



THE KIWI



THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

ISSN 0964 7821

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 3, MAY 2001

WHOLE NUMBER 286

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE UNION JACK CLUB, SANDELL STREET,
LONDON SE1 ON MAY 26TH 2001.

THE SUBJECT IS "SOCIAL PHILATELY". FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 50 OF THIS ISSUE.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.00 P.M.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Enclosure	50
Membership	50
Preview of the May Meeting	50
Next Meeting of the Northern Group	51
Autumn Meeting of the Society	51
Notes of the Meeting held March 31st, 2001: the Competition	51
Notes of the Northern Meeting held on Feb. 17th, 2001	51
Notes of the Midland Meeting held April 7th, 2001	51
Awards to Members	52
From the Committee	53
Honour for Robin Startup	53
(UK) Data Protection Act, 1998	54
News Releases	55
Recent Auction Realisations	56
Northpex 2002	57
The Sale of the John Firebrace Collections	57
Future Sale at Warwick & Warwick	58
Information on the 1915 Catling Expedition Wanted	58
The Emergency Flights in 1940	58
The Printing & Stationery Dept. Franks - a New Discovery	59
Early Information of the First Pictorials (2)	60
Thoughts on a Recent Library Acquisition	64
A Signed Set of Stamps	65
The "Per Australia=London Airmail" Mark	66
Province of Auckland Postmarks	67
A Mystery Chalon	67
THE RED SPOT	67
The New Zealand Army Postal Corps	68
Findings from Files - More Paper Costing Problems	69
An Unusual Compulsorily Registered Cover	70

The Society is affiliated to: The Association of British Philatelic Societies, The New Zealand Philatelic Federation and the Midland Federation

Annual Subscription £12.00

OFFICERS OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Honorary General Secretary:

Keith C. Collins 13, Briton Crescent,
Sanderstead, Surrey, CR2 0JN,
☎ 0208 - 657 - 4566

Honorary Packet Secretary:

B. T. Atkinson, 77, Wood Lane,
Osterley, Middlesex, TW7 5EG
☎ 0208 - 560 - 6119

Honorary Treasurer:

E.W. Leppard, 68, Chestnut Grove,
Balham, London, SW12 8JJ
☎ 0208 - 673 - 4710

Honorary Editor:

Andrew Dove, 12, Stella Avenue,
Tollerton, Notts NG12 4EX
☎ 0115 - 937 - 3762
e-mail:DDOVEAF@CS.COM

Internet Address: <http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~rgc/nzsgb>

ENCLOSURE

Enclosed with this issue of *The Kiwi* is a note about planned events for next year, the 50th Anniversary of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain. For any Society, this is a major event and the Committee wishes to make it a special year. A number of special events are planned but they will depend on the support of the membership.

Please take a few seconds to complete the questionnaire and return it to the Hon. Secretary, Keith Collins.

If no questionnaire is enclosed, please contact Andrew Dove, Hon. Editor for a copy.

SOCIETY NEWS:

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome:

K. Austin, Coventry
D. Bradbury, Buckinghamshire

DECEASED:

C.L. Douglas
A. Lewin

PREVIEW OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The next meeting will be a new venture by the Society and will consist of a display of Social Philately. This is a new branch of collecting with much wider boundaries than traditional collecting. Essentially, ANYTHING GOES! The essence is to reverse the traditional philatelic emphasis and show how philately illustrates and reflects everyday life.

The meeting will be opened by Margaret Frankcom who will illustrate the difference between Postal History, Social Philately and Historical Philately followed by a display of Pre-stamp Pioneer Mail from 1924. This will include mail to and from Missionaries, Traders, Settlers and Officials and will look at the people and their business.

The second half of the meeting will be a display by Lewis Giles of "The Social History of the Goldfields".

It will be an action packed and fascinating afternoon.

NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHERN REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the Northern Group will be held at St. Luke's Church Hall, Orrell starting at 13.30. The subject is the "1940's". Members are invited to bring along any items associated with the period.

AUTUMN MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

As announced in the last issue of *The Kiwi*, the Autumn Meeting of the Society will be in Carlisle. It will be on Saturday, October 27th, 2001 at the Lakes Court Hotel and will begin at 10.00 a.m.

The venue is the same as the last meeting held in Carlisle, only the name has changed. Telephone number: 01228 531 951.

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 31ST 2001

Lew Giles, Chairman, opened the meeting at which the Annual Competition was to be held with 16 members present. As last year, there was no independent judge. Those members present were be responsible for the judging. The results were:

CLASSIC:

Winner: Tony Stephens: Chalons

Runner-up: Paul Wreglesworth: 1882 Adsons

MODERNS 1:

Winner: Phillip Hoare: 4d. Mitre Peak

Runner-up: Paul Wreglesworth: ½d King George V

MODERNS 3:

Winner: David Bradbury: 1969 Captain Cook Bicentenary

Runner-up: Ernie Leppard: Birds Definitives

POSTAL HISTORY:

Winner: Andrew Dove: Medical Care for NZ Troops in WWI

Runner-up: Ernie Leppard: NZ Troops in the Gallipoli Campaign

There were no entries in the Moderns 2 Section.

The trophies were presented as the results were announced. Lew Giles thanked those who entered the competition, everybody present for undertaking their judging duties conscientiously and Keith Collins for organising the afternoon.

The meeting closed at 1600.

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN GROUP ON FEBRUARY 17TH 2001

Eight members were present at the meeting with apologies received from six more. The meeting was for members to show items of their own choice. As usual, the displays were varied and interesting.

Jack Lindley showed a selection of Hangsell booklets and other special booklets as well as some early Health issues. Stuart Potter displayed a number of Airmail covers including a Zeppelin cover addressed to New Zealand and a 1940 Trans Tasman cover signed by all the crew. Aubrey Halpern showed covers from Campbell Island and the Ross Dependency including proofs and a 1958 Trans Antarctic share certificate.

Next, Brian Stonehouse showed a range of covers from the Ferrymead organisation and Brian Cartmill a variety of stamps and covers including a complete strip of the ½d. Newspaper stamp showing the NEW ZEALAND postmark, a Dunedin relief cancel on cover and a 1940 Centennial

Exhibition Registered label on cover with an inverted I. Mike Hanson showed King Edward VII including a First Day Cover, two-perf. pairs, varieties, booklet pairs and panes, perfins and shades.

The last display was by Walter Williams who showed a selection of airmail covers and the booklet on Cousins issued for Zeapex.

A vote of thanks was given to everyone present for providing such an interesting meeting. The meeting closed at 16.30.

JL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MIDLAND GROUP HELD ON APRIL 7TH, 2001

Six members were present and were entertained by a display of the 1935 Second Pictorials which had been specially put together for the meeting by Keith Collins.

In the traditional way, a design competition was held for the new issue. Entries were judged by a Board of Adjudication chaired by the Hon. Sir R. Heaton Rhodes. The designs selected were those shown on the issued stamps with one exception. For the one shilling value, the Board selected a design by M. King from Wellington showing "Droving": in fact, a man walking a dog.

After advice from Waterlow and Sons, the Board resolved "that as the selected design for the 1s. value was unsuitable for reproduction by line-engraving, a design portraying a tui should be substituted."

In the event, the contract to print the new issue went to De La Rue. In 1941, their printings works were bombed and further production of the stamps was a collaborative effort between De La Rue, Waterlow & Sons and Harrison & Sons.

As Keith explained this it was apparent that there were likely to be a large number of variations and varieties. Each sheet of his display represented variations to a single value. Many examples were in the form of Plate Blocks. We soon became aware of how many times each value had been printed, re-printed, re-perforated, printed on different papers during the 10 years of its life!

To pick out some of the highlights: several competition essays, die proofs of the 3d value and postal stationery items illustrating the 1d wrapper printed on paper watermarked "half penny".

The display included stamps overprinted "Official". Notable were a block of 4 of the 9d overprinted in green and a 2/- of which only 100 were issued. A question was raised about the rarity of some "Official" plate blocks - do they exist?

There was much interest in the Waterlow & Sons wartime "shift markings", the plate cracks on the 6d plate and the spotted 5d plate.

The display ended with a show of the rare coil pairs including examples of the 2d, 5d, 6d and 1/- and a "last day" cover bearing copies of the ½d Fantail and ½d Fantail "Official" dated 28/March/45. The final sheet showed a Die Proof of the 5d. Fish from Belgium.

This was a superb display and it was a shame that more members were not present to enjoy it.

A vote of thanks was given by Mike Smith and the meeting closed at 16.30.

AWARDS TO MEMBERS:

Congratulations to the following members who won awards at Southpex:

Stan Kundin: Gold Medal and Campbell Paterson Award for an outstanding New Zealand entry for "Coils Stamps of New Zealand".

Allan Berry: Silver Medal for "The New Zealand Government Life Insurance 1913-1947".

Gordon Darge: Emerald Award in the one frame section for "New Zealand Compulsory Camps, Censorship and Internment Camps 1912-1919".

Ruby Award for "History of New Zealand Forces 1913-1919".

FROM THE COMMITTEE:

A Committee Meeting was held before the last meeting a number of points were made:

- The Committee have now agreed the shape and contents of the Anniversary Weekend to be held in London at the Union Jack Club from November 22nd to 24th, 2002. It will be an exciting philatelic occasion as well as providing accompanying friends and spouses with opportunities to visit some of the new sights such as The London Eye, Tate Modern and the Globe Theatre. A commemorative dinner will be held and we hope to welcome distinguished guests. Please reserve the date in your diary now.
- There was discussion about the programme for 2002 and 2003, if any members have ideas for topics to be covered, can they let Keith Collins know.
- The Packet: more material is needed. Derogatory and offensive remarks about the material on offer has been found in some books on return to the owner: this is unacceptable. If you have comments about the condition or price, please communicate with the Packet Secretary.

AN HONOUR FOR ROBIN M. STARTUP

Robin Startup's work on the postal and social history is well known. His output of published works, in monograph or article form, is immense. His help to others writing on the same subjects is freely given. All this has been acknowledged by the award of practically all the honours available within New Zealand philately.

In 2000, his work was finally acknowledged internationally with the award of the International Philatelic Federation Medal for Research. The other Robin, Robin Gwynn, received the medal on Robin's behalf at the International Philatelic Exhibition in Madrid.

On 20 February, 2001, Robin was at last presented with the Medal at a ceremony held in the Board Room of New Zealand Post Limited in Wellington. The presentation was to have been made by Elmar Toine, the Chief Executive, but while he was able congratulate Robin personally, he had been summoned to the Beehive by his political masters on matters to do with the new Bank to be run by New Zealand Post Limited.

Robin Gwynne introduced Robin to all present, showing examples of his most well respected and most consulted works. Viv Beck, Stamps General Manager, made the presentation of the Medal in the absence of Elmar Toime. In her short speech, she paid tribute to the help that Robin had given over the years to New Zealand Post Limited, the latest being the background to the issue of stamps celebrating 100 years of moving the mail in New Zealand.

Dick Armstrong, President of the Postal History Society of New Zealand, presented the framed scroll that accompanied the Medal. In his speech, Dick referred to Robin's efforts in editing *The Mail Coach* over many years, initially, as a private publication and later as the journal of the Postal History Society of New Zealand. Dick pointed out that the Society might well not have been formed had it not been for the work done by Robin over all these years, helped in no small measure by his sister, Stancy.

In response, Robin, in his customary modest way, thanked all present for the honour he had received. He remarked that it was a wonderful experience to receive honours and awards for doing something that he had thoroughly enjoyed over the past fifty-one years.

The gathering included philatelists from all over New Zealand invited to witness the presentation. It was ably organised by Bob Gibson, one of the two Central Districts Representatives on the executive Committee of the New Zealand Philatelic Federation, and the Officers of New Zealand Post Limited. The Board Room of New Zealand Post was an eminently suitable location for the presentation with its sweeping views over Wellington Harbour.

(UK) DATA PROTECTION ACT, 1998

The 1998 Data Protection Act regulates the way in which personal data is processed. To comply with the fair processing code, the following statement will be included on the application forms in future:

"The New Zealand Society of Great Britain hold personal data on current and past members for purposes of administering the Society and for the administration and provision of membership services.

For all members the following data is held: name and address. The following additional information if provided to the Society: telephone/fax number, e-mail address and collecting interests, whether a dealer. This data is obtained directly from the member and will be kept on a computer system. Financial information may also be held in relation to membership subscriptions and membership services.

*Personal data **will not** be passed on to third parties.*

The nominated representative of the NZ Soc. of GB for correspondence relating to data protection is the Honorary Secretary.

*If you are unhappy with any of the above **do not proceed with your application to join and your details WILL NOT be recorded by the Society.**"*

Although this refers to new members, existing members should also be aware that this information is held. If any have concerns, they should discuss them with Keith Collins, Hon. Sec.

Our membership list is not for sale. Mailing to members is undertaken by an Officer of the Society using material provided by the dealer concerned.



Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Specialist Department Fine Items From New Zealand

New Zealand has long been one of our favourite countries and we currently hold an attractive and wide-ranging selection of stamps, errors, proofs and postal history for direct sale. In addition, we have recently bought the well-known EHW & Co Commonwealth stock which is currently being prepared for sale, so don't miss a superb opportunity to obtain some of those annoying missing 'links'. If you have a wants lists, why not send us a copy and see what we can do for you?

We publish regular, illustrated lists which are available free of charge upon request or why not visit our website: www.stanleygibbons.com

For further information, please contact Pauline MacBroom or Amina Anam at the address below.

All World Stamps, the latest online stamp catalogue from Stanley Gibbons, now features all the issues of New Zealand and is available to view free of charge. To find out more, log on to: www.allworldstamps.com



**STANLEY
GIBBONS**

Commonwealth

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Dept.

399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX

Tel: +44 (0)20 7836 8444

Fax: +44 (0)20 7836 7342

email: commonwealth@stanleygibbons.co.uk

Internet: www.stanleygibbons.com

INFORMATION RECEIVED:

NEWS RELEASE

NEW ZEALANDERS' PASSION FOR GARDENING RECOGNISED IN STAMP ISSUE

20 FEBRUARY 2001

New Zealand Post's latest stamp series highlights the great New Zealand pastime of gardening.

Statistics from the Hillary Commission show that gardening is second only to walking as New Zealanders' most popular physical activity.

The 40c stamp depicts the Camellia "Volunteer" bred by Mark Jury, Waitara; the Siberian Iris, "Emma Ripeka" named after the great grand-daughter of her breeder Frances Love, Carterton and a Dykes Medal winner in 1994, is shown on the 80c stamp; appearing on the 90c stamp is the daffodil "Demand", a First Class Certificate winner and raised from seed by Phil Phillips, an internationally recognised daffodil hybridiser from Otorohanga, and the \$1.30 stamp shows the Chrysanthemum "Edith Mechen", an all time champion in New Zealand at National Show level and bred by Tom Mechen of Palmerston North.

The unique Sweet Pea "North Shore" with its navy blue and violet petals, is on the \$1.50 stamp and the \$2.00 stamp shows the petunia "Moonlight", the first yellow, perennial petunia. Both North Shore and Moonlight were bred by Dr. Keith Hammett, Massey, Auckland.

"The six flowers depicted were all bred in this country in this country and chosen for their strong association with New Zealand" said Linda Morgan, New Zealand Post's Stamps Design and Marketing Manager. "The Camellia "Volunteer" was named for the Year of the Volunteers (2001), the popularity of irises in New Zealand led to the establishment of the New Zealand Iris Society in 1949 and the Daffodil is associated with the New Zealand Cancer Society's popular fund raiser, Daffodil Day".

The stamps and first day cover were designed by Lindy Fisher and printed by Southern Colour Print Ltd, in Dunedin. The Garden Flowers stamp issue will be released on March 7 2001.

ART RESOURCES DEPICTED IN NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

14 MARCH, 2001

New Zealand Post's latest stamp release reflects the creative use of some of the country's natural resources as art forms.

"The stamp issue is bold, bright and contemporary just like much of today's artwork which is made from the materials it depicts", said Stamps Design and Marketing Manager, Linda Morgan.

"The stamps show some of the beautiful uses of our natural resources. Jewellery made of kauri gum, paua and a fern is shown along with a hat of flax and a sculpture using Oamaru stone.

We wanted to recognise resources that have a connection with New Zealand's national identity."

In what is a first for New Zealand, the stamps are presented in blocks of four. Each stamp is effectively one quarter of a picture which, when joined with three others, forms a whole piece of artwork that can be rotated.

The materials shown include Greenstone (40c), Oamaru stone (80c), Paua (90c), Kauri Gum (\$1.30), Flax (\$1.50) and Fern (\$2.00).

The stamps were designed by Cato Partners of Wellington and printed by Southern Colour Print Ltd in Dunedin.

For electronic images of the stamps visit New Zealand Post Stamps Business website at www.stamps.co.nz.

AIRCRAFT WITH A NEW ZEALAND CONNECTION FEATURE IN LATEST STAMP SERIES

7 APRIL 2001

Aircraft with a special New Zealand connection are to feature in New Zealand Post's latest stamp series.

"We have highlighted aircraft that have impacted significantly on New Zealand aviation," said Linda Morgan, New Zealand Post's Stamp Design and Marketing Manager.

Included in the series is the Douglas DC-3 (40c), the Fletcher FU24 Top dresser (80c), the de Havilland DH82A Tiger Moth (90c), the Fokker FVIIb/3m (Southern Cross) (\$1.30), the de Havilland DH100 (\$1.50) and the Boeing & Westervelt Seaplane (\$2.00).

The first day cover shows the Percival Gull G-ADPR that was the aircraft flown by Jean Batten from England to Auckland in a time of 11 days and 45 minutes. This record stood for 44 years.

The Douglas DC-3 is known for its role as a long distance transporter in World War II and its use as a domestic airliner before becoming a top dresser in New Zealand.

The Fokker FVIIb/3m (Southern Cross) was used by Charles Kingsford Smith for his famous trans-Tasman crossing, while the Boeing & Westervelt Seaplane was flown by George Bolt to carry the first domestic official airmail.

The de Havilland DH82A Tiger Moth was at the forefront of New Zealand's aviation history for its use firstly by aero clubs and then as the country's standard wartime trainer. Around 40 are still in operation today. The de Havilland DH100 Vampire was the RNZAF's first operational jet aircraft.

The stamps were designed Rob Poulton from Auckland and printed by Southern Colour Print of Dunedin. In addition to the sheet stamps, Postal cards and a commemorative booklet will be available from the usual sources.

RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS

JOHN WOOLFE AND PAUL WREGLESWORTH

On December 7th, 2000, Spink held a sale of Essays, Proofs and Reference Stamps from the Bradbury, Wilkinson and De La Rue Archives. Included were 28 Lots of New Zealand issues. There were remarkable realisations against estimate.

The first NZ lot was two engraved essays without value for a proposed issue of KE VIII, on the design was the details of the frame used for the subsequent KG VI issue. The lot sold for £6,325 as against estimate of £1,200-£1,500.

A few other lots caught the eye: 1962 Health: three engraved essays of both values in different colours: reached £1,725 (E.£400). 1967, 3c booklet sheet layout, inc. 30 panes of six reached £1,955 (E £300). 1947 Life Insurance issue, two sets of seven affixed to two cards in approved and unapproved colours, reached £1,955 (E £400).

There is clearly a strong market for unique quality material.

Cavendish (21/10/00):

1911 UK Coronation Air Post to NZ on red-brown card franked ½d x 2	£104
--	------

Harmers (14/12/00):

FSF 4d + 1/- pr. + strip 3 Auckland to France, faults but high value franking	£460
---	------

Spink (9/11/00):

1902-9 Perf.11 1/- orange-red NZ & Star wmk. SG 315ba	£552
---	------

COMING EVENTS:

NORTHPEX 2002

Further information is now available about Northpex 2002 which will be held at the North Shore Events Centre between 5th - 7th April, 2002.

The New Zealand National Stamp Exhibition will be held by the North Shore Philatelic Society. It is being held as part of the North Shore Philatelic Society's 25th Anniversary celebrations. In addition to the full National Stamp Exhibition, there will be an Eight and Sixteen page Developmental Competition for Young Exhibitors. Discussions are also taking place with the New Zealand Society of Great Britain to incorporate some aspects of their 50th Anniversary celebrations at NORTHPEX 2002.

The exhibition aims to have on display, either invited or in competition, the best of New Zealand Philately. We want to put on show a wide range of exhibits of New Zealand stamps, postal history and postal stationery from collectors throughout the world, as well as exhibits from as many New Zealanders as possible.

NORTHPEX 2002 is being held at the North Shore Events Centre which is situated in Glenfield, Auckland. The venue is large. It can accommodate any number of Competitive and Invited displays and events which will tie in with a philatelic exhibition.

The exhibition will include all the usual competitive classes including Social. Division 3 (Non F.I.P. qualifying) include all entries not included elsewhere including Cinderella, Postcards etc.

Completed entry forms must be returned NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 30th November, 2001. For a copy of the full Competition Regulations, contact the Hon. Editor of *The Kiwi*.

To request copies of future prospectuses and information about entering, contact the Exhibits Secretary, David Loe, for all other enquiries, contact the Exhibition Chairman, Rob Hunt, at: NORTHPEX 2002, P.O.Box 34-253, Birkenhead, North Shore City, New Zealand. ☎ 09 526 4810. Email stampman@xtra.co.nz.

THE SALE OF THE JOHN FIREBRACE COLLECTIONS OF MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY, 1798-1924.

As advertised elsewhere in this issue, John Firebrace's collections will be sold at Cavendish Auctions on Wednesday 16 May, 2001. There are three main sections to the catalogue:

1. Soldiers' 1d Concession Rate Mails, etc.; 1730 - 1898
2. The 19th Century Wars of Egypt and Sudan; 1798 - 1900.
3. First World War Mails of Egypt and the Near East; 1914 - 1924.

The collection is thought to have been the first to be awarded an International Large Gold Medal for a purely Postal History Collection when John showed the 19th Century Egypt/Sudan section of the collection in 1978 at Capex in Toronto. Many of the captions on the sheets in the sale are those from the display and focus on the Regiments and careers of the soldiers sending the letters.

In the auction catalogue, James Grimwood-Taylor from Cavendish Auctions relates the following anecdote:

"There are other detailed reminiscences in this catalogue, but I wish to add my own ha'penny worth. The funniest philatelic display that I have ever been fortunate enough to witness was given by John Firebrace as a short S.P.H. (Society of Postal Historians) show some 15 years ago. I spent the fifteen minutes or so that John was on his feet, simply trying not to make a fool of myself by making my hysterics audible. With impeccable Buster Keaton-like timing, he took his audience through the complexities of the World War I New Zealand Contingent's "Troopship" markings as they had been

understood a few decades earlier, with a full commentary on more recent research developments and a clear apology for his inability to update his hand-written pages "at my age". It was only when I came to describe these pages that the full story came back to me, and I could hear John's gentle voice once more, pointing out that the "First Reinforcement" marks were in fact those of the Second Reinforcement, while the "Second Reinforcement" marks had never been used and that therefore the Third, Fourth and subsequent "Reinforcement" marks were now known to be accurate. He dwelt - Groucho Marx-like-upon the fact that the number of millimetres involved in the various marks were no longer felt to be of such great significance, and generally indicated that he felt his display might not be of interest if spun out to too long a length. The fact that this was simply the most comprehensive study of his subject ever made, and that most of the facts came from his own original researches, were never mentioned. John sought primarily to amuse - and succeeded in doing so. For me, it was the ultimate eye-opener; to hear the greatest student pass off his studies as ephemeral and with the lightest of dry humours. Something to aspire to....".

No doubt there will be much interest in the sale of the collection of this extraordinary collector.

FUTURE SALE AT WARWICK AND WARWICK

Warwick and Warwick are pleased to announce the sale of a superb specialised New Zealand King George Vth definitive collection to take place on 4 July 2001, at the Court House in Warwick. Interested parties are advised to reserve a free copy of the catalogue by contacting Warwick and Warwick at Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road, Warwick.

Telephone: 01926-499031. Fax: 01926-491906. E-mail:www.warwickandwarwick.com

WANTED

I am trying to put together an exhibit on the 1915 Catling Expedition to the Auckland Islands to try and recover the gold from the General Grant. I am interested in covers from the Expedition especially ones with N.Z. KGV stamps tied for onward posting, plus any other items of postal history concerning the expedition. I would also like any of the labels with major varieties such as is shown on page 807 of the RPSNZ Volume V. If you have anything, please contact Paul Wales, PO Box 13-396, Christchurch, New Zealand.

RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS ARTICLES:

THE EMERGENCY FLIGHTS IN 1940

ROBIN M. STARTUP

I was interested to read Tom Latta's note in the last issue of *The Kiwi*(1). It raises a number of interesting points. First, however, it should be noted that the Royal New Zealand Air Force did not take delivery of its first Catalina Flying Boat (at Suva, Fiji) until 3 April 1943 whilst the Air Forces first Sunderland Flying Boat was not accepted into the fleet until 4 December 1944.

When researching Volume 3 of the *Airmails of New Zealand* (2), I established that the first recorded mail-carrying flight to the Chatham Islands was by a RNZAF Hudson flying from New Plymouth on 17 June 1945. It did not land as there was no flying strip at that time.

I would suggest that if mail were to be flown on an emergency flight, the Post Office would need at least 24 hours notice to move accumulated Chatham Islands mail from Christchurch to Auckland, probably the only location capable of handling flying-boats. I am not sure what emergency would have required this level of activity.

The ship "Holmwood" was captured in enemy action in 1940 whilst en route between the Chatham Islands and Port Lyttelton. It was later sunk. The Holm Shipping Co. Ltd chartered the "Port Waikato" to replace her and probably used her to provide the service the Chatham Islands.

References:

1. Latta T. "The Emergency Flights in 1940 - Ipso Facto". *The Kiwi* (2001). Vol.50. No. 2. P. 39.
2. Startup RM "Airmails of New Zealand. Volume 3 International Mails 1940-1970". Pub. Airmail Society of New Zealand, PO Box 29144, Fendalton, Christchurch, NZ. (1997).
3. "Holmship History & Particulars of the Holm Shipping Co.Ltd." Undated (?1950s).

THE PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT FRANKS - A NEW FIND

ALLAN P. BERRY

Our member ROBIN STARTUP has in his collection an item of stationery showing a most interesting use of the Printing and Stationery Department second printed frank.

It is an Invoice, measuring 217mm x 172mm, from The Government Printer and Stationery Stores Manager to The Hospital Board, Featherston, for one box of elastic bands, charged at 12/8 on 22 December 1885 (Figure 1). In the centre of the other side of the invoice (Figure 2) is a frank showing the words On Public Service Only, with the printed frank and the address The Government Printer and Stationery Stores Manager, Wellington. Below, there is a dateline ending with the year shown as 188.

W.B.	C.B.	 NEW ZEALAND.	To be returned by first Mail with remittance. Sums over one shilling to be sent in Postal Notes, or by P. O. Order payable to G. Didsbury.
P.L. 139			
Printing and Stationery Department, Wellington, <i>Sept 15</i> 188 <i>5</i> .			
<i>The Hospital Board</i> <i>Featherston</i> Dr. to The Government Printer and Stationery Stores Manager.			
1885	Dec 22	1 Box Elastic Bands No 66.	12 8.

Figure 1

The Invoice was undoubtedly sent to the Hospital Board in an envelope with the printed frank. Clearly, payment was meant to be returned using the reverse side of the Invoice with its frank, superscription and mailing address, thus taking advantage of the franking to avoid any payment of postage. How it was to be sealed to contain any cheque or money order is unclear to me and any suggestions from members would be most welcome. I am not sure whether or not window envelopes were in use in New Zealand in 1885, but if so, that is clearly a possibility. Again, hopefully members can advise.

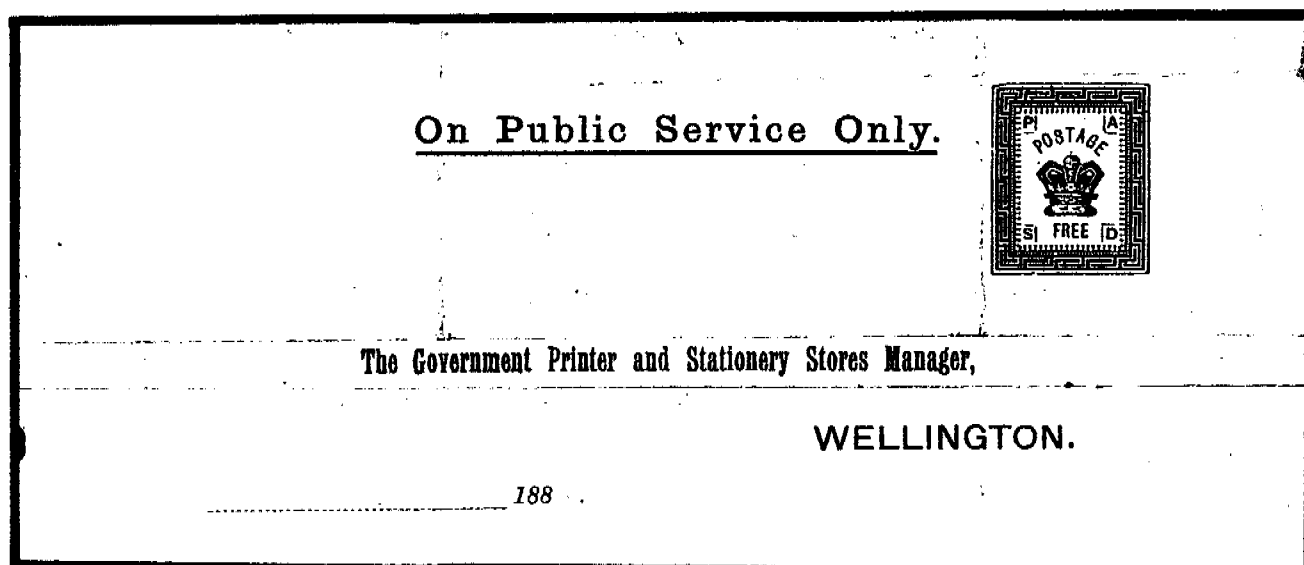


Figure 2

As such items would normally stay within Government Service they must be very uncommon.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND READERS QUESTIONS:

EARLY INFORMATION ON THE FIRST PICTORIALS (Part 2)

The article following is the second half of the article published in the last issue of *The Kiwi* (1). Together with the article published in 1998 (2), they form a comprehensive review of the genesis and production of the ground breaking First Pictorial Issue.

THE PICTORIAL ISSUE OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS. 1898.

By Professor A. HAMILTON.

★ ★ ★ ★

The Post Office Officials having now arranged for the designs and values, Mr. Gray writes to the Secretary of the Stamp Department (22/7/96), informing him of the steps taken up to the present, and requesting him to see to the engraving and production of the stamps by the most approved method in London. In accordance with the request, the Stamp Office wrote to the Agent-General on the 9th September, requesting him to call for tenders for a series of thirteen postage stamps according to the designs forwarded, and suggesting that the assistance of the London General Post Office officials and the officers of the Inland Revenue Department should be obtained.

In the specifications it was stipulated that, "The dies are to be engraved on steel and adapted to the letterpress printing process. They should be engraved so deeply that impressions may be taken from which electros could be prepared in the Colony."

Special attention was requested to the size of the dies, "so that the large stamps be in length the width of two of the small size including the blank space for perforating, so that in perforating only one wheel will be removed."

"Special care to be taken that the dies for the fourpenny stamps (in two colours) be made to register correctly."

The Department suggests "that it would be an advantage if future ink sent out for stamp printing were entirely free from any compound of iron, and also that the paper supplied should be free from iron."

The plates to be so made that "one hundred and twenty of the large size and two hundred and forty of the small stamps could be printed on a sheet of water-marked paper as per sample enclosed."

On receipt of this letter and specifications, the Agent-General consulted with the Board of Inland Revenue, the Crown Agent for the Colonies, and the London General Post Office authorities, and, acting on their advice, submitted the designs direct to Messrs. De La Rue without calling for tenders. Messrs. De La Rue considered the designs very satisfactory, but not adapted for printing by the letterpress or surface process, and that to give best results they must be done by the copper-plate process. The Agent-General cabled to the Colony to that effect, and wrote on the 10th December hoping that the suggested change in the method of production would be made. Subsequently, he forwarded a copy of a memo, on which comparative merits of the two systems, together with a copy of a confidential report on the printing of the English Postage Stamp.

The opinion that the recess process only was suitable for the designs was concurred in by the authorities at Somerset House and by Messrs. Waterlow.

On receipt of the cablegram, the Stamp Office were of the opinion that unnecessary difficulties were being raised, and that there was no reason why the dies should not be engraved and the work carried out as ordered. A reply was therefore sent to the effect that, if De La Rue could not do them in this style, other firms should be approached, and pointing out that excellent dies could be produced in America.

In the meantime, De La Rue returned the designs and specifications to the Agent-General "as only adapted to be produced by the copper-plate process. It would be impossible (they say) to give a satisfactory rendering of them by the surface process, and as we see that this process is indispensable, it will be necessary for you to have considerably modified designs prepared."

As it seemed, on further enquiry, that there was a real difficulty in getting the designs carried out as specified, the Government printer was asked to report on the matter, and on the 17th March he wrote as follows:-

"17/3/97. Memo. from Government printer to the Secretary of the Stamp Department re the new designs.

"It will be seen from the attached correspondence that in 1937 the Government altered the method of producing stamps from the electro [[?] copper] plate or recess process to the surface or letterpress process. Previously the stamps have been produced from the former process, which, as I have already noted, was a slow and consequently costly method of printing. The machinery in use at that time was of a primitive character, and the output necessarily very limited. In 1873, after apparently long and careful consideration, it was decided to change the method to letter-press or surface printing. Since that change was made the whole of the stamps have been produced by that method. It will be seen from the names of experts in Britain, who carefully considered the merits of the two systems, that the letterpress, or surface printing, for stamps is considered the and safest (because least liable to being counterfeited) of the two, and has been adopted by the most progressive nations of the world.*

"I have further to draw your attention to the fact that the department is fairly equipped for the production of stamps by our present method, and if it is decided to alter this method, it will be necessary to procure altogether new machinery, as well as a large staff of skilled men to work it. This would mean a very considerable outlay:-

"1st. In the engraving of the necessary plates from which to print.

"2nd. In obtaining the necessary machinery and appliances to print the stamps.

"3rd. Importing the necessary skilled labour to work that machinery.

"4th. The periodical review of the plates and the slow process of printing would mean a greatly increased cost of production, as stated in my memo. of the 14th December last. There can be no doubt that the "recess" process would give much greater depth of detail in these new stamps, but it remains with the Government to say whether that result is commensurate with the greatly increased cost of production and the complete alteration of our present method of printing stamps. I would suggest that a steel die be obtained in Britain, engraved in the best possible manner, of one of the larger stamps and sent here. We can make the necessary plates for that denomination, and print from this.

"From the result of that sample the Government will be able to decide whether it would be desirable to have the others engraved in the same manner.

"Procuring the necessary machines and workmen for printing these special stamps by copper-plate process would not enable me to dispense with the present plant and workmen, as these will still be required for printing Beer Duty stamps, Postal Notes, and Post and Letter Cards.

"It will be seen, therefore, that it would be necessary to have the two staffs going at the same time.

"J. MACKAY, Government Printer"

The Stamp Office wrote to the Agent-General, forwarding the memo. of the Government printer and asking for a specimen die to be made at once of one of the larger designs, and sent out.

In the meantime, Messrs. Waterlow, who had been interviewed by the Agent-General, in a letter to him. dated 19th May, says; "We may remark that the paper has a great deal to do with the quality of the surface printing, and we find that the postage-stamp paper you have asked us to tender for should be softer than the pattern." However, on receipt of the instructions, the specimen die ordered to be prepared was put in hand, and Messrs. Waterlow sent to the Agent-General, on the 14th July, a relief die and proof impression of the 2½d. stamp (Lake Wakatipu) and a proof of the 5d. (Otira Gorge) from a steel plate, with the original drawing.

The Premier, the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, who was at the time in England, preferred the result obtained from the steel plate. Accordingly, the Agent-General cabled to the Acting Premier on 24th July: "Stamps new design steel-plate and surface printer's proof have been produced here. Premier considers steel-proof infinitely superior." He also gave details of the cost of first outlay on steel-plate machines, the extra expenditure required in production, and the increase in output, and asked for instructions.

The heads of the Post Office, Stamp Office, and Printing Office met, and wrote to The Postmaster-General:-

"August 2nd, 1897.

"Memo. That "In order to secure the best effect from the new design, and in view of the difficulties which have been pointed out in regard to obtaining good effects from the surface printing, it would be better that the recess process should be adopted, and we recommend accordingly."

"Approved in Cabinet, 5th August, 1897."

"Agent-General to be instructed by cable; "steel process adopted." August 9th, 1897."

The next little trouble was a cable from the Agent-General to the effect that:-

"Expert strongly advises alteration in colour of ½d., 4d., 6d., 8d. and 1s. stamps: instruct whether may do as soon as possible, because plates must be engrave accordingly."

The following reply was sent:-

"Proceed with the dies and plates. Dies should suit any colour."

In accordance with instructions, the Agent-General arranged for the important change in the method of producing the stamps with Messrs. Waterlow, and wrote as follows:-

"Agent-General to the Premier.

25th August, 1897.

"Referring to the letter, No. 1441, of the 29th July last and ..., I beg to state that on receipt of your telegram of the 9th inst. (approving of steel plates), the Managing-Director of Messrs. Waterlow was seen with reference to the preparing of the dies and supplying the machinery required for the printing of the stamps by the steel-plate process.

"As to the dies, the Managing-Director stated that he could not quote their actual cost until after they were made, or if obliged to do so, the quotation would probably considerably what otherwise would be charged, as provision would have to be made against the risk of special extra cost which might not after all be incurred.

"As to the machinery

"As regards the stamp paper, he stated it would not cost more (probably less) than that supplied by the company for Surface Printing, but it would necessarily be of a different description of paper.

"I enclose copy of correspondence which thereupon took place, and subsequently, at an interview with the Director and the chief engraver of the company, they recommended alteration to the colours of the 4d., 6d., 8d., and 1s. stamps, in addition to that of the ½d. stamp, and that as the engraving must be done to suit the colours, it would be necessary to know as soon as possible whether such alteration would be allowed.

". . . Messrs Waterlow are now, in accordance with your telegram, proceeding with the preparation of the dies to suit the original colours of the designs.

"They, however, repeat their statement that to produce stamps to the best effect possible it is very desirable that the dies should be engraved to suit the colour. It is true that dies for surface printing will suit any colour, but that is not the case as regards the steel-plate dies."

The Agent-General again, on the 1st October, 1897, writes that he has been advised that the dies and plates of the ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 5d., and 2s. will shortly be ready, and that the remainder will be ready before Christmas; also that he has wired recommending that a six months supply be printed by Waterlow in London, so that as little further delay as possible may occur in their being brought into circulation.

"The proposal," he says, "if carried out, serve as a good test as regards the manner in which the dies and plates have been manufactured."

On the question of a London Printing the Stamp Office and the Government printer were consulted, and they were of the opinion that as it was then the 4th of October, if the new issue was to be issued on the 1st of January, it would be necessary to have a London printing, though such was not the original intention.

Accordingly a cable was sent 19th October, ordering a six month supply as under:-

½d.	.	.	6,000,000	6d.	.	.	900,000
1d.	.	.	13,000,000	8d.	.	.	80,000
2d.	.	.	6,000,000	9d.	.	.	80,000
2½d.	.	.	300,000	1s.	.	.	300,000
3d.	.	.	300,000	2s.	.	.	70,000
4d.	.	.	400,000	3s.	.	.	35,000
5d.	.	.	130,000				

Early in November the proofs of the 2½d. stamps sent out by the Agent General (presumably struck from the specimen die prepared at the same time as the 5d.) arrived in Wellington, and in due course were seen by the Government printer, who wrote on November 19th to the Secretary for Stamps:-

"I notice in the impression sent by the Agent-General of 2½d. stamp that the word Wakatipu is spelt Wakitipu. It would be advisable to ascertain whether the error is also in the new die for the recess process, and have it altered before printing."

This seems to have been the first notice of the "error."*

There was some doubt afterwards, when it was found that the plate was made, as to whether it should be issued, but on 12th February, 1896, it was decided that this should be done.

* A cable was sent about this mistake, but reached the Agent-General in a mutilated condition.

(To be continued.)

References:

1. "Early Information on the First Pictorials". *The Kiwi* (2001). Vol. 50. No. 2. Pp. 40-43.
2. "The Centenary of the Issue of the First Pictorials". *The Kiwi* (1998). Vol. 47. No. 2 Pp. 32-39

THOUGHTS ON A RECENT LIBRARY ACQUISITION

ALLAN P. BERRY

I was interested to read that a copy of a reprint of Dr. K.J.L.Scott's "Notes on the Early Cancellations of New Zealand" had been provided for the Society's Library (1). This publication raises interesting questions about copyright and these have been aired in an article in *Captain Cook* (2).

I believe that what the Society has been given is not a reprint but a photocopy of the original to which has been added a new named publisher and a new title page with an ISBN number. It was offered for sale and that the statement made that anybody using information from it must give acknowledgement to the new publisher as well as the original author and publisher.

This would appear to be in direct contravention of the copyright laws of the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

According to both the United Kingdom and New Zealand Acts, Copyright exists as a property right - normally referred to as intellectual property - in original works, which so far as we in the philatelic world are concerned, are literary works and in the typographical arrangements of published works. For the Author, Copyright is created as soon as the work is placed on paper. The Acts also recognise that a work can qualify for recognition under the Copyright Acts of other countries if the author is a citizen or subject of a prescribed country. These are governed by two Treaties -the Geneva Convention and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - to both of which New Zealand and the United Kingdom are signatories.

The duration of copyright of the author in New Zealand expires at the end of the period 50 years from the end of the calendar year in which the author dies. In the United Kingdom, the period has recently been changed to 70 years.

The owner of the copyright in the work has a property which he can deal with as he sees fit. He can sell it, assign it to different people or organisations in different countries, give it away, pass it on to specified people in their Will and so on. My understanding is that if no specific disposition is made in a Will, the copyright will either pass to the residuary beneficiaries or other named beneficiaries depending on how the will is organised.

I believe that Dr. Scott died on or around 5 October 1967 and left a widow and four daughters. Thus, the period of copyright would run from 1 January 1968 to 31 December 2038, under present United Kingdom law. Were the period still 50 years, it would expire on 31 December 2018. The

copyright therefore still rests with the widow, or his children or grandchildren unless more specific dispositions were made.

An effort should be made to seek permission of the copyright holder to re-publish any work that has been published in the previous 50 years- to be safe, perhaps 70 years. If the author is still alive, that should not present a problem. If the author is deceased, then an effort should be made to trace the heirs and successors to seek their consent or to discover who owns the copyright. If, after a reasonable search, no-one can be found to whom the copyright belongs, if one still wishes to use the work, it should be annotated with words to the effect that "whilst every effort has been made to trace the copyright holder, none could be found. If any reader can help, please contact the present publishers". If a response is received and the copyright owner appears, one should be prepared to acknowledge the fact and, perhaps, pay a fee for the use made of the information. I think the latter is extremely unlikely in the philatelic world.

So far as can be ascertained from the volume presented to the Society, no effort has been made to establish the identity of the present copyright holder and I believe that this is to be deplored.

References:

1. Woolfe J "Recent Library Acquisitions" *The Kiwi* (2001). Vol. 50. No. 2 P.29.
2. Berry AP "Copyright". *Captain Cook*. The Newsletter of the Christchurch Philatelic Society (Inc.) (2000). Vol. 28. No. 1. Pp. 9-12.

A SIGNED SET OF STAMPS

STUART POTTER

I recently purchased a set of the 1940 Centennial stamps (including the 8d) each of which was signed "Willingdon" and dated "9.5.40" in the selvedge (Figure 1). The dealer from whom I obtained them informed me that the stamps had been signed by the "Governor, Lord Willingdon".



Figure 1

I did not recognise the name and exploration of the internet revealed the biography of Sir Freeman Freeman-Thomas, 1st Marquess of Willingdon of Ratton, County Sussex.

He was clearly an extraordinary man, becoming the first commoner to be raised to the rank of Marquis. Amongst the positions he held were Governor of Madras and Bombay. He became the first Governor-General of Canada following the Imperial Conference which gave the Dominions autonomy and was, therefore the first Governor-General to act on the advice of

Canadian ministers rather than as an agent of the British Government. His last posting was as Viceroy of India where he was confronted by the beginnings of Ghandi's non-violent campaign of civil disobedience.

On his retirement in 1936 he became Warden of the Cinque Ports and Chancellor of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Clearly, a very distinguished servant of Empire but I was still at a loss to explain his signature (if it were his) on the selvedge of these stamps.

The mystery was solved by a sentence in the Dictionary of National Biography (1) which stated that "He represented the home government in 1940 at the centennial celebrations of New Zealand." I presume that he was given the stamps as a "Presentation Set" and signed the selvedge to commemorate the occasion.

I am not sure what part of the celebrations was taking place in early May, 1940 and would be grateful if any reader could enlighten me.

Reference:

1. Ed. Wickham-Legg LG & Williams ET. "*Dictionary of National Biography 1941 - 1950*". Pub. Oxford University Press. 1959.

THE "PER AUSTRALIA=LONDON AIRMAIL" MARK

IAN McQUEEN

Tom Hetherington first reported this marking in *The Kiwi* in 1982 (1). Subsequently, two further examples have been recorded (2, 3) and the cachet has been documented in Volume Two of the Airmails of New Zealand (4). I am now able to report a fourth example (Figure 1).

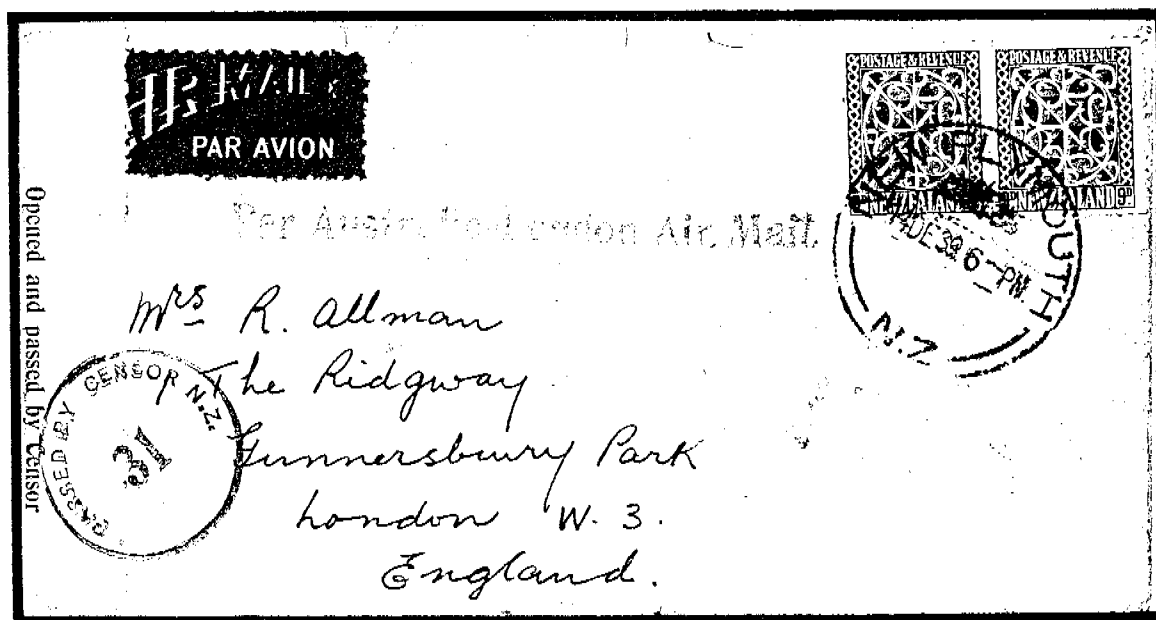


Figure 1

The new example is addressed to London and carries a New Plymouth cancellation dated 14 DE 39. The previous examples are dated 1936 or 1937 (one date was undecipherable) so this cover is considerably later than previous known usage. A further question raised was whether the stamp had a full stop at the end: the illustration clearly shows its presence.

The other question raised was whether this cachet was applied officially, I do not believe that this new example contributes to that debate.

References:

1. Hetherington T. "A Further Unrecorded Air Mail Cachet?" *The Kiwi* (1982). Vol. 31. No. 2. P. 21 & 26.
2. Leppard EW "Routing Cachets" *The Kiwi* (1988). Vol. 37 No.4. Pp.70-72.
3. Leppard EW "Routing Cachets". *The Kiwi* (1989). Vol. 38. No.2. Pp.39 - 40.
4. Walker DA. "Airmails of New Zealand. Volume 2). Pub. The Airmail Society of New Zealand Inc. Christchurch, New Zealand. (1986). ISBN 0-9597787-1-3. P. 200.

"PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND" POSTMARKS

TONY STEPHENS

In the past there have been notes about the Province of Auckland postmark: can any tell me the earliest and latest recorded dates of its use?

I enclose photocopies of two recently acquired examples which may add to the general fund of knowledge concerning this aspect of N.Z. philately.



Figure 1



Figure 2

The first (Figure 1) is on a copy of the 1864 2d. Blue NZ Watermark., Perforated 12½ (S.G.107). It carries a part cds - SP, year not legible with a faint Serial No. (?1).

The second (Figure 2) is on a copy of the 1871 2d. Vermilion Large Star Watermark, Perforated 12½ (S.G.134a). Retouched or damaged plate. It carries a cds - NO 7 73. Serial No. 1

A MYSTERY CHALON

TONY STEPHENS



Figure 1

Can anybody identify the stamp shown in Figure 1? It is apparently, it is SG96a Davies Print of 1863 No. Watermark. Perforated 13 at sides but imperf at top and bottom including part frames of adjoining stamps.

THE RED SPOT

If your envelope bears a **RED SPOT**, this will be the last copy of *The Kiwi* that you will receive because you have not paid your subscription. Please make contact with Ernie Leppard as soon as possible.

THE NEW ZEALAND ARMY POSTAL CORPS

ERNIE LEPPARD

During the First World War the N.Z. Army Postal Corps was a part of the N.Z. Engineers. I recently came across a copy of Army Orders dated 31.8.18 which conveys an idea of the scale of the operations. It is reproduced below.

"672. Establishment — N.Z. Army Postal Corps (N.Z. Engineers.

The establishment of the N.Z. Army Postal Corps as laid down in N.Z.E.F. Order No. 398 of 15-9-17 is cancelled. and the following new Establishment authorized in lieu thereof — to date 31-8-18.

	Officers	Warrant Officers I	Warrant Officer II	S-Sergts.	Sergeants	Corporals	Sappers	TOTAL
NEW ZEALAND								
Base P.O. London	2	1	1	4	7	11	75*	100
S.P.O. 1 N.Z. Inf.Res.Bde.Sling	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	7
2. No.1 N.Z.Genl.Hospital	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
4. N.Z. Conv.Hospital	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	6
5. N.Z. Command Depot	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	7
6. No. 2 N.Z.Genl.Hospital	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	4
7. N.Z. Discharge Depot	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
8. N.Z. R.B.Reserve Depot	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
FRANCE								
Divisional Headquarters	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	4
Divisional Train	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
Supply Column	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
1st. N.Z. Infantry Brigade	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
2nd. N.Z. Infantry Brigade	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
3rd. N.Z. (Rifle) Brigade	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Railhead	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	4
Entrenching Group	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Base Depot	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	6
Record Office, Rouen	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Checker. A.P.O.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
EGYPT								
Base P.O. Kantara	—	—	—	1	1	1	6	9
Mounted Brigade Headquarters	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
	2	1	2	6	16	28	125	180

* This number of Sappers to be increased or decreased as required in proportion of 1 Sapper for every 600 increase or decrease in the strength of N.Z.E.F.

This Establishment is based on a total strength of the N.Z.E.F. of 48,000"

The NZ Discharge Depot (APO No.7) was situated in two groups of nine houses in Torquay. It was used to accommodate NZ soldiers awaiting their return to New Zealand. The number present at any time must have been small and the provision of 3 members of the NZ Postal Corps to care for them demonstrates the importance attached to ensuring a continuity of communication between soldiers and home.

FINDINGS FROM FILES
MORE PAPER COSTING PROBLEMS

ALLAN P. BERRY

This section of the files starts with a letter from the New Zealand High Commission to the Post Office Stores Department., dated 23rd June, 1950. It reads:-

"We have just asked Messrs. Samuel Jones to quote for 1,400 reams of our watermarked postage stamp paper in accordance with a request from New Zealand. The firm's quotation for this paper size 20½" x 11" is 39s.0d. per ream, against the last order (October 1949) at 36s.0d. per ream for size 21" x 11¼" (35s.3d. in size 20½" x 11" as now required).

"Can you kindly confirm that there has been this substantial increase in the price of paper, and do you consider that Messrs. Samuel Jones' quotation is reasonable?"

There follows a memo dated 27.6.50, clearly hand written by an Officer in the Post Office Stores Department, addressed to another Officer in the same Department. This reads:-

"From conversations I have had with Portals' representatives an increase in price of 10% may be expected. ...'s price of 39/- against 35/3 appears to be in step with this trend.

"On the face of it,, he seems to pay a fierce price for his paper at Sam'l Jones.

"We pay something like 13/6 per ream for High Value paper of size 17½" x 12¼" (= 202 sq. ins.) weight 10¼ lb. against his 39/- for size 20½" x 11" (225 sq. ins.) weight ?

"Our price in terms of his size would be 15/- This suggests that the other 24/- (or thereabouts) is due to gumming and plate glazing which seems fantastic. His order (1400 reams) cannot be regarded as very small.

"However, if you agree, I will write to him simply assuring him that a 10% increase is not unreasonable."

A further hand written memo follows on the file. It is not dated, and is in a different hand from the previous one. This reads:-

"Mr. ... informed me on 9th May, 1950, that Wiggins Teape had increased the price of Blue Imperial Air Mail paper from 1/5¼ to 1/8¾ per lb. and he anticipated that all other papers for the stamped stationery would be similarly increased.

"This increase is approx. 20% and may be taken as a fair indication of the trend for other high class papers."

The final document on this section of the files is a letter from the Post Office Stores Department to the New Zealand High Commission, dated 29th June, 1950, reading:-

"In reply to your letter of the 23rd June, 1950, it is confirmed that there has been a general increase in the price of paper. We were advised recently that the price of some high grade papers has risen by approximately 20%.

"It is considered, therefore, that the increase in Messrs. Samuel Jones price (approximately 10%) for your watermarked postage stamp paper may be regarded as reasonable."

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

AN UNUSUAL COMPULSORILY REGISTERED COVER

GEOFF GOODENS

I recently acquired the cover illustrated as Figure 1 and Figure 2 from an auction in New Zealand. Described as a postage due item from 1943, I bid for it and was successful.

Figure 1

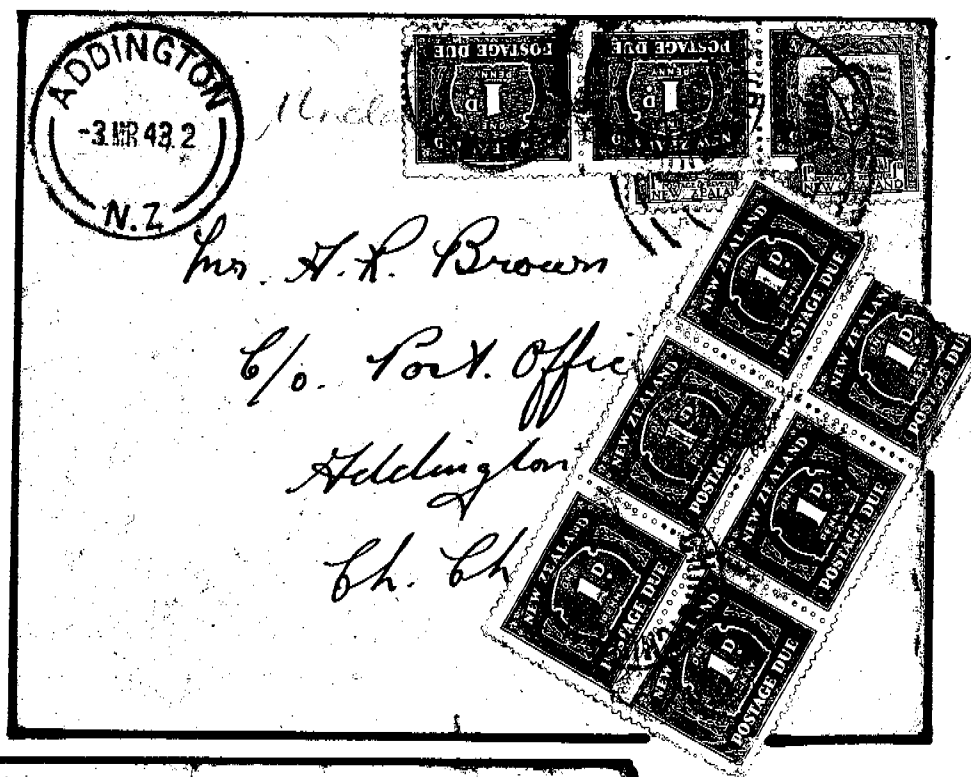
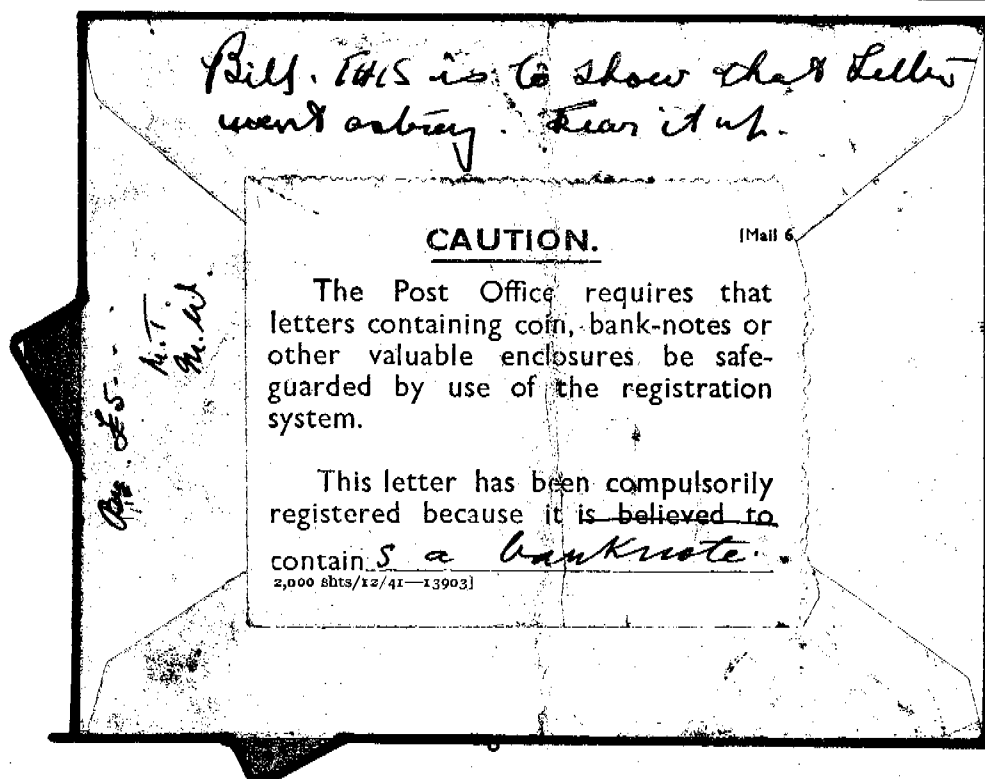


Figure 2



When it arrived, it proved to be more interesting than I had expected. It was posted in Petone (7 miles north east of Wellington) and addressed to Addington, a suburb of Christchurch, and carries 2 x 1d King George VI definitives and 8 x 1d 1939 type, a block of six and a pair: the pair seems to have been detached from the block and is only attached by the inverted left hand stamp.

On looking at the reverse, the reason for the surcharge becomes apparent: it was compulsorily registered. The odd feature that struck me the wording on the label: "is believed to" has been struck out and, in manuscript, has been added "contains a banknote".

This is quite specific, i.e. it does contain a note. How did the post office know this? Had it been coinage, it would have been obvious but, surely, to know that it contained a banknote, the envelope must have been opened. To support this theory, on the reverse is written "£5--" with two initials M.T. and M.W.: I take these to be the initials of the postal workers who opened the envelope.

On the front of the cover, in manuscript, the part word "Uncla". I assume that this is "Unclaimed".

The cover was addressed "c/o Post Office" at Addington and the original postmarks shows that the envelope was posted on 23 January 1943 and received in Addington on 25 January 1943. The Addington mark near the top 2 dues bears the date 3 Mr 43. It would seem that after some weeks, the envelope was deemed unclaimed, opened and returned to sender. This would appear to have occurred in Christchurch as the postage due stamps are cancelled there although the date is unreadable.

Was the item then returned under cover as there is no re-address and no "Officially Sealed" label? If this happened, was the fee ever collected and if so, what were the mechanics?

The other manuscript notation on the reverse is more difficult to interpret: I surmise that the £5.00 may have been in re-payment of a debt and the re-payer enclosed the envelope to show that the delay in payment was not his fault. He seems to have requested the recipient to destroy the cover - luckily, he did not.

I suppose the sender may have considered himself unlucky to be caught in this way but I expect that he was pleased to have his money returned, albeit at the cost of 8d.

The label is perforated at the right side and top and bears form number [Mail 6 and measures 74mm x 60mm. There is a printing number at the bottom left: 2,000 sheets/12/41 — 13903. Can anybody tell me how big the sheets were?

A similar label is illustrated in Volume III of the New Zealand Handbook (1) and a further example is shown in Figure 3. This label bears no printing number although it is still [Mail 6. This example measures 76mm x 43mm.

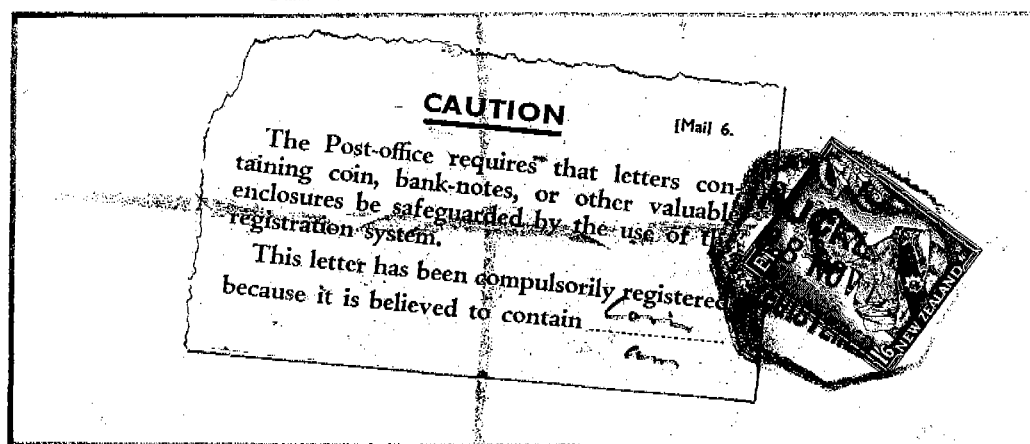


Figure 3

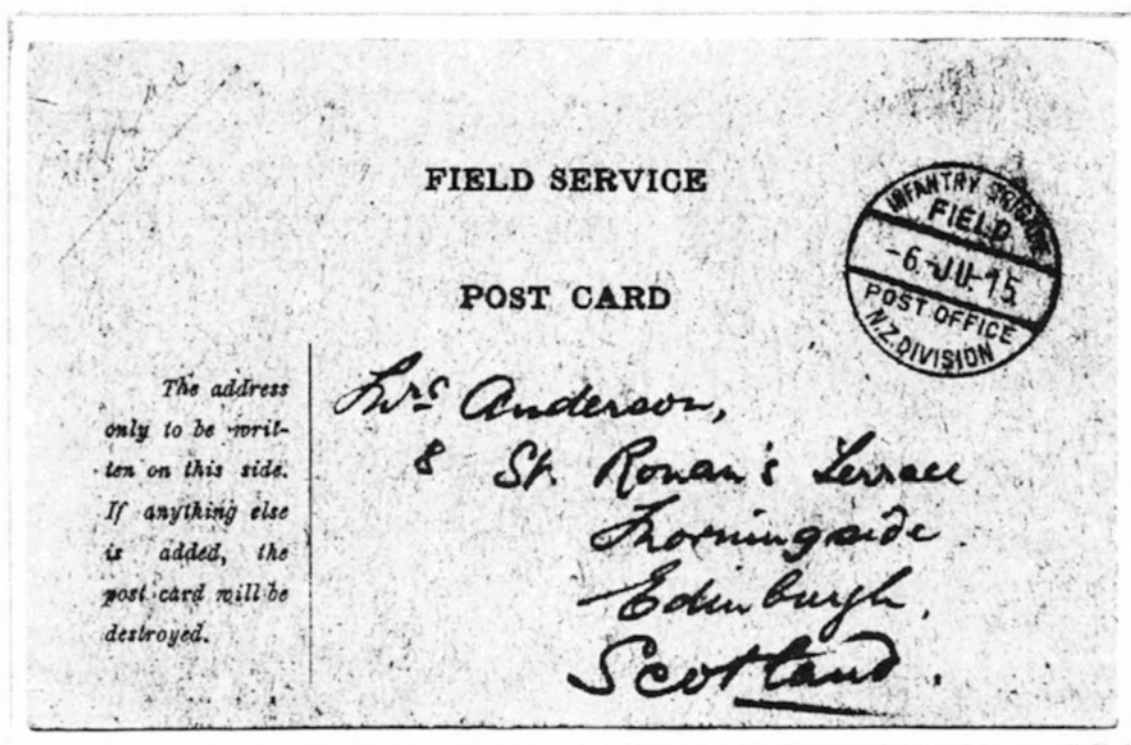
Reference:

1. Ed. Collins RJG & Watts CW "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand. Vol. III". (1955). Pub. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Inc. Wellington NZ. P. 530.

The John Firebrace Collections of Military Postal History.

Sale 600 - Wednesday 16 May 2001

Featuring stunning items from campaigns in Egypt (including Napoleonic Wars), the Sudan, the Middle- and Near-East, Soldiers' Concession Rates, First World War N.Zealand Hospital Ships and very much more, including all of the material illustrated in Firebrace's 'Nineteenth Century Wars in Egypt and the Sudan'.*



Handbook Catalogues available from mid-April.

*A few copies are still available - contact our Office.

Enquiries may be made to Ken Baker
or Ian Kellock at Cavendish Auctions.



CAVENDISH HOUSE,
153-157, LONDON ROAD,
DERBY DE1 2SY, ENGLAND
Tel: 01332 250970 (4 lines; 24hrs.)
Fax: 01332 294440 :Fax

E-mail: stamps@cavendishphilauc.demon.co.uk
www.Cavendish-Auctions.com