

## The 1932 to 1960 CAUTION Labels – Update 1

by Stephen F Prest

### **Introduction**

A series of six articles have appeared in these pages over the past twelve months describing eight variations of CAUTION Labels used by The New Zealand Post Office during the King George VI <sup>(1-4)</sup> and early QE II <sup>(6,7)</sup> periods. These labels served to advise recipients why the post office had decided to compulsorily registered an article sent through the mail <sup>(8)</sup>. Typically, compulsory registration occurred as a result of a sender having forwarded valuable item such as coins or banknotes in an unregistered enclosure. More rarely, a redirected registered letter could also be liable for compulsory registration if proper procedures for handling such articles were not followed <sup>(9)</sup>.

Sufficient examples of each CAUTION Label form were examined to permit a determination of the Earliest Known Usage (“EKU”) date for each of the eight described in the series. As might be expected, new information has come to light over the past year with the result that earlier EKU’s have now been identified for two of the labels in the series.

This article provides a summary of the EKU’s for the CAUTION Labels appearing between 1932 and 1960 updated to reflect information to hand as of June 2017.

### **The 1932 CAUTION Labels**

Alan Jackson’s article in the March 2017 “CAPTAIN COOK” issue described a compulsorily registered letter dated 23 February 1931 which established a new EKU for the 1932 Label <sup>(5)</sup>.

### **The 1940 CAUTION Labels**

George C. Branam’s article in the July 1999 issue of “The Kiwi” described a cover with a 1940 (8-line) CAUTION Label affixed to the reverse side <sup>(9)</sup>. The cover, Registered in Wellington for delivery in Gisborne was dated 16 February 1940. This establishes a new EKU for these labels of some four months earlier than that described in the December 2016 issue of the CAPTAIN COOK <sup>(3)</sup>.

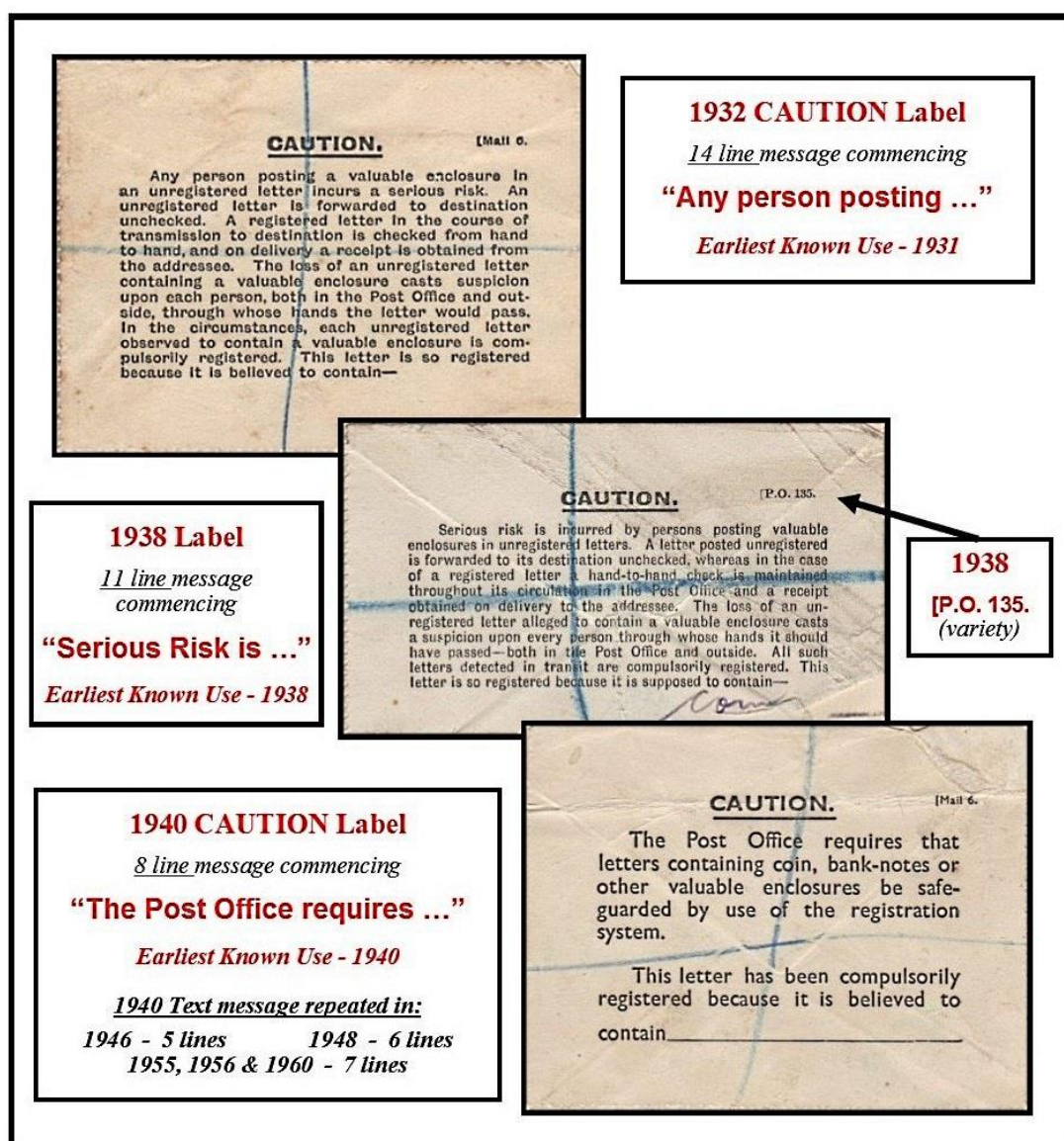
Another 1940 CAUTION Label was described in Geoff Gooden’s article in the May 2001 issue of “The Kiwi”. This particular Label featured a printing identifier in the lower left hand corner indicating it came from a 2000 sheet printing dated 12/41. As this date is later than the EKU for the 1940 (8-line) CAUTION Labels, this indicates that there were at least two printings of the 1940 labels. The only other printing identified to date is the 3/37 printing of the 1932 labels as summarized below:

1932 CAUTION Labels	1,000 shts/3/37 – 21393
1940 CAUTION Labels	2,000 shts/12/41 – 13903

## Keys to Identifying the 1932 to 1960 CAUTION Labels

The key characteristics that differentiate the eight CAUTION labels identified during the course of this study are as follows:

- The 1932, 1938 & 1940 Labels have different texts as illustrated below.
- The text of the 1946 and later Labels is the same as the 1940 but printed as follows:
  - The 1940 Label – Printed over 8 lines
  - The 1946 Label – Printed over 5 lines
  - The 1948 Label – Printed over 6 lines
  - The 1955, 1956 & 1960 Labels – Printed over 7 lines
- Key identifying characteristics that differentiate the 1955, 1956 & 1960 Labels are:
  - The 1955 Label – 4<sup>th</sup> line of 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph reads: “the registration system”
  - The 1956 Label – 4<sup>th</sup> line of 1<sup>st</sup> para reads: “the use of the registration system” plus an enlarged font of the [Mail 6. Form Designator in the upper right corner
  - The 1960 Label – 4<sup>th</sup> line of 1<sup>st</sup> para reads: “the use of the registration system” but the font of the Form Designator is the same (smaller) size as the 1955 Label



### **Earliest Known Usage Dates (as of June 2017)**

The updated listing of Earliest Known Usage dates for the 1932 to 1960 CAUTION Labels as of June 2017 is presented below. Changes from previously published EKU dates are highlighted for ease of reference.

#### **CAUTION Label Earliest Known Usage dates (as of June 2017)**

<b><u>Used during the King George VI Period</u></b>		<b><u>Use Commencing in the QE II Period</u></b>	
<b><u>Caution Label</u></b>	<b><u>EKU</u></b>	<b><u>Caution Label</u></b>	<b><u>EKU</u></b>
1932	23 FE 31	1955	13 JU 55
1938	1 AP 38	1956	24 NO 56
1940	16 FE 40	1960	25 JA 60
1946	17 JU 46		
1948	23 AP 48		

This update concludes the series of articles about CAUTION Labels that were in use from the early 1930's to the mid 1960's. Further updates are anticipated as new information comes to light. Readers who have examples of CAUTION Labels in their collections are encouraged to contact the author either through email at [stephen.prest@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.prest@gmail.com) or through the kind auspices of our Editor.

One final note; for convenience of readers, the individual articles listed in the References below can be accessed by following the "Topics & Research/Compulsory Registration" links on the New Zealand King George VI website at [www.kgvi.co.nz](http://www.kgvi.co.nz).

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