



THE KIWI



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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Affiliated to:- BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION and PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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WHOLE No. 60.

The July Meeting of the Society will be held at The Shaftesbury Hotel, Monmouth Street, London, on Wednesday, July 31st, at 6.15 p.m. It will be a Members' Evening when all Members present are expected to give a short display and talk on their subject matter which will be open to questions by their fellow-members.

MEMBERSHIP LIST. No. 4. 7/63.

NEW MEMBER.

We are pleased to welcome the following -

B. Upton, Esq.

"Whirlow",
St. Mary's Road,
Hayling Island. Hants.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

D. Edsall

Now at

8, Odette Street,
Melville, Hamilton,
New Zealand.

The Editor apologises for the absence of any write-up of the last meeting in May.

He was not able to attend owing to indisposition and no report has come from any member present.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT.

There was a very good attendance at our July 1962 meeting when Kenneth Chapman was the Guest Speaker, and your Committee therefore decided to include a July Meeting in our 1963 programme. I hope therefore that you will come along on July 31st at 6.15 p.m. or a little earlier, and bring with you some pages, and questions for our Members' Meeting on that date.

I shall be there to greet you all being well, as I shall be staying with my daughter at Sanderstead on holiday.

Our previous Members' Meetings have been very much enjoyed by all who attended. Bring along some duplicates if you have any, and a book for circulation in an exchange packet.

If you have never previously attended a Meeting this will be a good opportunity to make a start and meet other Members. If you happen to be visiting London, do not miss the opportunity to join us, and do bring some pages from your collection.

Our congratulations are sent to Ken McNaught, who will be a Judge at the Melbourne International Exhibition, and to Mr. Chadwick whose "Western Australia" will go to Melbourne as an invited exhibit.

I see, too, that Roy Heath has an honourable mention in Campbell Paterson's News Letter from New Zealand for his notes on the retouch which produced that much-sought-after variety on the 2d. Kowhai Black Plate 2, Row 3/1. Perhaps he will be good enough to bring his copies and demonstrate them for our benefit on July 31st.

Harry Bartrop.

From: A.R. BURGE,
P.O. Box 1568, Wellington, N.Z.

CH. CH. EXHIBITION LABELS

The article on the above in the issue of March 1963 was very interesting. Of the labels listed I have 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7. Also another that may be No. 1. This shows a map of N.Z. with Maori head, in red, yellow & green. My copy is not perforated, but possibly could have been. No. 7 has a portrait of R.J. Seddon, Premier of N.Z. and NOT that of Ward.

Good luck to your Society.

A.R. Burge.

MY STAMP COLLECTION

POSTAL STATIONERY

Postal Stationery is at present my main interest. I say at present, as my interests change from time to time. Possibly one subject automatically leads to another; or an unexpected find of material hitherto not collected may lead me to look for other similar material to provide a reasonably representative collection in a new field.

There was no simple decision to collect Postal Stationery. Like Topsey, it just 'grewed' from a few items included in a collection of covers to illustrate progressive changes in postal rates. The latter was at one time my over-riding interest and now comprises a large part of my collection. It is interesting to find out why it was necessary for stamps of particular values to be on sale at particular periods; why colour changes were appropriate; why some, even humble, values are so much more difficult to find used than others. For example, I wondered why the modern half-penny is not as common as its lowly status might suggest until I saw that there is no call for it with today's normal postage rates.

It soon became apparent that Postal Stationery afforded the most reliable guide to changes in postal rates. It is less rarely used "Philatelically" or with stamp values not related strictly to current rates. A study of rates can, however, be bedevilled by ordinary covers bearing stamps assembled for their beauty or supposed philatelic value. Further, the overprints changing the value of previously printed stocks provide an automatic key to rate changes.

Once started, I became obsessed with securing a representative collection of New Zealand Postal Stationery, and have succeeded fairly well, becoming even more interested as the collection grew. It has now grown very bulky, thanks mainly to the frugal obsession by the authorities to ensure that however frequent the rate changes no card or envelope once printed should remain unsold. Every bit of stock was better overprinted than destroyed. The result is well-known, and enhances the size of a postal stationery collection.

I enjoyed showing part of this collection at the May meeting and in the absence of the Editor must write my own obituary. Yes, I enjoy showing my collection. It is a severe discipline not to bring out albums before visitors to my home. However, other fanatics who are members of the same stamp club are fair game. They can always stay away or run away if they are not interested. Perhaps they do.

MY STAMP COLLECTION - POSTAL STATIONERY (contd).

The postcards are the most representative section and I showed a full range. They were widely used and clearly show the history of rate changes. Their interest is increased by the pictorial issues - I particularly like those bearing the small picture of N.Z. scenery or South African War scenes on the front of the card. A picture on the back is no good to me as I find it quite impossible to mount a card to show both front and back. I was able to show quite a lot of these at the meeting and one generous member gave me one I had not seen before.

I always learn from others when showing my collection and was interested to have my attention drawn to the blue guide dots on the sides of a fair proportion of the Q.V. Penny Blue Cards.

A member also had to show me that a King George V. Head could not very well have appeared as early as 1903, as had been incorrectly written up.

My show of the envelopes was less complete, partly because it seems so difficult to identify the different King George V Penny issues. I just cannot tell consistently by counting the difference between 51 and 52 pearls around the head. My score usually ranges from 45 to 55. Neither is it very easy to agree on the measurements of the imprint said to vary by half a millimetre or so. It is so difficult to assess where to start and to stop measuring to this degree of accuracy. One day I must get down to sorting these out now that no knowledgeable and clear sighted volunteer came forward to do this at the meeting.

The best of the envelopes was an Albino Head of the K.G.V Head, though one irreverent member did ask my recipe for a suitable bleach.

Among the letter cards there were two examples of the multiple overprint not originally listed by Robson Lowe about which there is a note in the September 1962 "KIWI". This is the one where a K.G.V 2d. Yellow Letter Card, originally issued in May 1921, was first overprinted 1½d. when the rates were reduced on 1st February 1923 and then further reduced to 1d. on 1st October 1923. It would be nice to see once again postal stationery thus having to be overprinted twice because of successive reductions in Postal Rates.

G.E.C. PRATT

OLD TIMERS. No. 1 - BENJAMIN GOODFELLOW.
(continued from March issue)

NEW ZEALAND

Notes on the 2d. Chalon Head, Type I, Plates I and II with special reference to the re-touched portion of the damaged Plate II.

Almost all the 2d. stamps on large Star paper with the Dunedin perf. 13 are from the worn state of Plate I, but I possess four specimens of this perforation, in the early shades from Plate I., two of which are on a cover dated 18th September, 1863.

The whole of the 2d. issue on the N.Z. watermarked paper was from the worn state of Plate I. This was a short-lived issue, running during 1864 and part of 1865, and is found imperf. perf. 13, and perf. 12½.

Stamps from Plate II cannot exist with the Dunedin perf 13, because the Dunedin machine was discarded about June 1864, which was before the stamps from Plate II, had begun to appear.

I have an interesting cover among the "N.Z." watermarked issues dated, as I contend, 1st June, 1864, at Auckland, and containing a pair of 2d. perf. 12½, along with a 6d. Star, rouletted. The figures "64" have been inserted reversed on the date stamp, which therefore reads "1879". This cover is useful as fixing the date of operation of the Government 12½ perforating machine, viz. June 1864. Another cover also containing a pair of 2d. N.Z. watermark, perf. 12½, bears an arrival postmark at Sligo (Ireland) of 15th July, 1864, which was probably despatched earlier than the last, but the New Zealand postmark is missing.

A large proportion of the early perforated stamps are very badly centred. This was due to the irregularity of the spacing of the stamps on printing Plate I.; and partly perhaps for this reason, though chiefly, no doubt, on account of the signs of serious wear of the plate, a new plate for the 2d. value had already been ordered from Perkins Bacon & Co., on 20th January, 1864.

The new Plate II. was not forwarded from London until 21st April, 1865. According to the History of N.Z. stamps the earliest recorded specimen from Plate II is dated 5th March, 1866, but I am able to ante-date this by about a fortnight, with a specimen clearly dated 20th February, 1866.

OLD TIMERS. No. 1. BENJAMIN GOODFELLOW. (contd).

The earlier printings from Plate II are in a deep dark blue; later are found specimens with a duller and more greenish cast, but quite different from that of the London prints, with which of course they cannot be confused, as the last-named were all imperforate, whereas those from Plate II are all perf. 12½.

The new Plate II was nickel-plated, a process which it must have undergone after its arrival in New Zealand, as Perkins Bacon & Co. have stated that none of the New Zealand plates were nickelled by them.

At a date not yet ascertained, but probably late in 1867 (Mr. Hausburg gave 20th Jan. 1868, as the earliest re-touched date he had noted) Plate II became damaged in its lower portion, possibly as a result of its having been overheated during preparation for printing. The result was that in the lower portion the nickeling partially scaled off - apparently taking with it some of the fine steel surface - and thus giving to some of the corner stamps the appearance of having come from a very badly-worn plate, such as Plate I had become in later years.

To remedy the defect, the Postal Authorities had the damaged portion re-cut or re-touched, and an article by Mr. Leslie Hausburg in the "London Philatelist" (Vol. XV, page 78), gives a most interesting account of his researches concerning the matter:-

" On arrival in Wellington in February this year (1905), I lost no time in presenting my introduction from the Philatelic Society. Sir Joseph Ward, the Postmaster General, was unfortunately away, but Mr. Gray, the Secretary to the Post Office, afforded every facility for inspecting the stamp office and, above all, the Perkins Bacon plates. It was fortunate that our arrival was not later, as I heard that the order for the destruction of the plates had been given some time before, but had not been carried out owing to the illness of one of the officials. There was no difficulty in at once detecting the stamps that had been retouched, and Mr. Hume, who had been in charge of the department for many years, perfectly well remembered that the plates had been partially retouched, and he could also tell me the name of the engraver who did the work, James Macgregor Lloyd. Unfortunately, no one knew what had become of Lloyd, except that he had gone to Christchurch. His name was not in the Directory, and the only thing to be done was to inquire for him at the shops of the various engravers, printers and stationers in Christchurch.

OLD TIMERS. No. 1. BENJAMIN GOODFELLOW. (contd).

Mrs. Hausburg joined in the search, and finally heard of him in the shop of a stationer who knew the firm for whom he worked, Messrs. Moeller & Young. Mr. Moeller told me all he knew about Lloyd (who, unfortunately, had been dead some years), and, in addition, examined several copies of the retouched stamps. He said that Lloyd was a wonderful engraver, but that, like most geniuses, he was a rather peculiar man. The explanation that Mr. Moeller gave was that, although Lloyd would spend much time and infinite pains on a piece of original work, he did not at all appreciate having to tinker up the work of another.

The retouching was most unevenly done. Many stamps that were badly worn were not re-engraved at all, and others only partially. There was no attempt to go over the original lines, and the background and corners generally show heavy scratches and punches, instead of the fine lines of engine-turning, and the diamond-shaped patterns. There are also many superfluous lines owing to slips of the engraver's tools.

This want of uniformity, though not pleasing to the eye, is of great value to the philatelist. There is not the slightest difficulty in identifying most of the retouches, as every one is quite different from the others.

The retouching was probably done towards the end of the year 1867, so that the plate was only in use for about eighteen months before it showed signs of wear. The earliest specimen of a retouch that I have seen is dated 20th Jan. 1868.

This retouching of the plate is of the highest philatelic importance, as it is an alteration of the design itself. Such varieties are of much greater philatelic value than any changes in colour, paper, or perforation, and still more than an accidental variety, such as a misplaced or damaged surcharge. "

The recent acquisition to which I referred earlier, is that reconstructed sets of these Plate II retouches, shewing the 36 stamps on the plate which were affected - or at least such of them as are really material to a philatelist. It includes also a reprint in black of the complete sheet of 240 stamps from Plate II, shewing both the damaged and undamaged portions.

Descriptions of the various retouches in detail would prove tedious, and would take up a great deal more space than is available. Moreover, since the publication of the History of N.Z. stamps, containing reproductions of the retouched portion of Plate II, it has become largely unnecessary.

OLD TIMERS. No. 1. BENJAMIN GOODFELLOW. (contd).

The same retouches appear, of course, in all printings from Plate II subsequent to 1868, e.g., in the orange-vermilion, Star, 2d.'s of 1871; and in the No watermark, N.Z. watermark, and Lozenge watermarks of 1872. Reconstructions are also shewn of the 1871, Star 12½, and of the No watermarks of 1872.

Considerable confusion appears to exist in the minds of some collectors, as between the stamps from the very worn state of Plate I. and the re-touches from Plate II. You need to bear in mind that the wear on Plate I happened evenly all over the plate, whilst the damage on Plate II was for the most part quite irregular.

I have never seen any stamps which could be recognised as coming from the damaged part of Plate II, after the damage, but before the re-touching took place. It is just possible that such may exist, though not by any means likely; if any such were printed, it is more than probable that they would be destroyed.

AUCKLAND EXHIBITION LABELS - and

MORE ABOUT THE CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION LABELS.

I have received further letters about the Ch. Ch. labels and in particular, two letters from R.J.G. Collins, our Member in New Zealand. He confirms that No. 1 is the Map and only known imperf. and in singles. No. 5 which we stated as showing the Secretary bird does, in fact, show the "Tui" or Parson Bird because of the white tufts at its throat. No. 7 is a portrait of Richard John Seddon, and NOT Sir Joseph Ward. No. 4 is also known imperf. but these are very rare.

Since our first notes on the above, I have acquired a set of labels advertising the Auckland Exhibition. There seems to be a set of five and appear to have been printed in a strip showing one of each, and then perforated on the outside edges only, so that the end stamps are perforated on three sides only and the middle stamps, top and bottom only, the strip being "imperf. between". The same Member, commenting on these, states that he has not heard of them previously, but also writes that on the same day as he received my letter he saw two others for the first time, and these were imperf. so that they may be different from those in my possession.

AUCKLAND EXHIBITION LABELS, ETC. (contd).

Our thanks to Mr. Collins for his help. Will other Members now please write to me about anything they know of the Auckland Labels? All details will be published in our next issue.

NOEL TURNER - (address as in the last demand I sent you for your Subscription(!))

N.Z. at CONGRESS at SCARBOROUGH.

The Officers of the N.Z. Society of Great Britain were unaware that a N.Z. Study Circle would meet at Scarborough Congress this year. Had they been so informed, every assistance would have been given from the London end by sending material for study and in other ways. However, under the Leadership of our Member, Mrs. H.I. Versey, a Study Circle was held, and those attending were entertained by shows of various kinds, mostly of the 1936-43 issues, George VI, Q.E.II and Victory issues. It says much for the ability of the Leader, that at the end of the meeting, most of those who remained, confessed themselves to be Australian specialists, but who were content to see N.Z. stamps in some detail. One of these was C.J. O'Connor of Perth, Australia, to whom an invitation is being extended to attend our next Meeting in London on July 31st.

Our thanks to all concerned and in particular to Mrs. Versey, who acted as Leader at very short notice. Incidentally, she and Emeritus Professor Versey, sailed for New Zealand on July 2nd. to visit their daughter, Beryl, who is teaching at Tauranga Girls' College. Our best wishes to them both for a happy and successful trip.

"KIWI" BACK NUMBERS.

From the Advertisement that appeared in the last issue of "KIWI", it appears that our Journal has acquired a commercial value! High prices are now being offered for the earliest issues (the classics?) and we anxiously await news of the discovery of previously unrecorded varieties. Amongst those already known are issues without a coloured heading to the title page (a "no red" variety?), double prints, and pages half printed. All we need now, is catalogue status (what about it, C.P.?) and then we shall know that we have really arrived in the Philatelic world!

Seriously (?) if there are Members who are prepared to part with their back numbers (on loan or otherwise) for the benefit of our newer Members, will they please let me know, and we will see if a system can be created. We might even consider the reproduction of articles from early numbers, by photostat process, if the demand is great enough and the idea can be made an economic proposition for the Society (a typical Treasurer's re-action!).

All letters on this subject to NOEL TURNER, please.

ALBERT A. HARD

Hon. Editor "KIWI".