

# 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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## NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 30th JULY 1969.

at SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, MONMOUTH STREET, LONDON

at 6.15 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

CHALONS 1871-73 - PLUS.

It is a full two years since we last had a meeting devoted to the Full Face Queens; this time we are to see the later issues - plenty of philatelic interest and some of the most attractive shades of colour. Whether or not you collect the Chalons, this is a show not to be missed - and if you happen to have a mint sheet of SG 140, please bring it with you.

The PLUS is that three of the New Zealand displays from the Royal Centenary Exhibition in April will be shown - those contributed by Mr. H.L. Bartrop, Mr. R.C. Agabeg and Mr. John D. Evans. Mrs. Gordon Kaye's contribution will be shown at the September meeting; Mr. M. Stanley's sheets, have unfortunately gone back to New Zealand.

LAST MEETING - MEMBERS' EVENING, 28th May, 1969.

The President extended a very hearty welcome to five members attending their first NZSGB meeting - Mr. & Mrs. Kerr-Cross of West Dulwich, Mr. Alan Berry of Guildford, Mr. John Murr of Walsall and Mr. K.R. Wilderspin of Wembley.

Displays from the collections of six members were shown.

J. Robbins produced 19th century material, with a block of four and a single of the 2d Hausberg reprints of the Chalon head, a 6d of this issue with forged perfs, and a pair of the 2d value on piece with a notable London arrival mark as outstanding items. Also highly desirable were compound perfs and an apparently imperf variety of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Newspaper stamp, and some very fine postmarks of Chatham Island and Fanning Island.

N.W. Hoggarth's Stampex silver-winning study of the 1d Dominion, showed how the five major plate flaws occur on the sheet, by means of a series of diagrams accompanying a complete sheet, broken down and displayed by pages. Proofs and very rare booklet panes formed another part of the display.

J.W. Fairbairn's exhibit of 1d and 4d Lake Taupo values of the First Pictorials was also a Stampex award winner. It included a Waterlow "Speciman" sheet, a complete sheet of the 1d, many striking positioned re-entries, and a spectacular set-off of the centre. Examples of mixed and compound perfs included one on cover.

Royton Heath showed some of his discoveries of varieties in the 1946 Peace issue. Outstanding were the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d R12/3 in three states, (i) no flaw, (ii) with flaw, (iii) re-entered showing a guide mark; the 3d R1/1 with four distinct states of a frame plate flaw; the 5d distinguishing flaws between the two plates; the 4d an unrecorded flaw on R1/1 of centre plate 42789; the 9d a spectacular re-entry on R12/5 shown in two blocks, one with a minor flaw, the other a second state with re-entry clearly doubling the right-hand frame line.

Peter Garnett showed some really fine pictures connected with N.Z. stamp designs. Included were the "Coming of the Maori", Captain Cook's Chart, Otira Gorge, Mitre Peak, Mount Cook, Sutherland Falls, the Chalon portrait, colour prints of various birds, and some of the Old Masters which have figured in the Christmas stamps.

Alan Berry showed the scarce cachet - DAMAGED BY FIRE/SINGAPORE CRASH - on a cover of 1954, and examples of the extremely rare inverted watermark varieties of the 1/3d Trout, 15c Tiki, and 28c Fox Glacier.

To conclude, J. Robbins put on a further display, showing his Air Mail covers of the 1930's, which included many of the scarce and interesting cachets and pilot-signed covers of Kingsford-Smith and C.T. Ulm.

Two of the first-time members, John Murr and K.R. Wilderspin, ably voiced a vote of thanks to the exhibitors who had provided an evening of varied and fascinating displays.

(REPORTED by P.E. Collins)

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PROVINCIAL MEETING 31st MAY 1969.

HOSTS: The North Herts Stamp Club; at Baldock Town Hall.

Six NZSGB members attended and had the pleasure of showing material to about thirty enthusiastic members of the North Herts Club.

John Evans, our Chairman, said a few introductory words about the New Zealand Society, then displayed some fifty pages of Chalons. A pre-adhesive cover with contents of much interest was followed by the London prints, a fine representation of the Richardson and Davies colonial printings, and a thorough selection of shades and varieties of perforations. A set of the scarce reprints was also included.

Michael Burberry gave a display of the first pictorials. This covered essays for the issue, the competition entries, and of the actual stamps, a Speciman set and a Presentation set of the London prints, and finally blocks of all the printings of the 5/- Mt. Cook.

Norman Hoggarth's display of 1d Dominions included experimental coin machine stamps, booklet pane proofs and a unique piece showing how the "surfacing" finished half-way across a sheet, producing the very scarce variety on unsurfaced paper.

Noel Turner's Health stamps were displayed in characteristic style, slipped in with the lighter touch was a considerable measure of erudition and rare material. Blocks of six of the "Smiling Boys" were particularly admired.

John Bradford's K.G.V. study concentrated on die proofs, plate proofs and colour trials, followed by a clear and detailed showing of the re-entries on the 4d and re-touches on the second plate of the same value.

Phil Evans gave a lucid and light-hearted talk to accompany his display of the Second Pictorials; this examined the perfs, watermarks and papers of the issue as a whole, and led to a specialised study of the 5d value.

J.L. Watts described his display as "The Pops following the Classics" and put over a first class exhibition of the last decade in New Zealand philately, drawing attention to some of the highlights in a talk which clearly revealed his enthusiasm.

Charles Beckwith, Chairman of the North Herts Club, warmly expressed the appreciation of his members of the fine display of material they had been shown, and John Evans suitably responded for the NZSGB. Team.

(Reported by Peter Collins)

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### COMPETITION RESULTS.

Attention has been drawn to the fact that the report in our last issue did not state who won what trophy.

In the Classics Section, the Kiwi Shield was won by John D. Evans, and the Pauashell cigarette box by J.G. Stonehouse.

In the Moderns Section, the Stacey Hooker Cup was won by John Bradford, and the Pauashell bookends by P.L. Evans.

In the competition for first-year members, the Eric Barton Bowl was won by Mrs. Bowstead.

## EDITOR'S NOTES.

Tribute to Eric G. Cowell. Many members will already have heard of the sad news that Eric G. Cowell, the Honorary President of the Postal History Society of NZ, died suddenly in Auckland on 15th April, at the age of 68. He was a keen philatelist and postal historian, and was well known for his column "Under the Southern Cross", which he wrote for some 20 years. We extend our sympathies to his widow Mrs. Kathleen Cowell, and to all our NZ friends, for their sad loss of such a fine and enthusiastic philatelist.

Timaru Local Post. My apologies are due to L.N. and M. Williams for the bad wording of the postscript at the head of their article in the May KIWI. The wording rather unfortunately gives the impression that such items are not of philatelic interest! It was not my intention to convey this, and checking my handwritten notes for the draft of the May KIWI, I see that I had written something completely different. My sincere apologies for the mistake.

Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post. A new publication entitled "New Zealand the Great Barrier Island 1898-99 Pigeon Post Stamps", has been published under the auspices of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund. It is obtainable from the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016, U.S.A. Price \$5 post free.

### Members Displays.

16th October - B.J. Pratt. Enfield PS. "NZ Wmks, papers, perfs". All welcome. Anyone interested in attending phone Mr. Pratt at home. 01-363-6007 for directions.

4th November - Major G.C. Monk. Andover SC. "Specialising in NZ."

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NEW MEMBERS.

- A.R. Daborn - 72, Mulgrave Road, Ealing, London. W. 5.
- F. Hughes - Mayfield, 13, Richmond Ave. London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea. Tel: Southend 49565.
- K.J.A.O. Manning - "Fairfield", Oaklands Drive, Almondsbury, Bristol. BS12 4AB.
- M.L. Smith - 26, Ferndale Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.
- J.G. Williams - "Isca" 39, Avenue Road, Abergavenny, Mon. S. Wales.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

- Mrs. I.J. Willis - 20, Culverden Park Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
- R.W. King. - Amend to read Bolton Grove.

RESIGNATION.

- S.J. Fairweather - 131 Thornlaw Road, West Norwood, London. S.E. 27.

LAPSED MEMBER.

- W. Carnley - 4, Christie Close, Hooton, Wirral, Cheshire.

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Irregular Compound Perf.

In the May KIWI p45 you ask for further examples of the unusual irregular compound perms of  $10x12\frac{1}{2}x12\frac{1}{2}x12\frac{1}{2}$

I have a 6d 1874 Sideface (CP.C5b) with this perf., and another  $p12\frac{1}{2}x12\frac{1}{2}x10x12\frac{1}{2}$ . I can't believe they are very rare or I wouldn't have them!

H.D. Spears.

### Wrong Postmark

I have just received a photostat of a first day cover from the Philatelic Bureau, Wellington, with the three values of the recent 'Law Society' issue postmarked with the First Day of Issue strike for the 'Government Insurance' issue. This has come from Singapore. I would be grateful if members would check and let me know if they hold, or have seen the same error.

E.K. Hossell.

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### 1968 Xmas Design 'Clanger'

(See March KIWI p29 and May KIWI p48)

With reference to Mr. Hossell's comments on the NZ Christmas design, in the May KIWI, I have a large reproduction of the painting, and the two young "girls" are really rather robust angels. The dark shadows behind them on the stamp are, on the painting, clearly seen to be wings.

The. Rev. D.O. Noble.

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### Watermark Variations.

Mr. B.J. Pratt who sent in the Quiz question regarding the variations in shape and size of the watermark in some issues (see May KIWI p43) adds fuel to the discussion:

"I had already arrived at explanation (a) as a tentative solution. In regard to explanation (b), although I agree that shrinkage across the web is a likely answer to the various forms of distortion, surely the dandy roll comes after the first section of dryers, in which case the paper would not be distorted (shrunk) until after receiving the watermark impression, in other words, in the second or final drying stage, probably the second, as the paper would be fairly 'set' by the time it reached the final section."

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### NEW ISSUES.

8th July - New 8c, 18c, 20c, definitives.

- 6th August - 1969 Health Issue. 2½c, 3c, 4c.  
 18th August - Early European Settlement Commem.  
 4c, 6c.  
 1st October - 1969 Xmas. 'Nativity' by Frederico  
 Fiori. 2½c.  
 October - Cook Commem.

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Exhibition Post Offices.

A temporary post office will be provided at a Trade Exhibition in Wellington from 21st August - 6th September. A steel datestamp will be used and will read, "BUY NEW ZEALAND '69 EXHIBITION, WELLINGTON" (Ed. - How much ?)

"TARAPEX 69" Cook Bi-Centennial National Stamp Exhibition, New Plymouth NZ. 6th-11th October. A temporary post office is being opened at Tarapex. A special datestamp will be used on the opening day.

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1969 Christmas Stamp.

This year's issue due on 1st October will continue the long established series of reproductions of famous paintings by Old Masters. The 1969 issue will feature a reproduction of the painting 'Nativity' by Frederico Fiori, the original of which hangs in the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, Milan.

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WANTED

Can any member help Mr. H. Quick, 5, York Road, Wisbech, Cambs, with a 1931 Health Cover, or Vols. I and III Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

## STITCH WATERMARKS.

BY

K.J. McNaught, F.R.P.S.N.Z.

(Preprinted by kind permission from RPS NZ Newsletter Feb. 1969)

In the early 1950's Mr. J.R.W. Purves of Melbourne suggested to me that "stitch watermark" varieties might be found in some of the N.Z. Second Side-Face Queen stamps. He had found such varieties in stamps of Victoria printed on similar papers.

Since then, I have searched through tens of thousands of these N.Z. Side-Faces and managed to find several examples in the later printings of the 1d, 2d and 6d values. Recently through the co-operation of Laurie Franks Ltd., I have added the 4d value. All stamps found so far in this issue, are perf. 11 x 11 and on the medium thick rough white paper used for the re-issue of these stamps in 1899 and 1900 during the shortage of 1898 Pictorials. The date ranges are from December 1899 (2d) to April 1900 (6d). I have also found an example of the ½d Newspaper Postage on coarse mesh Star watermark paper, perf. 12½, 1890-2.

What are stitch watermarks? The reader is recommended to consult pages 324-7 of Volume II of the Postage Stamps of N.Z. in conjunction with this note. In the machine manufacture of paper, the suspension of fibre in water flows on to a continuous screen made of wire gauze which produces the fine mesh pattern in the paper. Where the ends of this gauze are stitched together, the extra threads of overlapping fine wire give a band 2 to 4 mm. wide of slightly diagonal parallel fine lines, nearly 1 mm. apart, which can be seen in a good light, especially in daylight. This is really a "mesh" variety rather than a true watermark variety. Watermarks are deliberately produced by introducing a "dandy-roll" to produce the watermark design, whereas, of course, "stitch watermarks" are unintentional varieties.

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The following article which appeared in the November 1967 edition of "The G.B. Journal" is reproduced with the kind permission of the Great Britain Philatelic Society and the author H.W. Fisher.

### WATERMARK DETECTION WITHOUT WETTING.

By

H.W. Fisher.

The well known method of watermark detection by pouring a few drops of carbon tetrachloride or some similar volatile fluid onto the stamp in a black plastic dish, is one which the writer has for some years studiously avoided. Elementary books on stamp collecting do in fact warn the beginner, but not strongly enough, that most of these fluids are potent solvents both of some printing inks and of many cancellations. One need not take any sort of risk of damaging either mint or used stamps by using liquids to identify a watermark, since a perfectly safe, effective and dry method exists.

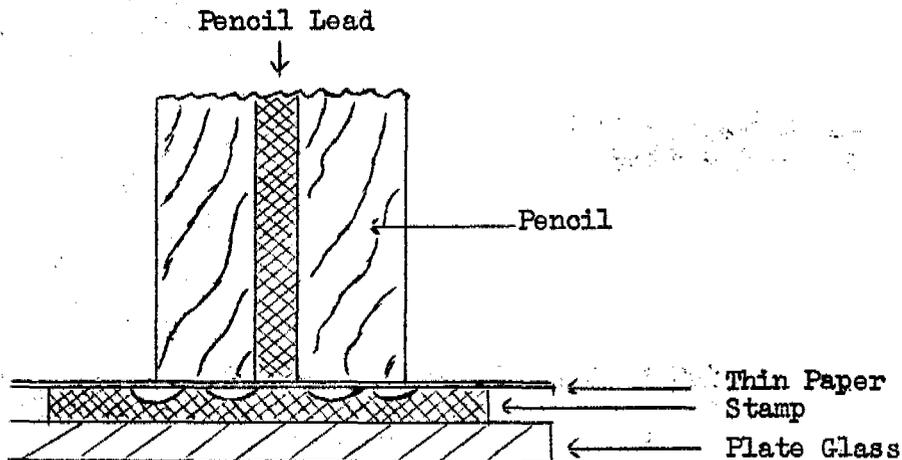
Nearly all watermarks are produced during the manufacturing process of the paper by impressing an embossed design into it while in a wet and soft condition. This naturally makes the paper slightly thinner where the lines of the design fall and thinner paper being more translucent shows as a watermark. Wet paper is more translucent than dry and this accounts for the traditional method of detection. Water is not used, because with mint stamps the gum would dissolve - but which is worse, to lose the gum or dissolve the printed design of the stamp?

The dry method requires three easily obtained pieces of equipment - a piece of smooth flat glass, a soft drawing pencil, and a small sheet of thin paper. A ladies hand-bag mirror will do very well for the glass. The pencil can be any cheap one so long as it does not have one of those fancy rounded edges or a fitted eraser. Its ends should be of the straightforward cut-off at right angles type. The paper should be as thin as possible without being flimsy. Tissue paper is no use, nor is glossy paper such as is usually used with album leaves. The paper should be without any grain or watermark. Laid paper is unsuitable, but wove with a very fine grain might do.

The best kind is a good white draughtsman's tracing paper (not tracing cloth). Place the stamp face downwards on the glass plate and cover it with the thin paper. Hold the stamp and the paper firmly in position on the plate with the left hand, then place the flat end of the pencil firmly

but gently on the paper in the vicinity of the stamp. The pencil should be held between the thumb and the first two fingers and must be kept absolutely vertical. Rub the flat end of the pencil over the surface of the paper at the back of the stamp in a gentle rotary motion covering the whole area of the stamp. In a few seconds there will appear a clear image of the watermark standing out in white against a dark pencilled background. In the case of stamps which have been mounted it is essential first to remove all traces of hinges or other matter adhering to the back of the stamp.

The drawing shows schematically how this procedure works. The section of the stamp is shown in black and its thickness has been greatly exaggerated. The white indentations represent the thin parts being the watermark. It will be seen that the pencil lead at the base of the pencil obtains pressure sufficient to mark the thin sheet of paper only at those places where the stamp is of full thickness and thus leaves the 'valleys' of the watermark unmarked to build up a white image.



## LIST OF PERIODICALS

Several members have enquired lately whether I can recommend any New Zealand periodicals. This short list is an attempt to help them and any other members that may be interested. Any additions to this list would be welcomed.

- The NZ Stamp Collector - Editorial Services Ltd., P.O. Box 6443, 9-11 Marion Street Wellington, NZ. (\$1.25/yr.)
- The N.Z. Stamp Monthly - NZ Stamp Monthly, P.O. Box 513, New Plymouth, NZ. (\$2.80/yr)
- Philatelic Bulletin - Philatelic Bureau, Post Office HQ, Private Bag, Wellington, N.Z. (Free)
- Air Mail News - Newsletter of the Air Mail Society of N.Z.
- The Mail Coach - Journal of the Postal History Society of N.Z. P.O. Box 1605, Auckland, N.Z. (Subscription \$2 per yr.)
- NZ Bulletin and CP Newsletter - Campbell Paterson Ltd., P.O. Box 17, 3a, Oriental Road, Woking, Surrey. or P.O. Box 5555, Auckland, NZ. (22/6d per year for the two publications).
- The Pacific Stamp Journal - J.J. Bishop Ltd., P.O. Box 2782, Auckland, NZ. (\$1/yr).

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G. C. MONK  
Honorary KIWI Editor

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