



# The Kiwi



The Official Organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN.  
ISSN 0964-7821

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VOLUME 43 No. 5

SEPTEMBER 1994

WHOLE 246

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1994,  
AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,  
LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 2.30 P.M.

THE DISPLAY WILL BE GIVEN BY OUR MEMBER GRAHAM M. COOPER  
THE SUBJECT WILL BE THE 1935 PICTORIAL DEFINITIVE ISSUE  
- AND MUCH MORE BESIDES -

## CIVILIAN POSTAL CENSORSHIP IN WORLD WAR 11 SOME FACTS AND PROBLEMS

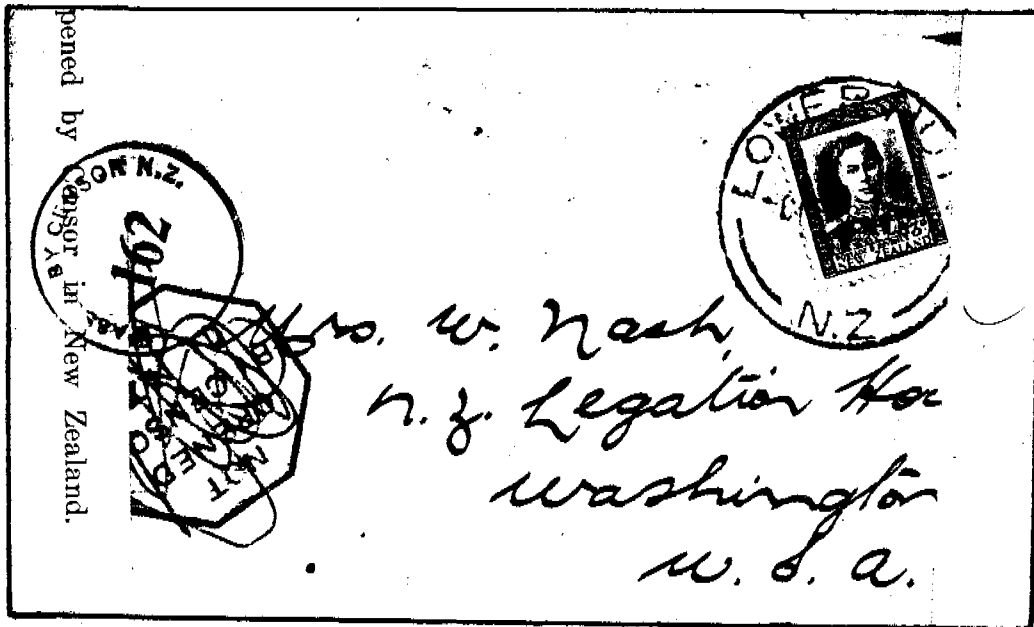


Figure 4

SEE PAGE 90

## EDITORIAL

Various matters have conspired against your Editor, which means that he will not be able to attend the next two Meetings. For the record, let the apologies be registered now. Actually, there are two good reasons for the non-attendance. In September, my wife Liz and I will be in Sweden for the christening of our first grandchild, a boy to be named Christopher Allan. In November, we have taken up a long standing invitation from our sister society in the United States of America, the S.A.S./Oceana. We will be attending and exhibiting at Florex '94 being held in Orlando, Florida, at the end of that month. These absences should not affect the production of our journal, which should still reach you all on time.

ALLAN P. BERRY

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### MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome

P.F.North, 20, Moon Ridge, Newport Park,  
Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7EW  
D.C.Scregg, 5, School Lane, Meols, Wirral, Merseyside, L47 6AE  
F.J.M.Shand, 1183, Agincourt Road, Ottawa,  
Ontario, Canada, K2C 2H8  
V.W.Snyder, 737, Pine Street,  
Hancock, MI49930-1613, United States of America.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Rev. R.H.Gilding, 'Huntley', Bishopsteignton,  
Teignmouth, South Devon.

(previously of Potterne, Devizes.)

David Churchill, 'The Spinney', 11, Heath Avenue,  
Mansfield, Notts., NG18 3EU

(previously of High Street, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts.)

R.J.E.Jenkins, 61, Petworth Gardens,  
Lordswood, Southampton, SO16 8EF

(previously of Lindsay Park, Poole, Dorset.)

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MEETING HELD SATURDAY, 30TH JULY, 1994

REGISTERED MAIL AND INSTRUCTIONAL MARKINGS, BY JOHN WOOLFE

Our Chairman, Alan Gardiner, opened the meeting with 21 members present and four apologies for absence. Beverley King, a new member attending a meeting for the first time, was introduced and welcomed. He then passed the meeting over to John Woolfe, an acknowledged expert on the registration markings of New Zealand.

John's display commenced with an 1840 Wellington cover with manuscript markings, followed by early covers from the main centres, Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and Lyttelton with both manuscript markings and the first use of instructional handstamps. He pointed out that up to 1875 registered packets were tied with green string and wax sealed. After that date the blue cross in crayon was applied to registered covers. Local offices at Hokitika, Picton, Eketahuna, Featherstone, Stafford, Molesworth Street were strongly represented, and the display of markings from Christchurch was complete. John remarked that little had been published since the Rev. Voyce's pioneering book on the subject,

and the work of Professor Ian Campbell which followed. These are essential to set the foundations for study, which is ongoing with new discoveries surfacing all the time. Volume VII of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand is an essential handbook on the early markings. John's method of research is to record the earliest and latest recorded dates of use. As many of his sheets showed the two dates to be the same, this was a modest way of indicating that an item was unique.

The second part of the display continued the same theme, showing markings from Chief Post Offices, District Offices and local offices, with registration markings that were rectangular, oval octagonal or circular, many struck in different colours. Considerable detective work is needed to work out the postage rate and the registration fee, and in the earlier covers, which was payable by the sender and which by the recipient. The Chalon period, from 1850 to 1870, did not record the registration fee which required separation from the postage rate. Other marks associated with registered mail were shown, including Avis de Reception, compulsory registration when it was considered that coin was in the packet, forwarded and undelivered registered mail, registered mail overseas, including many 'Tatts' covers, all with many rare or unique items.

Margaret Frankcom showed a registered cover of 1855 with the number 302, a Nelson crowned circle mark, 6d. registration fee, a handstruck 2d. markings, the Australian-Liverpool ship letter marking, and a marking to indicate the recipient had to pay 6d. The contents were sad, as the writer was using registered mail to try and make contact with a brother who had not responded to correspondence mailed over the previous few years.

The third part of John's display was devoted to instructional markings of the 19th Century. The markings used at Kororareka were shown, as well as crowned circle markings from New Plymouth, Wellington, Auckland and Port Victoria. Manuscript and handstruck markings for the 2d. local rate, and the 4d. and 6d. overseas rates were shown. Deficient handstamps, including More to Pay, were shown, as well as Missent, Loose Letter, Packet Boat, Advertised & Unclaimed were also shown. Of a later vintage were the U.P.U. Tax Stamps and the Paid All markings. John concluded this section of the display with two outstanding two line New Zealand/Ship Letter markings. Two varieties were demonstrated, one of which was believed to be unique.

Alan Gardiner gave the vote of thanks, remarking that the Society had been privileged to see a display of one of the great postal history collections from New Zealand in which the unique and rare were seemingly commonplace.

E.W.L.

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## NEWS RELEASE

### MAN ON THE MOON STAMP

A special hologram stamp was released by New Zealand Post on 20th July, 1994, to mark the 25th Anniversary of astronaut Neil Armstrong's historic first step on the moon.

The \$1-50 stamp was designed by Brad New of Wellington and shows an astronaut standing on the moon with the earth, and New Zealand

highlighted, in the atmosphere behind. In the hologram effect the stars in the sky appear to twinkle.

The Man on the Moon stamp is New Zealand Post's first hologram, or three dimensional, stamp. The holograms were produced in England and then sent to Southern Colour Print in Dunedin where they were fixed by a heat process to pre-printed background stamps.

#### 65TH CHILDREN'S HEALTH STAMP ISSUE

Children's Health Camps commemorate two important milestones this year - 75 years since the first health camp and 65 years of health stamps - a major fund raising activity for the Children's Health Camps Board.

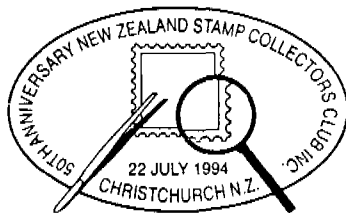
To commemorate the special anniversary, New Zealand Post issued four health stamps on 20th July, 1994. Each stamp contains a copy of an early stamp with a modern day picture in the foreground. The three 45 cent and one 80 cent stamp all have a five cent surcharge which goes to Children's Health Camps.

The stamps are: 45c + 5c Children Playing with a Ball, symbolising the values of teamwork, an important part of activity-based health camp programmes. It is set against a background of the 1939 'Beachball' health stamp; 45c + 5c Child and Woman shows a modern day staff worker and child against the classic 1949 'Nurse' health stamp to show the emotional care children receive at health camps; 45c + 5c Children Reading reflects the educational role of Children's Health Camps, in both scholastic and 'life' skills. The background shows the 1969 health stamp featuring Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, founder of the Children's Health Camps movement. The 80c + 5c stamp Child, show a young boy against the 19321 'Blue Boy' health stamp symbolising the aim of Children's Health Camps to care for children's emotional, physical, social and educational well-being.

The stamps were designed by Dave Gunson of Auckland and printed by Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd. of Melbourne. A first day cover and miniature sheet are also available. The miniature sheet shows the four stamps over a backdrop of girls washing their hair in basins outdoors at the Turakina Health Camp in the early 1920's.

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#### SPECIAL DATESTAMPS



A special pictorial datestamp was used at Christchurch on Friday, 22nd July, 1994, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the New Zealand Stamp Collectors Club.



A Special pictorial datestamp was used at Kerikeri on Friday, 19th August, 1994, to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of European Settlement of Kerikeri.

## REVIEW

An Exhibition Display of New Zealand Stamps with Perforated Initials, by R.D.Samuel. Published by Shades Stamp Publications with the assistance of Philatelic Foundation Christchurch, Inc. Paginated in sections, A4 spiral bound. Available from Philatelic Foundation Christchurch Inc., P.O.Box 1129, Christchurch, New Zealand, price NZ\$25-00 plus postage - NZ\$5-00 to Australia; NZ\$8-00 to the United States of America and Canada; NZ\$10-00 to Great Britain and Europe.

Robert Samuel will be well known to many readers for his Postal Stationery of New Zealand Catalogues which have now appeared in at least three editions. Some may be aware of his interest in the Postage Due stamps of New Zealand, and the monograph he wrote on the second issue, published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand. What may not be so well known is the work he has carried out on the 'perfins' of New Zealand, and the fact that some long time ago, he wrote the catalogue of these stamps that was published in the Tasman series by the late Laurie Franks.

This present publication is in essence a photocopy of an entry that Robert Samuel put into the New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition, NORTHPEX 94, held in Hamilton during May, 1994, where it gained a high award. To the photocopies have been added introductory and explanatory sheets, setting out the aims and objectives both of the exhibition entry and the publication. It is neatly indexed using the frame and page number sequence, and much can be learned by reading through the pages. However, it is not a handbook or catalogue on the subject, although it does illustrate and highlight the rarities to be found within the subject, and the varieties to be sought.

There is a trend, with modern technology, for collections to be photocopied, bound, and placed in philatelic libraries. This is to be commended, as at least a record of material is available for inspection. Each will have to decide if wider publication is beneficial to the hobby. In many cases this is uncertain, but not in the case under review. It is a worthy addition to the growing library of publications devoted to the philately and postal history of New Zealand and its Dependencies.

### ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION

This will be held on Kiwi Day, Saturday, 26th November, 1994. Members who wish to place items in the Auction should note the following instructions:-

1. A list of your Lots, typewritten or in block letters please, should be prepared, giving a brief description of each Lot - e.g. U.M. = Unmounted Mint; F.U. = Fine Used, etc.
2. State your realistic estimate of the market value and reserve for each Lot. This is a must. If you have no reserve, please say so. Estimates for Lots should not be below £4-00.
3. All Lots must be mounted on card ready for display. A space about one inch square should be left at the bottom right hand corner for the insertion of the lot number.

4. Lots may be sent to the Auctioneer with your list, but in any case must be in my hands prior to the Auction. The Auctioneer will acknowledge receipt of lists and Lots. Lots handed in on the day of the Auction must have their Lot numbers clearly shown.

5. The Auctioneer is:-

L.Giles, 66, Bower Mount Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8AT

Lists must reach the Auctioneer by Saturday, 24th September, 1994, so that the Catalogue can be printed in time for distribution with the November issue of 'The Kiwi'.

6. Commission is 10% of sales, and all postage, poundage, insurance, etc. is payable by the vendor. There is a lotting fee of 20p per Lot. Lots which comprise books, periodicals, boxes of stamps and other bulky items cannot be accepted unless the vendor undertakes to deliver and collect from the auction room, or, if sold, to deliver to the purchaser direct.

An analysis of previous Auctions suggests that modern Lots, such as First Day Covers, unless unusual, have a poor rate of sale and would be better disposed of through the Society's Exchange Packet.

#### APPEAL

Each year it has been the practice of many generous members to offer items, both philatelic and general, to be auctioned on behalf of Society's funds. This is much appreciated. Do please see what you have surplus to your requirements. No matter what it is, we will be delighted to receive it, preferably by 24th September, 1994, so that it can appear in the catalogue, otherwise at any time up to 2.00 p.m. on Kiwi Day.

Do remember to bring your catalogue to the auction. Copies available in the room will cost £1-00.

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#### CIVILIAN POSTAL CENSORSHIP IN WORLD WAR 11

#### SOME FACTS AND PROBLEMS

GEORGE BRANAM

New Zealand was reasonably prepared for censorship needs at the beginning of World War 11. The necessary regulations had been worked out over a period from 1934, revised and put into working order by February, 1939. When the need arose in September, 1939, the machinery was thought out and ready to put into operation. A Censorship and Publicity Board was established, with the Prime Minister as chairman, but it was largely figurative: the Prime Minister controlled the processes, occasionally being called upon to give an accounting to Parliament. The Controller of Censorship was responsible for postal and telegraph censorship. This post was filled by George McNamara, recently retired Director General of Post and Telegraph, who had been approved for the office by the Council of Defence on 22nd June, 1939. His appointment by the Governor-General was announced on 2nd September, 1939.

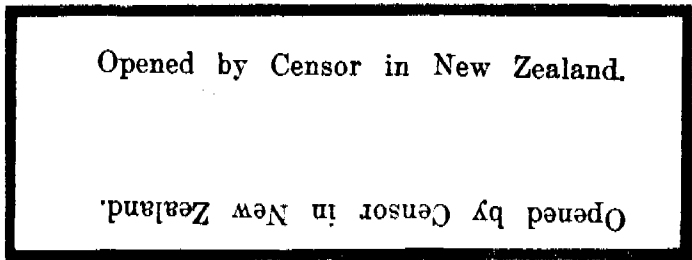
The machinery for postal censorship included district centres but with specialised problems such as dealing with foreign languages concentrated on Wellington. Staffs initially were drawn

from Post and Telegraph personnel, but as the war drew many of these into military service it was necessary to recruit replacements from retired civil servants and the like. At the peak about 250 persons were employed in postal censorship, we are told, and the physical evidence seems to confirm that. From the beginning a great deal seems to have depended upon the judgement of individual censors, though complaints at excesses probably resulted in internal discussions and adjustment. Records were destroyed after the war, so many details are impossible to know with certainty. For the postal historian some details can be reconstructed from the evidence of covers, though a good deal of uncertainty remains about some usages. Some of the puzzles offer intriguing challenges which might be resolved, or at least refined, by cooperative research. With this thought in mind, I shall try to lay out the evidence we have, and suggest some avenues of exploration which might improve our knowledge.

The principal information about the censorship as postal history is to be found in two articles by R.M.Startup in 'The Mail Coach'; Volume 13, number 3, pages 39 - 42, November, 1976, and Volume 23, number 6, pages 243 - 247, August, 1987, and one by Rodney Stone, also in 'The Mail Coach', Volume 25, number 1, pages 3 - 7, October, 1988. Details of the censorship in its social and political context are outlined by Nancy M. Taylor in her two-volume segment of the "Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939-45". Her volumes are entitled "The New Zealand People at War: The Home Front", published by the Government Printer, Wellington, in 1986. Postal censorship is discussed primarily in Volume 2, pages 979 - 997, but with relevant information in other places as well. What follows draws upon these sources, but also upon the evidence of covers.



Type 1



Type 2

**OPENED BY EXAMINER****D.D.A. / 119**  
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## Type 3

Three different tapes were used in sequence to seal opened letters, illustrated as Types 1, 2 and 3 above. The first was used from the beginning to about mid-April, 1941, when it was replaced by Type 2. Rodney Stone analysed details from some 800 covers, particularly for dates of usage. The earliest date of Type 1 sealing tape found in his survey was 26th October, 1939, and the latest 23rd April, 1941. The earliest Type 2 he recorded was 16th April, 1941. Some overlap would be expected. The transition, however, appears to have been fairly neat. I have recorded four Type 1 tapes used in April, 1941, and four Type 2, all within Stone's parameters. The third type, incorporating New Zealand's Commonwealth code designation, DDA, was introduced at the beginning of 1943 - the actual first use recorded is 23rd December, 1942, and the latest use of Type 2 recorded was 19th December, 1942. Again the transition seems to have been fairly neat. Covers may be discovered to extend these dates somewhat, but the essential line seems firm. Type 3 was used to the end of the War, censorship ceasing officially in September, 1945. Taylor characterised it as withering away 'with no unseemly haste'. The latest censored item I have recorded was dated 23rd August, 1945.

The basic handstamp used in conjunction with Type 1 and 2 tapes was circular, about 27 mms in diameter, with the words PASSED BY CENSOR N.Z. curved around the top and a censor's number in the centre. The cover illustrated at Figure 1 below shows a characteristic use of this handstamp. The handstamps seem to have been allocated in blocks of numbers to the various centres, but also added incrementally, as the number of censors at work increased. Some were probably held in reserve at the large centres and not put to use, since some numbers have never been recorded. Stone records only two covers with censor numbers over 100 sealed with Type 1 tape. By the time the third tape was introduced censor numbers up to 200 had been introduced. This DDA tape no longer required the handstamp since each censor had his own numbered tape, but numbers up to 262 are found on the tape.

Before the introduction of the DDA tape, the circular handstamp could be used on items not requiring tape, such as aerogrammes or postcards, but a new octagonal handstamp was issued at the time of the change to the numbered DDA tapes. It, too, bore the code DDA, and could be used in circumstances not requiring tape. Not every censor was issued one, only numbers 3 to 26 having been recorded,



indicating perhaps one for each office with more for large centres. The cover at Figure 2 below was not opened, and bears the handstamp. Not all unopened mail, however, was so stamped.

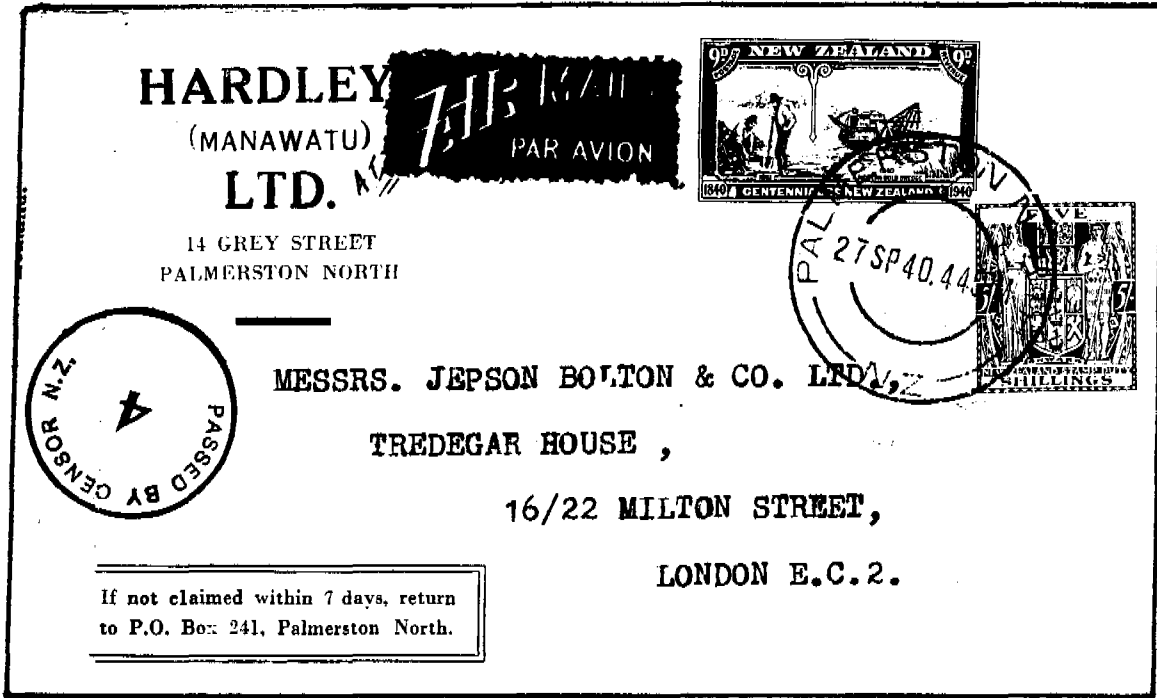


Figure 1

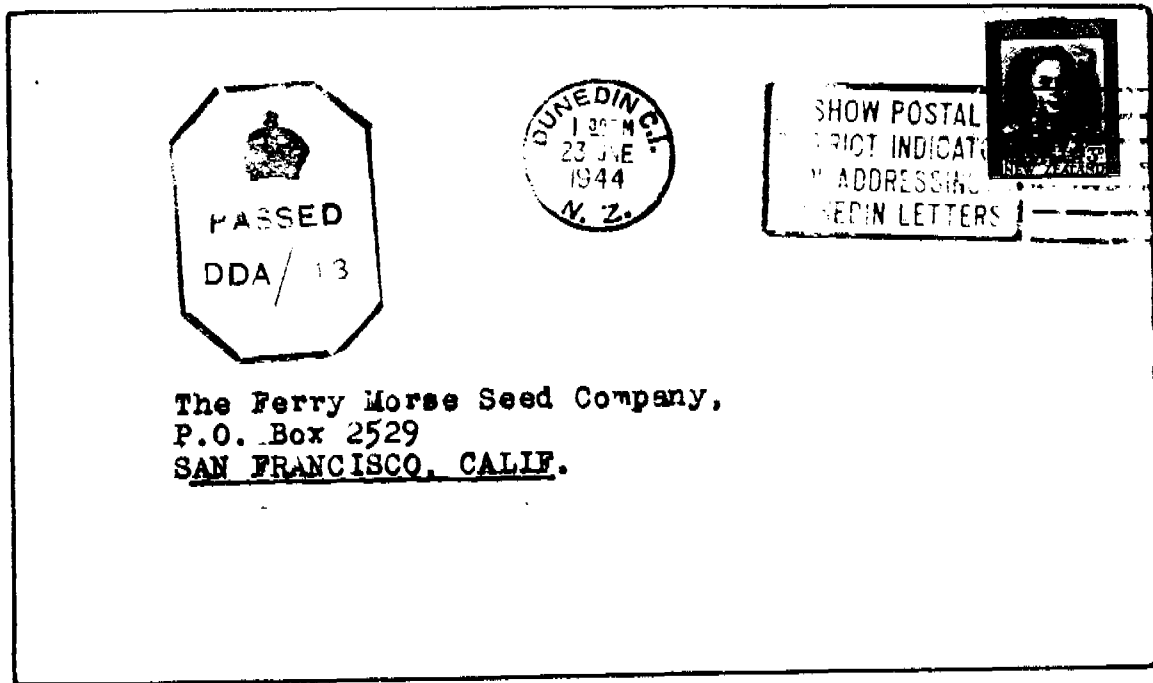


Figure 2

Taylor reports, on the basis of material collected in 1944 for the War History Narrative files - now in National Archives, Wellington - that censorship of the mails varied widely by categories. Letters in foreign languages were closely monitored, and special attention was given to the mail of aliens and refugees. Speed of transmission was a key to priorities in the beginning, so airmail was usually censored, whereas letters in English sent by surface often were not. An intentional extra delay might be built into the process to make certain any sensitive information would be stale, but until war came to the Pacific in a substantial way 'probably less than half the letters in English were examined' - Taylor, Volume 11, page 980. The presence of American forces in New Zealand created a greater urgency for security of information, and 1942-43 became the peak period of censorship. Throughout the War, however, it was never the practice to mark all mail not opened by the censor.

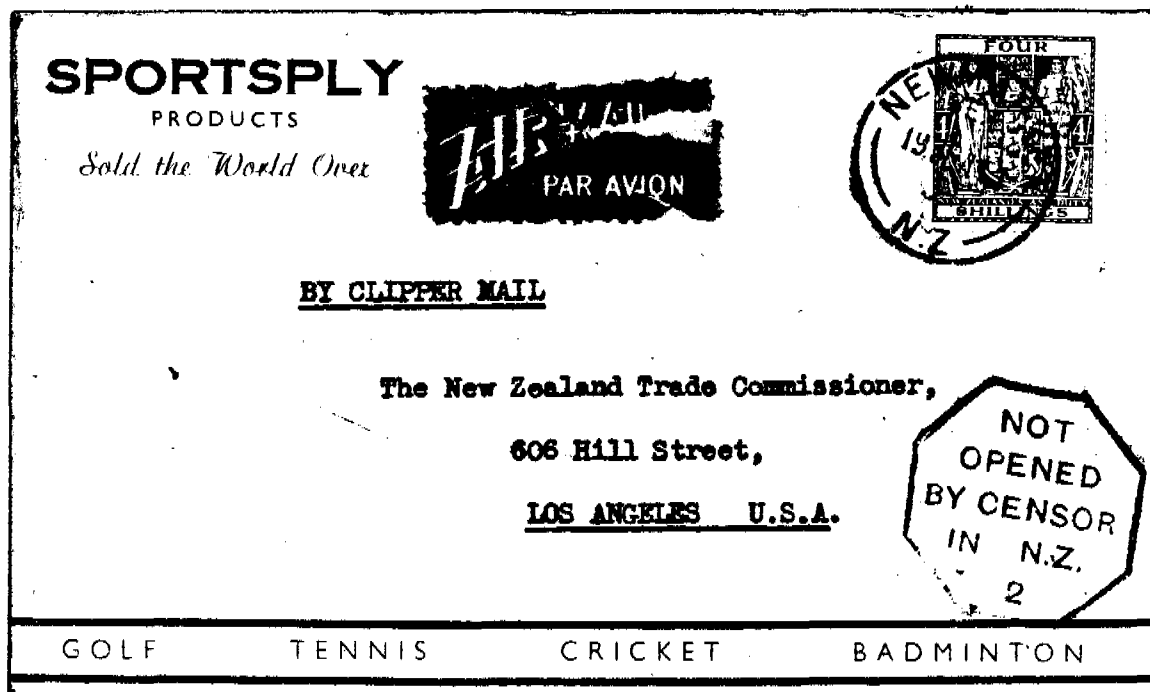


Figure 3

One of the problems, consequently, is to determine the purpose and the pattern of use of the octagonal handstamp reading NOT OPENED BY CENSOR IN N.Z. illustrated at Figure 3 above. Only numbers 2 to 7 have been recorded, and its occurrence is quite scarce. Stone indicates a date range of 10th January, 1942, to 14th October, 1944, but I have recorded half a dozen 1941 dates, the earliest being 19th July, 1941, and I believe his 1944 date is either a misreading or an anomaly, for the stamp seems to have gone out of service with the introduction in 1943 of the handstamp illustrated at Figure 2, which, as we have seen, was sometimes used to mark unopened mail, though more often items like aerogrammes, postcards and wrappers which did not require sealing tape. The listing for the handstamp illustrated at Figure 3 in the

Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand's publication, 'The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume 3', at page 406, says it 'was used on specially privileged mail, such as official correspondence, or on inward mail, which had been censored en route'. R.M.Startup in his two articles says something similar, in 1987 commenting '...this eight-sided stamp appears to have been used by supervising censors at Auckland and Wellington - possibly also at Christchurch? - on mail from prominent individuals such as Ministers of the Crown. Examples are uncommon.' See 'The Mail Coach', Volume 23, number 6, page 245. As additional examples have come to light, the usage he and Volume 3 of the Postage Stamp of New Zealand describe appears to be too restricted, however. The example illustrated at Figure 3 is a commercial cover, though to a New Zealand Government Agency. Other examples include private letters to members of the New Zealand military forces, and private and commercial letters not involving any New Zealand agency or prominent individuals. One interesting example is addressed to a prominent person, Mrs. W. Nash, the wife of the Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister - later Prime Minister - at the New Zealand Legation House in Washington, D.C. After applying the 'Not Opened' handstamp, the censor had second thoughts, however: the handstamp has been marked out, the letter opened, censored, and sealed by the Censor 162 handstamp. This ambivalence apparently piqued the curiosity of the American censor, who also opened the letter, placing his sealing tape on the right end of the letter. This cover is illustrated at Figure 4 on page 85.

A correspondence of about 175 letters from the Christchurch area to a soldier in the Pacific theatre is instructive. The covers, ranging from 1941 through 1944, show no censorship until mid-1942, after which letters were censored sporadically, a total of about 50 bearing either Type 2 or Type 3 tape. Uncensored examples, however, are found throughout. Four letters from November, 1941, through January, 1942, have been marked by the NOT OPENED BY CENSOR IN N.Z. handstamp, though to this point none of the letters had been opened, and dozens of unopened letters follow without the marking. How can we account for this?

Presumably since the circular PASSED handstamp could have been used on unopened mail, the NOT OPENED handstamp was created with a clear use in mind, perhaps drawing attention to the letter's not having been examined, but in the execution the clarity seems to have been lost. Perhaps that is why it was used so seldom, and why when the DDA code was introduced and a new handstamp required, the text was changed from NOT OPENED to PASSED. We need more evidence of many more examples, however, than any single collector is likely to assemble to draw sound conclusions.

Another mystery is the occasional appearance, usually on the reverse of an envelope, of a handstamped letter or number, or sometimes both. Examples are shown at Figure 5. These seem usually to be on a letter which may require some sort of special attention: incoming mail from neutral countries, letters to Prisoners of War or to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva overseeing the affairs of such prisoners, or mail from Soames Island internees, and the like. It seems likely that these alpha and numeric handstamps, as R.M.Startup called them, were used as internal signals in the censorship centres, perhaps

principally those at Wellington and Auckland, where most specialised operations took place.

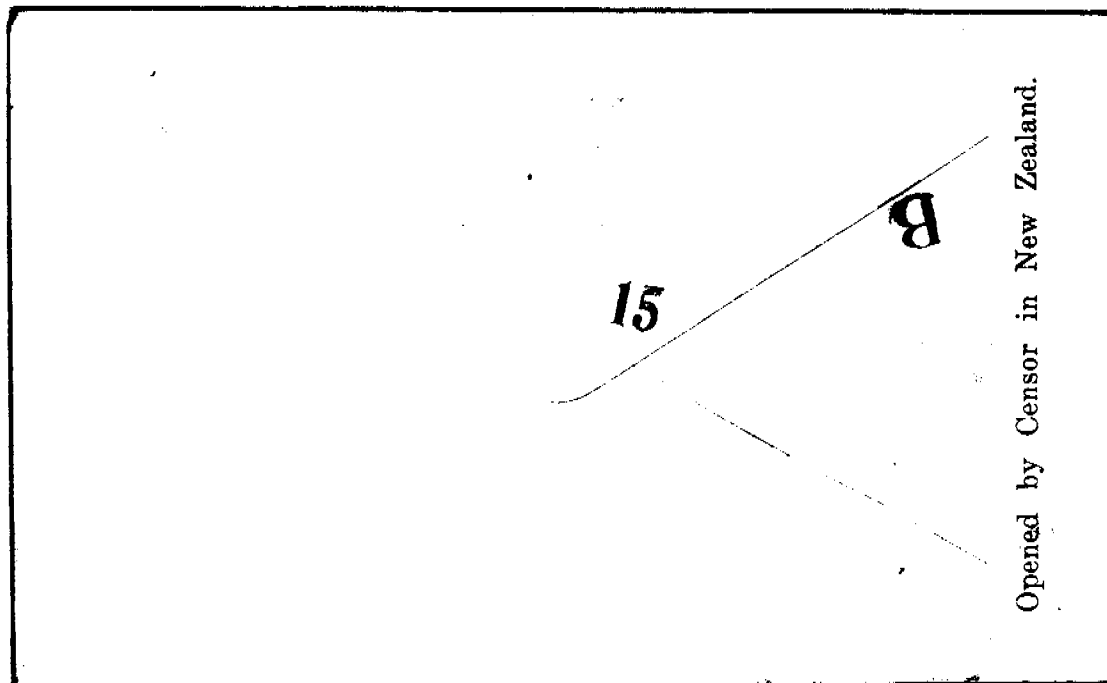


Figure 5

Letters from A through H have been recorded, but a much wider range of numbers. Stone noted 35 different numbers between 2 and 198. This range suggests that each censor may have had a numeric handstamp corresponding to the number on his PASSED handstamp. Occasionally the number appearing on the reverse is the same as the one on the PASSED handstamp, but more often it is not. Beyond the probability that these are internal signals, it is difficult to reach any conclusions with the data at hand. With the accumulation of many more examples, however, meaningful patterns might emerge, and a clearer sense of the operation of censorship might emerge. It is particularly unfortunate that records were not retained, and that so many years have been allowed to pass without seeking out those people who could have answered operational questions until many of them are no longer with us, and the memory of details is probably diminished for those who are. Some light may still be shed, however, if collectors work together and share information. I should be grateful if anyone having data to share or exchange would communicate with the Editor.

In this respect, I particularly wish to acknowledge the cooperative spirit of Rodney Stone of the United Kingdom and Harold Waite of Auckland, New Zealand, whose work has been shared and helped me form the views expressed here. They must be absolved, of course, from any error I may have committed in interpreting the data.

## References

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"Postal Censorship in New Zealand 1939-1945". The Mail Coach, Volume 23, number 6, August, 1987, pages 242 - 247.
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"Civilian Postal Censorship in New Zealand in World War II". The Mail Coach, Volume 25, number 1, October, 1988, pages 3 - 7.
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### FINDINGS FROM FILES YET MORE PAPER PROBLEMS

ALLAN P. BERRY

This particular section of the files starts with a letter from Samuel Jones & Co. (Export) Ltd., dated 1st November, 1939, and addressed to the New Zealand High Commission. It reads:-

"With reference to our representative's interview with you and ... of Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., last week, and your letter of the 27th October. We have now very carefully examined the ream of New Zealand Stamp Paper which was the subject of our discussion.

"This was examined personally by our Works Manager, and we cannot do better than give you below a copy of his report.

'I have now carefully examined the ream of New Zealand Stamp Paper which you sent over to me.

'This is, of course, an Esparto Paper, and cannot be judged on the same basis as a rag paper.

'In my opinion, it is extremely clean for an Esparto, and I certainly do not think that it could be considered as in any way unsatisfactory.

'I took the first 60 sheets from the top of the parcel and carefully examined each one individually. Out of this 60 sheets I would have said that 54 were as good and clean as it would be possible to get with an Esparto Paper. There were only 6 or 7 sheets about which I think there could be any doubt whatever, and 3 or 4 of these I should have passed as satisfactory without hesitation. There might have been a certain amount of doubt about three of them, but even in the case of these, I, myself, should have considered the sorters justified in passing them.

'I then took a number of odd sheets in various places in the package and I only found one which I, personally, would have thrown out, and this was because it had a small piece of foreign matter on the surface with [sic] might not have been there when the paper was sorted, because when I scraped it, it fell off.

'I have no doubt that if the ream is gone over with the idea of throwing out any sheets about which there might be some question of doubt, there would be one or two rejected, but taking the standard as a whole, I consider it is very good.

'There is, however, only one definite test, and that is, to compare it with what is known as the standard ream. This was a ream of Stamp Paper which was carefully sorted many years ago and was to be standard for sorting of the British Government Postage Stamp Paper. This ream was kept at Somerset House, and I imagine it is probably still in existence. I had a good deal to do with this standard ream at the time and I have the details fixed pretty clearly in my mind even now. Frankly, in my view, this ream of New Zealand Stamp Paper is equal to, if not better than, the standard.'

"We do not think there is anything we can add to this and we certainly could not undertake to supply a paper any better than this specimen ream, which, as pointed out in the attached report, is fully up to, if not better than, the usual standard, and for an Esparto Paper, very good indeed.

"As arranged at the time, the ream in question is being returned direct to Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson, and in view of the nature of the Work's report, the ream is being returned intact as no sheets can really be considered bad enough to justify being thrown out.

"Regarding your further requirements as detailed in the second and third paragraphs of your letter, we have not yet submitted our price as we have been awaiting a report as to the new scale of prices which were expected to be issued last week by the Paper Control. This schedule has now been issued and at present we are engaged in arranging the price question with the mill, and hope to be able to submit our prices probably by tomorrow.

There follows a letter from Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., addressed to the Post Office Stores Department, dated 13th November, 1939. It reads:-

"As requested, I beg to enclose herewith the one sheet of 240 1d (King George VI) New Zealand postage stamps. This is the sheet which ... received from New Zealand with complaints as to the spots in the paper, and which he gave to me and for which I signed a receipt."

The following letter is also to the Post Office Stores Department, dated 3rd November, 1939, from, in this case, the New Zealand High Commission. It states:-

"As arranged when you were over this morning, I now send you herewith copies of the three letters which we discussed briefly this morning.

"I shall be glad to have your comments when you have had an opportunity of going into them fully."

There follows a letter from the Post Office Stores Department to Messrs. Samuel Jones & Co. Ltd., dated 13th November, 1939. It reads:-

"As arranged at the conversation I had with ..., ... and ... on the 9th November, I enclose herewith 12 sheets of the paper supplied by you early in this year for New Zealand stamps, together with one of the sheets of 1d stamps sent over by the New Zealand Government to illustrate their complaint regarding the number of stamps which show blemishes due to the paper.

"I understand that the enclosed sheets were taken, at random, by Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Son from the ream handed to ... on the 3rd November. They have been compared with the standard ream of wood and rag paper referred to in your letter of the 1st November to the High Commissioner for New Zealand, and with supplies of esparto paper from other sources, and, while it is agreed that all these paper contain spots, it is considered that the ream now in question compares somewhat unfavourably in this respect with other supplies.

"With a view to minimising the possibility of future complaints regarding the stamps, I shall be glad if you will take up the matter with your suppliers on the lines agreed at our meeting. In the meantime, perhaps, you will be good enough to acknowledge receipt of the enclosed paper and stamps."

The next letter on this particular section of the file is also from the Post Office Stores Department written on the same date. It is addressed to the New Zealand High Commission, and says:-

"I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to Messrs. S. Jones & Co. with regard to the question of spots in the New Zealand stamp paper which appear as blemishes on the stamps. At the meeting referred to therein the firm's representatives agreed that the twelve sheets of paper under discussion were slightly inferior, as regards blemishes, to paper from other supplies.

"It is not possible, according to this Department's experience, to obtain stamp paper which is altogether free from spots. I think, therefore, that the New Zealand Government's complaint can only be met by co-operation between the paper maker and the printer, the former supplying the paper as clean as possible and the latter turning out as waste all printed work in which the spots show through the print. This should not lead to excessive waste in the case of a majority of New Zealand stamps, as the designs are elaborate and bear a considerable quantity of ink. In the case of the King George VI ½d, 1d and 1½d stamps, however, the design is somewhat 'open' and lightly inked and paper spots, which would be obliterated by heavier designs, are likely to show. It might be advisable to arrange for sheets of paper to be specially selected for reprints of this design and to ascertain from the printers, in advance, what additional cost, if any, would be involved in the rejection of all printed sheets - or half sheets - on which spots are visible."

The next paper on the file is a signed note dated 13.11.39, indicating that '1 Pcl Reg. No. 1694 Received and Despatched to Messrs. S.Jones & Co. (Export) Ltd.' The paper carries a circular datestamp, reading POST OFFICE STORES DEPT. / STAMP SECTION within a single circle, with the dateline reading \* / 13 NO / 39. It is followed by a letter from Samuel Jones & Co. (Export) Ltd., dated 14th November, 1939, addressed to the Post Office Stores Department. It reads:-

"We acknowledge your letter of the 13th November together with 12 sheets of New Zealand Watermarked Stamp Paper unprinted, and one sheet printed, in connection with the recent complaint concerning blemishes in the paper.

"As agreed at our recent meeting we are now taking this matter up with the Paper Mill with a view particularly of improving the standard with future supplies.

"The sheets will be returned to you when we get them [back] from the Paper Mill."

The following letter is from the Post Office Stores Department to Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., dated 16th November, 1939, and reads:-

"Many thanks for your letter of the 13th instant and the sheet of 1d. New Zealand King George VI stamps, 240 set, enclosed therewith. I have sent the sheet on to Messrs. S.Jones & Co. so that they may show the papermakers how the paper spots appear as blemishes on the stamps."

The next is a letter from the Post Office Stores Department to Messrs. S.Jones & Co. Ltd., dated 1st December, 1939, asking:-

"I shall be glad to know whether any further reply can now be given to my letter of 13th November relating to the New Zealand Government's complaint of paper spots showing on their stamps. Your letter, ..., of the 14th November refers."

S.Jones & Co. Ltd. responded the next day, 2nd December, 1939.

"With reference to your letter of the 1st December, we have just received a report from the Paper Mill and attach copy of the letter we have today written to the New Zealand Government Office embodying the Mill's remarks."

The letter referred to, of the same date, says:-

"With reference to recent correspondence in connection with the New Zealand Stamp Paper and the question of spots, we have now had a report from the Mill, who write as follows:-

'We refer to your letter of the 14th instant, in respect of New Zealand Postage Stamps supplied recently by you to the New Zealand Government, and we have now made a most careful examination of the samples you have submitted to us as representing the supply complained of.

'Whilst we regret that the complaint has been made we find after scrutinising the sheets sent to us, that these are a normal supply of the quality called for, and we could not undertake to eliminate the Esparto spots which are common in Esparto paper.



'Our only suggestion to satisfy the requirements of the Post Office is to supply a far higher grade paper with a furnish of 50% Rag and 50% Wood as for British Postage Stamps.

'Although we will bear this complaint in mind in supplying that paper for the new order ..., sent us, we cannot guarantee that the paper will be any freer of the Esparto spots in the new making, and we should be glad to know if you will accept the order on these conditions or whether an alteration will be required in the furnish to give the desired results.'

"Our own opinion is that we feel we can maintain the standard which we have been delivering over such a long period now for this particular paper, which has, generally speaking, been quite satisfactory. We also believe that the difficulties have arisen in the particular case in question owing to the change in design of the stamp and the large amount of unprinted [or lightly printed] surface, which tends to show up and exaggerate any unavoidable spots which may be present.

"It might be advisable to consider the Mill's suggestion and alter the furnish to Rag and Sulphite, which is, in fact, the only way to minimise the difficulty.

"However, as stated above we really do not think that after so thoroughly investigating this matter we can now reply [rely] on the Paper Mill to watch this question very carefully, and we rather think it would be best to continue on the present quality, and both the Mill and ourselves will watch the question of spots, although as already explained, they cannot be entirely eliminated.

"Will you please let us know as quickly as possible whether to proceed on the new order on the original quality or whether you want to consider the question of a change of furnish."

On 4th December, 1939, the Post Office Stores Department wrote to the New Zealand High Commission, saying:-

"I have now received from Messrs. S. Jones & Co. a copy of their letter to you of the 2nd December regarding the cleanness of the paper supplied for New Zealand stamps.

"I agree with the suggestion contained in the penultimate paragraph thereof that no change should be made in the quality of the paper at present. When I visited Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. recently it seemed clear that the paper would not give rise to difficulty or excessive waste through spots in connection with the reprints of the Centennial stamps.

"If and when it becomes necessary to order a further supply of New Zealand King George VI  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1d. or  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps, it might be worth while to consider a rag and wood furnish for the paper.

"Messrs. S. Jones & Co. have not returned to me the 12 sheets of watermarked paper and the one sheet of 1d. New Zealand stamps I sent them on 13th November. Have these items come back to you?"

On the same date, the New Zealand High Commission wrote to the Post Office Stores Department. The letter reads:-

"As I think I have already told you in connection with the order for paper for the repeat order of Centennial Stamps which

we have placed with Messrs. Samuel Jones, the question of inserting the model clause regarding the absence of spots, creases, etc., as suggested by you, was put to them.

"They stated that they could not accept it unless the mill would do so and they promised to report in due course.

"They have now written me as per copy of letter attached, dated 2nd December, and you will note they cannot undertake to eliminate the esparto spots and suggest that, to satisfy the requirements of our Post and Telegraph Department, we should specify a far higher grade of paper with a fifty-fifty rag and wood furnish as required for British postage stamps.

"I am sorry the matter is still unsettled, for, so far as our last conversation went, you and I were rather inclined to think that the worst of the trouble had been experienced and that, with luck, the matter should not arise again, at any rate in such an acute form.

"In any case, if it comes to the question of altering the furnish of the paper, I shall have to cable pretty fully to the Post & Telegraph Department, but I do not think this is necessary and if you are still of the same opinion, perhaps you will let me know. Alternatively, if you think it advisable to alter, perhaps next time you are over we can concoct a cable to the Department in Wellington.

"The matter is rather urgent as, if we have to cancel the present order, it might take many more weeks than we can spare to procure a new supply.

"I shall be glad of your prompt reply, for which many thanks in advance.

"I do not suppose you want the twelve sheets of paper complained of which the firm have now returned, and I will pass it on to Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson."

Clearly, the last two letters being of the same date crossed each other. A copy of the letter from Samuel Jones & Co. (Export) Ltd. of 2nd December, 1939, already quoted above, is next on the file. The only difference is a note at the bottom, stating 'We return herewith the 12 sheets plain and one sheet printed.' The next letter is out of order in the file, being dated 21st November, 1939. It appears to contain information referred to in the letter quoted above from the New Zealand High Commission. It is the last in this section, and is from Samuel Jones & Co. (Export) Ltd., to the New Zealand High Commission, and reads:-

"In regard to your letter of the 16th November, dealing with the question of spots and blemishes on the NEW ZEALAND STAMP PAPER, we must apologise for not having replied to this letter more promptly but we have had to go very carefully into this matter.

"As you will understand, the question is entirely one with the mill manufacturing the paper, and we therefore had to take the matter up with them.

"We have also discussed the matter with the Manager at our Works, and he points out that the standard of sorting is based on the British standard ream, in fact the majority of the sorters who are dealing with your orders were actually sorting the British Postage Stamp [?Paper omitted] at the time the

standard ream was selected.

"However, it should be borne in mind that in Esparto papers there must be more spots than in a rag paper. Generally speaking, these esparto blemishes are of a light colour and are invariably covered by the printing so that they are only harmful if they happen to fall on a part of the design not covered with ink.

"You will undoubtedly realise that it would be impossible for us to accept the clause used by Somerset House in regard to the question of cleanliness unless our mill friends agreed on a similar condition. We are discussing the matter with them, and we hope to be able to get them to give us the necessary assurances.

"Meanwhile we can only undertake to give a paper which is equal in all respects to previous supplies, which we believe have always been satisfactory with the exception of the particular delivery in question.

"We hope to have the matter settled with the Paper Mill very shortly, and we will then write to you further.

"In the meantime we have instructed our Works to proceed as quickly as possible with the gumming of the paper they actually have in stock at the moment, and we will advise you later when we hope to be able to do that. We are extremely full at the moment, and cannot promise very quick delivery. We will let you have more definite information later."

I am very grateful to the National Postal Museum for allowing access to these files, and for permission to publish extracts from them.

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## SKIPPERS, GOLD AND THE SHOTOVER RIVER

P.F.NORTH

Gold was discovered near Arthurs Point on the Shotover River in November, 1862, by Thomas Arthur and Harry Redfern. These men were on a day off from working on Mr. Rees's sheep run at Queenstown. In a few hours they had obtained nine ounces of gold.

Within months there were hundreds of men on the river which within a year was being described as 'The Golden Canyon' or 'The Richest River' in the world.

Samuel Johnstone was born in Belfast in about 1830 and his wife Eliza in Londonderry. As single people they emigrated to Australia and met and married in Melbourne. They took ship to Bluff in 1863. Samuel Johnstone is recorded as having been appointed Postmaster at Arthurs Point on 1st October, 1865. He and Eliza then built the Otago Hotel at Skippers - the remains are still there - and Samuel was appointed Postmaster at Skippers on 1st July, 1869.

Samuel died about 1895 and his widow was licensee until 12th June, 1896, when her daughter Rachel took over on 16th April, 1897. Rachel married Jack Flynn - another Irishman - who was a Carter and Packer in competition with the French-Canadian Jules Bourdeau.

Samuel and Eliza's son William - my Grandfather - was born at Skippers about 1868 and married Edith Baron of Nelson about 1895. William and Edith had four children. My mother was the eldest,

born in 1897. Her name was Helen Harriet Johnstone. She was followed by Edith and Grace and the youngest was a son - Harry.

My mother and Harry have been dead for some years, but Edith and Grace, in their 90's, are still alive and live in Gore.

William worked at the quartz mine at Bullendale, some five miles north of Skippers and he died in 1916 of silicosis. My grandmother lived at Gore until she died in 1969 at the age of 96.

My father, Harold Frankly North was born at Strood in Kent in 1903. As a newly qualified teacher he went to New Zealand in 1925. My mother was then working as a nurse at Invercargill Hospital. My father got a post at the school in Blackball, some 15 miles north-east of Greymouth, where I was born in 1929. In 1931, my father was appointed master at the Reformatory School for Maori Boys at Te One on the Chatham Islands, and my brother Mark, now deceased, was born there in 1932.

We came 'home' to England early in 1939, the war broke out preventing us from going back and I have lived here ever since. My wife and I have had two holidays in New Zealand and hope to go again in 1996. My great-grandparents are buried in Skippers cemetery. Alas, I have no letters or covers of the area whatsoever, although I have a few pictures and postcards of Skippers and the Johnstone family. I would dearly like to know more about the postal history of the offices with which my family were associated, and if any one can help, I would be pleased to hear from them through our Editor. For those who would like more information about Skippers, the Otago Hotel and the district, I can recommend:-

The Road to Skippers, by Danny Knudsen.

The Golden Canyon, by F.W.Craddock.

Let There Be Light, by P.Chandler and R.C.Hall.

The Shotover River - The Richest River in the World,  
by A.J. de la Mare

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#### PRISONER OF WAR IN CRETE

ROBIN STARTUP

The article by E.W.LEPPARD published in 'The Kiwi', Volume 43, number 1, January, 1994, commented on the lack of information. On checking back I find that I had an article published in 'The Mail Coach', Volume 11, number 6, February, 1975. There has been discussion in the Newsletter of the Forces Postal History Society in the United Kingdom beyond the single reference given. GEORGE CRABB discussed Crete Prisoner of War mail in the Summer, 1992, Newsletter, Volume 22, number 2. ALEC HEMMINGS provided further information in the Winter, 1992, Newsletter, Volume 22, number 4, and again in the Summer, 1993, Newsletter, Volume 22, number 6. GEORGE CRABB provided yet more information in the Autumn, 1993, Newsletter, Volume 22, number 7. Notes of mine were published in the Spring, 1994, Newsletter, Volume 22, number 9. Yet the whole field of what markings were used where still seems indefinite. The German camps and their markings have been described in a handbook - in German - but not correlated to New Zealanders.