

THE KIWI



Hon. Editor:

G.B. Erskine,
12, Elliot Road,
Hendon, N.W.4.

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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
Notes from the Secretary.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND, VOLUME III.

Obviously the first item I must mention in this Bulletin is this new volume from New Zealand. Although quite a number of our members have now received their copies - and incidentally they all seem to speak most highly of it - there are still a number of members still waiting. My last information from New Zealand was that about 500 books had been despatched and a few more are going out daily. As the whole edition only amounts to 1050 (and most of them are sold) it seems reasonable to suppose that the posting of copies has now been completed, or will be within the next few days. Consequently, those members still awaiting their copies may rest assured that within a week or two they will arrive.

This third Volume published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand is undoubtedly a masterpiece. Those who were lucky enough to receive their copies early in the distribution, voice the opinion that it is the best of the three - and, probably, the best and the most comprehensive work ever published on the postal history on any group. At first it was intended to confine this story of New Zealand postal markings to some 500 pages; eventually, as the work proceeded, it was found necessary to fill some 722 pages and nothing has been spared in respect of illustrations.

(Continued Overleaf)

OUR NEXT MEETING - 25th July, 1956.

Those who can conveniently reach our usual venue, the Kingsley Hotel W.I., will be glad to have details of the meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 25th next (6.p.m. for 6.30.p.m.) We have been promised a display and talk by Mr. A.L. Michael to fill a part of the programme, and there is sure to be some time available for short discussions on members individual problems, viewing items of interest, etc., Will everyone attending endeavour to bring some material along to fill possible gaps. On previous occasions we have filled a complete evening on such lines, and it has always proved most entertaining. You should have had this date in your diary, so please do attend.

Every one of our members had the opportunity of placing a pre-publication order at the price of £3. 15. -. The Publishers own price for the few copies remaining after publication date is £4. 4. -. There must be many of our members (who did not order on the original subscription) who will eventually wish to have this Volume and it seems more than likely that they may have to pay at least double the original price. It should be remembered that Volume 1, published just before the war at about 50/-, is now commanding in secondhand condition upwards of £20. The interest in postal history and postal markings is developing rapidly. Incidentally, there are sure to be some copies of Volume III on view at the July meeting.

SEPTEMBER MEETING.

Our September meeting will be the third (and last) of the mid-week evening dates this year and will be held as previously announced at 6.30.p.m. Wednesday 26th September. A part of the programme will be an auction providing, of course, sufficient material is available. As several members have asked for this auction it seems probable that there will be sufficient Lots coming in to make a good sale possible. So that these can be listed and circulated to non-attending members for the purpose of postal bids, those with material to dispose of are asked to send this in, either to the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Treasurer (who it is hoped will be the auctioneer) by the 11th, September. Our previous auctions have all been good: please make this one better still.

NEW ZEALAND - AND WHAT ELSE?

Several of our overseas members have already received, completed and returned forms giving up-to-date details of their philatelic interests. Blank forms are enclosed with this Bulletin, and all members are asked to complete and return at once. It will be noticed that additional information is now being sought - Philatelic Interests outside the New Zealand group. This is the outcome of suggestions from several sources, and as most of our members do have another interest it seems worth while recording these. It is proposed to issue this Revised Register with our next Bulletin so please help me to make it complete by giving the form speedy attention.

As a sample of how the complete Register will appear, details in connection with those overseas members who have already responded, are set out in this Bulletin.

I am quite sure that if any of our members collect ships on stamps Mr. R.A. MacDonald of Rotorua will welcome correspondence on this subject as well as the New Zealand issues. B.H. Webb of Tawa Flat and G.B. Talbot of Southern Rhodesia are sure to be open for discussion or exchange in connection with Czechoslovakia and Australian States respectively. I mention these three merely to demonstrate the general idea behind the additional details. (My own "Other Interest" is Pretty Flowers on Stamps - but that is merely by-the-way).

(Secretary's notes continued on page 7)

The Editor Looks Back.

THE BEGINNING OF THE HEALTH ISSUE

In the autumn we will be seeing, for the twenty eighth successive year, a new Health Stamp issue. At the time of writing I have only brief advance news of the proposed design - it is by C. Mitchell and depicts two children gathering apples. Again we are to have three values. I can only hope that the finished design will show a great improvement on that selected as the basis for the three 1955 values. To my mind these were the nearest approach to miniature beer bottle labels that have yet come out of New Zealand.

In our last Bulletin Mr. Noel Turner provided quite an interesting contribution mainly on the subject of Health Stamps and it is this that has prompted me to look through some of the press comments dealing with the origin of this twenty eight year old series. I feel I must give the prize of "one large biscuit" to Gibbons Stamp Monthly for some of their early comments. With sales - since 1945 - going well over the ten million mark each year, they must be a popular issue, and it is my view that this annual "event" has done much to increase the number of collectors of New Zealand material over the last thirty years; whether their speciality is the classic Chalon or the modern George's or Elizabeth's, all seem to have some leaning towards New Zealand Health stamps.

"Christmas Seals"

However to turn to G.S.M. (February 1930) the first mention of what was to become a philatelic "best seller" ran thus:-
".... the New Zealand authorities decided last Christmas to issue a Christmas Seal, sold at 2d., of which a penny was devoted to the campaign against tuberculosis, the label being available as a penny postage stamp. Although fully believing in Christmastide charity, we regret to see a member of the Australasian group reviving a custom which we hoped had died out with the unwieldy Victorian emissions of 1900".

My old friend, the late Stanley Phillips, who was Editor of the G.S.M. for many years, seemed a little calmer when making his next reference (March 1930) :-
"The Charity stamp forecast last month has now arrived. It is printed on Cowan paper in sheets of 80 (10 x 8) and the first stamp at the top left corner shows a constant variety, the centre line of shading on the veil at left being incomplete".

I cannot find any further reference to Mr. Phillips' "Christmas Seals" in G.S.M. until January 1931, when the following note appeared:-

Mr. J. Broadley gives us to understand that a Christmas Charity stamp will now be an annual feature in New Zealand. He states that the design is to be engraved, and is to be a permanent one. This, we suppose, means that only the date will be altered each year; not at all the happy decision on the part of the authorities".

The G.S.M. returned to the subject in November 1931 and I think this is where the Editor fell down rather badly. However, first of all this is an extract of the news item as it appeared:-

"... another Charity stamp will be issued this year in spite of the fact that last year's was a financial failure, the gross receipts from its sale being only £1730. Its lack of success is attributed by the Post Office to the general depression and, to a lesser extent, to the design being practically the same as for the 1929 label. This latter defect is being remedied and a new engraving has been ordered from England. From the figure of the receipts given above, it would seem that less than 52,000 of the 1930 issue were sold - not at all a large number".

I cannot think where G.S.M. can have obtained the information that the 1930 Health issue sold only to the extent of 52,000. As most of us know the sales of the second Health issue did drop to something below a half of that of the first Health stamp, nevertheless the actual figure was 215,500 in other words over four times the number quoted by Gibbons.

(Please turn to note at the end of this article)

Although I have searched very carefully through the G.S.M. up to 1934 I can find no further reference to these issues which is rather surprising as apparently it was the Editor's policy at that time to decry the issue. He could at least have made a good point on the lack of popularity in connection with the lower value of the "Smiling Boys"; in this case the sales were under 75,000. Apparently the late Mr. Phillips realized that this Health issue had come to stay as an annual event, that there would be another line to sell to collectors, and consequently he accorded them - and has done ever since - catalogue status. And now, over 25 years later, I should imagine that Gibbons must be responsible for the distribution, annually, of quite a good share of the 10 or 11 million of what at one time they described as "Christmas Seals".

A Series by R.J.G. Collins.

I do hope I shall not be misunderstood from the foregoing comments. The early issues of G.S.M. from October 1927 onwards do make most interesting and instructive reading. For example commencing in March 1928 R.J.G. Collins ran a series for seven months entitled "The Later Issues of New Zealand". Obviously most of what Mr. Collins wrote at that time now appears in Volume 1 of the Handbook. Nevertheless, there are still several small items of interest which he recorded in 1928 which I cannot find mentioned in Volume 1 of the Handbook. For example, I did notice several references - and theories - on the old "two perf problem" of the later Edward's and the early George V's. Mr. Collins certainly said more about this in 1928 than he did ten years later in Volume 1 of the Handbook. When I have digested his earlier remarks a little more, I may be able to cross-check again and then produce some notes for those members who are interested in those issues.

Another interesting G.S.M. item, in July 1928, was an article by Stanley Phillips - "Drawings and Essays for the Georgian Issues of New Zealand". This was illustrated by a double-sided plate showing the original sketch and pencil notes by the artist, Linley Richardson R.B.A. This sketch, at that time, together with some original die proofs, was apparently in the collection of Capt. Rupert Clutterbuck. It would be interesting to know where these repose to-day.

Here are one or two further items from G.S.M.:-

December 1928.

"Apropos the necessity for the issue of separate sets of stamps for the various islands, Mr. P. D. Coles kindly shows us an envelope from the Postmaster at Rarotonga, franked with the 2½d. stamps of Aitutaki and Penhryn Island, no Rarotongan stamp being used. As our correspondent says: 'The postal use of these stamps seems to be subordinate to the needs of the collector'".

May 1929.

"Miss M. H. Aitken kindly sends for our inspection a cover bearing the special cachet used by Commander Byrd on his recent South Pole Flight. This cachet gives a graphic polar scene, with a camp to the left, a boat in the background with an aeroplane circling above and a dog-team sleigh to the right. Besides this there is a map of the South Polar regions surrounded by the words, 'Byrd Antarctic Expedition' within a doublelined circle. The cover is franked with ordinary New Zealand stamps. The cachet was applied at the flyers' base, and the mail was then carried to Dunedin by the ship of the Expedition, the 'Eleanor Bollys', where the stamps were cancelled with the ordinary Dunedin advertising postmark".

October 1932.

"Mr. C. W. Tonkinson sends us some New Zealand stamps bearing the postmark of 'the most southerly post office in the world,' Half Moon Bay. Unfortunately our correspondent does not state exactly where this place is - it obviously cannot be a part of New Zealand proper as there are a number of places in South America where post offices exist, which have a lower latitude"

March 1933.

"Mr. Basil H. Howard gives us some interesting information regarding Halfmoon Bay, which place we mentioned here last October as a claimant for the title of the 'most southerly post office in the world'. Mr. Howard tells us that Halfmoon Bay is the site of the only post office on Stewart Island. This piece of land, as most of our readers are doubtless aware, is about 30 miles south of South Island, New Zealand, and, since its latitude is only about 47° south, its boast is in no way justifiable. The Falklands are nearer the Antarctic while there are almost certainly several post offices

in Argentina and Chile that are further south even than these.

"An interesting item of news from our correspondent's letter which is worth repeating concerns a strange plant that is a native of Stewart Island. This is the 'Puheretaiko.' It has thick felt-like leaves with silver undersides forming an excellent writing surface and Mr. Howard states that, until a few years ago it was a tourist custom to send these stamped and addressed through the post without any covering. Since the practice is now discontinued, we presume the New Zealand Post Office became tired of sorting through mail-bags stuffed with leaves and therefore prohibited their use."

Well, that is that! Personally I would like to acquire a cover carrying that special Byrd cachet. Any offers?

GBE.

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(Note on Para. 3. Page 4. Since selecting the extracts from G.S.M., as quoted, and drafting my own remarks - "the penny has just dropped". In £1730 there are 207,600 tuppences - not 52,000. This gives us a figure nearer the actual sales eventually recorded. It seems that mathematics was not Mr. Phillip's strong point in 1931. However, his error nearly slipped by me when I tried to puzzle out his point 25 years later. - GBE.)

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A MEMBER OFFERS PRIZES.

It is by a coincidence that, since the foregoing was completed, Mr. Noel Turner should send in the following:-

"I take a great interest in the Health Stamps of New Zealand, but the designs during the past few years have been exceptionally poor; this view is held not only in this country but in New Zealand itself. I feel that the members of our Society could help considerably by making suggestions as to the themes to be incorporated in the designs, and I am prepared to offer two prizes, one of £1. 1.0. and a second of 10/6d for what I consider to be the best groups of three suggestions received from any member of the Society. The suggestions should be written on a post-card, arranged in the order favoured by the member and should be sent to me direct to my address which is:- Gladstone House, High Road, Wood Green, London N.22.

"I will undertake to see to it that all good ideas are forwarded to the proper authorities in New Zealand and in this way it is quite possible that in the next few years we may have the pleasure of knowing that a Health Stamp design was based on an idea put forward by a member of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain"

Noel Turner.

The Secretary's notes continued.

WATERMARKS.

Whenever I receive a letter from New Zealand it is interesting; when it touches on a controversial subject, it is even more so. Here is an extract from the last letter to hand from Douglas Edsall (of Waikato) He writes:-

"I cannot see the importance of using watermarked paper for British Colonial stamps, particularly as many countries such as France, U.S.A. etc., print their stamps on unwatermarked paper. If this procedure was adopted with British Colonials I think it might make the hobby even more popular. After all, does it matter how the paper is fed into the printing press; the stamp is precisely the same, whether the paper is fed wrong end up or up-side-down! It does not seem to 'make sense' to say that a stamp printed on paper fed wrong way up, (if it has a wrong side!) has, in some cases, 50 times the value of the same stamp printed on paper fed right way up, when the stamp itself is the same in shade and perf.

"Little importance is attached to Chalon Heads, with the New Zealand watermark, whether 'inverted' or 'reversed', and little or no 'premium' is asked for such a stamp. Yet a common 'Health' stamp, valued at 3d. will fetch up to 5/- if it has an Inv: Wmk: Who started this 'ramp'? Blame the dealers; everyone does! But, of course, some argue 'a dealer must live!' I can't think why!"

Douglas adds to his final caustic comment the words "I will now duck the brickbats". I doubt if he need worry, because I am sure no one who knows him will take his remark about the lives of dealers seriously. I don't, not only because so many dealers are very good friends of mine, but largely on account of the fact that I - and everyone else - should realize that dealers only supply what is demanded by collectors. Undoubtedly it is the latter who chase the inverted and reversed watermarks. Apart from all this Douglas Edsall does make a most interesting point.

CUP AND SHIELD 1956 - 1957

In reminding members in our last Bulletin about the Competition for the "Stacey Hooker Cup" and the "Kiwi Shield", I wrote - "Is it asking too much to expect at least 25 entries?" I am very pleased to say that when Mr. Trevor Edwards arrived at the Kingsley Hotel on May 30th last to judge the entries, he was surrounded (on all the available frames and the table space) with 19 entries totalling almost 200 sheets; obviously he had no easy task. Eventually Mr. Edwards announced his decision adjudging the entry of our Edinburgh member, Mr. A.B. Johnstone, to be in the first place. This entry was entitled "George VI De La Rue Varieties"; within the limit of 12 sheets he submitted a most interesting effort featuring paper, watermarks, flaws, retouches and re-entries. I am sure all members will join me in congratulating Mr. Johnstone in taking the "Stacey Hooker Cup" to Scotland for 12 months; he will receive

this in November next to hold for one year. Incidentally, it was a most timely win for our Scottish member, who had just completed his term of office as President of the Edinburgh Philatelic Society.

Adjudged second was Mr.Noel Turner's entry - 12 sheets of Health Stamps showing many interesting varieties. This, of course, is Mr. Turner's speciality and we also congratulate him on taking over the "Kiwi Shield" for one year.

The present holders of the Cup and Shield are Mr.A.A.Hard (Colchester), and Mr.R.D.Williamson (Sidcup), respectively, and perhaps both will kindly note that I should like to receive these Trophies from them during the first ten days of November so that the names of the current winners can be engraved ready for presentation at the A.G.M on November 25th.

On behalf of the Committee I would also like to thank the other seventeen members who responded to my appeal for their participation in this competition and at the same time I hope they will have "another go" next year. We have already suitably thanked Mr.Trevor Edwards for undertaking the judging, realising that he had an extremely difficult task.

NEW MEMBER.

I am pleased to record one new member, who came as a guest to our last meeting.

George Kewol
20, Blenheim Road,
St. John's Wood,
London, N.W.8.

All Issues

(Speciality -
Earlies)

NEW ZEALAND SHOW AT THE ROYAL

Members of the Royal Philatelic Society and guests (among whom were included several members of our Society) enjoyed a comprehensive display and talk by the Royal's President, Major K.M. Beaumont, at the R.P.S. May meeting. This short extract from Major Beaumont's paper may be of interest.

After referring to an earlier meeting when he had had the privilege of showing early issues of New Zealand from the Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace, Major Beaumont said :-

"A display such as mine (this afternoon) is in the nature of a descent from the sublime to the ridiculous, as compared with the classic issues of 1855 to 1872

"From the latter date to the end of last century, the stamps of New Zealand, including the decorative pictorials of 1898/99, are not of great interest. But thereafter the Mount Cook Halfpennies, and especially the Penny "Universals," with some items of the Edward VII Series, and

the George V stamps, provide material for interesting study owing to different printers, the many kinds of paper used, the variations in perforation and the manner in which the line-engraved stamps can be differentiated.

"A curious feature of the Twentieth Century stamps of New Zealand is that, although the catalogue indicates that few of the varieties merit high prices, it is sometimes difficult to fill gaps with special items. They are seldom included in auction sales, and when they do appear, they seem to be snapped up at prices which usually exceed my bids. Therefore, it would seem that there must be a number of collectors who are at least as interested in those stamps as I am and who probably have better collections than mine, some of whom may be present in this room. To these I offer my apologies for showing sheets which may seem to them elementary and inadequate to represent properly the issues concerned."

Major Beaumont had no need for such apology as was made clear by the response he received: Appropriately the vote of thanks was proposed and seconded by two members of our Society, T.G.Wayman and H.Gordon Kaye, respectively. The President of the Royal put up a very fine show, and we should certainly like to see it at the Kingsley Hotel one day.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS.

As mentioned on page 2 of this Bulletin, here are up-to-date details of some of our overseas members, eight residing in New Zealand and one each in Australia (late of Cheltenham), Southern Rhodesia and the U.S.A. The figures 1, 2 and 3 in the "Interests" column indicate the following :-

1. General interests in the New Zealand Groups.
2. New Zealand Speciality.
3. Other main interests.

I am quite sure all these friends overseas would welcome correspondence, etc. from members in Great Britain; I take this opportunity of thanking them for their support of our Society.

Name and Address.

Interests.

F.S.S.Bishop.
126, Warrington St.,
St. Albans
Christchurch, N.Z.

- (1) All Groups Not Dependencies
- (2) Postal history, Stationary, Postmarks, Air Covers.
- (3) Antarctic and Arctic Posts
Philatelic Terms Illustrated.

J.J.Bishop,
69, Ranfurly Rd., Epsom,
Auckland S.E.3., N.Z.

- (1) All Groups
- (2) Pre-Adhesive and Stampless Covers (1800-1862)
- (3) British Pacific Islands.

- E. Brodie,
P.O. Box 1836,
Auckland CI, N.Z.
- (1) All Groups.
(3) Australia.
- R. J. G. Collins,
P.O. Box 316
Christchurch, N.Z.
- (1) All Groups.
- D. Edsall,
No. 2 R-D. Ohaupo,
Waikato, N.Z.
- (1) Full Faces.
(2) Postal History.
(3) All early engraved stamps.
- R. A. MacDonald,
Box 202,
Rotorua, N.Z.
- (1) First Side Face Onwards.
(2) 1935 Pictorials and Coils
(3) Thematics (Ships on Stamps)
- Campbell Paterson,
Epsom,
Auckland S.E.3., N.Z.
- (1) All Groups. Not Dependencies.
(3) Greek "Large Heads".
- B. H. Webb,
34, Mahoe St.,
Tawa Flat, N.Z.
- (1) All Groups
(2) Re-Entries All Issues. 1898
Pictorials
(3) Czechoslovakia Pre 1950.
- Miss M. E. Hickling,
O/o Defence Registry,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.
- (1) All Groups.
(2) Sea Posts and R.T.P.O's.
- G. B. Talbot,
O/o R. F. Wilkins & Co.,
P.O. Box 70,
Gatooma, Southern Rhodesia.
- (1) K.E.VII - K.G.V. - Id. Univ. & Dom.
To -Date
(2) 1935-42 Pictorials.
(3) Australian States. e e e e
- Maxwell. H. Boyce,
14, Henry Lane, Wallingford,
Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
- (1) All Groups.
(2) Booklet Pages.
(3) Used British Colonies.

IN CONCLUSION.

In ending these notes may I repeat myself with the following requests:-

1. A good attendance at 6.30.p.m. July 25th and lots of items to talk about.
2. Plenty of Auction Lots by September 11th (for September 26th meeting).
3. Our Packet Secretary is still "crying out" for more books.
4. Please complete and return the enclosed form at once. (if you can send with it something for publication in "The Kiwi" it will be more than welcome.

Margarete Erskine (Mrs)
Hon. Secretary.