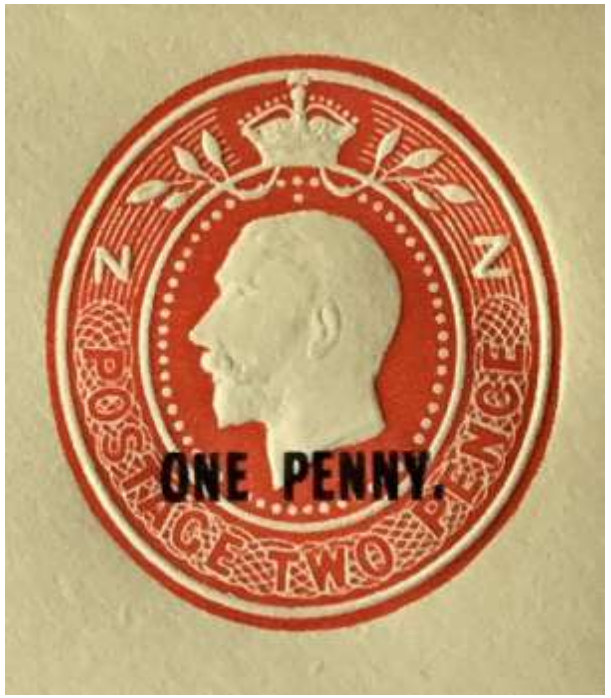
The Beginnings of Pre-stamped Mail













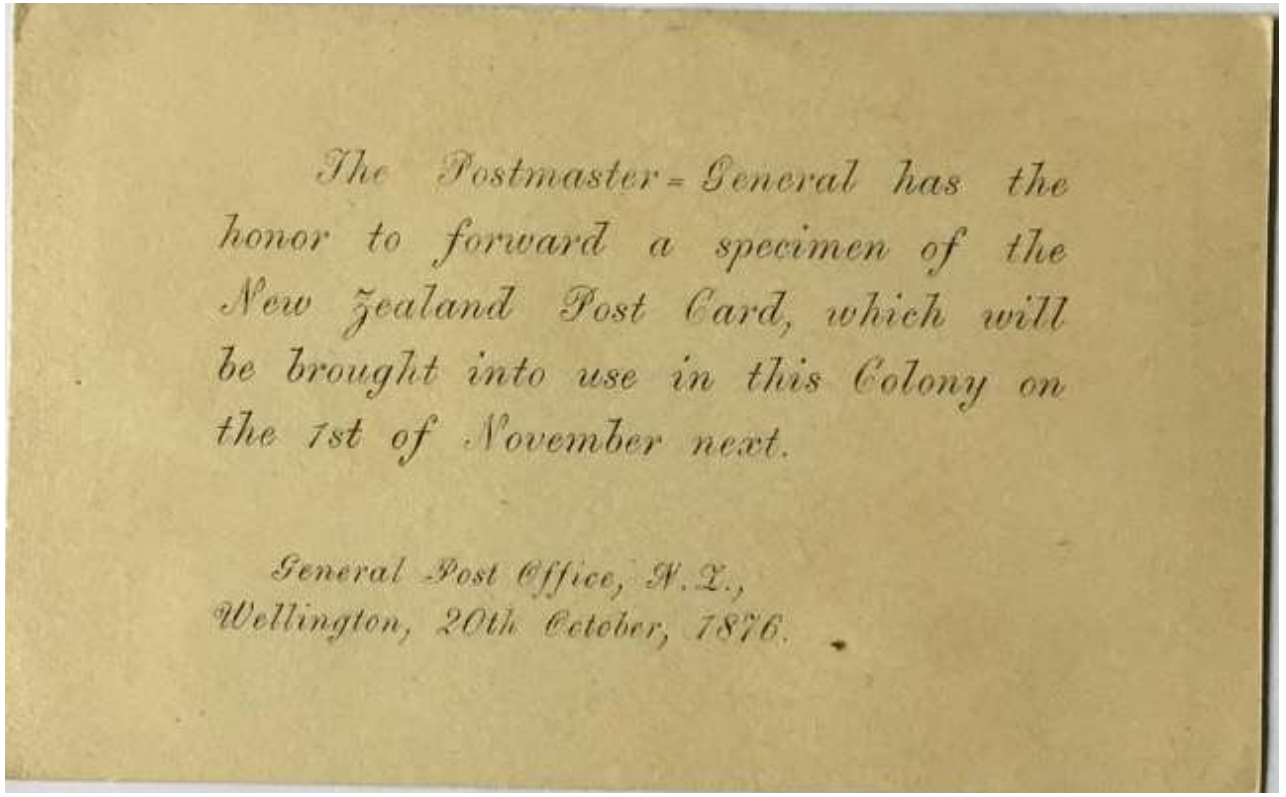
The Beginnings of Pre-stamped Mail

POSTCARDS

The first New Zealand postcard was issued in 1876 ‘to supply a general want, by enabling messages, orders, notices and other short communications to be transported at a nominal rate’.

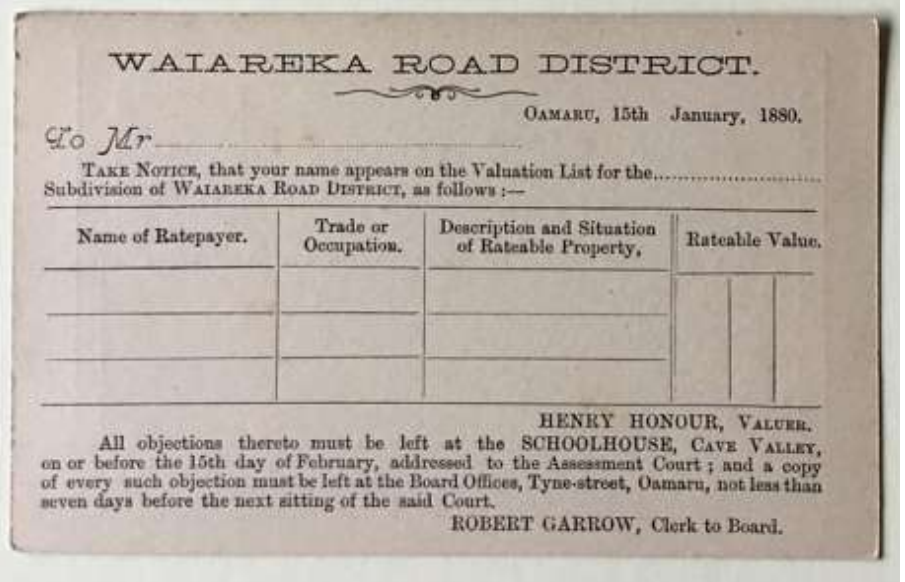
The card shown is a specimen for sending to postmasters and important personages prior to the date of issue.





Commerce was quick to see the potential in these popular postcards and both privately printed and printed to private order examples were soon on the scene.









NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS

Newspapers, the major source of information at the time, were delivered free of charge between 1840 and 1864, when a charge was introduced. A ½d newspaper stamp was produced in 1873, based on the 1870 Great Britain ½d stamp, and this was used on the first newspaper wrapper issued in 1878.



Great Britain ½d stamp issued in 1870

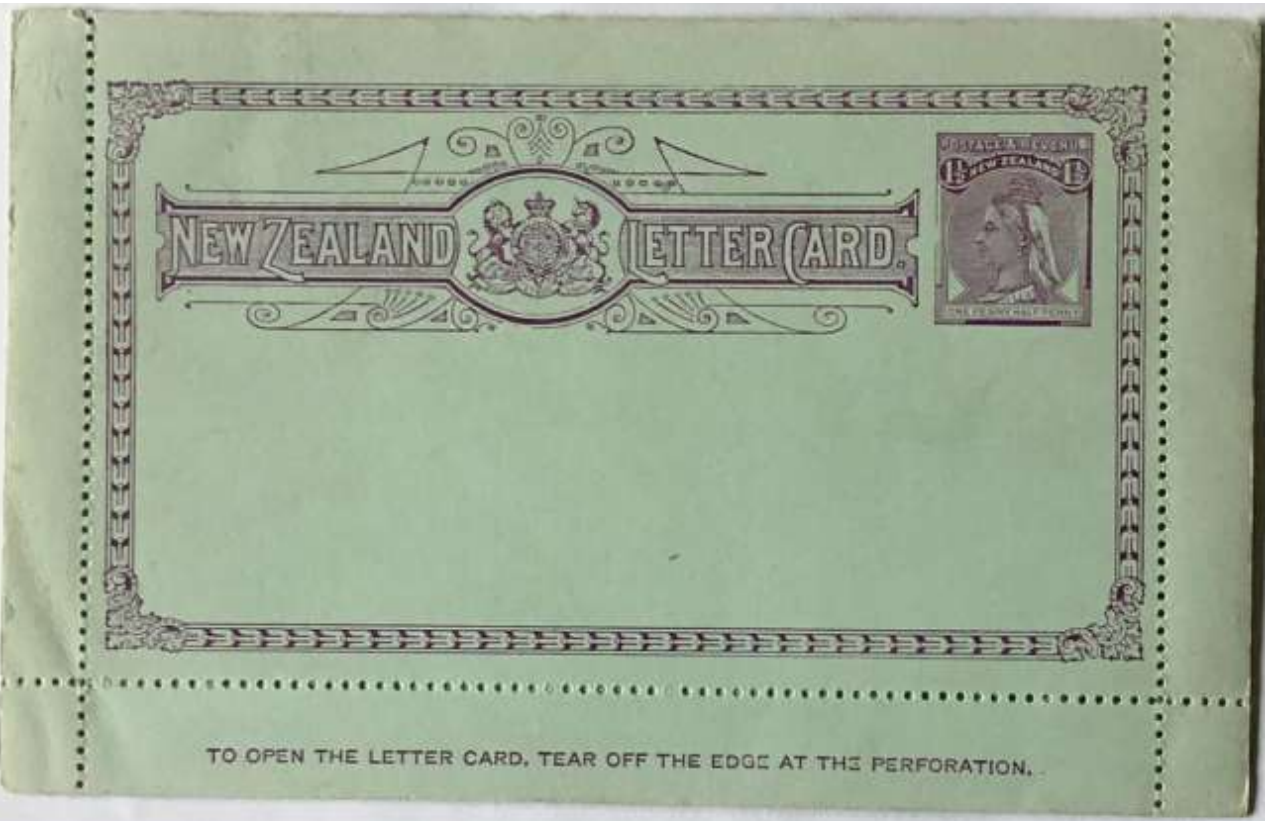


1878 ½d wrapper printed on unwatermarked smooth, thick white/cream paper.

LETTERCARDS

1895 saw the introduction of the first lettercard, a folding greenish sheet with views of New Zealand on the back.

It met with such a huge demand that the Government Printer eventually had to use whatever coloured card was available.





REGISTERED ENVELOPES

Formula Registered Envelopes were available in New Zealand from 1884 but they bore no stamps.
In 1898, three differently sized registered envelopes were issued pre-printed with a 3d blue stamp of identical design to the 3d adhesive first sideface issue of 1874

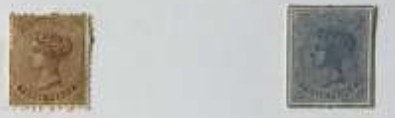
There is no indication that these envelopes, available in four increasing sizes designated F, G, H and H2, were from New Zealand.



Size F formula envelope



F Size formula envelope with 1d and 6d second sideface stamps attached sent from Sydenham on AP 2 89 to Christchurch where it arrived on the same day.



The 3d stamp, which was printed on the semi-circular flap, covered only the registration fee as indicated below the stamp; additional stamps had to be affixed for the postage.

The envelopes were produced by McCorquodale and Co. using a linen-lined paper but, unlike the formula envelopes, this was not shown under the flap.



This F size envelope shows the number printed and the job date 10,000/5/98–2705 on the front. significant break at the centre of the top frame line and the very blotchy impression of the stamp indicate extensive wear of the electro.



Code numbers were assigned to the different sizes of envelope and these are printed at the bottom left on the back of the envelopes, here Env. No. 67.

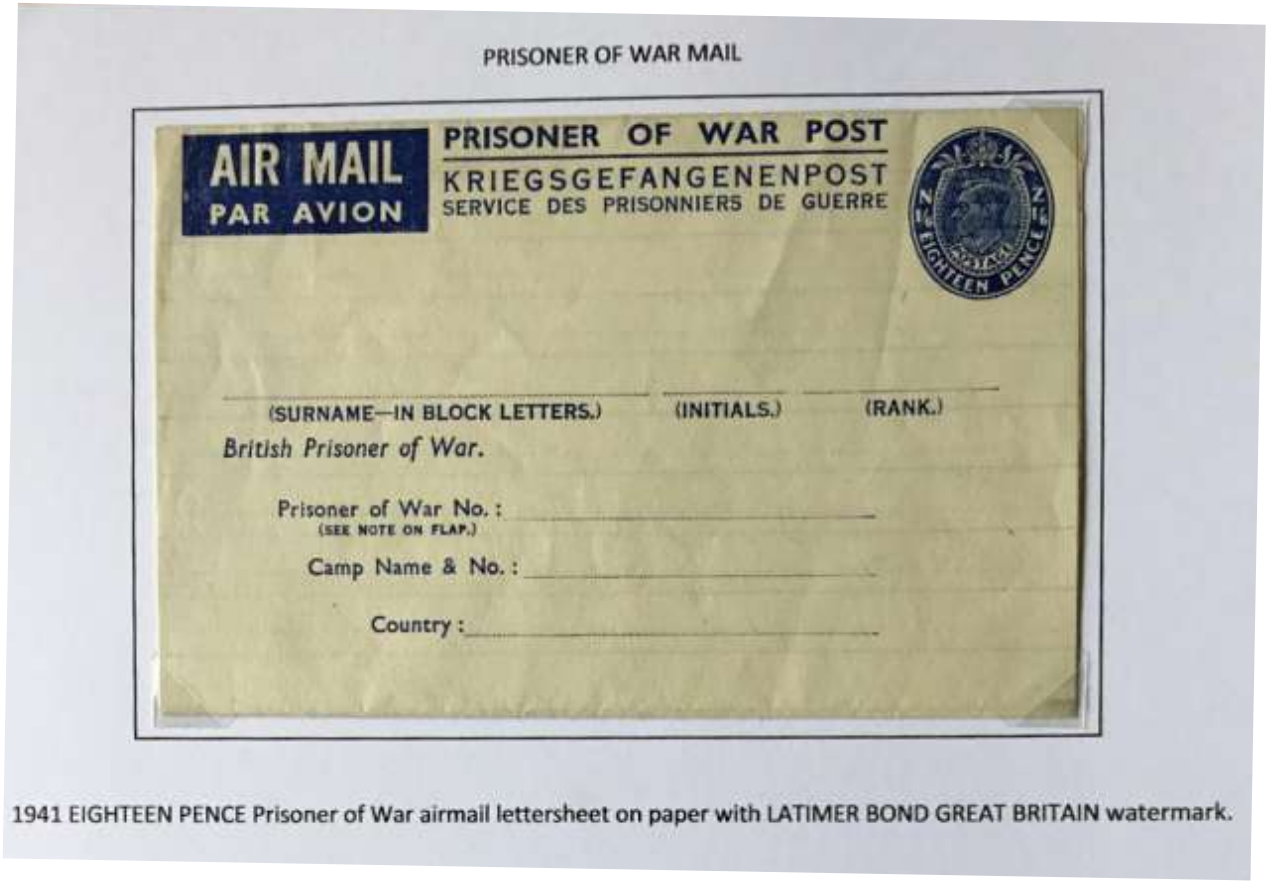
ENVELOPES

Three values of the 1898 pictorial set were printed on variously sized envelopes in 1899.



AEROGRAMMES AND AIRMAIL ENVELOPES

The first Prisoner of War aerogramme was issued in 1941 and airmail envelopes appeared in 1969



1941 EIGHTEEN PENCE Prisoner of War airmail lettersheet on paper with LATIMER BOND GREAT BRITAIN watermark.

