

CAPTAIN COQK

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1954 QEII Middle Values By De La Rue



The above print was taken from a die engraved at De La Rue and Sons, the printers for the QEII middle values of the 1954 definitive set. It is an absolutely exquisite piece of engraving and closely matches the photo taken by Dorothy Wilding and used for the design of the issued stamp. The print measures 103 x 140mm and is printed on unwatermarked paper and is without gum. I am unsure as to the purpose of engraving this larger version of the design; however it provides a wonderful "go with" for the issued stamps.

Stephen Jones

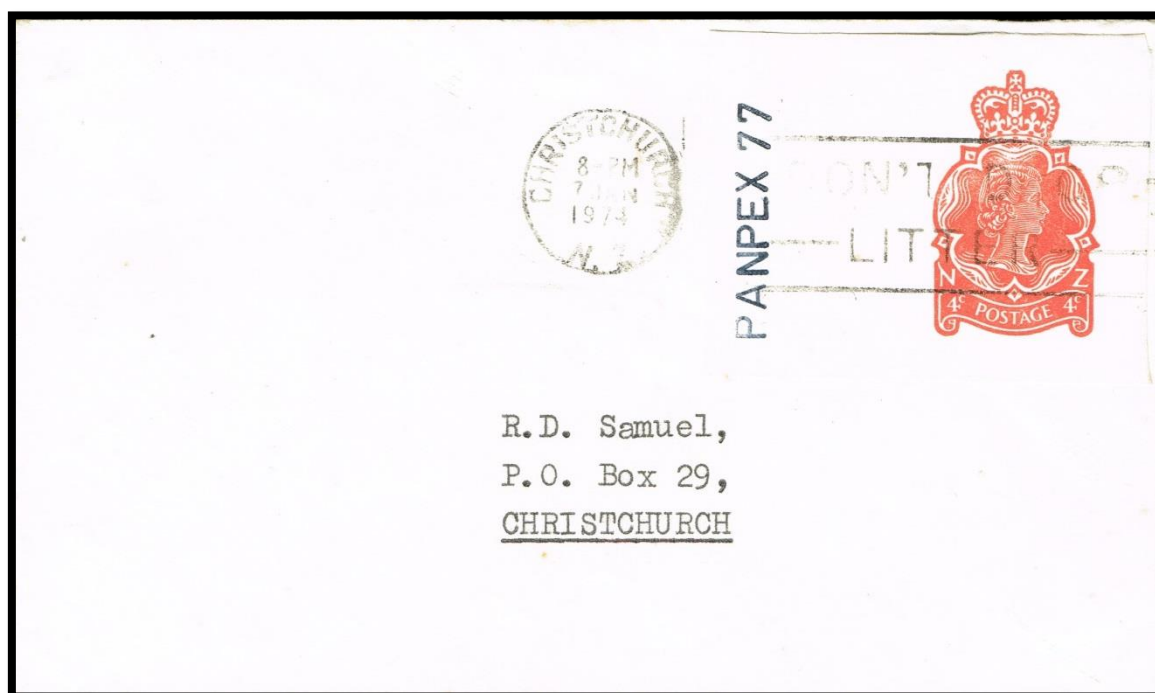
PANPEX 77 Stamped Adhesive Labels

To help boost the supporting membership for the 1977 National Philatelic Exhibition in Christchurch, it was decided to apply to have an adhesive postage label stamped with an obsolete postal stationery die.

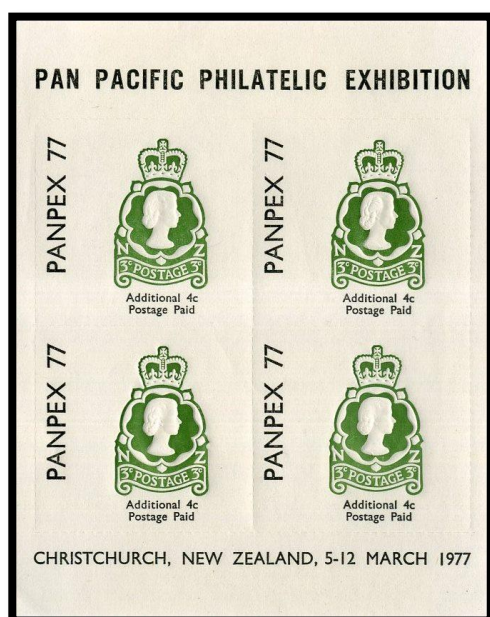
Initially, the application made to New Zealand Post Office was declined as they thought it would cause confusion for PO staff.

The exhibition committee decided to test Post's concern by creating a trial label from a 4¢ stationery envelope cut-out with a rubberstamped 'PANPEX 77' alongside. This was attached to a self-addressed envelope and posted. I understand that only a couple of these trial envelopes were posted at Christchurch on January 7, 1974.

For a much larger story about the labels and other stationery produced for the exhibition, see the relevant chapters in 'The Postage Stamps of New Zealand. Volume IX' published by the RPSNZ (copies held in the CPS library, Ed).



Paul Wales



Issued label format



Proof sheet, black on card (courtesy R Wooders)

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY 5 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

FEBRUARY 13 SOCIETY MEETING **MILES DILLON**
Missionaries, Mining and the Mountain

MISSIONARIES, MINING and the MOUNTAIN

FEBRUARY 20 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

MARCH 5 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

MARCH 13 SOCIETY MEETING **MEMBER'S NIGHT**
The Numbers 3, 4, 5, & 6

MARCH 20 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

MARCH 27 POSTCARD GROUP

APRIL 2 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

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

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(website) www.cps.gen.nz
(emails) Use the "Contact" facility in the website

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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

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1909 Imperial International Exhibition Lettercard

In the first two decades of the 20th century a series of five exhibitions were held at The Great White City in Shepard's Bush, London. These exhibitions were designed to showcase the industries and products of the United Kingdom and other countries with the first being the Franco-British Exhibition in 1908. Primarily a celebration of British and French industry, culture, and empire, it attracted over 8.5 million visitors in the 5½ months it was open.



New Zealand lettercard sold at the 1909 Imperial International Exhibition, London

The Imperial International Exhibition was held the following year, opening on May 22 and closing sometime in October. The second exhibition retained many of the original exhibits from the previous year and focused on the imperial achievements of the triple-entente powers: France, Russia, and Britain. New Zealand also had a pavilion there and this would have been from where the above lettercard, the first example that I have seen, was sold to visitors. Unfortunately it is very fragile, and was in two pieces and missing parts of the gummed edging when I acquired it. While I am unable to add anything to the card's origin or background, it provides a nice New Zealand philatelic link to this exhibition.

By all accounts the New Zealand pavilion made quite an impression on visitors and the Exhibition judges as the 1909, October 23 edition of the Auckland Star (Papers Past) has the following report:

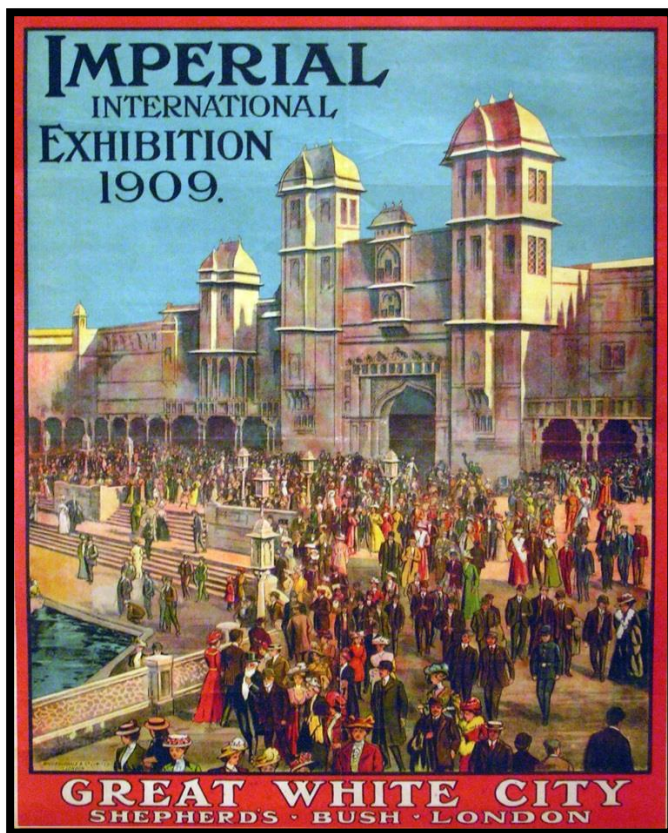
"So pleased are the Exhibition judges with the New Zealand pavilion at the Imperial International Exhibition (writes our London correspondent) that they intend to recommend the granting of a "very special award" to New Zealand. The judges paid their visit to the pavilion this week. Usually no indication of their verdict is given until the awards are made known, but on this occasion the judges expressed their approval in unmistakable terms while making their rounds of the court. The decision to recommend a special award was unanimous. "This magnificent pavilion, the finest in the whole Exhibition," was the description applied to the New Zealand court by the chairman of the Judging Committee. The committee comprised some of the leading merchants in the city, and they were loud in their praises of "that wonderful little colony," as the chairman called it. Their inspection was anything but perfunctory. They examined every exhibit, and to show how careful was their scrutiny I may mention that they pulled out threads from the woolen exhibit and examined them under the microscope. The awards will be officially announced later."



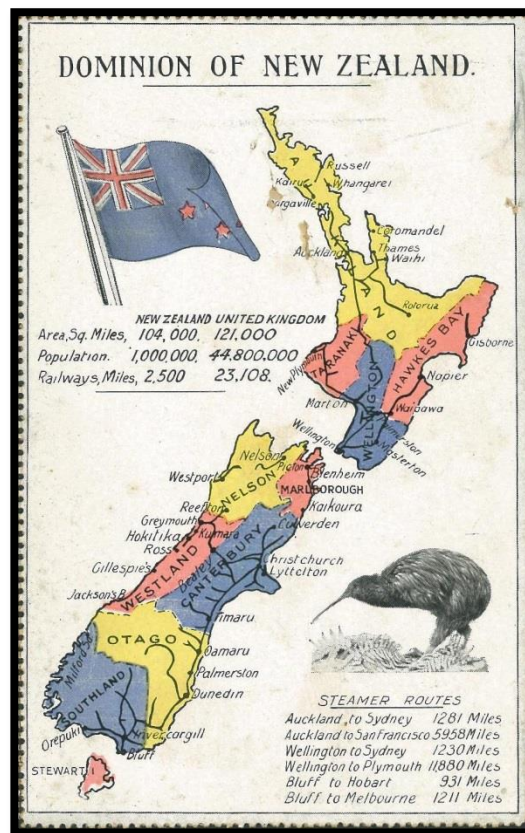
Cinderella for the Exhibition

The report goes on further to say that:

"Thousands of Australians have come to see the New Zealand exhibits this year, and there have been many grumbles on their part over Australia's absence from the list of exhibitors. Australian opinion seems to be that the Commonwealth made a mistake in standing out and leaving the field this year to New Zealand."



Advertising poster for the exhibition



Back half of the lettercard

In a style typical of the period, the above advertising poster shows the exhibition in a very exotic light. It would probably have seemed that way too for many of the visitors. Model villages had been constructed, including a West African Dahomey village and a nomad's camp from central Asia and these would have seemed like another world compared to the homes where the majority of the visitors came from.

Stephen Jones

1889 Dunedin Exhibition Postmarks



The 1889 Dunedin Exhibition ran for a little under five months attracting over 600,000 visitors. As was the case in other similar events, there was a post office in operation at the site.

Examples of the postmarks are very difficult to find, with covers almost non-existent. The overseas ebay vendor of these two fine examples wasn't aware of this and listed them

as simplified used examples of each of the values. I imagine he would have been pleasantly surprised at the final sales figure as they went for well over NZ\$100 each. Still, good buying for the winner of them both.

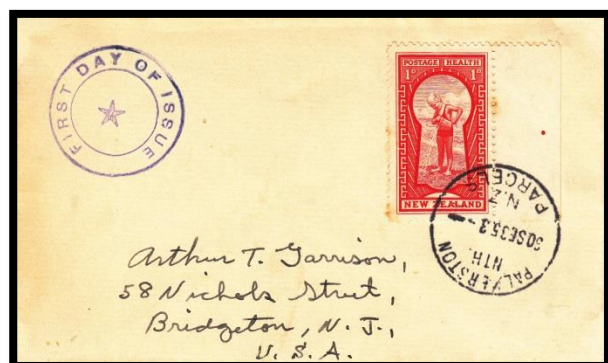
Stephen Jones

Arthur Garrison; Producer Of New Zealand Cacheted Covers

Some members may have come across what I would term "Garrison" covers. These were covers produced by a collector, Arthur T Garrison, living in the USA and with an almost romantic fascination for all things New Zealand and Maori. Over a period of about three years, from late 1946 through to late 1949, Garrison sent 100's of stamped, self addressed covers to all the post offices that presumably he was aware of in New Zealand, with a request to the office Postmaster to sign and post back to him.



Cachet featuring Tamati Waka Nene, unusual in that the cover is unsigned by the Postmaster at Milton. Each of the covers was illustrated with one of 24 different cachets, typically textual, that he had designed, covering a range of themes or subjects from New Zealand flora and fauna to geographical features and Maori chiefs. The cachets are found printed in either black or blue, with 18 textual and six with drawings of Maori chiefs. Due to the text of one of the cachets, it is possible he may also have collected NZ Pacific Islands. Garrison marked the covers with pencil lines to indicate where the Postmaster was to sign the cover.



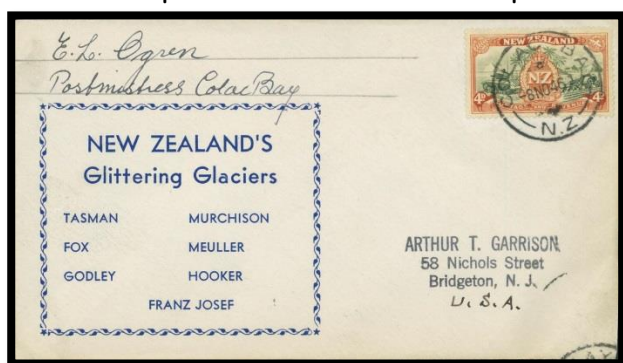
1935 Health, First Day Cover to Garrison from a collector in New Zealand



1949, Garrison's printed stationery, advising of his "Specialising In New Zealand" covers

Garrison looks to have been exchanging philatelic items with New Zealand collectors from as early as 1935 until at least 1949 but I imagine his collecting life would have spanned a number of decades. His personalised stationery announced he was a collector of US Army and Navy covers and specialised in New Zealand. I did a search on the internet for information but without success. I was a little surprised, as given his apparent enthusiasm for collecting

souvenir covers and that he would have been active for some years, I thought a reference of some description would have turned up.



Typical example of a Garrison cover



Pacific Islands cachet used in New Zealand



When I was acquiring them, I was able to select from a considerable quantity (100s) of examples and are certain that the cachets I have shown would represent all the different designs that Garrison employed. Other than the Pacific Island themed example, I don't recall any being obviously more, or less, common than another.

The selection had already been checked for scarcer postmarks but my interest was in the different cachets and many of the covers used out of period stamps from earlier in the 1940's or from the 1937 Coronation issue. The balance of the accumulation has yet to arrive on the market although odd examples turn up now and again.

It is unknown what sparked Garrison's passion in things New Zealand but he was clearly prepared to spend a lot of time and money to add to his collection.

Stephen Jones

Indian Ocean Raid (cont)

The Japanese naval force for Operation C had six modern carriers, four fast battleships, two fast heavy cruisers, and an assortment of destroyers and support vessels. The carriers carried 350 planes including the famed Mitsubishi A6M "Zero" fighter. This force left Staring Bay, Celebes on March 26, 1942. The ships and aircraft were modern, and the crews' battle experienced. The British Navy in the Indian Ocean, commanded by Admiral Somerville, had three aircraft carriers (only two were fast); five battleships (only one was fast); two heavy cruisers; and an assortment of light cruisers, destroyers and other vessels.



Propaganda Postcard of Mitsubishi A6M "Zero" fighters on a carrier



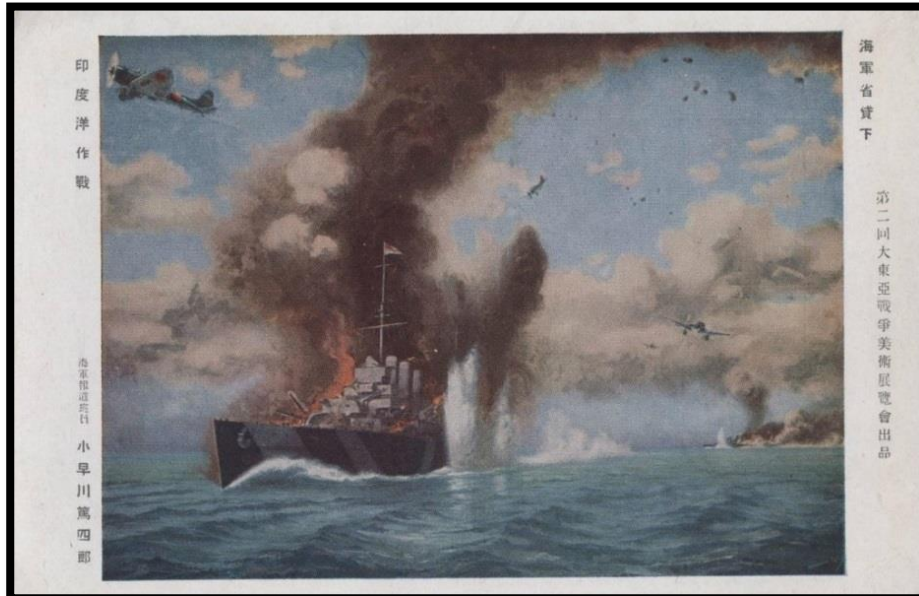
Military mail from "Port T" in the Maldives

For air defence/attack, the carriers had only 93 aircraft of which 33 were fighters that were no match for the Zero. Ceylon had 6 fighter squadrons which were again outclassed by the Zero. The British fleet had been hastily put together and did not have battle experience. Somerville had removed the fleet from Ceylon to the secret naval base, "Port T", Addu Atoll, Maldives Islands.

Signal decrypts provided Somerville with warning of the Japanese raid. The fleet left Port T, to meet the attack expected on April 1 or 2.

However, Operation C was delayed by several days. When the expected attack failed to take place, Somerville incorrectly thought that an attack was not imminent. He sent the carrier HMS Hermes, with HMS Vampire, back to Trincomalee for repairs. The heavy cruiser HMS Cornwall was sent to Colombo to meet a troop convoy along with Dorsetshire, to continue a needed refit. The rest of the fleet returned to Addu Atoll to refuel and re-supply. The first Japanese raids were against shipping in the Bay of Bengal beginning on April 4. They sank 23 ships. Five more were sunk by submarines off the Indian coast.

On the evening of April 4, the Japanese fleet was detected 640km south of Ceylon by a Catalina flying boat. The location of the fleet was transmitted before the Catalina was shot down. (The crew were captured by the Japanese, beaten, but survived the war). The British fleet was now too far away to intercept the attack. On April 5, Japan attacked the naval base at Colombo. They expected to find the British Indian Ocean Fleet, but the ships had dispersed and the harbour was mostly empty. Two old ships, Hector and Tenedos were sunk. Frustrated, search planes were sent to find the missing fleet.

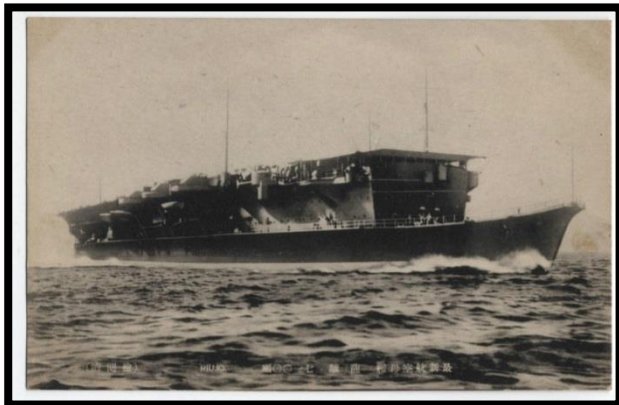


The search planes located the Cornwall and Dorsetshire 320 km southwest of Ceylon returning to the fleet. They were sunk, killing 424 men.

Sommerville knew he could not engage the Japanese fleet during the day, so devised a plan to use the ASV radar equipped Albacore bombers to attack the fleet at night.

Propaganda Postcard on the sinking of the Cornwall and Dorsetshire

In the late afternoon and early evening British naval aircraft made contact with the Japanese fleet. Both aircraft were shot down before an accurate report could be transmitted. The loss of the aircraft frustrated his plans. Somerville continued to probe for the Japanese fleet but failed to find them before dawn.



Postcard of aircraft carrier IJNS Ryujo



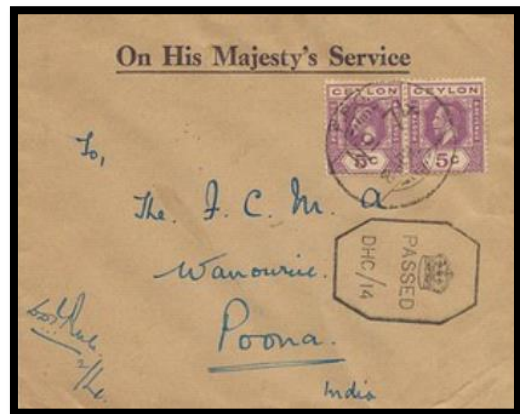
Postcard of aircraft carrier HMS Hermes c1930s

From April 5 to 7 a raiding force of heavy cruisers and the light carrier Ryujo, struck at British merchant shipping in the Bay of Bengal. In 48 hours 20 ships, totalling 93,000 tons, were sunk. Calcutta's port was at a standstill for three weeks. Somerville was helpless. On April 9, the Japanese attacked the British naval base at Trincomalee. Somerville again had warning. The carrier HMS Hermes and her escorts had left night before. They were returning to port with the hospital ship Vita when they were discovered. Hermes sank with the loss of 307 men. The destroyer HMAS Vampire and the corvette HMS Hollyhock, along with two merchant vessels were also sunk. The hospital ship Vita was not attacked.

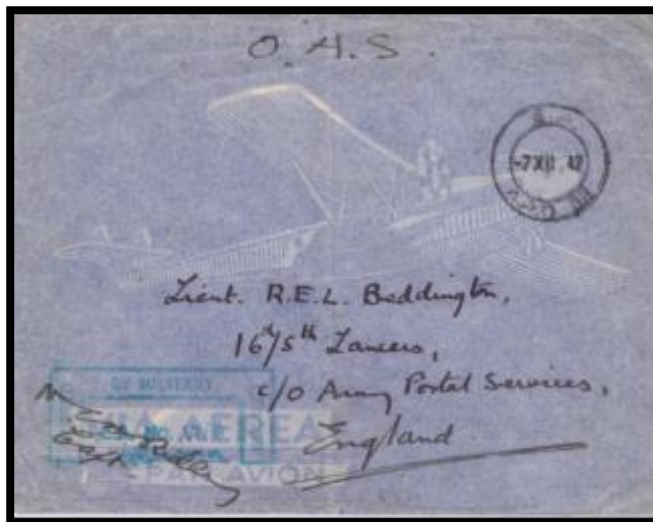
The carrier Ryujo launched airstrikes on Vizagatapan and Cocanada in India. They did little physical damage but frightened the Indian command, setting off an invasion scare that took

months to die down. In the face of the vulnerability of the British fleet, on April 9, Somerville orders the abandonment of Port T. The fast carriers and fast battleship go to Bombay and the slow battleships go to Mombassa. The Indian Ocean is, for all intents, unguarded.

On April 10, the Japanese fleet turns around and leave the Indian Ocean to prepare for the next operations: Operation MO the attack against Port Moresby via the Coral Sea; and Operation MI, the invasion of Midway. The Japanese fleet retired because it felt it had eliminated the greater part of the British surface power in the Bay of Bengal and India was not regarded as a dangerous source of attack. The feared invasion never materialises, Japan had neither the intention, nor the available manpower to invade Ceylon. The 16th and 17th Brigades leave Ceylon for Australia on July 13.



Military mail from Ceylon dated April 8, 1942



Military Mail cancelled December 7, 1942, postmarked APO 58, Diego Suarez, Madagascar

Britain feared that Japan would coerce Vichy France into letting Japan build submarine bases on Madagascar. To counter the threat, on 5 May 1942, Britain launched Operation Ironclad, the invasion of Madagascar.

The cable wars caused Australia to pass the "Statute of Westminster Adoption Act 1942", assented on October 9, 1942. Australia was now an independent country. It back dated the adoption to take effect on September 3, 1939, which made the hitherto illegal actions of the Australian government in regards to the troop movements valid.

Murray Taege

Errata

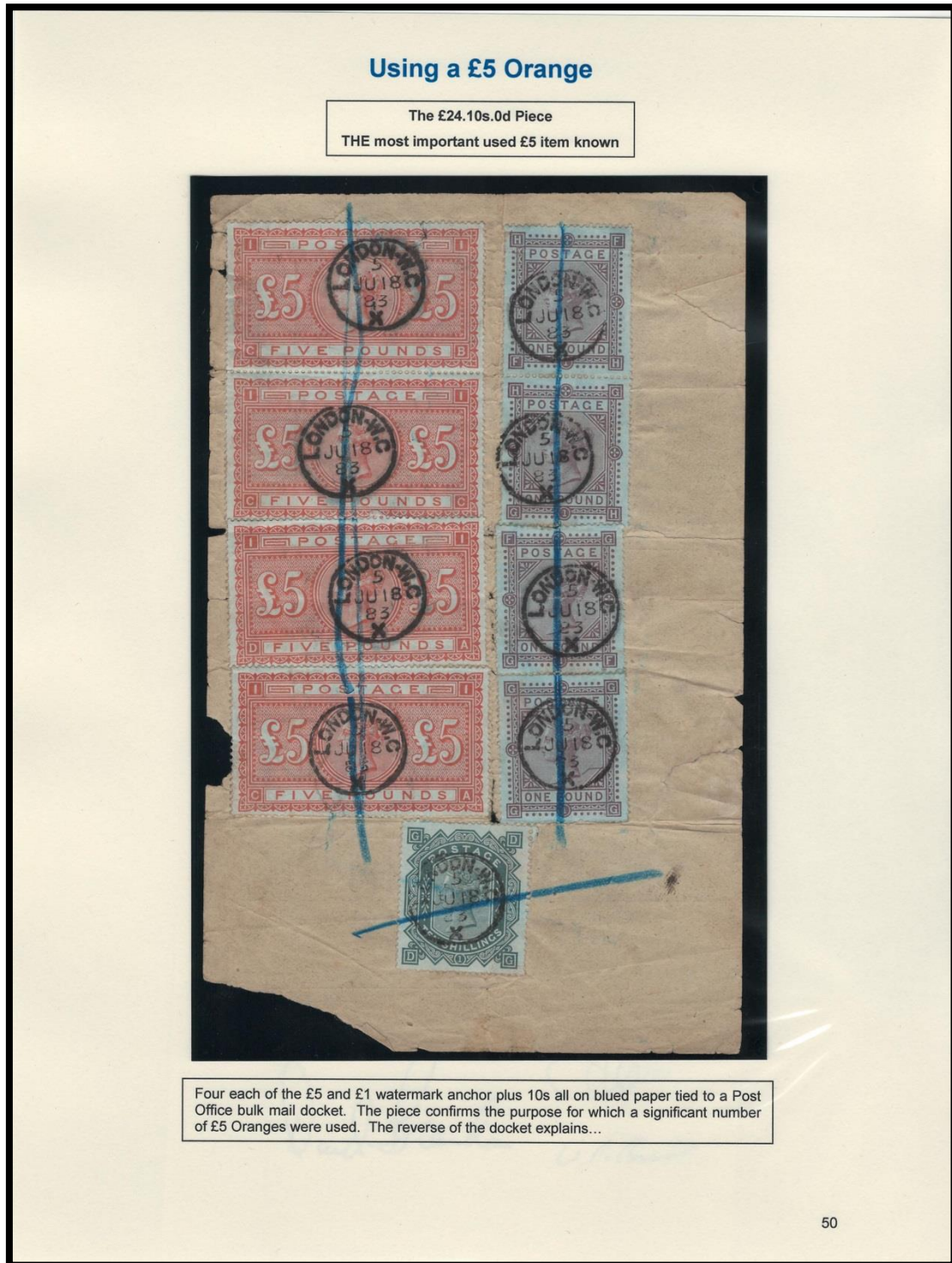


Alastair Watson has brought to my attention that my article in the December Captain Cook contained an error re the use of the term "Postage and Revenue" in postal stationery impressions. He quite correctly advised that at least two issues of Lettercards with either GV or 1935 impressions also included this text.

Stephen Jones

1882 UK £5 Orange

It would be fair to say that all collectors would be familiar with the £5 orange issued by the United Kingdom in 1882. The stamp and its fascinating story is the subject of a five frame (that's 80 pages!!!) display entered by Dr John Horsey at the Autumn Stampex in 2013. The page below is typical of the extraordinary range of material that forms the display.



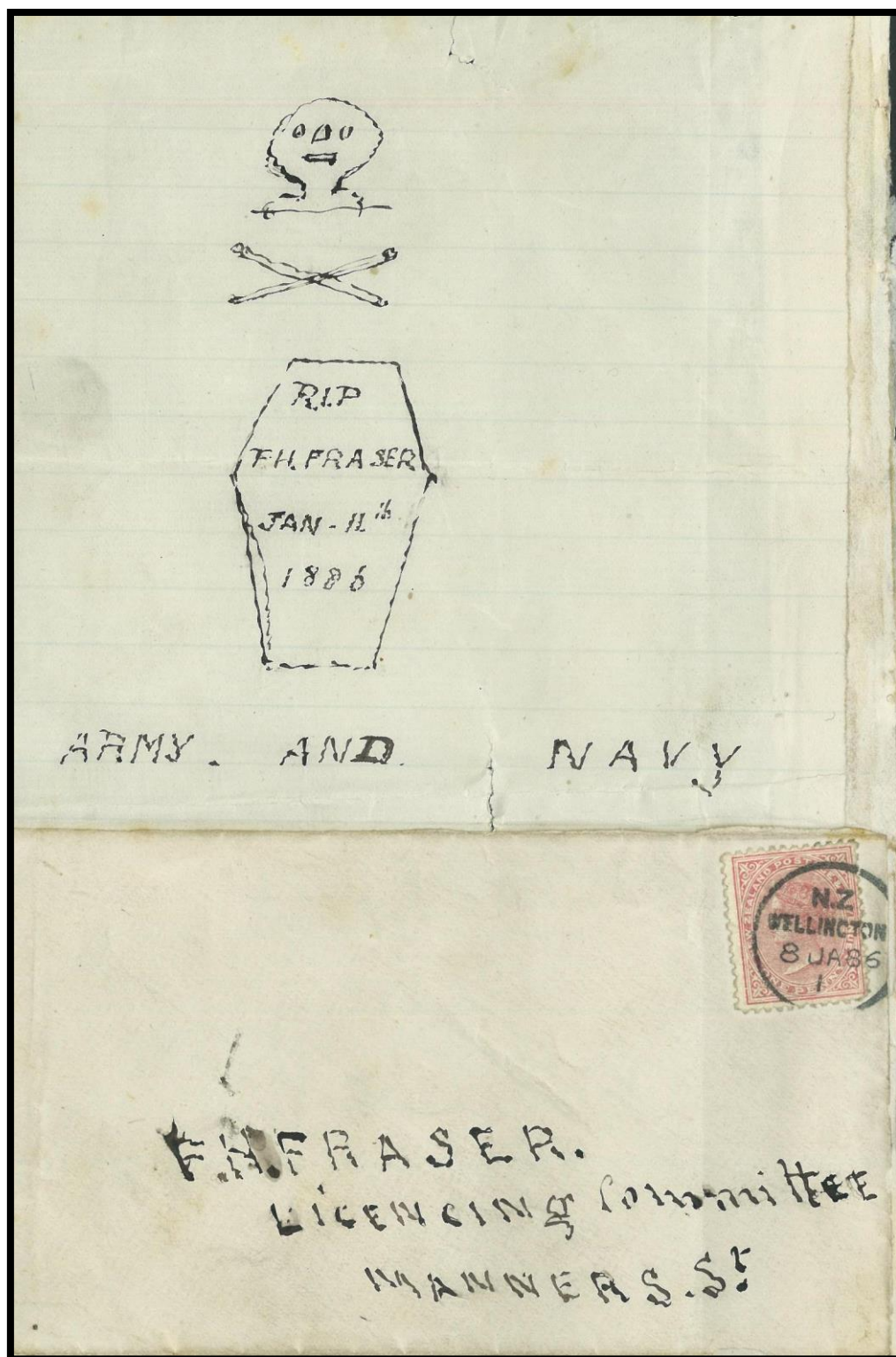
Fortunately for those of us collectors wading at the shallow end, the whole exhibit is available to view online. The following link <https://www.stanleygibbons.com/blog/5-pound-orange-stamp/> will take you to the Stanley Gibbons web page giving access to a .pdf of all five frames plus two other related articles, and <http://www.stampauctions.co.uk/5orangedisplay.htm> links to the 80 pages as individual .jpg files.

Even if you don't collect stamps from the UK, I would urge readers to have a look as it is impossible not to be impressed by both the stamps and the associated research.

Stephen Jones

A Mystery From 1886

Late last year I came across an intriguing item. It was a cover front glued onto a piece of lined note paper illustrated with a pen and ink drawing. The cover was postmarked January 8, 1886 and addressed to FH Fraser, The Licencing Committee, Manners Street. The drawing was very amateurish and was of a casket with skull and crossbones above it. The text in the casket reads "RIP FH FRASER JAN - 11th 1886" with the words "Army And Navy" written below the casket. The style of handwriting used for the address was rather childlike, probably in an attempt to disguise the writer's identity, and matched that of the text on the notepaper.



As I felt there was some purpose behind the item, it raised a whole raft of questions with me. Among them, just who was FH Fraser, what was the significance of January 11, and what did Army and Navy relate to? Hopefully Professor Google would shed some light on the matter.

My initial searches using the name, dates and address in various combinations proved fruitless. FH Fraser doesn't appear to have left much of a mark in New Zealand's history. I then tried Papers Past with more success.

I discovered that FH Fraser was the Chairman of the Cook Licencing Committee (Wellington) regarding liquor trading licences, and January 11, 1886, was the date of the next review hearing for the liquor licence for the Army and Navy Hotel. It turns out there was some technical complication with the permanent transfer of the licence, from William Gill to Henry Nicholson, and the matter had been subject to previous hearings, including December 21, to discuss the matter. The December hearing was quite lengthy with the police objecting to a Henry Nicholson going from being a temporary holder to being the permanent holder of the licence on the grounds that:

"..... that the said Henry Nicholson, during the time he has held the temporary transfer of the license, has conducted the house in an improper manner — to wit: That on the 2nd December instant he permitted drunkenness therein, by permitting two reputed prostitutes named Mary Ann Hobbins and Annie McKinlay to remain on the premises in a drunken and disorderly state for upward of two hours, and to be supplied with intoxicating liquors when in such state."

Although the police didn't object to any individual, other than Nicholson, being granted the licence, the majority of the committee (of five) including Fraser voted not to allow the transfer the licence thereby effectively closing the establishment. Nicholson's representative, a Mr Fitzgerald then requested an adjournment to enable an alternative person to be found to take on the licence. After further discussion during which Fraser made it very clear that he considered the matter, and therefore the hotel, closed, the committee agreed adjourn until January 11 in the New Year.

It appears the RIP note was an indication of someone's displeasure at Fraser's ongoing refusal to consider the liquor licence transfer, and was concerned this refusal would result in the closure of the Army and Navy Hotel.

During the January hearing, there was further debate centred on who currently held the licence. It was suggested that it reverted back to the previous holder (prior to Gill) however this wasn't possible as that individual already held a licence and wasn't permitted to hold more than one licence at a time. Some of the committee, including Fraser, felt the licence had effectively lapsed and therefore nothing other than closing the establishment could be the result. In the end, common sense looks to have prevailed and a temporary licence was then granted, presumably to a suitable alternative individual.

Now for the really exciting part. The "New Zealand Times" account of the hearing in the January 12 edition had one further fascinating piece of information (omitted from the previous days report and almost overlooked by me). It summarises Mr Fraser as saying:

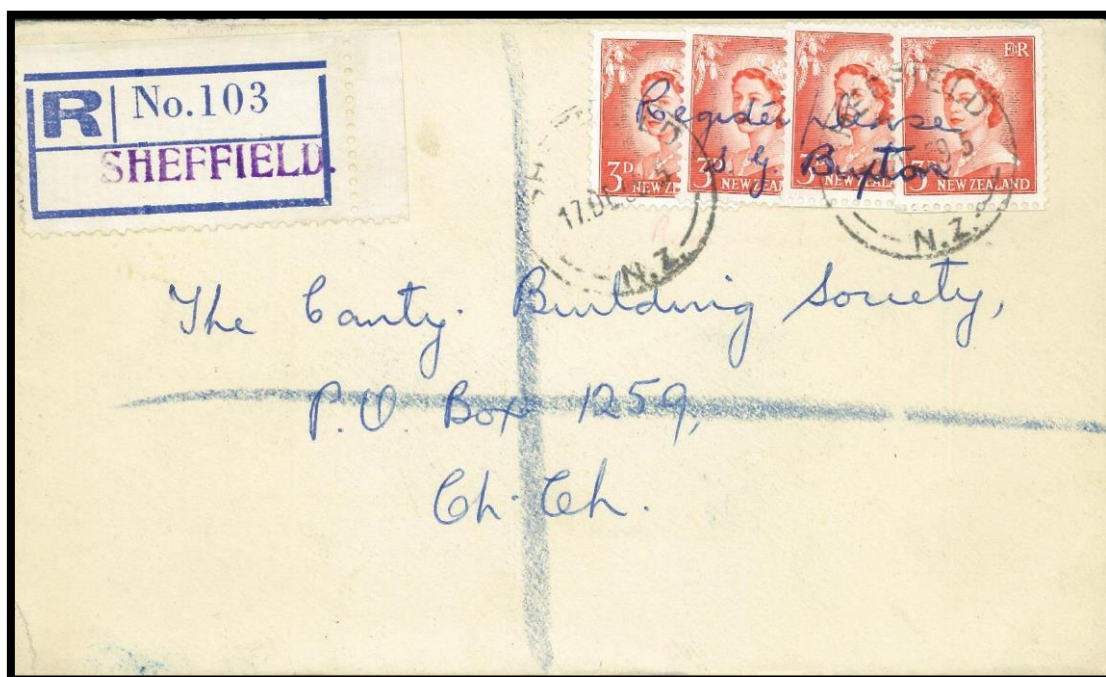
"So far as he was concerned, he was willing to act according to the Act, and to show favor to no one and neither threats nor bribes would induce him to act wrongly; either for or against a license; (Here Mr Fraser held up to the public view a missive which he had received, in which there was a rude sketch of a coffin, with his name inscribed upon it, and ornamented above with the orthodox death's head and cross bones.) One or two other members of the Committee, he said, had received that sort of thing."

I couldn't believe my eyes when I first read the report. Here was I holding the very same piece of paper that Fraser had held up at the meeting over 130 years ago. What incredible good fortune that not only had the cover and letter been retained and archived at the time, but to have found a contemporary account giving sufficient detail to identify the very item.

Not in the same league as the 1857 Tiflis stamp find, but never the less a rare survivor.

Stephen Jones

1959 Registered Mail Posted In Letter Box



Periodically you come across mail that the sender has wanted to be sent registered but for whatever reason, hasn't handed the mail over the counter to be correctly processed and receipted. The above is one such cover where the writer posted it as you would an unregistered letter, and has written across the stamps a request for the letter to be registered on arrival at the processing post office. In 1959, the combined postage and registration fee was 1/- so it was sufficiently franked for the service requested. While this was not ideal from the post office's perspective, the Sheffield Post Office has registered the letter and sent it on to the addressee.

Stephen Jones

1857 Tiflis 6 Kopek Update



Following the publication of the piece in December's Captain Cook, I was advised of further details about the discovery and subsequent auction of the stamp by Spinks. David Holmes from Auckland City Stamps (ACS) advised that the collection the stamp was found in was sold through one of the public auctions held by ACS, not Mowbray's as I had indicated. Also, contrary to what I had believed, the stamp did sell when put up for auction. The hammer price was £165,000, which once the buyer's premium and other costs were added, came to £198,000. I think most collectors would agree that's a pretty good result.

The "lucky" original purchaser of the collection has since been revealed as Dr Robin Gwynn RDP, FRPSNZ, and FRPSL. I use the term lucky in the respect of Robin purchasing the collection with this item not being identified at the time of purchase. However, obtaining the final certificate to say that the stamp was genuine needed a collector of Robin's philatelic knowledge and determination to persevere with the matter until the certificate was granted. Robin's account of this in the December issue of the New Zealand Stamp Collector is well worth a read.

Stephen Jones

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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.