

Under the Magnifying Glass: No.19 New Island Cancels by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey

This is a companion article to our article on the West Falkland WF.2 canceller in the last Upland Goose.

As we mentioned previously with reference to West Falkland, the days of finding New Island cancels amongst the other used Falkland Islands stamps have become far fewer, although there may be the odd rare sighting in a dealer's stock. It is more probable that auctions and the ubiquitous ebay will be the source of new dates.

N.1 Canceller used in 1909

The first New Island Postmaster was Arthur Kirwan.

Kirwan took with him the F.4A canceller with small crosses. He had no date slugs for the canceller, so he inserted "New Is" and the date either in manuscript or capitals.



Figure 1 – an example of a New Island N.1 cancel, with “New Is” and the date added in manuscript

Alongside the cancel above is a scan of part of a postcard sent by Kirwan in 1907. He added his signature and “Falkland Is”. You can see the similarity in the “Is” with the cancel, that proves it was Kirwan that produced these cancels.

Known cancellation dates of the N.1 canceller:

19.8.09 †	?8.09 *†
27.8 09 †	20.9.09 *
31.8.09 †	18.10.09 *

Legend: * “New Is” in manuscript † “NEW IS” in capitals

A variety of N.1 is known, without any manuscript entry (N.1v1), this has been reported on a KEVII ½d pair and a KEVII 1d single.

N.2 Canceller dates

By November 1909 a new canceller, specifically designed for New Island had arrived. This was first used on the 24th November 1909.

Known cancellation dates for 1909:

NO 24 09
NO 29 09
DE 17 09

The known dates for 1910 cancellations are:

JA 10 10	27 JU 10	OC 23 10
FE 7 10	6 JY 10	NO 10 10
MR 7 10	JY 10 10	21 DE 10
AP 4 10	27 JY 10	15 ? 10
MY 2 10	AU 8 10	? 15 10
MY 30 10	AU 29 10	

The known dates for 1911 cancellations are:

11 JA 11	4 MY 11	SP 27 11
16 FE 11	JU 20 11	NO 22 11

3 MR 11
1 AP 11*

JY 10 11
AU 31 11

DE 7 11
DE 20 11

Note: * On 1st April 1911 the cancel is known both with AP normal and inverted in the cancel. Was this an April Fool?



Figure 2 –New Island N.2 cancel 1 AP 11 - KEVII 1d with “AP” inverted, ½d pair normal

The known dates for 1912 cancellations are:

MR 30 12	MY 18 12	OC 22 12
AP 9 12	JU 7 12	NO 15 12
MY 4 12	JY 27 12	NO 16 12
MY 11 12	AU 26 12	NO 18 12
MY 14 12	SP 23 12	NO 19 12

The known dates for 1913 cancellations are:

JA 15 13	NO 8 13
JA 16 13	NO 17 13
FE 8 13	NO 20 13
AP 5 13	DE 5 13
MY 5 13	

The known dates for 1914 cancellations are:

JA 6 14	AP 29 14	26 JY 14
FE 2 14	21 MY 14	SP 18 14
MR 3 14	29 MY 14	OC 13 14
MR 9 14	25 JU 14	NO 13 14
MR 18 14	26 JU 14	DE 15 14

The known dates for 1915 cancellations are:

MR 13 15	AU 3 15 *	22 NO 15
AP 15 15	SP 8 15	1 DE 15
MY 5 15	30 SP 15	20 DE 15
JU 18 15	2 OC 15	26 DE 15
JY 15 15	3 NO 15	

Note: * the “3” of AU 3 15 is reversed. Only known date with this occurring.



Figure 3 –New Island N.2 cancel AU 3 15 – “3” reversed

The known dates for 1916 cancellations are:

JA 12 16	MY 24 16
FE 20 16	JY 8 16
MR 7 16	3 SP 16
AP 14 16	8 SP 16

The known dates for 1917 cancellations are:

8 MY 17
14 MY 17
25 JY 17 *

Note: * The 25th July 1917 is a very late date. It is genuine, but may have been produced in Stanley, as Barnes states that on 1st June 1917 that the Governor directed for publication that the Deputy Collector of Customs (also Postmaster) was about to leave for Stanley and that on his departure the port of entry at New Island would be closed. So Bob Barnes postulates the 1st June 1917 as the closure of the Post Office. However, this cancellation date provides an interesting footnote to the New Island story.

N.3 Cancellor

For completeness, we should mention the New Island Shipping Office cancel, listed by Heijtz as N.3. This was not a postal marking but it was used by the Postmaster in his other duties as Collector of Customs, Harbour Master and Shipping Master. It has been seen cancelling a KEVII ½d and a KGV ½d on pieces.

Summary

From looking at the cancellation dates, it appears that during the main years of operation of the whaling station the mail left about once a month for Stanley. Each mail was often cancelled with just one date, probably just prior to sailing.

As always, any information on new dates seen on your New Island stamps would be most welcome. We have published the base listing for West Falkland cancels on the FIPSG website research section and intend to do the same for New Island, once you have given us any updates.

Please also let us have any details on “Wilson” covers posted at New Island in 1915, as we intend to produce a updated list of registration label numbers used in that period.

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References:

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