

New Zealand Society of Great Britain

Meeting held on Zoom on Saturday 20th April 2024

A display by David Stalker

Errors of design on New Zealand Stamps

An animated display of New Zealand stamps showing
and highlighting errors of design.

Loosely based on an article in Campbell Paterson Newsletter Vol. 51 December 1999.

Printing errors cover a large range of situations and the printers are usually the ones who take the blame – e.g. missing colours, colour shifts, perforation varieties and so on.

But what about errors committed by the Designers and the Post Office itself.

They cover a whole range of mistakes, errors and straightforward gaffes from cases of “Artistic Licence” to simple “schoolboy” errors.

The display here ranges from the classic major “gaffes” in design to some simpler less obvious errors which can easily be missed.

All images are scans of stamps in my own collections of New Zealand stamps, often scaled up to illustrate the errors, with two exceptions which are acknowledged.

Starting off with the best known errors and following on with some less obvious ones.

Probably New Zealand's best-known stamp error

- the Lake **Wakitipu** spelling error from the **1898 pictorial issue**.

The name of the lake was misspelt with an 'i' (Wakitipu) instead of an 'a' (Wakatipu.) It caused considerable interest when issued.



Within one month further printings were made with the corrected spelling.



On the second printing "Mt Earnslaw" has been replaced by "Postage and Revenue", which was somewhat hidden at the top of the "error" stamp.



The need to reprint tended to satisfy purely philatelic and speculative demand. The consequence was that in its mint form, the error is more common than the correct spelling, as many were bought and retained unused.

Probably New Zealand's best known modern stamp error.

The **1996 Health Issue** is famous for the teddy bear stamp, a rejected design from which some quantities were issued in error. Although the teddy bear has his own little seat belt, his presence was found to indicate that the accompanying baby was facing the direction of travel, in contravention of NZ safety guidelines. Since the theme of the issue was **Child Safety**, the teddy bear design was ordered to be withdrawn and replaced with the design showing the baby minus his teddy bear.



Teddy Bear strapped in and facing “*forward*”, buckled into an Adult seat belt.

Teddy Bear removed.



Note: 40c POSTAGE repositioned to fill in blank space vacated by Teddy Bear..



No Teddy Bear.

When publicity material was sent out the error was pointed out. The stamps (both gummed and self-adhesive) and miniature sheets were recalled and new stamps were printed in the week before the issue date. Inevitably though, around two thousand of the original stamps were sold to the public. Some incorrect miniature sheets (including those overprinted CAPEX 96) were distributed by Enschede but not by the Post Office.

Stamps and Miniature sheets now attract a high price.

Spelling error.

Two of the **1985 Christmas** stamps had a major spelling error. The 18c and 50c stamps had a missing “H” in “CHRISTMAS”.



These two stamps became available in early 1986 from a number of dealers in Australia and the UK. It was stated categorically by the New Zealand Post Office that all stamps with the missing “H” held by “This Administration” had been destroyed and that similar action had been taken by the Printers (Enschede). Investigations by the Police and the PO concluded that the stamps with the missing “H” had been removed unlawfully and that they were never issued as bona fide stamps. Any such stamps still in existence remain PO Property. And anyone seeking to purchase them should seek legal advice.

They are not catalogued by the main New Zealand catalogues (Stanley Gibbons and Campbell Paterson) except as a footnote. Other catalogues do list them.

Time has passed and they are readily available and not expensive – and no need to go to jail.

Mis-identification.

Four of the Christmas stamps actually bore the wrong title for the paintings depicted.



1960 Christmas stamp.

The correct title for the painting by Rembrandt is “**The Adoration of the Shepherds**” and not “**Nativity**” as depicted on the stamp.

To complicate matters It is now accepted that this painting is a study by a highly competent apprentice of “**The Adoration**”, known to be by Rembrandt, in the Alte Pinakothek in Munich. So not actually by Rembrandt after all.

Wings of
Angels”



1968 Christmas stamp.

Gherardo von Honthorst had in fact painted two very similar works, one with the title “**L’adorazione dei Pastori**” and the other simply “**L’adorazione**”. Both paintings hang in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. The stamp bears the title “**The Adoration of The Shepherds**” whereas it should have been just “**The Adoration**”.

The two “girls” at the left are Angels and not Shepherds – surprisingly no-one noticed that there were no Shepherds in the painting used for this stamp.

Mis-identification.



1975 Christmas stamp.

Although New Zealand Post titled the painting as “**The Virgin and Child**” the correct designation is “**Madonna and Child**”. It was painted in 1452 - 1453 by Zanobi Machiavelli.

The painting was gifted to the Dunedin Art Gallery in 1973 by Mary, Dora and Esmond de Beer.



1962 Christmas stamp.

Technically the correct designation for the painting is “**Virgin in Prayer**” not “**Madonna in Prayer**”.

A minor diplomatic spat arose when the Protestant Federation protested against the choice of Sassoferrato’s “Madonna in Prayer”, even though the Post Office had submitted the suggestion to the Interdenominational Christian Festival Committee and gained universal approval.

This stamp was very popular and it was awarded the Philatelic Societies of San Francisco award for the most beautiful stamp of the year. Certainly, in my opinion, I think it is one of the best New Zealand stamps.

Rate change problem.

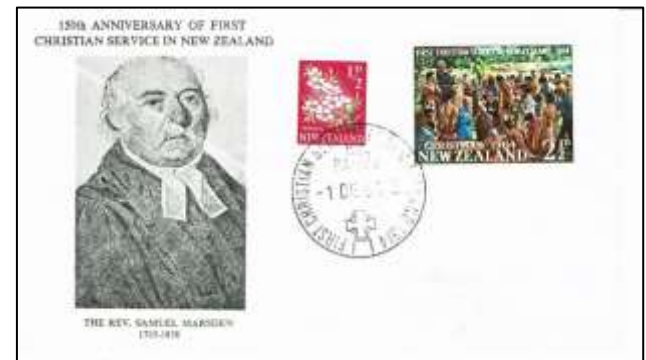
Not technically an error – in 1964 the letter rate had been increased to 3d after the 2½d Christmas stamp had been prepared but not yet issued. A special concession was made to allow the stamp to be used to service First Day Covers and unsealed envelopes containing Christmas cards within New Zealand.



In keeping with the Christmas stamps theme of Old Master paintings it was originally intended that an artist's impression of the actual service would be used. However, no such painting existed and L. C. Mitchell was commissioned to provide a design from written records of the ceremony.



First day cover with 2d stamp applied.



Souvenir cover showing Rev. Samuel Marsden from 1st December 1964 with additional ½d stamp applied.

A treasonable offence?

Another issue that somehow “escaped” destruction and got out.

On receipt of the proof sheets of the **1985 Royal Portrait** of QEII from the printers (Leigh-Mardon), the Publicity Department of New Zealand Post produced a pre-release brochure showing the two values (25c and 35c). On the mailing list was the New Zealand Herald of Arms who was a keen stamp collector. He noticed that the portrait of the Queen was incorrect.



With the blue sash, the Orders would always be attached..

On being informed of this major error, the PO instructed Leigh-Mardon to cease production and destroy any stamps in their stock. Designs were amended to re-instate the orders. Erroneous stamps in New Zealand were sent for incineration except for sample sheets required for the archives.

Controversy arose in 1988 when two sheets of the 25c without the Orders appeared on the market. An Auckland Dealer was offered them on a visit to the USA. None had been sold by NZ PO and the stamps must have been obtained improperly. Despite legal action the PO did not recover these stamps and they were subsequently put on sale.



Correct Orders attached.

As with the 1985 Christmas stamps, they are not catalogued by the main New Zealand catalogues (Stanley Gibbons and Campbell Paterson) except as a footnote. Other catalogues do list them.

The problem with the apostrophe – or lack of it!!!:

The apostrophe was missed out.

The stamp has the phrase “***THE EMPIRES CALL***” – this has a somewhat different meaning to “***THE EMPIRE’S CALL***” which was what was intended.



Missing
apostrophe.



This stamp was issued in 1900 to commemorate the departure of the first contingent of New Zealand troops to the second Anglo-Boer war, This was the first overseas conflict to involve New Zealand troops.

Terminology can be a problem.

Veteran and vintage classifications of cars can be problematic at times. In New Zealand Cars made before 1919 are classed as VETERAN; between 1919 and 1932 are classed as VINTAGE

In the **1972 Thirteenth Vintage Car Rally** issue four of the six cars included were strictly classed as **VETERANS**.



1895 Benz.



1904 Oldsmobile.



1914 Model T Ford.



1915 Cadillac
Service Car.

Interestingly, the 2003 issue of VETERAN VEHICLES, with 3 of the same cars, got it right, as all 5 cars shown were true veteran cars.



1895 Benz.

1904 Oldsmobile.

1911 Wolseley.

1915 Talbot.

1915 Model T Ford.

Se-tenant strip of 5 from 2004 stamps awards scheme..

Another recall that went wrong.:

To distinguish stamps from New Zealand Post from those by Private Operators a stylised fern would be placed “somewhere” in the stamp design. This commenced with the **2003 definitive issue**. To celebrate this event 100 sheets of the, \$1, \$1.50, \$2 and \$3 and 500 sheets of the 50c stamps had the fern symbol overprinted with silver foil. They were only issued as full sheets.

Problems were met with the first over printed 50c stamps in that the silver overprint was such that the fronds of the fern could not be clearly distinguished.



Lack of definition in fern.



Fern with fronds visible..

Standing Order customers were “requested” to return the issued sheets – unsurprisingly not everyone complied. As they were properly issued by New Zealand Post they are duly catalogued by Campbell Paterson, although not by Stanley Gibbons.

Mysterious addition to design.

On the 4th (and later) reprint of the \$1.50 sheet stamp from the **2003 definitive** issue and on the 1st (and later) reprint of the self-adhesive booklet stamp a mysterious figure appears in the doorway of the building. He was not present in the initial printings.



Original printings with no figure present in door.



Building photographed in 2016 – modified and now a café.



Mysterious figure present.



Apparently the designer of the original image removed the figure. For unexplained reasons the original image, with figure, had been kept by the printer and was used for the 2007 booklet reprint and 4th reprint of the sheet stamps, and subsequent ones. Thus it is not a new design but, technically a reversion to an earlier one.

Wrong identification.

The **Predator Free 2050** issue from 2018 illustrated species under threat in New Zealand. However the butterfly shown on the \$2.40 stamp should have been the New Zealand Red Admiral (*Vanessa Gonerilla*) but instead showed the Common Red Admiral (*Vanessa Atalanta*) which is not under threat.



Common Red Admiral

Note difference in
markings



New Zealand Red Admiral.

Artistic Licence.

The presence of a magnificent pair of horns on the ewe caused some embarrassment on the **2005 Year of the Rooster** 45c stamp.



Gummed and self-adhesive stamps both showing error.



Apparently a ewe can grow horns, but such a magnificent set of horns could only be found on a ram and another important feature of a ram is missing in the stamp.

From the weekly Newsletter of the American Sheep Industry Association

“New Zealanders are feeling sheepish over a new postage stamp that shows two lambs with their mother. The mother, however, has a pair of powerful, curled horns which, in reality, are found only on a ram. The designer Samuel Sakaria commented - “I thought just to add a bit of a dynamic I’d just add in the male equivalent as opposed to the female. The blunder was not well received in a land where sheep are considered something of an icon. An estimated 40 million sheep roam the country, vastly outnumbering the human population of just 4 million.”

Artistic Licence.

The **ANZAC** stamps from **1936** were supposed to show a New Zealand Soldier at ANZAC Cove in 1915.



The image of the soldier of the soldier on the stamp is actually taken from a photo specially posed in 1936. The beach is also Karaka Bay in Wellington Harbour – considerable artistic licence!



The 1965 issue commemorating the ANZACs shows ANZAC Cove correctly.

Health Stamps cause controversy.

The **1929 Health** stamp trumpeted “**HELP STAMP OUT TUBERCULOSIS**”. Offence was taken, in some quarters, because the subject matter was deemed too grave for this poor pun. The Laughing Boy design was chosen for the 1930 issue but the printers (Perkins Bacon & Co.) couldn’t get the die and plates completed in time. So the Government Printer used the 1929 design again with the less offensive slogan “**HELP PROMOTE HEALTH**”.



1929 issue



1930 issue

Note wording.

The 1932 issue also caused some controversy. The designs showed the Goddess of Health, **HYGEIA**, reclining gracefully on a pedestal holding the Cup of Health, in the health-giving rays of the rising sun. The snake around her arm is a symbol of health and healing going right back to Roman times.



1932 issue

Some did not see the design in this way and it was even said this looked like a 'modern' young woman who after she had 'partied' hard all night, sitting half naked while saluting the sunrise with a last glass of champagne. The effect of previous glasses through the night meant she was already seeing snakes. Note the absurdly positioned of the modestly draped garment.

Cf controversy over statue of Mary Wollstonecraft in Islington..

The problem with composite designs.

The **1939 Health** issue was adapted from three separate photographs. The first showed the two boys on the left playing with a small ball. See how the middle boy is holding his hands close together. The third boy, who is jumping, was obviously playing with a larger ball as can be seen by his hands being wider apart. The final photo was the background scenery. The ball was then added to complete the picture - the designer simply missed this.



After the stamps had been printed, an increase in postal rates meant they had to be overprinted with new values.



Because of war shortages, the 1939 design was used again for 1940, with just the values and colour being changed.



Due to poor sales in 1940 a large number of stamps were left unsold and consequently the same design was used again. In this case they were overprinted with the year "1941".

Another Rate change problem

The “Smiling Boys” Health stamp set did not conform to UPU regulations – why? New Zealand had raised the rate to Great Britain from ½d to 1d in June 1931 and the Inland rate from 1d to 2d. The 1d plate had been prepared and rather than spoil its appearance with a surcharge, it was printed as it was. But NZPO forgot to change the colour from red to green. The 2d stamp was issued after altering the die but in blue when it should have been in red.



Since the early 1930s was during the Great Depression not as many were sold, 74,802 of the 1d and 111,929 of the 2d, which explains why good quality 'smiling boys' are now harder to find than other health stamps from this same period.



← The 2d value tablet was added in New Zealand.
Note difference in style of value tablets. →

More artistic licence? Missing feature.

On the **1945 Health** stamps the statue of Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens in London has been simplified with the omission of the fairy on the right side beside Peter Pan's left foot.



Statue in Kensington
Gardens.



Historical inaccuracies.

The **Centennial set of 1940** has several inaccuracies and one apparent inaccuracy.

The Proclamation of British Sovereignty over New Zealand was made by Governor Hobson on 21st May 1840 **NOT** 11th August as implied on the stamp.



In May and June 1840, British sovereignty was declared over New Zealand by William Hobson and Thomas Bunbury. Signings of *te Tiriti o Waitangi* continued however, and so did other plans to colonise the country. The Britomart was sent south from Bay of Islands to prevent a party of French and German settlers making any claims to land at Akaroa. Captain Stanley had been instructed to “*act in your magisterial capacity’ and exercise civil authority rather than declare sovereignty*”, so Stanley raised the Union Jack on 11 August 1840 at Akaroa. The French and German settlers found the Union Jack already raised when they arrived.

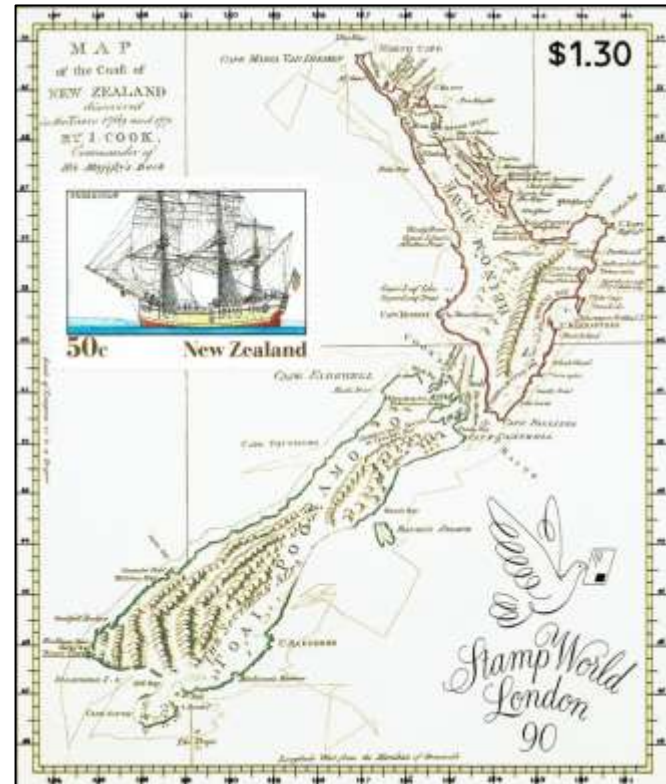
Apparent inaccuracy.

This stamp shows Captain Cook and a chart showing lines of longitude 190° and 185° west of Greenwich. At first sight these would appear to be erroneous! They would be stated as 170° and 175° east of Greenwich nowadays.



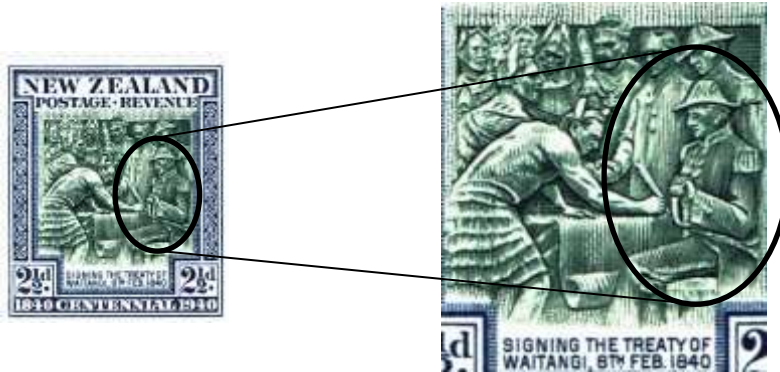
The longitude and latitude values shown are an accurate reproduction of those shown on Captain Cook's map of New Zealand.

They are technically correct working west from the Greenwich Meridian.



Captain Cook's map as shown on Miniature sheet for Stamp World London '90 with longitude along top from 194° at left to 181° at right

Historical inaccuracies.



The 2½d stamp shows Lieutenant Governor William Hobson seated in full uniform. He had expected the chiefs to take three days to mull over the Māori text of the treaty and was surprised to be called to the meeting on 6 February 1840, so he arrived at Waitangi alone and wearing plain clothes apart from his plumed hat. Yet the stamp shows him in full uniform.



No hat.

The **New Zealand Day 1974** stamp and miniature sheet also showed Hobson on it. This time signing the Treaty but in full Naval uniform without the hat. A somewhat complete over correction of the error above.

Historical inaccuracies.



The ½d stamp shows two of the Maori sporting good old “Paw Broon” moustaches. The one in the middle of the stamp is plainly obvious. However, until the arrival of the Europeans, it was the custom of Maori to remove all facial hair, so it is extremely unlikely that any of the Maori were moustachioed as shown.

Historical inaccuracies.



The **3d** stamp shows the landing of immigrants from the barques *Tory* and *Cuba* and the ship *Aurora* is depicted. However the design of the ships is wrong and they are shown as ships with double topsail yards.



The *Tory* was a three-masted barque (square rigged fore and main, fore and aft on mizen) as shown in the painting to the right.



Image of The ship 'Tory' in West India Docks; c.1840 (Museum of London).

Historical inaccuracies.

The **7d** and **8d** stamps both show the same design and colour and of course the same error. In October 1939, because of the outbreak of war, postal rates were altered and the 7d value was no longer required whereas the 8d was found necessary for use on parcels. It was therefore decided to issue the 8d in the same design as the 7d.

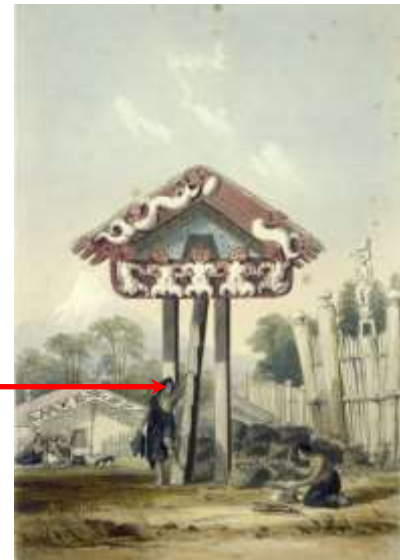


Stamps show a Maori Council but the ladder leaning against the Maori building in the background is the wrong type.



European style of ladder.

Notched pole ladder used by Maori.



Picture from Alexander Turnbull Library

Historical Inaccuracies.

The scene on the 3d stamp from the **1906 Christchurch Exhibition** set shows the “Landing of Cook”. It may not show the landing at Poverty Bay as it was a hostile encounter. More likely it shows a later landing at Tolaga Bay which was very hospitable.



The Maori Chief is shown shaking hands which would have been very unlikely as this was not a Maori custom.

The scene on the **6d stamp from the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition** set purports to show the Annexation of New Zealand but in fact it shows Captain Cook proclaiming British Sovereignty over South Island at Motuara Island in Queen Charlotte Sound in January 1770..



Cook made five visits to Ship Cove, Motuara Island, during his explorations of New Zealand, and spent 105 days in the cove repairing his ships and resting his crew. During these visits some of the earliest sustained contact between Māori and Europeans took place.

Design Inaccuracies.

There are two errors on the 1935 2/- stamp from the 2nd pictorial definitive issue.

The design shows Captain Cook at Poverty Bay with the Endeavour very close to the shore. In his journal, Captain Cook states that the Endeavour was anchored half a league (1½ miles) off-shore



The design shows Captain Cook with epaulettes. The epaulette was officially incorporated into Royal Navy uniform regulations in 1795, although some officers wore them before this date. Images of Captain Cook show he did not have epaulettes on his uniform.



Typical image of Captain Cook – no shoulder epaulettes. From painting by Arthur David McCormick.

Design Inaccuracy.

Another example of artistic licence from the 1898 first pictorial issue..

Celmesia semicordata or
Mountain Daisy correctly
depicted.



Ranunculus lyallii or Mountain
buttercup (also known as Mount
Cook buttercup, or, although not
a lily, Mount Cook lily).
Incorrect image. The flowers
should have 6 – 9 rounded
petals not 5 as shown.



Mount Cook buttercup
or Mount Cook lily.

Design Inaccuracy?

After the stamp had been on sale for some time controversy arose on the accuracy of the design of the 2d Marlborough Centennial stamp from 1959.



The Tauranga Historical Society expressed the opinion that, for the purpose of careening, Cook would not have beached the Endeavour.

General criticism referred to the position of the boat – it was claimed that it should have been shown facing out to sea.

Who is correct?

Design Inaccuracy.

The sperm whale on the **1956 Southland Centennial** stamp stands a good chance of escape as there is no rope attached to the harpoon.



Design inaccuracy on **Canterbury Centennial 1d** stamp.



Arms showing 3
wavy 8 pointed
stars



**Arms of Anglican
Diocese Of
Christchurch**

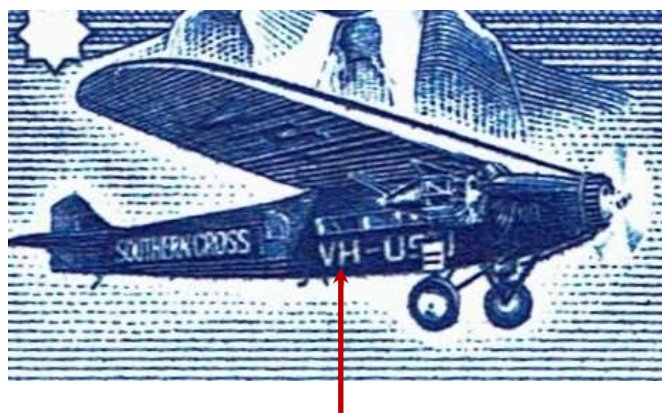
The stamps should have featured the Ecclesiastical Arms of Christchurch at top left. However the design is wrong and instead of 3 wavy 8 pointed stars there are 3 six pointed mullets with straight sides.

Design Inaccuracy and artistic licence.

The Southern Cross constellation of stars should have been depicted by four stars, each with 5 points as used previously on other New Zealand stamps and as on the New Zealand Flag.. The artist had actually shown 4 stars with 7 points and 1 with 5 points. The engraver, with approval of the Post Office, changed this to stars with 8, 7, 7, 6 and 5 points, running clockwise from the lowest star. This arrangement had been used for the 7½d Australian Olympic stamp – blame the Aussies?.



5 pointed stars on New Zealand Flag.



The Southern Cross aircraft that Kingsford Smith used for the first Trans-Tasman flight had a two bladed propellor not three bladed as depicted on the stamps of New Zealand and Australia.

Of more significance, the plane is shown with the marking VH-USU on the fuselage. At the time of the flight the marking G-AUSU appeared on the underside of the wings and not on the fuselage. The marking VH-USU was not adopted until some time after the flight.

Some other Faux Pas on New Zealand Stamps

Political Blunder.

Fiftieth Anniversary Of The Tibet Uprising Against The Illegal Chinese Occupation CAL (Customised Advertising Label).

These 50c & \$1 face value CALs (valid for postage in NZ) were being sold as protest stamps against the illegal occupation of Tibet.



Apparently these two CALs were instigated by a certain Bruce Henderson who was a thorn in the side of NZ Post for many years. He submitted a design to NZ Post business section for CALs (Customised Advertising Labels) to be printed by NZ Post. The design was approved and the required payment made. After a few covers with "Free Tibet" stickers were posted, representatives of the Chinese government made strong complaints to the NZ authorities. NZ Post demanded the return of the issued stamps, but were rebuffed on the grounds the designs had been approved and payment made to NZ Post.

Understandably no copies were included in the "annual pack" released by the philatelic bureau.

NZ Post attempted to censor all the "Free Tibet" CALs by covering all them with an obsolete international air mail sticker with limited success. Some did get through the post nevertheless.

Missing words.

The **1998 scenic definitive booklets** are well known for the missing “Marlborough Sounds” variety.



Normal
wording.



1996 Self-adhesive Scenic Definitive stamps were first released in May 1996 in dispenser boxes containing coils of 100 stamps. The issue consisted of six different stamp designs with one of the stamps showing Tory Channel, one of the Marlborough Sounds at the north end of South Island.



“Marlborough
Sounds” missing.



Only the Marlborough Sounds stamp in the middle pane showed this error. Later issues of the booklets did not show this error.

Missing “Fern”.

In February 2004 the existence of a significant error on the **2003 Christmas** stamps was discovered, after the stamps had been withdrawn from general sale – surprisingly not noticed by anyone at the time of issue.

Missing Fern.



On the sixth stamp in from the leader on the first section of the “100” roll stamps the Black Fern Logo is missing. This is not a simple missing colour; the only explanation was that the Fern Logo was not present at the relevant position on the printed sheet from which the rolls were produced - a printing plate constant error.

Best collected in strip of 6 (or more) from start of roll..

Start of
roll..



The sheets from which the “100” roll stamps were made produced 16 rolls with a total of 1600 stamps per sheet. With one stamp without the black fern logo there would only be one in 1600 stamps from the “100” rolls with this error. This was confirmed by New Zealand Post. Remaining stocks held by New Zealand Post at their bureaux were destroyed. It has been estimated that there appear to be no more than approximately 200 copies of the error extant - a scarce error.

Wrong date on First Day Cover

A miniature sheet was issued by New Zealand Post for **Le Salon du Timbre 2004 Stamp Exhibition** in Paris which opened on .26th June 2004. The image showed the All Blacks playing France at the Stade de France on 11th November 2000. The All Blacks winning by 39 points to 26.



Wording on reverse of FDC.

The Miniature Sheet image shows the All Blacks playing France at the Stade de France on 16 November 2000.

Souvenir Envelope: Eiffel Tower, Paris, France

Miniature Sheet and Souvenir Cover designed by Stamps Business, New Zealand Post.

On the reverse of the First Day over the wrong date for the All Blacks v France game is given – 16th November instead of 11th November.

Wrong date in Presentation Pack.

In the first issue of the presentation pack for the **2011 Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton set**, the wrong date was given for his birthday – it was given as 21st May 1982 instead of 21st June 1982.



When this Presentation Pack was released, an error was noted in the birth date of Prince William on the 5th page. It said **21 May 1982**. It should have been **21 June 1982**. About 200 of the packs had been issued and New Zealand Post tried to get them recalled. Of course most were not returned. The error was fixed, and the pack was re-issued with the correct date.

Missing Logo/ Computer glitch.

The stamp at row 3 no. 1 in the “**First to see the New Dawn**” sheetlets from 1st January 2000 is missing the “Millennium” motif.



“Millennium” motif.



Row 3 no. 1 stamp.

“Missing motif.”



New Zealand Post explained this error as follows:
“The omission occurred during the process converting filmwork to printing plates for the sheetlet, i.e. when stepping up the original correct filmwork/proof into final film to produce printing plates. It can be described as a computer glitch and not related to Y2K issues”.

Embarrassment.

In 1981 the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Royal Society of New Zealand sought the inclusion of a stamp in the **1982** programme to honour the **International Year of Science**.

The Post Office suffered some embarrassment when it was discovered that the United Nations Special Year of Science had not gone ahead. Newspaper headlines proclaimed “**POST OFFICE HONOURS THE YEAR THAT WASN’T**” and the matter was even raised in the New Zealand Parliament.



Unlike the other 4 stamps in the 1982 Anniversaries issue there was no year shown – **because there was no Year of Science.**

New Zealand was the only country to issue a stamp for this non-event.

Embarrassment and Re-call.

These 5 stamps were to be issued June 7th 2006. They were to highlight Maori Performing Arts - or "Kapa Haka".

Maori people were apparently extremely outraged, saying the stamps were ugly and depicted the Maori culture in a bad light.



The issue became public in the Media and New Zealand Post decided to withdraw the issue at the last minute stating “(we) have now concluded that the stamps would cause offence to some people and we have therefore decided not to issue them. Our intention is that our postage stamps carry images that celebrate aspects of New Zealand life and culture, and that can be proudly sent around the world”. Some customers (believed to be 8), but not those with standing orders, had received their orders (and had been invoiced). Efforts to retrieve them were made but not all returned them.

These stamps are legal to have as they were sold by New Zealand Post Office but are very expensive now.

More Embarrassment – another withdrawn issue.

Maori Language Petition 50th Anniversary.

At the 11th hour, just before the Aug. 3 issue date, New Zealand Post withdrew from sale its 2022 Maori Language Petition 50th anniversary stamps.

Email sent out on 3rd August 2022 – date of intended issue!!!



Māori Language Petition stamp issue

Hi David,

We're writing to notify you that the stamp issue titled 'Māori Language Petition' will not be issued on 3 August 2022 as previously announced.

This decision has been made following additional feedback from key stakeholders that was received after products were printed. While extensive consultation took place in the development of the designs, some expectations were not met and as a result the stamps cannot be issued in their current form or on the planned date.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment caused by this decision. The 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Māori Language Petition is an important commemoration for **New Zealand**, and we hope to acknowledge it at a future date.

If you pre-ordered any products in this issue, you will not be charged and no further action is required. We're looking forward to bringing you our next stamp issue, scheduled for 7 September.

Ngā mihi

The Collectables Team

More Embarrassment – another withdrawn issue.

Maori Language Petition 50th Anniversary.



Image from a July 10 New Zealand Post email to philatelic customers that shows the four Maori Language Petition 50th Anniversary stamps, a miniature sheet and first-day covers.

Fortunately, for New Zealand Post no stamps were in fact issued and the embarrassment of a recall was avoided. Clearly the use of cartoon images of indigenous peoples (Maori) should be avoided as it was deemed offensive by some.

Apparent mistakes that are not mistakes

The 1988 Heritage issue 60c stamp shows a painting by William Fox entitled “On the Grass Plain below Lake Arthur”- but where is Lake Arthur?

Reference books and gazetteers do not list Lake Arthur so where is it or is it a made up name?



William Fox, 1846, was known for his great ability at capturing the essence of the local landscape. He explored the South Island with Charles Heaphy - they were probably the first Europeans to ever sight Lake Rotorua near where he painted "Below Lake Arthur, which is one of the inland lakes of Nelson Province. From the painting title it is known that Fox called this lake as Lake Arthur, probably after Arthur Wakefield of the New Zealand Company days of 1842-1843, but obviously the Nelson settlers also knew the lake as Lake Rotorua and this persisted over Lake Arthur over the years, the name Arthur being lost."

Apparent mistakes that are not mistakes

1981 saw the centenary of the constitution of the Borough of Feilding. Was this a spelling mistake?

Feilding is a town about 20 kilometres north of Palmerston North in North Island.



Feilding has won the annual New Zealand's Most Beautiful Town award 16 times and its architecture is very Edwardian in style.

Feilding was named after Colonel, later General W. H. A. Feilding. The unusual spelling being a family name. Feilding serves the agricultural and pastoral activities in upper Manawatu.



The surname Feilding originates from Cheshire, where the name is derived from the Old English word, "felding" meaning "a dweller in an open place."

Feilding was sent out to New Zealand and Australia by the Emigrants and Colonists Aid Corporation to look at selecting land to proceed with their proposed emigration scheme for the labouring class. On 20th December 1871, an agreement was made in Wellington with the Government to purchase a block of land in Manawatu. Recruiting of emigrants could now begin in England. By 1875, when Feilding made a second visit, immigrants had been arriving for a year and, although life had been a struggle for them due to a horribly wet winter, a start had been made.

An opportunity missed and a design error.

As we all know the staging of the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020 was postponed due to the SARS COVID-19 Pandemic. It was held until tight restrictions from July 23rd to 8th August 2021 in Tokyo. New Zealand Post nevertheless issued a set of stamps in support of the New Zealand team, showcasing some of the sports where New Zealand athletes excel and would be aiming for medals. The Games should have been held between 21st July and 8th August 2020..



The \$2.70 stamp has a **design error** in that the wrong side of the hockey stick is playing the ball. Apparently the original photograph was “flipped” with ball on wrong side of stick..

“TOKYO 2020” clearly stated.



Of the sports depicted only Rugby Sevens (Gold and Silver) and Shot Put (2 Bronze) gained medals

Issue date of the set was 7th October 2020 - well after Games had been due to be held. It is suspected that NZ Post had printed the stamps – the original date for issue had been 6th May 2020 - and were keen to cover losses as the actual date of issue doesn't relate to any specific event or anniversary.

The missed opportunity - The first New Zealand team to participate in the Olympic Games was in 1920 in Antwerp with a team of 4. It would have been a great opportunity to highlight that this would have been the 100th anniversary of the New Zealand's participation in the Olympic Games – there is only a mention on the back of the first day covers and on the NZ Post web site. This could well have been a good opportunity to enhance the reasons for the issue – an opportunity missed perhaps.

The problems caused by delayed Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The delay until August 2021 of the Tokyo Paralympic Games resulted in some difficulties with the New Zealand Paralympic Games issue as well as that of the Olympic Games issue just shown. The Paralympics were held from 24 August and 5 September 2021.

Medal
totals.



As with the Olympics issue it looks like the stamps had been printed before the Games were postponed. Of the 3 athletes highlighted only Sophie Pascoe went to the Games. Cameron Leslie withdrew due to wife's pregnancy and Emma Foy retired in April 2021. The stamps were issued on 4th August 2021. NZ Post amended their publicity to say that the stamps feature three people who showcased three different sports and athletes who had represented New Zealand in previous Paralympic games.

On the miniature sheet and on the first day cover for the stamps there were numbers shown for medals won by each athlete – these, according to NZ Post were Paralympic Games medals. However after a bit of digging, it transpires they were in fact medals won at Paralympic Games and other major championships such as the Commonwealth Games and World Championships.

Sarah Pascoe was the outstanding New Zealand athlete at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games winning 2 Gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal out of a New Zealand total of 6 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals