



# the kiwi

The Official Organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN  
Affiliated to: BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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VOLUME XXVI No. 4

JULY 1977

WHOLE 144

### THE WEDNESDAY MEETING.

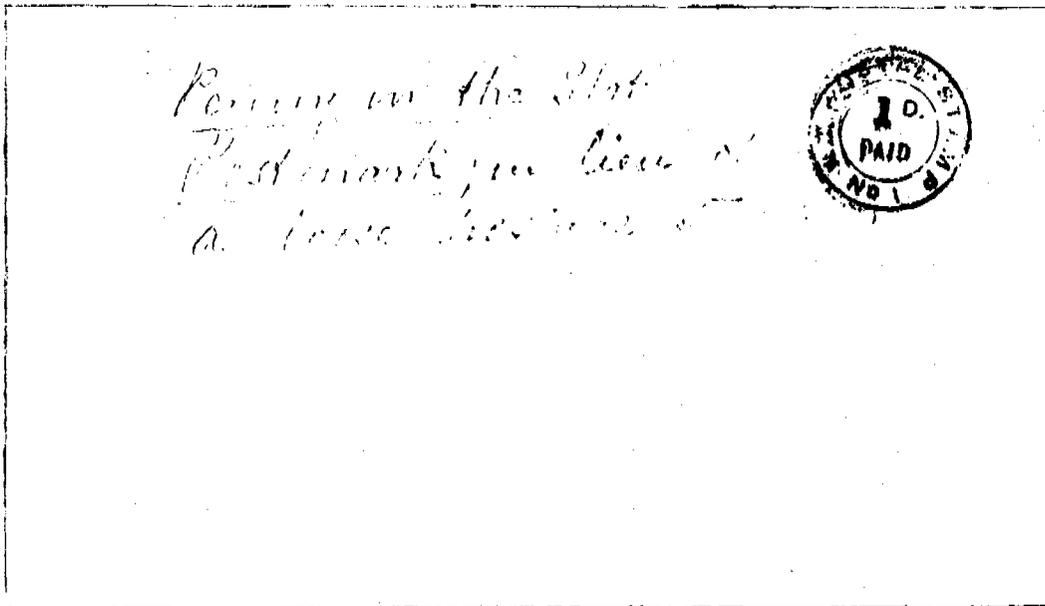
OUR SUMMER EVENING MEETING THIS YEAR WILL BE AT THE  
SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, MONMOUTH STREET, LONDON, WC2H 9HD,  
ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH JULY, 1977, AT 6.30 P.M.

WHEN SHORT SHOWS BY OFFICERS  
WILL PROVIDE THE ENTERTAINMENT -

VARIETY? CIRCUS? HOTCHPOTCH? OLLA PODRIDA?

WE CANNOT TELL YOU WHAT TO EXPECT.  
COME ALONG AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!

### THE MOSS METER MACHINE, 1904



SEE PAGES 75 - 76.

## EDITORIAL.

Sometimes I wonder whether or not I should write an Editorial for the 'Kiwi'. The response to my last Editorial was the grand total of one letter, and that from a member in New Zealand. Since last writing, the total number of 8 cent stamps available at one time in New Zealand has gone up by one, due to the addition of the 8 cent on 4 cent overprint.

If the 'Kiwi' is to fulfil its function in advancing the philately of our chosen country, all members should co-operate. May I please refer you back to the last Editorial, and ask you once again to write to me on this subject. Word of mouth is not enough.

From time to time, requests for information are published through these pages. The response to these requests is generally poor, although I am sure the answers are known to some members.

So if you do know the answers, please let me know.

ALLAN P. BERRY

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## MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

J.R.Baker, 17, Nursery Close, Tonbridge, Kent.

H.W.Davey, 9, Bryansford Meadow, Bangor, County Down, BT20 3NX.

S.W.Fairbairn, 40, Charlesworth Street,

Christchurch, 6, New Zealand.

J.Gartner, 601, Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, Australia.

E.T.Ginger, 35, Somervell Road, South Harrow, Middx., HA2 8TY.

C.W.Griffin, 12, Scottleton Street, Presteigne, Powys, Wales.

R.W.Jones, 5, Delfryn Flats, Upper Baptist Street, Holyhead,  
Anglesey, Gwynedd, LL65 1SG.

C.King, 41, Battleswick, Basildon, Essex, SS14 3LA.

C.G.Lampert, 22, Leicester Avenue, Palm Bay,

Margate, Kent, CT9 3BZ.

K.A.Latimer, 'Melrose', Hampton Lane, Blackfield,

Southampton, Hants., SO4 1ZA.

J.Lindley, 42, Mersey Drive, Whitefield, Manchester,

Lancs., M25 6LA.

J.K.Reid, 11, Kinnear Street, Buckhaven, Fife, KY8 1BH.

H.H.Rubin, P.O.Box 184, St. Ives, Sydney, N.S.W. 2075, Australia.

D.L.Slater, 31, Farquhar Street, Hopeman, Elgin, Moray.

J.R.Slattery, P.O.Box 46, Port Chalmers, Otago, New Zealand.

J.R.C.Spooner, 'Oaklawn', 17, Belle Vue Road, Wivenhoe, Essex.

R.Stone, 8, Elsie Road, Dulwich, London, SE22 8DX.

H.J.Taylor, 16, Hardenhuish Avenue, Chippenham, Wilts.

DECEASED.

J.Prince, 28, Bagshawe Avenue, Chapel-en-le-Frith,

Stockport, Cheshire.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

J.Boom, Prospect Farm Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Bramham, Yorks.

(previously of Shadwell, Leeds.)

Rt. Rev. Dr. J.T.Carson, Broom Lodge, 110, Half Town Road,

Newport, Hillsborough, Co. Down, BT27 5RF.

(previously of Maze, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.)

Alan Jackson, P.O.Box 27-208, Wellington, New Zealand.

(previously of Essex Street, Wellington.)

Lt. Col. G.C.Monk, 'Westbury', 40, Hornyold Road, Malvern, Worcs.  
(previously of 104, Wood Farm Estate, Malvern.)  
J.W.Rabarts, P.O.Box 88, Ujung, Pandang, Sulawesi,  
Selatan, Indonesia.  
(previously of Hauraki Road, Coromandel, New Zealand.)

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JUBILEE DAY - SATURDAY 21ST MAY, 1977.

On this day, the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary celebrations of our Society, social rather than philatelic activities were dominant. In no way did this reduce the over all success of the day. Indeed, there seemed to be a record attendance despite my fears about the counter attraction of the Cup Final.

Noel Turner and Phil Evans, two of our founder members, said a few words and reminded us of the hard work done by members of yesteryear. Also, three members attending their first meeting were introduced. They were Messrs. M.Faithful, D.Simpson and J.Spooner. We had available during the morning The Exchange Packet table and the stands of several of our Dealer friends. Also, displays of the original art work of the designers James Berry and John Cooter. Both these gentlemen were in attendance and very willing to answer all our questions. Personally, I find it stimulating to meet the leading exponents in any field of activity and I was not disappointed on this occasion. It was interesting to learn that the usual practice is to commission a designer as opposed to the more common procedure of twenty years ago, calling for competitive entries.

On display was a letter sent to our Publicity Officer, Douglas Hague, from Buckingham Palace. This was in reply to a letter sent on behalf of the Society to Her Majesty the Queen conveying our Good Wishes for her Jubilee. Also on display were letters from the Philatelic Counter in Wellington, and from our former Chairman, John Watts. John also presented the Society with a Jubilee Crown, and a Jubilee New Zealand Dollar.

I am pleased to say that the Exchange Packet table was busy all morning and I would like to remind everybody that we are in need of material.

A Buffet Lunch was available but no doubt there were one or two who crept away for something stronger.

The afternoon was devoted to three films kindly lent to us by New Zealand House, a display of Health Stamps from the same source, short talks by our designer guests, and of course, afternoon tea. The films dealt in general with the social life in New Zealand and to stamp issues in relation to New Zealand culture. James Berry indicated that a large part of his work is now designing commemorative medals. Very Tempting to indulge, but rather more expensive than most new stamp issues!

I.G.FOGG

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REVIEWS.

Xth British Commonwealth Games, by Gerald Lawson.

This is Study No. 7, published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand. Following a brief historical background to the Commonwealth Games, Mr. Lawson goes on to list the different



# Rowland Hill Stamps



Sole Executive: J. Alexander Stephen  
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 Bankers: National Westminster, Comberton Hill, Kidderminster.  
 V.A.T. No. 275 1766 36



Registered Trade Mark

S.G.No.

## Chalon Heads

-	2d. proof in black on card - three different normal with 1 showing plate wear and the other showing flaw on Queen's forehead	£ 6.00
5	2d. blue on blued paper with 3 clear margins, fourth touched. Used. Cat. £85	£25.00
6	1/- green on blued paper. Attractive with 4 good margins and numeral pmk. clear of head. A small repaired nick hardly detracts. Cat. £600	£75.00
9	2d. pale blue Richardson printing with 4 good to large margins (close at 1 corner) with light numeral pmk. Cat. £50	£30.00
12	6d. bistre brown 3 good to large margins fourth just touched. Light pmk. Cat. £125	£70.00
33	1d. orange-vermilion Davies printing four margins close in places. Light pmk. Cat £28	£18.00
34	1d. vermilion with 4 clear margins. Light pmk. Cat. £28	£22.00
36	2d. deep blue cut close all round. Light pmk.	£ 5.00
38	2d. pale blue with 4 good margins. Mint O.G.	£30.00
40	3d. brown-lilac 4 good to large margins with traces of rouletting. Light pmk.	£25.00
41	6d. black-brown. Very fine with four good even margins, light pmk.	£22.00
42	6d. brown with four good to large margins and light pmk.	£10.00
43	6d. red-brown with 4 good margins. Light pmk.	£18.00
44	1/- green (bluish) with 3 clear margins, Av. pmk.	£15.00
45	1/- two shades yellow & bronze green, Av. Used	£25.00
46	1/- deep green 3 clear margins just touched on fourth. Av. pmk.	£15.00
75	6d. black-brown, perf. 13, mint O.G.	£40.00
85	6d. black-brown on PELURE paper, good Av. Used	£25.00
97	1d. carmine-vermilion on NZ wmk. paper with 4 good margins and Av. pmk. Small thin spot	£15.00
98	2d. pale blue with NZ wmk. 4 margins but thinned	£ 5.00
110	1d. carmine-vermilion Mint, some O.G. perf. 12½	£15.00
-	3d. pale mauve centred a little to left but attractive	£20.00
117a	3d. lilac IMPERF. single with 4 neat margins but badly thinned	ONLY £ 5.00



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 V.A.T. No. 275 1766 36



Registered Trade Mark

S.G.No.		Chalon Heads - Continued	
119	4d.	Rose Average Used	£25.00
122/a	Three shades of the 6d.	brown, red-brown, good to average used	£ 4.00
124/5	Three shades	good average used	£20.00
130b	6d. blue perf. 12½	compound perf. 10 top side only good to fine used. C.P. Cat. 90	£25.00
134	2d.	vermilion well centred and neat pmk.	£ 6.00
139	4d.	orange-yellow with Wellington duplex pmk., but slight defects on reverse. Cat. £60	£20.00
141	2d.	vermilion on NZ wmk. paper, average used.	£ 6.00
ADSON - Q.V. 2nd Sideface with adverts on reverse			
1d.	first setting in red	for Sunlight Soap	£ 2.00
1d.	second setting PAIR in mauve	for Cadbury Bros. & Bonningtons' Irish Moss. Ghost of double impression	£ 4.00
1d.	in brown 'Macbean Stewart'	with missing last 'S'	£ 3.00
1d.	in red-brown	for Patent Odourless Waterproofs	£ 1.00
1d.	second setting in red,	six different adson	£ 5.00
2d.	second setting 3 different	in mauve, brown & green	£ 5.00
2d.	mint in red	for Cadbury Bros	£ 3.00
2d.	used in red	5 different	£ 6.00
2½d.	blue four different	adverts in GREEN	£20.00
2½d.	blue five different	adverts in red (shades)	£ 8.00
3d.	yellow five different	adverts in red (1 sepia)	£10.00
4d.	green	Cadbury Bros in mauve	£ 2.00
5d.	value for	Sunlight Soap in red	£ 3.00
6d.	value - five different	in mauve and red shades	£10.00
8d.	value 'Flag Brand Pickles'	in red-mauve	£ 8.00
8d.	value 'Be fair try Sunlight Soap'	in red-mauve	£ 8.00
1/-	value 'Lockheads Perambulators are the best'		£ 5.00
1/-	value 'Creases essence of Coffee'	in brown	£ 5.00
THIS MONTH'S BARGAINS.			
S.G. 634/46	Arms Mult. wmk. paper set of 14	to £1.00, all light Mounted Mint	£35.00
	The same, fine used		£20.00
S.G. 650/2/3/4	Arms Mult. wmk. £2, £3, £4, and £5 values	superb Unmounted Mint	£50.00
S.G. 657/60	Arms Mult. wmk. 3/6d, 5/6d, 11/- and 22/-	values fine Unmounted Mint	£70.00
S.G. 763b	2d. surch. ERROR on 1½d. stars scarce	fine used	£45.00

All items sent on 7 days approval. Postal only.

venues at which the sporting activities were held in Christchurch. The special temporary Post Offices established during the Games are described, as well as the postal services provided and the reasons for them. Prior post office publicity for the Games is described, as well as some of the private publicity provided by other concerns, such as the Bank of New Zealand. The various cancellations used are illustrated, also other postal markings. The special stamp issues are described, and in the case of New Zealand, illustrated.

The wealth of Postal History material that can be collected to cover such a brief event is surprising. However, the appeal of such a collection must be limited. Nevertheless, if such a theme is within your sphere of interest, this Study can be highly recommended. Mr. Lawson is to be congratulated on a very painstaking, detailed record.

Information Stamps, by R.M.Startup.

This is Study No. 8, published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand. The title is confusing to most collectors I have spoken to in the United Kingdom. Usually, the 'Information Stamps' are referred to as 'Instructional Markings' in this country. In his introduction, Mr. Startup describes the handling and sorting of mail, and the reasons which may lead to markings other than those cancelling the postage stamps being applied to the mail.

The difficulties of collecting these items of Postal History are mentioned - one cannot get specimen impressions from Post Offices nowadays. Access to the mail room of a large firm or public department is suggested as the best means of obtaining specimens.

A list of the markings so far recorded is given in alphabetical order, compiled from the collections of a number of Postal Historians, including one in the United Kingdom. Unless it is part of the marking itself, no indication is given of the Post Office where it was used.

This Study makes a start on a vast subject. The Author appeals for additional information and comments. At some time in the future, a greatly expanded list, with illustrations, should be forthcoming. If so, I await it with interest. To those of you interested in this subject, this Study can be recommended, if only to see if you have an unrecorded item.

A.P.B.

Copies of these Studies can be obtained from the Postal History Society of New Zealand, P.O.Box 25-105, St. Heliers, Auckland 5, New Zealand. Price NZ\$1.00 each, post paid.

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#### THE EXCHANGE PACKET.

The 'special' packet is now under way. This is in addition to the ordinary packet. It caters for the rather more expensive items. Established packet members may receive it, provided they write to me to the effect that they are entirely responsible for the material whilst in their hands and undertake to send it on by registered post only.

I.G.FOGG

## OMISSIONS.

J.F.Shaw was awarded a Silver Gilt Medal at Panpex '77 held in Christchurch from 5th to 12th March, 1977.

In the Society Competition held on Saturday, 26th March, 1977, the Barton Bowl was awarded to J.G.Stonehouse for the best non-trophy winning entry. Mr. Stonehouse entered a study of the Two Pence Chalon in the Classic Section.

My apologies to the members concerned. Editor.

### SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

1) MOTAT. After the initial circular publicised in the last issue of the 'Kiwi', the date for the introduction of this special steel pictorial datestamp was postponed. Private sources state that the new date from which it will be used is 7th May, 1977.

2) OPHIR : SPECIAL DATESTAMP.



A special steel pictorial datestamp will be used to cancel all mail at the Ophir Post Office from Friday, 1st July, 1977. The Ophir Post Office was acquired by the New Zealand Historical Places Trust in 1976. The address is the Postmistress, Ophir.

Covers to be cancelled on the First Day of Use of this Datestamp should reach the Postmistress by the 29th June, 1977. The outer cover should be endorsed Ophir Covers.

3) 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS.



A special pictorial datestamp will be used on the first day of the celebrations marking the 50th Anniversary of the New Zealand Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, on Tuesday, 5th July, 1977.

Covers to be cancelled with the datestamp should be forwarded to the Chief Postmaster, Christchurch, to reach him by 1st July, 1977. The outer wrapper should be endorsed 'YFC' Covers.

### THE MOSS METER MACHINE, 1904

The cover depicted came to me when my husband found it amongst a bundle of European covers he purchased. It was not until I wrote to our Editor, Allan P. Berry, that I was able to identify it properly. The cover would seem to be of interest to collectors of New Zealand Postal History.

The meter stamp on the cover is an example of the Moss meter machine No. 2 in black, the impression being taken from the steel die. This was in use in the second trial in Wellington from 23rd June to 4th November, 1904. The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 111 states that 8,545 impressions were taken but that surviving examples are rare, and the only known covers were posted on the first day. The example I have has not passed through the post office, but it would appear that someone has taken an impression for their own collection. The cover is endorsed in pencil, "Penny in the Slot Postmark; in lieu of a loose postage stamp".



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The automatic stamping machine made by Moss and Dombrain had limited use. The first trial was in Christchurch from May 31st to April 15th, 1904. This machine had a rubber die and during its trial it became apparent that alterations were desirable. These were effected prior to a second trial at Wellington Chief Post Office, beginning May 4th, 1904. The rubber die was retained during this trial, but was replaced by a new steel die for the second Wellington trial from June 23rd to November 4th, 1904.

It would be interesting to know how many examples of these Moss meter marks have survived and the dates of use; perhaps members could add to our knowledge.

TRUDY HUDSON

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### NEW ZEALAND POSTAL HANDSTAMPS.

Following the publication of the article under this title in the 'Kiwi', Volume XXVI, No. 1, page 17, January, 1977, our member Dr. K.J.McNAUGHT writes as follows :-

As far as I am aware, the descriptions A, B, C, and J-class are those used by the Post Office.

Alan Jackson has omitted reference to the important early date-stamps - a) Crowned Oval, b) Crown within Oval.

1) UNFRAMED CIRCULAR DATESTAMP - Figure 1, page 17.

The earliest group was sent out from London in 1846, but it is not certain where the others were made. It is possible that some were made by Ferguson and Mitchell in Dunedin. The Tuapeka date-stamp must have been supplied in 1861-62 as this office did not open until mid-1861. Some of the small-size date-stamps may have been supplied as late as 1861.

The unframed Russell date-stamp was used until the early 1880's - it is known on a 2/- Duty Type postal fiscal of 1882. The Christchurch, Canterbury date-stamp was used on unclaimed or returned letter mail during the First Side-Face era.

4) FRAMED CIRCULAR DATE-STAMPS - Figure 4, page 18

- were introduced in 1862, not mid-1850's.

5) A-CLASS PRECURSORS - several important types have been omitted, especially DUNEDIN, OTAGO and the first NAPIER (1862), the second NAPIER and PICTON and the important LAWRENCE type of 1866. (See the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 111, page 113, types 21, 22, 23 and 24 illustrated.)

Alan's figure 7 type was introduced in mid-1875.

6) DUPLEX TYPE DATE-STAMPS were introduced in 1863, as clearly reported by R.J.G.Collins in "The Cancellations of New Zealand", 1926, and in Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. Numerous examples are found in major collections with dates in the 1860's.

Our member, JOHN ROBBINS, writes as follows :-

1) UNFRAMED CIRCULAR DATESTAMPS - these were certainly still in use in some offices, e.g. Nelson, until the 1870's as backstamps on envelopes. Occurrence on Chalon Heads is very rare; they were almost invariably applied to the front or back of the cover.

2) 1855 NUMBERED OBLITERATORS - most numbers are rarely seen after about 1865. Some became so worn as to be almost indecipherable.

4) FRAMED CIRCULAR DATE-STAMPS - these are normally found on

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- 4 MELBOURNE - AIRMAILS - the Sir Hudson Fysh collection of pioneer flight covers.

### SEPT.

- 9 BOURNEMOUTH - a splendid general sale to open another record season.

#### LONDON

- 13 a.m. NEW ZEALAND - the Marcel Stanley imperforate Chalon issues on cover.
- 13 p.m. AUSTRALASIA - N.Z. 1822-32 Missionary letters, Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post, the H.H. Frenkle Queensland, Victoria, Western Australian classics.
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cover and are rare on adhesives.

6) DUPLEX TYPE DATE-STAMPS - these were first issued in the 1860's and not in the 1870's. The majority of cancellations on the perf. 12½ Chalon Heads are the right hand part of Duplex cancellations. The date-stamp was not always seperable.

Incidentally, no mention is made of a small class of circular date-stamp, used in the 1860's in the Wellington, Nelson and Canterbury Provinces. These show no name, but a letter/numeral code, e.g. H 8.

In reply, ALAN JACKSON writes as follows :-

I would like to thank Dr. McNaught for his interesting comments. I should point out, however, that my article made no pretensions to being a definitive study in detail of New Zealand date-stamp types. As indicated in the introduction, it was simply intended to point out to collectors of New Zealand stamps some of the general types of markings that might be met with fairly frequently. To have compiled a really detailed study would have required many more than five pages, if not in fact a small book. It would have to be written by a person more qualified than I. The points that Dr. McNaught makes about the early date-stamp types are well taken, but I felt when putting the article together that it would not be appropriate to go into too much detail about date-stamp sub-types, for the reasons stated above. Many of the other classifications of date-stamps could also be divided up into various sub-types, but I thought it better to keep the classification simple, and not unnecessarily complicated. The dates given were intended to indicate general periods of use only. I am sorry if some of them have been found imprecise. Perhaps, to set the record straight, a specialist could compile a study for the 'Kiwi' of the very early date-stamp types which I have covered so sketchily?

As far as the very early Crowned Oval type date-stamps are concerned, I omitted reference to these on purpose, as I felt that the general collector would come across them only rarely, if at all. The number of this type of date-stamp used was extremely small, and they are in any case rare.

Regarding the derivation of the letters A, B, C, J, etc. to indicate date-stamp types, my attribution was based on an article in a collectors' journal read some years ago. Unfortunately, I cannot recall the exact reference. The sequence of letters certainly do not conform to the order in which the different types of date-stamp appeared exactly.

Editor's Note - the original article by ALAN JACKSON was written at my request. In spite of the valid points made by both Dr. K.J. McNAUGHT and JOHN ROBBINS, I am sure it was of great interest to the members of the Society who have only a passing interest in the subject. Should any member wish to write in more detail, the pages of the 'Kiwi' await copy, as always!!

#### CHALON HEADS - PEN CANCELLATIONS

Following the publication of the article under this title in the 'Kiwi', Volume XXVI, No. 1, page 14, January, 1977, our member Dr. K.J. McNAUGHT writes as follows :-

1) Proving covers of Grey River (later Greymouth) in my collection show that the obliterator 20 in oval of bars was in use



at Grey River in 1865, possibly earlier. About the same time 21 was in use at Okitiki (later Hokitika). This was while Grey River and Okitiki were in the Canterbury Province, before the establishment of the Westland Postal District in 1868.

Therefore we have to search for an office in the Westland Postal District whose mail would be sorted at Greymouth. Only two offices beginning with C were open during the Chalon period.

- a) Chesterfield, opened 1st January, 1867, 9 miles north of Hokitika. Its mail probably was collected at Hokitika.
- b) Cobden, opened 16th November, 1865, across the Grey River from Greymouth.

This manuscript will almost certainly be Cobden.

2) Windwhistle is on the main inland route skirting the foothills of the Southern Alps, at the junction of the road which proceeds up the Rakaiia Gorge and the recently developed Mt. Hutt ski-fields. Further south the road passes through what remains of Alford Forest of 'ALF' obliterator fame, via Mt. Somers and Mayfield to Geraldine and rejoins the main highway at Winchester just north of Temuka which is 20 kilometers north of Timaru. The only sign of Windwhistle which I saw on a recent trip was a country garage.

4) "A" on 1/- Green perf. 12½ 1864-67 (?-73) SG125. There were five offices open in the original Auckland Postal District in this period.

- a) Ahipara, 10 miles from Kaitaia.
- b) Ararimu, 10 miles from Drury.
- c) Awanui, 5 miles from Kaitaia.
- d) Aratapu, 1 mile from Te Kopuru.
- e) Awitu, South of Manukau Harbour.

Ararimu and Awitu are most unlikely and mail from Aratapu was unlikely to be sorted at Russell. This leaves Ahipara and Awanui, but a choice is not possible.

Our member, ROBIN STARTUP, writes as follows :-

Postal datestamps were issued on a general basis in 1887. Last year I did a count of those offices in 1887 without a postal datestamp. Of the 750 involved I found that manuscript cancels had been recorded from only 250 offices. In view of this wide gap between knowns and possibles, I am of the opinion that the regular thing for those days was to send mail uncancelled on to the circulating office.

See also pages 89-90 of this issue of the 'Kiwi' - Editor.

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#### O.M.B. AND F.M.B.

From New Zealand, our member ROBIN STARTUP writes as follows :-

"F.M.B. datestamps have been used at Auckland and Wellington since late 1900's, with the O.M.B. datestamp at Christchurch probably from 1930's. The only other office to have a distinct overseas mail branch in their mailroom is Dunedin but standard datestamps are used there - an oval datestamp being used only on internal documents. None of these F.M.B./O.M.B. datestamps are common within New Zealand.

Both Auckland and Christchurch also have an automatic post-marking machine - the Auckland datehead has OVERSEAS around the foot and that at Christchurch has O.M.B.

See the 'Kiwi', Volume XXVI, page 64 - Editor.

## MORE MUSINGS FROM A MEMBER

In my collection I have three T.P.O. covers, all to Hobart, from the early days of this century, as follows :-

1904. Bulls via Wellington-Wanganui T.P.O., October 19th,  
Hobart, October 27th. 8 days.

1907. Gisbourne via Napier T.P.O., October 3rd, Hobart,  
October 7th. 4 days.

1907. Rotorua via Thames-Auckland T.P.O., August 31st,  
Hobart, September 13th. 14 days.

The first two obviously came into Wellington where they caught the mail steamer with little delay. Four days from Napier to Hobart is pretty good. Was there a direct service to Hobart? It is 1,500 miles and would have been just possible. The last cover went north - to Auckland? Was there another steamer service via Sydney and perhaps Melbourne? Can anyone describe the mail steamer services across the Tasman Sea in these times?

I am rather proud of an extensive collection of India and a recently acquired postcard of 1904, with Calcutta c.d.s. on a King Edward VII 1 anna stamp has now been mounted. Details have been painstakingly printed in Indian (!) Ink and the result is a satisfying addition to my Indian collection. What has this to do with 'Kiwi'. Well, it also has a nice c.d.s. 'T.P.O./Christchurch-Dunedin' and a Greymouth receiving mark! So it is a satisfactory addition to my New Zealand collection. Two for the price of one! The journey took 36 days for the price of one old penny, and the whole journey can be reconstructed from the stamp, the post office markings and the address, all on the front of the card. This latter is unusual for Indian covers, where the interesting Postal History is usually divided between both sides. Although not always blameless, the New Zealand Post Office more often than not put all the markings on the front.

Under the heading 'Useless Information', I have just found out that the world's largest timber building is in Wellington. This is the Department of Education, built in 1876, with over 100,000 square feet of floor space. One might have expected the New Zealand Post Office to have commemorated this centenary with a stamp!!!

The late President, Harry Bartrop, once produced a page of what had been described as 'photographs of essays' to a group of members and asked for any further information. I was equally disappointed when none was forthcoming as I had some of these essays myself. My guess is that they were produced for consideration before the 1935 Pictorials were issued. They comprised 10 values,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1/-, but no 1d. value. They show well known New Zealand scenes etc. with frames similar in style to those of the 1935 set. Sizes vary, but  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " is typical. Obviously they would have been reduced if adopted. In spite of the original description, mine are probably lithographs of photographic reductions of large essays by the artist. I can see hairs on the prints which, as a photographer, I find only too familiar. I seem to be asking a lot of questions! Who can give more information?

TOM HETHERINGTON

## "AIRMAILS ACROSS THE TASMAN"

Following the publication of the third in this series of articles in the 'Kiwi', Volume XXV, No. 3, pages 59 - 62, our member MICHAEL BURBERRY has written as follows :-

I may well be able to shed some light on the mysterious "passenger named MacKay", as I picked up a cover with letter from this flight at the 1976 Stampex Exhibition.

My cover bears the Waipapakauri c.d.s. as well as the "Sydney 4" marking and is addressed to the Editor of the "Aeroplane" London. The letter, on the Waipapakauri Commercial Hotel paper reads:-

25th March, 1933  
in fact 2 minutes to 26th March.

Dear Guy,

Now standing by on Ninety Mile Beach for Smithy's take off on return to Sydney after a most successful joy riding tour throughout the Dominion.

Isitt is here with me and sends his kindest regards.

I hope that the name at the head of this paper does not cause lock jaw or anything serious.

Might I wish you Kia Ora

Yours sincerely,

T.M.WILKES

Kindest Regards

L.M.ISITT

In case the two signatures to the letter mean nothing to you, let me quote from "Venture the Far Horizon" by E.F.Harvey (p. 152).

"Squadron Leader Isitt, O.C. Hobsonville and Tom Wilkes, Director of Air Services, come in in an Air Force Moth: there's just enough firm sand to land on. With Smithy they go off in a car and take a look at a mile or two of beach. The Boss is greatly impressed."

One first comes across T.M.Wilkes in Leo Walsh's "Wingspread" p. 51 - "An Air Board was appointed in 1920 and comprised various civil and military departmental heads. None of them knew much about aviation except Major T.M.Wilkes, M.C., then the Air Board Secretary."

Squadron Leader Isitt, when he retired, had become Chief of the New Zealand Air Staff. He then became Chairman of the National Airways Corporation as well as the Tasman Empire Airways Ltd.

As if these two illustrious aviators signing the letter was not enough Wilkes has noted in the bottom left corner - "Carried across Tasman Sea by Sir Charles Kingsford Smith in 'Southern Cross' March 1933" and this has been confirmed by H.M.MacKay's signature.

In "Flightpath South Pacific" Ian H. Driscoll (pp. 59 - 60) states "Horatio M. MacKay was forceful, tenacious and colourful. He was an Otago road transport operator in 1929 when the opportunity offered to buy two Simmonds Spartans at Green Island Field, Dunedin. He transferred them to Saltwater Creek aerodrome, Timaru, and, when the sea was not flowing across the field, he operated a flying training and air taxi service.

"His company was called New Zealand Airways Ltd. Its fleet soon numbered five. Thirty-four year old Trevor Watts White, popularly

known as 'Tiny', was appointed chief pilot in December, 1930. Others who flew for the company included Jack Buckeridge, Vasey Symons, Bill Parke, Bill Duffy and Frankie Dix.

"MacKay planned to operate a regular Auckland-Palmerston North-Wellington-Christchurch-Dunedin-Invercargill service as well as ancillary routes. He ordered a fleet of Boeing 40H-4 aircraft. Only two were delivered - fortuitously, as it happened. These reached New Zealand without blueprints. But one was assembled and Keith Johnston flew it around the country.

"The Government chose this moment to introduce air route licensing in New Zealand. The Transport Board approved a charter licence for New Zealand Airways; then, after the closing date for applications, a late-comer - none other than the influential Union Steam Ship Company, seeking to establish Union Airways.

"Its proposal to operate ten seater, four-engined DH86 airliners flown by two pilots inevitably prevailed over MacKay's four passenger, single-engined and one pilot Boeing 40H-4's. This was in the public interest. Horation MacKay was nevertheless left with a large fleet of aircraft and little use for it.

"He was forced to quit his aviation asset and return to surface transport. New Zealand Airways' four Spartans, a Puss Moth and two Boeings were valued at £15,000. They fetched £295. MacKay fought for thirty years through Parliamentary committees, Ministerial vetoes and other formal channels to obtain a judicial inquiry into his case for compensation. He got nowhere. Shortly before he died at the age of eighty two, his solicitor advised him to apply to the Government for an 'ex gratia' payment. In 1964 he was awarded £2,000. It barely paid his legal costs."

This may be the wrong MacKay, but he has the right initials and was just the sort of person who Smithy would have met and possibly in return for some service rendered, would agree to fly him to Australia.

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#### THE UNSTAMPED AEROGRAMMES OF NEW ZEALAND

Continued from page 68.

Other countries have also used New Zealand Air Mail Letter Cards. The early date on type 5 was established on a card posted from Suva on 25th January, 1946. This has been attributed possibly to a serviceman posting it in the islands after being transported from New Zealand (reference 4). Hodson's Catalogue lists the date as October, 1945, so it seems likely that they were issued in Fiji before they were used in New Zealand.

#### FIJI AIR MAIL LETTER CARDS.

1. October, 1945. New Zealand type 5.
2. 21st March, 1946. Fiji Air Mail Letter Card as New Zealand type 6. This is earlier than New Zealand type 6.

#### WESTERN SAMOA AIR MAIL LETTER CARD.

- 13th October, 1949. New Zealand type 7.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS.

1949. New Zealand type 7.

TONGA.

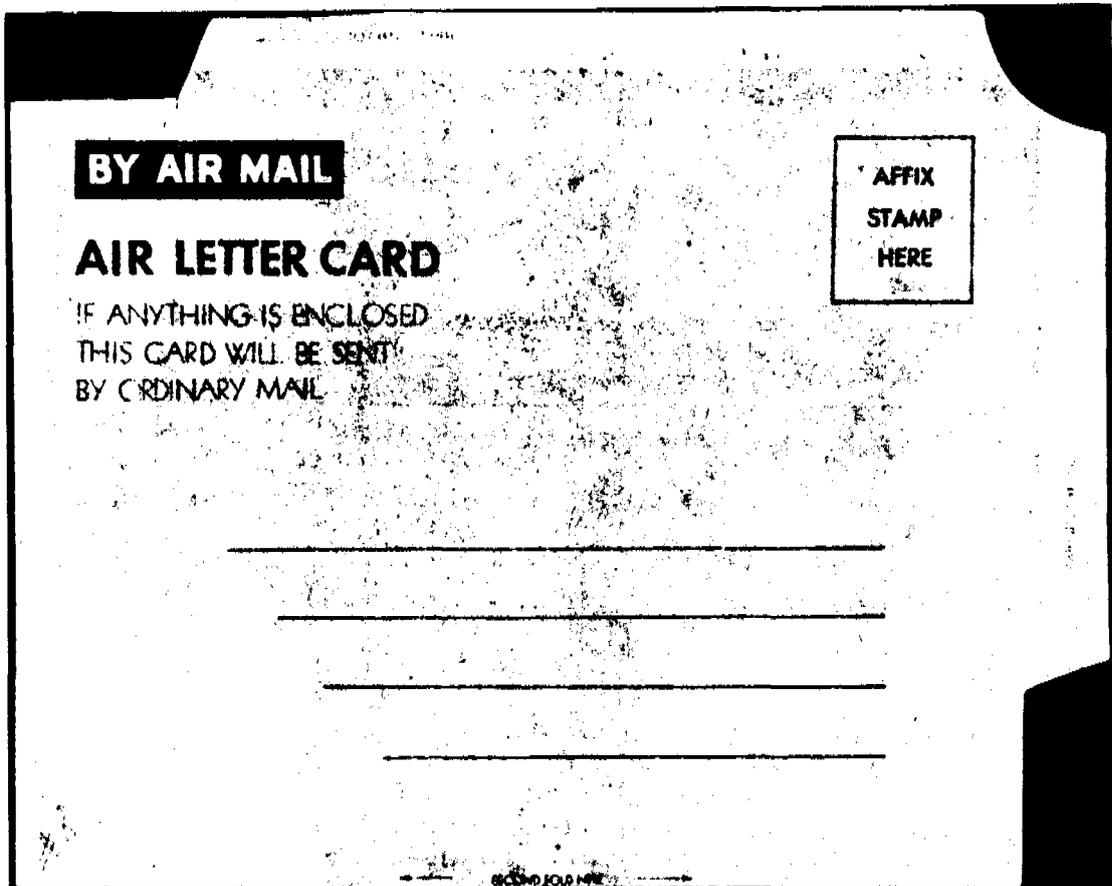
New Zealand Air Mail letter forms not recorded but Tonga's form (May, 1949) is similar to New Zealand type 7.

COOK ISLANDS.

1st August, 1949. New Zealand type 7.

B. AIR LETTER CARD.

8. August, 1949. This was the only form with "Air Letter Card" printed on the front panel.



This form introduced the new type corner on the upper right side.

C. AIR LETTER FORMS.

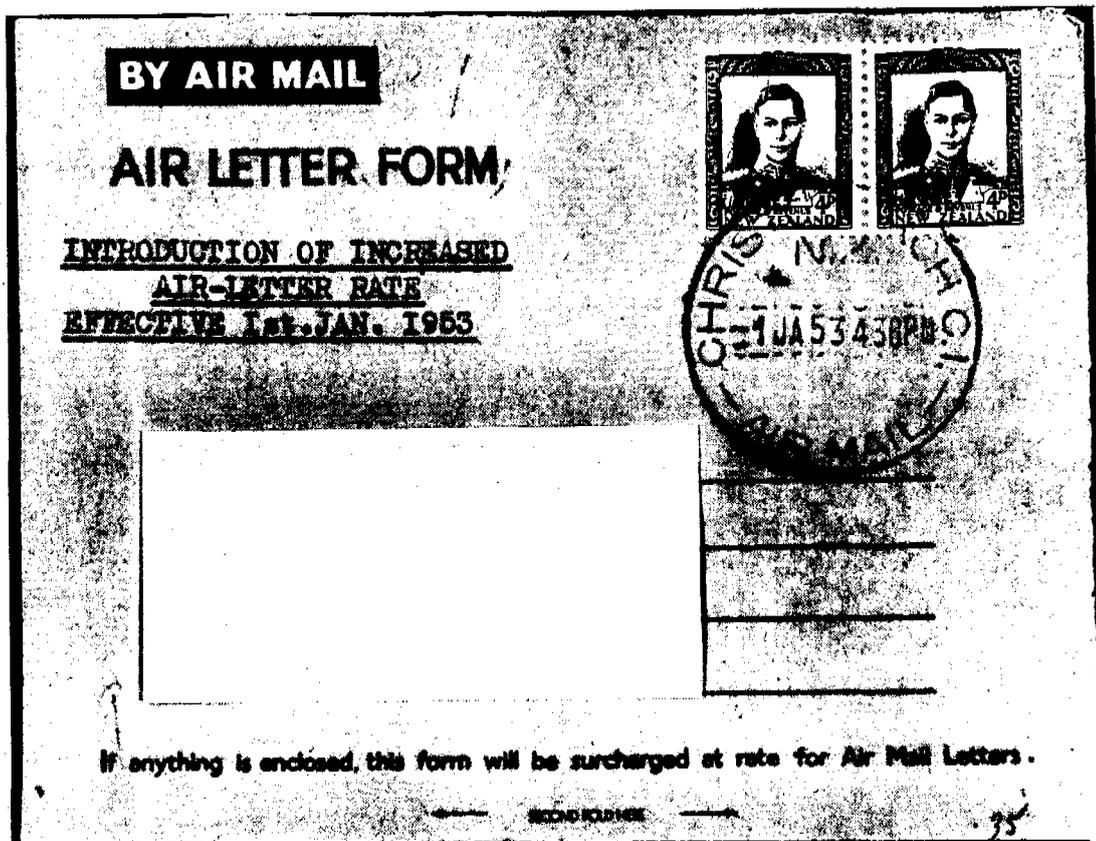
9. Front and back panels shaded. During this period of time (1949-1953), a number of different papers were used. From a number of forms examined, the following are recorded:-

- 1949-1951 - light grey-green.
- 1952 - grey.

1953 - light blue.

1953 - dark blue.

The form used during the increase of the air letter rate from 6d. to 8d. on 1st January, 1953, was light blue.



Only numbers 9 and 10 were printed "Air Letter Form".

10. The Air Letter Form with all blue colour on finer paper was released in 1953.

A New Zealand Air Letter Form type 9 was also used by the Rarotonga postmaster in Cook Islands in 1951.

#### D. AEROGRAMME.

11. The name was changed in February, 1957, with the release of the sheet to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the first shipment of frozen mutton from New Zealand to Great Britain. A pictorial datestamp was used at Totara Homestead on the 15th February. Unused copies are scarcer than used.

12. "If anything is enclosed...." is across the bottom of the form. Reference 4 states probably 1957.

13. "If anything...." is under "aerogramme". Earliest date seen is 2nd March, 1958. This is known used by the High Commissioner for New Zealand stationed in Wellington. It is addressed to London, and is used without stamps.

14. 1960. "Affix Stamp Here" is without box and in one line. The right side flap on the front panel is rounded.

15. 1961. As the 1960, except the lower right front panel side is sloped.

16. 1962. As 1961 with sloping flap on upper right, but additional printing was inscribed on the back panel, "Issued by New Zealand Post Office for Posting in New Zealand".

The wording on the back panel (warning panel) was necessitated because people were using New Zealand Aerogrammes overseas, and they were not accepted for the reduced rate if posted outside New Zealand.

17. 1963. The warning panel was changed to light blue printing on dark blue. "Issued by the New Zealand Post Office for Posting in New Zealand to Oversea Addresses".

18. 1965. The warning panel now reads "Overseas" (plural).

— To open cut here

**PAR AVION  
AIR MAIL  
CORRLO AEREO**

APFIX STAMP HERE

If anything is enclosed,  
this form will be surcharged  
at rate for Air Mail Letters.

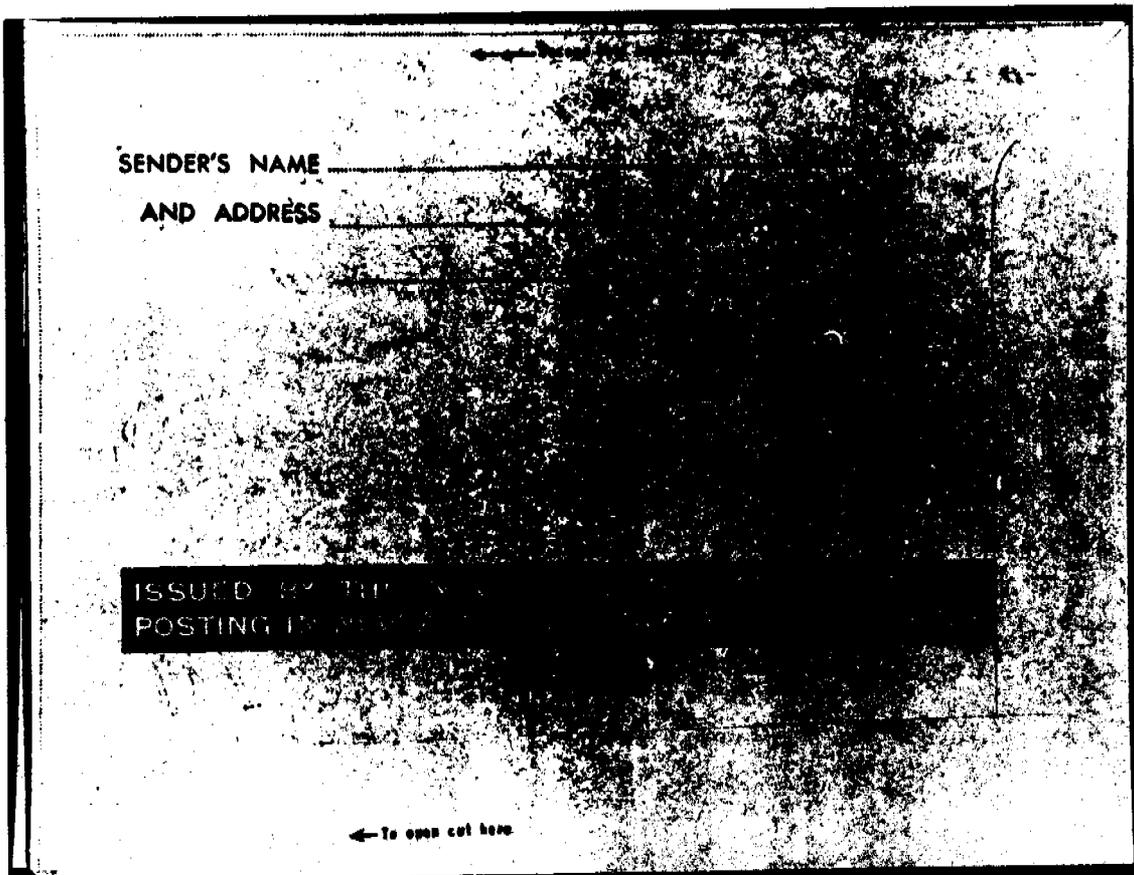
**AEROGRAMME**

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS



 A DeLuxe Robinson Group Product

The form differs from the usual Croxley Aerogramme used in New Zealand in that it was not intended for New Zealand release, so is missing the "approved for posting in New Zealand...".



The missing "T" in the warning on the back panel, illustrated above, is a variety of the basic sheet.

19. 1968. Maori ornamental border. Folded, the horizontal measurement of the front panel is 120 mm.
  20. 1973. The size was enlarged and now measures 140 mm. The Maori design is still present.
  21. 1974. On back panel under the warning panel but upside down is the additional warning, "If anything is enclosed, this form will be surcharged at the rate for air mail letters".
  22. 1974-1975. The Post Office sold Croxley forms while waiting for the new larger forms to be delivered. See illustration.
  23. May, 1975. New larger 210 mm form was issued with Maori designs down both sides. Different intensities of ink have been used. The paper is very thin, so I look to seeing it replaced in the near future.
- To be continued.

J. HILL

PEN OR MANUSCRIPT CANCELLATIONS.

Our Member, Dr. K.J.McNAUGHT, writes from New Zealand with some basic points which should be considered by all members studying this vast subject.

With manuscript cancellations there is a great temptation to allocate markings to particular offices on very slender evidence. In many cases wishful thinking can be involved. I have two examples where I had almost convinced myself that the tentative allocation I had made could be correst, until I came to check on

the dates - the offices had not opened at the time of the dates on the manuscript markings. So these allocations could not be correct except in the very rare cases where the office was opened earlier as a Telegraph Office.

It is extremely difficult to prove that manuscript markings consisting of a letter only have been correctly attributed to particular offices. Even when we have a proving example on cover, we cannot always be sure that the writing is the same on a stamp off cover.

When a stamp with a manuscript letter marking has passed through a major sorting office and is obliterated at that office, the probability will be strong that :-

- 1) it is postal
- 2) that the office involved is in the local district where the obliterator has been applied.

In exceptional cases, however, the obliterator may be applied at a second or third re-sorting office. Nevertheless it is most likely to have been applied within the same Postal District. This is why obliterator markings such as 1 or A for Auckland, C for Christchurch, 20 for Greymouth, 21 for Hokitika, 14 or 15 for Nelson, etc. are so important in reducing the number of possibilities.

Pencancels consisting of an initial letter only could be that of the Postmaster, and this always has to be kept in mind. However, my evidence is that this was not normal practice.

It was a common practice in Legal Offices to write on an envelope a brief reference to the contents of the letter and this writing could run across the stamp. One can come across stamps marked in this way, and these can cause confusion.

A pencancel alone on a Chalon stamp issued before 1867 is likely to be postal. However, 'unused' or cleaned early Chalons could be used in 1867 during the Fiscal stamp shortage.

After 1867 the stamp can be either Fiscal or Postal. Although Fiscal stamps were prepared for Duty purposes, I am quite sure many postage stamps were used for fiscal purposes between 1867 and 1882 and would not render a document invalid. It would still represent the same amount of money paid to the Government, but would merely upset the breakdown of sources of revenue for accounting purposes.

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From Laurie Franks Ltd. Postal Auction for April 5th, 1977.

Overprinted O.P.S.O. QV 1d. Rose perf. 11, 2d. Mauve perf. 10, 1d. Dominion. All used.



This last one intrigues me as the last listed O.P.S.O. should be the Royle printing of the Penny Universal. This one also has the overprint reading downwards instead of upwards. It seems to be three years late! Can anybody elucidate?

B.J.PRATT