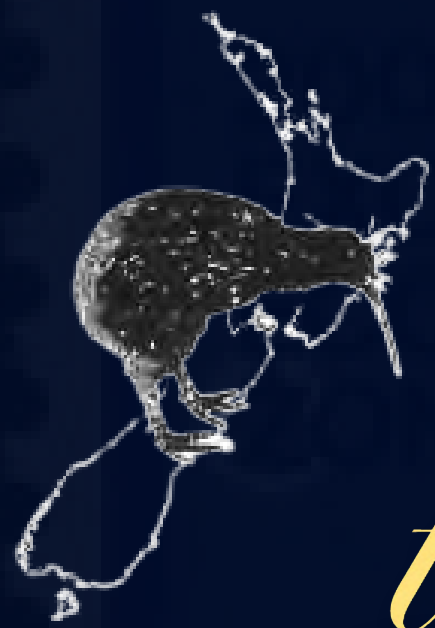




the manuscript
CHATHAM ISLANDS
postmark

PRESENTED TO THE NZ SOCIETY OF GB APRIL 2025
BY BENJAMIN J. COOPER



Presentation **OVERVIEW**

Maps
Where on earth are the Chatham Islands?

Context
Early Postal History

The Chalon
A closer look at my stamp

Where on earth are the...
CHATHAM ISLANDS?

The Chatham archipelago are a small group of islands situated 800km east of New Zealand (almost two hours flying time).

Only two islands are inhabited – Chatham and the smaller Pitt Island – with a total population twice that of Lord Howe Island.



2009 NZ Tikki Tour
miniature sheetlet
(note the 50¢ stamp depicting
the Chatham Islands lobster)



Exploring the historical context through
EARLY POSTAL HISTORY

Colonial Secretary's Office, Auckland,
4th July, 1856.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been
pleased to appoint

A. W. SHAND, Esq.,
to be Postmaster at the Chatham Islands.

By His Excellency's command,
C. W. RICHMOND,
Colonial Secretary.

New Zealander Vol. 12 No. 1067 (9 July 1856), 4

"The position of Postmaster enabled letters to be left in Shand's hands for despatch onwards by the first suitable ship and with postage charges prepaid." (R.M. Startup)

**CHATHAM
ISLES
MAILS**

R. M. STARTUP

Exploring the historical context through
EARLY POSTAL HISTORY

"Adhesive postage stamps had been issued in New Zealand in July 1855 and it is possible that Shand received stocks of stamps... [10/- worth of Richardson Prints by 1859]"

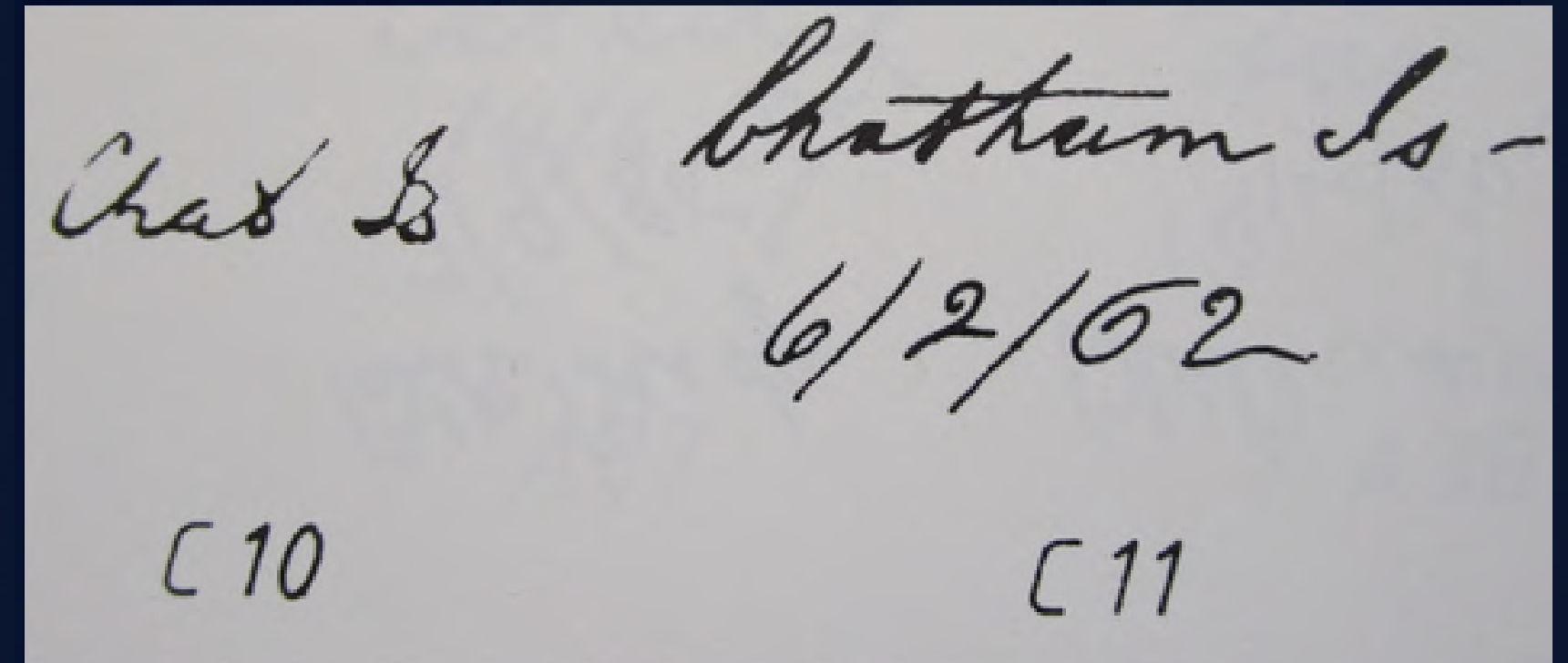
Startup, Robin McGill. 1975. *Chatham Isles Mails*.
Auckland: Postal History Society of New Zealand.



Exploring the historical context through **EARLY POSTAL HISTORY**

- "Stamps were in use in the Chathams by 1860 as a stamp cancelled in manuscript by pen and ink has been recorded" (11).
- "...prepayment of postage stamps became obligatory in 1862."
- "...manuscript cancellations, now of some rarity, were used until a datestamp was received in 1863."

Startup, Robin McGill. 1975. *Chatham Isles Mails*. Auckland: Postal History Society of New Zealand.



Marshall, A.R. 1983. *New Zealand Postal Manuscripts*. Auckland: Postal History Society of New Zealand.

The manuscript Chalon
A CLOSER LOOK AT MY STAMP

New Zealand

July 1865 (plate 2)

2d blue Queen Victoria (FFQ)

Large Star Watermark

Perf. 12 ½

SG114

(not SG113!)



According to Te Ara (online Encyclopedia of NZ) & The Wellington Independent Vol. 8 No. 1960 (22 September 1863), p. 2, the first postmaster, A.W. Shand, was replaced by Captain William Thomas in 1863.

Startup, however, records his appointment as "Resident Magistrate" from 11 April 1865, having got this record from the Public Relations Division at the Post Office Headquarters in Wellington.

Startup, Robin McGill. 1975. Chatham Isles Mails. Auckland: Postal History Society of New Zealand.

Annex 1 - Postmasters		
[Details provided by Public Relations Divison, Post Office Headquarters,Wellington		
<u>Chatham Islands</u> (Waitangi from 19 November 1927)		
4 July 1856	Archibald W Shand	Resident Magistrate
11 April 1865	William Esdaille Thomas	" "
1 March 1871	R J Lanauze	" "
1 March 1872	Thomas McDonnell	(doubtful if took up position)
1 March 1873	Samuel Deighton	Resident Magistrate
2 September 1891	F J W Gascoigne	" "
1 June 1898	Robert S Florence	" "
24 March 1904	Richard W Rayner	Police Constable
*1 January 1908	William Matthews	" "
7 December 1910	Henry Scott	" "
14 March 1915	George H Fry	" "
30 June 1919	L H Steel	Radio Superintendent
25 August 1920	A Pellow	" "
16 February 1923	A L M Willis	" "
21 October 1926	T Gates	" "
4 June 1930	L J Elliston	" "
26 February 1933	D McMahon	" "
18 November 1940	C N Hair	" "
14 January 1944	J U Bonisch	" "
22 October 1952	C R Wylie	" "
3 June 1953	R J Colomb	" "
31 August 1957	J F Ryan	" "
31 January 1966	K W Walford	" "
9 May 1967	D C Boye	" "
1 January 1968	W J Porter	Permanent Postmaster
29 October 1968	R J Weston	" "
* gap between Rayner's death and appointment of Matthews filled by a local resident.		
<u>Chatham Islands Radio</u>		
26 May 1913	John L Davis	Radio Superintendent
24 March 1914	R S Wheeler	" "
6 September 1916	W F C Whiteman	" "
8 October 1917	L H Steel	" "
(then as listed above)		
29 September 1967	D E Horan	" "
<u>Pitt's Island</u>		
1 May 1873	Frederick Hunt	Farmer
about 1879	closed.	

FFA2.2. N.Z. above the date
Used at Chatham Islands, Christchurch and Wellington, the latter having both a single datestamp and one used in duplex with the "070" obliterator.



FFA2.3. N.Z. at the base
All the recorded FFA type datestamps supplied to Hawkes Bay offices were of this style—Clive, Puketapu, Shakespeare Road, Waipawa, Waipukurau and Wairoa. It is possible that further unrecorded datestamps of this type were provided to other Hawkes Bay offices.

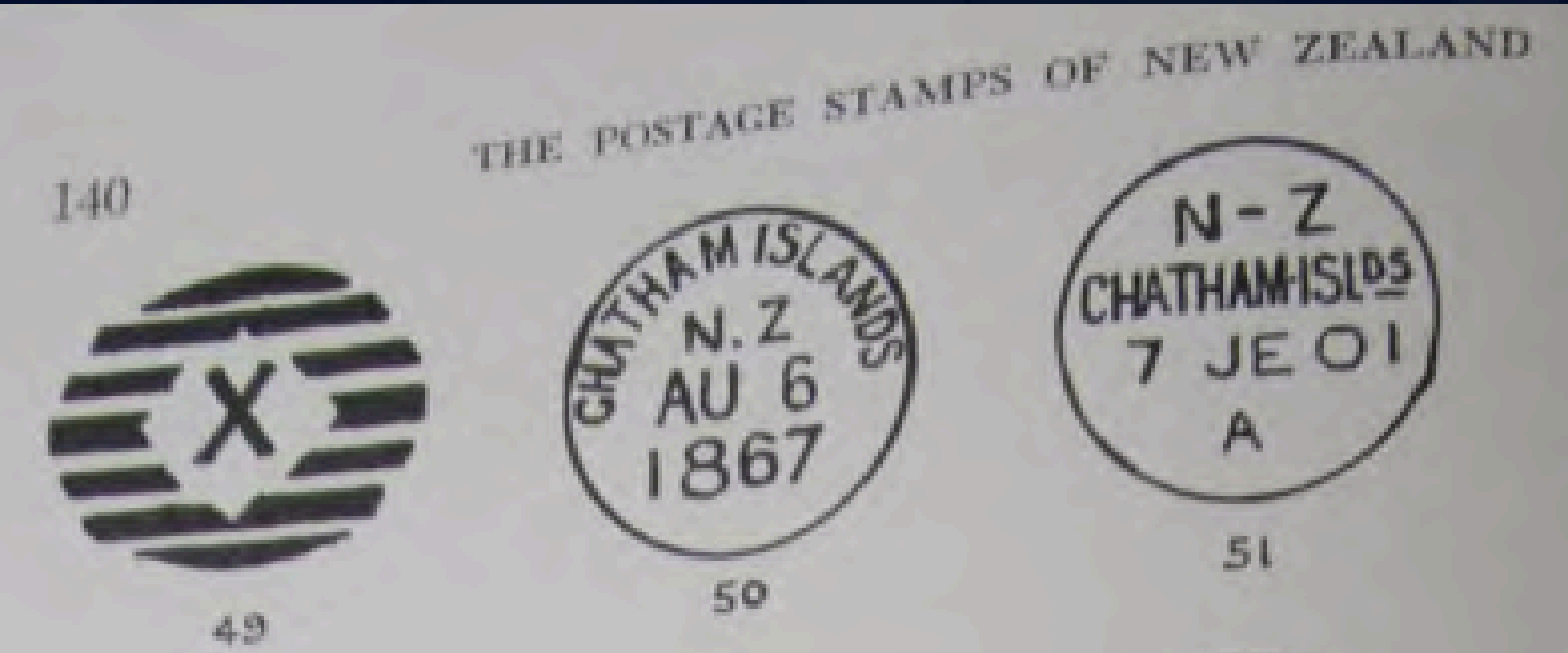
The Postage Stamps of New Zealand
Vol. 7 (1974), 165

"The Chatham Islands office was using an obliterator (No. 49) and a date-stamp (No. 50) in 1865."

The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Vol. 3 (1974), 140

TABLE 1
Circular Framed Datestamps—FFA Datestamps with Name in Arc

	D/S Type	Proof	Earliest	Latest
ANDRA, OTAGO	3.2	JY 27 1865		
W RIVER	3.3	MY31 63	JY 6 63	AU 25 75
LAND	1.3		7 JUL 1864	JAN 4 1865
LAND	1.4	OC 27 1862/C	AP 27 1863	JN 25 1871
LAND	1.2		FE 24 66	DE 10 74
ERE	3.3			SP 21 83
LUTHA	3.2		FE 14 66	DC 20 72
HEIM	3.3		OC 7 63	JU 5 73
BELLTOWN	3.2	NO 29 64	OC 12 65	AP 2 70
CHATHAM ISLANDS	2.2	AP 20 1863	DE 25 1865	MY 15 1877
CHRISTCHURCH	2.2		JAN 23 1863	AUG 24 1865



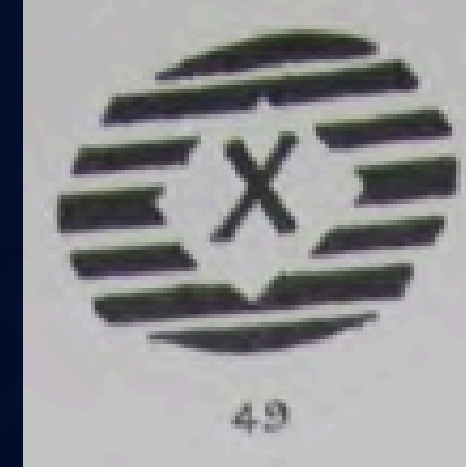
Exploring the historical context through **EARLY POSTAL HISTORY**

The Summer Sale (Schuyler J. Rumsey, 2020): Lot 297

"New Zealand, **1864**, Queen Victoria "Chalon Head", 6d red brown, **perf 12½, Large Star watermark**, vertical pair, tied on piece by barred "X" in oval cancels with matching "Chatham Islands, De 26, 1865" town postmark, F.-V.F., a rare usage from the Chatham Islands. Scott No. 36." [Sold for USD\$290]

"The earliest recorded item from the Chatham Islands is dated 1865. Stamps at that time were obliterated by a cross in a barred oval, and a single-circle date stamp inscribed CHATHAM ISLANDS around the circumference was used (Fig. 1).

Collins, Peter. 1971. "The Chatham Islands". *Campbell Paterson Bulletin* 8 (6): 3-4.



Exploring the historical context through **EARLY POSTAL HISTORY**

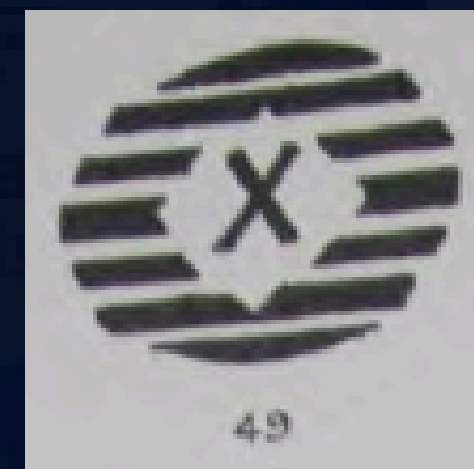
There follows a strong section of postal district cancellations including a fine 1868 envelope from Chatham Island to New Plymouth with the X within bars cancellation and a wonderful 1871 envelope from Hokitika to Switzerland which bears 1864-67 2d. pair and 3d. lilac (two pairs) each cancelled "W" (Westland). a most unusual and fascinating lot to mention in conclusion comprises the 1864 envelope from Leeds to "Private Jonas Bell H.M. 68 Light Infantry, Te-Pa-Pa Camp Tauranga", with its counterpart addressed to "George Bell, Bookseller, Covered Market Leeds, from 3631 Pte. Jonas Bell, 68th L.I."

The collection
is being sold
on 8th November
1977 by

ROBSON LOWE LTD.
50 PALL MALL, LONDON SW1Y 5JZ

Telephone: 01-839 4034

Telex 915410



The manuscript Chalon
A CLOSER LOOK AT MY STAMP

New Zealand

July 1865 (plate 2)

2d blue Queen Victoria (FFQ)

Large Star Watermark

Perf. 12 ½

SG114





Lee & Watts (*The Chalon Issues*)

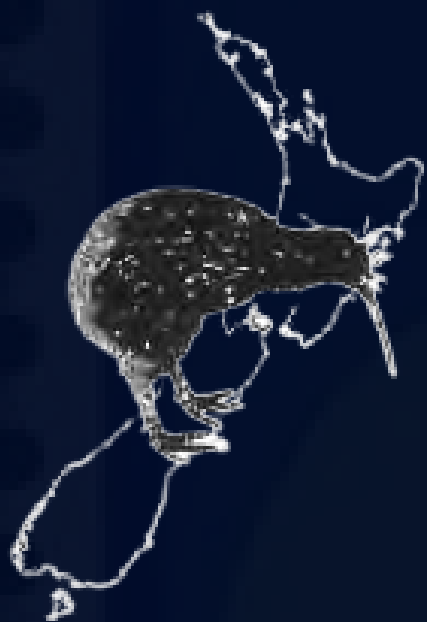
Earliest recorded date for use of plate 2 is
23rd December 1865

Campbell Paterson has it as July 1865.

The earliest recorded date for the first
Chatham Island date stamp (FFA 2.2) is
recorded in Vol 7 of the handbooks as 25th
December 1865 (likely the aforementioned
item auctioned by Schuyler Rumsey
Philatelic Auctions).

So did two ships visit the Chatham Islands
around this time, first bringing new 2d plate
2 stamps, one of which receiving a
manuscript cancel before the next brought
the new date stamp which was used on the
25th December?





THANK YOU

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