

King George VI – New Zealand The Half Penny Issues & Postal Rates

A Study Paper

Section 4 In Period usage of Half Penny Stamps and Postal Stationery



by

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Section 4 In Period usage of Half Penny Stamps and Postal Stationery

This Section examines examples of George VI Period postal history where a single half penny stamp has been used to pay the required postage rate for various types of service within specific date periods. The examples are presented in chronological order from the beginning of the George VI Period.

4.1 December 11, 1936 - February 28, 1938

These dates reflect the period of issue of the 1935 Pictorial Issue Half Penny Fantail stamp in sheet form for general postal purposes. During this period the ½d. Fantail stamp paid the Inland Postcard (single), Inland Commercial Papers rates and Printed Papers and Newspaper rates to Inland and Overseas destinations.

Fig 4.1 The 1935 ½d. Fantail pays the Inland Postcard rate

***Posted from Onehunga to Wanganui
December 31, 1936***



Fig 4.2 The 1935 ½d. Fantail pays the Inland Commercial Papers rate up to 2 oz.

Window Envelope mailed from Wanganui May 6, 1937

Even though the ½d. Fantail was issued on May 1, 1935, it was only issued in Official form in July 1937 as sufficient stocks of the 1927 King George V (Surface Printed) Half Penny Green overprinted for Official use were available for the first eight months of the George VI Period.

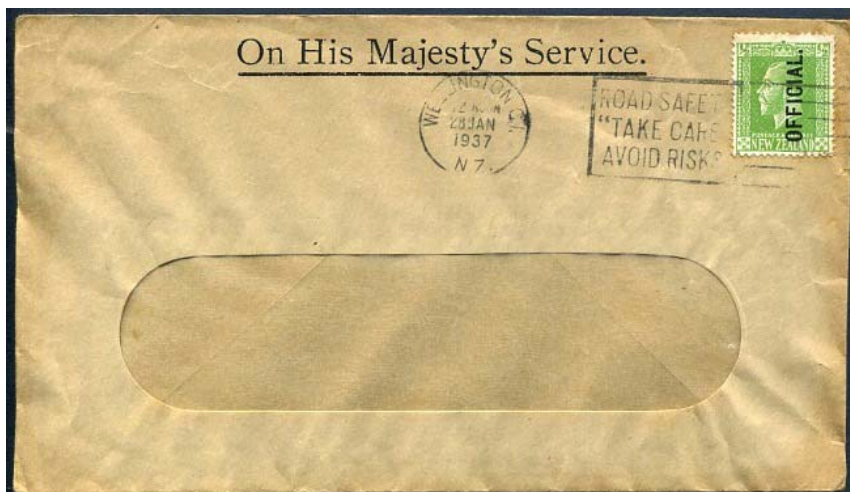
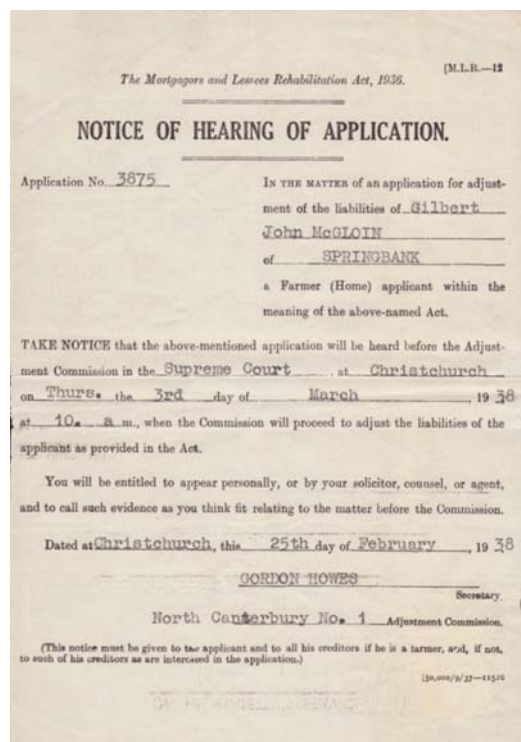


Fig 4.3 The 1926 ½d. George V Official pays the Inland Commercial Papers rate up to 2 oz.

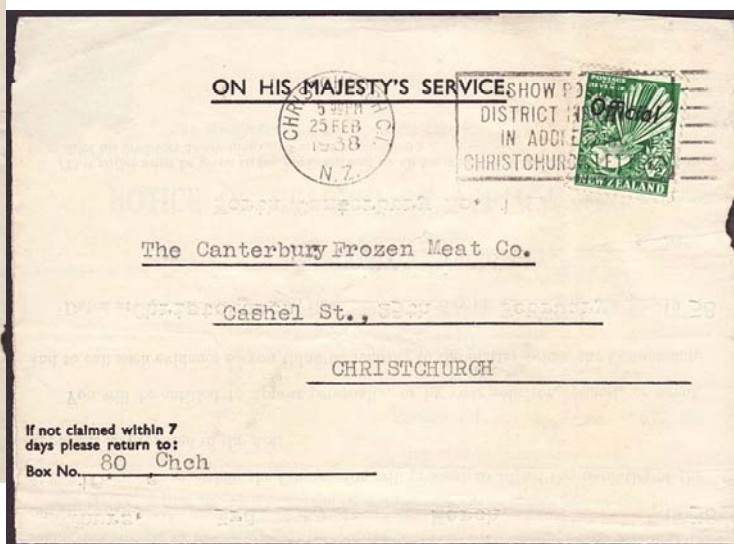
Window Envelope posted from Wellington January 28, 1937

4.1 December 11, 1936 - February 28, 1938 (cont'd)

The 1935 ½d. Fantail stamp was issued in Official form in July 1937 as stocks of the King George V Half Penny Officials were exhausted. It remained in service for a relatively short eight month period ending February 28, 1938. when it was withdrawn and replaced by the 1938 ½d. GVI Green overprinted Official. In period examples of the 1935 ½d. Fantail "Official" on cover are not common, especially one with contents surviving as per the example shown in Fig 4.4

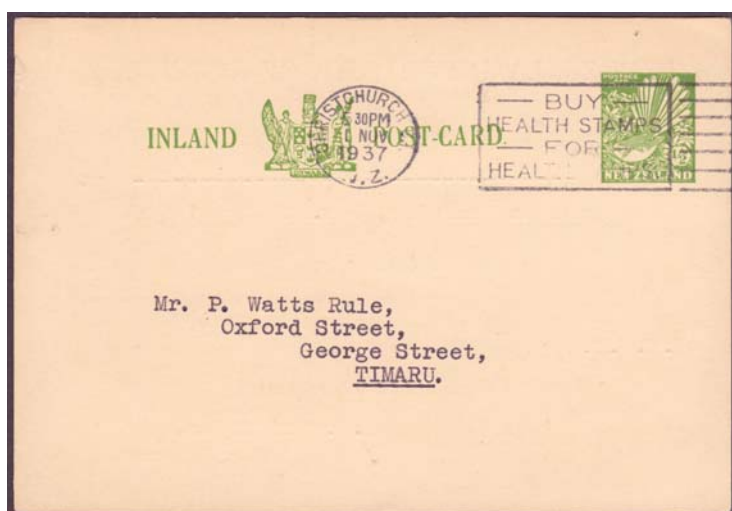


***Fig. 4.4 The 1935 ½ Fantail "Official" pays the Inland Commercial Papers rate
Official Notice posted and delivered within Christchurch February 25, 1938***



4.2 December 11, 1936 - July 24, 1939

These dates reflect the period of issue of the 1935 Half Penny Fantail Postal Stationery Postcard. These postcards remained on sale in post offices for more than sixteen months after the 1935 Pictorial Issue Half Penny Fantail was withdrawn from sale February 28, 1938.

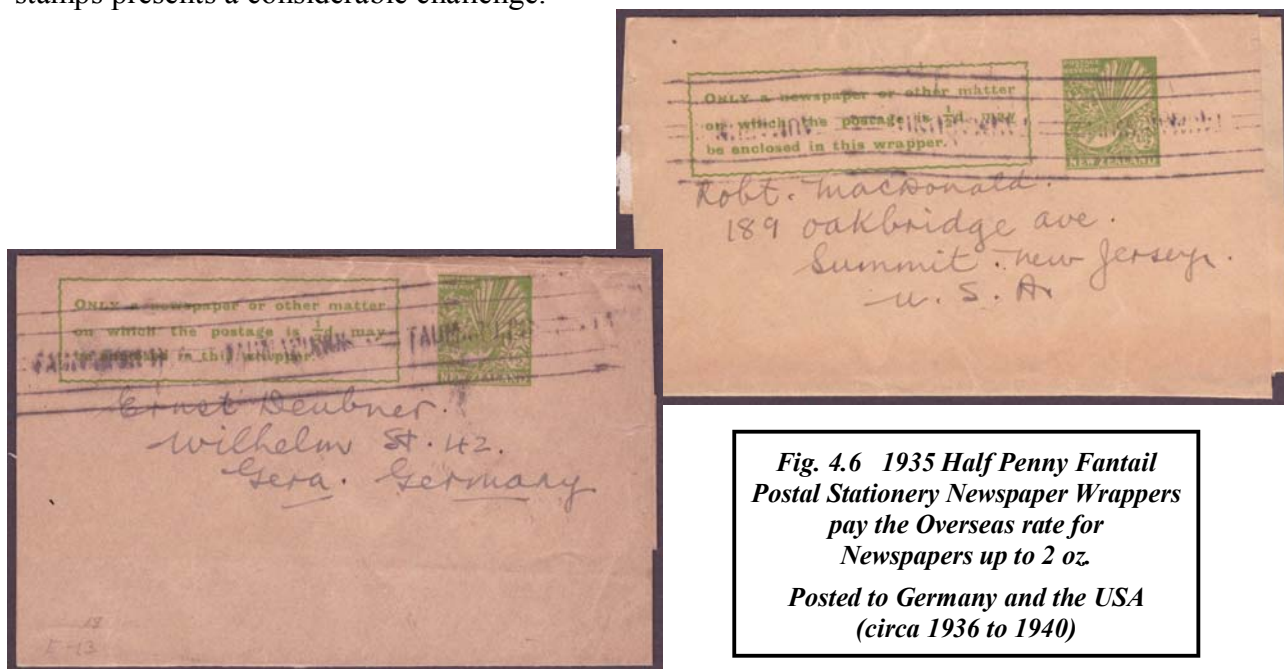


***Fig. 4.5 1935 Half Penny Fantail Postal Stationery Postcard pays the Inland ½d. Postcard rate
Posted from Dunedin to Gisborne March 8, 1938***

4.2 December 11, 1936 - July 1939 (cont'd)

In addition to the ½d. Fantail Postcard, these dates also reflect the period of current use for the ½d. Fantail Wrapper. During this time half penny newspaper wrappers paid the base weight postal charges for newspapers and magazines mailed to Inland and all Overseas destinations.

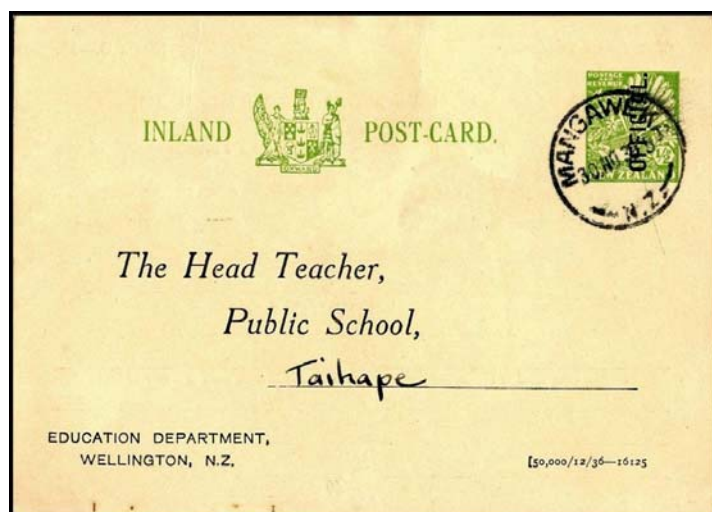
The two wrappers below were sent to overseas destinations. Generally these wrappers were cancelled with undated roller cancels used for second class mail and so, in the absence of a date stamp, one cannot be entirely certain the wrappers were not used prior to December 1936 or from stocks held in postal users hands after July 1939. Forming a collection of these wrappers with date stamps presents a considerable challenge.



***Fig. 4.6 1935 Half Penny Fantail
Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers
pay the Overseas rate for
Newspapers up to 2 oz.
Posted to Germany and the USA
(circa 1936 to 1940)***

4.3 December 11, 1936 - September 30, 1939

The 1935 Half Penny Fantail Postal Stationery Postcard overprinted for Official use by the Department of Education was in current use throughout the December 11, 1936 to September 30, 1939 period. Examples of this card are quite scarce. Surplus stocks of this postcard, overprinted 1d. in a second operation, continued to be used by the Department of Education well into the 1940's ⁽¹⁾. The purpose of this postcard was to request the Progress Card(s) of newly enrolled students from the student's former school.



***Fig. 4.7 1935 Half Penny Fantail
"Official" Postal Stationery
Department of Education Postcard
posted from Mangaweka to Taihape
November 30, 1939***

(This postcard should have had an additional half penny stamp affixed as it was mailed after the increase in the Inland Postcard rate to 1d. on October 1, 1939)

Courtesy of Mr. Stephen D. Schumann

4.4 March 1, 1938 - September 30, 1939

These dates reflect the period of time when the 1938 ½d. GVI Green was in current use to pay Inland Postcard, Inland Commercial Papers as well as the Printed Papers and Newspaper rates to both Inland and Overseas destinations.

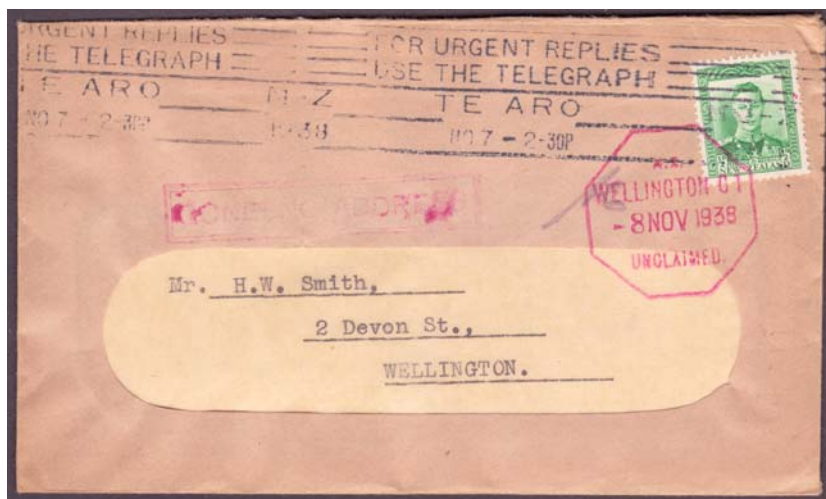


Fig. 4.8 The 1938 ½d. George VI Green pays the Inland Commercial Papers rate of ½d. per each 2 oz.

Commercial letter in a Window Envelope posted from Te Aro to Wellington November 7, 1938

The contents of the letter illustrated in Fig. 4.8 reveal it was sent to Mr. Smith advising him was past due with respect to his Union dues. The envelope is marked “**GONE NO ADDRESS**” and is cancelled as “**UNCLAIMED**” November 8, 1938 in Wellington. One can only assume that Mr. Smith remained in arrears for some considerable time!

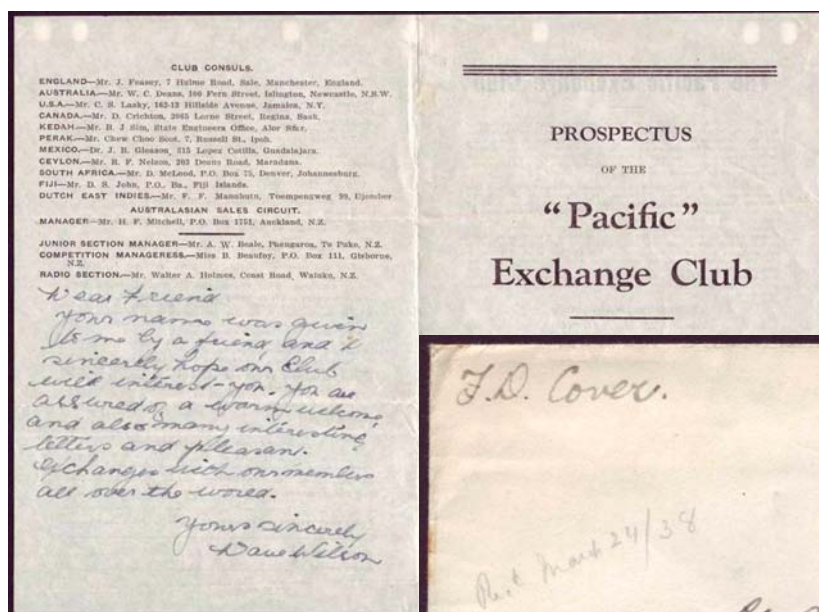
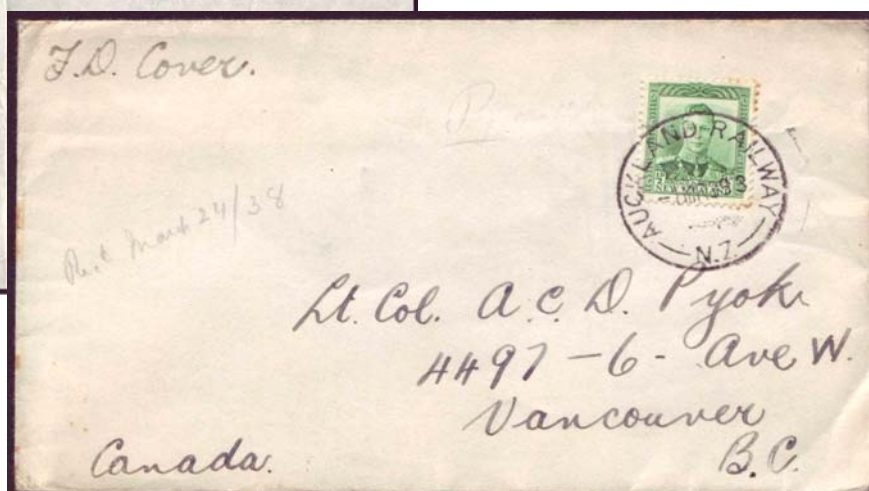


Fig. 4.9 The 1938 ½d. George VI Green pays the Overseas Printed Papers rate of ½d. per each 2 oz.

Posted from Auckland Railway to Vancouver, Canada March 1, 1938



A handwritten note of the length illustrated in Fig. 4.9 above was not permitted on items mailed at Printed Papers rates under Post Office Regulations. The prevailing 1d. rate for an overseas surface letter to a British Commonwealth destination should have been applied by New Zealand Postal authorities had they inspected the envelope contents.

4.5 July 25, 1939 - September 30, 1939

These dates reflect the brief period when the 1939 Half Penny George VI Green Postal Stationery Postcard was in current use for Inland destinations. Used copies of this postcard in period is a particularly elusive item missing from most collections due to the relatively short period of time these postcards were “in period” prior to the Inland Postcard rate being increased to 1d. as of October 1, 1939. Half Penny George VI Postcards uprated with a half penny stamp and used from October 1, 1939 are quite common.

4.6 October 1, 1939 - July 16, 1950 (Half Penny Stamps)

These dates reflect the period when the various postage stamp issues were used to pay postage rates for Inland Group 2 Printed Papers. Examples of private wrappers using postage stamps are also known to have occurred in this period. Examples of use of half penny stamps alone on cover are somewhat difficult to obtain due to the limited number of postal uses after October 1, 1939.

October 1, 1939 to January 1, 1940

These dates reflect the period when the only half penny postage stamp on issue from post offices was the 1938 ½d. GVI Green. This stamp was available in sheet, coil and booklet form during this period. Examples of use of these stamps alone on cover are somewhat difficult to obtain as the use was limited to Group 2 Printed Papers and private prepared newspaper and magazine wrappers .

January 2, 1940 to July 1941

These dates reflect the period when two half penny postage stamps were on issue, the 1938 ½d. GVI Green and the 1940 ½d. Centennial. The ½d. GVI Green was available in sheet, vending machine coil and booklet form during this period although booklets containing this stamp were temporarily withdrawn from sale between June and December 1940 and permanently withdrawn from sale on April 30, 1940 ⁽²⁾. Sheet stamps of the 1938 ½d. GVI Green were withdrawn from service in early March 1941.

July 10, 1941 to March 30, 1946

These dates reflect the period when the half penny postage stamps on issue were the 1941 ½d. GVI Brown, primarily in the form of vending machine coil stamps and the 1940 ½d. Centennial.



Fig. 4.10 The 1940 ½d. Centennial underpays the Group 2 Printed Papers rate to the USA

The ½d. rate was applicable only to Inland Group 2 Printed Papers

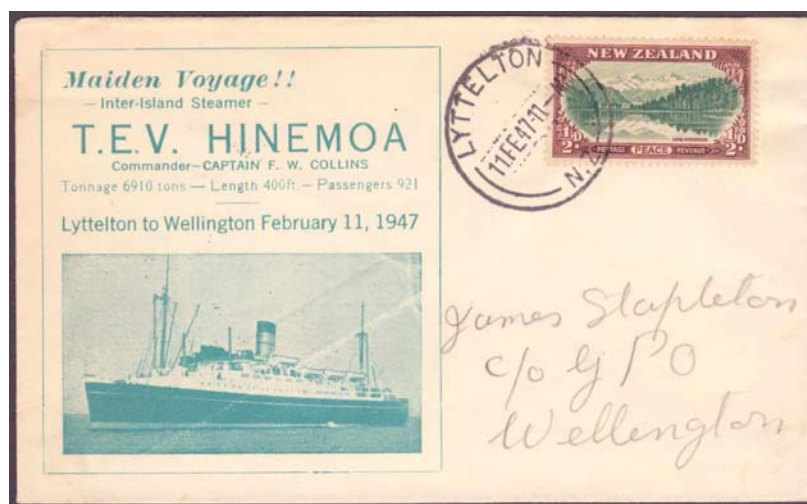
The correct minimum rate for Group 2 Printed Papers to Overseas destinations was 1d.

Posted from Auckland to Scotia, California USA August 31, 1945

4.6 October 1, 1939 - July 16, 1950 (Half Penny Stamps cont'd)

April 1, 1946 to March 1947

These dates reflect the period when three half penny postage stamps were on issue, the 1946 ½d. Peace stamp in sheet form, the 1941 ½d. GVI Brown primarily in the form of vending machine coil stamps and, for a limited time, the 1940 ½d. Centennial until May 1946 when remaining stocks were withdrawn.



*Fig. 4.11 The 1946 ½d. Peace Issue pays the Inland rate for Group 2 Printed Papers
Posted from Lyttelton to Wellington
February 11, 1947*

April 1947 to July 15, 1950

These dates reflect the period when the 1941 ½d. GVI Brown in vending machine coil and sheet forms were the only half penny stamp on sale from New Zealand post offices and there was still a requirement for the use of a single half penny stamp to pay Group 2 Printed Papers and private wrappers rates.



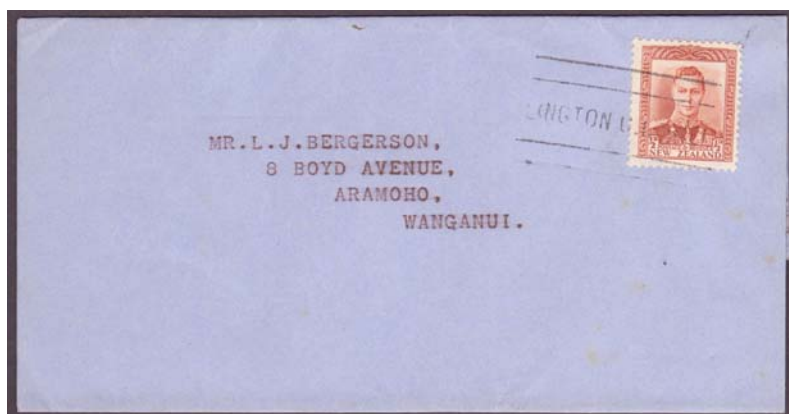
*Fig. 4.12 The 1941 ½d. George VI Brown pays the Inland Group 2 Printed Papers rate
Posted from Brunner to Christchurch,
January 28, 1948*

The post office would accept privately prepared wrappers for newspapers and magazines. As was usually the case with such wrappers, the one illustrated in Fig 4.13 overleaf is cancelled with an undated roller cancel and so it could have been sent anytime between July 1941 and the end of the half penny period, July 1950. The stamp does not exhibit the normal clipped perfs one usually associates with coil stamps, so it might be assumed this wrapper was mailed after mid 1947 when the sale of the ½d. GVI Brown in sheet form became more common.

4.6 October 1, 1939 - July 16, 1950 (Half Penny Stamps cont'd)

Fig. 4.13 The 1941 ½d. George VI Brown pays the Inland rate for a newspaper up to 2 oz.

Privately prepared newspaper wrapper posted from Wellington to Wanganui



4.7 July 16, 1950 - to February 28, 1954 (Half Penny Stamps)

These dates reflect the period when half penny stamps were only required for payment of certain overweight categories and to uprate items of postal stationery. Only the 1941 ½d. GVI Brown was available during this period to meet these requirements which are covered in Section 5.

4.8 July 1939 - July 7, 1948 (Half Penny Newspaper Wrappers)

These dates reflect the period when the 1939 Half Penny George VI Newspaper Wrappers were in current use for Inland, British country and other Overseas destinations. Minor reductions were made in the maximum weight of New Zealand Registered Newspapers that could be mailed at the half penny rate in October 1939 but these did not curtail the use of half penny wrappers in any material way.

1939 - 41 Printings - The ½d. George VI Green Wrapper

The ½d. George VI Green Wrapper could be used for these postal purposes until July 1950 but, in practice, their use fell away after the introduction of the ½d. George VI Brown Wrapper in 1942 and as stocks of the ½d. George VI Green Wrapper were exhausted by postal users. Examples of clearly dated ½d. George VI Green Wrappers are not common as most were cancelled with undated roller cancellers.

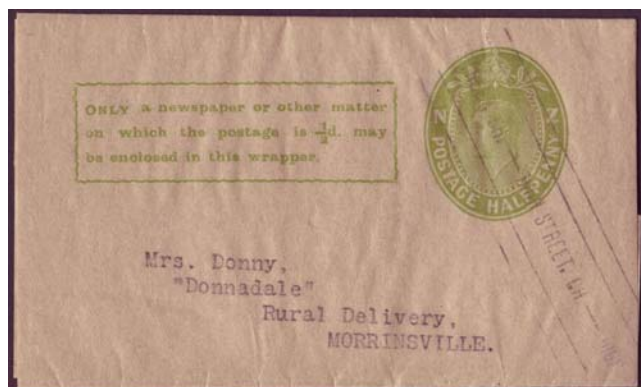


Fig. 4.14 1939 Half Penny George VI Green Wrapper pays the Inland rate for a Newspaper up to 8 oz or a Magazine up to 2 oz.
Posted from High Street, Christchurch to Morrisville



Fig. 4.15 Partial 1939 Half Penny George VI Green Wrapper dated August 18, 1942 in Avondale

4.8 July 1939 - July 7, 1948 (Half Penny Newspaper Wrappers cont'd)

1942 - 47 & 1948 Printings - The ½d. George VI Brown Wrapper

The 1942-47 & 1948 ½d. George VI Brown Newspaper Wrappers were in current use for all destinations from mid 1942 to July 7, 1948. Again, clearly dated examples of these wrappers are not common. One surviving example of the rare 1948 printing is dated June 28, 1948 ⁽²⁾.

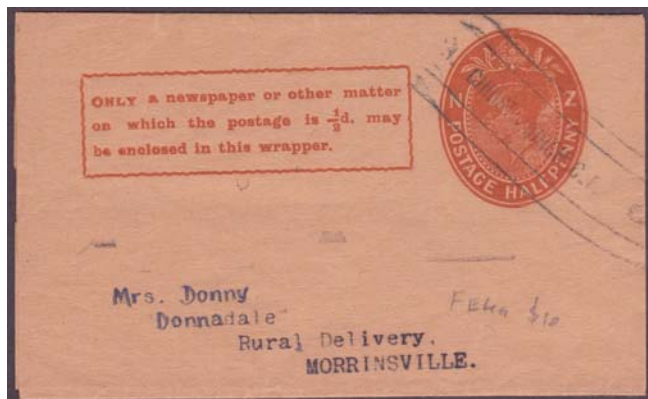


Fig. 4.16 1942-47 Half Penny George VI Brown Wrapper pays the Inland rate for a Newspaper up to 8 oz. or Magazine up to 2 oz. Posted from Christchurch to Morrinsville

4.9 July 8 1948 - July 15, 1950 (Half Penny Newspaper Wrappers)

These dates reflect the period when the ½d. George VI Brown Newspaper Wrappers were in current use for Inland and British country destinations. Minor reductions were made in the maximum weight of New Zealand Registered Newspapers that could be mailed at the half penny rate but these did not curtail the use of half penny wrappers in any material way.

The 1949 - 50 ½d. George VI Brown Newspaper Wrapper was introduced in May 1949 and so its use is predominately found in this period. Examples of earlier ½d. George VI Brown Wrapper printings are also found in this period as stocks were run down. Dated examples of wrappers appear to be more common in this period compared to earlier periods.

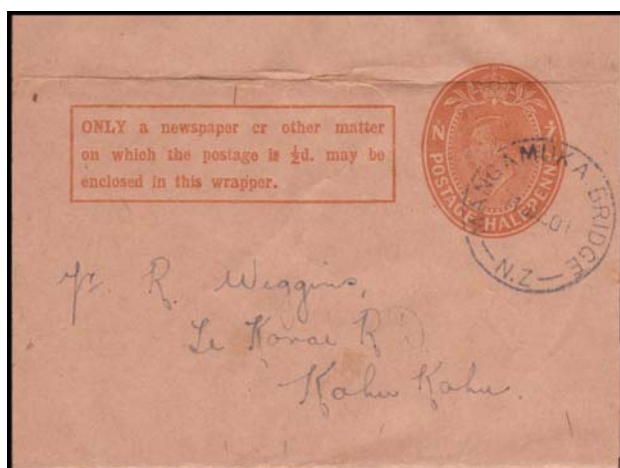


Fig. 4. 17 1949-50 Half Penny George VI Brown Wrapper pays the Inland rate for either a Newspaper or Magazine up to 2 oz. Posted from Mangamuka Bridge to Kahukahu, January 17, 1950

4.10 October 1, 1951 - February 28, 1954 (Half Penny Stamps)

These dates reflect the period after September 30, 1951 when the Post & Telegraph Department withdrew postage due stamps from service. As of October 1, 1951, deficient postage requirements were met by affixing definitive stamps.

The ½d. fee Business Reply Postcards etc., would necessarily have had to be paid by a ½d. GVI Brown stamp during this period. However, the authors have not seen an example of such use to date.

Bibliography - Section 4 In Period usage of Half Penny Stamps and Postal Stationery

- (1) The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume IX, 2006 RPSNZ Inc, Wellington NZ p. 85 & 86
- (2) The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume II, 1950 RPSNZ Inc, Wellington NZ p. 73
- (3) The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume IX, 2006 RPSNZ Inc, Wellington NZ p. 311