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### Dirac in New Zealand, two encounters

Dirac visited the University of Canterbury in Christchurch New Zealand in 1974. Two stories are perhaps worth relating.

#### **The Bank**

Dirac's Canterbury visit was funded from the J. R. Erskine Bequest (Erskine was a student contemporaneous with Rutherford) and I took Dirac to the bank so he could cash his cheque, which was for a substantive amount. The bank manager himself came to the counter to handle the transaction and carefully counted out the appropriate number of banknotes. Dirac, to the managers obvious surprise, picked up the banknotes and counted them. He then placed them on the counter picked them up and counted them a second time and then appeared satisfied to the manager's relief.

#### **Magnetic Monopoles and Consistency**

At the time of Dirac's visit there was a widely publicised account of the "discovery" of a magnetic monopole. As Dirac was meeting at my home in the evening with guests from the Physics and Mathematics it seem appropriate to mark thev occasion. I looked at the Yellow Pages and phoned around the local wine merchants and finally located a bottle of French Monopole wine. At an appropriate point in the evening I suggested to Dirac that he should drink a toast to the magnetic monopole. He replied "I don't drink". I then suggested perhaps he might place his signature on the bottle as a mark of the ocassion to which came the immediate reply "That would be inconsistent". The wine was very good.