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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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No. 2.

E D I T O R I A L.

OUR NEXT MEETING.

6.30 p.m. Wednesday, May 29th 1957, Kingsley Hotel, London.

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in producing this issue of the "Kiwi" and, for the absence of the Secretary's Notes and Reports.

Last year it was agreed that the Annual Competition should in future be held in May, that being so the subject for our next Meeting on May 29th will be Competition entries. Here are the brief details which prospective participants will wish to have:-

Subject: Competitor's own choice (but obviously restricted to the stamps, covers, cancellations, postal history, etc. of New Zealand and Dependancies).

Number of Sheets: Any number up to 12.

Marking:

(a)	Philatelic Knowledge and Research	40%
(b)	Condition and Layout .. .. .	30%
(c)	Writing-up .. .. .	30%

Awards: Highest Marks: "The Stacey Hooker Cup".  
Second Highest: "The Kiwi Shield"

Judges: A judge (or panel of judges) will be appointed, from outside the Society membership.

Closing Date: The last day for receiving entries will be Wednesday, 29th May, 1957.

Presentation of Trophies: These will be presented to the winners at the A.G.M. on 30th November next and they are to be held for one year. In each case these Trophies will be engraved with the Winner's name and "1957". A suitably worded certificate will accompany each Trophy.

Any member is entitled to enter and there is no entrance fee. Entries to the Hon. Secretary (Mrs. M. Erskine), 12, Elliot Road, Hendon. London. N.W.4.

Please note: The name and/or address of the entrant should not appear on the entry but on a separate sheet of paper attached to it.

Your Editor was unable to attend the last meeting on March 30th owing to the illness of his wife; the report of the activities at this meeting will have to be held over until a later date.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: There are quite a number of Members who have not yet paid their current subscriptions and, they will be receiving a personal reminder from the Treasurer within the next few days. Why not beat him to it!! Don't say you haven't been warned!!!

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THE BULLETIN

Since my last month's notes on the vertical pairs perf. 14 x 13 and 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  I have been able to examine a complete sheet of K.G.V.3d. value - Plate 18. In the top margin of the sheet there is a row of vertical perforation holes extending above the horizontal row of perforations which completes the perforation of the sheet. This confirms my deductions that the sheets were perforated from the bottom upwards with a comb perf. 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  for the bottom six rows and then changed to a machine giving a perf. of 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  for the top four rows.

The depth of sheet perforated by one operation of the comb of the 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  machine averages 23 mm measured from the outside of the pin at the head of the comb to the outside of the end pin in the vertical row. Similar measurements for the 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  perforation is 23 $\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

A noticeable feature of the sheet is that, whereas the perforation holes of the 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  machine are clean cut, the holes of the 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  perforation are very rough. This shows that either the pins or the matrix holes into which they slide had become worn.

Stanley Gibbons' catalogue states after No. 477b that the perforation 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  may be met with in entire sheets, or in conjunction with the 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  comb.

It may be that, due to the wearing of the 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  machine which was giving such rough perforations its use was discontinued but, owing to the depth of the 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  comb being a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm less its use to perforate the whole sheet was unsatisfactory? Hence the completion of the sheet with the 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  machine for the last four rows.

In a previous issue of the "Kiwi" Mr. Noel Turner, Hon. Treasurer, offered a prize for "Health" Stamp designs. The response was very poor but, from amongst the very few replies received, we publish extracts from a very interesting letter from Douglas Edsall one of our informative members in New Zealand.

" In response to your generous offer of a prize for the best suggestion on N.Z. Health Stamps(?) my entry is:- Discontinue this childish issue. The money for "Health Camps" could be easily raised by surcharging the existing issue. It would save a lot of the cries of horror at the futile designs of this useless issue. The only use they have, is to arouse nostalgic memories of the "transfers" we got in our youth from "Tom Smith" crackers. The less said about the so-called "design" the better! The first "Nurse" was passable, the '31 health showed a silly grin on a "fat boy". The '32!. Well Sir! it shows a somewhat inebriated female waving a glass of wine, and what that has to do with children's Health beats me! Of all the horrors of philately, surely the Soldier and stile is the limit! Last year's health closely resembled the labels you see on pickle bottles. I defy anyone to point to one design that has true artistic merit, or even decent engraving.

Douglas Edsall.

P.S.

Dear Sir,

The above ought to "stir up" some eager "defenders" of the Healths to reply per Kiwi, which is all to the good of circulation! I will now place myself under police protection!

Regards,

Douglas.

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## AN EXCHANGE PACKET PURCHASE.

I always hope that I am amongst the first few when exchange packets are sent around so that I can buy some of the bargains offered but I sometimes find that when I am near the bottom of the list that there are a few useful items that the experts have missed. One of these was an interesting N.Z. Trans-Tasman airmail cover with the usual light blue 7d. overprinted stamp which was offered at half the catalogue value of the stamp.

This cover was apparently sent from Waitangi on February 6th 1934 as shown by the enclosed letter and this seems to be confirmed by a poor Waitangi postmark of that date which is over the 7d. light blue Trans-Tasman airmail stamp S.G. No. 554. This stamp was first issued on 17th January 1934 which was a month before it could be used on the first official airmail to Australia. There were 83,078 of these stamps issued and there were 39,255 articles flown on the first flight so that nearly half of the stamps were used on this flight. The interesting thing about the stamp on the cover is that it shows the broken "N" variety in "IN" in the overprint "Trans-Tasman Air Mail "Faith in Australia"". This is a constant variety mentioned by some catalogues which appears once in a sheet of 120 stamps so that there cannot be more than 693 copies issued and very few on a first day cover of the Trans-Tasman Airmail.

This cover was flown from Auckland, New Zealand, to Sydney, New South Wales in the Aeroplane V.H.U.X.X. "Faith in Australia" by C.P. Ulm. The distance was about 1,300 miles, which was flown in approximately 15 hours at an average speed of 86 m.p.h. The postage rate was 7d. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. and the Post Office provided facilities for New Zealand collectors to address mail to themselves via Australia and I have covers bearing two Australian penny stamps to pay for the return postage by sea. There were 12,860 of these return covers but although this cover bears an Auckland address it bears no stamps to cover the extra postage.

In the top left hand corner is a blue airmail label and on the front are a special Auckland cancellation for this flight "Auckland 17 FE 34. I.N.Z." and a circular cachet in violet "First Trans-Tasman Air Mail New Zealand - Australia Feb. 1934". On the reverse is the arrival postmark "Sydney N.S.W. 17 Feb 1934 8 p.m. Air Mail Section G.P.O" which should be found on all these first flight covers.

Also on the front is a cancellation in the form of a red square with "T 4d" inside which I believe was used by the Australian Post Office to show the postage due and just below this is the black circular New Zealand Post Office cancellation which reads "To Pay, Double Deficiency Postage 4d", which shows that 2d. should have been paid to the Australian Post Office and

that the double deficiency amount was collected by the New Zealand Post Office in accordance with the Universal Postal Union agreement.

When these details are observed, the cover has an interesting story to tell and I doubt if there is a similar cover with the variety in the overprint of the stamp and the unusual postal markings.

J.G.Williams.

January, 1957.

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A. A. HARD,

Hon. Editor.

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