

CAPTAIN COOK

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

ISSN 0122 – 9813

Num 788 (Vol 45 No 8)

September, 2017

1943 2d Health Colour Trial



From a series of colour charts used by the printers Bradbury Wilkinson, this elaborate image in brown was used in February (eight months prior to the stamp's issue) to determine a suitable colour for the 2d value from the 1943 Health issue. The image is printed on unwatermarked gummed paper and measures 109 x 141mm.

Stephen Jones

1920's EKKO Cinderellas For New Zealand

If you had asked me what an EKKO Cinderella was a few months ago, the blank look on my face would have given away the answer immediately. Thanks to an online article by Philip Mulivor, the following should assist in expanding member's knowledge and how they are connected to New Zealand.

In the early 1920's as radio developed in the USA, the broadcasting stations had little idea of the size of their audience. While they believed that their broadcasts covered large areas of the country and were popular with people, other than the occasional letter from a listener, they had no way of gauging the extent of this popularity or the signal coverage.

To help broadcasters understand their audiences and attract sponsors, the EKKO Company of Chicago whipped up a clever gimmick in 1924. They imprinted colourful stamps with call signs and sold them to the respective broadcasters; at the same time, they sold stamp albums to the public. The albums included a place for each station's stamp and offered simple instructions for submitting reception reports. When a station received a report from a listener, it would return an attractive EKKO stamp, which the listener would mount in his official album. The concept caught on and the radio stations began to get a better understanding of their audience.



The stamps were intaglio printed by the American Bank Note Company, and similar in size and quality of the current US stamps of the time.

The growth in radio stations numbers was rapid, a 700% increase in 1922 alone, and so to was the growth in the hobby of radio DXing, or listening to distant radio stations. This led to the increasing popularity of EKKO stamp collecting as listeners tried to collect the stamps from as many of the radio stations as they could.

One radio historian has counted more than 800 stations that participated in the EKKO stamp program during the 1920s, including broadcasters

in Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Japan, and New Zealand too it would seem. Two of the labels illustrated are for radio stations here, 2YA in Wellington, and 3YA in Christchurch. They are definitely not from North or Latin American radio stations as they used either triple or quadruple alpha call signs eg WRC, KTNT etc.

The EKKO fad soon bred imitators, the most famous of which was the PM Bryant Company. Bryant sold both albums and stamps directly to the public. Once a station was heard, listeners needed only to paste the proper stamp into their albums; broadcasters were completely cut out of the process. EKKO also sold the stamps directly to the public for 10 cents each, tacitly encouraging the collection and trading of them for their own sake. Given the nature of collectors and collecting, this is an unsurprising development. The interest in collecting these Cinderellas remained strong before tapering off in the early 1930's due to the depression.

There is still a small group of people collecting them with scarcer labels much in demand by serious collectors. The two from New Zealand pictured above were from recent listings on eBay. Common EKKO labels sell for around US\$5 - 10, but the label from 2YA sold for US\$77 and the 3YA example sold for just over US\$270.

Stephen Jones

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 4 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

SEPTEMBER 12 SOCIETY MEETING **JOHN PASTON**
Suez Canal

SUEZ CANAL

John will be talking on his award winning exhibit of the Suez Canal, outlining the history of the canal and showing a range of philatelic related items

SEPTEMBER 19 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

SEPTEMBER 26 POSTCARD GROUP

*SEPTEMBER 30 &
OCTOBER 1* 15th NATIONAL LITERATURE EXHIBITION
Mandeville Philatelic Centre

OCTOBER 2 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

OCTOBER 10 SOCIETY MEETING Josh Black
Serbian Landscapes

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

1960 New Zealand Rocket Mail

Compared with some other countries, mail transportation in New Zealand is quite pedestrian, typically using ships, aircraft, trucks or similar. We don't have mail sent by pneumatic post, shot off ships by catapult, carried by Zeppelins or other exotic delivery systems. But as it turns out, there was some experimentation of using rockets to carry mail. Yes, rocket mail, here in New Zealand.

Dated 1960, the cover below embellished with a number of rocket mail etiquettes, appears to indicate that on February 5 a rocket carrying mail was launched on Stewart Island. Annoyingly there are no details as to who was responsible for the production of the cover or information on the flight, if indeed a flight actually took place.



The four rocket mail etiquettes and two airmail labels are tied with "Via Moon Rocket Air Mail" cachets in two different colours. In addition there is a large airmail label on the reverse also tied with two strikes of the same cachets. A search on the internet failed to produce anything on the event.



It wasn't a cover I had seen before and, after showing the cover to other collectors, it is still the only example that I am aware of for this event.

Estimated at \$9.99 there were two bids on it and disappointingly my bid of \$110 was the underbid. Sigh. I am not expecting another to turn up again soon.

One of the collectors I contacted was Andrew McNiven and he generously agreed to look in the New Zealand Post Office files for the period to see what references he could find about the event. Although Andrew's search found nothing about the Stewart Island launch, I was very surprised that he found files showing the Post Office had actually contemplated the use of rockets, or missiles, for transporting mail. Among the files were documents relating to a trial by the US Navy in June 1959 on behalf of the US Post Office Department. It was considered a success by the US Post Office and this appears to have generated some

excitement within the New Zealand Post Office about the prospect of mail delivery using rockets or missiles here in New Zealand.



The file included an example of a cover carried by the missile that was launched from the submarine USS Barbero (SSG-317) to carry the mail during the trial.

Accompanying the cover is a letter from the US Postmaster General describing the trial. He also says that "... the great progress being made with guided missilery will be utilised in every practical way in the delivery of the United States mail"

Also included in the associated documents was a clipping from the "Evening Post" dated March 18, 1965, referring to the proposed new Postal Centre to be built on Jervois Quay in Wellington. While this was a few years later, the article was titled "Rocket Mail Launching From Wellington Centre" and goes on to say:

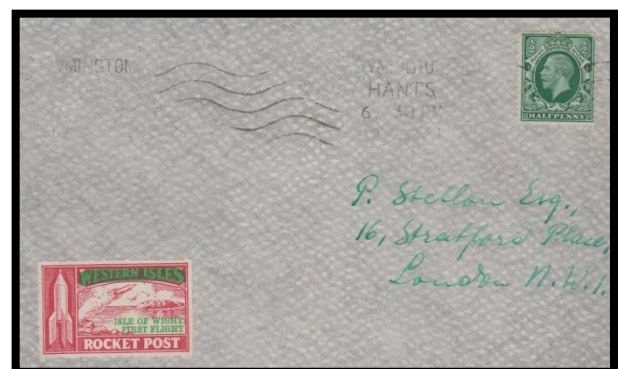
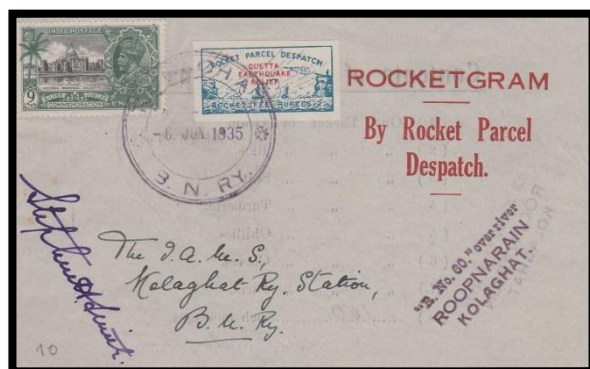
"In the not-too-distant future you may be marking your mail "Rocket Mail" instead of "Airmail". Tests of this type of mail delivery have already been successfully carried out in the United States and it has been suggested that New Zealand install a rocket base in a new Post Office building in Wellington. In fact there has been some criticism of the lack of foresight in not planning for one in the new building.

This was stated yesterday by the director of postal services (Mr LT Heath) when addressing the Rotary Club of Hutt."

In the article, Heath is quoted as saying:

"We may be using rocket mail sooner than many people think" and "We have already had complaints because we haven't made provision for a rocket site in the new building in Wellington, but in the very near future our mail will travel by rocket"

Clearly Heath was a man that had vision but in this instance nothing practical eventuated from this idea.



The idea of using rockets to carry mail was developed earlier in the century and in the early 1930's a number of experimental flights with mixed results were done in different countries including India, the United Kingdom and Australia although none resulted in developing a regular service of any sort. In fact, one observer said "...the scorched letters fell like confetti onto the beach" after witnessing one failed launch in the Western Isles, UK.

There was often a strong philatelic element associated with the trials, as this helped to raise funds to conduct the experiments, resulting in a wide variety of attractive flight covers and etiquettes to collect.

Stephen Jones

1917 October Revolution

On October 25, 1917 (November 7) (dates are given in the Julian calendar, then in use in Russia, and Gregorian) probably the most important single event of the 20th century occurred: the October Revolution. Its importance lies in that it was intended to have an international impact and not to be just a domestic event. The October Revolution had and has a major influence on the world political stage and within each country's own political history. It has shaped world events and continues to do so, even as the country it occurred in, Russia, is ostensibly no longer communist. It would be difficult to imagine what the world would be like today if it the revolution was only for Russia, or it didn't happen or failed. It would not have stopped later communist revolutions, but their timing, character and outcome would have been different.



New Zealand 1968 Armed Forces

Note the jungle fatigues the soldier is wearing. It could symbolise either the Malayan Emergency 1948 - 1960 that NZ had been involved in; or Vietnam War 1955 - 1975 in which NZ was then fighting.

Both conflicts influenced by the USSR.

By the end of 1916 the military situation on the eastern front had improved for Russia. There were modest military successes and the supply problems were largely overcome. However, it also witnessed the lowest ebb of the Russian armies' morale. 1916 had been as costly in lives as 1914 and 1915. There was despair that there seemed no end to the slaughter with no victory in sight. On the domestic front, the underdeveloped industrial and infrastructural capacity of Russia was put under immense strain to meet the demands of war.

The effort to solve the military supply issues in 1916 brought the domestic front to near breaking point. In St Petersburg, the domestic situation was at its most dire. Women had to spend up to 40 hours a week searching for what little food there was. Rampant inflation had destroyed the average worker's income.



Russia 1913
Tercentenary of the
Romanov Dynasty
Tsar Nicholas II
and the Romanovs
had only 4 more
years!



Unauthorised overprint of
the abdication on 1913
Romanov issue.

The workers morale was near breaking point and anger rose against corruption and profiteering. Tsar Nicholas II was blamed for all of these crises. The Duma, the Russian parliament, warned Nicholas that if a democratic constitution wasn't implemented, a revolution would occur.

At the beginning of February 1917, Petrograd workers began several strikes and demonstrations. On February 22 (March 7), workers at Putilov, Petrograd's largest industrial plant, announced a strike. February 23, International Women's Day, and Petrograd women marched in protest to demand bread. Factory workers joined them. By February 25 strikes had brought industry and commerce in Petrograd to a standstill. February 26 (March 11) Tsar Nicholas II orders the army in Petrograd to suppress the riots and prorogues the Duma. The army not only refuses to suppress the riots, many in the military mutiny and join the rioters

With the Duma prorogued there is no effective authority and chaos sweeps across Petrograd. On February 27 (March 12) the Petrograd Soviet (soviet = council formed by workers or soldiers) is established by predominantly Mensheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries (SR). The Duma establishes a temporary committee to attempt to restore law and order. The Tsar tried to return to Petrograd, but was stopped on 1 March by a group of revolutionaries. When the Tsar arrived at Pskov, the army and Duma representatives requested that he abdicate. Nicholas II abdicated on March 2 (March 15). Nicholas nominated his brother, the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, to succeed. The Grand Duke realised that he would have little support, so he declined

On March 3 (March 16), a provisional government was established. The government was primarily composed of the aristocratic centre-left, headed by Prince Georgy Lvov. The Petrograd Soviet claimed to represent the will of the people. It competed with the Provisional Government for power.



Russia Provisional Government 1917 - Note the Imperial Romanov symbolism still used

In Petrograd on February 27, activists began organizing a citywide council to unite the deputies of these soviets with representatives of the socialist parties, mainly Mensheviks and SR. The leaders of the Petrograd Soviet believed that they represented particular classes, not the whole nation. They also believed Russia was not ready for socialism. They saw their role as limited to forcing the "bourgeoisie" government to establish democratic reforms and guarantee civil rights. They met in the same building as the Provisional Government not to compete but to exert pressure on the new government.



Cachet of train which carried Lenin from exile to Petrograd in April 1917

Although the Soviet leadership initially refused to participate in the Provisional Government, Alexander Kerensky, a popular lawyer and a member of the Socialist Revolutionary Party, agreed to join the new cabinet as minister of war.

He became an increasingly central figure in the government. Kerensky promoted freedom of speech, released thousands of political prisoners, and removed the ban on previously outlawed political parties. One such party was the Bolsheviks.

Their leader Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov, or Lenin, was in exile in Switzerland during the February revolution. Lenin was outspoken in his criticism of Russia's participation in the war. Hoping to reduce Russian will to fight, the German High Command agreed to let Lenin return to Petrograd. Lenin arrived in Petrograd on April 3 (April 16) 1917.

In the days following his arrival, Lenin gave several speeches calling for the overthrow of the provisional government and end to the war. On April 7, the Bolshevik newspaper, Pravda, published the ideas contained in Lenin's speeches, which became known as the April Theses.



USSR 1932 15th
Anniversary of
the October
Revolution

On his return,
Lenin was hoisted
onto an armoured
car to give a
speech



USSR 1932 15th Anniversary of the October
Revolution. Motto: Peace, Land, Bread

Unlike the Mensheviks and SR, Lenin believed that Russia needed a new revolution and to do away with the "bourgeoisie" provisional government. He aimed to use the soviets as the mechanism for his revolution. The Bolshevik catch phrase was: "all power to the soviets" to overthrow the provisional government; and "peace, land, bread" to end the war. From being one of the smallest socialist parties, the Bolshevik membership steadily grew.

As minister of war, Kerensky was still keen to prosecute the war. On June 18 (July 1) the Kerensky Offensive begins. The offensive is initially successful but by July 3 it had stalled. Russians suffered massive casualties. On July 6, German and Austro-Hungarian armies counter-attacked and by July 10 (July 23), they had pushed the Russians back 240kms. The offensive showed to the world that Russian soldiers had lost all will to carry on the war. The fiasco highlighted: soldier dissatisfaction and demoralisation; enormous discontent with Russia's involvement in the war amongst the workers; and the great shortages of food and supplies.

This resulted in the "July Days", July 3 - 7 (July 16 - 20), when soldiers and workers in Petrograd engaged in spontaneous armed demonstrations against the provisional government. The demonstrations were condemned by both the provisional government and the Mensheviks.



Contemporary postcard of A Kerensky

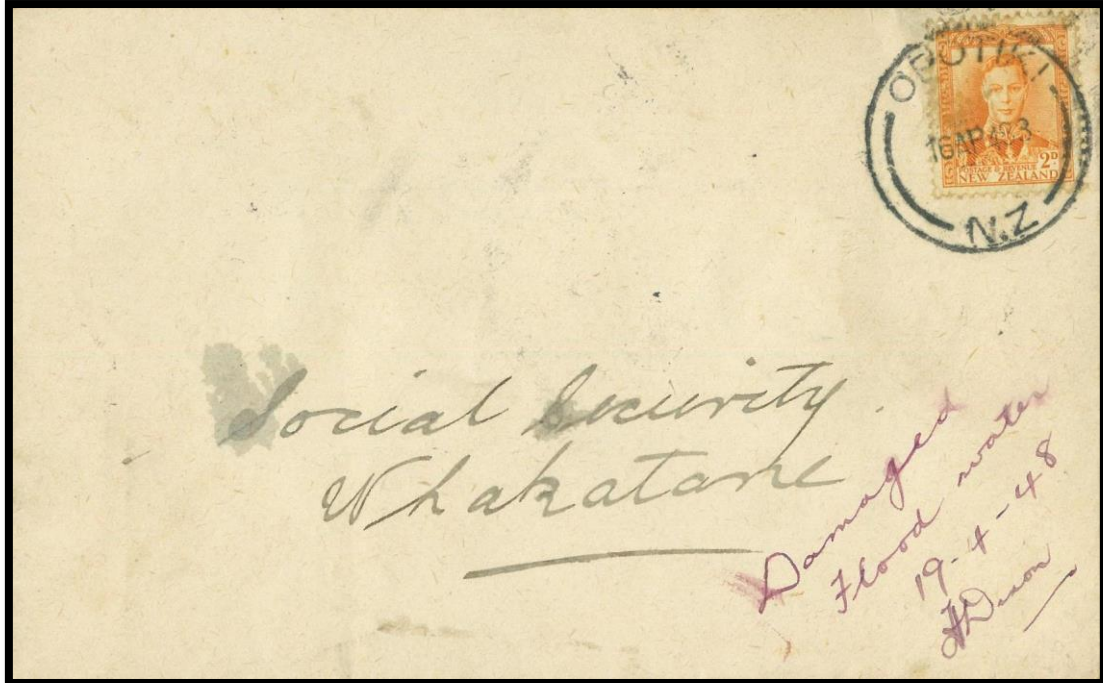
The Bolsheviks initially supported the demonstrations, but their central committee was dubious. Loyal troops suppressed the demonstrations. To undermine Bolshevik popularity, Kerensky produced evidence that Lenin had close political and financial ties with the Germany. A public reaction against the Bolsheviks started. Kerensky ordered the arrest of Lenin and the other leading Bolsheviks on 6 July. Lenin fled to Finland while Trotsky and other prominent Bolsheviks were arrested. However, the damage to the provisional government was done as soldiers and workers felt betrayed. On 7 July Lvov resigns and Kerensky becomes the Prime Minister and forms a new provisional government.

(to be cont)

Murray Taege

1948 Opotiki Flood Mail

Disaster Mail material by its very nature would be something that comes with an interesting background story. The cover below was sent from Opotiki to Whakatane on April 16, 1948 and looks to have been caught up in the extensive flooding in the region at the time. It has a manuscript endorsement "Damaged Flood water 19-4-48" with the signature, H(?) Dixon. The cover shows signs of water damage and a few light stains. As the cover is back stamped Whakatane on April 19, it is probable the endorsement was applied there.



On April 16, the region experienced extreme levels of rainfall. Tauranga had 212mm in one six hour period with 34mm falling in 10 minutes, still the record for the most intense downpour measured in New Zealand, while in Opotiki, 145mm fell in six hours.

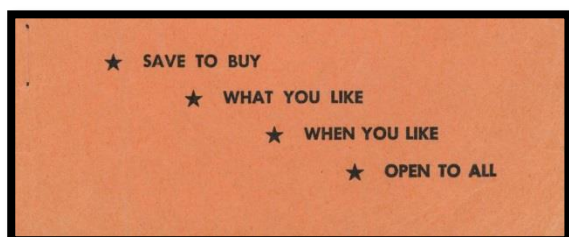


This photo from the Tauranga Photo News shows how extensive the flooding was in Opotiki. The picture was taken about six hours before the peak by which time the water was five feet deep in the township. The flooding necessitated the township's evacuation during which two lives were lost.

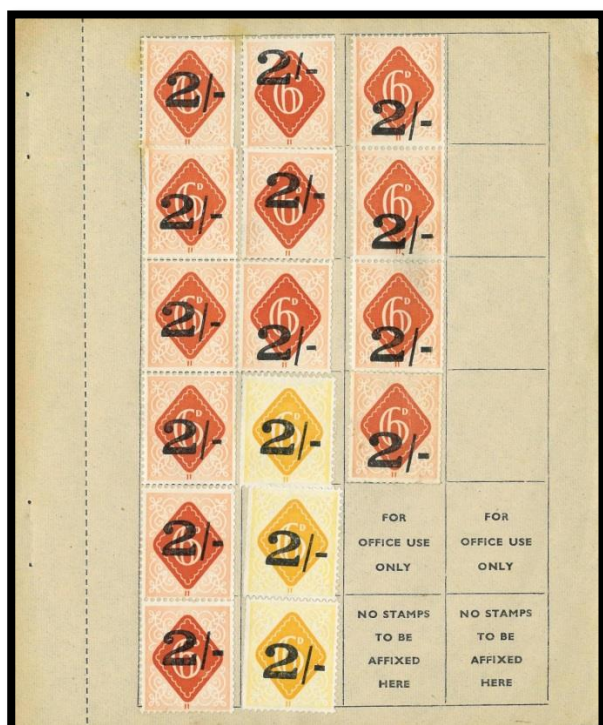
Stephen Jones

NZ Farmer's Co-Operative Association

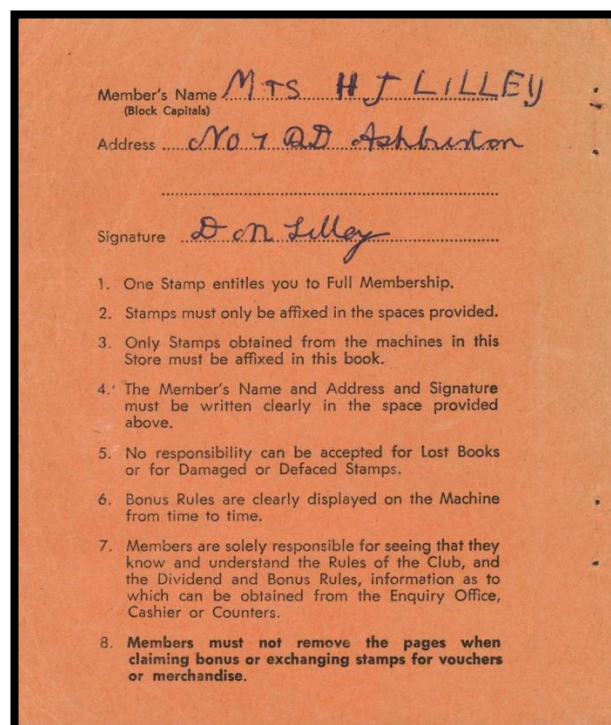
The page illustrated below is from a Membership Pass Booklet for the NZ Farmers' Co-operative Association of Canterbury, Ashburton Branch. There is no date on the booklet to indicate when it was circulated.



The front cover of the booklet has "Save To Buy, What You Like, When You Like, Open To All" printed on it. The booklet contains 10 pages but only the first page has stamps applied to it. There are 16 stamps in total, all 6d values in either red or yellow, overprinted with 2/-.



Booklet measures 126 x 151mm



Back cover with membership rules

The left hand margin of the page is rouletted to make it easy to separate the page from the booklet.

On the back cover are the membership rules but it is not immediately obvious from them the significance of the 2/- overprinted on the stamps. Typically shoppers buying goods at a Co-op shop would receive a discount stamp based on the amount of money spent on purchases eg 6d for each 10/- spent, a 5% rebate (see May 2017 newsletter).

In this instance, rule 3 says "Only Stamps obtained from the machines in this store must be affixed in this book" which indicates the stamps weren't given to the customer by the cashier at the checkout counter. If they were dispensed from a machine, how would the machine determine the appropriate value of stamp(s) to dispense or audit an amount entered by a customer?

Rule 6 refers to Bonus Rules but whether this is related to the additional 2/- overprinted on the stamps is unknown. Rule 7 uses the term Rules of the Club and also refers to Bonus Rules along with Dividend Rules. Using Club Rules would indicate they related to shop transactions rather than shareholding in the Co-op itself, unless there is some relationship between being a shareholder, and dividend paid as a shareholder, that somehow determines the allocation of these stamps.

Rule 8 seems a little contradictory. It says "Members must not remove the pages when claiming bonus or exchanging stamps for vouchers or merchandise", with the text bolded for emphasis. I presume that it means that they can be removed by the appropriate Co-op counter staff rather than having them remain in the booklet once the page has been filled.

Hopefully one of our more knowledgeable members may be able to expand on the workings of this Club and significance of the 2/- overprint on the stamps.

Stephen Jones

LOCAL INCOME

**NEW ZEALAND OWNED
FARMERS' CO-OPS
PROFIT NEW ZEALAND**

With an annual turnover of
£65,000,000, all income from our business remains
in the country—returns to the farmer-members who make
that 'Income possible. Last year N.Z. shareholders
shared half a million pounds in dividends and rebates—a direct
profit to them, and a saving in Overseas
Funds. We send your produce overseas—
the income stays at home!



WOOL SALES



MERCHANDISE



STOCK SALES

N.Z. PROFITS

Free from dominance by overseas financial interests, the provincial management of each Farmers' Co-operative acts in undivided loyalty to the farmers of the district it serves. But our combination of independent co-operatives enjoys valuable connections with affiliated associations abroad, and in the markets of the world we speak with authority.

**A GOOD DEAL FOR
N.Z. FARMERS**

Your local co-op specialises in the needs of farmers—for buying, selling, or expert advice on livestock, studstock, wool, seed, produce and general merchandise.

CREATED BY THE FARMER FOR THE FARMER

FARMERS' CO-OP

THE FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN NEW ZEALAND

OUR UNION IS THE FARMERS' STRENGTH

With 91 branches and numerous agencies throughout New Zealand, you get unrivalled buying and selling service from these 11 member co-ops.: The Farmers' Co-operative Auctioneering Co. Ltd., Common Shelton Ltd., Gisborne; The Hawke's Bay Farmers' Co-operative Association, The N.Z. Farmers' Co-operative Distributing Co. Ltd. The North Auckland Farmers' Co-operative Ltd., The Farmers' Co-operative Organisation Society of N.Z. Ltd., The Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association Ltd., The N.Z. Farmers' Co-operative Association of Canterbury Ltd., The North Otago Farmers' Co-operative Association Ltd., The Otago Farmers' Co-operative Association of New Zealand Ltd., The Southland Farmers' Co-operative Association Ltd.

All these member co-ops. their branches and agents are linked through
THE FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE FEDERATION (N.Z.) LTD.

**New Zealand agents for
Young's Reliable Sheep Dips**

**Associated with the
Farmers' Stud Stock Co. Ltd.
with
New Zealand wide coverage**

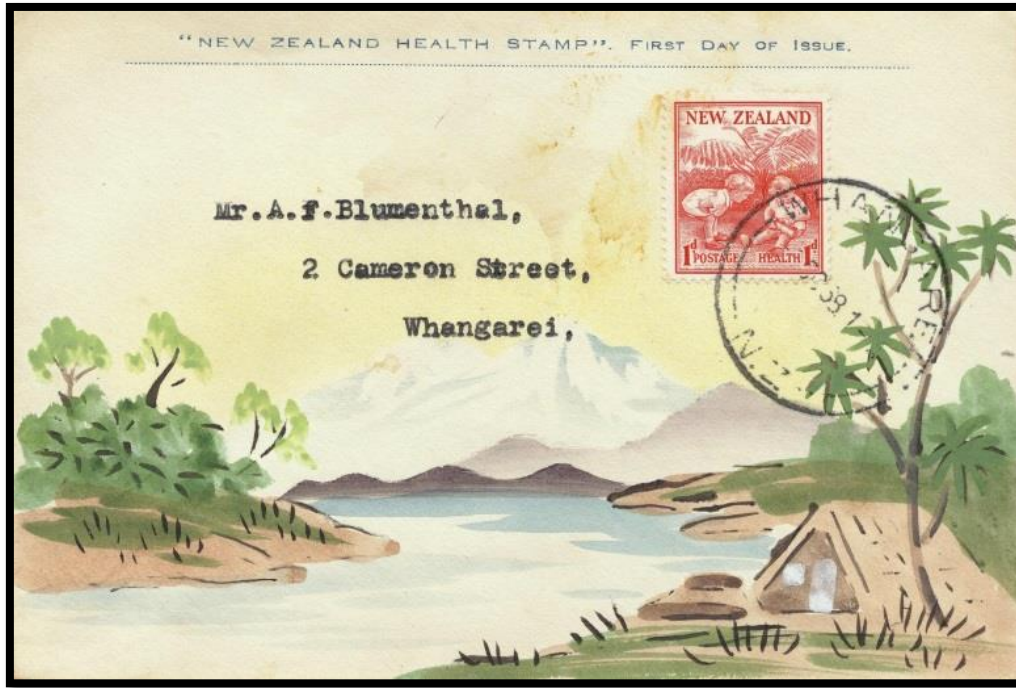
1325

P.O. Box 1124, Wellington

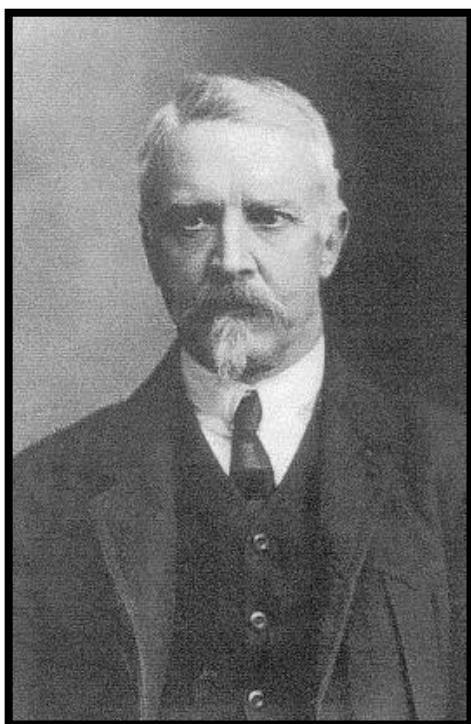
Farmer's Co-op ad from 1963 mentioning NZ Farmers' Co-operative Association of Canterbury

Karl Lewis: First Day Cover Artist

When I was compiling my catalogue of Health cacheted covers, John Watts sent me an example of a hand illustrated FDC for the 1938 Health issue, advising me it had been hand painted by Karl Lewis. I hadn't seen anything like it before and thought it was a very elegantly done. As time progressed, I found out more information about Karl Lewis and had seen copies of the numerous covers that were attributed to him. I also acquired my own copy of a cover similar to John's example. Examples of his 1938 Health FDCs are very scarce and these are the only two I have seen thus.



Karl Lewis was born in Kentucky, USA in September 1865 and went to sea at the age of 13. While working as a sailor he lived for short periods at various times in Australia, New Zealand, France, England, Italy, Holland, and Japan while waiting for his next ship. An avid reader, he was a self-educated man and prolific correspondent. Somewhere along the way, Lewis became an accomplished photographer, a skill that would be an asset later in life.

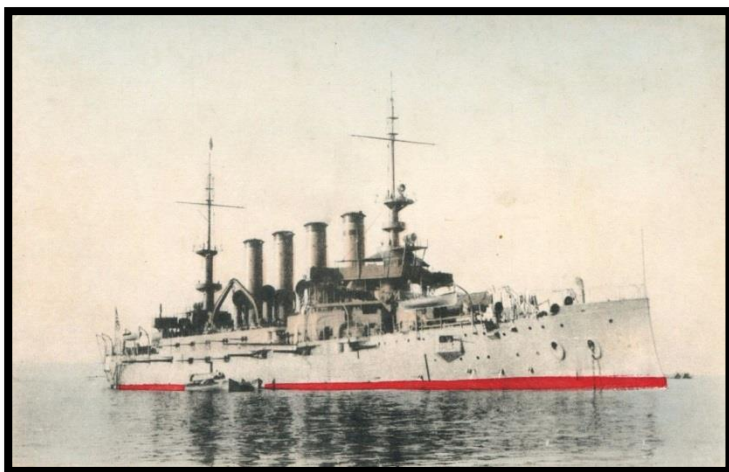


Karl Lewis, 1918, age 53

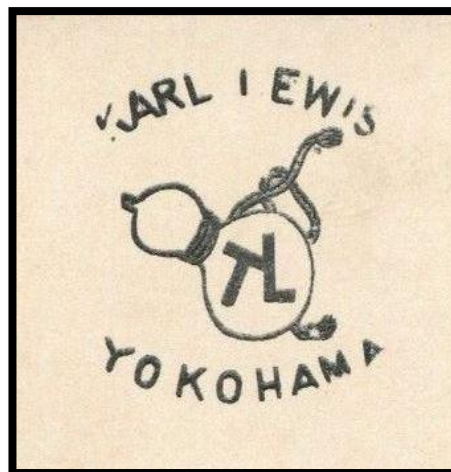
While he had spent time in Japan while at sea, it wasn't until July 17, 1901, that he decided to settle down in Yokohama, living out the remainder of his life there. Lewis liked Yokohama for the view he had of Mount Fuji and images of the mountain are a common theme in the illustrations that used for his covers. In August 1903, aged 37, he took a common-law wife named Sasako Sadako, age 17.

Between 1901 and 1916, Lewis operated a photographic studio at Yokohama. He advertised himself as "The Only European Photographer in Japan". He produced and specialized in photographic postcards of all types, many of which were hand coloured. He also operated a printing business producing menus and announcements. Along with his photography business he managed a roller skating rink, and from 1918 he worked for Sale and Frazar Ltd in their Motor car division.

In 1905, at the age of 40, Lewis published a 34-page catalogue of picture postcards he was selling. In the catalogue Lewis offered to take any "photograph, sketch, or drawing& that may be sent to me" and produced from it 100 "elegantly colored postcards" that he would send by registered mail "to any address" for the low price of \$1.75 U.S. Unfortunately, the photographic studio did not provide sufficient income.



Karl Lewis postcard from Japan

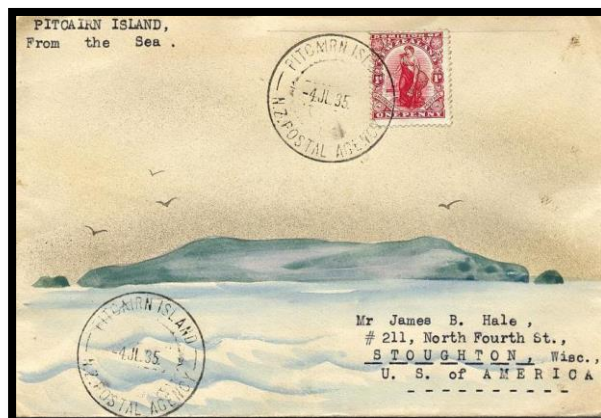


Lewis's logo on the reverse

In around 1933, he started producing hand painted watercolour covers and he appears at some stage to have begun accepting covers from collectors overseas for illustrating. These covers were not personally illustrated by Lewis, but by Japanese artists whom he had hired to paint for him. He also arranged for covers franked with foreign stamps to be mailed from exotic island locations around the Pacific region along with Japan and other Asian countries.



Cover sent from Japan



Cover sent from Pitcairn Island

In December, 1939, at the age of 74, Lewis suffered a paralytic stroke and never fully recovered his health. On March 15, 1940, Lewis filed the necessary papers with the American vice consul in Yokohama confirming his allegiance to the United States, a requirement of any US citizen that such documents be filed with the State Department every two years while living overseas for any extended period of time. The following day, after 37 years of marriage, Lewis's wife died. With Lewis still in ill health after his stroke, his wife's relatives, the Sasako family, took care of him.

Sometime around the time of the Pearl Harbour attack, Lewis was arrested by the Japanese secret police as a suspected spy. They were suspicious of the quantity of mail he sent and received without any contents, and also of coded markings he placed on the back of the envelope to indicate whether it should be opened or not. Lewis's brother in law convinced the police he wasn't a threat to the country's security, and he was released and remained under house arrest until his death on May 19, 1942. According to his estimates, he produced around 23,000 covers over an eight year period.

Stephen Jones

Troopship Censor Markings

The article 1916 Bogus "Passed By Censor" article in Captain Cook # 786, and my further research on those items, prompted me to complete an article on an item in the Philatelic Foundation's Postal Museum. This item was generously made available to the Philatelic Foundation for the museum display by Don White, Dunedin Stamp Centre, who had owned it for many years.



The History:

When new Post Offices were established, they were issued with a brass seal to seal the mailbags sent from the office. The top of the bag was tied with twine, and molten sealing wax was poured into a small metal tray over the twine, and then stamped with the brass seal. The seals were engraved - some with a number and the name of the province, and others with the name of the office and province. From July 1910, the use of sealing wax ceased on the Railway Travelling Post Offices, and the main mailrooms, and from **July 1, 1911** this was extended to all offices throughout New Zealand. The wax seals were replaced with the lead seals that were clamped onto the string.

The troopships also appear to have used lead seals:

'10th Reinforcements sailed 4 March for Egypt on board Troopships 47 "Willochra" and 48 "Tofua" On the Tofua the post office occupied a cabin measuring 7ft 6inches x 5ft 6inches. No 'squeezers' or crimp had been supplied to seal the lead seals on the mailbags, so on arrival at Colombo the bags were taken to the General Post office there and sealed with wax. The General Post Office refused to lend their wax sealer, so eventually the New Zealanders used a NZ brass button on the wax.' -

Ref: The Great War - R M Startup. - unpublished manuscript.

This Seal:

Was this type of seal issued to all troopships, or is it a 'one off' that has never been issued?

Did the postal officer on the "Tofua", not know that they were using sealing wax instead of the crimped lead seals, and this is why he couldn't find them?

Unfortunately, we will probably never know, as whatever was used would have been destroyed when the bags were opened at the GPO when they arrived in New Zealand.

Robert Duns

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

EST. 1974

Licensed Auctioneers





**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.