



The Kiwi



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

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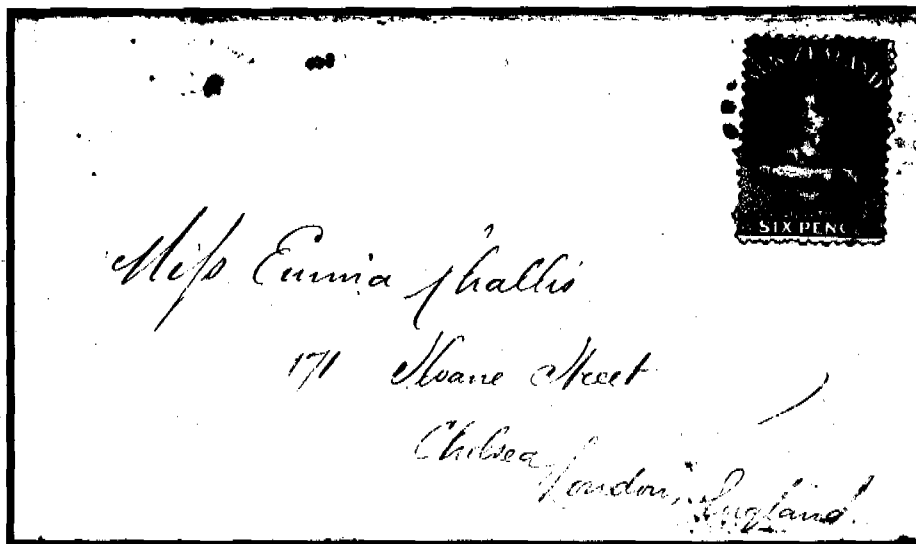
WHOLE 205

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1987,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

BRIAN PRATT WILL LEAD A MEETING DEVOTED TO THE
PENNY UNIVERSAL AND RELATED MATERIAL.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE ANYTHING TO CONTRIBUTE ARE ASKED TO BRING IT
TO THE MEETING.

THE THAMES GOLD DIGGINGS - 'A OVER 3' OF GOLDFIELDS ORIGINS.



SEE PAGE 85

EDITORIAL.

One of the regular features that appears in each issue of 'The Kiwi' are the Meeting Reports so carefully prepared by our Member Ernie Leppard. That these are of great interest is clear from the letters to the Editor, commenting on these reports.

However, it is a matter of concern to the Officers and Committee of the Society that the number of Members attending is so low. We all appreciate the difficulty and expense of travel that faces us all, but additional support is needed to ensure that the quality can be maintained.

Such displays require a great deal of time to prepare, and to write the commentary given. It is unrewarding to the speaker if the audience is so small.

So, please do make an effort to support this aspect of the Society's activities. You will find it a rewarding experience in a very friendly atmosphere.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome (back)

J.S.Fenemore, 75, Littledale Road, Wallasey, L44 8EF.

LAPSED

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

DECEASED

John D. Evans, Flint Cottage, 38, Sea Lane,
Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex, PO22 7RX.
Ernest Peterkin, Tudor House, 6, Park Crescent,
West Park, Wolverhampton, WV1 4PY.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A.H.Baker, 2, Leighton Way, Avenue Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 7QZ.
(previously of Long Ditton.)

A.M.Leverton, Temple Bar Auctions Ltd., Westway House,
Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 9HF.
(previously of 128, Popes Lane, Ealing.)

A.J.Stringer, 'Haycerne', Corton Denham,
Nr. Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4LR.
(previously of Bourton, Dorset.)

G.Wragg, 21, Beresford Road, Chapel-en-le-Frith,
Stockport, Cheshire.
(previously of Ashbourne Lane, Chapel-en-le-Frith.)

MEETING HELD 25TH JULY, 1987.

POSTAL STATIONERY POSTCARDS - WALLY JACKSON

John Smith, our Chairman, opened the Meeting at 2.30 p.m. The sad news of the death of our Vice-President, John D. Evans, was announced, and the eighteen members present stood in a minute's silence in his memory.

Wally Jackson was then introduced to show the third instalment of his collection of New Zealand Postal Stationery, this time the subject being Postal Stationery Postcards.

The first issue was made on 1st November, 1876, with a Queen Victoria design for inland use. Mint and used examples were shown,

with a similar design printed on gummed paper that might have been a wrapper for a bundle of these cards. The issues of 1881, 1885 and 1886 followed, differing only by the design of the border ornament. Two examples of the rare 1886 format with capital letters were shown, similar to the Reply portion of the Reply Paid Cards. This was only discovered in 1910, and so far only nine have been recorded. The cream cards of 1888 were followed by the 1890 card for use both inland and to Australia, with the printing changed to blue, and on either buff, cream or white card.

The 1897 Scenic Views Card were shown, with values of 1d. and 1½d. which were sold for the first eleven months at a surcharge over the face value. The set of ten Pictorial Cards issued in September, 1899, with views in the bottom left hand corner came next, followed by the sixteen Boer War cards issued in 1900. The full set printed on yellow and pale buff card were shown, as well as examples on the rare deep buff card.

In September, 1901, a further set printed Carte Postale to comply with the Universal Postal Union regulations was issued, in three shades and with ten views. The 1903 King Edward VII cards showed a reduction of the postage rate to ½d., and there were die proofs of the imprint stamp, and examples of the very rare ½d. and 1d. Auckland Exhibition Postcards, on the reverse of which there were apparently at least twenty different views of Auckland.

The full range of King George V Postcards were on show, with the many changes of postal rates resulting in many provisional issues. Die proofs of both the Bock and Perkins Bacon dies were shown. The highlights of this section were the mint example of the ½d. overprint on 1d. Dominion, and the only recorded used example, sent over from America especially for this display.

The second half of the display started with the ½d. Fantail, and Essays of the King Edward VIII dies of the head and the crown. In 1939, the first issue of King George VI was for a ½d. rate, and a used example of this card was from the Pacific Clipper flight. The full range of the postcards of this reign were shown, with various alterations of rates shown by the surcharges added. Wally admitted that he had not quite the enthusiasm for the issues of Queen Elizabeth II, but he still managed to show the full range up to the time Postal Stationery Postcards ceased to be issued, including all the provisionals and altered designs of the imprint.

The display concluded with Printed Matter Cards, Philatelic Cards and the Austin Walsh Postcards. Finally, examples of private printed postcards were shown, only six Companies ever having availed themselves of this facility.

In closing the Meeting at 5.00 p.m., John Smith proposed the vote of thanks, commenting on the quite remarkable depth of quality and quantity that had won for these displays Gold Medals at various International Exhibitions. He thanked Wally for one of the foremost displays of Postal Stationery over three Meetings for which the Society was immensely grateful.

E.W.L.

+ JOHN DUDLEY EVANS +

It was with profound sorrow that I learned of the passing of our Vice-President, John D. Evans. He shared my husband's and my love

of the New Zealand Chalon Heads and together we spent happy hours discussing various problems as they arose. John brought to his stamp collecting the same meticulous care and attention to detail which characterised his professional skill as a solicitor. His background knowledge was profound and I believe that he knew the early Volumes of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand almost by heart.

To me, his most satisfying achievement was in proving the invalidity of the so-called 3d. Pelure, S.G. 84, two copies of which were reputed to exist. In the course of time John was able to locate and acquire one of the copies which, when immersed in water, fell to pieces in his hands. John recounted this incident fully in the pages of 'The Kiwi' at the time.

He made other notable contributions to our hobby. His articles on philately were authoratative and those in lighter vein both highly readable and instructive. His interest in the Annual Society Competitions was unfailing and it is sad that this year, when one of his suggestions was being tried out, he was prevented by illness from attending.

We have lost a trusted friend and companion, one who we shall always remember with affection and respect. To me, personally, this is yet another gap in my life which cannot be filled.

G.L.K.

In this issue of 'The Kiwi' there is published an article that was written by John D. Evans shortly before he was struck down by illness. Your Editor still holds yet another article which will appear in a future issue. These will be published in due course in memory of a great friend of the Society. His contributions to 'The Kiwi', recognised by the Award of Merit from the Federation of New Zealand Philatelic Societies, will be sadly missed.

A.P.B.

ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION

This will be held on Kiwi Day, Saturday, 28th November, 1987. Members who wish to place items in the auction should note the following instructions.

A list of your lots, typewritten or in block letters please, should be sent to

Ian G. Fogg, 42, Oxford Road South, London, W4 3DH

to reach me before 30th September, 1987, so that the catalogue can be published in time for distribution with the November issue of 'The Kiwi'.

Please state your estimate of the market value and reserve for each lot. This is a must. If you have no reserve, please say so. Also, please describe each lot briefly, e.g. UM = unmounted Mint; MM = mounted mint; MHH = mint heavy hinge; FU = fine used; U = used. If used, state what the postmark is like, quality of perforations, etc. Lots may be sent with your list, but in any case must be in my hands prior to the auction. Maximum number of lots from one member is forty. All lots to be mounted and carded ready for display. A space about one inch square should be left at the bottom right hand corner for the insertion of the lot number. Lots handed in on the day of the auction should have the lot

numbers clearly shown. Estimates for individual lots should be for not less than £4-00. Commission is 10% of sales, and all postage, poundage, insurance, etc. is payable by the vendor. Lots which comprise of periodicals, books, boxes of stamps or other bulky items cannot be accepted unless the vendor undertakes to deliver and collect from the auction room, or, if sold, deliver to the purchaser direct.

APPEAL

Each year it has been the practice of many generous members to offer items, both philatelic and general, to be auctioned on behalf of society funds. This is much appreciated. Do please see what you have surplus to your requirements. No matter what it is, we will be delighted to receive it, preferably by 30th September, so that it can be included in the catalogue, otherwise any time up to 2.00 p.m. on Kiwi Day.

DISPLAYS TO LOCAL SOCIETIES

T.D.Latto will be giving a display of New Zealand Health Camp History and Health First Day Covers to the Southport Philatelic Society on Tuesday, 29th September, 1987. This Society meets at the Birkdale Branch Library, Liverpool Road, Southport, and the meetings start at 7.30 p.m.

C.R.P.Goodwin will be giving a display of New Zealand stamps to the Haywards Heath and District Philatelic Society on Tuesday, 8th December, 1987. This Society meets at the Age Concern Day Centre, Clair Hall, Haywards Heath, and the meetings start at 7.30 p.m.

All members of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain are invited to attend.

THE AIR MAIL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

There have been many queries addressed to your Editor concerning Volume Two of the Air Mails of New Zealand. In a recent letter, the Honorary Secretary of the Air Mail Society of New Zealand states that all orders placed before the book was published have now been despatched. Due to circumstances beyond his control, the order in which the books were sent out is not that in which they were received in New Zealand. Thus it may be that some members may have had to wait until the end of August, 1987, for the book to arrive by sea mail.

All outstanding orders having now been despatched, new orders are now being handled. The price for Volume Two is now NZ\$60-00, sent by insured sea mail. We are also advised that the reprint of Volume One is also available, at a cost of NZ\$28-00, sent by insured sea mail. If anyone wants both books, the price is NZ\$84-00, also sent by insured sea mail.

Please write to the Honorary Secretary of the Air Mail Society of New Zealand, Alan Tunnicliffe. The address is:-

P.O.Box 29144, Fendalton, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Should any member still consider that a copy ordered has not been despatched, will they please write to Alan Tunnicliffe direct.

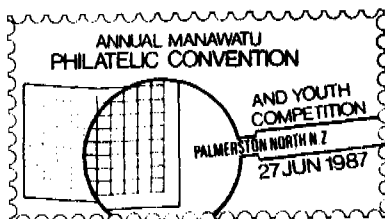
SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INLAND MAIL
SERVICE CONTRACTORS SOCIETY INC.



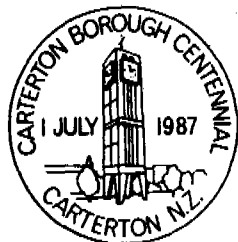
A special pictorial date stamp was used at Palmerston North on Saturday, 30th May, 1987, to commemorate the 21st Anniversary of the Inland Mail Service Contractors Society Inc.

ANNUAL MANAWATU PHILATELIC CONVENTION AND CONGRESS



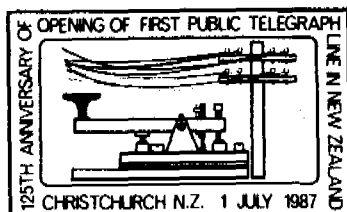
A special pictorial date stamp was used at Palmerston North on Saturday, 27th June, 1987, to commemorate the Annual Manawatu Philatelic Convention and Congress.

CARTERTON BOROUGH CENTENNIAL



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Carterton on Wednesday, 1st July, 1987, to commemorate the Carterton Borough Centennial.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE FIRST PUBLIC
TELEGRAPH LINE IN NEW ZEALAND



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Christchurch on Wednesday, 1st July, 1987, to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Opening of the First Public Telegraph Line in New Zealand.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Taupo on Thursday, 2nd July, 1987, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association.

On 1st April, 1987, the New Zealand Post Office, New Zealand's largest Government Department, was divided into three separate State Owned Enterprises or Corporations. The telephone, telegraph, and datatel services became Telecom Corporation of New Zealand, or Telecom. The Post Office Savings Bank and Money Order Services became Postbank, and the postal, agency services, motor registration, electoral roll services, became New Zealand Post Ltd., commonly New Zealand Post.

These major changes have had little if any impact on philatelic services - the Philatelic Bureau continues to provide its fine service from Wanganui, while Wellington Philatelic Marketing have indicated that they intend to maintain the same high standards as in the past. For 'Vesting Day', 1st April, apart from the issue of two 40 cent stamps (the inland standard letter rate), individual members of the public (not business firms) were permitted to send private letters at 1 cent each!

In the administration of New Zealand Post the major impact has been in New Zealand Post Headquarters where steps to delegate authority to the regions and districts has reduced a need for a substantial staff. The former New Zealand Post Office Museum, primarily an artifact storage area but with some important collections, is now the Telecom Museum with most of the postal historical archives that survive from the 1887 and 1961 fires being sent to the Museum. Historical material relating to postage stamp production remains with the Philatelic Section.

The country is now administered through four regions, Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch, with below them a total of 14 instead of 23 postal districts. A new level of administration below districts, that of area post office, has also been introduced with a total of 72 areas being established, each being responsible for between 10 and 30 staff and agency post offices.

The Area Managers have been given a considerable measure of authority and this has already been evidenced by the way mails within such areas are being handled. In urban areas mail posted at urban staff offices is machine-postmarked at those offices, with mail posted through street posting boxes being cleared to the central mailroom for processing. In New Plymouth all mail posted at either urban offices or in street boxes is now 'strip cleared' to the New Plymouth Area Post Office mailroom for processing. This may have relieved pressure on staff at some offices and no doubt may overall speed-up processing of mail, but it has also meant that the postmarking machines at Bell Block, Fitzroy and New Plymouth East have been withdrawn while the new machine for Moturoa did not even get used! Postmark collectors may now have problems in getting philatelic covers hand datestamped at post offices within such areas.

The major post offices in the country were already 'branched', in that the postal counter and mailroom, the Savings Bank, and Telecommunications operated as semi-independent branches, sharing common facilities such as cafeteria and cloaks. The change to these has simply meant different stationery and different logos. With smaller staffed offices in both urban and rural areas the change

has been more marked.

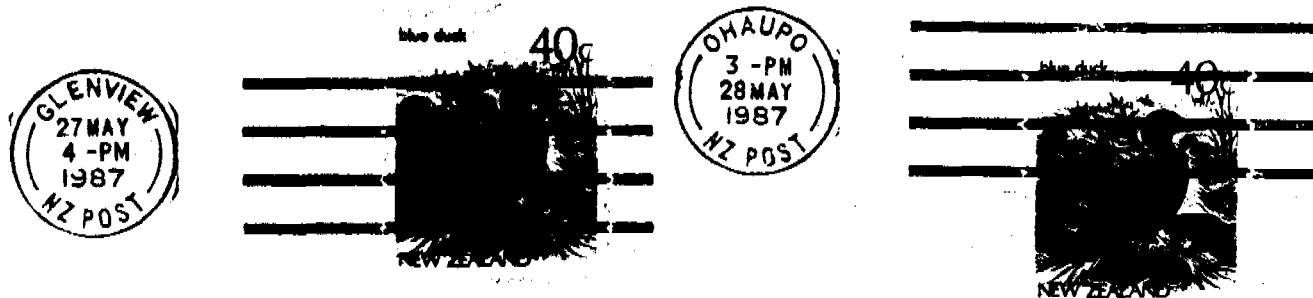
a) The counter has been physically divided into two with one side staffed by Postbank people and the other by New Zealand Post people, and neither helping each other out at rush periods, as used to be done in the past.

b) This has been extended to the lobby and behind counter areas being fully partitioned off.

c) There has been no change, savings bank work continuing by New Zealand Post people working as an 'agency' for Postbank.

In two instances former Post Office buildings have been taken over by Postbank and the postal side downgraded and moved as an agency to nearby bookstores. In other areas Postbank is arranging to take over separate premises of their own.

A start was made last year to remove all telecom and savings bank slogans from postmarking machines - a survey of the 320 plus machines in use in April, 1987, showed that non-postal slogans remained only on about a dozen machines. With over 1,300 post offices open it has been decreed that there is to be no wholesale replacement of postal datestamps but the first new office to open since Vesting Day, Papamoa Domain (Tauranga area) on 6th April, has N.Z.POST around the foot of the circle instead of the usual letters N.Z. New postmarking machines were installed for the first time at Glenview, Oamaru North and Ohaupo in May, and the towndies on these machines each have N.Z.POST instead of N.Z. See illustrations below.



Rubber datestamps used on registration receipts and other documents on postal counters remain largely untouched although enterprising Managers (who were the former postmasters) have taken a razor and cut MASTER off their datestamps so they read POST, then the office name. Major offices can have half a dozen or so different datestamps on their counters for different tellers, these being a mixture of steel-faced datestamps and rubber-faced stamps, inscribed simply with office name or special purpose REGISTRATION, PARCELS, STAMPS and so on. Masterton, New Plymouth, and some other offices have replaced all these with a new set of rubber-face datestamps with office name / N.Z.POST.

Post Office stationery - that is, the postage stamp envelopes - remain untouched, but departmental stationery, such as envelopes used by New Zealand Post to customers, has certainly been touched though old stock is being 'used up' in the meantime, some with OFFICE of POST OFFICE removed by felt-tip pen, and even the Crown off the old logo. But new envelopes have the new logo and NZ POST PAID showing. New Zealand Post Headquarters started with a large oblong frank stamp on their mail but in May this was replaced with the more standard circular frank. Only one local office frank stamp

change has been noted; the OFFICIAL PAID CHIEF POST OFFICE MASTERTON stamp now shows AREA MASTERTON.

New Zealand Post now has to pay Telecom for the rental of their telephone services which were previously 'free' so it is assumed that postal phone usage has dropped substantially - I doubt whether I will get enquiries in future from Scott Base or Chatham Island! On the other hand, Telecom and Postbank have to pay postage, previously free, on their mail. Telecom have bought Pitney Bowes postage meters for its larger offices and their imprints may be found on telegram delivery envelopes. Postbank bought Frama meters for their offices.

Postage used to be free to and from Ministers of the Crown and Members of Parliament, but now Parliamentary Services must make an annual payment to New Zealand Post. Letters from Ministers of the Crown still remain rubber stamped 'Official Paid Minister of

but at least two Ministerial Offices are using a Neopost postage meter converted simply to count articles and not showing any specific postage rate - their use could spread.

In the sort out in Headquarters, Telecom found two standard Pitney Bowes postage meters which had been issued some years ago to two post offices for use as counter parcel-label issuing machines. New dies with the 'TELECOM' logo prominent were fitted and these are now being used to pay postage on outward mail from Telecom Headquarters.

This 'interim' period as the new Corporation settles down is most interesting and no doubt there will be further fascinating items coming to light.

THE THAMES GOLD DIGGINGS - 'A OVER 3' OF GOLDFIELDS ORIGINS.

JOHN D. EVANS

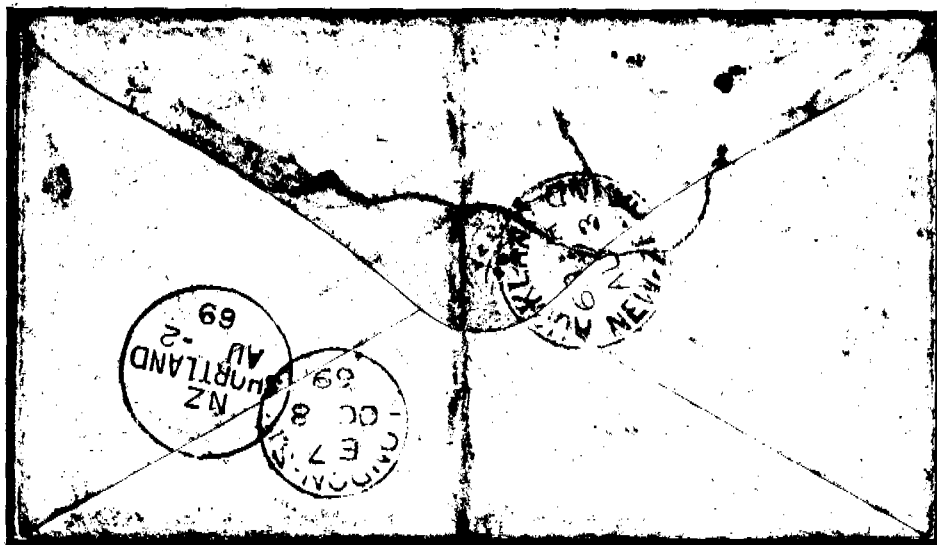
Last May, looking through an Auction Catalogue, I came across a cover described as "1869 Cover to England franked 6d. perf. adhesive barred oval - age stains". Removing catalogue abbreviations makes the description easier to read. The 1869 date made me think it worth while finding out whether this cover was sent on the Panama, New Zealand and Australian Royal Mail Company service from Wellington to Panama, thence by the Panama Railroad Company across the Isthmus, and from Colon, by ships of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to Southampton. For those interested there is a passage in Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, page 247, which disclosed that the last voyage left Wellington on 15th February, 1869, in the form of the 'Ruahine' for Panama, and the Company having financial difficulties, closed down the service. Covers 'via Panama' are relatively scarce. Having obtained a photocopy of the cover and of its reverse I found it could not have been sent via Panama having originated from Shortland on 2nd August, 1869, but this and the 'barred oval cancel' opened up other fields of interest.

The prospect of the termination of the Panama service made it necessary to revert to the Suez route to Southampton and the cover was no doubt sent by that route as it was not until March, 1870, that mails proceeded from Auckland, via Sydney and Honolulu to San Francisco, thence by the Trans Continental Railroad across the United States to New York and so to the United Kingdom. Mail by

this route was being delivered in London in between 42 and 45 days.

The cover, which is illustrated on page 77, arrived in London on 8th October, 1869, taking some 67 days. The 'barred oval cancel' next attracted interest. Under reasonable magnification there is no doubt that this is the 'A over 3' THS 2 obliterator as illustrated on page 70 of Volume 31 of 'The Kiwi', July, 1982. As the article on page 69 of the same issue states, a Post Office at Shortland was opened on 1st September, 1867, and a description of the town appears on the same page. R.M.Startup's notes in the following issue, page 81, state that the Post Office was opened on the southern part of the Goldfield, and closed on 24th March, 1870, only to be re-opened elsewhere in the area years later.

The Goldfield was about fifty miles from Auckland and the cover reached there on 3rd August, 1869, the day after posting at Shortland. From the report in the 'Illustrated London News', part of which appears on page 69 of Volume 31 of 'The Kiwi', one reads that the amount of "produce" from the Long Drive Claim between April and the end of July, 1869, was no less than 6,375 ounces of melted gold. The cover sent from Shortland on the following 2nd August would most probably have included for Miss Emma Challis to read, the gold speculation and returns. One can see towards the top left corner of the illustration what were described in the Auction Catalogue as 'age stains', but these are in fact pin marks showing something, probably the letter, had been pinned to the cover for years, until some unsuspecting individual detached it, so depriving anyone from knowing how interesting the contents must have been. Below is an illustration of the reverse of the cover showing very clearly the Shortland circular date stamp.



The cover is addressed to Miss Challis of 171, Sloane Street, London, England. On 8th July, 1986, I wrote to the owner/occupier to find out something about the present use of this property, and whether anything was known of Miss Emma Challis. The present occupier could throw no light concerning this lady, but told me that the 99 year headlease expires in 1993. But the writer was able to tell me that the freehold was owned by Cadogan Estates Ltd. On writing to them, their Director, S.A.Corbyn, very kindly had some research done. From very old records in the Cadogan Office it seems

that an Alderman Challis lived in the Chelsea area during the 1860's. The Charity Record in which his name appears shows he was a Governor of Emmanuel Hospital, Guildhall.

The research was continued with the Chelsea Library who from their Census Records of the 1860's discovered that Mary Challis, described as a fruiterer, lived at 171, Sloane Street. From 1861, she appears to have been joined by George Challis, who may have been the Alderman, and Emma Challis. She must have been the Miss Emma Challis to whom the cover was addressed. One wonders whether she went into the goldrush which the letter in the cover probably revealed. It is remarkable what records can establish and our best thanks are due to the Cadogan Office and the Chelsea Library for their interest, trouble and research.

LIKE A PHOENIX !

DAVID SMITHAM

The year 1984 was one of dreadful oppression, according to George Orwell's book and his 'Big Brother' mentality. However, it was not to be, but a 'Big Brother' mentality by the New Zealand Post Office was certainly present!

During August, 1984, the New Zealand Post Office and Mischa-Scan, the New Zealand distributors of Frama products, agreed to unleash on the New Zealand scene one solitary Frama stamp vending machine.

This machine, one of the second generation machines of Frama A.G. of Lauperswil, Switzerland, was to be installed in the Auckland Chief Post Office foyer. The announcement of this was made in Napier at the regional stamp exhibition, 'Jubilex '84', on the Friday before the installation became operative on Monday, 3rd September, 1984.

The second generation Frama machines are characterised by three pre-set choice buttons. Providing sufficient coins are inserted into the machine, Frama stamps to the value of one of the three most commonly used or needed postage rates are obtained by pressing these buttons. Hence a 'button-set' is jargon solely attributable to Frama machines. A button-set in 1984 comprised 24 cents, the inland letter rates; 30 cents, the inland airmail letter rate; and 35 cents, the non-standard letter rate. See Figure 1 below.

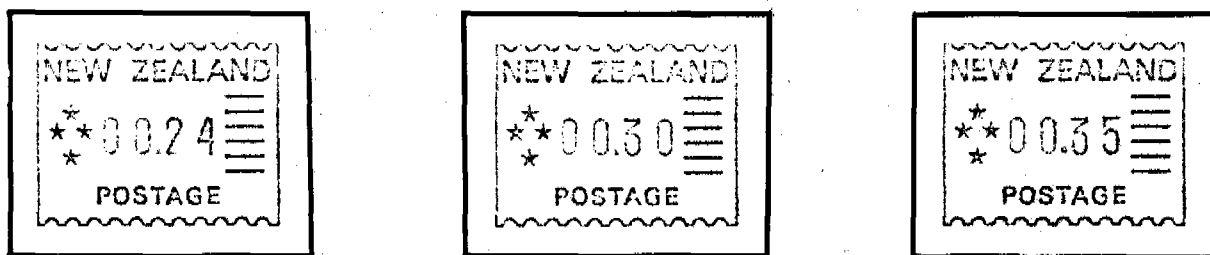


Figure 1

Other values could be obtained either as a residue or 'change' stamp - the difference between the total of the coins inserted and the value of the stamp(s) chosen; or alternatively by not choosing a specific value stamp, a residue stamp to the exact value of the coins inserted would be obtained. Hence all denominations from 1 cent to \$99.99 are possible. I am sure that most of the lower

values, up to about \$2.00, exist and will turn up periodically, but I am unaware of any values above \$5.00. There was one unsuccessful attempt to obtain the maximum value. This came to an abrupt halt when one 50 cent coin was dropped as it was about to be inserted. When the customer finally retrieved his errant coin he found the machine had dispensed a residue stamp to the value of the coins already inserted because of the time delay trip mechanism!

Frama vending machines have a fixed cliché that is printed every time a stamp choice button is pressed. The only variables are the four digits. There is no dollar sign as such, but there is a decimal point. Thus 24 cents is represented in Frama terminology as 00.24, and \$1.63 as 01.63, etc.

The 1984 cliché design was based quite simply on an existing Pitney Bowes meter impression. See Figure 2 below. The paper rolls were supplied by the Frama agents and were plain, white, uncoated, non-fluorescent, gummed paper.



Figure 2

'Big Brother', alias the New Zealand Post Office, did indeed publicise the new facility for after hours purchase of postage stamps, but I believe in a grossly inadequate way. The location of the solitary Auckland Frama machine combined with the dearth of publicity, was most probably intended to result in the trial being classified as a failure - c.f. the locations of the four British Frama machines. A failure for the New Zealand Post Office, but not for the world of philately, although many philatelists missed out on their chance to acquire Frama stamps at face value, simply through lack of publicity by the New Zealand Post Office.

Suffice to say that due to the New Zealand Stamp Trade, supplies of First Day Covers, mint and used Frama stamps and various special service covers, such as registered covers, surfaced, primarily for the European market.

The Auckland trial was abruptly terminated when 'Big Brother' got wind of another large European trade order being fed through the machine by an Auckland dealer, 'abusing' the system. Abusing or using? Due to the absence of any philatelic facilities the dealer was using the system, but in 'Big Brother's' eyes, abusing it. So on 16th October, 1984, the Auckland trial came to an end when engineers dismantled the machine actually preventing the dealer from using it to complete his order!

According to 'Big Brother', the trial was to last for four weeks, for three months, or at least three months, and then until paper supplies were exhausted! In the end it lasted six weeks and one day before being terminated. Even after this termination, the New Zealand Post Office refused to countenance a period of philatelic sales, some of which would have been substantial.

The Auckland trial produced sales of approximately \$11,000, of which approximately \$8,000 can be attributed to some 1,250 button

set First Day Covers, and other covers, prepared for the European Frama market. The remaining \$3,000 or so accounts for the mint Frama stamps, and it is believed some 1,800 to 2,000 mint button sets exist.

A word or two should be written about the nil value (00.00) Frama stamps. These may come about due to a machine malfunction. For instance, in Cambridge, England, for a short while the machine installed there did not register $\frac{1}{2}$ p coins. Thus 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ p was printed as 0.12 and $\frac{1}{2}$ p as 0.00. In a Melbourne suburb, one machine registered 6 cents as 00.00! But the most common way a nil value Frama stamp is produced is via a test stamp. This comes about when the clerk checks that the machine is functioning properly after maintenance by pushing an internal test button.

Following the demise of the Auckland trial, and after twelve months or so of rejection by 'Big Brother', Frama machines made a triumphal return, like a phoenix, from the ashes of stupidity to reign supreme throughout New Zealand in 1986.

12th February, 1986, was the operation day for some two dozen machines. This time, 'Big Brother', who had after all been watching and listening to some people, announced in December, 1985, via a philatelic pamphlet to the world the locations of 23 of these machines, as well as the Post Offices which were to have special First Day of Issue handstamps. However, even the New Zealand Post Office 'forgot' to announce that the Philatelic Bureau, Wanganui, would have a machine and a First Day of Issue handstamp.

Unlike the second generation machine in Auckland, the 1986 machines were much easier to use, and with the rapid increases in postal rates since 1984 do not need adjusting as do the pre-set button machines. With the keypad format, any value can be obtained. After inserting the coins one merely pushes the key pad buttons to the value one wishes, and hey presto - a stamp to that value is issued!

Many of you will have seen the Post Office Philatelic Pamphlet, number 184, showing the machine and Frama stamp design. This design does not reproduce well, unfortunately. Only the red printed cliché part is readily visible - see Figure 3 below. The background comprising the New Zealand Post Office logo and the three main islands of New Zealand in light green and light blue disappear in the reproduction process.

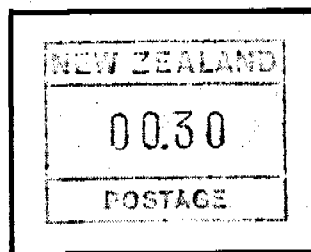


Figure 3

The paper is printed by Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd. in Melbourne on chalk surfaced Australia Post With Helecon (APWH) paper. The paper contains helecon, a phosphorescent substance used to activate automatic cancelling machines. This has a pink afterglow of very short duration. However one needs an ultra-violet lamp and a darkened room to observe this phenomenon. Please take care as an

ultra-violet light can damage the eyesight if not properly used.

In late 1986, an Australian Stamp Bulletin announcement concerning Australian Postage Stamp Papers had a direct relevance to the New Zealand Frama stamps etc., printed by Leigh-Mardon in Melbourne. In essence, from early 1987 it appears that all Australian stamps will be printed on Harrison's paper, as the supplier of APWH paper will no longer be able to produce it. Harrison's paper with a phosphor coating has a yellow-green afterglow, or in the case of British stamps, a violet afterglow. Either way, any subsequent Leigh-Mardon printings of the current design on a Harrison paper must be different.

Leigh-Mardon printed New Zealand's Frama paper on the Goebells 'Optiforma' Press using a conventional 'wet' offset printing process. The paper used is APWH. The web is 440 mm wide enabling 10 rolls of 40 mm width to be slit from the reel with a nominal 20 mm cut as selvage at each side.

In the conventional offset process, the image surface is flush with the plate cylinder of the press. To attach the image plate to the cylinder, it is necessary to have a discontinuity where the image plate ends are tucked into a slot in the plate cylinder.

Two image plates on separate printing units with the 'Optiforma' press are used to obtain a continuous pattern on the web for each colour. Leigh-Mardon accomplish this by making identical plates each with an image with a length that is half the cylinder circumference, 558 mm. Each image is slightly wider than 400 mm to allow for minor variations in the slitting process.

The printing process uses four colours for the New Zealand security paper. The two colours, light green and light blue, are printed so that the 'join lines', caused by the discontinuity of the tucked in plate image ends, do not coincide, but are carefully synchronised so that they fall one pattern pitch apart. The four printing units of the printing press are therefore all used to obtain full coverage for the two colours.

In the extreme right of the right hand selvage are two types of colour cross registers. One type is for the two 'same colour' plates to be correctly registered so that full coverage is obtained with no gap or overlap. The other type is for registration of the 'two colours'. The light green has a complete cross with the light blue having an incomplete cross. Proper registration is shown by coincidence of the two crosses. These registration marks have been observed on improperly slit rolls and hence on issued Frama stamps.

The stamps are dispensed from the Frama machine 'bottom first', that is, Stewart Island emerges first, before the South Island, followed by the North Island. Any flaw in the printing process will be seen on every 17th or 18th stamp, as the Frama stamps are 32 mm high and the printing cylinder has a circumference of 558 mm. Thus a single 20 cent coin is sufficient to obtain an example of the complete revolution of the printing cylinder, but there are 9 other roll positions to go before a reel can be plated!

During the latter part of 1986, I received reports from West Germany that the New Zealand Post Office would be issuing a new Frama design featuring 'American Sailing Boats'. At the time it did not make sense to me, but of course, as events in Fremantle, Western Australia, took their course it was obvious America's Cup Frama stamps!

A correspondent in Melbourne initially confirmed that a new design had been prepared and printed. Later I was advised that all plates etc. had been destroyed.

At 'Tarapex '86' in October, 1986, I spoke to the Post Office staff on their stand. They confirmed that the New Zealand Post Office were going to issue at 'Cup-pex '87' in Perth their America's Cup Frama stamps. Initially, America's Cup Frama stamps would only be available during 'Cup-pex '87' and later as existing supplies were exhausted, in New Zealand. A howl of protest could obviously be seen, especially as this sort of information was reasonably well known in West Germany, one of the core Frama collecting countries. In the end, sense (?) prevailed, and the whole idea was scrapped. As KZ-7, the New Zealand entry in the America's Cup, made better than expected progress in the preliminary rounds, a special stamp issue was hastily (?) arranged for 2nd February, 1987, a bluewater classic set of four stamps, with one stamp, the \$1.30 denomination, featuring the America's Cup.

So from an aborted Frama issue we saw a 'proper' issue for KZ-7!

Recently announced was the new corporate logo for the New Zealand Post, successor to 'Big Brother' New Zealand Post Office. The stylized letter logo of the New Zealand Post Office will remain. This can be seen on the 1986 Frama stamps. The stylized crown has gone and the word 'POST' will appear beneath the stylized letter. So, some time in 1987 (1st April - inauguration day of the New Zealand Post Corporation and April Fools' Day) we hope to see a modified Frama paper design.

Footnote.

In 1986, the New Zealand Post Office attended two overseas stamp exhibitions - Ameripex in Chicago and Stockholmia in Stockholm, but surprisingly did not attend Stampex in Adelaide. For each of these exhibitions, special Frama presentation packs were made up. These sealed cellophane packs contained a full colour insert showing a third generation Frama machine, plus details about it, and 1 cent to 24 cent mint Frama stamps. On the reverse of the insert was applied either of the New Zealand Exhibition cachets in black. Figure 4 below shows on the left the Frama pack for Stockholmia cachet, and the special cancellation on the stamp shows in its central design a typical 'European Frama'.

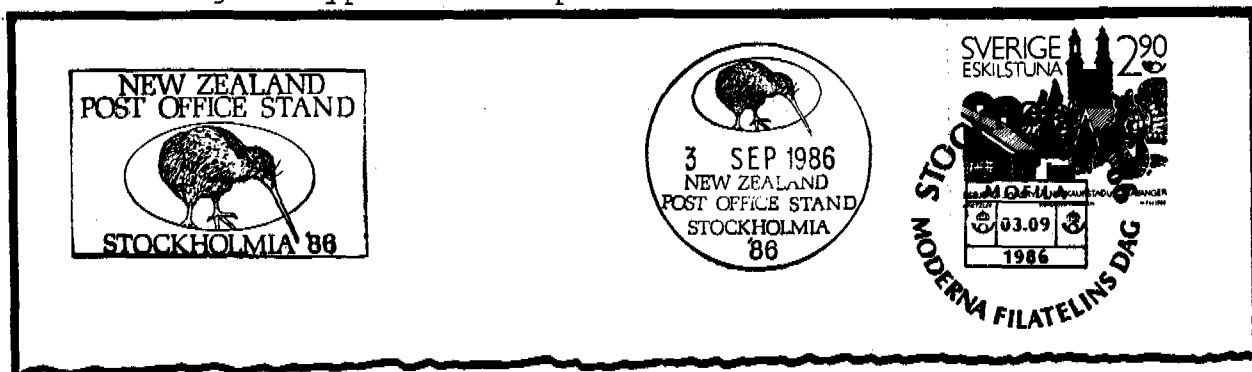


Figure 4

Whether similar exhibition Frama-packs will be made available in the future I do not know, but they are an interesting addition to any Frama collection. Some 1,000 packs were prepared for Chicago

and some 1,500, I believe, were prepared for Stockholm.

References.

Captain Coqk - various issues from 1984 to 1986.

Australia Post Philatelic Bulletin Number 186, September, 1986.

New Zealand Post Office Philatelic Pamphlet Number NZ184.

Personal Communications from Ken Sparks, Thomas von Loeper and Mischa Scan Ltd.

POSTAL STATIONERY NOTES.

WALLY AND MARTYN JACKSON

Following our article in 'The Kiwi', Volume 35, pages 87 - 91, September, 1986, we would like to thank all those members who made the effort to have another look at their collections and write to us with their findings. Not all the information received was relevant, but it is gratifying to learn the amount of interest members have in New Zealand Postal Stationery.

ENVELOPES

CA.1b No news at all on this item, therefore it is obvious that it is more scarce than the catalogue indicates. We would still like a 'sighting' if any member can find it.

CA.2a Stephen Schumann of California reports a used example postmarked 'AUCKLAND 1900'.

CA.2b We have a report from Gerald Pratt, a used copy dated '15 DE 01'. Still no news of this item unused.

CC.1c Another elusive item - still no news either mint or used.

CC.4b At last some success. Stephen Schumann reports a mint copy; Ray Herbison of Whakatane both mint and used examples, the used being addressed to Kamo, and postmarked 'PAKURANGA 9 NO 13'. Finally, we were able to obtain a mint example from a New Zealand Auction House since our last article.

(CE.7c) On page 90 in our last article, we described an unlisted King George VI, 2d. value, Die 1 Commercial Size Envelope with Curved Flap on Dull White Paper. Our research had then only located two used copies. Gerald Pratt now advises us of a mint example.

CX.8d The earliest recorded date of use of this item has come forward still further with an example of Gerald Pratt's dated '17 FE 49'.

Our experience of incorrectly described items from New Zealand Auction Houses continues. If it were the same dealer, one would simply cross them off your list, but unfortunately things are not always that simple. However, according to the law of averages, you win some and lose some. How nice it was to bid for a Department of Education Envelope CX.8c unused and to receive instead CX.8e, which is not listed by Samuel. Therefore this can now be recorded as a new find.

REGISTERED ENVELOPES

Whilst browsing through the stock of a well known United Kingdom

Dealer at the British Philatelic Exhibition, it was found that he had several examples of the 1/- Rose Carmine Queen Elizabeth 11 Registered Envelope that were similar to EF.3d with the dotted lines 'guage 29' but with the UPPER LINE BELOW THE CENTRE OF THE BRACKET.

As collectors of this issue know, EF.3d is catalogued as having the 'Upper Line ABOVE the Centre of Bracket', therefore the first deduction is that there is another collectable item for this issue. Before entering into print on this subject, it was decided to recheck this issue very thoroughly. Whilst we can agree Samuel's listings of most of this issue, we find that our existing two copies of EF.3d were correct with regard to typeface and the position of the bracket with the top line, but the guage measured only 26.

The question is, is Samuel's listing of EF.3d correct? If so, have we two further listings? To recap, the first would be the present EF.3d listing with top line below the centre of bracket, and the second guaging 26, which cannot be EF.3c, with upper line above centre of bracket. We would welcome members' comments.

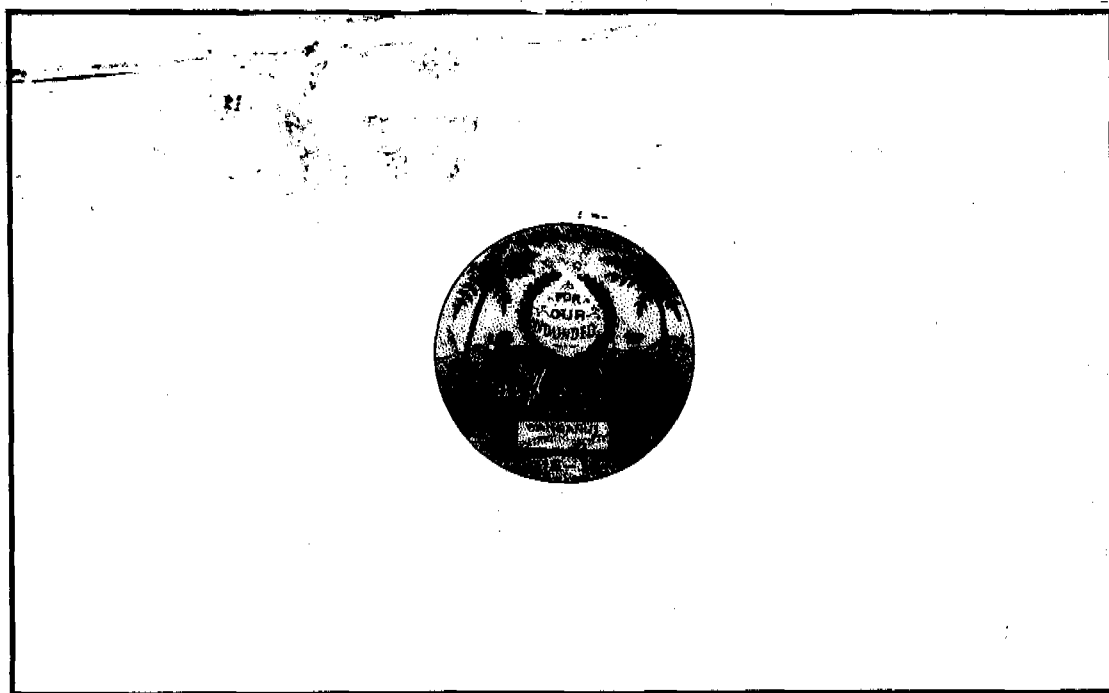
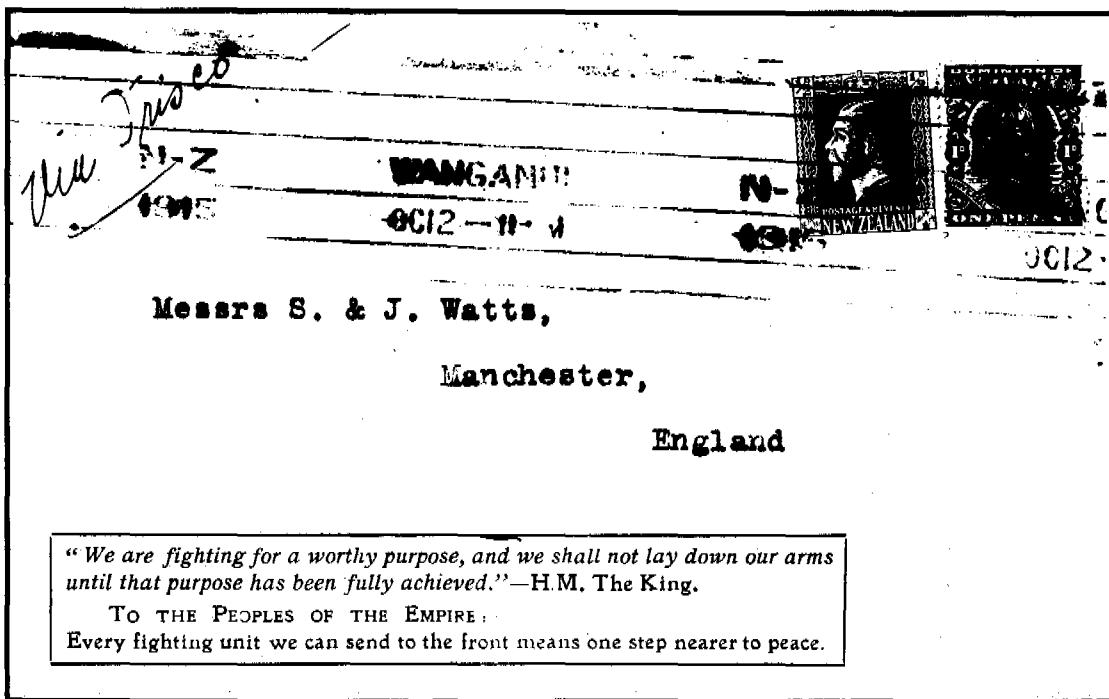
1915 - 1916 WANGANUI PATRIOTIC SOCIETY LABEL

ALAN JACKSON

In the review of my recently published book 'First World War Patriotic Labels of Australia and New Zealand', published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 36, page 44, May, 1987, reference was made to an additional item of information passed on to me after publication. The item in question is illustrated on the following page. It is a cover with, affixed over the flap, a perfect example of the rare Wanganui Patriotic Society circular label, given the reference number NZ16 in my catalogue. The cover is addressed to England and bears a Wanganui machine postmark clearly dated OC 12 1915. At the bottom is a printed patriotic inscription.

In my catalogue I gave the date of this label as 1916. It is now clear that a question mark should have been placed after this, as the date was based entirely on the '1915-16' inscription on the label itself. As the label illustrated is not tied to the cover by any postal marking, it would be rash to state categorically from this evidence that the label was in fact issued in 1915. However, there is nothing about the cover which leads me to think that it was not in fact applied before the cover was posted. In addition, it should be borne in mind that the majority of New Zealand Patriotic Society fund-raising labels were issued in 1915. At the very least, the issue date should be modified from '1916' to '1915?'.
'1915?'

In the introduction to the catalogue, I stated that so little was known about surviving numbers of the rarer labels that the valuations provided should be accepted with some reservation. This proviso has been well borne out by the fact that one Australian label listed as 'RR', that is, very rare, only one or two examples recorded, has turned up in a current Australian auction in an unmounted mint block of four! If such a block exists, this is a good indication that there are probably other similar examples about as well. Clearly the valuation given to this label will have to be reduced from 'RR' to merely 'R'. As more information becomes



available, other listings may suffer the same fate.

Incidentally, although no unlisted New Zealand labels have so far been brought to my attention, six further Australian labels have come to light, including a handsome strip of five se-tenant official Australian Red Cross labels. It is remarkable that such an issue has not been recorded previously, as it is likely to have been sold in considerable quantities during the war. This discovery underlines the statement in the introduction to the catalogue that "if one thing can be said for certain, it is that the catalogue is far from complete".