



# The Kiwi



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

Hon. Gen. Secretary: MISS MARGARET COLE  
13 Southey Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 1NN. Tel.: 01-542 4959  
Hon. Treasurer: I. G. FOGG  
42 Oxford Road South, Chiswick, London W4 3DH. Tel.: 01-994 1747

Hon. Packet Secretary: B. T. ATKINSON  
77 Wood Lane, Osterley, Middlesex TW7 5EG. Tel.: 01-560 6119  
Hon. Editor: ALLAN P. BERRY  
24 Irwin Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5PP. Tel.: 0483 67185

VOLUME 35 No. 4

JULY 1986

WHOLE 198

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 26TH JULY, 1986,  
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,  
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

OUR MEMBER, TOM LATTO, WILL GIVE A DISPLAY ENTITLED  
HEALTH CAMP AND HEALTH FIRST DAY COVER POTPOURRI.


MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO BRING ALONG ILLUSTRATED HEALTH FIRST  
DAY COVERS PRE-1937, AND ANY GLENELG CAMP COVER FOR 1948.

## NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE BRITISH PRISONER

Prisoner of War Post. *Trans-Pacific - Trans Atlantic*  
Kriegsgefangenenpost.


Opened by Censor in New Zealand.

*Per Mail*



23605 Lieutenant Richard D. Spencer,  
New Zealand Expeditionary Force, British Prisoner,  
Makinia Hospital,  
Athens,  
GREECE.

New Zealand Expeditionary Force British Prisoner,  
Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre,  
GENEVA, Switzerland.



SEE PAGE 66

## EDITORIAL.

It is always gratifying to receive copy from Members for articles in 'The Kiwi'. Many of these are about problem items or covers, and I am always grateful to those who entrust me with their valuable pieces so that illustrations can be prepared. It is quite a large responsibility to receive and take care of such items, but I feel that we all learn from the contributions so received. If any of you have such items, then please let me know, and let us see if we can give them some publicity. Such a cover is illustrated and discussed in this issue.

The Bibliography of New Zealand Philately and Postal History continues to grow. The massive work by Gerald Elliott on New Zealand Routes and Rates to 1874 is now to be published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, in two formats. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary, at P.O.Box 38-503, Howick, Auckland, New Zealand.

ALLAN P. BERRY

---

### MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

M.Grant, 6, Main Street, Frankton, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 9NZ.

J.C.Lushey, 9, Harefield, Long Melford, Near Sudbury, Suffolk.

B.G.Vincent, P.O.Box 1321, Wellington, New Zealand.

DECEASED

N.J.Stokes, 9, Milland Road, Hailsham, Sussex, BN27 1TG.

Brigadier C.R.Templar, Parsonage House, Woodbury, Exeter, EX5 1EG.

RESIGNED

J.J.Bishop, P.O.Box 25-085, St. Heliers, Auckland 5, New Zealand.

Miss R.Wilson, 25, Buckland Avenue, Dover, Kent, CT16 2NR.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

J.D.Biddlecombe, 3, Daleside, Orpington, Kent, BR6 6EG.

(previously of Swanley, Kent.)

R.Lapthorne, Apto Correos 594, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Spain.

(previously of Widnes, Cheshire.)

---

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 31ST MAY, 1986.

THE 1960 AND 1967 PICTORIAL DEFINITIVES.

The meeting opened at 2.30 p.m. with twenty five members present. John Smith, our Chairman, introduced and welcomed Ray Chipchase, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a Member attending a meeting for the first time. Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Cole, Ann Carter and Bernard Atkinson.

Ernie Leppard opened the afternoon display presenting 58 sheets of the 1960 definitives, showing a range of plate blocks from the ½d. through to the £1 value, together with an extensive range of cylinder flaws and retouches from both the De La Rue and Harrison printings. There was a progressive proof strip from the 2d. value, missing colours from the 3d., 4d. and 1/3d. values, and misplaced colours - particularly the 1/3d. ghost Trout and the 1/9d. red aeroplane. The later printings of the 1d., 3d., 4d. and 6d. on the chalky paper were shown, together with a range of the Chambon perforations. This section closed with a range of stitched, stapled and numbered Booklet Panes, complete Booklets and coil numbers in

both black and red. This display was ably backed by Bob Ashby with 12 sheets of flaws, missing colours, plate blocks to the 5/- value, and the famous 1/6d. green dots varieties.

John Smith opened the second half with 14 enlarged photographs from various artists showing the original artwork of the accepted designs, and several pages of the more outstanding errors from the 2½d., 1/-, 1/6d. and 3/- values, with misplaced and double perforations. Roy Holden showed three pages of the issued stamps, and Ernie Leppard then introduced the 1967 range of definitives, with 39 pages of plate blocks from the ½ cent to the \$2 multicolour value containing cylinder flaws and misplaced perforations. The 1968 - 1969 Trade Promotion issues were represented in plate blocks and the display ended with coil pairs and start and end papers. John Smith completed the afternoon display with some gems of the 1967 definitives - the ½ cent with missing colours, the 2½ cent imperf. and triple perf., both with butterfly flaw, and the Te Aro hand written coil numbers.

A vote of thanks to all who displayed was given by our President, Stanley Cross-Rudkin, and John Smith closed the meeting at 4.30 p.m.  
E.W.L.

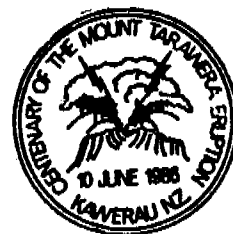
### SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

#### 25 YEARS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



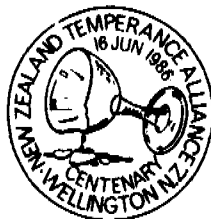
A special pictorial date stamp was used at Auckland on Wednesday, 28th May, 1986, to mark 25 years of Amnesty International.

#### CENTENARY OF THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT TARAWERA



Special pictorial datestamps were used at Rotorua and Kawerau on Tuesday, 10th June, 1986, to mark the centenary of the eruption of Mount Tarawera.

#### CENTENARY NEW ZEALAND TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Chews Lane counter, Wellington, on Monday, 16th June, 1986, to commemorate the centenary of the New Zealand Temperance Alliance.

1990 WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION



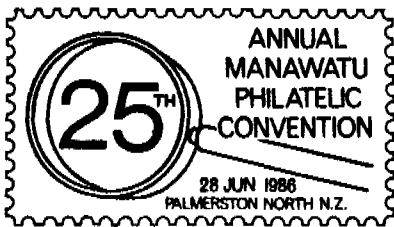
A special pictorial date stamp was used at the Chief Post Office, Auckland, initially on Wednesday, 11th June, 1986, to publicise the World Philatelic Exhibition which will be held in Auckland in August, 1990.

18TH NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL AGRICULTURE FIELDDAYS



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Mystery Creek Post Office on Thursday, 12th June, 1986, to mark the 18th New Zealand Agricultural Fielddays.

25TH ANNUAL MANAWATU PHILATELIC CONVENTION



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Palmerston North on Saturday, 28th June, 1986, to commemorate the 25th Annual Manawatu Philatelic Convention.

POSTAGE RATES.

G.E.C.PRATT

From 1st May, 1986, the following new Postage Rates were payable in New Zealand. This amends the list on page 82 of Volume 34 of 'The Kiwi'.

Standard Letter.....	30c.	Registration Fee.....	\$1.75c.
Surface Letter to U.K...	55c.	Airmail Letter to U.K....	75c.
Christmas Cards.....	25c.	Internal Airmail.....	45c.
Air Letter Card to U.K..	65c.		

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE BRITISH PRISONER

E.W.P.LEPPARD

The cachet 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force British Prisoner / Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre / GENEVA, Switzerland' does not appear to have been recorded in the Volumes of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, or in 'The Mails Went Through', by R.M.Startup. An example of this cachet is on the cover illustrated on page 63, addressed to Lt. R.D.Spencer, a Prisoner of War at Kokinia Hospital, Athens. It appears that this cachet was applied by the International Red Cross Committee (I.R.C.C.) in Geneva, Switzerland. The I.R.C.C. handled over 60 million items of mail each way during the Second World War, as the majority of mail was in bulk either to or from Prisoner of War Camps in Germany and Italy such

markings by the I.R.C.C. would not normally be applied.

The cover illustrated was from Feilding in New Zealand, and was dated 17th September, 1941. It was routed Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic, which was through San Francisco, across America, and to London by Air. Prisoner of War mail was collected in London at the High Commissioner's Office in the Strand, opened in August, 1940, and routed by sea to Lisbon, then overland through Spain and Vichy France to Switzerland. A ship route was instituted in December, 1941, from Lisbon to Marseilles, and then by train to Switzerland, and this cover may have been delayed to take this route. With the one-off journey to Athens in Greece, the cachet may have been applied to ease its journey through Enemy occupied territory and seemingly avoid any German Censorship. It appears to have been delivered unopened since leaving New Zealand.

If any reader can give me any further information about this cover and the cachet, I would be pleased to hear from them, through our Editor.

---

#### STANDARDISATION OF FRUIT INSPECTION FEE.

DAVID CHURCHILL

Some time ago, I acquired two unused stamps which I have been given to understand form a complete set and, although not so identified, were issued by New Zealand.



As can be seen from the illustrations, the values are ½d. and 1d., the ½d. being a bright orange, and the 1d. a pale green. Both are on unwatermarked paper and perforated 14 x 15. The design comprises a tablet at the top reading 'STANDARDISATION OF FRUIT / INSPECTION FEE' and another at the bottom reading 'THIS STAMP MUST BE DESTROYED / WHEN PACKAGE IS EMPTIED'. The value is at both top corners and the main pictorial subject is one of several types of fruit and leaves.

Derek Redshaw of Campbell Patterson Ltd. has advised that he has never seen them before, although he has seen them mentioned, with absolutely no detail, in a small revenue catalogue. Following up on this clue, I have managed to find them listed in the Kiwi Catalogue, published by Stirling & Co. Ltd., of Christchurch. As Derek Redshaw states, there are absolutely no details of when and for what purpose the stamps were issued.

I have a vague recollection that an article was published on these revenue stamps some time ago, but I have not been able to track this down. Therefore, if any member can give me details of the stamps, such as date of issue, printing, sheet format and usage, I would be glad to hear from them, through our Editor.

---

#### DEPARTMENT OF TOURIST AND HEALTH RESORTS PICTORIAL POSTCARDS

ALAN JACKSON

The following new information has become available about these

cards since they were last mentioned in 'The Kiwi', Volume 30, pages 100 - 105, and Volume 31, page 44, November, 1981, and May, 1982.

The original Type A set at least, and possibly the subsequent two sets as well, were available at some post offices in New Zealand, and the price per card was 1d. This latter discovery gives the lie to my earlier speculation that the cards may have been expensive to buy; or perhaps they were heavily subsidised by the Department - the printing method was certainly an expensive one. This reference to the cards appeared in the New Zealand Post Office Official Circular of 1st April, 1903:-

SALE OF TOURIST DEPARTMENT'S PICTORIAL POST-CARDS: This Department is prepared to sell the pictorial post-cards of the Tourist Department wherever required. In any case in which the cards may be asked for at the post office, application should be immediately made to the Accountant for a supply. These cards will be sold at 1d. each, and they will not form part of any postmaster's stamp advance, but will be accounted for separately.

The original set was probably first placed on sale in September or early October, 1902. The earliest post mark date known is still 9 OC 02. A card despatched around the same time - exact date not recorded - bore a message to the effect that the cards had just recently been issued.

The blue card with painted view 'LAKE KANIERI NEW ZEALAND' is now known in three variants:-

- 1) In deep blue on pale blue card - earliest recorded date of use is postmarked ? ? 07.
- 2) In deep blue on white card, with no overprint - earliest recorded date of use is postmarked 19 NO 08.
- 3) In deep blue on white card, with Christmas Greetings overprint on view - earliest recorded date of use is postmark 22 DE 14.

One other point of interest is that the proprietor of the Wanganui company which printed the cards, Archibald D. Willis, was a Member of Parliament at the time the cards were issued. He was elected for three successive three-year terms as Member for Wanganui, but was defeated in the election of December, 1905. His presence in Parliament and his company's obtaining the contract to print the cards may not have been unconnected! Among the company's many roles listed in the contemporary advertisements were the following:- Wholesale and Retail Bookseller; Stationer; Newsvendor; Manufacturing Stationer; Letterpress and Lithographic Printer and Bookbinder; Publisher of 'Willis's Guide Book to the Hot Lakes of New Zealand, via Auckland and the Wanganui River', Publisher of Willis's New Zealand Christmas Cards and Booklets; and Manufacturer of New Zealand Playing Cards.

The company also later published at least one other set of pictorial postcards on its own account. This consisted of ten romanticised studies of Maori Life, also designed by Benoni White, and printed by chromolithography.

## SCENIC BAYS STAMP ISSUE.

JILL MATTHEWS

Four of New Zealand's beautiful scenic bays feature on a special scenic stamp issue released on 11th June, 1986.

They are Knight's Point (55c) and Beck's Bay (60c) in the South Island and Doubtless Bay (65c) and Wainui Bay (80c) in the North Island.

Peter Durrant of Christchurch designed the stamps with a First Day Cover. A miniature sheet featuring Wainui Bay is also available. This costs \$1.20 and the 40c surcharge will go to support New Zealand's first World Stamp Exhibition to be held in Auckland in 1990.

New Zealand's international reputation as one of the world's most beautiful countries attracts many thousands of visitors to these shores every year.

Among the country's greatest assets is the variety and unspoilt beauty of its coast. Numerous bays and sheltered inlets provide a playground for local people and every year draw visitors in large numbers.

Knight's Point is north of Haast on the West Coast of the South Island. The Coast's isolation and its spectacular scenery make it a unique part of the country. Around Knight's Point, the coast forms a series of magnificent seascapes with dense native bush sloping steeply almost to the sea and unusual pinnacle shaped rocks out in the water.

Beck's Bay, also known as Whenuanui, is one of a series of drowned river valleys at the top of the South Island that make up Marlborough Sounds. The Sounds are known for superb fishing and for the many picturesque holiday cottages in isolated bays where launches are often the only transport.

Northland, the location of Wainui Bay and Doubtless Bay, is often referred to as the "winterless north". It has a warm sub-tropical climate which allows a wide range of outdoor activities all year round. The relaxed and casual lifestyle also make it an ideal area for a holiday.

All stamps in the scenic issue are of a horizontal format and measure 30 mm by 36.2 mm. They are printed in sheets of 100, 10 rows of 10 stamps, by Heraclio Fournier SA, of Spain, using photogravure. Miniature sheets containing the fuller scene of Wainui Bay measure 123 mm x 99 mm.

A New Zealand Post Office Feature Article.

Editor's Note - On reading of the issue of a miniature sheet that carried a surcharge to support the International Stamp Exhibition to be held in Auckland in 1990, further information was sought. The following letter, dated 9th May, 1986, was received from Don George, of the Postal Division, Post Office Headquarters, Wellington, New Zealand:-

"The New Zealand Post Office will be giving strong support to the Exhibition and will be working in tandem with the philatelic community towards the event, which has been planned as part of the Nation's sesquicentennial celebrations.

"As far back as late 1984, when the New Zealand Post Office

was looking at how it could assist the New Zealand 1990 Committee with their fund-raising, it was proposed that a surcharged miniature sheet could be produced. However, it was not until March, 1985, that the decision was taken to proceed with the concept as part of our long term support for the Exhibition.

"In regard to your question about the National Exhibition 'Royal 100', to be held in Wellington in 1988, plans have not yet been finalised in so far as New Zealand Post Office support is concerned."

---

FINDINGS FROM FILES.

PAPER FOR STAMPS PRINTED BY PHOTOGRAVURE

ALLAN P. BERRY

This particular extract from the files presently held at the National Postal Museum, London, consists of a series of letters and hand written notes dated between August and December, 1932, concerning paper to be used for the proposed photogravure printing of stamps for New Zealand. The first paper of the series is a hand written memo dated 22nd August, 1932. It reads:-

"Question whether paper 21" x 11½" will have one or two panels of wmk. The New Zealand High Commission has arranged with Cowans to send specimens of ordinary 240-set paper direct to S.T.P. by 24th August. Cowans will let ... know whether they can supply 240-set paper in quality and finish of the 120-set recess paper."

There follows a letter from the New Zealand High Commission to the Controller of the Post Office Stores Department, dated 24th August, 1932, which says:-

"In accordance with request per telephone ... I am directed ... to hand you herewith sheets of New Zealand Government Stamp Paper numbered QS.791262 to QS.791285, which have been obtained from Messrs. Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd.

"I also enclose a copy of this firm's letter of 23rd August, respecting this paper, and also giving their remarks as to its suitability for Recess Printing."

The letter from Messrs. Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd. of 23rd August is the next document on the file. This reads:-

"Confirming our telephone message of today, we have pleasure in handing you herewith sheets of New Zealand Government Stamp Paper numbered QS.791262 to QS.791285. As mentioned on the telephone, we trust you will see you receive the return of all sheets or a record of the numbers kept by you so that the sheets can be traced at any time.

"We shall be pleased to have a note from you assuring us that this will have your attention.

"With regard to your query as to whether this paper is suitable for Recess Printing, we presume you mean by this Photogravure Printing which could be described under the heading of 'Recess Printing' owing to the fact that the ink is deposited on to the paper through the medium of minute cells etched on to the plate or cylinder for the double purpose of carrying the ink and to



preserve the actual etching from being damaged by the Ink Doctor. The paper which we send you, we are assured by Printers who specialise in this class of work (such as Messrs. Blades, East & Blades Ltd.) is one of the best for Photogravure work as the ink has less chance to spread and in consequence the detail is clear and sharp."

Receipt of these letters was acknowledged by the Post Office Stores Department in a note dated 24th August, 1932, reading:-

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date enclosing sheets of New Zealand Government Stamp Paper numbered QS.791262 to QS.791285 which you have obtained from Messrs. Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd. I note the remarks made by Messrs. Cowan as to its suitability for recess printing, and arrangements are being made for the whole of the paper to be returned to you or otherwise accounted for."

The next item on the file is a hand written note dated 24/8/32, recording some information given verbally by a representative of Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd. This says:-

"... New Zealand are printing all their stamps 'plate'. They are using only (1) the paper of which we have specimens marked 'recess' and (2) the coated 240-set paper. Cowans could supply 240-set paper uncoated and in the web."

Against the statement that New Zealand are printing all their stamps 'plate', another Officer of the Post Office Stores Department has made a note to the effect that he doubts this.

The following letter is from Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd. to the Post Office Stores Department, which reads:-

"Confirming our telephonic communication today, we have pleasure in handing you specimen prints of Photogravure small step and repeat work printed on the New Zealand Government Stamp Paper and specimen sheet printed on an ordinary Non Curling Gummed Paper. You will readily note the differences in the printing of these two samples.

"Any further information you may require regarding this matter we shall be only too pleased to offer our services."

The acknowledgement of this letter is dated 27th August, 1932, and contains a request for further information:-

"I am obliged for ... letter of the 24th August enclosing specimen photogravure prints on coated and on uncoated paper.

"Confirming yesterday's telephone message from this Department, I shall be glad if you will let me know the capacity of the dandy roll used for the New Zealand 240-set paper, i.e. how many 240-set sheets are comprised in the width of the web of paper made and can double width sheets (480-set) readily be supplied."

The first reply to this query is dated 30th August, 1932.

"... this paper is made at our Valleyfield Mills in size 11.5" x 20.875" and is run in two widths of 34.5" each for gumming and coating: the Dandy is 8'6" in body length: 9'2" including shoulders and Journals and 20.375" in circumference.

"You will understand that from the web of 34.5" are cut 3

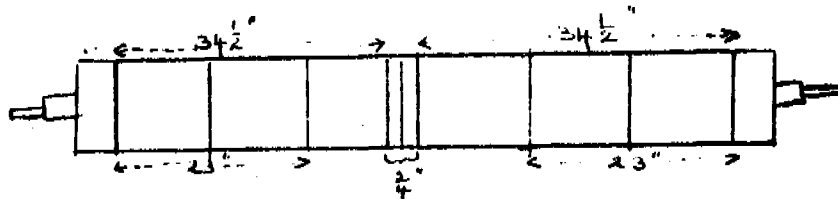
sheets of 11.5". Webs could, of course, be supplied either 11.5", 23" or 34.5".

The second reply is dated 31st August, 1932. This enlarges on the information given above, and includes the small sketch shown.

"Referring to our letter of 30th inst. we have now received the following information from our Valleyfield Mills under date 30th inst.-

"The Dandy has a space of 0.75 of an inch allowed in the centre for ripping and trimming after gumming etc.

"The paper could be supplied in the proportion of two double width sheets to two single width sheets. We hope this is quite clear to you."



This letter was acknowledged on 1st September, 1932. The next letter is dated 1st December, 1932, and is from the New Zealand High Commission to Messrs. Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd. This reads:-

"... a contract is being placed with Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd., for the supply of Postage Stamps produced by the photogravure process, and it is considered desirable, other conditions being equal, that the Stamps shall be printed on paper water-marked similarly to that used at the present time, which is manufactured by your firm.

"The stamp contract is being handled on behalf of this Department by the Post Office Stores Department, Somerset House, and I should be glad if you would kindly get into touch with ... the Stamp Section as soon as possible with a view to discussing with him the question of the supply of suitable paper."

The following letter is from the New Zealand High Commission, and it is clear that the letter previously quoted was enclosed with this communication, which is dated 2nd December, 1932:-

"I have to thank you for your courtesy in seeing me yesterday afternoon in regard to the acceptance of Messrs. Waterlow's tender, etc., and I now send you herewith copy of the acceptance which is being sent them this day, and also copies of my letter to Messrs. Cowans on the subject of the supply of suitable paper and of our official acceptance to Messrs. De La Rue for the surface printing master dies and collar.

"These will keep your file complete, and I look forward to hearing from you as soon as you have seen Messrs. Cowan and can give me the necessary information as to the placing of an order for the paper."

On 3rd December, 1932, Messrs. Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd. wrote to the Post Office Stores Department, indicating that they had been asked to make an appointment with Officers of the Department to discuss the question of the supply of the paper mentioned above.

The reply from the Post Office Stores Department is dated 6th December, 1932, and offers an appointment 'on Thursday next - the 8th instant - at 3 p.m.'. Messrs. Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd. accepted this appointment, confirming it with a letter dated 7th December, 1932. On this letter, there are notes clearly setting out the results of the discussions held. These hand written notes are dated 9/12/32, and read:-

"... called on 8th, and the matter was fully discussed with him. He said his firm was alive to all the precautions and safety measure (?) in connexion with the supply of security paper. Letter in draft form inviting firms to quote for the necessary papers (?) sent to ... with covering letter vide attached."

The covering letter mentioned in this note is not on the file, but it is clear that it was sent as the reply from the New Zealand High Commission, dated 12th December, 1932, follows:-

"Please accept my best thanks for your letter of the 9th instant, from which I note that you have now discussed the matter fully with Messrs. Waterlow & Sons and Messrs. Cowan & Sons: also that the sketches, etc., have been handed to the former firm who are putting the preliminaries in hand at once.

"I am obliged for your draft letter to Messrs. Cowans regarding the paper, and I now enclose copy of the letter which is being sent to them this day accordingly. As soon as their quotation is to hand I shall have pleasure in seeing you with it."

The copy of the letter to Messrs. Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd. is next on the file, dated 12th December, 1932. It is a word for word copy of the draft mentioned, a copy of which is also on the file. This letter reads:-

"With reference to my letter of the 1st instant and your interview with ... the Post Office Stores Department, Somerset House, on the 8th instant, relative to the supply of suitable watermarked paper to Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. for printing of stamps for the New Zealand Government by the photogravure process, I am directed by the High Commissioner to invite you to quote per ream for 1,750 reams of 500 sheets, each sheet to measure 21" (machine direction) x 11½". Upwards of 900 reams will be required by Messrs. Waterlow, delivered to their works at Milton Street, Watford, carriage paid, and the balance (approximately 800 reams) may have to be shipped to New Zealand under similar conditions to those observed by you in the case of previous supplies. As explained to your representative, the quotations for the paper should be furnished as follows:-

- (a) Plain; mill finish.
- (b) Coated.
- (c) Coated and gummed.
- (d) Gummed and Plateglazed.

"The sheets to be well and efficiently gummed in such a manner as to render the stamps, when printed, properly adhesive and to be non-curved. The quantity of gum to be not less than 1 gram on an area of 76 sq. ins. The gum to consist of gum arabic or other

approved adhesive and to be pure and free from any poisonous or deleterious substance.

"The present dandy roll for 240-set paper in your possession is to be utilised and the sheets of paper are to be numbered consecutively as heretofore.

"The colour, the standard of cleanness, uniformity of thickness, and evenness of gumming to be in strict conformity with the provisions hitherto laid down by the New Zealand Government for supplies of paper manufactured by you. The paper to be free of any deleterious or foreign matter, holes, creases or other defects, to be clearly and accurately watermarked to register within 0.125" either way both laterally and vertically, and the sheets to be cut to a true right angle.

"Supplies to be delivered in sealed packages each containing 500 sheets exactly: all sheets to face the same way and the watermark to be in the same direction.

"In replying you should state, as regards the paper you offer:-

- (a) Net weight per ream of 500 sheets 21" x 11½".
- (b) Constituents and proportion of the furnish.
- (c) Whether loaded, and, if so, to what extent.
- (d) Details of sizing.

"The acceptance of your quotation will be subject to the supply by you of advance sheets for approval by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons for photogravure work."

The following letter on the file is dated 20th December, 1932, and is from the New Zealand High Commission to the Post Office Stores Department. This reads:-

"... Export Manager of Messrs. Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd. called in today while I was out and left their reply to our letter of the 10th instant in connection with the supply of watermarked paper. I enclose a copy herewith, and would add that it was suggested to ... that he should get into touch with you tomorrow, and I hope it will be convenient for you to go into the matter with him then. I understand he is anxious to get on with the work if the order is to be placed with his firm, and no doubt you will advise him in that connection as soon as possible."

The letter from Alex Cowan & Sons Ltd. mentioned above is the next paper following. It is dated 20th December, 1932, and reads:-

"Referring to your letter of the 12th December, in connection with the supply of Watermarked Stamp Paper for the printing of stamps for the New Zealand Government by the photogravure process, we now beg to submit our quotation for 1,750 reams of which we understand 900 reams are to be delivered to Watford, carriage paid, and approximately 800 reams to be shipped to New Zealand under similar conditions to those observed in the case of our previous supplies.

"It is also understood that the quantity of gum is to be not less than 1 gram on an area of 76 sq. inches, and is to be properly adhesive and non-curling. The gum to consist of gum arabic or other approved adhesive, and to be pure and free from any poisonous or deleterious substance.

"The dandy roll for 240 sets, already in our possession, would be utilized and each sheet would be numbered consecutively as heretofore.

"The furnish would include a good proportion of rag, and there would be 10% loading to give the necessary printing surface; the sizing would be B.S. All other conditions as previously observed would be strictly adhered to."

The actual quotation is set out on a separate sheet. It reads:-

"The High Commissioner for New Zealand 20/12/1932

1,750 reams NEW ZEALAND STAMP PAPER  
20.7/8 x 11.1/2, 500s flat,  
watermarked and cut to register within 1/8" variation.

- (a) Plain, mill finish, weight 11lbs. ... @ 10.1/4d per lb.  
delivered in reels in London
- (b) Coated 1 side, weight 13lbs. ... @ 1/- . 1/2d "  
delivered London in reels
- (c) Coated 1 side - gummed underside  
weight 17 lbs.  
Sheets numbered, packed in reams  
and delivered Watford @ 21/6d. per ream  
or Case packed (zinc lined) and  
F.O.B. London @ 22/6d. "
- (d) Gummed underside and Plate Glazed  
weight 14 lbs.  
Sheets numbered, packed in reams  
and delivered Watford @ 20/- per ream  
or Case packed (zinc lined) and  
F.O.B. London @ 21/- "

E. & O.E. Terms: as usual."

Across the top quotation, the word 'Watford' is written by hand, with a star against it to another manuscript note. This is dated 21/12/32, and reads:-

"... says that this quo: stands for plain paper in ream sheeted sorted & cut to register (but not numbered) and delivered to Watford."

The final document concerning this episode is a hand written note dated 22/12/32, which reads:-

"I saw ... of Cowans and discussed the quotation. I indicated that it was several shillings a ream too high. Subsequently he rang up and offered to supply paper gummed & plate glazed, sheeted & cut to register for 19/- per ream & would not quote lower. I thanked him & said I should recommend ... to invite tenders."

These extracts are not the end of this particular story. The next section deals with the proposed invitations to tender for the

supply of the required paper. It will form the basis of a further article at a future date.

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

## NEW GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE DISCOVERY!

ALAN JACKSON

If you thought your collection of Government Life Insurance stamps was complete, you are mistaken - unless, that is, you happen to have already these Government Life Insurance stamps from Snark Island.



These fantasies emanate from a collection of over 100 different 'Snark Island' philatelic creations perpetrated by Gerald M. King, artist and author of 'Alice Through The Looking Glass', published in 1978 by Andre Deutsch. Snark Island is represented by Mr. King to have been the setting of Lewis Carroll's 'The Hunting of the Snark', first published in 1876. In his 1983 special catalogue, 'Snark Island Postage Stamps and Post Cards 1876-1901', Mr. King reveals that the Snark Island saga began on 18th July, 1874, when Her Majesty's Vessel 'Snarkfinder' sailed from Guildford Harbour in search of the land of the Snarks. Guildford, for the benefit of the uninitiated, lies in the depths of the Surrey countryside, and is where Lewis Carroll lived at one time. On 22nd March, 1876, landfall was at last made on Snark Island, stated to be located off the north-west tip of New Guinea, and, as was the custom in those days, the territory was promptly proclaimed a colony of the British Empire.

The Snark Island collection of 'postage stamps' includes, among others, the following issues:-

Essays prepared on board H.M.V. Snarkfinder in 1875 ("No evidence of actual postal usage").

The definitives of 1887, which carry the warning "beware of high values with the value chemically removed, and a lower value inserted".

The 1889 'Transportation of Guilty Pigs to the Penal Colonies' issue - one stamp with a face value of £40.

The 1901 '25th Anniversary of the Vanishing of the Baker' issue - a se-tenant strip of four showing the Baker gradually vanishing.

According to Mr. King's catalogue, the Government Life Insurance stamps were issued in 1885, so predating New Zealand's first issue in 1891. Two values were issued, a 2d. brown and blue and a 6d. violet and orange, each in tete-beche pairs, as illustrated above.

The central vignette features the head of the Beaver, whose connection with the life insurance industry is indicated by the following extract from 'The Hunting of the Snark':-

The Beaver's best course was, no doubt,  
To procure a second-hand dagger-proof coat,  
- So the Baker advised it next to insure  
Its life in some office of note.  
This the Baker suggested, and offered for hire  
(On moderate terms) or for sale,  
Two excellent policies, one Against Fire,  
And one Against Damage From Hail.

Despite their venerable age, the Snark Island Life Insurance stamps may still be obtained, in pristine condition, for little more than their face value, but they are not available separately. They may be purchased as part of a complete collection of Snark Island stamp issues, (mint unhinged!), for £17-50 (or £20-00 including a stockbook to house them) from

Gerald M. King, 'Jabberwocky', 18, Grove Road, London, E.17.

Mr. King also has available a collection of Snark Island postal stationery at £5-00. There is also a 'complete collection' of Snark Island postal history. The price of the latter is comparatively high, £45-00 for 32 covers, because of the care which goes into their production - to say nothing of their rarity and age. But where else could you get a handful of 19th century New Guinea covers so cheaply? These covers bear such unusual cachets as 'Damaged By Fire And Hail', 'Damaged by Inkslinger and Taildriller' (complete with ink blots and holes), and a datestamp inscribed "FEB 9 1877 NEARLY DUSK", and dozens more.

Mr. King still has available, at the same price as the Snark Island collection, an earlier collection (even larger) of "Wonderland" stamps which he had produced in the 1970's in celebration of Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland' and 'Through The Looking Glass'. An interesting selection of Wonderland postal history may also be purchased with the collection. A descriptive catalogue, 'The Postage Stamps of Wonderland 1840-1871' is available as well. In meeting an order in 1984, Mr. King stated in his reply - 'Thank you for your letter. At last I can eat.'

#### A PROBLEM OBLITERATOR IN USE IN 1860

K.J.McNAUGHT

Consequent on my appeal for information on Obliterator 22 in oval of bars, published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 35, January, 1986, pages 13 - 14, HENRY DUMAS promptly sent me an enlarged photocopy of a cover with the stamp cancelled with an oval obliterator very similar in style to the Perkins, Bacon obliterators 1 to 18 supplied in 1855, illustrated below (Illustration 1). The figure 2 in the obliterator is placed well to the left of the central space, implying a second figure, not deciphered, which could be anything from 0 to 9. No obliterator with eleven thin bars, with a number in the twenties and similar to the Perkins, Bacon series has been recorded or illustrated previously.

The present illustration, along with Greymouth's 20, shown below

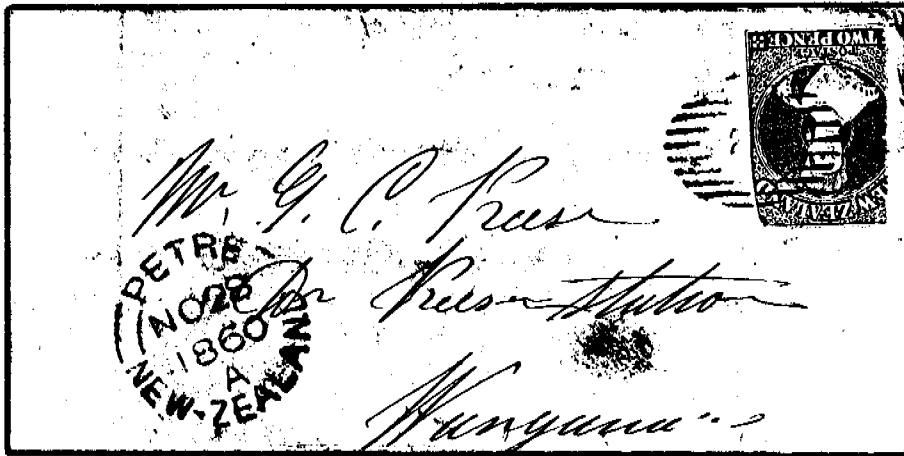


Illustration 1

as Illustration 2, Hokitika's 21. Illustration 3, and Queenstown's 25, Illustration 4, for comparison, clearly shows that the figure 2 is appreciably smaller than the well documented 25, supplied in 1863, and 20 and 21 supplied in 1865, and the space surrounding the figure is much more extensive than in the later obliterations.



Illustration 2



Illustration 3



Illustration 4

The envelope was received at Wanganui - Petre datestamp still in use - on 28th November, 1860, from an unknown office. The fact that there is no backstamp indicates that the letter did not pass through any of the Chief Post Offices of 1860. Wanganui was a Class 2 office at that time and therefore an authorised collecting and resorting office for the North-West part of the Wellington Province. There were no Wellington Postal District offices between Wanganui and the boundaries of Taranaki open at that time. It is reasonable to conclude, therefore, that the letter was posted at an office in the Northern part of the overland mail route between Wellington and Wanganui. The most likely of the few relevant offices open in 1860 were Manawatu, later Foxton, opened in February, 1854; Rangitikei, opened in July, 1857; and Turakina, opened in January, 1854. All these were at important ferry crossings near the mouths of the rivers of the same names.

We have no direct evidence whether any of these offices was using an obliterator or manuscript marking in 1860. We do know that Turakina was using an obliterator with large 15 in oval of bars by 1862 and Manawatu an obliterator 12 in rectangle of bars at least from 1863. If either office had been using an earlier type of obliterator in 1860, it is unlikely this would have been replaced in 1862 or 1863. The first Rangitikei office near the river mouth would seem more likely as it is the only office on the route from



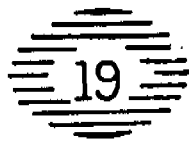
Wellington to Wanganui, using both a W/number datestamp from 1863 and an obliterator, whose obliterator has not yet been identified. The obliterator cancelling the stamp on my piece with Rangitikei W13 datestamp of OC 12, 1865 - the only example of W13 so far noted - is similar in style to the obliterator on the Henry Dumas cover. The faint number could be 20.

Tentatively, therefore, I attribute this cover to the first Rangitikei office, but regrettably we cannot be sure of the second figure in the obliterator. Use at a short-lived office will explain its rarity.

This cover raises the important question how many further obliterators in the Perkins, Bacon style - 11 thin bars, 5 short bars flanking the number, and a large space round the number - were supplied between 1855 - the duplicated series 1 to 18 - and 1862 when obliterators were supplied to Otago offices - O series - at least some Wellington offices and probably some Southland offices.

One such obliterator extending the series 1 to 18 is illustrated as OUI on page 80 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. See Illustration 5 below. R.J.G.Collins stated:-

"The first obliterator used at Oamaru was similar to the early types of 1855 but the figures were larger. This obliterator did not have a long life and was superseded by a second one with thicker bars and with only three bars flanking the number...This (second) obliterator was transferred to Waimate in the Timaru District."



OUI

Illustration 5



Illustration 6



Illustration 7

Present evidence is that the second type obliterator 19 - see Illustration 6 above - was never used at Oamaru but was provided about 1865 to Waimate in South Canterbury, opened July, 1863, where it was used exclusively. The erroneous allocation of the second 19 to Oamaru was due to a misreading of faint strikes of the obliterator O1 inverted on several Oamaru covers as 19. The allocation of the first 19, if correctly read, to Oamaru, opened in August, 1858, is in doubt, though such a marking could in theory have been used there between about 1860 and 1862 before O1 was provided. However, the practice was to replace obliterators only when they became unserviceable or were lost. The existence of the first type 19 requires confirmation.

One other obliterator of similar style noted on a 2d. Richardson print of about 1860 - 1861 has a small upright 5 with smaller lower loop than in either the Perkins, Bacon 5 of Timaru or of Campbelltown - later Bluff - see Illustration 7 above. This was shown as Unidentified Type 59 on page 384 of Volume VI of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. The actual obliterator is more oval shaped than in the illustration. It is possible that this was used

at the early office of Awatere, opened in January, 1856, in the Blenheim Postal District. The G.P.O. Registers of 1879 - 1881 and 1885 - 1893 record that Awatere had an obliterator numbered 5. This is the only office open before 1861, recorded as having an obliterator numbered 5, whose obliterator has not yet been clearly identified from a proving cover. The shape and size of the obliterator, the number of bars and the central space in the obliterator on my Awatere cover of 1872 is similar in appearance to the Unidentified Type 59 but proof is lacking as the central figure does not show. Certainly, the Unidentified Obliterator Type 59 with figure 5 was still in use in 1872 as I have a clear strike on a contemporary 2d. Vermilion Chalon Head stamp.

Collectors are urged to watch for further obliterator markings on early Chalon Head stamps in the style of the Perkins, Bacon series, especially with numbers 19 and above.

### LEESTON - ANOTHER CANCELLATION

E.W.LEPPARD

In Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 67, are illustrated six hand made cancellations, numbered 37 to 42, from the Leeston Post Office in the Christchurch Postal District. A further cancellation has come to light, which has been confirmed as unrecorded by K.J.McNAUGHT.



Figure 38



Unrecorded



Figure 39

The examples illustrated above are all on the first printing of the Queen Victoria Second Sideface One Penny definitive stamp. The unrecorded example is shown with examples of the cancellations illustrated as figures 38 and 39 in Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. What is interesting is that they are all duplex cancellations, and show the reason why so many obl iterators were made by the postmaster at Leeston. Obviously the obliterator portion of the duplex instrument had broken at some time and in order to continue using it, the postmaster was forced to make new obl iterators in either cork or wood, and to renew or remake them as the surface portion of each became worn or broken.

The datestamp portion of the duplex instrument reveals the dates of use. The earliest is the unrecorded example, dated 3 JA 84; figure 38 shows the date 6 MR 84, and figure 39 the date 30 JU 84.

I would be most interested to hear from members with other dated examples of the duplex instrument used at Leeston, so that the use sequence can be worked out. It would also be interesting to determine which obliterator was originally issued with the datestamp portion. Any information can be sent through our Editor.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION? IF NOT YOU WILL BE LAPSED!