



The Kiwi



The Official Organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN.

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WHOLE 231

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1992,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

THE ANNUAL COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE, DETAILS OF WHICH MAY
BE FOUND ON PAGES 9 AND 10 OF THE LAST ISSUE OF 'THE KIWI'

WHILE JUDGING TAKES PLACE, A DISPLAY OF MILITARY MAIL
WILL BE GIVEN, LED BY ERNIE LEPPARD.

KIWIHOST CACHET



HON.EDITOR,
'THE KIWI' MAGAZINE,
24 IRWIN RD,
GUILDFORD,
SURREY GU2 5PP,
ENGLAND.



EBBETT PARK LODGE, HASTINGS

See Page 29

EDITORIAL

First of all, apologies are due to all for the mistake made in two places in the last issue of 'The Kiwi', where the wrong date was given for the last meeting of the Society. How I came to assign 29th January, 1992, to the last Saturday in that month, I do not know. I trust that it did not put any of you off attending a magnificent meeting.

Our Treasurer has asked me to remind you all that subscriptions were due in January, 1992. Those on whose address label a blue cross appears have not yet paid up, according to Ernie Leppard. Please do so now, to ensure continuing receipt of future issue of 'The Kiwi'.

Also, with this issue the revised version of the Society's Rules is being distributed. If any member has any comment to make on these, would they please contact our Chairman,

Alan Gardiner, 34, Hulse Road, Salisbury, Wilts., SP1 3LY

Hopefully, the present issue will not be afflicted in any way by gremlins, due to my fault or that of anyone else!

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

G.A.Douglas, 6, Wick Glen, Billericay, Essex, CM12 0HS
Robert Gutknecht, Huegelhain 1A, W 2100 Hamburg 90, Germany.
J.Morrow, 4, Lowther Avenue, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 4RE
Wolfgang Saver, Wolfgarten Str. 63, 6070 Langen, Germany.
P.J.Skinner, P.O.Box 25145, St. Heliers, Auckland, New Zealand.

RESIGNED

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Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 0JP
D.C.Forster, Fogg's House, Bowkers Green Lane,
Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, Lancs., L39 9ER
N.Hart, P.O.Box 28363, Remuera, Auckland 5, New Zealand.
A.J.Higginson, 1, Hill Rise, Burbage, Leics.
R.Lyman, P.O.Box 348, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York, U.S.A.
Mrs. D.M.Noon, 29, Normanby Road, Wollaton, Nottingham.

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 1992

The Meeting was opened at 2.30 p.m. by our Chairman, Alan Gardiner, with apologies for absence from Ian Fogg. Twenty three members were present, including Tony Stevens, a founder member, and Michael Blinkhorn, a long-standing member. Pro Forms for entry to the Annual Competition were available, and after some further announcements were made, Alan introduced the visiting speaker, Dr. A.F.Dove, commenting that fourteen years had passed since he last spoke to the Society.

KING GEORGE V DEFINITIVES

Dr. Dove said that his display was arranged in three parts, each to be shown separately; the development of the design; various aspects of the issue; the values and their changes.

King George V succeeded to the throne in 1911 at a time when the

King Edward VII stamps had been in use for only a short time, and until the King George V Definitives were ready, the earlier stamps were used for a further four years. A local artist, H. Linley Richardson, was contracted to produce a suitable design. A most fascinating story was then unfolded, every stage of which was illustrated with superb material. Richardson's first sketches were shown, including one on the back of a card of the College where he was engaged as a tutor. A design submitted to Perkins Bacon and completed by them produced an essay that was later rejected by the new Postmaster-General, Sir R. Heaton Rhodes, who suggested a return to the much admired 'Chalon' design. The Chalon 3d. value was used to give a version in which Queen Victoria's head was changed for that of King George V. An illustration of this hybrid, lodged in the Post Office Archives, was shown, but it was not adopted. Richardson then tried a design based on the classic Penny Black. Perkins Bacon considered the concept good but the execution poor. The firm used the drawing to make a background with the identical machine employed for the Penny Black, adding a frame and the portrait and making a die. The proofs show that this exists in two states, and in a number of colours. After hardening, impressions were taken on a transfer roller and die proofs for other values produced. Plate proofs were pulled initially in black, then in different colours. Sheets were overprinted 'colour print' for security; one set not so overprinted is very scarce. The colours of the 4d., 6d. and 1/- were retained, but those of the 2d., 3d. and 9d. were changed.

The stamps were finally issued on 30th July, 1915. All the values except the ½d. were recess printed. At first, the 2½d. value was confused with the 8d. value due to the close similarity of colour. By then, there was small demand for the 2½d. value, so it was taken off sale with only 4,000 sold. This caused an outcry from philatelists, so it was returned, and when, as shortly happened, the 7½d. became obsolete with a postal rate change, its brown shade was given to the 8d. value in March, 1922. This also necessitated the addition of a 5d. value. For all this time, the Penny Dominion had been in use. Now, Richardson was commissioned to produce a new design for this and two high value stamps. As Admiral Jellicoe of First World War fame was then the Governor General, Richardson conceived the idea of showing King George V in Admiral's uniform. The 1d., 2/- and 3/- values were all surface printed. Apart from overprinting for use in the Dependencies, the stamps were overprinted for presentation sets, with 'specimen' for the U.P.U., and, perhaps most interestingly, with the word 'cleaned', applied to stamps fiscally used and cleaned for later philatelic sale.

The second part of the display covered the paper and watermarks. It opened with a sheet of the Cowan unsurfaced paper of 1902, used for this issue. It was a paper of consistent quality during its life to 1933. Lower right corner blocks with large margins showed watermarked numbers, indicating five separate dandy rolls, from 1 to 5. In 1933, the 4d., 6d. and 1/- values were issued on a thinner, esparto paper. In 1916, supplies ran out, and old stocks of paper used for the 2½d. 1898 Pictorial Definitive was used. The 1½d. had the watermark upright, and the layout led to some stamps showing no watermark.

Four different papers were illustrated for the surface printed stamps, De La Rue, Jones, Cowan, and, finally, Wiggins Teape. The differences were clearly demonstrated. There was a supply of the Cowan paper surfaced on the wrong side, leading to stamps with reversed watermark. Others on a thicker, chalk surfaced paper were for use in slot machines.

The perforation varieties, with the famous 'two-perf' pairs were shown and explained in detail. Imperforate stamps were shown and the way these varieties came about was discussed. Patching was also illustrated, where defective stamps in a sheet were replaced by new stamps patched into the sheet.

The third section of this display treated each value in turn, from the ½d. through to the 3/-. The ½d. value was represented by the printings on various papers, demonstration of the wear to the top row, replaced in sheets overprinted 'Official' by stamps from a more normal part of the sheet, booklet stamps with various advertisements on the selvedge, and the stamp overprinted 'War Tax'. The 1d. stamp was followed by the 1½d., initially produced by recess printing, but with the demand increased by the new overseas postal rate, by a locally produced surface printing plate from a die engraved by Bock, and the later from a plate made from a Perkins Bacon die. The initial colour of black was changed to orange-brown, so that cancellations would show up better. The 2d. value was initially printed in purple. When the stamp duty on receipts was increased to 2d., the colour was swapped with the 4d., that becoming purple, while the 2d. became yellow, so that pen cancelling would be more apparent. The 2½d. value shares with the 9d. value the distinction of being the only values to remain unaltered throughout the period of its use. The 3d. value was changed to surface printing. The first plate for the 6d. value became worn and was replaced with a new plate whose definition was not as good. A printing in carmine-lake was tried, and being short-lived, is scarce. The 1/- value required four plates, the last two of which were not of such high quality. A small printing of 1928 was in an orange-brown shade. The magnificent issue was superseded in 1935, and passed into history, after twenty years of service.

Our President, John Smith, proposed a vote of thanks, admitting to being rather at a loss for words to express our admiration for such a magnificent display. It was a privilege to be present at this meeting.

M.C.B.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY LIST AS AT 1ST FEBRUARY, 1992

ITEM	Lending Fee Code
207. Post Office Review, Report dated 21st February, 1986 R.N.Mason and M.S.Morris.....	B
208. Stampways Coast Community Society Document Exchange Ross Marshall.....	B
209. New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogue, Part 2, Lettercards, 1989, by R.D.Samuel.....	D
210. New Zealand Air Mail Etiquettes and Air Mail Labels by James A. Stapleton.....	B

- 211. Magnificent New Zealand. A Journey Through the Country
in Words and Pictures, by Collins.....D
- 212. The British Library, Past, Present, Future.....C
- 213. The Postage Stamps of New Zealand 1873 - 1935
The 'Midas' Collection - Sotheby's Auction Catalogue....HC
- 214. A Postal History of the Samoan Islands, Part 11
1914 - 1989, by Richard Burge.....G
- 215. Handbook of New Zealand Aviation Cinderellas and
Air Mail Labels, by James A. Stapleton.....B
- 216. Post Office Archives Index to Minuted Papers
Date Range 1883 - 1973, Post 122.....E
- 217. Postmark Taranaki Supplement Updated to July, 1990,
by Robin Startup and Andrew McNiven.....A
- 218. New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogue, by R.D.Samuel..HC
- 219. Along the Line. 100 Years of Post Office Unionism,
by Bert Roth.....HC
- 220. Revised Checklist of Datestamps, Postal Markings of
Banks Peninsula and Ellesmere, by Jean Crow.....C
- 221. Box Link Notes January, '90, by R.M.Startup.....A
- 222. The 1990 New Zealand Post Offices Cancellation and
Postmark Guide, by Richard Wooders.....HC
- 223. British Empire Campaigns and Occupations in the Near
East, 1914 - 1924, A Postal History, by John Firebrace..HC
- 224. The Story of New Zealand, by Prof. Frank Parsons.....HC
- 225. The Collectors Club Philatelist, Volume 67, 1988.....HC
- 226. The Collectors Club Philatelist, Volume 68, 1989.....HC
- 227. Register of New Zealand Registration Labels, Types
N7C, N7D, Q, S and T.....HC

The Lending Fee Codes and up-to-date information on the use of the Society Library were published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 41, page 7, January, 1992. An updated Library List will be published shortly.

THE BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

Your Committee recently decided to maintain the Society's affiliation to the British Philatelic Federation, despite an increase in fees from £34-00 to £65-00 per year. It is therefore considered appropriate to acquaint members who may not have individual membership of the British Philatelic Federation with the aims of that body. These are given as:-

- 1) To represent British Philately internationally.
- 2) To organise the competitive side of the National Exhibition.
- 3) To look after British exhibitors internationally.
- 4) To educate adult British philatelists with judging and exhibition workshops.
- 5) To promote true collecting amongst junior collectors.
- 6) To promote the hobby of stamp collecting.

The principal aim is to help the average society member develop his or her collection and thereby get more enjoyment from the hobby.

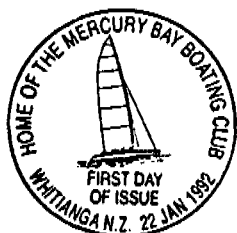
Anyone wishing to take up individual membership may obtain details from:-

Robert Seaman, The Secretary, The British Philatelic Federation,
107, Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6PT.

ALAN GARDINER, CHAIRMAN

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

THE NEW ZEALAND CHALLENGE - 1992 AMERICA'S CUP



A special pictorial date stamp was used at the Whitianga Post Shop on Wednesday, 22nd January, 1992, to coincide with the release of the New Zealand Challenge 1992 America's Cup stamp issue.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NELSON



A special pictorial date stamp was used at the Nelson Post Shop on Friday, 31st January, 1992, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Nelson.

NEW ZEALAND POST LIMITED

ALLAN P. BERRY

In 'The Kiwi', Volume 40, page 79, September, 1991, I wrote with certain critical comments about the activities of New Zealand Post Limited, drawing on information from a variety of sources. One of the points of criticism was the release in very quick succession of Greetings Stamp Booklets, first at 40 cent face value per stamp, and then at 45 cent face value per stamp, without change in design.

DAVID BIGNELL, Manager, Operations, New Zealand Post Limited Stamps and Collectibles, has written on 9th October, 1991, in response to these points. In 'The Kiwi', Volume 41, page 16, January, 1992, part of this letter dealing with the New Zealand stamp archives was published. Other points were covered in this letter, and I quote with DAVID BIGNELL's permission:-

"You have indicated that you are not happy about the Greetings Booklet and most unhappy that they were issued in the 40 cent value, followed within weeks by the same design at the 45 cent value. These booklets initially went on sale on 15th May, 1991. At the time we ordered their printing, we did not know the date on which the rate increase would occur. As we regard these booklets as definitive stamps, we had no option other than to release them at the 45 cent value on 1st July, 1991.

"Although I had learnt of the rate increase to occur on 1st

July, 1991, just very briefly before the release of the booklets on 15th May, 1991, it was inappropriate to stop their release for a number of reasons. Not least of these reasons was the fact that no public statement had been made about the new rate to apply from 1st July, 1991, and it was most inappropriate for me to make any comment regarding it. You may recall that information regarding the release of these booklets was first published in late 1990 when the annual calendar for 1991 was released.

"I note your criticisms of the issuing policies of New Zealand Post. My comment here would be that we ourselves are very conscious of just how much the market will stand. Recent surveys of stamp collectors, in which we have received over thirty thousand responses, indicate that the biggest majority of these customers are happy with our present issuing policy. ...in difficult economic times as we face in this country today, we need to be careful."

STAMP BOOKLET DESIGN

On a different matter, DAVID BIGNELL in the same letter commented about the design of the booklets themselves. Bearing in mind that the letter is dated 9th October, 1991, and that there have been further developments, the comments are nevertheless of interest. Those of you who have inspected them will know that the Greetings Booklets are presented in a manner that permits them to be hung at sales outlets, the design being known as 'hang/sell'. The presence of a staple holding the booklet closed, which has to be removed to allow access to the stamps inside, has caused comment, possibly also damaged fingers or finger nails! The reason for the design is given as follows:-

"The staples are there to prevent people removing a single stamp [when the booklets are on display]. ...we have had our stamp booklets redesigned, and once the existing booklets are used, the new design will be placed on sale. ...the overall dimensions of the booklet have been reduced in size to that of a credit card. Also, the booklets are glue-tacked together in a similar manner to the British booklets. There is also a little tag to keep the booklets closed once they have been initially used by their purchasers."

Readers will know that stamps of the later design, as described above, have been placed on sale.

SCOTT BASE STAMPS

In 'The Kiwi', Volume 40, page 81, September, 1991, information was given concerning the release of Scott Base Stamps. One of the reasons given was that 'New Zealand Post now require pre-payment and regular reading of the meter [used at Scott Base by the Armed Forces Canteen Council] by New Zealand Post Staff'. On this matter DAVID BIGNELL writes:-

"While New Zealand Post requires pre-payment and regular meter reading of automatic stamping machines, it has naturally made a concession for the one at Scott Base. The machine is still (9th October, 1991) housed at Scott Base, and used by the Armed

Forces Canteen Council down there. I know that any mail of the Philatelic nature which is received by the D.S.I.R. in Christchurch is returned to the senders. D.S.I.R. will not forward mail down to the Antarctic for the purpose of having their A.S.M. machine impression printed on it."

MODERN PRIVATE POSTAL STATIONERY

TONY DODD

With reference to the report by ROBIN STARTUP under the above title, published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 40, pages 102 - 103, November, 1991, I can report that supplies received in the Hastings Office show some changes. Types 1) and 2) have been modified in the following respects:-

- 1a) The envelope is still 16.2 cms x 11.3 cms, but the New Zealand Post logo has been omitted and the name on the right hand side flattened and changed to 'UNITED BANK', similar to Type 3).
- 2a) The size of the envelope remains at 22.5 cms x 11.5 cms but with the same changes as outlined at 1a) above.

I imagine that the alterations have been made following the change of name in June, 1990, from the United Building Society to the United Bank.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST DECIMAL DEFINITIVES OF NEW ZEALAND

R.G.DARGE

Continued from page 12

SEVEN CENT FISHING INDUSTRY

The stamp was the sixth and last of the Export Set. It was issued on the 3rd December, 1969, and was destined for a short life.

The design was prepared by the Display Section of the Public Relations Division of the Post Office in the usual two panel horizontal format. The left pane depicts a fishing trawler and the right pane a conglomeration of fish spread across a deck.

The printing by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. by offset lithography required four cylinders, being yellow, blue, red and black. The sheet value is \$7 and appears crooked on the sheet.

The cylinder was divided into two panes each containing 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10.

The Imprint and cylinder numbers appear in the bottom selvedge below Row 10, stamp 1, and the sheet value above Row 1, stamp 10.

The stamps were perforated by a single comb machine measuring $13\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 with the left of the sheet being fed first into the comb head. The double sheets appear to be perforated after division into single sheets.

The paper used has no watermark.

A missing yellow in one stamp in each of a number of sheets and a partial missing yellow from the right of the sheet has been reported.

Several sheets with a colour shift of the black have been seen. The ship is blurred and has double rigging.

7 cent varieties.

lalalala Row 9, stamp 7 Dark blue spot in sky near rigging.

Row 10, stamp 8 Break at top of '7'.

Miscellaneous.

Black colour out of register.

Yellow colour missing.

Partial yellow colour missing.

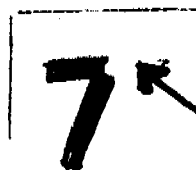
Red doctor blade lines across stamps.

Wide red doctor blade across top selvedge.



Row 9, stamp 7

lalalala



Row 10, stamp 8

lalalala

SEVEN AND A HALF CENT BROWN TROUT

The stamp depicts the Brown Trout which thrives in the inland rivers and streams of New Zealand. The issue has been dealt with earlier in this series of articles - see 'The Kiwi', Volume 39, page 32, March, 1990.

The stamp has perforation varieties in that one sheet is known imperforate and another has a complete double perforation of the single comb head - second printing.

A number of sheets can be found with perforation pips appearing in the bottom selvedge. The sheets suffered from a large bottom selvedge and it is not surprising that it was struck by the comb head on occasions.

A reddish line across the words 'NEW ZEALAND' appears in some sheets of both the first and second printing.

7½ cent varieties.

1A1A1A1A - First printing.

Row 9, stamp 2 Thin black vertical line between fins.

Row 10, stamp 13 Small flaw under top fin.

Unplated Reddish line through 'NEW ZEALAND'.

1A1A1A1A - Second printing

Row 9, stamp 2 As above.

Row 10, stamp 13 As above.

Unplated Reddish line through 'NEW ZEALAND'.

Double perforation - full extra strike.

Sheet imperforate.

Doctor blade - wide blue band on left selvedge.



Row 9, stamp 2



Row 10, stamp 13

CINDERELLA CORNER

AUCKLAND ISLANDS

JOHN WATTS

The Auckland Islands, which lie in Latitude 50 degrees, 32' 30" South and Longitude 166 degrees, 12' 34" East, have provided a source of treasure hunters interest since 1868, when the full rigged three masted American ship 'General Grant' sank on 16th May, ten days out from Melbourne, Australia, on passage to Great Britain via Cape Horn.

There were 83 people on board, including 68 miners returning from the Victorian goldfields, many believed to be carrying gold in their luggage. It was estimated that there was gold in excess of £3,000,000-00 on board.

68 people perished in the wreck. Of the 14 men and one woman who survived, one died later and four were never seen again after leaving in an attempt to reach Stewart Island approximately 200 miles away. Expeditions have been planned to find the gold in 1868, 1870, 1876, 1877, 1916, 1983 and 1985. It is the last three that are of interest to cinderella collectors.

The 1916 Expedition is known as the Catling Expedition after its leader, Captain Percy Vincent Catling, a Londoner who arrived in Dunedin in 1915 and formed the Catling Fishing & Prospecting Company.

One of the Company's ships, a 24 ton cutter, the 'Enterprise', was sailed to the Auckland Islands in 1915 to set up an advance base in Carnley Harbour. In February, 1916, Captain Catling set sail to search for the lost treasure. The expedition lasted for four months. No sighting of the wreck was reported and Catling stated that he had to give up due to lack of capital.

A friend of Catling was J.W.H. Bannerman, the proprietor of a newspaper and printing works at Bluff. He was a keen stamp collector until his death on active service in France during the 1914 - 1918 war.

Bannerman made arrangements with Catling to carry mail on the 'Enterprise' to the Auckland Islands and on its ultimate return to New Zealand.

As part of this exercise, Bannerman designed and then printed on his own presses two adhesive labels, illustrated at Figure 1. They were given the values of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d., one in green and the other in red. The printing was on woven unwatermarked paper which was perforated before printing by means of a line machine guaging 11.5. Single line blocks were made of each value to produce a sheet of 12 labels in two horizontal rows of six. It was necessary to make 12 separate strikes of the block, which is the reason for the labels often being found with the printing off centre.

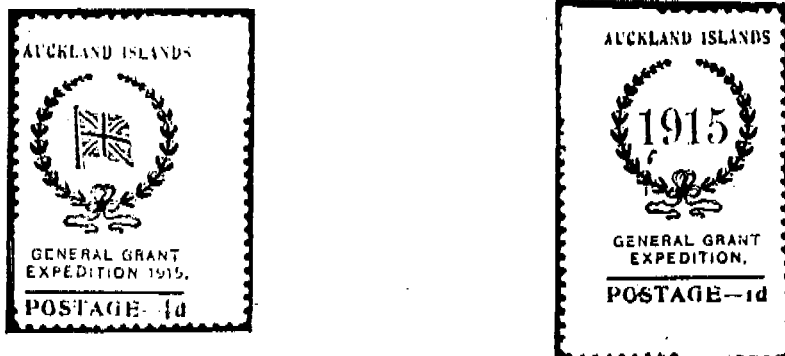


Figure 1

Envelopes are known with the labels plus a New Zealand King George V $\frac{1}{2}$ d. definitive stamp. They were cancelled at Port Ross where a 'Post Office' was set up. The private postmark was a double ring containing the wording 'Auckland Island Catling Expedition' and the date, 23 March, 1916.

When the 'Enterprise' returned to New Zealand, the covers were handed in to the Bluff Post Office and backstamped July 7.1916. The covers were addressed to Mr. Bannerman in his own handwriting.

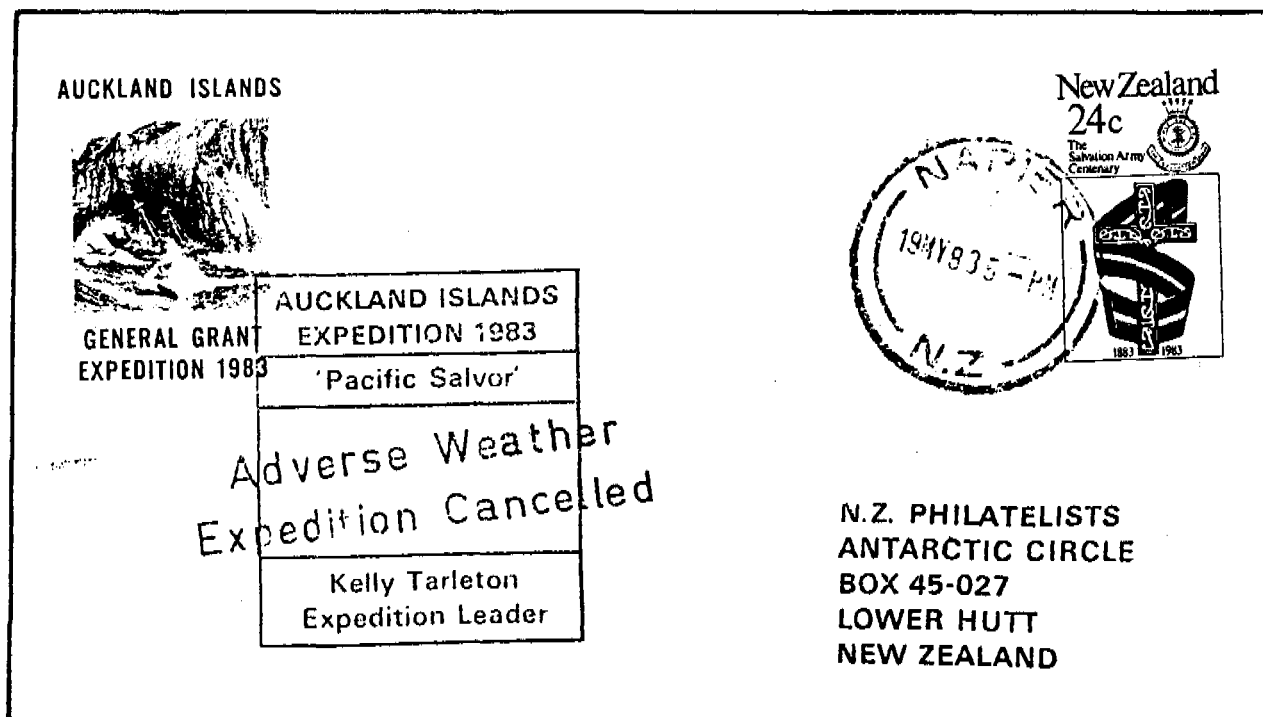


Figure 3

In 1983, another expedition was planned, the organiser being Kelly Tarlton, a noted New Zealand diver and entrepreneur who is well known in Auckland for establishing a marine tourist attraction, 'Kelly Tarlton's World'.

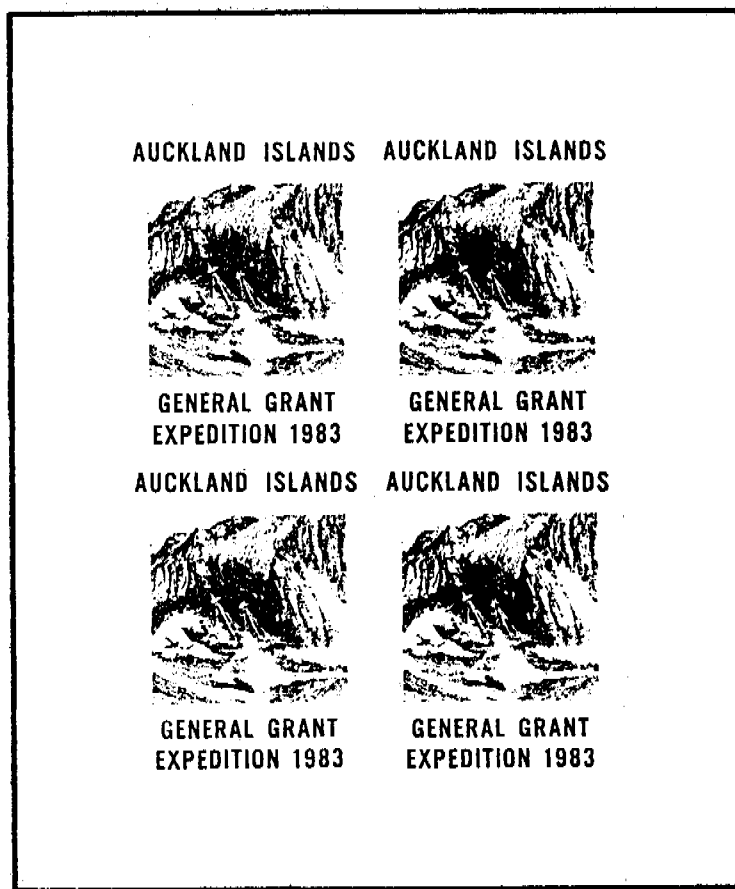


Figure 2

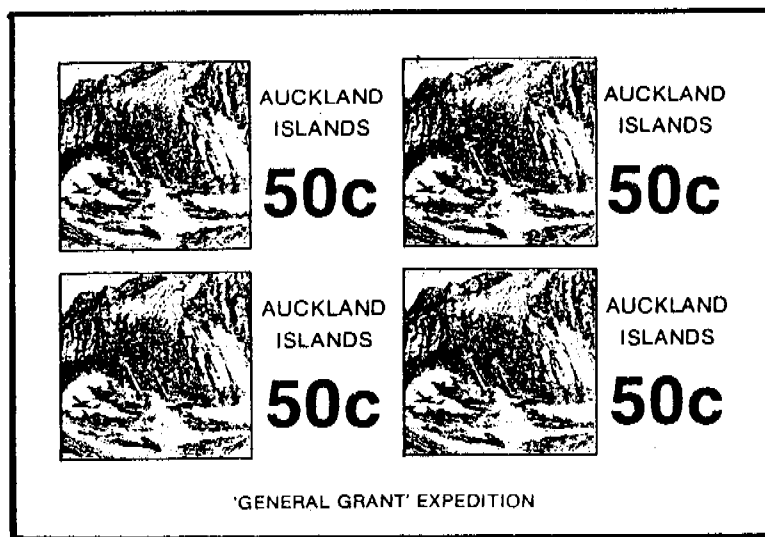


Figure 4

The trip was planned to be carried out using a ship, the 'Pacific Salver'. Figure 2 shows the miniature sheet that was

issued containing four labels for use on expedition mail. It was printed in brown on white paper with roulette separations.

Due to bad weather, the expedition was cancelled and mail that had been prepared for collectors was overprinted as shown on Figure 3 and posted from Napier.

The syndicate involved in the planning of the 1983 expedition planned to have another attempt in 1985 and another miniature sheet was issued. It has the same illustration as the 1983 sheet, but is printed in red on yellow paper, again with roulette separations, and is shown at Figure 4. It was sold for \$2-00. Again, the planning had to be aborted due to the untimely death of Kelly Tarlton.

Is there any gold lying under water at the Auckland Islands? Time alone will tell. In the meantime, the subject is providing a bonanza for the cinderella collectors.

KIWIHOST CACHET

TONY DODD

In order to improve standards for tourist visitors, the New Zealand Tourist Board holds courses at various centres from time to time. For Hastings, the first was held in July, 1991. When a satisfactory level of standards is attained, the tourist outlet becomes a 'KIWIHOST' and in recognition can utilise the emblem on their letterheads, postcards and envelopes. Illustrated on page 17 is a cover from the Ebbett Park Lodge, Hastings, with the emblem in the form of a cachet struck in green in the upper left corner of its advertising envelope.

COLLECTORS' SPECIAL PICTORIAL DATESTAMPS

ALAN TUNNICLIFFE

Almost every issue of 'The Kiwi' carries illustrations of special datestamps that are used from time to time by New Zealand Post Limited at various Post Shops to commemorate an anniversary or other special event. Often these are subjects that an organisation has requested a postage stamp for, but which cannot be accommodated by New Zealand Post Limited in its stamp issuing programme. Philatelic Exhibitions and events associated with New Zealand Post Limited are often the subject of special datestamps too.

Sometimes an event which lasts several days will have either a datestamp with one design but with a changeable date, or different designs for each day. For example, the Shorex '91 Stamp Exhibition held at North Shore, Auckland, from 25th to 28th October, 1991, had four different designs. (1).

Special datestamps have been used since the 1882 Christchurch Exhibition, but the first to incorporate a pictorial design was that used for the 1938 Air Mail Exhibition at Christchurch. (2).

Since some time in 1972, the Philatelic Bureau has assigned a Code Number to each special pictorial datestamp. Strictly speaking, each and every datestamp does not receive a number, only the event. For example, the four different Shorex '91 datestamps all have the same code number 319 and the nine different datestamps for the New Zealand Cycle Classic from 1st to 9th

November, 1991, are all numbered 320.

Since January, 1976, the Philatelic Bureau has supplied a datestamp standing order service, whereby collectors are supplied with special postcards with the datestamps on them. Until August, 1990, the datestamps on the postcards were applied by handstamps, but since then they have been printed directly on to the postcards, as have the special First Day of Issue datestamps for many years. (3 and 4).

The special pictorial datestamps used at the Post Shops continue to be applied by handstamping.

With the use of a printed and a handstamped version of each special datestamp, the possibility arises of variations between the two. When examining the nine different special pictorial datestamps for the New Zealand Cycle Classic, I noticed not only differences between the designs of at least three of the nine - those used at Wellington, New Plymouth and Hamilton - but also that the datestamp to be used at Wellington on 1st November, 1991, as depicted on the poster was different from both the printed and handstamped versions, as the three illustrations show.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 1 is as on the poster, with N.Z. thus with two full stops.

Figure 2 is the handstamp version with N.Z thus with a full stop after the 'N' only.



Figure 3

Figure 3 is the printed version with N Z thus, without full stops.

The handstamped versions are often pale black whereas the printed versions are nearly always a very dark shiny black. Sometimes the handstamped datestamps are applied in other colours, such as purple or red.

References

- (1) 'The Kiwi', Volume 40, number 6, page 94, November, 1991.
- (2) Pictorial and Special Hand Datestamps of New Zealand.
- (3) 'Captain Coqk', Volume 9, number 6, pages 57 - 59, July, 1981.
- (4) 'Captain Coqk', Volume 19, number 7, page 81, August, 1991.

PRISONER AT HOLZMINDEN

E.W.LEPPARD

Since writing the article 'The Royal Flying Corps and The New Zealand Flying School', published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 40, page 101, November, 1991, our Editor has suggested that I look for two books; 'The Tunnellers of Holzminden', by H.G.Durnford, the Adjutant at the Prison Camp, published in 1920 by the Cambridge University Press; and 'Beyond the Tumult', by Barry Winchester, published in 1971 by Allison & Busby, who describes the story from the point of view of the three main architects of the escape. Both books can be called up on the Library Circuit and are present in the Metropolitan Special Collection, West Hill Library, Wandsworth.

Holzminden was opened in September, 1917, as a high category Officiiergefagenenlager for Royal Flying Corps and Army Officers who had previously attempted to escape. It was considered escape proof, the Colditz of the First World War. During its time, the Holzminden Camp became notorious under its Kommandant, Karl Niemeyer, who was indicted for war crimes, but disappeared after the war, and who is believed to have committed suicide. It is reported that the British Air Ace and Victoria Cross holder, William Leefe-Robinson, died immediately after the war as a result of the special treatment he received at Holzminden.

Almost immediately the camp was occupied an escape tunnel was planned and started. It took ten months to complete, and was just 18 inches in diameter and over 150 yards long. On the day 2/Lt. E.H.Garland's mother wrote the Lettercard to him, 24th July, 1918, the escape took place. Eighty men were earmarked to negotiate the tunnel, but delays and the selfishness of one Officer, who ordered the tunnel to be shut down after he went out, meant that at 4.30 a.m., only twenty-nine had escaped. The next group of four got stuck. One Officer, who was a bad swimmer, had tried to take a home made life jacket around him to help him cross the River Weser, which all had to negotiate. Then the tunnel collapsed.

The brief mention of Edgar Horace Garland is on page 136 of the original book and page 167 of the second book, and is given in the same words in each.

"The situation called for desperate measures, and fortunately the right man was at hand. A New Zealand Officer called Garland, who was high up on the waiting list, came up to the rendezvous to prospect. He happened to be about as strong physically as any other two officers in the camp, and possessed the biceps of a Hercules. He at once volunteered to go down and try to pull out the rear-most man.

"After about half an hour he succeeded in doing so, and the two collaborators in this severe physical exercise crawled back through the attic hole completely exhausted and dripping with sweat."

Of the twenty-nine who escaped, a record until the Great Escape from Stalag Luft 111, Sagan, in the Second World War, ten made the home run. The remainder were recaptured, and the only New Zealand airman to be captured in the First World War spent the remainder of the war as a prisoner.

PROOF OF DELIVERY SERVICE

ALLAN P. BERRY

Details of this service offered by New Zealand Post Limited were given by TONY DODD in an article published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 38, page 53, May, 1989. ALAN TUNNICLIFFE indicated, on page 114 of the same Volume, that the service was introduced about October, 1988, but that it was little used and not promoted by New Zealand Post Limited.

In a letter dated 28th May, 1991, DAVID BIGNELL writes:-



"The 'Proof of Delivery' service was withdrawn from our retail network in January, 1991. Sales through Post Shops were minimal and uneconomic. The service does remain available but only to key and major contract customers. I should mention, though, that our registered mail service does remain available, and for the appropriate fee offers senders a card signed by the postal items' recipients."

My information was that a new style of label was produced for the 'Proof of Delivery' service, so further information was sought from DAVID BIGNELL. On 19th July, 1991, he wrote:-

"I enclose some examples of these labels. I am told that they are generally sold in boxes of 100. However, as you can appreciate, we go through substantial quantities at the Philatelic Bureau and therefore we obtain them in large quantities."

In answer to a specific query concerning the sale of the labels in bulk, rather than at the time of posting, DAVID BIGNELL writes:-

"From my own perspective, these labels are not postage stamps. While the fee paid for them covers the proof of delivery service they provide, their role is different from that of a postage stamp."

One of these labels is illustrated above. Examples showing this aspect of the postal history of New Zealand are likely to be quite common. But commercial examples of the service as originally described by TONY DODD may well be very scarce in years to come.