



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

the kiwi

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VOLUME 32 No.6

NOVEMBER 1983

WHOLE 182

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 1983,
IN THE HAMPSTEAD ROOM, Y.W.C.A., GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 7LR. IT IS

KIWI DAY

AND STARTS AT 11.00 A.M. WITH THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
THE AUCTION WILL COMMENCE AT 1.45 P.M.

32ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Notice is hereby given that the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain will be held at the Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LR, in the Hampstead Room, on Saturday, 26th November, 1983, commencing at 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting.
2. President's Report and Review of 1983.
3. Financial Report from the Hon. Treasurer.
4. Report from the Hon. Packet Secretary.
5. To elect
 - i) A President.
 - ii) Vice-Presidents.
 - iii) A Chairman.
 - iv) A Vice-Chairman.
 - v) An Honorary General Secretary.
 - vi) A Packet Secretary.
 - vii) An Honorary Treasurer.
 - viii) Other Officers of the Society.
6. To elect a Committee.
7. To discuss the future of Regional Meetings.
8. Any other business proper to the Annual General Meeting, of which due notice has been given in writing.

T.H.BROCK, HON. GENERAL SECRETARY

Elsewhere in this issue of 'The Kiwi' you will find listed some additions to the Society's Library. Two of these books are copies of Archive Files held by the New Zealand Post Office Headquarters at Wellington. Both relate to the Health Stamps of New Zealand, and make fascinating reading. I am very grateful to the New Zealand Post Office Headquarters who, in answer to queries passed on from a member, sent me photocopies of these files. They are a magnificent addition to our Library. Perhaps insufficient use is made by members of our Library. I would commend it to you all as a source of much information.

I would also like to draw the attention of members to an Auction Sale of New Zealand material to be held by Bridger & Kay Ltd., 24, Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5LP, on Monday, 14th November, 1983. I have seen a preview of the Catalogue, which contains much interesting material. Members may care to write to Bridger & Kay direct for further details.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

RESIGNED.

Mrs. P.V.Barker, 4, Windsor Drive, Alsager,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

A.E.J.West, 1a, King George Avenue, Bushey, Herts.

DECEASED.

F.Jackson, 6, Victoria Court, 19, Beach Road,
Hayling Island, Hants.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

D.W.Bradbury, 108, Limes Avenue, Aylesbury, Bucks.
(previously of Howard Avenue, Aylesbury.)

L.J.Kimpton, 5, Kendal Grove, Whar Hall Park,
Solihull, West Midlands, B92 OPS.
(previously of Yardley, Birmingham.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1983 - MARCEL STANLEY

ESSAYS, PROOFS AND SPECIMENS OF REVENUE STAMPS - EARLY BOOKLETS.

Our Chairman, Stanley Cross-Rudkin, opened the Meeting at 2.30 p.m. and introduced our well known visitor from New Zealand, Marcel Stanley.

Marcel started with a page of stamps sent out to New Zealand by a London firm of printers in 1867 as examples of their colour work. There followed Die Proofs of the 1867 Revenue Stamps, perf. and imperf. specimens without value, the perf. stamps having the same variety of perforations as is found in the Chalon Heads.

The 1876 Law Court issues and the 1877 Lands and Deeds stamps followed, with the 1879 Revenue stamps, represented by essays, die and plate proofs and colour trials. The 1880 Revenue Stamps designed by W.R.Bock were shown in die and plate proofs, and with examples overprinted specimen in black, blue, mauve and red. These were followed by magnificent examples of the Beer Duty stamps, as die proofs and specimens.

Turning to the booklet stamps, Marcel gave a comprehensive display, starting with the early experimental booklets made up

from ordinary sheets of stamps. This was followed by printings from the booklet plate, in which the layout was explained, and reconstructed sheets in singles, pairs and mint panes shown. There was also a similar reconstruction of the 1908 Official Booklets, with varieties such as imperf. horizontally and blind perfs.

The booklets of King Edward VII and King George V were shown, with every sort of variety, such as panes without bars, with no bars on the right hand side, and panes with stars. The evolution of advertising in booklets was demonstrated, showing how local advertising was used to suit local needs, as well as advertising by national and international firms.

Finally, there were sketches and designs by Linley Richardson of the Arms-type Revenue Stamps, with plate proofs, specimens and printer's and engraver's reference sheets.

A vote of thanks was given by our President, Phil Evans, who thanked Marcel Stanley for giving us the opportunity of seeing material that is possibly unique, and to which full justice cannot be given in such a brief report. The Meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.

A.E.H.

BOURNEMOUTH REGIONAL MEETING

The Society's second Regional Meeting took place on 3rd September, 1983, at the Durley Hall Hotel, Bournemouth. The attendance was disappointingly small but those who did come were rewarded with some splendid displays.

The morning's first showing was Michael Burberry's magnificent First Pictorials, including rarely seen Essays, as well as many Die and Plate Proofs. We also saw a profusion of 5/- Mount Cooks, including mint blocks and a fine showing of the many varieties to be found.

Following this came Stanley Cross-Rudkin's mixed bag, ranging from S.G. 1 to the most recent silver-edged pictorials. The Postal History items included the 4d. Chalon rose on cover and a 1921 Air Cover signed by the pilot, George Bolt.

After lunch came Phil Evans' King George V definitives, showing to perfection the glorious colours of these beautiful stamps. The two-perf. pairs were present in full force, as were many other treasures.

Michael Burberry followed with a comprehensive display of the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition stamps. This included three copies of the 1d. Claret on cover and several examples of the 3d. lithographed copy in which the design appears in reverse.

The original idea to hold a Society Meeting in Bournemouth came from Mrs. Grace Gordon Kaye. It was therefore particularly appropriate that the afternoon should include a display by her. This consisted of little known material, including prints of used Chalons taken by X-Ray photography. No trace of the cancellations was to be seen. Mrs. Kaye also spoke of 3-D photography using laser beams and showed a number of stamps illustrating the various countries visited by Marco Polo on his journey to China.

The final display was by Allan Berry and consisted of the stamps of the Government Life Insurance Department. He included almost all of the rarities - some on cover - and concluded with the

Presentation Sets of used stamps, specially soaked off used envelopes by the office boy!

Proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks given by our member Alf Swan. With his customary modesty, Alf did not mention the great assistance he had rendered in organising the meeting.

S.F.C-R.

A memorable meeting in a superb setting. No effort spared by the organising officers. Even more by those who delighted their audience with classic collections, but what disappointment for all. Where were you, local members? Only a handful to be treated to a fully enjoyable day. Very unrewarding to the disappointed organisers. Disappointing for members. I doubt if there will ever be a Bournemouth Meeting again. Shame!

R.J.E.JENKINS

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

KINGSTON FLYER



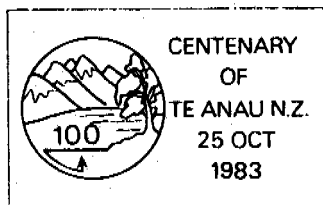
A special pictorial date stamp will be used at the Kingston Post Office to cancel mail carried on the tourist steam train, 'Kingston Flyer'. The date stamp, which features an AB engine, will be available for the entire period the train will be running, that is, from 1st October, 1983, to 18th May, 1984. Travellers on the 'Kingston Flyer' will be able to post souvenir mail or philatelic mail in the special posting box erected on the train.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC SOCIETY



A special pictorial date stamp will be used at Scott Base on 2nd November, 1983, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the New Zealand Antarctic Society. Postage rates to and from Scott Base are the same as New Zealand inland rates. Covers sent for postmarking may bear either Ross Dependency or New Zealand stamps.

CENTENARY OF TE ANAU



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Te Anau on Tuesday, 25th October, 1983, to commemorate the Centenary of Te Anau. Mail posted in a special posting box at the Post Office, Te Anau, was cancelled with the special date stamp.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH ISLAND MAIN TRUNK RAILWAY



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Taumarunui on Monday, 7th November, 1983, to mark the 75th Anniversary of the North Island Main Trunk Railway. Mail posted in a special posting box at the Taumarunui Post Office was cancelled with the special date stamp.

REVIEW

New Zealand Postal Manuscripts, by A.R.Marshall. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, P.O.Box 38-503, Howick, Auckland, New Zealand. Price NZ\$25-00, plus NZ\$5-00 postage and packing.

This is Handbook No. 20 of the Postal History Society of New Zealand. It is off-set printed with thick paper covers, A4 size. the type face used is bold, and the method of printing enables facsimile reproductions of the various manuscripts mentioned.

Ross Marshall has built on the work originally published in Volume III and IV of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. As may be expected, there is far more to this subject than the cancelling of stamps by pen and ink. All these matters are treated in a clear and concise manner. There is much to be learned from reading these pages, including the listing of post offices where manuscripts may have been used, but from which, as yet, none have been identified. The use of manuscripts as a relief measure, or as a means of correcting wrongly applied datestamps are among the subjects that are discussed.

Once again, a worthy addition to the Literature of New Zealand Postal History. But yet again, financial considerations have led to poor binding. As with all such books, it is recommended that purchasers spend a little more money, and have their copy properly case-bound, thus ensuring better preservation of the valuable information here published.

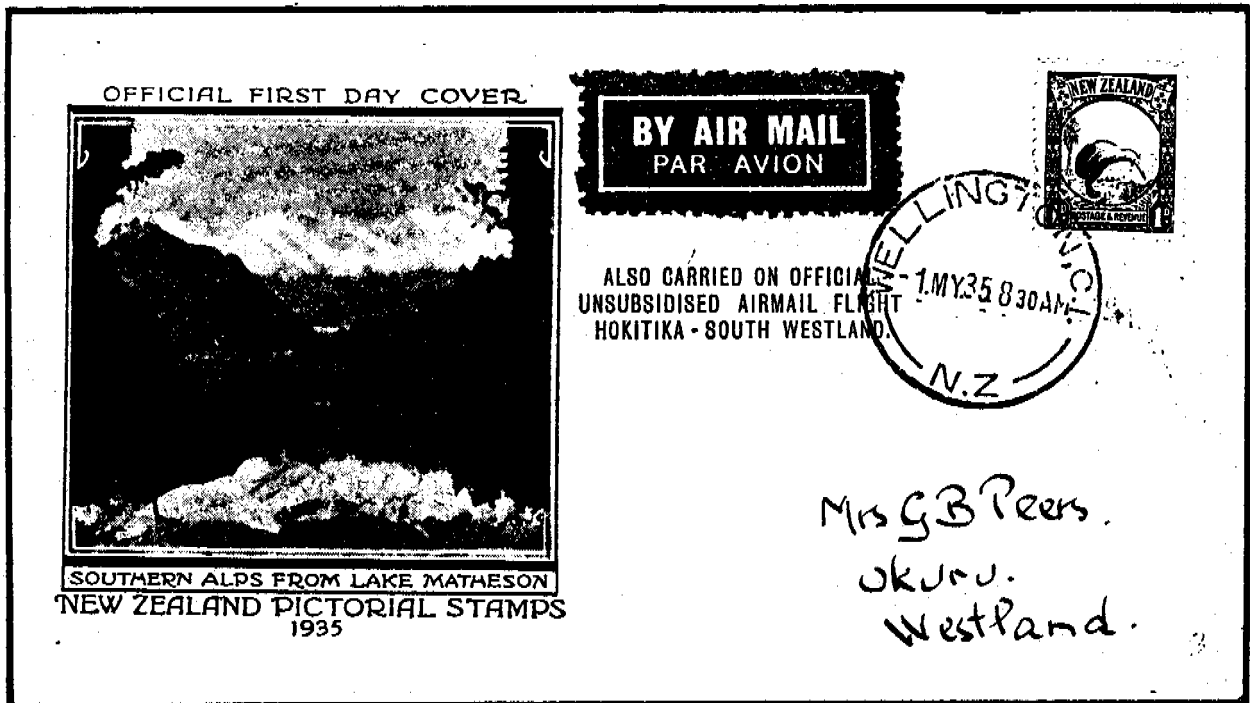
ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY LIST AS AT 1ST DECEMBER, 1983

Item	Lending Fee Code
67. Mostly Stamps That Never Were, by Peter Blackie.....	A
68. The 'Second Type' Postage Due Stamps of New Zealand, by R.D.Samuel.....	C
69. A History of New Zealand, by Keith Sinclair.....	A
70. Canterbury Tales of the Mails, by R.M.Startup.....	C
71. New Zealand Post Office Headquarters Archive File 55/16/3 - Creation of Charity Stamps.....	C
72. New Zealand Post Office Headquarters Archive File 55/16/20 - Notes re Health Stamp Campaigns, etc.....	C

Lending Fee Code : A = 40p, B = 60p, C = 80p, D = £1-20, E = £1-00

Please ask for a Library Application Form if you are making your first request. Please note that all library requests must include the lending fee either as Postal Orders or Cheques, made out to the Society. Items must be returned after two months from receipt; this can only be extended if there is no waiting list and this extension is obtained from the Hon. Librarian in writing. Items are available in strict rotation in cases where there is more than one request for the same item. We regret that items from the Library are not available for loan to overseas members.

Hon. Librarian, New Zealand Society of Great Britain,
B.T.Atkinson, Esq., 77, Wood Lane, Osterley, Middlesex, TW7 5EG.
Telephone (01)-560-6119. Callers welcome.



The cover illustrated is one of the set of six pictorial covers produced by the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department for use on the First Day of Issue of the 1935 set of Pictorial Definitive stamps. It is franked with a copy of the Penny 'Kiwi', cancelled at WELLINGTON -1.MY.35.830AM - the First Day of Issue. The cover also carries an Air Mail Etiquette, and is addressed to Okuru, in Westland. It is backstamped OKURU - N.Z. -9.MY.35.1. In addition, there is a three lined letterpress printed cachet on the cover which reads 'ALSO CARRIED ON OFFICIAL / UNSUBSIDISED AIRMAIL FLIGHT / HOKITIKA - SOUTH WESTLAND', in brown.

From 'The Air Mails of New Zealand, Volume One, the Internal Flights' we learn that Air Travel (N.Z.) Ltd., inaugurated a regular air mail and passenger service between Hokitika and the South Westland settlements of Haast and Okuru on 31st December, 1934. This was the first unsubsidised air mail service in New Zealand, and one of the first in the world.

From the same source, we learn that the cachet described above was used on covers flown on the inaugural service of East Coast Airways Ltd. flight from Gisborne to Napier, connecting with the Hokitika to South Westland service described above, on 16th April, 1935. The cachet was printed in deep bronze blue on the special East Coast Airways Ltd. covers, and in brown on other covers. It was from a private source, unidentified in the book referred to. From the same source, it is clear that Air Travel (N.Z.) Ltd. did not hold an official contract for the service until 1st January, 1936. It would appear that the cachet had a wider use than that reported. It would also appear that the efforts and history of Air Travel (N.Z.) Ltd. is but poorly known, and any information on this cover would be greatly appreciated.

FINDINGS FROM FILES.

PHOTOGRAVURE PRINTING OF STAMPS.

ALLAN P. BERRY

In previous extracts from the files now held at the National Postal Museum, London, the term 'New Zealand High Commissioner' has been used to refer to all those officers of the New Zealand Government Offices who had reason to correspond with the Post Office Stores Department, Somerset House, London. For the purpose of this extract, it is necessary to identify some of these officers by name.

This particular story starts with a letter from S.C.Manhire, the Stores Indents Officer of the New Zealand Government Offices, to W.S.Mason of the Post Office Stores Department, Stamp Section, Somerset House, W.C.2., dated 19th June, 1939. This letter reads:-

"Have you yet approached Messrs. Harrison & Sons with the request that we should be given an opportunity to see something of the printing of the photogravure stamps you have on order? You will remember the matter was mentioned when you were last in, and I asked that, if possible, arrangements should be made for me to include Miss Dobson. She has been engaged in stamp work for many years and would, I know, be very pleased to see the process.

"At the same time we could take the opportunity of mentioning recent New Zealand orders with a view to getting an idea as to what the cost would be for production by the photogravure process.

"I hope this will not cause you any difficulty, and if you could manage to arrange for a visit some time during the next fortnight it would suit me very well as it would clear our holidays."

There are two hand written notes on this letter. The first, dated 21st June, 1939, is over indecipherable initials. It reads:-

"Mr. Mason. Permission is given to show Mr. Manhire and Miss Dobson the Post Office section at H(igh) W(ycombe) provided that They are not shown anything that is 'confidential'".

The second note, in the same hand writing, reads:-

"Mr. Manhire said during his visit (26/6) that he had heard a rumour that the N.Z. Govt. were sending a man over from N.Z. to investigate photogravure."

This completes this particular extract, showing the New Zealand Government's interest in the photogravure printing of postage stamps in June, 1939.

A sad note follows shortly after in these files. A hand written note from the New Zealand Government Offices, dated 12th April, 1940, and signed by the Miss Dobson referred to in the letter above. It is addressed to Mr. Mason, and reads:-

"I am very sorry to tell you that Mr. Manhire passed away at 9 a.m. today. I phoned your office but understand that you will not be in today."

The answer, also on the file, is dated 15th April, 1940, and conveys the sympathy of all the staff who had dealings with the late S.C. Manhire to his family.

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

1983 CHRISTMAS STAMP ISSUE

ALAN MEEK

The 1983 New Zealand Christmas stamps, released on 5th October, 1983, again feature an 'Old Master' painting, a Church and a scene symbolic of Christmas in the southern hemisphere.

A detail of the painting 'The Holy Family of the Oak Tree' by Raphael, the original of which is in the Prado Museum, Madrid, appears on the 18 cent stamp. St. Patrick's Church, Greymouth, is featured on the 35 cent stamp, and the 45 cent stamp, titled 'The Glory of Christmas' depicts a stylised Star of Bethlehem together with the Southern Cross and Poinsettia flowers.

Michael J. Wyatt of Queenstown is responsible for the 'Church' design and graphics for the 'Old Master' stamp. Maurice Conly of Waikanae designed the symbolic stamp.

The stamp issue has been printed by Courvoisier S.A., Switzerland, by photogravure using the new 'E.D.P.' Enhanced Design Process. All stamps are of vertical format.

Raphael (1483 - 1520) was born at Urbino, Italy, and trained from an early age in the workshops of Timoteo Viti and Perugino, both leading artists of the period. He then embarked on a brilliant career during which other major influences were Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.

Under the patronage first of the Dukes of Urbino and later Popes Julius II and Leo X, Raphael became famous and rich painting large-scale frescoes, many of them in the Vatican. Among the most popular of his smaller works were the madonnas of which the madonna in the 'Oak Tree' painting is a fine example.

The Holy Family is pictured with the young St. John. Typical of much Renaissance art the figures are shown against an Italian backdrop of fields and ancient Roman artifacts.

St. Patrick's Church, Greymouth, which features on the 35 cent stamp, is one of the finest churches on the West Coast of New Zealand's South Island. The church was designed by leading architect, Mr. Frank Petre who was also responsible for the Catholic cathedrals of Christchurch and Dunedin, and it was opened in May, 1888.

Originally St. Patrick's must have looked much as it does on the stamp, but a church spire, bell tower and entrance porch were added in 1900. A decision to use local timber for the spire may have led to its early deterioration, for the spire was demolished in the 1960's and never replaced.

In 1912 the nave of the church was widened and a sanctuary added, while marble sanctuary furnishings were added at a still later date. The church organ is claimed by many to be the finest musical instrument in Westland. Another feature of the church is some magnificent stained glass windows.

The Southern Cross, seen on the 45 cent stamp alongside the Star

of Bethlehem and Poinsettia flowers, is usually represented symbolically by either four or five stars. Within the accepted boundaries of the constellation however, up to 34 stars can be seen with the naked eye and with telescopes the numbers run into many thousands.

Visible from all New Zealand latitudes, the Southern Cross makes a complete circuit of the heavens in the course of 24 hours, around a point known as the South Celestial Pole.

The Poinsettia flower is not native to New Zealand, but its attractive scarlet bracts can be seen in many gardens over the summer months. The plant is named after an American diplomat, Mr. Joel B. Poinsett, who discovered it in Mexico in 1828. Poinsettias are now grown all over the world.

A New Zealand Post Office Feature Article.

WEST COAST CANCELLATIONS WITH GOLD FIELDS ORIGINS - HO HO!

JOHN D. EVANS

In 'The Kiwi', Volume XXX, page 18, January, 1981, I referred to Ho Ho Creek, which flows into the sea some five miles north-east of Hokitika, and to the manuscript cancellations of Ho Ho attributed to a stamp in 1869. There the matter rested until in May, 1982, I came across what to me was a curious description by a Dealer offering "1862 6d. Brown S.G. 42, a close margined copy with manuscript Ho Ho cancellation dated 21/10/67".

The 6d. Brown of 1862 was only issued imperf. until August, 1864, when printings were resumed on the star watermarked paper, perf. 12½, so that for S.G. 42 imperf. to have been used on 21/10/67, more than three years after the stamps were perforated, was sufficiently unusual to focus sights on what appeared to be an oddity.

One was aware that as 6d. was the United Kingdom postal rate for a half-ounce letter, the plate for the 6d. value was relatively frequently used; in fact, from Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand we know that by the end of 1863 there were 1,439,845 stamps printed from the plate of the 6d. value and in 1864, 1865 and 1866 no less than 1,741,680 stamps. As the plate was made of steel, it is only natural to expect some slight plate wear. A comparison with specimens of 1862 with the imperf. oddity used in 1867 so confirms. One finds from the 6d. value imperf. (or with experimental perfs.) in shades of black-brown (S.G. 41), brown (S.G. 42) and red-brown (S.G. 43) that for practical purposes there is no plate wear. When, however, one views the perf. 12½ of 1864-1871 (S.G. 122 and S.G. 122A) one finds some evidence of general plate wear which I am unable to define precisely, but overall when comparison is made the solidity of the engine-turned background is decidedly different. Such wear was not necessarily general over the whole plate, but I have a 6d. red-brown with Nelson postmark dated 14 SEP 67 (some five weeks before the Ho Ho stamp) which shows virtually the same degree of plate wear in the sense just described.

I then had the sudden recollection of the old-fashioned practice of cutting down, or "trimming" perforated copies of stamps, not necessarily to simulate earlier, imperf. copies or issues, but

because in days when perforations were little known they were removed to leave the frame of the stamp in its pre-perforated form.

Returning to the oddity I think that with those two clues, the plate wear and the trimming, what I have bought is a cut-down copy of S.G. 122, originally perf. 12½ with manuscript cancellation Ho Ho 21/10/67.

So what about the manuscript? First is to reproduce the manuscript cancellation attributed to a stamp in 1869, No. 63 on page 100 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. Secondly, to compare this with the oddity.

Ho Ho
In No. 63, the cross of the first 'H' is looped; in the oddity the first 'Ho' is exactly the same as the second 'Ho' in No. 63 and in the oddity the second 'Ho' is identical to the second 'Ho' in No. 63. I need hardly mention the vagaries of hand-writing which are also mentioned on page 93 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. I conclude, therefore, with this in mind, that the hand-writing of 'Ho Ho' in No. 63 and on the oddity are the same. I should add that in both cases, the 'H's' are equidistant from each other.

The trimmed copy of S.G. 122 to my mind looked miserable being also cut into at the top, that it would look much more like its old self if superimposed over a perf. 12½ copy. This has given at first glance completeness of the oddity and could not be calculated to deceive.

Finally, what happened to the gold return from Ho Ho? I do not know, but the scarcity of the manuscript cancellation suggests either that it was not extensively used, or that mail was delivered to nearby Hokitika. The Post Office was renamed Ho Ho on 5th March, 1872 (see previous article referred to above) and probably by 1885 in common with other areas the gold return was falling, and the stage was reached when, as it were, gold was no go at Ho Ho!

NEW ZEALAND HEALTH MATERIAL.

B.L.SYMONDS

Reading T.D.LATTO's article in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXXI, number 5, pages 84 - 92, September, 1982, prompted me to search my own collection. I can offer the following items that may be of interest to members.

Figure 1.

A plain cover inscribed 'Posted Day of Issue' with horizontal pair of the 1932 'Goddess Hygeia' Health Stamp cancelled at Manor Place, 17 NO 32 4. The Catalogues state that this stamp was issued on 18th November, 1932. Can any member give me any information about the C.J.Flint to whom the cover is addressed, as I have several covers of this period addressed to him.

Figure 2.

The illustrated First Day Cover showing the picture of Glenelg Health Camp, with the 1954 Health Stamps cancelled on the Day of Issue at Glenelg Health Camp. This is three years later than the date given in TOM LATTO's article. The printing of the sun is in a yellow colour, the rest is in black.

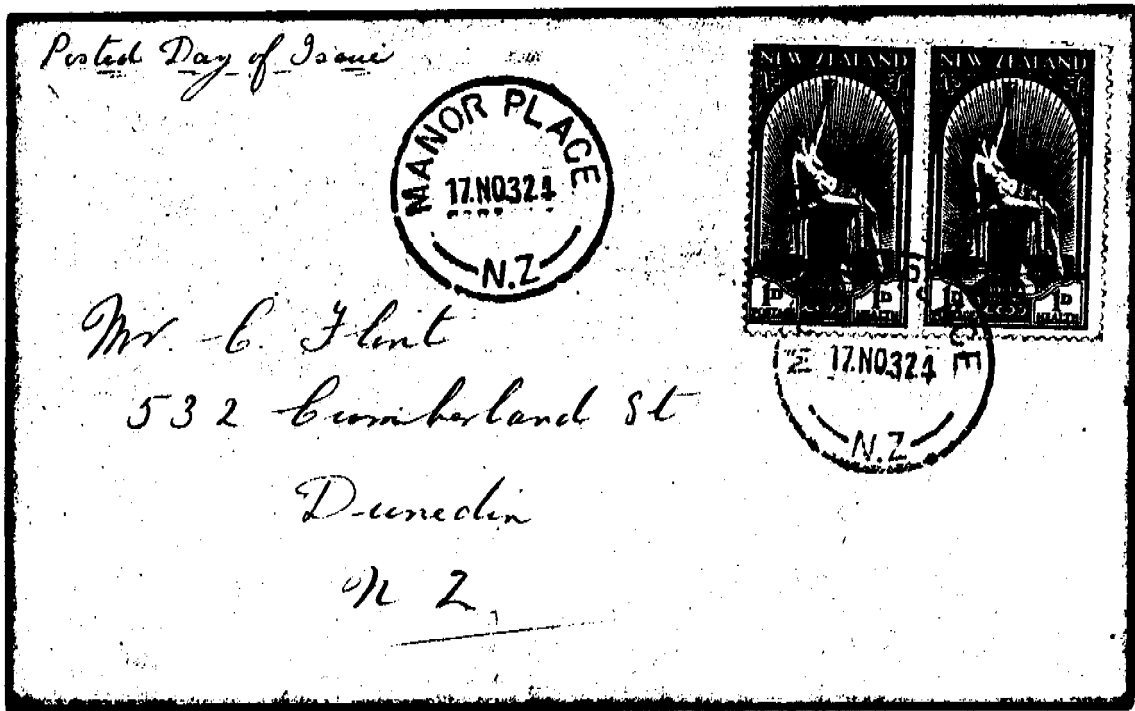


Figure 1

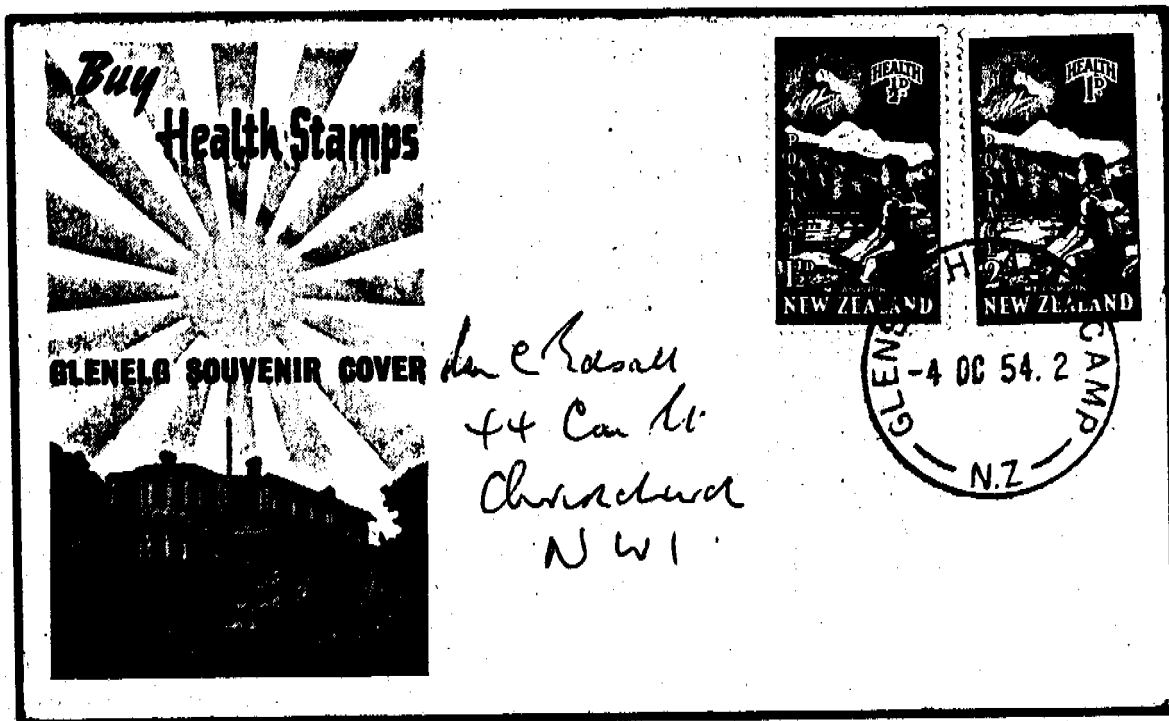


Figure 2

Figure 3.

The Official Souvenir Cover for the Opening of the Pakuranga Health Camp on 10th December, 1949. But the stamps are the 1945 Peter Pan pair of Health Stamps. This has been reported on a previous occasion, but no explanation has been offered, so far as

I am aware. Are there any other Health Stamp combinations recorded on examples of this cover? The printing of the cover is in green with brown frame lines.

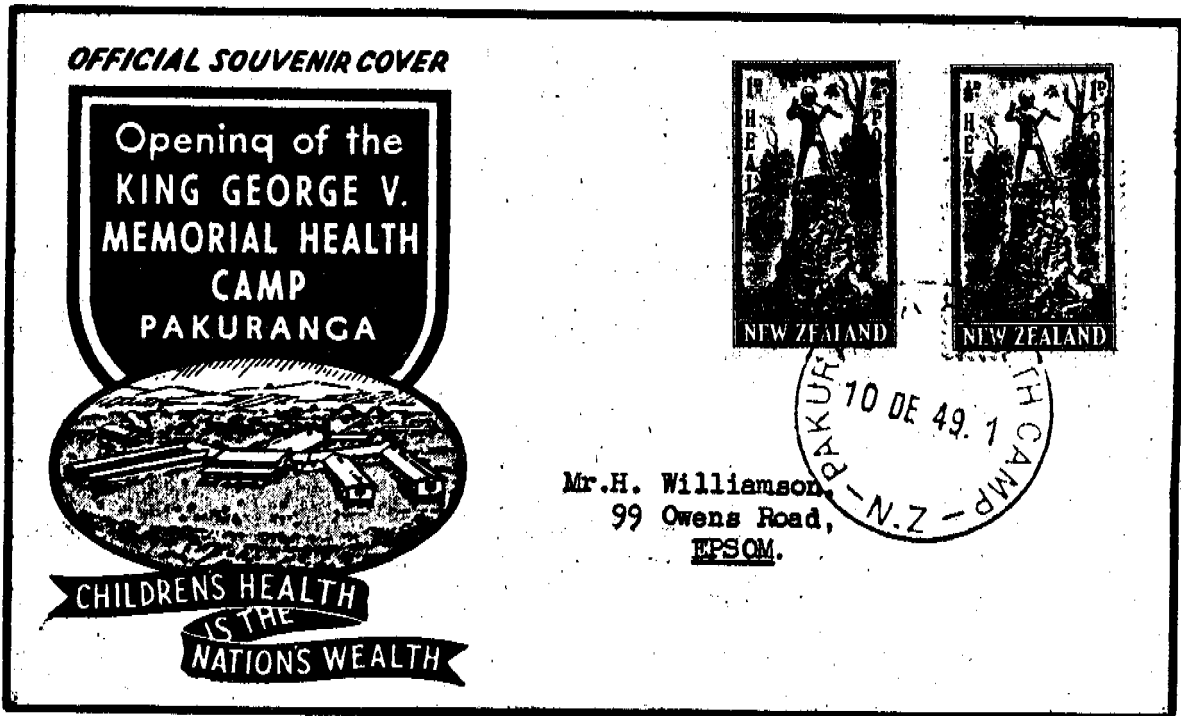


Figure 3

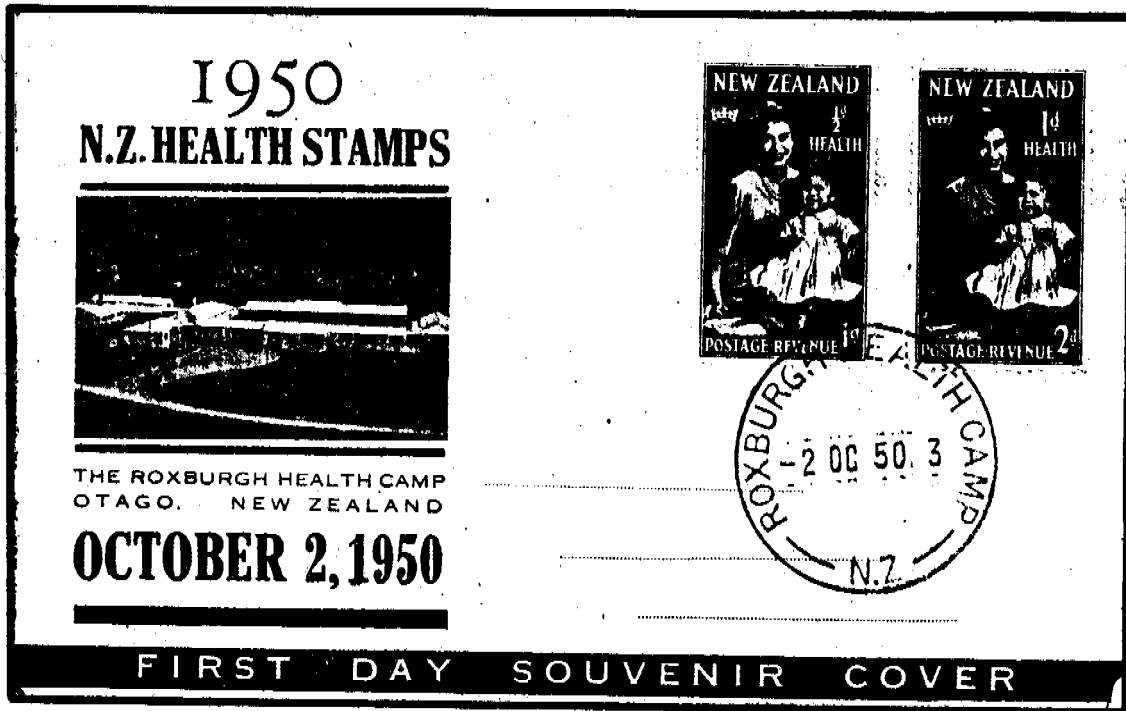


Figure 4

Figure 4.

This is an example of the Cover illustrating Roxburgh Health

Camp used in 1950, as mentioned in TOM LATTO's article. The printing is all in mauve.

A
Health Stamp
will Carry Your Letter
and
Give a Pennyworth of
HEALTH
to some CHILD who needs
**A HOLIDAY in a
HEALTH CAMP**

This Christmas
Use **HEALTH STAMPS—**

Price 2d. each { 1d. for Postage
 1d. for Health

Figure 5.

This is a publicity leaflet for the 1934 'Crusader' Health Stamp. The letters 'A Health Stamp', 'HEALTH' and 'This Christmas' are printed in red, the rest of the lettering is printed in blue.

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE RULE BOOK, 1912.

ALAN JACKSON

The New Zealand Post Office Rule Book is supplied to every Post Office to guide staff in the application of regulations. It is a confidential departmental document not intended to be read by the public - the Post Office Guide is the publication designed to provide the public with information about Post Office services, rates and regulations. Because of their restricted circulation and the fact that old editions were scrapped when new ones were issued, very few early Rule Books have survived, even in the Post Office Headquarters Library.

Recently I was fortunate to have the opportunity to examine a Rule Book dating from 1912. It gives an insight into the operation of the New Zealand Post Office at the time that would be obtainable in no other way. It is a considerable volume, totalling 267 pages. Most of the following notes were extracted from it purely because I found them entertaining. The Rule Book is a mine

of information for the researcher with serious purposes in mind.

In New Zealand in 1912 there was an official prejudice against locating Post Offices in hotels. Section 23 states: "No office may be established at a public house without the sanction of the Licensing Committee, nor should an office continue to be maintained at a public house when other accommodation is available." Nevertheless, especially in country areas, several Post Offices operated over long periods in hotels. In the very early days of the Post Office in New Zealand, hotel owners in localities where no official Post Office existed commonly operated unofficial Post Offices in their establishments. The idea behind this was that the 'post office' would act as a lever to help persuade a magistrate to grant a liquor license to the premises. An example of this was the hotel at Weka Pass in Canterbury where an unofficial post office operated in the early 1860's, an official post office not being opened there until 1866.

Section 33 states, inter alia: "Chief Postmasters should see that some protection is provided for the aperture of any posting box known to have been entered by birds."

The Post Office establishment of 1912 had not adjusted itself to women's lib. Section 55 states: "Married women, widows excepted, are not eligible for permanent appointments, and women must resign when they marry. A married woman may, however, hold the position of Postmistress or Telephonist at any non-permanent office under circumstances approved by the Minister."

A Post Office Cadet who wished to graduate from the Eighth Class to the Seventh had to undergo an examination. Part of this consisted of "The sorting test, being the assortment of 500 letters, or articles resembling letters in shape and in the mode of the address inscribed thereon, for their proper distribution by means of the post throughout New Zealand. The assortment shall be made in a maximum time of 20 minutes, and with a maximum of mistakes of 3%." This from Section 71. An officer who failed in the sorting test was not allowed to undergo the test again until a fortnight had elapsed, according to Section 87.

The Post Office of 1912 was parsimonious and expected a lot of its Postmasters. Section 102 - "Postmasters and Officers in Charge must endeavour to keep expenditure for temporary assistance at a minimum. Their doing so is a test of good management. In many cases a Postmaster himself, by taking up extra duty, can obviate the expense in sending a relieving cadet."

There was concern about the danger of infected staff spreading consumption (TB), and regulations were framed to meet this possibility. According to Section 148, the infected person "must carry a proper spittoon". If he "is found spitting on the floor, the Secretary (of the Post Office) is to be at once informed." And "The practice of wetting the fingers with saliva in order to turn over the leaves of books or papers is strictly forbidden to all officers. These precautions are required to be taken in the interests of the health of officers, and if they are observed there is little or no danger of infection. Offices at which consumptive officers are stationed are to be fumigated at regular intervals."

The Post Office gave little support to its postmen to protect them from aggressive dogs. According to Section 183, "A letter-

carrier or a telegraph message boy who is bitten by a dog while in the performance of his duty is at liberty to apply to the owner for compensation; and, if his application be fruitless, he can have recourse to legal proceedings, but at his own risk."

The need for good handwriting in Post Office cadets was stressed in training. Section 270 reads: "Good handwriting is of the first importance; and, in order that a proper style may be cultivated, four pages of Vere Forster's copybook No. 11 or The Times copybook No. 14 are to be written daily - two during office hours and two during the learner's own time."

All correspondence abroad had to be directed through the head office of the Post Office. Section 292: "Should communications of an official nature be received from persons outside the Dominion, officers to whom such inquiries are addressed must collect the necessary information for replies, and then transmit the whole of the papers to the Secretary. Officers are not permitted to correspond officially with places beyond the Dominion."

As much wear as possible was extracted from officially supplied uniforms. Section 295 states: "In the event of the promotion or resignation of an employee who is supplied with uniform, the tunic must be properly cleaned and repaired at a cleaning establishment, and, at the discretion of the Postmaster or Officer in Charge, transferred to his successor if it will fit him, the Controller of Stores being at once advised. If it will not fit him, it must be sent to the Controller of Stores with Form P0296, and requisition made in the usual way for a new tunic. In all cases new inside bands must be sewn into caps or helmets. Trousers which have been worn are not to be transferred from one man or boy to another."

According to Section 313, "Copies of 'Hansard' are forwarded by the Government Printer for exhibition at all post offices, and should be immediately available to the public. At the close of each session of Parliament, copies of 'Hansard' on hand may be treated as waste paper or given away to any person willing to take them."

Official stamps had recently been introduced in 1907. According to Section 412, "Official stamps shall on no account be used for prepaying other than official correspondence or telegrams. Any Officer disposing of unused official stamps for stamp collecting purposes or otherwise is liable to a fine of £5 for the first offence, and to dismissal for any subsequent offence."

And how is this for an official secret. Section 440 reads: "Postage stamps should be affixed to postal packets near the address on the right-hand upper side. It is not forbidden to attach postage stamps to the reverse side of letters and post-cards, or elsewhere than on the right-hand upper corner of the address side, but the public should not be informed of this."

Depending on how it is read, the rule in Section 549 might be regarded as patronizing or racist, or an example of sensitive concern on the part of the Post Office. "Special provision is to be made for letters addressed to Maoris, either by keeping them in a certain pigeon-hole or by delivery on application at the public counter. Unknown Natives applying for correspondence are to be required to give evidence of their identity."

And what of the now extraordinary regulation contained in Section 621. "Commemorative postage stamps of temporary validity

are not recognized in the international service. Letters from places abroad apparently prepaid and treated as unpaid by despatching offices are to be surcharged." It is no wonder that special commemorative stamp issues were made so rarely in those days if their use was so restricted.

The following regulation, part of Section 630, may help to explain why backstamps are commonly found inverted in relation to the cover: "At offices where letters are stamped on the backs, the letters received from a sub-office should be placed on the stamping-table with the point of the flap turned away from the stamper, and those from a chief office with the flap turned towards the stamper." How regularly this rule was applied it would be most interesting to investigate from the evidence of actual covers. From 1909, however, most larger offices no longer backstamped ordinary letters on receipt.

Section 640 reads: "Loose datestamp type to replace any that may be carelessly lost will be charged to the Postmaster, and unless the loss of type is reported immediately the discovery is made, the type will be charged to the officer failing to make the report...The cost of a single or a double type is 5d., and of a postmarking-machine type 10d." This regulation would have applied mainly to A, B, F, H and similar type datestamps where the date was made up from individual type slugs. The wheeled J and C types introduced from about 1909 must have seemed much less risky to postal officers by comparison!

New year type or year wheels for datestamps had to be supplied at intervals. Section 642 covered this eventuality: "Patterns of year-type of the datestamps at sub-offices are to be held at the chief office for use for future requisitions for year-type. A careful record must be kept of offices supplied with revolving datestamps, or already supplied with year-type in advance; and in each case in which a new datestamp is supplied, a pattern of the new year-type is to be substituted for the pattern of the old type. Requisition is to be made on the Controller of Stores for envelopes holding pattern-type."

One of the appendices consists of a schedule of fines imposed on officers for various offences. The heaviest fine - £1 - was imposed for "Strangers, admitting, into the instrument-room or mail-room without permission." Some other fines were:-

"Datestamp, omitting to change or wrongly changing - 2/6d."

"Cash, stamps, etc., neglecting to put away in safe, or to lock the safe - 10/-."

"Periodical accounts, postal or telegraph, neglecting to render punctually - 5/-."

"Letters, missending, each letter - 3d."

"Mail, missending - 5/-."

"Letters, neglecting to datestamp, each letter - 3d."

"Letters insufficiently prepaid, neglecting to surcharge, each letter - 3d."

"Mail, neglecting to forward - 5/-."

"Registered letter, neglecting to enter on list - 5/-."

"Registered letter, omitting to mark with blue pencil - 1/-."

"Registered letter, omitting to affix label - 1/-."

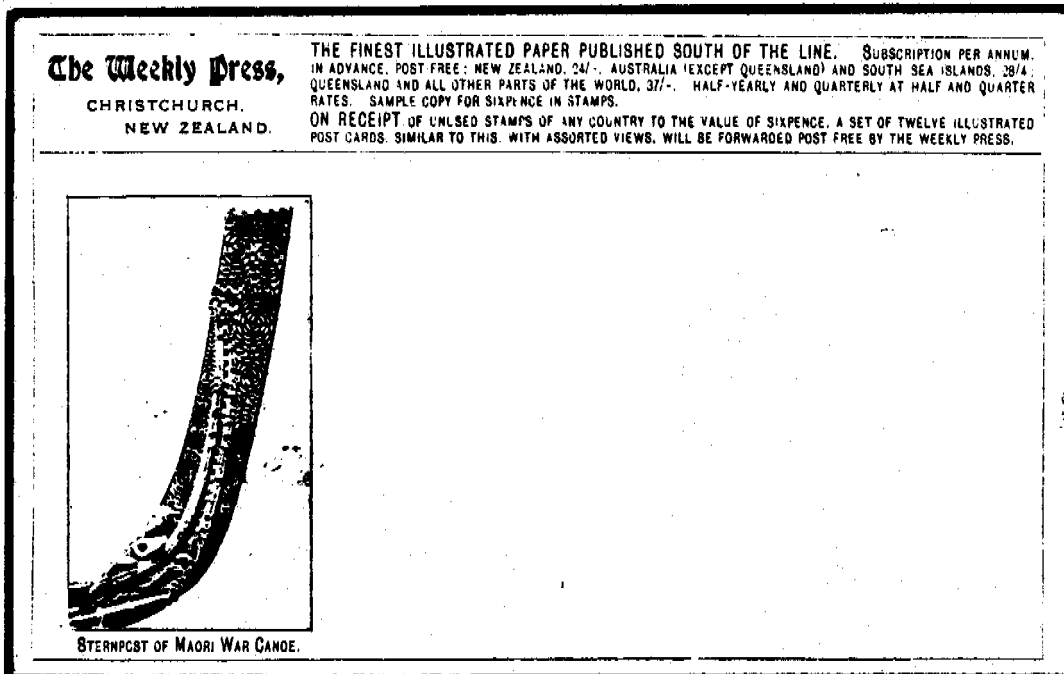
"Registered letter, omitting to give or obtain a receipt or 2/6d."

THE WEEKLY PRESS, CHRISTCHURCH, POSTCARDS.

J.LINDLEY

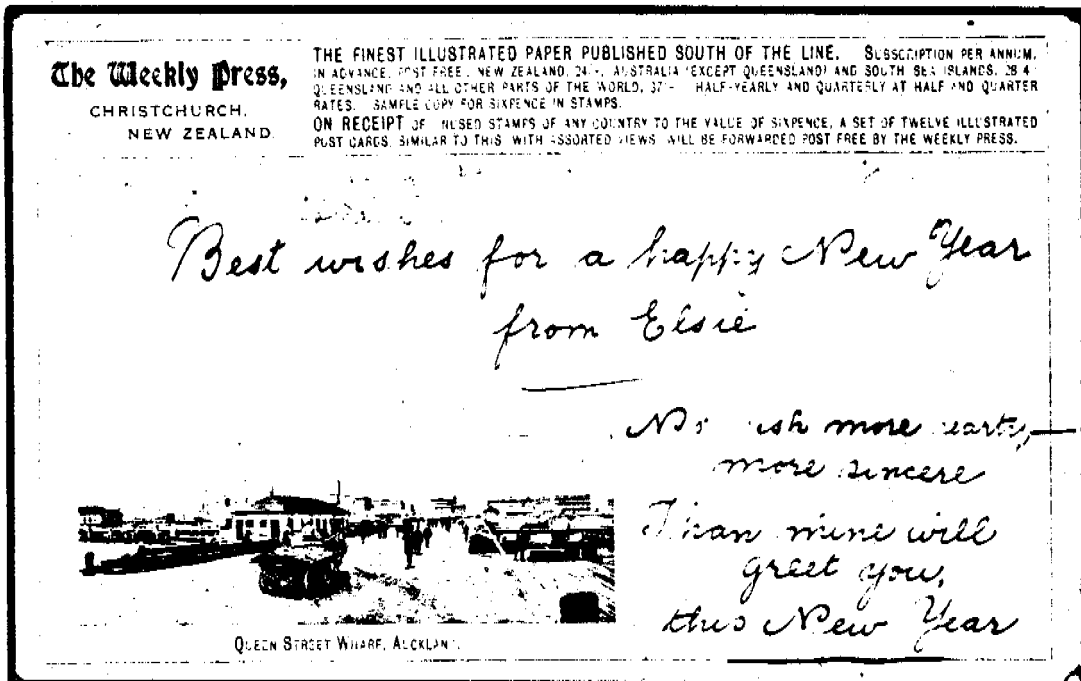
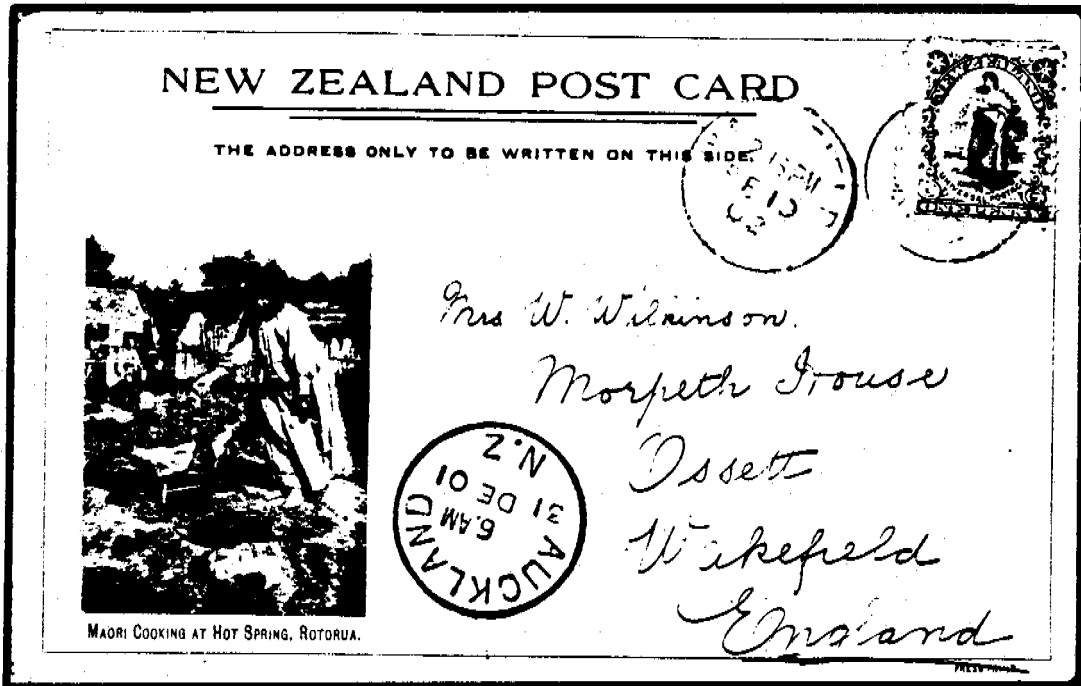
I was most interested to see illustrated in 'The Kiwi', Volume XXXI, page 62, July, 1982, the postcard entitled 'The Wonderland of New Zealand'.

I have two cards produced by the same firm but they are clearly from a different set. These particular cards were apparently issued as a set of twelve to anybody sending postage stamps to the value of sixpence from anywhere in the world.



The mint card illustrated is pink on the address side and a lilac on the reverse.

The used card is yellow on the address side and blue on the reverse. The stamp is cancelled TAUMARERE 30 DE 01. There is a transit mark AUCKLAND 31 DE 01, and a receiving mark of WAKEFIELD FE 10 02. This is a transit time by surface mail to England of forty-two days - if only it were as good these days!



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INDEX TO VOLUME 32

Air Mail Puzzle	96
Annual Competition	6
Annual General Meeting - 31st - Report	2
- 32nd - Notification	91
Annual Society Auction	76
Auction Realisations	5
Boer War Patriotic Cover	47
Brighton and Hove Philatelic Society	22
Canoe Yacht 'Tilikum'	73, 87
Cats Feature on 1983 Health Stamp Issue	86
Christchurch Exhibition Publicity Labels	83
Christmas Stamps, 1983	98
Circulating Packet - Notice to Members	21
Cobb & Co.	55, 61
Commemorative Issue, 1983	32
Editorial	2, 20, 38, 56, 74, 92
Federation of New Zealand Philatelic Societies	
Award to Robson Lowe	21
Findings From Files	
Additional Values of Duty Stamps	17
Cleaning of Used Stamps	67
Photogravure Printing of Stamps	97
Postage Stamp Paper Without Gum	34
Postal Order Sorting Machine	79
Further Musings	69
Great Barrier Island Pigeongram Stamp - 1898 - 1948 -	
Golden Jubilee	1, 14
Health Material	
Another Health Camp Fund Item	18
Health Material	100
Health Stamp First Day of Issue Cachet	19, 36
Health Stamps, Camps and Covers	80

Herald Island Post Office First Day Cover	78
Issue of 1983	86
Rotorua Health Camp	69
Inangahua - Cobb & Co. and Newman Brothers	55, 61
Library List - Additions to 1st December, 1983	95
Mail Man - A Variation	72
Meeting Reports	
Saturday, 29th November, 1982 - A.G.M. and Kiwi Day	2
Saturday, 29th January, 1983 - Vending and Stamp Affixing Machines	20
Saturday, 26th March, 1983 - Annual Competition	39
Saturday, 21st May, 1983 - Palmpex '82 Exhibitors	56
Saturday, 30th July, 1983 - 1935 - 1947 Pictorials	74
Saturday, 24th September, 1983 - Essays, Proofs and Specimens of Revenue Stamps: Early Booklets	92
Membership	2, 20, 38, 56, 74, 92
New Zealand Stamps Not Used Abroad!	90
Newman Brothers	55, 61
Our Editor	59
Pictorials of 1935 - 1947 - Design Competition	23, 82
Planned Royal Visit, 1952 - 3d. Gothic Progress Plate Proofs	65
Possible Recording Errors in Auckland District Obliterators	59
Post Office Rule Book, 1912	103
Postal Manuscripts of New Zealand	57
Postal Stationery Catalogue of New Zealand	22
Postal Stationery Notes	9, 25, 48
Province of Auckland Datestamps	43
Regional Meetings	
Bournemouth - Notification	58
- Report	93
Liverpool - Notification	22, 40
- Report	75
Reviews	
New Zealand Postal Manuscripts	95
New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogue	40
New Zealand Railways Charges Stamps	77
Ross Dependency Stamps Used Abroad	88, 90
Special Datestamps	4, 22, 41, 59, 78, 94
Stamp Exhibitions - Stampex '83	58
Stamp Programme, 1983	7
Tie for the New Zealand Society of Great Britain	58
Unadopted Essay by James Berry	7
Unrecorded Cachets	
Airmail	23
'Not Paid for United States / Air Mail Service'	37, 42
Very Late Use of 'A in Bars' Obliterator	24, 60
Weekly Press, Christchurch, Postcards	107
West Coast Cancellations with Gold Fields Origins - Epilogue	16
- Ho Ho!	