



THE KIWI

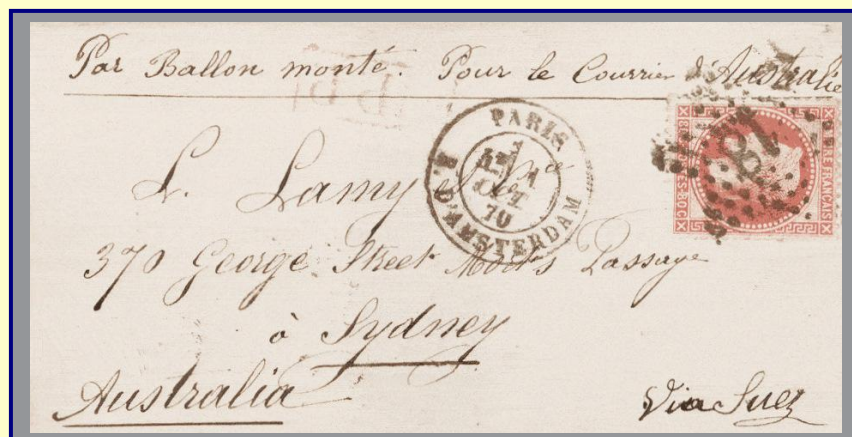
JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



1933 Health 'Pathway'
(see page 80)



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.

Mowbray Collectables buys and sells collections, stamps and postal history. What can you offer? Contact our friendly staff in the first instance.

Mowbray collectables offers New Zealand and world collections, stamps and postal history in monthly postal auction catalogues – free samples available!

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*The Society is affiliated to: The Association of British Philatelic Societies
the New Zealand Philatelic Federation
and the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies.*



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EDITORIAL

On the opposite page you will see a reminder for our residential weekend in Stratford-Upon-Avon, the last week in September. If you are thinking of attending and want to stay at the Holiday Inn, where we will be based, please contact the Hon. Secretary, Michael Wilkinson. We have a limited number of rooms reserved and when they are gone they are gone. Day visitors are more than welcome or you can stay elsewhere in the town. More details in the July issue of *The Kiwi*, but put the dates in your diary.

We have two adverts in this issue for important auctions scheduled for later this year. The first of these is a sale of material from Derek Diamond's collection. If you are contacting Spink to request an auction catalogue please mention the *New Zealand Society of Great Britain* and *The Kiwi*. The second auction is a collection of early New Zealand postal history being offered by Cavendish Auctions in Derby. No date has yet been announced for this sale so I will publish details as and when I receive them.

Finally, a big thanks to those members who have provided me with some very interesting articles and short pieces for publication which has allowed us to publish a 36 page issue this time around. Let me know if there is something you would like to see covered in *The Kiwi*, even better, write me something.



THE KIWI - ADVERTISERS IN THIS ISSUE

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Spink, London	73
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Steven Zirinsky	91

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Ashford Stamps Ltd.	91
Classic Stamps Ltd.	Inside Back Cover
Auckland City Stamps	Back Cover

"Please mention the NZSGB when you speak with our Advertisers"

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)
Full Colour	£90	£75	£75	£60	£50	£40

THE KIWI - BACK ISSUES

Copies of 2014 and 2015 issues of *The Kiwi* are available for purchase.

£2.50 (plus postage) per copy

Check the web site for content or contact The Editor

NZSGB - CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Membership rates are £20 (within the UK) and £25 (overseas) - with printed copy of *The Kiwi*.

Members who prefer to receive an electronic version of the journal (*e-Kiwi*), downloadable from the Society's web-site, as an alternative to the paper copy pay £20 regardless of country of residence.

Payment can be made by various means including PayPal ('gift' option). Details from the membership secretary esmegdiamond@gmail.com or via the web-site.

SOCIETY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members:

A warm welcome to:

B. Schicker, Uberlandia, Brazil



RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND 2016 - BOOK NOW!



HOLIDAY INN
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
30th September - 2nd October 2016



Planning for the Society's 8th residential weekend, for members and partners, is well under way and the venue and dates are shown above. The hotel is within easy reach of 'bard'-related activities.

The philatelic attractions include displays, a guest speaker, the biennial 16 sheet competition and a gala dinner. The detailed programme will be posted on our website at www.nzsgb.org.uk as it takes shape.

Stratford-upon-Avon is a popular destination and we have been able to secure accommodation at very favourable rates. A block of rooms has been reserved and these are available for booking now (see below).

The full weekend rate will be £235 for a single person and £145 per person for couples. This includes two nights' bed and breakfast, a contribution to meeting room hire, morning and afternoon refreshments, and the gala dinner on the Saturday evening.

Bookings will be handled by the Society and NOT by the hotel.

To reserve accommodation for the weekend a deposit of **£25 per person** should be sent to:-

Michael Wilkinson
121 London Road
Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1BH

Cheques should be made payable to 'The New Zealand Society of Great Britain'.

A day rate and alternative packages will be available for those unable to attend the full weekend.

For further details, or if you have any questions about the weekend please contact Michael.

A raffle will be held on the Saturday, which helps to defray some of the costs. Members have been most generous in previous years in securing items for prizes. If you can help in any way please contact Michael.

Put the dates in your diary now and start preparing your entry for the 16 sheet competition.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday **28th May 2016**

at the **Union Jack Club**, Sandell Street, London, SE1 8UJ

11:00 Members Items of Interest and Recent Acquisitions

14:00 **'Back of the Book' - and beyond!**

- Members are invited to bring items that are generally found at the back of catalogues or, perhaps, do not even feature at all and deserve some recognition.

To aid planning please let the Hon. Secretary know if you have material for display.

NORTH OF ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the North of England Group will be held on Saturday **May 14th 2016** at St. Luke's Church, Lodge Road, Orrell starting at 12:30. Members to display items of interest.

Group Contact: - Jack Lindley ☎ 0161 705 1074

e-mail: lindleyjack@aol.com

SCOTTISH REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the Scottish Group will be on Saturday **June 18th 2016** starting at 12:30 and will be hosted by Jim Breckenridge in Ayr. Contact David Stalker for further details.

Group Contact: - David Stalker ☎ 0141 812 6653

e-mail: davidmstalker@yahoo.co.uk

MIDLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the Midland Group will be held on Saturday **October 29th 2016** at the usual venue, St. Anne's Church Hall, behind the Church, Park Hill, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8DU.

New visitors, who are most welcome, please note the new postcode if relying on a satnav for guidance.

Group Contact: - Ian Samuel ☎ 0121 449 0849

UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS

- 15-16 July **ABPS York Fair** - York Racecourse, York, YO23 1EX
(National Exhibition - including all classes including Open Philately and Picture Postcards). Closing date for entries 16 May 2016.
- 14-17 September **ABPS Autumn Stampex** - Business Design Centre, London.
(Specialist displays by GVI Society and a celebration of Cinderella Philately with the International Cinderella Congress).
Closing date for entries 7 July 2016.

MEETINGS HELD

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD, IN LONDON, MARCH 26th 2016

The subject for the meeting was Postal Stationery. **John Hepworth** started off proceedings with a display of postal stationery of the Queen Victoria period. A cursory glance at the issues showed that there were only about 25 different designs from the whole stationery range. However, when major variations such as sizes, watermarks, perforations and pictorial aspects are considered and smaller changes in design are included there are well over 100 items which merit catalogue listing. Thus collecting these issues, which are over 100 years old, can be a relatively simple matter but can be extended to provide a quite significant challenge.



John Hepworth with part of his display of postal stationery from the Queen Victoria period.

Attention need not be confined to the stamp and stationery design. Postmarks on Victorian mail, which are frequently clear, refer not only to the despatch town but also show the destination and, often, intermediate locations enabling the routes taken to be established. Sorting may have taken place on the train and so a further interest is in the travelling post office marks. Different sizes and variations in paper and card used for the stationery add to the variety. Messages on the reverse of postcards can give an insight into the ways of life in Victorian times, taking us into the realm of social philately. These and other features were illustrated



*R.T.P.O. (C). mark dated 19 AU 79
an earlier date than previously recorded*

The first item of postal stationery to be issued in 1876, a postcard with an impressed 1d Indian red stamp, was an enormous success for the Post Office with almost 100,000 cards sold in the first two months. An example, overprinted 'SPECIMEN' sent by the Postmaster General to post office employees, and other important people, before the card was actually issued was shown. The ornamental design of the card was changed three times over ten years and there was much speculation amongst members present as to possible reasons for these changes.

Among the used cards shown was one, from Timaru to Temuka, sorted on the northbound South Express from Dunedin

to Christchurch. The RTPO (C) mark, dated 19 AU 79, predates the earliest date of use, recorded in Johnstone and Startup's *Mails by Rail in New Zealand*, by 15 months.

A selection of the 1900 Boer War postcards was shown including a scarce example of the 'Breakfast in Camp' postcard printed on a thin unsurfaced deep buff card.

A range of postcards from 1876 to 1901, printed to order for private Companies, was displayed. The outstanding one being the 1899 1d red card printed for The Auckland firm of Kempthorne Prosser. There was some discussion as to whether the



*Postcard, printed to private order by the Post Office
for Kempthorne, Prosser & Co.*

embossed stamp was printed before or after the Company's card had been printed. The subject matter of many of these cards links to many aspects of 'social philately'.

Victorian letter-cards form one of the most complex areas of postal stationery and the distinct types of front and back panels, variations in perforations, including a rare 12½x10, and style and positioning of the instructions for use were illustrated. Letter-cards were so enthusiastically received by the public – likened to the gold rush days – that different card stock, ranging in colour from green, through shades of blue, to pink, had to be used in order to satisfy demand. Permanent flaws and errors of printing were shown along with examples of the postal usage of these cards to worldwide destinations, illustrating the range of postage rates.

Highlights of the registered envelopes were a used formular envelope with the 7d postage rate achieved with 1d and 6d second sideface stamps, the only way to identify such items as New Zealand issues, and a mint example of the huge size 'K' envelope.

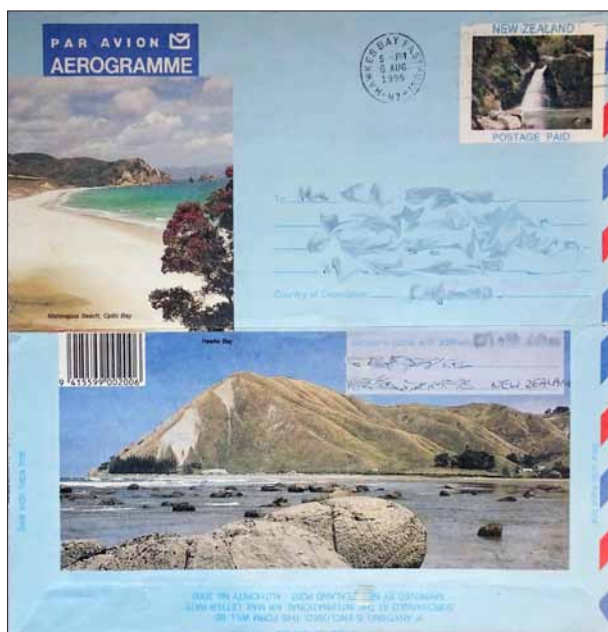
The display of newspaper wrappers created much interest and included all the listed issues with the changes to the instructional panel illustrated. Clear variations in paper, a reversed watermark and an example of the rare missing full stop after 'otherwise' were shown but even more significant were the oblique die cut gummed strip in two of the issues, neither of which are recorded in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume IX*, which deals exclusively with postal stationery.

A comprehensive range of envelopes was shown. The 1899 pictorial issue was prepared from electrotypes taken from the 'yet to be issued' 1900 pictorial stamps but were printed in the colours of the 1898 adhesive stamps. Used examples displayed featured internal and worldwide destinations and included a loose letter sent within Dunedin in 1901, a surcharged letter to England, sent from Blenheim in 1902 and registered usage of the 1902 revalued 2d violet envelope, to Jamaica. The last item had a range of interesting marks from the Ferry Station, San Francisco, New York REG'Y. DIV and REG'D (4) FORG'N, Boston REG'Y DIV and Saint Ann's Bay Jamaica. It took 20 days to reach America, a further six days to New York and, then, ten days from Boston to Jamaica.

John thanked **Jack Lindley** for the loan of a number of the items displayed.

Bernard Atkinson then showed a wide range of pre-stamped stationery issued by New Zealand Post to mark various events and anniversaries.

Lorraine Maguire displayed a collection of aerogrammes, many addressed to her, including an example of New Zealand's first pre-stamped aerogramme for general use, issued in April 1993. The printed stamp, which was undenominated, showed a waterfall near Whangarei.



(image reduced)



One of the illustrated, pre-stamped, aerogrammes displayed. The one shown (left) was sent from Hawkes Bay to England in 1996. The 'Postage Paid' imprint is shown above.

Keith Collins concluded proceedings by showing lettercards printed with the 1935 1d Kiwi stamp, with advertisements on the reverse. Nine different advertisements were used on cards issued in 1935, but only six on cards issued in 1938, which also had closer spacing of the lines of text advising that extra stamps should be used if the card was sent to "any country to which 1d postage does not apply". Earlier Keith showed an example of a 1937 inland postcard (right) pre-printed with a halfpenny fantail and then uprated with a halfpenny fantail adhesive. The card was sent from Auckland to Germany and endorsed 'via Panama'.



NOTES OF THE MIDLAND GROUP MEETING, FEBRUARY 20th 2016

Andrew Dove - displayed a superb collection of cards, covers etc., of P.O.W. mail from the WWI period, to and from German sailors and interned administrators from Samoa, who were held on Somes Island in Wellington Harbour and later on Motuihe Island near Auckland. Also shown were Japanese internee and P.O.W. mail from WWII and a rare group of letters to and from a conscientious objector during WWI.

Terry Hancox - Showed a collection of miniature sheets and imperf and uncut master sheets from the October 2015 New Zealand 'Capital Stamp Exhibition'. For an encore he showed a full set of the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition labels and a range of items including covers and labels from the 75th anniversary exhibition.

John Potter - Offered a 'Potted' history of Christchurch from an early 'CHCH' cancel on cover, other different early circular cancels, postcards and air mail items.

Ian Samuel - Showed a small collection of first day covers from the 1950-1960 period.

NOTES OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND GROUP MEETING, FEBRUARY 27th 2016

Eight members attended including two, for the first time, Peter Williams and Paul Woods.

Stuart Potter - Showed a selection of airmail items, including three 1911 postcards flown London to Windsor addressed to New Zealand, 1920 Wellington to Blenheim, a selection of Gisborne to Hastings covers, visits of Lady and Lord Mountbatten and Montgomery Classique postcards.

John Hepworth - Brought a strip of 12 of the halfpenny Newspaper with NEW ZEALAND watermark. This was followed by a page of possible proof items and postal stationery, from QV to GV, including envelopes, newspaper wrappers and registered envelopes.

John Atkinson - Displayed some of the 'Stamp Points' posters which are seldom seen.

Paul Wreglesworth - Showed a range of material from sideface covers, which included examples of 'Sample Post' and registered 'Book Post', to tin can mail. One tin can mail cover, from Tonga to New Zealand was underpaid and had 1s 3d in postage due stamps added.

Paul Woods - Explained the history and production of the 1867 Postal Fiscal stamps which had to be produced in just four weeks in time for issue on 1 January. Values, from 1d to £1000 were shown, together with "%" examples. Specimens, mint and used, were shown together with covers showing genuine postal usage. Paul concluded with the Arms stamps in blocks of four, including overprints and examples from Western Samoa including a scarce example of a £100 overprint.

Jack Lindley - Showed a wide range of material with re-entries and retouches, followed by QV postal stationary postcards and lettercards.

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION NOTIFICATION

The annual club auction will be held on Saturday 26 November, 2016, Kiwi Day, and managed by a team of club members under the direction of the auctioneer – Brian Stonestreet. The rules are clearly stated below and will be strictly applied to assist in the smooth running of the event.

1. Vendors must send a written description of each lot for sale to the catalogue compiler:

Andrew Dove, e-mail address: dove697@btinternet.com
or by post to: 12 Stella Avenue, Tollerton, Notts. NG12 4EX

All vendor lists must arrive by 30 September 2016.

Only a description of each lot is required with the vendors reserve price. No market estimate is required. Do **NOT** send items for sale to the catalogue compiler. The minimum reserve is £3.

The catalogue compiler will acknowledge receipt of lot descriptions within 5 days. He will subsequently supply a copy of the auction list entry for proof-reading and this will include notification of the lot numbers.

Please communicate by e-mail if possible.

2. **Only the first 400 descriptions will be accepted for sale in the auction of 26 November 2016.**
3. Vendors should note that, due to increased postage rates, if heavy items are offered but fail to sell, they will be returned to the vendor who will be charged the full cost of postage.
4. The auction catalogue will be distributed by e-mail. Members who require a printed copy should inform the catalogue compiler by 30 September 2016 and arrangements will be made for one to be provided.
5. **Scans of auction lots:** It is planned to include scans of selected lots on the Society website. If you have items that you wish to be illustrated send a scan at the time of accepting/amending the auction list when it is returned to you for proof reading. The catalogue compiler will arrange for the scans to be loaded onto the website. All scans should be JPEG files (**not** embedded into a Word Document) of medium resolution (i.e. <500kb) and in JPEG format. It is essential that the lot number is included in the scan - e.g., for lot 105 save as 105.jpg.
6. Lots should be contained in clear envelopes. Vendors should attach a label bearing the correct lot number to each lot. Labels should be at least 1 cm. square and located in the SE corner of the lot. Vendors unable to attend the auction must send their material to:

Brian Stonestreet, 32, Bedgebury Close, Vinters Park, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5QZ
- to arrive not later than **18 November 2016**.

Vendors attending the auction may deliver lots to the auctioneer not later than 11:30 on the day of the auction.

7. **Viewing** will commence at 12:30. The auction will commence promptly at 14:00.
8. Only members of the Society are eligible to bid in the auction.
9. **Successful purchasers** attending the auction will be given their lots during the auction on condition that they settle their account before leaving.
10. **Vendors** may not remove unsold lots without the authority of the auctioneer.
11. Successful purchasers not present will be contacted by e-mail or telephone. Provided that payment is sent by return, lots will be despatched as promptly as possible.
12. **Unsold lots** and sales, less all expenses, will be returned to vendors once all sales income is received.
13. The Society will insure all items from the time of their receipt by the auctioneer until the time of purchase or return to vendor.
14. No postage costs are paid by the Society. The Society fee remains at 10% of the hammer price and will be paid by the vendor. No lotting fee will be charged.
15. 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.

16. Any postal bidder with a serious complaint on receipt of his/her purchases must return them to the Auctioneer within one week of their arrival.
17. **Unsold lots:** A list will be placed on the Society website as soon as possible after the auction and withdrawn on the second Sunday after the auction. They will be available for purchase at the catalogue reserve on a first come first served basis by e-mail to john.m.stimson@gmail.com.

APPEAL

Each year it has been the practice of generous members to offer items, philatelic and general, to be auctioned for Society funds. This is much appreciated. We will be delighted to receive items, preferably by 30 September 2016, to allow a description to appear in the catalogue, otherwise at any time up to 12:00 noon on Kiwi Day.

Remember to bring your catalogue to the auction. **Copies available in the room will cost £1.00.**



NEW ZEALAND POST - RECENT ISSUE

1916 COURAGE AND COMMITMENT

By 1916, the scale of the Great War had been truly realised. Few New Zealanders were left unscathed by the Gallipoli campaign, with fathers, brothers, friends and neighbours lost. At home, volunteers for service had slowed to a trickle and the first Anzac day was observed a year after the Gallipoli landings. As the battle moved to the Western Front where it would remain until 1918, the courage and commitment of the servicemen was sorely tested with no end in sight for this terrible war.

On 6 April New Zealand Post issued the third instalment in their five year commemorative programme remembering the First World War and honouring those who served. The issue is a set of ten gummed stamps in sheetlet form (see below). There are 6 x 80c stamps, 2 x \$2.00 and 2 x \$2.50 stamps.



The ten stamp sheetlet which, together with two miniature sheets, was issued on 6 April 2016.

Technical Details: Stamps and miniature sheets designed by Strategy Design and Advertising.

Printed by offset lithography, in four colours, by Southern Colour Print.

Paper is 'Tullis Russell' 104gsm red phosphor gummed stamp paper and perforations gauge 14.4 x 14.62

NEW ZEALAND POST - NEW ISSUE

2016 SCENIC DEFINITIVES

New Zealand Post has announced an increase in the price of a Standard Post stamp from 1 July 2016, citing an annual decline of approximately 60 million envelopes through the network and increasing network costs for the increases. The Standard Post stamp will rise by 20c to \$1.00.

In anticipation of these increases New Zealand Post are updating their Scenic Definitives range. Six new stamps, from 40c to \$3.80, will be released on 18 May 2016. All are printed on gummed paper with two values, the \$2.20 and \$2.70, also available in self-adhesive booklet format.



40c - Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo



80c - Chatham Islands



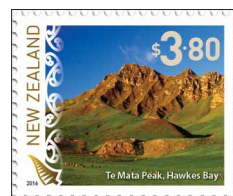
\$2.20 - Awaroa Bay, Abel Tasman Reserve



\$2.70 - Marlborough



\$3.30 - Dunedin Railway Station



\$3.80 - Te Mata Peak, Hawke's Bay

Technical Details: Stamps designed by Richard Payne, New Zealand Post, Wellington, New Zealand

Printed by offset lithography, in four process colours, by Southern Colour Print.

Paper: Gummed - 'Tullis Russell' 104gsm red phosphor gummed stamp paper, perforations gauge 13.33 x 13.60.

Booklets (Self Adhesive): Tullis Russell 210gsm red phosphor PSA stamp paper, perforations die cut.



RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS

(excluding buyers premiums and taxes where applicable)

Auckland City Stamps, Public Auction No. 10, 19 March 2016

Lot	Description	Realised (Est) (NZ\$)	
528	1d SSF, Rose, OPSO, SG 05a/CP DP2a, Fine Used, Cat \$2500	1400	(1250)
534	6d SSF, Brown, P11, OPSO, mint with Magenta overprint.	1210	(1000)
723	1931 Health, Red and Blue Boys tied on plain FDC Cat \$5,000	4000	(3500)
765	1931/40 Arms £7 Maroon, Cowan, very fine mint.	1100	(750)
767	1931/40 Arms 35/- Orange-Yellow SG F161 Cowan, fine selvedge single unhinged, ACS Cat \$15,000	12100	(10000)
779	Revenue, Fine Paid, 1931 9/- Arms, Kiwi R95, unpunched.	940	(200)
811	1852 entire written from German Mission Station to Germany. Crown Circle "Paid at Auckland" handstamp.	1100	(600)
829	1869 entire to Melbourne. Rated '6' in red with fair strike of Crown Circle 'PAID/AT/ NEW PLYMOUTH' in black.	2600	(1000)

SPINK

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LONDON 1666

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OF NEW ZEALAND 2D. CHALONS AND
THE 1898 - 1908 PICTORIAL ISSUE
6 JULY 2016 | LONDON**



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1960 PICTORIAL DEFINITIVES

- 3d KOWHAI WITH SIDEWAYS WATERMARK

Paul Wreglesworth

Towards the end of 2015 I received an e-mail from Hugh Jefferies, editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, with news that he had recently seen a block of the 1960 3d Kowhai with sideways watermark (Figure 1). Hugh recalled that I had written an article on the 1960 Pictorial Issue for his magazine in 2010 (Ref. 1) and, as he could find no reference to this particular variety in any catalogue, was keen to know if I could shed any light on it.



Figure 1: *The mystery block of 3d Kowhai with sideways watermark.*

My initial reaction was that it could not exist. The 3d value, as with all the other low values from this issue produced by De La Rue, were printed and perforated on the web. If a sideways variety existed there would have been an entire roll of paper with sideways watermark, thousands of sheets produced and we would have seen examples before. In fact it would be relatively common. But it is unknown.

There followed a period of speculation as to how such a variety could have arisen and Hugh wrote about this "Stunning new discovery from New Zealand" in the February 2016 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (Ref. 2), and appealed to New Zealand collectors for their thoughts.

I was keen to have a closer look at the block and I am grateful to Andy Ballard, of London, (who tells me he used to be a member of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain) for loaning it to me for closer inspection.

First impressions are that the block looks very normal. It is on a chalky paper and comb perforated $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, but, unequivocally, it does have sideways watermark which can really only be seen against a strong back light (Figure 2). The point of the star is to the right when viewed from the front of the stamp.



Figure 2: *Part of the 'NZ' of the (sideways) watermark can be seen along the edge of the sheet margin when viewed against a bright background.*

So how was a single sheet (or small number of sheets) produced given that routine production was a web process? I believe that this sheet was the result of a trial, undertaken by De La Rue, in anticipation of bringing chalk surfaced paper into full production. De La Rue switched to a chalk surfaced paper relatively late in the life of the issue, the 1d appearing first around the middle of 1965. The 3d value, on chalky paper, was not issued until 1966. If this was the case then it is entirely possible that sheets of the 1d, 6d and perhaps even the 4d, were produced from the same stock of chalky paper. All would presumably have formed part of the Company's production records which, together with much of the rest of their archives were sold at auction in the latter part of the 20th Century.

We do know that De La Rue had the capability to undertake trial printings from production cylinders as they produced single colour separations, from cylinders for some of the low values, in 1959, before entering full scale production (Ref. 3). So if this was a trial run, on new chalky paper stock, why did it have the watermark sideways? Initial thoughts that they might have been sent paper intended for Harrison & Sons, who used a sideways watermark paper for the 2½d and 5d values, were scotched on close inspection as the star in the watermark is typical of that found on De La Rue paper. Different Dandy Rolls were used to produce the watermarks for the papers used by the two Companies and Harrison's star is broader (Ref. 4).

It is possible that De La Rue received samples of chalky paper, already produced for them, in advance for their trials. If this was cut from the large reels, to sheet size, and, cut across the reel, it would have resulted in sheets with a sideways watermark. The watermark would not have been relevant to De La Rue's trial runs. But this is only speculation.

My conclusion is that the 3d block is from a trial sheet and hence of reference or archival status and, as already stated, probably formed part of De La Rue's records until these were sold at auction. This theory was given added strength when Andy Ballard informed me that, in the same bulk lot of part sheets, he had found two large blocks of un-guillotined booklet panes (Figure 3). These are almost certainly ex. De La Rue's archives.

If anyone has any alternative thoughts on this material then please get in touch.



Figure 3: Part of an uncut booklet sheet for the 1c Karaka stamp, issued in 1967.

(image reduced)

References:

1. Jefferies H., Catalogue Column, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, p134, February 2016.
2. Wreglesworth P., 'New Zealand's Third Pictorials', *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, p56-62, October 2010.
3. Wreglesworth P., 'Chambon - more than just a perforation', *New Zealand Stamp Collector*, vol.84, no.4, p112-116, December 2004.
4. Naish D.E.G., & McNaught K.J., *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Vol.VI, p43-44, pub. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, 1977.



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AIR MAIL RATE FOR DIPLOMATIC MAIL TO THE USA DURING WORLD WAR II

Bob Watson



Figure 1: Cover sent 9 March 1943 from Lambton Quay via Diplomatic Pouch to Washington D.C.

(image reduced to 75% of original)

The above cover (Figure 1) was postmarked 9 March 1943 and marked for air mail with eight shillings of postage applied, but no published air mail rate at the time seemed right. The New Zealand Legation stamped the back with a receipt date of 24 March 1943, a journey of only sixteen days (Figure 2). Clearly this item received airmail service for its entire journey.

A 4 shillings rate via Pan American Airways was available until 12 December 1941 when the route was suspended because of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Yet this cover appears to have used such a service after that date. The routes and air rates to the USA available to civilians in March 1943 are shown in the table below. (Ref. 1).

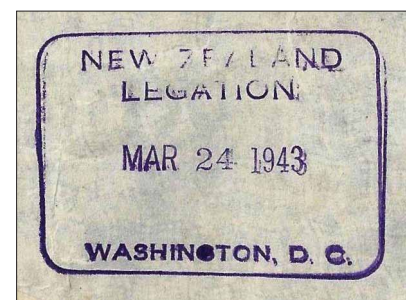


Figure 2: Backstamp indicating a short transit time of sixteen days.

Air Service	Superscription Required	Letter Rate (per ½oz)
Sea to USA, thence air within	In USA only	8d
Part sea, part air (by way of Panama Canal Zone or US West Coast)	none required	1s3d

The first would imply a weight of six ounces, a rather heavy amount. The cover shows little evidence of such large contents, and it is not endorsed for that service so it seems unlikely. The 1s3d rate does not divide evenly into the eight shillings, so it can be eliminated too. The pre-war four shillings rate would appear to be correct – if that rate applied to diplomatic mail.

I had a hunch that such a rate was probably still available for diplomatic mail and wondered whether there were any instructions in archived government files that supported this hypothesis. After some searching at *Archives New Zealand* I did find such evidence.

A Navy Department file entitled 'Postages and Mails – Conveyance of safe hand mails by air' (Ref. 2) contains correspondence concerned primarily with arrangements for delivery of 'safe-hand' conveyance of secret mail. However, included with that were a few memos regarding airmail arrangements for non-secret official Government mail to the USA, Canada, Great Britain and intermediate points.

A memo from the Prime Minister's Department to Permanent Heads dated 24 December 1942 outlined arrangements for the US Naval Air Transport System (NATS) to carry official mail which was defined as:

"mail concerning official Government business emanating from agencies in New Zealand of the New Zealand Government and addressed to agencies of the New Zealand Government or of the Government of another country in the overseas countries detailed below..."

There followed instructions for preparing mail to each of the three countries including the postage rates to be used. Those rates were the pre-war rates for surface dispatch or for air dispatch from San Francisco.

That memo was superseded by one dated 20 January 1943 whereby rates for full air carriage were substituted for rates from San Francisco only. The NATS flights operated from Auckland at approximately five day intervals. Additional intermediate points on the route were also catered for. Categories of official mail were defined, and "an entirely different procedure applies in handling of secret and most secret mail, which may be defined as material which would be of advantage to the enemy if captured." For non-secret mail, the requirements included:

- No franking of mail was permitted for airmail.
- Surface mail was to be used for all non-urgent and heavy mail matter and could include franked mail.
- Outer envelopes were to bear a blue air mail label and bear the words "New Zealand Government mail – for Official bag" in the case of the first three destinations below.
- Envelopes were to bear postage per ½ ounce as shown here:

USA	4s
Canada	4s
Great Britain	5s 9d
New Caledonia	1s
Fiji	1s 3d
Canton Island	1s 9d
Palmyra	2s
Hawaii	2s 6d

- Non-secret airmail for the first three destinations was to be sorted by the New Zealand Post Office into official bags "with diplomatic immunity from censorship or search". These were to be "despatched by NATS flights to San Francisco and thence by regular air lines to the New Zealand Legation" at Washington, Ottawa or London.
- Mail for the last five intermediate destinations was not to be sorted into official bags so no guarantee could be made for immunity from censorship. They were to be endorsed "New Zealand Government Official Mail".

The cover in Figure 1 meets these requirements (substituting an 'Air Mail' handstamp for the air mail label). We can now be satisfied that the eight shillings postage was for ½ to 1 ounce, double rate, sent to the USA by the US Naval Air Transport System. I would be interested in seeing any other examples that used this service.

I should also consider the cover to London shown in the last issue of *The Kiwi* by Odenweller (Ref. 3) also appears to have been sent by a NATS flight to San Francisco before being sent by regular air lines to London. The required markings were applied (a partial 'Air Mail' handstamp at top left with a partial 'Official' mail endorsement), but the total postage does not correspond to a multiple of any of the above rates. It is possible the postage was calculated incorrectly, which seems likely, or another service was used that required a different rate, but my researches in the archives has not uncovered any so far.

References:

1. Startup R., *New Zealand Overseas Airmail Postage Rates 1930 – 2011*, p74, pub. Air Mail Society of New Zealand and Mowbray Collectables, 2012.
2. Navy Department, 'Postages and Mails - Conveyance of safe hand mails by air', Archives New Zealand, file reference R21466434.
3. Odenweller, Robert P., 'High Postage Covers', *The Kiwi*, vol.65 no.2, pp46-47, March 2016.



REQUEST FOR HELP FROM MEMBERS

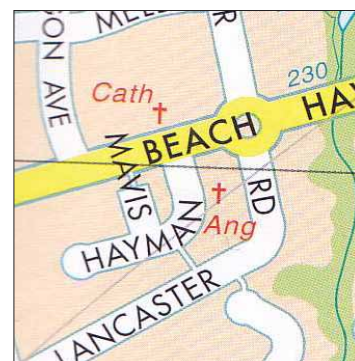
LANCASTER POST OFFICE - A FOLLOW UP



In the last issue of *The Kiwi* **David Stalker** asked why the instruction leaflet he had acquired (left - image reduced) had stamps attached and cancelled, on the day of issue, at Lancaster rather than Wanganui. David was also keen to know a little more about Lancaster Post Office.

John Watts has the answers:

The Lancaster Post Office was in the district of Beach Haven on Auckland's North Shore, on Beach Haven Road, Between Lancaster Street and Hayman Street (see map).



The office at this location opened on 10 October 1966 and closed on 25 September 1987 as shown on the 'First Day' and 'Last Day' cancellations shown here (left - images reduced). The premises are now a charity shop.

The 'Not To Be Placed on Sale Before Wednesday 1 October 1980' form was the type of instructions sent out with all new stamp issues (roughly 10 days prior to the issue date). There would not normally be any stamps affixed to the form.

This particular form had been in my collection and *I had the stamps applied and cancelled on the first day of issue*. I am sorry if this unofficial piece of stamp history has caused confusion - including why the stamps did not have a Wanganui cancellation.

1933 HEALTH 'PATHWAY' - FRAME RETOUCHING

Terry Hancox

The 1933 'Pathway to Health', designed by James Berry, is a classic stamp (Ref. 1). It is one of those stamps that illustrates very nicely the stamp production processes used at that time, where quality and workmanship relied much on the efforts of humans, rather than automation and computers used today. It is not unique in doing so, as there are many other stamps that offer similar philatelic interest.

Readers may be aware of the 'cloud' varieties that appear on stamps at row 1/4, 2/1 and 3/3, where there are missing lines of shading in the prominent cloud at top left of the design. These are readily collected and attract a significant premium when sold. An article on these varieties was published in the New Zealand Stamp Collector in 2007 (Ref. 2).



Figure 1:
1933 Health Stamp

However, there are stamps that show larger varieties that often get unnoticed by collectors; faults in the stamp that required significant attention to correct them. Look to the left and right frames, highlighted on the stamp here (Figure 1) where no less than 22 of the 60 stamps on the sheet required some form of retouching.

It appears that much work has been carried out to strengthen the short horizontal lines of shading, either side of the sculptured frame, that were weak, faint or incomplete on many stamps. In some cases this includes the sculptured line itself.

The stamps where significant retouching was necessary are shown below (Figure 2) with further detail shown in the adjacent table.

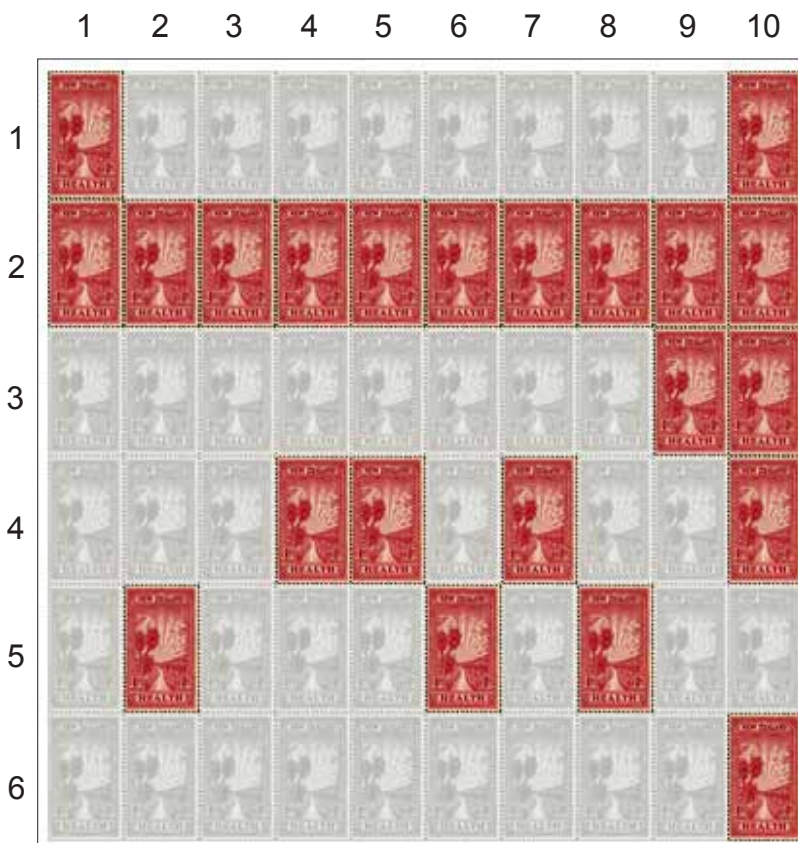


Figure 2: *Positions of retouched stamps*

Sheet Position	Frame	Side of Frame
R1/1	right	left and right
R1/10	left	left and right
R2/1	left	top right
	right	top left
R2/2	left	left
	right	right
R2/3	left	left
	right	left and right
R2/4	right	left and right
R2/5	right	right
R2/6	right	top right
R2/7	left	bottom right
	right	left and right
R2/8	left	left and right
	right	left and right
R2/9	left	bottom left, bottom right
R2/10	left	left and right
	right	left and right
R3/9	left	bottom right
	right	bottom right
R3/10	left	left and right
R4/4	left	left
R4/5	left	left and right
	right	left
R4/7	left	top right
R4/10	left	bottom left
R5/2	right	top left, top right
R5/6	right	top left
R5/8	right	top right
R6/10	left	top left, bottom right

Examples of the type of fault and frequency of recurrence through the frame are shown below (Figures 3a - 3d). The four examples illustrated have been selected to show the variation of frame characteristics that are to be found, ranging from 'near normal', to 'faint', 'recut' and 'reshaped'.

The frame retouching is significant, more so than the 'cloud' varieties that gain catalogue status, yet seemingly, they are largely disregarded as true varieties.



Figure 3a:

Row 4/3 - right frame appears near normal.



Figure 3b:

Row 1/4 - right frame shows extensive washout of the detail. All lines are faint.



Figure 3c:

Row 2/7 - right frame lines recut. Most of the horizontal lines appear to have been recut.

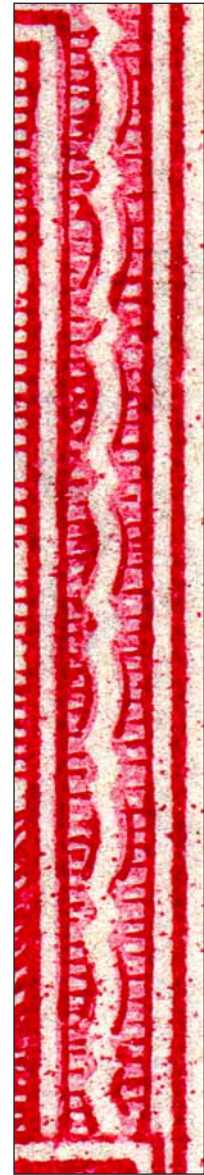


Figure 3d:

Row 1/1 - right frame recut. Extreme evidence of recutting, with arcs clearly visible.

A guide to the plating of this issue can be found on our web site at nzsgb.org.uk/research/1933HealthPlating

References:

1. Collins R.J.G. and Fathers H.T.M., *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, vol.1, p415-8, pub. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, 1939.
2. Hancox T., '1933 Health Stamp Cloud Varieties', *The New Zealand Stamp Collector*, vol.87, no.2, p46, June 2007.

VIA NORTH AMERICAN AIR SERVICES: 1930-39

Robert Clark and Bob Watson

Introduction

The air mail from New Zealand to Britain and Canada via US air services that started in July 1930 was discussed in a previous article (Ref. 1). It made use of the trans-Pacific sailings that went alternately to Vancouver and San Francisco and, as both were monthly, together they gave a fortnightly service. The postage rate to United Kingdom, USA or Canada was made up of a 4d air mail fee per half ounce plus 1d surface rate per ounce giving a combined rate of 5d for the first half ounce.

From 1 March 1931, the surface rate was changed to 2d for the first ounce and 1d for each subsequent ounce and so the rate for air mail via Canadian and US air services increased to 6d for the first half ounce. However, covers from New Zealand to the UK via US air services in the second half of 1931 are all franked with 7d and so there must have been a second rate increase in 1931. Clark reported (Ref. 1) that it was not clear when this increase in the postage rate took place and that it was not discussed in Startup's book on postage rates (Ref. 2).

Increase in Rates to Countries Beyond the USA, June 1931

We have now discovered that the date of the second increase was 4 June 1931. The *New Zealand Gazette* of 4 June shows that an 'Order in Council' was made on 27 May 1931, although it did not come into effect until its publication in the Gazette (Ref. 3). This was reported in *The Evening Post* of Wellington on 5 June 1931 (Ref. 4) which stated:

"The charges prescribed by regulation for the transmission by post of postal packets by air-mail services abroad are amended by Order-in-Council published last night, and are now in force. In addition to the ordinary postage, a fee of 5d for each half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce will be charged for countries beyond U.S.A. when conveyed by United States air-mail service".

An interesting point is that this increase in the air mail fee only applied to "countries beyond U.S.A." and so the air mail fee for mail from New Zealand to the U.S.A. remained at 4d per half ounce. For air mail addressed



Figure 1: To the UK via US air services, November 1931. Rate - 7d.

to the United Kingdom, the final leg in North America was always to New York and so US air services were always involved, even when the trans Pacific sailing was to Vancouver. Hence air mail to the UK, via US air mail services, always required 7d for the first half ounce (Figure 1) while air mail to the U.S.A. only required 6d (Figure 2).



Figure 2: To the USA via US air services, January 1932. Rate - 6d.

There was now a complication for air mail from New Zealand to Canada. When it was sent by sea to Vancouver, and flown to its destination in Canada by Canadian air services, the air mail fee remained at 4d per half ounce, giving a combined rate of 6d. When air mail was sent by sea to San Francisco, it made use of US air services and so the air mail fee was 5d per half ounce, giving a combined rate of 7d. Hence members of the New Zealand public had to be aware of the destination of the next trans-Pacific sailing in order to know the correct rate to Canada.



Figure 3: To the USA via US air services, November 1931. Postage due - 4 cents.

A combination of the North American air mail services not being widely used and the changing postage rates meant that the public often got the rate wrong. An example of an underpaid cover to the USA is shown (Figure 3). It is franked with the original rate of 5d, rather than the rate of 6d introduced in March 1931, and is endorsed with a 'T 20 centimes' tax handstamp (which corresponds to it being underpaid by 1d) together with 4c in US postage due stamps.

Reduction in Surface Rates, 1 June 1932

When the surface rate, to Empire countries and the USA, was reduced back to 1d per ounce from 1 June 1932, the combined rate to the UK and Canada, via US air services, became 6d (Figure 4) for the first half ounce while the corresponding rate to the USA (and to Canada when only Canadian air services were used) was reduced to 5d (Figure 5).

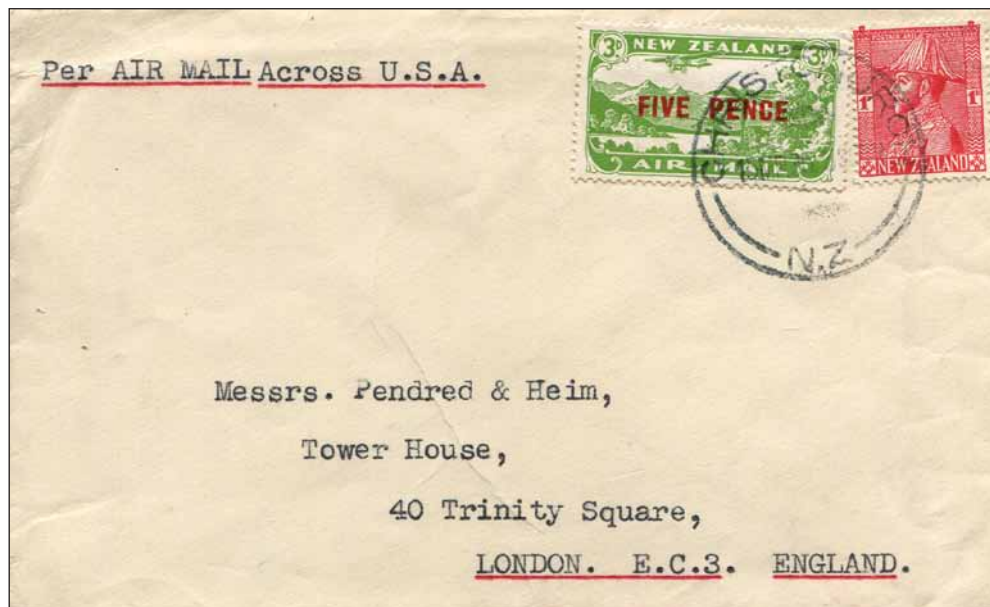


Figure 4: To the UK via US air services, in March 1935. Rate - 6d.



Figure 5: To the USA via US air services, in May 1934. Rate - 5d.

Increase in Rates, 16th May 1935 – Introduction of Composite Air Rates

There was a further increase in May 1935 when a composite air mail rate was introduced for US air services which was now 8d per half ounce to U.S.A. (Figure 6) and 9d to Britain and to Canada. The rate for air mail to Canada that went by sea to Vancouver and was then flown only by Canadian air services was now 8d (Ref. 2).



Figure 1: To the USA via US air services, in August 1937. Rate - 8d.

It was only when the air mail rate from New Zealand to the U.S.A. and Canada was increased to 1s0d in 1939 (Ref. 2) that the air mail rate from New Zealand to Canada became the same irrespective of whether it went by sea to Vancouver or San Francisco. By this time there were alternative regular US air services for mail from New Zealand. One was New Zealand to the Canal Zone by sea and air from there and the other was New Zealand to Hawaii by sea and air from there.

Corrections to Tables

In the book by Startup (Ref. 2), there are errors in the tables dealing with the change in rates on 1 March 1931 and 1 June 1932 as discussed previously (Ref. 1). The change of rates on 4 June 1931 are not included at all. As a result of our research we have produced new tables showing the changes in rates on these three dates and these are included as an appendix to this article (on the following pages). They can also be found on the Society's website at: www.nzsgb.org.uk/research.html

Editor's Note: All the illustrations in this article are shown at 90% of their original size.

References:

1. Clark R., 'New Zealand to Britain and Canada via US Air Services in 1930–35', *The Kiwi*, vol. 62, no. 3, pp52-56, May 2013.
2. Startup R., *New Zealand Overseas Airmail Postage Rates 1930 – 2011*, Air Mail Society of New Zealand and Mowbray Collectables, 2012.
3. *New Zealand Gazette*, No.45, p 1688, 4 June 1931.
4. *The Evening Post* (Wellington), p.6, 5 June 1931. (available online at: paperspast.natlib.govt.nz).

Appendix: Corrections to tables, in sections '25 February 1931' to '1 June 1932',

of New Zealand Overseas Airmail Postage Rates (1930 - 2011) by Robin M Startup

(additions or corrections are shown here in red)

1. The table in the section headed '**25 February 1931/Increased Rates**' (page 10) does not show the rates for airmail consequent on surface rate changes effective 1 March 1931 as stated in the introductory paragraph. It should be replaced by the following table. (Refs. App.1 and 2).

Base rate Surface	Supplementary fee For carriage by air	½ oz.	1 oz.	1½ oz.
Air carriage within Australia				
2d first ounce + 1d each additional ounce	3d	5d	8d	1s0d
Air carriage within Australia for carriage beyond Australia				
British Empire and USA 2d first ounce + 1d each additional ounce	4d	6d	10d	1s3d
Foreign countries 2½d first ounce + 1½d each additional ounce	4d	6½d	10½d	1s4d
Air carriage on Karachi – London service				
British Empire and USA 2d first ounce + 1d each additional ounce	7d	9d	1s4d	2s0d
Foreign countries 2½d first ounce + 1½d each additional ounce	7d	9½d	1s4½d	2s1d
Air carriage on both Australia and Karachi – London services				
British Empire and USA 2d first ounce + 1d each additional ounce	4d + 7d	1s1d	2s0d	3s0d
Foreign countries 2½d first ounce + 1½d each additional ounce	4d + 7d	1s1½d	2s0½d	3s1d
Air carriage on Canada (via Vancouver) or United States of America air services				
British Empire and USA 2d first ounce + 1d each additional ounce	4d	6d	10d	1s3d
Foreign countries 2½d first ounce + 1½d each additional ounce	4d	6½d	10½d	1s4d
<u>Plus possible additions</u>				
Registration fee	4d			
Plus AR (Advice of receipt) fee	3d	(stamp affixed to form, not envelope)		
Late fee	2d			

2. A new section headed '**4 June 1931/Changed Rates via USA Air Services**' should be inserted, on page 13. From that date there were changes to the air mail fee for countries beyond the USA when conveyed by USA air services. It should contain the following table. (Ref. App.3).

Base rate Surface	Supplementary fee For carriage by air	Weight steps		
		½ oz.	1 oz.	1½ oz.
Air carriage on United States of America air services				
British Empire				
2d first ounce + 1d each additional ounce	5d	7d	1s0d	1s6d
USA				
2d first ounce + 1d each additional ounce	4d	6d	10d	1s3d
Foreign countries				
2½d first ounce + 1½d each additional ounce	5d	7½d	1s0½d	1s7d

3. In the section headed '**1 June 1932/Reduced Rates**' (page 13), the part of the table showing changes to the air mail fee for countries beyond the USA, when conveyed by USA air services, should be modified as follows: (Refs. 4 and 5).

Base rate Surface	Supplementary fee For carriage by air	Weight steps		
		½ oz.	1 oz.	1½ oz.
Air carriage on United States of America air services				
British Empire				
1d per ounce	5d	6d	11d	1s5d
USA				
1d per ounce	4d	5d	9d	1s2d
Foreign countries				
2½d first ounce + 1½d each additional ounce	5d	7½d	1s0½d	1s7d
Air carriage on Canada (via Vancouver) air services				
Canada				
1d per ounce	4d	5d	9d	1s2d
<u>Plus possible additions</u>				
Registration fee	Reduced from 4d to 3d			
Plus AR (Advice of receipt) fee	3d (stamp affixed to form, not envelope)			
Late fee	Reduced from 2d to 1d			

References:

- App.1. *New Zealand Gazette*, 26 February 1931, p 414.
 App.2. *New Zealand Post & Telegraph Official Circular*, 16 March 1931, p24.
 App.3. *New Zealand Gazette*, 4 June 1931, p1688.
 App.4. *New Zealand Gazette*, 26 May 1932, pp1334-1335.
 App.5. *Post & Telegraph Official Circular*, 16 June 1932, p36.

ALTERNATIVE POSTAL OPERATORS

- STANDARD POST CANTERBURY LTD.

Tony Ward

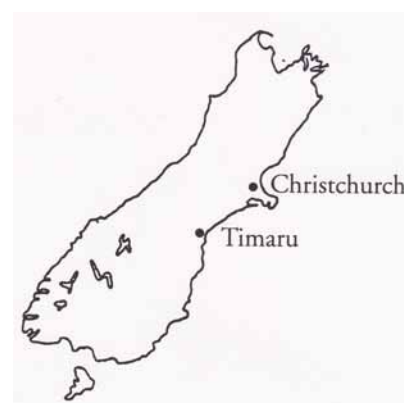
On 1 April 1998 the New Zealand Government approved the 'Postal Services Act 1998' which paved the way for the deregulation of the New Zealand postal market, opening it up to full competition. Under the regulations anyone could process and deliver mail provided they register as a 'postal operator' with the Ministry of Economic Development.

With de-regulation there was a rush of small operators across both islands. Some of these were big concerns, operating throughout the Country and people will be very familiar with them whilst others set up to provide a local service for a single town or region and may be less well known to collectors.

One such Company was Standard Post Canterbury Limited which, on 4 August 1999, was the twenty-seventh Company to register with the Ministry; Nathan Frahm was the sole director.

The service was originally intended for the Southern Canterbury region, around Timaru, with the possibility of further expansion. However negotiations with New Zealand Post, with regard to the detail of their access agreement for services to and from the local area, failed and the Company ceased to operate. The register was amended on 12 July 2002 but the Company name was not removed until 23 June 2011.

Standard Post Canterbury Ltd. had a very basic 'postal identifier', a rectangular box with 'Standard Post' at the top and 'Canterbury Limited' at the base. This formed the basis for their canceller, which can be seen on the covers shown opposite (Figure 3).



*Standard Post Canterbury Ltd.
operated out of Timaru.*



Figure 1: *Standard Post Canterbury's three issued stamps*

The Company issued three stamps (Figure 1); two 40c values for local small size letter delivery and a larger 80c value for use on large envelopes for local delivery.

One of the 40c stamps shows an image of the 'Spirit of New Zealand' - a sail training vessel for Secondary School students and handicapped people from throughout New Zealand.

The second 40c stamp has a multicoloured image of a rustic mailbox, a sheep's skull, located in the Catlins region of the South Island.

The 80c value is a larger, horizontal, stamp showing timber logging in the Braemar Road region of Mackenzie Country. Timber is a popular subject with topical collectors but few would have this value in their collection.

Whilst the sheet format is not recorded the stamps were printed by colour laser onto self adhesive sheets. There is a lack of symmetry in the positioning of the stamps on the backing, but

there is no evidence of them having been peeled, trimmed and reapplied to the backing. A strip of four of the 40c sheep skull stamp is shown below (Figure 2) together with the reverse of the strip. The backing paper shows the word 'FASSON' between 'PERMANENT', set in two arcs, together with 'OFFSET/&/LASER'.



Figure 2: A strip of the 40c 'sheep's skull' stamp showing the irregular distribution of the stamps (top) and the backing paper (bottom).

(images shown at 75%)



Figure 3: Two covers show usage of Standard Post Canterbury's stamps.

Cover to Temuka (above) shows one of the 40c stamps used on a local letter.

A part air mail cover (right) shows the second 40c stamp used internationally. NZ Post stamps have been added to make up the correct rate.

(images shown at 75%)

FIRST POSTING - FIRST POST (BY MAIL COACH)

Tony Hope

I recently acquired a cover that reminded me of my first posting to the New Zealand Army. In September 1957 I sailed from **Wellington** to Lyttelton on the inter-island ferry *Hinemoa* (Figure 1) to take up the appointment of Catering Adviser, Southern Military District based at **Christchurch**. One of my duties was to attend the Territorial Force annual camp which was held near **Lake Tekapo**, with the majestic Southern Alps in the background, to the west.



Figure 1: *Inter-Island ferry Hinemoa (inset - backstamp)*

(images reduced to 75%)

Some 120 miles south from **Lake Tekapo** is the township of **Lawrence**. The cover (Figure 2) that reminded me of my days on military exercises in the South Island was posted from the gold rush town of **Tuapeka** (now **Lawrence**) on 5 February 1862. It then went via **Dunedin**, where it was received on 7 February 1862 and onward to **Pitcaple**, Aberdeenshire arriving in **Aberdeen** on 18 May 1862. Oh that the cover could come to life, what a tale it could tell of these gold rush days in **Tuapeka** and **Gabriels Gully**.

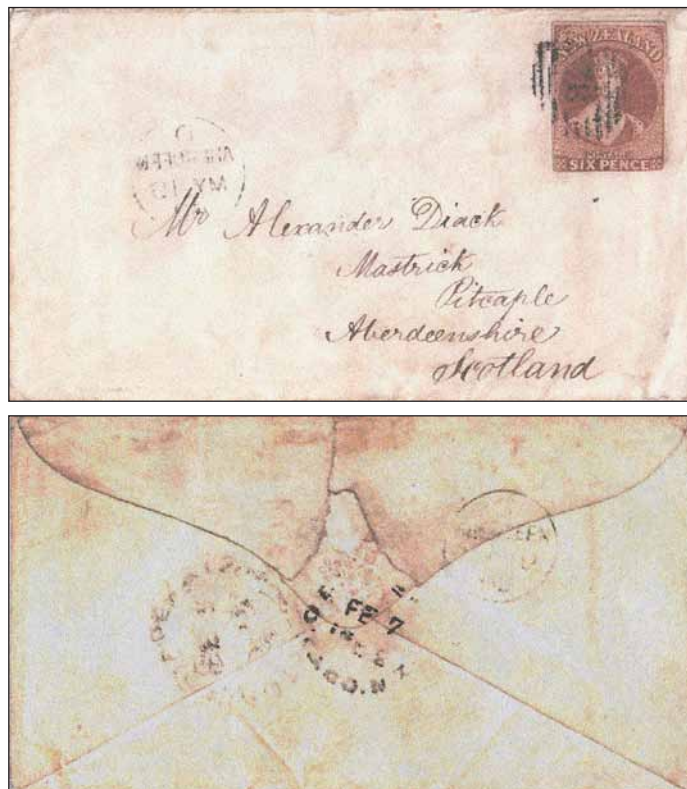


Figure 2: *6d Chalon (SG 14) tied to cover with backstamps for Tuapeka and Aberdeen (lower image).*

(images reduced to 75%)

I like to think that the cover was probably carried from **Tuapeka** to **Dunedin** on one of the first runs of a *Cobb & Company* coach - *C.C. Cole & Company* of Dunedin, proprietors. *Cobb & Company* coaches were brought over from the Australian state of Victoria and they soon gained a reputation for their ability to traverse New Zealand's roads that, in those days, were very rudimentary. *C.C. Cole & Co.* operated the coaches and in 1862 ran the first mail coach route in the country, from **Dunedin** to **Tuapeka** and **Gabriels Gully**, and return.

Mail coaches in New Zealand ran until well into the Edwardian era, to locations not yet reached by the ever expanding network of railways, or until the arrival of the first motor service cars. The post card (Figure 3) depicts intrepid Edwardian coach travellers on a trip from **Christchurch** to **Greymouth** with horses three up and a pair.

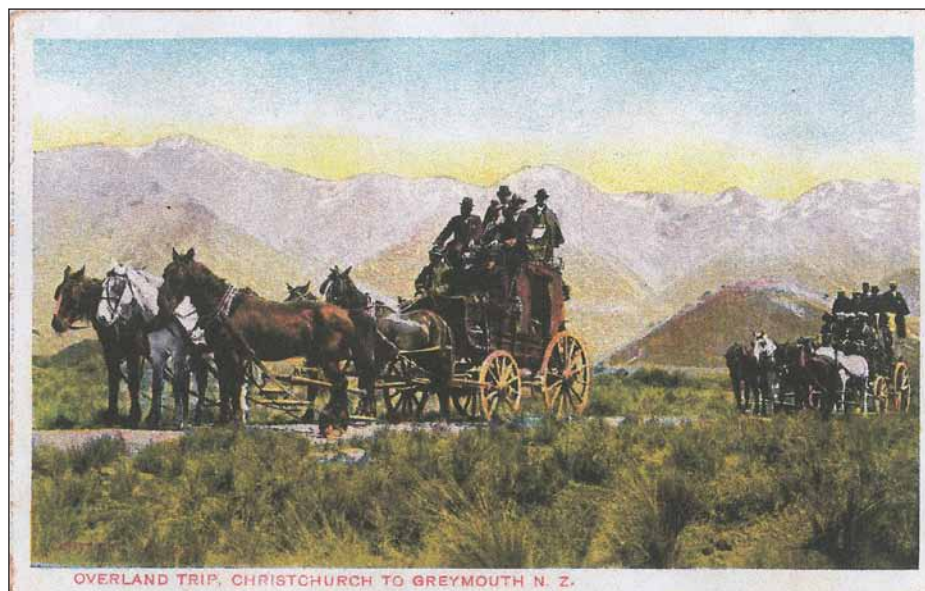


Figure 3: The overland trip from Christchurch to Greymouth.

Now for a return to the Territorial Force camp at **Lake Tekapo**. I remember that, on occasion, one could play hookey for a few hours to enjoy the sun, the sea and the Sheilas at **Caroline Bay, Timaru**. Happy memories of my time in New Zealand come flooding back to me as though it was only yesterday!

Background Reference:

Robinson H., 'A History of the Post Office in New Zealand', 1964.

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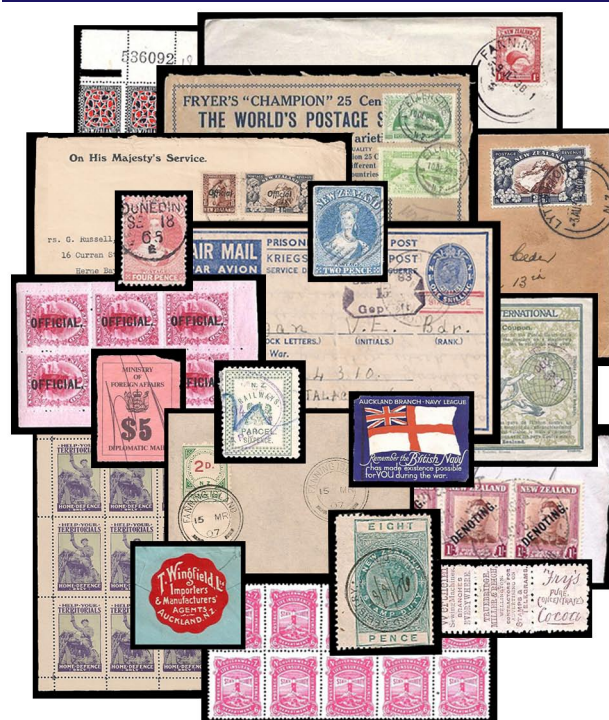
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A VERY EXPENSIVE LETTER

Stuart Potter

In July 1940, Pan American Airlines commenced a regular airmail service connecting New Zealand to the USA with intermediate stops in New Caledonia, Canton Island and Hawaii. Airmail for the USA was charged at 4/- per half ounce (Ref. 1).

In 1939, PanAm had started a regular Trans-Atlantic mail service from the USA to Lisbon and from there mail could be flown on to London by the BOAC service.



Figure 1: Airmail cover to Chorley, Lancashire, via the US, pre-paid 6s 3d, but assessed as underpaid.

Coupled with the US Trans-Continental service, it was then possible to send a letter from New Zealand to the UK completely by air. The initial cost for a letter on this service was 6s 3d per half ounce. This was very expensive and was equivalent to over £18 at today's prices (Ref. 2). Over 16,000 letters were carried to the USA on the first flight but only 863 items were carried on by air to Europe.

The envelope above (Figure 1) bears 6s 3d in stamps for the service and was opened and re-sealed in New Zealand by the censor; a faint censor mark is visible on the front.

The letter must have exceeded the half ounce weight and should have been paid at a double rate of 12s 6d. It received a 'T' mark with 115 centimes showing as



Figure 2: GB postage due stamps to the value 12s 6d added to the back of the cover - double the deficiency.

due. This was subsequently crossed through and a 'zigzag' killer used to obliterate the mark. A revised circular 'T' mark was applied and 1500 centimes added as the amount due. The 'T' mark was normally applied in the country of origin so it is assumed that the two marks were applied and the '115' and '1500' centimes due calculations were made in New Zealand.

The envelope bears a very faint boxed cachet on the front, the only discernible words in the cachet are “..onward despatch...”. It is possible this could have been applied in the USA to indicate continuing carriage by air.

On arrival in the UK, the Post Office has converted the 1500 centimes to English currency and endorsed the cover on the front 'To Pay 12s/6d' - double the deficiency. Postage Due stamps, to the value of 12s6d have been added to the back of the envelope (Figure 2), on arrival at Chorley. 12s6d was a huge amount at the time - equivalent to over £36 today (Ref. 2).

Postscript – Postage Due Calculations

To help with postage due calculations for international mail, following the 1926 Stockholm Convention, the UPU introduced a notional currency called the gold franc which comprised 100 gold centimes. This currency was used in the T marks applied to envelopes in the originating country and the receiving country could then convert this into their local currency. In this case, the UK conversion was 1d = 10 centimes (Ref. 3), hence 12s6d due. Interestingly, on 1st May 1940 this ratio was changed to 1d = 8 centimes so the calculation should have resulted in postage due of 15s7d. (over £45 at today's prices).

Reference Sources:

1. Walker D. A., '*Airmails of New Zealand Vol. 2 - The Overseas Flights 1928-1940*', pub. The Airmail Society of New Zealand, 1986.
2. 'Historic Inflation Calculator, how the value of money has changed since 1900', at thisismoney.co.uk
3. Gold Franc Conversion, see greatbritainphilately.blogspot.co.uk, February 2011.

A RECENT 'MISSENT TO' MARKING

Andrew Dove

I have been interested in instructional markings for many years. I find that the postal workers attention to detail they exemplify is, at times, almost obsessional. For example, one of the early Dunedin 'Not Known by Postmen' boxed cachets from 1893 in my collection, has sixteen spaces for signatures and all are filled.

I had thought that this attention to detail was no longer applied but I recently received some auction lots from New Zealand, by International Courier Post, which had been posted in Auckland and addressed to me in the United Kingdom. It seems that the packet was mis-sorted and sent to Sydney, Australia where an explanatory label was applied (see illustration right). It seems a little surprising that this occurred as, presumably, 'Signature Required' mail would have the utmost care taken with its handling.

Nevertheless, I am pleased to report that, even with its ramblings, the letter only took nine days to arrive, here in the UK, in good order



NEW ZEALAND PIGEON POST: A CONSULAR LETTER FROM AUCKLAND TO FRANCE

Adrian W. Philbey

A foolscap letter, recounting the pigeon post service between Auckland and the Great Barrier Island, was sent from the Consular Agent of France, Auckland, to Miss A. Ledard, 8 Rue du Midi, Granville, Manche, Normandy, France, on 8th July 1899 (Figure 1). A translation, kindly provided by Dr Johanna Bailey, is shown below.

Affixed to the letter is an unused 1/- red triangular Great Barrier Island-Auckland pigeon-gram stamp (CP VP8) (Figure 2).



Figure 2:

*The 1/- pigeon-gram stamp
attached to the letter*

It is worth noting, the date which the two Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency stamps were officially placed on sale, in Auckland and at Barrier Island, was 11 July 1899 - three days after the letter was written. It is interesting to speculate how the Consular Agent acquired the stamp ahead of its official issue.

"Miss,

"In response to your letter, I have the pleasure of including a stamp having been used to pay for some pigeon-grams between Auckland and the Great Barrier Island, but I think it is useful to point out that this particular postal method is completely independent from that of New Zealand and that the authorities of the colony tolerate it only in the interest of the residents of the Great Barrier; which island still does not benefit from telephone communications.

"There is a weekly postal service between Auckland and the Great Barrier (Island), and the usual stamp duty is 2/- as for the rest of the colony.

"Please receive, Miss, the affirmation of my most distinguished consideration.

"c/o the Consular Agent of France in absence"

"A. Lelieves"

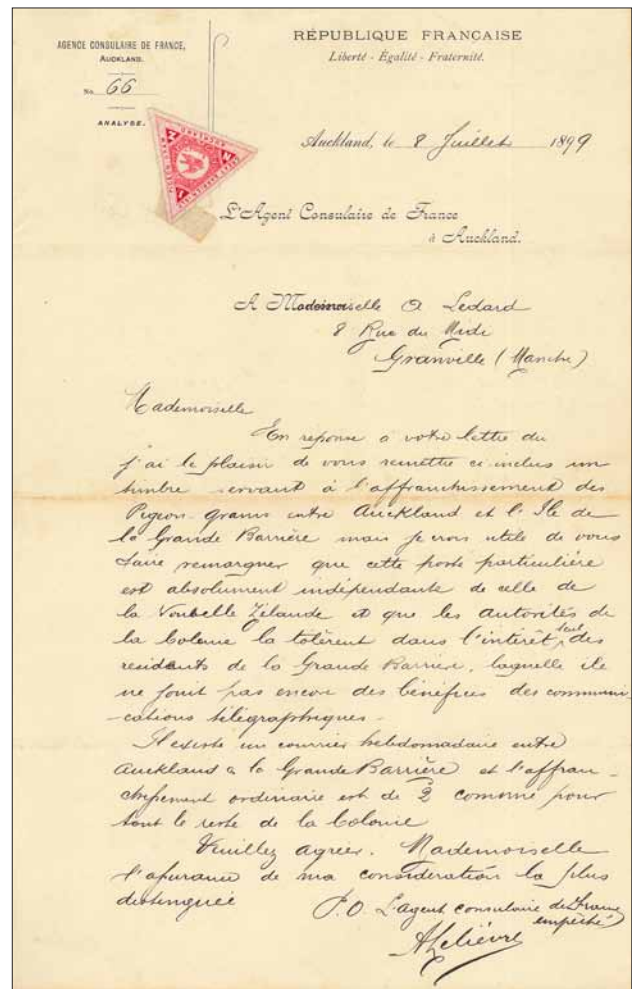


Figure 1: *The letter, in French, from the Consular Agent of France, concerning the pigeon post service between Auckland and the Great Barrier Island*

(image reduced)



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Below is a sample of what you can find on the site:



1906 Christchurch Exhibition aluminum postcard (rare).



1906 Christchurch Exhibition set with Exhibition cancels.



1868 Full Face Queen postage due cover.



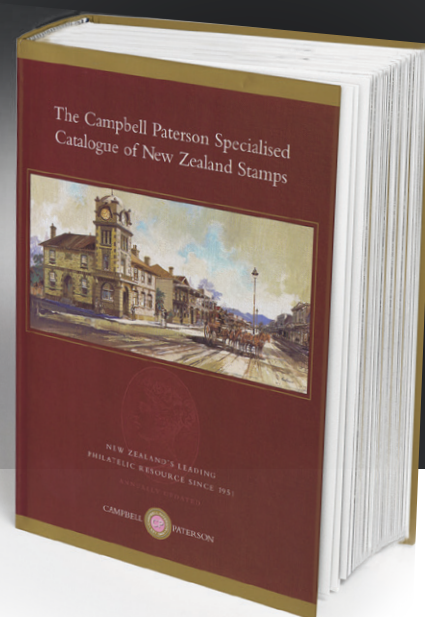
Registered postal stationery cover to USA.

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