



The Kiwi



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

Affiliated to: BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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VOLUME 36 No. 6

NOVEMBER 1987

WHOLE 206

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 1987,
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 11.00 A.M.

IT IS KIWI DAY

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

36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Notice is hereby given that the 36th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain will be held at the Y.W.C.A. Central Club, 16 - 22, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LR, on Saturday, 28th November, 1987, commencing at 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting.
2. President's Report and Review of 1987.
3. Financial Report from the Hon. Treasurer.
4. Report from the Hon. Packet Secretary.
5. To elect
 - i) A President.
 - ii) Vice-Presidents.
 - iii) A Chairman.
 - iv) A Vice-Chairman.
 - v) An Honorary General Secretary.
 - vi) An Assistant General Secretary.
 - vii) A Packet Secretary.
 - viii) An Honorary Treasurer.
 - ix) Other Officers of the Society.
6. To elect a Committee.
7. Any other business proper to the Annual General Meeting, of which due notice has been given in writing.

Nominations are invited from members for the posts of Vice-Chairman, Auditor and Assistant Secretary, having obtained the agreement of the member so nominated.

MARGARET FRANKCOM,
HON. GENERAL SECRETARY.

EDITORIAL.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the next meeting of the Society. The Agenda shows that the election of Officers of the Society is one of the matters to be dealt with.

The Society is run by a very few of its members, and volunteers are required to take on some of these duties. None may be thought onerous, all are of interest. The survival of the Society as a whole depends on these duties being carried out. Why not join the Committee and gain an insight into the background work that has to be done. Any present Officer of the Society would welcome such volunteers, so please let us know if you can help.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

S.J.Harper-Scott, 2, Croft Close, Histon, Cambridge, CB4 4HU.

A.R.Spence, Bundoran Cottage, Vicarage Lane

Laleham, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 1UE.

H.A.Tullners, Jr., Conquistador Bldg. 5-205,

1800 S.E. St. Lucie Blvd., Stuart, Florida 34996, U.S.A.

DECEASED

P.L.Evans, 73, Blenheim Road, North Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 7AQ.

Eric Ward, 10, Rundells, Letchworth, Herts., SG6 2SF.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

J.A.G.Broadhead, 51b, Thorpe Road, Peterborough, PE6 6AN.

(previously of 65, Ledbury Road, Peterborough.)

M.H.Cooke, Van Imhoffstraat 32, 2595 SE Den Haag, Netherlands.

(previously of 1, Skottowe Crescent, Great Ayton.)

M.J.Kirke, P.O.Box 249, Port Headland,

Western Australia 6721, Australia.

(previously of P.O.Box 2474, South Australia.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1987.

THE PENNY UNIVERSAL - BRIAN PRATT

Our Chairman, John Smith, opened the meeting at 2.30 p.m. and once again had to announce the sad news of the death of one of our Vice-Presidents. Philip L. Evans, who had assumed the role of Elder Statesman, will be a tremendous loss to philately in general and our Society in particular. The twenty-three members present stood in a minutes silence to his memory.

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Marks, Allan McKellar, Anthony Howie, Gwyn Evans and Ann Carter. Following these preliminaries, our Chairman handed the meeting over to Brian Pratt.

Brian's display started with photocopies of suggested essays and designs for the Penny Universal, and photocopies of all the proof sheets held by New Zealand Post, who were kind enough to supply them. Four sheets followed, illustrating the method used for the identification of the fifteen plates. Therefollowed a number of First Day Covers and allied material, including the only known copy of the New Zealand Express Company card. Blocks of 12 and 16 of the London Print cancelled on 1 JAN 01 were shown, followed by plating studies and mint blocks and singles showing the various perforating combinations known in this printing.

The first local prints on Pirie paper, perf. 11 came next with a piece dated 12th February, the earliest known date of use following the issue date of 6th February, 1901. There were mixed perfs with patching shown, blind perfs, and examples of line and rotary perfs, including several perf. 14. The re-entries on all three plates were shown, with Plate 1 identified by the London Dot, Plate 3 by the Colonial Dot, Plate 2 being the only one without distinguishing features. For variety, O.P.S.O. overprints were shown, including a forgery made with a typewriter.

Printings on Basted Mills and Cowan No Watermark papers were then displayed from all three plates, including all variants of the watermark on the first of these papers, and perfs. 11 x 14 and 14 x 11, followed by stamps overprinted for Niue.

Printings on the Cowan Watermark paper were represented by blocks and strips with mixed and compound perforations, partial and total imperfs, and a study of plate wear from all sixteen printings. Re-entries were shown, and examples of Fanning Island postmarks and blocks overprinted for Penrhyn.

The Reserve Plate was represented by two proofs, several blocks, a possible slot machine issue and postmarks showing the 1902, 1905 and 1908 printings.

Additional material was then presented by Alan Baker, Ernie Leppard and Stanley Cross-Rudkin. Alan showed the first Niue overprint, a Bishop cover addressed to Bishop, and a printing from the Local Plate 2 with mixed perfs. Ernie showed First Day Covers, London prints in blocks with re-entries, a proof of the Reserve Plate, and a printing on Cowan Watermarked paper with mixed perfs. Stanley showed First Day Covers, blocks from the London Plate, a corner of a Waterlow sample sheet in blue, and mixed and compound perforations.

The second half started with Brian showing the panes from the Booklet Plate, with printings of 1902 and 1905, and the Official booklet of 1908, a supply of which were found and re-issued in 1932, with an example of this on a dated 1932 Official cover. A complete pane was shown with double perforations.

The Dot Plate was represented by blocks and strips showing the gradation of plate wear, and slot machine issues with blank lead in and out strips.

The Waterlow Trial Plates material included plate numbers, the overprints showing two different stereotypes for 'Official', and an example perf. 11.

The Royle Plates were similarly represented with plate markings R1 and R2, and several multiples. Two Perkins Bacon die proofs which were never used were shown, and Brian concluded with material from the often neglected Surface Printing Plate, showing a coloured proof in a strip, blocks in black, and blocks of 4, 9 and 24 of the issued stamp, and examples of double perforations.

Supporting material was again supplied by Stanley Cross-Rudkin, with re-entries, booklet panes, blocks from the Dot Plate and an example from this plate perf. 14 x 11. He also showed the R1 and R2 markings in two different perforations, and presentation cancels.

Ernie Leppard showed the W1 and W2 markings, re-entries from both these Waterlow Plates, and example perf. 11 with re-entry, and imperf. between horizontal and vertical pairs. He also showed blocks of 60 and 25 with different 'Official' stereo overprints,

Die Proofs numbered 2 and 3, an example of the proof strip of five with centre stamp inverted, and plate proofs from Row 1 in five different colours.

Ernie also showed examples from the Dot Plate, with a range of plate wear from February, 1904, to January, 1906, on dated copies. Mixed and compound perforations, rosette retouches and re-entries were present from all three plates, and the copy of the King Edward VII Land overprint from the Michael Burberry collection that led to the Catalogue listing of this overprint on the Dot Plate, indicating that this was now considered dubious.

John Smith thanked Brian Pratt for leading the meeting and he thanked all those who displayed such outstanding material. The meeting was closed at 5.45 p.m.

E.W.L.

+ PHILIP ERNEST LANCE EVANS +

The sudden death of Phil Evans has robbed the Society of one of its Elder Statesmen. He held many of the Offices of the Society over the years, and his expertise was still available to the Committee, whose meetings he attended as a Vice-President whenever possible.

His advice and guidance was always readily available, kindly but forcefully given when necessary. Many pitfalls were avoided through the benefit of his experience.

At the local level, he was active in the Pinner Philatelic Society and the Middlesex Federation. He was on the Library Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and his services to that Society were acknowledged by the award of the London Medal. He was given the Award of Honour of the New Zealand Philatelic Federation for his services to New Zealand philately, and the Award of Merit of the British Philatelic Federation, which sadly he did not live to receive personally.

We have lost a good friend a guiding hand, who will be remembered by all with gratitude for his contributions to our hobby.

AUTUMN STAMPEX / THE BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1987

Congratulations to the following members who gained the following awards in this year's Autumn Stampex / British Philatelic Exhibition.

The National Philatelic Society Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Trophy and a small Silver Gilt Medal was awarded to D.J.Holmes.

Bronze-Silver Medals were awarded to E.W.P.Leppard and J.G.Evans.

A Certificate of Participation was awarded to J.H.Buchanan.

Particular congratulations to Derek Armitage who won the Class B (16 to 18 year old) Cup in the Melville National Youth Stamp Competition with an entry of Health Stamps and Covers. In addition, Derek also won an all expenses paid trip to Juvalex '88, the International Youth Exhibition in Luxembourg in March, 1988, in which he will also be entering his collection.

A CRIE DE COEUR FROM YOUR SECRETARY

I shall be moving house and if all goes well our new home will be

in Sussex. It will not be possible for me to attend all future meetings and I must have an assistant. The duties of the assistant will not be time consuming or onerous, and will be mainly to take notes of committee meetings that I am not able to attend. The committee are charming and kindly people who have shown great forbearance with your less than perfect Secretary, and will, I am sure, be equally indulgent to her assistant. The necessary qualities for the job are a willingness to be involved and an ability to read your own writing! Please do not be diffident about offering your services as you will get a warm welcome.

If you are prepared to have a go, try telephoning me at our London number; alternatively, write to me, care of:-

E.W.Leppard, Esq., 68, Chestnut Grove, Balham, London, SW12 8JJ

MARGARET FRANKCOM

REVIEW

The New Zealand Airmail Catalogue, by James A. Stapleton.
Published by Stirling & Co. Ltd., P.O.Box 949, Christchurch,
New Zealand.

The review of a catalogue is not an easy task and my heart sank when asked by our Editor to do so. Nevertheless, I took the book home and examined it; out came my few flown covers, a chance to find out just what I had got. Not a lot, I am afraid! Still, press on, check them all and find out a little more about them. The date of the flight, the pilot, departure and arrival times and airports are all listed and in many cases much more detail. Being a catalogue, there are prices to be looked at, although I feel that they will only serve as a guide to us in the United Kingdom.

No doubt the New Zealand airmail enthusiasts will have a few covers not listed and will be getting in touch with James Stapleton as requested on the first page. Despite my initial misgivings, I am pleased to have had the opportunity to see this catalogue and recommend anyone who has flown covers to obtain a copy. It may just help to get you hooked and on the lookout for more!

E.A.C.

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIAN SPECIALISTS/OCEANIA

The Society of Australasian Specialists was founded in July of 1936 by a small group of collectors interested in Australasian philately. In 1965, the American Society of Australian Philatelists, later to become Oceania, Inc., was established for the same purpose as the older S.A.S. In 1978, the two Societies consolidated to better serve the members of both organisations. Today, the Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania has many members, not only in the United States and Canada, but also from New Zealand, Great Britain and a few other countries.

Though an international society in outlook, we welcome collectors at all levels and feel we can offer something to each. Our name includes the word 'Specialists', but this does not mean that one should meet specialist standards before becoming a member. Rather, we ask that members have a desire to increase their philatelic knowledge of the area in which we specialize. This area includes

the Pacific Islands lying mainly south of the Tropic of Cancer including Australia, New Zealand, Melanesia and Polynesia (except Hawaii). Many of our members are prominent specialists in the stamps, postal stationery and postal history of that area.

Among the benefits of membership of the Society are:-

Journal : 'The Informer' is our official publication and it is managed by our Editor who co-ordinates several area editors each of whom is a highly advanced specialist in his area of concentration, such as New Zealand.

Handbooks : The Society from time to time publishes limited printings of short, specialised handbooks at very low cost to members. Any member can be an author of a handbook or an article in 'The Informer' and members are encouraged to share their research.

Further details of the Society and an application form for membership can be obtained from The Secretary, P.O.Box 82643, San Diego, California 92138, United States of America.

NEW ZEALAND STAMP DESIGNER WINS BRITISH AWARD

A set of stamps has won an Auckland artist a British trophy. They were designed for the New Zealand Post Office by Robert Freeman for the 'Music in New Zealand' issue released in November last year.

The award, the Robert Stolz trophy for Music Philately, is presented annually by the Philatelic Music Circle, England, to the designer of the best music stamps of the previous year.

First presented in 1980, the trophy was donated by Einzi Stolz in memory of her husband, an Austrian composer of operettas, songs and film scores.

The New Zealand stamps depicted orchestral, brass band, bagpipe and country music.

NEW ZEALAND POST NEWS RELEASE

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

NEW ZEALAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Lincoln College Post Office on Monday, 24th August, 1987. Lincoln College was the venue for the 1987 New Zealand Youth Orchestra which met under conductor Piero Gamba. A concert was held on Sunday, 30th August, 1987, at the Christchurch Town Hall. New Zealand Post is sponsoring the New Zealand Youth Orchestra in 1987.

CENTENARY OF PARCEL POST



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Auckland on Thursday, 1st October, 1987, to commemorate the Centenary of Parcel Post in New Zealand.

E.W.LEPPARD's informative article on New Zealand No. 8 Stationary Post Office, published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 36, pages 47 and 48, and illustrated on page 41, May, 1987, has given a fine lead to those who are interested in the Middle East Theatre.

E.W.Leppard has generously shared with me the information on the Middle East which he acquired from the Imperial War Museum's Reading Library; while the Imperial War Museum has New Zealand Expeditionary Force Orders apparently for the Western Front and Britain from February, 1916, to October, 1919, it does not have any Force Orders issued in the Middle East. An occasional entry does, however, refer to this theatre.

There appear to have been three Stationary Post Offices in Egypt. Number 1 was originally employed at Zeitoun but when it opened there is not known. On 7th March, 1915, it was transferred to No. 2 General Hospital, Pont de Koubbeh, Cairo, according to page 357 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. However, I have eight examples used between 6 DE 15 and 15 MR 16, and none of these bears any evidence of a relationship with No. 2 General Hospital. Three of my covers bear cachets of other units, namely, the Otago Mounted Rifles, the New Zealand and Australian Ammunition Column and No. 1 Depot of Supply. Four of my examples are picture postcards of Cairo. It seems certain that No. 1 Stationary Post Office was in Cairo, but I think 'transferred' to No. 2 New Zealand General Hospital may be the wrong term.

No. 2 Stationary Post Office was in Cairo in May, 1916. I have only one postcard and this is clearly endorsed 'Cairo, 23 May 1916'. This is obviously too small a sample to make even a tentative deduction; if, however, No. 1 Stationary Post Office went to England with No. 2 New Zealand General Hospital in June, 1916, it is possible that No. 2 was opened in Cairo to replace it.

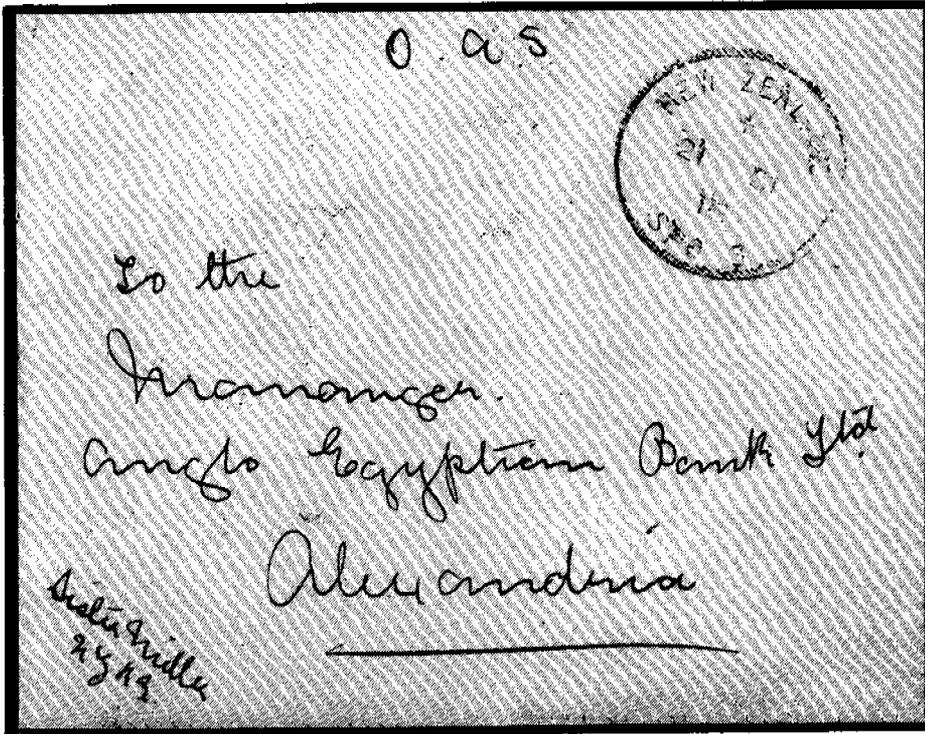
The next Army Order to 'help' us is No. 147, dated 7th September, 1916. This states that there was a Suez Transit Office staffed by a sergeant and three other ranks. Whether they used a datestamp is not known; I have not seen any postal history material to suggest that they had one.

No. 3 Stationary Post Office is clearly stated in Army Order No. 398, dated 15th September, 1917, to have been at Ismailia with a staff of one sergeant and five other ranks. I have recorded dates between 10th July, 1916, and 21st September, 1916.

The datestamps used by No. 1 and No. 2 Stationary Post Offices were as Type 28, illustrated on page 354 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. The datestamp used by No. 3 Stationary Post Office was a British skeleton type, with 'New Zealand' round the top and 'S.P.O.3' at foot, with the date in two lines in the centre. A cover bearing each of these types is illustrated on the following page.

I would very much appreciate the assistance of members in clarifying the story of these three Stationary Post Offices. We need to know their opening and closing dates in each location and to hear of covers which extend the date brackets to ascertain whether or not more than one office was in use at any one time. Any information, however apparently scanty, but if possible in the

form of photocopies, will be greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged.



THE SYDNEY PACKET BOATS OF THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY.

J.G.EVANS

The Sydney Packet Boats of the mid-Nineteenth century were an important link in the transport of mail between New Zealand and England, once a regular mail service from New Zealand to Sydney had been set up.

Whilst rummaging amongst some papers acquired some time ago, I found three documents concerning these ships, which show that all was not well in the shipping world at the time. The letters are all addressed to Frederick Huth & Co., 10, Moorgate Street, London, who are described as merchants in the London Post Office Directory of 1845. The first two letters are dated 15th February, 1845, and are essentially circulars sent out together from two firms, thus:-

9, Billiter Street
15th February 1845

"Sir

We beg to acquaint you that in consequence of the Connexion between us and our late Colleagues Messrs Marshall & Eldridge having ceased, we have resolved to Continue the Line of Australian Packets sailing the 15th of every month, and in order to inspire Confidence and give stability as well to this Line as that of the Post Office Packets of the 1st of the month, we have associated ourselves with the highly respectable firm of Messrs. Henry & Calvert Toulmin and hope by our mutual exertions to give satisfaction to the Merchants engaged in the Colonial Trade.

"We gladly embrace this opportunity of conveying our grateful acknowledgements to the Ship Owners and Merchants who have hitherto so liberally supported us, and respectfully solicit a continuance of your patronage, referring to the annexed Circular.

We are
Sir
Your most Obdt. Servts.
Devitt & Moore."

The firm of Devitt & Moore were listed as 'Ship and Insurance Brokers and General Agents'. The accompanying circular is as follows:-

31, Great St. Helens
15th February 1845

"Sir

We have the pleasure to confirm the arrangements detailed in the annexed Circular of our Friends Messrs. Devitt & Moore which we hope will be satisfactory to the Merchants and Shippers as they will ensure a constant succession of Vessels at short intervals with punctuality in despatch.

"We take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have kindly given us during the last twelve months which we trust will be extended to us under the present arrangement.

We are
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servts.
Henry & Calvert Toulmin."

Henry and Calvert Toulmin were listed as 'Ship and Sworn Insurance Brokers and General Agents'. These circulars drew a swift response from Marshall & Edridge. Thus on 22nd February, they wrote as follows:-

London, 34, Fenchurch Street,
22nd February, 1845.

"Gentlemen,

Our attention having been directed to a Circular issued by Messrs. Devitt & Moore and H. and C. Toulmin, announcing the fact of the combination of those Firms, as regards the despatch of Ships to Sydney, and stating that they intend continuing the Australian Line of Packets to Sydney on the 15th of every month, as well as the Mail Packets on the 1st, we beg to inform you that the Australian Line of Packets referred to was originated by our Firm, and will be continued by us; and, as it will consist of Vessels of the first rate description and consequently particularly eligible for the conveyance of Goods & Passengers, and, as the strictest punctuality in their despatch will be observed, we trust we shall be honored as heretofore with the confidence and support of the Merchants and Shippers engaged in the Trade.

"We beg to express our gratitude for past favors, and assure you of our best attention to any business entrusted to our care. We beg reference to the List of Ships at foot,

And are, Sirs,

Your most obedient Servants,
Marshall & Edridge."

AUSTRALIAN LINE OF PACKET SHIPS,
SAILING THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH,
FOR SYDNEY DIRECT.

As this Line of Packets is invariably despatched on the 15th of every Month (wind and weather permitting)
all Goods must be alongside and cleared 3 days prior to that date.

	Tons.	Comr.	To SAIL.
PERSIAN.....	400	A. Grange	15th March, 1845.
HOOGLY.....	600	J. Williams.....	15th April, ..
BENGAL.....	500	J. Errington.....	15th May, ..
ABBERTON.....	600	D. Campbell	15th June, ..
ST. GEORGE.....	750	J. Norie	15th July, ..
HAMLET.....	500	J. Wilson.....	15th August, ..
ROYAL GEORGE.....	650	J. Grieves	15th Sept. ..

These Ships load at the Jetty, London Docks, are British-built, stand first-class at Lloyd's and being fitted expressly for the Sydney Trade, have splendid Accommodations for Cabin, Intermediate, and Steerage Passengers.

For further particulars, apply to the undersigned, who are constantly despatching a succession of superior First-class Ships, (Regular Traders) to each of the Australian Colonies, Cape of Good Hope, &c.

MARSHALL & EDRIDGE,
34, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON.

One wonders where this left Devitt & Moore and their collaborators. I am endeavouring to find out, since these difficulties in the shipping world of 1845 may have inspired the following letter, which implies that the British Government were not satisfied with

such Packet Vessels as were operating at the time. Possibly they were hoping to start a speedier service. Be that as it may, the proposal fell on deaf ears, since the ship was not built, presumably due to lack of response from the merchant fraternity.

2, Cowper's Court, Cornhill.
18th June, 1847.

"Gentlemen

With reference to the pamphlet on Steam Communication with the Australian Colonies and Mauritius, via the Cape of Good Hope, which I had recently the honour to address to you, I now take leave to inform you that it is proposed, under the sanction of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, forthwith to build and equip an experimental vessel of 600 tons, fitted, in accordance with the plan suggested by me, with the Screw-propeller.

"Her Majesty's Government, with a view to the encouragement of the undertaking, have pledged themselves to 'wait the issue of such experimental voyage, before entering into any agreement with other Associations for the conveyance of the Mails to the same quarter,' and have promised that they will give to the vessel in question 'a number of Emigration Commissioners for the conveyance of Emigrants in vessels proceeding to Australia, during the preceding six months.'

"The Lords of the Treasury, as an additional encouragement, have further stated their readiness 'to furnish the Post-Master General with the requisite authority for the payment, in aid of the expense of the undertaking, of the amount received on the letters and newspapers which may be forwarded by the vessel.'

"The terms on which it is proposed to build and equip the vessel in question are - that she shall be held in sixty-fourth Shares, each Share being estimated at the value of £300 - the aggregate of which will form an amount sufficient to cover the cost of the ship, with her machinery, and everything complete for sea.

"As a fair recompense to those who may take part in this adventure, which is undertaken with the view of removing all doubts as to the practicability of the plan, it is proposed that, in the event of its success, and of the formation of a Company for the purpose of carrying out the entire plan - in accordance with a Royal Charter, which has been already obtained - the holder of each share of £300 in the experimental vessel shall be entitled to rank as a proprietor to the extent of £450 in the Capital stock of such Company.

"The management of the vessel will be vested in the hands of a Committee, to be elected by the shareholders at large.

"I am authorised to state that my plan has been carefully considered by the gentlemen whose names are mentioned below, and that they have consented to take shares in the experimental ship.

"Under the sanction of those gentlemen, it is now proposed that a meeting of a few influential parties interested in the establishment of Steam Communication with the several Colonies to which my plan has reference, shall be held at the office of Messrs. Fyson, Curling, & Hope, No. 3, Frederick's Place, Old

Jewry, on Friday, the 25th inst., at one o'clock precisely, and I am desired to express a hope that you will attend such meeting, and afford your sanction to the project.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant,

C.D.Hays

HENRY BUCKLE, Esq.
FREDERICK MANGLES, Esq.
SIR RICHARD JENKINS, BART.
P. W. FLOWER, Esq.

MESSRS. THOMPSON, WATSON, & Co.
W. VENNING, Esq.
MESSRS. MAYNARD BROTHERS, & Co.
CAPTAIN ANDREW HENDERSON.

"P.S. A detailed report of the voyage of Her Majesty's Steamer, Inflexible, from this country to Sydney, having just been received, I shall take leave to forward, on Wednesday next, a copy of the same, as extracted from the Sydney Morning Herald, of 18th February last; to which I would beg to refer you, as being fully confirmatory of all that I have ventured to put forward, as to the practicability of establishing Steam Communication with Australia via the Cape of Good Hope."

OFFICIAL OPENING OF AUCKLAND HARBOUR BRIDGE.

JOHN WATTS

I was most interested to read the article under the above title by DAVID NORTHOVER, published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 36, page 19, January, 1987. I can provide some of the information requested.

Turning first to the Health Stamps used on the cover. The design was by James Berry from an idea suggested by R.S.Phillips, and it depicts a health giving sport involving youth.

The yachts depicted are the Takapuna Class sailing boat. This is a special New Zealand design with a specific length of 12'6", a beam of 5' and a mast height of 12'7". They are of the 'V' bottom type and the sides of the hull from the deck to the waterline are almost vertical. The rig is limited to a mainsail and spinnaker.

This class of boat competes for the Cornwall Cup, a trophy donated in memory of John Travers Cornwall, V.C., who was killed at the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

Crews consist of two youths who must be under 19 years of age on 1st January of the year of the race, and whose combined weight is under 17 stone.

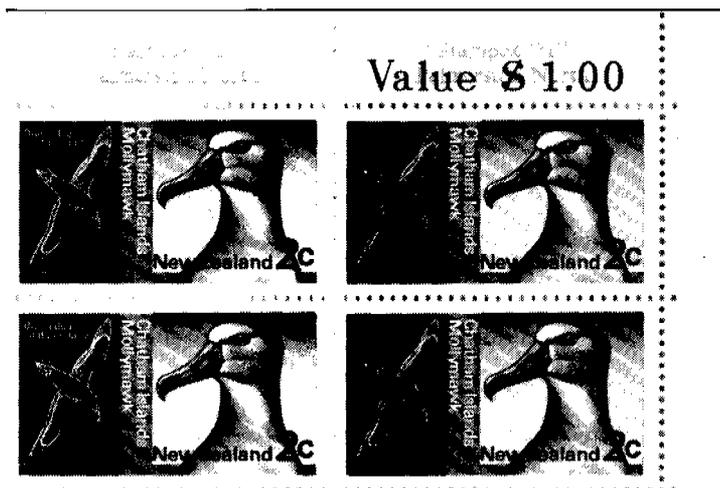
After the initial race, the crews interchange craft, although they use their own sails and running gear throughout. Originally, the cup was awarded to the first crew to win three races, but in 1958, the rules were changed, and the cup is now awarded to the crew with the highest aggregate of points from eight races.

Demonitisation of the stamps would be covered by the regulation brought about with the introduction of Decimal Stamps on 10th July, 1967. Sterling stamps were valid for use until 1st August, 1971, when they were demonitised, although they could still be exchanged for their equivalent value in Decimal stamps until 31st July, 1972.

The choice of these stamps for use on the cover is appropriate, as the Auckland Harbour Bridge links Auckland City to Takapuna City

across the gap of water to North Shore.

The overprinting was carried out by the Bruce Henderson Corporation, who have sailed close to the wind on a number of occasions, overprinting New Zealand stamps unofficially, mainly on the selvages. Illustrated below is a value block of four of the



two cents Chatham Island issue, with an overprint on the selvedge for the "Stampex '71" event at Palmerston North. Similar overprints have been seen on the one cent value of the same issue, and on the Centenary of Auckland and Centenary of Palmerston North stamps, and the eight cent One Ton Cup issue. Overprints advertising the Imperial Stamp Company of Auckland also have been seen, as well as the Bruce Henderson Corporation itself, the National Airways Corporation, and a patriotic overprint "Long Live / the Queen".

Apparently the New Zealand Post Office Authorities came close to prosecuting the Bruce Henderson Corporation before they ceased this practice. The Corporation was also involved with the Timaru Local Post issue, which was suppressed.

OBLITERATOR - MISTAKEN IDENTITY - "16" OR "A OVER 91"

JOHN D. EVANS

Referring to my article in 'The Kiwi', Volume 36, Number 1, page 14, January, 1987, on 'Obliterator - Mistaken Identity, "18" or "16"', another instance recently emerged. When going through about 160 used copies of the First Pictorial 2d. Pembroke Peak, S.G. 251/2 in shades of lake, there was a specimen which at first sight has a clear "16" within horizontal bars. The "16" is upright when looked at casually and one's thoughts at once went to the numbered obliterators first type used from 1855 with the London Prints of the Chalon Heads. Number 16 obliterator of that series had eleven horizontal bars and one obliterator with somewhat narrower figures "16" was used as my previous article states at Port Victoria, later Lyttelton. The other, with broader figures "16" - Types 25 and 26 on page 35 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand - was used at Kaiapoi from 1863, and according to page 36 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand was still being employed there as late as 1888. The figures of this obliterator "16" became considerably broader as time passed with constant use. Ah, I thought, here is a "16" in use as late as 1898, when the First Pictorials

were issued, on the 2d. Pembroke Peak. One remembered, perhaps too vaguely, articles by Ken McNaught on 'Late Use of Obliterators' and from 'The Kiwi', Volume 31, number 4, page 63, July, 1982, one finds 'Kaiapoi - worn "16" with flat top to "6" on Penny Universal unworn Dot Plate of 1904'.

On comparing the horizontal bars, however, I found on my stamp that there were only nine, so that the obliterator could not be "16" of the first series of 1855.

Turning the matter over both in mind and on stamp, of course one finds that "16" inverted can produce "91" and it certainly does so in this instance. Chasing through Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, one did not have to look too far because the triangular splodge below the "16" or above the "91", depending on which way you look at it, was most likely to be a small "A". I certainly could not find either in Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand or in my collection of Postal History a nearer explanation. This took me to the Auckland Province and when comparing the obliterator on my stamp with those illustrated for the Auckland District Offices on page 47 of Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, I found it closely resembles type 36, "A over 223", which I have, used at Walton. The "A over 91" therefore was a number allocated to Puhoi. This has been confirmed by Ken McNaught and I should like to record my grateful thanks.

But where is Puhoi - pronounced "PU - HO - EE" for many non New Zealand members. Here I would record my thanks to our Editor. The town is in North Auckland, 5 to 6 km from Waiwera, and its Maori name means "slow" or "slow water" - so called because the tide is slow creeping up the river to make it navigable for canoes. The Post Office was opened on 1st May, 1870, and served and still serves a farming community which was established in 1863 by 83 colonists from the German speaking Bohemian District of Staab about 105 km south-west of Prague, now in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Among the curios of Puhoi's history is the District's first Liquor Licence issued to the 'German Hotel' in the hamlet in 1879.

One other interesting feature is the continuity of service as Postmaster at Puhoi, for in 1884, John Schollum became Postmaster and remained associated with the Post Office there for 58 years; my 2d. stamp was in all probability cancelled by him using his obliterator "A over 91" in about 1898 to 1900. John Schollum was succeeded by his son Mr. A. Schollum, who retired on 24th November, 1975, after 33 years service, and rightly received a testimonial from the New Zealand Post Office.

There was but one thing left; was this a late use of the "A over 91" obliterator? On referring to page 65 of Ken McNaught's article before mentioned, I find it is known used on piece on a pair of 1d. Second Sideface Queen Victoria definitive stamps, dated Puhoi, OC 97, and also on the 2d. Queen Victoria Second Sideface definitive on the Pirie paper of 1900. So at least my "A over 91" is one of the latest uses of this obliterator as the 2d. Pembroke Peak issued on 5th August, 1898, in brown-lake and rose-lake was superceded by the colour change to dull violet, mauve and purple in March, 1900.

And so, "16" or "91" - there could be problems on stamps between 1870, when the Post Office using "A over 91" was opened and 1904,

when the "16" obliterator ceased, it appears, to be used at Kaiapoi, but if you are able to count the number of horizontal bars you should avoid a mistaken identity.

References.

The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 111.
Place Names of New Zealand, by A.W.Reed, 1975.
Wise's New Zealand Guide, 1979.
The Mail Coach, Volume 12, page 95, January, 1976.
New Zealand Post Offices, by R.M.Startup.

LEESTON - ANOTHER OBLITERATOR

Following the publication of the note by John D. Evans on this subject in 'The Kiwi', Volume 36, page 49, May, 1987, our member A.R.MARSHALL has written as follows:-

"When a post office became a Money Order Office, a datestamp was required, not an obliterator. This is clearly stated on page 20 of my book 'New Zealand Postal Manuscripts'.

"There was no 'official' obliterator issued to Leeston. The Money Order Office date is a fact and does not need further substantiation."

NEW ZEALAND ILLUSTRATED HEALTH COVERS

JOHN WATTS

From time to time, members of the Society see the results of the ongoing study that Tom Latto and myself are involved in related to Health Camps and Illustrated Health Stamp Covers. This report covers another facet of this study.

Recently I was offered some of the material from the Estate of the late James Berry. Although there were a considerable number of examples of his stamp designs, the ones that were of particular interest to me were anything associated with 'Illustrated Health Covers'. In among some of the unadopted stamp designs were two such examples.

Figure 1 shows the design that was based on a photograph taken during a family holiday at Worser Bay, Wellington, in 1936. The girl on the right is James Berry's daughter, Winifred.

Figure 2 shows the 'official cover' issued for the 1941 Health Stamps. This used the same basic design, although the group has been reversed. Winifred is kneeling and the girl in the centre has a change of pose, but the details are the same, right down to the boat in the background. James Berry had come to my home some years previously and when we discussed some of his design work, he told me that the 1941 cover was his work and that he had incorporated his daughter Winifred in the design.

He signed the cover for me with his full Christian name, thus signifying that I was a friend rather than an autograph hunter.

Figure 3 is another unadopted design for a Health Stamp. This time it formed the basis of an illustrated cover issued by the 'Collectors Club' of Christchurch for the 1945 Health Stamp issue, illustrated at Figure 4.

James Berry had explained that the payment for designing stamps was very small, so that it is no surprise that an artist utilised

unadopted designs in other quarters if they could contribute to the income.

We have often heard of the 'story' behind the stamp. This is the 'story' behind the cover.

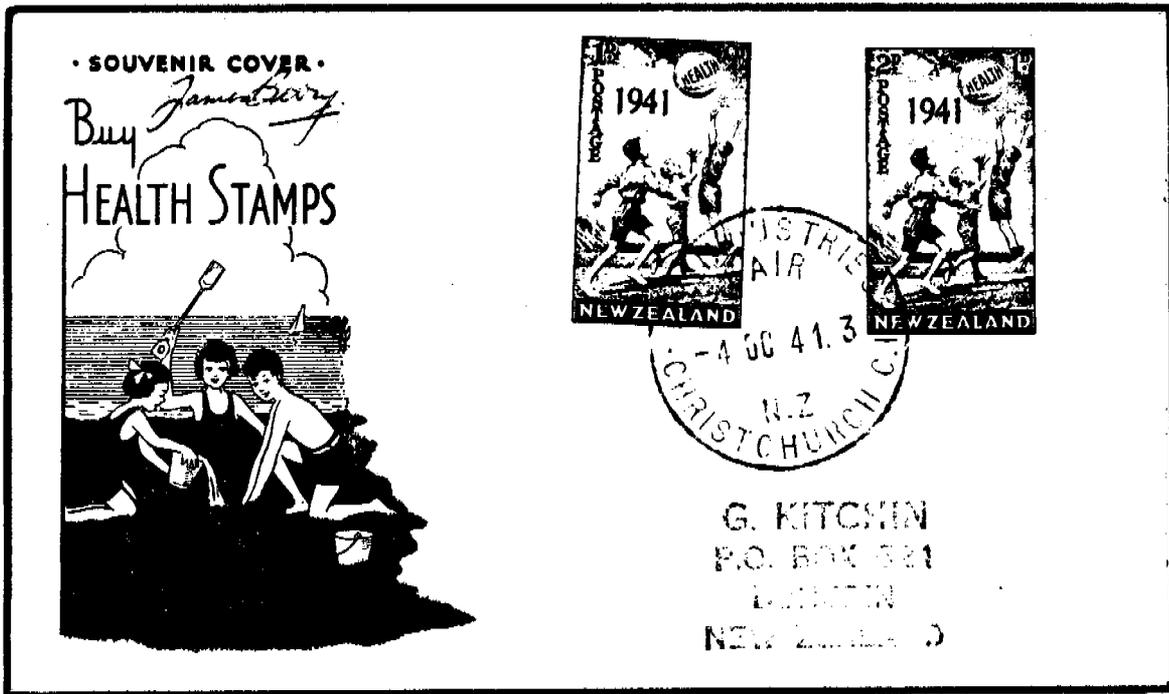


Figure 2

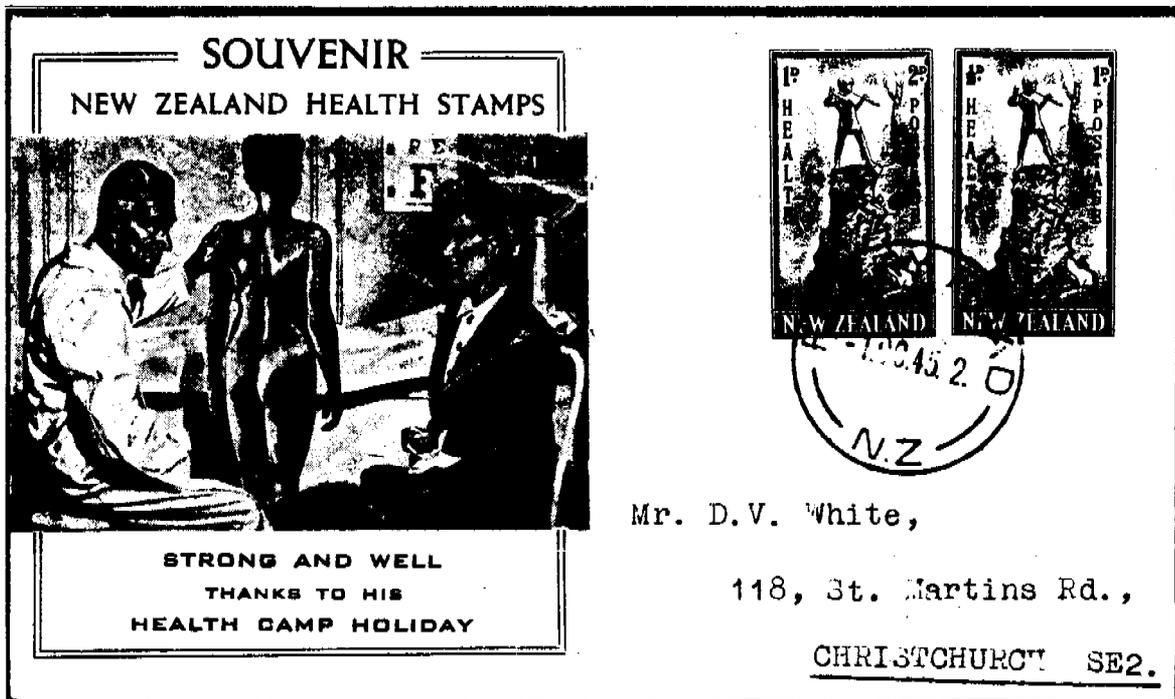


Figure 4



at women bar,
1930.
← The figure
Mangled Bump
(Christ daughter
at 18 days)

J. Berry

J. Berry

Figure 1



Figure 3

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