the ships side, one of which was struck with a harpoon and brought on deck. 28th a fine shark was caught with a large hook and a piece of pork. It was with much difficulty

brought on deck being near 7 feet long. It created much amusement to the passengers. August 1st weather getting colder and wind stronger. Ship ran out of the Tropics. 5th stormy day, ship rolling from side to side and things tumbling about. A pot of boiling tea was upset and fell on the head of a child scalding it much, it died next morning. 7th strong wind blowing some of the sails to pieces. Saw two grampus a species of whale 10 or 12 feet long. An albatross was caught which measured 6ft 9 inches across its wings. 9th dark day, waves often dashing overboard. 17th weather generally cold frequent showers of rain hail and snow. 22nd stormy day waves often dashing overboard, almost impossible to stand on deck, thermometer at 45 degra. Sept. 5th very rough night blowing off some of the sails, breaking up and taking away one of the boats. 7th weather getting warmer and days much longer. Said to be 2800 miles from Banks Peninsula all cheering up with thoughts of going ashore. 20th sighted the Snares, a reef of high rocks off the coast of New Zealand. All hands busy cleaning up cabins, etc. 22nd sighted Banks Peninsula. Saturday 23rd signalled and received the pilot and doctor on board and cast anchor in the evening in harbor. The next morning we had beef, bread and potatoes brought from the shore. 25th a steam boat came alongside and took those bound for Lyttleton and their boxes (and also the single men who had to walk across the Lyttleton hills to that place). It then came back and took in most of our wanted boxes etc and next morning we bid adieu to the ship Tudor being 16 weeks from the time we left you.

It was what is called a rather long voyage and a pleasant one though not much suiting landmen. We had a variety of amusements on board such as theatre, dancing, boxing gloves, single stick, chess, draughts, cards, etc. I liked it much better than I thought of and had good health most part of the voyage, but it fared otherwise with Mrs, she being sick at first was afterwards attacked with diarrhea and loss of appetite, and the heat of the Tropics was almost too much for her but she is now quite well. James had good health at first till the latter part of July when he had a bilious attack which, not being properly cured, it turned to jaundice and he was ill some weeks. William and Samuel got on first rate.....

Billings Farm, June 4th, 1866.

Dear Brother,

As we are now within a few days of the time of year we left you it has brought to my mind much of the events of the past year with us, it seems to me almost like a dream when I think it over. First our sorrowful departure from you, then the journey to London, then what we saw in London, our going to the Docks and what we saw there, our departure from our native land, then the voyage, the landing, stay in Christchurch and things I noticed there, our first journey to this district, and then the purchase and removal to where we now are all of which occurred in five months. My observations since have been mostly on business improvements and I sometimes almost forget that I have left my native land when the thoughts of dear Friends brings it fresh to my memory. We are I am thankful to say all well, happy and comfortable. Elizabeth is gone to Leeston to their new home. Samuel has been living about two months 4 miles from us at a pound

a week wages, likes his situation and has now agreed for a year from the commencement at the same rate. William is with us and earning about 25s. a week. I could not get a person to do as he does for less. Young men cannot earn money like that in England. The price of labor is at present too high according to the price of produce. Corn has been gradually getting less worth since harvest. I think many pieces have not paid for more than seed and labor everything valued at cost price, it costs 10s per acre to cutting 10s per acre to bind and stand it up and the expense of rakeing, carrying and stacking. It costs 9d per bl to thrashing and find engine driver and feeder grub. It often has to be run through a winnowing machine to be thoroughly clean. Then it has to be sent many miles to a mill and a great deal that went down in the wet a long time has been sold for 3s per bushel. We have thrashed about 270 bls much of which was over lbs the fair bl and sold at 5s for 60 lb which is the standard bl for wheat of all qualities here. Our yield was more than I expected. I think our crop to be about 700 bls. That which is not now threshed of it is now worth about 4s6d. We have sown nearly 34 acres and have two acres more to put in. Our potato crop has been very good especially those of our own planting and they were not put in till November. The disease has never yet made its appearance here. They are at present selling at a low price. Our carrot crop was very heavy. I think we had about 3 tons grown in less than one fourth of our garden. I think we may get a better price for produce when the Railway is completed and the Tunnel finished through to Port Lyttleton. It will pass about three miles West of us and a station will be about that distance from us, to which place it is thought it will be completed early next spring.

We have had very fine weather this Autumn, quite different from an English Autumn, yet it is often cold before sunrise. It was too dry at the commencement of wheat sowing to cause it to vegetate unless it was freshed ploughed.

Please give our united regards to Father to Aunt and the children and Sister Eliza who I hope is now better and to such of our other relatives as you may have opportunity to do so and accept the same yourself

from your Affectionate Brother

P.S. We hope to receive a letter from you this mail, expected one last mail but was dissappointed. Adieu.

1925-1926 DUNEDIN EXHIBITION LETTERCARD.

The lettercard illustrated on the next page is printed in two shades of yellow-green with photographs in black. It must have been issued in conjunction with the 1925-1926 Dunedin Exhibition. I acquired it recently, and so far I have not been able to obtain any information about it. Colin Hamilton says he has seen an envelope in similar design, but not a lettercard.

I would like to know if any member can inform me of the printer, by whom and under whose authority it was issued and any other information about it. I would also like information about the gentlemen portrayed on it.

F.B.SCRIVENER



Editor's note:- Please send any information to me, and I will see that it is passed on to Frank Scrivener.

POSTCARDS.

Following the publication of an article on this subject on pages 1, 21 and 22 of Volume XXVI of the 'Kiwi', our member ALAN JACKSON writes from New Zealand as follows :-

"The Muir & Moodie Postcard illustrated on the front page is a very scarce early type. I have probably two or three thousand Muir & Moodie Postcards in my collection, but only one of this type, with advertisements at the top right."

CHALON HEAD - 3d. VALUE.
PELURE OR NOT PELURE; THAT IS THE QUESTION

A recent offer by Rowland Hill Stamps of Kidderminster ('Kiwi', Volume XXV, page 118, November, 1976) published the following :-

"S.G. 84. The rare 3d. on pelure paper - neat postmark and 4 large margins (added). S.G. cat. as mint £5,000 and states unknown used! OFFERS."

At least I agreed with the examination as not only have there been recent rumours that the Pelure paper was used much later than 1862 - the accepted date - but also the examination might allow some "rough shooting" into what appeared by the description to be a very doubtful specimen.

Mr. J.A. Stephen, the proprietor of Rowland Hill Stamps, was sporting enough to let me have the "stamp" for a mere trifle of the £5,000 for a mint copy!

From this and some research I have been able to deduce the following :-

Only two examples are known on pelure paper and both are unused. It is more likely that as only one sheet was printed and as no used copy is known the stamps represented a proof impression for the new 3d. plate. Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 71 refers. The 3d. value was first issued on 1st January, 1863.

The specimen in lilac was probably S.G. 117 perf. 12½ issued in or after 1867 with part Wellington '070' Duplex Cancellation first used in 1865.

The specimen is a genuine stamp on Star paper thinned to remove the star watermark so as to pass for Pelure paper. Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 672, refers. On the reverse it can be seen that after removal of perforations false margins have been added to improve the appearance. This is known among the Chalon Heads. Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 678, refers.

I dare not immerse the specimen in water for fear of "loosing" the false margins. I do remember some years ago when the late Dr. Jacobs at a meeting of the Society showed me an 'A81' Maritime postmark on a 1d. Chalon Head and at the next meeting he told me he had immersed the stamp in water with the result that it had disintegrated into little pieces.

No! Mr. Stephen has been game enough to let me have the bastard 3d. and I don't intend to risk losing its false margins by immersing it in water!

JOHN D. EVANS

O.M.B AND F.M.B.

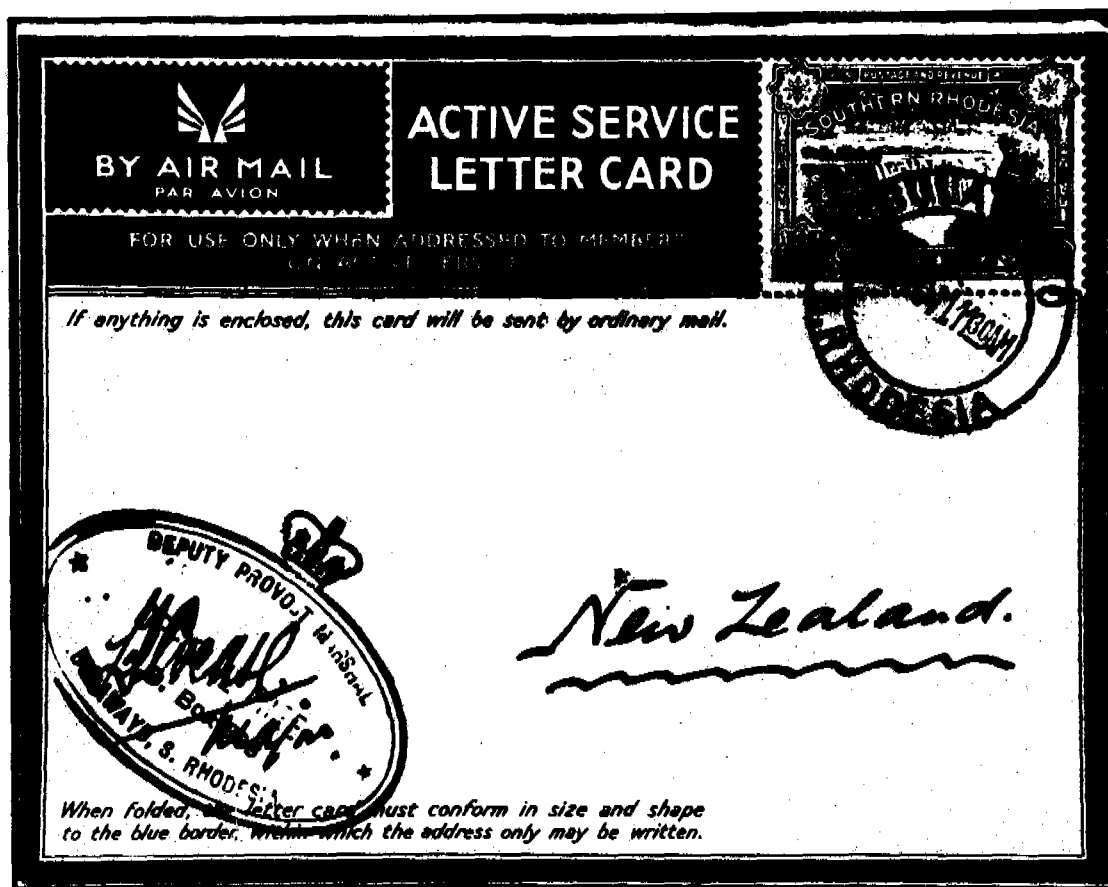
Following the query published in the 'Kiwi', Vol. XXV1, No. 2, page 43, our member F.R.WIGGINS writes as follows :-

"I have been told that most of the larger cities in New Zealand have cancellers of this sort. I believe that O.M.B. stands for Overseas Mail Branch. A similar canceller has the letters F.M.B., standing for Foreign Mail Branch."

Obviously, further information on these types of datestamps is required. Any offers?

THE UNSTAMPED AEROGRAMMES OF NEW ZEALAND

There are a large number of unstamped New Zealand aerogrammes, air letter and air mail letter card forms. Air mail rates have been very variable, so the New Zealand post office has not issued stamp imprinted forms since the prisoner of war forms. Both the post office and the stationery stores have sold blank forms but in all cases, except one, the privately printed forms are sold only by the stationers, and the post office forms have been sold only by their outlets.



After the onset of the Second World War the circle route was discontinued, and this card is the first letter card by a 'secret' route to New Zealand. From Bulawayo, 15th December, 1941, to Caterton, New Zealand, 22nd January, 1942.

In this article, it is intended to review the previous articles, to list the post office issues and to begin to chronicle the privately produced forms. Only seven previous references are known.

1. The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 11, pages 215-216. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, Inc.
2. Ibid. Volume 1V, page 362.
3. Air Mail Stationery Catalogue, Part 1, British Commonwealth, Hodson. Published and printed by M. Hodson, Scotland, 1955.
4. Captain Coqk, Volume 3, Number 1, September, 1974, pages 157-162. The Christchurch (N.Z.) Philatelic Society (Inc.).
5. Ibid. Volume 4, page 362.

6. Kessler's Catalogue of Aerogrammes, Volume 2, page 201.
Aerogram Publishing Co. Inc., 500 Fifth Avenue,
New York 36, New York, United States of America.

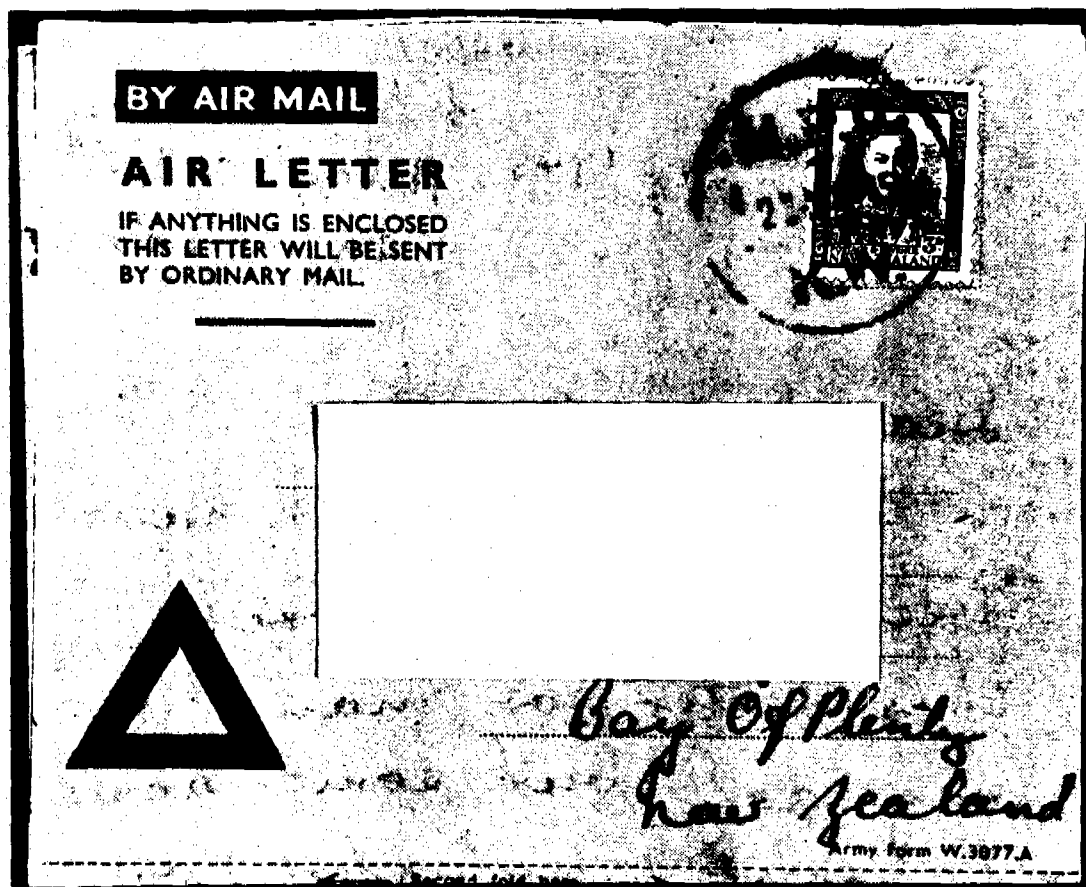
7. Kessler's Catalogue of Aerogrammes, Volume 3, pages 80, 82.
Lava, Post Office Box 1, New York, New York 10040, United
States of America.

All of the seven references deal with the post office issues, but references 3, 6 and 7 additionally list some wartime and official material.

The first forms were used from the different war theatres to New Zealand, and were usually the forms of other countries.

During World War II a number of different forms were used by New Zealand troops to send letters home.

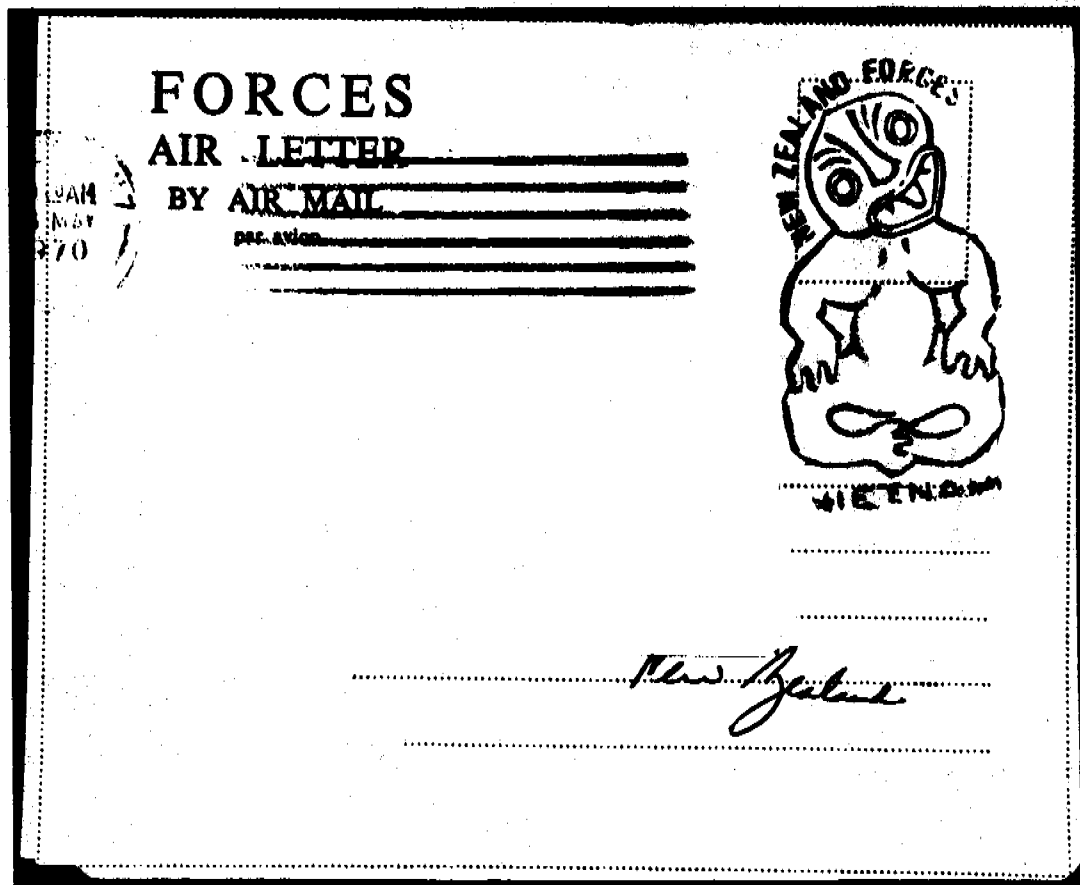
1. An air mail letter card identified by the "affix 3d New Zealand Stamp here" at the top right of the front panel. "New Zealand" is printed at the base of the address on the front panel.
2. An air mail letter card without the "New Zealand" designation was used extensively by the New Zealand troops in the Middle East. It can be recognised by the marking AM/LC/.../.. 25, 46, 53, 53 on the back panel.



A typical British Army form W3077A. This is type 3 and shows honour designation (triangle on front panel). From NZEF in the Middle East 25 MA 45.

3. Other Middle East forms were used by individuals from New

Zealand. Some were printed in England, Canada and other countries. Partial listings are found in references 3 and 7.
4. Unstamped forms were also used in the Viet Nam conflict.



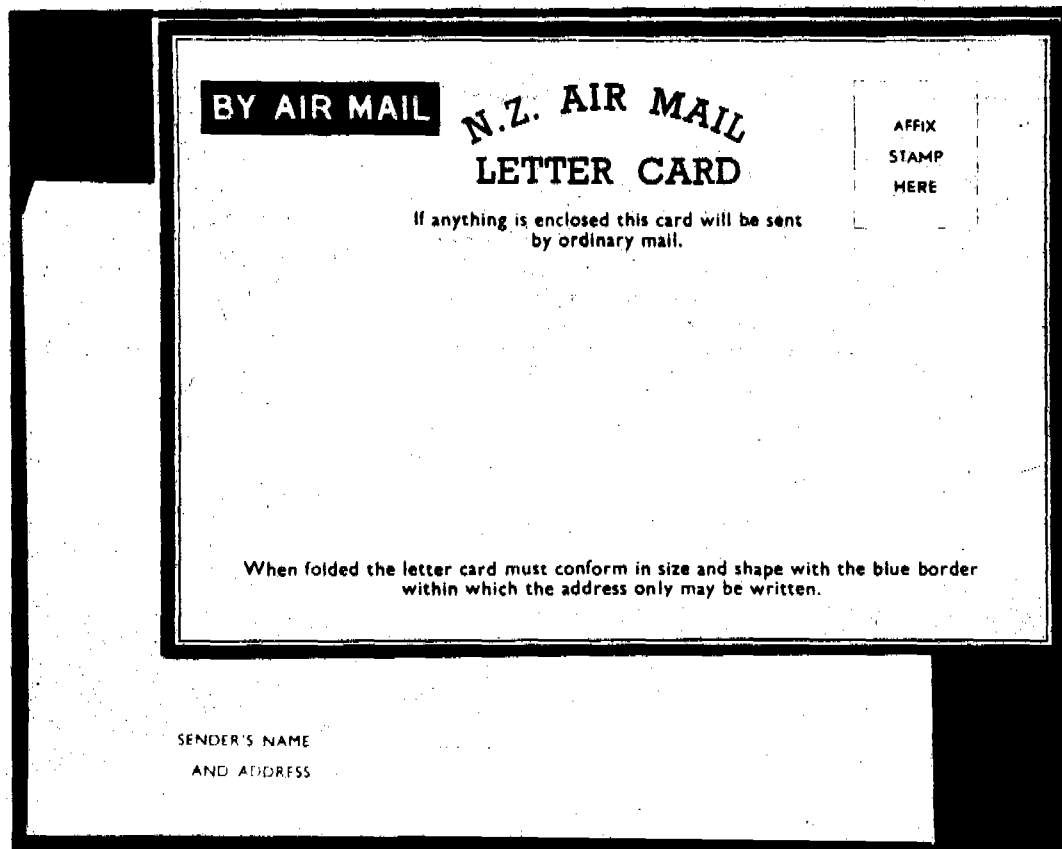
A British forces air letter form without stamps used by New Zealand forces from Viet Nam. The majority were used with stamps.

During the Second World War the airgraph service began into New Zealand, 2nd April, 1943, and the last despatch from New Zealand was 31st July, 1945. This service was overlapped by the introduction of the air letter forms in New Zealand in June of 1944. At first they were intended for the armed forces, but were not restricted to this use. It was requested that only one per week be used. If additional communications were needed then it was suggested that airgraph be utilized. The letter cards were available at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and required a 6d. postage stamp.

POST OFFICE ISSUES

A. AIR MAIL LETTER CARDS.

1. 20th June, 1944 - see illustration.
2. 20th December, 1944. The second printing differs from the first by virtue of the outside of the form. The front and back panels (not the sides) are covered with finely slanted blue lines to prevent the writing inside from being seen so clearly from the outside of the letter card.



This illustrates the front panel and the portion of the back panel showing printing of the first air mail letter card.

3. April, 1945. This printing was in black with a grey stippled overlay, but the front panel still reads "blue border".
4. 24th May, 1945. In this printing (in black), the word "blue" is omitted.
5. 25th January, 1946. Blue printing with stippled overlay. "Sender's name" on back panel measures 24mms.
6. December, 1946. The "sender's name" on the back panel measures 18½ mms.
7. March, 1948. The overlay is dark blue. "Sender's name" measures 24 mms.

Note:- Captain Coqk numbers 5 and 6 are the reverse of this system

Types 1 to 7 are similar to the illustration of the air mail letter card but can be sorted easily by the following:-

- Type 1 - no overlay.
- 2 - blue diagonal overlay.
- 3 - black printing but front panel "Blue border".
- 4 - black printing and the word "blue" omitted on the front panel.
- 5 - light blue stipples and "sender's name" on back panel measures 24 mms.
- 6 - light blue stipples and "sender's name" is 18½ mms.
- 7 - dark blue stipples and "sender's name" is 24 mms.

To be continued.

J. HILL