



The Kiwi



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

Affiliated to: BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION
and to NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIC FEDERATION

Hon. Gen. Secretary: MRS. MARGARET FRANKCOM
Queens House, 34a Tarrant Street, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9DJ. Tel: 0903 884139

Hon. Packet Secretary: B.T. ATKINSON
77 Wood Lane, Osterley, Middlesex TW7 5EG. Tel: 01-560 6119

Hon. Treasurer: E.W. LEPPARD
68 Chestnut Grove, Balham, London SW12 8JJ. Tel: 01-673 4710

Hon. Editor: ALLAN P. BERRY
24 Irwin Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5PP. Tel: 0483 67185

VOLUME 39 No. 4

JULY 1990

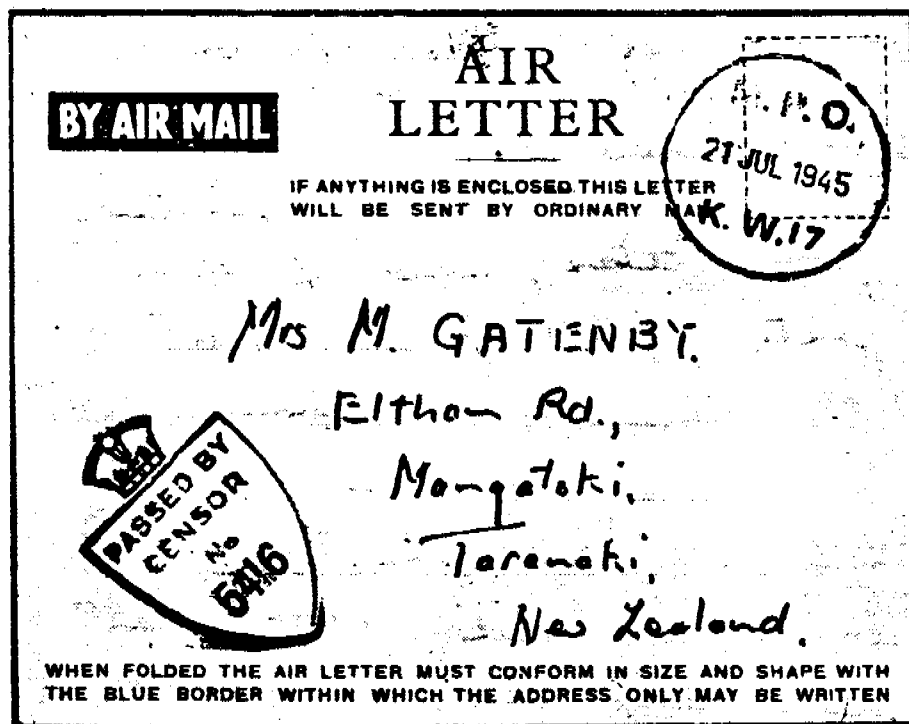
WHOLE 221

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 28TH JULY, 1990,
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
THE QUEEN VICTORIA SECOND SIDEFACE DEFINITIVES
OUR MEMBER GWYNN EVANS WILL LEAD THE DISPLAY.

PLEASE BRING WITH YOU ANY INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE ISSUE
WHICH YOU HAVE IN YOUR COLLECTION.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY POSTMARKS OF WORLD WAR TWO



SEE PAGE 74

EDITORIAL

Stamp World London 90 has come and gone. Elsewhere in this issue of 'The Kiwi' you can read the results gained by members of this Society. According to the final report on attendance, over 95,000 people came to the show. Among these there were quite a few of our members from overseas, including New Zealand. With hindsight, it seems a pity that the Society did not organise a meeting at the event. Having staged the show at Spring Stampex 1990, it would have taxed our resources too much to undertake a further meeting so close to the last.

The next event will be New Zealand 1990. There is no doubt that this will be very different, but let us hope that in its own way, it will be as much of a success. Judging by the work being put in in the back ground by many collectors, much of which as usual is not publicly appreciated, it should more than satisfy all who attend.

ALLAN P. BERRY

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

Lt. Col. E.W.Amos, 81, Bushey Way, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 2TH.

A.S.Craig, 79, Wikiriwhi Crescent,

Palmerston North, New Zealand.

E.Hillary, 1740-16 St. N.E., Salmon Arm, B.C., Canada.

A.B.Johnstone, 'Lochinvar', Minto, Nr. Hawick,

Roxburghshire, TD9 8SG.

M.D.Langford, 22, Riverdale Road, Attenborough,

Beeston, Notts., NG9 5HU.

G.P.Lewis, P.O.Box 858, Pymble, New South Wales 2073, Australia.

B.T.Maynard, 68a, Church Road, Paddock Wood,

Nr. Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6HF.

Dr. J.McKenzie, 57, Longshaw Road, Chingford, Essex, E4 6LH.

G.W.Vaughan, 32, Westmoreland Court, Stoples Lane,

Hordle, Lymington, Hants., SO41 0YA.

RESIGNED

R.Hargreaves, 26, Heaton Road, Lostock, Bolton, BL6 4EE.

LAPSED

B.E.R.Alexandre, P.O.Box 949, Christchurch, New Zealand.

T.H.Brock, 24, Glebe Road, Welwyn, Herts., AL6 9PB.

R.P.Calder, P.O.Box 614, Cambridge, New Zealand.

D.B.Clayson, P.O.Box 248, Carp, Ontario, Canada, KOA 1L0.

N.Lyons, 96, Lowther Drive, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7JR.

G.J.Millard, 661, Worcester Street, Christchurch 6, New Zealand.

J.G.Simpson, 4, Norfolk Road, Seven Kings,

Ilford, Essex, IG3 8LQ.

A.A.Wheatcroft, Sheffield, Yorkshire.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

J.L.Watt, 463, Glenfield Road, Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand.

(previously of Elderwood Lane, Takapuna, Auckland.)

MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 2ND JUNE, 1990

The meeting was opened at 2.30 p.m. by the Chairman, Alan Baker. Twenty-two members were present, including Alan Rosser, from

Barry, South Wales, a new member attending a meeting for the first time. After a few short announcements, the Chairman handed over to Ross Valentine, one of our own members and a New Zealander who has lived and worked in this country since 1958, to lead the afternoon's entertainment.

FIRST PICTORIAL DEFINITIVES

Opening with a history of the issue, Ross explained how a Government competition in 1894 had resulted in about 2,400 entries, of which 13 designs were accepted and passed to De La Rue for printing by the surface method. De La Rue, however, proposed recess printing, and this was rejected. De La Rue proceeded no further, and Waterlows offered to comply with the Government's wishes. They produced two proofs, a relieve die for surface printing, and a proof impression of the 2½d. stamp, and a proof of the 5d. design from a steel plate. The latter was infinitely preferred, and the decision was made to proceed with recess printing plates. On receipt in New Zealand it was noticed that the spelling of 'Wakatipu' was wrongly shown as 'Wakitipu' on the 2½d. stamp, but printing had already started. A new die and plate with the correct spelling was made and stamps printed, but the wrongly spelt stamps were nevertheless put on sale at the same time as the correct version. The subsequent rush to buy the error resulted in the fact that more of the wrongly spelt variety are to be found today than those with the correct spelling. The stamps were first issued on 5th April, 1898.

The display included essays, die and plate proofs, imperforate items and examples of the whole issue in its original form, and later versions of perforations, papers, etc. The interchanged designs of the 1d. and 4d. were explained, and a fine example of the 1900 1/- issue on pre-1898 paper with 'abnormal' watermark. Many specimen stamps were shown and most of the Waterlow samples in a variety of overprint types. In conclusion, Ross handed over to other members who had brought items to add to the display.

Ernie Leppard showed his collection of the 1d. and 4d. Lake Taupo issues and remarked that a study of the characteristics had shown that three frame plates and five centre plates had been used in the production of the 1d. value. A comprehensive range of the re-entries and retouches was present. A facsimile of the 4d. with inverted centre raised the question as to whether or not it was in fact an 'inverted frame'!

Frank Scrivener produced a few varieties and confessed his preference for these used and on cover! Gwynn Evans confined his display to the 1½d. Boer War and the 6d. Kiwi issues, in a remarkable range of shades. He also confessed that in a previous existence as chief colourist for a well-known chemical manufacturer, it was his job to ensure consistency in the colour of printing inks!

In his Vote of Thanks, Derek Diamond, himself a collector of this series, remarked on the range and quality of the displays, and how refreshing it was to find that such material could be produced from within the Society, and he congratulated all who had contributed to such an interesting afternoon.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.20 p.m.

A.G.

The International Stamp Exhibition held at Alexandra Palace, London, from 3rd May to 13th May, 1990, has been greeted as 'possibly the best F.I.P. World Exhibition held, to date', according to a report written by Bryan Ogier, the New Zealand Commissioner for the Exhibition. Final attendance figures exceeded 95,000; more than were expected. All who visited the Exhibition were impressed by the venue, and by the quality of the material on display. Many were able to add to their collections from the Stands of the Dealers present. It was nice to see so many visitors from overseas, but particularly from New Zealand.

New Zealand Post were in attendance, with David Bignell and Basil Umuroa doing the honours behind the Stand. New Zealand 1990 were represented by Dick Armstrong, Keith Griffiths, John Murr and John Kelsey, who unfortunately suffered an accident on arrival at Gatwick Airport, resulting in his wearing a plaster cast on his right arm for the duration of the Exhibition and beyond.

One could find William Carson, John Fitzpatrick, Donald White and John Mowbray behind Stands, and Val Palenski was also present. Other members of the Society from New Zealand who also attended were Ken McNaught, Gerald Elliott, Robin Gwynn as one of the Judges, and Bruce Alexandre as an Apprentice Judge. Illness prevented Marcel and Rita Stanley from attending, but we were able to see both their collections on display.

Many congratulations to the following members for the results they obtained in the competitive classes:-

- Gerald Elliott - A Special Gold Medal in the Championship Class for his entry of 'New Zealand Routes and Rates to 1874'.
- Gerald Elliott - A Large Gold Medal and Special Prize for his entry of 'Maori Wars'.
- Bernd Koningham - A Gold Medal for his entry of 'Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post'.
- Robert Samuel - A Gold Medal for 'New Zealand Embossed Postal Stationery'.
- Marcel Stanley - A Vermeil Medal for 'Penny Universal Booklets'.
- Martyn Jackson - A Vermeil Medal for 'New Zealand Lettercards and Postcards'.
- Allan P. Berry - A Vermeil Medal for 'New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department to 1913'.
- Derek Armitage - A Bronze Medal for 'New Zealand - Promoting the Health of the Nation's Children'. This entry was in the Youth Class, 18 - 19 years old.

POSTAL AUCTION No. 3

Enclosed with this issue of 'The Kiwi', United Kingdom members will find the Catalogue for the Society's Postal Auction No. 3. As it is likely that the copy will be received by some later than

originally intended, it has been decided to extend the date by which bids are to be received.

BIDS FOR THE POSTAL AUCTION WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO AND INCLUDING
SATURDAY, 28TH JULY, 1990.

NEW ZEALAND 1990

The New Zealand Society of Great Britain will be holding its first meeting in New Zealand during New Zealand 1990, the first International Stamp Exhibition to be held in New Zealand under the auspices of the F.I.P.

It will provide an opportunity for our many members in Australasia to meet together and also meet with other members from outside New Zealand who will be visiting Auckland for New Zealand 1990.

The Guest Speaker will be the Editor of 'The Kiwi', Allan P. Berry, and the subject will be:-

Experience Gained from Editing a New Zealand Philatelic Handbook

Mark your diary for MONDAY, 27TH AUGUST, 1990, at 2.30 p.m. in the Downstairs Meeting Room.

Copies of the Society's special Handbook published for New Zealand's 150th Anniversary will be on sale at the meeting.

New Zealand Meeting Convenor:-

John Watts, 463, Glenfield Road, Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand.

Telephone - 444 - 2156

Bring a Guest - they might like to join

The New Zealand Society of Great Britain

MEN OF NEW ZEALAND! - A PROPAGANDA LEAFLET

ALLAN P. BERRY

Following the publication of the piece on this subject in 'The Kiwi', Volume 39, pages 55 and 56, May, 1990, DEREK REDSHAW of Campbell Paterson Ltd. has written to point out that this was one of three such leaflets quoted in full in Campbell Paterson's New Zealand Bulletin, Volume XXI, number 3, October, 1983.

I am pleased to acknowledge that the information was published at that time, but I regret that neither my effort or the previous one has brought forth any additional information.

THE POST OFFICE IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1990

This is the title of a contribution published in 'New Zealand - A Philatelic Miscellany'. It has brought the following comment from David Bignell, Manager, Philatelic, New Zealand Post Limited. In a letter dated 31st May, 1990, David writes as follows:-

"I have now had an opportunity to read 'New Zealand - A Philatelic Miscellany'. Congratulations to you for the production of such a fine publication. I enjoyed the variety of articles from so many authoritative authors.

"If I had a disappointment with the book, it would be with one

article about New Zealand Post where the author has departed from writing sole facts and has written in a somewhat emotional manner. In my view the author has failed to provide some balancing data such as the fact that New Zealand's postal industry will be almost entirely de-regulated within two years and that New Zealand Post must be geared to handle this competition. Also no mention was made of the fact that 90% of the work previously undertaken in Post Offices was either bank or telecommunications related. The fact that these corporations have now chosen to establish their own networks and not use New Zealand Post outlets is beyond our control. A further factor not clearly stated was the requirement in legislation that all three of the corporations must work as commercial, profitable business enterprises. It is important to understand this because the management of New Zealand Post have no option but to fulfil this requirement of Government."

Copies of 'New Zealand - A Philatelic Miscellany' are still available at £12-00 to member, £16-00 to non-members, plus £1-00 contribution to postage and packing. Air Mail Postage overseas is extra - please write for further details for this service. Your Officers and Committee find it somewhat surprising that there are members who have not yet ordered their copy!

COURIER TO COURIER

ALLAN P. BERRY

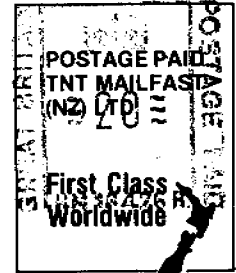
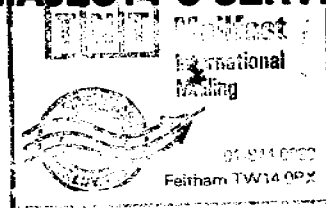
An article of this title by our member TOM LATTO was published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 38, pages 25 and 29 - 30, March, 1989. In this he asked the New Zealand location of the I.M.X. and T.N.T Courier Services Centres in New Zealand. At the time of writing, no answer to these questions has been forthcoming.

The use of the Courier Firms seems to be on the increase, and not only among commercial firms. Illustrated at Figure 1 is a cover from the Prime Minister of New Zealand, also carrying the logo of 1990, New Zealand's Year. The imprint in the top right hand corner is of particular interest, reading as it does 'POSTAGE PAID / TNT MAILFAST / (NZ) LTD / First Class / Worldwide', in a frame with a map of New Zealand. The whole has the superscription 'On Her Majesty's Service'. The meter mark of T.N.T. Mailfast is from Hounslow, Middlesex, and is dated 20.X1.89.

It appears strange that a Government Department such as the Prime Minister's Office should use a private Courier Firm for its postage services, rather than the State Owned Enterprise, New Zealand Post Limited. Perhaps financial considerations now override everything. Certainly, the use of such Courier Firms is cutting back on the number of stamps used on mail to your Editor. This is a matter of much regret - even Stamp Dealers and Philatelic Societies in New Zealand are using the Courier Firms!

I have a similar cover from the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, on which the printed imprint in the top right hand corner reads 'POSTAGE PAID / Wellington, N.Z. / Permit No. 1333', over which the meter mark of TNT Mailfast has been impressed. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand appears to handle the money matters of the Treasury in New Zealand, and thus may have an 'Official' status in New Zealand Government

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE



MR AND MRS ALLAN AND LIZ BERRY
24 IRWIN RD
GUILDFORD
SURREY
ENGLAND GU25PP

3380

Prime Minister
New Zealand

04

1990
New Zealand's
Year

Continued from page 53.

THE PRINTINGS OF BRADBURY, WILKINSON & CO. LTD.

On the 8th July, 1969, three new designs for the 8 cent, 20 cent and a new value 18 cent were issued.

The stamps, which formed part of the Export Set, were printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. by offset lithography.

The Company has been associated with the production of New Zealand stamps since the recess engraved Silver Jubilee issue of 1935. A number of other issues followed, but a lull developed after the printing of the 1961 Health birds.

A quick look at the issues of 1969 indicates a firm revival of the Company. During March, the Life Insurance Set was released and quickly followed in early April by the Law Society Centennial. The Centenary of the University of Otago was issued in June, and July saw the three new Export definitive stamps. The Company was responsible for the 1969 Health Set in August and finally, in December, the 7 cent Fishing Industry. This was the last of the Export Set and the final stamp of the 1967 decimal definitives.

All issues were printed by offset lithography, a process described by Arthur Dexter as something akin to the Delacryl process introduced by Messrs. De La Rue.

One interesting factor is that all values are printed from four basic colours - black, red, yellow and blue. The stamps appear quite different from each other and the effect is achieved by overlays of one colour upon the other.

A surprise came with the discovery that the 7 cent, 8 cent and 20 cent were printed on unwatermarked paper. Several grades of paper can be found among the sheets of the 8 cent and 20 cent, but generally the paper is quite thick.

The 18 cent is printed on paper with the NZ and star multiple watermark paper upright on the stamps.

An interesting letter from the Printer, and received by Roland Searle of Wellington, advised that the paper used for the 18 cent was supplied by the New Zealand Government.

In the same letter, the Printer remarks that the paper used by them for the other values is composed of pure esparto body, coated white chrome one side and gummed with P.V.A.

It is noticeable that the sheets of the 7 cent and 8 cent vary in the gum by showing characteristics more associated with gum arabic than P.V.A. It was this point that prompted Roland Searle to make enquiry. It appears that the variation from a matt to a gloss is caused by the drying conditions prevailing at the time of manufacture.

All values required four cylinders, the numbers being 1111 and lalalala and each pane is comprised of 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10.

It also seems certain that only one multipositive was used for both sets and that it was numbered lalalala. A close examination of the 1111 cylinder numbers reveals evidence of the 'a' having been removed. This is quite apparent in each value except the 8 cent.

It has been suggested that the 'a' was removed from the cylinder after production and not removed from the multipositive. This appears to be sound in cases where the cylinder contains both panes in tandem or adjacent to each other. It would be easier to lay down the cylinders two panes at a time and grind off the unwanted 'a' from the llll pane. The alternative would require cylinder production delay while the multipositive was being altered.

On the basis of these various factors, it has been suggested

- a) that each cylinder comprises two panes in tandem, or
- b) that the cylinder has only one pane, or
- c) a combination of both for some of the values.

The reasoning for b) appears to stem from the unusual perforating of the different values. An examination of the perforating reveals:-

- 7 cent - Single comb from the left selvedge.
- 8 cent - Single comb from the left selvedge.
 - Double comb from the top.
 - Double comb from the bottom.
- 18 cent - Single comb from the left selvedge.
- 20 cent - Single comb from the left selvedge.
 - Double comb from the bottom selvedge.

It is apparent that a single comb head has been used for all values perforated from the left selvedge whilst a double comb head has been used for the 8 cent and 20 cent values when perforated from the top or bottom of the sheet. In all values the guage is $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.

It has been suggested by Rotide in the 'New Zealand Stamp Collector', Volume 49, number 4, page 126, that all three values were printed in tandem with the llll cylinder above the lalalala on double sheets. He remarks that the sheets of the 8 cent and 18 cent were cut into single sheets before perforating by a single comb head. He further suggests that some sheets of the 20 cent were divided as above, with others being perforated by a double comb head in double sheets.

It may be that Rotide has examined a number of sheets denied to me, but I have seen no evidence of double comb perforating in double sheets. I have not, as yet, seen a sheet with perforations through both the top and bottom selvedges.

The debate is an interesting one and will, I hope, be clarified by the printer in due course.

In all panes the sheet value appears on the top selvedge. The value is small and close to the right edge of the stamp. In the 7 cent the value is quite crooked on the sheet.

The Imprint and cylinder numbers appear on the bottom selvedge below Row 10, stamp 1.

The stamps generally were well received although criticism was levelled at the 8 cent with its juicy bunch of apples.

Colour registration is good, but a number of shades appear in the brown and green of the 18 cent. The 8 cent has two shades in

the apples. Registration of the perforation is well centred but many sheets can be found with ragged or crooked holes. No double perforations or other freaks have yet appeared. Exceptions are a number of sheets of the 7 cent being found with the yellow missing in one stamp and the 18 cent has been found printed on the gummed side.

The cylinders appear to have few flaws although minor ones have been seen in the 7 cent.

A number of sheets can be found with small sections of colour missing from different stamps. It is doubtful that this peculiarity is a variety and should be attributed to the ink being slightly wet, and the sheets are sticking to one another. A number of such stamps have been offered as partial missing colours and collectors should be wary of them.

BOER WAR PATRIOTIC COVERS AND POSTCARDS OF NEW ZEALAND

JOHN CAMPBELL

I am researching the Anglo-Boer War and in particular the Illustrated and Patriotic material. Through correspondence some items of interest have come to light.

For those who make a study of Postal Stationery and New Zealand's involvement in the war in South Africa, the series of sixteen postal stationery cards published to coincide with the departure of the first two of New Zealand's ten contingents to the war zone are well known. These were printed in brown ink on either a buff or cream card and were printed on the front only. They included portraits of the officers of the First Contingent, and scenes of camp life both in New Zealand and in South Africa. Illustrated at Figure 1 is one of the cards featuring Major Robin, First Contingent.

The 'NEW ZEALAND TO THE FRONT' cover, illustrated at Figure 2, could be based on a similar 'Rule Britannia' envelope issued in Canada in 1898, but the designer and printer, J.Hooker of New Plymouth, has added the Maori Warrior holding the New Zealand flag. It was printed in red and blue. Did J.Hooker produce any others in the series?

R.Brown, a stationer from Wellington, published a post card that was printed front and back in red and blue. It is illustrated at Figure 3, and indicates that we should "Shouter tae Shouter" and wishing 'Good Luck to Zealandia's Sons and "The Absent-minded Beggar" in South Africa'. Who was "The Absent-minded Beggar", and were there any more cards in the series?

One of the esteemed members of both the Postal History Society of New Zealand and the New Zealand Society of Great Britain has in his collection the cover illustrated at Figure 4. This features 'Oom Paul Kruger', "The Cause of it All". It advertises "'Behzt" Boots as worn by N.Z. Rough Riders'. Little is known of this cover and may be there is a reader who could throw some light on this unusual item.

The First Contingent arrived in South Africa on 23rd November, 1899, and the Tenth Contingent not until 17th May, 1902. As a matter of interest, of the 6,495 Officers and men who went out to South Africa, 228 were either killed or died of disease, and 166 were wounded.



Figure 1

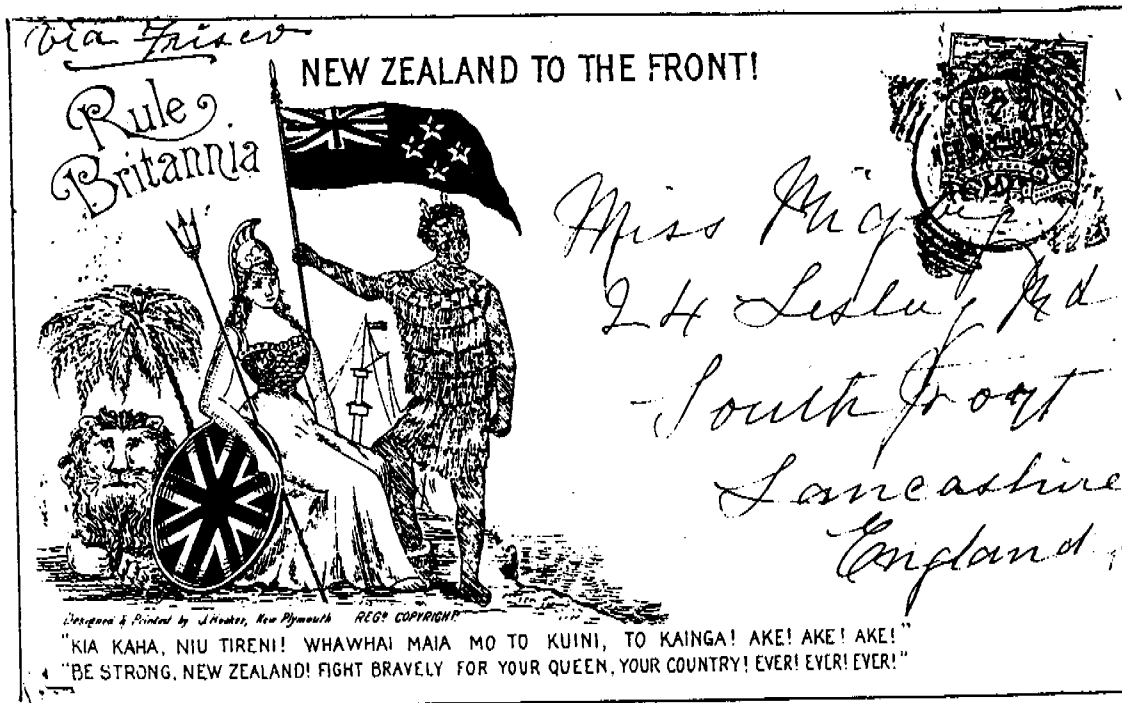


Figure 2

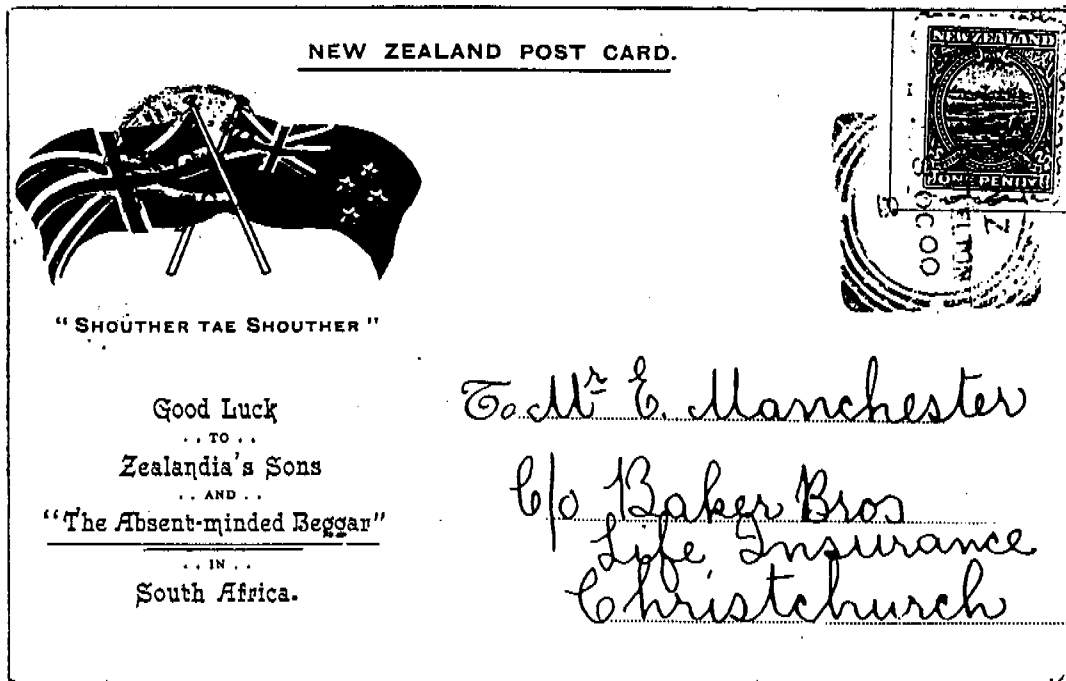


Figure 3

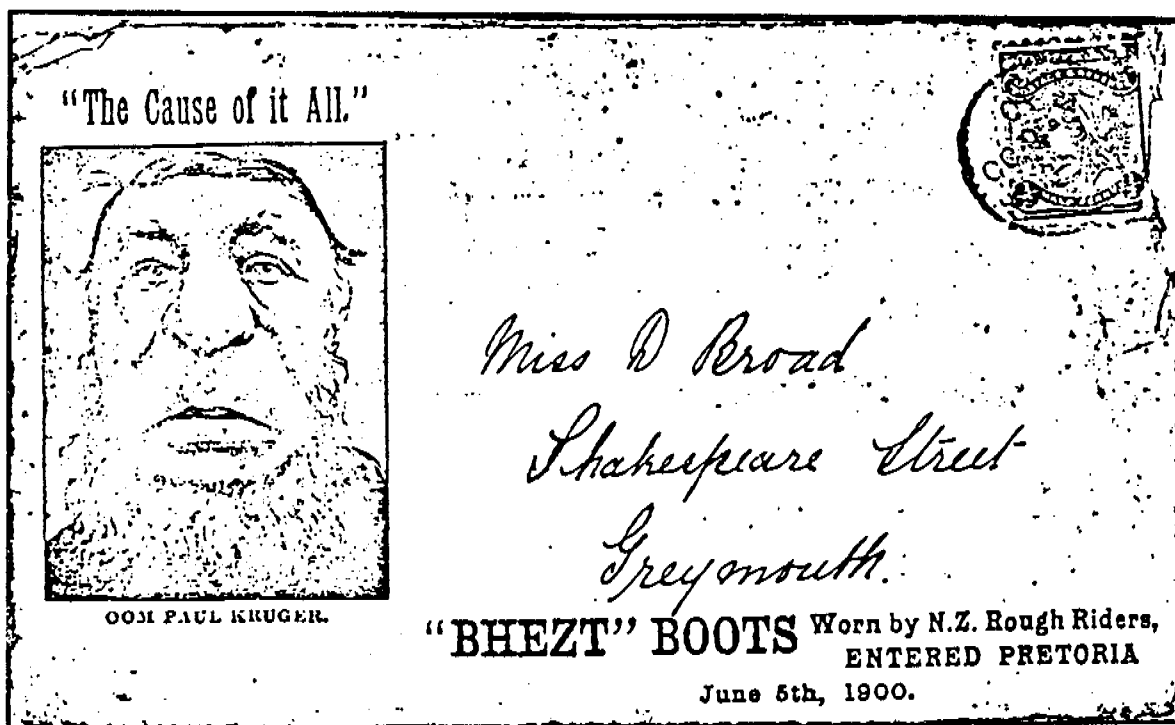


Figure 4

I am grateful to Ryno Greenwall and members of both the Postal History Society of New Zealand and the New Zealand Society of Great Britain - Allan P. Berry, Gerald Elliott, Robert Samuel and Robin Startup - for making available both their knowledge and covers for this article.

I would be interested to hear from any reader who could furnish me with any information or photocopies of any other Patriotic or Illustrated material from New Zealand or elsewhere. These can be sent to me care of the Editor.

CAVEAT LECTOR - FIRST INSTALMENT

ALAN GARDINER

Most collectors are largely dependent for their information on the research of others, published in books and in magazine articles. Not all of us can take advantage of the facilities of public records and archives, particularly those overseas, but we can obtain books through the public and society libraries. Of course, not all books contain all the facts, and some information written as fact may later be disproved or at least questioned. So collectors must find the best evidence available and decide for themselves what to believe.

An example is the declared name of the Boeing and Westervelt 1, in which George Bolt carried the first official air mail in New Zealand, on 16th December, 1919. Most references give the name of the aircraft as 'Bluebird', when, in fact, it was 'Bluebill', after a North American duck, to correspond with that of its sister ship, 'Mallard'. As the New Zealand Flying School generally referred to them as 'F' and 'G', perhaps it does not matter all that much, but it is nice to get it right.

Another example can be found in 'The Encyclopaedia of Aviation', edited by Squadron Leader C.G. Burge, and published by Pitman in 1935. On page 129, a photograph shows a queue of officials ready to hand over bags of mail to MacGregor, and the caption reads 'First Air Mail in New Zealand - Wellington to West Coast via Nelson, 20th January, 1931'. Fortunately, we have enough reliable references to assure us that George Bolt flew the first official air mail in New Zealand, and that Mac's first air mail and survey flight down the west coast took place on 20th January, 1932.

This is the first of a series of short articles, all on a similar theme. Not all will finish with a positive answer to the question(s) raised and some may even provoke a response which could help to provide the answer.

SOMES ISLAND AND PAHIATUA INTERNMENT CAMPS

GEORGE BRANAM

When World War 11 began in 1939 there was no international agreement governing the treatment of interned civilians such as the Geneva Convention of 1929 regulating the treatment of military prisoners of war. A draft agreement had been in process but was never adopted. Through the initiative of the International Red Cross the belligerents agreed to apply the principles of the 1929 Convention to civilians as well as possible. In New Zealand the Alien Control Emergency Regulations of 1939 provided for the

registration of all aliens, and only a small number of some 1,300 German nationals in New Zealand and Samoa were regarded as a potential danger and hence in need of internment. Initially only about 50, and at the peak about 185 (including all nationalities) were in custody at any given time.

Somes Island, a quarantine station in Wellington Harbour, 120 acres in size, was chosen as the site of the internment camp. It had served in a similar capacity during World War 1. The first internees were landed on Somes Island on 23rd December, 1939, and it may be assumed that mail service began at once, though the volume was never great and covers are scarce. The earliest dated cover I have seen was postmarked at Wellington on 12th August, 1940; Figure 1, illustrated below, which is without postmark, may in fact be earlier, though the evidence is not conclusive. I shall return to this.

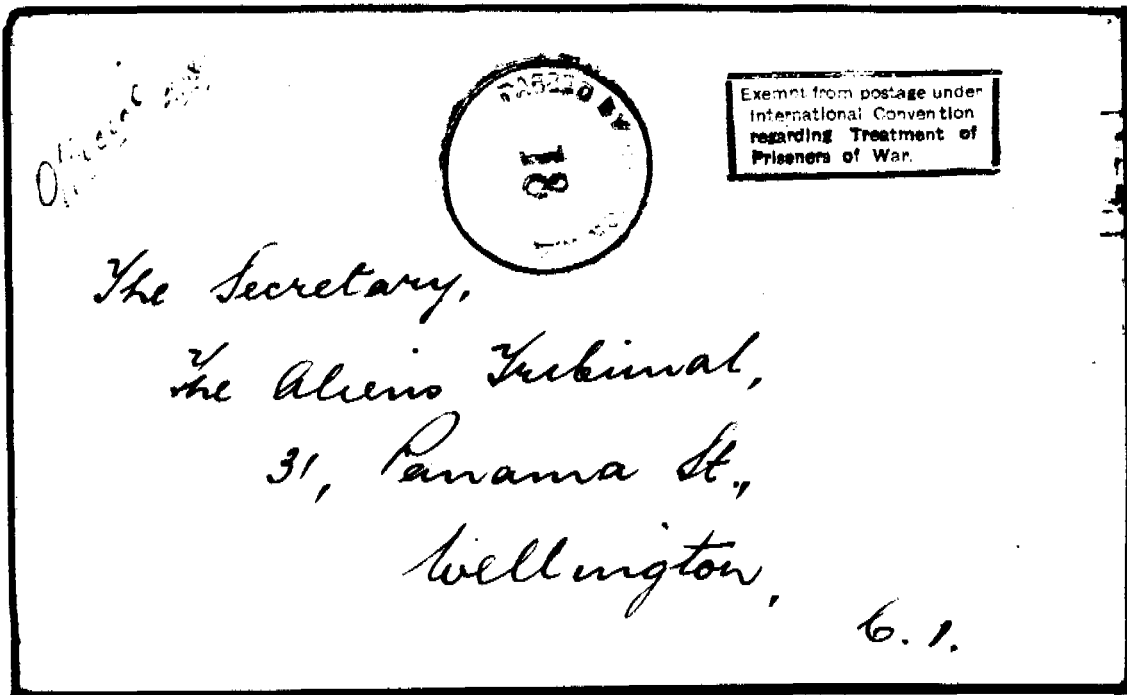


Figure 1

The one element common to all internment covers is the 'Exempt' handstamp placed in the upper right corner. All that I have seen are in purple ink. On the earliest covers there is no specific reference to Somes Island except for a return address. Later a rectangular boxed Somes Island date stamp was applied on the reverse, illustrated here as Figure 2 on page 71 by the earliest example from my collection; the earliest example so far recorded was a cover dated 26th June, 1941, offered by Campbell Paterson Ltd. in their June, 1964, Newsletter. D.E.Hurley (1989) lists a cover dated 7th April, 1941, without the Somes Island date stamp, so it appears that the stamp was put in use some time between April and June, 1941. Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand indicates that the stamp was impressed in black, but all those I have seen have been in purple except for two in red. There may be a black one somewhere. Anyone with an example of the Somes

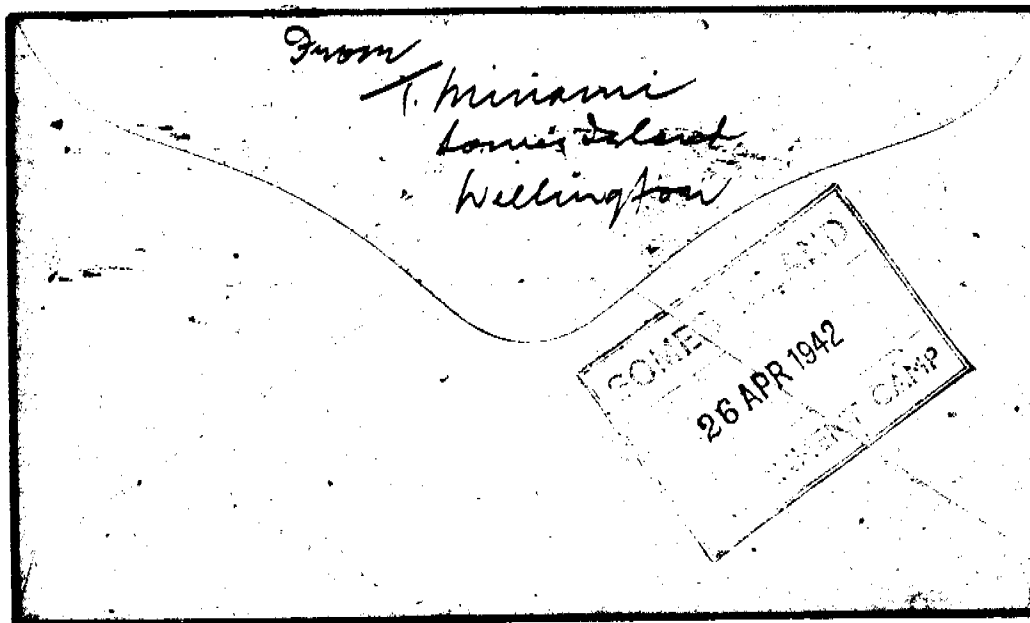


Figure 2

Island date stamp earlier than 26th June, 1941, can help refine the dating by advising the Editor, preferably with a photocopy.

It is questionable whether any of the handstamps used on Somes Island mail other than the date stamp itself was actually held on the island. All of the censor marks seen on Somes Island covers can be found on other mail as well. The circular censor stamps numbered 18, 26, 36, 54 and 136, seen on Somes Island covers, were in general use in the Wellington office. Even the 'Exempt' cachet is occasionally used on mail which did not originate at Somes Island, or later at Pahiatua. E.W. Leppard in 'The Kiwi', Volume 37, page 109, discussed one such cover, a 'Free' outward letter to a prisoner of war, and I have seen another inward letter from a prisoner of war bearing the cachet. Of course, duplicate stamps are possible, but for one used so seldom, housing it in the Wellington censorship office seems more logical.

It also appears that the actual examination of letters may have taken place on the island even though the censorship stamp was applied in Wellington. I have seen only two covers which have been opened and resealed with censor tape. All the rest were either delivered to the Wellington office unsealed for examination, or processed there without being opened. Occasionally, the Somes Island date stamp lies partially under the flap of the envelope, indicating that it was applied before the envelope was sealed. Hence the letters may routinely have been handed in unsealed on Somes Island, and application of the date stamp could have served not only to date the letter but to indicate to the censorship office in Wellington that the contents had been examined. This would not preclude further examination, but would allow the swift handling of this mail unless special reasons for further examination applied.

Before the introduction of the Somes Island date stamp, it appears clearance on the island may have been indicated by a set of initials, 'W.D.', on the reverse of the envelope. On Figure 1

'W.D.' has also written 'Official' in the upper left corner of the front, and initialled that. Such an emphasis makes me think this undated envelope may represent an earlier stage in processing internees' mail: later the initials on the reverse may have been a sufficient signal to censors that the mail had been cleared. I have never seen a cover without the Somes Island date stamp which did not have the 'W.D.' endorsement on the reverse. It should be stressed, however, that the evidence for censorship on the island is circumstantial.

By the end of 1942, with the introduction of Japanese civilians in addition to Italians and other Germans since the opening of the camp, the population had reached 185. Mason (1954) cites winter discomforts as well as the growing possibility of military attack making Somes Island less appropriate for internment than for fortification. Consequently he says at the end of January, 1943, the installation was moved to Pahiatua. The latest Somes Island date stamp I have seen for 1943 is 24th January.

At Pahiatua a date stamp somewhat larger than the one used at Somes Island was first used - see Figure 3 below. Good impressions are almost never seen, and sometimes they are almost indecipherable.



Figure 3

The shift of camp came almost at the same time as a new set of censor stamps and tapes was being introduced, bearing the Empire code letters DDA, which had been assigned to New Zealand. The new tape bore the censor's number, so there was no longer a general use for the circular numbered stamps. Only a limited number of new, octagonal, numbered stamps were supplied for use in special situations, principally where tape was unnecessary - postcards, aerogrammes, newspaper wrappers, or mail which for some reason was passed without slitting the envelope open. Pahiatua mail is often marked by one of these octagonal stamps: I have observed DDA/5, DDA/6 and DDA/7.

Occasionally there will be in addition to, or instead of, the

DDA stamp a letter (note the 'E' on Figure 4) or number, or both, whose use has never been clearly established, but which seems to be internal signals within the censorship office. R.M.Startup (1987) calls these alpha and numeric stamps, and illustrates but does not elaborate on them. D.E.Hurley (1989) and Rodney Stone (1988) also discuss these stamps, but the evidence has not been assembled for a real answer. The key to these is still to be found.

By July, 1944, a new date stamp for Pahiatua had been put into use - 10th July is my earliest example. As far as I have been able to determine this has not been recorded anywhere. It is similar to the Somes Island stamp in size and pattern. Two strikes are illustrated at Figure 4 on page ...

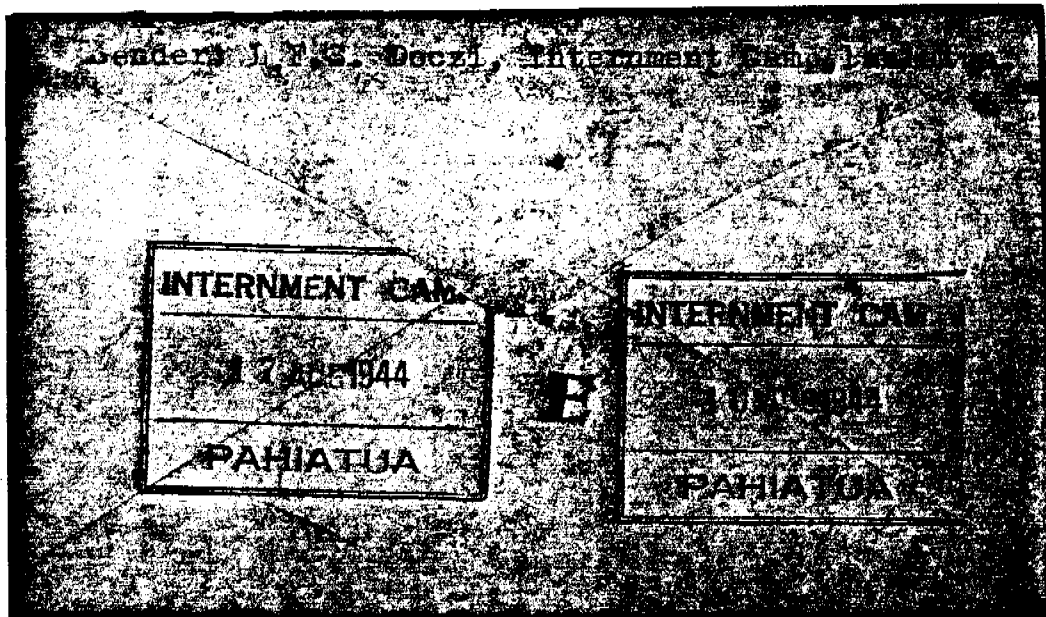


Figure 4

By September, 1944, the number of internees had been much reduced, and it was decided to move the remaining ones back to Somes Island in order to use the Pahiatua facility to house a group of Polish refugee children. The earliest cover I have from that return to Somes Island is dated 5th October, 1944, and the latest 23rd August, 1945. The camp was finally disbanded in October, 1945, and so covers to that date are possible.

REFERENCES

Campbell Paterson Ltd.

Newsletter, 15:11 (June, 1964), item 621.

Collins, R.J.G., and Watts, C.W.

The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 111, Wellington, New Zealand, The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, 1955.

Hurley, D.E.

'Alien Internment & Prisoner of War Camps in New Zealand and Their Markings,' New Zealand Stamp Collector, 69:1 (March, 1989) 26-36, and 69:2 (June, 1989) 60-68.

Jones, B.

'Somes Island Internment Camp,' Pacifica, 24 (April, 1986)
42-43.

Kierstine, Larry.

'Pahiatua, New Zealand, A WWII Polish Refugee Camp,' War Cover Club Bulletin, 23:3-4 (July-December, 1983), 26-27.

Leppard, E.W.

'Wartime Free Postage,' The Kiwi, 37:6 (November, 1988), 109.

Mason, W.Wynne.

Prisoners of War, (Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War, 1939-45), Wellington, New Zealand, War History Branch, 1954.

Startup, R.M.

'Postal Censorship in New Zealand 1939-1945,' The Mail Coach, 23:6 (August, 1987), 241-247.

Stone, Rodney.

'Civilian Postal Censorship in New Zealand in World War II,' The Mail Coach, 25:1 (October, 1988), 3-7.

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY POSTMARKS OF WORLD WAR TWO

J.G.EVANS

Among the New Zealand Field Post Offices operating in the Middle East and Italy during World War Two were those designated by the letters 'K.W.' and a number, ranging from 'K.W.1.' to K.W.18'. Of these, 'K.W.17' is particularly scarce, and, until recently, its precise location and function was not known.

As a member of the Postal History Society of New Zealand, I wrote to their Secretary to enquire whether any of their members had any information on this Field Post Office. I have recently received a letter from ROBIN STARTUP in which he writes that this office was located at the New Zealand Y.M.C.A., Rue Fouad, Alexandria, and that it operated as a Lines of Communication Unit in Alexandria to handle surface mail between Cairo and Italy, and to provide New Zealand Military postal facilities to the New Zealand Rest Camps near Alexandria and troops in transit.

ROBIN STARTUP kindly provided the photostat illustrated on page 57 of his example of the 'K.W.17.' postmark.

NEW ZEALAND NEWS UK

This Newspaper is published in the United Kingdom, and is aimed at those New Zealanders who are out of their home country, with the object of keeping them in touch with the news at home, and also giving news of events with a New Zealand flavour in this country and overseas.

The New Zealand Society of Great Britain has been mentioned at least twice, so we are hoping that philatelists from New Zealand with the odd spare Saturday afternoon will visit us when we are holding a meeting. I am sure that we will make them all welcome.

For further details, write to:-

P.O.Box 10, Berwick-on-Tweed, Northumberland.