

THE KIWI

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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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The next meeting of the N.Z. Society of Great Britain will be held on Wednesday, 30th September, at 6.15 p.m. at the Shaftesbury Hotel, Monmouth Street, London.

Our President, Mr. Bartrop, will conduct the meeting and wishes all members, if possible, to bring along some Airmail covers and any other relevant material. No previous meeting has ever been devoted to Airmails, other than Pigeon Posts, and a few earthquake emergency flights; so that the next meeting will open up a new field for study, of great interest and historic importance. It is more than likely that letters carried on early pioneer flights will eventually become classics of a new type, keenly sought and of considerable value. At present it is a rather neglected subject in this Country, but it will not always remain so.

The July meeting was presided over by the President and apologies were received from Mr. R. Chasmer for his absence, and your Editor was on holiday. The displays were conducted by Mr. G.E.C. Pratt and Mr. John Riddell, and an account of the proceedings will be found in the following pages.

RETURNED LETTERS.

I was pleased to have the opportunity at the July Meeting to show the types of markings described in the January 1964 KIWI, including the following markings not then listed.

Type (b) Undated Stamps bearing Post Office Name.

Posted at Christchurch without contents. Initials.....

Not Egnont Village.

Not known by Postmen Auckland C.I.

Not known Postmen Wellington N.Z.

Not known by/ Letter Carriers/Auckland
(Reported by Mr. Bartrop on cover dated 1912)

It is impossible here to list the block stamps of which many examples were shown and which each postman is required to initial to confirm that the addressee is not known on his walk. Almost every Post Office with a permanent staff has its own and the design is a matter of individual choice. Some provide space for as many as twenty postmen to initial. By comparison the only date stamps intended to be used on such mail - hexagonal in shape - are only found in the Returned Letter Branches established in the 21 Principal Offices to deal with such mail for their District. Even at a Principal Office this may not be a full time job - registered mail is sometimes also the responsibility of the same man, which must explain why hexagonal date stamps intended for Registered Mail are sometimes found on Returned Letters (and incidentally, Postage Dues.)

(c) Undated Stamps bearing No Post Office Name.

Air Service Interrupted.

Checked at Delivery Counter.

Gone: No Address Walk No.....

Not Known Delivery Counter.

Not for Delivery Counter.

Not a Boxholder at Initials.....

Refused.

Returned from..... Initials.

This article would have been delivered earlier had the private box number formed part of the address.

This article would have been sorted into your private box sooner had the sender included the private box number in the address.

Removed/No Address. (Reported by Mr. Bartrop on No.1900 cover)

Parti/Gone Away (Reported by Mr. Williamson.)

Returned Letters (contd)

(c) Undated Stamps bearing No Post Office Name. (contd)

Avoid/delay in delivery/by requesting your/correspondent to in-/sert the appropriate/private box/number.

(Reported by Mr. Williamson in large circular stamp.)

2nd Notice/Placed in Private Box/Time.....Date....Initials.

(Reported by Mr. Williamson.)

Mr. Startup has drawn attention to the way the stamps in use will vary with whether mail is delivered to letter boxes or collected from the Post Office.

There were also two examples of the private use of a forwarding stamp by a shipping company on mail for a passenger:-

SHIP SAILED

Forward to SHAW SAVILL & ALBION CO. LMD.

LEADENHALL STREET,

LONDON E.C.

and:- Received at Wellington, N.Z.

TOO LATE

Vessel sailed (followed by date in pencil 29/3/37.)

Directional markings on mail required to be sent to another Post Office for delivery were represented by -

ONGIHUNGA on letter addressed to

3 Erson Avenue, Epsom, Auckland.

RURAL DELIVERY HAWERA on cover addressed to

OKALAWA and superimposed over name of that place.

MISSENT FIJI on a Postcard from N.Z. addressed to Singapore.

Mr. Bartrop also had a rare Circular Date Stamp reading - NZ/DL OFFICE/12 D E 94 on the reverse of an 1894 postcard from G.B. to Wellington: the front was stamped UNCLAIMED in a rectangular frame. The latter is common but this C.D.S. has not been recorded otherwise.

G.E.C. Pratt.

RURAL DELIVERIES.

I also showed covers to illustrate Mr. Edsall's article in the January KIWI, and also my note in the July KIWI of additions necessary to Mr. Startup's excellent publication "TRAVELLING MAILS".

The only evidence of markings by Rural Deliveries is on Returned Letters. They have no date stamps but just an undated stamp bearing the name and number of the Rural Delivery to which correspondence may have been wrongly addressed.

G.E.O. Pratt.

FLAG STATIONS.

Mr. Riddell showed a collection of Flag Station covers such as he described in the January KIWI. This was the first time a considerable collection of this category of Loose Letters had been shown and they provoked a great deal of interest and discussion.

Their story is fully told in the January 1964 KIWI.

This appears to be the only use where no Late Fee is charged on such mail, but there was uncertainty at the meeting about current practice in dealing with other categories of Loose Letters such as might start their journey on ferries, Ships (except where Marine Post Office arrangements operate) trains or possibly even tram cars.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Showing mounted cut-outs from "The Stamp Lover" Mr. Pratt reminded members of the excellent bibliography provided by the Junior Philatelic Society. This includes not only full size books but also references in current philatelic magazines to New Zealand matters.

POSTAGE DUES.

The chief interest of Postage Due Markings lies in their accurate record of the history of postage rates with no "philatelic" artificialities.

Adhesives specially printed for this service were only available from December 1899 to 30th September 1951 when they were withdrawn. They were never intended for use on mail to addresses outside New Zealand.

Before that date and subsequently the deficiency on mail for delivery within New Zealand - wherever posted - had to be marked by hand, usually by a rubber stamp. There might be a separate stamp for the commoner values and provision for the value in manuscript in some cases. Nowadays, for the last two or three years the front of the envelope is usually marked with the new type of "Keyhole" pattern rubber stamp. The double deficiency is collected by normal adhesives stuck on the back and date-stamped. Since mail is not normally delivered actually to the house, the postman must leave a warning note and hand over the mail at the next delivery in exchange for the value of the adhesives on the back.

However some postmen are trusting - one cover was shown endorsed in pencil "Please leave money in the box - Postie."

The double deficiency on mail posted to overseas addresses cannot be collected by N.Z. Postage Due or normal adhesives. The amount of the deficiency is recorded by hand stamp at the Foreign Mail Branch (or possibly by post office detachments travelling on mail steamers). The double deficiency has traditionally been recorded not in New Zealand currency but in the international currency of the Universal Postal Union i.e. Gold Centimes Five. Centimes was equivalent to One Penny; at least from the eighteen nineties until the war, but a 1961 cover reveals a conversion rate of four centimes to the penny. (Though I have a 1963 cover with 18 centimes equivalent to fivepence.)

The most common Rubber Stamps available in units of 5 centimes, show T/(Figure)/CENTIMES in a double lined circle.

A hexagonal frame is sometimes found.

The standard New Zealand pattern sometimes also found on foreign mail (much more commonly since the war) shows sterling currency. I was puzzled for a long time by the apparent use of a 7d hand stamp on an internal 1899 cover, but when a second cover (dated 1905) turned up it became apparent that a figure "1" had been damaged but had been kept in use. The common pattern until the recent introduction of the Keyhole type was a double lined ring surrounding "TO PAY DOUBLE DEFICIENCY POSTAGE" with the amount in figures in the middle. (Separate stamps for the common low values - manuscript figures for the higher values.)

Mr. Bartrop and Mr. Young showed interesting collections of the Postage Due Adhesives which are rarely seen.

Postage Dues (contd)

Mr. Bartrop had, authenticated by B.P.A. certificate, a penny first type with a double offset of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d value tablet (i.e. a positive not negative impression.) Discussion suggested that this was caused by a paperless printing on the roller at the end of printing a run of halfpennies before change over to start printing a run of pennies. The offset from the roll to the sheet must have occurred on the first sheet of pennies to run through.

He also showed complete sheets of the first printing of the halfpenny, penny and twopence postage due and was able to show how the frame plates for each sheet of 120 (two panes of 6 x 10 side by side) was made up from electro-type blocks of 30 (6 horizontal by 5 vertical.)

These sheets show how doubling of the ornamental circle appears most commonly on stamps lying at the top, bottom and sides of each group of 30 where the block would be most vulnerable to a shift of the master block in stamping the wax moulds by means of which the groups of electros were produced.

The value Plates were set up in groups of six in two rows of three.

G.E.C. Pratt.

NOTES FROM NOEL TURNER.

It seems early days to talk of 'Kiwi Day', our A.G.M., which this year will take place on Saturday, 28th November, but I do ask the members to make their preparations now. First, book the date in your diary so that you can be with us from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. or at least put in an appearance during the day. Secondly, will you go through your collection and look out a few sheets that you will be prepared to show - with or without talk - for the interest of the other Members. Thirdly, this is the day upon which we hold our once-a-year Auction and I ask you to select those items which you would like to sell in this manner. There is a good market for single stamps, collections of duplicates, covers and similar material.

We are pleased that there has been an addition to our Membership List in New Zealand. Mr. R.M. Startup of Masterton has recently become a Member and we extend to him a very hearty welcome. Members will know that Mr. Startup is a student of many aspects of the Stamps and Postal History of New Zealand and will have seen his frequent contributions to the Philatelic press. A number of pamphlets are available in this Country that have been written by Mr. Startup and we hope that he will become a regular contributor to 'KIWI'. So that his Membership shall not be entirely one sided we also trust that he will find the 'KIWI' of interest to him.

Notes from Noel Turner (contd)

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. E.W. Bishop who judged our Competition some two years ago. Mr. Bishop was a Member of the Royal and his very wide circle of friends in the Philatelic World will wish to extend to his family their sincere sympathy. Mr. Bishop was a specialist in the Stamps of France and has exhibited in many exhibitions and to Stamp Clubs and Societies.

It was interesting to read in Campbell Paterson's News Letter that one of the reasons given why people should take up the collection of New Zealand Stamps was the existence of a specialist Society in this Country. I am sure that Campbell Paterson will be glad to know that we agree with him entirely.

NOEL TURNER.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

W A N T E D

A particularly good price will be paid for the following two issues of the 'KIWI'

JUNE 1952 and NOVEMBER 1955.

All other back numbers are required too and in any quantity.

Magazines Wanted.

All back numbers of:-

'New Zealand Stamp Collector' - 'Mail Coach' (Startup)
'Jayrich Bulletin' (Richards) - 'Sterling Stamp News' (CHCH)
'Pacific Stamp Journal' (Bishop) - 'Philatelic Bulletin' (Napier)
'C.P. Newsletter' Vols. 1 to 14 - 'Newsletter' of R.P.S. of N.Z.

Handbooks Wanted.

'Penny Universal Handbook in de-luxe binding.
'N.Z. Marine & Railway T.P.O's' Ward 1951.
'N.Z. - A Philatelic Handbook' by Collins 1922 (82p.p.)
'Stamps of the Pacific Islands' Vol.1. by Collins. 1924 (103p.p.)
'Catalogue of Pigeon Post and Airmail Stamps and flown Covers of N.Z.'
Verne Collins - Any Edition.

WRITE FIRST WITH DETAILS TO B.R. PEACE, 24, THE GREEN, LEEDS, 17.

MEMBERSHIP LIST. No. 10. 9/64.

NEW MEMBERS. (***) See also below).

We are pleased to welcome:-

R.M. Startup. P.O. Box 275, Masterton, New Zealand.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

L.A. Wells now at 3, Ambrose Road, Swindon, Wiltshire.

R. Chasmer now at 16, Kennedy Cox House, Burke Street, London, E. 16.

A.R. McLeod now at 24, Saltash Road, Thornton, Blackpool.

P.E. Dewdney now at 10, Lewis Road, Widmore Green, Bromley, Kent.

D.M. Halliday now at 78, Oliver Road, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

and New Page 3 --- to be inserted in your Membership List.

A U C T I O N

The time has arrived!!!!

Will members wishing to sell, please send me a complete and FULL description of each LOT, plus TWO valuations:-

1st. A fair Market Value.

2nd. Your Reserve.

All particulars must be in my hands by 1st November, for publication in the KIWI. The lots may be sent later, but must reach me before the 24th November, 1964.

Remember that Postal Bidders, rely on the published catalogue, without the necessary detail they do not buy and you loose the sale.

As on previous occasions lots will be gratefully received, for sale, on behalf of the Society Funds.

*** LATE NOTIFICATION - NEW MEMBER.

2403269 Ch/Teoh. H. BARRETT,

Sergeant's Mess, R.A.F. Lysham, Wilts.

CONSERVATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS

(H.R. Harmer - 1932)

" Our early stamps were all printed on handmade paper of excellent quality, mostly made from linen rags. This is the finest and most lasting material that the Philatelist has in his collection.

Latterly the preponderating proportion of paper used for modern stamps has been machine-made and naturally less durable and permanent than the true handmade paper from clean linen rags which is produced to-day for our Bank of England notes and similar important documents. Such paper is unquestionably the finest example of the art of papermaking the world produces.

We are now considering as a matter of the greatest interest to ourselves as Philatelists the prospective length of life of good early classic stamps printed on good handmade paper, such as the large star watermarked paper of South Australia, or the "Penny Black" of Great Britain on its equally famous watermarked small crown paper.

Obviously the answer is that the life of such stamps would largely depend on the treatment received; if they were stored in a damp cellar they would in the course of a few years, through the effects of mildew, have turned into a mouldy, decayed mass of matter.

But assuming that every care was taken in protecting from air, from continuous light, extremes of heat and cold, and worst of all from damp, I can see no reason why a stamp kept under such ideal conditions should not be almost as perfect and beautiful in a thousand years' time as it was over ninety years ago; but it would need to be kept under the conditions I have suggested, and if so, I firmly believe that a much longer life than a thousand years is possible.

Consider, for example, old books.

Early type-printed Caxtons are approaching their five centuries. The famous Charlemagne copy of the Gospels now lying in the South Kensington Museum dates back a thousand years. The ancient Egyptian Papyrus "Book of the Dead" is of the Ptolemaic era and over 1,500 years old, while the Egyptian Papyrus "Prisse" is three thousand years old. Quite recently papyrus rolls were found in the excavations now being carried on in Egypt.

I show a specimen of papyrus roll, and papers dating back well over a thousand years.

It is a fair argument that if such delicate material as rolls of papyrus, written in sepia, can survive for three thousand years or more, our early stamps, produced as they were of infinitely superior materials, should under equally favourable conditions last at least as long.

I hope the acceptance of this statement will lift a load from the minds of those who are anxious about the condition of their stamps in another thousand years or so.

CONSERVATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS (contd)

It must be remembered that these old Papyri to which I am referring have been kept from air and light in most instances for the larger part of their existence; had they been handled in the cavalier way in which many collectors treat their stamps it is possible their life might only have been a few hundreds of years instead of thousands of years.

I now come to what is the chief object of this paper. In reality a little homily on the need of extreme care in handling stamps, or perhaps one should say the need of handling them as little as possible.

Every time a stamp is touched by the fingers, no matter how clean they are, an impalpable film is left upon it; quite impossible to see or detect by ordinary means, when that stamp has been handled a hundred times, and sometimes with not so clean hands, the resulting dirt is plainly to be seen by the naked eye. The stamp has lost its pristine bloom, it is a little duller. It can still probably be described, if unused, as "superb mint", but when placed side by side with a virgin unmounted and unhandled stamp the difference is plain.

But I can imagine many a collector saying "that's all nonsense, my hands are always clean."

Try an experiment! Take a perfectly clean piece of white blotting paper, and on it rub your fingers hard. You will probably be surprised at the result.

Multiply the amount of dirt you find on your blotting-paper by the number of times some stamps are handled, and you will appreciate why stamps sometimes look so dingy.

When you come to consider that there are many stamps that have been knocking about the world for over ninety years and have never yet had a bath, one can understand why they often look dirty.

But apart from the manual handling of stamps; when they are unprotected from exposure to air and dust it is incredible how much such exposure will dirty a stamp. I am referring to, say, a bundle of envelopes which has lain fifty years or so in a perfectly dry, dark cupboard. The unprotected outside envelope will be dirty, the paper of the stamp yellowed with age, the colour of the stamp dull and lifeless; the next envelope and stamp will probably be comparatively clean, and those near the centre of the bundle will be found to be little changed from the colour and appearance they had half a century before.

Had this bundle of envelopes lain in a thoroughly damp cupboard, the damage would not have been limited to just two or three of the outside covers; brown or other coloured spots would have occurred over them, to their detriment and enormous reduction in value. "

(To be contd).....

POSTAL DELIVERIES IN NEW ZEALAND

By Douglas Edsall.

Writing at the time of the threatened Postal Strike in England in July 1964 it may be of interest to some folk to know how the Postal service works in New Zealand cities. I can, of course, only say what is done in my own city of Hamilton and its suburbs. It is the centre of the WAIKATO dairy farming district and has a population of 40,000, and so is a little larger than Salisbury in Wiltshire. We have no pillar boxes for posting such as you have at home; all letters and parcels etc., are posted at main and branch post offices, in the four slots provided, parcels, papers, letters, air mail and late fee.

The mail is delivered from main post offices and branches by girls on bicycles. They provide an excellent service, unfailing, come wet or fine, on bicycles with a basket on the front handlebars. These girls, many sturdy Maori girls, are most obliging and will even contact the house if they have a registered letter, to avoid any delay to the recipient, who, in normal course is served with a notice to meet the mail girl on the next delivery or call at the Post Office for registered mail. I do not know if the Post Office Authorities condone this, for should you be absent when a registered letter is delivered the article is sent for "next delivery." As you can imagine, these girls have a tough job in "all weathers" but do it very competently.

No parcels requiring customs duty are delivered, just the notice of "customs duty due" is sent and you call and pay for it. Parcels (and I think that it includes stamps) are free of duty to the extent of £10 only.

The mail girls report at S.P.O. Hamilton at 7.0 a.m. to sort their own mail into streets, and then in to numbers, pedal away to the suburb they deliver at (in my case it is about two miles before the girl begins delivery) "dump" the various "street bags" at convenient points and start to deliver to the houses.

Letters are not delivered into letter boxes at the front door but into a wood or iron mail box, with a square box below for parcels, and a tube above for use by the paper boy, for the houses are detached and usually have a fairly extensive front lawn and garden. These are open to the foot paths and give quite a park like appearance to the streets and are gay with flower beds and flowering shrubs. In some Countries the girls may be whistled at, but in New Zealand the mail girls are supplied with whistles to blow when mail is delivered,

Postal Deliveries in New Zealand (contd)

but at present there is a shortage of "neck chains! but this may be only a local shortage. The mail girl usually ends her "delivery round" by 1.0.p.m. and heavy parcels are delivered per van in the afternoon.

Another excellent service provided by the Post Office, is for Air Mail letters inadvertently posted with insufficient stamps to cover Air Mail letter rate, these are sent on without delay and normal adhesive stamps are affixed to cover the discrepancy. A request notice is then sent to the sender to forward the value of the stamps so affixed to the Post Office.

To permit this the rules for Air Mail letters require the sender to put his name and address on the back of the letter. A Post Office man told me they lose nothing by this as everyone pays up willingly!

S T O P P R E S S

POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND.

I have just heard the good news that this Society has been formed and hope we can report news of their build-up in later issues. Several members of this Society will no doubt wish to join and receive their monthly publication "The Mail Coach." This is being edited by Mr. Startup, and the first issue is certainly very interesting.

The Secretary is Mr. A.J. Robinson, Box 1605,
AUCKLAND. N.Z.

G.E.C. Pratt.

Albert A. Hard.

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