



The Kiwi



The Official Organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN.

Affiliated to: BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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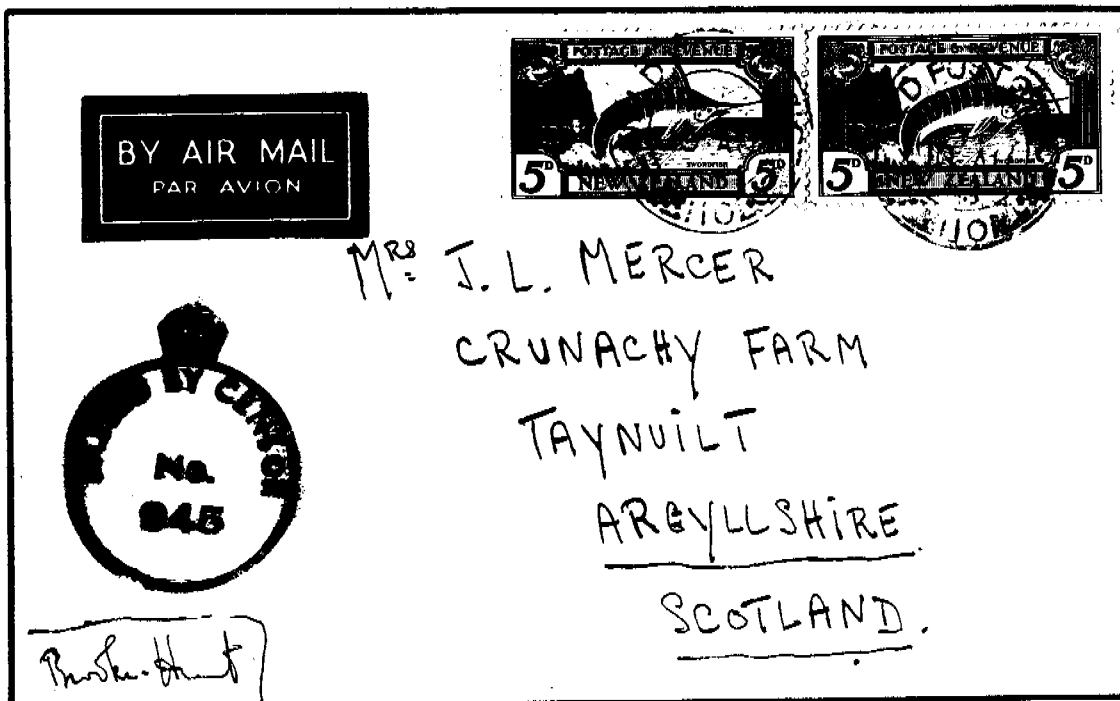
WHOLE 202

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1987,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

THE ANNUAL COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE, DETAILS OF WHICH MAY
BE FOUND ON PAGES 11 AND 12 OF THE LAST ISSUE OF 'THE KIWI'.

WHILE THE JUDGING TAKES PLACE, MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO SHOW ANY
PROBLEM ITEMS, OR RECENT INTERESTING ACQUISITIONS.

FIELD POST OFFICE 110



SEE PAGE 40.

EDITORIAL.

Those of you who read the commercially produced Philatelic Magazines will know that there have been certain changes made to the National Stamp Exhibitions held each year. While there will continue to be two, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn, only one will be competitive.

The implications of this are that in future, there will only be one opportunity each year for those who wish to qualify their material for International Exhibitions - the Autumn event.

A good first step on the ladder towards participation at International level is to submit an entry in the Society's Annual Competition. With the advent of a new class for decimal issues, there is no reason why there should not be a bumper entry this year.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

A.G.Howard, 27, Weidner Road, Fenham,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE15 6QR.
S.J.G.Trevette, 2, Ellington Court, High Street,
Southgate, London, N14 6LB.
R.S.F.Webber, 18, St. Aubyns Court, Market Street,
Poole, Dorset, BH15 2LX.

RESIGNED

K.W.Fear, Broad Oak Cottage, Seale, Nr. Farnham, Surrey.
H.N.Tilley, 11, Rectory Field, Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4JE.

DECEASED

C.D.Abbott, Chetwynd Cottage, Farmington, Cheltenham, Glos.
C.S.Christie, 31, Cobham Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0SA.
R.S.Strange, Hilltop Nurseries, Sherbourne St. John, Basingstoke.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

J.Hill, 2015, Lake Bonavista Drive S.E., Calgary,
Alberta T2J 2Z8, Canada.
(previously of Victoria, B.C., Canada.)
Noel Turner, 21, Fairgreen, Cockfosters, Barnet, Herts., EN4 0QS.
(previously of Gladstone House, High Road, Wood Green, London.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 1987.

TARAPEX '86 ENTRIES - ALLAN P. BERRY AND ALLAN MCKELLAR.

John Smith, our Chairman, opened the meeting at 2.40 p.m. with 28 members present. He introduced John Hicks from Birmingham, a member of long standing who had not been able to attend a meeting for some considerable time. Apologies for absence were received from Stanley Cross-Rudkin, Alf Swan and Noel Turner.

Allan Berry opened the display with his entry of 48 sheets of the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department, 1869 - 1906. After outlining how the Department was set up on the suggestion of a gold miner in the 1860's, he showed pre-printed forms and covers of the period before the issue of the stamps. It was explained that the stamps were issued to the Department as a means of prepaying postage, the previous counting method being unsatisfactory. Die proofs of the vignette and the six values in black were shown, as well as examples in colour. The printings of the three lower values,

½d., 1d. and 2d., were shown, with examples used on cover and most of the varieties of perforation and watermark. The redrawn 1d. and 2d. values from new plates with the cipher V.R. omitted were also shown, again with examples on cover. The last few pages were given over to the high values, 3d., 6d. and 1/-, showing dates of use over the full period, and an interesting example of the 3d. value used on cover to Germany.

Allan McKellar then showed his entry of the Penny Dominion. This started with die proofs, plate proofs, and proofs to test the paper used for the stamps. Plate 12 and Plate 13 transfer roller flaws were shown with enlarged illustrations, as well as the constant plate flaws found on each plate. All papers were present in the display, which continued with examples from the booklet plates, including proofs, stamps overprinted for the various Islands then under New Zealand administration, and the use of the design for various items of postal stationery.

Allan Berry then presented his second entry of Official Postal Stationery. The franking system was explained, and the evolution of the stationery used by various Government Departments explained and shown, with examples of signature franks, facsimile signature franks, printed franks, medallion franks, superscribed envelopes, wrappers, cards, lettersheets, and so on. The postal history aspect was covered with examples of New Zealand Government Departmental Mail addressed to foreign countries.

John Smith proposed the vote of thanks to the two Allans. Before the meeting closed at 5.00 p.m., and as an encore, Allan Berry put up a number of sheets showing the various souvenirs and other ephemera that were associated with the Exhibition. This included examples of the Tarapex Miniature Sheet, Postcards of King Edward VIII, Postcards of old post offices in Taranaki, labels and stickers, invitation cards, and menus for the various events held in association with the Exhibition, which was pronounced a very great success.

E.W.L.

CAPTAIN COOK - THE JOURNAL OF THE CHRISTCHURCH (N.Z.) AND
DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.

This journal is received by the Library of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain on an exchange basis for 'The Kiwi'. It is the next run of journals to be bound, so that it can be made available for loan in the future. But there are certain numbers missing from the run, and your Committee would appeal to any member who has copies of the missing numbers, listed below, to donate them to the Society, or to make them available so that proper photocopies can be made. The issues required are :-

- Volume 1 - all issues except number 9, June, 1973.
- Volume 2 - numbers 3 to 11 inclusive, November, 1973, to August, 1974.
- Volume 3 - number 1, September, 1974.
number 2, October, 1974.
number 4, January, 1975.
number 7, April, 1975.
number 9, June, 1975.
number 10, July, 1975.

Volume 4 - number 2, October, 1975.
Volume 5 - number 2, October, 1976.
 number 6, March, 1977.
Volume 10 - number 1, February, 1982.

Your help would be very much appreciated. Please write to the Editor if you are able to help.

SPRING STAMPEX 1987 - 3RD TO 8TH MARCH, 1987

'BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO STAMP COLLECTING - EDUCATE'

With the above theme in mind the whole of Spring Stampex 1987 has been geared to teach everyone, whether they be beginner or seasoned collector, a little more about the hobby they love.

The Catalogue which will give details of all the collections on display, details of lectures to be given and all other information will, it is hoped, be available about two weeks before the Exhibition opens at the Horticultural Halls, Westminster. Copies can be obtained by sending postage of 20p to the Philatelic Traders Society, 27, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HZ. The Catalogue is free!

A HISTORY OF THE NEW ZEALAND STAMP TRADE

LAURIE FRANKS

The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand is planning a history of philately in New Zealand for its Centenary in 1988. My task is to do a history of the stamp trade.

As much of the past has been destroyed and many early stamp magazines published in this country no longer exist here, help is urgently needed. New Zealand dealers probably advertised overseas in the Boys Own Paper, Chums, or similar magazines, and virtually no stocks of these are held by public libraries in New Zealand. I have copies of advertisements sent by Wilcox Smith & Co. in 1884 to the Boys Own Paper - their outward letter book of 1883-1885 was acquired when I bought the business in 1965.

The basis of the list I have compiled is a one-line computer entry showing the Trading Name, Proprietor (if different), street address, Town, Box Number, Full (F) or Part (P) time, period in business, remarks and source - these latter two partly for my own reference.

I have sent a copy of this list to the Editor of 'The Kiwi', from whom a photocopy can be obtained. It is in date order of commencing business up to World War 1. A question mark after the year indicates that the year is the earliest reference sighted, and may be several years out. The total listing so far is over 720 entries, but there is some duplication due to changes of address, changes of names, owners, etc.

It is unfortunate that the list has been left so long but as long as people are alive who remember the past there is no need to write it down - and when they are gone, no one can!

The listing is merely the skeleton of the chapter. The changing patterns in the trade, the personalities, the effects of wars and Government restrictions and many other aspects will be covered.

Any assistance that members could give would be appreciated. A

list of publications not sighted can be supplied on request and some of these may be available overseas where life was better organised than in New Zealand ten to fifteen years after the Maori Wars and the peak of the Gold Rushes.

Early overseas stamp magazines could also be a useful source - all attempts at local ones from 1880 failed, apart from House journals and Society journals, because of the small number of advertisers and collectors.

If you are willing to help, please write to me, c/o Private Bag, Christchurch, New Zealand.

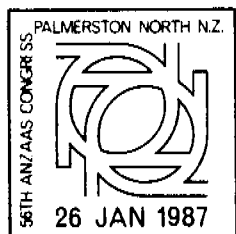
SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

HUKA VILLAGE



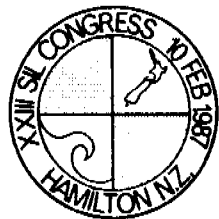
A permanent pictorial datestamp was used at the Huka Village Post Office to cancel mail from Monday, 22nd December, 1986.

56TH ANZAAS CONGRESS



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Palmerston North on Monday, 26th January, 1987, to commemorate the 56th Congress of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. The datestamp depicts the Congress logo.

XXIII SIL CONGRESS



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Hamilton on Tuesday, 10th February, 1987, to commemorate the 23rd Congress of the International Association of Theoretical and Applied Limnology (fresh water science). The datestamp features the Congress logo based on a Sechi disk.

CENTENARY OF WHANGAROA COUNTY



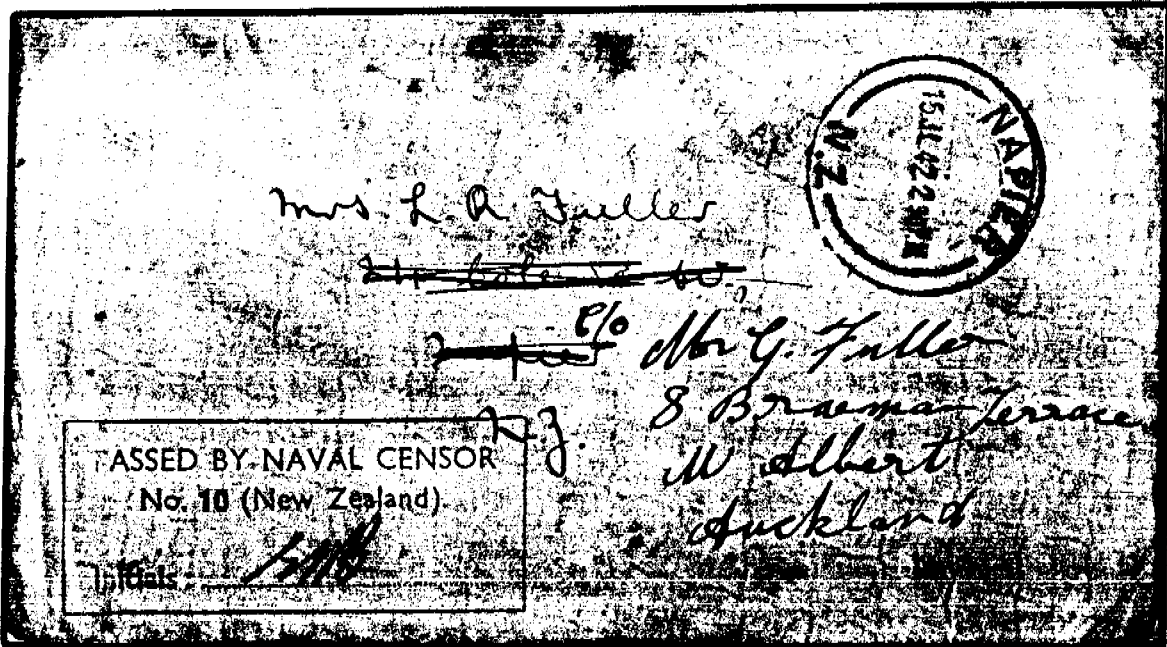
A special pictorial datestamp was used at Kaeo on Friday, 20th February, 1987, to commemorate the Centenary of Whangaroa County.

TONY DODD

Naval movements in war time were of course shrouded in the utmost secrecy, including the period of the Second World War. No details of the censor markings held in post offices adjacent to ports such as Napier are available with any degree of completeness.

The cover illustrated below bears a faint strike of an 'On Active Service' boxed cachet, and is cancelled with the C-class datestamp of Napier, dated 15 JL 42 2.30P.M. The censor marking applied to the bottom left hand corner of the cover is of a type new to me. Was this cover censored on board the ship, or on shore? If the latter, was censorship carried out at Napier?

Any information from readers would be appreciated, through our Editor.



MAORI WARS MEMORIAL.

E.W. LEPPARD

Following the theme of places in Great Britain named after the Dominion of New Zealand or associated with it, members may be interested to know that there is a memorial to the Maori Wars in Great Britain. This takes the form of an obelisk of Cornish granite, approximately 30 feet high. It stands 20 yards from the Cutty Sark, unseen behind a high hedge in the grounds of the Naval Hospital at Greenwich. It is inscribed 'This monument is erected by the surviving Officers and men to the memory of their comrades who fell in action in New Zealand during the years 1863/4.' There follows the names of five Officers and sixteen men, and the names of the ships involved - H.M. Ships 'Curacoa', 'Miranda', 'Harrier', 'Esk' and 'Eclipse'. I understand that the monument is now maintained by the Admiralty.

Some 150,000,000 years ago the first birds arose in the humid African/Indian tropics which then were larger and more continuous than today. From this centre of origin they spread out in waves and many reached Australia via the East Indian archipelago. Relatively few made the extra 1,000 mile sea crossing to New Zealand where they have evolved into a limited but very distinct bird population including several families with no representatives anywhere else in the world.

The number of residents and migrants that occur in New Zealand is usually given as around 250 of which 27 have been featured on that country's stamps. At over 10% this is a higher proportion than for most countries:-

5th April, 1898.



3d. Huia (extinct)



6d. Brown Kiwi



1/- Kea (on left),
and Kaka

These are New Zealand's first bird stamps, one of the few examples from any country to appear before 1900. They are part of the first pictorial set of 13 values recess printed, all except one value in monochrome. There are several reprints in various shades, overprints 'O.P.S.O.' and 'Official'; also copies exist imperforate between pairs. In 1907 they were reproduced in a slightly smaller size.

A reprint brought out in 1902 was overprinted in 1903 for the Pacific Islands of Aitutaki, Niue and Penrhyn, then under New Zealand control. The overprinting included the value in local dialect which gave rise to some printing errors.

The Huia was a member of the Wattlebird family, one of those exclusive to New Zealand. The wattles are fleshy appendages which hang down from the base of the bill. It was a large bird about 18 inches long, all black except for a white tip to the tail and orange wattles. It has not been sighted since 1907 so has the doubtful distinction of being the only bird species to have become extinct after appearing on stamps.

Some species which were common in New Zealand when the first white settlers arrived are now rare and a few have disappeared for ever. This is mainly due to the destruction of their natural habitat. For instance, in the 18th Century some 70% of the country was covered by forest but this is now reduced to less than 20%. Not surprisingly the birds that have been the longest in the country have experienced most difficulty in adapting to the changes wrought by man. And birds on islands are naturally more vulnerable to Man's activities than those on large continental land masses. Consequently the present status of several New Zealand species is extremely critical.

Kiwis range in size from bantam to large domestic hen and the three species, Brown (or Common), Little Spotted and Great Spotted constitute another family peculiar to New Zealand. The Kiwi is the national symbol and its unusual profile is well known on this account although few people have seen one outside of a zoo because they are flightless, shy and nocturnal. There are four geographic types of the Brown Kiwi, two in North Island, one in South Island and one in Stewart Island. It is not clear which form appears on the stamps.

The Kea and Kaka are closely related and form a family of parrots restricted to New Zealand where they have evolved in isolation for so long that their relationship to other parrots is now problematical. They are not so brightly coloured like most parrots being mainly a dull olive-brown.

Keas inhabit the mountainous areas of South Island and are well known as they are unafraid of people and have become a tourist attraction. Like several New Zealand birds they were named by the Maoris after their calls which are harsh, strident and carry miles on a still day.

There are two forms of the Kaka, one each in North and South Islands, the latter being more brightly coloured. They are not so tame as Keas and, therefore, not so well known although at Kapiti Island bird sanctuary near Wellington they will take food from the hand.

The portrait of the Kea and Kaka is based on that of J.E. Keulemans, the master Dutch bird artist, in 'The Birds of New Zealand', by W.L. Buller, first published in 1888. This was the first time the work of an expert bird painter was used for a stamp design.

1st May, 1935.



½d. Collared
Grey Fantail



1d. Brown Kiwi



1/- Tui

These are part of a definitive issue of 14 values, and are recess printed in monochrome.

There are two sub-species of the Collared Grey Fantail, one in North Island, the other in the South, but it is not clear which one is illustrated. It is a small, common bird of the hedgerows but tame and inquisitive enough to visit suburban gardens where it can be seen performing its wild, erratic chases after flying insects.

The Kiwi design is more stylised and less realistic than that of the 1898 issue.

One of New Zealand's best singers, the Tui makes up a group of three Honeyeaters endemic to the country; the other two are the Bell Bird and Stitchbird (see below). Honeyeaters are a large group of over 170 species so called because of their preference for flower nectar.

About one foot in length the Tui has dark plumage with iridescent shades of green, purple, blue and bronze. It has two tufts of white

curled feathers under the throat and a lace like collar resembling those worn by old churchmen, earning it the alternative name of Parson Bird. The white tufts can be seen in the stamp portrait. It is one of the more obvious birds in the countryside, usually seen high in tall trees but more likely to be heard at first because of its distinctive piping, soprano song interspersed with harsh notes.

The Fantail design was used for a pre-printed wrapper and postcard (1935) and for pre-printed postcards (1936) and (1940 1d.). The Kiwi design was used for a pre-printed wrapper and lettercard first issued in 1935.

16th January, 1956. Southland Centennial - 8d. Takahe.



For 50 years this flightless member of the Rail family was thought to have been extinct, until in 1948 a few pairs were found in a remote and secluded valley in the Murchison mountains of the South Island. They are now strictly preserved but attempts to increase the stock by captive breeding have failed due to the high rate of infertility.

Takahe is a Maori name; the alternative name also given on the stamp, Notornis, used to be the first part of the scientific name now replaced by Porphyrio putting the Takahe in the same group as the widespread Purple Swamphen.

3rd November, 1958. Centennial of Hawkes Bay Province - 3d. Australian Gannet.



Closely related to the European Northern Gannet, this southern member of the family breeds widely in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. Cape Kidnappers is the site of a famous breeding colony with upwards of 20,000 pairs every year. A corner of the colony is shown in the stamp design. A feeding Australian Gannet is a fine sight of nature, diving into the sea from a height of 20 metres or more to capture fish up to 10 metres below the surface.

5th January, 1959. Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree - 3d. Brown Kiwi.



The design is stylised, similar to that of 1935.

16th June, 1959 - Health Stamps - 2d. + 1d. - Grey Teal;
3d. + 1d. - New Zealand Stilt.



The annual series of Health Stamps includes ten featuring birds of which this is the first.

The sub-species of Grey Teal in New Zealand was self introduced from Australia and is steadily increasing its range mainly on fresh water but also around marine islets.

The New Zealand Stilt is conspicuous with its black and white plumage and long, bright pink legs. These enable it to feed in deeper water than other wading birds with which it associates.

This stamp gave rise to two rarities - one with no legs owing to the omission of the pink printing and the other with the legs shifted to the left.

The Maori names are given on both stamps; Tete for the Teal and Poaka for the Stilt.

10th August, 1960 - Health Stamps - 2d. + 1d. - Sacred Kingfisher;
3d. + 1d. - New Zealand Pigeon.



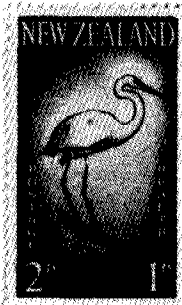
The colouring of the stamp portrait, sepia and turquoise blue, does not do justice to the Sacred Kingfisher which has a bright blue-green back and buff-white breast. It looks like a small brightly coloured version of its better known relative, the Laughing Kookaburra of Australia which has become established in New Zealand from introduced stock. The stamp portrait with its sombre colouring could well be taken for a Kookaburra.

The name Sacred came from some Pacific Islands where it used to be venerated by the inhabitants and was the subject of religious ceremonies. It is aggressive in the breeding season when it will attack other birds, dogs and even people.

The New Zealand Pigeon is the only resident native member of the family. It is larger than the European Wood Pigeon, beautifully coloured, green and dark purple above with snow white underparts below the breast. Although the stamp portrait is not in natural colours the white area shows up well. Due to protection it has become more common in recent years and may now be seen in gardens

and cultivated areas.

2nd August, 1961 - Health Stamps - 2d. + 1d. - Great Egret;
3d. + 1d. - New Zealand Falcon.



An elegant pure white heron standing nearly three feet high, the Great Egret is unlikely to be mistaken for any other bird. After breeding near Okarito they disperse throughout the country to favoured lakes and estuaries. The stamp portrait shows the typical S shape of the neck.

The New Zealand Falcon is one of only two species of hawk found in New Zealand (the other is the Australian Harrier. It is a typical falcon though having shorter wings than most. It occurs throughout the country but is more common in the south. Inscribed on the stamp is the Maori name for it, Karearea, sometimes spelt Karewarewa.

3rd October, 1962 - Health Stamps - 2d. + 1d. Red-fronted Parakeet;
3d. + 1d. Saddleback.



These were the first bird stamps printed in natural colours and, compared with previous issues, the gain in realism is obvious. On the other hand some of the earlier monochrome designs are very elegant and, some would say, more attractive as examples of the stamp makers art than many of the later multi-coloured products.

The red-fronted Parakeet probably had the same ancestors as the Rosellas of Australia. Two species of Rosella, the Crimson and Eastern, have been introduced into New Zealand and are now more likely to be seen there than the Red-fronted Parakeet. It is a forest bird, but, unusually for a parrot, will search for food on the ground by scratching in leaf litter.

The Saddleback, another member of the wattlebird family, is in danger of following the Huia into extinction. Some success in increasing their numbers has been obtained by transferring breeding stocks to vermin free islands. There are now several viable, independent populations closely watched over by the conservation authorities.

About the size of a European Blackbird, the Saddleback has orange coloured wattles. These are missing from the stamp portrait but the broad chestnut coloured back band from which it is named can be seen clearly enough. The stamp is inscribed with the Maori name Tieke which is based on the sound of one of its calls.

5th August, 1964 - Health Stamps - 2½d. + 1d. - Silver Gull;
3d. + 1d. - Little Penguin.



Of the three New Zealand gulls (the others are Buller's and the Southern Black-backed) the Silver, or Red-billed, is the one most likely to be seen scavenging around towns. They have profited from man's activities, e.g. rubbish tips are a valuable source of food.

The Little Penguin, often called Fairy or Little Blue, at around 18 inches high, is the smallest of the 18 members of the family. There are four sub-species in New Zealand and the South Island race, coloured the darkest blue, is probably the one portrayed on the stamp. They can be found all around the coasts where they nest in burrows up to a mile inland.

4th August, 1965 - Health Stamps - 3d. + 1d. - Kaka;
4d. + 1d. - Collared Grey Fantail.



Although the portraits are in full colour the Kaka, shown in flight, lacks the bright red colouring prominent under the wings.

As well as the typical pied form of the Fantail there is a black phase commonest in the South Island. This form is shown on the stamp, a portrait of a male similar to that by Chloe Talbot Kelly in the 'Handguide to the Birds of New Zealand'. The Maori name, Piwakawaka, based on its vigorous song, is inscribed on the stamp.

3rd August, 1966 - Health Stamps - 3d. + 1d. - Bell Bird;
4d. + 1d. - Weka Rail.

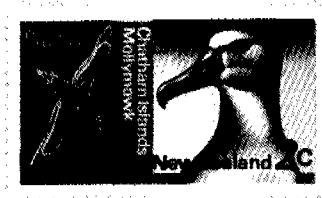
The clear bell like notes of the Bell Bird can usually be heard above all other birds singing at the time. They are common and can be seen in parks and gardens feeding on flower nectar.

The Weka is a flightless Rail endemic to New Zealand. The population has fluctuated greatly in recent times but they have long been familiar around Gisborne in the North Island even coming into suburban gardens to feed and breed. They will eat almost



anything and have a magpie like tendency to carry off bright objects.

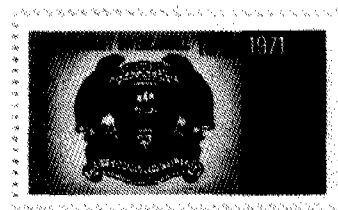
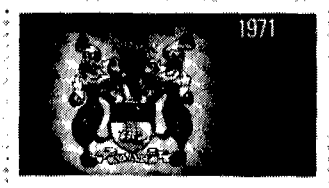
2nd December, 1970 - Chatham Islands - 2 cent Shy Albatross.



This is the only New Zealand bird stamp which gives the scientific name - that of the sub-species of the Shy Albatross which breeds on the Chatham Islands. The use of the scientific name is often an aid to identification and essential when, as with many New Zealand birds, there are different sub-species living in the North and South and in the outlying islands. The name Mollyhawk inscribed on the stamp is commonly used for the smaller species of Albatrosses and for other seabirds such as Shearwaters.

The Chatham Island race of the Shy Albatross is alone in having a rich yellow bill and this is prominent in the stamp portrait which consists of a head in colour and a silhouette of a bird in flight.

12th May, 1971 - City Centenaries - 4 cent Brown Kiwi;
5 cent Takahe.



Both birds appear as Supporters in the Coats of Arms of Auckland, 4 cent, and Invercargill, 5 cent. Although the designs are stylised the birds are instantly recognisable.

1st February, 1984 - Antarctic Biology Research -
40 cent - Adelie Penguin.



New Zealand is engaged in scientific research in the Antarctic and this stamp shows scientists in the region with a colony of

Adelies in the background. The Adelie Penguin lives in the deep Antarctic and does not occur in New Zealand, even as a rare vagrant.

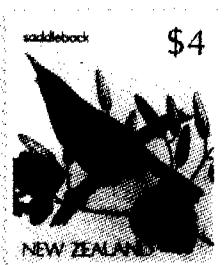
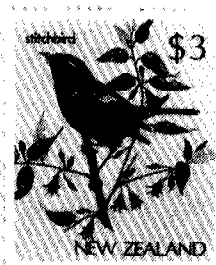
24th April, 1985 - Endangered Birds - \$1-00 - Kokako;
\$2-00 - Chatham Island Robin.



The Kokako is another member of the Wattlebird family peculiar to New Zealand. Larger than a European Jackdaw it is sometimes known as the Wattled Crow. There are two sub-species, one on North Island with blue wattles; the other on South Island with orange wattles has been seen only rarely in recent years and may now be extinct. The portrait by Janet Marshall, the well known bird artist, shows a bird with blue wattles.

The total world population of the Chatham Island Robin has stood at less than twenty for many years. They live in some scrub on Little Mangere, the only island in the Chatham group which is free from cats. It is hoped to establish a second population in another island which would be an insurance against some disaster, natural or man-made, wiping out the birds on Mangere.

23rd April, 1986 - Endangered Birds - \$3-00 - Stitchbird;
\$4-00 - Saddleback.

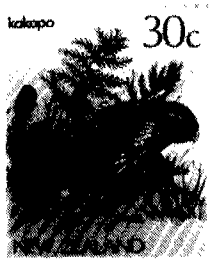


The Stitchbird once occupied much of the North Island but is now confined to Little Barrier Island where it is thriving. The colouring of both sexes is sombre - the male, pictured on the stamp, is mostly olive-brown with yellow markings and some black around the head; the female is duller without the black and yellow. The name is derived from the call note which is an explosive, metallic sound rather like the snip of a pair of scissors.

The sub-species of the Saddleback that live respectively in the North and the South Islands differ little in appearance. The stamp portrait shows a bird with a narrow band of lighter colouring at the upper edge of the saddle which suggests that a North Island bird was the model.

1st May, 1986 - 30 cent Kakapo; 45 cent - New Zealand Falcon.

Not to be confused with the Kokako or Kaka, the Kakapo is a



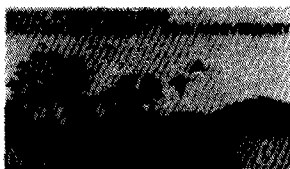
parrot peculiar to New Zealand. Unlike most parrots which are noisy, diurnal and arboreal, the Owl Parrot, as it is often called, is silent, nocturnal and ground dwelling.

During the first half of the century numbers declined rapidly and today with only about 50 surviving it is one of New Zealand's most threatened birds. It is now confined to three areas - Stewart Island, the Doubtful Sound region of Fiordland and Little Barrier Island in the Hauraki Gulf where the Wildlife Service has established a small colony. As one of the oldest native species it has a high priority with the Wildlife Service.

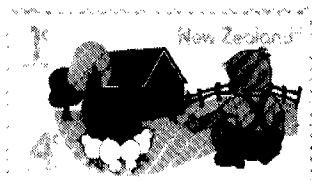
The portrait of the New Zealand Falcon, showing the typical falcon colouring, is a great improvement on the 1961 version. Both designs are by Janet Marshall.

In addition to the stamps featuring native wild birds there are several issues on the ornithological fringe illustrating domestic and stylised birds as follows:-

7th February, 1973 - Commemorative - 50th Anniversary of Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society - 6 cent Birds, Lake and Forest.



6th August, 1975 - Health Stamps - 4c + 1c - Boy with Hen and Chicks;
5c + 1c - Boy with Duck and Duckling.



4th August, 1976 - Health Stamp - 10c + 1c - Girls looking at bird on nest.

The design is stylised but the bird has a speckled breast and could be a European Song Thrush, a species that has been artificially introduced into New Zealand where it has flourished and is now widespread.

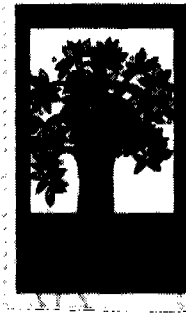
3rd August, 1977 - Health Stamp - 7c + 2c - Girl with Pigeon - stylised design.



1976 Health



1977 Health



1977 Christmas

5th October, 1977 - Christmas - 23c - Partridge.

The design shows a partridge in a pear tree referring to the carol 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. New Zealand has no native partridge and the one portrayed is stylised.

Altogether the stamps provide an attractive and representative sample of New Zealand's birds. They are flawed by the omission, in every issue but one, of scientific names. Another criticism, less serious, can be made about the choice of the same species more than once. Within a limited number of issues it would seem desirable to show as many different species as possible. However they do draw attention to some of the species in danger of extinction and to those exclusive to the country. They would certainly be a significant component of a collection of bird stamps from the Australasian/Pacific region.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT TWO PENNY VALUE

DESIGN WITH V.R.

ALLAN P. BERRY



Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 483, states that "there were no constant printing flaws on this stamp, but that wearing of some of the electros became apparent in later printings. The most noticeable instance of the result of wear consisted of a crack that can be seen as a white line in the top right-hand corner, through the letter 'Z'."

An example of this flaw can be seen in the illustration. The stamp can be plated as Row 1, stamp 6 of one of the four panes that made up the printed sheet from the fact that copies may be found showing a line watermark at the top and the right-hand side of the stamp, as viewed from the front.

I question the statement that this flaw is due to plate wear. Close examination shows that it consists of a white patch that cuts the frame lines below the letter 'Z', with a white line that extends up through the letter 'Z'. This suggests that the flaw is more likely to be due to damage to the plate by an instrument, very similar to the well-known screwdriver flaw on the later printings of the Penny Value of the Queen Victoria Second Sideface definitives. Further, if it were to be shown that the pane from

which this stamp comes is the top right-hand one, it would be very close to the location of a fixing point used to attach the plate to the printing press.

I have in my collection copies of this stamp from the printings on 7 mm watermark paper, perf. both 10 and 11 (C.P. X3c and X3d). I have not seen copies on the 4 mm paper, perf. 12 x 11½ (C.P. X3a), or on the 7 mm paper, perf. 12 x 11½ (C.P. X3b). Nor have I seen copies on the Cowan unsurfaced paper with sideways watermark, perf. 11 (C.P. X3g).

I suggest that the flaw is not to be found on the two earlier printings. Failure to find it on the last printings may suggest that the damaged electro was removed and replaced.

I would very much appreciate it if members would check their collections for copies of this stamp showing the flaw. I would be particularly interested if anyone can show me an example on either of the two early printings, or on the last printing. If anyone can confirm which pane the stamp comes from in the printed sheet, this would be even more useful. Comments to the Editor, please.

BLUE WATER CLASSICS STAMP ISSUE.

New Zealand yachting has captured the attention and admiration of the world with an audacious attempt to wrest the America's Cup from the holders, Australia. Now the New Zealand Post Office is to release a set of stamps paying tribute to New Zealand participation in various yachting classics.

Four "Blue Water Classics" stamps were released on 2nd February. Designer Rod Proud has captured action from the Southern Cross Cup (40c), the Admiral's Cup (80c), the Kenwood Cup (\$1-05) and the America's Cup (\$1-30).

Living in an island nation totally surrounded by vast expanses of ocean, New Zealanders have always enjoyed an affinity with the sea. The origin of sailing as a sport, however, is usually dated from 1841 when a regatta was held on Wellington harbour to celebrate the first year of the settlement.

Auckland, which today is the largest yachting centre in New Zealand, did not hold its first regatta until 1850. Such was the following of the sport, though, that by the turn of the century New Zealand yacht design, construction and sailing skills were already recognised as among the best in the world.

While the skills to compete in international yachting events have never been lacking, New Zealand sportsmen and women have often suffered as a result of their geographical isolation from the centres of world competition. Until 1956 the bulk of international yachting competition took place with Australia, but success in the Melbourne Olympic Games that year widened the horizons for many New Zealand yachties. This in turn led to rapid growth in the number of boats and laid the foundations for the many international yachting successes of recent years.

New Zealand yachts have competed with distinction in all the competitions featured in the "Blue Water Classics" stamp issue.

The Southern Cross Cup (40c) is an annual event raced out of Sydney, Australia, which includes the challenging Sydney to Hobart race. The Admiral's Cup competition (80c) takes place every two years off Cowes in England and culminates in the Fastnet race. It

will next be held in August, 1987. The Kenwood Cup (\$1-05), formerly known as the Clipper Cup, is also held every two years, but in the waters off Hawaii, New Zealand is the current holder.

Now all attention is focused on Freemantle and the America's Cup (\$1-30). Can New Zealand win through against all odds in the toughest and most famous yachting competition of all? The answer will be known in February, 1987.

The "Blue Water Classics" stamp issue was printed by Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd. in Melbourne, Australia, using lithography.

A New Zealand Post Office Feature Article.

AN ITEM OF 'MILITARY' POSTAL STATIONERY.

R.M.STARTUP

The reply cards illustrated in 'The Kiwi', Volume 35, page 98, September, 1986, were enclosed, I think, in New Zealand 'food' parcels prepared by various women's groups. I was a schoolboy in the 1940's and remember well the local Women's Institute meeting at our home on the farm in Taranaki. I suspect that they had regular meetings in their homes on a rotational basis. With funds raised from dances, card evenings, and so forth, tinned foods, tobacco, chocolate and clothing was gathered and packed for the men of the District who were serving overseas. I should think that these cards were enclosed with the parcels to indicate where they came from. The parcels were wrapped in calico and sewn closed. I guess most of the postage on them would have been lost after arrival overseas!

Editor's Note - Not so! Also as a schoolboy in the 1940's, I can remember such parcels arriving from family in New Zealand. Not only were the stamps saved from the parcels for my then collection, but the calico was also carefully unstitched for use again!

FIELD POST OFFICE 110.

E.W.LEPPARD

Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 380, lists two Field Post Office Numbers used by New Zealand Forces during the Second World War. Both were in Egypt and operated through the British Army Postal Service. The cover illustrated on page 23 dated 10th August, 1943, shows an unusual routing for a cover from the New Zealand Forces.

Field Post Office 110 was issued to 11th Line of Communication Postal Unit. From 9th November, 1942, to 27th May, 1944, this was attached to the British First Army in North Africa, which landed at Algiers in November, 1942.

After the Mareth Line attack the New Zealand Second Division with the Eighth Army linked up with the First Army in Tunisia, and after May, 1943, mail to the United Kingdom was routed through Algiers via the First Army Postal Unit. Until then, the normal route was via Tripoli back to Cairo, and usually New Zealand mail continued on this route.

Covers from Tunisia after the Mareth Line period seem particularly scarce, as the New Zealand Second Division soon returned back to Egypt to prepare for the Italian Campaign.

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