

World of Stamps: New Zealand (Aotearoa), Pt. 1

By Geir Sør-Reime



1982 map of New Zealand (Sc. 649)



New Zealand was originally named Staten Landt

when sighted by Abel Tasman in 1642, but it was renamed New Zealand (after the Dutch province of Zeeland) in 1645. The current Maori name for the whole group of islands is Aotearoa, which originally might have been a name for the North Island only.

It seems that New Zealand remained unsettled by humans until around 1250-1300 AD, when Polynesians



1940 Maori landings (Sc. 229)

arrived, gradually developing the Maori culture.



1998 Maori settlers (Sc. 1492)



1998 early European settlers (Sc. 1493)

New Zealand has two main islands and a number of smaller islands. The total area is 103,483 square miles and a population of around 4.4 million.

British settlements on the islands started after James Cook's rediscovery 1769, and these were initially administered



1969 bicentenary Cook's landing in New Zealand (Sc. 434a)

from New South Wales. In 1997, the so-called millennium series honoured the early explorers and discoverers of New Zealand, including Polynesians, d'Urville, Tasman and Cook.



1997, Discoverers: Cook, D'Urville, Tasman (Sc. 1413, 1417, 1418)



1940 Abel Tasman (Sc. 232)

British sovereignty over the entire islands was proclaimed 1840, and in 1940, a series of 13 stamps



1940 James Cook, 1769 (Sc. 230)

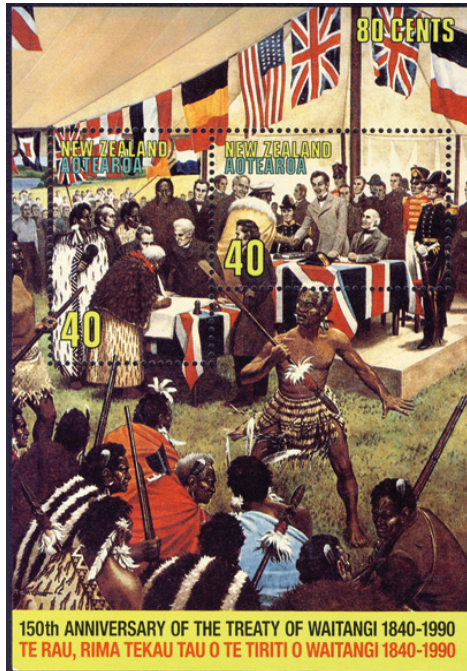
commemorated the centenary of this. The 150th anniversary was marked with four 1990 stamps.

New Zealand became a separate colony in 1841.

The year before, the British and the Maori signed the Treaty of Waitangi, granting some kind of peaceful rela-



Above, 1974, *Signing of Treaty of Waitangi* (Sc. 552c)



Right, 1990, *150th anniversary of signing of Treaty of Waitangi* (Sc. 979)

tions, although the Land Wars 1860-70s were results of conflicts over land ownership between settlers and Maoris. The signing of the Treaty of Waitangi was depicted on one of the 1974 New Zealand Day stamps. The 150th anniversary of the Treaty was commemorated on a 1990 souvenir sheet. These were the first New Zealand stamps to also display the Maori name of the country, Aotearoa.



1960 flag (Sc. 342)



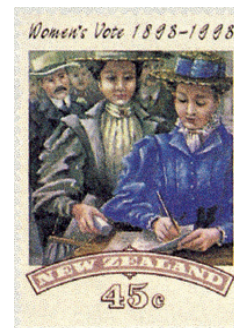
Left 1965, *centenary of moving of capital of Wellington* (Sc. 372);



right, 1974, *Parliament, Wellington* (Sc. 552b)

New Zealand was granted internal autonomy already in 1852, and became self-governing in 1856. The capital was moved from Auckland to Wellington in 1865. The centenary of the move of government was commemorated on a 1965 stamp.

In 1893, New Zealand granted all women the right to vote, as the first nation in the world. The 75th anniversary of this universal suffrage was commemorated on



1993 *women suffrage centenary* (Sc. 1151)

a 1968 stamp, and the centenary on four 1993 stamps.

In 1907, New Zealand declared itself a Dominion of the British Empire, and in 1947, became a Realm of the Commonwealth.



Sc. 1

Stamps were first issued by New Zealand in 1855, showing a portrait of Queen Victoria. Several re-issues on various papers were made of this design until 1872. The centenary of New Zealand's first stamps was commemorated on three 1955 stamps.



1955 Centenary of New Zealand stamps (Sc. 303)

In 2005, 15 stamps commemorated the 150th anniversary of New Zealand's stamps.



2005 set for 150th anniversary of New Zealand stamps: set I, Sc. 2007a, set II, Sc. 2012a, set III, Sc. 2021a

In 1873-74, completely new designs, but still portraying Queen Victoria were issued. These were replaced 1882 by stamps in similar designs inscribed 'Postage & Revenue'.



Above, 1874 Queen Victoria (Sc. 51)
right, 1882 Postage & Revenue (Sc. 62)



1998 souvenir sheet for Tarapex including the two varieties of the Lake Wakitipu/Wakatipu of the 1898 issue as re-issued 1998 (Reminder, use your pdf magnifier tool for a closer look.)

In 1898, a pictorial definitive series was issued, with new designs added 1900, 1901 and 1907-08. The issue is known among other things for a spelling error on the original printing of the 2-1/2p stamp, being inscribed Lake Wakitipu instead of the corrected Lake Wakatipu.

A 1901 1p stamp

commemorated the introduction of penny postage. In 1998, the original 1898 designs were reproduced on a series of 14 stamps commemorating the centenary of this early pictorial issue. Naturally, the values were changed from pre-decimal to decimal ones on the 1998 re-issue.



1901 Universal penny postage (Sc. 99)



1998 re-issue of 1898 issue (Sc. 1513), Kiwi

In 1906, a commemorative series of four stamps was issued to publicize the New Zealand Exhibition in



1906 Christchurch Expedition (Sc. 123)

Christchurch. In 1913, stamps were overprinted for the Auckland (Industrial) Exhibition. Stamps were also issued for the 1925



1925 Dunedin Exhibition (Sc. 180)

Dunedin Exhibition.



Left to right: 1909 King Edward VII (Sc. 133); 1915 King George V (Sc. 154); 1926 King George V in Admiral's uniform (Sc. 182)

Stamps portraying King Edward VII were introduced 1909, replaced by stamps portraying King George V in 1915. Stamps with King George V in Admiral's uniform were issued 1926.



1920 Victory issue (Sc. 168)

In 1920, stamps were issued to celebrate Victory in WWI. One of the 1900 series also commemorated the New Zealand



1901 Boer war contingent (Sc. 101)

contingent participating in the Boer War.

The restoration of penny postage in 1923 was marked with a 1p stamp showing a map of New Zealand.

A completely new pictorial definitive series was issued in 1935. A Maori war canoe had already been depicted on one of the 1898 designs, and the 1935 series



1923 map of New Zealand (Sc. 175)



Left to right: 1898 Maori canoe (Sc. 79), and 1935 1935 Maori woman (Sc. 187), Maori girl (Sc. 190), Maori pattern (Sc. 195)

included several motifs with Maori connections. This series was re-issued 1936 on new paper and from new printers.



Left to right: 1935 Silver Jubilee (Sc. 200), 1937 Royal Wedding (Sc. 225), 1938 King George VI (Sc. 226)

The Silver Jubilee of King George V was commemorated with a 1935 set of three stamps, and three stamps were also issued 1937 for the Coronation of King George VI. Definitive stamps portraying King George VI appeared 1938.



1946 Peace (Sc. 255)



1948 Otago centenary, here University of Otago (Sc. 272)



1969 centenary University of Otago (Sc. 425)

In 1946, a set of eleven stamps celebrated peace after WWII. In 1948, the centenary of the settlement at Otago Bay was celebrated with four stamps. One of these depicted Otago University, the oldest University

of New Zealand, founded 1869. The centenary of the University was marked with a pair of 1969 stamps.

Otago is now a province of New Zealand, with Dunedin as its centre. The centenary of the Canterbury region, with Christchurch as its centre, was similarly marked with five 1950 stamps, one of which depicted the



1956 Southland centenary (Sc. 313)



1958 Hawke's Bay centenary, Pania statue (Sc. 323)



1959 Marlborough centenary (Sc. 327)

the Westland province in 1960, and the 150th anniversary of Kerikeri was commemorated with two 1969 stamps. The centenaries of the cities of Palmerston North, Auckland (see page 9) and Invercargill were marked on 1971 stamps, the centenary of New Plymouth on a 1976 stamp, the centenaries of Hamilton,

Christchurch Cathedral, its spire destroyed in the February 22, 2011 earthquake that hit that city. The centenary of the Southland region was commemorated on three 1956 stamps, and the centenary of the city of Nelson with a single 1958 stamp. In 1958, the centenary of the Hawke's Bay province was also marked with three stamps. One of these depicted the Pania, a mythical Maori figure, statue in Napier, the centre of the province. The centenary of Napier was marked with a 1974 stamp. The centenary of the Marlborough province also got three stamps, in 1959, as did



1950 Canterbury centenary, here Christchurch Cathedral (Sc. 274)



1960 Westland centenary (Sc. 330)



1969 150th anniversary Kerikeri (Sc. 428)



1971 Auckland centenary (Sc. 474)

Gisborne and Masterton on 1977 stamps, the centenaries of Ashburton and Stratford on 1978 stamps, and the centenaries of Rotorua 1980, Feilding 1981, Tauranga and Hawera 1982,



1953 Coronation (Sc. 282)



1953 Royal Visit (Sc. 287)

In 1953, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated with five stamps, and her Royal Visit to

New Zealand the same year was marked with two stamps. A Royal Visit by her father, King George VI, had been planned for 1949, and stamps had already been printed when the visit was cancelled due to the King's deteriorating health. A few specimens of these did survive the destruction.



Die proof of two designs for planned 1949 Royal Visit



1949 unissued stamp for planned Royal Visit



1953 Queen Elizabeth II (Sc. 296)



2003 re-issue of 1953 Coronation stamps (Sc. 1871)

Definitive stamps portraying The Queen were also first issued December 1953. In 2003, the 1953 stamps were re-issued in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of

the Coronation.

Lamb export is vital to New Zealand economy, and in 1957, two stamps (see page 10) honoured the 75th



1957 75th anniv. lamb meat export (Sc. 317)

anniversary of this export.

A pictorial definitive series was introduced in 1960, and the country's first Christmas stamp



was also 1960 definitive issued (Sc. 339)

1960.

Annual Christmas issues have been made since. In 1985, two of the stamps were originally printed with a misprint



Left, 1960 Christmas (Sc. 353); right, 2010 for 50th anniversary of New Zealand Christmas stamps (Sc. 2332)

of the word Christmas, being inscribed 'CRISTMAS' in error. Although sent to destruction, several of these misprint stamps have eventually turned up.



1985 Christmas issue with Cristmas misprint



1996 unissued Health souvenir sheet with teddy bear in design (Sc. B155)

A similar instance happening with the 1996 Health stamps. Here, the design showing a baby in a car seat included a teddy bear, but after the release of the design, objections were raised and the stamp was reprinted with the teddy bear

removed. Again, examples of the original printing, including a souvenir sheet, have eventually turned up, some actually sold in error over post-office counters.



1963 railway centenary (Sc. 362)

In 1962 and 1963, the centenaries of telegraph and railways in New Zealand were commemorated on stamps.

In 1967, New Zealand introduced decimal currency, and the 1960 definitives were re-issued with values in decimal currency. Additional designs were also added. A



1968 decimal defin. (Sc. 398)



Left, 1970 definitive (Sc. 445); right, 1970 definitive (Sc. 453)



new series was introduced 1970, re-issued 1973 on



1970 definitive Maori tattoo pattern (Sc. 452)



1982 definitive grapes (Sc. 761)



1985 Bird definitive (Sc. 835)



Above, 2009 landscape (from Wellington); right, 1995 landscapes (Sc. 1312)



paper without watermark. A new series was made 1975, and another one 1982. In 1988, a series depicting birds was released. From 1995 onwards, New Zealand scenery has appeared regularly on definitive stamps.



Above, 2001 Lord of the Rings set (self-adhesive version) (Sc. 1761a); left, 2004 Lord of the Rings, cinema and real landscapes, souvenir sheet (Sc. 1963c)



The Lord of the Rings films were shot in New Zealand, and in 2001, 2002 and 2003, stamps were issued with scenes from these films.

In 2004, a set of eight stamps publicized the film locations as tourism destinations, and each pair of stamps depicted a landscape feature and how it appeared in the films. In 2005, the Narnia films were also featured on New Zealand stamps, also



Top, 2005 Narnia film souvenir sheet (Sc. 2051a); bottom, 2008 souvenir sheet for Narnia, Prince Caspian film (Sc. 2188a)

the King Kong film. A 2008 set was devoted to the casting of the film “The



2005 King Kong film (Sc. 2047a)

Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian” (page 12).

From 2003 onwards, the stamps issued by New Zealand Post include a fern leaf in their design, to distinguish them from stamps issued by other postal providers in the country.

In 2004, New Zealand issued lenticular stamps, featuring sport scenes, and in 2005, there were stamps shaped



2003 Centenary rugby New Zealand, first stamps with fern logo of NZ Post (Sc. 1879)



Top to bottom, 2004 lenticular stamps for Athens Olympics (Sc. 1968-71);

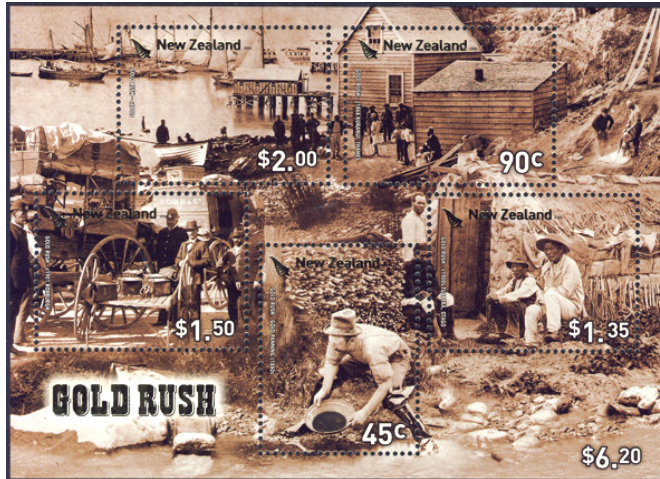
2005 coffee cups (Sc. 2026a);

2005 rugby shirts (Sc. 2030a)

as coffee mugs publicizing the coffee culture. Also in 2005, stamps in the shape of rugby shirts were



issued and a 2006 Gold Rush series (see page 14) in fact had tiny gold grains incorporated into the design of the souvenir sheet.



2006 gold rush souvenir sheet (Sc. 2087)

New Zealand was hit by a massive earthquake in February 2011, but back in 1931, the Hawke's Bay earthquake was also massive. In 2007, a set of twenty stamps commemorated the 75th anniversary of this disaster. (Sc. 2061, below)



World of Stamps: New Zealand (Aotearoa), Pt. 2

By Geir Sør-Reime



2009 KiwiStamps Forever postage (Sc. 2265-2274)

In 2009, New Zealand introduced 'Forever' stamps, here called "KiwiStamp". New "KiwiStamps" were issued in 2011.

The Chatham Islands belong to New Zealand, and a pair of



1970 Chatham Islands (Sc. 467-468)



1989 Maori (Sc. 950)

A 1989 stamp depicted a Moriori man and a map of the islands. The Moriori is the indigenous people of the Chatham islands. The bicentenary of the discovery of the islands was the subject of two 1991 stamps.

1970 stamps paid attention to those peripheral islands. A 1989 stamp



1991 bicentenary discovery Chatham Islands (Sc. 1020-21)

New Zealand is also active in Antarctica, and besides the distinct stamps made for its Antarctic Ross Dependency, several New Zealand stamps have Antarctic connections, including a 1971 single for the tenth anniversary of the Ant-



1984 Antarctic re-
search (Sc. 791)



2007 souvenir sheet for 50th anniversary of NZ's Scott Base, Ross Dependency

arctic Treaty. A 1984 set honoured Antarctic research, and when Ross Dependency issues were suspended 1987-1994, annual New Zealand stamp series were additionally in-



New Zealand stamps additionally inscribed "Ross Dependency", left to right: 1988 whales (Sc. 941); 1990 birds (Sc. 1013); 1992 seals (Sc. 1098)

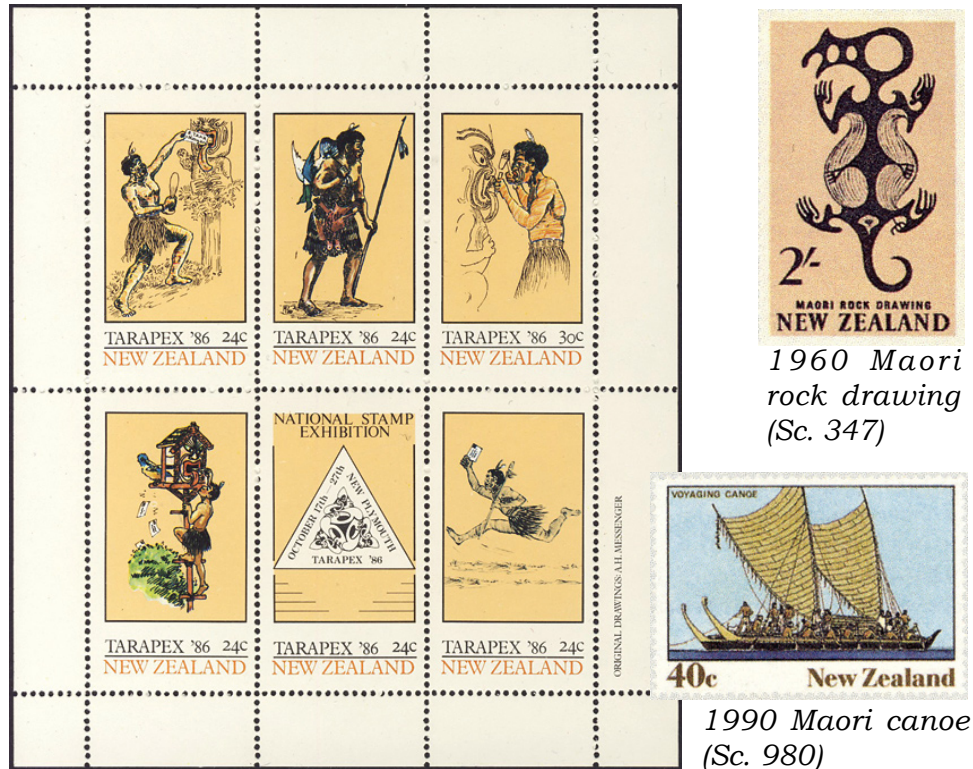
scribed Ross Dependency and featured Antarctic subjects: 1988 whales, 1990 birds, and 1992 seals. In 2007, the 50th anniversary of the Scott Base in Antarctica was celebrated with stamps from New Zealand.

The centenary of the Maori bible was the subject of a single 1968 stamp. A 1980 set featured portraits of prominent Maori personalities, and in 1986, a set of 'postage imprint labels' issued for the Tarapex



Left, 1968 centenary of Maori bible (Sc. 408); right, 1980 Maori leaders (Sc. 716)

'86 stamp exhibition (and valid for postage, but not sold through New Zealand Post) featured drawings of Maoris (see page 17). Maori fibre work was the theme of a 1987



1986 TarapeX souvenir sheet (valid for postage, but not sold through NZ Post)

1960 Maori rock drawing (Sc. 347)

1990 Maori canoe (Sc. 980)

set of four stamps, and Maori rafter paintings on four 1988 stamps. A large Maori canoe appears on a 1990 stamp. The country's Maori heritage was featured on a series of six 1990 stamps.



Left to right: 1994 Maori myths (Sc. 1220), 1995 Maori language (Sc. 1270), 1996 Maori crafts (Sc. 1330), 1988 Maori rafter paintings (Sc. 894)

The second instance of New Zealand to be additionally inscribed with the Maori name of the country, Aotearoa, were six 1994 stamps illustrating Maori myths. Also the 1995 Maori Language Year stamps were additionally inscribed Aotearoa, the same was the case with the 1996



Unissued 2006 Maori performing arts stamps

Maori crafts. The prepared 2006 Maori performing arts series was however only inscribed New Zealand. This issue had been printed and widely publicized, when it was decided to withdraw the issue. Some specimens did



2008 Maori new year (Matariki) (Sc. 2196)



2000 Maori spirits (Sc. 1634)

however reach the philatelic market. The 150th anniversary of the Maori king institution was honoured with three 2008 stamps. Again, these were also inscribed Aotearoa, as was a 2008 set entitled "Matariki", the Maori new year celebration. Matariki 2009 was also celebrated with stamps inscribed Aotearoa in addition to New Zealand.



2009 Matariki



2010 Matariki souvenir sheet

In 2010, four stamps showing Maori kites were issued, again with a bilingual country designation. The same was the case with two 2010 stamps issued for the centenary of Maori rugby, and a 2011 set for Maori performing arts (Kapa Haka).



2010 centenary of Maori rugby souvenir sheet



2011 Kapa Haka, Maori performing arts souvenir sheet



1898 Kiwi (Sc. 78)

The Kiwi is the national bird of New Zealand, and it has been depicted on several stamps, from the 1898 definitives onwards, and in 1988, the first circular Kiwi stamp was issued.



NZ118: 2000 souvenir sheet including several round Kiwi stamps (Sc. 1635)



1931 air post stamp (Sc. C1)

New Zealand first air post stamps were issued 1931, showing a plane over a lake scene. One of these was over-



1935 air post (Sc. C7)



Trans-Tasman first flight cover to England with stamp (Sc. C5) tied by Auckland Feb. 13, 1934 date stamp, flight cachet (left) and kiwi handstamp lower left.



1958 for 30th anniversary of 1st air crossing of Tasman Sea (Sc. 321)

printed "Trans-Tasman Air Mail "Faith in Australia" in 1934. Further air post stamps were issued in 1935.



Left to right: 1929 1st semi-postal, stamp out tuberculosis (Sc. B1), 1931 Health semi-postal (Sc. B3), 2009 semi-postal for 80th anniversary of semi-postals

A 1958 normal stamp commemorated the 30th anniversary of the 1st crossing of the Tasman Sea by air.

New Zealand's first semi-postal stamps were issued 1929, for the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund. In 1930, the same design, but inscribed 'Help promote health' was issued. Health promotion semi-postal were then issued annually since 1931. In 2009,



1943 semi-postal portraying Princess Elizabeth (Sc. B23)



Left, 1950 semi-postal, Queen Elizabeth II with Prince Charles (Sc. B37); right, 1985 semi-postal with Princess Diana and Prince William (Sc. B121)



1936 semi-postal for 21st anniversary of Gallipoli landing (Sc. B9)



1965 50th anniversary of Gallipoli landing (Sc. 368)



2008 ANZAC Gallipoli landing comm..(Sc. 2179)

the 80th anniversary of the Health semi-postals was commemorated with a set of three semi-postals.

In 1936, semi-postal stamps were also issued for charity relating to the 21st anniversary of the Anzac landing at Gallipoli. In 1965, the 50th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing was commemorated on two stamps. Six new stamps commemorating the Gallipoli landing were issued 2008. Six further values were issued 2009, and in 2010.

1996 souvenir sheet "Best of.." (free gifts to NZ Post customers purchasing philatelic material for a certain amount)



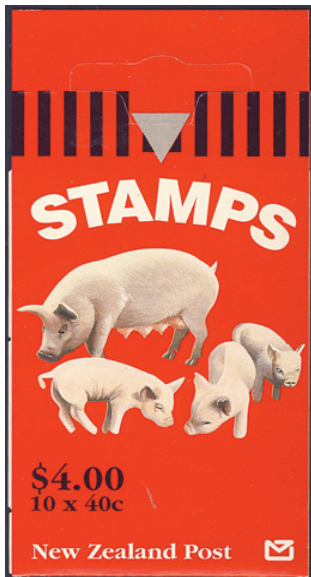
From 1986 onwards, New Zealand Post has made series of souvenir sheets containing selections of the issues of the year as rewards to customers purchasing philatelic products for certain amounts during the year.



2010 souvenir sheet "Best of.."

These sheets were not available for purchase.

From 1901 onwards, New Zealand has issued a number of stamp booklets, including prestige booklets and booklets with self-adhesive stamps.



1995 booklet, front and pane, Farm Animals (Sc. 1302a)



2004 "Wild Food" booklet, cover and stamp pane (with stickers) (Sc. 1946a)



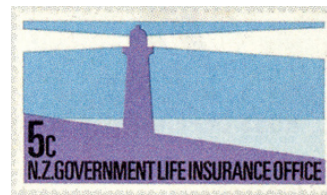
1899 postage due (Sc. J1)

The most unusual ones probably were the two 2004 booklets, both containing postal card stamps, one entitled “Wild Food” and one “Kiwi Characters”.

Postage-due stamps were issued 1899-1951,



1892 newspaper stamp (Sc. P4)



Left to right, 1947 Life Insurance official (Sc. OY33), 1969 Life Insurance official (Sc. OY47), 1981 Life Insurance official (Sc. OY51)

and official stamps 1891-1965, but stamps for the life insurance department were issued 1891-1989. These all depicted lighthouses.



1882 postal fiscal (AR15)



1931 postal fiscal (Sc. AR46)



Unlisted fiscal stamps



In New Zealand, fiscal stamps were authorized for postage from 1892 until 1987, when New Zealand Post was established, replacing the New Zealand Post Office.

New Zealand has two types of personal-1963 official stamp (Sc. O109)

ized stamps. One type is similar to the British ones, where a tab attached to a stamp can be personalized with the addition of a photo etc., the other type is more similar to the Finnish/Norwegian type (page 26), where a personal-



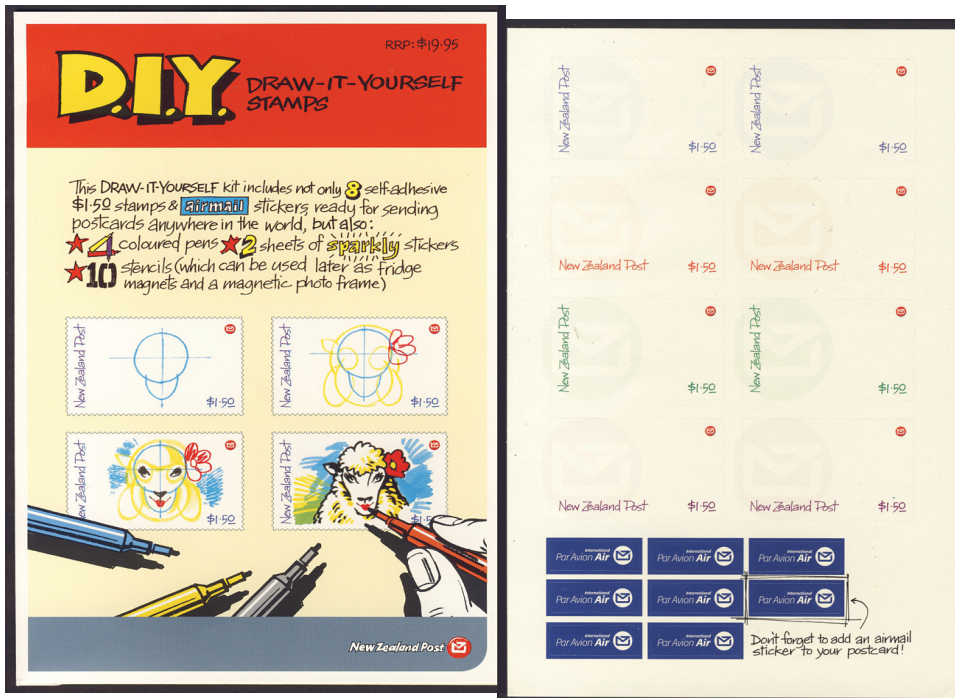
Personalized postage stamps souvenir sheet containing all 2010 issues with normal gum



NZ150: Selection of personalized postage (basic stamp as Sc. 1955)



2006 personalized stamps / Sc. 2069)



2004 Do-It-Yourself pack, front of pack and pane of 8 self-adhesive stamps (Sc. 1949a)



1988 New Zealand
Frama stamp

ized design can be printed directly to a predefined frame design. The latter type is not called 'stamps' by New Zealand Post, but 'Personalised Postage'.

A third type of personalization stamp appeared briefly in 2004, when a Do-It-Yourself pack of eight blank stamps was

issued (page 25), and sold along with crayons, felt pens and stickers, making it possible to literally design your own stamps.

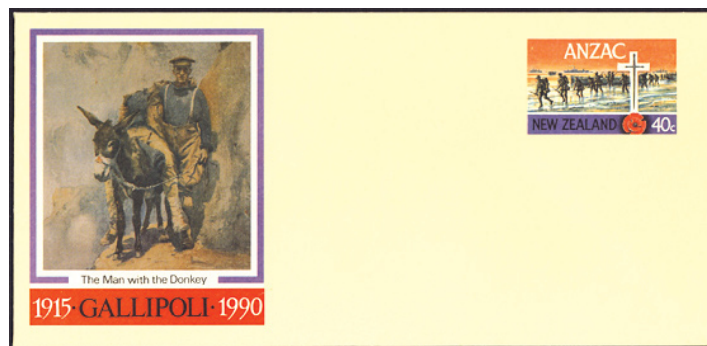
Naturally, there also are a huge number of postal stationery items from New Zealand, including postal cards, letter cards, pre-stamped envelopes



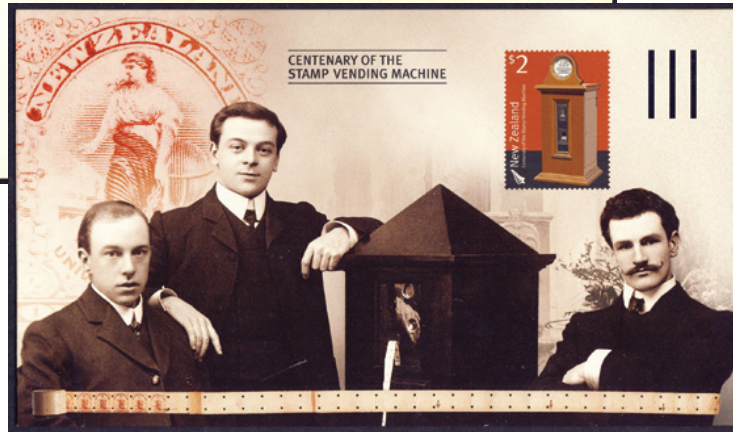
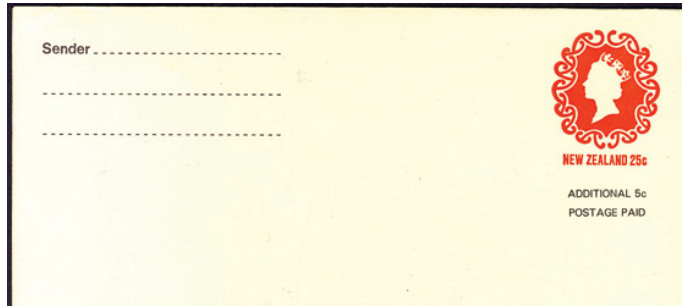
1990s postal card for pictorial
datestamps



1990 postal card issued
in connection with stamp exhibition, had to be written on computer



1990 pre-stamped envelope for for 75th an-
niversary of Gallipoli landing



Top, 1990s pre-stamped envelope; bottom, 2005 pre-stamped envelope for centenary of stamp vending machine



2004 pre-stamped maximum card for NZ Home of the Middle Earth stamp issue



1990 pre-stamped envelopes for 75th anniversary of Gallipoli landing



1980 for 125th anniversary of NZ stamps (Sc. 701)



1987 New Zealand Post Ltd. establishment (Sc. 871a)

and aerogrammes. A peculiarity of New Zealand is special stamped cards for applying special date stamps.

In 1998, the postal market in New Zealand was deregulated, and it was opened to free

competition. That means that New Zealand Post has to compete with other companies in all sectors of the postal market.

There is no monopoly for any type of mail anymore, and anyone can register as a postal operator with the Ministry of Economic Development. New Zealand Post is still required to provide a universal service with delivery throughout the country.

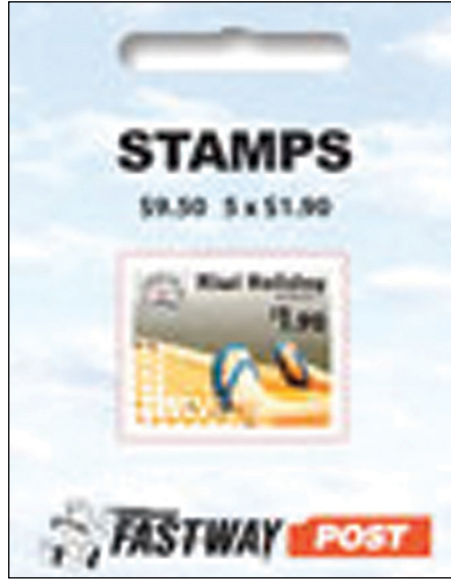


1988 souvenir sheet for centenary of Royal Phil. Soc. of NZ (Sc. 889)



Currently, there are more than 25 competing operators. The New Zealand Post had a monopoly for UPU membership until 2003, but no other companies have registered for UPU membership after that date either. Today, the combined competitors have around 10% of the total letter market, New Zealand Post the remaining 90%. Most com-

Fastway Post, stamp booklet (see also page 30)



Fastway Post, stamp booklets (see also page 29)



petitors have an agreement with New Zealand Post, giving them access to New Zealand Post's sorting and delivery facilities.

One of these alternative postal operators is Fastway Post. They issue stamps, prestamped stationery etc., but uses NZ Post to deliver their mail. The same applies to DX Mail, New Zealand Mail, Pete's Post and Universal Mail (New Zealand).



New Zealand Mail stamps

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