

CAPTAIN COQK

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

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October, 2020

1867 “Cancelled” Fiscal Stamps

As a result of the passing of the *Stamp Duties Act, 1866* fiscal stamps were first used in New Zealand from January 1, 1867. The *Stamp Duties Act, 1866* was amended numerous times until replaced by the *Stamp Act, 1875*.

Recently, whilst processing an album of 1867 Queen Victoria, Die I, Long Type stamps for Mowbray Collectables, I came across two of these stamps unusually bearing “Cancelled” in manuscript rather than the date and/or a signature. They were 1/- and 5/- stamps shown below.



Obviously, any postage and/or fiscal stamp that bears pen marks etc, has been cancelled, so why was “Cancelled” applied?

The original documents bearing these stamps, when presented to the appropriate Stamp Office may well have been exempt from payment of stamp duty. Schedule II of the *Stamp Duties Act Amendment Act 1867* (dated October 10, 1867) sets out 11 exemptions in detail.

Whilst these stamps were affixed to documents in anticipation of paying the appropriate stamp duty, it is suggested that as there was no duty payable on them that the word “Cancelled” was applied and that the sums involved were reimbursed to the presenter of the documents. Of, course, it is also possible that these were properly used on a document; as the concept was new in 1867 it is suggested that perhaps the presenter of the document concerned did not fully understand that these were to be cancelled using one’s initials/name/date etc!

David Smitham

SOCIETY NEWS

Member's nights from a Committee perspective are always a bit "hit and miss". Sometimes the topic "hits" and we have plenty of participants and material, and sometimes it's a "miss" with us struggling to fill the hour and a half. Our September meeting was a "hit" with 13 participants and us going well over time. The topics were to commence with the letters Q, R, S, and T.

We had elephant stamps from countries R, S, T and U from Murray Clark, airmail covers to countries with those letters from Robert Duns, and aircraft stamps likewise from Alan Tunnicliffe. Edward Fairbrass had Christchurch exhibition stamps postmarked from towns, again within the scope of the 4 letters, and Paul Leddington with railway stamps on the same basis. Alistair Watson made a plea for sheep dog stamps, Murray Willocks show set offs from the beginning of the printing process (also incorrectly known as offset prints), Sue Claridge covered the QRS electrical system or the principles behind getting our hearts restarted (medically that is), John Kersal showed the steamship of the Union Company, Bruce Chadderton some Red Cross material, Murray Taege explored what in a title relating to country names, Don Mee had some unusual Samoan items and Paul van Herpt had the stamps of Suriname. Three of the presentations were supported by PowerPoint displays, so it was a full night with a wide range of materials.

Those present as usual were asked to vote on the best presentation and they were asked to list their best 3 this time giving 5 points to the best, 3 and 1 to the 2nd and 3rd. This all goes to the Pim Cup points for the year. We can say the 10 presenters got a 5 or best placing so hopefully that means most people did find something of interest in this range. The top points went to the Suriname presentation, followed by the Christchurch Exhibition and Samoan ones.



Interclub Competition

Karen Jeffrey advised the CPS achieved 2nd place in the national One Frame Interclub competition, recently held in Whangarei under some rather unfortunate conditions caused by Government lockdown levels. Some certificates and prizes were presented to those whose exhibits were part of the CPS team. The image above shows Karen presenting a certificate to John Kersal. The real highlight, however, was Mike Smith's exhibit which won the top prize as best of the competition and he was presented with a large stockbook. Lindsay Carswell was also presented with a special prize, so while the team was not first, some team members did very well. Congratulations and well done Mike and Lindsay

Paul van Herpt

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 5 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

OCTOBER 13 SOCIETY MEETING **Murray Acker**
NZ Philately and Postcards

MURRAY ACKER

NZ Philately and Postcards

OCTOBER 20 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

NOVEMBER 2 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

NOVEMBER 10 SOCIETY MEETING **Herb Cowley**
NZ Forces in the Korean war 1950 - 1957

NOVEMBER 17 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

NOVEMBER 24 POSTCARD GROUP Geysers and Volcanoes

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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French Colonisation Of Equatorial Africa

The colonisation of French Equatorial Africa (AEF), like other colonising powers, started with mixed motives: anti-slavery; trade; and colonial rivalry. France used the Mpongwe inter-clan disputes to force, on March 18, 1842, "King" Louis Dowe to grant France a post on the Komo estuary (in Gabon). On June 11, 1843, Fort d'Aumale was built on the site, the first permanent French settlement in AEF. In 1846, the Brazilian slave ship L'Elizia, carrying slaves from the Congo, was captured near Loango by the French navy.



Gabon 1990, Mpongwe dance

In August 1849, Libreville was founded at Fort d'Aumale and 52 of the freed slaves settled there. In the 1850s Europeans started to explore AEF.



In 1851 Robert Walker (British) spent 23 years in Gabon and explored the Ogooué River. From 1855-1859 Paul Du Chaillu's explorations in Gabon confirmed the existence of gorillas and pygmy humans. In the 1860s-70s, Germans Georg Schweinfurth and Gustav Nachtigal explored AEF. This encouraged France to begin to lay claim to AEF. In Gabon, on September 18, 1852, Benga chiefs ceded sovereignty. As did the Orungo over

Cap Lopez, June 1, 1862, and the coastal Nkomi, January 18, 1868. The most famous AEF explorer was Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza. His first expedition, 1875-1878, explored the Ogooué basin. This was considered highly successful. In August 1879, Henry Stanley was exploring in the Congo river on behalf of Belgian King Leopold II's Congo Free State.

To prevent Leopold claiming the entire Congo basin, a second expedition by de Brazza, 1880-1882, was authorised. On 10 September 1880, de Brazza signed a treaty with King Makoko, of the Teke Kingdom. It was also signed by Ngalieme (Makoko's vassal) on October 3.



1886 Gabon and Congo

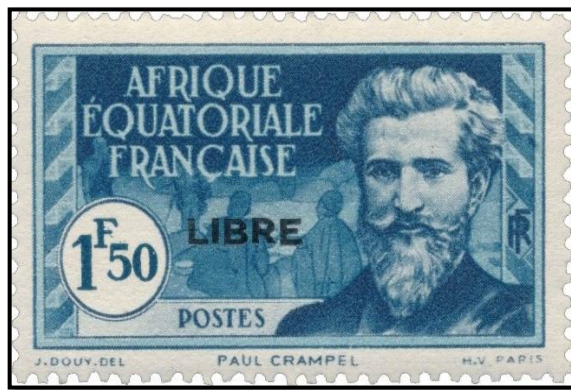
The right bank of the Congo river (Gabon and French Congo) effectively became French. France had won the race. On March 12, 1883, the Kingdom of Loango ceded sovereignty over coastal Congo. At the Berlin Conference (aka Congo Conference), November 15, 1884 - February 26, 1885, France was awarded the right bank of the Congo River.



On April 27, 1886, the colonies of Gabon and Congo were established and on August 1, they become French Equatorial Africa.

On April 29, 1887, the French-Congo Free State Convention acknowledged French rights on the northern course of the Ubangi River. On May 10, 1889, France decided to advance up the Ubangi River. Bangui was established on June 25, 1889, the first French post in Ubangi Shari

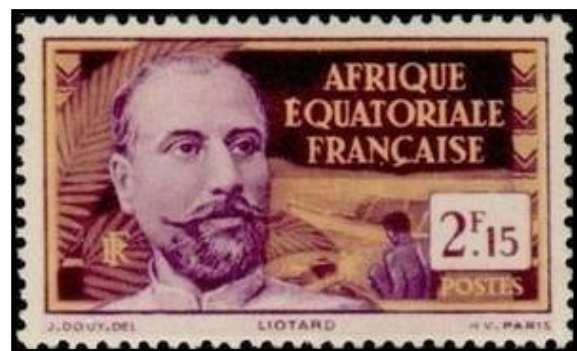
(now Central African Republic). In January 1890, the French commander, Maurice Musy, and his



forces are killed by Sangha tribes. On September 25, 1890, Paul Crampel re-established French occupation of Bangui. Crampel explored the Shari River and made his way to Dar al-Kuti, where he was killed on April 9, 1891. Crampel's death stirred debate on continuing French colonial expansion. However, on December 1, 1890, the Comité de l'Afrique Française was formed to fund explorations to link French Congo to French North Africa.

De Brazza was determined to win race to Chad (against Britain) so as to link French Congo with Algeria.

There was a large stretch of jungle and rivers between French Congo and Chad. In 1890, de Brazza gave Victor Liotard the mission to gradually occupy the upper Ubangi and open a door to the Nile. In 1891-1894, a number of expeditions were funded by the Comité. On July 6, 1891 Gaston Gaillard and Léon de Poumayrac arrived in Bangui to survey the right bank of the Ubangi.



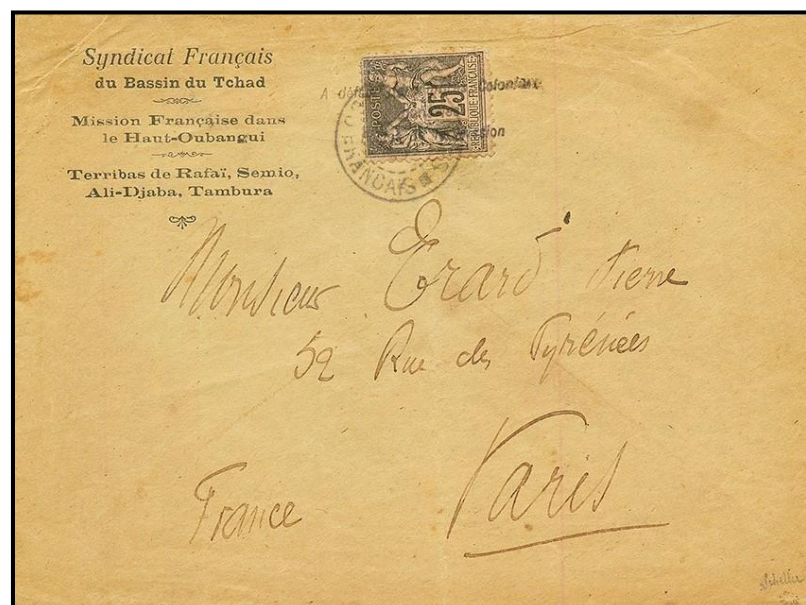
Protectorate treaties were signed with Banziri chiefs on July 25, 1891. On August 14, 1891, they founded Mossobaka and convinced Mobaye chiefs to accept a protectorate treaty. They founded Abiras on September 7, 1891. Gaillard returned to France. De Poumayrac continued and was killed by the Ngboubou on May 17, 1892.

On February 4-8, 1893, the Ngboubou were defeated and forced to accept French sovereignty. On October 25, 1891, Jan Dybowski left Bangui and reached the Langouassi peoples on November 14. November 15-19, he explored the Dapka lands and made a treaty with its chief. On February 1, 1892, he left Bangui for Ouadda.

From February 11 - March 3, 1892 he explored the Bakouma region and established a post at Kémo.

A treaty was signed with the Togbos chief on March 1, 1892. Casimir Maistre took over from Dybowski and left Kémo, June 29, 1892.

He discovered that the Shari and Logone Rivers linked Lake Chad and Sudan.



Rare cover from Abiras (Congo Française), Colony of Upper Ubangi 1898

This would lead to the Fashoda Incident in 1898

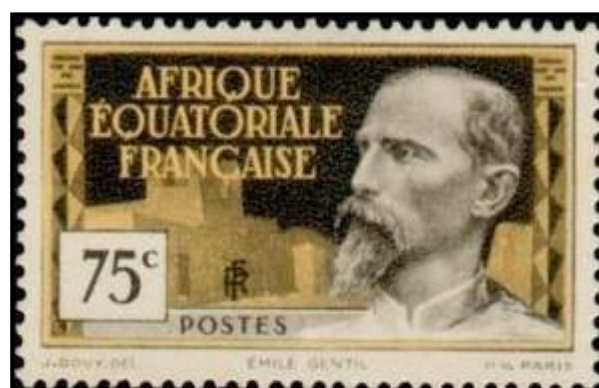


Fort de Possel (Oubangui-Chari) post mark on French Congo stamp

French pressure forced the Dar al Kuti to become a French protectorate, on August 28, 1897. This was the last piece of territory of Ubangi Shari. The Upper Ubangi was established as part of the French Congo on December 9, 1891. It was made a separate colony on July 13, 1894. On December 10, 1899 it became part of French Congo. The Upper Shari region was established on September 5, 1900. These territories were united as Ubangi-Shari on December 29, 1903

Sudanese warlord, Rabih az-Zubayr, carved out an empire in southern Chad-northern Nigeria from 1883-1893. The first French claim in Chad was made by Louis Mizon who reached Mayo-Kebbi on April 10, 1892. On November 29, 1892, Casimir Maistre signed a protectorate treaty with Mbang Dallem, Chief of the Laï Gabri.

In 1893 Rabih attacked and conquered the Baguirmi sultanate. Its sultan, Abderamane Gaourang II, fled into exile to the French. In October 1897, Émile Gentil, signed a treaty with Abderamane. It was at this meeting that Gentil was informed that Rabih had ordered Crampel's killing. To support their Baguirmi allies a military expedition was dispatched from France on October 10, 1898, commanded by Henri Bretonnet.



On May 14, 1899, he met Sultan Muhammad al Senusi of Dar al-Kuti. Al Senusi informed Rabih of Bretonnet's expedition. On July 17, 1899 at Togbao (near Sarh), Rabih's army annihilated Bretonnet's small force. In response, Fort Archambault (now Sarh) was established on August 15, 1899.



Postmark of Fort Lamy (Congo Française) 6 Aug 1914

Gentil organised a three prong assault on Rabih. At Kousséri (Cameroon) on April 22, 1900, two French columns under Gentil and Major Lamy defeated Rabih's army. Rabih and Lamy were killed. Gentil established Fort Lamy (now N'Djamena, capital of Chad) across the Shari River from Kousséri, on May 29, 1900. On September 5, 1900, the Military Territory of the Country and Protectorates of Chad was created.

Article IV of the 1898 Anglo-French Convention (which came about from the Fashoda Incident), signed on March 21, 1899, gave France the Ouaddai Empire. The occupation of Rabih's empire brought AEF to the border of the Ouaddai Empire. In November 1901, Muhammad Salih bin Yusuf (aka Doudmourrah) deposed Ahmed al-Ghazali to become king, with Senusi backing.

In 1907, his cousin Acyl Abdelmamout tried and failed to oust Doudmourrah. Acyl fled to the French. France used Acyl to bring the Ouaddai Empire under French control. In 1907 French forces entered Ouaddai. French forces occupied the capital, Abéché, on June 2, 1909. Doudmourrah fled. French defeats on January 4 and November 8, 1910 temporarily restored Doudmourrah to power. French forces finally defeated Doudmourrah on October 27, 1911. France took full control of Ouaddai on February 4, 1912.

On August 11, 1890, Britain recognised a French zone of influence in Algeria to include Tbesti, Borku, Ennedi, and Kanem. The Ottoman Empire protested, as these were part of their Tripolitanian province, and occupied Tbesti, Borku and Ennedi. On November 25, 1899, a protectorate treaty was signed with the Kanem. The Senusi had the Kanemi ruler killed and established a zawiya at Bir Alali, Kanem.



1903 Military mail with cachet from the "country and protectorate of Chad"

On November 9, 1901, France attacked the zawiya. By December 1902, France had forced the Senusi out of the Kanem. The Ottoman Empire was defeated in the Italian-Turkish War 1911. On October 18, 1912, the Treaty of Lausanne recognised the Italian occupation of Tripolitania. In the Poincaré-Tittoni agreement, October 30, Italy recognised the 1890 borders. France quickly moved to occupy Tbesti, Borku and Ennedi.



February 11, 1906 the colony of Ubangi Shari Chad was established. Chad was split off on March 17, 1920

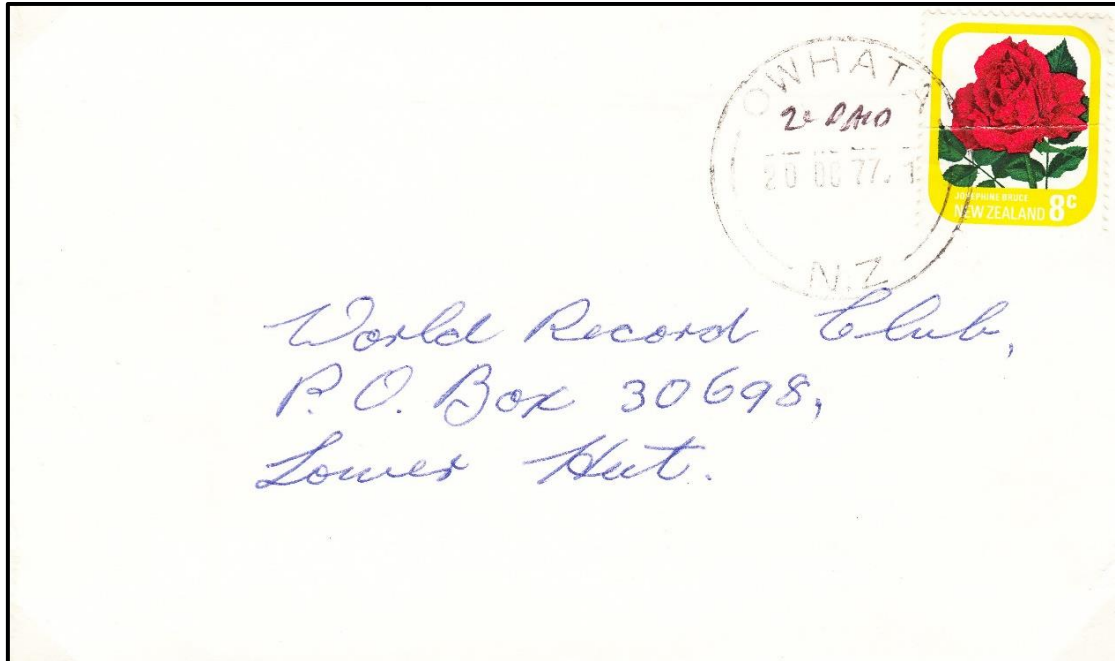
In late November 1913 French forces assaulted and captured Ain Galakka, Tibesti. By February 1914, the Senusi had abandoned Borku and Ennedi. By July 1914 French forces had linked Tibesti and Borku. However, the French hold over northern Chad was tenuous. It was the surrender of the Teda tribe in 1920, did France finally pacify the north, and Chad. On March 17, 1920, Chad became a separate civilian controlled colony.

Murray Taege

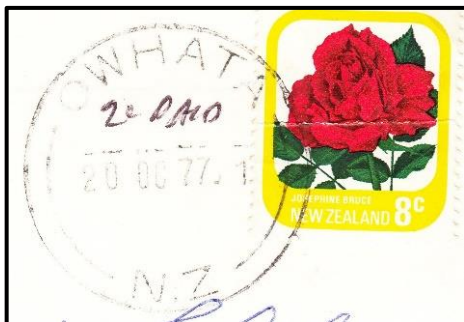


1977 New Zealand 2 Cent Provisional

During the late 70's there were a number of postage rate increases in fairly quick succession and in October 1977, the postage for a regular letter increased from 8 cents to 10 cents. This resulted in an immediate increase in demand for 10 cent stamps (previously used for the old double weight letter rate) along with 1 and 2 cent stamps used in conjunction with the 8 cent value. In some instances, it appears the demand for the stamps outstripped the available stock and Postmasters were obliged to find other ways of receipting the postage payment.



The above cover came from the collection of the late Ashtyn Cook, a long time member of the Hutt Valley Philatelic Society. It is probable that he came across it in a bulk mail accumulation from the World Record Club.



The letter had been posted at Owahata post office on October 20, 1977 and along with the 8 cent stamp is the amount of "2c(ents)" written in biro and presumably the Postmaster's initials.

Ashtyn wrote to the Owahata Postmaster and received the following reply, dated November 1, 1977

"Re our date stamp with 2c hand printed thereon. Yes, you are correct in your assumption (shortage of 2 & 10 cent stamps), this method was used for the odd occasion that we were out of 2 cent stamps. It was done for a period of approx. 10 days and I doubt if we did it more than 20 times. We are an agency office, and used this method on our own initiative, whether it was strictly legal or not I would not know, but at least it kept our customers satisfied over this period. Hoping this satisfies your query"

I imagine Ashtyn would have been pretty pleased to find this cover and get a confirmation from the Owahata Postmaster as to the genuine commercial purpose of the manuscript marking's provisional nature.

Given the attrition rate of modern mail, from the possible 20 examples, it is likely that this is the only survivor, unique in fact. To digress, Odenweller records 34 examples of another Postmaster provisional, the Chalon 1/- bisect. Just saying.

Stephen Jones

1960 New Zealand Rocket Mail

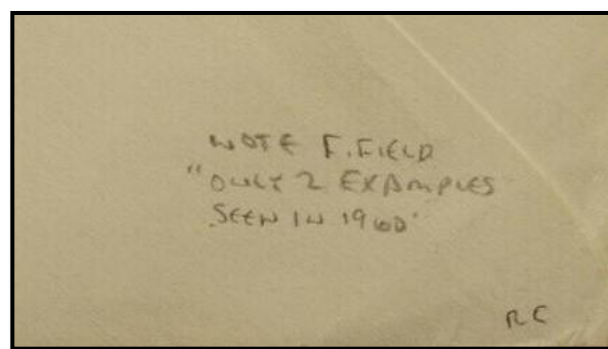
Readers will recall an article in the 2017 September issue on an unusual cacheted Rocket Mail cover from 1960, cancelled at Half Moon Bay in Stewart Island. This was the first I had seen, and I was not optimistic another would turn up. Well, never say never, as I was fortunate enough to acquire a similar cover from a vendor in the US.



New Zealand Rocket mail cover; new find



Captain Coqk, September 2017



Pencilled note of reverse

What was interesting on this latest cover is the note in pencil on the reverse, "Note F Field only 2 examples seen in 1960" and initialled by RC.



What I had failed to notice with the first cover was the initials ASDA in the lower left corner on one of the cinderella labels. This stands for the American Stamp Dealers Association. It turns out that these labels are part of a series done in 1959 for their annual convention in November.

There are at least six different variations, a mix of perforated and imperforated with design measuring 34 x 53mm. The early 1960's was a time of heightened interest in the US space program so these cinderellas would have been very topical for the time. I can only guess as to the reason the producer chose to use these covers from Stewart Island.

If the pencilled note on the reverse is correct, Captain Coqk readers may very well be looking at the only two covers in existence.

Stephen Jones

Who Was LLR Hausburg?

Being in lockdown means you must look at some of your own resources to write an article. I have a small number of Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journals from the 1903-5 period. Fortunately, these cover a full series of article by LLR Hausburg.

The name is well known in New Zealand of course, since he "found" the original Chalon printing plates and arranged to supply suitable paper so reprints could be made. Photographic reproductions of this reprint are included with volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand in 1938.



LLR Hausburg

Leslie Leopold Rudolph Hausburg was born in Kent on 26 May 1872. He was a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, in the mathematical tripos in 1894. He then served an electrical engineering apprenticeship, although he never practised. In 1923, he married Beatrice Riseley, a member of a noted tennis family. Hausburg himself was no beginner and played with success at various tennis tournaments, including Wimbledon.

Apart from information on Wikipedia, I found in Ken Lynch's monographs on the 'Chalon' issues of New Zealand some interesting reports about Hausburg's life and collecting interests. His death notice in the Australian Stamp Monthly of Sep 1917 noted that he had died prematurely (aged just 45) and was 'a veritable shining light amongst us,' being known to many philatelists in Australia and New Zealand.

The London Philatelist noted that he had joined the Royal Philatelic Society (of GB) in 1892, became a member of Council in 1900, and was elected secretary in 1913. For many years he was a member of the Royal's expert, publication, and programme committees. He was probably the greatest authority on the reconstitution of sheets of stamps in the order in which they were originally printed, popularly known as 'plating.' This included stamps of Victoria, Peru, Mexico and Venezuela."



Hausburg reprints

Apart from this, though, he was a serious collector of the Chalon issues of New Zealand and was awarded a gold medal at the 1906 London exhibition. Not only that, but he was awarded an Extra Gold for his collection of India, and would possibly have been awarded further gold medals for Tasmania and Western Australia, except that these exhibits were adjudged *hors concours* because he had already been awarded a gold medal in the class.

Robert Odenweller RDP in his masterly work *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand 1855 - 1873: the Chalon Head Issues* has a substantial section on the Hausburg reprints. When Hausburg was on his journey around in New Zealand in 1905, he stated that he wished to produce a handbook on the early issues, and offered to supply paper and pay the cost of having reproductions from each of the plates in black.

In April 1906, the Government Printer produced 26 sheets of each plate, except for the 2d plate II, of which 1020 sheets were printed. Of those values for which 26 sheets were printed, the post office retained 20 and Hausburg received six, but for the 2d value the post office retained only 20 sheets of the 1020 sheets and Hausburg received the rest, so they are much more common. Unfortunately, Hausburg's project never saw the light of day, and the reprinted sheets were dispersed.

Some of us had recently had the opportunity to view three excellent Chalon entries at the NZ2020 exhibition, and a further two extremely specialised one-frame Chalon exhibits, so perhaps a report on Hausburg's exhibit may be of interest, see following

SECTION II.

Gold Medal. L. L. R. HAUSBURG. New Zealand.

The whole of this philatelist's exhibits were very choice, not due entirely to the fine condition and rarity of the specimens, but also on account of the very fine study which the exhibits in themselves individually portrayed. The various retouches of this country for the first time being specially called attention to in an Exhibition consequently attracted considerable attention. The following is a concise description of this exhibit:—

All unused, unless otherwise stated. The stamps of the first type are shown used also. Practically complete unused.

London print: 1d., fine copy with large margins. 2d. (three), 2d. *bleuté*, and 1s. *bleuté*, mint. Half 1s. used as 6d. on original.

1856.—Colonial print on blue paper: 1d. (two), 2d. (two and mint corner strip of four), 1s. mint, perhaps the rarest New Zealand unused. Two copies of the 1s. cut in half and used as 6d. on original.

1858, no wmk., include the following rare shades: 1d. deep orange, 2d. milky blue, 2d. worn plate, 1s. blue-green (two), 1s. yellow-green.

No wmk., serrated: 1d., 6d., 1s., all used. Rouletted: 2d. unused; 1d., 6d.,

1s., used. Pin-perf.: 1d., 6d., used. Perf. 13: 2d. (two) unused.

Pelure paper, including 1d. perf. 13 and pair of 1s. perf. 13, unused 1d. rouletted, and the newly discovered 6d. serrated, used.

1862.—Wmk. star, including 2d. first colonial print (pair unused), 2d. slate-blue (two), 2d. greenish blue (two), 3d. brown-lilac (block of ten), 3d. lilac (four), and 3d. mauve. 1d. double print, the words NEW ZEALAND coming right across the face. Rouletted: 1d., 2d. mint; 2d. slate-blue, used. Serrated about 19: 1d. (two), 2d. (3), one being imperf. horizontally, and pair from worn plate; 6d. (two). Serrated about 38: 2d. Serrated 13½-14: 3d., 6d. (two). Pin-perf. about 9: (uncatalogued) 2d. pair. All used.

The perforated stamps are divided up according to the perf. Those that were done at Dunedin gauging 13, and which are the earlier, and those done at Auckland, which gauge 12½-12¾. The holes of the former, which was a single line machine, are smaller and more cleanly cut than those of the 12½, which was a comb machine. In most cases the

colours of the stamps perforated by the Dunedin machine are the early ones, while hardly any of these early shades were perforated by the Auckland machine.

All the pelure paper stamps appear to have been perforated at Dunedin.

Perf. 13: 1d. orange, vermillion; 2d. deep blue, slate-blue, pale blue (worn plate); 3d. brown-lilac; 6d. black, black-brown, red-brown; 1s. dark green, deep blue-green. Perf. 12½: 1d. orange, vermillion; 2d. pale blue (worn state, Plate 1), pale blue, deep blue (from Plate 2 only); 3d. brown-lilac (very rare perf. 12½); 6d. red-brown, 1s. green, yellow-green.

Wmk. N.Z.—6d. imperf. mint. Rouletted: 1d., 2d., unused. Perf. 13: 2d., 1s. Perf. 12½: 2d., 6d., 1s. (used only, very rare in this perf.)

Wmk. star, perf. 12½: Retouches, 2d. Plate 2. Various of the most prominent are shown, both imperf. and perf. They are very rare, unused. The lower eight rows of the plate are reconstructed so as to show the positions of the retouches. Many of them are unused.

4d. deep orange.

Perf. 10 by 12½: 2d. *blue* (uncatalogued).

1871.—1d. perf. 10, mint pair.

10 by 12½, and 12½: 6d. mint, 2d. Plate 2 retouched, singles, pairs, and a block of four showing various retouches.

Reconstructed eight lower rows of sheet, mostly unused, showing positions of the retouches.

No wmk.: 1d. (two), 2d. retouched singles in different states and mint block of eighty-four, being the lower seven rows of the sheet, with full margins, showing all the retouches, except one very small one. Wmk. N.Z.: 1d. brown, used; 2d. two pairs; and an unused copy of one of the retouches. Lozenge wmk., sheet of paper showing complete wmk.: 2d. unused, strip of three used, and three different retouches.

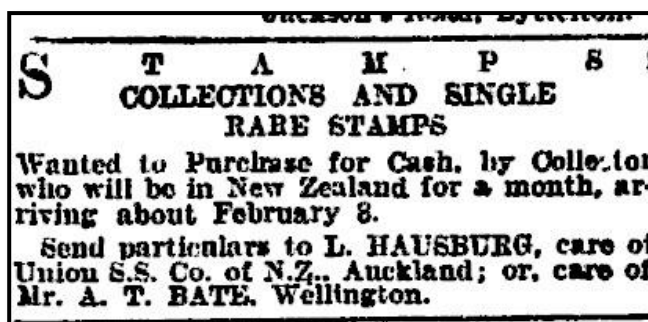
2d. with portrait of script wmk., and a pair and single showing portion of wmk., T. H. SAUNDERS, the maker of the "lozenge" and other papers.

1882.—Perf. 12½: 1d., 2d., 2½d., used. 12½ by 10: 1d. block of four unused, 2d. used, 3d. pair and single unused, 1s. used. Perf. 12 by 11 (uncatalogued): 4d. pair mint. Perf. comb. 12 by 11½ on three sides and 10 on other: 4d. unused (uncatalogued).

However, this article is also about another of Hausburg's passions - travel. As the London Philatelist reported in October 1917, "Mr Hausburg was a great traveller, and visited many parts of the world, his more notable trips being to East Africa, Japan, the United States, and Australasia. He made frequent trips to Paris and to other parts of Europe, where he was an indefatigable searcher for stamps at a time when the Continent was a happy hunting ground"

He visited NZ on one of his 1904 - 5 trips. Meeting up with philatelists and dealers in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill.

On the way, he visited the tourist highlights of the time - Rotorua, the Wanganui River, and the Milford track. His report on his NZ trip follows.



He may have been a tourist, but he was also interested in adding to his collection, as the small advertisement above indicates.

Extract from Hausburg's report on his philatelic travels around New Zealand. from Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal May 1905

"On January 31st we took the train from Brisbane to Sydney, arriving the following morning. Having a few hours to spare, I paid a visit to some of the principal dealers. The same evening, we sailed on the *Manuka* for Auckland, the Australian cricket team being on board. We were fortunate in having calm passage, which is rather unusual there. Auckland is a very pretty place but does not seem to be a good centre for obtaining rare stamps. I saw several very nice collections, naturally particularly strong in the Island stamps. I saw a variety new to me in Cook Islands, namely the Id brown, with the crown twice surcharged.

We left Auckland on February 10th for Rotorua, in the hot lake district. Every imaginable form of volcanic action is to be found in that region - boiling geysers, mud volcanoes, sulphur springs, and oil baths, and the atmosphere seems to have a flavour of the nether regions about it.

Perhaps, the most wonderful of all is the "Blow Hole" at Wairakei, some fifty miles south of Rotorua. It is a hole about a foot in diameter on the side of a hill, from which issues steam at a very high pressure, said to be 180 lbs to the square inch. A large petroleum can was, thrown at the hole, and immediately hurled to a considerable distance by the force of the steam.

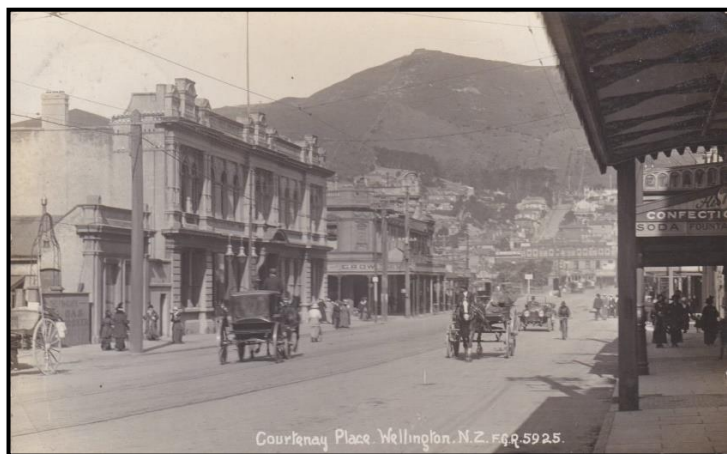
After leaving Wairakei we went on to Pipiriki, a total distance from Rotorua of some 170 miles, most of which has to be done by coach, a painful and dusty means of locomotion. The roads are generally bad, and the coaches antiquated and uncomfortable, sometimes without springs, and unfortunately for us, very much overcrowded. There were, however, compensations for the discomforts, the scenery being both beautiful and varied. From Pipiriki we went by steam launch down the Wanganui River as far as Wanganui, where I had the pleasure of meeting two very keen philatelists with good general collections, New Zealand being specialised.

We left Wanganui on February 15th, and arrived the same evening at Wellington, where my good friend Mr AT Bate at once came to see us. Needless to say, there was much to discuss, including the later issues of New Zealand. Thanks to the courtesy of the Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department, Mr W Gray, I was enabled to inspect the various processes carried on in the Government Printing Office.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d. values are printed in a power-press capable of printing from four plates at the same time; the higher values however are printed in a hand-press.

There are three rotary perforating machines, two being the 14 gauge and the third the 11 gauge. In addition to these there are two single-line treadle machines which also perforate 11. In order not to waste any sheets unevenly perforated, as is already well known, strips of paper were pasted on the backs of the sheets so as to cover the incorrect perforations, and those parts were again

perforated. It is often said that these sheets might have been perforated by the same machines as that previously used, in the case of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. values - that is to say, the machines gauging 14; but, as stated above, these are both rotary machines, which perforate as many as twenty-one lines at a time; and in order to perforate only one line all the other wheels would have to be taken off, and there would be a very great waste of time. It was therefore much more convenient to use the treadle machines, gauging 11, which perforate only one line at a time.



Courtenay Place c1905

Wellington is certainly the centre of philately in New Zealand. There are several most earnest and keen collectors, and unlike many of the principal collectors in some countries, their knowledge is as varied as it is profound.

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Having had enough of coaching in the North Island, we decided to go direct from Wellington to Christchurch by boat. We were again fortunate in the crossing as far as the weather was concerned, but half of the promenade deck was occupied by a flock of sheep - rather unusual, I imagine, on a first class boat.

In Christchurch, I saw several nice general collections, with especial attention given to New Zealand. One collection in particular contained some very fine stamps, most of them used, among them being one type of the 13 cents Hawaii. In this town, by dint of making inquiries among the various engravers, lithographers, and printers, Mrs Hausburg found the employers of one of the engravers formerly in the service of the New Zealand Government. I was thus able to obtain some most interesting information, which will be published at a later date.

From Christchurch we went by train to Dunedin. I there saw a very nice general collection, with a fine lot of old New Zealand, including the finest used copy I have seen of the 1s. on blue paper. Dunedin is the headquarters of some of the principal dealers in New Zealand. I found them most kind and courteous. They allowed me to inspect their stocks. I believe most of their business is done by correspondence. In this town I also chanced to meet an old lithographer who had been in the employ of Messrs. Campbell and Ferguson of Melbourne, in the days when the stamps of the first issue were still being printed. Even in those days it seems to have been recognised that the portrait of Queen Victoria was hardly a flattering one.

After leaving Dunedin, I saw no more stamps for some time. We started on the overland trip to Milford Sound. This consisted of a train journey of six hours to Lumsden, a rather uninteresting coach ride of nine hours from Lumsden to Lake Te Anau, and the following day a most lovely trip across to the head of this lake, which is one of the most beautiful in the world.

From this point the remainder of the journey, nearly forty miles, has to be done on foot. The track is very good in parts, but some of it is very rough, especially the climb over the Mackinnon Pass. There are huts on the way, one for men and another for ladies, at distances of seven miles apart, in which to spend the night. These are rough affairs of slabs and corrugated iron, with rather excessive ventilation, containing wooden hunks in two tiers. The bunks are rather hard, except in one hut, where some genius has improvised spring mattresses out of wire-netting, which, however, were hardly a success.

The weather, for a wonder, was perfect, so we made the most of it, and covered the forty miles in an afternoon and a day. We were very lucky, as the rain began to fall an hour after our arrival and did not stop for two days. It is useless to attempt to describe the scenery. The path goes through most wonderful bush between lofty mountains. Many mountain torrents have to be crossed, some by rustic bridges, often more or less rotten, some by stepping stones, and one in a sort of wine case slung on a wire rope, along which one had to pull one's self. One of the sights, by the way is the Sutherland Falls, which are nearly two thousand feet in height.



Milford Sound c1905

As we found that a steamer would call at Milford Sound on the way to The Bluff, we decided to return by sea instead of going over the same ground twice, especially as all the undergrowth would be very wet and the rivers much swollen. The chief drawback to this trip is the sandflies, which are most persistent in their attentions. The passage to The Bluff is usually a bad one, and this was no exception. However, it does one a lot of good.

At Invercargill I had the pleasure of meeting several collectors, who, as usual, were most kind in showing me their stamps and in helping us in every possible way."

Unfortunately, Hausburg doesn't mention the names of the collectors and dealers he met up with, but we wonder today who they might have been. Here are some suggestions of notable collectors, with thanks to Stephen Jones and Alan Craig.

Auckland: Possibly H Winkelmann, Mrs Emily Kenderdine, A Powell (Dominion Stamp Co), or Percy Berry of the Intercolonial Stamp Exchange?

Wellington: Obviously Arthur T Bate and Mr Acock since they are mentioned in the report, perhaps also Ernest G Pilcher, LA Sanderson, AJ Bennett (New Century Stamp Co)? Alan Craig says the British & Continental Stamp Co was also important at this time; we do not know who the proprietors were, but an Editor of the only copy known of a newsletter was EG Potter.

Christchurch: R. Heaton Rhodes, AW Cousins, A Schlesinger (Imperial Stamps, the first stamp auction operator), or JH East (stamp dealer of Cambridge Tce)? LE Vernazoni would only have been 9 years of age at the time, and Walter Stagg did not arrive in NZ until 1906, so they were part of the next group of notable collectors.

Dunedin: Bill Hooper of Wilcox Smith, Thos Payton, or Chas Roberts?

Jeff long

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