

CAMPBELL PATERSON'S NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain for reference purposes.

Vol. 3 No. 2—September 1951.

Issued Twice Monthly—Subscription, 4/- per annum.

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES and COMMENT

(By Campbell Paterson)

2½d Pictorial Centre Plates

Thanks to the co-operation of several collectors who hold sheets or part sheets, I am able to give answers to all the questions raised in the August Newsletter. Mr F. J. Mohr called my attention to what is apparently a retouch to the sky (left of the main peak) on Row 3 No. 3 of sheets perf "comb 14," 13¾ x 13½ and 14¼ x 13½. This retouch is readily seen without a glass and shows as a sort of column of colour stretching from the mountain up to the top of the centre portion below the W and Z of New Zealand. This effect is caused by a localised deepening of the sky shading. The retouch is equally obvious on Row 3/3 of "line 14" sheets, proving conclusively that the same centre plate was used for all issues with Frame Plates 3 and 4. This means that only two centre plates were ever used for the 2½d Pictorial—the first being restricted to the Single Watermark issues and the Multiple issue perf 13-14 x 13½, the second being, as stated above, used for all succeeding issues. The Handbook is not clear on the subject and is in fact in error in suggesting that a new centre plate was introduced with Frame Plate 4. The incidence of the burele band, which occurs on some sheets of both perfs 13¾ x 13½ and 14¼ x 13½, still remains to be explained. If, as it would seem, it is an integral part of the second centre plate, it is difficult to account for its absence on some sheets in these two perfs and on all sheets perf "14 line" and "comb 14." Incidentally, it is not correct to refer, as the Handbook does, to Centre Plate 1 and Centre Plate 3. These numbers apply only to the frame plates, the centre plates both being without plate number.

A point of interest discovered simultaneously by Mr Mohr and Mr R. A. Dexter, is that Row 1 No. 1 of the second centre plate shows signs of re-entry in the coarse paper issues, though not in the "line 14" or "comb 14" issues.

Regarding the side selvage markings which appear on the "14 comb" and coarse paper sheets, it would seem that these were added after the completion of the "line 14" issue. They were deepened and dots were added after the completion of the "comb 14" issue.

Sight-Sorting the 1935-47 Pictorials — 4d Mitre Peak

In this value there are five main divisions, including the scarce "line 14" perf, but all are readily separated when the task is approached methodically. As with earlier values, I will presume that the reader has a large bundle of stamps to sort, but the same rules apply even if only one or two copies are on hand.

First turn the stamps face downward and select all which are on the coarse paper (I must suppose that my readers can distinguish between Esparto and coarse papers). These coarse paper stamps are all Pim's No. 571c. The perf is approximately 14¼ on the sides. ... Now select from the remainder all with vertical mesh paper. These will all be Pim's No. 550 with single watermark. (If unable to use the "mesh" for identification, use a watermark detector at this stage.) Now, from the residue select all perf 12½. The perf holes are large and the teeth are rough, so this can be done without a gauge—though a gauge can be used if desired of course. The perf 12½ are all Pim's 571b. If the above work has been carefully done, all that now remain unsorted will be perf 14 x 13½ (Pim's 571) or perf "line 14" (Pim's 571a). The two are easily separated by the gauge and this should be used at first.

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Later the experienced collector will recognise the "line 14" by the very white fine paper, the beautifully clear centre printing and the shade of the borders which are almost grey-black by comparison with the borders found in the "perf 14 x 13½." Using the gauge there should be no difficulty, as the "line 14" is an exact 14, while the "14 x 13½" is plainly 13½ on the sides. Collectors are prone to be over optimistic when sorting and it is common for us to be offered lots of "line 14" stamps which are actually the single watermark or the coarse paper issue. To avoid this mistake collectors should check carefully any stamps thought to be "line 14." To be true copies these must show all of the following features: Multiple watermark, very white smooth paper, horizontal mesh, very clearly-defined centre detail, exact 14 perf and greyish rather than brownish frame colour.

We have now completed our sorting, but three groups should be scanned for varieties. The well-known "Mitre" retouches occur with 550, 571 and 571c. They take the form of a thickening, doubling or lengthening of the letter "I" in "Mitre" or a doubling of the left leg of the "M." Inverted watermarks are known in all of 550, 571 and 571c, being scarcest in the 550 and 571c. Three good re-entries occur in 571 affecting the top right of the frame or the right side of the mountain. The same recur in 571c, together with a new example also affecting the top right frame.

It is common to find the centre misplaced in relation to the frame, but this, though interesting enough, is not philatelically very important.

CATALOGUE

At the moment it seems possible that distribution may be possible within a week or two, but past sad experience of delays makes me chary of being too hopeful. I can say though, that real progress is being made.

The Handbook and the George VI Issue

It must come as a surprise to specialists to note how little mention is made in the new Handbook of the many and varied plate varieties which exist in the current George VI stamps. I am not in the confidence of the editors on the subject, but I must presume the reason to be that at the time the relevant sections were written the writers had no knowledge of the majority of the retouches and re-entries which have occupied so much space in the Newsletter over the past eighteen months. The beginning of my publicity for the plate varieties was the May, 1950, Supplement, wherein were recorded the 1½d Retouch P.20 R8/18; the 3d re-entry P.45 R8/5; the 1/3 Retouch R10/3, and the 4d Flaw and Retouch P.90 R2/4. These are all mentioned in the Handbook, but varieties found later are not, nor is the existence of the 1/- from Plates 3A-2 recorded, although this was issued in March, 1950. It is clear then that the omission of any mention of many of the varieties is the result of the long delay between the completion of the writing and the publishing of the work—not the result of any depreciation of the importance of the varieties in the minds of the writers of the Handbook sections.

The inclusion in the Handbook of the 1½d, 3d, 4d and 1/3 varieties, which were publicised in the Newsletter first, and the absence of those publicised later may point to the Newsletter's being the source of information. This in turn strongly suggests that apart from the Newsletter's small coterie of correspondents there may be no one in the whole of the Dominion systematically studying our current issue. This is a striking conclusion and should emphasise our indebtedness to Messrs Mohr and Greathead in particular. Were it not for their good work—hardly measurable in terms of time and fatigue—the present issue might go the way of older issues, largely neglected during their currency and apparently closely studied only now they are no longer accessible. Also, if I may say so, were it not for the Newsletter, with its encouragement of specialists and the publicity it gives their findings, the general public would perhaps remain in the dark for a long time.

I notice too that in the Handbook the varieties mentioned in the Centennials all seem to be ones which Mr Greathead reported and I mentioned in the Pacific Stamp Review some years ago. Mr Greathead was working then on bits and pieces only, not complete sheets, so it may be that the Centennials also have never been completely studied. Someone may care to try his hand on them.

VARIOUS VARIETIES

131 George V 4d Violet Varieties

A set of used stamps, including the two major re-entries from Plate 20, the two major re-entries from Plate 44 (one being in the scarce 14 x 13½ deep purple), and three different retouches, all from Plate 44. All in excellent condition, except one of the Plate 20, slightly creased. The used set of 8

132	George V 3d Surface-print Variety Two examples, Pim's 515a mint (scarce) and 498 used, both showing the prominent flaw, "white gash on face," Row 6 No. 8. The pair	17/6
133	George V ½d War Stamp Two mint stamps, one with the overprint clearly offset on the back, one with broken "ST" in the overprint. The two	5/-
134	Booklet Stamps:	
	(a) A set of 5 pairs of the ½d George V all from Booklets, with side selvages, all mint and all different. Includes the issue on De La Rue, thin Jones and Cowan papers, all without adverts, a pair with Kodak ads. (reversed wmk), and a pair with Abdulla ads. The 5 mint pairs	27/6
	(b) A set of 5 pairs of the 1d Dominion on lines similar to (a) above, but with both the thin and thick Jones papers and without the Cowan. The "Kodak" pair is very slightly stained. The 5 mint pairs	22/6
	(c) A complete pane with all selvedge of the ½d George V with reversed watermark, Kodak ads. The pane	30/-
135	Centennial Re-entries	
	(a) Blocks of four of the 1½d re-entry (plate crack?), 2½d, minor re-entry; 3d minor re-entry and 8d re-entry, all mint. The set of four blocks	20/-
	(b) The 8d value in block of four, with re-entry showing in the orange shading at top left on three of the four stamps, mint	15/-
136	Offsets	
	(a) The 1d Dominion (De La Rue) with clear offset on back. Mint	7/6
	(b) The ½d George V Official (De La Rue), with the overprint clearly offset on back. Mint	7/6
	(c) The 2d George V (Cowan), perf 14 x 15, with clear offset on back, mint	7/6
137	Victory Varieties	
	(a) A set of three used, ½d, 1½d and 2d Victory, all with sideways inverted watermark. These are scarce and seldom offered. The three	25/-
	(b) Still a few available of the 1d deep carmine mint with inverted watermark. Each	8/6
138	"No Stop" Officials	
	(a) A set of George V Officials, all in mint blocks of 4 and all including the "No Stop" variety. Comprises the ½d, 1d (Marshall), 1½d, 2d and 3d (14 x 15). The set of 5 blocks	37/6
	(b) As set (a), but in mint pairs. The 5 pairs	32/6
139	1902-07 Pictorial Watermark Varieties A set of stamps, all with "inverted and reversed" or inverted (9d and 2/-), watermarks. All perf 11. Includes 6d rose-carmine, 6d rose-red; 5d brown, 9d; 1/- red; 1/- orange-red; 2/- blue-green. The 2/- is mint, the others used. The set of 7	42/6

EXTRA SPECIAL BARGAINS

Every dealer at times finds himself with a surplus stock of one or more good stamps. The usual course is to pass these on to other dealers at a reduced rate to clear. We feel that our customers should have the opportunity too, so here goes. Order quickly, the offers stand only so long as the surplus lasts!

X143	1931 Air Mail, 7d orange The scarcest of the Air Mails Mint. Cat. Pim's (1949) 27/6. Perfect condition (blocks pro rata)	13/6
X144	George V, 2 perf pairs	
	(a) 2d yellow, mint 2 perf vertical pairs, perfect condition. Cat. Pim's 10/-. Per pair	5/-
	(b) 8d blue, mint 2 perf vertical pair, perfect (Cat. 12/6)	7/6
X145	George V Official 8d brown This scarce and handsome stamp, one of the best of all Officials, in perfect mint condition. Cat. Pim's 20/-	10/-

Lot No.

140	Christchurch Exhibition Variety The very scarce reversed watermark variety of the 6d; a splendid mint copy	£10
141	First Sidiface Variety A very superior used copy of the 1/- perf 10 x 12½. This is scarce in any form, but this copy also has inverted watermark	45/-
142	1d Field Marshal (a) Not often seen, we have a limited supply with inverted water- mark (Cowan paper, perf 14). Special price, used	5/-
	(b) Quite a rarity, a mint copy with double perfs at top	30/-

Plate Blocks

977	Health Plates	
(a)	1934 Crusader. Block of 4 mint, with Plate No. 1. This very scarce block	65/-
(b)	1935 Keyhole. Block of 4 mint with Plate No. 1	17/6
(c)	1936 Lifebuoy. Block of 4 mint with Plate No. 1 or No. 2, each	13/6
(d)	1937 Hiker. Block of 4 with Plate No. 1, 16/6; No. 2	17/6
(e)	1937 Hiker. Four blocks, showing the Plate No. 1 in each of its four different positions. The set of 4 blocks	70/-
(f)	1938 Children. Block of 4 with Plate No. H1 (Cat. SG 34/- for the stamps alone	15/-
(g)	1943 Triangulars. Complete set of 4 blocks, Plates 3, 4, 5, 6, each block being of 8 stamps. The set	23/6
(h)	1943 Triangulars. Set as above, but in blocks of four stamps	7/6
(i)	1945 Peter Pan:	
(1)	A set of seven plate blocks, being the complete lot for this year (excluding the excessively rare A.2 of the higher value, but including the scarce B.2). The set	36/-
(2)	Individual plates, A1 and A2 of the 1d + ½d value, each	2/6
(3)	Individual plates, A1, B1 of the 2d + 1d value, each	3/-
(4)	Plate B2 of the 2d + 1d, scarce	22/6
(j)	1948 Health Camp:	
	1d + ½d value, Plates A1, A2, B1, B2 all available, each	1/3
	2d + 1d value, Plates A1, A2, B1, B2 all available, each	2/-

978	Commemorative Plates	
(a)	½d Commerce. All four positions of the Plate number are avail- able. Each Plate Block	9d
(b)	1d Commerce. All four positions of each of the Plate numbers 1 and 2, are available. Each Plate Block	1/-
(c)	2½d Commerce. All positions except the bottom right are available of the Plate number. Each Plate Block	8/6
(d)	4d Commerce. All positions except the bottom right are avail- able of the Plate number. Each Plate Block	10/-
(e)	6d Commerce. All positions of the Plate number are avail- able. Each Plate Block	7/6
(f)	Anzacs. All positions of the Plate numbers are available in both values. Each Block	2/3
(g)	Jubilees. A complete set of every Plate number used in this issue. ½d Plates, 1 and 2; 1d Plates, 3, 4, 6 and 7; 6d Plate 5. The set of seven Plate Blocks	65/-
(h)	Coronation Plates:	
(1)	1d Plates 1T, 1L, 4T, 4L, 5T, 5L, 6T, 6L, all available, each block	1/-
(2)	2½d Plates 2T, 2L, both available, each block	2/3
(3)	6d Plates 3T, 3L (3L with or without re-entry), each block	6/-
(4)	Imprint Blocks—1d at 1/-; 2½d at 3/-; 6d at	5/-
(5)	Complete set of all plates plus the three Imprint Blocks at the special price of	30/-
(i)	Otago Plates:	
	1d Plates A1, A2, each 1/-; 2d, B1, B2, each	2/-
	3d Otago Plate 2, per block, 2/-; 6d Otago Plate A1, per block	3/6
(j)	Canterbury Plates:	
(1)	Full set of all plates (A.1 for each value). The set	14/6
(2)	Individual Plate Blocks (all A.1), 1d at 8d; 2d at 1/3; 3d at 1/9; 6d at 3/6; 1/- at	6/6