

THE KIWI

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



June, 1954.
Volume Three
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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

At both of the last two meetings held at the Kingsley Hotel there was quite a good attendance and at each several members gave short displays. At the March meeting Mr. W.H. Farrow's several sheets of the 1d. Universal, which included booklet panes, provided much interest. Mr. R.D. Williamson showed some of his modern varieties and Mr. G.B. Erskine a collection of air covers, mostly internal first flights.

At the June meeting, although members were disappointed that Mrs. M.E. Taylor, (a past President of the New Zealand Stamp and Cover Club who is spending a holiday in Great Britain) had to postpone her visit, several members came well prepared to offer a substitute programme. Mr. A.A. Hard displayed an interesting study on the 1935-47 2s.0d. Cook flaws (his talk is the basis of an article in this issue of "The Kiwi"). Mr. D.V.H. Givan showed a number of sheets of the earlier air covers (1934-38) and Mr. Erskine displayed a number of photographs in connection with several of the Health issues; they included the two separate photographs which formed the basis of the composite design for the "Beach Ball" issue and also photographs of the original "Smiling Boy" plate originally suggested for 1930 and eventually amended and issued in 1931. At this meeting there was also a discussion on cancellations based on a query put forward by Mr. A.G. Edwards. In order to obtain further information, Mr. Edwards' query is published elsewhere in this number.

MEMBERS' DISPLAYS TO OTHER SOCIETIES.

A short time ago I referred to the displays given by several members of this Society to local philatelic societies in various parts of the country. Some more recent displays on New Zealand given by our members include one at Southgate (London) by Mr. H.F. Blease of Trowbridge and also a show by our Vice-President, Mrs. E.C.M. Moore, at Twickenham. I understand the latter was very well received and I, personally, was most disappointed at the last moment when I found I could not accept the invitation to go to Twickenham to see Mrs. Moore "at work".

SECRETARY'S NOTES (2)

Mr. H.L. Bartrop has been to Devonshire and gave to the Finance Society "A Philatelic Tour of New Zealand". This year Mr. Erskine has been to Hayling Island, Peterborough, Pinner and to the North Herts Society at Letchworth. Mr. Erskine tells me that at the first one, Hayling Island, he was told by the Chairman that no one in the Society knew anything at all about New Zealand (for which information he was duly relieved) and if he mentioned to them the term "Chalon Head", they would probably think it was the name of a public house.

What he was not told, however, concerned a later meeting - at Letchworth - which he afterwards described to me as "the only town in England without a public house".

On this question of displays to local Societies, there must be many members who would be prepared to do so within a reasonable travelling distance. As we do get a number of requests, it would be nice to have a note from those members who would be willing to entertain their fellow philatelists within say 25 to 30 miles.

NEW MEMBERS.

Since the compilation of the membership list which was distributed with the last "Kiwi", the Committee is glad to welcome three new members:-

Mr. P.B. Homes,
106, Perry Rise,
Forest Hill. S.E. 23. ✓

Id. Universal and Id.
Dominion.

D. Lebson,
2814, Keyworth Avenue,
Baltimore 15,
Maryland. U.S.A. ✓

All issues.
(1898 Pictorials)

George Morris,
65, Clarkins Road,
Hamilton,
Waikato,
New Zealand. ✓

General Collector.

Will members please add these to their membership lists.

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST.

Since the list was issued I have been advised of a few inaccuracies, so I should be pleased if all members would amend their lists as follows:-

Resignations: H.S. Hughes, of Birmingham. ✓
K.S. Sargeant, of Glasgow. ✓
G. Stripp, of Vancouver. ✓
C.A. Waterford, of Ruislip. ✓

The above four names should, therefore, be deleted.

New Address: F.S.S. Bishop,
Gall Street,
Fairlie,
Nr. Timaru, N.Z.

Corrections: The initials of Mr. Evans of Yorkshire are J.G. not T.G.
The initials in the case of Mrs. Moore of Esher are "E.C.M." ✓
The postal address of Mr. J.H. Hicks is now Birmingham 53. ✓
Mr. R.D. Williamson's correct number is 23, St. Margaret's Avenue, Sidcup. ✓

EXCHANGE PACKETS.

Thanks to the very hard work of Mr. Hard (the pun is unintentional but unavoidable), additional packets are now in circulation and the material is selling remarkably well. This does not mean, however, that Mr. Hard does not want further books. He does, and requires them urgently so that more packets can be made up for immediate circulation to members.

I feel sure that every member must have some material of which they would like to dispose and can assure them that even if it is only one book, Mr. Hard will be most pleased to receive it.

THE NEW ZEALAND CENTENARY EXHIBITION.

I receive news from time to time regarding the New Zealand International Stamp Exhibition to be held in July, 1955, and the Secretary has already sent copies of the prospectus to several members who requested them. Should any other members like a copy of this, would they please airmail for one direct. Incidentally, I see the secretary, Miss E.G. Penk, has become Mrs. E.G. Murray (it seems, therefore, that our congratulations must be due. I trust that she will accept them) She advises me that they plan to have another big auction in October for Exhibition funds. Therefore, if there are any members who have

SECRETARY'S NOTES (4)

THE NEW ZEALAND CENTENARY EXHIBITION (contd).

philatelic material of any kind which they are prepared to donate, perhaps they will send it to Mrs. E.G. Murray at P.O. Box 1932, Auckland, New Zealand.

THE 1d. UNIVERSAL OF NEW ZEALAND.

Unfortunately there do not appear to be any stocks of this handbook, published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, left in this country. I have ordered 6 copies to come direct, in order to supply those members who have requested them. They should arrive at the latest by mid-August when they will be sent on to those members whose orders I hold.

THE LATE MAJOR HARRY PINE'S COLLECTION.

This collection formed a large part of the Harmer Rooke sale on 28th May last and a few of our members attended and acquired some of the lots. I understand, however, that the majority of the material was bought in by the trade. Two who acquired much of the material are J.E. Lea, 14, Exchange Street, Manchester 2, and H.E. Wingfield, 392, Strand. W.C.2.

M. Erskine (Mrs.)
Hon. Secretary.

ADVERTISEMENTS

LOOSE LEAF CATALOGUE.

To enable members of this Society to have in their possession a copy of Messrs. Campbell Paterson's loose leaf catalogue, I have been given authority to submit a copy on approval to any member for a period not exceeding 7 days.

In cold print, the price of 45s. sterling sounds a lot, but wait until you see the thousand pounds worth of information contained therein. For my own part, I have never before or since, put 45s. to a better use. Why not drop me a postcard and see a copy for yourself?

Norman R. Dawe, P.T.S., "Waverley",
Boscoppa Road, St. Austell, Cornwall, U.K.

WANTED

5836 4d. 14 line used good copy in exchange for mint copy.

W.H.S. Burney, Clinton, Kingsland, Shrewsbury.

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1935-47 PICTORIALS - 2/- CAPTAIN COOK LANDING AT POVERTY BAY
STUDY OF THE "COOK" FLAW STAMP - PLATE 1 - ROW 1, No. 4.

By Albert A. Hard.

Undoubtedly the 2/- value of the 1935-47 Pictorial issue is the most interesting stamp of this group. From the first printing of Plate 1 a coloured flaw occurred on stamp No. 4 in row 1, having the appearance of a tail to the right of the second O in Cook. This flaw attracted widespread attention and remained throughout the various printings from plate 1 and, has become known to students of the postage stamps of New Zealand as the "COOK" flaw.

An explanation by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. in the "Postage Stamps of New Zealand" Vol. II states that "the flaw was not discovered during the preliminary printing nor whilst the plate was on the machine. More obvious flaws showed as a "dig" which were noticed and the faults removed.

When the writer first acquired this variety, an examination of the stamp was made to discover if other characteristics existed. This would enable the stamp to be recognised even if the flaw was retouched or, as a check if someone should endeavour to fabricate the flaw. A constant flaw in the shape of a comma (,) was found below the left limb of the W of NEW, touching the bottom frame line of the "NEW ZEALAND" scroll and extending downwards over three lines of shading.

Subsequently however, when further copies had been acquired it was found that some did not show the comma flaw and, further research proved that this flaw was not present on the first printings. From the material examined the earliest the flaw can be dated is on the 4th printing in March 1939, i.e. on multiple watermark esparto paper with horizontal mesh, perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

On later printings of this issue another flaw developed, consisting of a diagonal line of colour across the left side of the coat, in line with the pocket, of the middle figure at the left. This flaw like the "COOK" variety was not retouched, probably because it went unnoticed amongst the detail of the design. The "COOK" flaw stamp can therefore be found in at least two states in this printing, i.e. with COOK and Comma flaws and, with COOK, Comma and COAT flaws and possibly in three states, i.e. before the Comma flaw developed with COOK flaw only but, the writer has not seen it in this state. The earliest dated copy I have containing the three flaws is 20th February 1941.

Now comes the most interesting feature about this stamp of which no mention is made in "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" Vol. 2. When the premises of Messrs. De La Rue & Co. were bombed late in 1940, plate 1 of this value, together with plates of other values, were handed over to Messrs. Waterlow & Sons for

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printing and, the first issues were on esparto paper with multiple watermark, perforated 12½. The "COMMA" flaw which can normally be seen with the naked eye, has disappeared and, a close examination with a glass shows that it has been skillfully removed by retouching the plate. The retouch shows as a thickening of the bottom frame line of the "NEW ZEALAND" scroll which extends from below the right side of the E of NEW to between the W and Z of NEW ZEALAND. The thickened frame line has a downward bulge which extends over the first line of shading of the sky below the frame line.

Prior to the plate being handed over to Waterlow & Sons, De La Rue had re-entered some of the impressions and it is possible that the "COMMA" flaw could have been retouched at the same time.

In September 1941 the plate was returned to Messrs. De La Rue & Co. who proceeded to print the stamps on a coarse grade of paper, they were perforated 12½ as before. Some of the impressions were unsatisfactory and a further 16 impressions were re-entered, and it may have been during this operation that two further flaws developed. The flaws were first noticed on this printing and, they consist of two spots of colour between the left leg of the middle figure at the left and the boat, one is on the water-line and the other is in the bend of the left knee. Also at this stage a line of colour appeared below the bottom frame at the right which has the appearance of the plate being scratched during cleaning operations. The line of colour extends from below the centre of Captain Cook's legs to the first E of REVENUE.

On later printings of this issue a further coloured flaw developed above the left side of the hat of the man in the boat, second from the right. It consists of two dots of colour in the spaces between the fifth, sixth and seventh lines of shading above his head, level with the chin of the man with the oar standing in the boat.

The characteristics of this stamp at this stage are as follows:-

"COQK" flaw; retouch to the frame line of the NEW ZEALAND scroll below the letters E W & Z of NEW ZEALAND; two coloured flaws between the left leg of the middle figure at the left and the boat; a line of colour below the bottom frame line at the right; two coloured flaws above the man in the boat second from the right. As far as can be ascertained these characteristics remained until the stamp was withdrawn from sale in April 1947.

These observations have been made from a limited amount of material and, the writer would welcome further information regarding dates in the stages of the various flaws from used copies.

A provisional check list follows.

1935-47 PICTORIALS - 2/- CAPTAIN "COOK" FLAW, PLATE 1, ROW 4. No. 4.

PROVISIONAL CHECK LIST OF THE STAGES AT WHICH THE VARIOUS FLAWS DEVELOPED.

1st STATE:

De La Rue Print:

- | | | |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| 1935 (May 1) | Original issue, watermark single N.Z. & Star.
First perforation, 13 - 14 x 13½.
paper esparto, vert mesh. | (a) "COOK" FLAW" |
| 1935 | As above, change of perforation 13½ x 14 | (a) "COOK FLAW" |
| 1936 | Watermark multiple N.Z. & star, perforation 13 - 14 x 13½
paper esparto, horizontal mesh. | (a) "COOK FLAW" |

2nd STATE:

- | | | |
|------|--|---|
| 1939 | As above, change of perforation 13½ x 14 | (a) "COOK FLAW"
(b) COMMA FLAW (,) under LEFT OF W - NEW |
|------|--|---|

3rd STATE:

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1939 | Later printings of above, 13½ x 14. | (a) "COOK FLAW"
(b) COMMA FLAW.
(c) COAT FLAW, DIAGONAL LINE MIDDLE FIG. AT LEFT. EARLIEST DATE 20 FEB. 1941. |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|

4th STATE:

Waterlow Print.

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| 1941 | Paper esparto, horizontal mesh.
Multiple wmk. Perforated 12½ | (a) "COOK FLAW"
(b) COAT FLAW
(c) COMMA FLAW RETOUCHE. |
|------|---|--|

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1935-47 PICTORIALS - 2/- CAPTAIN "COOK" FLAW, PLATE 1, ROW 4. No. 4.

PROVISIONAL CHECK LIST OF THE STAGES AT WHICH THE VARIOUS FLAWS DEVELOPED (contd).

5th STATE:

De La Rue Print.

1942. Paper coarse grade, horizontal mesh.
Multiple watermark, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$

- (a) "COOK FLAW"
- (b) COAT FLAW
- (c) COMMA FLAW
RETOUCHED.
- (d) LEG FLAW,
MIDDLE MAN
AT LEFT
- (e) LINE OF
COLOUR
BELOW BOTTOM
FRAME AT
RIGHT

6th STATE:

1942. Later prints of above, perforated
 $12\frac{1}{2}$.

- (a) (b) (c) (d)
- (e) Flaws as
above.
- (f) COLOURED
FLAW ABOVE
2nd MAN
FROM RIGHT

1942 - 43 Multiple watermark, coarse paper,
perforated $14 (13\frac{3}{4}) \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

FLAWS AS ABOVE
(a) to (f).