



the kiwi

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

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VOLUME XXIX No. 6

NOVEMBER 1980

WHOLE 164

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 1980,
AT THE SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, MONMOUTH STREET, LONDON, WC2H 9HD.

IT IS KIWI DAY

AND STARTS AT 10.30 A.M. WITH THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE AUCTION WILL COMMENCE AT 1.45 P.M.

Please note the starting time. This is because at the Annual General Meeting much business has to be concluded. Many Officers will not be seeking re-election and while your Committee will be making recommendations, it is your Society and your suggestions are requested. It will be a very important meeting.

At the close of formal business the presentation of the Society's trophies and medals will take place, as awarded at the Annual Competition in March, 1980.

It is hoped that all this will be completed by noon, when the room will be prepared for the Annual Auction.

It is regretted that it will not be possible to accept on the day any Lots other than those donated for the Society's funds.

There will be a short break for tea at about 3.30 p.m. To help pay for the tea, a raffle will be held. Raffle prizes will be gladly received by Officers of the Society.



29TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Notice is hereby given that the 29th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain will be held at the Shaftesbury Hotel, Monmouth Street, London, WC2H 9HD, on Saturday, 29th November, 1980, commencing at 1030 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting.
2. President's Report and Review of 1980.
3. Financial Report from the Hon. Treasurer.
4. Report from the Hon. Packet Secretary.
5. To elect
 - i) A President.
 - ii) Vice-Presidents.
 - iii) A Chairman.
 - iv) A Vice-Chairman.
 - v) An Honorary General Secretary.
 - vi) A Packet Secretary.
 - vii) An Honorary Treasurer.
 - viii) Other Officers of the Society.
6. To elect a Committee.
7. Any other business proper to the Annual General Meeting, of which due notice has been given in writing.

T.H.BROCK, HON. GENERAL SECRETARY.

This year a number of senior Officers of the Society will not be seeking re-election. Your Committee will be putting forward suggestions on how these vacancies can be filled. But it is your Society and if you wish to make a nomination for any Officer or Committee Member, you should write to the Hon. General Secretary with the nomination and consent of the nominee.

EDITORIAL.

With this issue we conclude yet one more Volume of 'The Kiwi'. We also reach a point of change for our Society, as will be apparent from the announcement above concerning our Annual General Meeting. Please do your best to attend.

The end of the Volume also sees the end of a year full of philatelic activity. Elsewhere you can read reports concerning Zeapex 80 and this year's British Philatelic Exhibition. For the future, there is Palmpex '82, of which details are also published.

A big thankyou to all contributors who have helped us to sustain the interest of this, your journal.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

- L.J.Kimpton. Address withheld by request.
G.Lewis, 66, Bower Mount Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8AT.
Major C.K.Mole, 46, Bell Lane, Moulton, Spalding, Lincs.
T.N.Stephens, 29, Valetta Park, Emsworth, Hants., PO10 7HJ.
S.Suggitt. Address withheld by request.

Mrs. W.M.Tanton, 9, Glebe Road, Tiptree,

Colchester, Essex, CO5 0SZ.

Mrs. A.I.Whitford, P.O.Box 47050, Ponsonby,

Auckland 1, New Zealand.

RESIGNED

L.B.Thorne, Top Flat, 28, Clarence Street,

Dartmouth, Devon, TQ6 9NW.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

J.L.Watts, Flat 1/3, Elderwood Lane,

Takapuna, Auckland, New Zealand.

(previously of Beachhaven, Auckland 10, New Zealand.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 1980.

FIRST PICTORIALS 1898-1908

One new member, E.W.Leppard of Balham, was introduced to members by our hard working Chairman, Phil Evans. It is always a great pleasure to see new, and indeed old, members at our meetings.

The experienced Michael Burberry treated us once again to a selection of magnificent items from his collection. Early essays, proofs and rejected designs were shown, in addition to a profusion of blocks, so necessary if good appreciation of colour shades is to be attained. My favourite page showed blocks of four of the sixpenny Kiwi red in pristine condition. Even in artificial light the colours shone forth.

One bonus brought in by Noel Turner was information on the present whereabouts of the fourpenny Lake Taupo with inverted centre, of which only one copy is known to exist. It had turned up in France and it is hoped that the owner can be ascertained.

On view also was the Bronze Medal won by our own journal, 'The Kiwi', at Zeapex 80. This was entirely due to yet another of your hard working Officers, the Editor, Allan P. Berry, with, of course, the support of his contributors.

The vote of thanks was proposed by D.Diamond, and the meeting was closed at 5.15 p.m.

I.G.FOGG

ZEAPEX '80 : AUCKLAND, 23RD - 31ST AUGUST, 1980.

The scene at Trillos in Downtown Auckland was a sight to please any stamp collector when Zeapex '80 opened on Saturday morning of 23rd August, 1980.

The hall floor was filled with competition entries, Post Office displays and Class of Honour displays.

Queues of people were soon forming to view the Court of Honour which was dedicated to a display from the Queen's collection and the Chalon Portrait loaned by Robson Lowe; these queues were a feature right through the Exhibition.

The Queen's Collection display consisted of frames containing :-

Great Britain, development that led to the issue of the first postage stamps on 6th May, 1840; examples of the Penny Black and Two Penny Blue.

Mauritius, an envelope with the 1847 1d. datestamped 21/9/1847, first known day of use - it originally contained an invitation to a ball given by Lady Gower.

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New Zealand, material relating to the Full Face Queen stamps, including engravings based on the portrait of Queen Victoria by A.E.Chalon; Proof material and examples of the 1855 London printings. Printings from the 1855 issues by J.Richardson, and printings of 1862 and 1864 by J.Davis, including overlaps, die proof, rouletted and serrated perforations and a 1/- bisect on piece dated Otago, 19th July, 1859.

Certainly material to gladden the heart of the New Zealand specialist. The display was carefully guarded by representatives of the Legion of Frontiersmen.

On Saturday afternoon, John B. Marriott, the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, made the official opening of the Exhibition and announced a further surprise item - that the rarest stamp in the world, the British Guiana One Cent Magenta of 1856 - would be displayed by permission of the owners by arrangement with Campbell Paterson Ltd.

The Dealers who had taken stands included a number from overseas. There was some apprehension regarding how many people would be attending, but their worries were soon allayed when over 30,000 people attended during the first two days.

The standard of the competition entries was affected by the fact that many of New Zealand's leading collectors were restricted from competing, since they were involved in the Jury, and with displays that were contained in the Class of Honour. This situation resulted in only one Gold Medal being awarded.

Praise must be given to the dedication of the Jury who viewed every page of every entry.

Members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain were very much involved in the Exhibition Organisation. These included the Chairman of Zeapex '80, Gerald J. Elliott, and the Publicity Officer, Peter Oldham. Of the Jury, the Chairman, Marcel Stanley, and Jurors John Gartner, Robin Gwynn, K.J.McNaught, Robert Samuel and Robin Startup are members of the Society.

A number of members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain were successful in gaining awards. Congratulations to

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Silver Gold Medals | - R.G.Darge - King George V Heads of New Zealand. |
| | - A.R.Marshall - New Zealand Postal History. This entry also won the special prize donated by the Postal History Society of New Zealand. |
| Silver Medals | - J.Gardiner - 1898 - 1908 Pictorials of New Zealand. |
| | - Campbell Paterson Ltd. - Specialised Catalogue of New Zealand Stamps. |
| Silver Bronze Medals | - T.W.Claridge - New Zealand R.T.P.O.'s and Combined Offices. |
| | - T.W.Claridge - Railway Postal Markings of the United Kingdom and France. |
| | - A.R.Marshall - New Zealand Manuscript Cancellations. |
| Bronze Medals | - A.P.Berry - 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVII and Volume XXVIII. |

There was a full social programme in the evenings, culminating

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with the Official Banquet on Saturday, 30th August.

Running in parallel with the Exhibition was a Junior Stamp Camp held at Motu Moana Campsite, Green Bay. The Junior Citizen Stamp Club of Auckland held their own competition and display on Friday, 29th August. Entry was free for all children attending Zeapex '80 and the day was finalised with prize giving by Marcel Stanley.

The activities of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain in hosting a lounge area was quite a successful exercise, providing a resting place and a publicity base.

The special covers provided a steady source of business with approximately 350 of the special Pitney Bowes meter marks being sold.

Copies of 'The Kiwi' were very popular and from this base almost 50 application forms were handed out, many to people who had not heard of our Society prior to the Exhibition.

Zeapex '80 must be rated amongst the most successful Philatelic Exhibitions held in New Zealand and great credit must go to Gerald Elliott and his Committee.

The proceedings were brought to a close on Sunday, 31st August, when a toast was drunk to Palmplex '82, the National Exhibition to be held in Palmerston North in 1982.

Your "Man in New Zealand", JOHN WATTS

BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1980.

Congratulations to the following members who gained awards in the British Philatelic Exhibition, 1980.

Silver Medal	- S.F.Cross-Rudkin.
Silver-Bronze Medal	- A.E.Harrad.
Bronze Medals	- A.P.Berry, S.F.Cross-Rudkin, J.D.Evans, D.S.Hague, A.H.Rose (4), J.A.W.Smith.



Once again, the New Zealand Post Office had a stand at this Exhibition. For those members of the general public who requested it, the cachet illustrated was used. As before, I am grateful to DAVID BUNTING of the New Zealand High Commission for the example from which the illustration was made.



PALMPEX'82

During 1979, the Central Districts Philatelic Exhibition Society Inc. was formed to promote a National Philatelic Exhibition to be held in Palmerston North, New Zealand, from 15th to 22nd May, 1982. This Exhibition is to be known as Palmplex '82. The Chairman of the Committee is Dr. Robin Gwynn, a member of our Society.

1982 marks the Centenary of New Zealand's 'Second Sideface' set and the Palmplex '82 logo incorporates the head of Queen Victoria which features on the 'Sideface' stamps. The special logo has been



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Applications are invited for supporting membership of this Exhibition Society. Membership is open to any individual or organisation and the total subscription is a modest NZ\$12 (reduced to NZ\$10 if paid in 1980). Overseas subscriptions are Aust.\$15; U.S.\$18; U.K.£8; or equivalent, subject to major currency fluctuations. Application forms can be obtained from you Editor - please send a stamped, addressed envelope.

For this subscription members will receive bulletins, auction catalogues, a new publication entitled 'A Guide to National Stamp Exhibitions' and privilege offers of publicity material.

The postal address of Palmpex '82 is
P.O.Box 1717, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ZEALAND OPTOMETRICAL ASSOCIATION



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Rotorua on Tuesday, 14th October, 1980, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the New Zealand Optometrical Association. Mail posted in a special posting box at the Rotorua International Hptel, the venue of the Optometrical Association's Jubilee Conference, was cancelled with the special datestamp.

FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE CONFERENCE



A special pictorial datestamp was used on Monday, 3rd November, 1980, to mark the Federation Aeronautique Internationale Conference. 1980 also marks the 75th Anniversary of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale and the 50th Anniversary of the Royal New Zealand Aero Club. Mail posted in a special posting box at the venue of the Conference, Trillo's Downtown, was cancelled with the special datestamp.

POSTAL STATIONERY.

Dwindling demand led to the decision earlier this year to withdraw the following categories of Postal Stationery:-

- Large Stamped Envelopes (14c.)
- Newspaper Wrapper (7c.)
- Airmail Envelope (17c.)
- Postcard (14c.)
- Registered Envelope (99c.)

Only Standard Size Envelopes, Letter Cards and unstamped Aerogrammes remain on sale, and one must now expect to see issue of the first two items with a 20c. value.

The figures in brackets above refer to the value of the last recorded issues of the discontinued items.

G.E.C.PRATT

POSTAGE RATES.

Postage Rates were increased on 1st October, 1980, and Members may like to add to the Table published in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXV11, page 15 :-

LETTERS INLAND (STANDARD LETTERS).....	20c.
LETTERS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.....	30c.
REGISTRATION FEE.....	\$1.00c.
AIRMAIL LETTERS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.....	60c.
AIR LETTER CARDS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.....	40c.
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS.....	14c.
INTERNAL AIR MAIL (STANDARD LETTERS).....	25c.

G.E.C.PRATT

THE 1/6 TIKI 'GREEN DOTS' VARIETY: C.P. OV14a.

Having recently acquired a second copy of this interesting variety, I was wondering if other members who also have copies of it could confirm my findings.

An examination of my two copies shows the dots to be equidistant from each other at a spacing of 5.6 mm, with an overall measurement of 16.8 mm.

In the illustration in Campbell Paterson's catalogue they are shown in positions that are not equidistant from each other and do not correspond with my copies.

As the dots are in the green of the centre plate their position on the stamps as a whole varies slightly with the centering of the centre plate in regard to the orange plate. Therefore it is incorrect to describe the lower dot as being "on top of the 'T' of 'Tiki'" as this can vary with the centering.

On my copies the positioning of the green dots in relation to the 'Tiki' is as follows :-

- Lower dot opposite centre of lower curve of ornament.
- Next dot up opposite pointed green part 3 mm from 'Tiki'.
- Next dot up opposite base of lower eye of 'Tiki'.
- Top dot opposite circular mark above eye of 'Tiki'.

No one appears to have put forward a satisfactory explanation for this unusual variety.

It appears to be only on the one unit on the cylinder. Was there any purpose for the dots? If not, how did they get there on the cylinder?

F.B.SCRIVENER

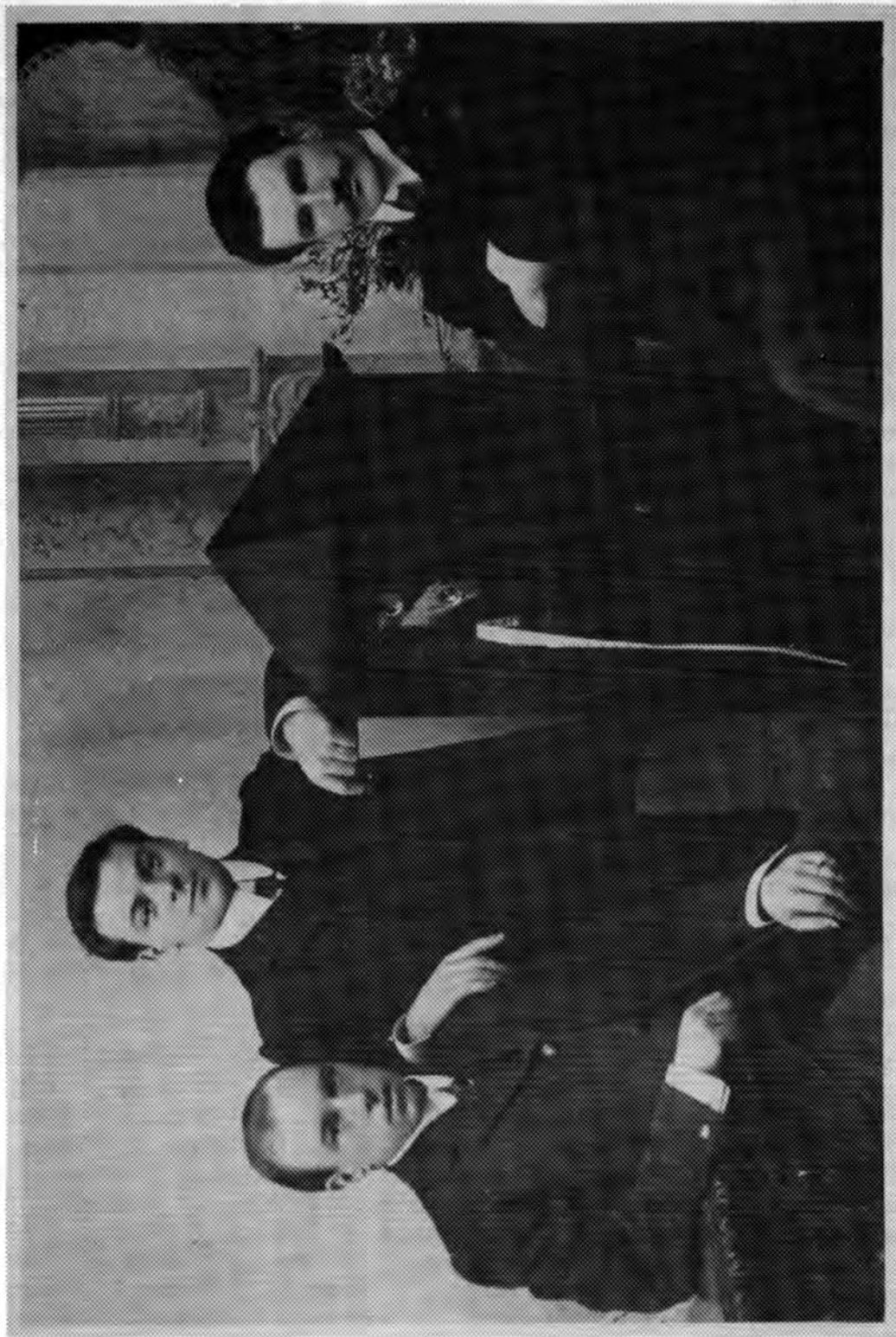
A PROBLEM OF IDENTIFICATION.

The photograph illustrated on page 121 was sent to your Editor by our Member DAVID BEECH, together with photographs of certain slot machine stamps of New Zealand.

None of these prints are in any way identified. But the fact that they were together suggests that the stamp vending machine in the photograph is of New Zealand origin. Unfortunately, it is not possible to identify the stamps coming out of the machine in the print, and the negative is not available to make enlargements.

Can any member identify the machine or the three men shown. So far, enquiries have been without result, and nobody consulted can recall seeing this photograph before. Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

ALLAN P. BERRY



WEST COAST CANCELLATIONS WITH GOLDFIELDS ORIGINS
A COMMENT ON THE FIRST INSTALMENT.

John Evans' article has induced me to set out our present day knowledge on the subjects raised in his first article.

Introduction

Before the discovery of payable gold, there were no European settlements on the West Coast of the South Island. The main ports of the early days, Westport, Greymouth and Hokitika came into existence because of the gold discoveries, but they were mainly supply centres servicing the goldfields and not themselves actual goldfield sites. Okarito was a minor port servicing miners in South Westland. Reefton in the 1870's was the township on flat land servicing the numerous quartz reef claims in the neighbouring hills. Ross and later Kumara were in the middle of major goldfields.

All cancellations of West Coast Post Offices during this early period, therefore, can be treated as having goldfields origins.

The following books refer to the West Coast gold rushes:

- 1) Westlands Golden Sixties, by J.Halket Millar. A.H. & A.W.Reed, Wellington, 1959. 223 pages.
- 2) West Coast Yesterdays, by Mona Tracy. A.H. & A.W.Reed, Wellington, 1960. 228 pages.
- 3) The West Coast Gold Rushes, by Philip Ross May. Pegasus Press, Christchurch, New Zealand, 1962. 588 pages.
- 4) Gold Trails of the West Coast, by Tony Nolan. A.H. & A.W.Reed, Wellington, 1975. 88 pages, illustrated.
- 5) New Zealand's Last Gold Rush, by William F.Heinz, A.H. & A.W.Reed, Wellington, 1977. 74 pages, illustrated. (The Kumara Gold Rush).

Books 3) and 5) are particularly recommended. The Wild West Coast, by Leslie Hobbs, Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd., 1959, records some anecdotes of the Coast, but no information on the Gold Rushes.

The rarity of early proving covers from the goldfields has presented serious obstacles to the researcher who has been forced into a considerable amount of conjecture. The fact that West Coast Post Offices north of the Grey River were included in the Nelson Postal District during the early years of their history has tended to be overlooked.

WESTPORT

In my updated article on "The Problem Letter/Number Date-stamps of the 1860's" on pages 44 - 46 of Zeapex 80 Magazine Four, I deleted Brighton and substituted Buller River (Westport) in the list of offices in the Nelson Postal District open by late 1862 or early 1863. There are three known but as yet unallocated Nelson District letter/number date-stamps, namely C3, D4 and H8. In an article published in The London Philatelist, Volume 81, pages 232 - 236, I had tentatively allocated C3 to Motueka but the evidence was not conclusive. On page 378 of Volume VI of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, I suggested that it was more likely that the relatively common H8 may have been used at the important district office of Motueka.

There can be little doubt that the first Westport named date-stamp was supplied and used in 1867 when Westport was made a money-order office.

HOPE

Obliterator N over 4. On page 378 of Volume VI of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, I stated "The obliterator with N over 4 was attributed in Volume III of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand to the later office of Hope on the basis of its seal number. It appears to have been used at Westport from the outset, while N over 8 attributed to Waimea West was almost certainly used at Reefton". The association of N over 4 with Hope can be dismissed for the following reasons:

1) Hope was a very small country office in the 1860's with insufficient volume of mail to justify the provision of an obliterator.

2) I have Westport N over 4 proving covers of 1869 and 1872.

3) All evidence indicates that the N obliterations were supplied in 1867.

4) The earliest Westport date-stamp marking which I have seen applied on a stamp is dated OC 9, 67; the latest is John Evans' reported 3d. Chalon Head cancelled DE 29, 67. I have a 1d. stamp cancelled NO 5, 67 and have noted others dated in October, 1867. All this indicates that the N over 4 obliterator was provided after 29th December, 1867, but the date-stamp, essential for money-orders, earlier in 1867.

CHARLESTON

I have a proving cover with N over 5 on a 2d. blue Chalon Head and with a Charleston date-stamp of SE 25, 67 - the same type of date-stamp as Westport. I have examples of N over 5 on other Chalon Heads, including the 1d. and 6d. in pre-1871 colours.

FOX'S RIVER, afterwards known as BRIGHTON

In 1972, in the article in The London Philatelist mentioned above, I listed fourteen offices in the Nelson Postal District, open by late 1862, which were likely to have received Nelson letter/number date-stamps in the series A1 to M13 or higher. (A1, I9 to L12 are conjectured, as actual examples have not yet been recorded). Only one of these was a West Coast office, namely Brighton, and this was included because the date of opening of this office was recorded in the Appendix list of Post Offices in Volume III of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand as "about November, 1860". Later, however, I realised that Brighton could not possibly have opened before 1866 and "1860" must have been an error for 1866. (Note that R.M.Startup records the actual date of opening as 6th January, 1867, and that a date-stamp and obliterator were sent to Brighton on 12th August, 1867, - see "Through Gorge and Valley", page 49). I repeated the error in an article in The Mail Coach, Volume 9, number 5, page 87. I overlooked the real possibility, at the same time, that Westport, then Buller River, might have received a letter/number date-stamp as discussed above. In spite of the fact that Brighton must have had a considerable population of miners, no examples of its obliterator, conjectured to be N over 3, or its date-stamp marking have yet been reported.

For those interested reference may be made to my article in The Mail Coach, Volume 15, number 6, pages 103 - 104, in which the gaps in our information on the early N obliterations are discussed.

WP obliterations belong to a later period of West Coast postal history as they were introduced only after the establishment of the Westport Postal District in 1874.

K.J.McNAUGHT

1980 CHRISTMAS STAMPS.

The three 1980 Christmas stamps released by the New Zealand Post Office on 1st October, 1980, include an old master, a church and a scene depicting a typical Christmastide activity in the Southern hemisphere.

This year the Madonna and Child with Cherubim by Andrea della Robbia has been selected for the 10c stamp, St. Mary's Church in New Plymouth for the 25c denomination and a picnic scene for the 35c stamp.

The circular relief sculpture of the Madonna and Child by the fifteenth century terracotta worker Andrea della Robbia has set the style for all three stamps, which feature a circular scene within the traditional rectangular stamp shape.

It comes from the Andrew Mellon Collection in the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., where it was photographed specially for the New Zealand Post Office to provide as good a reproduction as possible for the stamp.

Andrea della Robbia (1435 - 1525) was the nephew and pupil of Luca della Robbia, a leading marble sculpture of the Early Renaissance in Florence, Italy. In the early 1440's Luca invented the method of applying white and coloured enamels to terracotta sculpture, using known techniques of glazing, for architectural decoration and then for free-standing figures and reliefs.

This became the basis of a flourishing factory production carried on by his nephew Andrea and other members of this Florentine family.

Terracotta sculpture goes back to the Stone Age. It was revived in the Renaissance and flourished because of the high cost of alternative materials - marble and bronze.

The Madonna and Child with Cherubim is a typical example of the output of the family business. Usually the figures were white on a blue background, although sometimes other colours were used as well.

The 25c stamp illustrates the 134-year-old St. Mary's Anglican Church in New Plymouth, which is possibly the oldest stone church still standing in New Zealand.

St. Mary's was built about five years after New Plymouth was settled by the people of Devonshire, England. The first 148 settlers left Plymouth in England in November, 1840, arriving in 1841. More followed that year until by 1843 there were just over 1,000 Europeans in New Plymouth. Only a few hundred of them were Anglicans and it was this small group who established the church.

The first Anglican Bishop of New Zealand, the Right Reverend G.A.Selwyn, then a dynamic 31-year-old, visited the settlement on 28th October, 1842, travelling on foot, making a survey of his large diocese.

He set about choosing land for the churches in the area, including that of St. Mary's and its vicarage, the site of which was then partly a Maori garden and partly bush, and bought it from

the Plymouth company responsible for selling land in New Plymouth.

The first vicar of the parish was William Bolland who supervised the building of St. Mary's and donated the church bell. A bank account was opened in March, 1844, with a donation of £2.10s.0d from Captain H.King. One year later on 25th March, 1845, the foundation stone of the church was laid by the same Captain King.

The building was opened on 29th September, 1846. Mr. Bolland died eight months later, aged only 27, with many of his plans unfulfilled, including that of building schools.

The original church was designed by Frederick Thatcher and was built by George Robinson who was the architect for two later additions. Mr. Robinson was buried in the churchyard. The church measured about 50ft. by 30ft. In 1862 it was lengthened and a porch added.

In 1865 the women of the parish raised money to purchase a pipe organ from England. An enlarged and improved version is still in use today. From its establishment St. Mary's parish has been noted for the excellence of its church music and choirs. Also in 1865 a gallery was added for the organ and choir which was replaced by a larger gallery in 1893.

Other extensions have included the addition of a transept, a chapel and a sanctuary.

The stylised picnic scene on the 35c stamp represents a popular way New Zealanders spend the Christmas holidays - enjoying the sunshine and an outdoor way of life, surrounded by magnificent scenery.

The vertical 25.7mm x 41.1mm stamps were designed by New Zealand artist P.J.Durrant and printed by Courvoisier S.A. of Switzerland by photogravure.

ELIZABETH PARKER

A New Zealand Post Office Feature Article.

WEST COAST CANCELLATIONS WITH GOLD FIELDS ORIGINS.

Continued from Volume XXIX, page 107.

In the second of these articles it was suggested and apparently by our thoughtful Editor agreed, that it was preferable to work from North to South of the West Coast to find Cancellations with Gold Fields origins and having given examples of Cancellations in the Greymouth Area we now turn to another main area which I will call the Hokitika Area. First, however, and what appears to be in sequence with reality, it is recorded that from the mouth of the Grey River gold miners flocked overland to the Taramakau Greenstone diggings and then moved steadily down the coast to the South. To illustrate the area to the South, the Hokitika area, there is on the next page a copy of R.M.Startup's map included in 'Westland Postal Services, 1860 - 1960' which will help the reader considerably in, as it were, getting to know his way about. I would again like to thank Robin Startup for the use of this map.

In December, 1864, the first ship, the 'Nelson' entered the mouth of the Hokitika River, probably from Nelson in the north and landed gold miners on the South Bank. On the North Bank a Store had been established by Michael Cassius who was on the ship and

one Comisky and there on 15th January, 1865, the Okitiki Post Office was opened. It is recorded that storekeepers, police and bankers were already established on the Southern Bank.

In passing may I be permitted to note that from the viewpoint of the Early Postal Historian and Chalon Head Collector that the cases containing the plates and materials for the issue of the 1d, 2d. and 1/- Values (S.G. 1, 2 and 3) were supplied on the S.S. 'Simla', a vessel of 2,441 tons gross which in February, 1855, arrived at Wellington. These cases and materials were transhipped to the S.S. 'Nelson' which arrived in Auckland in March, 1855. I have a pre-stamp cover from Wellington dated 1st May, 1855, per S.S. 'Nelson' which reached Auckland on 10th May, 1855, and eventually arrived for the addressee at Perth, Scotland, on 21st September, 1855. At that time owing to the mountainous nature of the country communication between Wellington and Auckland was either by S.S. 'Nelson' or by Maori Mail Carrier, who is rightly depicted on the 2d. value of the Centennial of the First New Zealand Postage Stamps, S.G. 739. There were no roads in 1855.

Returning to the Gold Rush on the West Coast, the news had reached Canterbury on the other, East side of the South Island early in 1865, and from "A History of New Zealand Life" we read that some Otago diggers and many people from Christchurch of all classes anxious to try their luck made their way over the little known passes of the Southern Alps. Arthur's Pass had been discovered, but at the time the Hurundi Saddle was far more practical for pack horses. John von Haast, then Provincial Geologist of Canterbury, crossed in March, 1865, and records seeing "an endless train of gold diggers with pack horses, packers driving horses before them and even women walking stoutly along by the side of their husbands and often leading pack horses, all going to the new Eldorado. Travellers on foot with heavy packs on their backs and pick-axes in their hands were also there, many of them having come several hundred miles."

One is reminded of the Pioneer Woman depicted on the 1960 Centenary of Westland Province stamp, 8d. Value, S.G. 780 in grey-black, with the child and the cob. In passing, I think this is one of the best designed stamps of the modern issues.

On the other hand there were parties of returning diggers along the same route over the Southern Alps who have been described as "ragged, starving and without money."

By April, 1865, however, there were 7,000 diggers on the West Coast and numerous ships sailed direct for Hokitika from Australian ports. The scene a little later in 1865 is described by Lady Barker in 'Station Life in New Zealand', a series of letters written apparently to her sister in England in one of which Lady Barker relates how she and her husband sailed from Melbourne on the Mail Steamer 'Albion' on 2nd October, 1865, and she records "after five days steaming we arrived in the open roadstead of Hokitika and after dropping anchor a Tug took off the steerage passengers - 300 diggers." She continues "the gold fields on this coast were only discovered eight months ago (i.e. February, 1865) and already several canvas towns have sprung up; there are 30,000 diggers at work and every vessel brings a fresh cargo of stalwart sunburnt men. It was rather late, and getting dark, but I could distinctly see the picturesque tents in the deep mountain gorge,

their white shapes dotted here and there as far back from the shore as my sight could follow, and the wreaths of smoke curling up in all directions from the evening fires: it is still bitterly cold at night, being very early spring. The river Hokitika washes down with every fresh such quantities of sand, that a bar is continually forming in this roadstead, and though vessels of the least possible draft are engaged in the coasting-trade, still wrecks are of frequent occurrence. We ought to have landed our thousands of oranges here, but this work was necessarily deferred till the morning, for it was as much as they could do to get all the diggers and their belongings safely ashore before dark; in the middle of the night one of the sudden and furious gales common to these seas sprang up and would soon have driven us on to the rocks if we had not got up our steam quickly and struggled out to sea, oranges and all, and away to Nelson, on the North Coast of the same island. Here we landed the seventh day after leaving Melbourne, and....."

The above will give the reader a general view of the conditions and gold rush activity and now enables an attempt to be made to record some of the cancellations and offices with Gold Fields origins in this area.

HOKITIKA

The name of this office was changed from Okitiki to Hokitika on 27th April, 1865. There is a c.d.s. OKITIKI CANTERBURY NZ illustrated with date AU.18.65 on page 112 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. I have never seen it. At this time Hokitika was included in the Christchurch District and it was not until 1st January, 1868, that Westland Postal District was established independant from the Christchurch District. According to Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 97, a manuscript of Hokitika does exist but it is not illustrated because the postage stamps "have not been available". Hokitika first used an Obliterator '21' within eleven horizontal bars illustrated on page 74 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, not to be confused with the duplex which included '21' within twelve vertical bars, illustrated on page 81 of the same book, and used at Invercargill. The Hokitika '21' Obliterator is also illustrated in 'Notes on the Early Cancellations of New Zealand' by Dr. K.J.L. Scott on a 3d. Chalon Head, perf. 12½, used with c.d.s. NZ HOKITIKA JA.14.69. I have this on stamp, a Chalon Head 1d. perf. 12½ pale orange vermillion, which suggests that it was in use about 1871. I also have it on a 3d. lilac shade which gives no clue as to the probable date of use. According to Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 74, Hokitika also used whilst in the Christchurch District a double cancellation (HK 2) consisting of a c.d.s. and 'C over 21' within seven horizontal bars. This double cancellation must have been very much used because I have it on 3d. Chalon Head perf. 12½ dated December '68; on 1/- Chalon Head perf. 12½ dated JU.17.68. Also I have it on cover with 6d. Chalon Head perf. 12½ to Melbourne dated DE.29.68 and on 1d. brown, 2d. orange and 2d. vermillion Chalon Heads and on 6d. blue Queen Victoria First Side-Face Definitive, suggesting that this duplex was in use up to at least 1875.

Meanwhile on 1st January, 1868, the Westland Postal District was established and because of the volume of correspondence handled

during the peak period of the gold rush in this area three more obliterated were required. Exactly when they were issued does not appear to be known. These were :-

1) A rough oval of five horizontal bars of varying thickness. I have not seen this; it would if applied evenly over a Chalon Head of the time, overlap it at either side. Dr. K.J.L.Scott, however, does illustrate it on a cover to Switzerland and the four Chalon Heads, 1/-, 6d., 2d. and 2d. are franked vertically with this obliterator and the cover bears the English Registered Mail Cachet dated at London 20.DE.72. This is the only example of which I am aware.

2) A large 'W' indicating Westland; the strokes forming the 'W' are slightly curved, and this obliterator has no bars or circle. Two examples were sold in Dr. J.D.Riddell's Postal History collection on 11th March, 1975. One was on a 1d. Chalon Head described as orange, indicating from this shade probably late use late in 1871. The other example was on a 3d. Chalon Head described as violet. There are various shades of lilac and mauve of this value but both main shades appeared during printings. There is a pale mauve shade, which would be quite near the violet described, in which case the use would be as late as 1870 and possibly even later from stamps on dated piece which I have. Then, there is the pair of the Chalon Head 1d. brown perf. 12½ which I have, showing the use of this obliterator some time between July, 1871, and the end of 1873. Finally, there is the cover which is a well known rarity of 1873, from Hokitika to Locarno, Italy, bearing two pairs of the 1871 2d. Vermilion, each cancelled with a 'W' obliterator. This cover is backstamped with the c.d.s. of Hokitika dated JU.30.73, the c.d.s. of Christchurch dated ? ? 73, and Locarno dated 11th September, 1873. On the face it also bears the London Arrival Mark ? SP.73. Dr. K.J.L.Scott illustrates this cover opened out in his 'Notes on the Early Cancellations of New Zealand'. It was up for sale in Robson Lowe's Auction on 8th March, 1961, as a Lot of Special Interest (how true!) for an estimated value of £35.00. No doubt its value today is at least ten times that figure.

Without question, there are other examples of this interesting 'W' obliterator but I would still regard it as scarce. It should not be confused with another 'W' obliterator used at Wellington and illustrated on page 57 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand: the two left hand strokes of the latter are much thinner than the Hokitika 'W' and the Wellington 'W' is more widespread.

3) A 'W' obliterator illustrated on page 74 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand; this has the strokes making up the letter 'W' straight and it is a little longer than the Hokitika 'W' in 2) described above. Dr. Scott does not mention this, I have not seen it and can at present make no comment about it. Perhaps some member will be able to comment.

Hokitika also used a circular date-stamp which appeared with the letter over NZ and sometimes this letter was omitted as shown on page 113 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand and it also used a Duplex with 'H' within four horizontal bars (north and south) and three vertical bars (east and west) of the 'H',

following the English types. In Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, this is illustrated on page 75 with date 22.0C.82, but this may be a sketch only as similar duplexes were issued to Dunedin and Wellington as early as 1875. I happen to have the Hokitika duplex on the early 2d. value of the Second Side-Face Queen Victoria definitive issue of 1882.

I should think the above are likely to be the latest West Coast Cancellations which could have Gold Fields Origins.

This article has dealt with Hokitika only; in the next I will endeavour to trace cancellations in the Hokitika area with Gold Fields origins.

JOHN D. EVANS

To be continued.

MORE IRREVERENT WORDS.

In view of the fact that, since my last few irreverent words about New Zealand stamp papers (see 'The Kiwi', Volume XXIX, page 68) I have been neither mugged, drugged, clubbed or submitted to whatever indignity native New Zealanders inflict upon their enemies, your Editor suggested I might like to take another look through my wife's collection. I have not had to look far as she has spent at least three hours this evening with magnifying glasses, perforation gauge and watermark detectors (various) and the sum total of her endeavour is the positive, er, tentative, well, at least possible identification of about three stamps! The table is littered with copies of the Penny Universal Type G. I agree that over the period this was issued variations are bound to occur but I ask you! Groups one to eleven with umpteen sub-divisions; different perforations, paper, (we won't go into that again) printers, watermarks and plates. Plates! Reserve plate, dot plate, local plates, booklet plate, Royle plate, Waterlow plate. New plates, old plates, worn plates, dinner plates (oops, sorry). Flaws constant and otherwise. Colour variations in profusion. I know that the human eye can detect an astonishing range of colours, but who's to say that carmine was'n't once deep carmine that faded since it first saw the light of day some 70 odd years ago. Goodness knows most of us have in fewer years than that. No sooner has a stamp been passed through the various stages of identification and a final decision been made than another one ends up with the same definite identity, but even to my untutored eyes the two are obviously different. So what went wrong? More to the point what went wrong with the original printers, the original paper, perforations, ink, plates? I know that it is said that a change is as good as a rest but Campbell Paterson's Catalogue lists 77 varieties and more than 55 other variations, re-entries and retouches. I wonder where the one with the fine red (carmine?) line down the left hand side that even I can see belongs. Any minute now they will all go back into the stock-book for further consideration at a later date, probably much later.

Incidentally, thank you for a very nice glass of wine at your special meeting at London 1980, most enjoyable. Thank you, too, for the chance to sit with such a talented and knowledgeable gathering. Maybe another chance will arise.

ANON

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