



*70th Anniversary Display by Members of
The New Zealand Society of Great Britain
to*

The Royal Philatelic Society London

Thursday 29th September 2022



**PUBLISHED AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE
JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**

Welcome

Welcome to this display celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain. We have shown at the Royal Philatelic Society London on two previous occasions: in 1977 (25th Anniversary) and 2002 (50th Anniversary). Four of the members contributing today were amongst those who displayed in 2002.

We are delighted to be able to showcase a wide variety of topics reflecting the range of interest available to collectors of New Zealand stamps and postal history. The subjects range from the classic Chalons through military mail, the various definitive series and more modern material such as Customised Advertising Labels.

We have also included some particularly New Zealand subjects including charity stamps issued to support the Health Camp movement and stamps used on the Pigeongram service from Great Barrier Island at the end of the nineteenth century.

We hope that you will find the display interesting and enjoyable.

For more information about the Society and its activities, please visit our website:

www.nzsgb.org.uk

Dr. Andrew Dove MBE FRPSL

President

COVER ILLUSTRATIONS

Front Cover:

Artwork by James Berry for an unissued New Zealand Health stamp (Alan Baker collection).

Back Cover:

Personalised Labels produced by members Tony Ward and Jo Blyth to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of The New Zealand Society of Great Britain in 2022. The stamps feature New Zealand's first three stamps (SG1/CP1a, SG2/CP2a and SG3/CP6a). Reproduced by courtesy of Grant Clifford, whose exhibit of New Zealand's first issue was awarded Gold at London 2022.

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New Zealand Postal History: 1824-1843

In this exhibit an overview is presented of the earliest postal history of New Zealand long before the issue of the first adhesive postage stamp in 1855.

The earliest letters were ship letters handed to the captains of the rare vessels that stopped in New Zealand in those early days. The oldest cover in the collection is from 1824 and was written by a missionary. The most remarkable item from this period is a letter from a French explorer on board the famous exploration ship *Astrolabe*.



Letter sent by an explorer on the famous French ship 'Astrolabe', dated 27 February 1827. This is the only letter known to date from the Dumont d'Urville expedition.

There are quite a few letters from settlers in Hokianga, a natural harbour in the North Island, dated between 1828 and 1840 and forwarded either as ship letters or via the Te Wahapu postal agency, an unofficial New South Wales post office. We also show two letters from the New Zealand Company, the first real colonial company. One of these was written on board a ship en route to New Zealand with emigrants on board.

Of the earlier postmarks the 'KORORARIKA' trinity is the most spectacular. It consists of the 'KORORARIKA 1840 NEW ZEALAND', the rare 'FREE KORORARIKA' (on an 1840 letter from the Bay of Islands) and the extremely rare 'MISSENT TO KORORARIKA' on a letter from Dundee to Sydney, redirected to Port Nicholson and sent by mistake to Kororarika. Also on display are the crowned oval date stamp, with date and month excised, from Kororarika, used between 1841 and 1844, and the first Auckland crowned oval datestamp dated 14 July 1842 on a letter from London to Pahai in the Bay of Islands.

Letter sent from London to Pahai, Bay of Islands, marked at origin with both the 'PAID SHIP LETTER/LONDON' oval and the London datestamp both dated 10 December 1841. On arrival the crowned GENERAL POST OFFICE AUCKLAND datestamp JU 14 1842 was applied.



Other rarities include a consignee's letter carried by a schooner from Sydney to New Zealand in 1842, the earliest recorded crown with oval datestamp of Wellington (AU 10 1842) and some unusual post marks like 'NELSON' and 'PETRE' or the double line hand stamp 'NEW ZEALAND/SHIP LETTER', the last used only between July 1842 and March 1844.

The New Zealand Chalon Issues: 1855-1873

This display introduces New Zealand's first postage stamps, the Chalons, by illustrating selected parts of a full five frame exhibit that covers all issues.

The first issue, comprising 1d, 2d and 1/- stamps, was printed by Perkins, Bacon in London, who also supplied the equipment and materials needed for subsequent printings in New Zealand. A contract printer, John Richardson, produced these and an additional 6d stamp at Auckland until the Government employed its own printer, John Davies, following the establishment of the new General Post Office in Wellington in 1862. Davies continued to produce the Chalons, now also including 3d and 4d denominations, until they were withdrawn at the end of 1873.



All stamps were issued imperforate until 1864, leaving local post offices to separate them using scissors, sharp knives, or crude locally produced handheld serrating or rouletting wheels. After 1864 the sheets were issued perforated (mostly gauge 12½, some 10 x 12½), with the exception of a few that still needed to be issued imperforate due to breakdowns and maintenance of the perforating machines.

Most of the Chalons were printed on a handmade star-watermarked paper produced for Perkins, Bacon at Rush Mills in Northamptonshire, but a variety of machine-made papers (mostly unwatermarked) were used when the preferred star-watermarked paper was in short supply.

Initially red/orange was used for the 1d stamps, blue for 2d, lilac for 3d, rose and yellow for 4d, brown for 6d, and green for 1/-. However three of these colours were interchanged from 1871 onwards: brown for 1d, red/orange for 2d, and blue for 6d.



*The only known cover bearing the rare 1d brown printed on 'NZ' watermarked paper.
In addition this is the only known joined pair of this stamp.*

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The Māori Wars

In 1840, by signing the Treaty of Waitangi, the Māori, the original inhabitants of New Zealand, ceded sovereignty over the country in exchange for the protection of the British Crown. Unfortunately, subsequent laws disadvantaged them and sought to dispossess them of much of their traditional land. Disputes over unfair land purchases led to a number of military engagements in the North Island between 1845 and 1873.



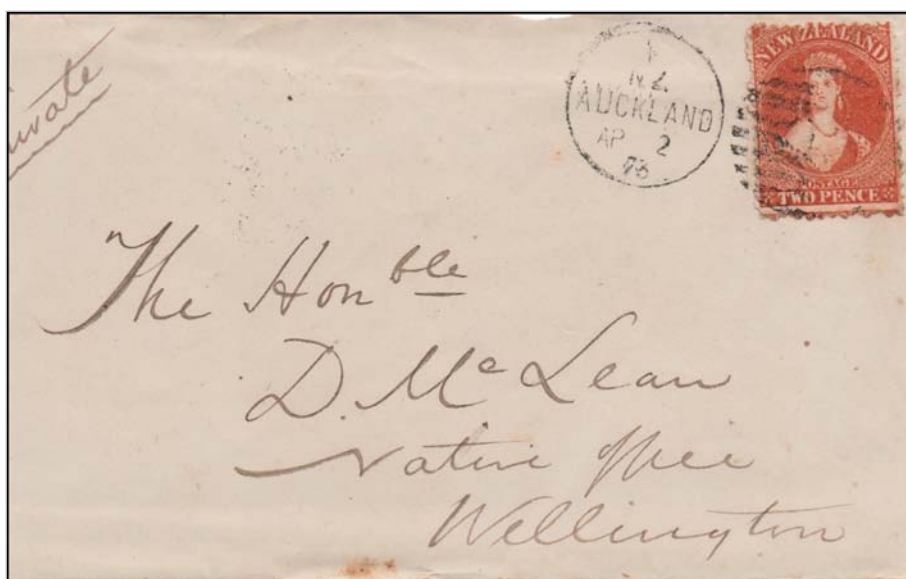
The early skirmishes were localised but by the 1860s, more British troops had arrived from Australia and larger scale campaigns were mounted by the British military supported by some local militias. The first major conflict was in the Waikato in 1863 after the New Zealand Settlements Act allowed for the confiscation of land from the Māoris in rebellion against the Crown. The Field Force advanced along the Waikato River, constructed a base at Queen’s Redoubt and opened an army post office.

There were subsequent engagements in the East Cape (1865), Taranaki (1868) and, finally, a four year guerrilla war fought by Te Kooti in the East Coast region, ending in 1873.

For campaigns except that in Waikato, the postal services for the British Army were provided by the New Zealand Post Office. Special Army Post Offices were created for the Waikato Campaign. The named obliterations associated with military post were used at Onehunga, Otahuhu, Queen’s Redoubt, and Headquarters at Tauranga. Some military Post Offices in the Waikato were issued with ‘Province of Auckland’ datestamps numbered 1 to 7. Some settlement datestamps, such as Drury, Port Waikato and Raglan, may also be associated with Army Camps established during the campaign.

In compliance with the British Military concession postage rate, letters from private soldiers and non-commissioned officers could be sent for 1d but officers’ mail was subject to the usual postage rates.

This display is designed to explain and illustrate the course of the conflict through letters cancelled at the various established military camps. It also includes letters to prominent citizens including the Hon. D. McLean, Native Secretary and Land Purchase Commissioner, who is credited with establishing peaceful relations between the Māori and settlers.



New Zealand Marine Post Offices: 1864-1907

The New Zealand authorities attached great importance to the prompt despatch and delivery of mail to and from Great Britain and Europe and the New Zealand Post Office arranged for mail agents to accompany the mail on contract ships to re-sort and re-bag mails. They were supplied with appropriate date stamps and obliterations to cancel passengers' mail and late-fee mail posted at shipside.

The first Marine Post Office canceller employed was a combined Marine P.O. and Otago date stamp and obliterator used on the Dunedin to Melbourne service between April 1864 and December 1865.

Mail agents also travelled on the service from Wellington to Panama, operated by the Panama and New Zealand Mail Steam Co. between June 1866 and February 1869. Although date-stamps were carried, very little mail cancelled on this route seems to have survived.

With the completion of the transcontinental railroad connecting the west coast of America with New York, the Pacific sea route linking Sydney and Auckland with San Francisco became the default contract route for mail and the first trans Pacific service began in 1870. A range of simple Marine P.O. date stamps and some more elaborate cancellers which bore the name of the specific steamer were used throughout but are particularly scarce from the early part of the period.

A Marine Post Office operated briefly on the service from Wellington to Vancouver (part of the 'All Red Route') between the end of 1897 and April 1899.

Contracts for the various services were hugely dependent on subsidies from the Governments of England, the United States, New South Wales and New Zealand and their success was influenced by competition from alternative routes and carriers, political change and fluctuating economies - the last being largely responsible for the ultimate demise of the service between New Zealand and North America in 1907.

This display shows a range of Marine Post Office cancellations used by the New Zealand Mail Agents on the various services between 1864 and 1907. Examples of the early duplex cancellations, the small circular date stamps and the later named ship marks are included.



The First Sideface Issue: 1874-1882

The designs and printing plates for the first six values of the issue were produced by De La Rue in 1873, with the later two and five shillings stamps (1878) wholly designed and produced in New Zealand. This issue replaced the Chalon stamps that had been used in New Zealand since 1855.

The De La Rue designs for this issue can be seen as one part of a broad ‘design continuum’ that this firm produced for the British Colonies during the 1870’s, with the same or similar design elements utilised across a wide range of stamps. In this regard, and as just one example, compare the hexagon design utilised for the centre of the 1867 New South Wales stamp with the same hexagon design in the centre of the 1874 New Zealand 6d.



The First Sidefaces were produced on papers watermarked with ‘NZ and star’, with the exception of a short period in 1875 when the former ‘large star’ watermarked paper was used on a provisional basis for the 1d and 2d values only. The issue can be found with four basic perforations and a number of perforation varieties, including mixed perforations. Some of these perforation varieties are amongst the rarities of New Zealand philately.

The Government’s decision in 1881 to allow postage stamps to be used for both postage and revenue purposes saw the ‘First Sidefaces’ replaced by the ‘Second Sidefaces’, inscribed ‘Postage & Revenue’, in April 1882. First Sidefaces can be found used for revenue purposes during late 1881 and into 1882.

The first frame of this display addresses the reason for, and genesis of, the issue with essays, proofs and allied items. The second frame includes a précis of some of the perforation varieties and rarities, the 2/- and 5/- values, fiscal use and postscript.



*Bradbury Wilkinson & Co
essay for the issue.*



*De La Rue & Co
plate proof overprinted
'CANCELLED'.*



*De La Rue & Co
colour trial/plate proof.*

The Second Sideface Issue: 1882-1900

In April 1882 seven new stamps (1d - 1/-) were issued for both postal and revenue usage. These replaced the 'First Sidefaces' of 1874 which were for postal use only, with separate stamps available for revenue purposes. It was the first issue to be entirely designed, engraved and printed within the colony.

The 'Second Sidefaces' were eventually superseded by the 1898 Pictorial Issue although, in 1900, a shortage of two values from the Pictorial series necessitated a provisional reprint of the ½d and 2d Sidefaces.

New Zealand was admitted to the UPU at the Postal Union Congress held in Vienna in May 1891 with the date for formal admission set for 1 October 1891. From that date New Zealand was bound by the regulations concerning postal services and the conveyance of international mails with the most significant change being to postage rates for letters addressed to foreign countries, which was reduced to a uniform 2½d per ½oz. These changes necessitated the production of two additional values, 2½d and 5d. A further ½d stamp was added in 1895 to replace the earlier 'newspaper' stamp.

This display offers a snapshot of the 'Second Sidefaces' showing the genesis of the issue and the first printings of 1882, with many examples of early usage. The second frame considers the design, production and usage of the two new values, 2½d and 5d, which were required to meet the new postage rates applicable following New Zealand's admission to the UPU in 1891.



Plate proofs of the 1d and 2d values in the issued colours.



Plate proof/colour trials of the 2½d value in unissued (left) and issued (right) colours.

New Zealand Advertisement Stamps: 1893

The New Zealand Postmaster General, Sir Joseph Ward, first proposed privately managed commercial advertising on postage stamps and telegrams.

On 12 November 1891 the Post and Telegram Department placed an advertisement in the *New Zealand Gazette* seeking tenders for the exclusive rights for such an enterprise. A Wellington-based advertising agency, Truebridge, Miller and Reich won the tender, in July 1892, with an offer of £800.

Underprinted postage stamps first appeared in February 1893 and immediately raised a storm of controversy throughout the country. The general public objected to the private enterprise and to the potential hazard of ingesting ink from the adverts. Such was the ferocity of campaigning against the venture that the Post Office terminated the contract only seven and a half months after the first advert stamps went on sale.



In this period advertisements were printed on the back of New Zealand stamps in a range of colours, with shades of red, purple, brown, blue, green, sepia and black.

A few facts about the stamps and the advertisers: nineteen different company's adverts appeared on 104 engravings, to cover 284 electrotypes used across three settings of the adverts. Sheets of 240 stamps were printed in four panes of 60 stamps, separated with inter-panneau margins.

Collecting the advert stamps is fascinating, challenging and rewarding:



- Nothing matches them for the insight they offer into the social history of the colonial past.
- The task of researching and describing a collection or display is daunting when all official records have been lost.
- Significant numbers of stamps survive making the task of completing sheet reconstructions, or themed collections, of the adverts possible for both novice and specialist collectors.
- The joy of finding the last advert to complete a reconstructed plate setting of two hundred and forty stamps is seldom matched in other areas of philately.

Advert stamps continue to attract collectors from all parts of the globe to New Zealand philately, interested in this unique commercial experiment.

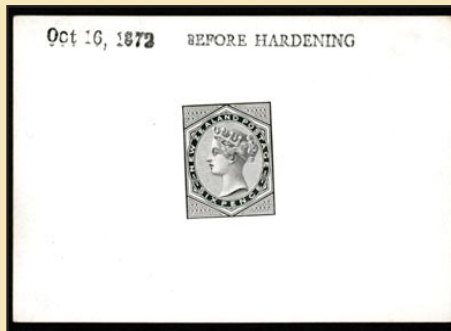
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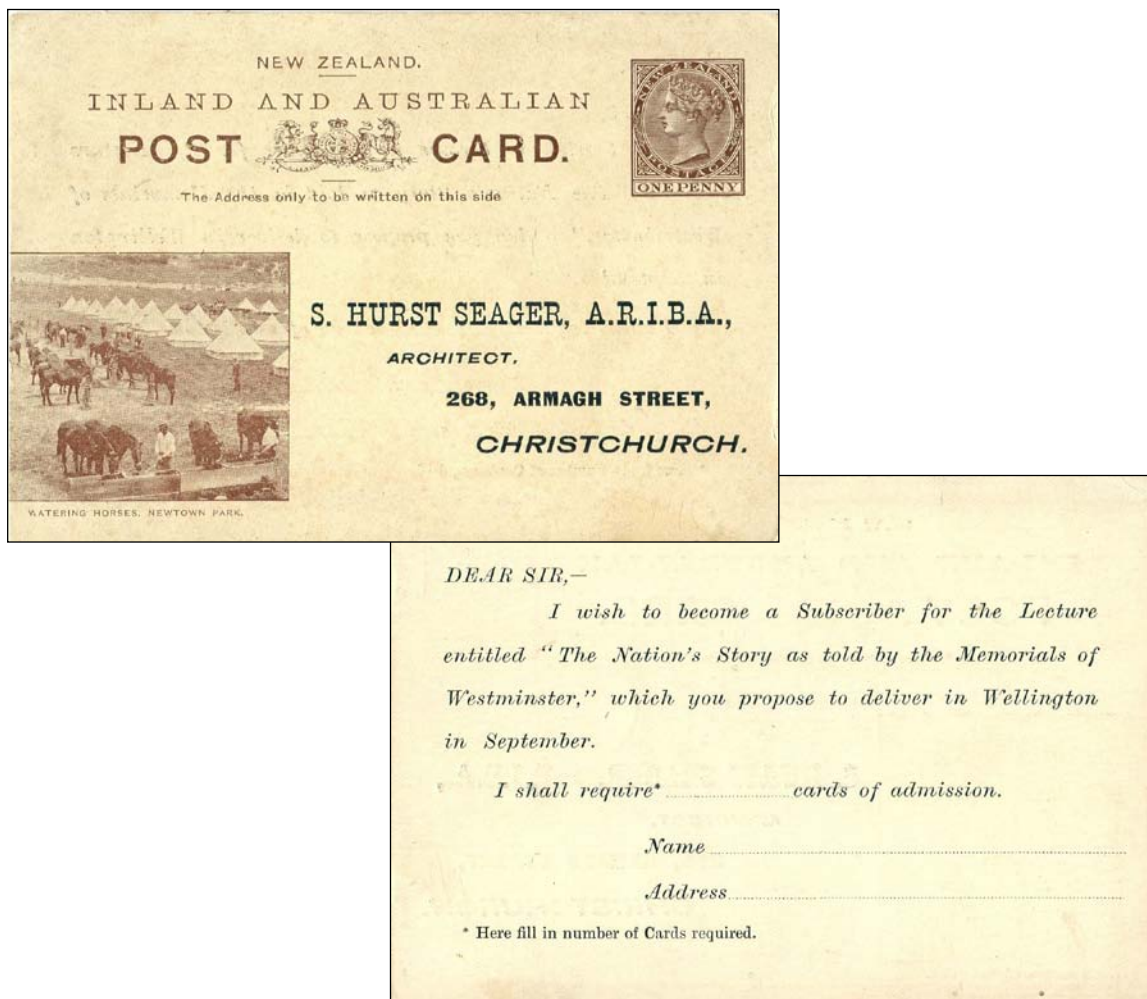
Privately Printed on QV Postal Stationery Cards

The introduction of postal stationery postcards in 1876 allowed people the opportunity to send short messages at a reduced postage rate. A multitude of businesses, organizations and individuals seized upon this opportunity and undertook their own private printings on the then current stationery cards. These printed cards display a variety of messages, from notices of meetings, to business advertisements and even greetings cards.

Between 1876 and the end of Queen Victoria's reign New Zealand issued 12 different postcards, or sets of cards, and two different reply cards. This display aims to show the different postcards that were printed during Queen Victoria's reign, the private printings that were undertaken, and to provide some of the history of the people, businesses and groups involved.



Illustrated below is a postcard from the 1901 Boer War Series of cards. The card has been printed for S. Hurst Seager, an architect from Christchurch. The reverse of the card has been printed with an order form to allow people to order tickets for a lecture that he was giving. Samuel Hearst Seager was born in London in 1855 and emigrated to New Zealand in 1870. After a period in England during which he studied architecture he began his business in Christchurch in 1885. While his designs encompassed houses, municipal buildings, war memorials and art galleries, one of his claims to fame was the introduction of the bungalow to New Zealand. He retired in 1929 and died in Sydney, Australia in 1933.



The First Pictorial Issue: 1898

New Zealand was one of the first countries in the world to feature scenes and birds on its stamps which, up until then, had featured Queen Victoria's head. Stamps featuring birds are popular, and New Zealand has a number of unique species including the kiwi, but also the huia which is now extinct, last sighted in 1907. Both feature in this issue.

Cabinet decided on 28 December 1894 to have a new stamp issue. A design competition was held, with specific design criteria, and prizes of £150 and £100. In response to the competition, some 2,400 designs were received by the Director General, ranging from the crudest drawings to the finished product of the artist. Many examples of these are in collectors' hands and in the collection of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand. Stamps were eventually issued on the 7 April 1898. These 'London Prints' were printed in England from plates produced by Perkins Bacon, London.



The 1898 Pictorials have all the characteristics of an early traditional issue, with variations in printing, papers, watermarks, perforations, stamp size, shades, colour changes and include a range of postal stationery items.

The first London print of the 2½d value had Wakatipu spelt incorrectly as Wakitipu, which made the variety very collectable at the time.

Many examples of these varieties are shown in the two frames of invited material.



*Issued March 1907,
1/2d Mt Cook and 6d Kiwi (reduced size)
Perkins Bacon die proof in red.*



*Lake Wakatipu London Print
singles showing matching pre-printing
paper creases with different provenances.*

New Zealand and the Second Anglo-South African (Boer) War

The Boer War marked an important point in the development of New Zealand as a nation with its own identity. It was the first time that its forces had fought overseas and it enabled the citizens of the country to feel a sense of national pride in their achievements. This display examines New Zealand's involvement in the War and illustrates the postal arrangements for the New Zealand soldiers fighting overseas. It also shows how the conflict affected the country and the way that New Zealand responded to sending troops overseas for the first time.



There was little military activity in New Zealand following the defeat of the Māori Chief, Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Tūruki, in 1872 when New Zealand Land Wars came to an end. By the early twentieth century, the Prime Minister, Richard Seddon, wished to raise New Zealand's profile and believed that contributing to the Empire's military activities would achieve this. He also believed that a strong Empire was the best guarantee of New Zealand's security.

He offered troops to assist in putting down an insurrection in Samoa in April 1899, but this was declined. Soon after, his proposal that New Zealand soldiers should join the Imperial Forces to fight in the Boer War was accepted. The offer was approved by the New Zealand Parliament on 28 September 1899 and, by the time that war began on 11 October, a 215 man contingent was already encamped at Karori in Wellington ready to embark. The First Contingent sailed ten days later under the command of Major A. W. Robin and became the first New Zealand forces to fight overseas.

Nine more contingents followed although the last two arrived after an armistice had been agreed. In all, about 6,500 New Zealanders fought and more joined other colonial forces. Two hundred and thirty died in action or from disease. Of all Empire countries, only the United Kingdom and Rhodesia made a larger contribution to the Imperial forces per capita of population.

There were no specific arrangements made by the New Zealand Government to allow communication with home. Soldiers were detailed to run the postal service and the letters were processed through British Military Post Offices or the Civilian Post Office.



A letter countersigned by Major Robin, Commander of the First Contingent.

The Penny Universal and Penny Dominion Issues

The suggestion of a universal international penny postage rate was first raised in the United Kingdom Parliament in 1886 but failed to attract sufficient support. In 1891, after much debate, a proposal to introduce a 2½d rate for letters to Australia and New Zealand was accepted. In 1893, a proposal to introduce a 1d rate to all countries in the British Empire was unsuccessfully tabled. This reduction was discussed at the Australasian Postal Conference of 1894 but, because of concerns about the potential loss of revenue, the proposal was declined.



An Imperial Penny Post rate of 1d came into place on 25 December 1898. The initiative did not include Australia, New Zealand, Rhodesia or the Cape Colony which retained the 2½d rate.

By 1900, Sir Joseph Ward had become Postmaster General and the finances of the Post Office had improved sufficiently for the introduction of a 'Universal' (not Imperial) Penny Post in New Zealand. To commemorate and promote the introduction of the new rate, the New Zealand Government agreed to the issue of a 1d value stamp with the inscription 'Penny Universal'. The Agent-General in London arranged for Waterlow & Sons to make a plate from an image produced by the President of the Royal Academy, Sir Edward Poynter. Unfortunately, he fell ill and the task was completed by Guido Bach, a renowned German artist. The design included the figure of 'a graceful lady', who became known as Zealandia as well as an image of Mt. Egmont. The first printing comprised 2 million stamps and was forwarded to New Zealand.

The stamp was issued at midnight on 31 December 1900 and Post Offices stayed open to allow it to be used.

When the first plate had been completed, Waterlow & Sons laid down three more plates which were forwarded to Wellington for use by the Government Printer for subsequent printings of the stamps.

In 1907, New Zealand became a Dominion and the design was modified by adding the phrase 'Dominion of New Zealand'. The 'Penny Dominion' remained in use until 1926.

As can be imagined, during its 26 year life span, the issued stamps saw many changes to plates, with many of the impressions retouched or re-entered, and different papers and perforations. In addition, the Edwardian period saw the use of the 1d in booklets and coil dispensing machines. The stamps were also overprinted for use by Shackleton and Scott during their epic Antarctic Expeditions. The issue provides a challenging field for the specialist philatelist.



Vending machine coils produced from the 'Reserve' plate (left) and 'Dot' plate (right).

GROSVENOR



Congratulations to the New Zealand Society of Great Britain on its Platinum Jubilee anniversary and commemorative display at the Royal Philatelic Society London. The New Zealand Society of Great Britain has been a beacon of excellence for 70 years and we wish all members every success in their future endeavours.

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Images of King Edward VII

When Edward VII became king on 22 January 1901, the population of New Zealand was 773,000. Today it is about 5 million. Edward never visited, though in 1907 he promoted the country from Colony to Dominion.

Edward's image did not appear on sheet stamps until 8 November 1909, six months before his death. The 1898 Pictorial issue remained popular and the 1d Universal, issued just before Queen Victoria's death, could continue in use since it did not show any monarch. However, Edward's image appeared on postal stationery from 1903.

A portrait of Edward VII was prepared by the Postal Department and a die made by the Government Printer. This was used in brown for the 1903 1d illustrated lettercard, in blue for the 1903 1d postcard, in blue for 3d registered envelopes between 1903 and 1912 and in red/brown for the 1907 plain 1d lettercard. Another design was used for the ½d newspaper wrappers first issued in 1903. The original drawing was meant for use as an embossed die, but the issued version was not embossed.

The ½d and 1d envelopes issued in 1903 did have embossed impressions, in green for the ½d and in shades of red/orange for the 1d. The dies were engraved by William Rose Bock (1847-1932), who was born in Tasmania and moved to New Zealand in 1868, making major contributions in the fields of engraving and printing. The 1d envelopes issued in 1908 used dies made by Perkins, Bacon & Co.

In 1907 the New Zealand Post Office commissioned designs for adhesive stamps from W R Royle & Sons and Perkins, Bacon & Co. The latter used the portrait from the 1903 issue of Canada, and this was printed in blue for a ½d postcard. The Royle design was chosen for the sheet stamps, with Perkins Bacon supplying plates for the ½d surface-printed value and Royle those for the seven higher recess-printed values. Bock also engraved a die for an embossed impression of Edward VII, denominated 6d and used in red on a telegraph form in 1908. Although 16,000 were printed, few were used and even fewer remain.

Edward VII appeared posthumously in 1940 as one of five monarchs on the 1½d value of the Centennial issue and in 1990 as one of six on a miniature sheet commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black.



William Rose Bock engraved the die for the 1908 telegraph form.

The Early Years of New Zealand Health Stamps

New Zealand issued Health Stamps annually for 87 years, from 1929 -2016. This exhibit describes what they are and how they started. It shows examples of essays, proofs, issued stamps, covers and some related items, during the first fifteen years.



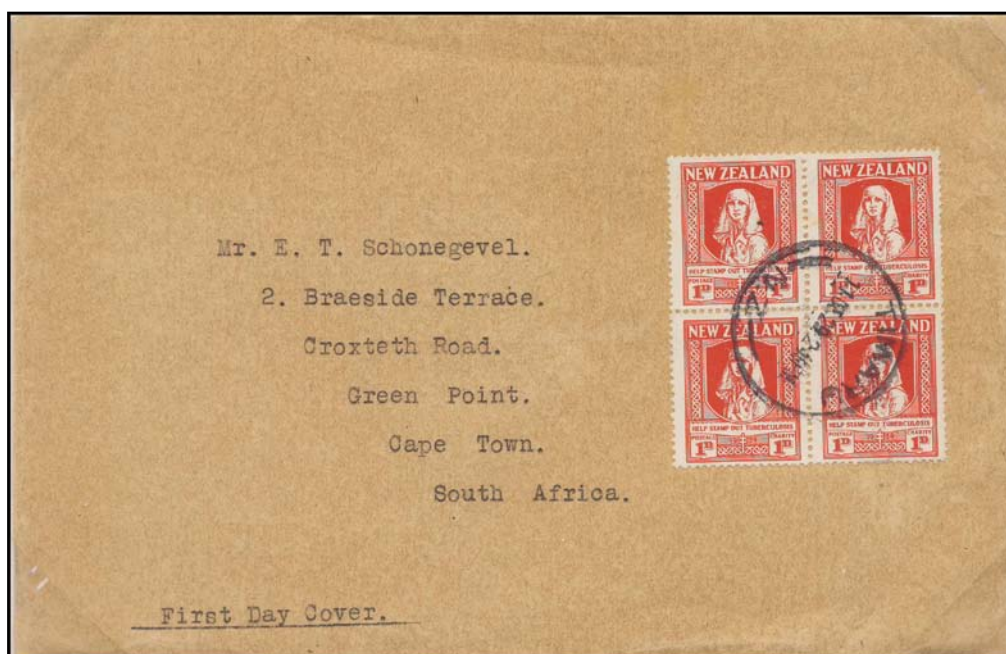
Children’s Health Camps in New Zealand began in 1919 when Dr Elizabeth Gunn, school medical officer for Wanganui, held a summer camp under canvas for children suffering from malnutrition and consumption. Other camps followed and they became a national movement which survives to this day, although the purpose has been modified. The first camps were financed by philanthropy and securing income was important.

In 1926, Mrs Christina Nielsen of Hawkes Bay suggested the issue of a Christmas Seal which could be added to envelopes to benefit a New Zealand health charity, the idea being based on Danish Christmas Seals which had been issued since 1904.

The Post and Telegraph Department liked the idea but preferred a stamp having a charity value as well as a postage value. Such stamps had been approved for international use by the UPU at the 8th Postal Convention at Stockholm in August 1924. The New Zealand Government gave approval for the issue of such a stamp in 1929, the charity value to be devoted to Children’s Health Camps. Special provision was made in the Finance Act 1929 to validate the sale of postage stamps for an amount greater than the postage value.

This display covers the issues from 1929 to 1943 with examples of artwork by a number of artists, notably James Berry, who was a prominent and prolific designer of New Zealand stamps. Progressive proofs and die proofs are included for many of the issues together with the issued stamps and examples of first day and postal usage.

It is to be noted that, regrettably, New Zealand Post announced on 31st July 2017 that the issue of Health Stamps would be discontinued because the surcharge collected had dropped below the break-even point.



The 1931 Smiling Boy Health Stamp

Collectors of charismatic New Zealand postage stamps will often wish to have an example of the 1931 health stamps, the so called ‘Smiling Boy’ issue.

The fact that the issue was produced under difficult economic conditions meant that only 74,802 of the 1d denomination and 111,929 of the 2d were sold. This has resulted in the issue being the scarcest and most valuable of all the health stamps. Even so, examples of both values are still readily available.



This in turn provides a challenge and opportunity to undertake a plating exercise, seeking appropriate material and assessing it forensically. Careful study of each stamp can reveal obvious and subtle differences that have occurred during the printing process, and using these it is possible to plate individual stamps of both values to their unique positions on the main sheets. Our objective is to use this research to produce a plating guide for the Smiling Boy issue. In the course of our work to date it has become evident that previously published work, including the information contained in Volume 1 of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* (‘The Handbook’), requires updating. Varieties originally thought to be constant have proven, in many cases, not to be; much has been omitted from ‘The Handbook’ for brevity.

This display shows details of some of the major varieties found with each of the two values, the Red and Blue Boys, in a format similar to that which it is proposed to use in the plating guide, and which augments descriptions used in ‘The Handbook’. The display also includes blocks which illustrate printing and perforating characteristics, and the largest known multiples of each value that exist outside of the Post Office archives held in The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.



Harry Linley Richardson - Artist and Stamp Designer

Harry Linley Richardson was born in London in 1878. He trained as an artist at Goldsmiths College and the Westminster School of Art. Although he began his career as a book illustrator, he also painted landscapes and portraits and exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1900.



In 1908, 3 months after marrying, Richardson and his wife emigrated to New Zealand where he became Assistant Art Instructor at Wellington Technical School. He also joined the artistic community and, in September 1915, was appointed Head of the Art Department at the School.

In 1910, he was commissioned to design a definitive stamp showing the head of the new monarch, King George V. His first design showed a three-quarter portrait of the King with supporters. The design was considered to be unsatisfactory and rejected. At the suggestion of the Postmaster General, Sir R. Heaton-Rhodes, a keen philatelist, Richardson then worked on a further design based on the 1d black which was accepted. Changing Post Office requirements necessitated two further King George V definitive designs and Richardson provided these in 1926 – colloquially known as the 1d Field Marshal stamp and the 2/- and 3/- Admiral stamps.

In addition to these three images, Richardson provided two further designs for issued stamps and some essays that were not accepted. The first accepted design, in 1924, was a special commemorative set for the 1925 New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition in Dunedin. This suffered from a reduction to stamp size and the printing process was unsatisfactory. The set was largely ignored and few stamps were sold.

The last of his designs to be issued was commissioned in 1929 to replace the Long Type Queen Victoria fiscal stamps. On this occasion, Richardson designed a stamp with the figures of Zealandia and a Māori warrior supporting the New Zealand coat of arms. The design was criticised as looking like jam labels at the time but stamps of this design remained in use until the late 1960's.

This display shows some of Richardson's sketches for the three King George V designs which illustrate his method of developing his work. Sketches of some unissued designs are also included.



Richardson's sketch for the final stamp design.

[shown at 60% of actual size]

The ‘Admiral’ and ‘Field Marshal’ Definitives: 1926-35

In 1924 the New Zealand Government decided to introduce 2/- and 3/- definitive postage stamps to replace the use of duty stamps for postal purposes. The design was of a sideface profile of King George V in the uniform of an Admiral, in deference to the then Governor General of New Zealand, Viscount Jellicoe, a former admiral. The frame was based on Māori decorative work. The plates were made by Waterlow & Sons in the UK.



The stamps were issued in July 1926, printed in Wellington on Jones paper and perforated 14. Following criticism of this printing, it was replaced by a new printing on Cowan thick watermarked paper, again perforated 14.

In 1925 the New Zealand Government decided to add a 1d stamp to the George V definitive set. Until then the 1d Dominion design had been used but the plate had become badly worn. The new design was to follow the pattern set by the Admirals, but with the King wearing the uniform of a Field Marshal, this time in deference to Sir Charles Fergusson, the new Governor General of New Zealand.



The first 1d Field Marshal stamp was issued in November 1926, printed on thick Cowan watermarked paper and perforated 14. In March 1927 stamps perforated 14x15 were introduced and both gauges continued in use until 1935.

Sometime during 1927 stamps were produced in a range of shades and, due to the paper having been surfaced on the wrong side, with reversed watermark. Some were issued but most were unissued colour trials. Finally, in June 1930, there was a printing on Wiggins Teape watermarked paper with vertical mesh and perforated 14, but due to poor appearance only 1,500 sheets were eventually issued.

This display shows all the above printings of each value, including the 1d value issued in booklets and vending coil form. Watermark varieties and major perforation errors are also shown. The display concludes with examples of the ‘1932 Provisionals’ where the 1d was overprinted locally in response to changes in postage rates.

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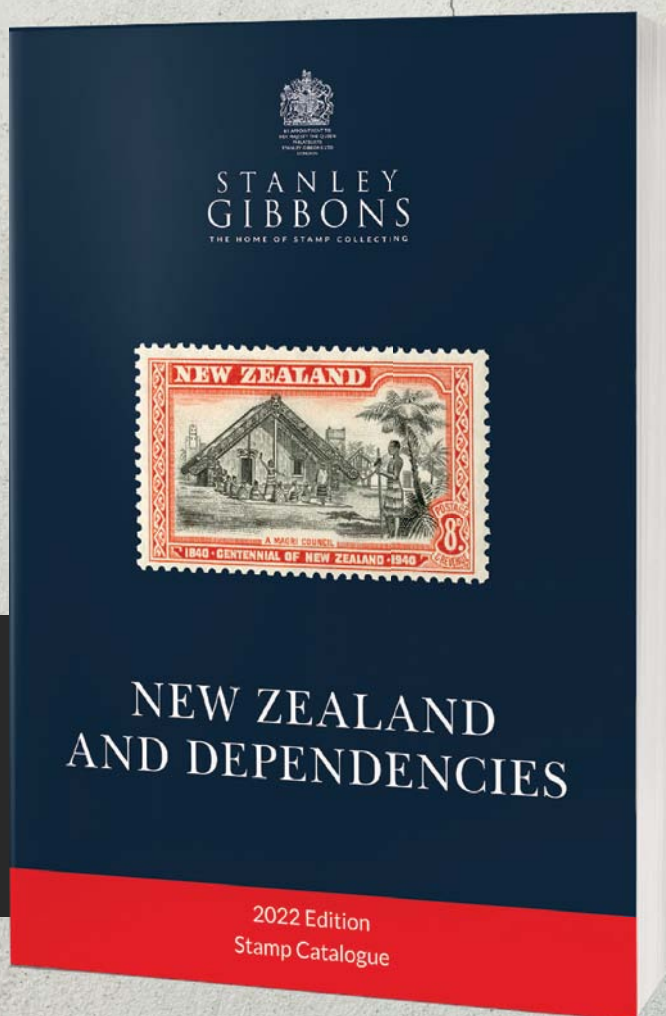
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The 2022 edition of the New Zealand & Dependencies stamp catalogue is now available from Stanley Gibbons.

This catalogue provides a comprehensive priced listing of all New Zealand stamps from the early colonial stamps of 1855 to 2022. It also includes Antarctic Expeditions, Tokelau and Ross Dependency as well as pre-independence issues of Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa. Listings for the New Zealand post office on Fanning, Washington and Pitcairn Islands are also provided.



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The Second Pictorial Issue: 1935

The Second Pictorial issue replaced the King George V stamps which had been in place for a considerable time. A public competition, which had been so successful in producing attractive designs for the First Pictorials of 1898, was mounted in 1931 and attracted over 1,500 entries.

This display begins with the designs by R. J. G. Collins for the 1d Kiwi together with a number of designs from the same artist which were not accepted.

Much of the story of this issue revolves around papers and perforations with the Second World War affecting the availability of esparto grass, an essential component of the paper initially used for most values and bombing of De La Rue's London headquarters requiring the subsequent involvement of Harrison & Sons and Waterlow & Sons.

De La Rue had trouble with the first rag paper they adopted and experimented instead with dampening the esparto paper and made "wet" printings of some values in an attempt to get better definition. Examples of "wet" printings of the 1½d Māori Cooking and 3/- Mount Egmont are included in this display.

There are many perforation varieties associated with the issue as the result of the numerous different comb heads employed by De La Rue and further complicated by the use of line machines by both Waterlow and Harrisons; the so called 'blitz perms'. The 2d Whare follows with a variety of errors and colours including a rare coil pair. There is also an example of a newly discovered (2017) offset reversed image showing on the front of the stamp.

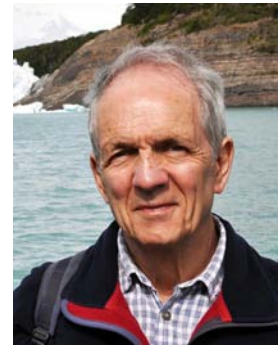
The display includes many features of the issue including die proofs, perforation varieties, 'shift markings', albino printings, counter coil pairs as well as some of the more iconic flaws.



Designs by R. G. Collins for the 1935 Pictorial Issue.

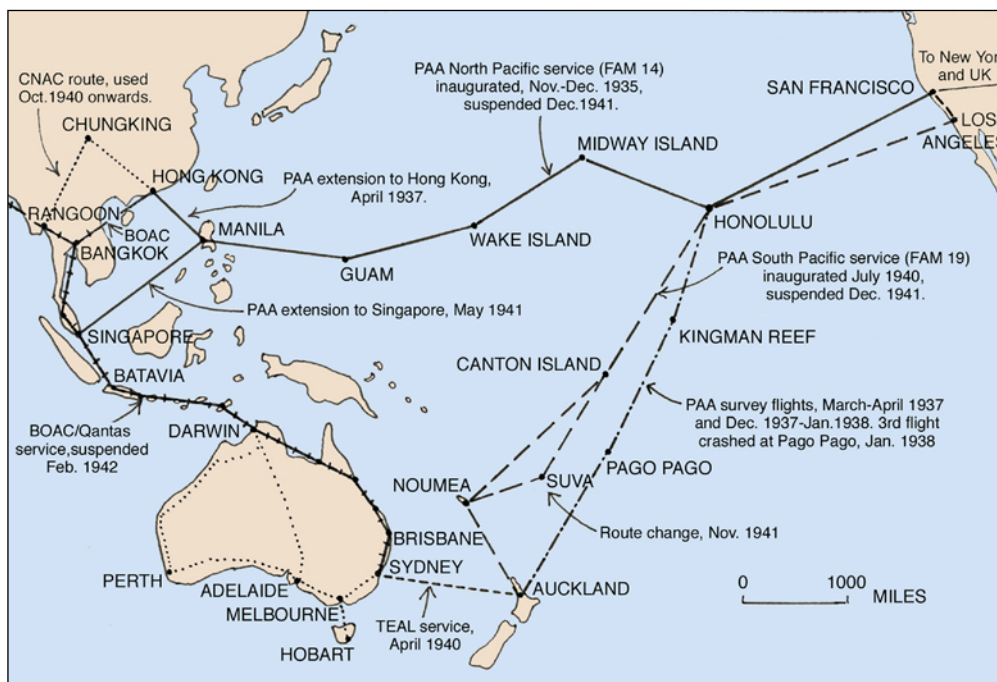
New Zealand Trans-Pacific Airmails: 1937-1945

In March 1937 Pan American Airways (PAA) undertook a survey flight from San Francisco to Auckland via Honolulu, Kingman Reef and Samoa. The return flight carried ten covers as unofficial mail (illustrated below). A second flight was made in December 1937, with the return flight in January 1938 carrying a large official mail from New Zealand. Later in January the PAA flying boat *Samoan Clipper* crashed at Pago Pago, Samoa, on its third flight to Auckland. A regular airmail service over the South Pacific was delayed until July 1940, following the introduction of PAA's Boeing 314 flying boats and the preparation of a new route via Honolulu, Canton Island and New Caledonia.



From late 1937 until July 1940 a very limited amount of mail to and from New Zealand was flown over PAA's North Pacific service. The South Pacific service, together with air services across USA and the Atlantic Ocean, proved to be an important route for mail from New Zealand to the United Kingdom and neutral

European countries (in addition to mail to USA and Canada) following disruption to the westward Empire route via Australia and India. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941, PAA's South Pacific service was suspended. Mail from New Zealand to Europe was then sent by ship across the Pacific to the west coast of North America or to Panama for onward air transport. Airgraphs and some forces and prisoner of war mail continued to be flown across the Pacific by American and later, by British military services.



Charles Ulm - Tasman Crossings: 1933-34

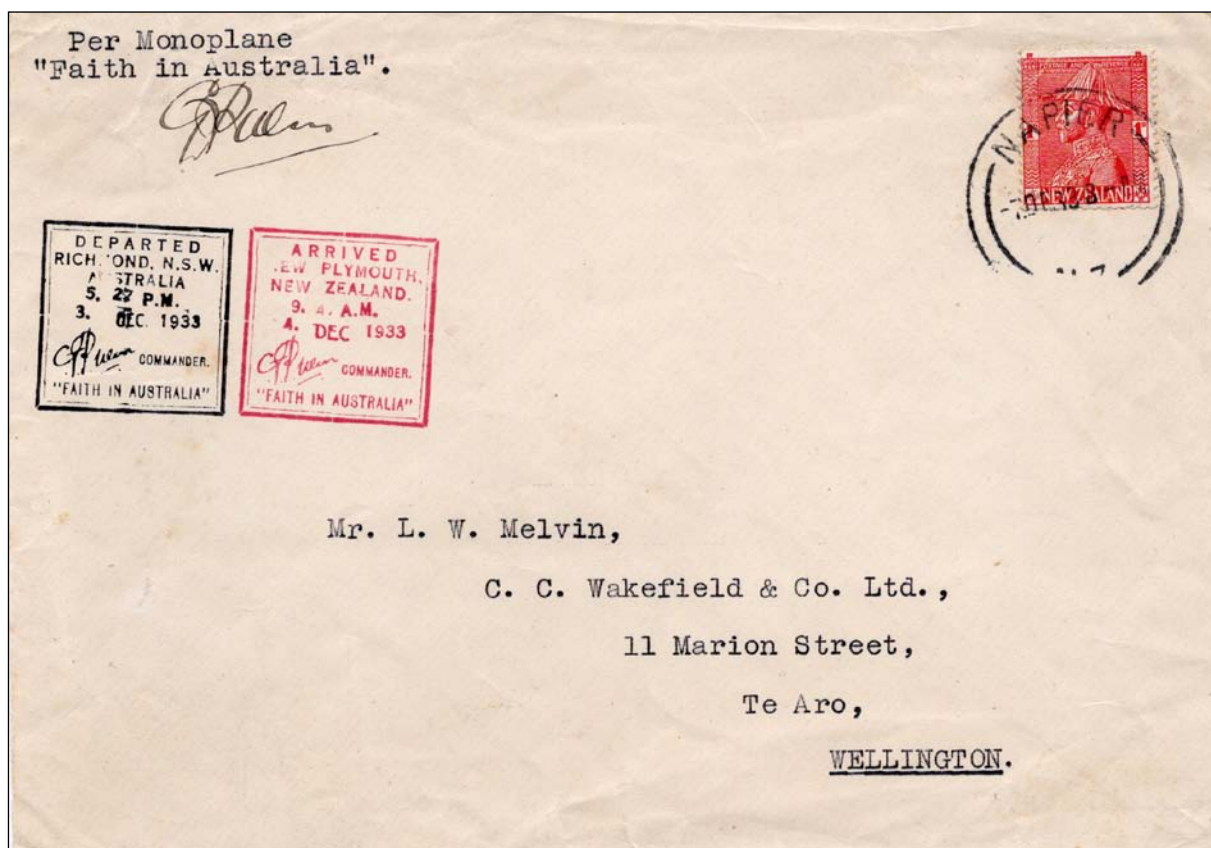
Ulm was overshadowed by the fame of Charles Kingsford Smith despite being the co-pilot on most of his record-breaking pioneering flights. Ulm was also instrumental in obtaining the sponsorship that allowed them to acquire the *Southern Cross* and fly across the Pacific Ocean for the first time in 1928.

His main focus was on the operation of an airline and the acquisition of contracts to operate air routes and carry mail. In June 1931 he was devastated by the failure of Australian National Airways after the loss of the *Southern Cloud*.

The aim of this display is to show the period of his life after he acquired the *Faith in Australia* from the liquidators and determined to set up a service across the Tasman Sea. This was “the most difficult and dangerous crossing in the world” to quote Kingsford Smith after he and Ulm first crossed it in 1928.

In order to publicise this and raise badly needed funds he made a series of flights both across the Tasman and within New Zealand. It was only his untimely death whilst crossing the Pacific in November 1934 that ended his dream. That was not to be realised until Tasman Empire Airways introduced a regular service in April 1940.

This display consists of flown covers and the associated ephemera. The cover illustrated below is from the first flight across the Tasman by the *Faith in Australia* in December 1933 and the first to carry female passengers.



Stamped To Order Envelopes - Queen Victoria to King George VI

From 1892 it was possible for individual companies to have their own stationery stamped with a postal stationery die. With the introduction of embossed dies in 1900 this facility was extended to include the stamping of envelopes.

In the vast majority of cases the halfpenny and one penny dies were used and the envelopes produced were used to mail out bills, statements or invoices. Inevitably while the content was generally retained the envelopes were thrown away. In some respects therefore this display is dealing with 'junk' mail!

Government Printing Office records contain details of all the printings of private envelopes. Research published by the late Robert Samuel in 1993 listed 61 stampings which were undertaken between 1900 and 1953 yet were, at that time, unrecorded in collectors' hands. Since then examples of just four have surfaced and all are included in this display.

As a measure of the scarcity of New Zealand stamped to order envelopes, no more than ten examples are believed to exist of even the most common. Around five examples are recorded for most, with just one example recorded of seven printings. Those seven are all included in this display.



1d envelope, October 1900 issue, printed for Hancock & Co., Auckland

Prisoner of War Air Letter Cards: 1941-1945

With the advent of World War II and the subsequent disruption of normal mail transportation whether by sea or air, an effective method of communication had to be established so family members could communicate with those New Zealand soldiers being held as prisoners of war by the Germans, Italians and Japanese. Because of weight considerations it had to be light but allow for a full message to be written. From 1941 to 1945 there were nine types of prisoner of war air letter cards, varying in value, overprint and wording on the front panel. All nine types are included in this display.



Over 761,000 air letter cards were printed during those years and it has been estimated that the survival rate is less than 0.1%, with more of the earlier issues surviving than the later issues in 1945, by which time many of the soldiers had been repatriated.

All of the rarities associated with this collecting area are included in the display including a progress die proof (shown below), the only known intact post office pack of five air letter cards of any value, the one known partial double overprint, one of two inverted overprints and one of only three recorded air letter cards sent to Java. A single example mailed to Japan was known but was lost in mail sent to myself in 2015.



Progress die proof for the 1941, eighteen pence, prisoner-of-war air letter card.

From the personal work book of T.E. Storey, engraver at the Royal Mint.

[only known example outside of official archives]

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QEII Definitive Mid Values: 1954-1960

The 9d, 1/- and 1s6d values of the QEII definitives were issued on the 1 March 1954. The 1s9d value was issued in July 1957 on a poor coarse paper, with a further issue on the 1 December 1958 printed on a fine thicker white paper. These four values are commonly known as the ‘Mid Values’ and were printed by Thomas De La Rue & Company Ltd.



The stamps were printed in two panes of eighty with a gutter between panes, the ‘A’ plates on the left and ‘B’ plates on the right. Two frame plates, 1A and 1B, were used for each value. The 9d and 1s6d values each had four centre plates, initially 1A and 1B and later 2A and 2B. Six centre plates were used for the 1/- value which were 1A and 1B, 2A and 2B, 3A and 3B. Finally, two centre plates were used for the 1s9d value, 2A and 2B, but on the two distinct papers.

The 3A and 3B plates for the 1/- value caused much controversy as the printers had stated that no new dies had been cut to produce these plates. However people eventually accepted the evidence, provided by the late distinguished philatelist R.J.G Collins, that plates 3A and 3B had seven significant differences from plates 1 and 2.

An audit investigation revealed that the watermarked gutter between the panes was large enough to accommodate the printing of a strip of the lower value definitives. The High Commissioner was asked to arrange with De La Rue for an engine-turned pattern to be printed on this gutter strip, which can be seen on later printings of the ‘A’ plates.

This display shows examples of the recorded shades of the four values, plate and value blocks and some of the better known varieties.



Plate block of the 1s6d value showing the engine turning added to prevent the possible fraudulent use of the central gutter.

The Third Pictorial Issue: 1960

In November 1958 the Postmaster General announced the intention to issue a new set of pictorial stamps in 1960. A public competition attracted 1072 entries from 268 individuals. A selection panel was appointed and given guidance that the lower values (to 8d) should depict native flora and the set should include subjects relating to the Māori and that representation from the Dairy Board, the Timber Industry, the National Parks Board and the Tourist Department should be considered favourably.



In contrast to the previous definitive series, which were recess engraved, the decision was taken that all values should be produced by the photogravure process. De La Rue were contracted to produce the lower values which they printed on rotary web-fed presses. By comparison Harrison & Sons printed the values entrusted to them using sheet-fed presses.

Issues of print quality with the De La Rue printed stamps led them to evaluate chalk surfaced papers but the change came only late in the life of the issue. The 4d value on chalk surfaced paper is especially scarce as a consequence. A cylinder block from this printing is included in the display.

Perforations were produced using a variety of comb heads. De La Rue experimented with an unusual ‘H comb’ from Chambon which they used on all the values from ½d to 8d with interesting and rare results which are demonstrated.

Multicolour photogravure printing was relatively new technology at the time and, as a consequence, there are many errors as well as misplaced, missing and offset colours. Many examples are included in this short display. Essays, progressive proofs and colour separations are shown to demonstrate other aspects of the photogravure printing process.



Cylinder block of the 4d ‘Puarangi’ on chalk-surfaced paper.

The 1960 Christmas Stamp of New Zealand

November 1st 1960 saw the issue of the first Christmas stamp in New Zealand. The desire for a Christmas stamp dates back to 1958 and it took two years for the suggestion to come to fruition. The design chosen was Rembrandt's **Adoration of the Shepherds** which is in the National Gallery in London. On the stamp it is erroneously titled Rembrandt's **Nativity**. The issue of a Christmas stamp was not universally welcomed with questions raised in Parliament and adverse comments voiced in the philatelic press. Although the stamp is somewhat sombre in appearance it was nevertheless highly successful and over 20 million were sold, which equates to about nine per head of the population. Christmas stamp issues continue to this day.



The display covers the genesis of the design and the reactions to its issue. In the display, plate blocks, shades and the different papers used are shown. Perforation varieties are shown, one of which is unexplained. The stamp was printed in two colours (sepia and red) and the variety with missing red is quite spectacular - the so called 'Black Stamp'. Shown is the last remaining strip across the sheet with missing red. Colour shifts, dry prints and a spectacular off-set of sepia are displayed. Included is a complete sheet with a large red splash of ink.

New Zealand Post did not issue official first day covers until the late 1960s but there were a number of privately produced covers – most of which are displayed. The display finishes with stamps issued by New Zealand Post in 2010 for the 50th anniversary of the 1960 Christmas issue and a page showing the concurrent Federation of New Zealand Tb Associations Christmas seal.



The "Black Stamp"
Missing red (left) and normal (right)

The Butterfly Definitive Issue: 1991

This issue replaced the Bird Definitives which had been withdrawn from sale on the 5 November 1991. The Butterfly issue was unusual in the sense that there were three different printers involved in the production of the stamps. Leigh Mardon Pty from Australia were the predominant printer but in 1995 they advised New Zealand Post that they were withdrawing from the stamp printing business.

In 1996 UK printers House of Questa took over the production of this issue, with the \$3 value being their first printing, followed by the \$5, \$1, \$2 and \$4 values. Prior to Questa being appointed, Southern Colour Print of New Zealand had been commissioned to produce a trial Airmail booklet containing five of the \$1 Forest Ringlet Butterfly stamps, with International Air Post Labels attached; this was issued in September 1995.



In 2008 Southern Colour Print were invited to produce a further printing of the \$4 value. There were distinct differences in the font used when compared with earlier printings and examples of both are included in this display. It can be difficult to find the Southern Colour Print version as many dealers' stock does not differentiate between the printings.



\$3 Yellow Admiral with missing colour (right) with normal (left).

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Overprinted Stamps of New Zealand

The New Zealand Post Office has issued more overprinted stamps than most other postal authorities. In the 67 years from 1913 to 1980 there were 17 separate issues of overprinted stamps, comprising 28 individual stamps, that the public could buy from post offices. In addition, 11 postal fiscal stamps were overprinted and with the local 1932 Greymouth provisionals the total rises to 40. The many stamps with ‘Official’ and other overprints that were not available directly to the public are outside the scope of this display.



Postal authorities generally disliked issuing overprinted stamps because of the extra cost and the increased risk of fraud and so it was only resorted to in exceptional circumstances. Changes in postage rates at short notice is one such case. It allowed insufficient time to procure stamps at the new rate, especially if this relied on overseas printers. It would also be uneconomical and wasteful to destroy large stocks of stamps of the redundant value.

A different problem occurred with the Arms stamps. With so many different values, it proved impossible to find visually distinct colours for all of them. The solution adopted was to overprint some with their values in figures to reduce the risk of identification errors.

Most of the overprinting was carried out locally in New Zealand by the Government Printer, though many of the stamps themselves had originally been printed overseas. However in a couple of cases Harrison and Sons applied overprints to Bradbury Wilkinson printings in London prior to shipment to New Zealand. The ‘Greymouth provisional’ overprints were applied manually in local post offices.

This display gives an overview of all the New Zealand overprint issues available to the public starting with the 1913 Auckland Exhibition and ending with the 1979-80 provisional definitives. The need for the various issues is explained. Examples are shown of the many errors arising from the unsophisticated processes used.



Pigeon Post Services - The First Airmail Stamps

New Zealand has the distinction of being the first country to issue an airmail stamp, several years before aeroplanes were invented! The first stamp, although only intended for local use, was a 1/- value issued on 19 November 1898 by the 'Original Great Barrier Pigeongram Service' ("the Service"), for use with its Pigeon Post service between Great Barrier Island and Auckland - 65 miles away.

A second company, the 'Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency' ("the Agency"), had initiated an earlier, temporary, pigeon post service in February 1897 but did not introduce stamps until 11 July 1899 when it produced two triangular stamps. A 1/- stamp paid for the Agency's pigeon post from Auckland to Great Barrier Island and the 6d paid for the service from Great Barrier Island to the mainland. During this period "the Service" also ran a pigeon post service to the small island of Marotiri, one of the Hen and Chickens Islands near Great Barrier Island, for which separate 1/- stamps were issued.



It was the wrecking of the passenger steamship S.S. *Wairarapa*, travelling from Sydney to Auckland in October 1894, with the loss of 130 lives, and the growing importance of the copper mining industry that highlighted the isolation of the inhabitants of the island leading to the establishment of a commercial messaging service using pigeons. The services came to an end when the underwater telegraph reached Great Barrier Island from Auckland in 1908, though little mail exists from about 1905. In good condition, many of the stamped pigeongrams, or 'flimsies', are quite rare.

During the Second World War, pigeon mail was again flown briefly to raise money for Liberty Bonds. Some of these wartime flimsies used ordinary New Zealand stamps but a few actually used Pigeongram stamps from the late nineteenth century issues.



In the years following the Second World War commemorative covers have been created to celebrate key anniversaries of the Pigeongram services and their stamps.

The most recent anniversary to be celebrated was in 1997 when New Zealand Post issued two triangular stamps to commemorate the centenary of the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency.

*A complete sheet (reduced)
of 18 of the first stamps issued by the
Original Great Barrier Pigeongram Service.*

Express Delivery

The New Zealand Gazette of January 1900 announced a new Post Office service. The Express Delivery option would, on payment of an additional fee, ensure that the postal item was delivered by a telegraph messenger as soon as it arrived at its destination Chief Post Office.

Such a service had been included as an option in Article XIII of the 1891 Convention of the Universal Postal Union, although few member countries adopted the proposal. In New Zealand it was designed as an internal service although other countries were approached unsuccessfully to offer reciprocal arrangements.



In the beginning, the service was offered at 27 of the largest Post Offices. The Post Office Report of 1910 records that, from 1 July 1911, the service would be available from any Office at which telegraph messenger boys were employed.

The additional fee was 6d for addresses within one mile of the Post Office with a further 3d charged for each added mile to a maximum of three miles. The fee for the delivery was to be paid when the letter was posted with charges for additional distances to be collected from the addressee.

The service was available for letters and parcels weighing up to 3 lbs. *The Gazette* specifies that items submitted for express delivery could be posted at any post office and must be boldly and legibly marked on the left hand side “Express Delivery,” and two parallel lines drawn vertically across the front and back of the letter or parcel.

The service was never widely used with the cost initially set at six times the postage rate. To increase its popularity, special stamps were issued in 1904. These stamps could also be used for postage and ordinary stamps could be used for the express service. The service was terminated, except for pathological specimens, in December 1941 and the stamps demonetised in June 1948.

The display shows examples of the stamps issued and illustrates the workings of the service.



New Zealand Duty Stamps: 1867

The 1866 Stamp Act was passed on 8 October 1866. A New Zealand Treasury official, Charles Thomas Batkin, was then tasked with designing and printing the stamps needed to implement the Act and to distribute them to offices across New Zealand to be available for use from 1 January 1867.

A simple but innovative key plate design, previously adopted by De La Rue, was engraved in Sydney in November 1866. 100 electrotypes were prepared and taken to Wellington by Batkin, arriving on 8 December. Discarded postage stamp paper and existing ink supplies had to be used to produce the first stamps in December 1866, using typeface to add the values to the stamps. The size of the postage stamp paper available from stock resulted in the initial printing of sheets of 120 stamps, but this reverted to 100 duty stamps per sheet when new supplies of paper arrived during 1867.

A range of 68 values, from 1d to £10, and 12 ‘Special Purpose’ stamps were printed and distributed. Eight additional values, from £15 to £50, were produced by 1871. Unique golden, ultra high value stamps were printed from 1876 with values up to £190,225.

The photograph (above right) was taken in the New Zealand Archive Office, Wellington with me holding a correspondence ledger for 1866-1867 which contained important information to fill gaps in our current knowledge. With no surviving printing records for duty stamps, the catalogue listings are incomplete or contain incorrect information..

This display shows the use of some of the first New Zealand duty stamps, including one dated 31 December 1866. Also included are rarer values, stamps with experimental perforations and stamps used on documents. Rare vertical strips of ‘% ad valorem’ stamps show different values printed on the same sheet.

It illustrates the amazing achievement of the New Zealand Government in producing and distributing a huge range of duty stamps, with very limited resources, within three months of the passing of the 1866 Stamp Act.



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New Zealand Duty Stamps: 1880

The second design of New Zealand duty stamps was issued from 1880 and they continued to be printed until October 1930. They were available for use for more than 60 years until they were demonetised in December 1941, 40 years after the death of Queen Victoria.

The Long Type shape and size of the earlier 1867 duty stamps was maintained in the new designs that were engraved by William Rose Bock. The initial printing included values from 4d to £20 and, with subsequent printings, 14 categories have been identified reflecting the different papers and perforations.

Values to £500 had been added by 1890. The 12s6d value and a set of higher values from £600 to £1,000 were printed in July 1923.

Post Office Circular 82/41 dated 22 April 1882 authorised revenue stamps, except impressed and beer-duty stamps, for postal usage.

This display includes examples of die proofs, specimens and the issued stamps together with the special overprints that were used to indicate, for example, FINE PAID (including the rare £300 value) and PASSPORT FEE. Some stamps were overprinted for use in the Island Territories of the Cook Islands (Rarotonga), Niue and Samoa.



A die proof of the 1/- value and a £4-10/- stamp both overprinted 'SPECIMEN'.

A unique hand painted essay from 1879, by William Rose Bock (left).

Additional Queen Victorian Revenue Stamps: from 1876

Special ‘Law Courts’ stamps were issued in 1876 and ‘Land & Deeds’ stamps followed in 1877. A small one penny ‘Stamp Duty’ stamp was also issued from 1878, as were the rectangular ‘Beer Duty’ stamps. The larger intricately engraved square ‘Beer Duty’ stamps were issued from 1883.

William Rose Bock was involved in the design of all of these stamps. Alfred Ernest Cousins became a partner with Bock and was involved in the design of some of the ‘Beer Duty’ stamps.

The design for the ‘Law Courts’ stamp was a simple background that could be produced quickly and cheaply, with different values inserted using typeface. The ‘Land and Deeds’ stamps were engraved with individual values from 1/- to £10 incorporated into the design.

This display provides examples of some of the special ‘Law Courts’, ‘Land & Deeds’, one penny ‘Stamp Duty’ stamps and the rectangular and very large square ‘Beer Duty’ stamps issued during the reign of Queen Victoria. It includes colour trails, proofs, examples of the stamps issued, some usage on revenue documents and examples of authorised postal usage.



Unique 1877 colour trial for the one penny ‘Stamp Duty’ from the die engraved by W.R. Bock, on watermarked postage stamp paper.

Large (67mm) square ‘Beer Duty’ stamp designed by W R Bock and A E Cousins.



Postal Usage of the 1931 Arms Stamps

In 1929, H.L. Richardson was commissioned to design a new set of postage/fiscal stamps. His design incorporated his interpretation of the New Zealand Coat of Arms, which differed from the original Royal Warrant.

A range of values (1s3d to £400) was produced throughout 1931 with others, to £1,000, issued in the years following to 1935.

A series of seven surcharged values were also introduced, 3s6d on 3s6d green to £20 on £20 yellow. The 5/- OFFICIAL appeared with both vertical and horizontal overprint. Later issues included the 1½d and 7d values, and decimals in 1967.

Postal use was mainly the lower values up to £1. Postal items shown in the display are up to the £20 on £20 yellow.

Fiscal use was for the gathering of taxation. They were attached to documents and cancelled as proof of payment once taxes, import duty and other legal fees had been paid.

Postally used examples of the higher values are generally scarce. Their most common use was for airmail items, registered and insured articles, parcels, posting cinematograph films and posting bullion.



*Single use 8/- Arms stamp paying the correct 1 oz rate to the USA.
Posted from Invercargill, 29 SP 40, opened and passed by the censor in New Zealand.*



Bullion Parcel Label with three Arms stamps paying £1-19s-1d postage for an airmail letter packet.

Railway Newspaper, Parcel and Freight Stamps

The New Zealand Post Office had a monopoly for the carriage of letters but this did not extend to newspapers and parcels. Prior to 1889, a quid pro quo arrangement with the newspaper owners gave the railway companies free advertising in the press in exchange for free transport of newspapers. However, in 1890 the Railway Commissioners introduced a charge for the carriage of newspapers. Although a single newspaper was delivered anywhere in New Zealand for ½d, usually paid with the ½d newspaper stamp or using a ½d newspaper wrapper, charges for sending parcels of newspapers were introduced based on the weight of the newspaper package and the distance travelled.



Six stamps of a common design by John Rogers of the Printing Office with values ranging from ½d to 6d were produced and surface printed in sheets of 120 at the Government Printing Office in Wellington. During the lifetime of the stamps, five different perforations were used and many printings were made. Two different types of paper were used, namely wove and laid. Little attention appears to have been paid to the mesh in the former or to direction in the latter case, allowing for further variations in all values. These stamps were withdrawn from use in 1925, superseded by the Railway Charges stamps.

During the period 1894-1897 there was much discussion about the use of stamps to indicate the charges collected for parcels and freight. A trial was carried out in the Whangarei district at this time, but in 1909 it was stated that “the experiment was inconvenient, unsuitable and unreliable”! The two stamps produced for each of these two groups were of similar design to the newspaper stamps.

This display includes the whole range of railway newspaper and parcel stamps together with a single example of a freight stamp. Illustrations are shown of varieties common to all values and also those associated with individual values. Shade variations, a range of cancellations and examples of the charges made according to the packet size are shown.



Blocks of the 2d (perf 11) and 6d (perf 14) Railways Newspaper stamps.

Customised Advertising Labels (CALs)

Deregulation of the postal services in New Zealand in 1998 saw the rise of competition for the incumbent NZ Post with operators able to start and evolve, and respond quickly to customer demand, whether that be from individuals or businesses. NZ Post was not well placed to react, but could see the advantages of those alternative postal operators, and changes to their methods of operation were inevitable.

NZ Post Retail Group, who managed the Post Offices/Shops, reacted first to offer a service to print small quantities of labels to prepay postage that would enable small businesses to advertise themselves using logos or other personalised information on the face of the labels. It was appreciated that NZ Post wished to retain business users by offering them some form of personal service, something that the alternative postal operators were able to do from the start. These labels were not classed as stamps by either NZ Post or the philatelic world, yet they were valid for local postage and sold via post offices. Neither did they conform to UPU standards, bearing only the NZ Post Retail logo and the value, with the majority of the face of the stamp given over to the advertisement.



Personalised Advertising Labels (PALs) were offered with little publicity, commencing in 2004 with a label advertising the Wellington Arts Festival and used by them for postage. Few people understood what these labels were, perhaps just another philatelic Cinderella, and hardly any survived. Others followed, but many of the early PALs were intended for use to advertise Philatelic Exhibitions and few for their original business intentions.

The idea of CALs proved to be popular, with numbers issued gradually rising each year and booklets advertising local places of interest were sold via New Zealand i-Site tourist outlets in 2014 after a trial at Kaikoura in 2010.

By 2019 the popularity of CALs was waning, the novelty of a ‘design your own stamp’ declining along with the number of letters being sent, and the service was finally withdrawn. In its place a similar but simpler, service was offered to customers via what is now colloquially known as ‘p-stamps’, personalised stamps. The advertising labels have a following and continue to play a small part on the fringe of New Zealand philately.



The New Zealand Society of Great Britain



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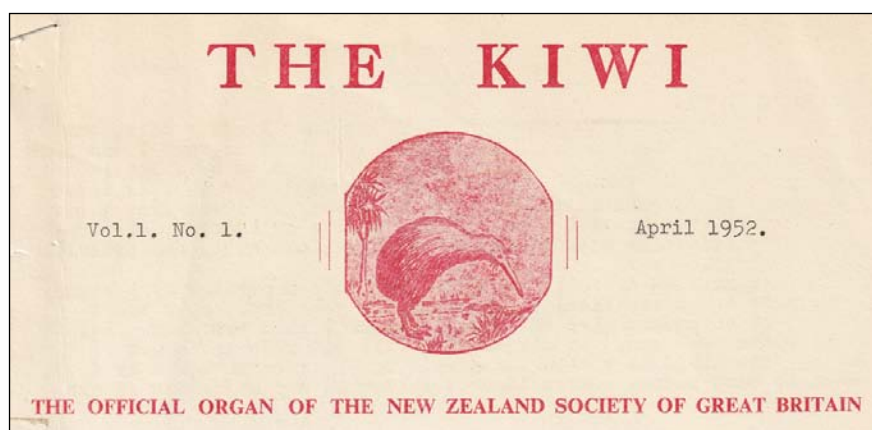
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THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN



In late 1951 P. Alvin Hewett convened a meeting to discuss the creation of a Society to “*deal with the stamps and postal history of New Zealand*”. A small but enthusiastic group met in an office in Fleet Street on 23 January 1952 and the New Zealand Society of Great Britain was formed

In April 1952 the first President, Hugh Bramsdon FRPSL, published a message in the first issue of *The Kiwi*, Journal of the Society, saying “*I therefore look forward to everyone, whether young or old, specialist or general collector, who has an interest in New Zealand to join us and play his or her part to further the study of those interesting issues to the best of his or her ability*”.

The Kiwi is now in its 71st annual volume and has become one of the three major journals covering New Zealand philately. Volume 1, Number 1 included a list of members which showed that there were already 55 members, each of whom had paid their half guinea annual subscription.

The first issue also contained an invitation to those attending the first Annual General Meeting to bring along two pages for display. This started a tradition of participative meetings that still continues. A further key activity of the Society was anticipated by the Editor, R. W. Lees, who explained that he had a copy of Volume II of ‘*The Handbook*’ and would be happy to lend it to other members on request. From this arose the library which grew to an impressive repository of reference literature. Over the years the library became hard to manage, less used by the membership and so, recently, the contents have been merged into the Royal Philatelic Society London library, supplementing their holdings.

The Society has now grown to a lively organisation with an international membership in excess of 200. We have benefitted from the membership and active participation of many renowned students of New Zealand philately. Over the years, nine members have been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Main Society meetings are held every two months in London. Regional groups in Scotland, the North of England and the Midlands meet regularly and encourage wider participation by the membership. Every two years we hold a residential weekend. These are in different venues around the country and allow substantial displays to be enjoyed by those present. The Society’s 16 sheet competition is held during the weekend and always provokes a healthy number of high quality entries.

During the Covid pandemic we have been meeting remotely via Zoom. This has had the great advantage that members in New Zealand, Australia, the United States of America and elsewhere can contribute although it has been hard to find a time of day to suit everybody. We will continue to hold these online sessions even though face to face meetings have resumed.

The Society has been very well served by its officers over the years; long serving and conscientious. The decisions made have ensured that the Society can face the coming years with confidence.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the support of the following in the production of this booklet:

R.P. Odenweller RDP FRPSL FRPSNZ

Abacus, Melbourne, Australia

Auckland City Stamps, Auckland, New Zealand

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, Derby, UK

Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, London, UK

Mowbray Collectables, Wellington, New Zealand

Spink & Son Ltd., London, UK

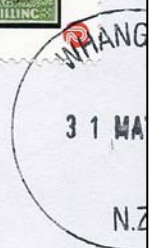
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NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY
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70th anniversary 2022



Cover 01 / 08