

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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A S I W A S S A Y I N G

by CAMPBELL PATERSON.

The late Ray Collins (R.J.G. Collins, of the Handbooks) once told me a story about N.Z.'s first issue that will stand retelling. In fact, though the telling must have been about 1941 I have never recounted it before. Ray was in my office in Auckland at the time and I have a vague recollection of others being present. At all events he gave every appearance of sincerity so that although the story seems unbelievable I have no reason to think he was indulging in an elaborate leg-pull. Come to think of it, I do not remember Ray as that sort of humorist -- certainly not with regard to stamps. He had no need to be. His long career as a leading specialist had given him a splendid repertoire of stamp stories and he had no need to draw on his imagination.

The story goes that some time between the wars Ray received an invitation to make a valuation for a wealthy sheepfarming family. Ray told me the name, a very well known one in N.Z. history, but there is no point in giving it here. On arrival at the sheep station Ray was shown to a corrugated-iron shed. (Such sheds are very common on N.Z. farms and may be anything from a shearing shed to a billiard room or maybe living quarters for the shearers). A cupboard was opened and to Ray's incredulous eyes there was unfolded a roll of paper -- three rolls in fact, being complete sheets of each of the "London" Chalons -- 1d, 2d and 1/-. It seemed that these had been put aside (why, one wonders?) about 1855 and had lain in the cupboard ever since. Still hardly believing his eyes, Ray told the owners that they had a fabulous property -- so valuable indeed that no single dealer would be able to handle it. He suggested that perhaps a syndicate could be got together -- otherwise he had no idea how enough money could be found in N.Z. for the purchase of this "buried treasure". He was further amazed to learn that the sheets were not insured and was shocked to realize that even now the owners seemed very uninterested in rectifying the situation. He finally left, exhorting them to put the sheets in a safer place and to insure them without delay. By now he had gathered that the owners had no wish to sell. What was a part of the family property was to remain so.

There was nothing further for Ray to do so he went on his way. He heard nothing more until one day he learnt that the shed had caught fire and everything in it had been lost.

A bit unbelievable, you think? So do I, yet this was no philatelically ignorant party telling the story. (We all know the type whose grandfather had "a marvellous collection" that would have been worth "thousands" of it had not been stolen).

No, in this case one could not have had a more knowledgeable raconteur. Personally, I think the story was true. What a tragedy!

Leaving the story, the question many will want answered is how does one recognise the London stamps? I hope I can convey in words what really needs demonstration by examples.

Taking the set as a whole, one should look for high quality printing. One must look also for the "Star" watermark and, with the 2d and 1/-, one would expect a blue tinge on the backs of the stamps. The London 1d does not show this blue effect but it can be recognised when genuine on the 2d and 1/- by the fact that the blueing is always less evident behind the Queen's head. This peculiarity (seen also in British stamps) is sometimes called "ivory head" -- since the area behind the head shows up as a white head amidst the surrounding blue. The explanation is that the blueing is caused by a chemical reaction between the ink and the paper, the latter being damp during printing. Since there is less ink on the head part of the design than on the surrounding areas it follows that there is less blueing behind the head.

This blueing effect varies a lot but knowledge of the "ivory head" phenomenon is a good safeguard against being deceived by a stamp that has been fraudulently blueed. The 2d and 1/- are occasionally found on almost white paper -- Gibbons list them thus. I have never seen either stamp on entirely white paper but in the case of the 2d another check is the colour of the ink. It is a deep blue with a distinctly greenish tinge -- quite unlike any other imperf on "Star" paper. The 1/- is more dangerous -- one sees later issues offered as the "London print on white paper" and the green is not helpful since it is very similar to some of the Davies prints of 1862 to 1864. There is, however, an infallible check -- one that cannot be faked. Whether or not the stamp has blueing on the back (with ivory head effect) one should always look for small traces of blue in the margins on the face. These traces have the appearance of blue ink squeezed (as it were) out from under the green frame of the stamp. The "squeezed out" blue is never evenly present -- usually there are only a few traces on each of the four margins. But present it must be if the stamp is to be accepted as genuine.

The 1d London is distinguishable from later imperf issues (with Star wmk) only by its colour. This has been well described as "the colour of dried blood". It does notably lack the vermilion red or orange of later issues. My advice is, by all means look out for the London 1d; nice work if you find it! But do not jump to conclusions. Your 'swan' is probably a 'goose'. Certainly good money should be paid for these stamps only when they are fully guaranteed by someone responsible.

P O T P O U R R I

We have recently done some vigorous buying at Auction and elsewhere. The collections are still to be broken up. On the principle of "quick turnover" we give this month numerous offers of stamps just as they appear in a quick run through. Some splendid material here, and what a mixture! Old and new, mint and used, scarce and commoner, singles and sets -- you name it, we've got it!

- 540 Christchurch Exhibition.
 (a) Mint set of four values £10
 (b) Used set: Complete set, used at the Exhibition, 24 Nov.1906.
 The 3d has a crease that does not disfigure but does reduce
 the price. The set £13/10/-
 (c) Used set: Three values. The ½d is not present but should not
 be difficult to get later. The three (1d, 3d and 6d) are all
 splendid -- used at Te Aro 2 Feb,1907. The set £14
- 541 Edward VII. Simplified mint set of ½d,2d,3d,4d orange, 4d yellow,
 5d,6d,8d and 1/-. Splendid condition. The set of 9 90/-
- 542 Auckland Exhibition. The ½d and 1d values, mint 40/-
- 543 Edward VII.
 (a) Seldom offered, SG.474,5,6,7 (the 3d,5d,6d and 8d perf 14 x 13½)
 All fine mint 80/-
 (b) Complete set of Edward VII "two perf" pairs, mint. These are
 rarely seen and rarely offered. The 3d pair has some gum
 creasing. Pairs of the 3d,5d,6d,8d indigo, 8d blue, the
 set of five pairs £14
 (c) The 8d Edward, S.G.478, mint 6/6
 (d) The 8d as above but no watermark 30/-
- 544 George V. Complete set of two-perf pairs - 1½d,2d violet, 2d yellow,
 2½d,3d,4d yellow, 4d violet, 5d,6d,7½d,8d blue, 9d and 1/-, all
 mint;; the set of 14 pairs £22/15/-
- 545 Dunedin Exhibition.
 (a) The well known "POSTAGE" error on the 4d Dunedin. A lower left
 corner selvedge stamp -- as the error must always be. - Mint £8
 (b) The complete mint set of three values 40/-
- 546 George V Admirals. The complete set of S.G.540/541 and 542/543.
 All finest mint £8/10/-
- 547 George V Field Marshal. S.G.539b, imperf pair at the surprise
 price of £7/10/-
- 548 George V Rarities.
 (a) The 5d blue in imperf pair (487b). Fraudulent imperfs occur in
 the 5d but this pair carries our guarantee. The toned gum is
 conclusive as the "Crummays" always have clear colourless gum.
 Superb mint pair £18
 (b) 4d violet Imperf. A beautiful block of 4, the top stamps
 wholly imperf, the lower stamps "imperf at top". This piece is
 rarer than a totally imperf block would be and is catalogued by
 us at £120. A real bargain at £90
- 549 1d Dominion. A superb corner block of 6 of the rare and genuine
S.G.528b. We guarantee this as it has horizontal mesh paper as well
 as colourless litho wmk. As only one sheet is believed ever to have
 existed, this block, having one stamp (Row 3/1) with "feather flaw",
 is unique. Price the block of 6 £45
- 550 Life Insurance Dept.
 (a) The 3d,6d and 1/- stamps, fine used, of the original 1891 set.
 Indispensable for the C.P. or S.G. Album user. The three
 stamps (S.G.1004 to 1006) £10

- 551 Edward VII. A superb lot of blocks, mint, of the line-engraved stamps, all perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ except the 4d orange which is perf 14. The set includes 2d violet (2 shades) 3d chestnut, 4d orange, 4d yellow, 5d chocolate (2 shades), 6d carmine, 6d aniline carmine, 8d indigo, 1/- vermilion. The valuable lot of eleven mint blocks, condition definitely superior £25
- 552 1920 Victory. Complete mint set of this handsome issue. All top grade mint (inc. 2d). The set of seven 65/-
- 553 Postal Fiscals. A short set of 2/6, 4/-, 10/- and £1 of the long type of Queen Victoria stamps. All mint, all perf 11, S.G.Nos.F149,151, 153,154. Slight foxing but very fine appearance. The set of four . £6
- 554 O.P.S.O.
 (a) The 1d Universal (Pirie paper, perf 11) overprinted O.P.S.O. in violet -- on small piece, Wellington postmark £5
 (b) 5d Otira (perf 11, no wmk) also O.P.S.O. £3
- 555 Dunedin Exhibition. The full set used on cover, cancelled on the first day of issue - Nov.17 1925. The cancel is of the slogan type "Night Letter Telegrams 9d for 27 Words". Rare thus £5
- 556 George V Admirals.
 (a) Superb blocks of four of the Jones paper 2/- and 3/-. Lovely appearance £17
 (b) As above, singles, deep shades, mint. 80/-
 (c) As above, Cowan paper, singles, mint. 90/-
- 557 George V Jones paper issues and Maps. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d green, 1d Dominion, 2d yellow and 3d George V, all on Jones paper, all in superb mint blocks (S.G.519,520,521,522,523) Also S.G.518,535 (Maps) in blocks . £10/10/-
- 558 1d Dominion. The elusive S.G.528a "black litho wmk" 40/-
- 559 Litho Watermarks (blocks). The $\frac{1}{2}$ d George, 1d Dominion, 2d George, $\frac{1}{2}$ d Postage Due, 2d Postage Due and 1d Dominion Official - all in blocks, mint, all with litho wmk. This is the whole range of N.Z. stamps ever to appear with the "litho" watermark. The set of six blocks 60/-
- 560 Map Stamp. A superfine corner block of six mint of S.G.535 - complete with buffer bars on top selvage 30/-
- 561 George V Cowan and Wiggins Teape blocks. A colourful set of blocks: $\frac{1}{2}$ d S.G.530 and ditto with reversed wmk; $1\frac{1}{2}$ d 532, 2d 533 and ditto with reversed wmk, 3d 534, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d 535b (scarce), 2d 535c (yellow), 2d 535d(orange), and S.G.539 on Wiggins Teape paper (scarce). Ten fine mint blocks, including scarce items, condition tops £17
- 562 Arms Types. Nine singles, mint, on Cowan paper (original 1931 issue), included are the 1/3 lemon, 1/3 orange, 2/6, 5/-, 7/-, 8/-, 9/-, 10/- and the scarce 12/6 (Cat.S.G. £22 for the 12/6 alone) - also included in the set are pairs of the 4/- and 8/- on cream paper overprinted or underprinted "SPECIMEN" in black £39

- 563 1935 Jubilee. A set of mint Plate blocks (one of each value) including the 6d. The set of three plates. 80/-
- 564 1935 Airm. A set of Mint Plate blocks (one of each value), 1d, 3d and 6d Superb condition. Also included, a plate pair of the 6d bright blue shade. An outstanding lot £5
- 565 1d Universal.
- (a) The issue on Pirie paper -- two pairs, one perf 14 x imperf vertically, the other perf 11 x imperf vertically (S.G.316 and 318a). The two rare pairs £20
 - (b) On Pirie paper; three blocks -- one being the beautiful carmine-lake -- all perf 11. The three blocks £6
 - (c) On Pirie - the spectacular deep carmine-lake shade. Single mint . 80/-
 - (d) One Basted Mills paper - Mixed perfs (S.G.332). Very scarce 80/-
 - (e) On Cowan paper, no wmk. (S.G.337) the rarity, perf 14 x 11. A fine copy, good colour, mint £5
 - (f) On Cowan paper, wmk'd Perf 14 x 11 (S.G.34). Undercatalogued elsewhere, this is a real rarity. Mint £9
 - (g) Reserve Plate; a mint single from slot machine strip imperf all round. V. fine £5
 - (h) Three fine mint blocks (shades) and five mint pairs - one of the latter from the Reserve plate - a handsome page of shades. All are from the 344 to 345a group. The lot £5
 - (i) Booklet Plate. A superb and faultless mint pane from a Booklet. A splendid piece £9
 - (k) Dot Plate. A striking block (mint) from a Dot Plate, the shade being a vivid aniline. A corner crease on one stamp probably occurred in the printing £2
- 566 1d Mt.Cook.
- (a) Six Mint blocks, all of the 341a/343 group - a striking series of shades. This sort of offer may have been not unusual years ago - but no longer. The six blocks £5
 - (b) Imperf vertically. A marginal pair of the Mt. Cook, mint, finest condition, completely lacking of vertical perfs (S.G.342a) £12
- 567 1d Dominion. A beautifully rich colour in Booklet pair from the "blurred print" issue. Outstanding - with barred selvage both sides of the pair. 15/-
- 568 1d Universal, Royle varieties. An unusual mint trio; S.G.418c (Perf 11) Fine mint, £10; S.G.419 (Perf 14 x 11) £5; S.G.419a (Mixed Perfs) £10. (N.B. Do not let the low prices suggest that these are other than fine copies. They are very good indeed).
- 569 1d Mt.Cook. A superb block of S.G.294 in the C.P. listed striking shade of "blackish green" - also a block in pale yellow green (S.G.296) The two blocks 70/-
- 570 1d Terraces. A used block of S.G.298 with one stamp showing a major re-entry that we have been unable to identify with any listed in the Handbook Vol.I. Shows notable doubling of PENNY and outside the pearls on the right 30/-

- 571 1½d Boer War.
 (a) A mint specimen of the scarce brown shade (S.G.300). No mistaking this shade, in this stamp it is one of the deepest browns we have seen, Mint. 40/-
 (b) S.G.301b - The very rare variety, imperf horizontally. A marginal pair, mint, very fine. £35
 (c) S.G.302a. A mint imperf vertical pair. Very rare. The two stamps have been folded together along the gutter between and there is a slight fault on back. Nevertheless a rare pair, very handsome colour and cheap at £20
 (d) The three shades in singles - chestnut, red chestnut and pale chestnut. All mint and all three showing the major re-entry (R2/12) with practically the whole design doubled. (N.Z.'s best re-entry!) There is some ageing noticeable on these stamps but they form a remarkable matching trio at 60/-
- 572 2d Pembroke Peak. Four pairs, mint, of S.G.303 to 305 covering all three shades with an extra (different) mauve. The deep purple is a remarkable shade. These will make a handsome show 35/-
- 573 4d Taupo. S.G.308. Two copies, one mint, one used. They show the two major, different re-entries that occurred on the frame plate. A nice pair 30/-
- 574 1d Universal. A selvedge block (i.e. two pairs) of S.G.344a Mint with horizontal perfs completely absent. Cat. S.G. £24, light creasing (not marring the appearance) makes this handsome block so cheap £12
- 575 1898 Pictorials. Complete (one of each value) set of the London prints. Includes ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d (Wakatipu error), 2½d (Wakatipu), 3d, 4d (Terraces), 5d, 6d (green), 8d, 9d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/-. All mint, all previously hinged but fine. The 5d is slightly creased but is the real sepia shade .. £12
- 576 1900 Pictorials.
 (a) Similar to the set above but all local prints with no watermark and perf 11. Includes (mint) 2½d, 3d, 5d, 6d (green), 8d, 9d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/-. All are fine, the 5/- particularly so £10/-/-
 (b) As above but used and not including the 5/-. The set 60/-
- 577 1902 Pictorials. A beautiful mint set including 2½d, 3d, 4d (Taupo), 5d, 6d (rose-red), 8d, 9d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/- (the last a little off-centre). All perf 11 with watermark. The set of 10 £10
- 578 6d "Lisbon Superfine" paper. Two pairs, different shades, and a single with wmk 'S' of 'Super' - all mint, top grade. The set of 5 £6
- 579 5/- Mt. Cook.
 (a) A superb mint well-centred perf 11 with watermark upright - in a beautiful deep red shade. A gem £7
 (b) A magnificent block of four of the 5/- Mt. Cook in orange-red, sideways wmk. Super condition, well centred. A premium item .. £35

580 1902/07 Blocks - all perf 11, wmk'd, all Mint.

- (a) 3d Huias blocks of four in brown and in pale bistre. The first has two stamps without wmk and one with letter wmk; the second block is creased but is the good bistre. Allowance made for the creasing. Two blocks 45/-
- (b) 4d Taupo, a block with top left stamp showing major frame re-entry. Superb 60/-
- (c) 4d Taupo, a pair with same re-entry as above 30/-
- (d) 5d Two blocks of the 5d in red-brown and sepia. Both superb mint £9
- (e) 5d as above, one block, in the deep brown, with double perfs plumb down the centre! £6
- (f) 5d Rarity. The black-brown 5d in mint block of 4. Superb and rare £12
- (g) 6d Kiwi. Five superb mint blocks - shades are rose, rose-red, rose-carmine, deep rose-carmine and brick-red. To complete the picture, a mint corner pair of the pink shade. The lot £25
- (h) 6d Kiwi variety. A mint pair, imperf vertically. Gum disturbed in one small area, otherwise fine £10
- (i) As above, a curious variety; A mint pair of 6d Kiwi, being R1/1 and R2/1 (as a re-entry proves), with the sheet serial number printed along the two stamps. In all our experience we have never known this to happen before. Condition could be fresher but this is surely unique. 40/-
- (j) 8d War Canoe. Two radically different shades - "indigo" and "deep blue" in mint blocks. Very attractive 80/-
- (k) 1/- Birds. A pair from top of sheet, mint, imperf at top. Clean and fresh. 30/-
- (l) 2/- Milford. Four shades - green, deep green, blue-green and moss-green. All in mint singles, previously hinged but fine. The moss-green is rare. £20
- (m) Used set. Set of nine, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d (brick), 8d, 9d, 1/- and 2/-. All perf 11 wmkd. All fine. 90/-

581 1903/1907 Perf 14 - wmk'd. The set of 14, mint, comprising 1½d (Boer War) 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d (3 shades), 5d, 6d (pink), 8d, 9d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/-. All fine mint singles. £11

582 Postage Dues. A Simplified set of the first type, issued in 1899. Comprises ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 10d, 1/- and 2/-. The stamps have been previously hinged but are so difficult to find today that this is a minor point. The 1d has a small thin and is ignored in the price. The set of 11. Mint £10

QUEEN VICTORIA "LONG TYPE" POSTAL-FISCALS.

We offer below two of the finest sets of mint fiscals that have ever come our way. Beautifully preserved, mint, they look as if they had been bought yesterday.

583 Set A. On unsurfaced paper, perf 14. The set including 2/6 brown, 3/- purple, 4/- brown-red, 6/- rose, 7/6 grey, 9/- orange, 10/- maroon, £1 pink. The colourful, scarce and valuable set of fiscals superb mint. £21

584 Set B. On Cowan chalky paper (9/- on De La Rue). A brilliant set, including 2/6 sepia, 5/- green, 6/- rose, 7/- blue, 8/- deep blue, 9/- orange, 10/- maroon, 12/6 purple (rare), 15/- green, £1 pink. All superb mint £29

N.B. Prices of stamps offered in this Bulletin are all in line with our Mid-1968 Catalogue Supplement - due to be published late in July in Auckland. We have had to go over to the new scale of prices as we have (perforce) been buying on this basis for some months now. There is no doubt that the past year has seen a big appreciation in the value of good N.Z. collections and we are keen buyers at the new levels. So -- if you are thinking of selling -- DO IT NOW! (To C.P. Ltd. of course!)

1 9 6 5 P A R L I A M E N T A R Y C O N F E R E N C E

This is one of the scarcest of modern commemorative issues. The 2/- value was reported as sold out on the day of issue. We have seen very few plate blocks of this top value -- indeed we have handled hardly a couple of dozen, and are now paying a very high price to obtain copies.

At present we have available a complete set in blocks of four, 4d plates 1A and 1B, 9d plate 1A and 2/- plate 1A.

The complete set of four mint plate blocks £10

S . G . 8 3 7 E a

Some eighteen months ago we handled the first known copy of this stamp -- the 2/- with red omitted. It was a stamp which escaped notice, at the time of its issue, because it had been described as "multi coloured", and as no one knew any more than that, the fact that a colour was missing was not realised. We now have a First Day Cover postmarked Papatoetoe and bearing the only used copy of this rarity known to exist. The cover is of some importance, as it confirms the fact that this striking error escaped notice because on the first day of issue nobody knew what the stamp was supposed to look like.

Enquiries are invited from collectors seriously interested in this possibly unique item.

R O S S D E P E N D E N C Y

- 585 Four covers, one with pictorial "Scotts Polar Journey" 50th Anniversary postmark, 18.1.62, one "Antarctic Meeting" 20 Ja.58, the third cover has the "N.Z. Antarctic Research Programme" cachet, and the final item bears the two outstanding shades of the 8d. The four £1