



24 Irwin Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5PP. Tel.: 0483 67185

THE BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1984.

THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN WILL MEET IN FLORAL 'B' ROOM OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALLS, GREYCOAT STREET, LONDON, SW1, ON FRIDAY, 19TH OCTOBER, 1984, FROM 2.00 P.M. TO 5.00 P.M. OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD, AND THERE WILL BE STATIC DISPLAYS OF NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIC MATERIAL. ANY MEMBER OR FRIEND OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE WELCOME AND WE HOPE TO MEET MANY WHO CANNOT ATTEND THE NORMAL MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

EDITORIAL.

As you will read above, there is an 'extra' meeting of the Society to be held at this year's British Philatelic Exhibition. Hopefully, this will become an annual event, but as in all matters associated with the Society, its success depends on the support given by the members.

On this occasion, there will no formal subject or display, but the Officers of the Society will be there to meet those who attend and would welcome the opportunity to talk over matters of mutual interest.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

R.Lapthorne, c/o 160, Afton, Hough Green,
Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 9XR.
P.G.Smith, 12, Hunters Way, Uckfield, Sussex, TN22 2BD.

DECEASED

D.Vickers, 9, Chester Court, Bebington, Wirral, L63 3JP.

RESIGNED

A.N.Key, Windsor House, Binstead Road, Ryde,
Isle of White, PO33 3NB.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A.B.Johnstone, c/o Richards, 20, Templewood Road,
Colchester, Essex, CO4 3EZ.

(previously of Edinburgh.)

T.D.Latto, 41, Hesketh Road, Southport, Merseyside, PR9 9PB.

(previously of St. Helens.)

Mrs. D.Noon, 29, Normanby Road, Wollaston, Nottingham.

(previously of Kirkella, Hull.)

I.Salmon, 8, The Maltings, Blyth,
Workson, Nottinghamshire, S81 8HD.

(previously of Gosport.)

A.J.Wise, 26, Old Barn Road, Bere Regis, Wareham, Dorset.

(previously of Brownsea Island, Poole.)

A.J.Woolfe, 31, Emberson Way, North Weald, Essex.

(previously of Northolt, Middlesex.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 28TH JULY, 1984 - COIL STAMPS

Our Chairman, John Smith, opened the meeting at 2.30 p.m., and

welcomed back Noel Turner whom we were all glad to see had recovered from his recent illness.

Noel Turner presented to Allan Berry the certificate of Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, giving details of his philatelic achievements and services to the hobby.

Our President, Stanley Cross-Rudkin, made a similar presentation to Robin Gwynn, with impressive details of his researches and services to the hobby in New Zealand.

Our Chairman's display of fortytwo sheets covered the full range of counter roll pairs. Starting with the second pictorial issues of 1945, he showed a variety of horizontal and vertical mesh papers, and inverted numbers. The King George VI issues included mixed horizontal and vertical mesh paper pairs, a variety of shades of the rubber stamped numbers, upright and inverted numbers and various wrappers.

The Queen Elizabeth II issues were present with similar varieties of numbers, size of gutter, and demonstrating that some of the recorded plate varieties could be found on counter roll pairs. In the 1960 issues, an item of note was a 2¹/₂d. pair, one of which showed a shift of the green colour, and a 3d. pair made up of one stamp on surfaced paper, and one on unsurfaced paper.

Allan McKellar showed the Penny Dominion slot machine coil stamps, demonstrating the double gumming needed to strengthen the coils. Stanley Cross-Rudkin showed a number of items, which also included a counter roll pair of the King George VI 1/3 value, one stamp Die 1a, the other Die 1b.

Allan Berry showed a range of material, all of which were used. Included were the special printing of the 1d. and 3d. values of the 1960 Pictorial issue specially printed for vending machine coils, but other issues from vending machines with joins, showing these coils were prepared from issued sheets.

In conclusion, and off the stated subject, Michael Burberry gave an impressive display of Penny Universal material, concentrating on the Waterlow Plates. There were many proofs, and the results of much research over many years was demonstrated.

Our Chairman proposed the vote of thanks, and the meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.

A.E.H.

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION

This will be held on Kiwi Day, Saturday, 24th November, 1984. Members who wish to place items in the Auction should note the following instructions.

A list of your lots, typewritten or in block letters please, should be sent to

Ian G. Fogg, 42, Oxford Road South, London, W4 3DH

to reach me before 2nd October, 1984, so that the catalogue can be published in time for distribution with the November issue of 'The Kiwi'.

Please state your estimate of the market value and reserve for each lot. This is a must. If you have no reserve, please say so. Also, please describe each lot briefly, e.g. UM = unmounted; MM = mounted mint; MHH = mint heavy hinge; FU = fine used;

U = used. If used, state what the postmark is like, quality of perforations, etc. Lots may be sent with your list, but in any case need to be in my hands prior to the auction. Maximum number of lots from one member is forty. All lots to be mounted and carded ready for display. A space about one inch square should be left at the right hand bottom corner for the insertion of the lot number - lots handed in on the day of the auction should have the lot numbers clearly shown. Estimates for individual lots should be for not less than £4-00. Commission is 10% of sales, and all postage, poundage, insurance etc. is payable by the vendor. Lots which comprise periodicals, books, boxes of stamps or other bulky items cannot be accepted unless the vendor undertakes to deliver and collect from the auction room, or, if sold, deliver to the purchaser direct.

APPEAL

Each year it has been the practice of many generous members to offer items, both philatelic and general, to be auctioned on behalf of Society funds. This is much appreciated. Do please see what you have surplus to your requirements. No matter what it is we will be delighted to receive it, preferably by 2nd October, so that it can be included in the catalogue, otherwise any time up to 2.00 p.m. on Kiwi Day.

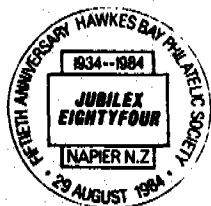
SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAIPAWA



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Waipawa on Friday, 8th June, 1984, to mark the 125th Anniversary of Waipawa. The design of the date stamp features the Waipawa clock tower.

JUBILEX 1984



A special pictorial date stamp was used on Wednesday, 29th August, 1984, at the temporary post office established at the Napier Art Gallery, venue of the 1984 Stamp Exhibition (Jubilex 1984) held to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Hawke's Bay Philatelic Society, Inc.

THE AIR MAILS OF NEW ZEALAND - VOLUME TWO,

THE OVERSEAS FLIGHTS 1928 - 1940

The Air Mail Society of New Zealand Inc. proudly announce the forthcoming publication of their new Handbook. This will be by far the most comprehensive book yet published on New Zealand Aerophilately and is the result of almost thirty years intensive research by the late Douglas A. Walker, recognised as one of the leading authorities on the subject.

This book will be a limited edition of 1,000 individually numbered copies. The pre-publication price is NZ\$35-00, plus

NZ\$3-40 postage for orders received before 15th November, 1984. Thereafter the price will be NZ\$39-95 plus postage, subject to availability.

Orders should be sent with remittance to:-

The Air Mail Society of New Zealand, Inc.,
P.O.Box 1336, Christchurch, New Zealand.

sent
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HEALTH STAMP FIRST DAY CARD

ALLAN MCKELLAR

Members may be interested in my researches on the origins of the card described by TOM LATTO in 'The Kiwi', Volume 33, page 35, March, 1984.

I wrote to the South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce, who were unable to give me any information. They passed my letter on to STEVEN McLACHLAN, of Shades Stamps, Christchurch. He wrote to me as follows:-

"I have been a full time dealer for eleven years, and I cannot recall seeing such an item before. Several collectors who were active in Timaru and Christchurch at the time are not familiar with it.

"I suspect that it is a 'one-off' done for publicity purposes. There is a South Canterbury Branch of the Health Camp Federation and they have at times issued covers, normally using the standard Federation design, but in 1982 they produced their own design. There is no Health Camp in South Canterbury and needy children are sent to Glenelg in Christchurch.

"I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful, but the information does not appear to be available."

AN ITEM OF 'MILITARY' POSTAL STATIONERY.

PETER SMITH

The item illustrated on page 78 is from my collection, and I am hoping that some member may be able to help with some information about it. Since the item is unused, the first problem is to determine the date at which it was current.

The card is not in good condition, having been used as a note pad, and having had a tea cup placed on it at some time. But it is clearly a card sent out with a parcel to a New Zealand serviceman 'On Active Service', so that it could be returned acknowledging the parcel's receipt, and stating whether or not the parcel arrived in good condition, and whether or not the contents were of an acceptable selection. The printing is in a green colour, and the colour of the card is buff.

Obviously, the firm of Hutchinson Bros. Ltd. offered a parcel service to the relatives of New Zealand servicemen, although there is no point on the card on which this relative or friend could be identified. How wide-spread was this service in New Zealand? Did other firms operate it, and if so, have other similar cards ever been recorded?

If any member can help, I would be glad to hear from them, through our Editor.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

HUTCHINSON BROS. LTD.,

P.O. Box 951,

Auckland,

NEW ZEALAND

Just by looking at the
insulation of the
splendid new day. I
couldn't tell. I
P. Gibson & Co. Ltd. (N.Z.)
C.O. Cat. 1.5.21



HUTCHINSON BROS. LTD.,
AUCKLAND

HIGH-CLASS
GROGERS



are pleased to have been of some little assistance in packing and forwarding this Parcel to you, from your friend. For their future guidance with their packing problems, they would be very grateful if you would kindly fill in the attached form and post it back to New Zealand.

CHEERIO, AND ALL THE BEST FROM NEW ZEALAND

MY PARCEL ARRIVED :

- (1.) In first-class condition, or—
- (2.) Slightly damaged, but goods useable, or—
- (3.) Badly damaged, goods unusable.
- (4.) Selection of goods would be improved by adding _____

or by omitting _____

Signature _____

FINDINGS FROM FILES.

IMPERFORATE STAMPS ON THE MARKET

ALLAN P. BERRY

This particular extract covers the period from July, 1945, to August, 1948, in two distinct episodes. It starts with a memorandum from the Director-General of the Post and Telegraph Department, Wellington, New Zealand, addressed to the Official Secretary to the High Commissioner for New Zealand, London, dated 3rd July, 1945. This reads:-

"It has been brought to the notice of this Department that, in catalogues issued by ..., a stamp auctioneer of ..., London, for January, February and March of this year, there are reproductions of pairs of imperforate current Pictorial New Zealand stamps of the denominations 2d., 1s. and 8d., respectively. Photographs of each of the illustrations are forwarded herewith.

"It will be observed that the cancellation on the 8d. stamps reads 'Field Post Office - 2', but does not include the date lines in the centre. The other strips of stamps were apparently obliterated with the same date-stamp.

"The cancellations appearing on the stamps are from a British field post office date-stamp numbered '2', and it is understood that this date-stamp was not used by the New Zealand Army Post Office or by the British Army offices in the Middle East. Also, the officer-in-charge of New Zealand Army Post Offices advises that sheets of imperforate stamps were not received by him.

"The sheet-by-sheet examination of stamps received in New Zealand from England was discontinued after the outbreak of war in Europe; but as the discovery of imperforate sheets has not been reported by postal officials or philatelists in New Zealand it is most improbable that the stamps depicted in ...'s catalogues were bought through Post Office channels.

"In any case, the main supply of stamps from New Zealand to the Middle East, containing, among others, 1,000 sheets of 2d. Pictorial, 200 sheets of 8d. Pictorial, and 50 sheets of 1/- Pictorial - all of which had been examined in detail by the Stamps Branch of this Office - was despatched late in 1940 and received in the Middle East in February, 1941. Having been examined before despatch it can be stated without any hesitation that imperforate stamps were not included. Later despatches of the stamps in question were made as follows:-

1/- denomination	50 sheets (examined)	May, 1941.
1/- denomination	50 sheets (examined)	September, 1941.
8d. denomination	40 sheets	June, 1944.
1/- denomination	100 sheets	September, 1944;

and while it is possible that the two last-mentioned remittances could have contained unexamined sheets it is most unlikely, in view of the date of their despatch, that imperforate sheets, if included therein, could have been purchased, used, and catalogued in the time available. Apart from these considerations, the genuineness of the cancellations are open to suspicion, as it is most unusual for postmarking impressions to

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POST OFFICE

be devoid of a date.

"In the circumstances, I should be glad if you would enquire of ... as to the source of supply of the stamps, and obtain his views - and possibly the views of the British Post Office - as to their genuineness. Any further enquiries that may be practicable as to where and how the stamps were obtained by the vendor would also be appreciated. In this connection, perhaps the printers (Messrs. De La Rue & Co.) would be able to state whether any imperforate sheets of New Zealand stamps were lost when their works were damaged by bombs. The British Army Post Office might be in a position to assist by advising where Field Post Office date-stamp No. 2 was in use.

"As the stamps and cancellations are viewed with suspicion by this Department, it would be appreciated if your enquiries could be pursued as extensively as possible with the object of unearthing any fraudulent practice, or checking further irregularities such as those now under review appear to indicate."

A copy of this memorandum was sent to the Post Office Stores Department, High Wycombe, by the New Zealand High Commissioner, with the following covering letter, which is dated 20th July, 1945.

"Attached is copy of a very disconcerting memorandum which has just been received from the P. & T. Department. Also attached is a photograph of one pair of the stamps - the 8d.

"I made a preliminary call at ...'s yesterday and obtained copies of the catalogues for the months in question, which I hold here. They do not help to solve this problem. I had a short discussion with Mr. G of ...'s and was, in fact, shown a pair of 1/- imperforate, postally cancelled as described in the memorandum. Mr. G holds the view that the stamps are quite genuine, and in fact they look to me to be the real thing. However, he agreed to hold them for a short time (he is going on holiday tomorrow for fourteen days) and will make them available for inspection by a representative of De La Rue, who, I believe, have secret markings on their stamps and can at all times say whether a particular stamp was produced in their works. I have not yet contacted De La Rue's, but shall be glad to hear whether you think that we might take this first course.

"It seems to me that the next thing is to discover the site of the British Field Post Office where the stamps were cancelled. Could you do this for me or should I take it up with the Army Authorities?

"We can, as the enquiry progresses, endeavour to find out from Mr. G, of ...'s, who let them have the stamps. As you know they are sent there for auction, and I do not know whether professional etiquette permits of the disclosure of the names of individuals who send stamps for sale.

"At this stage the interesting point that strikes me is that only one pair of each of the three denominations has come to light. They are carefully cancelled as if indeed they were being prepared particularly for a philatelic collection. Bearing in mind the difficulty of an imperforate sheet of any one denomination slipping through the various controls, I think it exceedingly unlikely that three sheets (one of each of three

denominations) should at the same time become available in the same Field Post Office. This then leads me to believe, assuming that the stamps are genuine, that somebody having access to waste stamps, possibly in De La Rue's own works, acquired small collections of the denominations in question, took them with him when on Service and arranged for them to be postally cancelled for his own private gain. This is, of course, purely an assumption on my part and must be treated as strictly confidential, but I cannot think of any other possibility.

"However, I shall be interested to have your views on this matter and perhaps we could discuss the best methods of pursuing this enquiry, which should at least prove interesting."

The next paper on the file is a hand written memo, dated 30th July, 1945, which reads as follows:-

"...discussed this with Army Postal Service (Major B) on July 24th. It was ascertained from the A.P.O. Records that a date stamp 'F.P.O. 2' was in use in Iceland from 1940 to 1942, when the R.A.F. took over. Major B undertook to have the subsequent history of the stamp traced if possible and to let us know the result. He thought the authenticity of the stamp was open to question judging by the curve of the figure 2."

There is also an internal letter addressed to a different person in the Post Office Stores Department, dated 25th July, 1945. This reads:-

"Enclosed is a photograph of a pair of 8d. New Zealand pictorial stamps postmarked 'Field Post Office 2'. The New Zealand authorities want to know the location of Field Post Office No. 2. We contacted the Army Post Office people at Headquarters who tell us that a Field Post Office No. 2 date stamp was supplied in September, 1940, and duly issued to an Army Post Office, but they are not at all happy that the date stamp impression shewn in the photograph is from a genuine date stamp. In particular the '2' is regarded as 'phoney'. Could you help by giving us your opinion on the genuineness or otherwise by a close comparison with the impression of the date stamp which you supplied in September, 1940, (presumably you take impressions of all date stamps supplied). The photograph is somewhat larger than life size. There is no date of posting which makes the date stamp impression even more suspect."

The reply to this is dated 26th July, 1945. It reads:-

"We have searched through our Record Book of stamp impressions from 1939 to 1941 but have failed to discover an impression of the stamp referred to in your letter of yesterday. However, we have contacted Major H of the New Zealand Army Post Office in London who gives us the following information:-

'A stamp showing 'Field Post Office 2' is held at Ma'adi, Cairo, by the New Zealand Army Post Office stationed there. Current stamps show the letters 'K W' followed by a distinguishing number but the old stamp 'Field Post Office 2' is still used in time of pressure. The omission of the time and date is done by design as a security measure.'

"I hope this information will prove useful and if we can help you further please let me know."

The results of these investigations were incorporated in a letter addressed to the New Zealand High Commission from the Post Office Stores Department, dated 30th July, 1945. This letter reads:-

"The matter has been discussed with officials of the Army Postal Service at St. Martin's-le-Grand, and it has been ascertained that a date stamp 'Field Post Office No. 2' was issued to Iceland in 1940 and was still there in 1942 when the R.A.F. took over the base. We are awaiting information as to its subsequent history.

"Enquiries have also been made at the Mount Pleasant Depot, which deals with the supply of date stamps. The files of specimen impressions do not shew any trace of this stamp. It is understood, however, that contact was made by Mount Pleasant with Major H of the New Zealand Army Post Office who furnished the following information:-

(here is quoted the paragraph from the letter dated 26th July, 1945.)

"We cannot yet say whether the date stamp which was in Iceland is the same as that in Cairo, but if there are two, the Cairo one is probably what you are looking for. Moreover, in view of its restricted use, the number of people who have access to it is probably limited. I understand you are following up the matter with Major H. His information seems to run counter to the third paragraph of the Director General's letter.

"I quite agree that De La Rue's should be asked to inspect the stamps in order to make sure they are genuine. I agree also that the facts point to a leakage from their works, probably, as you say, from 'waste' stocks, but I think the Cairo end offers the more promising field for first investigation.

"You will probably find ... unhelpful when it comes to tracing back the ownership of the stamps, but since it seems clear that they are dealing in stolen property, I do not think that they can maintain that attitude. Probably a little legal pressure would help to persuade them if necessary.

"As you say, the case is interesting, and I shall be glad to hear how it develops. I will let you have any further particulars which the Army Postal Services can supply. I am retaining the photo of the 8d. pair for the time being."

The final paper of the 1945 episode is a hand written memo, dated 23rd August, 1945, which records details of a visit to the New Zealand High Commission Offices. This reads:-

"(The Auctioneers) have been visited by (an officer of the New Zealand High Commission) with (the Deputy D.G.) and (a representative of De La Rue).

"Confirmed that stamps are genuine.

"(The Auctioneers) have taken legal advice and are not prepared to divulge name of owner. Would, however, if (an Officer of the New Zealand High Commission) agrees, ask owner whether he would object to being put in touch.

"De La Rue's say stamps could not have escaped perforation and been delivered as 'good'.

"I told (an Officer of the New Zealand High Commission) that we had no comparable case but that since there is a strong suspicion of theft our next move (if the stamps were British) would be to bring in the I(vestigation) B(ranch) and Solicitor's Dept. (The Deputy D.G.) mentioned that he will be paying a visit to the I.B., and I agreed that he should take the opportunity to seek their advice - and perhaps assistance - in regard to

"Army Post Office is pursuing enquiries with Air Ministry re No. 2 date stamp."

The material on the files concerned with the 1948 period will be published in the next issue of 'The Kiwi'.

I am very grateful to the National Postal Museum for allowing access to these files, and for permission to publish extracts from them.

THE HEADQUARTERS OBLITERATOR

JOHN D. EVANS

I had the benefit of a preview from our Editor of the article by Gerald Elliott published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 33, page 61, July, 1984, and I am pleased to note his reaction in giving details of the covers recorded by him with the Headquarters cancellation - nine in all. I must however say that the diversion by sending a force to Tauranga in April, 1864, appears from 'Maori Wars Postal Services', by R.M.Startup, published in October, 1961, and his broader statement of a Field Column of 600 men under General Greer of the 43rd and 68th Regiments and the 1st Waikato Militia Regiment is not at serious variance with the details of the Mission Station consisting of 26 Officers and 671 men (soldiers and militia men) mentioned by Gerald Elliott.

I am also pleased to see the details of the seven Headquarters Excised covers listed by Gerald Elliott and from comparison between my article and his, the question appears to be limited to whether the word 'Headquarters' was 'partly removed' or 'wholly removed'. I think it must be an obvious deduction that from the Headquarters obliterator in use at Tauranga in 1870 (Lot 304) the 'Headquarters' was partly removed according to Gerald Elliott who has the cover as against 'with name removed' by Robson Lowe in the Auction on 11th March, 1975. As the name or description 'Headquarters' was no longer appropriate at Tauranga a reasonable surmise must be that the description 'Headquarters' was to be removed and eventually was removed. All I can say is that the three stamps I have (see 'The Kiwi', Volume 33, page 16, January, 1984) when placed together have no trace of the word 'Headquarters'. Nevertheless I am sure our members will be grateful to Gerald Elliott to have a record of the Headquarters covers with their obvious rarity, but, after all, my original article was directed at the later use of the obliterator so that members, most of whom I suspect have but few Chalon Heads, might come across a 'find' in their collections.

I would also like to make the following additional comments on Gerald Elliott's article.

1. The Headquarters cover mentioned in the Jayrich Bulletin is

stated to be 4th March, 1864, but the date given for the opening of the Headquarters Army Post Office is 18th March, 1864 - some fourteen days later. If this cover could be examined again, it might reveal or be deduced that the date must be 24th March, 1864, six days after the opening of the Army Post Office.

2. The Headquarters Excised cover, HQ Ex.1, is said to be dated 11th February, 1867. British Troops were withdrawn from Tauranga on 1st November, 1865, according to R.M.Startup, and so I find difficulty in interpreting 'Camp Feb 67' endorsed on the reverse of this cover, as the next earliest date appears to be, on HQ Ex.2, 3rd March, 1870, over three years later. Possibly the endorsement refers to some other or non-military camp, in which case the word 'Headquarters' would have been erased from the obliterator at some time before February, 1867.
3. G.H.Boucher Sale, 30th October, 1969, - Lot 2222.

This is described under the heading '1872 Watermark NZ' as '1d. Brown on a very fine example of this very rare stamp with the scarce 'Headquarters' cancellation with R.P.S. Certificate (1938). Photo in colour on front cover. £150.' There is also a photo-enlargement of the stamp. As at any rate in my opinion it is safer to regard the earliest use of the Headquarters Excised obliterator as 3rd March, 1870, (HQ Ex.2), how come that the obliterator including the word 'Headquarters' should appear on a stamp of 1872? First with regard to the R.P.S. Certificate. It is within my knowledge that stamps certified with very old Certificates, which after all are of opinions expressed on material and knowledge available at the time, are in rare instances the subject of re-certification.

A. On the assumption that the NZ watermark of the stamp is genuine.

It is interesting to note that Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand was published in 1938, the same year as the R.P.S. Certificate. On page 659 of Volume 1 the Headquarters obliterator is referred to, but not the use of the obliterator with 'Headquarters' excised. This was therefore not established in 1938 but appears to have been discovered in May, 1959, when it was reported in 'Pacific Stamp Journal', Volume 7, number 2 - see R.M.Startup, page 76. Next the use of the NZ watermarked paper for the 1d. brown, S.G. 140. Pages 82-83 of Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand state it is possible that this variety could have been printed in 1871 and not in 1872, but 1872 is the year given in Appendix 2 on papers at page 638. In either case however these dates are well after the earliest date of use of the Headquarters obliterator with the word excised, namely, 3rd March, 1870, on HQ Ex.2 above, or perhaps 11th February, 1867, on HQ Ex.1.

One assumes that the present owner (not known to me) of Lot 2222 would be well advised to have the stamp re-certified in the light of present knowledge and research. Logically one questions the genuineness of the cancellation because if the cancellation is genuine it might have to be assumed that there were two 'Headquarters' obl iterators, but this would be contrary to R.M.Startup - page 63 says that

the Post Office in New Zealand supplied the Headquarters Army Post Office with 'an obliterator'.

The cancellation on the 1d. brown S.G. 140 obviously needs comparing with other examples; meanwhile if the R.P.S. Certificate has to be regarded as unsafe it is a great pity that such a good copy of the 1d. rarity should have been implicated.

B. On the assumption that the NZ watermark is open to question.

The coloured photograph of the stamp in the Catalogue is brown, assuming the colour photography is reasonably accurate as I have always found in Robson Lowe Catalogues. By 1st July, 1871, the date of change of colour to brown, the plate of the 1d. value showed signs of wear after years of use and these states of wear are described in Campbell Paterson's Catalogue as a range from intermediate to advanced. The intermediate wear is described for the 1d. brown (shades) from 1871 to the perf. 10 x 12½ variety (S.G. 128) with large star watermark which also appears with advanced plate wear in the Catalogue. From my own collection of Early New Zealand Postal History I have 1d. brown (shades) stamps with intermediate plate wear (S.G. 128) used at Auckland, Hawkes Bay, Christchurch, Dunedin and other places showing that stamps with this state of plate wear were distributed for sale in all important as distinct from one or more individual offices. Later in 1871 the 1d. stamp was issued with perf. 12½ (S.G. 132 and 132A) and of these I have at least eleven examples used at various main offices mostly of intermediate plate wear but including advanced plate wear in one or two cases. Obviously the later the issue the greater the plate wear. The no watermark papers came from various sources (Volume 1, pages 638-639) and the date given is 1871 (S.G. 137) but the stamps are in a state of advanced plate wear. There is no doubt about this from comparison with medium plate wear stamps (S.G. 128) and advanced plate wear stamps (S.G. 137) of which latter I have several. The NZ watermarked paper has already been referred to in (A) above but according to Volume 1, page 638, was used in 1872 for the 1d. brown during a shortage of paper with large star watermark. At one time I had a defective copy of the 1d. stamp with NZ watermark (S.G. 140) and there is no doubt in my opinion that the state was advanced plate wear as appears in Campbell Paterson's Catalogue.

What, then, is the significance of these states of plate wear? I think there is no doubt that from the colour photograph of the 1d. Lot 2222 the plate wear is probably described as intermediate and not advanced. Lot 2222 has the 'Headquarters' cancellation and we have seen that the word 'Headquarters' had been excised from 3rd March, 1870 - HQ Ex.2 - and possibly in 1867. Is there an explanation - yes, I think so, for we see in Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand at page 672 that forged watermarks are known, including genuine copies of Chalon Heads on large star watermark paper being neatly thinned 'with the NZ device' to make them resemble the issues on NZ paper.

Subject therefore to seeing the stamp of Lot 2222 there is room for the explanation that the stamp is one of those isolated cases where a perf. 12½ stamp (S.G. 132) with intermediate plate wear has been 'neatly thinned' with the NZ device to resemble the NZ watermark, S.G. 140, but the forger has overlooked the advanced plate wear.

I confess I do not know what 'the NZ device' is or was, but it was known in 1938 when Volume 1 was published and possibly when the R.P.S. Certificate was issued in respect of Lot 2222. S.G. 140 used is now catalogued by Campbell Paterson at NZ\$5,000 and I very much hope that the R.P.S. Certificate for Lot 2222 can in the interests of the hobby be reconsidered.

ENDANGERED ANIMAL WILDLIFE FEATURES ON SPECIAL STAMP ISSUE

ALAN MEEK

Several of New Zealand's fascinating reptiles and a native amphibian are featured in a special stamp issue, Endangered Animal Wildlife. The five stamps, released on 11th July, 1984, show the rare Hamilton's Frog (24c); Great Barrier Skink (24c); Harlequin Gecko (30c); Otago Skink (58c); and Gold-striped Gecko (70c). The two 24c stamps are printed se-tenant. All the designs are by Allan Mitchell of Wellington.

While New Zealand has only a small number of amphibian and reptile species in comparison to many other countries, they are of considerable zoological significance. All our native amphibians, and many of the reptiles are rare - several are classified as endangered. The world-famous 'living fossil', the Tuatara has enjoyed strict legal protection since 1895 and native frogs since 1922. It was not until 1981, however, that the same protection was extended to all but four species of lizard.

Hamilton's Frog is one of three species of native New Zealand frogs and is regarded as being among the rarest amphibians in the world. Found on only two small islands in the Cook Strait region, the frog was first discovered on Stephen's Island in 1915 and later named *Leiopelma hamiltoni* after Mr. H. Hamilton of the Dominion Museum who collected the first specimens.

Sightings of the species over the following years were rare - indeed Hamilton's Frog was thought at one time to be extinct - but more were subsequently discovered and in 1958 a second colony was found on Maud Island in Pelorous Sound.

L. hamiltoni is considered an unusual frog because it lives under stones and well away from standing water, depending on high humidity for its entire life cycle. Also unusual is the fact that, like all of New Zealand's native frogs, they do not produce tadpoles but hatch as small, already formed froglets. Both populations of Hamilton's frog are now in strictly controlled sanctuaries, providing additional protection in their isolated and relatively inaccessible island homes.

Another island dweller, the Great Barrier Skink, features on a second, se-tenant, 24c stamp in the Wildlife issue. One of the rarest of the New Zealand lizards, *Leiopisma homalonotum* is now found only on Great Barrier Island in the Hauraki Gulf near Auckland. Despite considerable searching, only 35 of these skinks

have been seen in the last ten years.

This is New Zealand's largest skink, growing up to 400 mm in length. Great Barrier Skinks live within stands of native and exotic forest on the island, sheltering under logs, stones, or even in water if disturbed.

The Harlequin Gecko, *Hoplodactylus rakiurae*, which is seen on the 30c stamp, only became known to science in 1981. They are found only in the southern part of Stewart Island, making this the southernmost naturally occurring gecko in the world. It is one of the most spectacularly patterned of New Zealand geckos, and also the rarest with only about a dozen ever seen.

New Zealand geckos are generally thought to be among the most primitive types in the world, and they display several unique features. They produce living young while all other geckos, with the exception of some in New Caledonia, lay eggs. Another difference is that while New Zealand geckos can produce some audible sound, they are not usually as vocal as their overseas relatives. They do however share the unblinking stare of all geckos and the same remarkable ability to climb smooth hard surfaces.

The Otago Skink, *Leiolopisma otagense*, 58c stamp, is another rare lizard which, unusually, chooses a sub-alpine habitat, the tussock country of Otago in the South Island. In daytime these large skinks, some over 300 mm long, come out to bask on sunny outcrops. They are very wary, their only defence being to run away if disturbed.

One major threat to many New Zealand reptiles is the destruction of their natural habitat as more and more land is brought into productive farming use. Another problem is introduced predators, which in Otago include ferrets, stoats, rats, and perhaps most dangerous, wild cats.

The Gold-striped Gecko, *Hoplodactylus chrysosireticus*, 70c stamp, is also known as the Taranaki gecko. It is now found in only two places, Taranaki Province and on Mana Island, both in the west of the North Island.

These small geckos, up to 140 mm in length, are mainly nocturnal and so few have been seen that their natural habitat remains uncertain. It has also been difficult to determine the numbers of this species, but they have been successfully bred in captivity as a conservation measure.

Most wildlife experts recognise that legal protections are not the complete answer in ensuring the survival of New Zealand's unique fauna. Greater public awareness can also play an important part, say the experts, in helping to conserve the habitats that support these rare and endangered species.

A New Zealand Post Office Feature Article.

NEW ZEALAND EXPRESS COMPANY CARRIAGE LABELS.

ALAN JACKSON

Readers will possibly be familiar with the large labels used to frank parcels and letters carried by the New Zealand Express Company in the early part of this century. It is clear from the following extract taken from the New Zealand Post Office Rule Book

of 1912 that the company had a special arrangement with the Post Office for Express Company letters posted in mail boxes on trains.

'Special private bags for the New Zealand Express Company's correspondence are used on mail-trains. The private bags are used only for letters posted on mail-trains in special covers, which are of a striking pattern and easily identified. Any letters in the special covers for offices en route of any travelling post office or for places beyond the terminal point are despatched in mails in the usual way, the only letters enclosed in the private bags being those addressed to the terminal office on the section. Correspondence for the company, enclosed in the special covers and posted on express trains to which mail-vans are not attached or in guard's van letter boxes, are to be picked out at the terminal station by the post office messenger clearing the box. The messenger is to cancel the stamps on such letters by writing his initials thereon with an indelible-ink pencil, and is to hand the letters to the New Zealand Express Company's representative at the railway station. Messengers clearing posting boxes at stations en route, when going through the correspondence, will place together any of the Express Company's letters in the special covers, so that they may be quickly available on the arrival of the train at the terminal station.' Section 662.

Little has previously been published on the subject of the Express Company labels. The above, while it provides a lot of valuable new information about the operation of the Company's service, also raises a few questions. It is clear that the Company had a much closer relationship with the Post Office than had previously been realised, if Post Office posting boxes on trains could be used to deposit articles to be carried by the Company.

Some questions which arise are -

- a) Did the Company pay an annual commission to the Post Office for the facility of using Post Office posting boxes and other services?
- b) Was a supply of the 'special private bags' held in each travelling post office? From the instructions, it would seem so.
- c) What was the 'striking pattern' which identified the special covers transmitted through the Express Company's system? No surviving examples of these special covers have been reported.
- d) Did these special Express Company covers which were deposited in train posting boxes require New Zealand Post Office stamps in addition to the Company labels? If the Company paid an annual commission to the Post Office, presumably extra stamps would not be required.
- e) What is the significance of 'Any letters in the special covers for offices en route of any travelling post office or for places beyond the terminal point are despatched in mails in the usual way'? Were such articles cancelled by the travelling post office datestamps? What happened to special covers 'for places beyond the terminal point'? Did they continue to accompany ordinary mails? The instruction seems to imply this.

Judging by the provision for immediate delivery of Express Company letters at arrival stations, it appears that the Company

operated a service equivalent to today's express courier companies.

An article on the special labels used to frank articles carried by the Company appeared in 'Captain Cook', Volume 5, pages 71 - 75, May, 1977. The labels are recorded there in the following values - ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d. and 1/-. All are very scarce today.

WORLD WAR 1 INLAND POST CARD

J.A.FIREBRACE

The Post Card illustrated on page 44 of 'The Kiwi', Volume 33, May, 1984, is a very interesting example of World War 1 postal stationery and I would like to hear of other examples. I have recorded one other card, dated the day after that illustrated, 29th August, 1918, signed 'H.Wicks (?)', 10 Canterbury Mounted Rifles, N.Z. Brigade, Palestine' stating that 'the parcels arrived in first class order and are highly appreciated'.

My example is not censored; triangular censor 3237 as illustrated was probably allocated to H.Q. New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade. Postage to New Zealand from Palestine was free at this period although most letters and cards were endorsed 'On Active Service'.

The New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade had landed at Alexandria on 3rd December, 1914, and joined the New Zealand and Australian Division on 18th January, 1915, on its formation. The Brigade joined the Australian and New Zealand (ANZAC) Mounted Division on its formation on 16th March, 1916, and continued to use the date-stamp illustrated as Type 24 on page 354 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, at least until 18th January, 1917.

The Field Post Office N.Z. datestamp first appeared in skeleton form and is recorded thus between 13th June, 1917, and 20th July, 1917. The definitive double ring version as used on these cards is known between 21st September, 1917, and 24th May, 1919.

The Brigade took part in the action at Abu Tellul on 14th July, 1918, and on 7th August was camped at Ain es Duk. On 5th September they moved to the river Awja, marched up the river Jordan on 20th September and were at the capture of es Salt on 23rd September.

1890'S OFFICIAL 'FREE' ENVELOPE 'ON BANKRUPTCY BUSINESS ONLY'.

ALAN JACKSON

From 1861 Government Departments in New Zealand were granted the privilege of free postage. Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand states on pages 461-462 'Some Government Departments have used envelopes, wrappers and address labels with printed frank stamps and inscriptions...Some Departments used envelopes without frank stamps, but with inscriptions "On Public Service Only", "On Her Majesty's Service", or "On His Majesty's Service".'

Illustrated on page 73 is an early official envelope which does not comply with any of these formats. It was posted on 20th April, 1894, to Dunedin, and bears a backstamp of the Dunedin North R.T.P.O. dated 23 AP 94. Envelopes of this description have not been recorded previously as far as I know, and in fact very little at all has been published on the subject of official stationery of New Zealand Government Departments.