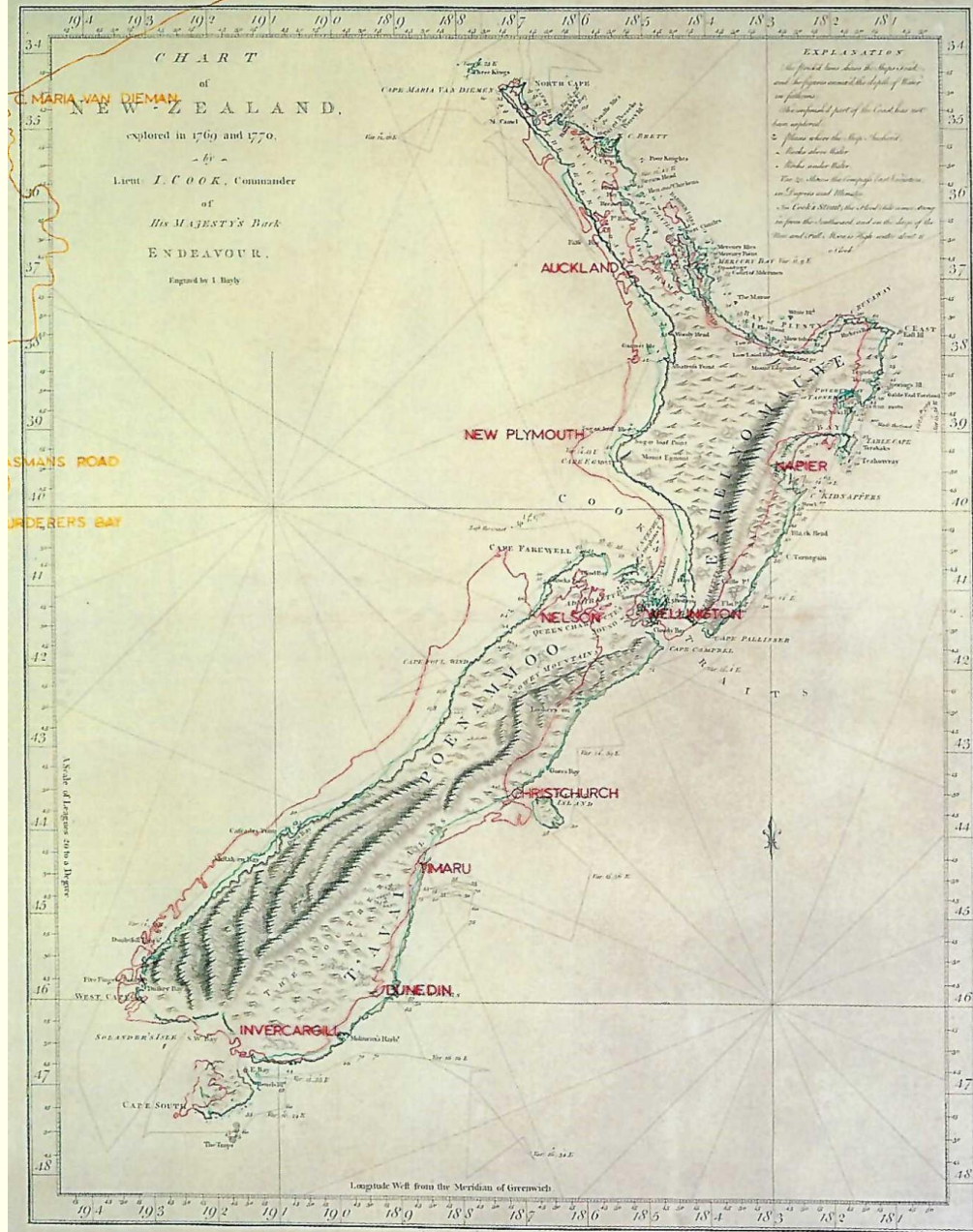


New Zealand
Government
Life Insurance
Stamps
1891 - 1987





New Zealand 1772

Chart drawn by James Cook
and engraved by James Bailey

The New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department was opened in 1869 and started issuing its own stamps in 1891. Up until that time The Insurance Office, in common with other Government services, had enjoyed franking privileges, paying an annual amount to the Post and Telegraph Department to cover the cost of postage on its correspondence.

The decision to issue the stamps was the result of a dispute between the two Departments regarding the calculation of postage costs. The matter was referred to an arbitrator but the Insurance Department insisted on paying future postage costs by the purchase of postage stamps.

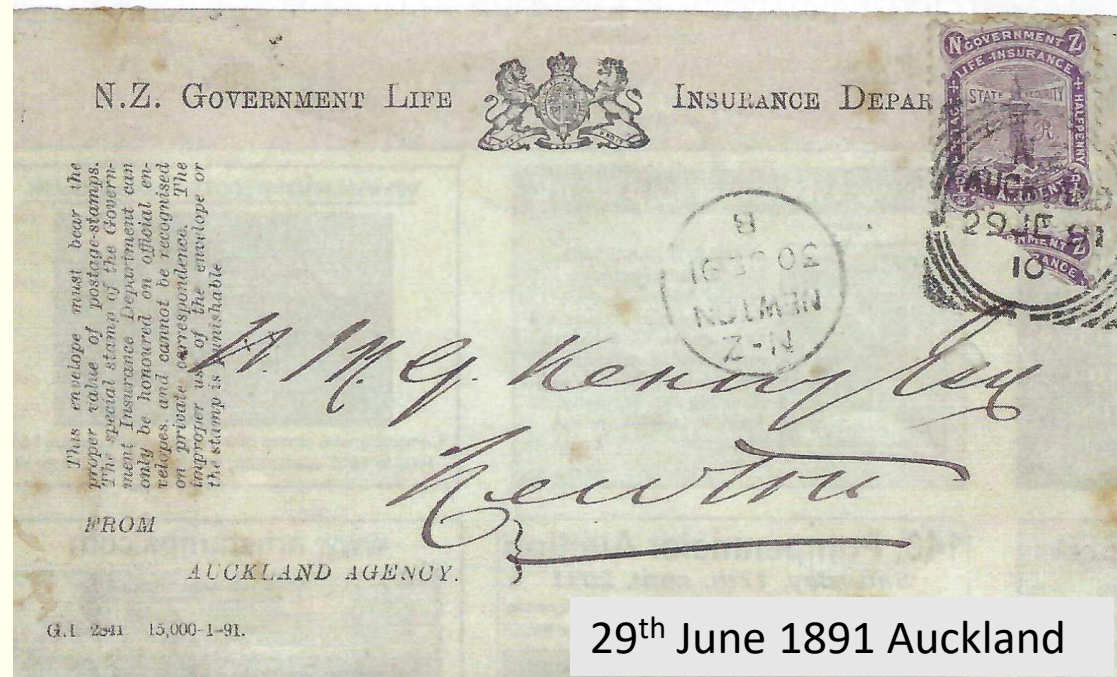
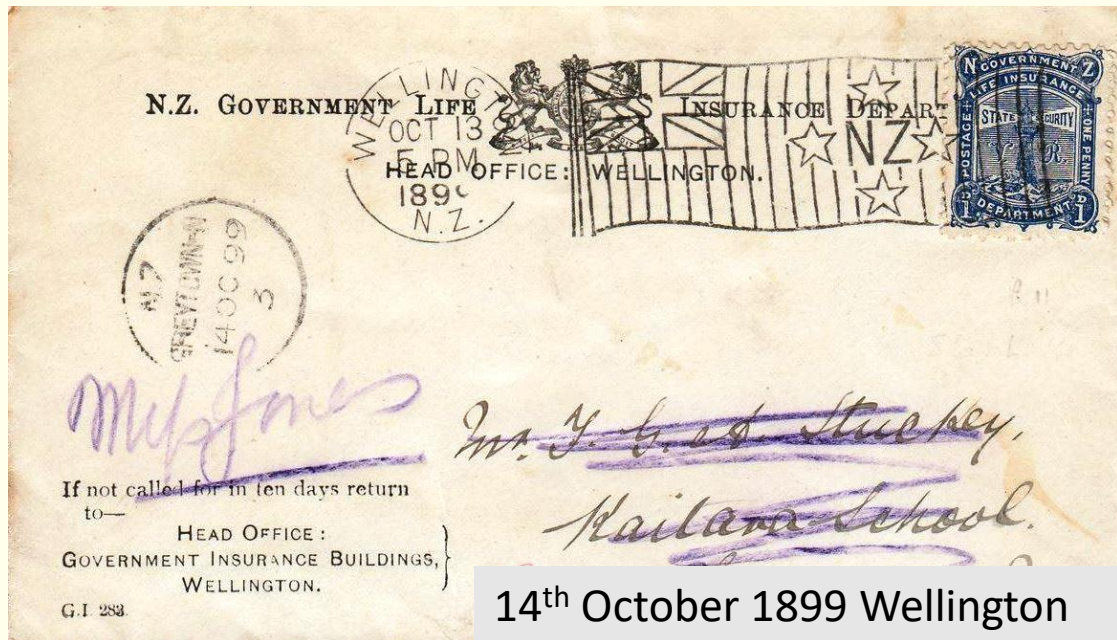
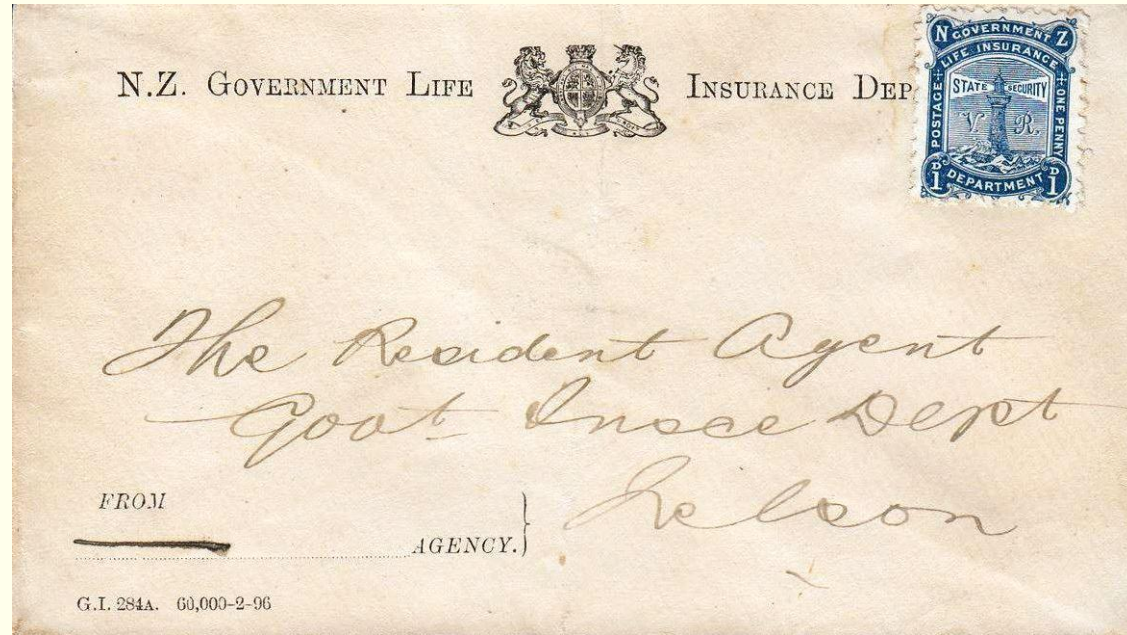
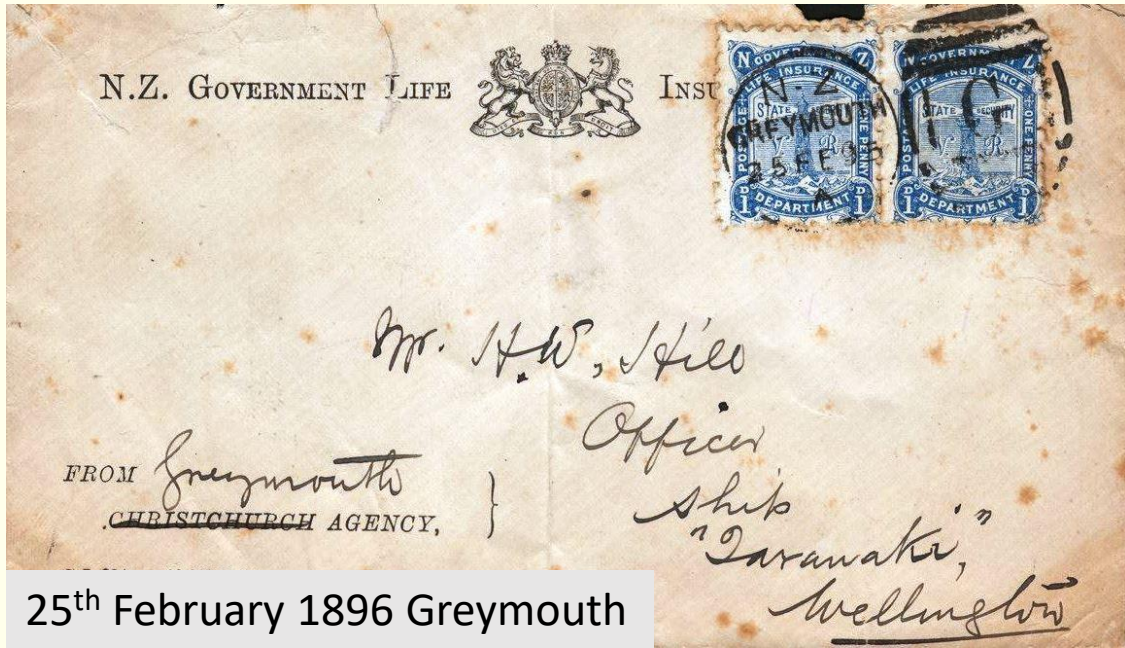
To ensure that these stamps were only used for their intended purpose, they had to have a very distinctive design. Since the symbol of the Insurance Department was a lighthouse, all Government Life Insurance Department stamp designs have featured lighthouses. So actually this was more like a personalised stamp, being printed and issued by the Post Office but only used by the Insurance Office.

1891 – The first “VR” issue

The first issue was perf 12 x 11½ and was issued on rather poor-quality paper in which the watermark has a 4mm gap between the NZ and star. This paper was also used for the second side-face issue and is often referred to as the insurance paper. W.B. Hudson and J. F. Rogers are credited with the design. The dies were engraved by A.E.Cousins and plates made at the Government Printing Office. The following values were issued: ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d and 1/- (1s).

There was only one printing of the 3d, 6d and 1/- values, but several printings of the other values on paper with 7mm between the NZ and star and perforated 10, 11 and 11 x 10. In 1902-1903 they appeared on a paper with watermark sideways and perf 11.





N. Z. GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

TRIENNIAL INVESTIGATION

POLICY NO.

89.882

31st December, 1902.

TABLE

XVII 20.

End.

RM

On the Life of David Jones

Reversionary Addition to Policy previously allotted as Bonus and still in force. £ - 11 -

Reversionary Addition to Policy now allotted as Bonus for period ending 31st Dec. 1902. £ 3 - -

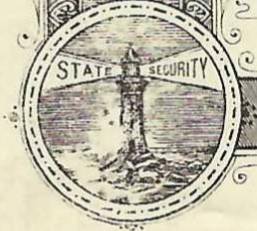
The Bonuses shown above have been added to the Policy and if left untouched will be payable with the sum assured at death or maturity, but should the Policy holder prefer, they may be surrendered for the present cash value at any time.

This Certificate is issued as a notice only. Errors and omissions are excepted.

Josephus H. Richardson, Commissioner.

Morris Fox, Actuary.

BONUS CERTIFICATE.



FORM OF APPLICATION AND RECEIPT FOR CASH VALUE OF BONUS.

Received this day of 190..... the sum
of £..... in consideration of the surrender of £
of Reversionary Bonus declared upon Policy No.

Witness

Signature

Address

Address

Occupation

DIRECTIONS TO POLICYHOLDERS.

If desirous of taking cash value of Bonus please sign the above Voucher, on receipt of which the amount due will be forwarded after deduction of any Premiums then overdue.



In 1905 (2d) and 1906 (1d) new plates were produced in which the VR was omitted. The 2d is rare (and therefore expensive). The watermark is sideways and the perforation is 14. The stamps were withdrawn in January 1907 and replaced by the ordinary postage stamps overprinted Official.



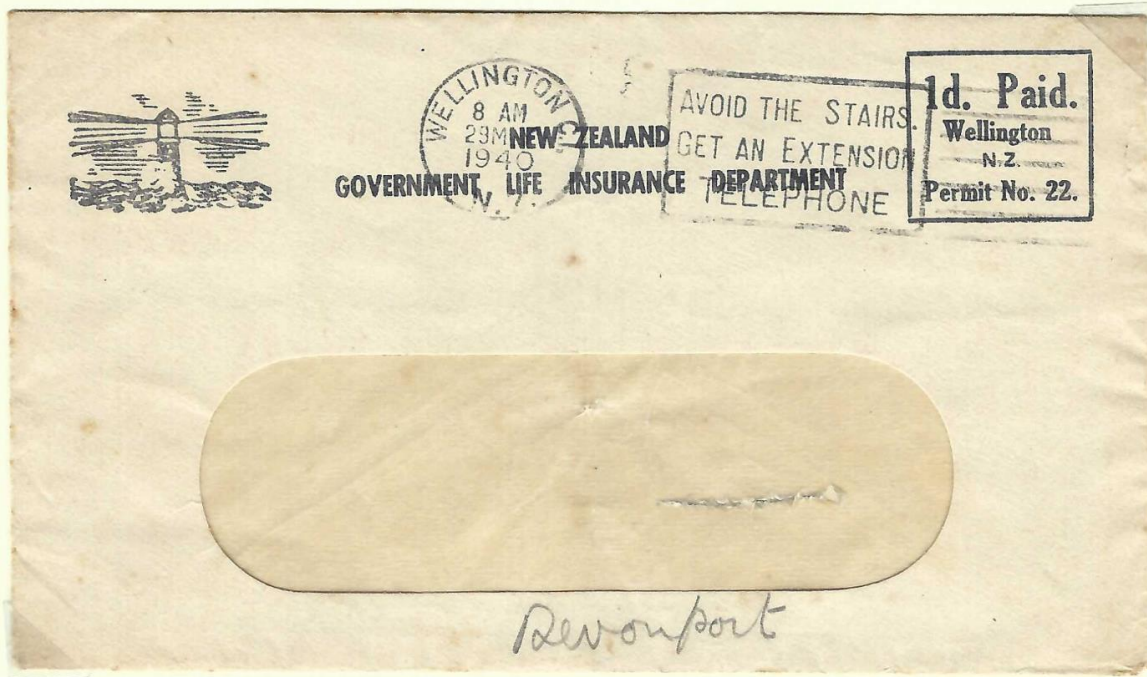
1913 – The second Edward VII issue

In 1913, permission was again given for the Life Insurance Department to issue its own stamps. This design came in six values, gaining a 1½d from the earlier series but dropping the 1/- There are colour varieties for the 1d, 1½d, 2d and 3d values. There are also perforation, watermark and paper varieties however all of the plates had been made in 1905, only the 1d and 2d had been used.

There were some colour changes to match the equivalent values in the contemporary definitive KGV set. The re-emergence of the Government Life stamps is linked to the Post Master General of the day Sir R Heaton Rhodes, who was a prominent philatelist. His collection, specialising in early New Zealand stamps is still intact in the Heaton Rhodes room at the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch.

The 1½d stamp (issued in 1917) is in fact an aberrant version having "Postage" in both side panels. The other values have the value in words on the right. Presumably "one and a half pence" would not fit. It was first issued in black but the cancellations could not be seen on black (the problem was with the colour matching KGV issue) and the colour was changed to brown. The 1½d value changed to orange brown in 1919. In 1920, the colour of the 2d was changed to yellow and in 1931 the 3d was changed from yellow-brown to chocolate.





29th March 1940 – Prepaid Envelope used at Wellington



7th March 1947 Wellington – late use

The 1947 Pictorial Issue



The 1947 Pictorial Issue

On 1st August 1947 a new set of issues were released – this time depicting actual lighthouses. The designer was James Berry who worked from photographs to produce the designs. Several of these designs also feature a ship in the background. Five of the designs depicted lighthouses of New Zealand:-

½d	Castle Point light built in 1913
1d	Taiaroa Head light built in 1865
2d	Cape Palliser light of 1897
2½d	Cape Campbell light of 1870 introduced on 4 th November 1963
4d	Stephens Island light of 1894
6d	The Brothers light of 1877
1/-	Cape Brett light of 1910

The exception was the 3d which depicted the famous British Eddystone Lighthouse – this may seem strange to depict a British Lighthouse but in 1947 New Zealand was still a very British place.



The Stamp Shop,
P. O. Box 1148
Christchurch.

First Day Cover on the 1947 Issue
1st August 1947 Christchurch

First Flight Cover 28th June 1965 Taupo
Using the original 1947 2d and new 1963 2½d



Eddystone

COLOURS: Mauve and pale blue.

THIS—THE MOST famous beacon among those round the British Coast—is situated about 9 miles from the Cornish Coast, and 14 miles S.S.W. of Plymouth. The first lighthouse erected here was built of timber by Henry Winstanley in 1696 and enlarged and completed in 1699. In a great tempest of 1703 this lighthouse was swept away, carrying with it its hapless architect and five keepers.

In 1708 John Rudyard erected a substantial lighthouse of stone and wood which weathered the storms of half a century. Well designed, it was the prototype of all modern lighthouses, but it eventually caught fire from its lantern and was destroyed.

Then came John Smeaton's famous tower of Portland oolite stone 70 feet in height, which was built in three years (1757-1759) and was planned on the model of an oak tree for strength. The stones were dovetailed into one another to ensure stability. The light was from 24 candles, the keepers being kept busy in snuffing the wicks. More than a century later the rock on which it stood was found to be badly undermined. The greater part of this lighthouse was then taken down and re-erected on Plymouth Hoe. The present lighthouse, designed by Sir J. N. Douglas, was completed in 1882. This tower 130 feet high, which follows the lines of Smeaton's, is built of solid masonry, each stone dovetailing with its neighbour both laterally and vertically. It consists of ten stories including the lantern, and the light of 159,600 candle power is visible for 17½ miles.

As a beacon of safety, this most famous lighthouse is a fitting symbol for the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Office and appears in the well-known crest on the back of this folder.



Tairaroa

COLOURS: Olive green and pale blue.

ONE OF THE earliest erected in New Zealand, this light came into operation on January 2nd, 1865. Situated 190 feet above sea level at the southern side and seaward entrance to Otago Harbour, the Tairaroa Head Light guides shipping to Port Chalmers, the port for the city of Dunedin. The tower and keepers' dwellings were built from stone quarried on the site. In earlier years this light was a blood red colour, but in 1921 it was converted to an automatic group flashing white light.

As a further aid to shipping, a fog signal had been installed in April 1906. This was replaced in 1931 by a Diaphone Fog Signal similar to one in use at Pencarrow Head.



Castlepoint

COLOURS: Grey-green and scarlet.

THE LAST WATCHED light to be erected in the Dominion, Castlepoint lighthouse which is situated on the coast some 30 miles in a straight line east of Masterton, first came into use on January 12th, 1913.

South of the lighthouse is a prominent hill called "The Castle" which gives the locality its name. Situated on a peninsula, this light is important for vessels coming from Panama, which often make Castlepoint their landfall. Like the light at Cape Brett, the apparatus revolves in a mercury bath.



Cape Palliser

COLOURS: Dark blue and grey-black.

THIS LIGHTHOUSE, situated at the southern tip of the North Island, stands guard over the eastern approach to Cook Strait. The light first came into operation on October 27th, 1897. Situated on a hill above the keepers' dwellings, it is approached by a long flight of steps and there is a tramway operated by a hand winch alongside the steps.



Stephens Island

COLOURS: Deep brown and pale orange.

THIS PROMINENT guide for shipping passing through Cook Strait, is situated off the northern tip of D'Urville Island and is approximately 60 miles in a direct line N.W. of Wellington and about the same distance N.E. of Nelson. It also marks the eastern entrance to Tasman Bay on the north coast of the South Island.

The powerful light first came into operation on January 29th, 1894, and is visible for 32 miles in clear weather. The station was later connected with the telegraph system, and prior to installation of wireless on ships, was an important signalling station for reporting movements of shipping through Cook Strait. There is now also a wireless station in daily communication with Wellington.



Cape Brett

COLOURS: Light brown and blue.

SITUATED about 20 miles due east of Waitangi, Bay of Islands, Cape Brett Lighthouse first came into operation on 21st February, 1910, and was the first of its kind in New Zealand in which the light machinery revolves in a mercury float. The cast iron tower was made in New Zealand, the lantern, machinery and light apparatus being imported from Great Britain.

The island shown in the stamp is Piery Island. Through this island is a beautiful archway which launches are able to navigate. Swordfish and mako shark abound in the locality which is close to Deep Water Cove, a base camp for big game fishing.



The Brothers

COLOURS: Brown and turquoise blue.

THIS ISLAND is one of a small group of rocky islands off the north coast of the South Island and at the narrowest part of Cook Strait. Built about 230 feet above sea level, this light came into operation on September 24th, 1877. In the lower floor of the tower is an auxiliary light showing a fixed red ray over Cook Rock.

Being so exposed, this lighthouse (the only one in the Dominion) is known as a rock station, where keepers are accommodated in one building and where no women reside.

The 1947 Pictorial Issue 1/2d Castle Point Lighthouse



This lighthouse was prefabricated in Wellington and established in 1913. It is still active with a focal plane of 170 ft; three white flashes every 30 seconds. The lighthouse consists of a 75 ft round cast iron tower with lantern and gallery, all of which are painted white except for the lantern roof which is painted grey. The original 2nd order Fresnel lens continues in use. The other light station buildings demolished. The causeway connecting the station to the mainland was demolished in 2008 because it had become unsafe, but except during the highest tides it is still possible to reach the lighthouse on foot across a sandy flat.

The lighthouse also appeared on a 70c stamp as part of the 2013 New Zealand Coastlines Issue and also in the border of the miniature sheet. It was one of the two 1947 stamps that were not overprinted for the 1967 interim decimal set.



Castle Point Lighthouse ~ 2013 New Zealand Coastlines.



The 1947 Pictorial Issue 1d Taiaroa Head Lighthouse

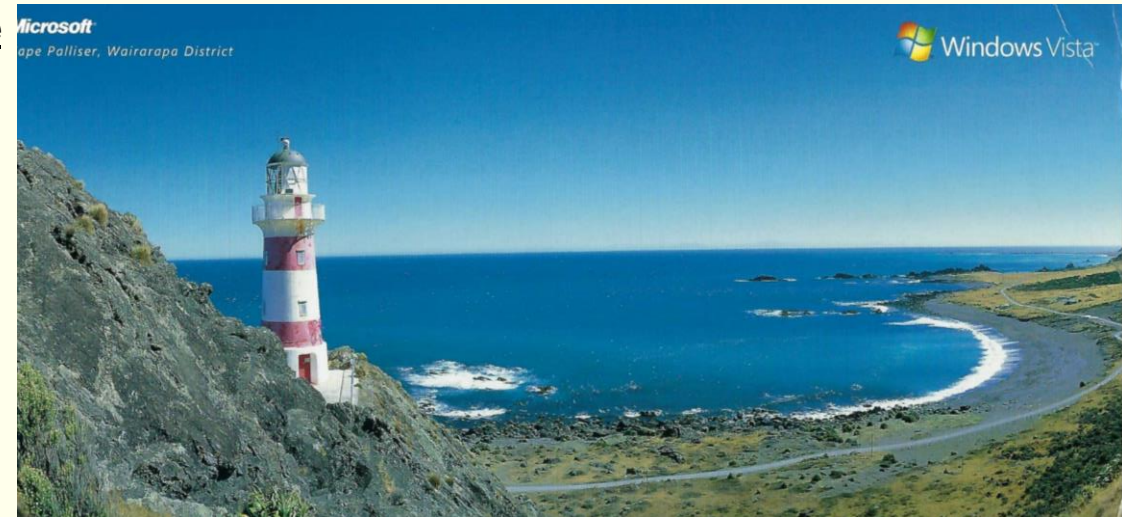


This lighthouse was designed by Hugh Calder and established in 1865. It is still active with a focal plane of 197 ft; two long (2 seconds) white flashes every 18 seconds. It consists of a 39 ft round stone tower with lantern and gallery, painted white; lantern roof is red. The single-storey signal building painted white with a red roof. The area surrounding the lighthouse is a nature reserve, the site of a large nesting colony of royal albatross, the only place in the world where albatross nest near civilization. It is located at the north-eastern tip of the Otago Peninsula about 20 miles northeast of Dunedin, marking the entrance to Otago Harbour.

It was overprinted as a 1c stamp for the 1967 interim decimal set. The lighthouse also appeared on a \$1 stamp as part of the 2000 New Zealand Scenic View Issue.



The 1947 Pictorial Issue 2d Cape Palliser (Matakitakiakupe) Lighthouse



This lighthouse was prefabricated in Wellington and established in 1897. It is still active with a focal plane of 256 ft; two white flashes every 20 seconds. It consists of a 59 ft round cast iron tower with lantern and gallery, painted with red and white horizontal bands (the only New Zealand lighthouse with this daymark). The original 2nd order Fresnel lens continues in use. The two keeper's houses are now private residences. The lighthouse marks the extreme south-eastern tip of the North Island and the eastern entrance to Cook Strait and Wellington. A gravel road reaches the light station; but there is a steep climb of 258 steps to the lighthouse.

It was the other one of the two 1947 stamps that were not overprinted for the 1967 interim decimal set. It has not appeared on any further stamps but has been used for a Microsoft Windows Vista advertising postcard.

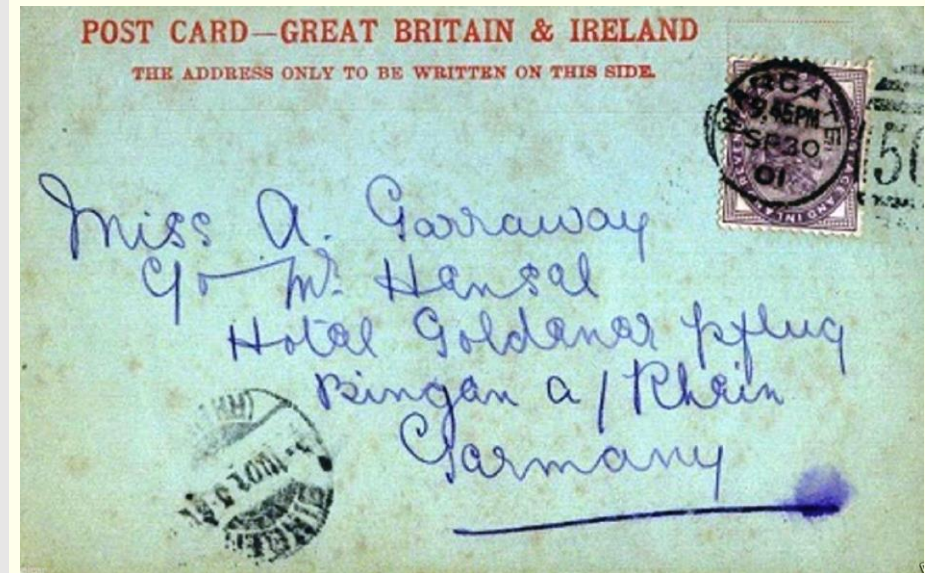
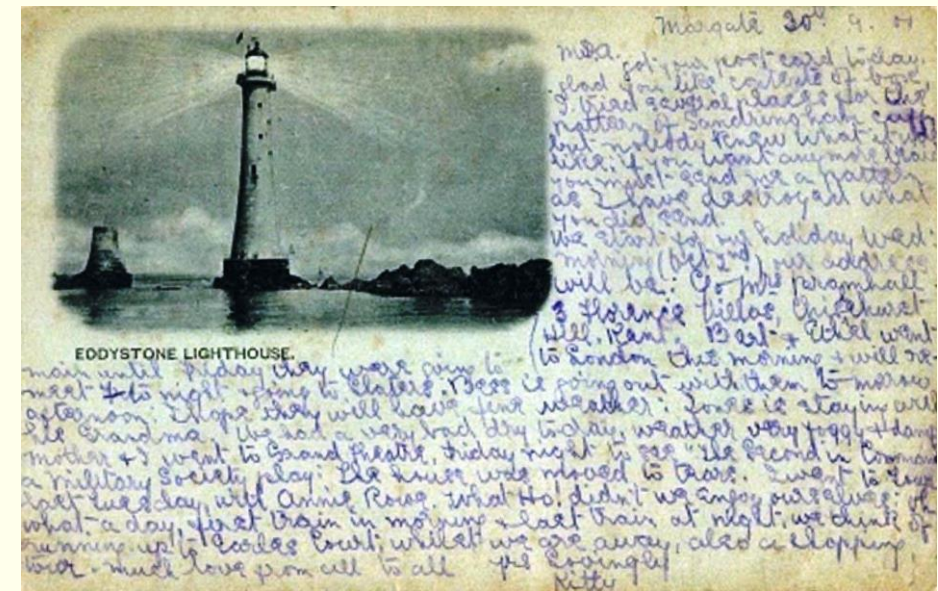


The 1947 Pictorial Issue 3d Eddystone Lighthouse

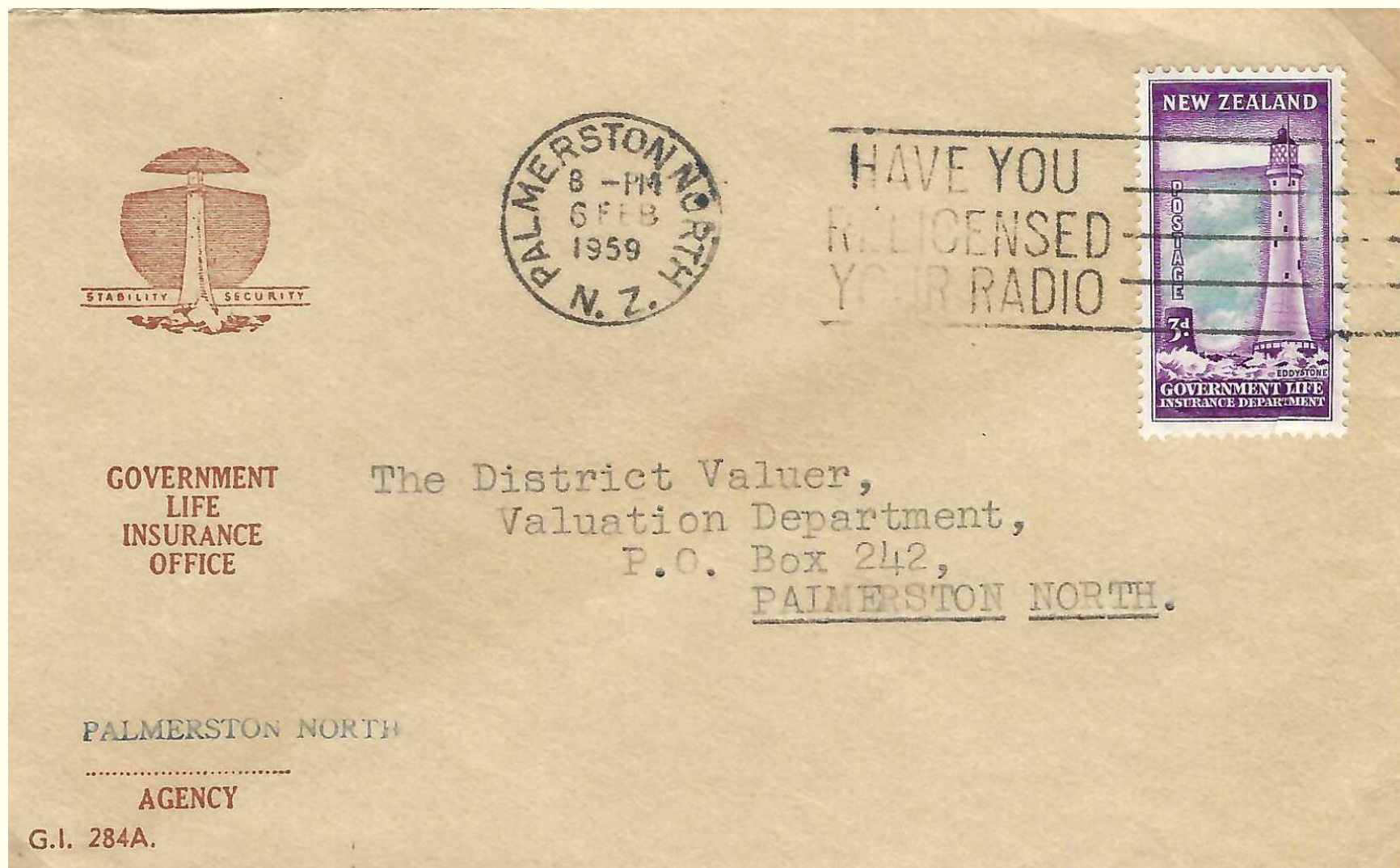


This lighthouse was built in 1882 by James Douglass, although the station had been established in 1698. It is still active with a focal grey plane of 135 ft; two quick white flashes, separated by 2½ seconds, every 10 seconds. In addition, a red light (5 secs on, 5 secs off) is shown to the northwest from a tower window at a focal plane of 93ft). It consists of a 168 ft round granite tower, incorporating keeper's quarters, with lantern and a helipad built above the lantern. Tower is unpainted grey stone; lantern and helipad painted red. Fog horn (blast every 30s). This is probably the most famous British lighthouse, and indeed one of the most famous lighthouses in the world.

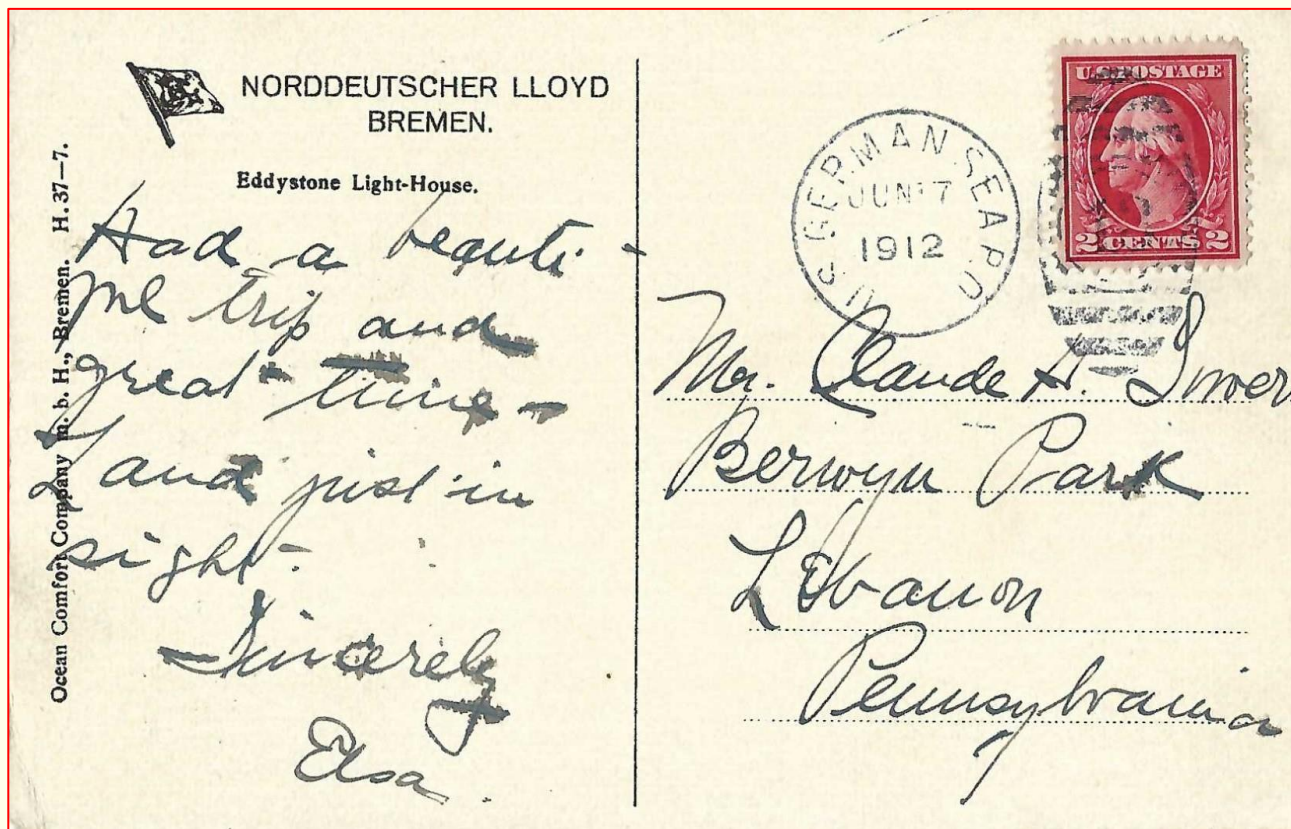
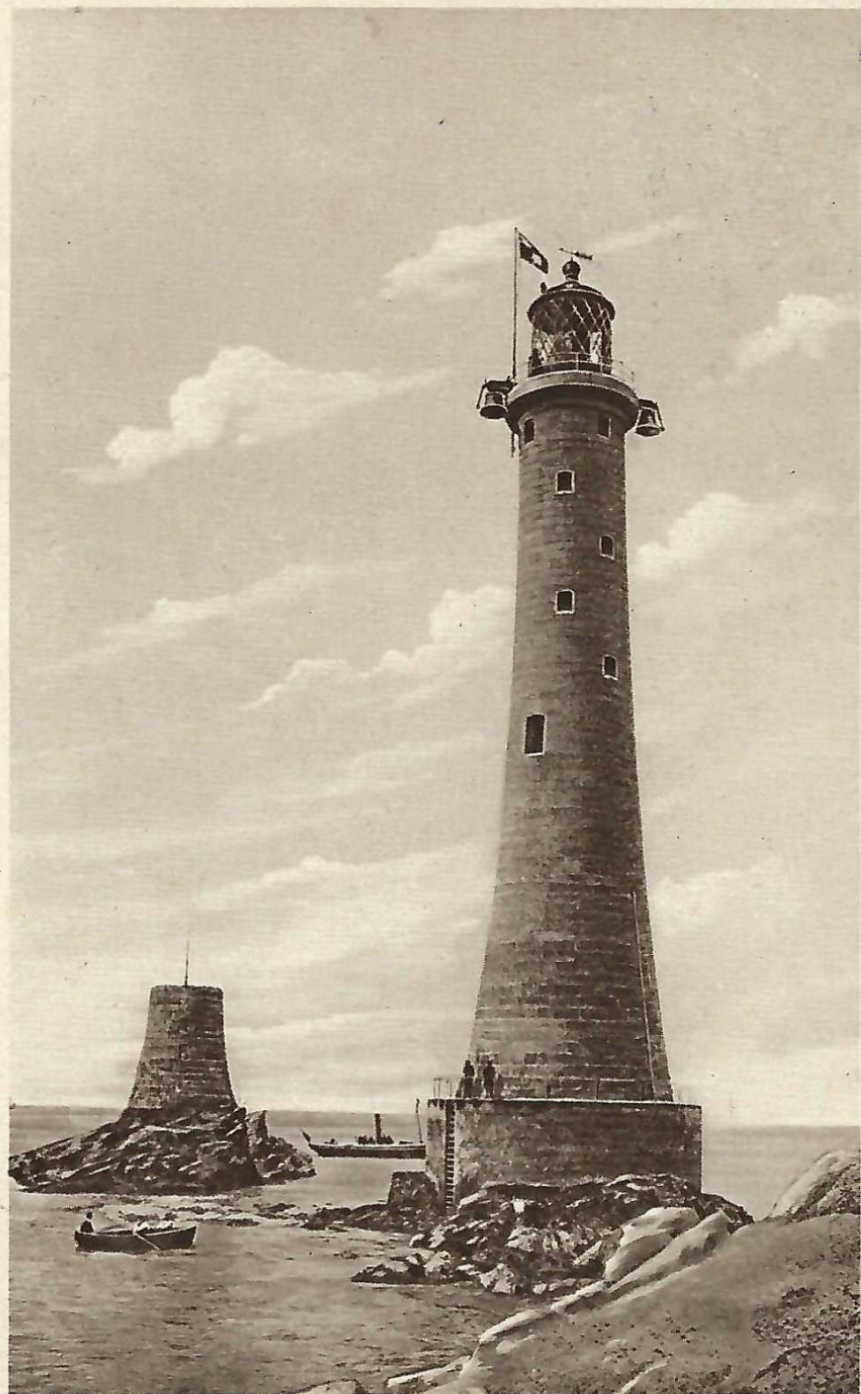
It was overprinted as a 2½c stamp for the 1967 interim decimal set. In spite of the fame of this lighthouse, this is the only appearance of the 1882 lighthouse on a stamp.



The 1947 Pictorial Issue 3d EddystoneLighthouse



6th February 1959 Palmerston North

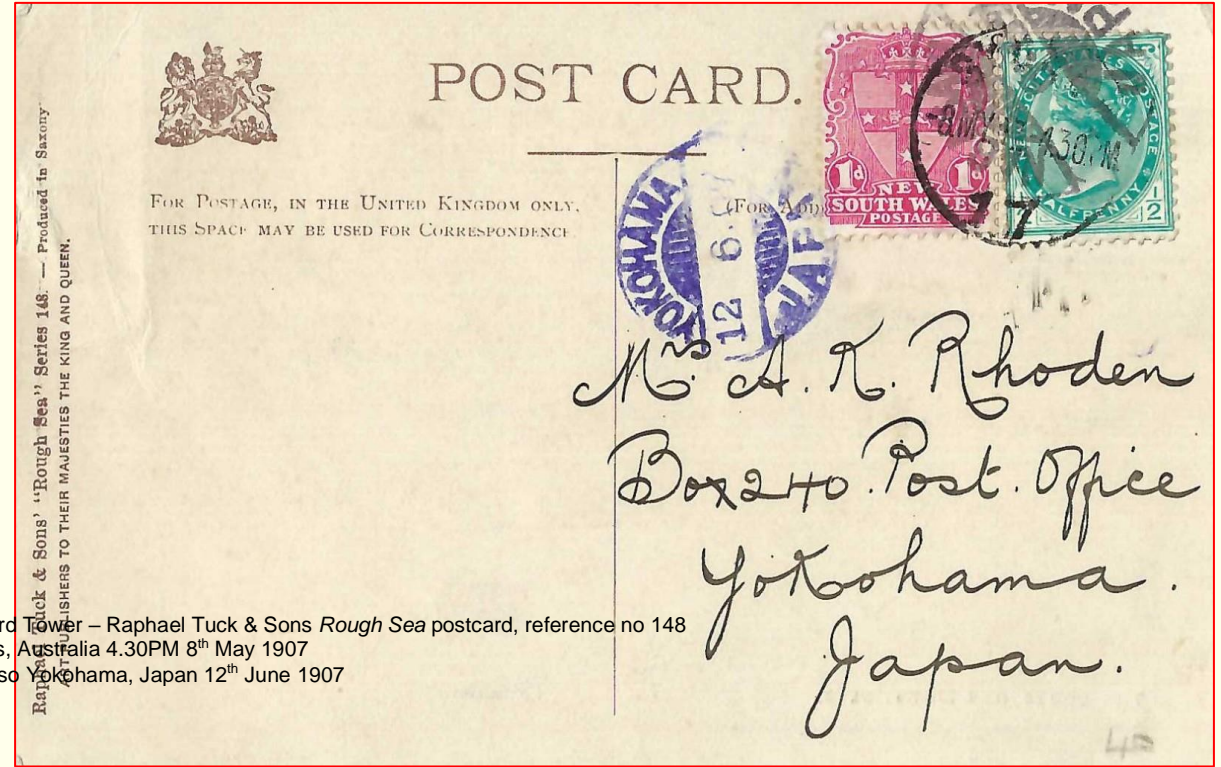


Eddystone Lighthouse –
Ocean Comfort Company of Bremen, reference H.37-7

Posted US German Sea P.O. June 17th 1912 with killer 13
cancel – used on the *SS Kronprinzessin-Cecile* which was
in use from 20th August 1907-11th July 1914



Douglass's Fourth Eddystone Lighthouse and the stump of Smeaton's Third Tower – Raphael Tuck & Sons *Rough Sea* postcard, reference no 148
 Posted Sydney (New South Wales, Australia) 4.30PM 8th May 1907
 With arrival stamp of Nagasaki and also Yokohama, Japan 12th June 1907



Eddystone Lighthouse
 Douglass Lighthouse and the stump of Smeaton's Tower –
 Raphael Tuck & Sons *Rough Sea* postcard, reference no 148
 Posted Sydney (New South Wales, Australia) 4.30PM 8th May
 1907
 With arrival stamp of Nagasaki and also Yokohama, Japan
 12th June 1907

The 1947 Pictorial Issue 4d Stephens Island (Takapourewa) Lighthouse



This lighthouse was established in 1894. It is still active with a focal plane of 600 ft and range of 30 miles; white flash every 6 seconds. It consists of a 50ft round cast iron tower with lantern and gallery, painted white; lantern roof is grey. It is New Zealand's highest light marking the north-western entrance to Cook Strait. Stephen's Island, also known by its Māori name Takapourewa, is the home of several very rare species of wildlife including the tuatara (an unusual lizard-like reptile). Located at the northern end of the steep-sided island, north-east of the much larger D'Urville Island.

It was overprinted as a 3c stamp for the 1967 interim decimal set. The lighthouse also appeared on a \$2.90c stamp as part of the 2013 New Zealand Coastlines Issue.

*Stephens Island Light, Cook Strait
Maritime New Zealand photograph*



The 1947 Pictorial Issue 6d Brothers Lighthouse



This lighthouse was established in 1894. It is still active with a focal plane of 600 ft and range of 30 miles; white flash every 6 seconds. It consists of a 50ft round cast iron tower with lantern and gallery, painted white; lantern roof is grey. It is New Zealand's highest light marking the north-western entrance to Cook Strait. Stephen's Island, also known by its Māori name Takapourewa, is the home of several very rare species of wildlife including the tuatara (an unusual lizard-like reptile). Located at the northern end of the steep-sided island, north-east of the much larger D'Urville Island.

It was overprinted as a 5c stamp for the 1967 interim decimal set. The lighthouse also appeared on a 63c stamp as part of the 1974 New Zealand Offshore Islands Issue.



The 1947 Pictorial Issue 1s Cape Brett Lighthouse



This lighthouse was established in 1910. It has been inactive since 1978. It consists of a 46 ft round cast iron tower with lantern, painted white. The active light (focal plane 479 ft; white flash every 15 seconds) is on a 13 ft cylindrical fiberglass tower standing in front of the historic lighthouse. The single-storey wood keeper's house (one of three in the original light station) now shelters hikers. By 2005 the lighthouse was in critical need of restoration. In 2007 the Department of Conservation scraped 60 layers of paint from the lighthouse and restored the exterior to its original appearance. In August 2009 the light station was registered as a Category 1 Historic Place. The Cape Brett area is now a national scenic reserve.

It was overprinted as a 10c stamp for the 1967 interim decimal set. The lighthouse also appeared on a \$1.50c stamp as part of the 2009 New Zealand Lighthouse Issue.





Bay of Islands

New Zealand

Cape Brett Lighthouse
Photograph by Andrew Fear. Natures Best Card produced for the Universal Mail Limited of Auckland, New Zealand
Posted in Singapore PM 22nd April 2005

The 1947 Pictorial Issue 2½d Cape Campbell Lighthouse



This lighthouse was established in 1905, although the station was established in 1870. It is still active with a focal plane of 155 ft; white flash every 15 seconds. It consists of a 73 ft round cast iron tower with lantern and gallery, painted with black and white horizontal bands. This is one of only a few New Zealand lighthouses with coloured bands; here the bands help distinguish the tower from the white bluff on which it stands. The lighthouse marks the south-eastern entrance to Cook Strait. This is the lighthouse featured in the 2016 film *The Light Between Oceans* (although the plot of that movie is set in Australia).

It was a late addition in 1963 to the 1947 set and it was overprinted as a 2c stamp for the 1967 interim decimal set. The lighthouse also appeared on a \$2.90c stamp as part of the 2013 New Zealand Coastlines Issue.



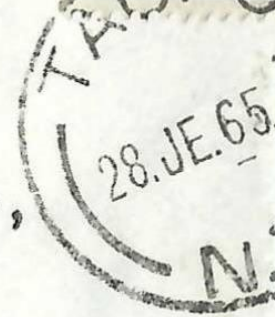
VIA AIR MAIL



TAUPO
Joins the
S.P.A.N.Z.
AIR MAIL
NETWORK



Miss Stephanie Turner,
54 Orakei Road,
REMUERA,
AUCKLAND.



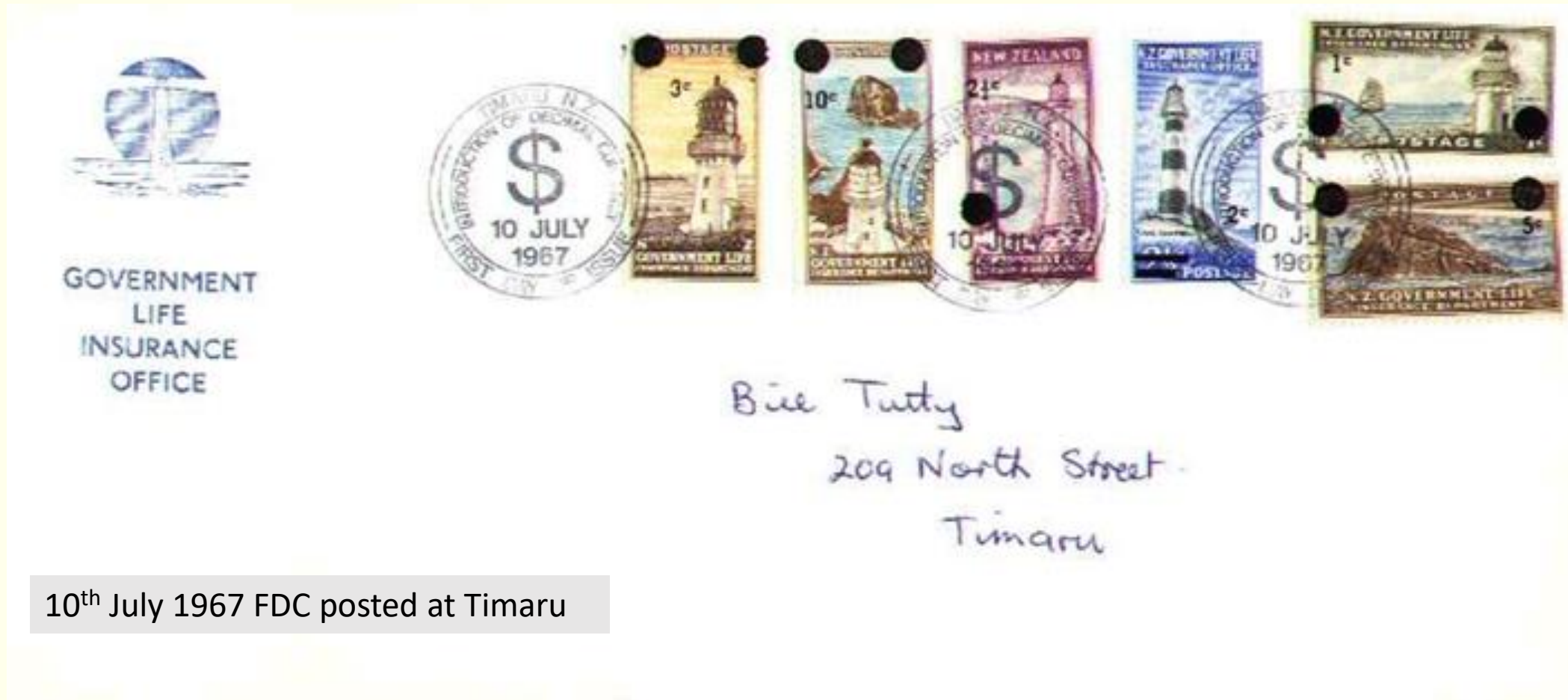
FIRST FLIGHT AIR MAIL
MONDAY 28th JUNE 1965

1947 2d Cape Pallister and 1963 2½d Cape Campbell of First Flight Cover

Posted Taupo 28th June 1965

10th July 1967 Interim Decimal Overprints

There was an interim issue of decimal stamps in 1967 with decimal values overprinted on their older equivalents. Their short life means they are overall, the rarest of the modern sets. Five of the original 1947 designs (the ½d and 2d were not used) and the 1963 2½d were surcharged with decimal values between 1 and 10c. The application of the overprint resulted in a number of varieties.



10th July 1967 FDC posted at Timaru

N. Z. Government Life Insurance
10th July 1967 Interim Decimal Overprints



Offset Surcharge, with start of next surcharge on the right hand edge



The 1967 Decimal Overprint Issue



1969 Decimal Pictorial Issue

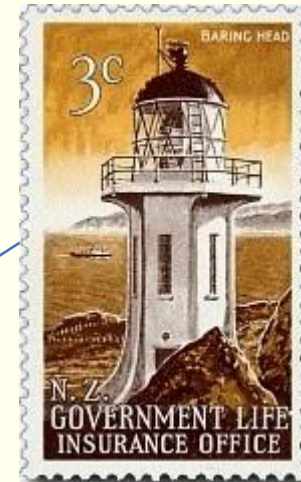
The 1969 series was again the work of designer James Berry. He was a conservative designer. Over his career his designs moved from ones with elaborate frames, to ones with lined frames like the 1947 series, to unframed designs like this series. He was red / green colour blind - an unusual thing for a graphic artist but most of his early career was in producing black and white commercial art for newspapers and magazines. None of the designs here have contrasting red and green.

The issue coincided with the centennial of the Government Life so the motivation for the new issue was more than converting to decimal currency



First Day Cover of the 1969 Issue, also commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Government Life
Posted Christchurch 27th March 1969

The 1969 Decimal Issue





DOG ISLAND

Dog Island is a low-lying rocky islet in Foveaux Strait. The Dog Island Lighthouse was one of the first to be erected, being commissioned in August 1865.

It is one of the most picturesque lighthouses in New Zealand. Built of stone quarried on the island, it has been painted a distinctive black and white. And the 118 ft tower is the tallest in the country.

There has been only one major shipping accident at Dog Island, on November 28, 1939, the "Waikouaiti" ran aground to become a total wreck.

Originally the Dog Island light consisted of 30 small lamps, each with its own lens, a system unique in early New Zealand. In 1925 these were replaced by a single, large light and lens in conformity with the rest of the country.

A radio beacon is operated from Dog Island, and weather reports are broadcast during the winter season only. Mail is sent from Invercargill to the islet every fortnight.



BARING HEAD

Baring Head, the nearest manned lighthouse to Wellington is one of the newer ones. Until it began to operate in June 1935, ships were guided into Wellington Harbour by the light at Pencarrow Head.

A local farmer, Mr Eric Riddiford, gave the site to the Government in 1932, and work on buildings and tower commenced in 1934. On completion of Baring Head the old high level light at Pencarrow was extinguished.

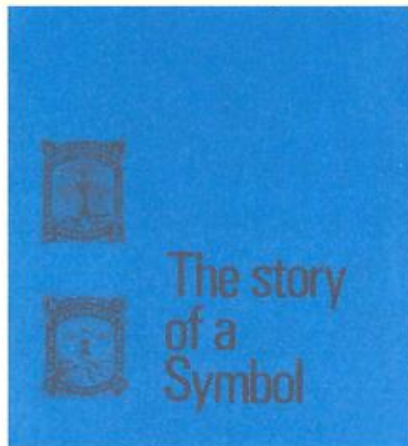
Baring Head was the first lighthouse in New Zealand to be fully electrified from its opening—it used a diesel-electric plant until conversion to the mains supply in 1950.

The keeper finds the Baring Head station pleasant. The area is suitable for farming and growing vegetables, and the township of Wainuiomata is only 12 miles away.

Government Life Postage Stamps are for use on official Government Life mail only and are not for use on private correspondence.

GOVERNMENT LIFE

A FULL CENTURY
OF SERVICE TO NEW ZEALAND



The lighthouse, epitomising strength and stability, has proved a singularly appropriate symbol for the Government Life Insurance Office. At the time of the Office's foundation, in 1869, there was a desperate need to restore public confidence in the Life Assurance Institution. Financial storms had overcome many offices, and the policy holder's money entrusted to their care was lost.

The statesmen of the time determined to establish a strong, soundly based organization, able to stand fast under all economic conditions. The organization they founded stands as a tribute to them, having remained unshaken through prosperity and depression, peace and war. Their foresight has contributed much to the progress and development of this country.

In the year 1890 it was decided that the Department should have its own postage stamps, an unprecedented decision that makes the office unique in the world. The design for the original stamp issue was executed by the then Secretary, Mr W. B. Hudson, who chose the Department's symbol as his motif. The first Government Life Insurance Office stamps were issued on 2nd January, 1891. There was a second issue in 1905, and a third in 1947 which was designed by Mr James Berry, who also designed the 1969 issue.



PUYSEGUR POINT

Puysegur Point Lighthouse stands isolated on the extreme south-west tip of the South Island. Here is a bleak, wind-torn spot, the hinterland completely covered with dense bush. Because no suitable landing place could be found near the proposed site, materials for the original lighthouse had to be delivered to Preservation Inlet—two miles away through the heavy bush. Building a road through the bush proved to be one of the most difficult access jobs in New Zealand. Two men died while the road was being laid; they drowned in the inlet. A search party was just in time to save another four men who had been wandering in the bush between the site and Riverton for 18 days. Finally in March 1879 the first light from Puysegur Point could be seen. In 1942 the original tower was burnt down and in January 1943 a new electrified light began operating. Every three weeks an amphibian aircraft lands about four and a half miles from the station where a boat collects the load of supplies and mail for the three keepers at Puysegur Point.

CAPE EGMONT

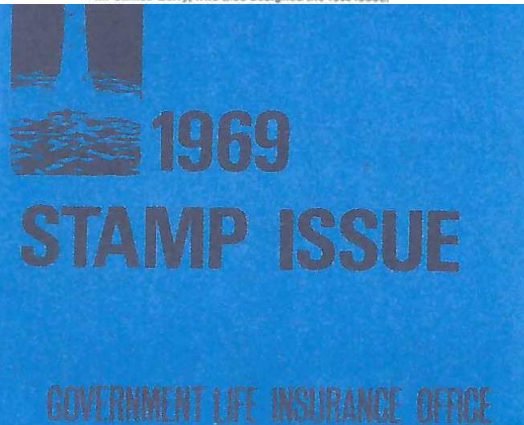
Cape Egmont is the most westerly point of Taranaki province. The lighthouse at the Cape was established in August 1881, after being carried in sections from Mana Island near Wellington in the steamer "Hinemoa". The Mana Island light had been closed down as officials believed it was being confused with that at Pencarrow. Two ships had been wrecked in this confusion, the "City of Newcastle" and "Cyrus". While construction went on at Cape Egmont, local Maoris delayed the work with their hostile actions. Later, in 1881, a detachment of 100 Armed Constabulary patrolled the site, and even after completion a party remained in case of trouble. In November 1951 Cape Egmont Lighthouse was electrified. Today a diesel-electric plant is kept for emergencies, as in most lighthouses.



MOERAKI POINT

To the south of Moeraki is Moeraki Point, a promontory with the off-lying rock formations of Fish Reel and Danger Reef. During the early days of colonization these reefs caused many shipping fatalities until 1878 when the light was first exhibited. Soon after the completion of Moeraki Lighthouse heavy props had to be used to stiffen the tower. The wooden tower could not withstand the gale force winds unaided. As in other New Zealand lighthouses the original diesel-electric system, put into Moeraki Lighthouse in 1943, is now used only as an emergency standby. The children of the Moeraki keeper attend a nearby school, and the family receive stores and mail by road once a week.

CAPE EGMONT



The 1969 Pictorial Issue ½c Moeraki (Katiki) Point Lighthouse



This lighthouse was established in 1878. It is still active with a focal plane of 190 ft; white light, 6 secs on, 6 secs off. It consists of a 28 ft hexagonal wood tower with lantern and gallery, painted white with red trim; lantern painted black. The props around the tower were added soon after it was built to stiffen it. A sibling of the Akaroa Head Light. The original Fresnel lens remains in place but in 2005 the light was moved to an LED lens unit mounted on the gallery. Moeraki is a fishing and holiday village on the Otago coast of the South Island. *Moeraki* is a Maori name meaning *drowsy day*.

This is a rare used stamp as half cents ceased to be any part of postage rates soon after its issue.

Moeraki or Katiki Light
Maritime New Zealand photograph



The 1969 Pictorial Issue 2½c Puysegur Point Lighthouse



This lighthouse was established in 1943 although the station had been established earlier. The lighthouse was deactivated in 1980, being replaced by a light at Windsor Head; it was reactivated in 1987. It has a focal plane of 148ft; white flash every 12 seconds. It consists of a 17ft lantern mounted on a short octagonal concrete pedestal. The original lighthouse, a wooden tower, was burned to the ground in 1942 by a deranged gold prospector who lived nearby. The present lantern was relocated from Godley Head. The original Fresnel lens was replaced with a modern rotating beacon in 1996. The stamp was reissued, surcharged at 25c, in 1978 to cover increased postal rates. The lighthouse also appeared on a \$3.60c stamp as part of the 2019 New Zealand Eye of the Lens Issue.





1969 2½c (Puysegur Point) on Life Insurance Window Envelope, Posted Lower Hutt 2.30pm 18th July 1972

If Not Delivered Within 14 Days Return To Nearest
GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE OFFICE

The 1969 Pictorial Issue 3c Baring Head (Ōrua-pouanui) Lighthouse



This lighthouse was established in 1935. It is still active with a focal plane of 286 ft; white light, 9 secs on, 6 secs off. It consists of a 40 ft octagonal concrete tower with six ribs, lantern, and gallery. It is painted white; lantern dome is grey. The last traditional lighthouse built in New Zealand, this tower replaced the older Pencarrow Head Light as the entrance light for the approach to Wellington. In 2005 the light was moved to an LED beacon mounted on the gallery. The Friends of Baring Head was organized to support restoration of the station and its surroundings. The steep headland of Baring Head (Ōrua-pouanui) commands a spectacular view across the entrance to Cook Strait. This is the sole appearance of this lighthouse on stamps.

*Baring Head Light,
Maritime New Zealand photograph*



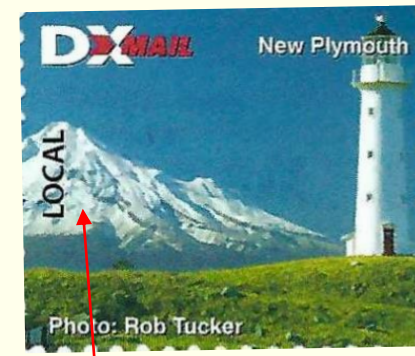
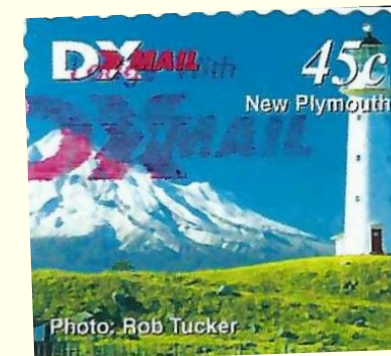
The 1969 Pictorial Issue 4c Cape Egmont Lighthouse



This lighthouse was established in 1865 (relocated to this site in 1881). It is still active with a focal plane of 109 ft; white flash every 8 seconds. It consists of a 65 ft round cast iron tower with lantern and gallery, painted white; lantern roof is black. The original 1st order Fresnel lens, removed in 2000, is now displayed in a $\frac{2}{3}$ replica of the lighthouse. The active Taranaki volcano stands behind the lighthouse in the Hollman and Brophy photos.

Prefabricated in England by McLean, Simpson and Co., the lighthouse was first constructed on Mana Island near Wellington, but its light was confused with that of the Pencarrow Head Light. The tower was relocated to Cape Egmont in 1877 but it was not activated there until 1881.

The lighthouse also appeared on a \$2 stamp as part of the 2009 New Zealand Lighthouses Issue as well as on a 45c DX Mail postal service stamp.



Local Overprint



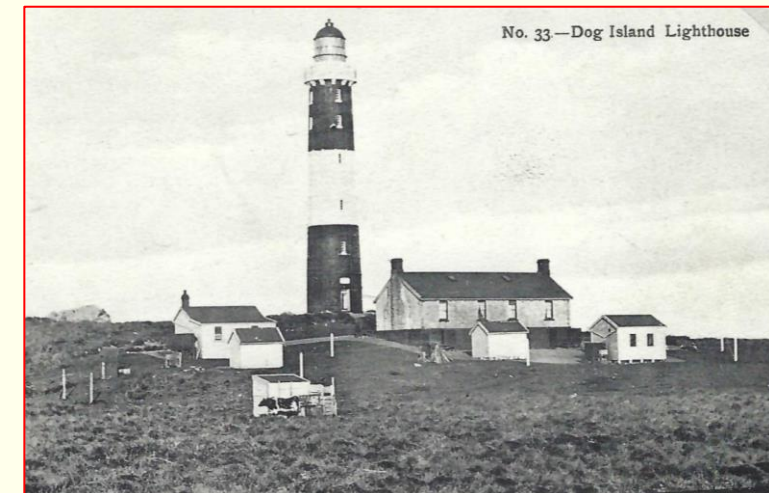
Block of 40 (8 rows of 5 stamps) part sheet of the 4c Cape Egmont Stamps, the original sheet would have held 100 stamps (10 by 10)

The 1969 Pictorial Issue 15c Dog island Lighthouse



This lighthouse was designed by James Balfour {son in law to Thomas Stevenson} and established in 1865. It is still active with a focal plane of 150 ft; white flash every 10 seconds. It consists of a 118 ft round concrete-clad stone tower with lantern and gallery, painted white with two black horizontal bands. This is the tallest New Zealand lighthouse. The tower has had a slight lean since soon after it was built, due to poor soil conditions on the island; it was encased in concrete two feet thick in 1916 to strengthen it against this lean. This was the last staffed station in New Zealand, finally automated in 1989.

*Dog Island Lighthouse – P C Andrews of Bluff Postcard,
printed in Great Britain, reference number 33*

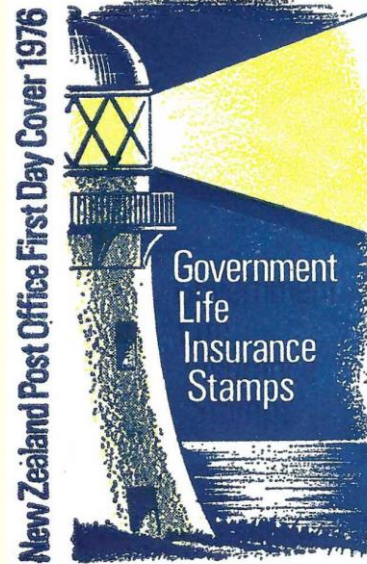


The 1970s Changes to the Decimal Issue



1969 Decimal Pictorial Issue changes in the 1970s

With rampant inflation in the 1970s, new values were needed for the decimal pictorial set. Two new values 8c and 10c were issued in 1976, the final stamps designed by John Berry. The other change came two years later the 2½c value was no longer required but there was a need for postage on larger envelopes containing contracts etc. The old value was overprinted with four diagonal lines and a new value of 25c was added. This would be the last issue in the Life Insurance series where an actual lighthouse was shown.



Souvenir Cover
First Day
of Issue



GOVERNMENT
LIFE
INSURANCE
OFFICE

Mrs. M. Jeffries
203 South Road.
New Plymouth.

The 1976 Additional Pictorial Issue 8c East Cape Lighthouse



This lighthouse was established in 1900 and was relocated to this site in 1922. It is still active with a focal plane of 505 ft; white flash every 10 secs. It consists of a 46 ft round cast iron tower with lantern and gallery, painted white; lantern roof is black. All other light station buildings have been demolished. It marks the easternmost point of New Zealand; located only 80 miles west of the International Date Line, it is the first lighthouse to see the sunrise of a new day. It was built originally on East Island, about 2 miles off the cape, but it was relocated to the mainland in 1922 after earthquake-triggered landslides threatened that location. The site is spectacular.

The lighthouse also appeared on a \$1.90 stamp as part of the 2013 New Zealand Coastlines Issue



The 1976 Additional Pictorial Issue 10c Farewell Spit (Bush End Point) Lighthouse



This lighthouse was established in 1897, although the station was established in 1870. It is still active with a focal plane of 98 ft; flash every 15 secs, white or red (red is shown for vessels approaching from the north). It consists of an 88 ft square pyramidal steel skeletal tower with lantern, gallery, and enclosed watch room. Lantern and watch room painted orange; tower legs and gallery rail painted white; the lantern dome is grey. Similar in design to many Canadian lights, this lighthouse is unique in New Zealand. It replaced a 112 ft octagonal wood skeletal tower that did not hold up well in the vigorous weather of the strait. The original Fresnel lens, removed in 1999, is on display in one of the service buildings of the station.



*Farewell Spit Light,
Maritime New Zealand photograph*

1981 Decimal Stylised Lighthouse Issue

The final series of stamps were issued on the 3rd June 1981; reverting to a stylised design - not the most inspired of stamp designs. It came in six different values and colours. It is a stylised view of a generic lighthouse rather than a particular one. The stamps were designed by Allan Mitchell.

In 1987, the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Office became Tower Corp., one change among many when New Zealand governmental departments were converted to state-owned businesses. Life insurance stamps showing lighthouses the stamps remained in use until the final day of usage of life Insurance Stamps on the 30th September 1989.



2005 Postscript

Although the Life insurance stamps showing lighthouses the stamps remained in use until the final day of usage of life Insurance Stamps on the 30th September 1989, there would be a final appearance of a Life Insurance Stamp as part of a series commemorating 150 years of New Zealand Stamps. The \$1.35 depicting a 6d stamp of the original 1891 VR design.

