



THE KIWI



Hon. Sec.:

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

Nov. 1954.

Volume Three
Number Four



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

"KIWI KONVENTION"

Those members who responded favourably towards the proposals in our last Bulletin will, I am sure, be pleased to know that the programme suggested is to be carried out almost in accordance with the original proposals. Over sixty members were good enough to complete and return the questionnaire form. (Thirty-six asked for Volume III of the Handbook - I wonder if that was the main attraction). By no means are all of them joining us on 27th November, but there is sufficient support to warrant putting the full programme into operation. Full details will be found on another page in this issue.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Third Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain will be held at the Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury Way, London, W.C.1. on Saturday, 27th November, 1954 at 2.30 p.m. for the ordinary business set out on the Agenda.

4th November, 1954. (Signed) Margarete Erskine (Mrs)
Hon. Secretary

Although, in accordance with our rules, due notice of the A.G.M. was given in the September "Kiwi", the formal notice is set out above in case there should be any who like it in this particular form. Incidentally, only one member has criticised my small effort at alliteration in the spelling of "Konvention"; that many have re-quoted it may indicate their approval (I hope). There are quite a number of members from whom I did expect to hear, but was disappointed. To those who have not yet advised me if they will be present or have not yet decided, may I say it is not too late. Come along on Saturday, 27th November any time from 11.45 a.m. onwards; to those who have not yet attended one of our meetings, and to recently elected members in particular, I would say this: on arrival, ask for me or some other member of the Committee and you will be made very welcome.

AUCTION SALE

A list with a short description of the Lots is included in this Bulletin, and I will apologize in advance for any typing errors. There

is one I have noticed - Lot 43. "S.G.o". Mint" (with no reserve) may sound like something of a rarity; it is not really. Those who know the typewriter keyboard may have identified this as a George V 8d. red-brown o/p "Official". i.e. S.G.088, catalogued at 20/-. How easy it is to transpose the use of the shift key. Postal bids can be accepted but must reach me by Friday, 26th November, please. On this point may I once again remind members that it is only necessary to send me the Lot number and the maximum figure they are prepared to pay. In one of our successful auctions we had sixty-eight postal bids for forty-six lots. Thirty-two of them were successful, and of these, twenty-two were secured for considerably less than the maximum price offered. Therefore, do not hesitate to quote a maximum price if you are really interested. I regret that shortness of time, besides much other detail work, does not permit postal viewing on this occasion. Ample opportunity will be given, however, to inspect the Lots at the Kingsley Hotel on the day of the meeting.

GUESTS

Many personalities of the philatelic world will be with us at the Kingsley Hotel during the afternoon and for dinner. Needless to say members' own personal guests will be very welcome.

COMPETITION TROPHIES

A very handsome silver cup has been generously presented to the Society by Mr. F. Stacey Hooker who is just completing his second year as President. This will be known as the "Stacey Hooker Cup". Provided by the Society is the "Kiwi Shield". Both of these are to be competed for annually by members, and one of the first duties of the new Committee will be to appoint a sub-Committee to draft rules and details of these competitions and generally organize them. I am sure this sub-Committee will welcome from members any suggestions for these annual competitions. Will those who have ideas on the subject please send them along at once.

NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION, 1955

The Society has been asked by the organizers of this annual philatelic event to provide (for exhibition, not competition) 18 sheets, i.e. two frames. I am hoping that we can find suitable sheets for this purpose from those which will be on show at our own small exhibition, and that members owning those selected will agree for them to be handled in this way.

8433 PENNY UNIVERSALS

The following is extracted from the Robson Lowe auction catalogue:-

Lot No. 392a - 1900-1909 1d. Universal Postage, a comprehensive study in two albums including perforation varieties, cancellations, T.P.O.s, re-entries, flaws, varieties and many plated copies. Fifteen are unused or mint and there are some very fine blocks, strips and pairs

(118). Also over 4,000 in envelopes sorted into plates. The great majority are good to fine. (Number of stamps 8433 - Auctioneers' valuation 840).

The sale is on Wednesday, 24th November next at 50 Pall Mall commencing at 2.00 p.m. and the lot described comes from the collection of the late Major H.T. Pine.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W.J. Black,
11 Stathan Street,
Newbold Verdon,
Leicester. ✓

Lieut-Col. W.H.S. Burney,
Summercourt,
Welcombe Crescent,
Eastbourne, Sussex. ✓

RESIGNATION

C.E. Calderari,
Bletchley, Bucks. ✓

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

"Rule 7. The annual subscription shall be 10/6 for full members and 5/- for junior members under 18 years of age. Subscriptions shall be paid annually in advance and shall become due immediately following each Annual General Meeting".

I have quoted this rule merely as a polite reminder that subscriptions to November, 1955 will be required shortly. Early remittances will be greatly appreciated.

A WORD OF THANKS

On behalf of the Society I want to thank those members who have generously offered the proceeds from their lots in the auction to the Society's funds. Among others these include one of our earliest members, Mr. H.F. Munday of Blackpool, who has donated several items which now comprise lots 1-3; also Mr. J.E. Shackelton who has offered the Society a generous proportion from the proceeds on lots 47-54. The Society thanks both of these gentlemen and the other donors who wish to remain anonymous.

FINALLY

Hoping to see you on 27th November.

Margarete Erskine (Mrs.)
Hon. Secretary

THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

KINGSLEY HOTEL, W.C.1. SATURDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 1954

PROGRAMME

- 11.45 a.m. Miniature exhibition of Members' sheets of New Zealand material.
- 12.45 p.m. Lunch (informal, and in restaurant if required).
- 2.00 p.m. Auction Lots on view (until 2.25 p.m.)
- 2.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting.

AGENDA

1. To receive and approve Minutes of the second Annual General Meeting held on 21st November, 1953.
 2. To receive from the President a report on the past year.
 3. To receive the financial report from the Hon.Treasurer.
 4. To elect a President and Vice-President.
(For these offices there will be a ballot and the nominee with the highest number of votes will become President and the second highest Vice-President).
 5. To elect (a) an Hon.Secretary; (b) an Hon.Treasurer; (c) an Hon.Exchange Packet Secretary.
 6. To elect a Committee of five members.
 7. Any other business proper to an Annual General Meeting.
- 3.00 p.m. Talk by A.D.M. Curnow, Esq. (Press Officer at the New Zealand Higher Commissioner's Office, London) on Postal Services of New Zealand.
- 3.30 p.m. Auction (62 Lots).
- 4.15 p.m. Tea (and interval for viewing frames).
- 5.00 p.m. Display and talk by Dr. K.J.L. Scott (Woking) "Early Pre-adhesive Covers".
- 5.45 p.m. Close of meeting.
- 6.30 p.m. Dinner (followed by short speeches).

THE HALFPENNY NEWSPAPER STAMPBy H.F. Blease

At our August meeting Mr. H.F. Blease gave a display and a talk on the Side Face issues which was very well received by attending members. Below are some points voiced by Mr. Blease when dealing with the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. newspaper stamp.

The first of the New Zealand "side faces" was the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Newspaper Stamp and an abbreviated history prior to this issue in 1873 is as follows:

From 1840 to September, 1843 and from October, 1848 until late in 1864 no charge was made for newspapers forwarded through the post for delivery within the Colony, and if one considers the contents of some of the early mail one sees how unprofitable this was. On the 12th November, 1840 a mail was despatched from Russell which contained no paid letters, one unpaid letter and ninety-eight newspapers. In a mail from Sydney, received at Port Nicholson on the 5th December, 1840, there were ten paid letters, fourteen unpaid letters, two ship letters and seventy newspapers.

No doubt matters improved but undoubtedly the biggest bulk was still newspapers so that it was decided to impose a rate of 1d. on each newspaper as from the 29th December, 1864. However, this measure met with such determined opposition that the charge remained in force for just over two months. Free conveyance again being permitted as from the 9th March, 1865. Matters, however, were not allowed to remain in this state and in 1866 a Select Committee of the House of Representatives held an enquiry into the postal service, and the principal recommendations of this committee were "that a postage should be paid on newspapers and that, with the exception of correspondence on Imperial Government Service, the system of franking should be abolished." The 1d. rate on newspapers was again imposed from the 1st January, 1867 and was operative until a reduction to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. was made as from 1st January, 1873.

When it was decided to introduce the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate there was no time to arrange for designs and plates from England for this new value, also it was not considered necessary, and the production was entrusted to John Davies the Government Printer. The design it is considered was based on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp then in use in Great Britain with the addition at the top of the words New Zealand and at the base. The design was carved on a wood block at Melbourne and used as the die for the production of the electrotypes at Wellington by W.H. Kirk. Two hundred and seventy cliches were made of which 240 were used to form the plate, the remaining 30 cliches being kept in reserve to replace any damaged in use. Further cliches were ordered for this purpose at a later date.

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The next trouble was suitable paper and it was decided to use paper watermarked N.Z. which was in use for the fiscal stamps. These stamps were printed in sheets of 100 having 10 rows of 10 stamps against the 20 rows of twelve stamps for the Newspaper stamp. Allowing for the different sizes of the two stamps it will be seen that at least every other row of the Newspaper stamps would have no watermark and that few would bear the N.Z. in the centre of the stamps.

Line perforation, gauges 10 and 12½, used for the current postage stamps were also used for the newspaper stamps.

Stamps Displayed (7 sheets)

1st sheet 1873 Perforation 10. Single specimens of both mint and used, also with and without watermark; also a block of 11 being in three rows of 4, 4, 3, the central row showing N.Z. watermark. The block was from the right edge of the sheet the two right hand stamps of the top rows showing part of the watermark letter STA in double lines letters reading downwards.

Sheet 2 1873 Perforation 10 x 12½. Unused copies both watermarked and unwatermarked.

Perforation 12½. Used copy with watermark.

Special paper was being prepared for these stamps, and in January, 1875 this was put into use. The watermark being a six rayed Irregular Star.

Sheet 3 January 1875. Perforation 12½. Mint and used copies; one used; one on part wrapper with wrapper stamp. Also one cliché damaged. These stamps show a range of shades.

Sheet 4. Perforation nearly 12. Mint block of four showing three clichés damaged, also used copies.

The six ray irregular star paper had a single lined cross 7 x 9 mm placed centrally on the bottom selvedge.

Sheet 5 Perforation 10. An unused copy showing the greater part of the cross watermark. This perforation is not recorded for the 1875 issue in any of the usual reference works. It is quite likely that this is a forgery. Perforation 10 x 12½, a used copy. Imperforate copy, good margins all round, used; may possibly be genuine. I have seen at least one other very similar copy.

In 1874 a new watermark was introduced - N.Z. and star - for the first Side Face postage stamps, and when supplies of the six ray irregular star paper was used up the newspaper stamp was issued using this new watermark in June, 1892.

As the new N.Z. over star paper was arranged for four panes of 60 (6 wide x 10 deep) a new plate was made with the necessary valleys. As, however, the newspaper stamps were smaller than the postage stamps it was found impossible to register the watermarks correctly and the plate was dis-mantled after a time and set up in its original setting 12 wide x 20 deep.

Sheet 6 Perforation 12½. Mint and used copies in two shades; also one mint with no watermark. A used copy aniline; another offset inverted; two used copies with letter watermarks; and a pair with smudgy printing (as mentioned in the Handbook).

Sheet 7. Owing to misplacement of paper a single and pair showing watermark as star over N.Z.; a mint strip of twelve from across the middle of the sheet watermarked New Zealand in double lined capital; a cut out used newspaper wrapper with single lined letters watermark; and a similar one with forged perforation 10 x 12½.

A provision in the Postal Clauses enabled private persons to have stamps printed on their stationery. The first occasion on which advantage was taken of this provision was in March, 1892, when a special postcard was printed for Messrs. Austin Walsh & Co., a firm of tobacco merchants in Auckland. The card, of which an unused specimen was shown on the bottom of Sheet 7, was used in connection with a competition conducted by this firm, and for that special purpose the postage was fixed at ½d. The card is interesting, not only by reason of its small-size 70 mm x 42 mm, but as the precedent for the use of postal matter in New Zealand for advertising purposes - a precedent which resulted, in the following year, in the backs of adhesive stamps being used.

The front of the card bears the address of the firm and a stamp of the "Newspaper" type of 1873, and this was the only instance in which this stamp was authorized to be used other than for franking newspapers. Eighty thousand of these cards were printed at the Government Printing Office from eight separate electrotype plates each containing one stamp and the inscription,

A number of the facts set out in the foregoing were taken from "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" Vol. I.

H. F. B.

POSTAGE STAMP BOOKLETS

Booklets containing twelve 1d. and twelve 3d. Queen Elizabeth II stamps were placed on sale in April, 1954. Some of the panes of stamps have the normal watermark while others have the watermark inverted. This arises from the position of the impressions on the special plates prepared for these stamps and is done to facilitate the assembly of the booklets.

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Information wanted

NEW ZEALAND METER MARKS

A query from A.A. Dewey
(Hon. Sec. Meter Mark Study Group)

I am writing to ask if you would be kind enough to provide me with information about two rather unusual New Zealand postmarks which I have just come across, or, if this is outside your field, to advise me who might be able to help me.

As you have probably noticed, metered mail in New Zealand is - unlike most other countries - cancelled by the P.O. just as if it were stamped with adhesives, and the postmarks in question are on envelopes with meter stamps of the period 1922-1926 a batch of which I have just acquired from a London dealer. Most of them have what I presume to be normal town cancellations (machine type), but there are two exceptions as follows:-

1. Envelope addressed from Christchurch to London and super-scribed "per 'Tahiti'" (which I assume to be a ship rather than a route), franked with meter stamps of 1d. + 1½d. + 1½d. postmarked (three times) with circular date-stamp 24½ mm. in diameter worded at top "T.P.O." and at bottom "MAIN TRUNK AK.", with across the centre "160C22 OUT" above which is "N-". (possibly a broken Z)

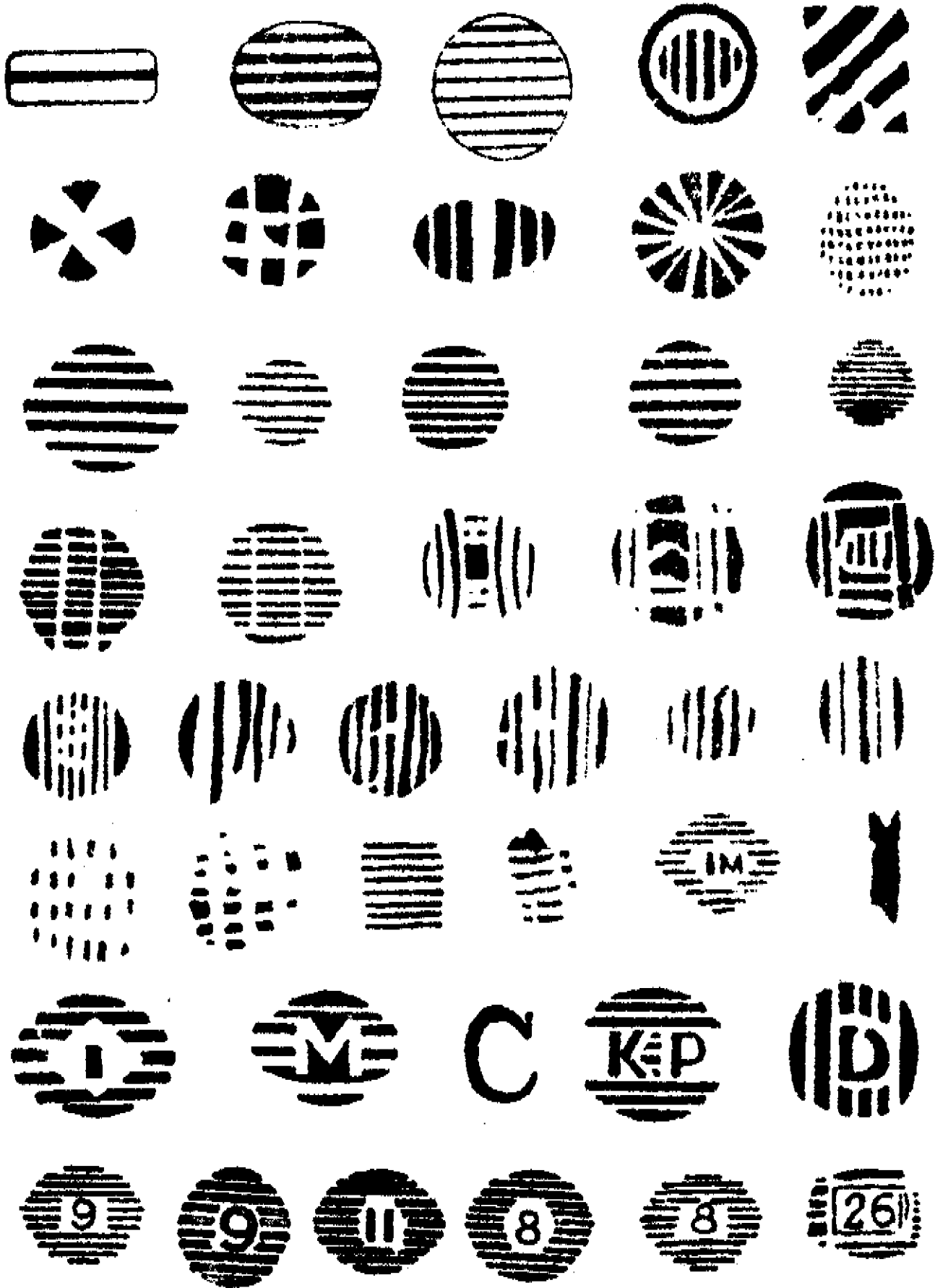
The sender's name and address is printed on the envelope as H.O. Wiles Ltd., 202-204 Cashel Street, Christchurch "and at Auckland and Wellington" and the cover may have been posted at Auckland as the meter stamps bear this town name.

2. Envelope addressed (sender unknown) to London, super-scribed "PER R.M.S. MAKURA", franked by meter stamps of Auckland 1d. + 1d. and postmarked once with circular date-stamp 32 mm. in diameter worded at top "MARINE POST OFFICE" and at bottom "R.M.S. MAKURA" with across the centre "-5AU24 1230PM" above which is N.Z.

If you can give me any information about these postmarks, it will greatly add to the interest of the covers and I shall be very grateful.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE CANCELLATIONS?

On the opposite page are reproduced 43 cancellations which are now known to have been used on New Zealand stamps but have not yet been identified with any particular offices. A note on this point did appear on page 7 of "The Kiwi" for March. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand have now received some information which has helped to identify a number of these, but is still seeking information on others. Will any member who can offer any suggestions please send details along at once; it is urgently required for Vol.III of the Handbook which is almost ready for press.



PENMARKED POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

By G.B. Erskine

Any spare time which comes my way - which isn't much - I often spend looking through old volumes of philatelic journals. Much to the disgust of the Hon. Secretary - who happens to share the Erskine abode - these occupy one room completely and often overflow into the lounge, the bedroom and elsewhere; from which it will be appreciated I have plenty to look through if only I had the time.

What often surprises me is the scarcity of published material on New Zealand in these volumes. "Gibbons" in its various forms since 1890 does not offer nearly as much as one might expect on what is, and always has been, quite a popular country. "The London Philatelist" and "The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain" have offered a little more over the years, while here and there one can find the odd New Zealand item of interest in the more popular type of periodical. For instance, in the November, 1939 issue of the "Australian Stamp Monthly" I happened upon the following, headed "Penmarked Full-Face New Zealand Stamps"; this was contributed by P. Malone of Hobart:-

"Probably very few collectors are aware that genuine penmarked postal cancellations exist on a number of the full-face stamps of the first issues of New Zealand, and it is certainly very disappointing that only brief reference is made to them in the new work on the Postage Stamps of New Zealand (page 659).

"My attention was first drawn to them by a collector in New Zealand, and since then I have been fortunate in picking up a few of them, and find that they make a very interesting study. They mostly come from small outlying places and settlements where no proper obliteration stamps were supplied by the postal department. The procedure usually adopted in these small offices was to cancel the stamps by writing the name of the place across them, but in some cases the date only or other marks were made on the stamps. All letters bearing these stamps upon arrival at the larger or central post office were again duly cancelled with the obliterating stamp of that office, so that in nearly all cases the stamps show the original penmarked cancellation, and also the postal cancellation of another post office.

"These stamps, generally speaking, are rather scarce, and they are much sought after by some collectors in New Zealand, who are endeavouring to make a complete collection of them, and placing on record all known varieties, and where they were issued. In getting such a collection together these collectors no doubt experience a great amount of pleasure - particularly when a new variety turns up - and it is safe to say that they will be well rewarded for their efforts, as such stamps will be of the greatest interest to specialists in the future.

"While on the subject of penmarked stamps, I may point out that I always maintained, and stated on previous occasions - that no matter what cancellation a stamp might bear - penmarked or otherwise, it is still the original stamp as issued by the Government, and is therefore collectable.

"It is surprising in the past how most collectors were prejudiced against any stamp bearing a penmarked cancellation - even though it might be a genuine postal one, and usually discarded it from their collection. It is gratifying, however, to learn that this prejudice is gradually passing away, particularly where the early classic issues are concerned, as the demand is getting greater than the supply for good used copies, and consequently there is no alternative but to have a pencancelled copy or none at all. It is also realised that a good penmarked specimen is often superior and looks much better in a collection than many of the heavy and badly postmarked copies - often seen in collections these days."

In his first paragraph Mr. Malone was obviously referring to Vol.I of the Handbook which contained merely seven lines on this subject.

As collectors' items it seems, these manuscript cancellations are not particularly popular but I have seen some very good N.Z. examples in the very fine world-wide collection of Mr. Leslie R. Ray, while Dr. K.J.L. Scott has quite a number. Although I have not seen them, I am sure there must be others in the very comprehensive full-face collection of our President, Mr. F. Stacey Hooker.

I wonder how many of our members can offer any information or examples of this rather interesting subject? Obviously it is one which comes within the enormously wide group in which we are all interested.

THE "COOK" FLAW

Mr. F.W. Course, writing from Hamilton, New Zealand to Mr. A.A. Hard on the latter's recent article on the above says:-

"I have found the following states and beg to amend your check list accordingly thus:-

P 13½x14 mult.wak. is also known in what you call 1st state.

P 12½ Royal Cypher 1st state comma retouch and body flaw.

2nd state ditto plus dot on shore.

3rd state ditto plus dots over right of shoulder of sailor (your 2nd man)

4th state (i.e. after extensive re-entry of plate) as third state but dots right of shoulder reduced.

P 14x13½ 1st state as 2nd state P 12½ above

2nd state as 3rd state P 12½ above

3rd state as 4th state P 12½ above

Mr. Hard is in correspondence with Mr. Course and hopes in our next "Kiwi" to deal with the points raised.

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THE WATERLOW "T" MARK

In a recent article in Stamp Collecting by W.T. Williamson, there was a copy of a letter received from Waterlow & Sons concerning the "T" guide marks to be found on the George VI G.B. high values. This letter gives a full explanation of these marks, as follows:-

Dear Sir,

King George VI High Values

In reply to your query regarding the "T" mark traced in the above stamps, this is used by us when transferring printing plates and is used to line up the transfer cylinder with the marked out plate. It is cut into the original die on both sides of the stamp and taken up together with the stamp impression when the transfer cylinder of the die is made.

The method of use is to move the cylinder in the transfer press until such time as these marks coincide with the marked outline of the plate. This may entail several attempts before correct alignment of the stamp is obtained. When the correct position is found, the cylinder is held in position and the various marks made and the area of the marked outline on the plate are removed by burnishing.

In this particular instance we would imagine that these "T" marks have not been completely burnished out. It sometimes happens that to the transferer's eye the burnishing is complete, and in the facing of the plate with chromium these marks become able to print due to the building up of the deposited metal around these burnished marks, making them just prominent enough to give a weak impression.

For this reason we try to place these marks in some position of the engraving, where it is either rolled out by transferring or hidden by surrounding work.

All stamps are transferred in this manner and not solely the ones in question.

Yours faithfully,
WATERLOW & SONS LTD.
P.A. Waterlow, Chairman.

The interest to collectors of N.Z. stamps lies in the last paragraph. We know from the N.Z. handbook Vol.II that these marks were "for the purpose of assisting in laying down the impressions in correct positions on the plate", it was not clear however that these marks might be found on all stamps printed by Waterlow & Sons.

The "T" mark on the 1/2d. Peace stamp, the so-called 'semaphore' variety on the George VI 5/- Malta are well known, surely there are others to be found which may in some instances indicate where more than one plate was used.

(cont. overleaf)

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I have found slight evidence of this mark on the 5d. Peace stamp, on the right side to the left of the second E of revenue, so far I have not found its position on the plate. I should be glad if any one could supply this information.

E.C.M. MOORE.

DOUGLAS EDSALL WRITES.....

It says something for the keenness of the members of the "Kiwi Society" when one of our New Zealand members, Mr. Macdonald, of Rotorua, was good enough to do the journey from Rotorua to Hamilton (65 miles each way) to give a display and talk on the George VI "Coils". Much appreciated by the members of the Waikato Philatelic Society and the night journey over the Manakau ranges is no joke, especially the return journey, on a foggy night at about 11 p.m., wants facing. I bet Mac. will be surprised if this ever gets printed in Kiwi. There being no "entry" in the Waikato Hospital next day assured us he evidently got home safely.

AN AIRMAIL COVER

By J.G. Williams

My most interesting New Zealand airmail cover was purchased some years ago from a dealer's accumulation of covers, and it was not until some time later that I realized the interesting story of its flight. It is dated 25th June, 1934 and is a registered first day official air-mail cover addressed to "The Berkshire Exchange, Wooster, Ohio, U.S.A." from Auckland. The cover bears, on the face, the 1931 New Zealand air-mail stamps of the following values, 7d. brown, 4d. purple-black and 5d. overprinted on 3d. green as well as an Auckland registration label No. 840. On the reverse there is a vertical paid of Papuan 1919 dull and bright purple 6d. values overprinted for airmail purposes.

This cover left Auckland on 25th June, as it is cancelled "Auckland N.Z. Registered 25JE.34. 8pm" on the front, and left Kaitaia on 2nd July as it is cancelled "Kaitaia N.Z. 2JL.34.1" also on the front. It was flown from Kaitaia by Commander C.T.P. Ulm on the last of a series of flights he made from Kaitaia. There is a photograph of Commander Ulm in the top left hand corner and one of the famous plane VH.UXX "Faith in Australia" in the top centre.

The cover arrived at Sydney, New South Wales, on the same day as on the reverse it is cancelled "Registered Sydney N.S.W. 2JL.34". Arrangements were made for covers on this Trans-Tasman flight to be flown on to Papua by the same plane on July 24th. On this date Commander Ulm, with R.N. Boulton and G.U. Allen, left Melbourne with a large mail for Papua, New Guinea, and intermediates en route and so flew the first official airmail to Papua from Australia. There is a cachet in violet on the front which reads "Trans-Tasman Airmail 'Faith in Australia', New Zealand Australia Jun. 1934" and on the reverse in violet a cachet "Australia-Papua New Guinea July 1934 First Official Airmail" which refers to these two flights. The plane reached Brisbane on July 24th,

Rockhampton on the 25th, Townsville on the 25th, and Port Moresby on the 26th, as shown by the cancellation "Port Moresby Papua 26, Jy. 34" on the reverse.

Apparently the two Papuan stamps and Port Moresby registration label number 5423 were then affixed so that it could be taken back to Sydney on Commander Ula's return flight, which commenced at Lae on July 30th, and finished at Sydney on August 1st. There is a cachet on the reverse in violet "Papua-Australia July 1934 First Official Air Mail" and a cancellation "Registered Sydney N.S.W.B. 1 Au. 34" which confirms this. After 38,000 covers were flown by the first Papua to Australia official airmail.

After the cover arrived at Sydney on August 1st 1934 it apparently went by ordinary sea mail to the United States, and was then perhaps flown to Chicago where it was cancelled in purple. "Chicago, Ill. Registry Div. Aug. 27. 1934" and "Registered". It seems to have arrived at its destination the next day, as also on the reverse in black is the cancellation "Wooster, Ohio, Registered Aug. 28. 1934".

This cover forwarded, apparently, from the Fryer Stamp Co. of Panmure, Auckland, New Zealand was flown on three important early flights before it reached its final destination 64 days later.

"STUDY OF THE 'COOK' FLAW"

Correspondence from members R.G.J. Collins (New Zealand) to A.A. Hard (Colchester).

Mr. Collins writes:-

I have just received Vol. 3 No. 2 of "The Kiwi" which contains a study of the "COOK" flaw on the 2s. pictorial of 1935. The author Mr. Albert A. Hard makes the following statement:-
"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 and 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 printing....."

I am sorry to have to point out that this statement by Mr. Hard is quite erroneous. Reference to the bombing of Messrs. De la Rue & Co's works will be found on page 1 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" Vol. 2. On page 36 we said:- "Late in 1940, plate 1 was sent to Messrs. Waterlow & Sons".

We then proceeded to give particulars of the printings made by this firm. On page 37 reference was made to the re-entering of impressions on the plate prior to it being handed over to Waterlow & Sons, and on the same page we referred to the fact that the plate had been returned to De la Rue & Co. in September, 1941.

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Mr. Hard replies:-

Your airmail of 6th October re. my article on the "COQK" flaw has been passed on to me to answer.

I am sorry that I did not make myself plainer in Para.6 in stating that the flaw in the shape of a comma had been retouched, and that no mention of this flaw or its retouch was made in "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand". It was not intended that this should refer to bombing of Messrs. De la Rue & Co's works which, as you state quite rightly, was referred to on page 36, and I am sure possessors of Vol.II would not think otherwise.

Credit for information from "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" Vol.II used in the article was given in para.2 of the article and this applies also to particulars of printings on page 37 for which I am very grateful.

I think that you will agree that the "COQK" flaw stamp is one of the most interesting of this issue. On page 36 of Vol.II mention is made of the retouched impressions on row 1, No.6; row 8, No.2; row 9, No.2 and that the "Q" flaw in row 1, No.4 persisted throughout the life of the plate. I was expecting to see a reference to the comma flaw and its subsequent retouch but could find none and, I assumed it was not known at the time Vol.II went to press. It is an important state in the history of this stamp equally with the retouches mentioned above and with the correctings made to row 10, No.5 and row 1, No.11 given later on page 36.

At the moment I have not been able to obtain a copy of your book on the 2/- Pictorial, where no doubt the observations I have made are already taken care of.

I thank you for pointing out what could be construed as an erroneous statement in my article and trust that no one has been misled.

VICTORY ISSUE 1920. 1/2d. VALUE

Discussing a copy of this stamp sent to him for examination, the well-known New Zealand specialist and writer, Mr. C.W. Watts, writes in the last Newsletter of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand as follows:-

The stamp has the appearance of a re-entry, but it must be remembered that these stamps were surfaced-printed. The most prominent doubling is the "1919" but there is also a doubling in the letters of "Postage & Revenue". On the right the semi-circular lines are weak as are the decorative lines in the right panel. I have examined a proof sheet but there is no trace of this variety. The stamp is postmarked "Awatuna 13 SP 20". I should be pleased to hear whether any member has seen or heard of a similar stamp so that further research might be made.