

PRICE BARRIER BREAKTHROUGH NZ - POSTAL HISTORY TAKES OFF

GERALD J. ELLOTT RDP FRPSNZ

The well known London Auction House **SPINK** founded in 1666, held one of their regular Stamp Auctions on 3 October 2006 at which they offered for sale the late **John Woolfe Collection of New Zealand Postal History**. It is a credit to David Parsons, one of the Spink Specialist Directors, that once again history has been made as far as New Zealand Postal History material is concerned, **when 40 lots were knocked down at over NZ \$10,000.00 each.**

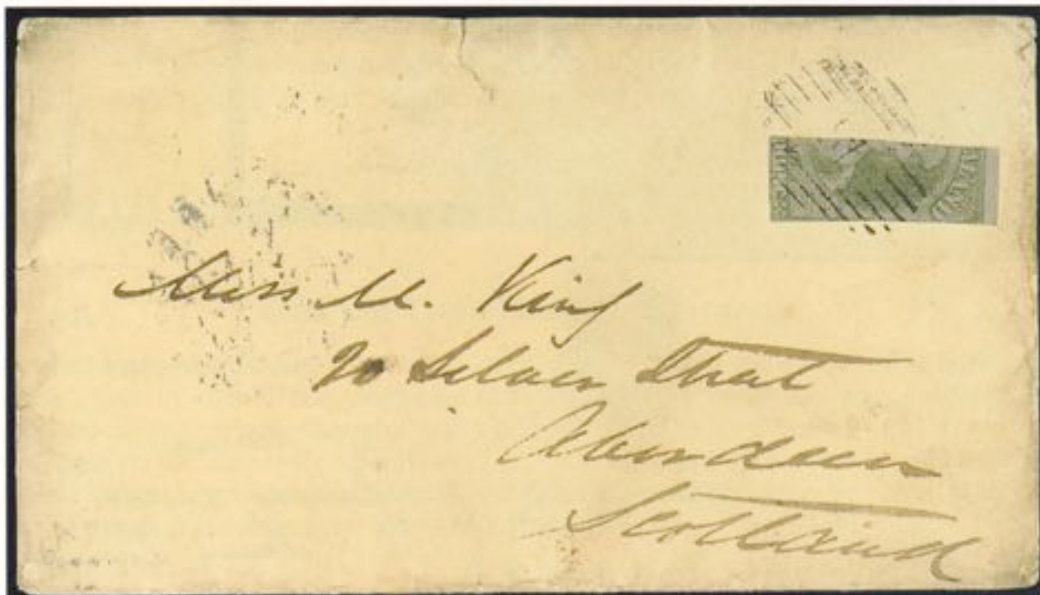
There were **430 lots of Prestamp and Chalon issues for sale** with the majority sold on the day. The catalogue will be well sought after by collectors and libraries throughout New Zealand, especially as nearly all the covers on offer, were illustrated in colour.

Our national newspapers and radio services, have already publicized one of the earliest New Zealand letters, being an entire letter dated 26 February 1820 from the Rev. James Kemp at "Keddee Keddee" (Keri Keri), this was estimated at 1000 to 1200 pounds, and was sold exclusive of the buyers commission and VAT for **4800 pounds**. A Maori War, Soldier's one penny concession rate letter from Wanganui, dated 5 April 1866, was sold for **5000 pounds**.

As I mentioned earlier, there were 40 lots which will cost their new owners over NZ \$10,000.00, and all of them are worthy of illustrating, however at this stage, only **the top ten items, all of which reached over NZ \$20,000 can be shown, in this issue.**

One of the outstanding inclusions in the Catalogue were the descriptions. John Woolfe as most of our members will know, was a very keen researcher, and spent many hours at the Newspaper Archive at Colindale, London, at the Public Records Office at Kew, as well as both the British Library and Post Office Archives. All the important references are included, together with details of the Routes, Rates and Postal Markings.

Lot 204 - Pride of place, with the top price.



204

John Richardson printing on blue paper 1s 0d Chalon issue, Bisect dated 23 November 1858. N^o R17, in the list prepared by George Branam of California and the late John White of Sydney. Provenance Dr. Adam Hunter 1980 & Major Dumas 2000. Sold for **12,000 pounds plus commissions etc.**

Lot 232 - To Jamaica, took the honour of being second highest price.



232

A very rare cover addressed to the West Indies, from New Plymouth, dated 11 April 1862, sent via London. Estimate 2000 to 2500 pounds, sold for **10,000 pounds** plus commissions etc.

Lot 229 – Chalon issue together with New Plymouth CC Paid At (Type 2)



229

19 May 1860 - Entire, from New Plymouth, addressed to the Lutheran Pastor in Bremen. Estimate 2000 to 2500 pounds, sold for **9,500 pounds** plus commissions.

Lot 366 addressed to China, and Detained for additional postage.



366

25 October 1870 - Waiwera, Otago, detained at Dunedin for additional 1s 0d postage. RPS Certificate. Estimate 2000 to 2500 pounds, sold for **8,500 pounds plus commissions.**

Lot 211 - rare overlap (strip of three) on cover



211

7 October 1863 - Blenheim, Overlap left hand margin on left hand stamp
1863 John Davies print, imperf. 2d dull deep blue, large star watermark.
Estimate 6000 to 8000 pounds, sold for **8,500 pounds plus commissions.**

Lot 85 – Nelson addressed to the Rev. J. Whiteley at Taranaki



85

27 December 1860 - Registered at Nelson with Crown Circle PAID AT NELSON.
Estimate 4000 to 5000 pounds it sold for **8,500 pounds plus commissions.**

Lot 346 – Detained for additional postage



346

22 March 1872 - Auckland addressed to South Africa. (2 x 6d value, both colours)
Estimate 2500 to 3000 pounds, sold for **8,500 pounds plus commissions.**

Lot 114 – OTAKOU (Otago) Crown within oval



1 March 1848 - Edinburgh to New Zealand, per Private ship *Victory*, to Nelson.
 Estimate 4000 to 5000 pounds, sold for **8,000 pounds plus commissions.**

Lot 133 - Forwarding Agent William Clunie (only recorded example)



133

9 November 1844 - entire Letter from Russell, Crowned Oval date stamp
 "POST OFFICE RUSSELL" with "GENERAL" removed (three recorded)
 Estimate 5000 to 6000 pounds, sold for **7,800 pounds plus commissions.**

Lot 251 – John Richardson 1s 0d printing on blue paper.



251

2 July 1859 – Wellington to Liverpool , adhesive cancelled with the N° 10 Perkins Bacon obliterator, Estimate 2,500 to 3000 pounds, sold for **7,000 pounds plus commissions.**

Whilst my intention was only to include the top ten items, I am including an item which I have always considered the best item, one which I waited twenty years to purchase after being the under bidder, a role which I might add, I was very proficient at filling!

Lot 271 – Auckland to France



271

15 February 1873 – Auckland to France, Registered, endorsed *via San Francisco*, but changed to *via Sydney, Suez, and Marseilles*. At Alexandria, it was carried on the French Packet, *Niemen* to Marseilles, via Naples. The markings on the reverse are just as interesting as those the obverse, Forwarding Agent oval marking, “CRUICKSHANK & Co., Auckland”. French Accountancy boxed marking 5080, weight and cachets, plus three date stamps, Bordeaux etc., and manuscript markings “avant” “apres” “absent” etc. Estimate 1500 to 2000 pounds, sold for **3,500 pounds, plus commission.**