



# The Kiwi



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

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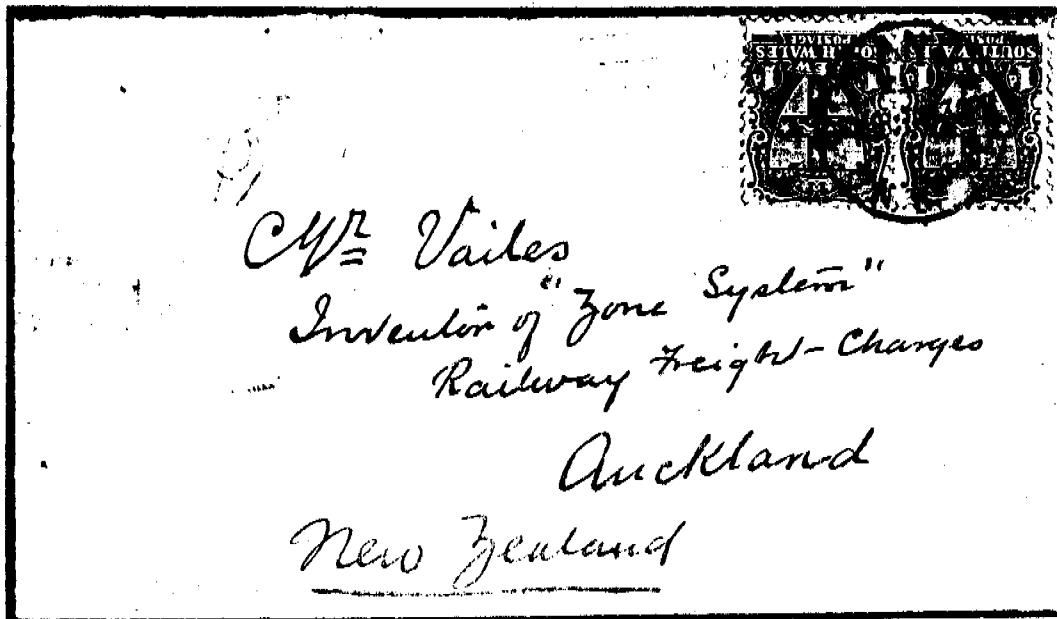
WHOLE 209

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 4TH JUNE, 1988,  
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,  
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

THE SUBJECT WILL BE NEW ZEALAND AIR MAILS, AND THE LEADER  
FOR THE AFTERNOON WILL BE AUDREY MALLIN.

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING ALONG ANY AIR MAIL ITEMS THAT  
THEY MAY HAVE IN THEIR COLLECTION TO SUPPORT OUR LEADER.

CHARGES FOR FREIGHT HANDLING ON NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS - A QUERY



SEE PAGE 58

## EDITORIAL.

The number of exhibits entered in this year's Annual Society Competition was a great disappointment to the Officers of the Society. This fact is reflected in the awards list published in the Meeting Report below.

It appears that this event is supported by the same stalwarts as in previous years. I am sure that none of them will take offence if I say that additional competition may well have resulted in a wider spread of the awards than to the few who took the trouble to work up an exhibit. The Trophies would grace any sideboard, so why not start planning and entry now for next year?

ALLAN P. BERRY

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## MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

R.R.Balmer, 65, Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks., HP7 9BA.

Miss S.A.Burn, 16, Barton Meadow, Bosvigo,

Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3NJ.

Dr. A.F.Dove, 12, Stella Avenue, Tollerton, Nottinghamshire.

S.J.Potter, 11B, West Bank Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 3BT.

DECEASED

R.C.R.Henderson, 11, Barnes Court, New Barnet, Herts., EN5 1QY.

RESIGNED

F.E.Birbeck, 148, Eastern Way, Letchworth, Herts., SG6 4PF.

D.R.P.Cassford, 14, Sycamore Road, Launton,

Nr. Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX6 0DY.

D.Clow, 142, Hillside Road, Bramcote, Nottinghamshire, NR7 3BG.

C.J.Moubray, 22, Narbonne Avenue, London, S.W.4.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

C.G.Capill, R.D.11, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

(previously of Bunnythorpe, New Zealand.)

M.J.Cranfield, 41, Grange Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2PQ.

(previously of 17, Pontoise Close, Sevenoaks.)

D.H.E.Garrett, 2, Cavendish Close, Saltwood, Bristol, BS18 3LH.

(previously of Bath.)

M.H.Kempshall, P.O.Box 177, Havelock North, New Zealand.

(previously of Havelock North, New Zealand.)

G.L.Rolton, 25, Lowe Street, Liberton, Dunedin, New Zealand.

(previously c/o 51, Pine Hill, Dunedin.)

A.R.Spence, Holly Cottage, Moorhayes Drive,

Laleham, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 1SL.

(previously of Bundoran Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Laleham.)

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MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1988 - THE ANNUAL COMPETITION.

Alan Baker, our Chairman, opened the meeting at 2.30 p.m. He introduced Bob Balmer from Amersham, a member attending a meeting for the first time, and presented apologies for absence from Ann Carter, Audrey Mallin and George Riley. Our Judge for the afternoon was Peter Collins from Christie's Robson Lowe, one of our longest standing and most valued members. Assisted by Margaret Frankcom and Liz Berry, he departed to judge the fourteen entries.

During the judging various items of interest and queries were shown. Margaret Frankcom showed a cover addressed to Norfolk with a

marking showing N (crown) Z, which it is thought not to be of New Zealand origin. Gwyn Evans showed a New Zealand despatch from Poona during World War 11, asking if anyone knew details of its origin. He also showed a date slug error and a marking 'Posted Without Contents' cachet from Christchurch. Allan McKellar showed a jig-saw puzzle of a map of New Zealand with New Zealand stamps provided by Air New Zealand, and a selection of School Post Office covers.

Ernie Leppard showed a piece of the watermarked paper used by Perkins Bacon to print the first issues of the Chalon Heads. He also showed a cover, possibly from Tauranga, addressed to 36th Rgt. Madras Native Infantry, which travelled via Christchurch, Dunedin and Madras and Nagpoor. This was followed by two corner pieces of the 2½d. Lake Wakitipu 1898 Pictorial issue with printer's plate markings. An early Railways meter mark was shown, and Ernie ended with a selection of Postal Stationery designed by Captain Peter McIntyre, the Official New Zealand War Artist.

Ken Bracey asked if the 14 May 1931 1d. King George V Postcard with an extra 1d. added was genuine at this date. Alan Gardiner showed further postcards of the New Zealand Arch, and finally, we were shown another example of the King Edward VII ½d. stamp with 'Official' overprint inverted by Mrs. G.V. Robinson.

The competition entries were then put on display, and the awards were announced as follows:-

- |                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| Classic Section  | : | Stacey Hooker Cup - E.W.Leppard        |
|                  |   | First Pictorial 4d. value, Lake Taupo. |
| Runner-up        | : | Paua Book Ends - Gwyn Evans            |
|                  |   | First Pictorials to 6d. value.         |
| Modern Section 1 | : | Noel Turner Trophy - E.W.Leppard       |
|                  |   | Penny Universal Waterlow Trial Plates. |
| Runner-up        | : | John D. Evans Trophy - Peter Marks     |
|                  |   | King George V Dependency Overprints.   |
| Modern Section 2 | : | Kiwi Shield - Peter Marks              |
|                  |   | Counter Coils.                         |
| Runner-up        | : | Paua Musical Box - E.W.Leppard         |
|                  |   | 1946 Peace Issue.                      |
| Modern Section 3 | : | David Forty Salver - Peter Marks       |
|                  |   | 1970 Pictorials, 4 cent Value.         |
| Runner-up        | : | Teko-teko Carving - E.W.Leppard        |
|                  |   | Decimal Errors.                        |
| Postal History   | : | J.J.Bishop Trophy - E.W.Leppard        |
|                  |   | New Zealand Goldfields.                |
| Runner-up        | : | The Barton Bowl - Mrs. Audrey Mallin   |
|                  |   | The Early Airlines of New Zealand.     |

Peter Collins gave a very extensive survey of all the entries. He pointed out critical details where the entries could be improved, particularly as to presentation, writing-up, captions and general layout. He pointed out where guidelines should be followed, and gave very detailed reasons for his selections and suggestions for the improvement of all exhibits.

Alan Baker, on closing the meeting at 5.15 p.m., thanked Peter Collins for his busy afternoon and the very detailed comments made on all the exhibits.

E.W.L.

## AUTUMN STAMPEX (B.P.E.) 1988

The Guide for Exhibitors and Entry Forms for Autumn Stampex (B.P.E.) 1988 are now available from:-

Mrs. Ann Gilham, Stampex Ltd.,  
27, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HZ

For collectors who wish to enter Stamp World London '90, this will be the final opportunity to qualify.

Those who do enter should make their cheques payable to Stampex Limited. Details about delivery and collection of entries will be notified when receipt of the Entry Form is acknowledged.

Completed Entry Forms must reach the above address no later than Friday, 1st July, 1988.

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### DISPLAYS TO LOCAL SOCIETIES.

Allan P. Berry will be giving a display to the Leicester Philatelic Society on Tuesday, 17th May, 1988. This Society meets at the Forester's Institute, 35, St. Nicholas Place, Leicester, and the meetings start at 7.15 p.m.

Allan P. Berry will also be giving a display to the National Philatelic Society on Saturday, 11th June, 1988. This Society meets at the British Philatelic Centre, 107, Charterhouse Street, London, and the meetings start at 3.00 p.m.

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

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### POSTAGE STAMPS CARRY PERSONAL MESSAGE.

Good Luck, happy birthday, congratulations, get well and keeping in touch. They are all messages someone somewhere receives every day. Now, with a new set of stamps released by New Zealand Post Limited, the message can be seen immediately a letter is received.

The 40 cent stamps are being sold in booklets of five costing \$2 each and include the range of personal messages. They were issued on 18th May, 1988.

Designs, prepared by Communication Arts, are stylised. Hands are a feature of the congratulations, keeping in touch and good luck stamps; happy birthday has a cake and candles and get well soon a bandaged figure in bed.

The stamps were printed by CPE Australia Ltd., Melbourne, Australia by lithography.

The colourful stamps will remain on sale at all New Zealand Post outlets indefinitely.

### A New Zealand Post Feature

Editor's Note - This seems to be an extra issue of stamps over and above the Programme published for 1988. Information to hand indicates that collectors wanting these from the Philatelic Bureau must place a special order, and that Standing Orders do not take account of this issue.

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

SPECIAL DATESTAMPS

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



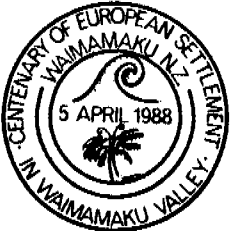
A special pictorial date stamp was used at Wellington Philatelic Sales Centre on Friday, 4th March, 1988, to commemorate the New Zealand International Festival of the Arts.

OPENING OF TAURANGA HARBOUR BRIDGE



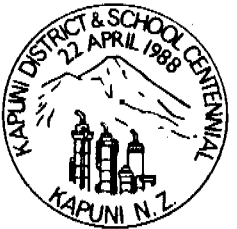
A special pictorial date stamp was used at Tauranga Post Office on Sunday, 13th March, 1988, to commemorate the Opening of Tauranga Harbour Bridge.

CENTENARY OF EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT IN WAIMAMAKU VALLEY



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Waimamaku Post Office on Tuesday, 5th April, 1988, to commemorate the Centenary of European Settlement in Waimamaku Valley.

KAPANUI DISTRICT AND SCHOOL CENTENARY



A special pictorial date stamp was used at Kapanui Post Office on Friday, 22nd April, 1988, to commemorate the Kapanui District and School Centenary.

NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS CHRISTMAS GREETINGS CARDS

LAURIE FRANKS

Further to Alan Jackson's article on these cards published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 34, pages 35 - 38, March, 1985, I have checked my collection and find the following:-

No.	Colour	To	Date
2	Violet	Auckland	24/12/08
4	Black	Christchurch	31/12/08
4	Black	Blenheim	24/12/07
6	Violet	Christchurch	23/12/08
7	Blue	Wellington	24/12/09
8	Blue	Christchurch	22/12/08
10	Black	Nelson	24/12/07
11	Black	Invercargill	23/12/07

13	Black*	Nelson	24/12/08
14	Black	Greymouth	24/12/07
15	Black	Dunedin	24/12/08
17	Black	Invercargill	24/12/08
18	Violet	Unused	-
20	Violet	Invercargill	23/12/0?
22	Blue	Christchurch	24/12/07
23	Black*	Denniston	24/12/10
23	Black*	Onehunga	24/12/07
25	Black	Opotiki	24/12/09
26	Violet	Ross	23/12/09
27	Black	Marton	24/12/08
29	Black	Blenheim	23/12/07
29	Violet*	Invercargill	24/12/08
30	Black	Rotorua	24/12/10

The items marked \* are colours not recorded by Alan Jackson. The numbers shown are those in the original list.

The offices of address are included to confirm no rural areas are included. Ross, Denniston and Opotiki are the smallest and delivery would have been within walking distance - it is presumed.

The datestamps are various types of Telegraph ones, except for No. 14, which has a Greymouth postal type; and No. 22, which has the date in manuscript and a straight 'Christchurch' in red in the address panel. No. 18 is unused. No. 30 is inscribed 'Esplanade, Napier', not 'The Esplanade, Napier'.

Of the 23 cards, seven are used in 1907, nine in 1908, three in 1909 and two in 1910. One is illegible and one is unused. This confirms a fall-off in demand, as suggested by Alan Jackson.

THE NEW ZEALAND KING EDWARD VII HALFPENNY GREEN STAMP,  
OVERPRINTED 'OFFICIAL' WITH THE WORD READING DOWNWARDS INSTEAD  
OF UPWARDS - THUS INVERTED.

JEAN ROBINSON

Further to Frank Scrivener's article under the above title that was published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 34, page 101, November, 1985, I can now report that a further copy has been located in a dealer's stock at the York Stamp Fair in August, 1987.

The copy is cancelled with squared circle date stamp of TAIHAPÉ, dated 28 FE 11. Taihape is in the Wanganui Postal District, which shows that examples of this stamp must have had a wider range of distribution than the Napier Postal District from which all the previous identifiably cancelled stamps emanated.

I am extremely grateful to Allan P. Berry and Frank Scrivener for their help in classifying the stamp and cancellation. It now has a Royal Philatelic Society of London Certificate that it is genuine.

B.O.A.C. COMET JET SERVICE, NEW ZEALAND TO LONDON.

E.W.LEPPARD

Following Ann Carter's note on this subject published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 37, page 40, March, 1988, I can add further to the confusion. My cover is backstamped 'Aircraft Arrived - Hrs 11.16 Date 7 APR 63 - B.O.A.C.'.

## NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL PARKS

### (3) UREWERA NATIONAL PARK

CECIL BRISTOW

Of all the National Parks, Urewera preserves most strongly the influence of the traditional culture of the early Maori. Legend says that in the beginning there was Rangi the sky father and Papa the earth mother. From their union came many children, one of them being Tane fertiliser of life on earth.

In his search for the first human mother Tane created trees and birds which fed on them. They are the children of Tane and the ranges of Urewera territory are their last great stronghold in the North Island.

Urewera Park is a living shrine to the native forest which once almost totally covered the North Island and in it one can sense the spiritual qualities the Maori endowed it with. It was perpetually under the protection of the Gods and revered by the Maori because it gave them all their requirements - food, shelter, tools, canoes and so on.

The forest has a cathedral-like quality with giant Beech, Rimu and other vast trees as supporting buttresses, its silence shattered only by the bird life. It is reputed to be the home of the Huia, long considered extinct, but recent possible sightings may prove that this is not so.

The Urewera is steep and rugged country and inhospitable. It is much larger than it appears to the visitor who tends to keep to the road or to the environs of the two lakes.

Lake Waikaremoana, which abounds with rainbow trout, is the scenic showpiece, lying near the Park's southern boundary. The overspill of this lake provides the water power for three vast hydro-electric units.

A second lake, Lake Waiwareite, is a 3.5 km walk from the main highway and is well worth the effort. It lies just north of the eastern end of Lake Waikaremoana. The Aniwaniwa stream feeds into Lake Waikaremoana at the eastern end, and a short distance from where they meet are the Papakotito Falls.

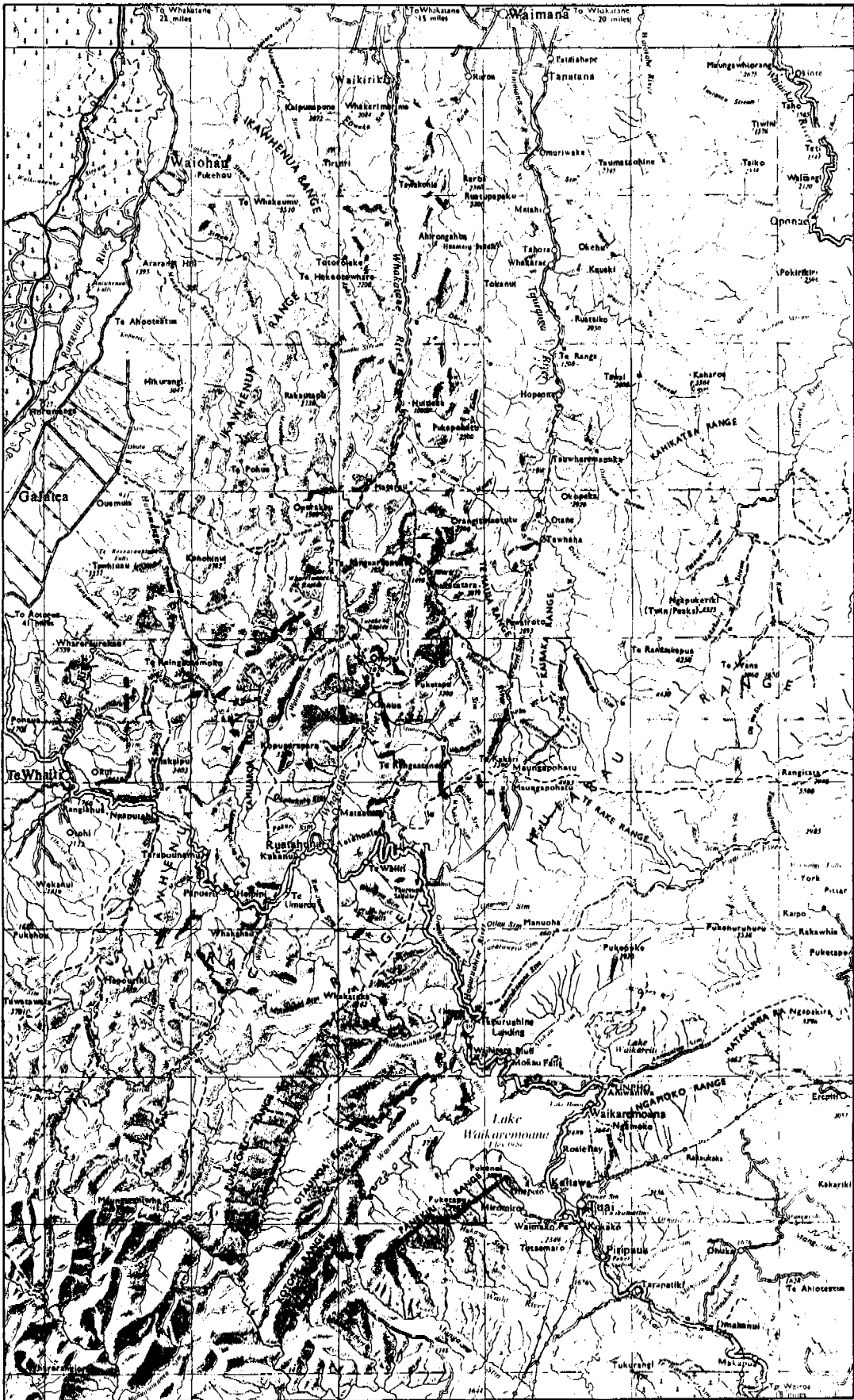
Much of the Park's beauty can be seen from the Rotorua-Wairoa State Highway which winds through about 80 km of bush and lake scenery.

Walks through the forest are available in immense variety. A four day tramp around Lake Waikaremoana follows a well made track which was constructed by parties of schoolboys over a period of 10 years.

The Huiarau range runs north-east through the southern part of the Park. Rivers run through deep gorges and waterfalls are abundant. Huge boulders the size of houses litter some rivers. It is the third largest of the National Parks, with an area of 211,777 hectares.

Visitors are warned not to undertake visits to the more remote spots without a thorough knowledge of bush craft, a supply of warm clothing and plenty of food and sleeping equipment.

Many Maori tribes have made Urewera their home but battles between them eliminated some. As there was no written word in Maori culture until the Pakeha came, and Maori oral tradition having no room for memorials to the defeated, only sketchy knowledge of some





tribes has survived.

Traces of many Pa sites - fortified points - exist as reminders of those days. Tribal peace was finally agreed by all in 1863.

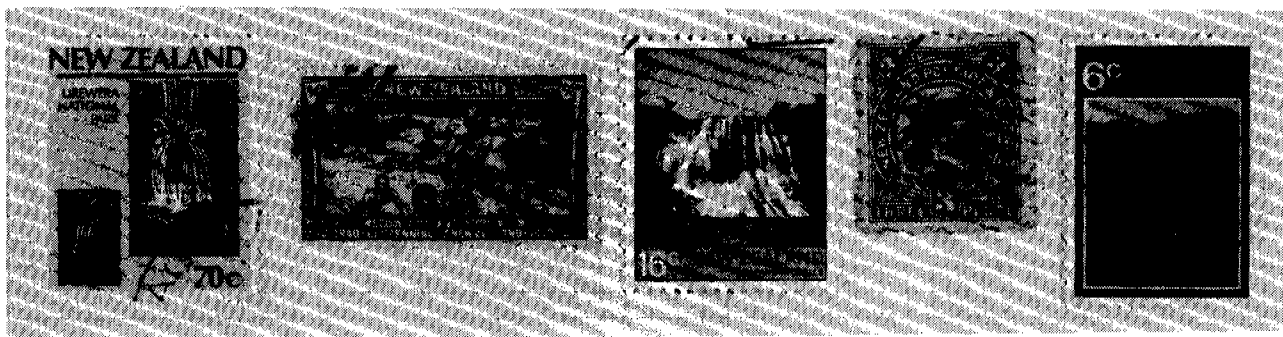
The great navigator, Kupe, perhaps the original Polynesian to visit New Zealand, is said to have visited Lake Waikaremoana.

One of the canoes of the first 'great migration' which came after Kupe was Mataatua, which landed at Whakatane and its people spread into Urewera country in about 1350.

The Maori of Urewera were very hospitable to the first white men but 20 years later the Pakeha was no longer welcome, and the tribes turned completely against the Government. There followed much fighting against the Government forces, but in 1871 the leader of the Tuhoe gave up the struggle and made peace. Te Kooti, the most feared leader, then escaped to the King Country. The Urewera forest had proved to be a great hiding place for guerilla tactics.

In the Headquarters Museum at Aniwanuiwa are the remains of two boats which the white forces had built for water mobility purposes but had sunk then in Lake Waikaremoana when recalled by the Government.

After the 1914-1918 war there was a move afoot to clear much of the bush and sub-divide the area into farms, but fears of erosion proved more persuasive and the Park was established in 1954.



#### CLOSURE OF NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICES

In the last two issues of 'The Kiwi', various changes in New Zealand Post services have been mentioned, including the closure of a large number of Post Offices. New Zealand Post were asked to comment on these notes, and DON GEORGE, the Production Manager, Philatelic Services, has been kind enough to do so. He writes:-

"Wherever a Post Office is being closed alternative arrangements are being put in place. I have enclosed a chart detailing what alternative arrangements have been organised together with a 'Householder Drop' that was sent to every household in New Zealand. As you can see, far from lowering our standards of service we will, in a number of instances, be increasing outlets.

"Regrettably with such a major exercise the media has chosen to concentrate on the negative side, i.e., simply the closures rather than emphasising that where there have been closures other arrangements have been put in place."

The chart and the 'Householder Drop' are reproduced in reduced form on the following pages for the interest of members of the Society.

**A better postal  
service for  
New Zealand.**

**Any questions?  
Contact our local District  
Manager.**

<b>Whangarei</b>	
Roy Gordon	toll-free Tel (089) 482-684
<b>Auckland</b>	
Barry Sutton	Tel (09) 379-378
<b>Hamilton</b>	
Dan Coomey	Tel (071) 387-300
<b>Rotorua</b>	
Arthur Johansson	Tel (073) 477-851 Extn 820
<b>New Plymouth</b>	
John Small	Tel (067) 80-999
<b>Napier</b>	
Ross Meredith	Tel (070) 351-450 Extn 802
<b>Palmerston North</b>	
Russ Pedley	Tel (063) 89-057
<b>Wellington</b>	
Danny Garrick	Tel (04) 716-308
<b>Nelson</b>	
John Christie	Tel (054) 60-800
<b>Christchurch</b>	
Pat Nicholas	Tel (03) 531-714
<b>Timaru</b>	
Garry Rogers	Tel (056) 48-222
<b>Dunedin</b>	
Alex Boyd	Tel (024) 770-999
<b>Invercargill</b>	
Bob Macgregor	Tel (021) 47-799



**Looking  
to the  
future...**



**T**hroughout New Zealand, we have 1,200 Post offices, ranging from the very large ones in city centres down to the small Post office agencies.

A large number of those offices are subsidised by the Government at a total cost of \$23 million to the taxpayer. This subsidy will cease on February 5 next year.

**It's become very clear that we don't really need 1,200 offices to run a modern 'world standard' postal system cost effectively.**

**So it's been a wise but tough decision to start making cut backs.**

Even so, NZ Post will still have the largest retail network with more than 750 offices, compared to the next largest organisation which only has 423.

Obviously your next question is, if we're reducing the number of NZ Post offices, will I have to travel miles just to buy my stamps, weigh a parcel or send a letter?

The answer is no.

In rural areas, selected local retailers will be selling postage stamps and some will have scales to weigh your letters and parcels. These retailers will be encouraged to provide a counter or private

box letter delivery service. Many retailers have already indicated a willingness to do this as well as providing a cheque cashing facility for beneficiaries who may receive

Social Welfare cheques in the mail. Retailers see this as supplementing their business. You'll also see more stamp vending machines appearing in large centres where you can buy your stamps automatically.

At busy locations, we'll be providing more of the familiar red posting boxes to make sure you won't have to go too far to post a letter. And in some rural and outlying areas, community mail boxes will be a new feature.

Keep an eye out for the posters in your local Post office. They'll tell you what the alternative services in your area are, and where to find them.

All in all, NZ Post want to give you the world class postal service you deserve. If NZ Post were to maintain all 1,200 outlets, it would mean increasing the postal charges. After all, every \$8 million of unnecessary expenditure adds 1 cent to anything you post. So you are the

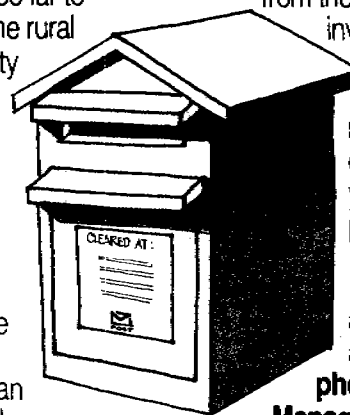
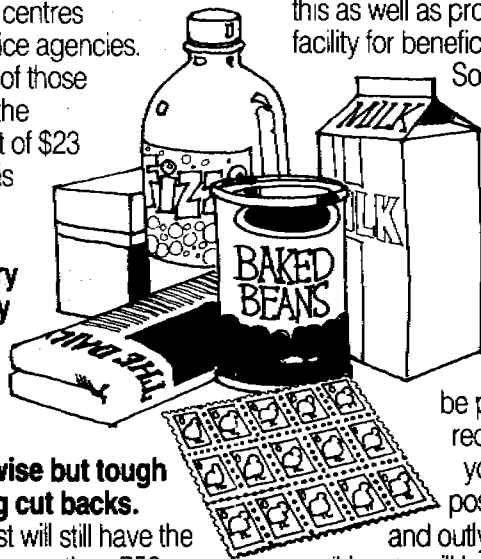
one who'll be benefiting.

We've already begun to refurbish our bigger offices and about 100 of these will be completed by our first birthday. And we've started plans for brand new mail processing centres, mechanical mail processing equipment, plus containerisation of mail. In fact, the first mail processing centre to be built in New Zealand for many years opens in South Auckland soon. And in Tauranga, we'll be able to combine the mail processing for the whole area within a new building. New Zealand Post has already set aside over \$15 million from its own resources for these types of capital projects. And that's without any assistance from the taxpayer. We intend to invest even more this financial year.

All these things mean faster, more efficient service when you post your letters or parcels.

**If you want to ask any questions at all, please feel free to phone our District Manager.**

**His name is listed on the back of this leaflet.**

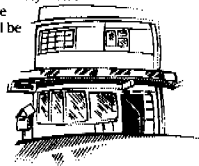


# Your guide to the new New Zealand Post.

From February 5, you'll notice some big changes to New Zealand Post. Hundreds of new postal outlets will be opening in dairies and other retail outlets around the country. Between them, they'll provide the service you've grown to expect from New Zealand Post, and, over time, new services as well. Here's how:



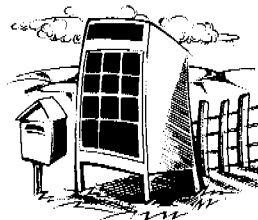
**Stamp Retailers** will be set up in smaller shops, like this dairy. They'll be able to sell stamps over the counter. While they won't process mail, a simple postal rates chart will be available and a post box will be nearby.



**Post Delivery Centres** will be established in some smaller towns and rural areas in dairies and other businesses. As well as selling stamps and delivering mail over the counter, they'll weigh and price mail, and hold it for New Zealand Post collection. They could also have private boxes.



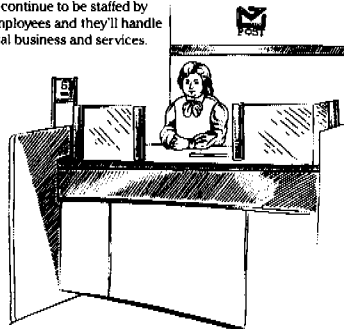
At **Post Agencies**, full New Zealand Post services will be provided by many larger retail and grocery shops. These retailers will handle all postal functions, including stamp sales, mail processing and private boxes. Some will also act for PostBank and Telecom.



Rural areas will be covered by **extended Rural Deliveries** and **Community Mail Boxes**. Community mail boxes are large, weatherproof mail boxes which will cover pickup and delivery of all mail.



And of course there'll still be an extensive national network of **New Zealand Post branches**. They'll continue to be staffed by Post employees and they'll handle all postal business and services.



 **We get it there**

RETURNED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION  
FIRST WORLD WAR - FREE POSTAGE CONCESSION

ALAN JACKSON

The Returned Services Association of New Zealand is today regarded as a private organisation which, like other such bodies, has to pay for its postage. However, when its predecessor, the Returned Soldiers' Association, was first set up in the middle of the First World War, it was a different matter. The local branches of the Association were given authority to send mail unstamped, in similar fashion to the free postage concession granted to patriotic fund-raising societies during the war. What is more, this concession to the Returned Soldiers' Association continued for several years after the war, whereas the fund-raising societies tended to die a natural death with the end of the war, and their free postage concessions with them.

Why was such a privilege granted to the returned Soldiers' Association? The association was established to look after the interests of the large numbers of soldiers who, from late 1915, began returning to New Zealand from active service overseas. In general, soldiers were repatriated to New Zealand before the war ended only if they were seriously wounded. The injuries of many of these men were quite shocking - for example, severe disfigurements, multiple amputations and severe psychological problems. So there was a swell of popular feeling in the country that as much help as possible should be given to these men who had made such a sacrifice "for King and Country". The Government clearly felt that one way it could do this was by providing free postage to the branches of the Returned Soldiers' Association.

The Association no doubt made extensive public appeals for funds through the mail, and the concession would have been a considerable help in this way. The funds so raised would have been largely used to benefit the Association's own members, whereas the existing patriotic societies were not entitled to use donated funds for their own members' benefit. The Returned Soldiers' Association therefore appears to have occupied a position somewhere intermediate between the private patriotic societies and the quasi-official bodies such as the Industrial Efficiency Board and the Women's National Reserve which were also set up during the war and granted free postage concessions.

The concessions granted to the Returned Soldiers' Association were to individual branches and were published in the Official Circulars of the Post and Telegraph Department. The first mention of the Returned Soldiers' Association was in the Official Circular of 1st August, 1916, where it was granted to the following branches:-

Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton, Hastings, Invercargill, Motueka, Napier, Nelson, Palmerston North, Rotorua, Timaru and Wellington.

The terms of the concession were:-

- a) It applied to inland correspondence only.
- b) The value of postage was not to exceed £12-00 per month.
- c) Mail had to be presented at the post office by a nominated person.

d) The concession expired on 30th June, 1917.

When patriotic society mail was handed in at a post office, also by a "nominated person", a 'PAID' datestamp had to be applied to each item. The same procedure was adopted for the Returned Soldiers' Association mail. In addition, it had become common for authorised patriotic society officers to apply their signatures, or rubber handstamp facsimiles of them, to each item of mail, in the same fashion as the signatures of some Government Officials who franked mail. However, this was not necessary and the signatures of patriotic society officers cannot be regarded as franks in the same way as the signatures of Government Officials. The requirement was that the mail always be handed in by the nominated person. This person would normally be known to the local post office staff and was usually the honorary secretary of the body concerned. The regulations did not even require that there should be a printed inscription on each item to indicate the body despatching it.

Other authorities to individual Returned Soldiers' Association branches appeared in the Post and Telegraph Department Official Circulars as follows:-

- 2nd October, 1916 - Ashburton, Blenheim, Gisborne and Wanganui branches.
- 10th January, 1917 - Auckland and Masterton Branches, until 30th June, 1917.
- 1st May, 1917 - Dannevirke Branch.
- 1st August, 1917 - Oamaru Branch.

In the Official Circular of 1st August, 1917, there also appeared the following notice, providing an indefinite extension of the period of the concession:-

"The concession of free transmissions of correspondence of approved Returned Soldiers' Association throughout the Dominion up to a total cost of £12 a month is extended indefinitely beyond the 30th June, 1917, the date originally fixed for expiry of the concession."

Further concessions granted in later issues of the Official Circulars were :-

- 1st October, 1917 - New Plymouth Branch.
- 1st November, 1917 - Hawera Branch.
- 1st March, 1918 - Feilding Branch.
- 1st August, 1918 - Marton Branch.

I have not yet been able to verify exactly when the free postage concession to the Returned Soldiers' Association was withdrawn, as it must have been. The concession was certainly still in force for some years after the war ended. By this time, most of the correspondence of the branches would have been directed towards keeping members in touch rather than towards fund-raising.

Illustrated on the following page are three items posted by Returned Soldiers' Association branches under the free postage concession during the war. Figure 1 (from the collection of I.D. Campbell), and Figure 2 (from the collection of K.J. McNaught) show pieces cut from envelopes mailed by the Hawera Returned Soldiers' Association. They date from very soon after the concession was

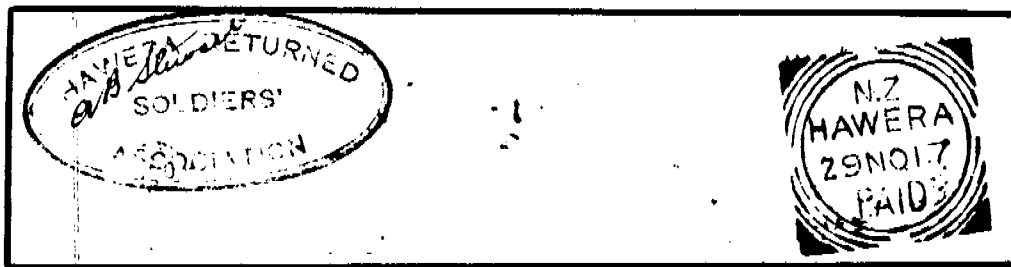


Figure 1 (collection I.D.Campbell)

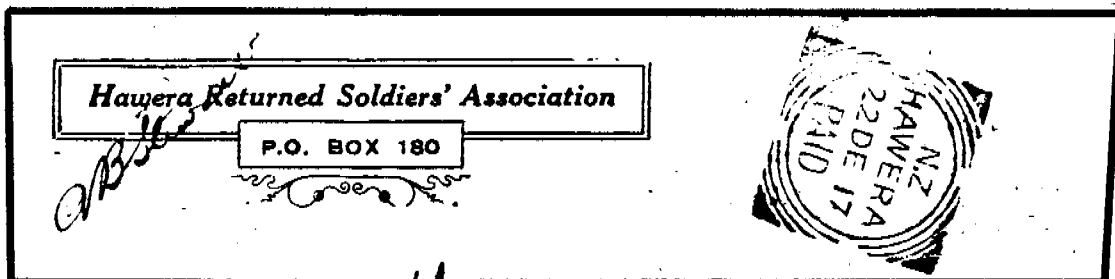


Figure 2 (collection K.J.McNaught)

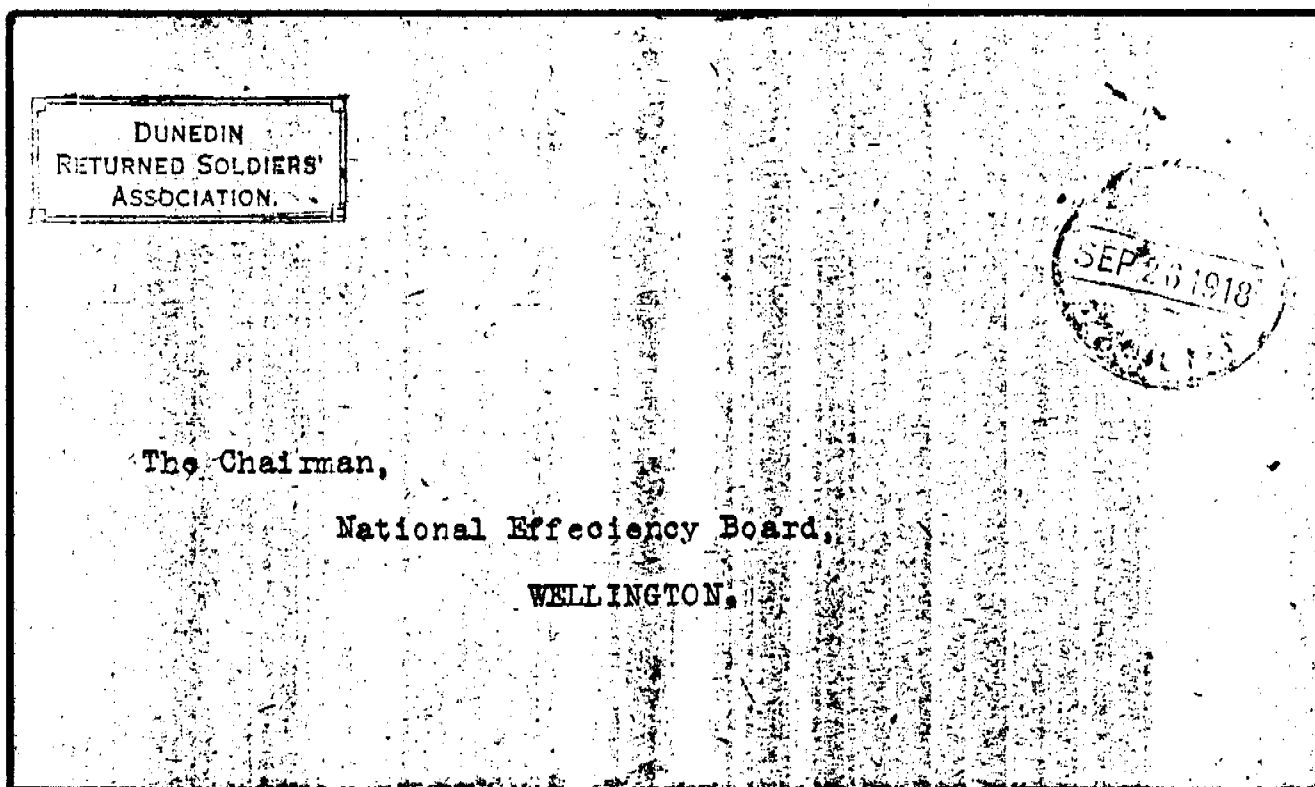


Figure 3 (collection K.J.McNaught)

granted to the branch, in the Official Circular of 1st November, 1917. Both bear the ink signature of 'A.B.Stewart', presumably the 'nominated person' authorised to present the mail. Both bear impressions of the rarely seen 'HAWERA PAID' squared circle datestamp, one dated 29 NO 17, the other 22 DE 17. It seems that when the earlier item was sent, the branch still did not have specially printed stationery; this item bears a rubber-stamp in violet showing the Association's name, whereas on the later item, this information is printed.

The cover illustrated at Figure 3, from the collection of K.J. McNaught and reduced from its foolscap size for the illustration, bears the rubber-stamp of the Dunedin Returned Soldiers' Association and a poor impression of a 'DUNEDIN / OFFICIAL PAID' circular datestamp of SEP 26 1918. No signature appears on the cover - as was pointed out above, it was not necessary. The Dunedin Branch was among the first to be granted the concession in the Circular dated 1st August, 1916.

I am very grateful to Dr. K.J.McNaught and Professor I.D.Campbell for allowing me to illustrate these items from their collections.

#### AN APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

I am attempting to gather information on all aspects of the free postage facilities enjoyed by patriotic bodies and the Returned Soldiers' Association during the First World War, with a view to eventually producing a monograph on the subject. To date, very little relevant to this field has appeared in print. Considering the large amounts of mail which must have been despatched under the free postage concession, comparatively few such covers, or pieces of them, seem to have survived. I would therefore like to appeal for help from any reader of these notes who possesses examples of items posted under the free postage concession by patriotic bodies during the war, and in the case of the Returned Soldiers' Association, until some time after the war. If you could provide relevant details, preferably and most simply in the form of a clear photocopy with particulars of colour of ink, etc., it would be of great value for my research. Even if you have only one such cover or piece, the information you provide could be very valuable, when it is considered that no examples at all appear to be recorded of mail posted under 95% of the authorities listed in the Official Circulars. In fact, following approaches to several collectors in New Zealand and an article published in 'The New Zealand Stamp Collector', Volume 67, pages 6 - 9, March, 1987, I currently have details of less than 100 relevant covers or pieces. With such meagre resources to build on, clearly much remains to be learnt. If you can help, therefore, I would be delighted to hear from you. Every communication will be acknowledged as promptly as possible. In many cases I should be able to provide, in return, details of the official authorities relating to items submitted. Please write to me care of our Editor.

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N.Z.F.P.O. (U.K.) - H.Q.

E.W.LEPPARD

Following the publication in 'The Kiwi', Volume 37, pages 23 and 27 of a cover illustrating the above cancellation, GWYN EVANS has



forwarded photocopies of two almost identical covers, both also addressed to A.W.Morley of Rochdale, Lancs., which also carry the registration label. He reports that these covers were inspired philatelically by A.W.Morley, who was in the same philatelic society as Gwyn Evans in Manchester just after the Second World War. It appears that A.W.Morley had the covers made up per favour at the Reception Area Post Office in Margate.

In 'The Mail Coach', Volume 24, page 13, October, 1987, ROBIN STARTUP illustrates a cover addressed to a Mr. Kimble, 22, Barrow Road, Streatham, London, which he feels is a forgery owing to the peculiar shape of the tail of the 'Q'. Gwyn Evans' explanation would suggest that the peculiar 'Q' is the real thing. Certainly the address in Streatham is genuine.

GWYN EVANS has also forwarded a photocopy of a cover in his collection datestamped N.Z.F.P.O.(U.K.) No. 6, which was based at the New Zealand Fernleaf Club in London. It is an O.H.M.S. cover addressed to D.A.P.M., H.Q. 2 NZEF (UK) Recpt. Group, Westgate-on-Sea. Two further covers of No. 7, which was at Birchington, Kent, have also been reported, using this type of datestamp.

ROBIN STARTUP, in 'The Mail Coach', reports that on 15th September, 1944, the N.Z.F.P.O.(U.K.) - H.Q. datestamp was originally located at Hartwell House, Aylesbury, Bucks. and moved to Old Park Barracks, Dover, Kent, on 11th October, 1944, and again to Westgate-on-Sea on 10th March, 1945, and finally closed on 30th November, 1945.

#### THE MEIHANA MYSTERY

A.P.BERRY AND J.W.BRODIE

When in New Zealand some two years ago, one of us (A.P.B.) noticed in a Hamilton friend's collection an oddity he had not seen before.

It is an imitation of the 2 cent definitive of France issued in 1870 - the Head of Ceres, S.G.187 - printed in yellow-orange rather than the red-brown issued colour, on a paper with coarse vertical mesh, and slightly smaller in size than the original. The perforations are rough, irregular and gauge about 1½. The imitation is overprinted with two inscriptions in black. One of these, originally set in type in small caps, reads 'SPECIALLY / PREPARED / IN NEW ZEALAND / BY / MEIHANA & CIE'. Interlined with this inscription is another that surrounds the first

but does not overlap it anywhere; it is in cryptic fragmented letters, the original very roughly done, as with a poor nib and Indian Ink.

The 'stamp' has been found before. Donald White of Dunedin published a short note in 'Captain Coqk' of December, 1982, Volume 10, page 114, illustrating a copy and asking if they had more information. Nothing further seems to have come to light. On what is clearly a second copy being found, enquiries were made in New Zealand (J.W.B.) to try and identify the 'MEIHANA & CIE' of the inscription. Maihana is a Maori family name, and a search of all the country's telephone directories revealed there were fourteen Meihana families listed. Except for three in Canterbury and one in Lower Hutt, all were living in Rotorua, the Waikato Basin, Gisborne, or in the Auckland area. A letter of enquiry addressed to each brought one



response - Mr. Charles Meihana replied but had no positive information.

Thus we can only proceed to conjectures in the hope that one of the possibilities will strike a chord and lead to some further information.

#### The Type-set Inscription.

'SPECIALLY PREPARED IN NEW ZEALAND' - does this apply to the label itself? This appears unlikely. Does it apply to, say, a packet of New Zealand stamps, to which the label was affixed, for sale from a French-speaking source, as suggested by the use of Meihana & Cie?

#### The Cryptic Inscription.

Donald White interpreted this as reading 'ERGATLISE / BLOQUES / GOURTANS / UDEIU / 18--96 / POST TEINER TIVOISO'. The words have been either carelessly or deliberately made inscrutable but we would agree that 'BLOQUES', '18--96', and 'POST' are reasonably clear; however the other words have been jumbled to an extent that makes the first word just as likely to have been derived from 'FRANCAISE' and the word above '18--96' from 'MOENS'. J.B.Moens was the Belgian stamp dealer, with a very large business in Brussels, well-known in the late 19th Century. The various French words and Moens' name further point to a French - or Belgian - connection.

The origin of our label may thus have been as a packet label, an adaptation of somebody else's packet or advertising label, or simply an anonymous invention. If anyone has any leads, please let us know or better, send in a contribution to this journal.

#### CHARGES FOR FREIGHT HANDLING ON NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS - A QUERY

DAVID CHURCHILL

From 1894 to 1897, stamps were produced and used in a trial on the Whangarei section for the carriage of parcels (3d. and 6d. denominations) and freight (1/- and 5/- denominations). These stamps were little used and are scarce to rare. The system was not then adopted, but the need for improving the method of charging for parcels was considered at frequent intervals from this time on.

It was not until 1919 that a decision to proceed with a stamp system was finally taken which resulted in the 'Railway Charges' issue, designed by Adam Howitt of the Railway Draughting Staff. This system was not, however, introduced until 1925.

This information is gleaned from Volume VI of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand, and 'New Zealand Charges Stamps : Design and Printing', by J.W.Brodie. It was therefore with some interest that I viewed an envelope which recently came into my possession, addressed to 'Mr. Vaile, Inventor of "Zone System" Railway Freight Charges, Auckland, New Zealand', postmarked 6 MAR 1907, from New South Wales. The cover is illustrated on page 41.

I can find no reference to Mr. Vaile in any literature relevant to the Railway Freight issues. Was his "Zone System" one of those considered and rejected in the early years of the century, or was he in any way connected with the actual freight issue of 1925? Any information about this man would be greatly appreciated, sent through our Editor.