

NEW ZEALAND'S MOST FAMOUS FRAUDSTER AND CON ARTIST

Photo: New Zealand Police Museum



NAME INC ALIASES:

Amy Maud Bock (aka Beck, Bennet, Christofferson, Channel, Moreton, Shannon, Skevington, Vallance, Percy Redwood etc)

NATIVE PLACE:

Hobart, Tasmania

RELIGION:

Church of England

OFFENCE:

Forgery, Uttering, False Pretences and making a false statement under the Marriage Act 1908

SENTENCE:

Two years on each charge and declared an habitual criminal

Amy was New Zealand's most famous fraudster and con artist. During a lifetime of crime she spent time in Dunedin, Addington, New Plymouth and Mount Eden Prisons.

Amy's first Court appearance was in Melbourne in 1884. Her earliest in New Zealand was in Auckland in 1885. Many appearances in Auckland, New Plymouth, Christchurch and Dunedin followed. Her last was 46 years later in Auckland at the age of 71.

Amy befriended a woman on the Cook Strait Ferry. The woman offered to accommodate Amy temporarily as they travelled to Dunedin. At the end of the week to thank her, Amy put on a picnic for the family at Warrington. While they were out Amy had their household contents removed and sold then absconded with the proceeds.

The most sensational of Amy's crimes was when, as part of an elaborate scam, she posed as Percy Redwood and married Agnes Ottaway on 21 April 1909 at Nugget Bay in a huge ceremony which was attended by many leading families of the area.

Starting as a school teacher (where she falsified the roll to increase her income) Amy is described as well-educated, generous, kind, outgoing and entertaining company. She was also a liar, thief, schemer and swindler.

