



THE KIWI



THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

ISSN 0964 7821

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 5, SEPTEMBER 2001

WHOLE NUMBER 288

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE LAKES COURT HOTEL, CARLISLE
ON OCTOBER 28th 2001.**

FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 94 OF THIS ISSUE.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 10.30.

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

Annual Subscription £12.00

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PREVIEW OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held in Carlisle on Saturday, 27th October, 2001. The venue is the Lakes Court Hotel which is located next to the Railway Station. (☎ 01228 531 951).

The meeting will comprise two sessions, 10.30 - 12.30 and 14.00 - 16.00. If you are coming, please contribute to the displays. For further information and to offer help contact Dr. David Stalker (☎ 0141 8126653).

NEXT MEETING OF THE MIDLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the Midland Regional group will be held at the Carr's Lane Meeting Centre, Birmingham on September 8th, 2001 starting at 14.00 Andrew Dove will show King George V.

NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHERN GROUP

The next meeting of the Northern Group will be held at St. Luke's Church Hall Orrell on September 22nd, 2001 starting at 13.30.

The subject will be Postmarks and Postal Markings. Members are invited to bring along any items associated with the subject.

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON JULY 28TH, 2001

Lew Giles opened the meeting with 18 members present and welcomed a potential new member. He then introduced John Woolfe who was to provide the first display.

Whilst John was mounting his sheets, Keith Collins showed two covers with "per LURLINE" cachets, one struck and one manuscript. He asked whether anybody could give him information. None was forthcoming.

John then introduced his display of Marine Post Offices. He explained that the initiative to place Post Offices on board ships arose because the early settlers were concerned to receive mail as quickly as possible. Sorting mail at sea meant that it could be despatched as soon as the ship docked in New Zealand.

The first service was between Dunedin and Melbourne in 1864/5. Only one cover is known from this period and unfortunately it is in a vault in Canterbury Museum. Mail was cancelled by a Duplex cancellor. Strips of stamps showing the strike were shown including a rare 1/- rate. The standard rate was 6d. and the 1/- included a Late Fee. The cancellor was in use for 18 months. Most examples are from 1865 and the last known use is 24/12/1865.

In 1866, the second service was initiated. This was a Government sponsored route which went via Panama. Australia was bypassed and about one month was taken off the transit time. Mail was transported to Panama, handed to the Panama Railroad Company and carried across the isthmus to Colon from where it was carried in the ships of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Six covers are known from this period with Marine Post cancellations, one without a stamp. Four were on show. One of particular interest showed a departure date after the ship had left but can be proved to the service by the arrival datestamp. The point was made that arrival datestamps can be extremely useful in proving routes. All four ships used were small paddle steamers. Three sets of cancellors were provided and swapped between ships. The only known cover to travel from Panama to New Zealand was shown: a British stamp appears to have been removed and replaced by six 1d Chalmers with manuscript cancellations.

In 1869, the American trans-Continental railway was completed. Early in 1870, negotiations resulted in a contract for a service between Sydney, Auckland, Honolulu and San Francisco. In the first years, five companies went bankrupt. The only known cover from this period carried by the United States, New Zealand and Australian Mail Steam Packet Line was displayed. Some cancellations are not known on cover and their usage is uncertain: some may have been used only on parcels.

Between 1885 and 1901, two companies were involved in the contract: the Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand was to run a service between Honolulu, Auckland and Sydney and the Oceanic Steamship Company of San Francisco would link Honolulu and San Francisco. During this period, cancellations carrying the name of the ship appeared. A wide range of cancels and colours were shown. John explained that a number of inconsistencies are to be seen and these appear to have arisen because some of the postmen on board as a reward for good work at home and were probably given little specific training. In 1891, a series of un-named markings appeared: they are slightly different from each other and research into departure and arrival dates has now allowed them to be assigned to specific ships. Some larger cancellors for parcels were also issued.

In 1900, the United States introduced a law that only US ships could carry mail between the US and Honolulu. The Union Steam Ship Company withdrew from the contract and the Oceanic Company provided three additional vessels: Sierra, Sonoma and Ventura. A circular Marine P.O. without the ship's name was used. Six covers are known from this period and five were on show. Named cancels were also used: Volume III of the Handbook shows two cancels showing R.M.S. Ventura, but it is doubtful that both exist.

Collectors need to be wary because much of the mail from this period appears to be philatelic. For example, a batch of 35 cards posted on the Sierra on 6 November 1905 is known.

There followed a comprehensive display of covers cancelled on board ship. Included were a cover cancelled by mailbag seals from the Ventura and others with "Loose Letter" handstamps. There was also an example of the "Tax" handstamp: these were used to show the postage due on short paid correspondence. They were denominated in centimes as that was the currency of the UPU. Only 2 or 3 examples are known on Marine P.O. material.

The next sheets covered mail to and from Samoa. Marine Post Offices started calling in Apia infrequently in the 1880's. The earliest known cover is dated 1892 and the early covers carry Palm Tree stamps from the John Davis Post Office. These are mostly philatelic and although the stamps bear little relationship to postage rates, the envelopes were commercially carried and the

handstamps are genuine. One cover was carried on the Almeida when it docked in Pago Pago, in American Samoa, in December 1900 when American law prohibited it entering Apia in German Samoa. By mistake, a German Samoan postage stamp was used.

Two rare examples of Hawaiian mail were shown: one of especial interest as it carried Hawaiian and New Zealand stamps. It seems likely that the cover was mistakenly sent to the U.S. and returned to NZ when the error was discovered.

The showing finished with commercial covers from the 1923 - 1938 NZ to San Francisco and NZ to Vancouver services.

Derek Diamond followed. He started by making the point Maritime Mail is a vast subject as for the first 90 years of New Zealand life, all mail was carried by sea. His first two covers were from the Chalon period: the first with SG 2 and a handstruck "6" reflecting the fee to be paid by the addressee of a letter carried by the contract holder, the second with SG 5 and a handstruck "8" reflecting the higher fee due from mail carried on a non-contract holders ship.

There followed a wide range of covers with distinctive maritime links including covers bearing both Second Sideface and First Pictorial stamps, the earliest recorded marking from the Sierra in the 1901-1907 period and a curious cover from 1909 with two 1d meter marks with a roller cancellation of Fiji (at the time it was illegal to use meter marks for overseas mail). There were also two "Found Open and Officially Sealed" labels with a RMS Niagara cancellation.

Derek finished with postcards showing a range of ships from the 1950's many from the Shaw-Saville Line. Included was the MV Dominion Monarch. Ernie Leppard commented that this particular ship was nicknamed the "Dominion Maniac" because the lower portholes were only about 3 feet above waterlevel and if the seas were high, failure to close the portholes led to flooding.

Bernard Atkinson was next and started with a cover from August 1879 with a manuscript inscription indicating that it had been carried on SS Penguin. There were also an interesting cigarette card bearing a silk representation of the flag of the Merchant Fleet and a baggage label from a passenger liner.

There followed a wide range of cards illustrating the ships of the fleet linked to mail emanating from each one. Bernard finished with examples of strikes from the "Shipside" offices which were used to accept mail after the PO mail bags had been closed. A Late Fee was payable for all items accepted.

Lew Giles showed a wreck of the Columbo cover and Andrew Dove finished the afternoon with a few items including Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner menus from the R.M.S. Monowai in 1949.

John Smith gave a vote of thanks to all contributors and commented on the quality of material that always seemed to appear at such meetings.

The meeting closed at 1600.

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH GROUP HELD ON 30 JUNE 2001

The meeting was hosted by John Studholme and, courtesy of the lovely weather, we enjoyed a superb barbecue. Many thanks to John and his wife for the hospitality. A photograph of the gathering is shown in Figure 1.

Whilst the male enthusiasts enjoyed the stamps on display, the wives sortied to plunder a local summer fair. They returned with a number of tombola prizes.

This year being the Centenary of the 1d Universal, John Studholme led the way with a display of the Penny Universal with several nice sheets explaining the identification of the various printings.

David Stalker followed with a display of Year 2001 to date including a selection of the booklets and coils from the current definitive issue. Included in the display were the "Marlborough Sound" missing words and the 1998 booklet printed on the wrong side.

Ken Andison gave us a display a range of stamps issued between 1950 and 1955. He featured a display of the QEII 1/- definitive: on close examination, those present believed that they had identified an example of the 1/- Centre Die 1b!

David Edwards showed the Fiordland Penguin on stamps illustrated by leaflets from New Zealand. The R.1 S.3 Blue Heart flaw was shown as were examples of the \$4 and \$8 Fast Post Trial Booklets and the 1992 Panoramic Booklet in Non-Hangsell and Hangsell Formats.

David MacGill displayed the 1970 and 1971 issues and a specialised display of the 1958 Nelson Centenary including a number of postcards showing the interior of Christ Church Cathedral, Nelson.

Alexander McCulloch closed the displays with varieties from the 1960 Definitive Issue and other Christmas and Health Issues. The material on show included missing colours, perforation variations, paper folds, off-sets and a miscellany of other flaws.



The Scottish Group Meeting 30 June 2001.

Left to right: David McGill, Alexander McCulloch, George Younger, Dave Edwards, John Studholme, David Stalker, Ken and Helen Andison & Rosalind Edwards.

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN GROUP JUNE 2ND 2001

Ten members were present at the meeting with apologies being received from a further three.

The meeting was for members to show material on the theme of the 1940's. As usual, the material shown covered the period admirably.

Items shown covered the Centennial Exhibition, including stamps, covers, cinderellas, souvenir booklets, postcards and the "Weekly News" newspaper. Other areas covered were King George VI stamps, including proofs, the Centennial set of stamps, including joined "ff" and the set described in the May issue of *The Kiwi* signed by Lord Willingdon. Further displays included Military Mail, Airmail covers, high value fiscals and Health covers.

In all, a very enjoyable afternoon.

REPORT ON "MIDPEX 2001" HELD AT TILE HILL, COVENTRY ON 30 JUNE, 2001

The bi-annual show was run with its usual efficiency by the Association of British Philatelic Societies. It is one of the few events around the country that invites specialist and general Societies to have stands and "set out their wares". They provide display frames with six frames of sixteen sheets per frame for each standholder.

Our Society stand was in the Small Hall 1. The following members contributed displays:

Ernie Leppard:	First Pictorial Proofs
Bernard Symonds:	1901 - 2001 Booklets
John Hicks:	World War I
Eric Lewis:	Social Philately: Advertising Covers
Laurence Kidman:	Air Mail Routes
Ian Samuel:	Elizabeth Purdon Handpainted Covers

Many thanks to them for their excellent displays.

In total, more than 50 Societies were represented and, to add interest, about 40 dealers were present: a well balanced range of material was on offer with plenty for everybody.

I am already looking forward to 2003.

NEW CO-ORDINATOR FOR THE SCOTTISH BRANCH

The Scottish Group of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain has a new co-ordinator. He is Dr. David Stalker and may be contacted at 11, Laxford Road, Linburn, Erskine, Renfrewshire PA8 6HH. ☎ 0141 8126653.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

A summary of some of the topics discussed at the Committee Meeting held on July 28th:

50th Anniversary Celebrations:

Good progress is being made on the organisation of the weekend meeting to be held at the Union Jack Club on 22-24 November. In the survey published with a recent *Kiwi*, 38 members indicated that they planned to attend so it should be a great event.

Derek Diamond is making progress with the commemorative booklet and will be in touch with those who have agreed to contribute. It is planned to have it available for the display to the RPSL in March.

Display to the RPSL:

The contents and contributors to the Society display at the RPSL on March 21st, 2002 was agreed at the Committee Meeting. Ernie Leppard will be co-ordinating and will be in touch with those involved. The exhibits will need to be ready for the January meeting of the Society. Those contributing will need to provide 100 words of descriptive for incorporation into the handout for the display.

Competitions:

New regulations for the Society Competitions were agreed. Two competitions with different Rules will alternate annually. Next year, 2002, a 16 sheet competition with an external judge will be held, in 2003, a competition with Society rules for 12 sheets will be held. Detailed rules will be published in the relevant *Kiwi*. The most important alteration in the 12 sheet Society competition is that the classes will change:

Class 1: Stamps:

- 1A: Classics: Queen Victoria and First Pictorials
- 1B: Moderns 1: KEVII, KGV, 1d Universals, 1d Dominion and Second Pictorials
- 1C: Moderns 2: KGVII and QEII

Class 2: Postal History to include Aerophilately and Postal Stationery

Class 3: Open: everything else to include Thematics, Social Philately, Cinderellas and any other display with at least 50% philatelic content.

The 16 sheet competition will conform to National exhibition judging standards: each entry will be judged against National marking standards and the mark awarded will give an indication of the standard achieved in relation to national competitions. For this competition, no classes will be identified but, for the interest of those who may be interested in moving into the National forum, details of the National Classes are as follows:

Traditional Class

Traditional philately embraces all aspects of philately; it is based on the collecting of all postal items, including items related to the production of postage stamps.

Postal History Class

This class includes items on rates and routes, and studies of markings and marcophily. It is not normally advisable to include unused adhesives or postal stationery.

Aerophilatelic Class

Based on the study of postal material prepared for, and or conveyed by airmail, whether official or unofficial. It can also include exhibits of airmail stamps and their usage.

Revenue Class

A revenue exhibit comprises embossed, imprinted or adhesive tax, fee or credit stamps issued by or under the aegis of a Government Authority.

Experimental Class

This is for material not recognised for international transmission of mail but accepted as being issued locally or generally for the transmission of messages or packages (e.g. Local, Railway or Telegraph).

Postal Stationery Class

Exhibits can include proofs, essays and formula items where appropriate.

Thematic Class

This class is for entries based on a theme or subject, which is developed to a logical plan by the use of the widest range of appropriate stamps and other philatelic material. Revenue stamps may be included where no other philatelic material will convey the intended message; such material should be used sparingly. Please note that a copy of the PLAN SHEET should accompany entries.

Special Studies Class

This is a new National Class, which has been introduced for those who wish to enter exhibits, which do not readily conform to the requirements for evaluation in other National Classes. The normal constraints relating to exhibits entered in the Traditional, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilatelic, Thematic and Revenue Classes will be relaxed. A proportion (say up to 10%) of relevant supporting non-postal material may also be used.

Social Philately Class

This is very similar to the Special Studies Class but relies on the exhibit being based on a theme and up to 50% of non-philatelic material may be included.

AWARD TO A MEMBER

Congratulations to Robert Odenweller who has been awarded the Thomas L. Belknap Memorial Award by the Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania for Exceptional Achievement in Research and Exhibiting.

SPECIAL OFFER:

In 1991, the Society published "New Zealand A Philatelic Miscellany", a 264 page book with many articles by pre-eminent New Zealand philatelists. A few copies are left and are being offered at a special discounted rate of £6.00 + P. & P. (original price £16.).

Anybody interested should contact John Woolfe, 31, Emberson Way, North Weald, Essex CM16 4DL

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION

The Annual Society Auction will be held on Kiwi Day, Saturday, 24th November, 2001. Members who wish to place items in the Auction should note the following instructions:

1. A list of your Lots, typewritten or in block letters please, should be prepared, giving a brief description of each Lot - e.g. U.M. : Unmounted: M: Mint: F.U.: Fine Used, etc.
2. State your realistic estimate of the market value and reserve for each Lot. This is a must. If you have no reserve, please say so. Estimates for Lots should be more than £4.00.
3. All Lots should be contained in clear envelopes or plastic holders. A white label about one inch square should be placed in the bottom right hand corner for the insertion of the lot number.
4. Lots may be sent to the Auctioneer with your list, but in any case, they must be in my hands prior to the Auction. The Auctioneer will acknowledge receipt of lists and Lots. Lots handed in on the day of the Auction must have their Lot numbers clearly shown.
5. The Auctioneer is:

A.J. Woolfe, 31, Emberson Way, North Weald, Essex CM16 6DL

Lists must reach the Auctioneer by Saturday, 22nd September, 2001, so that the Catalogue can be printed in time for distribution with the November issue of *The Kiwi*. Lists may be faxed to the Auctioneer on: 0207 5407739.

6. Commission will be charged at 10% of the sale price. All postage, poundage, insurance, etc. is payable by the vendor. A lotting fee of 15p per lot will be charged. Bulky lots comprising books, periodicals, boxes of stamps etc. cannot be accepted unless the vendor undertakes to deliver and collect from the auction room, or, if sold, to deliver to the purchaser direct.

An analysis of previous Auctions suggests that modern Lots, such as First Day Covers, unless unusual, have a poor rate of sale and would be better disposed of through the Society's Exchange Packet. Stamps with bad creasing or toning should not be submitted: you do not want them but neither do other members: please remember that this is a specialist society.

In recent years, problems have been experienced with the contents of some Lots. Accordingly, the Auctioneer has the right to decline lots that do not conform to their description or which, in his view, are of insufficient quality to sell. Payment to vendors will be made when postal purchasers have received and paid for their Lots.

APPEAL

Each year it has been the practice of many generous members to offer items, both philatelic and general, to be auctioned on behalf of Society's funds. This is much appreciated. Do please see what you have surplus to your requirements. No matter what it is, we will be delighted to receive it, preferably by 22nd September, 2001, so that it can appear in the catalogue, otherwise at any time up to 2.00 p.m. on Kiwi Day.

Do remember to bring your catalogue to the auction. Copies available in the room will cost £1-00.

MEMBERS WANTS

Ken Bracey is looking for a copy of John Firebrace's book: "British Empire Campaigns and Occupations in the Near East, 1914-1924 A Postal History." If anyone can help, can they contact him through the Editor of *The Kiwi*.

NEW LIBRARY ADDITION

Ken Lynch has kindly sent a copy of the 2001 edition of his book on the "Chalon" issues of New Zealand.

Although the new edition only has 12 extra pages, it has perhaps 50% extra contents as the opportunity has been taken to reduce "white space".

Almost all sections have been worked on, particularly the list of references from periodicals etc. and there is a lot more background information on the issue. It is a pity that Mr. Lynch does not appear to have access to complete runs of the journals as his very extensive footnotes reveal.

Mr. Lynch writes that he has taken up the challenge to prevent knowledge being lost and on this basis alone, he is to be congratulated. There have been some trenchant comments about this publication but I believe that it is a valuable record.

Fifty copies of this third edition have been printed and I feel that this may prove to be too few. In my view, all collectors of this issue will find much of interest and those planning to start a collection will find it invaluable.

If, as the publisher hopes, further improvements can be made for the 2003 edition, the book may well become indispensable.

INFORMATION RECEIVED:

RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions: John Firebrace Military Postal History, 16 May 2001

This an interesting auction with the majority of lots being sold to bidders in the room. In the non-NZ lots, there were some extraordinary results, for example, Lot 1073, a letter from Lord Nelson dated 6 Dec. 1798 fetched £7,500 (Est. £1,000) and Lot 1060, a letter from Napoleon dated 1 Dec. 1798 fetched £3,200 (Est. £1,000).

New Zealand lots had varying fortunes: virtually all sold with nearly all realising above estimate. Troopship covers sold around estimate but some other Lots went well above.

Lot 1270: Troopship No. 12 cancellation	£130 (Est.£120)
Lot 1285: Third Reinforcement cancellation	£160 (Est.£130)
Lot 1300: Hospital "Free" Cachets: 7 covers and 1 front	£420 (Est.£120)
Lot 1301: Military Cachets: 16 covers	£550 (Est.£200)
Lot 1317: Cover from the wreck of S.S.Kingstonian	£550 (Est. £100)
Lot 1326: Cover with J class H.S.Marama strike	£360 (Est. £150)

Classic Stamps Limited Postal Bid Sale No. 24. 15 June, 2001:

Lot 24: Used vertical pair SG 1: top stamp 3½ margins and lower with left lower margin missing and bottom cut in to.	\$14,000 (Est. \$15,000)
Lot 62: Full sheet of ½d Newspaper stamp	\$2,200 (Est. \$1,500)
Lot 97: Pair of 1898 First Pictorials 2½d on F. D. C.	\$2,750 (Est. \$1,750)
Lot 421: Four covers and used examples of the other three Christchurch Exhibition Cinderella Labels. Those on cover were attached and tied by postmark Included is label 6: this may be unique as the label was only available with the Union Art Ticket and it is believed that no others were used on cover.	\$3,650 (Est. \$2,500)

Lot 453: 1959 3d. Red Cross. Mint single with Red omitted. \$1,500 (Est. \$1,500)

The results of this auction showed that there is an increasing demand for modern printing and perforation varieties.

NEWS RELEASE

GREETINGS STAMP ISSUE MAKES IT MORE PERSONAL

23 MAY 2001

New Zealand Post's latest stamp issue features five 40c and five 90c stamps with a Greetings theme.

The image created for the stamps in this issue use an artistic blend of photography, watercolours and hand written script - making an attractive addition to any collection.

"Our new Greetings stamp issue celebrates those special messages we receive through the mail and adds a special touch to them," says Linda Morgan, New Zealand Post Stamps Design and Marketing Manager. "Whatever the occasion, there is a new Greetings stamp to match the message you are sending."

For the first time, New Zealand Post is offering the option to personalise this Greetings issue. Sheets of 20 stamps for both the 40c and 90c denominations have been created for personalisation.

The stamps and First Day Cover have been designed by Esther Bunning of Watermark, Wellington. The stamps have been printed by Offset Lithography by SNP Ausprint.

Explanatory Note from The Hon. Editor:

A brochure issued by New Zealand Post offers the opportunity for collectors to have a photograph of their choice printed on a label attached to the new Greetings issue described above.

The personalised stamps are available in sheets of twenty costing NZ\$15.95 for the 40c and NZ\$27.95 for the 90c. The minimum order is for 2 sheets of 20 stamps.



Figure 1

For further information, contact New Zealand Post via their web site: www.stamps.co.nz or by post at The Stamps Centre, Private Bag 3001, Wanganui, New Zealand.

NEW STAMPS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF TOURISM

29 June 2001

Tourism New Zealand and New Zealand Post are calling all New Zealanders to help promote their country.

New Zealand's global marketing body, Tourism New Zealand, is 100 years old this year. To mark this milestone, a new stamp issue, "100 Years of Tourism", will be launched on 4 July by New Zealand Post and Tourism New Zealand.

The "100 Years of Tourism" stamps are a chance for all New Zealanders to support their country and help promote it overseas, says George Hickton, Chief Executive of Tourism New Zealand.

"The new stamps provide a unique opportunity for us all to take a pride in our country, and put a taste of New Zealand in everyone's letterboxes - world-wide."

The images, part of Tourism New Zealand's international marketing campaign, were chosen for their stunning representation of our unique landscape and what it offers, says Linda Morgan, Stamps Design and Marketing Manager of New Zealand Post.

Reflecting the magnificent landscape that has attracted the tourist since the 1840s, the images also incorporate a taste of the adventure that is synonymous with today's tourism experience, one that attracts more than 1.8m visitors per annum and brings in over \$4.7m in foreign exchange.

The stamps feature bungy jumping in Queenstown (40c); Te Arawa Waka Taua on Lake Rotoiti (80c); sightseeing at Mt Alfred (90c); fishing at Glenorchy (\$1.30); sea-kayaking in Abel Tasman National Park (\$1.50) and tramping in Fiordland National Park (\$2.00).

The earliest visitors to New Zealand came in the 1840s to see the famed "eighth wonder of the world", the Pink and White Terraces of the Rotorua district (destroyed 1886), and experience our thermal and scenic wonderland.

The creation of the Department of Tourism and Health Resorts in 1901 was the world's first tourism organisation, and recognised the Government's early commitment to developing a tourism industry in New Zealand. It was set up to provide improved facilities for travellers and to encourage international visitors.

The stamps were designed by Designworks, Wellington using images supplied by Tourism New Zealand and printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin. As well as the usual stamps, presentation pack and choice of two FDC, for the first time, the 40c Scenic stamp will be available as a self-adhesive coil. To coincide with this issue, a book will also be published entitled New Zealand Perfect Scenes. It will contain photographs associated with all the scenic issues from 1972 and spaces to mount examples.

The stamps will go on sale on July 4th, 2001.

A FAVOURITE PASTIME HIGHLIGHTED IN CHILDREN'S HEALTH STAMP SERIES

19 July, 2001

Cycling, a favourite pastime for many New Zealanders, is to feature in this year's Children's Health stamps issue to be released on 1 August. In a recent Hillary Commission survey, cycling was voted amongst the top ten New Zealand Physical activities.

"This year's stamps are likely to appeal to the adventurous and fun-loving who appreciate cycling and the New Zealand scenery," says Linda Morgan, New Zealand Post Stamps Design Manager.

The 40 cent (plus 5 cent donation) self adhesive stamp captures the exuberance of the world on two wheels and is titled "Out Riding". "Family Time", the 40 cent gummed stamp (plus 5 cent donation) features a family cycling together while the 90 cent (plus 5 cent donation) stamp "Catching Air" shows mountain biking.

Health stamps raise money for kiwi kids by carrying an additional 5 cent surcharge that is donated to Children's Health Camps. There are seven Children's Health Camps throughout New Zealand. These camps provide a supportive and healthy environment where children and their families can gain long-term skills and confidence through resident and non-resident programmes. Last year, \$119,600 was raised from the sale of Health stamps.

"We welcome New Zealand Post's continuing support of Health Camps. The first official Health stamp was issued in 1929. The funds from the sale of the stamps assist us with the running of camp programmes and allow us to continue to provide fun activities as well as specialist care," says Sandy MacGillivray, National spokesperson for the Health Camps Stamps Campaign.

This years stamps, first day cover, miniature sheet and ten stamp sheetlet were designed by Comm Arts Design and printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin.

A MAJOR NEW PUBLICATION

Towards the end of the year, the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand will be publishing an important addition to their handbook series. The handbook will be entitled "Mails by Rail in New Zealand" by Albert Johnson and Robin Startup, edited by Allan Berry. It is a history of the Railway Travelling Post Offices in New Zealand. The publication will be to the same high standard as the Society's volumes on the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, that is hardback, jacketed and good quality papers and will run to around 220 pages.

Pre-publication orders will be taken but the Society would like to obtain some idea about the likely demand. If any readers are likely to purchase a copy, can they please let the Hon. Editor of *The Kiwi* know and he will send a consolidated return to the RPSNZ.

NORTHPEX 2002

North Shore Philatelic Society Inc. has just launched its new inter-active website at: www.welcome.to/nps.

The site has a section devoted to Northpex 2002 National Exhibition which will be held next year. Current information is available and the site will be updated regularly.

RECENT EVENTS:

RECENT CHANGES TO NEW ZEALAND POST

ROBIN STARTUP

1. RETURNED LETTER OFFICE (RLO):

The former NZ Post Office operated a central RLO in Wellington where all undeliverable mail that could not be returned directly to sender was opened. Under NZ Post Ltd., around 1990, four RLOs were operated on a regional basis, in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch. The Hamilton RLO had a short life before its work was taken over by Auckland.

More latterly, the RLO work has been part of the NZ Post call centres or Customer Service Centres functions, although still under the RLO designation. From the end of January 2001, the Christchurch RLO was transferred to Auckland, and from mid February, the Wellington RLO was similarly transferred to Auckland.

The change has been reflected by the use of new rubber stamps "Return to Sender" from RLO Auckland.

2. TWO NEW CLASSES OF POSTAL MARKINGS:

Two new classes of postal markings have made their appearance: thanks to Ron Ingram for details:

a) From April 2001, a circular self-inking datestamp has appeared with the new NZ Post "button" logo shown below the dateline (Figure 1). Its use has been reported from Mosgiel, Rai Valley and Tutira. This logo has also appeared in a PRIORITY Reiner roller from South Auckland MSC. There will be an article in the next *Captain Cook*. This new type of datestamp, which appears to be issued on a replacement basis, has been nicknamed "logo" type.

b) A new series of self-inking RETURN TO SENDER "pointing hand" datestamps appeared around 1st May (Figure 2). They combine the finger stamp with the datestamp and, thereby, eliminate double stamping. In *black* ink this has already been noted from various mail handling points around the South Island, Petone, Te Awamutu and from the Whangarei area. They are interesting as they name the unit where the datestamp is used as well as the place, thus Baylys Beach Post Centre, Whangarei Postal Delivery Branch, Te Awamutu Processing Centre and so on. The "processing centre" is a location where mail from a mail centre is routed to local deliveries and redirected and undeliverable mail is handled. So far reported are:

Baylys Beach Centre	Beckenham (Delivery Branch)
Blenheim Delivery Branch	Blenheim Processing
Christchurch/Mail Service Centre	Dargaville Mail Centre
Dunedin Mail Centre	Gore
Invercargill Delivery	Motueka Delivery Branch
Nelson Delivery Branch	Nelson Processing
Richmond Delivery Branch	Te Awamutu Processing Centre
Wellington Private Boxes	Whangarei Delivery Branch
Whangarei Returned/Letter Branch	Winton

A new larger self-inking "Mark-up" stamp is starting to replace the small and difficult to read green stamp.

3. POST SHOPS - FOR THE RECORD:

Beachlands AK: This franchise moved in March 2001 into temporary premises in the Town Centre so that the building could be demolished and two new larger stores be erected on the site.

Botany Books & More: A books and More post shop opened 1 May 2001 in the new Botany Town Centre with over 131 speciality shops and 13 mega stores complex opening to the public at the same time. Located midway between Howick and Manukau City at the intersection of Chapel Road, Te Irirangi and Ti Rakau Drives. The complex aims to serve the fast growing residential areas of Botany Downs and the population of south-east Auckland. The post shop uses rectangular 49x27mm self-inking datestamps with "Books & More: New Zealand Post" across the top. Contains 300 private with the prefix number 64.

Hamilton HN: This new company post shop opened 5 February 2001 at 36 Bryce Street, Hamilton, midway between the Waikato Mail Centre post shop and Hamilton Central post shop in the former Chief PO building in Victoria Street, which both closed 2.2.2001. The 19 prefix series private boxes at Hamilton Central were also moved here. Using NZ Post standard rectangular SIDS.

Henderson Books & More AK: The company post shop at 27-29 Railside Road, on the north side of the West City Plaza (now Westfield Shoppingtown) closed 27 April 2001 and was replaced 30 April 2001 with a Books & More franchise in Edsel Street, the south side of the Plaza. Ahemad Bhamji is the owner operator. Private boxes were also moved.

Napier Books & More NA: Franchise post shop opened 23 April 2001 in the Ocean Boulevard Shopping Centre, off Dickens Street, Napier. The existing company post shop in the former Chief

PO building at the east end of Dickens Street continues to operate. David and Karin Anderson with Neville Parkinson are the owner operators. Uses 49x27mm rectangular datestamps.

Whakarewarewa RO: Company post shop at corner Tryon and Froude Streets Rotorua closed 20 April 2001 being replaced from 23 April with a post centre located in the same building.

4. PACE!:

From 30 April 2001, the New Zealand Post urgent courier businesses of CourierPost Urgent, Smack On Time, Ansett Pace and StreetFax merged to form a new company: Pace! The company vehicles are being repainted from their earlier individual company colours to a shiny silver with PACE! in hectic red-coloured letters along their sides. New package labels are also marking their appearance.

5. BROCHURES:

The "Residential" series of New Zealand Post brochures - those that are available in information panels in Post Shops - have continued to change to the new cover design. Noted so far are:

- ADV 120 Sending Letters Nationwide
- ADV 126 Prohibited Items
- ADV 129 BillPsy. The easy way.
- ADV 220 Sending Parcels Nationwide
- ADV 221 Money Order Application
- ADV 301 Telegrams

Community Post this year will be promoted nationally between 1 July and 31 August. This is in contrast to previous years when regional programmes crept across the country. This may mean that new ADV 900 series forms from 1 July.

6. NEW ZEALAND POST STATIONERY:

Postage included envelopes, registered post, parcellpost and all items sold through Post Shops and bearing the former logo are in the process of change as stocks are reprinted. From the bent-wire symbol the logo now has this silhouetted against a red button. The text of "New Zealand Post" has also been given an uplift. If you collect stationery, watch for the changes - altered items appear without announcement or fanfare and are easy to miss.

7. UNIVERSAL (PITNEY BOWES) POSTMARKING MACHINES:

Christchurch and one of the Nelson machines from sometime in April commenced using their towndie (datehead) with the time slug in the **centre** and the date at the **top**. This would make it easier for a daily date change. So far the change does not appear to extend to other centres - but I do see enough mail to be sure.

RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS ARTICLES:

THE GOLDMINES - A CORRECTION

JOHN WATTS

In the report of the last meeting (1) mention is made in the last paragraph of a goldmine at "Waihae". There is no such place as "Waihae" and I assume that this is a phonetic error for "Waihi". The mine is called the Martha Mine and, at this time, is taking about \$1,000,000 of gold and silver out each week. It only has a licence to operate until 2007 when the huge hole will be converted into a recreational lake. The area will take about five years to fill. The surrounding tailings area will be converted to natural wetlands for bird habitats etc.

Reference:

1. "Notes of the Meeting held in London on May 26th 2001". The Kiwi (2001). Vol. 50. No. 4. Pp. 75-7.

THE EMERGENCY FLIGHTS IN 1940

PAUL NORTH

Further to my note in the last issue of *The Kiwi* (1), I can now provide some more information.

I have recently received a letter from Mrs. Joyce Holmes, wife of David Holmes O.B.E., the "Patriarch" of the Chatham Islands. Mr. & Mrs. Holmes have lived in the Chatham Islands from the 20s' until last year.

Joyce writes:

"Following the sinking of the "Holmewood" (late "Tees"), our mail, cargo and passengers went to and fro, as usual, once we were able to get another ship to replace the Holmewood. This was the "Port Waikato". We never knew when the ship was leaving Lyttleton nor arriving at the Chathams; it would just turn up. It was quite hair-raising living under the cloud of the war years and unknown future but we carried on.

For a while, we had mail drops and medical supplies by Parachute. Sometimes medical supplies were damaged until they aimed for the shore of Lake Huro, near Te One School, and the containers were buried in the soft ground and the goods would not be so badly damaged. "Lollies" were even parachuted for the children at times. Mail etc. was a treat when we eventually got it."

Reading between the lines, it would seem that there was more than one flight but I do not know whether the mail carried bore any distinguishing marks.

David Holmes has also written a book chronicling his time on the Chatham's (2). In this he notes that the replacement for the "Holmewood", the "Port Waikato", arrive early in February 1941 with building materials for the Seaplane Base to be built on Te Whanga Lagoon.

It would be reasonable to assume that this ship also carried mail, so that the probable period for parachute drops was eight to ten weeks although the number of flights made is still undetermined.

References:

1. North P. "The Emergency Flights in 1940". *The Kiwi* (2001). Vol. 50. No. 4. Pp. 81-2.
2. Holmes D. "My 70 Years on the Chatham Islands". Pub. Shoal Bay Press, Box 17450, Christchurch, New Zealand (1993). ISBN 908 704 17 8

POSTAL SERVICES IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

ROBIN STARTUP

I have long had an interest in this subject and was interested to see the photograph of the interior of the Army Post Office in *The Kiwi* (1).

The field and stationary post offices operated by the NZ Expeditionary Force in the Great War were an integral part of the Army Organisation. The NZ Post and Telegraph Office supplied senior officers and endeavoured to have trained sorters allocated to the postal units but otherwise the post offices were fully directed by the army and staffed to establishment levels pre-set.

For outward mail the task of the NZ Stationary APOs in Britain was to sell postage and accept letters from men in their camp/hospital and to date and cancel such outward mail. It is probable that they would have primary sorted this, to hand mail addressed to the UK over to the British camp PO (If there was one) or to the nearest civil PO and to send mail addressed to the BEF or New Zealand to the NZ Base Army PO in London. Mail to addressed to New Zealand may have been further sorted into key regions - we cannot be sure as no instructions survive. Anyway, the

Base APO, with its maximum staff of 100 men, would have merged this mail with all other mail for New Zealand received from other Stationary POs or the Field POs in France and probably broke it down to individual circulation offices. Thus, when the mail was eventually landed in NZ, the bags and bundles could be immediately directed to the towns concerned.

Incoming mail for the Stationary APOs would have been sorted in NZ into units as shown in the addresses and, possibly, into alphabetical order by surnames. On arrival in London this mail would have been carded or checked against the card index of all NZ soldiers held, any addresses corrected (that is why we see so many blue pencil or red ink changes), and then resorted for units. The Stationary APOs would then be sent their share of the mail and their duty here would have been to hand it over to unit postal orderlies or, with a hospital, to deliver to the wards.

After the initial volunteer phase New Zealand introduced conscription during the War and men would have been called up in a seemingly random order. The NZ Army PO was probably allocated one out of every thousand reinforcements, thus the background civil location of a postal sorter was perhaps incidental. The critical task was to move mail to and from the men at the front and skilled sorters were more important at Base APO, but for the Stationary APOs at least one skilled man would have been required.

The significance of the postcard illustrated is that the men shown identified themselves with their "home office" - this is typical as I have read elsewhere of letters containing statements like "met Joe from Dunedin mailroom in the club last night" and so on.

Reference:

1. Dove A. "Postal Services in the First World War". *The Kiwi* (2001). Vol. 50. No. 4. P. 84-85.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES:

THE CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF SIR FRANCIS CHICHESTER: 1901 - 1972 THE NEW ZEALAND CONNECTION

MIKE SHAND

It has always seemed to me that Aerophilately has two components. The "philately" side which is concerned with rates, routes and postal markings is usually given top billing for exhibiting and judging. The "Aero" side contains much more human interest. This is particularly true for New Zealand Aerophilately because of the physical difficulties of reaching the country by air. This meant that many of the early pioneering flights had much more to do with flying machines, suitable facilities and pilots with imagination than with the efforts of a reluctant Post Office to trust air travel.

Francis Chichester was born 100 years ago on September 17, 1901 in an age when no plane had appeared in the sky and at a time when England was still grieving over the death of Queen Victoria.

In 1919, at the age of 18, he had left his home in Barnstaple, North Devon, to seek and find a modest fortune in New Zealand. His business interests included farming, mining and a real estate business. He also developed an interest in his lifelong passion, navigation.

For some reason, in London in July 1929, during a visit home, he developed an urge to fly. He took lessons in August, bought an aeroplane in September and set out to fly solo to Australia on December 20th. He arrived in Sydney on January 31, 1930.

At the time he decided to return to New Zealand by plane, about half a dozen flights had gone as far as Australia and only Bert Hinkler had made a solo flight. The only plane that Chichester could find within his price range was a single engine Gypsy Moth which he named "Elijah". Perhaps a male name but Chichester always called her "A Perfect Lady" and so the plane is usually referred to as "Madame Elijah".

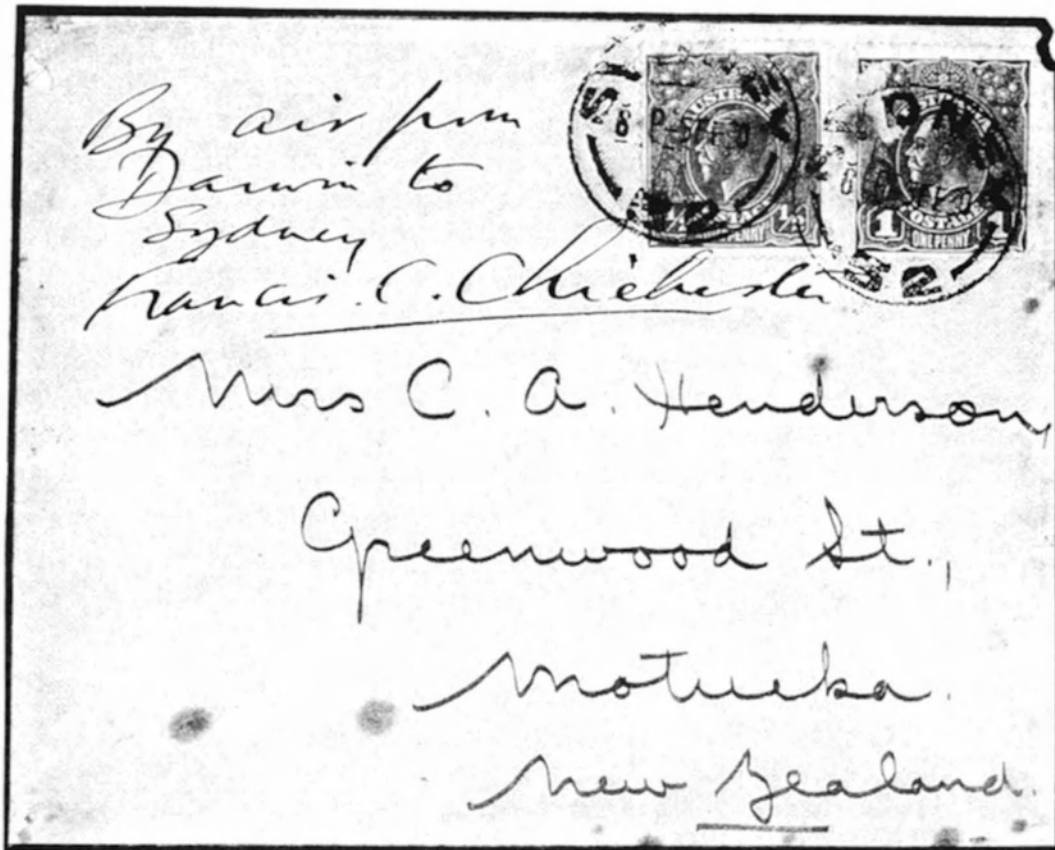


Figure 1

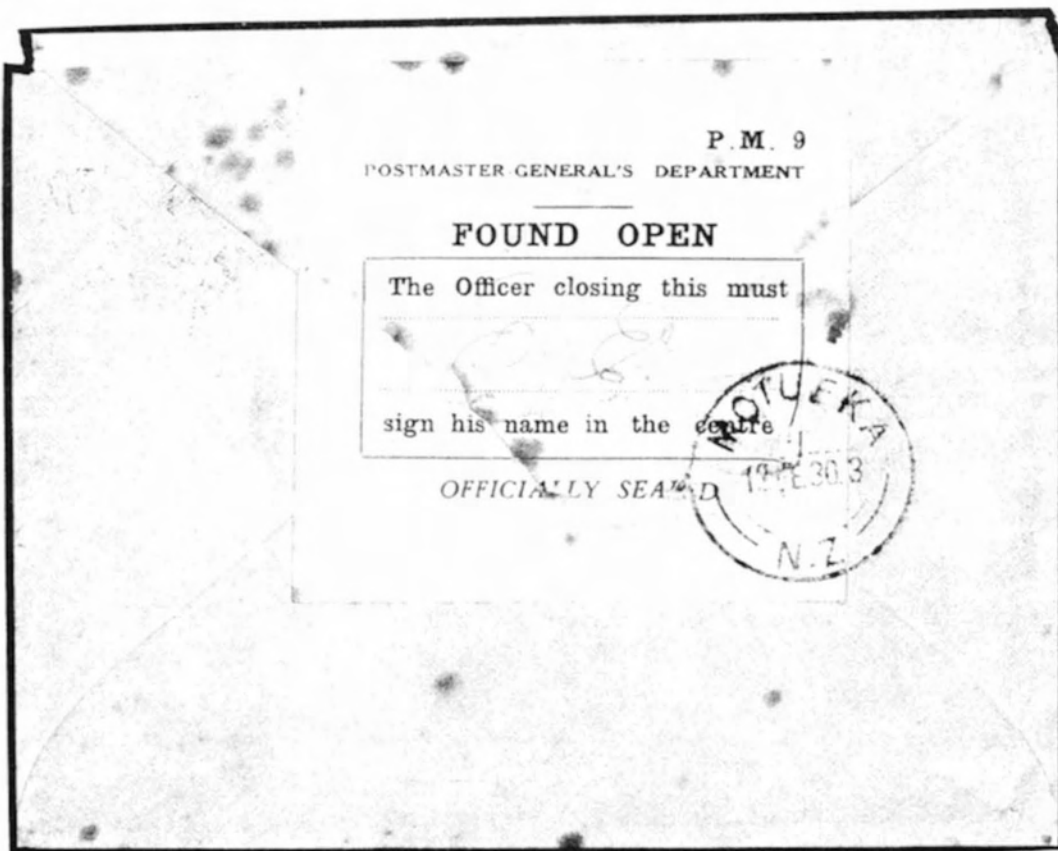


Figure 2

After a minimum of testing, Chichester set out via Italy, Karachi, Calcutta, Rangoon, Singapore and Darwin where he arrived on January 25th 1930. One might think that there would be welcoming banquets in Australia or at least a long rest. But no, Chichester went to the pictures (I wonder what was showing - would that be aerophilatelic research?). While there, he met a young New Zealander who wanted to send a letter to his mother and realised that it would go faster if Chichester flew it to Sydney and then mailed it to go by ship to New Zealand. Chichester's own plane did not have the range to fly the Tasman and it, too, eventually made the crossing to New Zealand by Tasman steamer arriving Wellington where he received a tumultuous welcome.

Given such a rare opportunity of sending mail, the young New Zealander wrote such a long letter that it burst the envelope before delivery and had to be re-sealed by the New Zealand Post Office, thereby giving future aerophilatelists proof of arrival in New Zealand. This envelope is shown in Figure 1 and 2 and is the only item addressed to New Zealand known to have been carried by Chichester on any stage of his flight from England although others may exist.

The last page reads:

"25-1-30

Dear Mother

Chichester arrived here today from England, he will post this in Sydney for me, so please excuse the writing I met him in the pictures tonight and as he leaves at daylight it means getting up at 4.30a.m. so haven't much time, I wired you today, & asked for £8. if it isn't convenient don't worry mother darling, I expect to go to Cocoa and then my remittance will be £10 at least.

Cheerio Everyone

Jack John

P.S. Im cultivating John up here & everyone calls me John."

After his successful flight, Chichester focussed on making the first solo crossing of the Tasman from New Zealand to Australia. His problem was that his plane had a range of 950 miles and the Tasman was 1,450 miles wide. His solution was to fit floats to the plane which, although safer, unfortunately decreased his range further. He then identified two small islands, Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island which lay more or less on the route to Australia and off he went on March 28, 1931.

At the time, of course, there were no sophisticated navigational aids and nobody had reached those tiny islands by plane so finding them both was a masterly stroke of air navigation. It is interesting to note that Fred Noonan and Amelia Earhart could not find the similarly sized Howland Island in 1937 despite having better navigation equipment and radio assistance from the U.S. Navy.

He covered the 500 miles to Norfolk Island in about 6 hours and remained there until April 1st. He landed safely on Lord Howe Island having covered the 561 miles in just under 8 hours.

Unfortunately, "Mme. Elijah" was wrecked that night after a tropical storm hit the island. Undaunted, Chichester had the plane raised and sent for spare parts by the next boat. On their arrival, he re-built the plane and flew to Sydney, arriving with the engine spluttering its last.

A few letters were carried from Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island, although their status is debated. Some covers had also been carried from New Zealand but these were all lost when the plane was damaged at Lord Howe Island.

After a major overhaul, Chichester flew on to the Phillipines, China and Japan where, unfortunately, "Madame Elijah" was totally wrecked after flying into wires across Katsura Harbour. Although badly injured, Chichester continued flying. In later years, using his fine

navigational skills took up sailing and, among other voyages, sailed solo around the world. He published books on astro-navigation including a "Planisphere" (Figure 3) which allowed the identification of stars to navigate (in contrast to today's pilots who only have to identify the correct computer keys to press!).



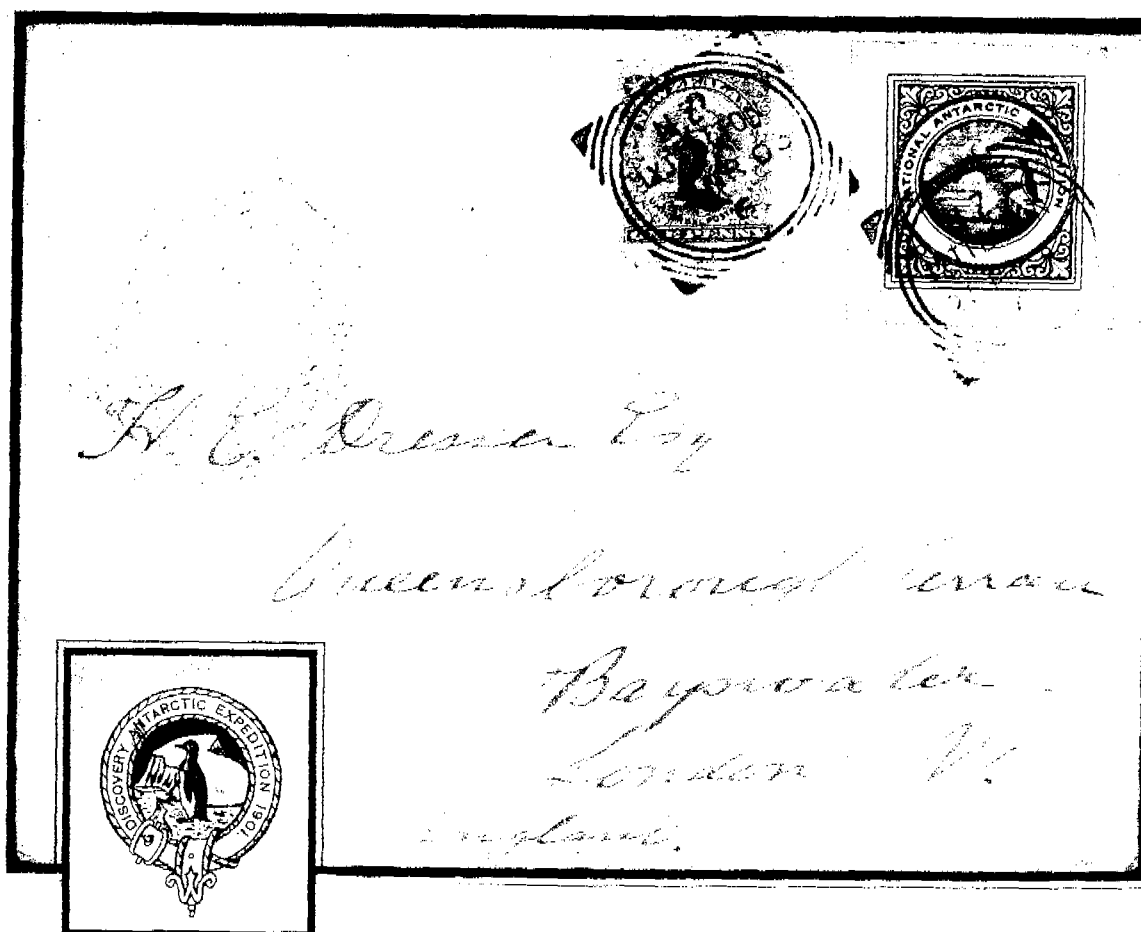
Figure 3

For his exploits in sailing around the world he was knighted in 1967 by Queen Elizabeth II, using the same sword with which Queen Elizabeth I knighted Sir Francis Drake.

For all his travels and honours the letter he carried from Darwin to Sydney for a young New Zealander writing to his mother is the only known piece of mail with a direct contact with his second home, New Zealand.

Is aerophilately a great human experience or what? Sail on Sir Francis! Happy 100 birthday wherever you are now navigating.

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