

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Meeting held on Zoom
on Saturday 20th April 2024

Some Unusual Postcards

A display by Michael Kirwan

UNUSUAL POSTCARDS

POSTCARDS PRINTED ON UNUSUAL MATERIALS:-

Sheet No.

Leaf	2-3
Leather	4
Plywood	5-6

LEAF USED AS A POSTCARD



Leaf bearing a 1d Dominion stamp cancelled by Halfmoon Bay cds
31 December 1909.



Halfmoon Bay, Rakuira Island

Halfmoon Bay is located on the sparsely-populated Rakuira Island (also known as Stewart Island), which lies 19 miles off the south coast of South Island.

Halfmoon Bay is close to the 'capital' town of Oban, to which it gives an alternative name (see map). Hence the name given to the local Post Office which opened in 1872.



LEAF USED AS A POSTCARD (Cont'd)

Source of the Leaf

The leaf came from a **Pukeretaiko** shrub (**Brachyglottis rotundifolia**).



Brachyglottis rotundifolia (syn *Senecio rotundifolius*, *Senecio reinoldii*) is a large, evergreen shrub or small tree growing to 20 ft (6 m) in the wild, up to 10 ft (3 m) in cultivation in the UK. The rounded leaves are 2–5 in (5–12 cm) long, green above, buff beneath. The flowers are of no great beauty.

Brachyglottis rotundifolia is a common coastal shrub to the south and west of the South Island, and Stewart Island, New Zealand. It is also called muttonbird scrub. In cultivation in the UK it will withstand Atlantic gales.

NZ Plants and their Stories (1919) describes the leaves as being so closely covered with a mat of buff-coloured hairs on the under-surface that it can be written on.



Photograph of the back of the leaf postcard (ie the top surface of the leaf)

Post Office Regulations

It seems that the use of leaves for postcards became so popular that it was necessary for the following regulation to be issued in the Post Office Supplement in September 1912:-

"Loose tree leaves are not to be accepted for transmission by post to any address"

PLYWOOD POSTCARD



Produced for marketing purposes by plywood manufacturers ELLIS VENEER CO LTD of Manuni, and distributed at the 1940 Centennial Exhibition in Wellington.

*"SPECIFY NZ TIMBERS AND KEEP NEW ZEALANDERS BUSY INSTEAD OF
SUPPORTING FOREIGN WORKERS BY USING IMPORTED WOOD"*

REVERSE (photo)



"THERE'S NEW ZEALAND TIMBER FOR EVERY PURPOSE—USE IT!"

PLYWOOD POSTCARD (cont'd)

POSTALLY USED CARD



Addressed to Christchurch, cancelled with Wellington CI cds dated 7Feb 1940

REVERSE (photo)

"A MESSAGE ON N.Z. WOOD"



"Just a souvenir direct from the Exhibition"