

# THE KIWI

Hon. Sec.  
Mrs. M. Erskine,  
12 Elliot Road,  
London, N.W. 4.



February/March  
1953,  
Volume Two.  
Number One.

W. H. YOUNG

## THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

In presenting this current issue of "The Kiwi" in its new format and style the first matter I wish to draw to the attention of members is our programme of meetings. In our last issue we were able to announce the dates, and the programme so far arranged for these are as follows:--

### MARCH 18TH

A Display and Talk by Dr. K. J. L. Scott on New Zealand Postal History and early cancellations etc. The speaker is a New Zealander and this promises to be a most entertaining evening. All members able to attend are urged to do so, and as we have adequate accommodation at the Kingsley Hotel, on this occasion they are cordially invited to bring friends along to hear Dr. Scott.

### MAY 20TH

The arrangements for this meeting will be similar to the very successful meeting held on January 21st, namely short Displays and Talks by four or five members ranging from the early issues to the moderns.

### JULY 15TH

A half an hour Display and Talk by a Guest Speaker will be followed by an auction sale which will be limited to between 60 and 70 selected lots - obviously all New Zealand material.

### SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS

These will be held on September 16th and November 18th (A.G.M.) All the aforementioned will be held at the Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury Way, W.C.1., the dates in each case being the 3rd Wednesday in alternate months. I would again remind members that our meeting room is available from 6.p.m., the business commencing promptly at 6.30.p.m. The proceedings usually finish between 8.p.m. and 8.30.p.m. and for those who require it Dinner is available in the Restaurant up until 9.30p.m.

## Secretary's Notes (2)

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

These became due on November 15th last and with the December issue of "The Kiwi" a remittance form was sent to each member. Although the response has been very good there are still almost forty outstanding. If, in this number of "The Kiwi", you find another copy of the remittance form it means that your subscription and/or details of your philatelic interests has or have not yet been received.

Will those members in question please give the matter their immediate attention. Thank you.

### NEW MEMBERS

Since the last list was published in October 1952 the following have been elected to membership:-

- A. Ambury, Box 406, Hamilton, New Zealand.
- R. W. McKay, 4 Nuns Moor Road, Fenham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 4.
- Dr. A. A. Clark, 1 Drumary Road, Clydebank, Glasgow.
- W. K. Perian, 28 Edenhall Road, Quinton, Birmingham, 32.
- C. Zentner, 2 Sussex Place, London, W. 2.
- R. J. G. Collins, Box 316, G. P. O., Christchurch C. 1. New Zealand.
- R. G. Barnes, Flat 7, 11 Albany Villas, Hove, Sussex.
- R. Bles, Pr. Julianalaan 25d, Rotterdam-O, Holland.
- J. J. Bishop, 69 Ranfurly Rd, Epsom, Auckland, S. E. 3. New Zealand.
- W. H. Young, 23 Angel Close, Edmonton, London, N. 18.
- P. Jump, The Folds, Seisdon, Nr. Wolverhampton.
- A. W. R. Mair, Wellesley, 45 Westburn Road, Aberdeen.
- D. V. H. Givan, 62 Banstead Rd, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.
- J. R. Hinvest, 52 Trafalgar Road, Horsham, Sussex.
- J. H. Winter, 38 Tavistock Drive, Mapperley Park, Nottingham.
- T. Beekenkamp, Waterworks Cottage, Victoria Rd, Wargrave, Berks.

As soon as the outstanding forms referred to at the top of this page have been received a new Alphabetical List of Members will be published together with their interests and specialities, if any, and the committee feel sure that this will be a much appreciated feature.

### NEW ZEALAND STAMPS BY WEIGHT

A member of the committee has put forward the suggestion that if a suitable source of supply can be found for New Zealand stamps by weight on paper, say in 10 or 20 lbs lots, at a reasonable price per lb, there may be several members who might like to share in the cost and take proportionate quantities. The supply end is now being investigated, and any member who may be interested in taking one or more lbs of such material is invited to write to me so that I can estimate the total requirements. The anticipated price would be around 15/-s per lb.

## NEW ZEALAND DEPENDENCIES

(S. W. Salmon)

I first became interested in the stamps of the New Zealand dependencies when I decided to increase my New Zealand collection, which by this time had reached the stage when most of the stamps that I could afford to buy were already in it, except for new issues and varieties picked up as normals. I found that these stamps of the dependencies made an ideal addition, and as the collection grew I became more and more interested in them.

The dependencies of New Zealand consisting of Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa, are situated in the South Pacific, and are mostly made up of a number of larger islands most of which are inhabited, and many smaller ones, which are usually coral atolls. These groups of islands have from time to time issued some very interesting and indeed beautiful stamps, particularly the pictorial ones showing views of the islands, native occupations and even historical events. The islands of Aitutaki and Penrhyn are also situated within these groups and from 1902 until 1932 issued their own stamps, but as they actually belong to the Cook Island group they now use the stamps of those islands.

With the exception of Cook Islands and Samoa, the first stamps of these islands were those of New Zealand overprinted with the name of the island, and in some cases surcharged with the value printed in the native language. Cook Islands used these types of stamps from 1919 and were overprinted Rarotonga which is the name of the largest island in the group, Samoa used the overprinted stamps from 1914 after the island was annexed from the Germans. Many of the varieties found on the earlier New Zealand stamps are also to be found on these overprinted stamps such as Re-entries, retouches etc., together with an interesting number of overprint varieties, including broken letters and numerals, missing dots, miss-spacing of letters and many others. The Postmarks of these Islands can also form an interesting collection, apart from the actual post offices, there are to be found many types of cancellations with inks varying in shades from Red to purple and from blue to black.

The next issue in 1920 was a pictorial one, the designs being common to Cook Islands (still using Rarotonga as the country name), Niue, Aitutaki and Penrhyn Island, with values from  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1/-, this issue was on unwatermarked paper. On the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. there is to be found an interesting re-entry consisting of a doubling of the Sailing Ship on the left of the stamp and on the 1d. value a doubling

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of the crane also on the left of the stamp. During 1925 and 1927 the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. values were re-issued on watermarked paper showing the NZ and Star used on New Zealand stamps of that period.

The issue which followed was again a pictorial one, and as by now Aitutaki and Penhryn Island had ceased to issue their own stamps the designs were common to Cook Islands and Niue. This set was first issued in 1932 on unwatermarked paper; in this issue a number of perforation changes were made, and again issued in 1933 on paper watermarked with Single NZ and Star. Next follows the Silver Jubilee Issue in which the 1d. 2d. and 6d. values were overprinted "Silver Jubilee Of King George V. 1910 - 1935. Several interesting varieties are to be found on the overprinting such as narrow Ks and Ns. The Coronation issue follows next and these consist of the Coronation stamps of New Zealand overprinted with name of the island in Black.

In 1938 the first stamp was issued showing the portrait of King George VI this being on the 1/- value. Two new values were added, 2/- and 3/-, these were pictorials, the 2/- showing a native village, and the 3/- showing a native canoe amid tropical scenery. These three stamps were on paper with the watermark Single NZ and Star, the design being common to Cook Islands and Niue.

The watermarks of the values  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3/- were again changed in 1944 to Multiple NZ and Stars, it being found upright on the values 2d. to 6d. and the 3/-, and sideways on the other values. The gum on this issue is invariably of a dark brown, this being an invaluable guide when sorting these issues.

Higher value stamps 2/6 to £5 of these two islands and also those of Samoa were Arms Type High Values of New Zealand, overprinted with the name of the Island. These first appeared on Single watermark paper, but most of these have now changed to Multiple watermark.

A very beautiful Pictorial set was issued by Cook Islands in 1949, showing Capt. Cook on some values and native scenes on others. This was followed in 1950 by Niue who issued a pictorial set on similar lines, and in 1952 by Samoa, again showing scenes of native life.

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## THE APTERYX

(T.I. Robinson)

The apteryx, the flightless bird of New Zealand, more popularly known as the Kiwi, is about the size of a domestic hen, averages less than five pounds in weight, and is covered with long brown feathers, which look like coarse hairs.

The name Kiwi is most probably derived from the bird's call, which is like a long 'ki', followed by a short 'wi'. They start calling in the evening at all times of the year, but as they are nocturnal birds, are silent during the daytime. At one time these birds were thought to be virtually extinct, but due to the rigorous protection given by the New Zealand government the birds are now more numerous than is generally believed.

The bird has no tail, only vestiges of wings, and short powerful legs. The female is lighter in colour and larger than the male. The long beak is unique, in that the nostrils are at the tip instead of the base as in other birds and it is very strong and hard; the bird drives it into the ground after worms and insects, often working it around until there is a hole four or more inches across, blowing the dirt out of its nostrils all the time. Being nocturnal, its sight is poor in daylight, but it has a very keen sense of smell and acute hearing.

The Kiwi's egg weighs nearly one pound, roughly twice the weight of a goose's egg. Three eggs sometimes four are laid at monthly intervals and the average time of incubation is 75 days.

The hatching and the rearing of the young birds is left entirely to the male bird and two or three days after the first egg is laid he takes over. At first the nest consists of a few sticks in a depression in the ground, but each time he leaves the nest he returns carrying straws and twigs until it becomes quite big, later he lines it with feathers from his breast. He gets very savage if disturbed on the nest and will hiss and snarl like a cat. When the first egg hatches, he eats the shell and blocks up the entrance to the nest, keeping it blocked till he allows the chick to leave the nest when about five days old.

The chick is hatched fully feathered, a miniature of the parent birds. When at about the fifth or sixth day the male clears the nest opening, the chick at once starts looking for food, driving its little beak into the ground after worms; when it weighs only about 12 ounces it will eat twice its weight in worms in 24 hours. The young birds go out to feed at any time, day or night, but when fully grown they feed only at night.

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"THIS IS THE ONLY COPY KNOWN"

(F. Stacey Hooker)

How often have we heard this; in fact at a meeting of this Society last month, a member made a similar remark in all sincerity, and in earlier years I have made the same statement, not only in connection with stamps, but also on my other hobby (Toby Jugs).

In the case of a particular shade or four sided perforation there must originally have been at least one sheet of 240 stamps, but how many survive today is any person's guess. It would be reasonable to say that 75% went straight into destruction on arrival of the letter and say 15% were preserved on the envelopes by non-philatelists (perhaps a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of these eventually got into the hands of a collector). The remaining 10% are in stamp albums and not in every case known to the owner as a rare stamp. This means that the stamp of which I have the "only one" is also lurking in about 28 other places and the owners may or may not ever meet each other. Many years ago some full face stamps were given to a distinguished visitor to N.Z. and the scribes all say that only six were so issued and overprinted "cancelled". They had gum on the back. During the past two years I have seen five of these in the hands of different people, not the same one circulating from one to the other. If I have seen five, surely in N.Z. and the rest of the world there are a good many more.

I was left alone in the house today and having nothing in particular to do in the time of my loneliness I wrote the foregoing and hope it will not start a hare.

"LOOSE LETTERS"

"I feel that I ought to know the answer but as there may be others who do not know, I will risk it! What precisely is the meaning of the New Zealand Postal Cancellation 'Loose Letters'? I have several of these, and if a kindly member could supply the answer I, for one, would be grateful."

Following receipt of the foregoing I obtained definitions from various sources and, believe it or not, they were all at variance. So, what is a "loose letter"?

Quite a number come out of the U.S.A. I am told, and Australia (and Papua) also. Are they letters posted in a movable Post Box attached to a train or steamer? Are they "Paquebot" or "Posted on Board"? Are they "T.P.O's" or "R.P.O's"? Information, please.

## AUCTION SALES AND PACKETS

(H.P. MUNDAY)

Congratulations on your remarks about prices at the auction and in the packets - how right you are.

Dealers have a fixed idea that Specialists will pay more for stamps than the general collector. The contrary is the case - specialists know exactly what they are willing to pay for the stamps they want.

In the last packet I received there was a nice mint pair, I would have liked, priced 9/-. I checked with Campbell Patersons new catalogue (which is surely the most up-to-date guide to values) their price was 7/-.

Sellers must get it into their heads that we are not going to pay over 2/- to circulate a packet, unless they make their prices attractive. We are not going to pay more than we would to old-established dealers like Gibbons, or Bridger & Kay, (postal cost 2½d. to me).

Another point is that catalogue prices don't mean a thing, unless the stamp is in perfect condition. There were far too many stamps in the packets that no self-respecting collector would put in his album. A few of the contributors used unpeelable half-mounts on mint stamps - this to my mind makes any mint worthless.

I would assure you that I do not seek stamps at "Knock-Out" prices - I am willing to pay a fair price, and often pay full-catalogue - but I am not to be fooled by dealers who price their stamps with hope instead of logic.

## "CRUELTY TO STAMPS"

Ruthlessly pulled from between the sheets where I and my fellow prisoners had been sleeping, I am flung naked upon a table. I am unhinged. No wonder my persecutor detects a colour change. Minutely examined through his passion-filled eyes, no portion of me is sacred. I am tightly squeezed between steel prongs and flung first upon my back, picked up again and flung on my face - soaked in petrol! - held to a light!! -- Why no Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Stamps?

(With acknowledgment to The Auckland Philatelic Society)

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NOTES FROM NEW ZEALAND

(Douglas Edsall)

Owing to the increase in inland and overseas postal rates in New Zealand it was found necessary to overprint the current 1d green 3d to meet the demand as the ordinary current 3d were running short. These overprints were issued in December (Christchurch - December 12th). No regular "first day" of issue as post offices were supplied with overprints as their supply of current 3d ran short. These overprints will be "called in" when the new supply of current 3d arrive from Home; the 3d overprints are now on sale at all New Zealand post offices. As the sheet of stamps had to be "trimmed" to fit the plate the bottom selvedge is cut short consequently the plate numbers are cut into, but in most cases there is sufficient left to identify the plate; I have seen 117 and 118 so far. I believe seven plates were overprinted.

I have not heard of any "varieties" in the 3d overprints yet. The last surcharge of value we had, on the 1½d brown, surcharged to 2d, had one good variety; the D broke in one place and was re-inserted by a hand stamp; a scarce item.

Some postal stationery has been surcharged to meet the increased rates. The 5d value "Counter coil" variety is now on issue with printed number in selvedge. I do not think the 1d value with printed number in selvedge will be issued. The set of these "coils" to date is 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, and 6d with handstamped number in selvedge and 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 1/-d, and 1/3d with printed number in selvedge, the complete set is 15 pairs in all. There was a previous issue of these "counter coils" when the Pictorials were on issue, with just pencil numbers in selvedge, but no one seems to have taken any interest in them, consequently they are extremely rare; as the numbers are in pencil they could be very easily forged. The idea of having such "coils" on the counter to facilitate the handling of stamps by the Post Office clerks, for these coils were not available to the public, was not popular so I do not think the practice will continue with the new Queen Elizabeth stamps.

The Coronation issue will be on sale in June and will remain on sale until sold out so the new definitive issue, which will now include values of 5/-d and 10/-d will not be on sale until, approximately, September.

LITERATURE.

Members of the Society may be interested to know of a new book which is being published shortly. The subject is the Booklet and Dot Plates of the 1d Universal; it is a very comprehensive survey of these plates and contains many new facts. The price will be 20/-d (or bound in a fashion similar to Vol. I. and II of the Handbook, 25/-). Application may be made to the Royal P.S. of N.Z. at Wellington.