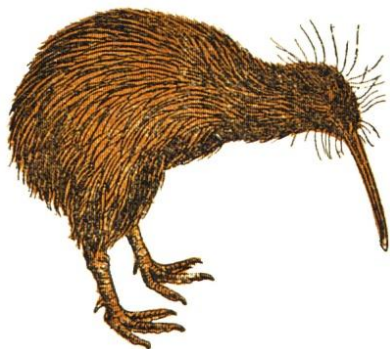




THE KIWI

JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



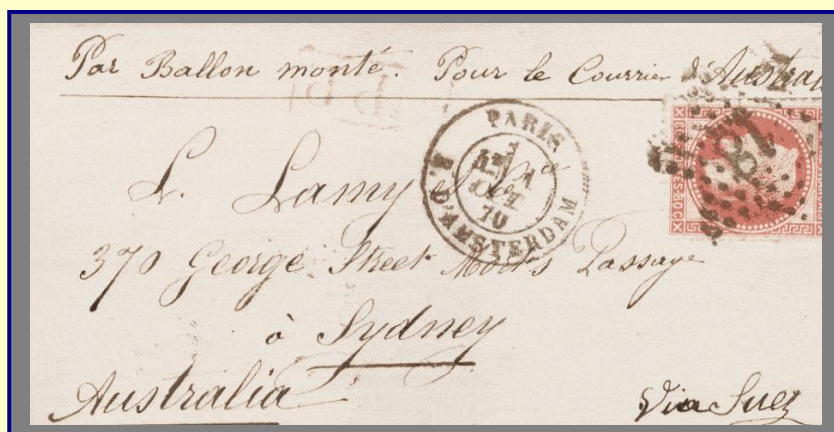
A “Purdon” hand painted cover – who was this enigmatic artist?

VOLUME 62 NUMBER 5
WHOLE NUMBER 361

SEPTEMBER 2013



Superb material for the discerning



The above cover was an example of the world's first airmail and is the only known Paris ballon post cover addressed to Australasia. In 2009 Mowbrays Australia sold this 1870 Siege of Paris ballon monté cover for NZ \$238,625 – then a record Australasian price for a philatelic item.



The above 13 August 1855 cover from Auckland to Birmingham, England, bears a pair of New Zealand's very first 1d full-face queen stamps. Only three covers bearing 1d SG1 FFQs are known – this being the earliest recorded date. It was acquired in 2009 by John Mowbray for a client for NZ \$138,000.

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and the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies.*



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EDITORIAL

Thanks to everyone who has responded to recent articles and for sending some fascinating material for this issue. I am particularly grateful to John Watts, our representative in New Zealand, for rising to the challenge I set him to investigate the enigmatic Mrs Purdon. Many of us are aware of the marvellous covers this lady produced but know little of her background. See page 100 for the results of his endeavours.

Attention all Aero-philatelists!

The Society has been given a large A4 ring binder (3" thick) crammed with New Zealand aero-philatelic material. It transpires that the folder, containing much information on early flights with photographs, articles, newspaper cuttings etc., was part of Francis Field's archive.

The Committee has decided that this lot should be sold for Society funds. Too late for this year's auction it will be offered to members (by sealed bid) in January 2014 and further details will be included in the next issue of *The Kiwi*. It will be available for viewing at the September meetings at Warwick and Carlisle and at the AGM in November. So if you have an interest in this area of New Zealand philately you might want to take a look at the folder, look out for information in *The Kiwi*, or contact me separately and I will try and summarise what is on offer.



THE KIWI - CURRENT ADVERTISING RATES

	Full (single insertion)	Full (3 or more consecutive)	Half (single insertion)	Half (3 or more consecutive)	Quarter (single insertion)	Quarter (3 or more consecutive)
Colour	£90	£75	£75	£60	£50	£40
B&W	£75	£60	£60	£45	£40	£35

NZSGB - CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Membership rates for 2013 are £20 (within the UK) and £25 (overseas). Payment can be accepted by various means including PayPal ('gift' option). Further details are available from the Membership Secretary, Derek Diamond (drdiamond@mac.com) or via the web-site.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The following Society publications are still available. Orders to Derek Diamond (contact details on 'Contents' page):-

SP3	The Kiwi Volumes 1-50. Full text on CD.	£10 incl. P&P
SP5	Index to The Kiwi, Volumes 1-60. Published on CD only.	£ 5 incl. P&P
SP6	Gems of Australasian Philately.	£10 incl. P&P

SOCIETY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members:

A warm welcome to:

R. McKenna, Massachusetts, USA

Deceased:

Cmdr. G. R. Gibson, Wiltshire



THE ROBIN STARTUP POSTAL HISTORY ARCHIVE



*Robin McGill Startup
(1933-2012)*

Robin Startup was the undisputed Grand Master of New Zealand Postal History creating from his own research, over a period of some 65 years, an immense archive which formed the basis of more than 2000 articles and 60 publications. He was a regular contributor to *The Kiwi*.

A founder member of the Postal History Society of NZ Inc. his reference library includes information regarding every Post Office ever opened in New Zealand and those which operated overseas during War years. It includes many postal publications, museum pieces and photographic negatives.

Robin had been keen that the archive should remain intact so that it might be accessible by postal historians of the future and so, after a period of uncertainty, the entire collection has been gifted to the Christchurch Philatelic Society. Some 250 box-files of papers, a computer database and a library of books have now been transferred to Christchurch Society's philatelic library. The Society expects to release further information in due course.

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION – CATALOGUE

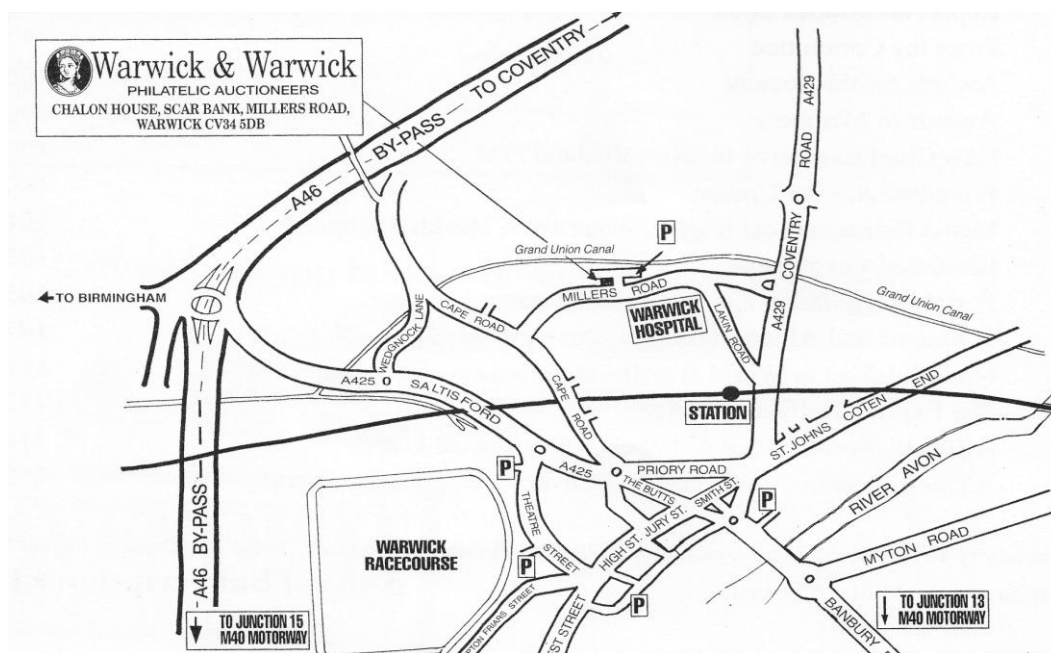
The **catalogue** for the Society auction, to be held at **2pm on November 30th**, has been sent to each member's e-mail address - where these details are known. Where we have no e-mail address on file your catalogue is enclosed with this copy of *The Kiwi*.

The catalogue will also be available on the Society's website where members will also be able to find illustrations of a selection of lots.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday **September 28th 2013**
at the offices of **Warwick & Warwick**, Scar Bank, Millers Road, Warwick CV34 5DB.



This will be an all day members meeting starting at 11:00am

Please bring along a short display.



Have you got a computer and access to the web?

Then check out the Society's web site for details of meetings, illustrations of Society auction lots, 'Discussion Board' and, recently added, a series of articles on New Zealand stamps and postal history originally published in Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

www.nzstamps.org.uk/nzsgb

NORTH OF ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the North of England Group will be an extended meeting to celebrate the group's 21st anniversary and will be held on Saturday **September 7th 2013** at St. Luke's Church, Lodge Road, Orrell. This will be our 12 page competition with two categories, "Traditional/Postal History" and "Social and Thematic" to be judged by Paul Wreglesworth. Members may submit as many entries as they wish.

The meeting will run from 14:00 to 17:00 and, following the competition, members will display some of their Stampex 2012 entries. Members are also invited to bring along items of interest or recent acquisitions.

Prior to the meeting a *21st Anniversary Lunch* will be held at The Mount, Orrell Road, Orrell, WN5 8HQ starting at 12:00 midday. From Junction 26 from the M6 (following the normal route to St Luke's), turn left at the lights and the pub is on the right hand side of the road. Members, guests and visitors are welcome to join us but please confirm your attendance to Jack Lindley by Wednesday September 4th.

Saturday **October 12th 2013** sees our biennial joint meeting with the Scottish Group at the Hallmark Hotel, Carlisle. For details see 'Scottish Regional Group' below.

Group Contact: - Jack Lindley ☎ 0161 705 1074; **e-mail:** lindleyjack@aol.com

MIDLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the Midland Group will be held on Saturday **November 2nd 2013** at St Anne's Church Hall (behind the church), Park Hill, Birmingham, B13 8EU, starting at 14:00. Members are asked to bring along a mini display to entertain their colleagues.

Group Contact: - Ian Samuel ☎ 0121 449 0849

SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting is being held jointly with the North of England Group at the Hallmark Hotel, Court Square, Carlisle, CA1 1QY, on Saturday **October 12th 2013**.

The meeting will start at 1:30 (not the usual 2:00) to allow time for a planning discussion about Glasgow 2012. There will be the normal informal gathering for lunch, in the hotel bar, from 12:30.

Members are asked to bring around 20 sheets for display, plus any interesting recent purchases.

Group Contact: - Michael Kirwan ☎ 0131 447 3420

ADVANCE NOTIFICATION – GLASGOW 2014



THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
GLASGOW
3rd – 5th October 2014



Mark this date in your diary and watch this space for more details as they become available.

MEETINGS HELD

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD, IN LONDON, JULY 27th 2013

The meeting, led by **Keith Collins** with key contributions from others, was devoted to the subject of **essays and proofs**.

Derek Diamond opened the discussion by saying a lesson he had learnt researching the First Pictorial Issue was that ‘essay’ and ‘proof’ were not straightforward terms and the philatelic literature was rife with confusion. He believed a major cause of this was the fact that when describing proofs the relationship related to printing methodology and its level of development was not always clear. He also stressed the very fragmented nature of surviving essay and proof material and consequently the difficulty of discovering what happened and why.

Derek illustrated both points with items from the Chalon era and the 1898 Pictorial Issue. In both cases, with plates made in London and printing done in New Zealand, it is logical to assume that plate proofs made in London by the printer accompanied the plates to New Zealand where the printer checked their condition on arrival by taking another (proof) impression from the plate. With the 1898 Pictorials, only in the case of the re-drawn designs of 1907, known as the Third Local Printing, is it possible to be certain as to the origin of the proof as different watermarked paper was used in London and Wellington. Derek showed the 1899 die proof alongside a photograph of the actual die now in Te Papa Museum. He also showed the only die proof from the London Printing in the colour of the issued stamp that he has been able to locate in 40 years – the 4d. Terraces (Figure 1). A striking illustration of fragmentary records.



Figure 1: Die proofs of the London printing of the 1898 Pictorials. Waterlow & Sons record proof (2480) and die proof in the issued colour.

Neil Jones displayed a proof example of the halfpenny newspaper stamp issued in 1873. This was followed by die proofs prepared by De La Rue for the First Sideface Issue of 1874, inscribed ‘Before Hardening’, together with a series of ‘Cancelled’ colour trials. None of the colours were adopted for the issued stamps with the exception of that for the 1/- value.

Paul Wreglesworth showed examples of proof material from the Second Sideface period (1882-1900) contrasting the relative scarcity of proof material prepared by William Bock, whilst producing the dies for the first issue in 1882, with the wealth of examples produced by Alfred Cousins who was responsible for the 2½d and 5d stamps of 1891 and the ½d value released in 1895. Of particular note was the series of ‘progressive’ proof pulls taken by Cousins throughout the course of preparation of the dies (25 separate impressions for the ½d and 18 for the 2½d value) which allow us an insight into the working methods of the engraver (Figure 2).

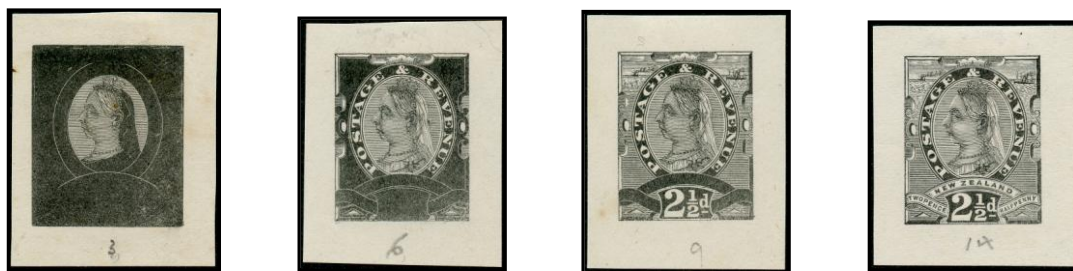


Figure 2: 'Progressive' pulls from the die for the 2½d Second Sideface stamp.
A total of 18 impressions were taken by the engraver Alfred E. Cousins.

Neil Jones displayed some Edward VII and George V proof material bridging the gap nicely to the 1935 Pictorial issue where **Keith Collins** explained the public competition, which ran from 9th March to 30th September 1931, to choose designs for the new issue. Over 1500 entries were received from which the work of 10 designers was selected for the 14 values eventually issued.

Keith showed some of the work of Alfred Cousins, including preliminary sketches and colour photographs of his complete submission, and Harold Nelson who entered under the pseudonym 'Hamilton'. Neither had their designs accepted. L. C. Mitchell was more successful and four of his essays and die proofs for the 2½d Mount Cook and 3d Maori girl were displayed. T. I. Archer, the only entrant not resident in New Zealand, had his designs for the 6d Harvester accepted whilst father and daughter partnership, C. H. and R. J. G. Collins provided the design chosen for the 1d Kiwi. Collins used his 12 submitted designs to produce a series of colour prints which, as he was secretary to the stamp dealing firm of Verne, Collins & Co, were possibly used for promotional purposes. Keith concluded with work from I. H. Jenkin (2/- Captain Cook) and a page of work by R. J. G. Collins who, in conjunction with J & S Fitzgerald produced designs for the 1950 Canterbury Philatelic Exhibition.

Alan Baker displayed a range of proof material associated with the Health issues starting with the 1929 and 1930 issues and die proofs of the Smiling Boys which were originally intended for the 1930 issue. Several impressive large scale examples of the artwork of James Berry were followed with some later material including an unadopted essay for the 1961 Health stamps (Figure 3).

Neil Jones dipped into his collection once more to show interesting proof material for the 1935 Air Mail Stamps, QEII definitives and Revenue stamps.

Paul Wreglesworth rounded off the session with a range of proof material from the 1960 Definitive Issue. A series of photographic proofs showing familiar images but assigned to stamp values different to those of the issued stamps, a De La Rue work room proof of the 3d 'Kowhai', and a series of colour separations of the 2d and 3d definitives. Paul offered a note of caution with these last two items. Proof material, prepared by De La Rue ahead of the issue, came to the market a number of years ago. Those for the 2d value were on gummed, watermarked paper but were imperforate whilst those for the 3d value were on gummed, watermarked paper and perforated. At some point over the years these 'sets' of colour separations have been split up and the 3d 'blue' separation appears on the market from time to time as "three colours missing" whilst multiples of the 2d, in the final combination of colours, have been seen described as 'imperf'. These are from proof sheets. - see page 108 for further details of this material. The 6d value is occasionally offered with 'two colours missing' and these are probably from the same source.



Figure 3: Unadopted essay for the 1961 Health Issue.

John Stimson concluded proceedings by thanking all those who had participated.

POSTAL USAGE OF WAGES TAX STAMPS

James Shaw

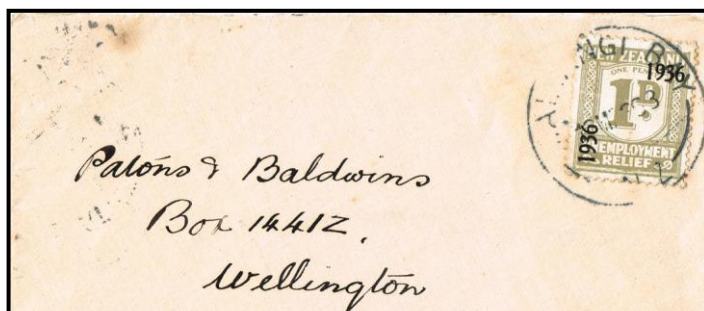
(Response to previous article – “Airmail Covers – Detained for Additional Postage”)

I note with interest the cover shown in the last issue of *The Kiwi* (Ref. 1), being a 1940 letter from Wellington with 5/9d postage paid, of which 9d was a Social Security stamp, incorrectly applied. The stamps were cancelled but the illegal usage was spotted by a P.O. clerk who highlighted the offending stamp with a pencil marking (Figure 1). A correction was made by the application of a 9d pictorial stamp which was attached and cancelled by the Wellington Foreign Mail Branch (F.M.B.). The cover was opened, and marked, by the censor - normal practice in the war years. All in all a very interesting cover and worthy of display.

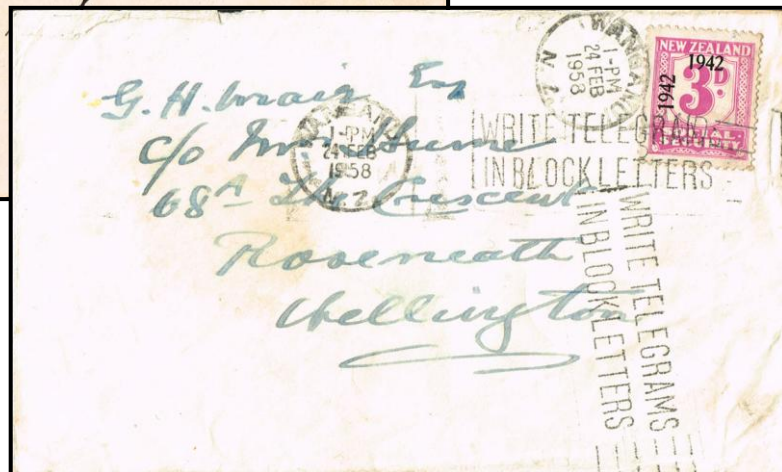


Figure 1

My interest relates to the use of the Wages Tax stamps which were introduced in 1931, at a time of great national depression, to meet the requirements of the *Unemployment Amendment Act*. This allowed for the collection of an emergency charge intended to assist in alleviating the plight of the unemployed, which exceeded 30% in the early 1930s. The charge was payable on all wages by means of the Wages Tax stamps which appeared in three separate ‘guises’, ‘Unemployment Relief’, ‘Employment’ and ‘Social Security’ stamps until 31st March 1958 when New Zealand moved to a PAYE system for the collection of income tax.



Both covers
reduced



Figures 2 and 3: Examples of inland usage of 1d (1936) and 3d (1942) Wages Stamps. Both have been incorrectly used to prepay postage but both apparently escaped detection.

The postal usage of Wages Tax stamps was strictly forbidden and illegal usage was a further reason for their ultimate withdrawal. Unauthorised usage on mail should have been charged at 'double deficiency'. Two of the covers shown here (Figures 2 and 3) escaped detection and no charge was made. The other two covers have been endorsed to indicate illegal usage with a charge made.



Cover
reduced

Figure 4: 1941 letter from Ohakune to Wellington with a 2d (1940) Wages Stamp marked as invalid and inscribed **Tax 4d** in red as the 'double deficient' amount due.



Cover
reduced

Figure 5: 1940 cover from Onehunga to Auckland showing illegal usage of a 2d Wages Stamp (1940). 4d 'double deficient' postage has been collected and four 1d postage due stamps attached.

As a keen collector of these issues I would be interested to hear from members who have any other examples of the use of Wages Tax stamps on letters, packets, parcels etc.

Reference:

1. Potter S., 'Airmail Covers – Detained for Additional Postage', *The Kiwi*, vol.62, no.4, pp79-80, July 2013.



MRS PURDON ILLUSTRATED COVERS

John Watts

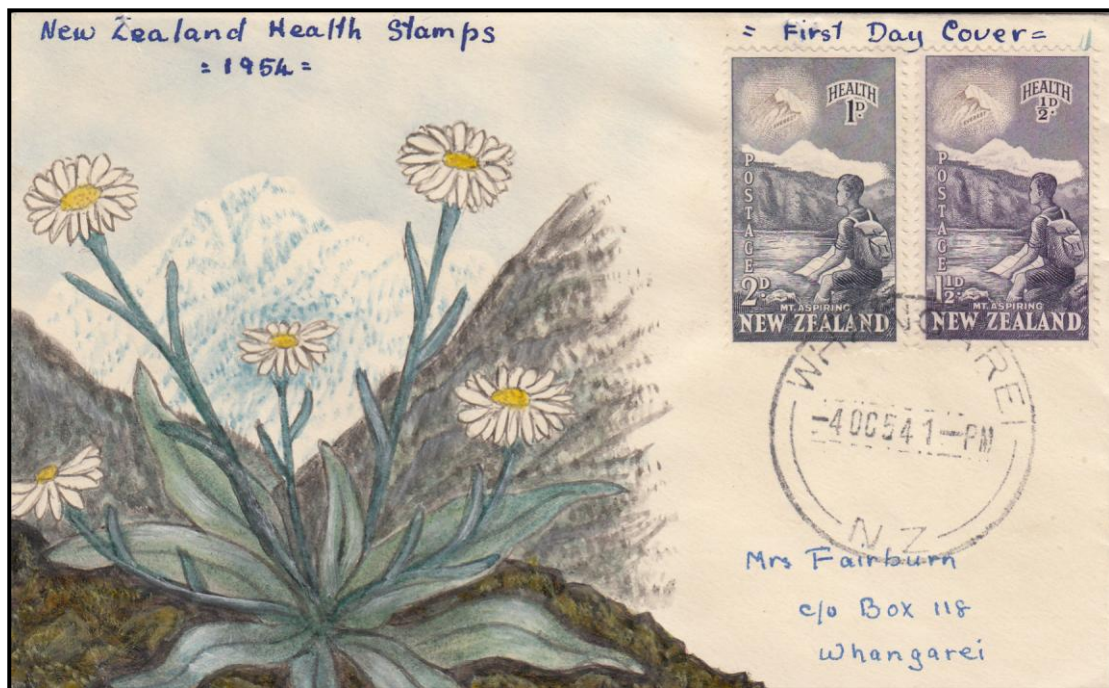


Figure 1: 1952 cover illustrated by Mrs Purdon and addressed to her mother Mrs Fairburn.

There was a time when collectors rummaging through dealers boxes might have been lucky enough to have spied, and purchased, hand coloured first day covers such as the one illustrated (Figure 1). Beautifully illustrated the covers are often addressed to a Mrs. Fairburn of Whangarei with, on the reverse, the name and address of a Mrs. M. Purdon. Today such items are highly collectable and eagerly sought after. Previous attempts to uncover the identities of these two ladies have met with limited success (Ref. 1 and 2). So who exactly were Mrs Fairburn and Mrs Purdon?

Mrs Fairburn was born Ada Devlin in Auckland in 1871 and married William James Fairburn who was listed as a 'seedsman and orchardist'. William was the son of Richard Fairburn, born in Kerikeri in 1819 and reputedly the fourth white child born in New Zealand (Ref. 3). His grandfather was William Thomas Fairburn of the Church Missionary Society who, following the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, was one of those entrusted with a copy to take to other Maori groups for signing.

William and Ada farmed at Totara North before moving to Whangarei where they had two children Ernest and Myrtle. William left Ada in 1899 for the USA, where he later remarried, leaving Ada to raise their two children, Ernest Richard and Myrtle alone.

Ada (Figure 2) survived by taking in ironing and sewing for businesses in Whangarei. Her hobbies included doing fine tatting, antimacassar and crochet work. She grew mulberry trees and raised silk worms, from which she spun silk, and won many prizes in the

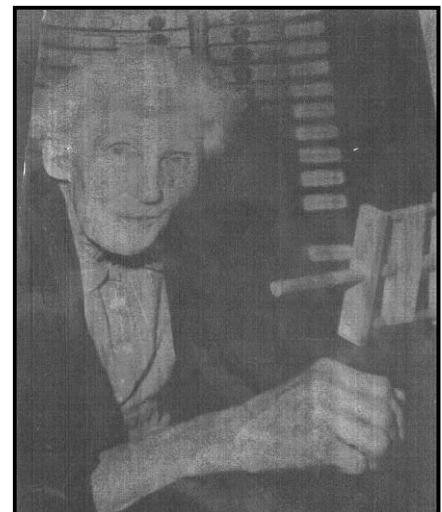


Figure 2: Ada Fairburn spinning silk



Figure 3: Myrtle Purdon

1980's as a result of her handiwork. Another of Ada's interests was collecting shells and she apparently formed a stamp collection housed in 13 albums.

Later in life Ada had a fall which left her partly crippled, though her mind remained sharp in spite of her infirmity never having to wear glasses. She died in April 1964.

Ada's son Ernest was born in September 1890. A keen sportsman in his youth and a talented musician, playing in a cinema orchestra in the days of silent films, he was an active member of the Whangarei Choral Society and eventually became Musical Director. His passion was insects and even at school he was known as "The Bug Hunter" going on to become one of New Zealand's leading entomologists. He, and his sister, were second cousins of the noted poet A. R. D. (Rex) Fairburn (1904-1957) and of the historian E. Thayer Fairburn (1909-1998). Ernest never married and lived in the family home in Whangarei until his death in July 1982 (Ref. 3).

Ada's daughter, Myrtle (Figure 3), was born in December 1895. In November 1920 she married a dairy farmer from Maungakarama named Stewart Purdon. The wedding ceremony was held at Whangarei Baptist Church and, in the absence of her father, Myrtle was given away by her uncle Arthur Devlin, a builder from Kamo. Her brother, Ernest, was best man. They had four children and, ultimately, ten grandchildren.

Myrtle was a gifted self taught artist producing a number of pictures covering different subjects - none were signed but all are treasured by her family. She inherited her mother's skills in crochet and knitting, producing many items for charity and, in common with her brother she formed a fine shell collection. When Stewart died in 1959 Myrtle moved into a smaller home in Whangarei spending time looking after her

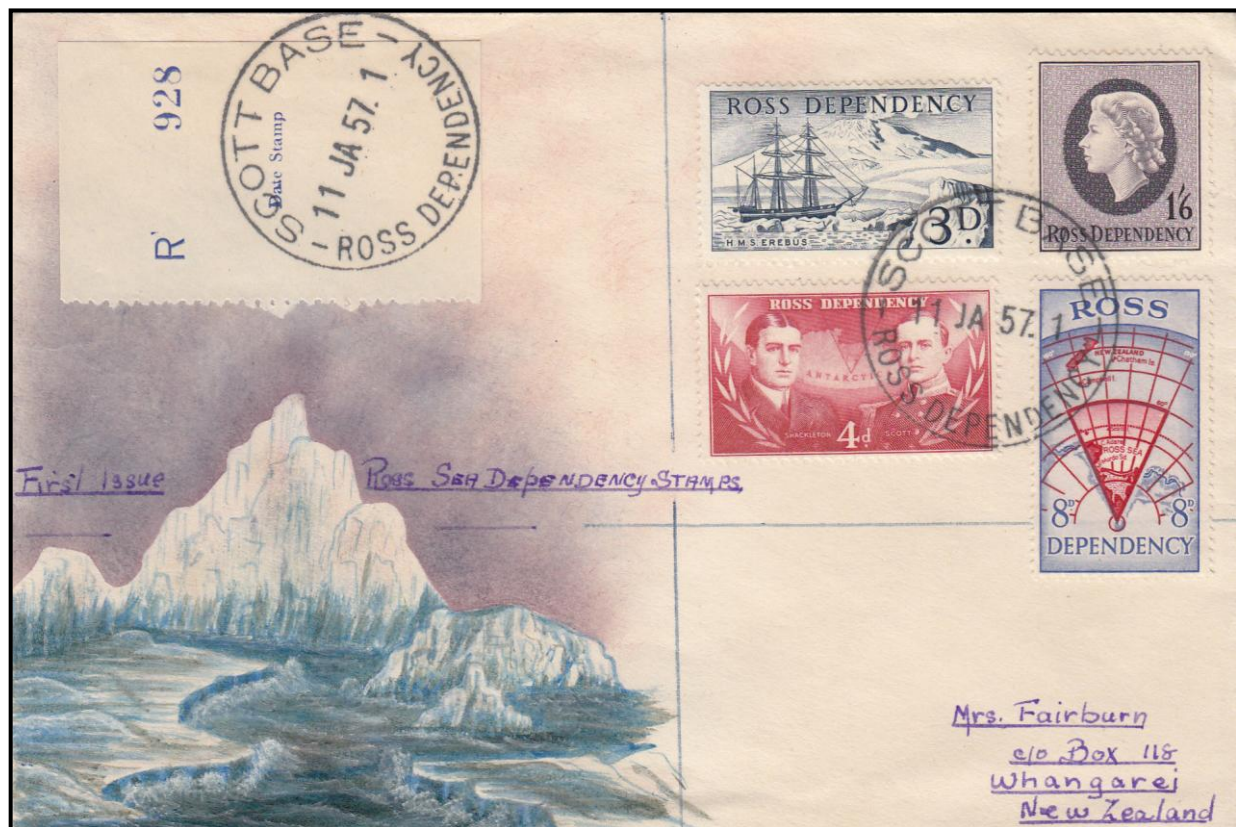


Figure 4: A hand drawn cover produced by Mrs Purdon for the first stamp issue from Ross Dependency



Figure 5: A cover combining collage and drawing and, unusually, not addressed to Mrs Purdon or her mother. (reduced to 70%)

mother and brother. She died in December 1975 having lived all of her life around the Whangarei district.

Whilst the majority of Mrs Purdon's covers are entirely hand drawn and coloured Myrtle often included 'cut outs' from books or magazines to produce the final image (Figure 5).

The covers appear to have been produced from the late 1940's, through to the early 1960's (Figure 7 and front cover), celebrating new stamp issues, historic events or notable anniversaries. Most bear New Zealand stamps with notable exceptions showing the stamps of

Ross Dependency, Western Samoa, Fiji and even Papua & New Guinea. (Figures 4 and 6).

Mrs Purdon frequently illustrated more than one cover for each issue or event, each differing in some minor detail from the other.

The majority of covers are addressed either to her mother, Ada, or to herself. Most were retained and shared with family members who have, over the years, disposed of most to dealers or stamp collectors. A very few examples are known addressed to non-family members. (Figure 5)

Mrs. Purdon was member No. 214 of the NZ Cover and Stamp Club (NZCSC) based in Christchurch. Her collecting interests were listed as – First Day, Airmail and Patriotic covers, stamps and General. The club seems to have been formed in the early 1940's, folding in the late 1960's.

I am aware of several collectors with substantial holdings of covers illustrated by Mrs Purdon and others may well have single examples. It would be interesting to produce a list of all known covers in a future issue of *The Kiwi*. Whilst there are too many to illustrate in the journal it may be possible to place images on the Society's web-site. If you have examples (whether it is one or 50) please send information to the Editor



Figure 6: A 1952 cover posted from Western Samoa. (reduced to 70%)

(details on the 'Contents' page), including date, stamps used, event, addressee and a brief description of the image. A scan, or photocopy, of the covers would be particularly useful.



Figure 7: A cover produced by Mrs Purdon for the 1960 Pictorial Issue.
The latest cover noted so far is for the 1961 Health Issue.

Sources:

This article is based largely on information obtained through correspondence with Myrtle's granddaughter, born in 1953. The covers illustrated are re-produced with the kind permission of Stuart Potter.

References:

1. Samuel I., 'Purdon Covers', *The Kiwi*, vol.47, no.1, pp17-18, January 1998.
2. Gibson G. R., 'The Purdon Letters', *The Kiwi*, vol. 47, no.4, pp73, July 1998.
3. Watt J. C., 'Ernest Richard Fairburn: 1890-1982', in *New Zealand Entomologist*, vol.7, no.4, pp476-479, 1983.

RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS (1)

Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, New York. 26-27 June 2013		
Lot	Description	Realised (Est.)
1389	1891, 6d Brown, O.P.S.O., Magenta Overprint (SG O15). Mint o.g.	US\$1600 (750-1000)
1390	1892, 2d Violet, O.P.S.O., Violet Handstamp (SG O7a). Fine used.	US\$1200 (500-750)
1392	1902, 3d Orange Brown, O.P.S.O., (SG O31). Mint o.g.	US\$1800 (1000-1500)
1394	1905, 1d Universal, Carmine, O.P.S.O., (SG O26). Mint o.g.	US\$1600 (750-1000)
1395	1905, 2½d Blue, O.P.S.O., (SG O30). Mint o.g.	US\$1500 (750-1000)

MAIL ADDRESSED TO A SHIP'S PASSENGER – NOT ON BOARD

Paul Wreglesworth

In the last issue of *The Kiwi* (Ref. 1) Robert Clark described the journey of a cover, from Wellington to Colombo, addressed to a passenger on board P&O's *S.S. Balranald*. There was no indication that the letter was not successfully delivered.

I am grateful to Stephen Jones of Lower Hutt, New Zealand, for sending me a scan of another letter (Figure 1) sent to Colombo in an attempt to reach a P&O passenger - in this case without success.

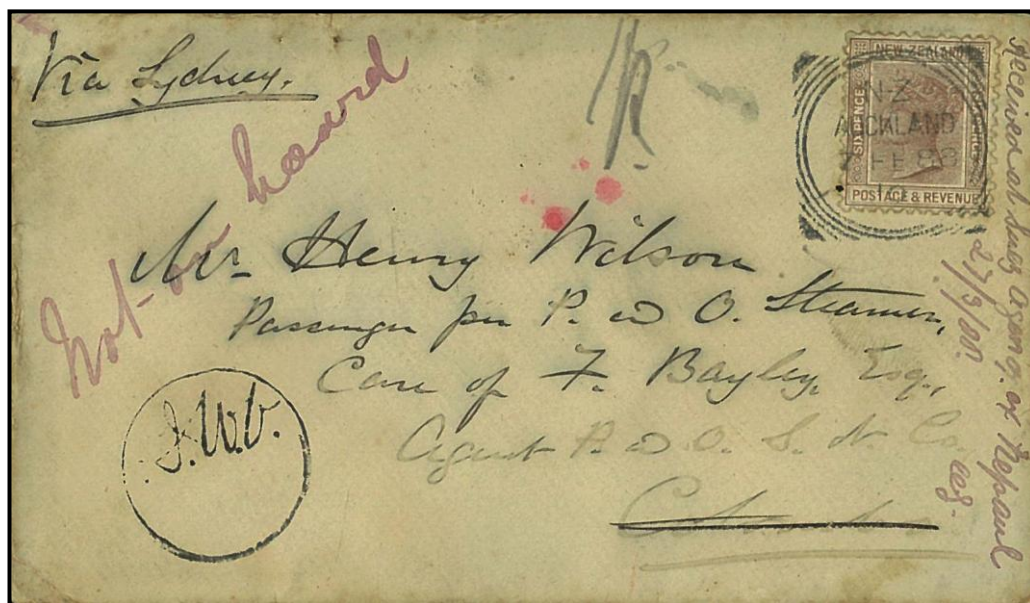


Figure 1: 1888 cover addressed to a P&O Passenger but endorsed 'Not on Board'

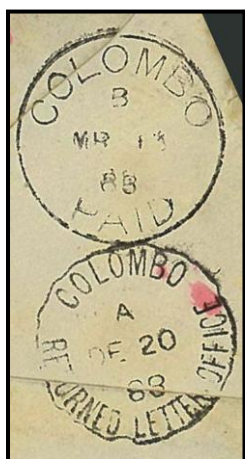


Figure 2:

Colombo back stamps

Postmarked at Auckland, February 7th 1888, the letter is addressed to a *Mr Henry Wilson, Passenger per P. and O. Steamer, Care of F Bayley Esq., Agent P. and O. S. S. Co., Colombo*. The envelope has been marked 'Via Sydney' and, although 'Colombo' is scored out a 'Colombo Paid' mark on the reverse (Figure 2) indicates the letter arrived there mid March (March 1?). The cover has been endorsed, down the right side, "Received Suez Agency of Nepaul 27/3/88" suggesting the letter was forwarded to P&O's agent at Suez. The *S.S. Nepaul*, which was wrecked near the Eddystone lighthouse in December 1890 whilst sailing from Calcutta to London, was a ship of the P&O fleet.

The cover is clearly endorsed 'Not on Board' in the same ink, and handwriting, as the notation made by the P & O Agency at Suez. Returned to Colombo and backstamped 'Colombo Dead Letter Office' DE 20 88 (Figure 2) the letter was presumably returned, eventually, to the sender.

Thanks also to Bob Clark who interrogated the online Australian newspapers (www.trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper) to find that there was a Mr Wilson, for New Zealand, who was a passenger on the *Oceana* that left Suez on 23rd March 1888 and Colombo on 2nd April. The ship was bound for Australia from UK. Perhaps this was the Mr Wilson for whom the letter was intended?

Another letter, shown below (Figure 3), suffered a similar fate although some 140 years later. In this particular case posted in New Zealand on 27th February 1947 and addressed to a *Mrs A.E. Saunders, Passenger, "Marine Phoenix", San Francisco, U.S.A.*

Mrs Saunders was not on the ship and the letter has been endorsed "Not On Board / Return To Sender". Returned to Auckland (Auckland F.M.B. backstamp for 8th April 1947) the cover was presumably advertised but has been marked 'Unknown' on 9th April and 'Unclaimed' on 14th April 1947. The letter's fate should presumably have been a trip to the Dead Letter Office before destruction. Somehow the cover has survived to tell a tale.

Launched in August 1945 the *Marine Phoenix* was used to repatriate troops from Japan at the end of WWII and then, throughout 1947, was operated by the Matson Navigation Company for transporting military and civilian passengers from San Francisco to Sydney.

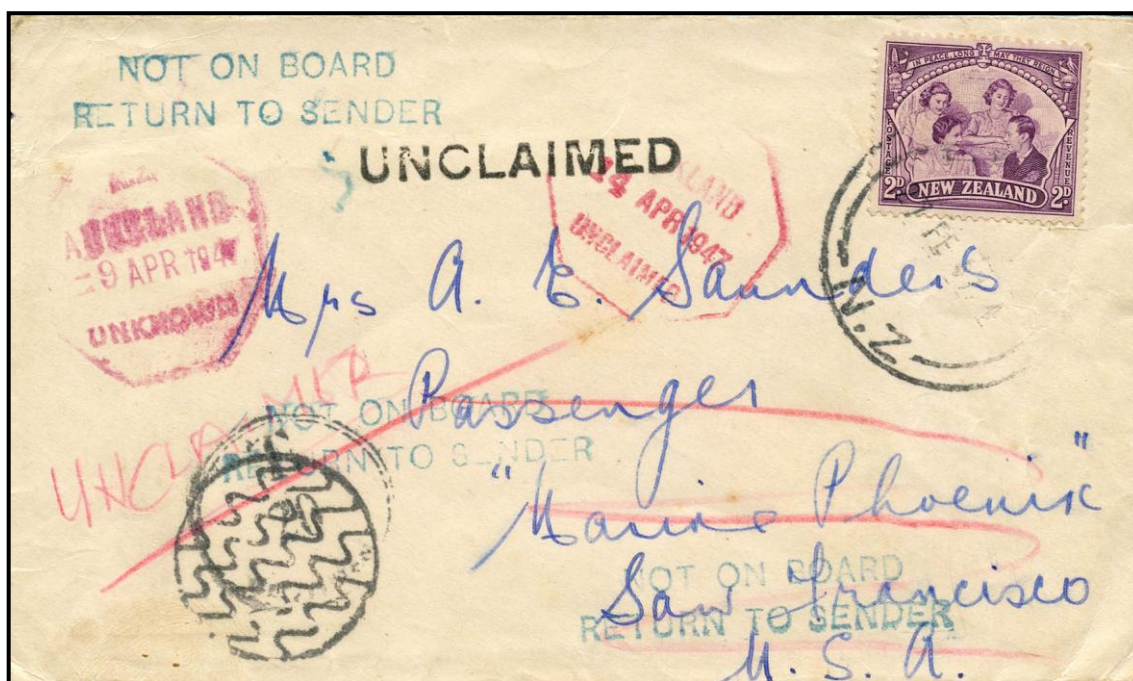


Figure 3: A cover addressed to a passenger on board the 'Marine Phoenix', San Francisco. Endorsed 'Not on Board. Return to Sender'.

References:

1. Clark R., 'Mail Sent to Meet a Ship in Colombo', *The Kiwi*, vol.62, no.4, pp81-82, July 2013.

RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS (2)

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions. 30-31 May 2013

Lot	Description	Realised (Est.)
701	1892 1d lilac postal fiscal with almost complete "N.Z./WELLINGTON/9 MY 90" c.d.s/ SG F1	£240 (£150)
707	1931-40 35/- Arms Type, orange-yellow, unmounted mint marginal. SG F161	£3400 (£1600)
712	1935 £3 10/- Arms Type, rose, lightly mounted mint. SG F165	£700 (£500)

NOT THE HORSESHOE ROUTE

Robert Clark

After Italy entered WWII, on 10th June 1940, the Mediterranean was closed to BOAC flights and it was no longer possible for mail to be sent all the way by air from Britain to New Zealand via Australia. The much longer replacement, known as the Horseshoe Route, was for mail to be sent by sea from Britain to Cape Town in South Africa followed by air from Durban to Auckland via Egypt, India, Malaya and Australia. The air mail rate remained the same at 1s 3d per ½oz.

The last through air mail service left Poole, Dorset on 9th June and arrived in Sydney, Australia on 20th June with the New Zealand mail being flown on to Auckland on 25th June (Ref. Source1). The registered air mail cover to New Zealand (Figure 1) has a London postmark of 7th June and was flown on this service. It is franked with 2s 9d which is twice the 1s 3d rate plus 3d registration fee.



*Reduced
to 90%.*

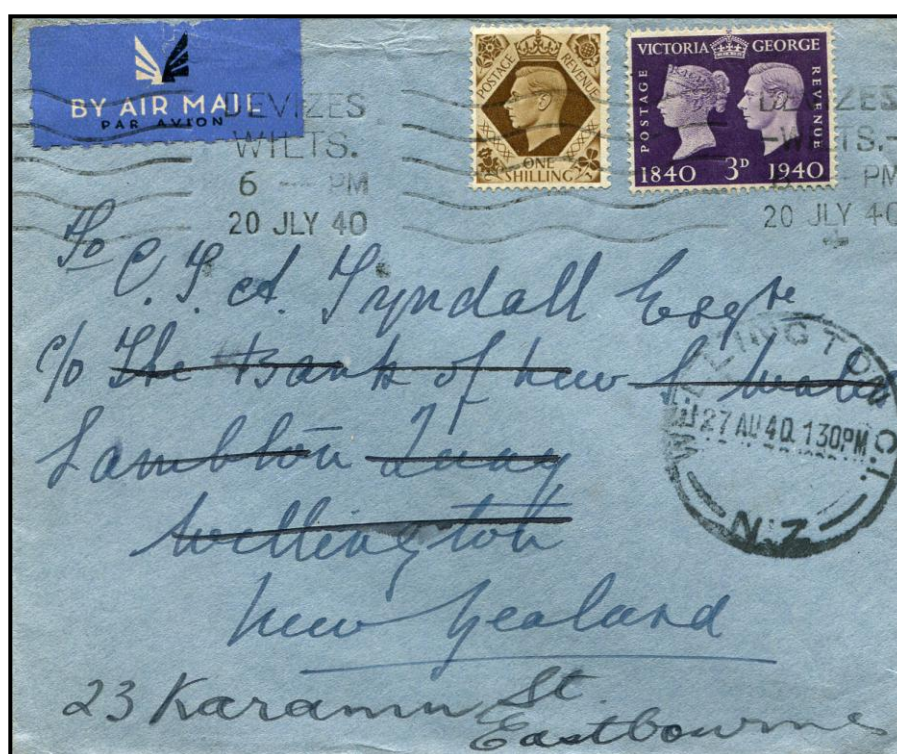
Figure 1: Cover flown on the last through air mail service 9th – 25th June 1940.

The first Horseshoe dispatch from Britain was on 19th June and its mail eventually arrived in Auckland 38 days later on 27th July (Ref. Source 1). Between the last through service on 9th June and the start of the Horseshoe service, air mail for New Zealand was dispatched from Britain on 15th and 18th June by air via Lisbon to the USA and then by sea across the Pacific arriving in Auckland from San Francisco on the 'Monterey' on 13th July (Ref. Source 1). Several air mail letters sent by the well known dealer Francis Field, and postmarked in Birmingham on 14th June, have previously been identified as being sent on one of these dispatches as they have an arrival datestamp in Carterton, New Zealand on 16th July, i.e., before the arrival of the first Horseshoe mail. An example cover was shown in a previous article (Ref. 1).

As initially the Horseshoe service was weekly and could not cope with the demand, some air mail for New Zealand at the 1s 3d rate continued to be sent from Britain to the USA by air followed by sea across the Pacific. There were dispatches of air mail for New Zealand by air to USA on 24th, 28th and 30th June; 8th and 24th July and on 6th, 9th, 10th and 13th August (Ref. 2). After the Horseshoe air mail service between Durban and Sydney was duplicated in the middle of August, there was no longer a need for this alternative.

It is not usually possible to determine whether a particular air mail cover was sent via the USA instead of by the Horseshoe Route. The cover to New Zealand (Figure 2) is postmarked at Devizes, Wiltshire on 20th July 1940 and was redirected at Wellington on 27th August. It is franked with 1s 3d and was clearly intended to be sent by the Horseshoe Route, but that did not happen. The next Horseshoe dispatch from London was on 26th July and the mail was sent from Liverpool to Cape Town on the 'Capetown Castle' on 28th July -14th August (Ref. Source 2) before being flown from Durban to Sydney on 17th -29th August. It was then flown to Auckland on 30th August which is too late for the cover to have been redirected on the 27th.

It must therefore have been sent via the USA on the dispatch of 24th July. According to *G.P.O. Overseas Mail Branch Report 48* (Ref. 2), there were UK – Lisbon flights on 24th and 26th July and their mail was subsequently flown on the Pan American flights from Lisbon to New York on the 26th -29th July and 1st -3rd August respectively. Both these services would have been in time to connect with the 'Aorangi' which sailed from San Francisco on 8th August and arrived in Auckland on 25th August (Ref. Source 2) which fits well with the redirection in Wellington on 27th August.



Reduced
to 90%.

Figure 2: Cover at 1s 3d rate sent via USA in July 1940 and not by the Horseshoe Route.

There was of course a faster air mail route from Britain to New Zealand that had been set up in July 1940 with the Pan American *FAM 19* air service between San Francisco and Auckland. If the cover in Figure 1 had been sent on that service it would have taken the same route to San Francisco and then been flown on the 3rd *FAM 19* service on 10th -16th August, but that would have cost 4s 6d instead of 1s 3d.

Sources:

1. *Papers Past*. Available at: www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz
2. *Convoy Web*. Available at: www.convoyweb.org.uk

References:

1. Clark R., 'Alternatives to the Horseshoe Route in June and July 1940'. *The Kiwi*, vol.58, no.2, pp42-47, March, 2009.
2. G.P.O. Overseas Mail Branch Weekly Reports, Royal Mail Archive (POST56/76), nos.42-49, 1940.

PROOF MATERIAL – CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Paul Wreglesworth

As long as stamps have been printed the release of proof or reprint material to the philatelic market has created a veritable minefield for the unwary collector. Although most problems are caused by proof material in the same colour as the issued stamps this is not always the case.

Proofs taken from the printing plate or cylinder are particularly troublesome, with imperforate proof material known to exist with forged perforations and pairs described as ‘imperf between’. Forged copies of the 1898 halfpenny Mount Cook stamp, imperf between’ are a case in point.

Whilst the Mount Cook example required the intervention of someone to add perforations to create a fraudulent item this is not always the case as can be seen with proof material from, for example, the 1960 Pictorial Issue – these present a very different challenge.

In 1959, when De La Rue were preparing for the proposed new pictorial definitive series they ran off test sheets of each of the separate colours together with a final print in all of the intended colours. As multi-colour photogravure was a relatively new process it may be that De La Rue felt it important to check colour registration on the high speed Chambon presses. Single sheets were retained and these came to market some time ago. Examples of the 2d and 3d values are shown below (Figures 1 and 2). As a group these present an attractive showing and provide an interesting insight into the photogravure printing process but, once the series is split up then some of the individual printings can mislead. All the 2d and 3d separations are printed on ‘NZ and Star’ watermarked paper and the 3d sheets were also fully perforated.

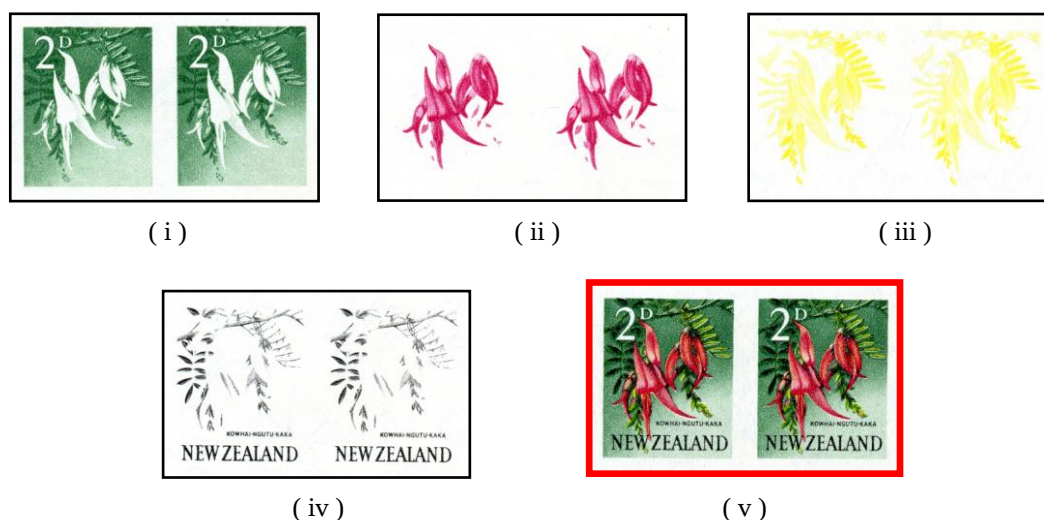


Figure 1: Colour separations of the 2d value in green (i), cherry-red (ii), yellow (iii), black (iv) and with all colours combined (v). All are printed on gummed, watermarked, paper but were not perforated.

Two examples require particular attention and collectors should be very wary if offered these ‘varieties’.

With the 2d value the one to be aware of is the final printing, which combines all of the four printed colours, green, red, yellow and black (Figure 1 (v)). On watermarked, gummed, paper and not perforated then this looks like an imperf variety of the issued stamp.

With the 3d value the problem is slightly different. These printings were also on watermarked, gummed, paper but the final sheets were perforated which means, unlike the 2d value, the final printing with all the colours is indistinguishable from the issued stamp – although close inspection would suggest the shades are unusual. However the blue (background) colour separation (Figure 2 (iv)) does give the impression of a stamp with the other three colours missing. However, the colour is a very dull, steely, grey-blue shade and is nothing like any of the issued shades. Nor is there any record of such a variety being purchased, legitimately, over a Post Office counter.

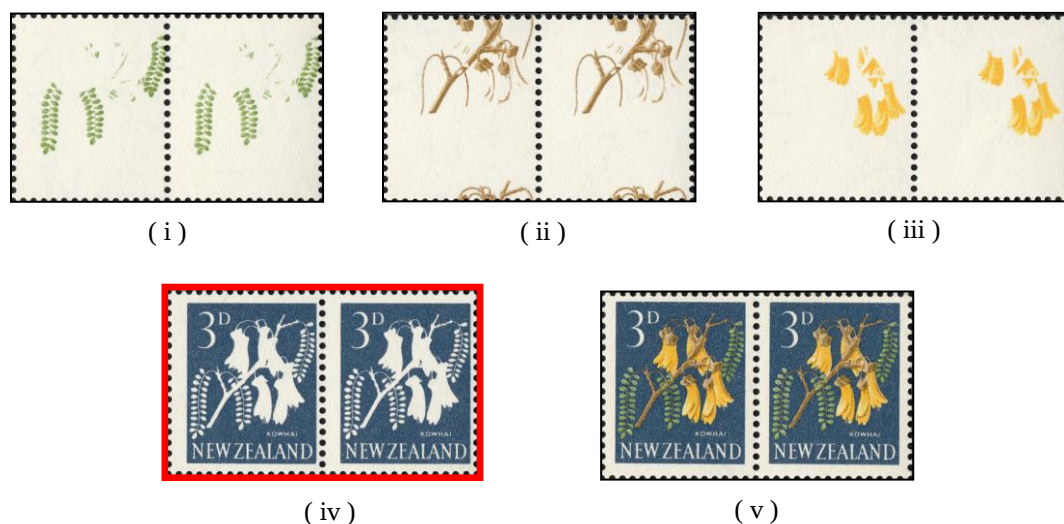


Figure 2: Colour separations of the 3d value in green (i), brown (ii), yellow (iii), dull blue (iv) and with all colours combined (v). All are printed on gummed, watermarked, paper and are perforated.

Collectors should be aware that this proof material exists and the examples described do appear on the market, from time to time, offered as ‘genuine’ varieties.

De La Rue were responsible for the printing of the ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 8d values of the 1960 Pictorial Definitive Issue and examples of the 6d, sometimes appear with two colours missing. These should be treated with caution, particularly if badly centred as these are more than likely from the same source.

Three years later, in 1963, De La Rue printed two stamps to commemorate the Centenary of Railways in New Zealand. These were also printed by the photogravure process. The 3d value from this set exists as a series of five ‘progressive’ separations showing yellow colour, red colour, red and yellow colours combined, red, yellow, blue and green colours combined and the final printing with black added to the others. As with the 2d definitive stamp described above, these were printed on watermarked, gummed, paper and not perforated. Again the series of separations, displayed together make quite an attractive group but the printing combining all the colours is sometimes offered for sale as an imperf variety of the issued stamp.

In conclusion, whilst this modern proof material can be attractive and shows how colours are brought together in the photogravure printing process, to produce the final image we see on the stamp purchased at the Post Office. Taken in isolation some of this material can be presented as something totally different. If offered examples from this period with varieties of printing (missing colour) or processing (imperf) then it is a case of ‘Caveat Emptor!’ – Buyer Beware! Do your research and buy only from sources you know and trust.



REQUESTS FOR HELP FROM MEMBERS

This particular section has proved to be quite popular and those who have to date posed a question of their fellow members tell me they are very pleased with the responses they have received. If you would like help from others members with your particular area of research or collecting then contact the editor (details on the 'Contents' page) and I can make a request on your behalf.

Gerald Elliott, one of our members in New Zealand, writes:

"I am currently studying the Perkins Bacon involvement with the design and production of the first issue of New Zealand postage stamps (The Chalon Heads). I am of the opinion that the Master Die was the Two Pence Flat Die, engraved on 4 April 1854. This theory is an opposite view to those previously published, and consequently I am seeking the help of any members who would be interested enough to correspond and comment on my findings. If you can help, or have contrary ideas, I would appreciate hearing from you".
E-mail address: ellott@xtra.co.nz



*Photograph of the Flat Dies and Transfer Rollers used in the production of the Chalon Head Stamps.
(Photo: New Zealand Post Archive, Te Papa National Museum, Wellington)*

Maurice Allen writes:

"I have a substantial collection of South Island postmarks and am particularly strong in those emanating from the Dunedin District. I have noticed for some time that the ones I am generally missing are "F" Class (Squared Circle) postmarks. I have analysed the "F" Class South Island entries in Wooders* and find that while I have 39 examples I am missing examples from a further 89 offices. I use the term "Entries" rather than "Post Offices" because there is some duplication due to the predilection of The New Zealand Post Office to remove apostrophes. However these are not sufficient to make me wonder whether these postmarks were always used for mail although any alternative does not spring to mind. Can any member assist by way of suggestions as to why this particular class of postmark is so difficult to find?"

E-mail address: maurice@meallen.plus.com

(*New Zealand Post Offices Cancellation & Postmark Guide by Richard Wooders)



"F" Class or Squared Circle postmark.

If you would like to reply to published 'requests for help' but do not have access to a computer you may send your comments to the Editor (see 'Contents' page) and I will forward them on your behalf. - PW



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Website categories include:

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- NZ Health and Christmas issues.
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- Air mail stamps and covers.
- Life Insurance.
- Postage Due and Express stamps and covers.
- Postal fiscals and Revenue stamps.
- Cinderellas.
- Various miscellaneous issues and covers.
- New Zealand Postal History.
- New Zealand Postal Stationery.
- Antarctic stamps, postcards and postal history.
- Various British Commonwealth and foreign country's stamps and covers.

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New and existing clients will need to register on the site. Registration allows you to list your interests and gives advice on navigating around the site. It also allows us to send you lists of specials etc. For example, we have just finished a two week period where all items had a 15% discount.

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