



THE KIWI



THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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WHOLE NUMBER 294

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 5TH, 2002.
IT WILL BE A REGIONAL MEETING HELD IN THE ALMONSBURY IN THE WEST
COUNTRY AND WILL START AT 11.30.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE PAGE 86.

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

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SOCIETY NEWS:

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome:

PJ Kinden, Essex
TM Grouk, Croydon
G Lewis, Australia

NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Society will be held on October 5th, 2002 at JMA Gregson's house in Almonsbury, Bristol. Coffee will be available from 11.00 a.m. and the meeting will start at 11.30 a.m. There will be members displays and part of the meeting will be devoted to stamp boxes and other items of ephemera and memorabilia of philatelic significance not normally displayed. Frames accommodate 9 sheets.

Members requiring directions should contact the Chairman, Derek Diamond on 01932 223280.

NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHERN GROUP

The next meeting of the Northern group will be held in Orrell on Sept. 21st, 2002 starting at 13.30. It is the annual 12 sheet competition. The usual rules apply.

There will also be a display of Health covers and Stamps by Jack Lindley and Harold Howard.

NEXT MEETING OF THE MIDLAND GROUP

The next meeting of the Midland group will be held at the Carr's Lane meeting centre on September 7th, 2002 starting at 13.30.

The first part of the afternoon will be devoted to a display on 'Social Philately' by Margaret Franckom. For the second half, all members attending are invited to bring along items that they consider to be Social Philately.

NOTES OF MEETING HELD IN LONDON JULY 28TH 2002

Derek Diamond opened the meeting with 14 members present.

The meeting was on the subject of plating and he said that although there were some displays, the afternoon was designed as a workshop and he hoped that there would be much audience participation.

Andrew Dove opened the afternoon with a brief showing of the KGV 4d and described the requirements for plating. You need a stamp that can be plated. This will usually be recess printed as the plates are re-entered and retouched and when they are being laid down, guide lines and dots are used to position the impressions. All of these can be used to identify individual stamps. The stamps need to be amenable to study: the 4d. yellow is difficult due to the brightness of the colour but the 4d mauve and violet are suitable. You need some knowledge of the way that the plates are produced. This is shown in the Plate 20 re-entries where the first impression entered was of the wrong value because the master dies for three values were laid down on the same transfer roller.

Plating can either be done without prior information in which case, large blocks or complete sheets are needed. At least two examples of each position are required to ensure that flaws etc. are not transient. If you are using previous studies, they need to be treated with a little caution as accuracy cannot always be guaranteed. In any case, apparent plating matches should be compared with known positional stamps to confirm their identity.

Andrew then showed some studies of the 1946 Peace issue. He made the point that although plating may be an end in itself, it may answer interesting philatelic questions. With this issue, particularly, there are two interesting questions. The first is whether different centre and frame plates for the Waterlow printed values were always used in the same pairs or randomly. Plating enables it to be proved that the latter is the case. He showed examples of the 3d, 4d, 6d and 9d proving the plate pairings.

The second interesting question is whether there were one or two centre plates for the ½d. were used. The Handbook states that the second plate was damaged whilst being prepared for the roller and no second plate made. The guide line and centre plate flaws on a number of blocks displayed seem to prove that there were either two distinct states of one plate or, more likely, two centre plates used.

John Smith next showed the definitives of KG VI and QE II. He started with a brief discussion of the phraseology explaining the difference between retouch and touch ups as well as other words. He then showed a superb range of positional blocks. Amongst other points made were that the plates change during printing. Thus, examination of a proof sheet would not provide definitive plating information. There were numerous examples of different states of the same plate, for example, the 9d QE II in its original state and nine subsequent states and the 1/- QE II with 4 different states of R7/S7 of frame plate 1A. Of especial interest was a positional block of 18, including imprint, of the R10/S10 2d. on 1½d overprint with re-inserted '2'.

Ernie Leppard demonstrated the plating of 1d Universal Waterlow Trial Plates. An oddity was that the first plate used was W2 and the second W1. This is proved by the observation that the impressions on W2 have a line through the hand of 'Zealandia' which has been removed through retouching in W1. W2 had 5 re-entries and many retouches whereas much work was done to W1 resulting in 50 re-entries and more retouches. The sheets also had guide lines that were not removed and are positional. He explained that some of the re-entries occurred because the impression was made by the roller passing over the plate twice: if the two strikes were not coincident, the lines would be doubled.

Ernie also showed the 1d Universal Dot Plates. There were 3 plates used but no complete sheets have survived. However, at some time, the plates suffered damage resulting in a number of fine flaws across the sheet. These, again, are positional and may be used to position individual stamps.

Derek Diamond showed the Chalon 2d plate. In its original state, a few of the impressions in blue and orange may be found bearing small flaws, usually around the Queen's necklace. At some time, the plate suffered severe damage. The cause is unknown but it affected Rows 14 to 20. Luckily Hausberg took a number of plate proofs enabling reconstructions to be made. Examples may also be found where the background has been scratched to try and improve the appearance after the original plate became worn.

Ernie Leppard concluded the meeting by showing a plating study of the 2/- Captain Cook and a 1d First Pictorial Lake Taupo plating study by Colin Larson on 3 frame and 4 centre plates. the identification being based on the remains of guide lines used to lay the plate down.

Derek Diamond closed the meeting and thanked everybody for a most interesting and stimulating afternoon.

NOTES OF MEETING OF NORTHERN REGIONAL GROUP HELD ON JUNE 22ND, 2002

Eleven members were present at the meeting and apologies were received from three more. We were saddened to learn of the death of one of our loyal members, Walter Williams: we shall not forget him. On a happier note, we congratulated Don Scregg on his Gold Medal obtained at Northpex 2002.

The theme of the meeting was the 1950's. Those present covered the period admirably. We saw the Queen Elizabeth II definitives and commemoratives, health stamps and miniature sheets. In covers, we saw airmails, health, marine mail, antarctic postal history, different types of postmarks and different types of illustrated first day covers.

Another most enjoyable meeting which ended at 16.30.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

At a committee meeting held on July 27th, 2002, Derek Diamond announced that preparations for the weekend were progressing well. The overseas speakers are confirmed as on the provisional programme. Additionally, Bob Odenweller, RDP, will show a selection from his First and Second Pictorial collection.

Some booking forms for the celebration dinner have been returned, please return yours as soon as possible. Similarly, please return your competition entries as soon as you can.

The programme for 2003 was confirmed as:

January 25th	A.G.M. (starting at 13.00) followed by the 1970's led by Bernard Conway
March 29th	12 sheet competition
May 31st	Edward VII (led by Michael Wilkinson) and 1d Dominion
July 26th	Instructional Markings led by John Woolfe
September 27th	Regional Meeting in the West Midlands - members displays
November 29th	A.G.M. and Auction

INFORMATION RECEIVED:

MEDIA RELEASES

STAMP ISSUE SHOWCASES NEW ZEALAND'S STUNNING COASTLINES

6 June 2002

Stunning coastlines from around New Zealand feature on New Zealand Post's latest stamp issue, *Scenic Coastlines*, which goes on sale on Wednesday 3 July.

Stamps General Manager Ivor Masters said the six stamps, from this year's annual scenic issue, display the country's diverse and breathtaking coastline.

"New Zealand's coastlines ranges from rugged surf beaches to wild coastal cliffs to calm, sheltered bays. The Scenic Coastlines stamp issue showcases all those elements, highlighting the beauty of the 15,000 kilometres of coastline that surrounds the country."

Three images from the North Island and three from the South Island make up the issue.

The North Island selection features Taranaki's majestic Tongaporutu Cliffs (40c), popular deepwater fishing spot Lottin Point (80c) in the East Cape and the renowned surf beach Papanui Point (\$2.00) in Raglan.

Curio Bay (90c), located at the southern end of the Catlins Coast, Kaikoura Coast (\$1.30) which is famous for whale watching and dramatic Meybille Bay (\$1.50), just north of Punakaiki on the West Coast complete the issue.

Previous scenic issues included last year's '100 Years of Tourism' and 'Scenic Reflections' in 2000, which proved popular with both New Zealand and overseas audiences.

The stamps and first day covers were designed by The Bureau Interactive Limited, Dunedin and printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin.

* * * * *

HECTOR'S DOLPHIN TO FEATURE ON LATEST COIN

21 June 2002

As part of a joint venture between New Zealand Post and the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, the beautiful Hector's dolphin features on a special collector coin which is part of the 2002 annual coin issue. It will be available in coin sets and will also be sold individually.

This is the third coin issued by New Zealand Post on behalf of the Reserve Bank. The two organisations recently entered a joint venture where New Zealand Post will market all collector coins issued by the Reserve Bank.

For every coin product purchased, a donation of \$1.00 will be made to WWF's North Island Hector's dolphin campaign.

Hector's dolphins are the world's smallest marine dolphins. The North Island Hector's dolphins are critically endangered with a population of less than one hundred off the coast between New Plymouth and Dargaville. South Island Hector's dolphins have greater numbers but are still endangered. Their populations are clustered around Banks Peninsula, Curio Bay and the mid west coast.

Stamps General Manager Ivor Masters said the coin pays tribute to one of the most loved and endangered creatures found in New Zealand waters.

"The coin not only captures the endearing character of the Hector's dolphin, but also provides the opportunity to help save the species," said Mr. Masters.

Mr. Masters said New Zealand Post was delighted to be able to support the campaign and hoped that it went some way towards saving the North Island Hector's dolphins from extinction."

WWF New Zealand Chief Executive Jo Breese said the money would go towards WWF's work to save North Island Hector's dolphins.

"We greatly appreciate the support of New Zealand Post and the Reserve Bank of New Zealand through this coin issue," said Ms Breese.

* * * * *

HEALTHY EATING PROMOTED ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH STAMPS

5 July 2002

Healthy eating is the topic of the 2002 New Zealand Post Children's Health stamp issue to be released on 7 August. Featuring a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables, the stamps promote the benefits of maintaining a healthy, balanced diet.

The 40-cent gummed stamp (plus 5-cent donation) features a colourful basket of fruit from bright yellow bananas to juicy green apples to ripe purple plums. Vegetables of all shapes and sizes adorn the 90-cent gummed stamp (plus 5-cent donation) and the 40-cent (plus 5-cent donation) self adhesive has a combination of fruit and vegetables, the two essentials of a healthy, nutritious diet.

Health stamps raise money for New Zealand children by carrying an additional 5-cent surcharge that is donated to Children's Health Camps throughout New Zealand.

New Zealand's seven Children's Health Camps provide a supportive and healthy environment where children and their families can gain long term skills and confidence through a variety of programmes. Last year, \$93,000 was raised from the sale of health stamps.

Dr. Fiona Inkpen, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Foundation for Children and Family Health and Development said the organisation is thrilled at New Zealand Post's continuing support of Health Camps over the years.

"Not only do the funds assist us in running the camp programmes, they allow us to continue offering exciting activities for the children as well as specialist care.

"The proceeds of this year's campaign will go towards health, educational and developmental programmes, new swimming pools and upgrades of existing ones, outdoor adventure challenge playgrounds and dehumidifier systems."

This year's stamps and first day covers were designed by Ross Jones of Watermark, Wellington and printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin.

----- REVIEW OF PUBLICATIONS FROM THE SUMMIT TO THE GORGE

The story of Upper Hutt post offices

Author: G. I. Robertson. Pub. Postal History Society of New Zealand P.O.Box 99-673, Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand. Handbook No. 53. Pp. 160. Price NZ\$35.00 + P & P

Although this book is subtitled the story of Upper Hutt post offices, it is in truth, much more than that. It is a social history of New Zealand as reflected by the post offices in a small area of the country. The book begins with a short biography of Sir William Hutt, after whom the valley was named and then provides an overview of postal services and postmarks.

The bulk of the book contains a listing of the post offices in the Area. Listing is an understatement: each post office is carefully described with the origin of the name, dates of opening and historical details given. The postmasters and postmistresses are named where the information exists and the building illustrated. Each entry finishes with a description of the cancellations possible, those known and the earliest and latest dates known.

What makes this book particularly interesting and enjoyable to read is the wealth of anecdotes and social information contained within it. For example, there is the story of the telephone in the toilet at Brown Owl and the pint of strawberries in a paper bag arriving at Trentham Camp. If you want to know more, you must buy the book.

On the technical side, the book contains colour illustrations and the black and white illustrations are of high quality having, presumably, been printed using the new laser print technology.

Overall, this is an important addition to the bookshelf because of its general interest. I am sure that the number of avid collectors of Upper Hutt postal history is limited but this is a fascinating read and contains much general information.

NEW ZEALAND CINDERELLAS CATALOGUE 2002

Ed. Dave Heslop. Published by David Holmes Ltd. And Classic Stamps Ltd. Available from Classic Stamps Ltd., PO Box 13-396, Christchurch, New Zealand. Price NZ\$20 + P. & P.

Collecting Cinderellas as a adjunct to stamp and Postal History collections is becoming more common. They provide a vivid reflection of the spirit of the times in which they were issued.

This catalogue is timely providing a listing of Cinderellas issued between 1895 and the 1970's. The lists are divided into sections covering the subjects and are richly illustrated. Prices are given for each example and these values have been provided by a small group of experts.

The booklet is provided on good quality chalk surfaced paper and the illustrations are of high quality. A welcome addition to the library.

FIND IT: NEW ZEALAND POST WEBSITE

New Zealand Post have an internet site allowing anybody to locate N.Z. Post's Retail and Kiwibank outlets. The way it works is that you click on regions and cities to gain access to more detailed information. The map is updated automatically from a database maintained by Retail and Kiwibank. The address is: www.nzpost.co.nz or www.kiwibank.co.nz

DEFICIENT POSTAGE

EDITOR, *THE KIWI*

Members in the UK will recall that a recent issue of *The Kiwi* was posted with deficient postage. Coming under the heading that "there is nothing new under the sun", I reproduce below a paragraph published in *The Kiwi* in March 1962

"When the last issue of the Kiwi went to press the Post Office "Work to Rule" was in progress and, in order to make sure that members received their copies in time, it was decided to seal the envelopes under cover of 3d. stamp. But, unfortunately it was overlooked that whereas hitherto the Kiwi's sent out as "Printed Matter" under a 2½d. stamp the limit of weight was 2oz. but the inland rate at 3d. is for only 1 oz. and as a consequence some members had to pay 3d postage due because the issue weighed approximately 1¼oz.

To those members who had to pay extra postage we offer our apologies."

I am sure readers will agree that this is a much more elegant excuse than I was able to find!

ORIGINAL ARTICLES AND READERS QUERIES:

I HATE POSTAL HISTORY, BUT

STAN KUNDIN

My major philatelic concern for several years has been finishing my book, 'The Vending and Affixing Machine Coils of New Zealand' which will be published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand late this year. A large part of this effort has been the study and exhibiting of New Zealand's coils, especially the early Dickie stamp vending machine trials of 1905-1906 and I am always on the lookout for examples on cover. I was fortunate to obtain one of the two known First Day Covers from the first trial and have several examples from other early trials. However, I had never seen, or in fact, even heard of one with examples from the fourth Dickie trial which took place on 6-13 March 1906.

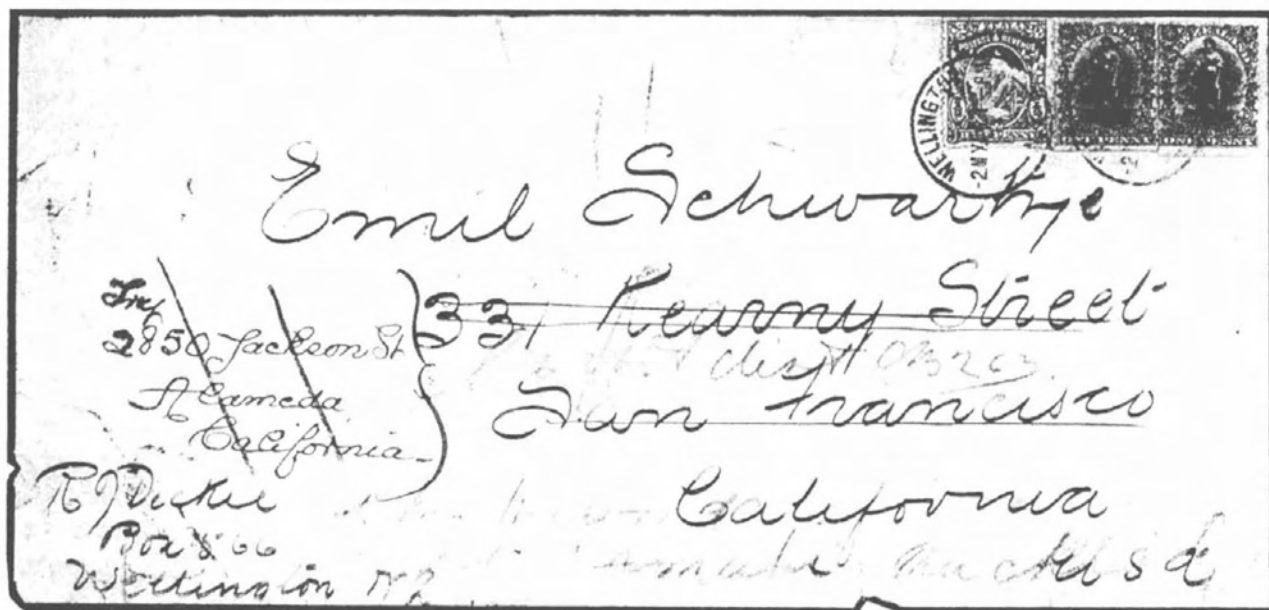


Figure 1(reduced to 75% original size)



Figure 2 (reduced to 75% original size)

I am indebted to John Hotchner, a well-known American philatelist and Past President of the American Philatelic Society for this cover. An author and exhibitor himself, and knowing of my interest in Dickie material, he loaned it to me for use in my book. Part of his Gold Medal display on "Stamp Separations", he was basically interested in it as an example of the Dickie "knife" separations used during the 3rd and 4th trials rather than the other information the cover discloses. I must admit that I also looked at this cover with the eye of a coils specialist. I have little interest in Postal History as such, having always regarded the subject as a rather boring refuge for old philatelists who were tired of collecting "real" stamps. However, this cover has altered that heretical attitude. The truth is, I did not recognise the significance of this cover until a friend, a collector of "real" stamps *and* postal stamps, pointed it out to me. Shown in Figure 1 and 2 are both sides of a rare usage of two 4th Dickie trial singles.

Mailed by Robert J. Dickie himself, the co-inventor of the world's first practical coin operated stamp vending machine, and dated two months after the end of the fourth trial, there were several questions that intrigued me. Were the stamp remainders removed from the machine at the end of the 4th trial in the normal manner, i.e., by triggering the machine, emptying it of stamps one at a time and then storing them in an envelope for later use? Another possibility is that Dickie, at the end of the trial removed his machine with some remaining stamps in it, to his shop or his home. There, he vended the stamps to himself as needed for use on personal mail. Either of these theories could be valid. However, if Dickie had merely removed the balance of the roll from the machine for use as postage, it seems more likely that the stamps on this cover would have been a pair cut from that roll, therefore, technically indistinguishable from a pair cut from a longer strip from the 1st or 2nd trials.

Apart from the intrinsic value of the stamps and the rarity of Dickie trial covers, of even greater significance is the postal history disclosed by this rather tatty envelope. I believe the addressee, Emil Schwartz (no "e") was a member of the firm of patent agents that processed Dickie's second American patent application on 13 Oct. 1905, finally granted as No. 829,514 on 28 August 1906. The enclosure may well have been an enquiry into this matter. I will have to do bit more research to confirm this.

Posted from Wellington on 2 May 1906, it departed from Auckland on the Royal Mail Ship *Sierra* which sailed on 4 May. The *Sierra's* arrival in San Francisco on 29 May 1906 is confirmed by the General Delivery back stamp on the reverse, under the San Francisco Dead Letter Office marking. The steamship company having the mail contract at that time provided monthly sailings from Auckland via Fiji and Hawaii to San Francisco, California. A 25 or 26 day transit on route was normal.

The one rather important aspect that I had overlooked is that occurred on 18 April 1906 at 5.15a.m. a rather significant event for Californians, the **Great San Francisco Earthquake!** When Dickie posted this letter on 2 May, he might have just learned about the earthquake and sought to enquire about the standing of his business affairs. The letter arrived in San Francisco about 6 weeks after the earthquake while the cleanup was in full swing.

The address, 331 Kearney Street, is crossed out because it probably did not exist any more! This is further indicated by the pencil notation between the lines of the address, "burnt dist ?? 263" (probably CR [Carrier Route] 263). The red alternate address in Alameda, just across San Francisco Bay by ferry indicates that, as was common during this emergency, many people and companies whose houses and businesses were destroyed, left forwarding addresses or picked up their mail from the "General Delivery" counter at the Main Post Office. This Post Office, along with the United States Mint, were among the very few buildings in San Francisco miraculously surviving both the earthquake and the ensuing conflagration.

The popular American author, Jack London, who at that time lived only 40 miles away, was immediately contacted by Colliers Magazine to go to the scene and write the story of what he saw. He reported in his article, published in the 5 May 1906 issue, that the intersection of Market and Kearny Streets, in the heart of San Francisco and quite near the addressee, was demolished and there were fires all around. I have a contemporary photograph of this intersection, and it looks like a war zone. Although the picture is not of the best quality, it does resemble photos of the aftermath of the fire storms of Dresden, Germany, after World War II bombing raids. Between the cyclonic winds pouring into the city from all directions feeding the flames, and the huge quantities of explosives used by fire fighters and the military in their futile attempts to isolate the fires, the city was virtually obliterated in three days.

The letter remained undelivered, and was eventually returned to the San Francisco Dead Letter Office (black triangular marking on reverse). The reason for the alternate address being crossed out might be due to the addressee, having relocated again, forgetting to leave a new forwarding address. It should be noted that Alameda also suffered severe damage from this major earthquake but not nearly as much as its larger neighbour across the bay.

I can find no "Return to Addressee" pointing finger symbol or other marking to that effect other than the "Non Reclame" stamp in light purple just under the name 'Schwartz', and the almost unreadable, four line box in purple just below that, which has "Advertised / JUN 11 1906/ San Francisco, Cal./ ??? 1 Post". Unclaimed overseas letters were usually advertised in local papers during this emergency. However, it is also obvious that the letter was returned to New Zealand as shown by the 15 SP 06 circular NZ DLO (Auckland) marking in red on the reverse, probably after checking on the Post office Box number given in the return address.

The lengthy period between the 11 June advertisement and the 15 September arrival at the New Zealand DLO is, for now, unaccounted for. One can only assume that much of it was caused by chaotic conditions still existing in local American Postal operations. It is recorded that contract mail steamers left San Francisco for Auckland on 12 July and 2 August 1906. However, the RMS Ventura, which sailed from San Francisco on 23 August 1906, arriving in Auckland on 13 September, does seem to provide the correct timing for this cover to reach the Auckland DLO on 15 September 1906.

Here is where I am still somewhat confused. Dickies' return address in the lower left corner was obviously written in the same hand as the address. Compare the distinctive 'k' in Dickie and in Kearny and, especially, the 't' in Wellington to those in Schwartz and Street. I must therefore assume that it was on the letter at the time it was mailed to America. Why then was it sent to the Dead Letter Office on 15 September instead of to Dickie at his Wellington P.O. Box?

The P.O. Box was probably closed temporarily and the letter was redirected by the GPO or the Dead Letter Office to a "Mrs. Heurwood, East Tamaki, Auckland" in blue pencil by clerk 44. Then, for some strange reason, it received a "N.Z. Marine P.O. / 28 Sep 1906 / R.M.S. Ventura" circular date stamp in light purple.

The R.M.S. Ventura sailed to San Francisco again on 29 September, however, the next postal cancellation is from the Auckland Post Office on 29 OC 06! Since the Ventura's return voyage from San Francisco did not start until 25 October, it was impossible for this letter to have completed the round trip in time to arrive in Auckland for the 29 October cancellation. Where was this letter for the 30 days between 28 September and 29 October 1906?

The most likely explanation is that the letter was mistakenly sent off again to San Francisco on the Ventura and was discovered during preliminary sorting en route by the Mail Agent, a Mr. G. Rudd, from the Auckland mailroom. Rudd may well have known Dickie as Dickie sailed occasionally on this route as the Assistant Mail Agent. He would realise, from the various

markings on the letter, that it should have stayed in Auckland for delivery there. Most likely, Rudd left it in the bag at Fiji, along with any other missorted mail to await the southbound mail ship. Fiji was the distribution and collection point for overseas mail in this part of the South Pacific. It was then carried back to the Auckland post office, arriving in time for the 29 October postmark to be applied.

It was forwarded on 30 October to Otahuhu, a small town south of Auckland and the circulating office for the East Tamaki area, then sent on to East Tamaki Post Office that same day for counter delivery. As for Dickie's P.O. Box, perhaps it had been closed because of a temporary transfer to Auckland. He was permanently transferred to the Auckland GPO in 1921.

As stated previously, this cover is the only one that I have seen with examples of the 4th Dickie trial stamps. In addition, it also provided me with my first example of Dickie's distinctive handwriting. Definitely important as postal history, it has also taught me to be alert for interesting information to be found on covers and never to be satisfied with my initial observations. When I had completed my research, I thought that I would try and secure this cover from Hotchner, thinking it would be an important addition to my own exhibit on New Zealand's Coils. Unfortunately, upon learning its significance, he decided that it really belonged in his new exhibit "American Delayed Mail Markings".

After reading a preliminary draft of this article, Hotchner belatedly remembered another, earlier cover in his collection, also from Dickie to the same addressee! He sent me a photocopy but, unfortunately, it was not clear enough to be used for this article. This letter was mailed from Otahuhu on 10 April 1906 (8 days before the earthquake) and arrived at San Francisco General Delivery on 29 May, the same day as the first cover! Having been posted 22 days before the cover described earlier, the letter was obviously held in Auckland for the RMS Sierra departure on 4 May.

It was posted with a single 1d Universal sheet stamp, not a Dickie coil. As the correct rate was 2½d, it was charged 6c postage due on arrival. Single 1 cent and 5 cent U.S. Postage Due stamps from the 1895 issue were applied to the front of the cover and cancelled. When unclaimed at the General delivery window, it too was advertised in the newspaper on 11 June 1906. This letter also bore the handwritten "Burnt Dist CR263" marking as on the first cover described, but not the forwarding address in Alameda. Still unclaimed, it was sent to the San Francisco DLO on 13 July and probably returned to New Zealand via the mail steamer leaving San Francisco on 2nd August. After receiving an Auckland DLO postmark on 15 September 1906, the letter was returned to the East Tamaki Post Office, but to a different addressee than on the first cover described.

Robin Startup's expertise on contract mail ship schedules was invaluable in helping me to decipher the trans-Pacific wanderings of these interesting covers.

An interesting twist to the story of these covers is that the steamship mail service on this route ended late in 1906. One of the main reasons would have been that too many crewmen were "jumping ship" in San Francisco. There, they could find higher paying jobs with the thousands of contractors engaged in cleaning up and rebuilding the city, leaving the ship with barely enough crewmen to leave port! This was a serious but common problem for ships calling at San Francisco during this period.

PERMIT POST

SAFARI

The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume III (1) relates that since 1 January 1916 Postal Regulations laid down the parameters for Permit Post Mail.

Postage Paid in Cash by Robin Startup (2) gives details of the system which prevailed until replaced by a new procedure at the beginning of 1999. This system is still in operation. Further information about the current system may be obtained from *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Vol. VIII (3).

These notes described the current computerised system adopted for Permit Post Mail. Basic details are conveyed in the Permit Post user guide card (including an application form) available from N.Z. Post outlets. The following is in force:

- A Permit Post impression can be approved either in a 'Standard' form (45mm x 20mm) or a 'Customised' form (40mm in height by 74mm width maxima). Allowable and required wording are laid down. The latter being of a personal nature and more intricate. The two different outlines from the brochure are shown below as Figures 1 and 2. The customised example is in colour in the brochure.

Standard Impression

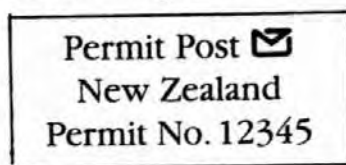


Figure 1

Customised Impression



Figure 2

- After approval, impressions must be pre-printed on the top right hand corner of Post Permit mail items and these can be used for both envelopes and parcels for posting within New Zealand or overseas. The facility is for customers regularly sending 100 items or more of mail, or mail to a value of \$40 or more at a time. Lodging more than 1,000 for both types attracts a discount facility.
- 'Standard' impressions must be pre-printed in black or a dark coloured printing easily discernable (rubber stampers are no longer approved). 'Customised' impressions may comprise any colours and shape within the 40mm x 74mm dimensions.
- Permit Post mail facilities are available from Post Shop or Mail Service Centres who are sanctioned to handle the business.
- Numbers are allocated by computer on a first come first served basis. The allocation is processed by New Zealand Post using a simultaneously linked register at Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. From the current system on the new register inaugurated at the beginning of 1999, the following low numbers are recorded:

No. 0	Wellington customer
No. 1	Albany Post Shop, Auckland
No. 2	Western Bay of Plenty District Council
No. 3	Central Hawke's Bay Printers & Publishers

The present highest number is over 170,000.

On request, special numbers can be allocated if not already in use.

Lapsed numbers are re-issued to new applicants.

- Holders under the previous system (Pre-printed and rubber stamps usage) are being phased out as the particular client discontinues use but examples of the old format still appear and are accepted. Some duplication therefore occurs and it is not always apparent whether the number on particular items relate to the present or old system.
- Permit Post mail may be presented to any Post Shop or Mail centre with adequate facilities. Some will quickly organise counter availability.
- Theoretically, Permit Post items should not be postmarked or cancelled and each number is retained until it is cancelled by the holder or by New Zealand Post: clearly, they can only be used for mail carried through their postal network..

There are other minor details which can be gleaned from the Card or from the Customer Service Centre in Wellington.

Examples appearing on mail recently received are shown at actual size below. They come in a variety of colours.

Pre-printed standard stamps

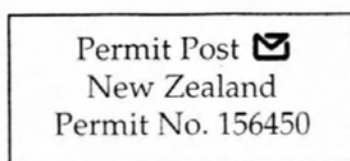


Figure 1
Health Benefits Wanganui



Figure 2
New NZ Post Logo



Figure 3
Gisborne Herald

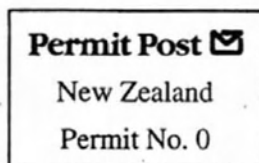


Figure 4
Allen Calendars Ltd., Auckland



Figure 5
IRD



Figure 6
Westpac



Figure 7
Telecom



Figure 8
Telecom

HANDSTAMPS



Figure 9
No. 1 S. Auckland Mail Centre

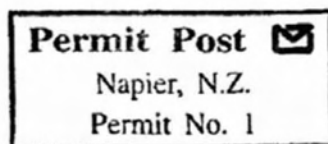


Figure 10
Mail Sorting Centre

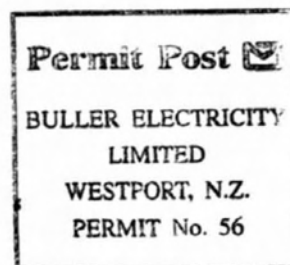


Figure 11
Buller Electricity Ltd.

CUSTOMISED IMPRESSIONS



Figure 12
Kiwi First



Figure 13
Fish and Game



Figure 14
Unichem Pharmacy



Figure 15
Southern Cross Healthcare



Figure 16
Office of Hon. Marion Hobbs,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Figure 17
Palmerston North Needlecraft

An organisation may have more than one design in different locations. I have not yet seen any Permit Post impressions bearing the new New Zealand Post logo (emblem in a circle) which was introduced at the beginning of 2001. I believe that efforts are being made to recall and eliminate impressions which are no longer valid.

References:

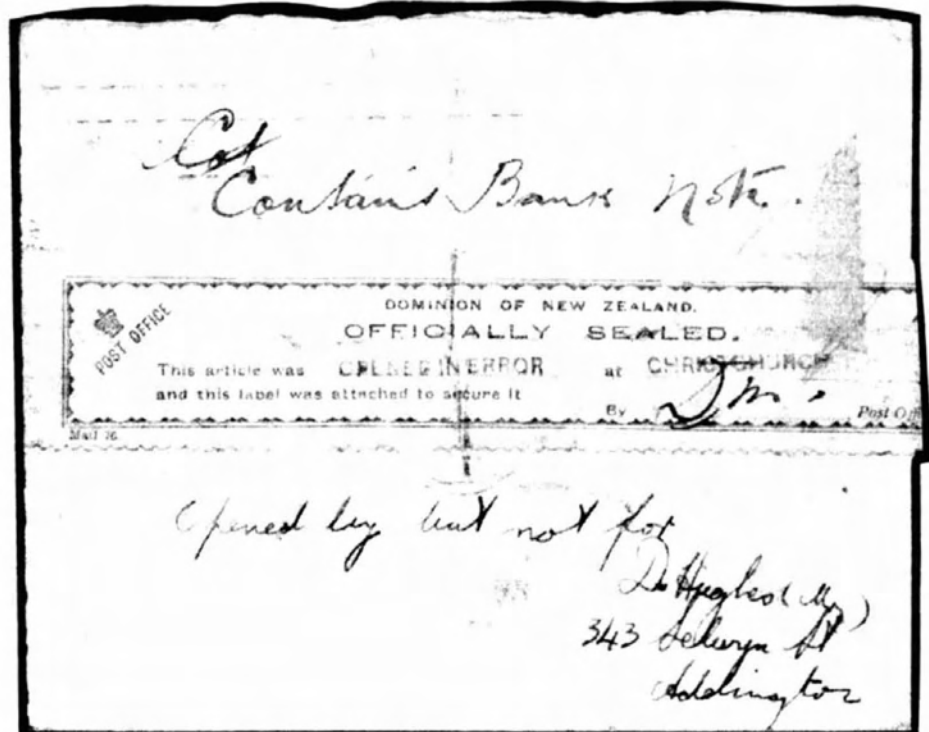
1. Ed. Collins RJG & Watts CW "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Volume III". Pub. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Inc., Wellington (1955). P.426.
2. Startup RM "Postage Paid in Cash". Pub. The Postal History Society of New Zealand Inc., Auckland (1984).
3. Ed. Vincent BG "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Volume VIII". Pub. Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, Wellington (1998). P. 623.

OFFICIALLY SEALED - AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE MONEY FOILED BY MISDELIVERY
ROBERT P. ODENWELLER, RDP, FRPSL, FRPSNZ



Figure 1

Figure 2



The colourful cover shown in Figure 1 and 2 was mailed on 24 July 1945, addressed to Mrs. D.A.Hughes, 38 Selwyn Street, Waimate, and cancelled with a roller Waimate cancellation of that date. Since the postal worker who serviced the cover saw that this was not the correct address for "Hughes" and the number "343" was applied in pencil to the lower left of the "38".

An annotation on the reverse shows "Opened by but not for/D. Hughes (Mrs.)/343 Selwyn St./Addington", who found that it was not intended for her and further that it contained a banknote. She brought this to the attention of the postal worker who then annotated the reverse in red "Cot" (which was crossed out when he realised that it was not the correct spelling), and "Contains Bank Note". The Officially Sealed label (Mail 76) was then applied, with the handstamped addition "Opened in Error" at "Christchurch".

At that point it appears that the "343" that had been added was crossed out in pencil and, in what appears to be the same red ink as on the bank, the "Waimate" of the address crossed out and the annotation "Try Spreydon/ChChurch". The stamp was again struck, this time with a "J" Class Waimate datestamp of 25 July.

The Christchurch main office saw the need to make a number of additions to the cover, most related to the need to collect for the compulsory registration caused by the presence of the bank note. The first was to add blue crossed lines for registry on front and back. Next came the annotations, in indelible pencil, "Contains bank note" (Underlined), "Not Waimate/nor Chch", and "Try Timaru" (Underlined twice), which seems logical as Waimate is in the Timaru postal district, and the "Spreydon" was crossed out.

Then a double ring circle "To Pay/Double Deficiency Charge" was added, with "8d", or double the 4d. registration charge, in indelible pencil in the circle. Finally, a Christchurch Registry label was added.

Three days later, the letter was delivered in Timaru, receiving the penalty payment as acknowledged by a pair of the 3d and single 2d postage due stamps.

THE WESTERN FRONT AND THE SECURITY PERIOD 1917-1918

ERNIE W. LEPPARD

The Military Postal History of the Allied Forces on the Western Front during the First World War between 1917 and 1918 is especially interesting. During this period a complex series of exchanges of cancellor was made for Security reasons.

Over 100 Divisions operated during World War I. Each Division used a series of postmarks identifying the Divisional Headquarters, Railheads and supply train. Most had three Brigades and Artillery sections. The cancellors for each had the identifying Divisional letter and different numbers allocated to the sub-sections.

By 1916, British Intelligence was identifying the placement of components of the German Army using the postmarks on captured mail. Raiding parties into no mans land were instructed to capture papers as well as prisoners. Concern grew that if the Allies could use this information, the Germans might do the same. Consequently, when all the Divisions were assembling for the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendale) in July 1917 and the Spring Offensive of 1918, they were required to exchange postmarks with each other. The consequences have provided material for Military Postal Historians ever since.

The First New Zealand Division travelled from the Middle East and landed at Marseilles in March 1916 and was subsequently reinforced from Training Camps in England. The attached NZ Division Postal Unit were issued with a series of cancellors based on the letter **Z** (Figure 1 and 2). Thus, the embarkation port, Rouen, used **S.W.Z.2**. The Base Depot at Etaples, Boulogne used **S.W.Z.**. The Divisional H.Q. used **D.Z.**, the Divisional Train **T.Z** and the Railhead **R.Z**. The three Divisions used **1.Z**, **2.Z** and **3.Z**. Exceptionally, during the Third Battle of Ypres, the New Zealand Division operated with a Fourth Brigade comprising reinforcements and returned wounded soldiers: their cancellor was **4.Z**.

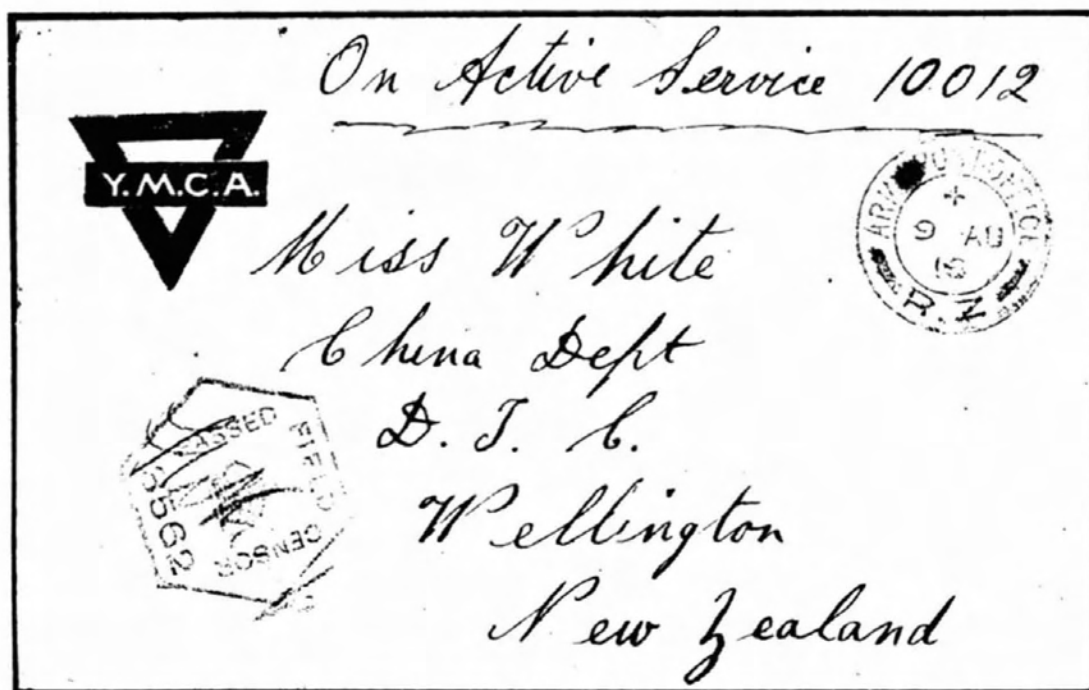


Figure 1: Railhead: RZ remained unchanged

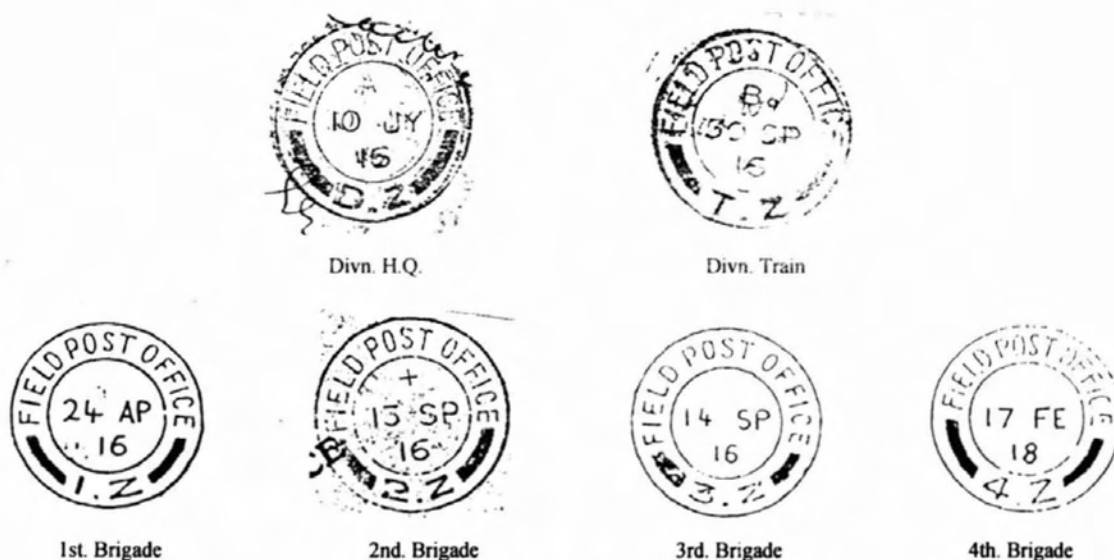


Figure 2: The original series of cancellations

For the first security period from June 1917 to December 1918, most of the cancellors of the First New Zealand Division were exchanged with the Australian Divisions whose postmarks revolved around the letter W. The Railhead cancellor RZ remained unchanged and the cancellor of the 4th Brigade was exchanged with that of a Canadian Division (Figure 3).





Figure 3: The cancellers from the first security exchange

A further exchange occurred during the second security period prior to the Spring Offensive of 1918 (Figure 4). On this occasion, the Divisional marks became **DP** following exchange with the Canadians and the Brigade markings became **Q** following an exchange with the Guards Brigade.



Figure 4: The cancellers from the second security exchange

The situation must have been confused and it is possible to find N. Z. cancellers used by other Divisions. The cover shown in Figure 5 is from a soldier in the 10th Australian Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division during the first security period.

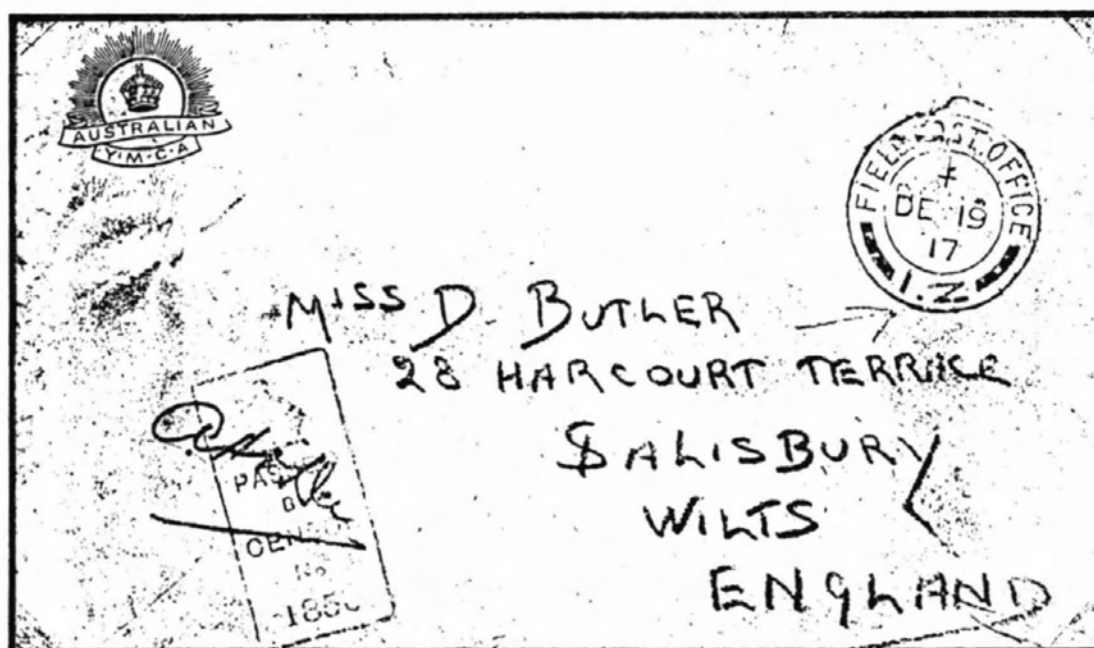


Figure 5: Envelope from 3rd. Australian Divn. during 1st. security period

Summary of Changes in the Security Periods:

Location	Initial Mark	First Security Period	Second Security Period
Divisional H.Q.	DZ	DW5	DP4
Divisional Train	TZ	TW5	TP4
Railhead	RZ	RZ	RZ
1st. NZ Brigade	1Z	W10	Q1
2nd. NZ Brigade	2Z	W11	Q2
3rd. NZ Brigade	3Z	12W	Q3
4th. NZ Brigade	4Z	C2X	_*

*The 4th. New Zealand Brigade was dispersed because of heavy casualties in the Battle of Passchendaele.

Further Reading:

Startup RM & Proud EB "History of the New Zealand Postal Services 1845-1991". Pub. Postal History Publishing Co. (1992).

Kennedy A & Crabb G "The Postal History of the British Army in World War I". Pub. George Crabb (1977)

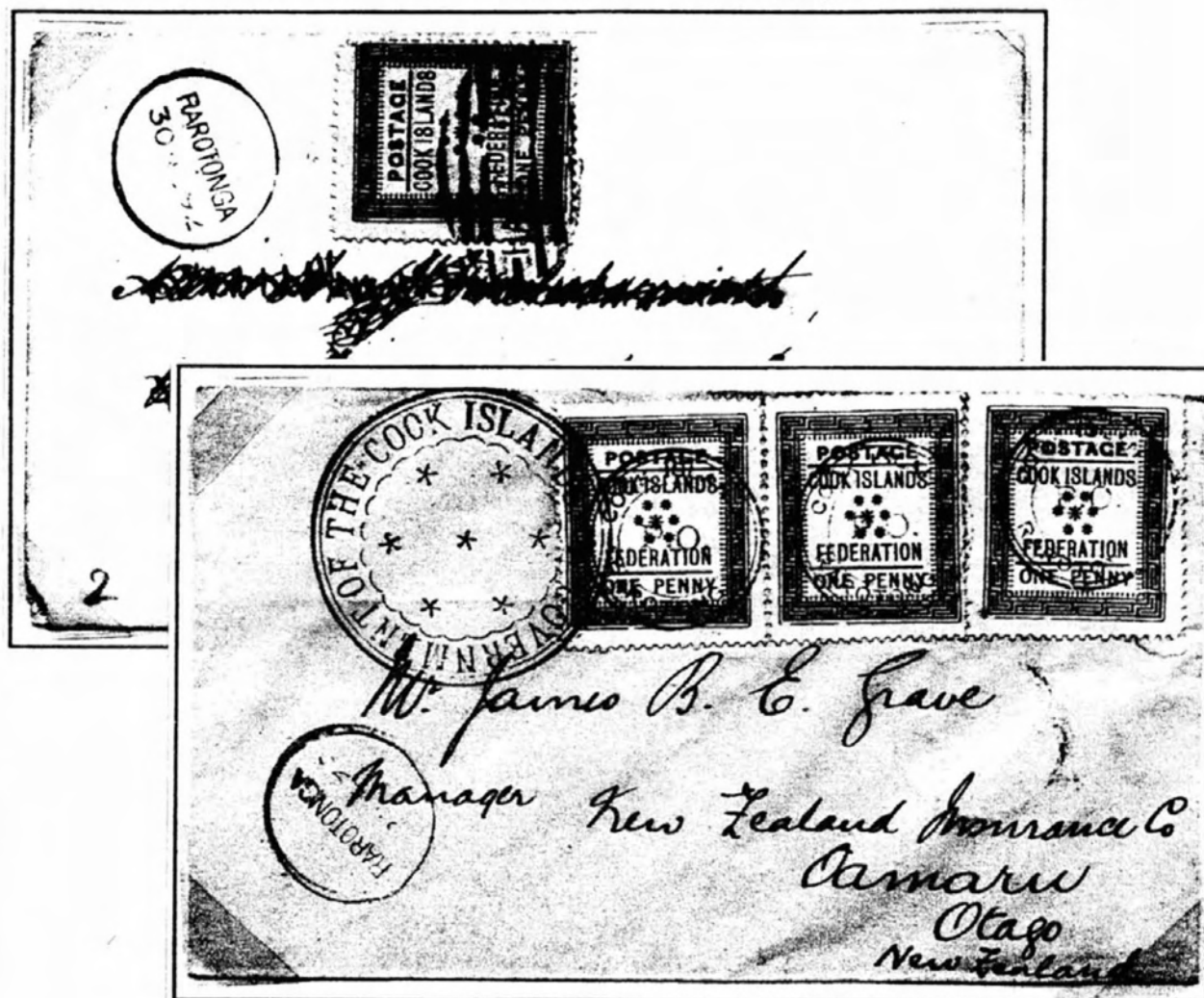
NEW ZEALAND POST : OUR HERITAGE SERIES OF CARDS

Illustrated below is number 8 of a series of 10 cards. It shows the Mail Coach leaving Arrowtown for Cromwell in 1892. On the reverse is the comment that thirty years after the discovery of gold by Hartley and Riley, the 30 mile journey from Arrowtown to Cromwell was a true social event.



Spectacular New Zealand!

The new season's sales are already particularly strong in Australasian material with much fine & unusual NZ & Dependencies stamps & postal history scheduled to appear in Derby. One of the highlights will be the exceptional Paul H. Jensen Collection of Cook Islands, previewed below.



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