



THE KIWI



THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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WHOLE NUMBER 300

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON JULY 26TH, 2003 STARTING
AT 14.00 AT THE UNION JACK CLUB, SANDELL STREET, LONDON.**

THE SUBJECT IS

“INSTRUCTIONAL AND DIRECTIONAL MARKINGS”

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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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ENCLOSURE

Accompanying this issue of *The Kiwi* is a copy of Newsletter (Number 2) published by Kiwipex 2006 in June 2003.

SOCIETY NEWS:

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome:

A. Johnson, Dumfries
V. Matthews, Newcastle upon Tyne
W.F. Parkinson, Auckland, New Zealand
W.T. Pearson, Edinburgh
T.F. Scholfield, Reading
G.R.B. Summers, Oman

NEXT LONDON MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The next meeting of the society will cover Instructional Handstamps. John Woolfe will show early Registration and Directional Markings and Andrew Dove will show more modern examples. Although there is likely to be a full range of material on show, members are invited to bring along any particularly interesting or problematic items.

SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The September meeting of the Society will be held in Warwick at the viewing room of Warwick and Warwick, Auctioneers. It will be a members meeting and will start at 11.00 a.m. J.M.A. Gregson Ltd. will be attending with a full range of stock.

Full instructions for finding the venue will be published in the next issue of *The Kiwi*.

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN LONDON ON MAY 31ST 2003

Derek Diamond opened the meeting at 14.00 with 20 members present including one attending his first meeting. He announced the unexpected recent death of Brian Ogier, President of the New Zealand Philatelic Federation. Brian was a well known figure in New Zealand philately and had served as the representative of New Zealand philately at many overseas exhibitions. Two other matters were also mentioned: first, that the Society would be represented at Midpex on June 28th,

full details were given in the last issue of *The Kiwi* and, secondly, invited members to look in their collections and send surplus items to John Woolfe for the Annual Auction. Full details are given later in this issue of *The Kiwi*.

Derek then handed the meeting over to Michael Wilkinson who would lead the displays on the subject of King Edward VII and the 1d Dominion.

Michael began by introducing three people: first, himself. He said that he had started collecting stamps at the age of 10. His first display had been of 3 sheets to his school stamp club. We were about to witness his second, some time later.

The second person was his late father in law, Peter B.D. de la Mare who had formed the collection of KEVII stamps which were the basis of the days display. Professor de la Mare was a research scientist who was a good friend of Ken McNaught. He retired as Professor of Chemistry at Auckland University in 1982 and then started to organise his stamp collection. His particular interests were the ½d KEVII, the 1d Dominion and KGV Booklet Stamps. He published a number of articles in the *New Zealand Stamp Collector* and was awarded a medal for his entry in the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand's Stamp Exhibition.

The third person to be introduced was the subject of the afternoon, King Edward VII. He ascended the throne on January 22nd, 1901 at the age of 59. His 59 years in waiting was the longest of any heir to the throne. His delayed Coronation occurred in August, 1902 and he died on May 6th, 1910. Although he declared New Zealand a Dominion, there is no record that he ever visited the country.

When King Edward VII ascended the throne, New Zealand was a young country, just over 50 years had passed since settlement started in earnest: the population was about 808,000 (now 4,000,000) and the median age was 23 (now 34). The country was slow to issue stamps bearing the image of the new monarch as the 1898 second pictorials were widely liked and had only been in use for about 3 years and the 1d Universal had only been issued in the month of his accession. Other countries in the Empire were quicker off the mark with Great Britain issuing new definitives in 1902, Canada in 1903 and the Falkland Islands in 1904. The new stamps were eventually issued in New Zealand in November 1909, only six months before the kings' death. They remained in use until they were demonetised in 1934.

The display started with Die Proofs of the Canadian definitive issue as this design was favoured by the New Zealand Committee responsible for the approval of the new design. They were eventually used for the Postal Stationery Die.

The plates for the ½d were supplied by Perkins, Bacon & Co and those for other recess-printed values by W.R. Royle & Co. Die and plate proofs from the issued stamps were shown followed by a photographic reproduction of the second plate, 11, used for the ½d. There followed a detailed study of the flaws to be recognised on Plates 10 and 11.

Michael explained a study of the dandy rollers undertaken by his father in law. These were rollers used to insert the NZ and Star watermark into the damp sheets of paper. There seems to be more than one roller in use and they may be differentiated by measuring the distance between the 'N' of New Zealand and the last 'E' of Revenue in the marginal watermarks across the corner of the sheet. It appears that changes in paper may be dated by changes in the rollers.

There were some interesting varieties of the ½d including an example of the bronze-green shade which was quite distinctive and was the subject of an article by Stanley Cross-Rudkin in the March 1977 issue of *The Kiwi*. There was also an offset and an example with the watermark inverted.

Michael moved on to the higher values and noted that the plates varied in quality. He then moved on to tackle the difficult subject of the perforations seen on the issue. The complications arise from the use of a total of four different combs and four different line perforators. To make for

further difficulty, the comb perforators were sometimes used in combination on the same sheet giving rise, for the first time, to two perf. Pairs. The combs can be very difficult to differentiate even when in blocks and it is apparent that some of the combinations are extremely rare. One of the more heated debates is whether the 8d value with upright watermark was ever issued with line perforations. The consensus seems to be that it was not.

The ½d was overprinted for a number of reasons and examples were included of the Auckland Philatelic Exhibition, Official overprint and stamps overprinted for use in the Dependencies although these did not appear until after the Kings death.

This was also the period in which booklets were first produced. The plates were manufactured using the electrotype method in which a mould of the engraved plate is covered in an electrically conductive material and copper deposited on it. The resulting cast is then backfilled with soft metal producing the printing plate. Michael showed examples of panes with flaws of both the ½d and 1d Dominion and advertisements from the booklets.

The display finished with a number of examples on cover including a ½d on an interesting reply paid card from the Royal College of Surgeons in London canvassing the views of a GP in Port Chalmers as to whether women should be allowed to become Members or Fellows of the College.

Paul Wreglesworth showed some sheets from his collection and made the point that, although the issue was interesting, collecting was difficult as material was scarce. He started with four Die Proofs purchased from the Dumas collection in different colours showing the die at an intermediate stage of its development. He continued with Plate Proofs from the higher values and a set of Presentation stamps with parallel lines in the corner. Some perforation varieties were displayed but these served to illustrate some of the difficulties in differentiating the different heads. One block had been sold as Line perforated and on review was clearly comb.

Bernard Symonds surveyed the booklets in some detail including examples from the smaller issue in 1912 and the larger one in 1913. The depth of the display included advertisements proving that different booklets were made up in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin with local advertising. He also showed three Plate blocks, 2d, 3d and 8d blue, with dots engraved in the lower margin.

Derek Diamond thanked those displaying for a most successful afternoon: the first on the subject of King Edward VII since Stanley Cross Rudkins in 1977 (notes of which may be read using the medium of Special Publications 2 and 3!). The meeting closed at 16.00.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Society publications are now available:

SP 1: *Aspects of Collecting New Zealand Stamps.*

SP 2: *Index to The Kiwi Volumes 1 to 50.* Printed and CD Version.

SP 3: *The Kiwi Volumes 1 - 50.* Full text on CD

Price: SP 1: £10 inc. P. & P.

SP 2 & SP 3: £14 in UK and £18.50 overseas airmail inc. P. & P.

Payment accepted in \$NZ, \$US or £St. All orders to:

New Zealand Society of Great Britain
9, Ashley Drive,
Walton-on Thames,
Surrey KT12 1JL

REPORT OF MEETIN OF THE MIDLANDS GROUP HELD ON APRIL 5TH 2003

The speaker for the day was John Smith, Vice President of the Society, and his subject was **Definitives 1938-1960.**

We started with King George VIth and the display showed the stamps, plate blocks, printings and varieties of the issue with a number of examples used on cover interspersed with the mint items. John explained that the position of the plate number on sheets of the 1d changed in 1939 because of stamp collectors. Previously, the plate numbers were positioned on the side selvages but demand from collectors for plate numbers and imprint blocks meant that three blocks had to be removed from sheets to satisfy specific requests. The new printing had the number below the imprint meaning that only one block was needed.

Amongst the varieties shown were a 1/3 make ready proof with red crayon markings and the re-inserted 2d/1½d in before and after plate blocks.

We then moved on to the 1960 Pictorials when a multitude of complete and partial missing colours, colour shifts and some fine photographic essays by L.C. Mitchell: an essay for the 1d showing a Tiki which became the 1/6 and one for 1/- showing Tongariro National Park that became the 3/-.

After a break, we continued with the 1960s and saw a variety of plate blocks including the rare 9d 14a/15, a chemically damaged block of the 1/- timber, the red aeroplane shift on the 1/9 and progressive die proofs of the 2½d and 5/-.

Thereafter, John moved on to the 1953 QEII Definitives. Starting with colour die proofs of the 4d in blue and brown and a partial offset of the 2d, he showed paper creases, plate cracks, flaws and retouches and finished with a handdrawn essay of the 5/- Queen on Horseback drawn by James Berry.

Bernard Symonds gave a vote of thanks for a superb display of a little shown period and sympathised with those who had missed the meeting.

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION

The Annual Society Auction will be held on Kiwi Day, Saturday, 29th November, 2003. 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, 20th September, 2003, 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 5407947.

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 20th September, 2003, 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.

AN OFFER TO MEMBERS

Robin Gwynn's excellent book *Collecting New Zealand Stamps* is available for the price of £10 including postage and packing. Anybody who would like to take advantage of this offer should write to: The Secretary, Central Districts Philatelic Trust, P.O. Box 315, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Payment by Sterling cheque will be accepted.

INFORMATION RECEIVED:

MEDIA RELEASES

NEW ZEALAND POST STAMPS TO HAVE A NEW LOOK

4 April 2003

New Zealand Post's stamps will soon have a new look with most stamps issued from May 2003 sporting a new stamp identifier - an elegant, stylised fern in the corner of each stamp.

Stamps General Manager Ivor Masters said the stamp identifier would give New Zealand Post's stamps a distinctly New Zealand look and feel.

"New Zealand Post is excited with the new look to our stamps. As a well-recognised symbol of New Zealand, the fern will also differentiate New Zealand Post's stamps from others in the market.

"Our latest issue of five Scenic Definitive stamps is a perfect introduction for the new identifier as the fern image fits well with the natural landscapes depicted in the stamps," said Mr Masters.

The 2003 Scenic Definitives feature five stunning locations around New Zealand, celebrating the rich diversity of New Zealand's scenery.

Included in the issue are the magnificent Ailsa Mountains towering above Lake Wakatipu in Fiordland on the 50-cent stamp and the serenity of the Coromandel Peninsula on the \$1.00 stamp.

Arrowtown, Otago's 'living historic town' that was home to thousands of gold miners over 100 years ago, is pictured on the \$1.50 stamp. New Zealand's oldest national park, Tongariro National Park, which includes and protects three major active volcanoes, the mountains Ruapehu,

Ngauruhoe and Tongariro as well as forests, lakes and desert-plateau, is featured on the \$2.00 stamp.

The final stamp in the issue, the \$5.00, shows Castlepoint, the popular holiday destination on the North Island's Wairarapa coast.

The 2003 Scenic Definitives stamps were designed by CommArts Design, Wellington and printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin. The stamps and related products will be available from 7 May 2003.

STAMPS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS SINCE CONQUEST OF EVEREST

8 May 2003

New Zealand Post is releasing a special stamp issue to celebrate 50 years since Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay heroically conquered Mount Everest in 1953.

Entitled *Conquest of Everest*, the issue illustrates the magnitude of the climb, the arduous ascent, and the two men emerging triumphant to the world-wide adulation after being the first people to reach the summit of the world's tallest mountain.

The issue includes two 40-cent stamps, one stamp featuring Sir Edmund Hillary next to an image of the towering 8850-metre Everest, the other picturing a jubilant Tenzing Norgay alongside an image of the two victorious climbers reaching the summit. The stamps are available as a se-tenant block of four and as a sheetlet of 10 stamps.

New Zealand Post's Stamps Business Manager, Ivor Masters said that the conquest was a tremendous achievement and New Zealand Post was proud to be commemorating the courage and determination of these two extraordinary men.

"For New Zealand it was a defining moment in our history as one of our nation's sons became one of our most famous and beloved heroes overnight. Sir Edmund Hillary remains an inspiration to New Zealanders today.

"Not only did Sir Edmund put New Zealand on the map, he and Tenzing Norgay paved the way for a new era in mountaineering," Mr Masters said.

Today, Mount Everest is still the dream destination for many climbers with a steady influx attempting the still demanding and dangerous mountain.

The *Conquest of Everest* stamps were designed by Steven Fuller of Watermark and will be available from 29 May 2003.

STAMPS CELEBRATE QUEEN ELIZABETH II CORONATION

8 May 2003

New Zealand Post is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II by reproducing the stamps issued in 1953 to commemorate the event.

Originally designed by James Berry and Leonard Cornwall Mitchell, the stamps have been updated with a change of denomination and the year 2003 micro-printed on each stamp.

Stamps General Manager Ivor Masters said New Zealand Post is proud to commemorate 50 years since the Queen's Coronation.

"Queen Elizabeth II is part of New Zealand's heritage and the *Queen Elizabeth II - 50th Anniversary of the Coronation* stamp issue is a tribute to her role in our history.

"The five stamps will be of special interest to collectors, royal enthusiasts or anyone wanting to send a piece of New Zealand history," said Mr Masters.

Buckingham Palace, which was the focal point for the post-Coronation celebrations, on the 40-cent stamp. The 90-cent stamp - Coronation 1953 - the Queen wearing the Crown Jewels, an essential part of any Royal celebration.

One of the most spectacular coaches ever built - the Gold State Coach - adorns the \$1.30 stamp and Westminster Abbey, the venue for almost every British sovereign's coronation since William the Conqueror, is featured on the \$1.50 stamp.

The \$2.00 stamp - Crown and Royal Sceptre - depicts St Edward's Crown and the Sovereign's Sceptre, which were made in 1661 for the Coronation of Charles II. Both are made of solid gold and encrusted with hundreds of precious gems.

In addition to the stamp issue there are also two special commemorative coins available - one celebrates the Anniversary of the Coronation and the other celebrates the Golden Jubilee.

The stamps and related products were printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin and will be available from 4 June 2003.

----- RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS

JOHN WOOLFE

SPINK: 17 OCTOBER 2002

1970 - 1976 50c x2 apple green and dark green omitted CP19a (Z) + CP19a (V)	£86
1973 - 1976 1c Blue omitted UM CP P2c(Y)	£74
1c Red omitted UM CP P2c (X)	£126
4c Purple-Brown omitted UM CP P6c (X)	£86
4c Orange-yellow omitted UM CP P6c (V)	£138
4c Greenish-blue omitted UM CP P6c (W)	£115
4c Apple-green omitted UM CP P6c (Y)	£86

WESTERN AUCTIONS: 7 DECEMBER 2002

6d KGV Vertical pair, perf. 14 x 13¼, upper stamp imperf 3 sides (one comb row missing) CP K8a (Z)	£1300
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ARGYLL ETKIN: 6 MARCH 2003

BOER WAR ITEMS FROM THE GRIFFITHS COLLECTION

NZ Patriotic Covers

Kruger, advertising Bhezt Boots	£185
Bhezt Boots given to 2nd New Zealand Contingent	£275
Rule Britannia, NZ to the Front (Re-directed)	£265
Stampless cover from soldier with NZ Hotchkiss Battery (39 men)	£305
Printed cover for the Xth Contingent with violet MILITARY POST-OFFICE / FREE/ ADDINGTON addressed in Maori	£370

CLASSIC STAMPS 9 MAY 2003

87 lots of literature with 100% sold	
The NZ Stamp Collector, quarterly by Verne Collins 1919 - 1935 (Est. \$25)	\$1600

Captain Cook Vols. 1, 2+3 (1972-1975)	\$50 each
NZ Penny Dominion - Wilson	\$50
The Plating of the 1d Dominion - Wilson	\$80
The Mail Coach Volume 1	\$80
1970 4c inverted veins CP P6c (T)	\$1250
1933 1d FM Perfined 'VOCo' on cover	\$165
1934 Cover 'Stolen from Posting Box and Found on One Tree Hill' in m/s	\$550
1940 Cover 'Damaged in Fire / 21/12/40' handstamp ex S.S. Arahura	\$950

MORE RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS

PAUL WREGLESWORTH

In the J.R.Mowbray auction of May6th, 2003, there were two interesting lots of Adsons:

1893 3d SSF advert p. 12x11½ (advert o/c) Cat \$75 GU/FU: Est. \$50. Realised \$130.

1893 4d SSF advert p. 10, well centred block of 6. Cat \$90 GU/FU. Est. \$80 Realised \$150

The second item is probably less noteworthy given that there will always be a premium for multiples (although this is reflected in the estimate). The first item, however, does indicate how scarce the 12x11½ adverts are and how far off the mark the CP catalogue valuation is.

RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS ARTICLES:

NOT GUILTY, YER 'ONNER!

REFLECTIONS ON POSTAL DEREGULATION AND STAMP COLLECTORS

WARWICK PATERSON

Derek Diamond in his 'Thoughts for Consideration and Response' on Postal Deregulation in New Zealand (1), raises some highly pertinent points regarding the cataloguing and, indeed, collectability of the private Postal Operators stamps issued in New Zealand over the past few years since Postal Deregulation. As he says, this subject has considerable significance for the future of our hobby.

Derek draws on a mildly provocative article about deregulation in New Zealand and in the UK published in our 'Campbell Paterson Newsletter' (March 2003), where I said that certain material would never be listed in the Campbell Paterson Catalogue of New Zealand Stamps.

So far, so good; the trouble is - and I am sure that Derek will not be disappointed to hear this - both he and I are on the same side of the argument. The issues, which I detailed as being unworthy of listing in the CP Catalogue were, in fact, issues made by NZ Post specifically for the collectors market (see below). The Postal Operators issues, on the other hand, have been regularly written up and documented in our Newsletter and, indeed, in the March 2003 article, I say: "If you want to specialise in the ground-breaking, epoch-making development of deregulated postal services in New Zealand - then collect Postal Operators' stamps. Make a study of them, specialise in them, exhibit them and write books about them". And to that I might add "publish catalogues about them". No one could be more pleased than we would to see that, whoever publishes the catalogue, CP Ltd or another dealer or society.

So here is our catalogue policy for 'NZ' purely postal material:

➤ Stamps issued by NZ Private Postal Operators supplying a service in competition to New Zealand Post:

Issues fully legal in New Zealand and recognised by contract with NZ Post. Entirely worthy of philatelic collection these could be regarded as a trailblazer of 'things to

come' in other postal administrations and represent a landmark in New Zealand's postal history. The sole determinant of the publishing of a catalogue of these issues will be the level of interest shown by collectors prepared to take on a new branch of the hobby and with the time to undertake the research.

➤ **Issues made by NZ Post specifically for the collectors market:**

These are often not available through Post Shops generally and sometimes even carry a premium over face value. New Zealand Post has developed its skills in marketing these products over the past few years for collectors to a very high level indeed and many of them should be regarded as little more than collectible souvenirs. They are not produced for the postal service in New Zealand for the general public mainly due their unavailability and high cost. **The CP catalogue will never list this type of material.**

And, when all is said and done, prejudging collectors interests is not a part of our brief - why on earth should it be? Catering for those interests is!

Reference:

1. D. Diamond. "Postal Deregulation". *The Kiwi* (2003). Vol. 52 No. 3. P. 59

POSTAL DEREGULATION

S.P. RIDDELL

I was interested to read Derek Diamonds comment on collecting the postage stamps issued by the private post operators in New Zealand. There is, however, a practical implication which was brought home to me on a recent visit to the country.

There came a time when we felt the need to send postcards to friends back in the U.K. We purchased postcards in Dunedin Botanical Gardens and, when requested, the assistant produced a selection of stamps with the correct \$1.50 denomination. I noted that they were all for Universal Mail. The stamps appeared in vertical strips of five and there were apparently postcards available with the same pictures as appeared on the stamps. I enquired what other strips of stamps were available and was shown about five other different strips, an example of each of which I purchased.

At other locations, I enquired whether \$1.50 Universal Mail stamps were for sale and purchased strips that I had not already bought. I soon realised that I had purchased 16 strips with 80 different stamps. This had become a very expensive exercise and I abandoned further enquiries. No doubt other strips and stamps exist although various sales assistants were unable to give me any details.

Each of the strips had the stamps on a card backing and on the reverse of the backing was a 'reassurance': "Limited Edition Collectors Product. Only 50,000 in circulation". As a stamp collector I did not feel reassured that once the 50,000 had been sold, others with different designs would not appear with matching postcards: the 'reassurance' had the opposite effect from that presumably intended.

On my 16 strips, there were three different types of backing, one referring to a photographic contest, one to a 'Free Tourist Offer' (of a free postcard) and one advertising 'Matching Stamps and Stamps available at all leading retail outlets'. I am not, of course, in a position to say whether more backing formats exist.

Bearing in mind that my interest extended only to the \$1.50 value, the imagination boggles at the various permutations of picture and backing card available. Perhaps we should all just start collecting postcards!

COILS AND STAMP VENDING MACHINES IN THE 1970s

STAN KUNDIN

(Editors Note: Thanks to Stan for this note: any errors in the report of the meeting are the sole responsibility of the Editor.)

I read with great interest the report of the display given after the AGM of the Society in the March issue of *The Kiwi* (1). My own specialisation in the subject of coils and vending machines caused me to note some points that merit clarification and amplification.

First, it is not strictly accurate to say that stamp vending machines ceased to be available in 1978. About that time, it was decided not to install any new machines and to remove, without replacement, the majority of machines, including those that were damaged or otherwise disabled, especially in locations vulnerable to vandalism such as rural post offices. However, it was also decided that some machine would be kept in operation in hospitals, nursing homes and a few other locations with reasonably safe environments. These last machines were probably removed at about the same time that the 1978 QEII Silhouette 'Special Issue' was withdrawn from sale on 30 September 1982. The inland letter rate increase to 14c as of 1 August 1979 made all these coils obsolete although combinations of stamps were still usable.

The statement regarding the 1978 special definitives (1c, 2c, 5c and 10c) being issued for the Postafix machines is also not quite accurate. The 1c, 2c and 5c coils were produced in rolls of 800 stamps for those few vending machines remaining in use. Only the 10c value in rolls of 400 stamps was produced for the Postafix machine. The Postafix, a cheap, plastic stamp affixing machine manufactured by the Data Link Company in San Diego, California, first appeared in New Zealand at some time in January, 1969. They were imported as replacements for the older and much more expensive Lightning Affixing Machines. There were only three stamps made into rolls for this machine, the 3c and 4c moth stamps overprinted 7c and 8c respectively (both were also usable in Lightning machines) and the 10c QEII silhouette web-fed rotary press coil. Both overprinted stamps became obsolete after the inland letter rate was increased to 10c after six months. The 10c stamp also became obsolete after a little more than one year of use.

Both vending machine and affixing machine coils had been a permanent part of Post Office inventories starting in 1922. Since the Postafix machine had, by 1978, been in use for a number of years, they obviously had to have used rolls made for the Lightning machine. Their main problem was not the thickness of the paper nor the coil joins but the perforations!

The spacing between pairs of internal sprocket pins typical of affixing machines had, for a long time, been optimised to use stamps perforated 13¼ vertically. This applied to both the Multipost machine and its eventual replacement, the Lightning machine. Unfortunately, when the Postafix machine appeared on the scene, its pin spacing was slightly different and there was some difficulty in getting the older coils to track properly through these new machines. This is why, when the silhouette series was produced in 1978, the 10c rolls were perforated 14¾ x 14 specifically for the Postafix machine and the other three values were perforated 13¾ x 13¼ for the few vending machines still in use.

Reference:

1. Anon. "Report of Meeting held on January 25th, 2003". *The Kiwi* (2003). Vol. 52 No. 2. Pp. 29-30

PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

ROBIN STARTUP

I was interested to read of the small display of POW and internment mail at the last meeting of the Society (1). I believe that this material is much scarcer than people realise. I thought that readers might be interested in some further details of the Second World War camps.

Featherston Camp had been used in the Great War as a New Zealand Expeditionary Force training camp and is situated on the main road about 3km north of Featherston.

During the Second World War, the New Zealand Army was given about ten days notice by US Forces that a POW Camp would be required for Japanese service personnel captured during fighting for the Solomon Islands. The camp was hastily erected with a barbed-wire compound for the POWs and tents and huts for both the POWs and camp guard. About 450 POWs, mainly men who had been constructing the airfield at Guadalcanal, entered the camp on September 18th, 1942. They were followed in November 1942 by a party of captured fighting men, including 127 who had been rescued at sea from the Japanese Navy vessel *Furutaka*. Other captured personnel were sent to Featherston until the camp held 869 POWs. There were about 120-150 soldiers from the NZ Army as camp guard.

A confrontation between the guard and the former fighting section of the POWs led to 74 POWs being killed and 48 wounded on February 25th, 1943. A Peace garden across the main road from the camp site today remembers the men who were once imprisoned there.

A post office was available in the guard camp canteen for the guard staff. This opened on March 15th, 1944.

Facilities for mail to and from the POWs was available although it is thought to have been little used. The culture of the Japanese fighting men was such that they considered themselves cut off from their families and country although there may have been contact with the Protecting Power's representative - the Swiss Consul. POW mail would have been sent by the camp orderly room to the NZ Army Department in Wellington for censorship, where appropriate, and onward despatch.

The POWs were repatriated on two United States Navy LST ships which sailed from Wellington on December 28th, 1945.

The site of the POW camp and the Great War training camp, on which the POW camp was laid out, is recognised today by a memorial and rest area on the side of the road. The camp site itself is now farmland with rapidly growing pine trees.

Pahiatua Camp was about 45 minutes drive of Masterton and is also marked by a rest area and memorial to the East European refugees who were helped through the camp after the POWs were repatriated. It almost had a post office. A datestamp was made and photocopies of the proof impression are to be found.

Reference:

1. Anon. "Meeting Report". *The Kiwi* (2003). Vol. 52 No. 2. P. 51

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

SERENDIPITY OR LUCK?

STAN KUNDIN

Luck is that which happens to one seemingly by chance and may be either favourable or unfavourable, in other words, good luck or bad. Serendipity, however, is something else. It is the unexpected but favourable result of an otherwise unrelated act or event.

Every collector who has been involved in the hobby for a significant time can relate the thrill of acquiring a valuable item for their collection at a very nominal cost. It may have been the 'lucky' find of a desirable minor variety on sale at the price of the normal but cheaper version, the discovery of an error on the stamps that you have purchased from the Post Office or even the joy of uncovering some gems in the cheap lot bought for next to nothing at a stamp show.

This has happened to me, admittedly more than just a few times. At the Post Office, I recognised the colour as different from the normal and purchased all twelve sheets of 100 25c

stamps for the \$300 face value, praying it was not just an unannounced official change of ink. It was not and these colour errors are now listed in Scott Specialised U.S. Catalogue (No. 1290b) at \$25.00 each.

I also found a number of valuable early Canadian colour varieties in an Australian dealers stock book, unrecognised by him but priced just right for me. The discovery of hundreds of scarce perforation varieties of Nyassa pictorial issues in a dealers job lot at a stamp show after winning a Gold for my exhibit certainly added icing to that cake. Upon further reflection, it may not be luck but knowledge that was working on my behalf. However, I was certainly lucky to stumble on these situations. In the following paragraphs, I will relate a serendipitous event that occurred last year.

During my annual New Zealand holiday three years ago, I visited an Auckland dealer to see if they had any coil material that I could use. He showed me a partial roll of the precancelled ½d Mt. Cook test coils, those with two vertical lines. There was no coil leader attached but the end paper (Figure 1) could be seen inside the roll! I already had several pairs but was extremely interested in obtaining that end paper with some stamps attached. Unfortunately, he decided not to break up the roll any further and I left disappointed. Subsequent New Zealand visits also proved futile. Then, after returning home from my 2002 Kiwi holiday, I received his auction catalogue in the mail and, there it was and with an estimate of \$1,000 for the roll! I felt that the end paper was not worth the cost of the lot but really wanted it for my exhibit. After much thought and hoping that, in time, I might be able to break up and sell or trade the balance of the roll to other collectors or dealers, I decided to bid on it.

Reading further in the catalogue, I found an even pricier lot of KGVI coils and leaders as well as a set of small numeral proofs, both items that I really needed for exhibits. What should I do? Figuring that opportunity rarely knocks more than once, especially at my age, I sent in my bids hoping to be successful on at least one of the lots. It was something of a shock when, several weeks later, I received all three!

Resigning myself to the probability of a new diet of beans, bread and black tea for the rest of the year, I put the other lots aside and proceeded to break up the coil. Carefully separating the extremely brittle roll into coil join strips of ten and twelve, and the end paper with six stamps attached, I found my tabletop covered with little circles of stamps, all with the resilience of clock springs. Nearly a century of being wound tightly in a roll had given them a permanent set. Taking the end paper strip and one of the shorter coil sections, I tried to flatten it under the weight of a large, heavy book. The next morning, removal of the book revealed five shorter segments that immediately flipped up and their previous ring shape. The end paper now had only four stamps attached. The perforations were obviously very weak so what could I do to flatten these stamps? Placing all the 'rings' in a large chocolate box, I put them away while I worked out the solution to my dilemma.



Figure 1. End Paper from Mt. Cook Test Coil

Serendipity?

About a week later, I decided to cook some bacon and eggs for breakfast, a treat that my current cholesterol level permits me about every month or so and, incidentally, a welcome relief from the beans and bread diet. Several years ago, one of my children gave me a microwave bacon cooker as

a Christmas present. An interesting device, it has 4 rows of teeth between which you stretch the long strips of fatty sliced bacon preferred by most Americans. With the cover on and placed in the microwave oven for about five minutes, out pops nicely browned strips of crisp bacon with all the excess cholesterol pooled in the bottom of the container.

While eating my breakfast, I stared at this device. Suddenly, as in those cartoons, a light bulb over my head turned on, I had an idea! After thoroughly cleaning and drying the bacon cooker, I took one of the coil strips and stretched it between the teeth. Unfortunately, though ideally spaced for bacon, the gap between the teeth was much too wide to hold the stamps securely. After much thought, I came up with an alternative solution.

I bought four combs and a clear plastic shoe box with a cover. Using melted candle wax for glue, I spaced the combs about 7cm apart inside the shoe box cover. When stretched between the teeth of the combs, the coil strip stayed in place. Then I took a piece of wet sponge, lay it on the cover and sealed the whole assembly with the inverted plastic shoe box. After just one day, this modest humidity chamber seemed to relax the coil strip enough so that it did not form a tight ring when removed from the combs. After waiting a few hours. Making sure that the gum was not tacky, I placed the strip gum side down on a piece of waxed paper and tried the heavy book again. It worked! The strip was now flat and with no gum damage!

The rest of the strips were soon mounted on the combs, the sponge remoistened and the whole procedure repeated. It took two days with a few additional drops of water being added to the sponge but the result was the same. The shorter strips that would not fit between the combs were just laid on the cover whilst the humidifying process was taking place. All remained flat when the heavy books were removed.

I was ecstatic over my success but an even more startling, though pleasant, shock awaited me. I started placing the long strips into Showgard® mounts to protect them and to *keep* them flat. That was when I first noticed the strip shown in Figure 2 together with a normal coil join strip. At first, I could not believe my eyes but after carefully inspecting the join, have no doubt that it was officially made as part of the original roll. I have a unique tête - beché first Dickie trial coil strip as well as several others from more recent Counter Coil rolls. This is the first New Zealand tête - beché production vending machine coil example of which I am aware.

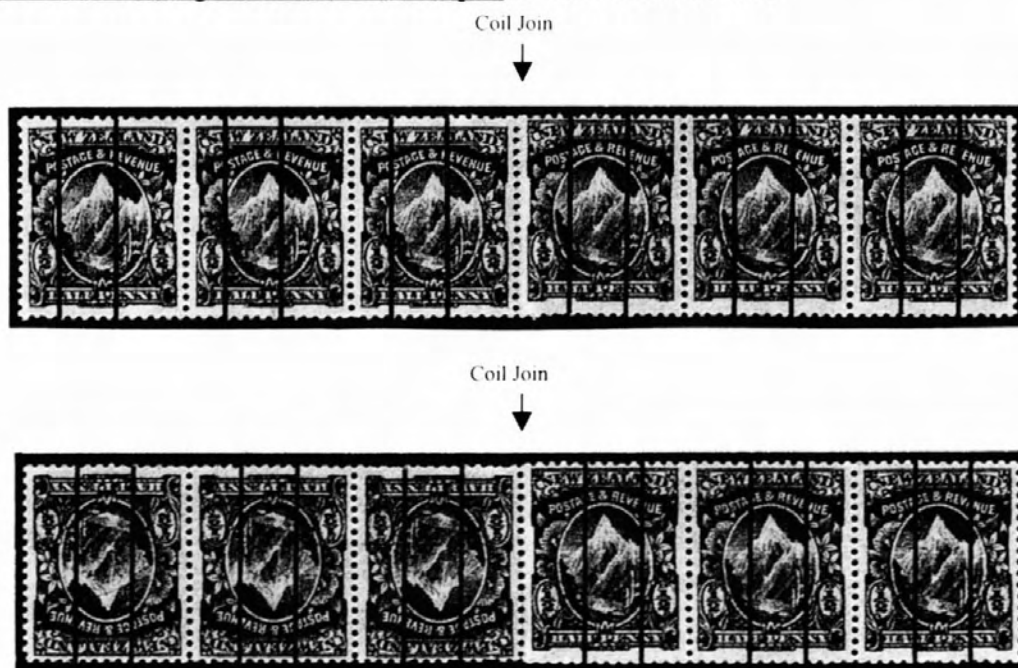


Figure 2. Tête - beché and normal Coil Joins

Although I was initially interested only in the end paper, had it been known that this particular coil join strip was in the roll, I would certainly have had to bid higher. There is no way to place a value on this discovery except that it would take a lot to convince me to part with it. It is now an integral part of my display and together with the end paper strip and the plain coil join strip, it occupies a separate page in my New Zealand coil exhibit.



Figure 3. 480-stamp roll of test coils

A complete roll of these test coils, not the one I bought, is shown in Figure 3. From an old photograph that I obtained from the files of Dr. Jean Alexander during my November 2002 London visit, it is the first photo that I have ever seen of these coils. It appears to be a 480 stamp roll with the centre pushed out and having a white leader and end paper. If this photograph is typical, they glued one of the pre-cancelled stamps to the outside of the sealed roll to indicate the contents and/or to secure the leader in place.

My research has not revealed exactly when these rolls were produced, but there is good reason to believe that the initial rolling occurred in 1909. The first of the original order for ten leased Dickie vending machines went into service in November 1909 at the G.P.O., Wellington with the nine remaining machines being installed in other cities by July 1910. The precancelled rolls were probably made for testing these machines during their installation.

In a 1951 newspaper clipping, otherwise unidentified but almost certainly from an Auckland paper, there is an interview with Dickie during his retirement. Written by the columnist Mac Vincent, it is entitled 'Men, Women and Memories' and in it he relates:

"I saw a stamp machine on which he'd [Dickie] made a lot of improvements. He demonstrated these using a roll of cancelled stamps given him by the department 40 years ago. He purposely kept breaking the roll and I hated to see it for there's value in those stamps, as he showed me how the machine corrected faults, one of these concerned with vibrations of passing trains."

I have underlined the one sentence because it almost certainly refers to a roll of the ½d Mt. Cook test coils since the "40 years" would be about 1910, probably a few years earlier. Although the partial roll I bought was reportedly obtained from a British source, it might be part of the one described in the 1951 Vincent article and obtained from the Dickie estate.

Was it serendipity or luck? I am not really sure and I do not much care. I learned to flatten old, brittle coil rolls thanks to my microwave bacon cooker and then discovered this amazing tête - beché coil join. Maybe it was both! More important, I have learned that in my own speciality, New Zealand's coils, there are still some startling new discoveries to be made, even if they are almost a century old. I have also learned to love beans!

POSTAL FISCAL STAMPS OVERPRINTED FOR THE DEPENDENCIES

DAVID STALKER

All values of the Arms overprinted for the Cook Islands in 1943-1950 (SG 131-136) are listed and are available. Those for Niue (SG 83-86) are listed with inverted watermark, except the £1, and are available. Those for Samoa (SG 207-214) are listed with or without inverted watermarks. However, the inverted watermark versions do not seem to be around. Do they actually exist?

NEW ZEALAND TO FINLAND: AN IMPORTANT NEW FIND.

JOHN WATTS

The registered cover illustrated in Figure 1 (Obverse) and Figure 2 (Reverse) was recently discovered in the United Kingdom and provides important postal history details.



Figure 1. Obverse of cover to Finland

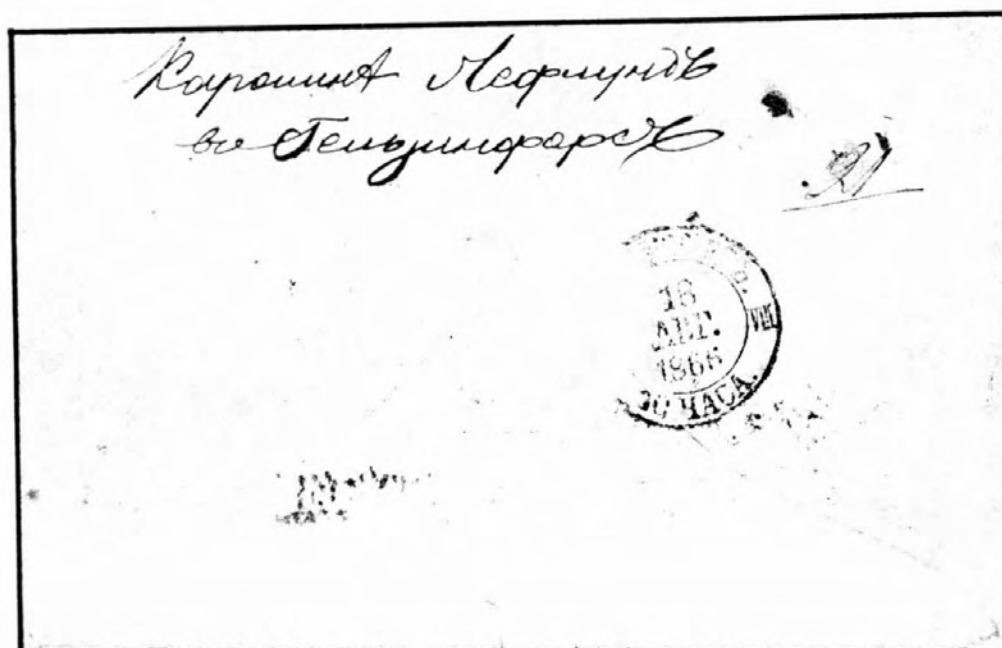


Figure 2. Reverse of cover to Finland

The cover originates from OTEPOPO (whose name changed to Herbert in 1881), a settlement located 56 miles north of Dunedin in 1866. The First Framed marking on the obverse is dated MY 28 66. This date pre-dates the earliest known use of this cancellation, on JA 20 72, as recorded in Volume VII of The Postage Stamps of New Zealand (1). It was Registered in Dunedin and the double oval Registered marking

of MY 30 1866 also pre-dates the earliest recorded use this cancellation in September 1869 (2). It is addressed to Helsingfors in Finland which was part of Russia at the time.

The cover was sent from New Zealand to Sydney in a sealed bag where it was put on the *Ellora* on 24 June 1866, arriving at Melbourne on 28 June, 1866. Next the letter arrived in Galle on July 21 1866 where the mail was transferred to the *Mongolia* which left for Suez on August 2, 1866, arriving there on August 9, 1866. The mail was then transferred to the *Nyanza* in Alexandria which sailed for Southampton on August 11, 1866 and arrived in the United Kingdom on August 25, 1866. The cover shows the London 25.8.1866 date stamp plus a Registered PD marking (paid to destination).

Postage rates valid at this time were:

Registration Rate New Zealand to Russia and Poland: 1s 0½d

Postage to UK: 6d

Postage Rate UK to Russia: 9d

There was no New Zealand ½d value stamp in 1866 so postage was rounded down to 1/-

Total Combined Charges: 2/3d

This total charge is indicated on the cover by a manuscript marking on the obverse of 2/2

Other markings on the cover are:

‘9’ in red which represents 9d credit from NZ Post Office to the UK Royal Mail

‘4’ in blue could have been a 4d fee for further Registration to Russia and Poland destinations

‘89’ is the Registered letter number applied at Otepopo in addition to the First Framed date stamp on May 28 1866

‘3974’ is the Registered letter number applied by the postal clerk at Dunedin to the double oval marking.

There is also a marking of 12 in red the reason for which is unclear.

The stamp that has been removed would have covered the ‘prepaid’ word, it had been tied with a Dunedin in Oval within 6 horizontal bars, the value of this stamp is a matter of conjecture – it could have been 6d - the postage rate.

There is what is assumed to be a double circle Agents marking, plus the marking inside the perforated type frame needs some explanation.

On the reverse side of the cover is what is assumed to be a Finnish Post marking that had originally tied some form of adhesive stamp/label. With the 4d that was due to be collected for Registration to Russia and Poland this could have been a ‘Postage Due’ item.

Covers from New Zealand to Finland in 1866 certainly would not be common and Len Jury would be interesting to hear through the Editor from anybody who is able to offer any opinions related to this rare item of postal history.

Acknowledgements to Gerald Elliott for reference information in ‘New Zealand Routes & Rates Pre 1874’ (3) and Robin Startup for opinions on the New Zealand markings.

References:

1. Ed McNaught KJ “*The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*” Vol. VII. Pub. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand (1988). P. 170.
2. Ibid. P. 242.
3. Elliot GJ. “*New Zealand Routes and Routes Pre 1874*”. Pub. Postal History Society of New Zealand (1986). Three Volumes. ISBN 0-908588 16-X

REEL JOIN

E.W.LEPPARD

In the January, 2003 issue of *The Kiwi* (1), a James Berry essay for the 2d of the Coronation issue of 1953 was shown. This design was not accepted but, following amendment, was used for the 3d value. For some time, a 'double paper' variety has been recognised. Apparently, the reels of paper supplied were not long enough for the printing so two had to be joined giving rise to the variety. Interestingly, a similar variety is recorded on the 3c and 7c 1975 Rose Definitives (2).

It appears that three stamps were affected by the overlap on the row of twenty stamps. There are two examples of the variety recorded in Volume IV of the Handbook (3). One from Timaru in which the six rows of joined stamps were overprinted by a rubber stamp 'WASTE' and a second similar example from Palmerston North. Presumably, the portion overprinted 'WASTE' should have been removed or, more likely, the full sheet containing the join should have been discarded.

I have recently acquired a similar variety (Figure 1) on the 8d value of the issue. The rows are joined in the same way and have been stamped 'WASTE' as the 3d. This appears to be a new variety.

REEL JOIN

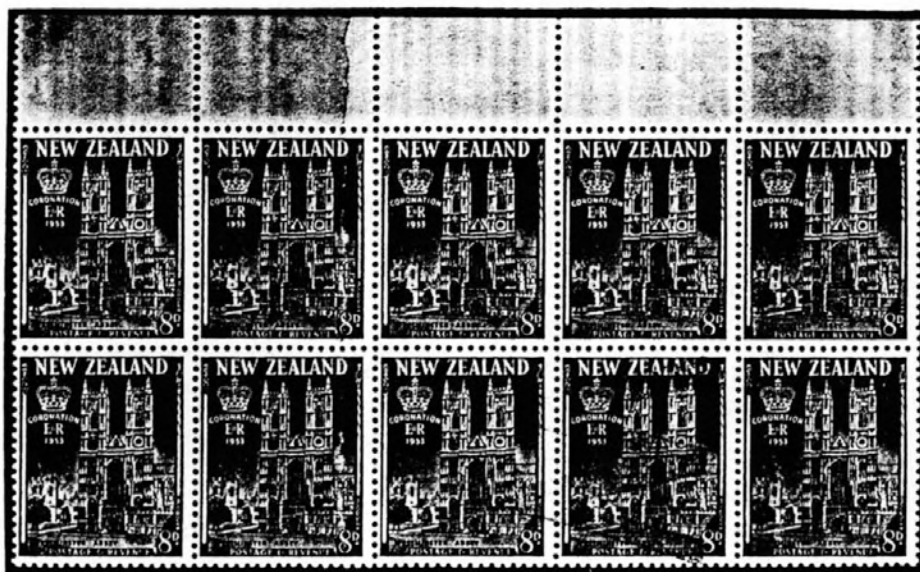


Figure 2. 8d. Coronation stamp with Reel Join

Both values were printed by Harrisons in sheets of twenty wide by six deep with full margins around each sheet with sheet value at the top and the plate number at the bottom.

Now, we have a problem. Twenty million of the 3d were printed but only three million of the 8d. If the variety occurs once on the 8d value, each reel before the join was made would print 12,500 sheets. To apply the same logic to 20 million stamps would require at least 10 reel joins. The scarcity of the variety suggests that the reel join was usually detected on inspection and the affected sheet removed making those that slipped through rare.

References:

1. Leppard EW "Queen Elizabeth II - 50th Anniversary The Postponed Royal Visits" *The Kiwi* (2003). Vol. 52 No. 1. Pp. 17-22.
2. Ed. Vincent BG *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Vol. VIII*. Pub. Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Inc., Wellington (1998)
3. Ed. Collins RJG & Watts CW *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Vol. IV*. Pub. Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Inc. Wellington (1964). P. 220

ILLUSTRATED ENVELOPES

BEVERLEY KING

I have recently acquired some covers with an illustration extolling the virtues of the New Zealand Postman. One cover commemorates the opening of East Linwood Post Office (Figure 1) on 26 JL 1948. Another cover (Figure 2) has a similar illustration without the "New Zealand Postman" superscription. It is postmarked Avonside 9 MR 49.

Can anyone tell me whether these were officially issued envelopes? Similarly, were they widely used or are they only seen from the Christchurch area?

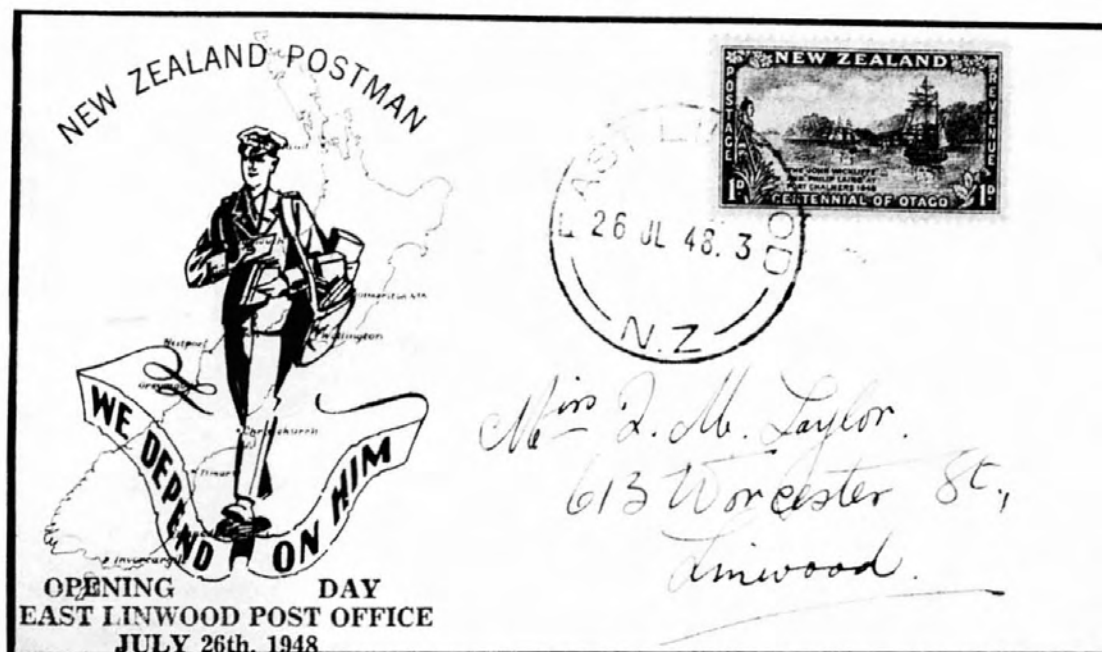


Figure 1. Envelope with NEW ZEALAND POSTMAN Cachet

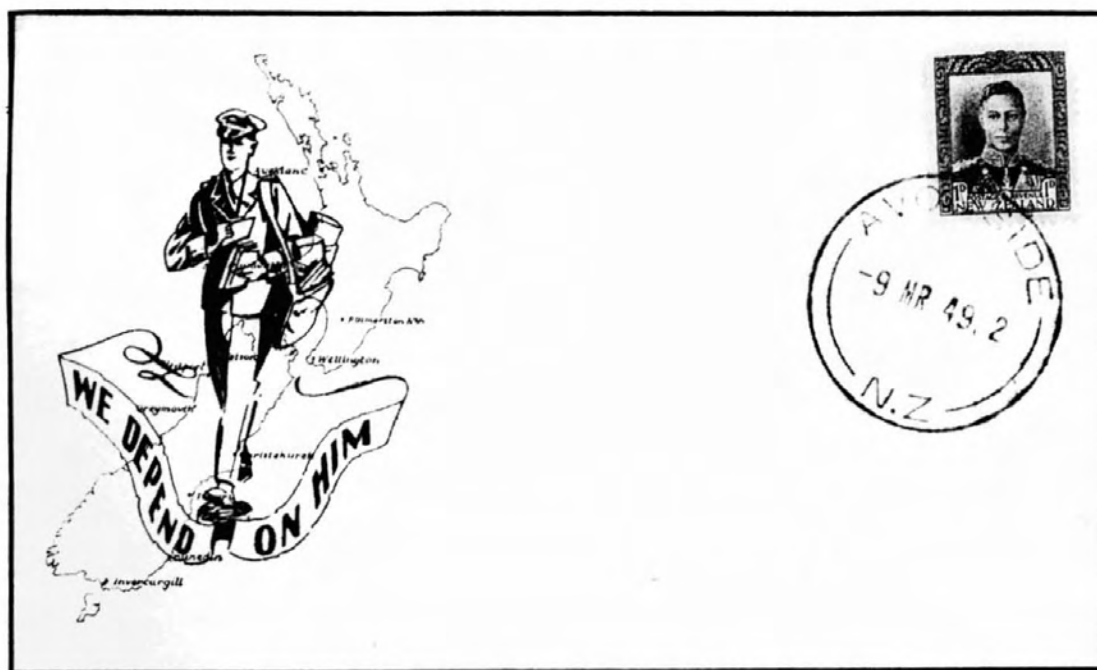


Figure 2. Envelope without Cachet

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