

THE KIWI

Secretary and Treasurer:
NOEL TURNER
Gladstone House
High Road, N.22
Tel: BOWes Park 4888



Packet Secretary:
ERIC N. BARTON
"Carloli"
Waynefflets Tower Avenue
Esher, Surrey
Tel: 37-63493

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
Affiliated to BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION and PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

~~KIWI EDITOR: MAJOR GRAHAM C. MONK, Spornwood, Paynefield Road, Tatsfield, Nr. Westerham, Kent.~~
~~24, Tatsfield, Kent~~

27, West Road, Barton Stacey,
Nr. Winchester, Hants.
Tel: Sutton Sootney 507.

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WHOLE No. 90.

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 29th MAY AT

SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, MONMOUTH STREET, LONDON.

TIME: 6.15 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

SUBJECT: MODERNS.

Two of our members, Mr. J. Bradford, and Mr. J.D. Bowstead will lead this evening meeting on Moderns.

Mr. E.K. Hossell has been invited to bring along some of his modern varieties, missing colours etc, so those members interested in this kind of material, can be assured of seeing some interesting and probably unique items.

If you are coming to the meeting, please bring a few sheets or any items of particular interest with you.

REPORT OF THE LAST MEETING - 30th MARCH - ANNUAL COMPETITION AND QUIZ.

Entries for this year's competition were not as numerous as had been expected, notably in the Classics Section for which there were only four entries. However, competition was keen, and our thanks are due to all entrants for a most interesting display of material.

We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Gordon-Kaye and Campbell Paterson, for assuming the onerous task of judging this year's Competition. Not for them the counter attractions of the Grand National and the Boat Race on the TV in the hotel lounge!

MODERN SECTION FOR THE KIWI SHIELD.

Entry No. 1 from Mr. E.K. Hossell. A study of the QE 11 1/- definitive including blocks of 4 showing the value marking 8£, £8, and the Plate B £4 substituted for 8£; plate blocks; Centre Pl 3 used for the 1/- value only; and examples of flaws and retouches, some unrecorded.

Entry No. 2 from Mr. J. Ashcroft. Postmarks of New Zealand off-shore islands. These islands have little outgoing mail, and the postmarks are therefore quite rare and interesting. The display consisted of covers bearing postmarks from the Kermadec, Chatham, Okiwi, Campbell, Waiheke, Raoul, Arapawa, and Stewart Islands.

Entry No. 3 from Mrs. Mitchell. A Pleasure Trip Round New Zealand. An original entry consisting of a travelogue around NZ illustrated by pictorial and commemorative issues. A pleasing display, but one which must inevitably suffer in the marking from lack of philatelic information, although scoring high marks for originality and presentation.

Entry No. 4 from R.W. King. A study of the 1960 Pictorial 4d (Puarangi), well illustrated with mint plate blocks, and showing the main flaws, minor varieties, chalk surfaced paper, and missing colour.

Entry No. 5 from Mr. M.S. Burberry. A display of Essays and Die Proofs for the KG V issue. Excellent material, well presented and written up.

Entry No. 6 from Mr. W.H. Young. A display of some of the QE 2 Queens Head issues showing flaws and retouches, coil pairs, and booklets.

Entry No. 7 from Mr. J. Bradford. A study of the KG V 4d, showing both the yellow and violet issues, and with illustrated examples of the Plate 20 re-entry on the 2½d.

Entry No. 8 from Mr. E.C. Ward. The 1960 Pictorial Issue in pairs and blocks, with examples of the Chambon perfs.

CLASSIC SECTION FOR THE STACEY HOOKER CUP.

Entry A from Mr. H. Barrett. A display of NZ Postal Stationery 1886-1907. A wide variety of material including postcards, letter cards, registered envelopes, official and commercial stationery. There was also an example of the International Exhibition letter card, an item not often seen these days. All the items were used, and the quality was outstanding.

Entry B from Mr. J.C. Stonehouse. A display of the 1d Universal showing the various papers, printings and perfs.

Entry C from Mr. J.C. Stonehouse. A study of the Maori War cancellations. An excellent exhibit showing examples of the HEADQUARTERS, QUEENS REDOUBT, ONEHUNGA, TAURANGA, the rare PORT WAIKATO, DRURY, and PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND on cover and stamps.

Entry D from Mr. M.S. Burberry. Great Barrier Island Pigeongram Mail. An outstanding display containing rare and unique items in excellent condition, well presented, and beautifully written up. The display included a message receipt dated July 1898, examples of the first issue of stamps and forgeries, messages, cancellations, and examples of the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency triangular 6d and 1/- stamps on flimsies.

RESULTS

MODERN SECTION.

KIWI SHIELD - Mr. E.K. Hossell.
Cigarette Box - Mr. J. Bradford.

The judges placed Mr. Hossell 1st, Mr. Burberry 2nd, and Mr. Bradford 3rd. Since Mr. Burberry had previously won the Open Award in this Section, the Cigarette Box was awarded to Mr. Bradford.

CLASSIC SECTION.

STACEY HOOKER CUP - Mr. M.S. Burberry.
Bookends - Mr. J.C. Stonehouse.

QUIZ

The President decided to dispense with our usual custom of forming a team of experts to answer the questions posed to them. This year, all those present were requested to look at the items and queries submitted, and to put forward any suggestions as to the answers.

The first question concerned a copy of the 1d Universal overprinted KING EDWARD VII LAND. Members were asked to say what Plate they thought it came from. The owner held an RPS certificate certifying it to be SG Alb ie. from the Waterlow plate. The consensus of opinion among those present was that the stamp came from the Dot plate. If this were so, then this is the first copy known.

The second query concerned a Second Sideface 2d lilac with advert on back, in an imperf condition with four large margins. Was it genuine? The only answer which was forthcoming was that since the stamp is unknown imperf, it was most likely a trimmed copy, - even if it was genuine, one could never prove it.

Query number three was a most interesting one which kept members busily talking among themselves for some considerable time. The query concerned the place of origin of a cover which bore a 6d Chalon cancelled with the numeral 18. The cover bore the rare Bristol Ship Letter marking and a Bristol cds dated 17 Ju 1856. It was backstamped Wellington 1856. There was also 1/- in black manuscript on the front. Close examination revealed four cuts in the paper around the stamp, although the cancellation extended on to the cover. The backstamp Wellington 1856 and the Bristol mark of 1856 undoubtedly establishes the year in which the cover was used as 1856. Since the 6d Chalon was not issued until 1859, this was clearly substituted on the cover at a later date. The numeral '18' was always used in conjunction with the OTAGO datestamp, and if genuine the Otago marking should have appeared on the cover. The extended numeral 18 cancellation on the cover is a fake. The 1/- manuscript indicated the amount to be paid by the recipient, in which case the original cover would not have borne a stamp at all. Why then the cuts around the stamp? If the cover bore a 1/- stamp (SG3 or SG6) and this was removed and replaced by the 6d stamp at a later date, then why the 1/- manuscript marking? A most interesting item, unanimously declared a fake, which has still not received an answer to its original query as to its place of origin!

The next question concerned a handstruck '4' in black on the bottom of a letter from England to New Zealand in 1872. The letter had chased the addressee around NZ and bore markings covering a period of at least 12 months.

Where was the handstruck '4' applied? The '4' represents a delivery charge or forwarding charge associated with its travels around NZ. It was probably applied at Auckland. The '4' was cancelled by an ink scrawl, suggesting that the letter failed to find the addressee, and the amount due was not collected.

The next item was a cover with an Auckland Paid mark dated 6 July 1861, and also bearing a 1/- penmark in red. This was six years after stamps came into use, why therefore were these markings used? Mrs. Kaye said that she had a similar cover but without the 1/- manuscript marking. This was a Maori War cover and stamps were not always obtainable. It was also pointed out that the use of stamps was not made compulsory until 1862.

The next item was a NZ Lands and Deeds 2/- stamp with a squared circle cancellation London WC 1 May 1886. How did this come about? There were two possible answers given. Firstly, it was possible to buy land in New Zealand through an agent in England, and the stamp could have been used on a document and cancelled in England. Secondly, it is possible that the stamp could have been postally used but for some reason was uncanceled when leaving NZ, and was cancelled on arrival in England.

REPORT OF PROVINCIAL MEETING AT HUNTINGDON - 23rd APRIL.

On the 23rd April Messrs Bradford, Collins and Hopkins represented the Society at a Provincial Meeting at Huntingdon. A very full house showed appreciative interest in varied display.

A range of material including pre-stamp covers, Addson, 1898 Pictorials and a representation of the middle issues was shown by Tim Hopkins. John Bradford produced a fine range of K.G.V, including several complete sheets, well known to most members of the N.Z. Society. The unique hand painted Essays for the 1898 Pictorial competition were shown by Peter Collins on behalf of Michael Burberry, who had been unable to attend, but had very kindly lent his magnificent material for the evening.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

I apologise if this edition of KIWI is not as full as usual, but I have just moved house, and trying to write the copy for this edition when nothing is unpacked is no easy matter!

When sending your contributions for KIWI please note my new address.

STAMPEX.

It was nice to see so many members at our NZ Day at Stampex. I counted a total of 25 members, and I am sure there must have been some that I did not see. For a Monday this was quite surprising. What a pity we didn't bring the Book along for members to sign. Our very grateful thanks to those members who gave up their time to carry out a spell of duty at the stand.

SEPTEMBER MEETING.

The firm of Francis J. Field, specialists in airmails, have accepted our Presidents invitation to give a display of N.Z. Airmails at our meeting on Saturday the 28th September. They have suggested that members should bring along any queries, covers, etc. for an opinion irrespective of the country but of course, concentrating on N.Z.

RTPO CANCELLATIONS.

The table which appeared in the March 1967 edition of KIWI has been revised and published by the 'Mail Coach'. I already have one or two amendments even to the Mail Coach table. An attempt will be made to bring the table fully up to date for publication in KIWI in the near future. If any members know of any amendments, or have any material that does not agree with the details already published, will they please let me know.

V

V 4 CANCELLATION.

Following my notes in the March KIWI, I have carried out some further investigations. Dr. K.J.L. Scott in his 'Notes on the Early Cancellations of New Zealand' states that he has a Ross V/4 proving cover of 1870, also bearing a Hokitika datestamp of the same day. This cover is the earliest recorded use of the V/4 obliterator so far brought to my notice. Dr. Scott also states that he has a V/4 cover of 1886 datestamped Kumara. Mr. J.D. Riddell has a V/4 cover with a Kumara cds of 16.7.86, and this so far is the earliest recorded date of the use of the V/4 obliterator at Kumara. The latest date for the use of the obliterator at Ross is the cover of Gerald Elliott dated 7 Sep 71. More information is clearly needed.

BACK NUMBERS OF KIWI.

The following is a list of published KIWI'S, and those that are available (price 2/6d from the Editor)

1952	Vol 1	Nos 1-8	nil	1958	Vol 7	Nos 1-5	No.1.
1953	Vol 2	Nos 1-5	Nos 1,3,4,5.	1959	Vol 8	Nos 1-6	Nos.1-6.
1954	Vol 3	Nos 1-4	Nos 2,4.	1960	Vol 9	Nos 1-5	No. 1.
1955	Vol 4	Nos 1-4	Nos 1,2,3.	1961	Vol 10.	Nos 1-6	Nos.3,4, 5,6.
1956	Vol 5	Nos 1-3	Nos 1,2,3.	1962	Vol 11	Nos 1-6	Nos.1-6
1957	Vol 6	Nos 1-5	Nos 1,4,5.				

1963	Vol 12	Nos 1-6	Nos 1-6	1966	Vol 15	Nos 1-6	
1964	Vol 13	Nos 1-6	Nos. 1,2,4,5,6.			Nos 1-3	
1965	Vol 14	Nos 1-6	Nos 1-5	1967	Vol 16	Nos 1-6	Nil
				1968	Vol 17	Nos 1-	Nos 1,2.

If there is sufficient demand it may be possible to reprint some of the missing earlier editions. The cost would depend on the demand, and could not be borne by the Society's funds. If any members are interested will they please let me know which editions they require.

NOTES FROM NOEL TURNER.

COMPETITION: The thanks of all our Members are due to Harry Bartrop, Ted Hossell and Campbell Paterson, for the very fine additions we have had to our Challenge Trophies. Some description has already been given, but I recommend that you should win these trophies as soon as possible so that you can not only admire them but hold them for twelve months.

LIBRARY: There has been an interesting addition to our Library which consists of a very fine book with reproductions of well known paintings of famous Maori Leaders, both male and female. Facing the reproduction of each painting there is a historical note on the individual which in all cases makes fascinating reading. The book is available from me on loan (maximum period of borrowing - one month) on payment of postage both ways and a small donation to our funds, to round off the postage figures. This very fine addition to our Library has been presented to our Society by the New Zealand High Commissioner.

SECRETARY: You will know that I undertook to be both Secretary and Treasurer of the Society for a maximum period of one year from our last A.G.M. I am sorry that I must insist on a time limit, and shall therefore be glad if any London or Home Counties based member will indicate his willingness to undertake this interesting work. Letters of offer should be sent to John D. Evans, 6, Sheen Wood, East Sheen, London.S.W.14.

STAMPEX: Members will know that our Society had a Day at 'Stampex' when all the Stewards were nominated by us. A pleasant time was had by all in spite of failures on the organisational side for which we were not in any way responsible.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS: Please do not start writing to me yet! I can tell you that over the next few weeks a massive job of checking all our Membership Records and bringing them up-to-date will be undertaken, and immediately afterwards,

a new Membership List will be published and circulated to all Members. The cost is very heavy, but our Bank Manager says that if we become a little overdrawn, he will accept a fine collection of Chalons to cover the overdraft. Any offers?

NOTES FROM NEW ZEALAND.

PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND CANCELLATIONS.

In March I had the pleasure of addressing the meeting of the Postal History Society of New Zealand in Auckland (about 320 miles north from where I live) and while there, also had the pleasure of viewing several very interesting collections of pre-stamp, early cover, and cancellation collections. I was shown two items that proved the use of this interesting datestamp as a relief in its later life. The first item dated DE 24 75 with 6 above the date was used at Whangarei Heads, and the other, with P of A datestamp dated DE 31 75 with A sideways above the date, was used at Newton. This is the first time we have actually been able to prove the place of use of these datestamps in the later stage of their lives.

The 1/9d stamp to be issued in Great Britain in May featuring Captain James Cook, is attracting some interest here as, as is well known, Cook was the first navigator to thoroughly explore the shore of New Zealand, and to name many of the outstanding geographical features.

The New Zealand Post Office has introduced three slogans on the lines of the British publicity slogans but, unfortunately, through NOT being used in transposed positions, their impressions are usually somewhat blurred. Introduced 1 February 1968 the slogan used at Rotorua features a Maori girl, in native dress, cooking over a hot pool; that used at Taupo shows a leaping trout; and that used at Queenstown shows a view of that town situated on Lake Wakatipu with the Remarkable ranges in the background.

Like other countries, New Zealand has Easter and Christmas seals for affixing to mail matter, though these are not issued, distributed, (or encouraged!) by the Post Office.

R.M. Startup.

Sales of the 1967 Health stamps were down on previous year's sales. Although the Football stamps were a change from the Bird series, the public did not use them to any great extent.

Enquiries about the new 10c and 15c definitives indicate that the first day sales were very much less than first day

sales of commems etc.

The 3c Maori Bible commem. issued on the 23rd April should be worth buying.

F.O. Hart.

NEW MEMBERS.

- J.S. Daniels - 71, Vicarage Road,
Chelmsford, Essex.
- R. Freeman - 1, Woodcote Hall, Woodcote
Road, Epsom, Surrey.
- J.H. Goldman - 56, Ashworth Mansions, Grantully
Road, London. W. 9.
- H.K. Hartley - 79, Harold Road, Chingford,
London. E. 4.
- A.J. Henderson - 126, Walton Street, London.
S.W.3.
- A.C. Klein - Manor House, Sheldwich,
Faversham, Kent.
- R. Steels - 970, London Road, Trent Vale,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.
- J. Young - 23, Gossops Green Lane,
Crawley, Sussex.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

- A. Brown - 116, Strickland Gate, Kendal,
Westmorland.
- F.O. Hart - 9, Henderson Street, Wellington,
New Zealand.
- Major G.C. Monk - 27, West Road, Barton Stacey,
Nr. Winchester, Hants.

RESIGNATION.

- L.J. Dalby - 10, Sidestrand Road, Newbury,
Berks.

THE 1d UNIVERSAL.

When 'Universal penny postage was introduced in N.Z. and the 1d 'Universal' postage stamp was placed on sale on 1 Jan 1901, the first day of issue happened to be a Sunday. So that the introduction of penny postage could be celebrated many post offices were open that day between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

'Mail Coach'

Journal of the Postal History
Society of N.Z.

WANTED.

1. Advice on the best way to mount Stamp Booklets in an album.
2. The sale or loan of a copy of 'The Mails Went Through' by R.M. Startup.

G.E.C. Pratt.

FRANKING MACHINE.

In the January 'KIWI' a question was asked regarding the date of installation and withdrawal of the franking machine used at Christchurch. Full details of this machine were published in the July 1967 KIWI, and the February 1968 edition of The Mail Coach (the journal of the Postal History of N.Z.) I have also heard from one of our members Mr. J. Ashcroft who gave similar details. The machine, manufactured by Coin Machines Ltd (now Comac Industries Ltd), was placed on trial in the public foyer of the Chief Post Office, Christchurch, on 13 April 1964. After the basic letter rate was increased from 3d to 4d on 1st October 1964 little use was made of the machine, and it was eventually withdrawn from use on the 25th October 1964. During its period of use, 27,302 letters were franked.

WATERMARK VARIETIES.

The following two stamps have been found with inverted watermarks:- Firstly, the 1/3 pictorial, a used stamp postmarked Christchurch; secondly, the 15c pictorial of which a number of mint copies have been found.

Pacific Stamp Journal.

MISSENT TO AUCKLAND.

The N.Z. firm of John J. Bishop Ltd recently came across an interesting first flight cover bearing a hitherto unrecorded Auckland handstamp.

The cover sent by a N.Z. resident was carried on the first flight from Amsterdam to Khartoum on 26 April 1956. The cover bears an official cachet and is backstamped Khartoum the following day. Although addressed to the District Manager KLM Khartoum, the letter upon receipt was marked 'Retour a l'Expeditieur' and forwarded to Auckland for delivery to the sender whose name and address appeared on the back flap. Auckland received the letter on 16th May and datestamped it with their FMB datestamp and added below it a circular handstamp reading 'MISSENT' around the top, AUCKLAND around the bottom, and TO N.Z. in two lines in the centre. On either side between the words 'Missent and 'Auckland' there appears an asterisk. The diameter of this handstamp is 26 mm.

This handstamp appears not to have been recorded previously although it bears a very close resemblance to similar handstamps known to have been in use at Dunedin and Picton about 1862-63. An article in the NZ Stamp Collector of August 1965 (Vol 45 No.3) by the late Mr. Collins, illustrates the similar markings for Dunedin and Picton. Apparently Auckland has had this handstamp for more than 100 years, but it would appear that it has had very little use.

Pacific Stamp Journal.

CIRCULAR DATE STAMPS.
Measurement of Diameters.

Professor I.D. Campbell of Lower Hutt has pointed out the inaccuracy of many records of the diameter of circular date stamps. If the internal or external edge of the circumference line is used for measurement, different readings will be obtained progressively as the line thickens with wear. The only consistent measurement of the size of a cds is between the opposing mid points of the circumference line. This will give a constant diameter whether the datestamp is new with a narrow sharp line, or old with the line splayed to a width of 1mm or more.

Q. E. BOOKLETS.

For those who collect Booklets perhaps the following additions to the article by Peter Collins in the Campbell Paterson 'New Zealand Bulletin' for February 1968 might be of interest.

The second printing was for a further 400,000 which were to include NAC Air Mail stickers. The first 100,000 were issued with the stickers but with the original star type 1d and 3d on 1st September 1955. The balance of 300,000 appeared on 1st May 1956 with the small 1d stickers and the large figured 3d.

Further the 5.9.57 issue included waxed paper behind the stickers.

E.K. Hossell.

(See also the list in the January 1968 Kiwi - Ed)

THE 1d UNIVERSAL.

Part 3.

by M.G. Tombleson.

The next series was numbered W1 and W2 - the Waterlow Trial Plates, and R1 and R2 - the Royle Trial Plates.

The Waterlow plates are quite distinctive. The top left pearl is complete, the three left central pearls are always clear. The three right central pearls are also always clear, but in some cases the outer one is weak or missing.

In plate W1 the three right central pearls appear unshaded, while in W2 they are definitely shaded and the top right pearl has been strengthened.

The transfer roller must have been used on plate W1 first, because there are an exceptionally large number of touched-up impressions on plate W2, caused by a very weak left side.

Remembering that these plates were laid down in vertical strips of five, I suggest that Waterlows, for plate W2, started work on rows 6-10 nos. 24 to 12, then rows 1-5 nos. 24 to 15, then rows 6-10 nos. 11 to 1, and finally rows 1-5 nos. 1 to 14. I do not know how factual this assumption is, but I imagine the transfer roller wore during use, therefore the progress of operations can be assumed by the increasing frequency of touching-up required on the plate. Row 2 had every impression touched-up. I do not know what use it is to know how a plate was rolled in. I am a bit like those who climb mountains just because they're there. If something looks obvious I like to say so, even if only to get people to argue. In this way I learn a lot.

Incidentally, I have an unrecorded double perf 14 from plate W2. Apparently a sheet of stamps was damaged, so before perforating the damaged part was cut out and replaced with perforated stamps from another sheet, patched in, and then the whole sheet perforated. How many stamps were patched in I do not know, but it must have been at least two because I have the patching on three sides of my pair, with the reperfed line along the top, giving a positive double perf 14 horizontally. There are also two rows of perf 14 between the pair, but these

were done separately because only one line shows through the patch. For those with enquiring minds, the left stamp is R3/3 and the right one with the double perfs is R4/5.

The Royle Trial Plates were the most successful and that Firm was asked to provide two more. These were marked with 3 dots and 4 dots for identification. The Handbook shows the 4 dot plate having two dots each side of the selvedge arrow. My incomplete plate block shows two circles with dots in the centre to the left of the arrow, and a circle in the foot of the arrow. The rest is missing. Are there two more dots on the right of the arrow, or is one of these dots incorporated with the arrow? Does anyone know?

There is no way to place stamps to any of the four Royle plates. Those who are interested can add to their list of Royle shades a carmine-lake. I have a pair and a single.

Some confusion may arise in trying to separate some stamps from the Dot and the Royle plates. The left spur is always broken in the Dot plates, although on some well-inked early copies there are traces of these lines - and, in spite of what the Handbooks say, it is sometimes broken in the Royle plates, although it is usually complete. If the spur is broken, look at the clear centre of this ornament. In the Dot plate it is white, or, at the best, has a faint line of shading very low down. In the Royle plates there is always a full line of shading in this ornament. A concrete example of this broken spur on the Royle plates is R10/11 from the 4 dot plate, and R10/24 from an unidentified plate. I have several pairs that, at first glance, are a Dot and a Royle stamp in pair, in either position. Close inspection, however, always shows the line of shading proving them to be from the Royle plate.

Examination of the proof sheets from R1, R2, 3 dot and 4 dot plates show that every impression on the 3 dot plate has had the frame around the value panel strengthened, and only the odd impression in the other plates has had attention. Between 10% and 15% of stamps from the Royle plates have a break in the spur ornament at the left - all of course have the extra line of shading characteristic of the Royle stamps. This is a list of some peculiarities of these plates:-

Plate	No central pearl at right	Guide lines	Broken spur
R1	5	13	7
R2	23	68	24
3 dot	64	47	44
4 dot	9	66	20

In the 3 dot plate only about 8 impressions have a good pearl at the right centre. With wear more stamps would show

the broken spur and no right central spur, and the guide lines would fade out.

PERFORATIONS ON MODERN NZ STAMPS.

by

Peter Collins.

Basically there are two methods of perforating stamps, by a line machine or by comb. With a line machine, all the vertical lines of perforation are done as the sheet of stamps moves along under the line of pins, and all the horizontal lines of perforation are done at a second operation with the sheet turned through an angle of 90 degrees and again being moved along under the line of pins. At the intersection of horizontal and vertical lines, the holes frequently do not coincide, and this irregularity at the corners is a sure indication of line perf.

A comb perforating machine consists of a 'head' with one long line of pins to perforate the whole of one row at once, and short legs at right angles to perforate the sides of the stamps adjacent to the machine's long line. Having perforated three sides of a row of stamps, the machine moves forward to similarly perforate the next row. This description is of a single comb machine, a double comb is similar but perforates two rows with each movement, while triple combs perforate three rows at a time.

The perforation holes made by the corner pins on the adjacent sides of a comb machine always show the same regular spacing making 'comb perfs' fairly readily recognisable, but as the comb moves on it will not register every time with complete precision, and examination of a block of stamps will reveal irregularities occurring at the point where the comb has moved on, whether a single, double, or treble comb machine has been used.

These statements are elementary for a specialists' journal to make, but it is the experience of the writer that a restatement of elementary points is sometimes helpful in giving consideration to more advanced facts.

Examination of blocks of modern NZ stamps will prove that none have been line perforated since the 1942 issues of the 5d Swordfish and 2/- Capt. Cook. (Any examination of perfs is best done by inspecting the back of the stamp.) Single, double, and triple comb machines have been used, and perforating has been effected from the left of the sheet to the right, from the right to the left, from the top to the bottom, and

from the bottom to the top. The double perforation variety which is to be found on the 1965 Christmas stamp demonstrates clearly that perforating was from right to left, while a similar variety on the 5d Pictorial issue of 1960 shows that perforation was by a single comb from left to right. The sideways perforating is effected because these stamps are printed in a continuous reel. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d Peace issue of 1946 may be found with top margin imperf bottom margin perf, or with top margin perf bottom margin imperf, according to whether the sheets were perforated from top to bottom or bottom to top. Blind or mis-aligned holes appear from time to time due to damaged pins, and these will occur at intervals of one, two, or three stamps according as a single, double, or triple comb is in use.

Identical varieties of this type may sometimes be observed on sheets of more than one value in the 1960 series, suggesting that the same head has been used in all cases. One distinctive variety of perf was noted on half a dozen sheets only of the 5d value. Apparently the trouble was quickly spotted and corrected.

Changes in the gauge of perforations qualify immediately for catalogue status as a distinctive issue, but since the use of different machines or direction of action can be discerned even if the gauge is unchanged, the time may come when it is more generally recognised that these perforation 'varieties' constitute a different printing just as surely as does a distinctive shade or a change in the gauge of the perforation.

Any notes on modern NZ perfs must make mention of the Chambon machine first introduced about 1961. The pins of the Chambon perforating head are in form like a capital H with two cross bars. At each strike one horizontal row of stamps is completely perforated and at the same strike half the vertical sides of all adjacent stamps in the rows immediately above and below are also perforated. The next strike perforates the rest of the already half perforated row, completely perforates the next row, and half perforates yet a further row. The characteristic close or wide spacing between strikes does not occur between every strike but only when exact registration has not been effected. The teeth gauge $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$, exactly the same as the normal machine, and yet the Chambon perfs have reached the catalogue. Here is a tacit admission that more attention could and should be paid to perforations, and these notes seek to show that there is no better field in which to find this additional pleasure and interest in the hobby than the modern stamps of New Zealand.

G.C. MONK,
Honorary KIWI Editor.