



# THE KIWI



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



May, 1955.  
Volume Four  
Number Two

**THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**

## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

### HEARD UP IN THE NORTH EAST

Just after the last issue of "The Kiwi" had been despatched to members, my husband - who was away on one of his philatelic trips - was approached by a N.Z. member who passed him £1.1.0d. with the remark, "Please give this to your wife, thank her for the 'blue cross' and tell her it is the most expensive kiss I have ever bought." (Apparently he does not want a "kiss" next year as his guinea covers the 1956 subscription as well).

In case any of the 23 members whose 1955 subscription are still outstanding have really misconstrued the true meaning of the "blue cross" on their copies of "The Kiwi" the foregoing should clarify.

Incidentally, solely with the welfare of the Society in mind, I should be quite prepared to give each of them a pat on the cheek - or even a real kiss - the next time we meet if they qualify by remitting the requisite subscription at once. As this seems a somewhat dangerous proposal perhaps it would be appropriate for me to use "red crosses" for the "overdues" this time. (What a poor harrassed Hon. Sec. must do these days in the interests of her Society! It so happens each of the "guilty" members is a male, otherwise I should have to call on Mr. Noel Turner, our new Treasurer, to assist).

### 25TH MAY - NEXT MEETING

As already announced our next three meetings are mid-week. The first of these will be held on Wednesday, 25th May, at 6.30 p.m. As usual we are at the Kingslway Hotel, Bloomsbury Way, W.C.1., and I expect many of those attending will arrive for their pre-meeting chats at 6.00 p.m. or even before. Mr. H.J. Hare (of West Wickham and a member of the Croydon Society) is to give us a display of New Zealand Forces Covers. It is also proposed to show part of the collection of the late Harold Munday (our Blackpool member who died suddenly last year). Mrs. Munday has asked the Society to assist her in disposing of this, and after displaying the collection

at our May meeting it is proposed to break it up into suitable lots and sell it by Auction at our July meeting. Obviously, everyone will wish to do the very best possible for Mrs. Munday and I hope this excellent material will fetch the good prices it deserves. Naturally, the Society will waive the Auction rule on sales commission and pass over the whole of the proceeds. The proposed lots will be listed, with brief details, for the benefit of postal bidders.

### COMPETITIONS

I wonder how many members have already turned their thoughts to the two competitions announced in "The Kiwi" (last issue page 8)- The "Stacey Hooper Cup" and the "Kiwi Shield". The last day for receiving entries will be 20th July next and these will be displayed and judged at our 27th July meeting.

At the invitation of your Committee, Mr. Arnold M. Strange (Editor of "The London Philatelist"), has agreed to judge the entries in the Shield Competition - that is for the "literary" efforts. The judge (or judges) for the Cup Competition will be announced later. In the meantime, please push ahead with your efforts and so give these two competitions a good send-off.

### AN HONORARY MEMBER

At the National Stamp Exhibition last January our President and Vice-President had the pleasure of meeting the High Commissioner for New Zealand (Mr. T. Clifton Webb) and Mrs. Webb, and showing them around the exhibits. Mrs. Webb is quite a stamp enthusiast and the Committee decided to invite her to become an honorary member. Here is the reply I received just before our last meeting:-

"I shall be delighted to become an honorary member of your Society while I am in Great Britain, and I thank your Committee for their courtesy in electing me one. I shall look forward to coming to some of your meetings, but I am very sorry to say I am engaged this Saturday, for the talk should be so very interesting and instructive.

"We have thoroughly enjoyed our first winter here, and the snowfalls have been beautiful - from a well-heated house. Now the crocuses are coming up in Regents Park.

"With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,  
Lucy A. Webb"

We are all hoping that Mrs. Webb will be with us on 25th May next.

FROM AN ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENT

Another letter which I have just received is anonymous. The writer asks for it to be published in "The Kiwi". In view of the contents, I suppose I must comply - in spite of my (alleged) modesty. Here it is:-

"The Secretary of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain is a modest lady - so modest that she would not be prepared to blow the trumpet of her own husband. But that should not be allowed to deprive the members of this Society of the opportunity of offering their sincere congratulations to Mr. G.B. Erskine (the husband of the said lady) upon the honour that came his way on Tuesday, 3rd May, 1955. On that date Mr. Erskine was elected President of the British Philatelic Association.

"I was present at the meeting and can speak of the enthusiasm with which his election was received. Mr. Erskine was for three years the Chairman of the Council of the B.P.A., and his latest honour is a fitting tribute to the high esteem in which he is held. I am sure that I am writing on behalf of the members of the N.Z. Society of G.B. when I offer him our hearty congratulations and good wishes.

"Incidentally, our new Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Noel Turner, was elected to the Council of the B.P.A. at the same meeting and to him I think we should also offer our congratulations."

VOLUME III NEW ZEALAND HANDBOOK

*and James  
you to pay Noel.*

Of our bulk order for the above, only one copy remains available. Who wants it at £3.15.0d. now (for delivery in August)? In order to effectively remind each member who has ordered and paid, I am striking through this paragraph in red ink on the copies which will go to the members in question. If your paragraph is not so treated, you will know we have not had your order and remittance. The first member to send £3.15.0d. may have the last copy. Incidentally, this is only available as one (anxious) member ordered and paid direct to the Royal New Zealand, and then again to me following my notes on the subject in the last bulletin. He is, therefore, prepared - and would be glad - to release one copy.

PIGEON POST AND PHILATELIC TERMS

Thanks are due to two non-members on behalf of those 20 who were able to attend our last meeting (19th March). First there was Mr. Cyril Harmer who gave us a wonderful show of all issues of the Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post. (The only thing he

appeared not to have was a forgery of the first issue, a deficiency which was immediately filled by the Chairman of the meeting who "just happened to have one in his case"). Mr. Harmer had some most entertaining stories to relate in connection with this fascinating sideline on New Zealand philately. A very interested and appreciative guest at this meeting was Mr. C.A.E. Osman, editor of "The Racing Pigeon" who was seen to be taking copious notes from the sheets displayed. The second display was a philatelic treat - some 40 sheets of "Philatelic Terms Illustrated" - given with a most instructive talk by Mr. F.S.J. Jordan, Chairman of The Hale Philatelic Society.

#### KENT AND SUSSEX

I mentioned in our last number that I should be at Congress (at the Royal Hotel, Norwich) from 17th-21st May where I hope to meet some of our members. Two more philatelic dates are:

4th June. Kent Federation Day. (Tonbridge Wells)  
2nd July. Sussex Summer Convention (Lewes).

I hope to be at both of these events.

#### NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome one new member:-

Flight-Lieut. R.J. Riley,  
97 Chancerybury Way,  
Woodside Park, N.12.

All issues.  
(Not Dependencies)

#### CLOSING REMINDERS

Are you one of the 23 "red-cross gentlemen"? (See page 1). Have you started on your competition efforts? (See page 2). Incidentally, if you have forgotten, mislaid or lost the details (Feb/Mar Bulletin), let me know and I will send you a duplicate.

And finally, have you noticed how I spelt "Kingsley" on page 1, third line of the last paragraph? Apologies for this and all other mistakes.

Margarete Erskine (Mrs)  
Hon. Secretary

CAMPBELL PATERSONS LOOSE-LEAF CATALOGUE: From the late Harold Munday's collection the Society has one copy of the above for sale. It is in perfect condition. Would any member care to make an offer?

## TRAVELLING POST OFFICES

To one of our Cheltenham members - Miss M.E. Hickling - we are indebted for the following extract from a letter received from the Publicity and Advertising Manager, New Zealand Government Railways Head Office, Wellington, New Zealand last year:-

"The only travelling post offices now in service on the New Zealand Railways are those between Wellington and Auckland and between Christchurch and Dunedin. On the Wellington-Auckland run the postal cars are attached to the rear of the express trains which leave the northern and southern terminals at 3 p.m. daily. One postal car is attached to each train.

"In the South Island, postal cars are worked through from Christchurch to Dunedin on secondary express passenger or express goods train. Southbound, they run on the 9 a.m. express passenger or on the 8.25 p.m. express goods. In the other direction they are coupled to the 8.45 a.m. express passenger train or the 9.40 p.m. express goods.

"At 31 March 1953, we had eight postal cars, four on each Island. We understand that of the four South Island cars, one is used only between the port of Lyttelton and the city of Christchurch. The other services were discontinued many years ago. The Auckland-Paeroa postal car, for instance, was withdrawn in 1931, and those on the Wellington-New Plymouth, Wellington-Napier, and Dunedin-Invercargill trains were withdrawn in 1932."

## NEW ZEALAND HELICOPTER MAIL

How many members received from New Zealand - postmarked "Auckland C.I. 5 Fe.55 5 p.m." - a souvenir cover of the "First N.Z. Helicopter Flight, Western Springs to Auckland"? Six arrived at No.12 (incidentally, five of them have already been passed on); the sender is unknown, but should he (or she) happen to read these notes - many thanks! Which reminds me that the "Newsletter" of the New Zealand Royal has a three page discourse on Helicopter Mail generally, in the February issue, which concludes:-

"The lift of letters by helicopter from Western Springs to Auckland took place on the afternoon of 5th February, 1955. Originally, the intention was for the machine to land on the Chief Post Office, but this was changed to the Parnell Park Rose Gardens, about a mile from the post office.

"The Auckland Public Relations Office had special covers prepared by printing in blue a reproduction of a helicopter in flight. Above the illustration were the words 'By Helicopter' picked out in white and below the picture was a description of the machine. 'HILMER 12-B --- N.Z.'s First Helicopter'. An inscription across the bottom of the envelope reads 'Commemorating the First Special Helicopter Letter Delivery, Western Springs - Auckland, 5th February, 1955'. In addition, a cachet is impressed in black on the face of the envelope. It reads, 'First N.Z. Helicopter Flight Western Springs to Auckland 5th Feb. 1955'. A 3d. Queen Elizabeth stamp is hand date-stamped 'Auckland C.I. 5 FEB 55 5PM'. The mail consisted of 16,668 letters."

And to conclude this item on Helicopter Mail here is a short extract from "Stirling Stamp News" (Christchurch N.Z.) Feb. issue:-

"Reported that 20,000 covers were carried by N.Z.'s first helicopter mail from Western Springs Auckland to the Chief P.O. Just proves that twenty thousand people can't be right."

#### THE TWO PERF. QUERY

In our last bulletin there was a reference to the "two perfs. on one sheet" of 1915-1916. These commenced with the four values of the Edward VII issue, and extended through all the earlier recess printed George V values thereby providing the interesting vertical pairs with two perfs. (14x14½ and 14x13½) so tenant. The question was asked, why was it done? Dr. H.J. Selby (Gloucester) sends the following (possible) explanation:-

"I am away from home at present, so I cannot refer to any books, but my recollection is that somewhere or other I have read that the plates for the Edwardian stamps (and presumably the Georgian ones) were so badly aligned that it was impossible to perforate the sheets vertically at one operation. Certainly the Edwardian plates were not first-rate ones: the quick abandonment of the 8d. value's first plate shows this to be true.

"If the plates were badly aligned, it is easy to picture that the easiest way to perforate the sheets was to perforate the first four rows on one machine and then pass the sheets over to the second machine for completion. The theory could be readily checked if any one possesses complete sheets of these values. The alignment could be seen and a ruler between the vertical rows would show whether a continuous perforation was possible or not."

He may be right. There is, however, one point to remember; the George V plates were prepared by Perkins, Bacon & Co., while those

of the earlier issue Edward VII were prepared by W.R. Royle & Co. Does it not seem unlikely that the famous firm of Perkins, Bacon would fall into the error of bad alignment? (this, with all due respects to W.R. Royle & Co.) Furthermore, both issues were printed in sheets of 120, i.e., 10 horizontal rows of 12; so why (if the explanation suggested by Dr. Selby is correct) only the top four rows with one comb head and the lower six with the other size? Why not five and five? It is so nice to ask questions and leave someone else to provide the answers, and by the way, no reply yet, on this subject, from New Zealand. Someone there must know.

### THREE FOUNDER MEMBERS - WHO WERE THEY?

The following letter has appeared this month in the philatelic press; it is self-explanatory:-

"In your brief report of the visit I had the pleasure of making to Croydon recently, you credit me as being 'the founder of The New Zealand Society of Great Britain'. Although I have heard this said before and also seen it in print, it is, nevertheless, inaccurate. Had you used the term 'a founder member', it would have been fairer to several of my present fellow-members.

"Although I was one of the 12 present at the inaugural meeting it was actually P.A. Hewett who conceived the idea of a New Zealand Society in this country and convened the first meeting. He resigned, however, early in the Society's life and was followed not long afterwards by two other 'founders', R.W. Lees and H. Bradson.

"In addition to the three I have mentioned, there were eight others, at least five of whom are still with us - Mrs. E.C.M. Moore, A.A. Hard, P.B. Dewdney, A. Greenberg and R.D. Williamson. What of the remaining three who attended the inaugural meeting? The first minutes are a little hazy merely stating '... and three others whose names, unfortunately, were not taken.' Did they become members? Are they still with us?

"If you can publish this letter it may provide the answer to these questions; it will certainly transfer much of the credit with which you honoured me to those more deserving and entitled to it.

(signed) G.B. Erskine"

Well, who were the other three?

### EXCHANGE PACKETS

More and more books and material are required. This plea is on behalf of Mr. W. Hasler Young, our new Exchange Secretary. His address is, 25 Angel Close, Edmonton, N.18. (Incidentally, why do all Societies - or most, anyway - refer to their "Exchange" Packets

and "Exchange Packet Secretaries" (or "Superintendents"). Why do they not become more realistic and describe them as Sales Circuits and Sales Circuit Organizers, or does the term "exchange" help us to solve our consciences and to retain our "amateur status"?)

Members sometime complain, as is always their right, about unrealistic pricing of many books, while another complaint goes a little more deeply into this question - the marking of each item with a recognized catalogue number or some other indication where, perhaps, the watermark or perforation varies from the normal. Members complain of the amount of time required in checking a large number of stamps in each packet only to find that the majority are not the scarcer items which they are seeking. Most books are circulated with the main purpose of selling the material for the owner. In selling anything, salesmanship is required; in a circulating book obviously this can be translated into neatness in mounting and lay-out and the best and most attractive description; obviously the matter must be true.

#### PIM'S NEW CATALOGUE

In a letter dated 31st March - Alan Fleming tells us that his new catalogue, which has been almost entirely re-written, should be ready about June. The price is 15s.0d. The Society will be receiving a number of copies so those members requiring them should notify the Secretary. Mr. Fleming, who is the Managing Director of Pim & Co. Ltd., of Auckland, was in this country most of last year and a guest of this Society at our Annual Dinner.

#### CONGRESS POSTMARK

The despatch of this issue of "The Kiwi" has been deliberately delayed in order to provide each member with the Norwich Congress special postmark. So if you want it - retrieve the envelope from the wastepaper basket.

#### "DEFINITIVE" OR "REGULAR"

Recently the Society was asked to support the following notice of motion which another Society proposed to submit to Congress. "That the term 'definitive' as applied to an issue of stamps be no longer used and that the term 'regular' be adopted. It to be understood that a regular issue of stamps is one not intended for any commemorative or other special purpose". It was felt that this was a matter more for a general Society than a more-or-less specialised body such as our own. It should be interesting, however, to see how this proposal fares at Norwich.

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Please remember 20th July next; it is closing date for competitions.