



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

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# the kiwi

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WHOLE 168

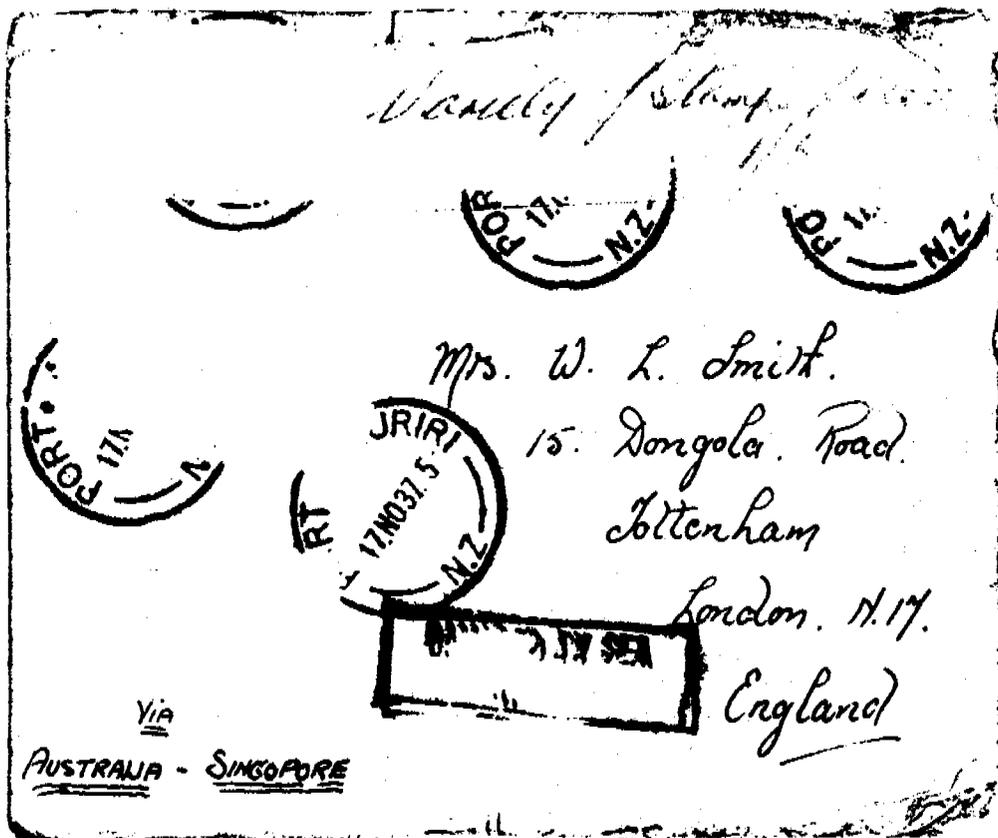
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 25TH JULY, 1981,  
 AT THE SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, MONMOUTH STREET, LONDON, WC2H 9HD,  
 STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

A MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTORY MEETING ON POST-CARDS.

LEADER - ALLAN P. BERRY.

The term 'Post-Card' will be taken to include any card designed  
 to be conveyed through the post. Either side may be of interest  
 but not primarily the postal markings. Please forewarn the  
 leader of any interesting items that you would like to show.

VIA SYDNEY - SINGAPORE / - ENGLAND : DAMAGED BY SEA WATER.



SEE PAGE 59.

## EDITORIAL.

On page 18 of this Volume of 'The Kiwi' members were able to read the press announcement made by the New Zealand Postmaster-General concerning the issues of stamps planned for 1981. An addition to this list was announced, and published on page 40.

The leaflet from the Philatelic Bureau, Wanganui, giving details of the 1981 Scenic Stamp Issue planned for 3rd June, 1981, also gives details of a further issue due on that same date, but which was not announced in any of the Press Releases.

I refer, of course, to the 1981 Government Life Insurance Office issue, the need for which has been obvious for some time. It seems strange that this issue was not announced with all the others. Was there any need for such secrecy? It also means that collectors have to find an extra \$1.55 on this day for this extra issue.

The design of the stamps leaves much to be desired. The schematic, rather than the pictorial, approach has been used. The resulting design is already the subject of derogatory remarks in New Zealand, according to one of my correspondents.

Could not the issue of this set have been announced earlier? Why could it not have its own 'First Day of Issue'? Could not the pictorial designs be continued? Who was responsible for approving this design? Was it the New Zealand Post Office? Or was it the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Office?

It seems a shame that this new issue should be such a poor effort, compared with the pictorial issues of the past thirty-four years.

ALLAN P. BERRY

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### MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

C.G.Capill, Watershed Road, Bunnythorpe, New Zealand.

Mrs. P.A.Macgillivray, 828, Arrow Lane,

Ridgewood, N.J. 07450, U.S.A.

DECEASED

S.I.Larsen, 79, Moorhouse Street, Morrinsville, New Zealand.

RESIGNED

A.H.Rose, 5, Heathfield Green, Midhurst, Sussex.

J.M.Warner, Gander Green, Lasingham, York.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

R.J.E.Jenkins, 152, Coppice Avenue,

Ferndown, Wimborne, Dorset, BH22 9PN.

(previously of Lindsay Park, Poole.)

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### + STUART IVAN LARSEN +

Stuart Larsen died suddenly on 31st March, 1981. He joined the New Zealand Society of Great Britain in July, 1968. At the time of his death, he was Vice-President of the Waikato Philatelic Society. Stuart was one of the acknowledged experts of the 1954 - 1957 Queen Elizabeth II issue of New Zealand. Although totally deaf as a result of injuries received in the Air Force during the War, he gave many displays throughout New Zealand on this issue, a feature of which were the many colour slides of errors and varieties.

Our condolences are extended to his wife and family.

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 1981.  
BIRDS ON NEW ZEALAND STAMPS.

The meeting was declared open by our Chairman, Stanley Cross-Rudkin, at 2.30 p.m. He welcomed members present, including 'Our Man in New Zealand', John Watts, on a flying visit, and one new member, Alan Baker.

The leader for the afternoon, John Evans, showed a basic collection of the 21 New Zealand birds, out of a total of 280 known species, that have appeared on New Zealand stamps. The first appeared on the 1898 Pictorial Issue, the 3d. Huias and the 1/- Kea and Kaka.

Michael Burberry specialised in the 1898 Pictorial Issue, displaying some of the 1895 competition entries, one of which showed a Moa. He continued with Die and Plate Proofs, specimens, re-entries, shades and double perforations of the bird stamps of this issue.

Phil Evans showed the Fantail and the Kiwi from the Second Pictorial Issue, with a fund of information, both philatelic and ornithological.

Noel Turner's best 'bird stamps' were blocks of four of the 1932 Hygeia Health stamp. He also showed the Poaka with missing legs and misplaced legs, and some First Day Covers.

Our new member, Alan Baker, showed a study of the Weka and the Bellbird, with a wealth of flaws and retouches.

Allan Berry showed a variety of Postal Stationery, cancellations and meter marks with bird themes, including a meter mark from Auckland that illustrated a domestic chicken.

John Watts ended the afternoon by showing some of the labels and other Cinderella material from New Zealand that had a bird theme. This ended with a set of Air New Zealand menus, a feature of which are the illustrations of New Zealand birds.

The vote of thanks was proposed by our Chairman at the end of a most interesting meeting.

A.E.H.

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SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

CENTENARY OF TE PUKE



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Te Puke on Monday, 18th May, 1981, to mark the Centenary of Te Puke. Mail posted in a special posting box at the Te Puke Post Office was cancelled with the special datestamp.

AIR NEW ZEALAND INAUGURAL 747 FLIGHT



A special pictorial datestamp was provided for use at the Chief Post Office, Auckland, to postmark covers forwarded in a special philatelic mail carried on the inaugural Air New Zealand 747 flight from Auckland to Sydney scheduled for 11th June, 1981. The covers were backstamped on receipt in Sydney.

## APPEAL FOR UNWANTED STAMPS

This is the Centenary Year of the Church of England Children's Society, formerly Waifs and Strays, and I have been asked to run a "Stamp Stall" at a bazaar in early November to raise extra funds.

I well realise that many of you probably donate your unwanted stamps to charity, but I am asking you to make an extra effort and send me any old bits of rubbish from any country - but NOT modern Great Britain - on or off paper, mounted or unmounted, and in practically any condition. I am quite prepared to mount and price everything sent. PLEASE, do the same as I have just done; turn out your cupboards and Aunt Fanny's attic, and do not forget to look under Grandma's mattress, you never know what you may find! Then please send them to

B.J.PRATT, 22, Abbey Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 2QL

Thank you!!!

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### HOKIANGA - OBLITERATOR NO. 3

In 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVlll, pages 120 - 121, November, 1979, there appears an article which I wrote on the Hokianga Obliterator Number 3. This is Type 5 on page 35 of Volume lll of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. Type 6 on the same page, which is very like Type 5, was used at Waipawa. An office was opened there on 1st July, 1859. As I pointed out in my original article on this subject, Waipawa used another Obliterator Number 3 within eleven horizontal bars; Type 7 shown on page 53 of Volume lll of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. On the next page it is stated that this Obliterator was in use in March and July, 1864.

The "Adam Hunter" collection of New Zealand Postal History was sold by Stanley Gibbons Auctions on 16th July, 1980. This very fine award winning collection formed by the late Adam J.Hunter, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., contains many rare items and is described as one of the largest and most comprehensive collections to come onto the market for many years. It comprised 398 Lots.

Lot 73 is described as a Cover; Waipawa '3', 1874, January 28th, cover to W.Colenso, Napier, with 1872 2d. Vermilion tied by faint strike of this cancel, clear Waipawa and Napier c.d.s. on reverse.

Lot 74 is described as Similar Cover of February 20th with a very good strike of cancel clearly showing thicker bars of this type.

Both Lots are described by reference to P.B. (that is, Perkins, Bacon) Type 6 on page 35 of Volume lll of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. But when one looks at the photograph of each Lot on Plate 5, there is in my opinion no room for doubt that the cancel in each case is Type 7 illustrated on page 53 of Volume lll of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

Lot 157 is described as a Cover; Waipawa '3'; 1870, October 15th cover to Colenso at Napier with 1864 - 1867 1d. pair cancelled by both Waipawa numeral '3' and Napier Duplex (NA 1), slight soiling.

There is no photograph of this lot, so this could be either Type 6 on page 35 or Type 7 on page 53 of Volume lll of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. But one would have thought that it

was Type 7 because those writing the Sale Catalogue would have described the cancel as different from that of Lots 73 and 74 had that been the case.

We are thus left with Waipawa '3' in all cases being Type 7 on page 53 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, except the 'McNaught Cover' stated on page 35 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand to be Type 6.

The evidence from the Adam Hunter Collection tends to confirm that the original Type 6 had ceased to be used.

JOHN D. EVANS

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VIA SYDNEY - SINGAPORE / - ENGLAND : DAMAGED BY SEA / WATER.

With reference to the notes on the first of the cachets listed above published in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVIII, page 51, and Volume XXIX, page 110, I illustrate the front of a cover in my collection, which has on the reverse the printed name of the ship R.M.S. Rangitiki. Although this does not carry the VIA SYDNEY - SINGAPORE / - ENGLAND cachet, I feel that it is relevant to the topic under discussion on the following grounds :-

- 1) It is clearly datestamped 17.NO.37.
- 2) It is endorsed "Via Australia - Singapore" in the handwriting of the addresser.
- 3) The pencilled "Variety of Stamps Please 1/6" confirms the rate to the United Kingdom.

As the cover is postmarked PORT AHURIRI, the port for Napier, and does not carry the cachet in question, this surely strengthens the view that it was applied elsewhere - Wellington or Auckland?

Almost certainly the cover carried the Air Mail Etiquette in the bottom left corner above "Via", just cutting into the lower date-stamp impression.

My interest, however, lies more with the DAMAGED BY SEA / WATER cachet and the FOUND OPENED OR DAMAGED label that is stuck on the reverse. Somewhere and at some time en route to the United Kingdom this letter was soaked to the extent of washing off all the stamps and opening out the envelope.

In the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, I can find no reference to any mail being damaged during this period and in particular no damage to mail carried by the R.M.S. Rangitiki. Certainly this vessel was not sunk as she was still plying between New Zealand and the United Kingdom during my three years stay in New Zealand from 1954 to 1957.

I do realise that the letter may not in fact have been carried by the R.M.S. Rangitiki to Sydney - perhaps the writer had some spare embossed envelopes which he was using up?

If any reader can throw any light on this cover I would be most grateful to hear from them through our Editor. In particular, I would like to know

- 1) Did the R.M.S. Rangitiki run between New Zealand and Sydney, and on to the United Kingdom in 1937. If so, did she carry mail.
- 2) How and where was this mail damaged.
- 3) Does any reader have any other examples of the DAMAGED BY SEA / WATER cachet on similar or other covers.

J.G.STONEHOUSE

PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND DATESTAMPS - FURTHER NOTES.

Since 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVIII, page 99, further details have been given of four datestamps in the collection of our member O.R.BOWEN of Cape Town. As he doubts that they have been reported before, I have done some further research with the following results.

1864 - 1866 Era.

Serial No. 2 on 2d. S.G. 113 dated DE. 3. 1864. Mr. Bowen states that this was purchased ex West Auctions about ten years ago. R.M.Startup in his 'Province of Auckland Cancellations', published in September, 1959, records nine examples of S.G. 113. I think this is probably example number ten.

Serial Number not decipherable on S.G. 98, 2d. 1864 Wmk. NZ, imperf. I have a copy of this stamp with Serial No. 2 dated NO. 12. 64; Serial No. 3 dated OC 30. 64; and Serial No. 4 dated OC. ?. 64. R.M.Startup in 1959 quoted two examples of Province of Auckland datestamps on S.G. 98. Dare one say that the balance of probability is that the S.G. 98 of Mr. Bowen was used in October or November, 1864?

S.G. 107, 2d. 1864 Wmk. NZ, perf. 12½. Only one example of this stamp is quoted by R.M.Startup. This stamp was first issued in about March, 1864, and as R.M.Startup has "full details" of this copy, it follows that Mr. Bowen's copy, whose serial number is not decipherable, is an additional copy of this stamp, used with Province of Auckland datestamp.

1867 - 1875 Era.

Serial No. 1 dated FE. 2. 69 on S.G. 122a, 6d. Brown, perf. 12½. This, as Mr. Bowen states, is, or was, a new Earliest Date of Use of this Serial Number in this era. But wait! Our member, IAN MACKENZIE-CALDER has later reported a Serial No. 1 on a 2d. Blue Chalon Head, perf. 12½, S.G. 115, with date 7th January, 1869. So this is the present Earliest Date of Use of this Serial No. 1.

In my own further researches, I have found the following:- Lot 1333 in Robson Lowe's Sale on 11th June, 1969, illustrates S.G. 98, 2d. Wmk. NZ, imperf., with Serial Number 5 clearly dated OC. 19. 64. This has not been reported by the lucky buyer. It is the earliest known use of this Serial Number. See above. S.G. 98 is known cancelled with Serial Numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5, all between October and November, 1864.

In 'The Kiwi', Volume XX, page 54, I reported Serial Number 6 dated DE. 24. 75 on cover addressed to WANGAREI HEADS. This has not been added to any of the previous tables, due to some oversight. It is the latest known date of use of this Serial Number.

Our member, J.P.PEARCE, reported in October, 1979, an example of Serial No. 2 dated 26th September, 1864, on 1d. imperf., NZ watermark paper, S.G. 97. This is of personal interest as I have Serial No. 2 of the same date on a 1d. pair imperf., S.G. 35. Obviously both went by the same mail from Te Awamutu, but it is interesting to note that the 1d. imperf. on large star watermark paper was still in use when the NZ watermark

paper was being used.

Still on Serial No. 2, Robson Lowe's Auction on 14th November, 1979, offered Lot 1536 as "1864 Wmk. NZ 2d. pale blue clearly cancelled by two part strikes of Province of Auckland / NZ c.d.s." at an estimated value of £60.00. On looking at the photograph of this stamp one finds quite clearly Serial No. 2, ? 27 ?4, showing use in 1864. This would be S.G. 98. I have already reported several examples of S.G. 98 earlier in this article.

Also in the same Auction, Lot 1538 offered 2d. blue, 1864 - 1867, perf. 12½, plate 11, with two part strikes at an estimated value of £20.00, but whether these strikes show a serial number I cannot say as unfortunately there is no photograph. Perhaps the buyer will report; he should be a member!

As a result, the present table is as under:-

1864-1866 era				1867-1875 era		
No.	Earliest Date	Latest Date	No. of Examples	Earliest Date	Latest Date	No. of Examples
1.	FE.3.65	JL.15.66	24	FE.2.69	DE.3.72	4
2.	JU.30.64	OC.25.65	28	NO.2.67	-----	2
3.	SP.27.64	OC.28.65	5	MR.15.69	MR.14.73	2
4.	OC.?.65	DE.16.65	3	DE.4.67	AU.27.69	6
5.	OC.19.64	SE.28.65	6	DE.24.68	SP.2.70	4
6.	MR.9.65	JY.3.66	3	JU.12.68	DE.24.75	3
7.	DE.30.64	OC.?.65	3	-----	-----	-
8.	-----	-----	-	-----	JU.6.71	1
0.	-----	-----	-	OC.30.72	??.74	2
12.	-----	-----	-	-----	DE.10.72	1
Total			72	Total		25

I regret that the addition in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXVlll, page 57 is wrong; the total should be 109, not 119.

Summary -

Examples 1864 - 1866 era.....	72
Examples 1867 - 1875 era.....	25
Serial No. 1 and Serial No. 7 in the collection of J.G.STONEHOUSE, without date.....	2
'The Kiwi', Volume XXVll, page 63, examples without Serial Number or date plus the above Lot 1538.....	21
Examples without Serial Number or date in the collection of O.R.BOWEN.....	2
Total.....	122

With regard to the Serial Number on S.G. 113 above mentioned I am aware that "world wide enquiries" were made by R.M.Startup but I have assumed that these did not elicit the existence of Serial Number 2 reported by Mr. Bowen. If I am wrong, R.M.Startup will no doubt correct me. Mr. Bowen is making enquiries for further examples of these datestamps in South African Collections and no doubt our Editor as well as myself will await the result with interest.

JOHN D. EVANS

## ADDENDUM

Since compiling the above there has been brought to my attention a 'Laver' cover. It is worth while recalling from R.M.Startup's Province of Auckland Cancellations, 1959, that some years before then a Lot of 25 covers were sold in the philatelic market all from Lt. Q.M. Laver of the 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment of Foot to Mrs. Laver, addressed to No. 1, Scott's Terrace, Pitt Street, Auckland, but, so the publication says, between April and May, 1865, the address changes from No. 1, Scott's Terrace, to No. 1, Pitts' Terrace. Of the 25 covers 6 were then known to R.M.Startup, but the cover to be mentioned cannot be one of these. This cover is addressed to Mrs. Laver at No. 1, Pitts Terrace, Pitt Street, Auckland, and has four 1d. stamps cancelled with part of the Province of Auckland datestamp. These stamps are probably carmine-vermilion, S.G. 110. On the reverse is the Province of Auckland Serial Number 1, dated OC.9.65 and the unframed Auckland c.d.s. dated OC.10.65.

From the number of examples known and a knowledge of Lt. Q.M. Laver's whereabouts it has always been considered that datestamp serial number 1 was used at Ngaruawahia (Newcastle). During August to October, 1865, remaining British Troops were withdrawn from their garrisons in the Waikato. Probably therefore this cover proceeded by water transport up the River Waikato to Mere Mere and was thence taken overland to Queen's Redoubt from which it was taken by Mounted Trooper to Auckland. In passing it is interesting to note that the Post Office at Queen's Redoubt was closed on OC.31.65., about three weeks after the arrival of this cover in Auckland.

As far as the Serial Number Table is concerned the total for the 1864 - 1866 era, Serial Number 1 becomes a total of 25, and the total of 72 becomes 73 and the total number of examples from all sources becomes 123.

JOHN D. EVANS

Our member from New Zealand, ROBIN STARTUP, writes as follows:-

Both JOHN EVANS and KEN McNAUGHT have been doing splendid work in recording the use of these fascinating but rare datestamps in 'The Kiwi' - unfortunately I have never had the opportunity of continuing researches following the publication of my booklet on this subject in 1959 - which booklet is now in itself a collector's item.

But what has drawn my attention is the coincidence between the now known use of the datestamp numbers, and the numbers of the Waikato Militia Regiments stationed at those places. I have not been able to look at the Militia papers in National Archives very deeply but the original proposals of 1864 for the siting of the Regiments is further illuminating.

Datestamp N. and Known Location.

Waikato Militia Location

1 Newcastle/Ngaruawahia

None, but Newcastle, being at the junction of the Waipa and Waikato rivers, was the supply depot of upriver garrisons.

- 2 Te Awamutu 2nd Regiment. Intention, spread across from Kihikihi through Te Awamutu to Pirongia. Actually based at Alexandra (Pirongia) at head of navigation on the Waipa.
- 3 Cambridge or Alexandra 3rd Regiment. Intention was to spread south and east from Kirikiriroa, actually based at Cambridge.
- 4 Hamilton 4th Regiment. Intention was to spread south along the Waikato from Kirikiriroa to Pukerimu. Actually based at Hamilton (Kirikiriroa) head of navigation on the Waikato.
- 5 Alexandra or Cambridge The 4th Regiment was the last formed. The 1st Regiment was sent to Tauranga and thus outside this area.

6 & 7 Unknown

I would thus suggest that datestamp 3 was used at Cambridge (note also the use of an Obliterator '3' there), with datestamp 5 at Alexandra. We need to know more about datestamps 6 and 7 before possible locations of use could be linked with Rangiriri or Waikato Coalmines. The Offices under discussion were linked over one mail service (Military Postal Orderlies Unit or the Waikato Steamer Service) through Queen's Redoubt to Auckland. The other suggested office at Miranda Redoubt was not directly on this mail service and I am inclined to doubt whether it would have been involved with a Province of Auckland datestamp.

With regard to scarcity of this material I was recently discussing what I call the 'survival ratio' with a Wellington postal history auctioneer who had been checking through early legal archives for letters/envelopes with postal markings with limited success - although the items recovered are important. I mentioned that I had just read through 3,000 reports and letters of 1840's - 1850's on microfilm and of this volume only a score actually had markings. This proportion confirmed the auctioneer's own experience.

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FINDINGS FROM FILES.

RECESS PLATE FOR 4d. KING GEORGE STAMP

The files at present in the custody of the National Postal Museum tell the story of the Recess Plate for the 4d. King George Stamp prepared in 1925 - 1926.

The first mention from the files is a copy of a memorandum from the Prime Minister's Office, Wellington, to the High Commissioner for New Zealand, signed by W. Nosworthy, for the Prime Minister. This memorandum is dated 24th June, 1925, and reads:-

A new plate for the 4d. postage stamp of the King George design

is required and I have to ask that you make the necessary arrangements for the manufacture of same.

The new plate should be similar in all respects to the one now in use and should print 120 stamps to the sheet, care being taken to ensure that the space between the stamps matches the standard perforation now in use in the Stamp Printing Room.

The plate at present in use (No. 20) was made by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Company of London in 1914 and should, if possible, be taken as a pattern for the new plate. I enclose a specimen (No. 1) shewing the standard perforation now in use and specimen (No. 2) is a rough design of the plate, giving the exact dimensions which must not be varied in any way in the new plate.

I am of the opinion that the best means of supervision of the manufacture of the new plate would be through the Controller, Post Office Stores Department, Stamp Section, Somerset House, London, and I have to request that you make the necessary arrangements for this to be done.

I am forwarding under separate cover a specimen of the last plate made by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Company which may be of assistance to the makers of the new plate.

No other supervision or inspection than that herein-before mentioned will be necessary.

A copy of this memorandum was sent by the High Commissioner to the Controller on 16th September, 1925.

There is a copy of a letter to "the Secretary" from the Controller concerning this order, one paragraph of which reads:-

It is presumed that a suitable charge should be made to the Dominion to cover the cost of work done by this Department.

The tone of the letter suggests that a political decision is being asked for. A note agreeing to a suitable charge being made is dated 7th October, 1925.

On 10th October, 1925, the High Commissioner was asked to provide details of the plate still in use - length, breadth, etc. These questions were passed to Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd., who in a reply dated 19th October, 1925, make no mention of the 4d. plate.

On 28th October, 1925, three files held by the New Zealand High Commission containing information concerning the plates provided by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd. were loaned to the Controller "...from which it is hoped you will be able to extract sufficient information to enable the order to be proceeded with."

Extracts from a memo dated 14th November, 1925, addressed to a Mr. Cook, read:-

With regard to the printing plate required by New Zealand for the...4d. stamps, recess printing, I think the best plan will be on this occasion to entrust the work to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. Owing to the difficulty in ascertaining reliable data on which to build a satisfactory specification for the plate we approached the High Commissioner, who was good enough to lend us his files dealing with the production of plates for New Zealand stamps from the year 1908. It transpires from those papers that the most reliable plates have been produced and supplied by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co....as regards the...4d. denomination. As the New Zealand Government lay stress on the fact that the new plate is to

conform in every particular to those previously supplied, and as Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. have all the reliable data, you will probably agree that no advantage will be gained by seeking competitive tenders in connexion with the plate now required.

It may be a good plan to arrange for Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. to supply gauges shewing size of plate, width of gutters, etc., to become our property and to serve as a guide for competitive tenders in case of any future requirements for New Zealand.

Against this last paragraph, there is a hand-written note:-

- or as you suggested last evening we could get the Mint to measure the Plate minutely for a specification.

Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd. were invited to tender in November, 1925, for the supply of "1 Steel recess printing plate for 4d. New Zealand Postage Stamps to be made from a die which will be supplied." An attached specification reads in part:-

All roller punches, working dies, moulds, matrices and other materials and things bearing any reproduction of the original design to be provided by the Contractor, and to become the property of and to be delivered up to the Controller.

Three Proofs of the plate to be provided for examination. The Plate to be delivered to the Controller at Somerset House if desired.

After approval the plate to be packed by the contractor in the best manner for shipment to New Zealand.

Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd. submitted their tender of £20, plus £1 for packing and delivery, on 19th November, 1925.

The Controller wrote to the High Commissioner on 20th November, 1925. Extracts from this letter read:-

It is...desirable to have, for the purpose of making prints... small supplies (say 20 or 30 sheets) of the paper used for...4d. stamps (120 set) by recess process...and perhaps you can arrange for a quantity to be sent to this Department as early as possible.

The High Commissioner replied on 26th November, 1925, saying:-

I am now able to forward you 31 sheets of New Zealand Stamp Paper, numbered 41012 - 41041 and 41043, which have been obtained from Messrs. Samuel Jones & Co. Ltd.

On 10th December, 1925, Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd. wrote to the High Commissioner as follows:-

"...we beg to inform you that we have in our possession a roller with impressions of the 2d., 2½d., 4d., 4½d., 7½d. and 9d. King George Head stamps. We did not consider it necessary to provide another roller for the 4d. die received from the Post Office Stores Department. The above roller, of course, we consider the property of the High Commissioner.

"...we await instructions as to what is to be done with this roller when the work is to be completed."

A copy of this letter was sent to the Controller on 11th December, 1925, with the following comments:-

The High Commissioner will be glad to have your remarks thereon,

and, at the same time, will you kindly say whether you consider Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Company took into consideration the fact that they would not have to provide another roller when submitting their quotation for the present order.

This Department does not yet appear to have received particulars of the Contract placed with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Company, and the High Commissioner will be glad to have these in due course.

On 22nd December, 1925, Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd. were instructed by the High Commissioner to return the roller to them on completion of the contract.

On 22nd February, 1926, Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd. certified that "...the enclosed stamp plate...has been made to agree in all respects to the plate No. 20 for the same value, supplied by us to the New Zealand Post Office in 1914."

On 24th February, 1926, the Controller wrote to the Superintendent, Operative Department, Royal Mint, E.1., asking him to arrange to have certain dimensions of this 4d. plate measured. These measurements were provided on the same day, but the Royal Mint went one further. They wrote to the Controller on 25th February, 1926, as follows:-

With reference to our conversation yesterday on the hardness of the Printing Plate for the New Zealand 4d. Postage Stamps, our test by the Shore Scleroscope showed a hardness figure of 30. For comparison I might mention that the High Value Plates of steel that we made for you gave readings of 70 to 75 after hardening, while a piece of plate tested before hardening registers 25.

You will see, therefore, that the steel plate under review has really not been "hardened" in the strict sense of the word.

A pencil note on this letter, however, reads:-

Mr. Heath of Perkins, Bacon & Co. telephoned. He confirms that the plate supplied is fully as hard as the one supplied to the N.Z. Govt. in 1914.

Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd. wrote to the Controller on 4th March, 1926, as follows:-

We return herewith the balance of the watermarked paper sent us for proving the above (4d. plate), with the exception of one sheet which we are retaining as an engraver's proof of the work.

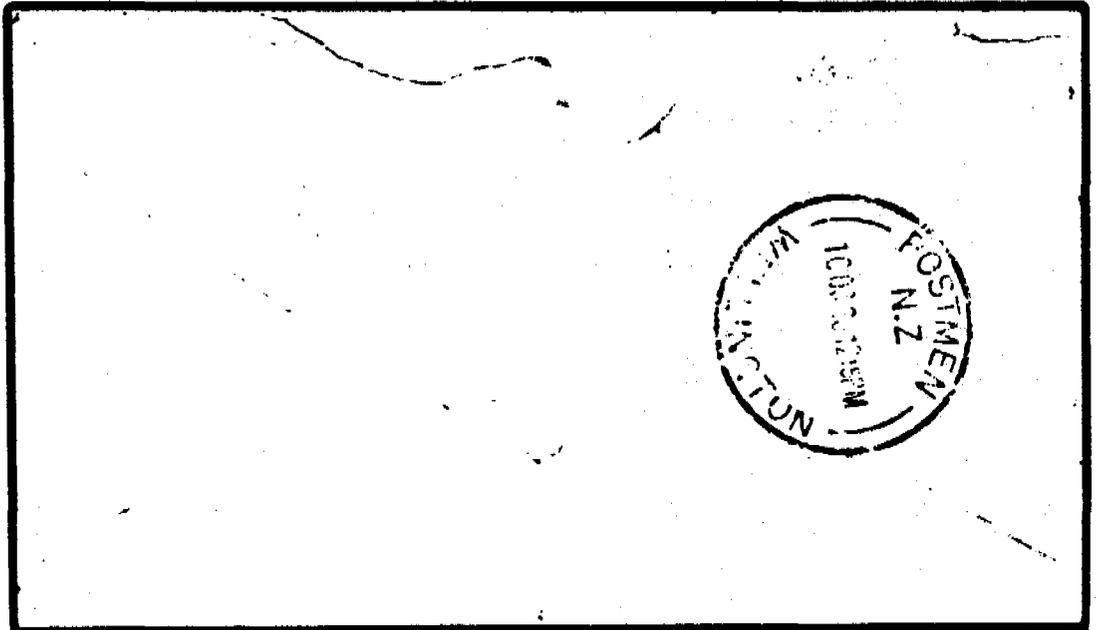
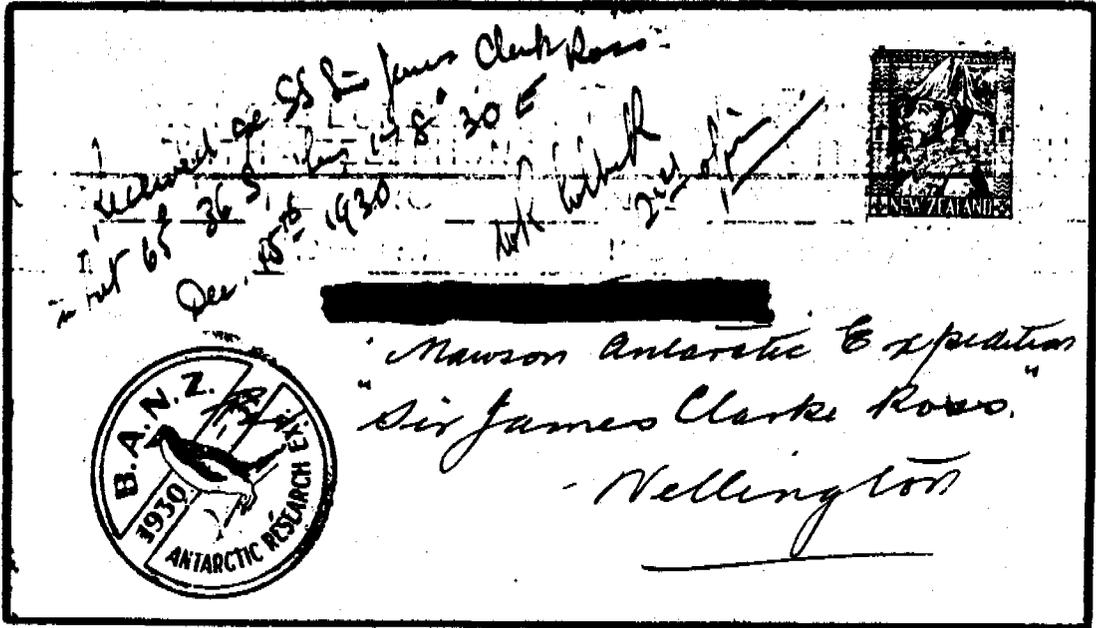
The plate, packed ready for shipment in a tin-lined wired and sealed case, together with the original die and roller bearing the 4d. value with five other values, was duly delivered to the High Commissioner for New Zealand on Tuesday last, and we now enclose herewith invoice for the same.

I am very grateful to the National Postal Museum for allowing access to these files, and for permission to publish extracts from them.

ALLAN P. BERRY

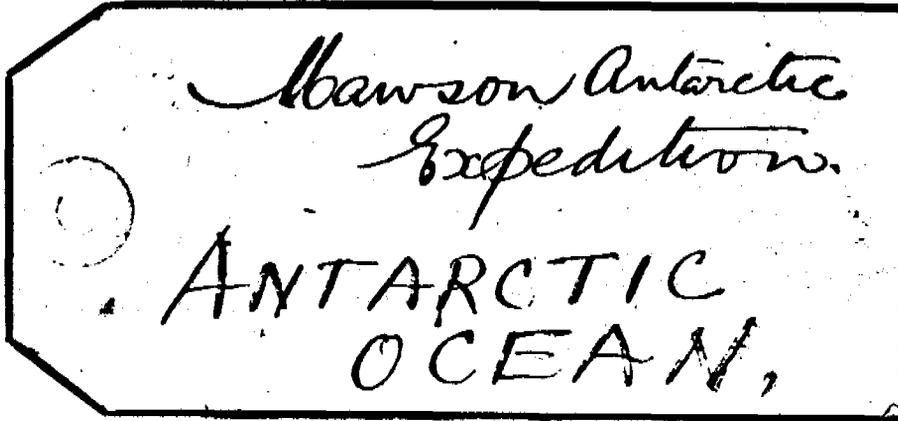
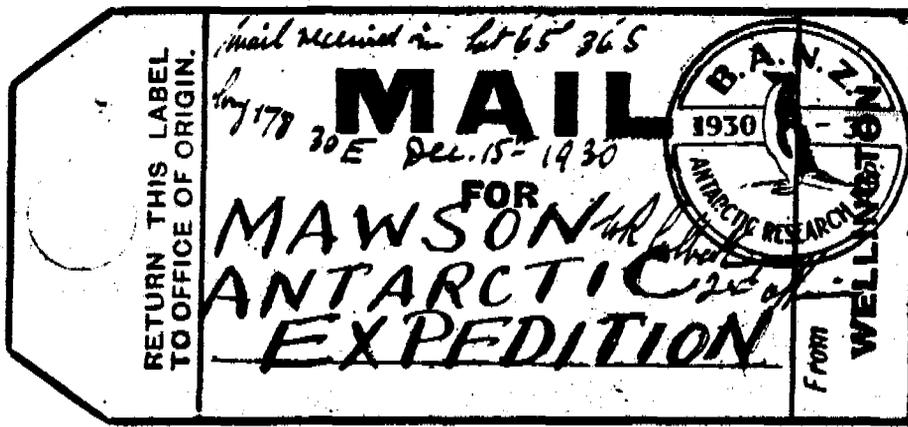
Any member willing to visit Thurrock and District Philatelic Society, Grays, Essex, on 1st September, contact Terry Brock. A repeat appeal due to the lack of response to the last one!

THE BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION, 1930-31  
A UNIQUE ITEM.



When the whaling factory ship "Sir James Clark Ross" was in Wellington, New Zealand, it was stated in the Newspapers of 9th October, 1930, that while she was in the Antarctic she would be transferring a supply of coal to Sir Douglas Mawson's British -Australian-New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition vessel "Discovery". An Aunt of one of the New Zealand expedition members aboard the "Discovery" read the announcement and hastily penned and posted a letter to her nephew. It was addressed to him c/o Mawson Antarctic Expedition / "Sir James Clark Ross" / Wellington and postmarked TE ARO OC 10 - 1030 A 1930.

The Chief Post Office at Wellington placed the letter in a large official envelope addressed MAWSON EXPEDITION / ANTARCTIC OCEAN



and put this in a mail bag, the official label of which read 'MAIL FOR MAWSON ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION FROM WELLINGTON'. This was placed on board the "Sir James Clark Ross", which headed south. A message was radioed to the "Discovery" that mail was being brought down, and when the two vessels reached a rendezvous in the Ross Dependency area of 60° 36'S., 178° 30'E. everyone lined the rail of the research ship and watched anxiously as the mail bag was swung aboard and opened. To the intense disappointment of all but one man, it contained only one letter. Both envelopes and the mail bag label were autographed by W.R.Colbeck, Second Officer on the "Discovery", and franked with the Expedition postmark/cachet. This is a circular cancellation, depicting a penguin in the centre. Above the penguin are the letters B.A.N.Z. and below is ANTARCTIC RESEARCH EXP. On one side of the penguin is the date 1930 and on the other -31.

ERIC GIBBS

A MEMBERS MUSINGS.

With a lifelong interest in the history of architecture it is to be expected that I should start a collection of stamps illustrating this subject. As the subject is world-wide, many odd stamps were used from countries which otherwise never reach my stamp albums. The English speaking world was populated by British immigrants on a large scale in the 18th and 19th centuries. These people took with them various forms of British culture including styles of architecture. As the house was to them the most

important building, so it is in their houses that we find architectural style, usually Georgian or Empire. Although immigration started later than in Australia or North America, we find a number of simple but good examples of these styles in New Zealand. I once wrote that my collecting stops at 1970. However, this rule is being broken with the recent architectural stamps which will have a proud place in my special collection. These are not the first architecture stamps however, the first being the penny Victory stamp of 1920 illustrating a column in the ancient Greek 'Ionic Order'. We must not forget New Zealand's own contribution to architecture in the whare hui on the twopenny stamp of 1935. St. Paul's Cathedral appeared in 1946 and Westminster Abbey in the Coronation set of 1953.

When is a first flight cover not a first flight cover? Unhappily the answer is found in many parts of the world. Recently an auction catalogue described an 'illustrated first flight cover Auckland to Pago Pago (Samoa) Nov. 28, 1965'. This rang a bell so I looked up my collection and there are two covers with the description in a clear rectangular cachet 'New Zealand - U.S.A. / First Air Mail / December, 1937' which went via Pago Pago, Samoa. I would like to see a convention adopted by Philatelists and the Trade that First Flight Cover shall only be ascribed to the first flight of a regular mail service. Other, earlier and single flights with mail should be described as 'Experimental' or 'Such and Such Flight' or 'Air Race' or 'Captain So and So's Flight'. Ulm, Kingston-Smith and the New Zealand Air League were great pioneers and we salute them, but they did not commence services which are still in operation today and have contributed so much to the development of the world.

New Zealand seems to produce more interesting items which embellish one's collection but without particularly adding to the postal history, than any other country. At least, that is my experience. A recent mixed bag of covers from an auction produced four ordinary ones from New Zealand, one of which had the 1948 Health stamps, and not even first day. The date stamp was of Okupu on Great Barrier Island, but in addition there was a replica of the original Great Barrier Island Special Post label, tied by the original circular date stamp 'Great Barrier / the Original / Pigeongram Service'. The cover is a modern heavy weight envelope but the story on the back explained how the labels had been flown by pigeon from Okupu to Auckland on November 19th, 1948, and then fixed on the envelope. The latter had come by the normal sea route. This was another interesting item to add to my collection. However, seeing this label reminded me that in one of the obscure corners of my collection there is a sheet about whose purpose I still know no more than what is printed thereon. It was picked up some years ago for a few shillings merely because it looked interesting. Size 25 cms x 14 cms, it is headed 'Issued for the Diamond Jubilee of the New Zealand Great Barrier Island Pigeon Service 1898 - 1958'. Amongst other printed features are 'Pigeon Mail Form', references to New Zealand Government, Stampex 1959, New Zealand butter and lamb. Printed near the middle in a modified replica of the triangular 1/- Great Barrier Island Pigeon Agency label and for good measure a U.N.O. stamp tied by a datestamp 'UN / Stampex Mar. 1959 / Central Hall London' in red. It looks

more like a newspaper wrapper to me. Perhaps it was the same size as one of the original flimsies. Was my sheet intended to be used in the post?

I find it fatal to have a few minutes to spare in the Public Library. I wander into a corner where I rarely tread and immediately see an interesting title which is taken home and read. On the bright side I usually learn something. This happened recently with a book on postcards and amongst things learnt was the existence of postcards advertising New Zealand lamb and the New Zealand Tourist Department. I think they were from early in the century. Although the values (up to 60p in 1979) suggest that they should be fairly common, I have never seen one. I wonder how many members have, or even possess one. One of the problems of stamp collecting is trying to remember all the odd features for which one should keep eyes open for. This is another to add to my list. Incidentally, this book has a post card illustration of the Welsh Rugby Team who beat the All Blacks 3 - nil on December 16th, 1905! Cymru am byth (that is not Maori).

TOM HETHERINGTON

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MANUSCRIPT MARKINGS.

Our Member, STANLEY CROSS-RUDKIN, was kind enough to go through his collection and extract those stamps with manuscript markings to be sent for comment to ROSS MARSHALL in New Zealand.

The results, given here, have proved to be most interesting.

Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4

Type 1.

This is found on a Chalon Head 2d. blue, worn plate, watermark large star, perf. 12½. The stamp is further cancelled with the Letter/Number datestamp of Lyttelton District, dated NO 11 / 1865.

The three possibilities given for this marking are Weedons, Woodend and Windwhistle House. The marking was the subject of discussion between Ross Marshall and Ken McNaught, as a result of which Weedons was considered the most likely office of origin.

Type 2.

This is found on a vertical pair of Chalon Head 3d. slate lilac, watermark large star, perf. 12½. The stamps are further cancelled with the Obliterator 14 of Nelson.

Tadmor Post Office was opened as Upper Motueka Valley on 10th April, 1864. On 21st November, 1864, the name was changed to Tadmor. The office closed on 1st May, 1866, to re-open on 1st April, 1867. On 1st June, 1881, the name was changed to Upper Motueka. However, the name Tadmor was retained for a different post office 8 Kilometers south of the original site.

This marking was applied during the second period of opening of the original office. An incomplete tracing is illustrated as type 348 on page 456 of Volume IV of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

Type 3.

This is found on a Chalon Head 6d. red brown, watermark large star, perf. 12½. It is further cancelled with the Obliterator 17 of Rangiora.

Ross Marshall has stated that this is likely to be from Amberley Post Office. It is similar to the illustration type 297 on page 455 of Volume 1V of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

Type 4.

This is found on a 1d. First Sideface Queen Victoria definitive, watermark NZ over star, perf. 12 x 11½. It is further cancelled with the Napier datestamp of 1 DE 83.

Ross Marshall lists Patangata, Petane and Purerere as the possible offices of origin. Neither of the latter two are listed in either Volumes 111 or 1V of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. A marking for Patangata is illustrated as type 126 on page 102 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. It is quite different from the marking here illustrated.

Type 5

Type 6

Type 7

Type 8

Type 5.

This is found on a 3d. First Sideface Queen Victoria definitive, watermark NZ over star, perf. 12½. It is further cancelled with the A-class datestamp of Wanganui.

Ross Marshall has identified this as originating from Normanby. See the article on Manuscript Markings on page 109 of Volume XXIX of 'The Kiwi'.

Type 6.

This is found on a 1d. Second Sideface Queen Victoria definitive die 3, perf. 10, with Adson. It has no further postal markings.

Ross Marshall identifies this as originating from Hurleyville. See illustrations 67 and 68 on page 100 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

Type 7.

This marking is found on a horizontal pair of Penny Universals, C.P. G5a. There are no other postal markings.

Ridglands Post Office was opened on 13th April, 1903. Ross Marshall states that this very fine marking is the first example that he has seen.

Type 8.

This marking is found on a Penny Universal, C.P. G6a. It has no further postal markings.

Manunui Post Office was opened on 7th May, 1906, ten days before this marking was applied.

Type 9.

This marking is on a Penny Universal, C.P. G2a, on piece to which it is tied by the marking. There are no other postal markings on the piece.

Ross Marshall states that this is the third example of this marking that he has noted, but that the office of origin has not

as yet been identified.

*Waimate*  
9/10/90,

Type 9

*Waimate*

Type 10

*Waimate*

Type 11

Type 10.

This marking is found on a 1d. vermilion Chalon Head, watermark large star, imperf., Davies Print. It is further cancelled with an Obliterator 1 in oval of bars. This is from Waimate North, and is virtually the same as type 178 illustrated on page 104 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

Type 11.

This marking is found on a 6d. brown Chalon Head, watermark large star, perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The stamp is further cancelled with the Obliterator 'C' in thick bars of Christchurch. This has been identified as originating from Saltwater Creek. Two markings from this post office are illustrated as types 222 and 222a on page 105 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. This appears to be a third, distinctly different type.

I am grateful to our member ROSS MARSHALL who has inspected all these stamps and identified the markings where possible. Should any member come across any manuscript marking that is apparently of postal origin, and which cannot be identified by reference to the published works, I would be pleased to hear from them, and to submit it to Ross Marshall on their behalf.

ALLAN P. BERRY

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#### THE TRANS-TASMAN AIR MAIL STAMP.

Our member, D.J.E.R.FORTY, has sent a mint copy of this stamp which shows what appears to be a nice example of a plate flaw. There is a coloured mark between the two frame lines of the value tablet in the top right hand corner, at one o'clock. This is a naked-eye flaw, and does not appear to have been recorded before.

The 1931 issue of Air Stamps was designed by L.C.Mitchell, and showed a "typical New Zealand lake scene", according to the official description. The plates were made at the Royal Mint in London, and the stamps printed by the Government Printer in Wellington. All sheets were of 120 stamps, in 10 horizontal rows of 12 stamps.

The Trans-Tasman Air Mail Stamp was a special issue. There was a printing from the 7d. plate in sky-blue, to which the overprint was applied in deep blue, all the work of the Government Printer, Wellington.

It is possible that the flaw described occurred on the original printing from the 7d. plate, or it may be that it only occurred on the later, Trans-Tasman, printing. Either way, further information is required, and any member who can help is asked to write to the Editor.