

# CAPTAIN COQK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

ISSN 0122 - 9813 Num 796 (Vol 46 No 5)

June, 2018

# Express Delivery Service To Overseas Destinations

Back in the August, 2016 Captain Coqk, I wrote a piece on the reciprocal agreement whereby from July 1, 1938, mail sent from New Zealand to Australia with the express delivery fee paid in New Zealand would be accepted into the Australian express delivery mail stream. By 1939, the agreement had been expanded to a number of different British Empire countries and included the UK. Two fortunate acquisitions from the recent ACS and Mowbray's public auctions are examples showing express delivery usage to both those countries.



The example sent to Australia is a bit of a puzzle as it appears to be over franked by 2d. As it was sent by registered mail, the postage is made up of three elements: 5d for the airmail service to Australia, 4d for the registration and the additional 6d for the express delivery service on arrival at Temora post office in New South Wales. One clue is that the 2d stamp was applied in Hastings and not Havelock North, and another the index numbers in the datestamps.

In "J" Class datestamps, index numbers are used to denote time periods during the day as opposed to "C" Class where actual mail clearance times were included in the datestamp. Bear in mind that larger post offices broke the day into more periods, say 1-12, whereas smaller offices might only have used 1-4 so an index 3 in a smaller office would not represent the same time period as an index 3 from a larger office (thanks to Alan Jackson for clarity here)

I am indebted to Stephen Prest for providing a comprehensive response to my email query to him on the puzzle of the additional 2d stamp. A possibility that Stephen suggested was that the additional 2d fee arose because the letter was subjected to a "Late Fee" (2d as of October 1939) due to the letter being received after the close of mail for the day.

The index number in the Havelock North datestamp is 3, probably indicating the letter was received over the counter there after midday and during normal opening hours. The letter then travelled to Hastings for inclusion in the mailbag going to Auckland. After arriving at Hastings, an additional 2d fee has been levied and cancelled by a Hastings datestamp with an index number 8. Now, if there had been an element of mishandling at either Havelock North or Hastings resulting in the letter being delayed, then the Hastings postal officer may have treated this letter as being subject to a "Late Fee' and applied the extra 2d for this fee.

Guidance for the late posting of express delivery mail is found in Paragraph 5 of the Express Delivery Service section of the 1939 Postal Guide (page 51), which provides and states that "Express Delivery articles ... will be received up to the time for of receiving later letters" and also "Express delivery articles are not exempt from payment of late fee."

Now, as to the question of who paid for the 2d stamp, mishandling of a Registered Express Delivery article would be viewed as a serious transgression. An extract from the 1922 "Rules and Regulations for the Guidance of Officers" refers to errors relating to "Irregularities affecting registered or insured ......." being recorded in the quarterly error schedule and used to determine if a postal officer should be fined or not for a breach of regulations.

Stephen's view is that, as a minimum, the Hastings postal officer who was determined to be responsible for the unnecessary delay in handling the letter in Hastings would have to pay the 2d to cover the late fee on this letter. Another possibility is if the letter was delayed through the fault of the Havelock North post office, the 2d would be charged back to Havelock North. I have examples of correspondence where due to undercharging by the post office initially handling the mail, additional stamps to make up the correct rate have been applied at a transit post office with no possibility of reclaiming back the cost from the addresser, leaving the initial post office liable for the cost of the additional postage applied.



The cover to the United Kingdom is a much simpler affair and the sole example I have recorded. Correctly franked, it pays the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d "All Up" rate to the UK and a 6d Fernleaves express delivery stamp for the service in the UK. The entry on page 410 of Alcock & Hollands book "The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland" refers to the rectangular "Express Fee Paid 6d" marking used to confirm the letters acceptance into the UK express mail delivery stream with no additional fees required.

Then there is still the question; why would anyone pay for a premium delivery service given the relatively extended period for the letter to travel to the addressee's local post office?

Stephen Jones

#### SOCIETY PAGE

### PROGRAMME

JUNE 4 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

JUNE 12 SOCIETY MEETING Annual Society Competition

8 and 16 page entries

# Annual Club Competition

Not long now, time's tick tick ticking so get stuck in and get those pages finished for the June meeting

JUNE 19 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

JULY 2 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

JULY 10 SOCIETY MEETING Member's Night

The letters F, N, T & Z

JULY 17 LIBRARY NIGHT Open to all members

JULY 24 POSTCARD GROUP Royalty Postcards

Shirley Bone MC

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

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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 Zeeland

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#### 1898 Horizontally Imperf Between Forgery

Readers may recall in August 2017, I wrote a piece on a cover franked with a forgery of an imperf between pair of 1898 2ds on cover. Well, a similar item has shown up, this time a postcard, with a forgery of an 1898  $\frac{1}{2}$ d horizontally imperf pair used on it. The auction listing made no mention of the variety and it is not an impossibility the (Canadian) vendor didn't note the apparent usage of this scarce variety.



It is quite cleverly executed and it's only when you look closely, that the small discrepancies with the datestamps become noticeable. The maker has very skilfully drawn in the missing part of the Whangaehu "A" class cancellation and placed the pair to have the base of the lower stamp of the pair fractionally over the Dannevirke cancel. This has allowed him to mark the lower stamp so as to appear the Dannevirke cancel is tying it to the postcard.

Proof material in a suitable colour of the redrawn  $\frac{1}{2}$ d value looks to have become available to collectors at an early date, while proof material for the original London Print issue is far less common and probably wasn't readily available at the time to fabricate this item.



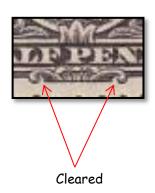
Proof, 1898 original issue in purple brown



Proof, 1900 redrawn in green



Proof, 1900 redrawn in purple brown











Unfortunately for the creator of the item, it is very easy to distinguish between stamps printed from the plate used for the original 1898 issue  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and that used for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps of redrawn issue from 1900.

While there are other variations between the designs used for the two plates, the most readily apparent difference is with the device at the centre bottom of the design, under the letters "HALF PENNY" of the value.

With the 1898 issue, where the leaf curls over, the area under the curl has been cleared whereas with the 1900 issue this area has been left uncleared. At a glance, items like this will appear to be the real thing but with further examination this difference is very easy to see.

Stephen Jones

## 1937 Dunedin Chief Post Office Opening



Well, someone had to do it. Thanks to Andrew McGowan for providing this image of a Dunedin Post Office opening cover franked with a 2d 1931 Health stamp.

Stephen Jones

#### AIR SERVICE INTERRUPTED/Air Service Cancelled

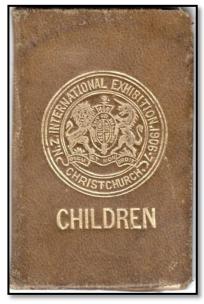
Robin Gwynn RDP FRPSL and Brian Peace FRPSL APR are producing a study of these cachets which appeared on NZ mail between 1936 and 1976. A preliminary census has identified over 120 examples. It would be helpful if members with examples would forward colour scans to Brian at brpeace@ntlworld.com including scans of the reverse where back-stamps exist. Scans of covers from the flights on 30 September-2 October 1947 are not required.



Twenty examples were in the collection of the late John Nielsen. It would be helpful if any member is able to say what happened to his collection. Robin Gwynn sent a set of photocopies of the Nielsen covers to the late Jim Stapleton in 1991; information as to the whereabouts of these copies is also requested.

#### 1906 Christchurch Exhibition Ticket

A recent Trade Me listing from Shades Stamps elicited spirited bidding before being knocked down for \$716. This Children's Season ticket for the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition was the first that Steven had seen and a great "go with" for any collector of that issue.





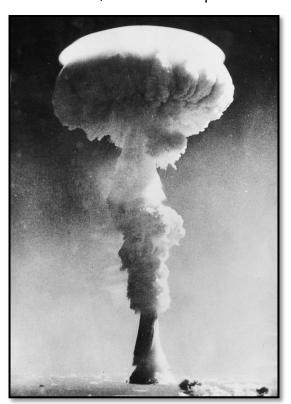
Stephen Jones

### 1957 Operation Grapple Atomic Bomb Tests

One of the listings in a recent Mowbray's auction was a cacheted cover for the 1957 British nuclear weapons tests codenamed "Operation Grapple". These tests were conducted on Christmas Island, a coral atoll in the northern Line Islands and now part of Kiribati. The covers are not common but what set this example apart was that it was franked with New Zealand stamps, rather than the usual British stamps and the first such that I had seen.



During WWII, the British had merged their nuclear weapons project, codenamed Tube Alloys, with the US Manhattan Project. Post war, the British felt they were falling behind with the technology and resumed atomic bomb development culminating in a successful test in October 1952, codenamed "Operation Hurricane".



The mushroom cloud from "Short Granite"

In July 1954, the British Cabinet gave the go ahead to begin development of thermonuclear weapons, or hydrogen bombs.

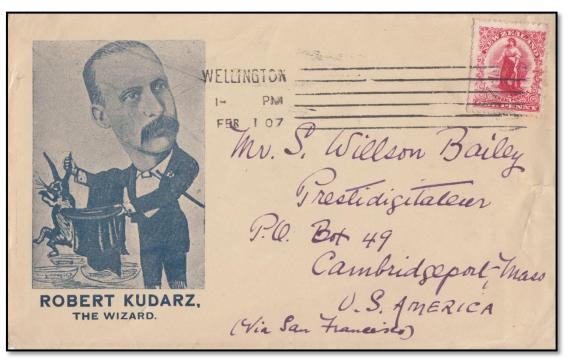
On successfully completing preliminary tests in 1956, they began looking around for suitable sites in the Pacific region. After looking at a number of sites including The Antipodes and Kermadec Islands (the Holland government refused them permission), they settled on Christmas Island, with the actual tests being conducted at Malden Island about 700 kms south.

The series of tests were conducted in four groups. The above cover is associated with the first of the series called "Grapple" with three devices, codenamed "Short Granite", "Orange Herald" and "Purple Granite", tested. The final tests were carried out in August and September, 1958, completed just prior to the nuclear test moratorium starting in October.

Stephen Jones

#### 1907 Robert Kudarz: Magician

Illustrated covers are always a nice addition to a collection with many interesting or unusual covers are found used in the first decade of the  $20^{th}$  century. The following cover with a wonderful caricature of the magician Robert Kudarz, is a fine example of what can be found with patience.



A search on the internet was fairly productive, primarily with numerous newspaper articles relating to his shows available through the Papers Past website. One website site, https://robertkudarz.com/newzealand/ had some limited biographic details on him.



Flyer, probably pre 1900, for the Princess Theatre in Wanganui

His real name was Thomas Driver and he was born in around 1857. Newspaper references in later years indicate that he was born and raised in Wanganui and refers to him .doing his apprenticeship working in the office of the Wanganui Herald newspaper.

It appears that Driver began performing early in the 1880's, adopting the stage name Kudarz early in 1883, with the first printed reference for him found in a November issue of Wellington's Evening Post.

He appeared in a benefit held for a seriously ill local resident with "TW Driver In his SEANCE OF MODERN ILLUSIONS" advertised as performing the second half of a benefit. Apparently some of the entertainment wasn't up to much but it said of Kudarz, "...performed throughout without a hitch, the sudden disappearance of a silver birdcage, containing a canary, from his hands, while among the audience, causing great applause."

By April 1883, Thomas Driver had begun touring under his famous non-de-plume: "Mr Robert Kudarz - The most Versatile Prestidigitateur ... in his famous entertainment - 'A Night of Miracles'"

Together with an offsider - 'Verno' - they toured through the Wairarapa, then further north through to Taranaki. Many of the reports would be at pains to state that the entertainment was top rate but the houses often disappointing. By June, they hit Auckland with the Auckland Star reviewer stating "...there can be but one opinion regarding the performer, and that is that he is remarkably clever."

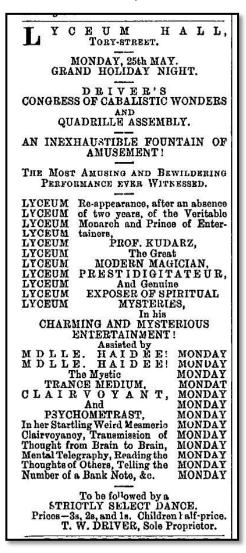
Driver returned to Wellington and gave a scattering of performances in the region through August and September, then toured again, to the South Island, in December 1883 - May 1884 with the 'Kudarz and Globe Variety Company'. The billing variously changed and by February 1884, Kudarz and Verno were the 'royal illusionists and anti-spiritualists'." What is clear from the reports on these early tours is that Kudarz was highly accomplished at sleight of hand, performing many now classic card and handkerchief tricks, disappearing birdcages and reappearing money among others.

Many of Kudarz' audience had already had the opportunity to see magical performers and may well have seen many of the tricks Kudarz performed before, but he was often credited as a "really clever professor of the art" What impressed many, was that the feats were performed in front of their noses, and not high up on the stage. The Otago Daily Witness wrote "...all of this is done, not on stage, but in the body of the house, where the audience ought to be able to discover the trick" a sentiment seen more than once in reports.

In June of 1885, Driver married Ellen "Nellie" Lingard from Napier. The month before their marriage, Nellie had debuted as "Miss Haidee - the mystic trance medium, clairvoyant and psychometrast" Nellie's proficiency in the art of escape and her exposés of spiritualism were key to the success of future performances. 'Professor Robert Kudarz - the Wizard of the World' was now a quality double act. Oddly, a year before an advert appeared in the Evening Post advertising to sell his stage equipment for £50.

Unfortunately detailed online information on Driver becomes very sparse after 1890 but it appears that he travelled to Australia and spent almost a decade through the 1890's touring the country, returning to New Zealand at the turn of the century to settle in Wellington.

Driver was also a very vocal sceptic of spiritualists, describing himself as "the Famous Anti-Spiritualist" in one advert. Elements of Driver's show were designed to demonstrate that no supernatural gifts were required to replicate their acts. A piece in the June 30, 1917 Wanganui Herald describes Driver as coming out of retirement to challenge Charles Baily, a visiting spirit medium "..to produce manifestations under strictly test conditions, and under the critical eye of a conjurer" Apparently Bailey didn't take up the challenge and left the country soon after.



Evening Post, May 23, 1885

Although working in his trade as a compositor, the references in Papers Past show that he was still performing shows through to his death in December 1922, aged 65.

Stephen Jones

#### The Race To Baku

The race for Baku in 1918 was the final play in the Caucasus Campaign. It started on 1 November 1914, when Russian forces entered eastern modern Turkey. It was in response to the Ottoman Navy, who without a declaration of war, bombarded Russian Black Sea ports on the 29 October. It encompassed the Transcaucasian Republics (Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) northern Iran and eastern modern Turkey.









Stamps of Azerbaijan

The race was between the Germans, the Ottomans, and the British as to who would control the oil rich city of Baku, Azerbaijan, on the Caspian Sea. From the reign of Empress Catherine II ("the Great") of Russia, Russian expansion into the Caucasus and Central Asia started.

The Persian part of the Caucasus region was secured after Treaty of Turkmenchay, 10 February 1828, which concluded the Russo-Persian War (1826-28). The Ottoman part of the Caucasus was secured by the Treaty of San Stefano, March 3, 1878, which ended the 1878 Russo-Turkish War. The Ottoman Empire ceded its eastern Anatolian provinces to Russia which included Batum and Kars.



Russia 1909 postmarked "KAPCb" (Kars)



Persian mail from Hamadan with Russian military censor cachet

The growing Russian expansion into central Asia, caused Britain and its Indian Raj to fear possible Russian designs on India. This was the cause of the "Great Game": the Anglo-Russian contest for the mastery of central Asia. Fear of growing German influence in the area, saw Britain and Russia settle their differences relating to central Asia. In the Anglo-Russian Convention, 31 August 1907, in Persia: the Russian sphere of influence would be in the north; while the British would be in the south.

In the Caucasus Campaign, by the end of 1916 the Russian forces had overrun Trabzon, Erzican and Van in Turkish Eastern Anatolia. They were poised to advance towards Constantinople to the west and to meet the British forces advancing from the south in a pincer movement, which could have knocked the Ottoman Empire out of the war. However, the political turmoil caused by the Russian revolutions in 1917 meant that throughout 1917

the Russian armies in the Ottoman Empire did nothing. By the beginning of 1918 many of the Russian units had disintegrated as the soldiers simply went back home.



Russian military mail from Trabzon cancelled 25 Jan 1917 (OS)

Germany added Transcaucasian independence as part of the new terms in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. It was to gain access to Baku and its oil wealth.

An oil pipeline and rail connected Baku, Azerbaijan, with the Black Sea port of Batum, Georgia. From Batum, oil could be shipped to Crimean or Romanian ports and onto Germany

With German encouragement, Georgia rejected onerous Ottoman peace terms and declared independence on May 26, 1918. A Georgian delegation met with a German delegation at Poti, Georgia, to negotiate for German military assistance to stop the Ottoman advance.

The Treaty of Poti was signed on May 28. In return for guaranteeing its territorial integrity, Germany would have free access to Georgian rail and port facilities (for oil transportation) and could station troops in Georgia. June 3, the 3,000 strong Expedition Germany's Caucasian (Military Mission in the Caucasus) arrived in Georgia. On June 10, a skirmish occurred at Vorontsovka. Georgia, Ottoman between Georgian-German troops.



German field post with Imperial German Delegation in Caucasus cachet

The capture of German troops outraged the German High Command. They threatened to withdraw their support of the Ottoman Empire if they continued. The Ottomans complied and evacuated Georgia. However, the Ottomans effectively bypassed Georgia and side-lined the German troops.

On December 5, 1917, the armistice of Erzincan was signed between the Russians and Ottomans. Armenian troops were used to replace the Russian troops which were heading home. On February 5, 1918 the Ottoman offensive began. They retook Erzincan on 13 February and the Black Sea port of Trabzon on February 24. On March 24, Ottoman forces were crossing the 1914 frontier into the Russian Empire. On April 4, Van had changed hands several times, but on April 6, Van was firmly in Ottoman hands.

In the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, the Bolsheviks ceded Batum and Kars to the Ottoman Empire. A peace conference between The Ottomans and the Transcaucasian Diet was convened on March 14. The Ottomans offered to surrender all claims in the Caucasus in return for recognition of the return of the east Anatolian provinces to the Ottoman Empire.

On April 5, the Transcaucasian delegation accepted this and urged member states to also agree. Georgia disagreed and acknowledged a state of war between themselves and the

Ottoman Empire. On April 14, the Ottomans captured the port of Batumi. On April 23, Ottoman forces laid siege Kars, now under the effective Armenian control. The Transcaucasian delegation had ordered the surrender of Kars, ignoring Armenian protests, but were ignored themselves. With no effective relief possible, Kars surrendered on April 25.





Stamps of Georgia

With the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Britain feared that Transcaucasia, especially Baku with its oil, would fall to Germany or the Ottomans. Dunsterforce was formed in December 1917, to organise local replacements for the Russian Caucasus Army, now gone. Commanded by Major-General LC. Dunsterville, it was called the "Hush-Hush Party" due to its secrecy.

On May 11, a new peace conference opened at Batum. The Ottomans extended their demands to include a large portion of Georgia and Armenia. The Armenian and Georgian members stalled. Throughout late May 1918, Ottoman forces attacked Armenian positions but were defeated. Although victorious, Armenia was exhausted and was forced to sign the Treaty of Batumi on June 4. The Ottomans resumed their drive into Georgia. After the Ottoman-German clash on June 10, they concentrated on Baku.

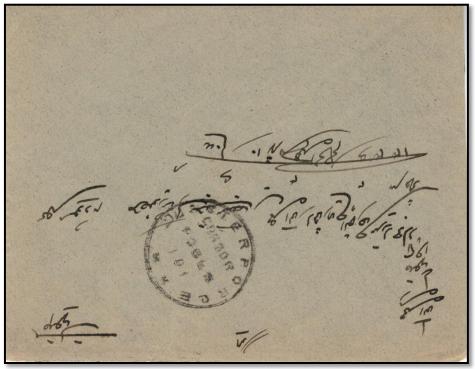


Ottoman field post postmarked Batumi, during their occupation

With the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Britain feared that Transcaucasia, especially Baku with its oil, would fall to Germany or the Ottomans. Dunsterforce was formed in December 1917, to organise local replacements for the Russian Caucasus Army, now gone. Commanded by Major-General LC. Dunsterville, it was called the "Hush-Hush Party" due to its secrecy. It was to drive 1,100 km from Mesopotamia via northern Persia to the Caspian port of Enzeli (Bandar-e Anzali), then to Baku by ship.

They arrived in Baghdad on March 28. On January 27, Dunsterville went to check on the situation in Baku. After securing what was once Russian controlled northern Persia, he reached Enzeli, February 17. They couldn't go further and returned to Hamadan February 20. On May 25, Dunsterforce troops reach Hamadan. 1 June, Dunsterforce departs Hamadan and arrived at Enzeli on June 27. On July 3, 4 armoured cars and a few troops depart Enzeli for Baku.

July 1 the Ottoman advance on Baku began. The Islamic Army of the Caucasus was formed on July 10, 1918 to mobilise Islamic support in Caucasia and Transcaspia. On July 25, with the aid of Dunsterforce, a coup d'état installed the "Centrocaspian Dictatorship" which appealed for British aid. Ottoman forces arrived at Baku on July 30. July 31, Ottoman forces attack but were defeated. Dunsterforce with 1,000 troops leave Enzeli for Baku on August 4. It began the task of training the Armenian troops at Baku into an army. They were no match for the Ottoman forces. On September 5, Ottoman forces attack from Tabriz which threaten to cut the lines of communication to Baku. Troops intended for Baku had to be diverted. Dunsterville realised the hopelessness of the situation and on September 14, evacuated Baku. Ottoman forces entered Baku on September 15. Fighting continued in Azerbaijan until the end of the Ottoman part of the war on October 30.



Local mail from Persia with Dunsterforce censor cachet

The Germans failed to secure the oil they were after for which they sent the German Caucasus expedition. The British failed to prevent the Ottoman capture of Baku with its Dunsterforce. Although the Ottoman Empire got little in oil or other resources prior to their capitulation, and its Caucasus campaign cost it the war, Turkey was the actual winner. Enva Pasha, Ottoman Prime Minister and the person responsible for bringing the Ottoman Empire into the war, realised the Turkish dream of regaining the eastern Anatolian provinces lost during the 1878 Russian-Ottoman War. The real losers were the Armenians who died in their 100,000s at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

Murray Taege







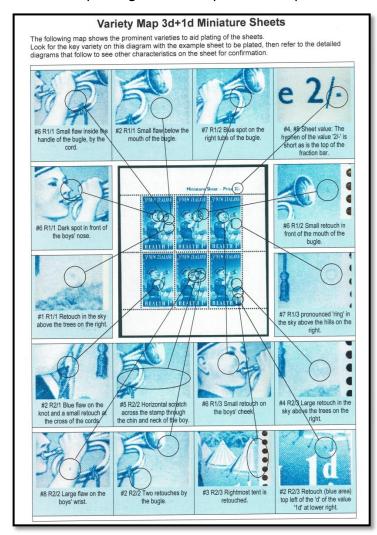
Stamps of Armenia

#### **Book Review**

NZ 1958 Health Brigade Children Plating Terry Hancox

This is another of the monographs entered in the 2017 15<sup>th</sup> NZ National Philatelic Literature Exhibition, organised by the Christchurch Philatelic Society Inc.

Terry has written a number of these monographs, and this one is very useful for identifying where in the printed sheet of 2 rows of 4 each of the individual miniature sheets was located. For those of you who might have a number of these sheets sitting in a duplicates stockbook, you might find they are not duplicates after all!



The monograph is spiral bound, so it lies perfectly flat when open at any page, The font is a good size, so is easily readable.

There are detailed tables throughout, but the main advantage of the publication is the enlarged full-colour images showing the specific identifying features of each of the miniature sheets.

For instance, Terry has listed 11 features on the row 1 number 1 miniature sheet which proves its location within the uncut sheet.

All the features are illustrated, so you can quickly decide which variations might be easier to see. A reasonable magnifying glass will assist. I have included part of his diagram to illustrate what I mean.

As well, Terry has identified dozens of the features which can be used to precisely locate each stamp within the regular full-sizes sheets of the stamps. I haven't counted them all, but there are eight A4 pages of tables detailing the identifying features just for the Girls Life Brigade stamp!

The publication was supported by the NZ Society of Great Britain (<a href="www.nzsgb.org.uk">www.nzsgb.org.uk</a>) and Terry has already completed 7 other similar monographs.

In NZ, W F(Frank) Parkinson has completed a similar series of monographs on, for instance, the 1898 Pictorial 1d Lake Taupo stamp. These publications are not easy to obtain, but the CPS library has a full range of Frank's monographs.

The advantage of such publications is that they open up whole new fields of collecting and, if nothing else, they will make your mind boggle at the amount of quality research such authors invest.

Reviewed by Jeff Long

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