

NEW ZEALAND PRINTED-TO-PRIVATE-ORDER ENVELOPES

From the first issue in 1900, through the reign of King George VI

Notes:

References to number recorded/known are based on almost 30 years of collecting New Zealand printed-to-private-order envelopes, formal and informal surveys and personal correspondence with other collectors of New Zealand postal stationery, particularly the late Robert Samuel.

When “few recorded” are used in lieu of a specific number, in all cases it refers to 5 examples or less.

Hundreds of thousands of envelopes were printed to private order for many users from 1900 to 1953.

The primary users were business houses to send out their invoices. Thus most recipients considered them ‘junk’ mail and they were discarded.

Some of the largest users with number printed and number recorded on collector’s hands are:

H. Matson & Company 145,596- approximately 10
T. H. Hall & Company 43,644- approximately 10
Vance Vivian Limited, Wellington 78,800, less than 10
Alliance Finance (1/2d Fantail) - 25,900, 2
Alliance Finance (1d KG VI) - 191,089- less than 5

It is interesting to note that 57 private printings have yet to be recorded in collector hands.

Bibliography:

The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume IX by Robert Samuel, 2006

New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogue Part 5, Private Envelopes by Robert Samuel, 1993

Captain Cook, the journal of the Christchurch (N.Z.) Philatelic Society, 1971-2008

Robert Samuel’s Postal Stationery Newsletter, 1985-2001