

CAPTAIN COQ

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

ISSN 0122 – 9813

Num 787 (Vol 45 No 7)

August, 2017

1905 Australian Sanatoria Postcards

In 1905, a series of postcards with embossed postage stamp impressions was sold in Australia to raise funds for the Sanatoria Home for Consumptive Women. There looks to have been seven in the set, one for each of the Australian States plus one for New Zealand. They are colourful and quite attractive, but it appears little is known about them given the dearth of information on the internet.



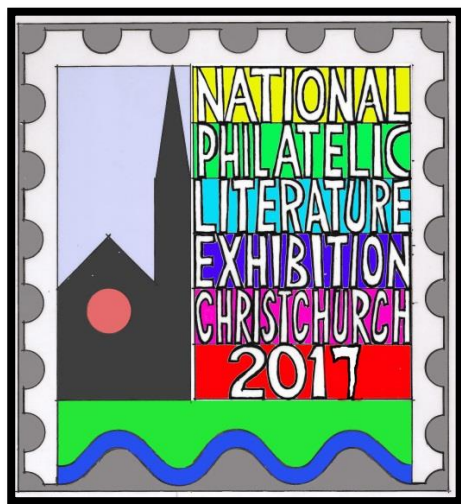
On the reverse is a small, purple handstamp of a Maltese Cross and the letters QVAS. A post on Tasmanian Philatelic Society Bulletin Board advises that it is believed to be for the Queen Victoria Ambulance Service.



For collectors of such things, there are three series of postcards featuring New Zealand stamps. The Ottmar Ziehar series, the Muir & Moodie series based on the Ziehar design and this example from the Sanatoria Home series in Australia.

Stephen Jones

15th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition



The CPS is organising and hosting this event. The exhibition itself will take place in the Philatelic centre at 67 Mandeville Street over the weekend of **September 30 and October 1**. The literature will be on display in the front rooms while in the main hall the NZSDA will be holding their annual show in the main hall. The closing date for entries has now passed and we can report 71 entries in 4 classes. There are some interesting titles amongst the entries which may help encourage some to find good information on a topic that they have as a sideline but not progressed with due to lack of good research material.

The exhibits include a wide variety of types and formats including monographs, periodicals, electronic newsletters and websites that have been entered from both New Zealand and around the world. Paul van Herpt is the Exhibition Chairman, and we have a team of South Island judges involved - Jeff Long (Chair), David Smitham and Steven McLachlan, with Alan Tunnicliffe and Mark Jurisich as apprentices, Murray Clark as Secretary and Karen Jeffrey as Treasurer.

All the material ends up in the CPS library, although it is available to be borrowed by anyone interested, whether they are CPS members or not. The two images below are a sample of the type of material people can look forward to reading. They are from a book, written by Peter Morgen, entitled *Douane - Customs Zoll* which is a world-wide inventory of customs labels.

With both dealers selling material and the CPS displaying literature there will be something of interest for most so please pencil in the weekend and support the Society with your attendance.

The President

NEW ZEALAND / NEUSEELAND

NZ-C-01 a: C b: Mail 28, d: 60 x 46 mm

CUSTOMS DOUANE
(May be opened officially.)
(Peut être ouvert d'office.)
Nature of the merchandise: *Collection only*
Poids: *12/96*
Value: *no liable to Rule*
Mail 28

NZ-C1-01 a: C-1 b: Mail 28 d: 49 x 70 mm

CUSTOMS DOUANE C-1
May be opened officially.
(Peut être ouvert d'office.)
This portion to be detached if the article is accompanied by Customs declarations (Form 28A). Otherwise to be filled in.
(Partie à détacher si l'envoi est accompagné de déclarations en douane. Sinon, à remplir.)
Detailed nature of contents.
(Designation détaillée du contenu):
BETS UNCIRCULATED
NEW ZEALAND COIN.
Value: *12/96*
Net weight: (Poids net):
Mail 28

NZ-C1-02a a: C1 d: 51 x 71 mm

CUSTOMS DOUANE C1
May be opened officially
(Part to be detached if the item is accompanied by a customs declaration, otherwise to be filled up.)
(Partie à détacher si l'envoi est accompagné de déclarations en douane. Sinon, à remplir.)
See instructions on the back!
Veuillez consulter les instructions au verso!
Detailed description of contents.
(Designation détaillée du contenu):
Collector Items
Insert a cross if the item contains a gift.
(Faire une croix s'il s'agit d'un cadeau.)
a sample of merchandise
(un échantillon de marchandises)
Value: *\$30*
Net Weight: *800g*
(specify the currency):
(préciser la monnaie)
Mail 28

NZ-C1-02b a: C1 (different letters/ unterschiedl. Buchstaben) d: 51 x 71 mm

CUSTOMS DOUANE C1
May be opened officially
(Part to be detached if the item is accompanied by a customs declaration, otherwise to be filled up.)
(Partie à détacher si l'envoi est accompagné de déclarations en douane. Sinon, à remplir.)
See instructions on the back!
Veuillez consulter les instructions au verso!
Detailed description of contents.
(Designation détaillée du contenu):
Insert a cross if the item contains a gift.
(Faire une croix s'il s'agit d'un cadeau.)
a sample of merchandise
(un échantillon de marchandises)
Value: *12/96*
Net Weight: *800g*
(specify the currency):
(préciser la monnaie)
Mail 28

NZ-C1-02e a: C1 (different typeset/ unterschiedl. Textsatz) d: 52 x 73 mm

CUSTOMS DOUANE C1
May be opened officially
(Peut être ouvert d'office.)
(Part to be detached if the item is accompanied by a customs declaration, otherwise to be filled up.)
(Partie à détacher si l'envoi est accompagné de déclarations en douane. Sinon, à remplir.)
See instructions on the back!
Veuillez consulter les instructions au verso!
Detailed description of contents.
(Designation détaillée du contenu):
Printed Matter
Insert a cross if the item contains a gift.
(Faire une croix s'il s'agit d'un cadeau.)
a sample of merchandise
(un échantillon de marchandises)
Value: *NIL*
Net Weight: *140g*
(specify the currency):
(préciser la monnaie)
Mail 28

NZ-CN22-01 d: 74 x 72 mm
a: CN 22 b: OS008a (11/03)

Customs Declaration
Read instructions on the back (voir instructions au verso)
Detailed description of contents (Designation détaillée du contenu):
☐ Merchandise/Sample ☐ Gift ☐ Documents ☐ Value NES
(Echantillon/échantillon) (Cadeau) (Documents) (Valeur)
Total weight (kg) (Poids brut) Total Value NES (Valeur nette)
For commercial items only
(Fournir, à la seule mention, le poids net des marchandises)
I certify that this article DOES NOT contain any DANGEROUS or PROHIBITED GOODS
(Je certifie que cet article ne contient aucune marchandise DANGEREUSE ou INTERDITE)
This article may be opened officially (Peut être ouvert d'office)
Signature of Sender: *X*
(Signature de l'expéditeur)
Barcode is for identification purposes ONLY
New Zealand Post
LI 234179224 NZ
Parcel Copy

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

AUGUST 7 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

AUGUST 8 SOCIETY MEETING Stephen Jones
New Zealand issues of EDVII & GV

Edward VII & George V Stamp Issues

Stephen will be displaying essays, proofs, stamps and usage, and ephemera related to the definitive stamps issued during the reigns of King Edward and King George through to 1936

AUGUST 15 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

SEPTEMBER 4 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

SEPTEMBER 12 SOCIETY MEETING John Paston
Suez Canal

SEPTEMBER 19 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

SEPTEMBER 30 & 15th NATIONAL LITERATURE EXHIBITION
OCTOBER 1

All meetings are held at the Philatelic Centre, 67 Mandeville St, Riccarton, and commence at 7.30 pm. (Library night closes at 10 pm)

SOCIETY ADDRESS: PO Box 9246, Tower Junction, Christchurch 8149
(website) www.cps.gen.nz
(emails) Use the "Contact" facility in the website

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

<i>Patron</i>	Jeff Long	<i>President</i>	Paul van Herpt
<i>Vice President</i>	Sue Claridge	<i>Secretary</i>	Vacant
<i>Treasurer</i>	Karen Jeffrey	<i>Library</i>	Robert Duns
<i>Editor</i>	Stephen Jones	<i>Exchange Supt</i>	Tony Stockley
<i>Collections Convenor</i>	Paul Clark	<i>Immed Past Pres</i>	Robert Duns
<i>Web Master</i>	Murray Taege		

Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc) Subscription Rates

The annual subscription to the Society is \$60.00. A \$10.00 discount may be deducted if paid by March 31st (or on application for membership) Where both husband and wife are members but require only one *CAPTAIN COQK* newsletter to be sent, a combined subscription of \$90.00 is charged, \$15.00 discount allowed. Additional postage is charged to cover the extra cost of posting to overseas addresses. Overseas postage rates are as follows: Australia & South Pacific \$13.20 Rest of the world \$18.70 (Economy rate discontinued)

The view expressed in this issue of *CAPTAIN COQK* are not necessarily those of the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc) but are simply those of the respective authors

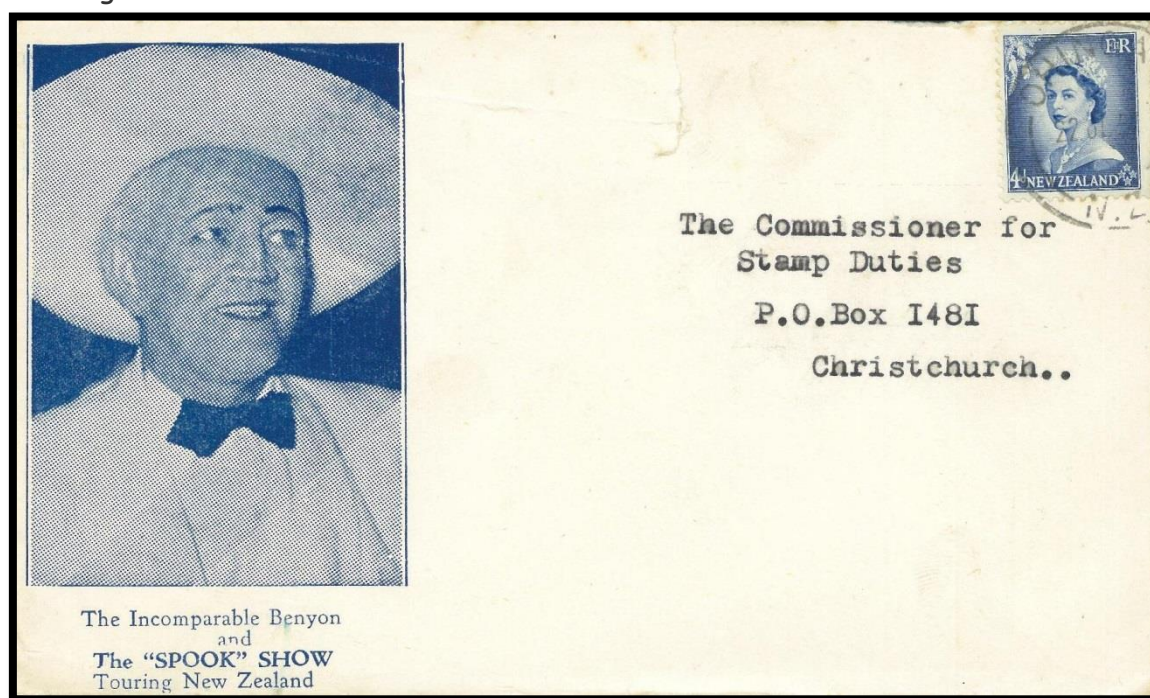
The newsletter is published 11 times a year by the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc), PO Box 9246, Tower Junction, Christchurch, 8149, New Zealand

The Copyright of articles remains with the original Author. Articles may be reproduced only with the permission of the Author and CPS. However, short quotes may be used provided *CAPTAIN COQK* is acknowledged

1954 "The Incomparable Benyon"

If you are going to expand into collecting the usage of your stamps on cover, it is worth looking out for an example with some additional appeal or interest with it. In this case, it is the use of a QEII 4d stars on a cover promoting a New Zealand magician, Edgar Benyon, and his "Spook" show tour presumably sometime in 1954. For me, there is the added bonus of the image colour matching that of the stamp used on it, but that's another story. This wasn't a cover that I had seen before and I felt sure that there would be an interesting story behind the character in the picture.

Professor Google was quite helpful and I was able to find a comprehensive biography, that I have edited for inclusion in this article, by John Reilly in the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. A search for the 1950's tour was less successful with no further information forthcoming.



Edgar Wilson Beynon - known professionally as Edgar Benyon - was born on 29 March 1901 in Auckland. By 1903 the family had moved to Christchurch, where his father worked as a printer for Weeks Limited. Edgar was educated at schools in Linwood, Sydenham and New Brighton and eventually took up an apprenticeship as a printer with his father's company. It was through his father, who received numerous theatrical passes at his work, that Edgar fell in love with the theatre and developed a desire to become a master magician. He began to practice fire-eating and performed a solo magic show at local churches and youth groups. He received a letter of encouragement from the great magician Chung Ling Soo (WE Robinson), when he toured New Zealand.

Watching the various entertainers who came to New Zealand, Edgar realised that the leisurely tempo of the older style of presentation was becoming outdated and that to succeed against stiff competition his act would have to be different, so he added juggling, balancing and mimicry. Most of his skills were self-taught, but many cherished secrets came from a genial magician known as Adair (Allan Roberts), who befriended and encouraged him.

In 1918 Beynon met and fell in love with Doris Evelyn Southen, an artist employed at Weeks. He also entered and won a talent competition staged by John Fuller and Sons' vaudeville. Part of the prize was a week's paid work with the company, eventually extended to 10. He declined the offer of an Australian tour because of family pressure to stick with a reliable trade.

Another crowded house at the Princess last night enjoyed the all-vaudeville programme. The exhibition of mental telepathy by Astras is the main attraction, and this lady certainly gives the audience cause for wonderment. The manner in which she reads the thoughts of people unknown to her and sitting in various parts of the auditorium is uncanny. Her "familiar spirit" the leopard is a beautiful animal. Another fine act is that of Silvester who is a master of illusion and magic. Brull and Hemsley, Brighton and Carlyon, Miss Marjorie Alwynne, the Delevantes, the Molinaris, and Benyon continue to delight with acts of various descriptions.

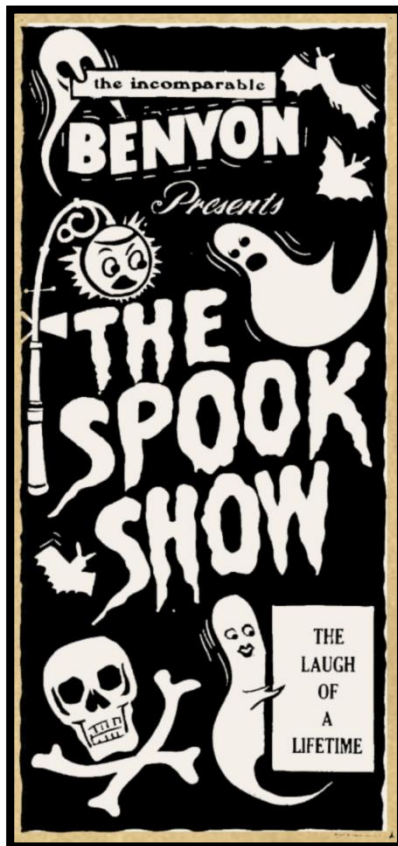
Evening Star July 24, 1919

By this time he had adopted the stage name Benyon, presumably he felt this had more stage "presence", and subsequently billed himself as The Great Benyon. Early in the 1920's he moved to Australia where he achieved success in Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney. Doris Southen joined him and they were married on 17 August 1922 at Newcastle, New South Wales. Doris now became part of the act, since a double act was paid more. Their first daughter, Doris, was born in 1923. They performed in Adelaide and Melbourne, toured South Africa and went on to England with a letter of recommendation from Harry Lauder. Edgar staged a successful show in Worthing and from then he was never without work.

Beynon continued performing in Christchurch, resigning his apprenticeship when magic and work conflicted. The bookings for his act increased and he added quick-change routines so that each skill was presented in a different costume. He and friends formed a company, which in 1919 toured the South Island and Manawatu, before he was engaged by Fullers at £14 per week. He gained valuable experience and quickly learned that audiences appreciated his versatility.



Edgar & Doris 1930's



1950's New Zealand tour poster

A second daughter, Mavis, was born in 1926 and in 1929 the family toured South Africa and Australia. Their third daughter, Doreen, was born in 1930 in London. Tragedy struck in 1935 when Mavis died of burns received when her dress caught fire while playing.

Edgar and Doris were now regularly touring Britain (including the Channel Islands) and Ireland. Edgar displayed other hidden talents when he wrote the lyrics for several popular songs. When war broke out in 1939 and theatres were closed, the family moved to Ireland. Here the full evening show of magic was named 'Bam-Boo-Zalem' with Edgar's one-man variety act as its cornerstone. By now his daughter Doris was taking part in the show under the stage name Evelyn Talma. In 1943 she married an Irish army officer, Sean O'Hagan, who also became an integral part of the show.

The show was now one of the largest in the world and included 14 separate changes of scene in the course of a performance. Edgar was famed for the inventiveness of his optical illusions, his mind-reading tricks and the skill of his juggling. Perhaps his most famous feat was to spin a billiard cue like a propeller on the tip of another cue held horizontally - something he claimed to have learned from watching Maori stick games.

The family toured Ireland until 1946, and in that year toured England. They returned to New Zealand in 1949, touring the country until the 1960s. As Doris, Sean and Doreen left to settle down and raise their families the show was scaled down.

The theatrical and magic fraternities both recognised Edgar Benyon's work. The Variety Artists' Club of New Zealand created the Benny Award in his name to honour the variety artist of the year. He received the first award. The Auckland Brotherhood of Magicians created and conferred on him its 'Grand Master of Magic' award. The Benyons eventually retired to Queensland to be with Doris and Sean O'Hagan in Mackay. Edgar died there on 14 September 1978; his wife, Doris, survived him.

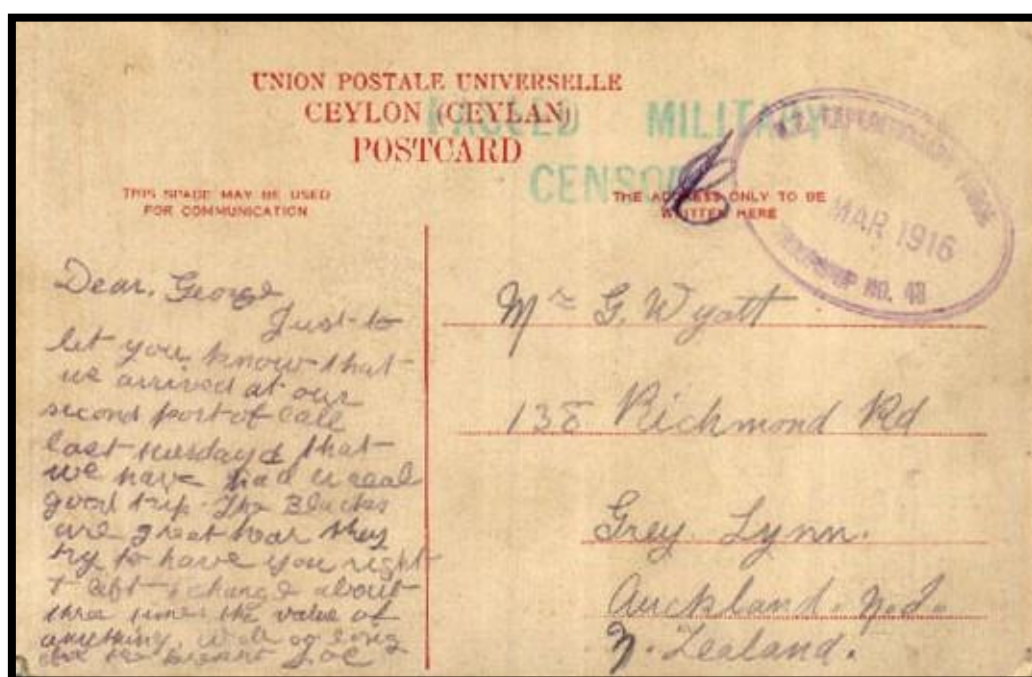
Stephen Jones

Ref: <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/5b25/benyon-edgar-wilson>

Correspondence Stemming From July's Issue

The article on the bogus troopship postcards has elicited further information from Robert Duns on mail from Troopship 43, on both the postal history and social history aspects.

The item illustrated below was from a soldier on the same voyage as those supposedly sent by Harry Stevenson. It is a Ceylon postcard as are the others, and bears the oval rubber stamp of Troopship 43, the HMNZT 'Mokoia', which sailed from Wellington on 5 February 1916.



Genuinely used postcard from Troopship 43 (courtesy of The Complete Stamp Co)

The censor marking on the 'genuine' cover says 'PASSED MILITARY / CENSOR' in green - whereas the bogus marking does not show the word 'Military'. Whilst it is acknowledged that the censor marks used on other World War I troopship items do vary, the style of the lettering and the box on the bogus cards have a 'new' look about them. Another cover seen from troopship #42 - also from Ceylon, 10 March 1916 does not have a censor mark at all.

The handwriting appears to be a modern style - schools taught handwriting with a slope in those days, and the thickness of the letters suggests a modern writing instrument, even on the postcard in fig 2.

Robert then checked various sources re the 'sender' and 'recipients' of the bogus cards. Firstly in the World War I 'Nominal Rolls', for Harry Stevenson, the writer. These are a listing of everyone who was posted overseas from New Zealand, listed by the troopship that they travelled on. There is no listing on the HMNZT 'Mokoia', for a Harry Stevenson - the 'writer' of these cards.

A check on Archway, the Archives NZ website, which holds a digitised record of all World War I New Zealand military files found no army records for a Harry Stevenson, and the

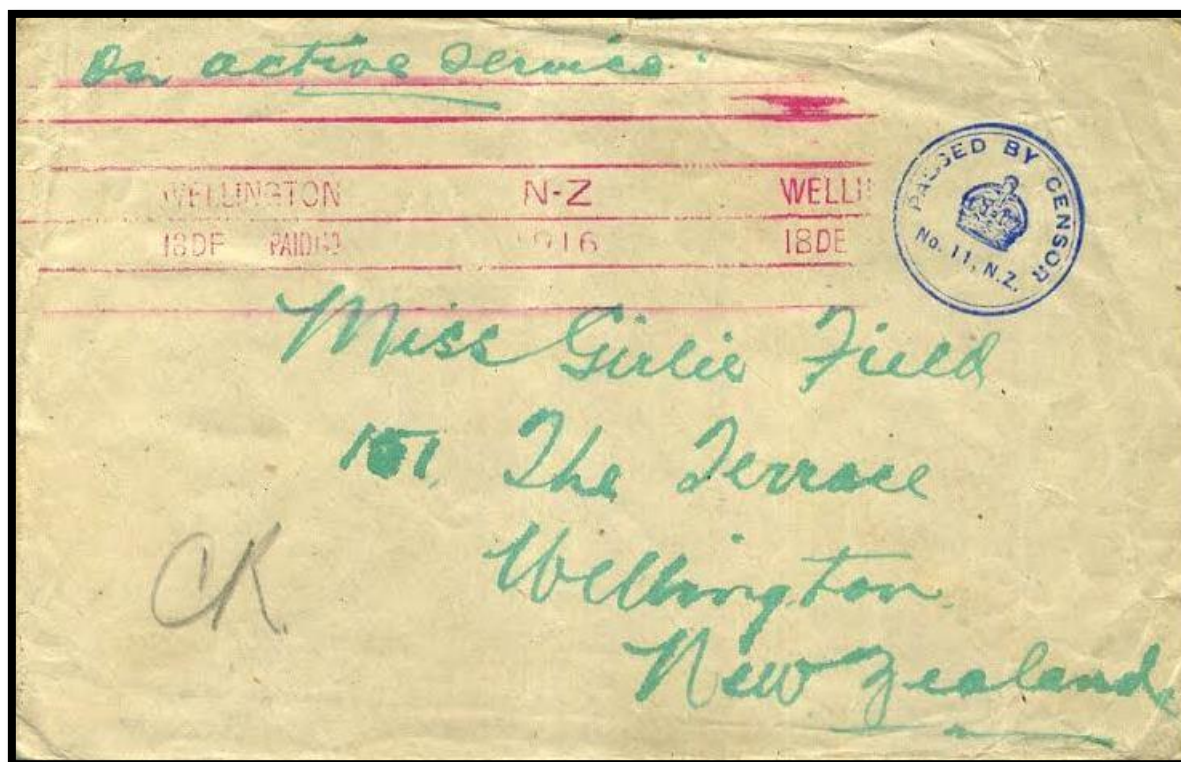
Online Cenotaph, the Auckland War Memorial Museum listing of NZ Servicemen/Women, also produced no supporting records.

Checks on the two recipients, Hugh Arlington and Rose Carruthers, were carried out using microfiche files of the 1916 NZPO Directory held in the Christchurch City Library. These directories come in two sections, People and Places. The People section does not list either of them residing in Christchurch, nor does the Places section which lists properties by number in each street and shows the principal resident. In those days it was common for householders to have boarders so this cannot be ruled out. A further check using Ancestry, found no listing on the electoral rolls for either Hugh Arlington or Rose Carruthers.

From Robert's research, the conclusion would be that all three postcards are bogus productions.

Robert then goes on to add that later in 1916, the system for marking Troopship mail changed, and quotes as follows:

"A senior postal officer, FD Holdsworth, travelling to England with troopship No 61 in August 1916, and acting as a troopship postmaster, noted the use of the troopship number in datestamps and recommended that this be dropped. From then on troopships used only a circular "Passed By Censor" marking with a serial number."



Troopship No 11, HMNZT 'Willochra'

..... these censor markings were allocated to individual ships and remained with that ship over several voyages. The marking served the purpose of both censor and frank with most of the mail being run through paid automatic postmarking machines on receipt of the closed bags in Wellington."

Ref - "History of the New Zealand Military Postal Services 1845 - 1991" RM Startup & EB Proud

As they say, the devil is in the detail. Thank you Robert for providing such an informative follow up to July's article (Ed)

1941 Warrant For Official Stamps

Most collectors would be familiar with New Zealand stamps overprinted Official for use by government departments and employees, and Members of Parliament etc, but how many would have given a thought as to how the stamps were allocated to individuals, in this case MPs, who were permitted to use them?

The document shown below and Andrew McNiven's research of the Archives NZ files has provided some insight of the process involved. In the archives, paper DA29/6, dated December 12, 1951 and headed MP Stamp Warrants, is a letter from the Correspondence Section to the Director of Accounts, P&T Department which reads as follows:

"As you are aware, each Member of Parliament is supplied with warrants which entitle him to be supplied with "Official" Postage Stamps under the provisions of the Public Works Act 1928, and amendments thereto.

For a number of years the amount per month was £2.0s.0d, later £3.0s.0d and now from 1st September, 1951, all members with the exception of the Leader of the Opposition receive £4.0s.0d per month. In the case of the latter, the amount is now £10.0s.0d."

Warrant for Issue of Official Postage-stamps. 11	
PAYABLE ONLY TO MEMBERS OF THE NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENT. AT ANY POST-OFFICE MONEY-ORDER OFFICE.	
On demand supply Official POSTAGE-STAMPS to the value of	
£3 THREE POUNDS. £3	
being allowance for the month of SEPTEMBER, 1941.	
Received Official Postage-stamps to the value of Three Pounds.	Date-stamp of Paying Office.
Signature and designation.	

Apparently the arrangement was that Post Office would hand over Official stamps to the value of the warrant presented and then periodically recover the value of the Official stamps distributed from the Legislative Department.

The cost of posting a first class letter in September, 1941 was 2d, so three pounds could potentially equate to 360 letters per month, more if they were unsealed. That's a lot of correspondence. Keeping this in mind, the letter then goes on to say:

"In the past it has been apparent that many members could not use such a quantity of "Official" stamps for their normal postage and those stamps have been used for the payment of telephone rentals, toll accounts and even television licenses. Ministers of the Crown, for instance, would hardly use any stamps, while holding such positions as their correspondence is franked "Official Paid" and the stamp warrants are not presented but are allowed to accumulate. When an election is in the offering we have cases of members cashing a number of warrants as they would be a complete loss were the member not re-elected."

The letter refers to one member cashing in £36 prior to the 1949 Election and the Right Honorable W Nash holding uncashed warrants at the end of 1951 to the value £124.

It then goes on to comment on the position of the department regarding usage of Official stamps when the person ceases to be a Member of Parliament:

"The position is, of course, that once the stamps have become the property of the Member he can continue to use them until his supply is exhausted even if he is no longer a Member of the Legislature."

This seems a rather liberal attitude by the (Legislative) department as I would have expected them to have required the return of any unused Official stamps due to the individual no longer being involved in any official government business. The writer of the letter also thought this and one of his suggestions was to exchange unused Official stamps for ordinary postage stamps once the MP's term in Parliament was up.

In September 1951, contrary to what the official position was supposed to be, the Legislative Department agreed to cover warrants, accepted by the Post Office, for £36 worth of Official stamps from an individual who was no longer an MP. I imagine this would have been a bit of a windfall in 1951.

Other documents contained in the same file indicate the value of the warrant in 1967 was \$14 per month, reducing to \$10 per month in 1975.

Thanks to Andrew for conducting the research into the purpose of this unusual item.

Stephen Jones

Chalon Christmas Card

This novel Christmas card (date unknown) sent by The Stamp Showcase New York to their clients, uses a Hausburg reprint of the 2d Chalon value as the central decoration. I have seen other cards, similarly illustrated, and with the word play "This is proof we wish you etc"



Early in the 1900's, LLR Hausburg arranged for 1000 sheets to be printed from plate 2 of the Chalon 2d value. 1000 sheets equates to 240,000 stamps, well over 50,000 more than the total number printed of both 1931 Health stamp values. The intention was to break up the sheets to provide blocks for a plating reference for inclusion in a publication, but this publication didn't eventuate. As only about 20% of the sheet was required, this left a considerable surplus of stamps, more than enough to meet collector's needs at an affordable price. The \$50 catalogue value seems a little ambitious.

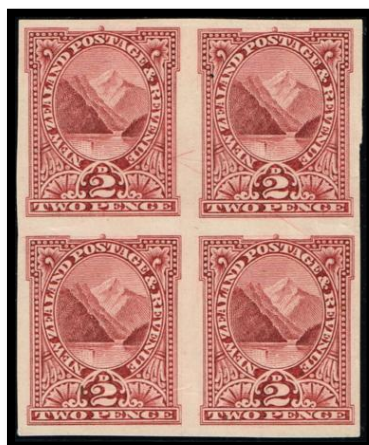
Stephen Jones

Bogus 1898 2d London Print Imperf Varieties

By the end of 1900, four of the lower values from the 1898 pictorial issue had been redesigned or formatted. The bicolour 1d design was swapped for the 4d with the terraces design used for the 1d value. New plates with slight design changes were made of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and the design of the 2d value was reduced in size. This group of stamps are typically referred to as the "redrawn" designs or values. Plate proofs, on unwatermarked paper, of all four redrawn values are known. Examples of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, and 2d values would be considered common and are readily available to collectors, probably from shortly after the stamps were issued. Proofs of these three values are found in a variety of colours with some, most commonly the 2d, very close to that used for similar London print 2d value.



Redrawn $\frac{1}{2}$ d proof



Redrawn 2d proof



Redrawn 1d proof

Some of the more desirable varieties of the London print stamps are pairs of stamps that are vertically or horizontally imperf or imperf between ie perforated on all four sides but not between the two stamps, which may command high prices when sold.

The availability of these imperf redrawn 2d proofs in the colour of the earlier London print stamp resulted in the temptation to create the expensive imperf variety using the inexpensive proof as the basis of the forgery.



Vertically imperf pair (Fenwick collection)



Vertically imperf between pair (Fenwick collection)

Leaving the matter of colour aside, typically the chief way of distinguishing between the original London Print 2d and the redrawn 2d is the size of the printed image, and not the overall size of the stamp. The redrawn image is smaller than the original image found on the London Print. As a consequence, just by placing the two stamps side by side, you should get an immediate indication whether the item is genuine or a perforated redrawn proof.

Last year Spinks listed an auction lot described as including a cover with a forgery of the vertically imperf between variety and another similar horizontally imperf mint pair, along with a mint block of the London print 2d. Adjacent to the mint pair was a number which I felt indicated it had been submitted for a certificate at some stage. While the scan used for the

illustration of the lot was adequate to determine the condition of the items, it still wasn't sufficient for size comparisons of the stamps pictured.



Cover, dated March 1899, franked with a forged vertically imperf between 2d pair produced using a pair of proofs of the redrawn value

This piqued my curiosity as I felt there must some way of distinguishing between redrawn 2d proofs and the London print 2d when viewed as online images. I referred to the examples of both in my collection, comparing details of the design and more specifically how they aligned with each other. After comparing different parts of the design, I found that the alignment of the beading around the periphery of the upper part of the design differed slightly between the redrawn 2d and the original London print 2d.



1898 London Print 2d

A line drawn diagonally through the inner and outer corners of the border bisects the round bead in the corner



1900 Redrawn 2d

A line drawn diagonally through the inner and outer corners of the border runs between the two round beads in the corner



With the London print 2d, a line drawn diagonally through the inner and outer corners of the border bisects the ornamental bead in the corner. On the redrawn value, there is no ornamental bead in the corner so a similarly drawn diagonal line goes between the two beads

each side of the corner. There are other variations between the two designs, however this is a variation that can be seen without too much difficulty, especially with images viewed online.



Horizontally imperf

Once I had found a way of easily distinguishing between images of the two, I then compared the various images of the stamps comprising the lot. As these included a mint block of four of London printing, I able to determine the horizontally imperf pair was a genuine example of the variety, and not a forgery as stated in the description. Bonus.

Another, more subjective factor, is that this mint pair is imperf horizontally and not just between two stamps. This means that the sheet wasn't perforated horizontally resulting in a possible 60 pairs of the variety rather than just 12 if they were imperf between. The incentive would be to forge the scarcer variety (12 pairs) rather than the more "common" variety (60 pairs), increasing the likelihood this horizontally imperf pair was genuine.

I was fortunate enough to secure the lot at the reserve, a price I was happy to pay just for the cover. Once the lot had arrived, I had a closer look at the mint pair and was pleased to finally confirm that this was a genuine example of this variety. On turning it over, I found that a previous owner had written (thankfully) in pencil "Proofs with forged perfs".

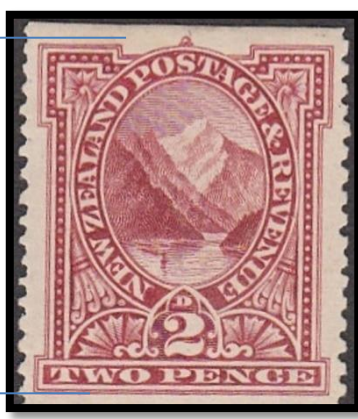


Reverse side of the pair

The pair had been submitted for certificate sometime previously and it is not unlikely that the design size comparison was the method used. Used examples of the London print 2d are readily available so you have a ready reference to compare the submitted item against. In this instance, if the design size comparison was used, the wrong decision was made to determine that the horizontally imperf pair wasn't the genuine 1898 variety, but one manufactured from a redrawn proof.



London print stamp from the
block of four at 200%
Vertical mesh



Stamp from the horizontally
imperf pair at 200%
Horizontal mesh

This failed because it didn't take into consideration the issue of paper shrinkage and the mesh direction of the paper. This aspect of paper mesh on 1898 pictorials was covered in an excellent article by Dr Rickard and Dr Diamond in the New Zealand Stamp Collector (March 2011, Vol 91/1).

To summarise, over time, stamps printed on horizontal mesh paper may, depending on storage conditions, reduce in overall height

Those printed on vertical mesh paper may reduce in width. Consequently, if the design height of the stamps in this pair printed on horizontal mesh paper was compared with that of stamps printed on vertical mesh paper, then the design height of variety pair design would appear shorter. This could lead the examiner to believe the pair was a forgery and do no further checks. As a further check, I compared the design size of the London print 2d stamps in the block of four (vertical mesh) with those in the variety pair (horizontal mesh) and confirmed there was a difference in design size height.

Stephen Jones

1954 Royal Visit Relief Cancel

When the Queen was in Wellington during the Royal Visit tour of 1953 - 54, one of the events planned was for her to open the first session of the New Zealand's Parliament during Parliament's centennial year. This was the first time in New Zealand's history a ruling monarch had opened Parliament. A crowd of 50,000 were in attendance when the Queen, dressed in her coronation robes, arrived with Prince Phillip and entered the building.



Hodson event cover cancelled with the special event cancellation

To commemorate the occasion, the post office at Parliament used a special cancellation rather than the usual Government Buildings "blackball" cancel to postmark mail posted that day. A number of cacheted covers were also prepared for the event with the most common still readily available from dealers. The above cover, produced by Scottish stamp dealer Mildred Hodson and cancelled with the special postmark, is less commonly seen in New Zealand.



The Queen & Prince Phillip entering Parliament



Parliament Buildings relief cancel

It would seem that the post office may have dithered a little on whether they were going to use a special postmark for the day, or were late in providing the canceller, as a relief cancel was prepared for use. Examples are very uncommon and the few that are known are found used on plain, unaddressed covers, giving no clue as to who may have initiated the use of the relief.

Stephen Jones

Correspondence Stemming From Earlier Newsletters

Alan Tunnicliffe has provided further details relating to two articles from earlier issues.

The name of the schoolboy whose POSB stamped card shown on the front cover of the June issue was familiar to Alan. The New Brighton schoolboy was Charles Reginald CORSER, son of Edmund and Martha Corser and he was born on July 11, 1873. He died in Wellington on August 17, 1945, aged 72. There are no descendants as he and his wife Margaret had only one daughter, who did not marry. This information comes from Corser's great niece, Marie Corser of Christchurch.

And from last month's issue regarding the postcard sent from Bluff in 1900 to Bohemia. The person it is addressed to is actually Princess Vera Hohenlohe and she was a member of an extensive European aristocratic family. Her full name being Vera Therese Elisabeth Eleonore Anna Julia Maria, Princess zu Hohenlohe-Waldenburg-Schillingsfurst-Kaunitz. She was born in 1882 and died in Prague in 1940, daughter of Prince Egon Karl and his wife Marie. She married 3 years after this postcard was sent to her, in Prague in 1903 to Count Rudolf Czernin von Chudenitz und Morzin and they had 6 daughters and 2 sons. They were divorced in 1920 and in 1929 she married Count Karl Johann von Schonborn. Many of her descendants now live in Vienna and in Vancouver.

2017 Interclub Competition

This year the annual one frame interclub competition was held in Palmerston North on the 24th June. Nine societies from Christchurch to Hawkes Bay competed with a total of 45 exhibits on display.

The Christchurch Society was represented by the following exhibits:

Karen Jeffrey	Homes of the British Monarchy	72
Peter Bamber	The Wild Roses Tamed	82
John Kersel	The Philatelic Society of NZ	61
Fred Saunders	Captain Cook's Voyage Around NZ	65
Lindsay Carswell	Lyttelton Postmarks 1852 - 1882	78

The winner this year was the Marlborough Stamp Collectors Club with the Christchurch Philatelic Society coming 4th.

Full list of 2017 Interclub results:

Marlborough	378
Upper Hutt	369
Wanganui	365
Christchurch	358
Manawatu	355
NZ Stamp Collectors Club	355
Kapiti	346
Hawkes Bay	321
Hastings	302

Karen Jeffrey



**Phone: (03) 579 5650. Fax: (03) 579 9894.
PO Box 5086, Springlands, Blenheim 7241.**

The web site is up and running allowing orders to be placed directly once you have registered. Currently there are over 12,000 stamps, covers, postcards etc on the site and all are illustrated.

Email us if you have any problems registering or navigating around the site.

There is a search facility allowing you to search for your Interests. e.g. Entering the word 'Railway' brings up around 200 different items.

Website categories include:

- NZ definitive issues from Full Face Queens to the current issues.
- NZ Commemoratives from the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition onwards.
- NZ Health and Christmas issues.
- Booklets.
- Air mail stamps and covers.
- Life Insurance.
- Postage Due and Express stamps and covers.
- Postal fiscals and Revenue stamps.
- Cinderellas.
- Various miscellaneous issues and covers. Postal fiscals and Revenue stamps.
- New Zealand Postal History.
- New Zealand Postal Stationery.
- Antarctic stamps, Postcards and Postal History.
- Various British Commonwealth and Foreign Country's stamps and covers.

To show we stock not only New Zealand but here is something different.



ROSS SMITH COVER

Cover carried on the First Aerial Mail from Great Britain to Australia (12 Nov 1919).
Of the 16 covers carried to Queensland, only 7 (including this one) are known to exist.
To be offered in a future private treaty list.

PUBLIC & POSTAL AUCTIONS STAMPS & POSTAL HISTORY

Each year we offer thousands of items for sale via our Public & Postal Auctions and Direct Sale Lists. **Phone, email or visit our web site for more information.**

- NEW ZEALAND STAMPS
- COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS
- ESTATE LOTS
- MARITIME MAIL
- ERRORS
- WORLD STAMPS
- FULL FACE QUEEN COVERS
- VARIETIES



2017 Colour Catalogue of New Zealand Stamps



- Colour Photos & Prices for every New Zealand Stamp from 1855-2017
- Many Price Changes

Phone, email or visit our web site for more information.

PHONE +64 9 522 0311

FAX +64 9 522 0313

hello@aucklandcitystamps.co.nz

www.aucklandcitystamps.co.nz

1 Ngaire Ave Newmarket | PO Box 99988 Newmarket Auckland 1149 New Zealand

Dealers in fine stamps
of the World, Specialists
in New Zealand and the
Pacific Islands.

Auckland City Stamps
Licensed Auctioneers

EST. 1974

