

CAMPBELL PATERSON'S NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain for reference purposes.

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N.Z. NOTES and COMMENT

(By Campbell Paterson)

1935-47 Pictorials—a Discovery

It has always been my conviction—I have said so often enough—that the Pictorials are a real mine of philatelic interest. The regularity with which new varieties turn up is quite astonishing. Even more astonishing is the set's ability to produce a surprise even in a plate which one would have imagined had been studied to the utmost degree.

Booklet panes of the 1d Kiwi with Multiple Watermark (not to be confused with 'Die 2' Booklets with Parisian ads and Single Watermark) are common enough and since the 1940 Handbook recorded some fine re-entries on some panes they have been studied very closely. Naturally then, when I bought a pane recently I looked for re-entries. As far as doubling of design went, there was nothing of note, but I did notice that the top right stamp in the pane of 6 was appreciably darker than the other five stamps. To the experienced collector such a peculiarity is fairly clear evidence that the dark stamp has been re-entered, the absence of doubling indicating that the re-entry has been well executed and the new impression has exactly coincided with the old. (We see this in the 2/- Captain Cook Plate 1 on quite a few impressions from sheets printed after the big series of re-entries had been made.)

So, though disappointed in that I had not found one of the major examples, I was quite pleased with my pane. Then I noticed that although the stamp was much darker than its companions, its sky shading (which throws the white clouds into relief) was **weaker** than in the other stamps and of a different shape. Now, the sky shading, as is well known, is the main feature of difference between Dies 1, 2 and 3 in the 1d Kiwi and here apparently was a Die 3 stamp with weak sky shading as in Die 1. I looked for the other difference between the Dies, namely, the horizontal line of shading to the left of the cabbage tree half-way down the trunk—which line is prominent in Die 3 but weak in Dies 1 and 2—and found that it was weak on this stamp.

A request to Mr K. J. McNaught to let me see his copies of two of the major Booklet re-entries brought these stamps by return and I am now able to say that these too show the typical Die 1 weakness of sky shading and weakness of the line behind the tree.

On this evidence it can be safely stated (for the first time) that the re-entering of the 1936 (Multiple watermark) Booklet plate was done with the Die 1 transfer roller used for the Single watermark Plates A1, A2, B1 and B2 and never hitherto associated with any Multiple Watermark plate.

We thus have in the Pictorials a new and (I think all will agree) most interesting variety—"1d Kiwi, Die 1, Multiple Watermark." It is unquestionably scarce with re-entry showing and perhaps even more so where no doubling is apparent, as in our example.

New Zealand Stamp Designs

I have not previously criticised this year's Health design because such criticism might (even in a very small way) have affected the sales. This I naturally wished to avoid.

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However, I believe the public reaction has been generally adverse. It cannot be argued that it is a good design, apart altogether from the poor general appearance—yachtsmen tell me it is technically incorrect in several details, and even I can see that it would be well-nigh impossible for the youth in the stern to retain his control of the yacht, keep his balance and wave his arm all at the same time.

Though it is doubtless not the case, the design gives the impression of having been done in a hurry and it is hard to believe that the designer fully appreciates the awful permanence of stamp designs. Indeed that is a point which I think is overlooked by nearly all stamp designers. I have been trying to think of something quite so everlasting as a stamp design and I have found it difficult.

An artist paints a picture—if its ultimate owner thinks it poor he can destroy it. Or a writer perpetrates a third-rate book (or third-rate New Zealand Notes!)—no harm is done; public opinion will soon consign the offending work to the limbo of forgotten things.

But stamps! Just let the authorities give their official blessing to a design, however atrocious, and it is with us for all time. In our albums and in our catalogues it continues to show itself unashamed, year after year, a blot on our hobby and a monument to our lack of taste and lack of vigour.

Lack of vigour—for I do not doubt that a campaign for the improvement of designs by the societies and the federation would impress the authorities that there are some who care for beauty in small things—that the **permanence** of stamp designs is no trivial matter and that in having poor designs we are missing a wonderful opportunity to advertise our lovely country.

Mr. Berry has on occasion given facts of time spent on his work which make it quite clear that the standard remuneration to artists is hopelessly inadequate. So the remedy is simple enough. Let the Government offer really worth-while prizes for designs in open competition. This, coupled with a firm determination on the part of the authorities to accept nothing but really superior, suitable work and we could look forward to a new era in our stamps. (The resultant profits in increased sales to collectors would easily repay the extra cost of better prizes.)

Another point—so long as our authorities are prepared to accept stamps printed on the cheapest and poorest paper obtainable we will get no improvement. Our current high values are quite good designs, but have never been seen to advantage. The paper that has always been in use for them can only be described as rubbish. During the war no doubt there was good reason for its use, but today there seems little justification for it.



½d Mt. Cook

With its companion stamp the 1d Universal, the ½d Mt. Cook shares the honours as probably New Zealand's most interesting stamp. We have never had a better range than now, with the late Dr. Myer's collection added to our own stock. The offers below are the type of thing you see offered only in the C.P. Newsletter, so do not risk losing the opportunity by delaying your order.

Lot No.

262	Waterlow Paper, Perf 11 (C.P. Fla, Pim's 294)	
	(a) A choice lot of 8 blocks of four, including the blackish green, green, dark green, yellow-green (3 diff. shades) and the pale bright yellow-green (2 shades), all in superb mint. This splendid range of 8 blocks	50/-
	(b) The outstanding pale bright yellow-green shade in mint block of 4, 6/-; single	1/6
263	Waterlow Paper Perf 14 (C.P. Flb, Pim's 302)	
	(a) A block of 4 in the green shade, mint	8/-
	(b) Singles, green, mint, 2/-; fine used	9d
264	Waterlow Paper Perf 14 x 11 (C.P. Flc, Pim's 305)	
	(a) A block of 4 (rather off-centre), deep green, mint	6/-
	(b) Single mint, green, 2/-; fine used	1/-
265	Waterlow Paper, Perf 11 x 14 (C.P. Fld, Pim's 304)	
	(a) A superb mint block of 4, deep green	12/6
	(b) Single mint, a little off-centre	1/6
266	Waterlow Paper, Mixed perfs (C.P. Fle, Pim's 307)	
	(a) A really splendid mint block of 4 deep green, originally perf 14 x 11 and reperf 11 horizontally. Full patching strips are intact. A specialist's piece	70/-
	(b) Another specialist's piece, being a mint block of 10 (2 x 5) in green, originally perf 14 and reperf 11 vertically. Of the four inside vertical lines of perfs, two have been patched prior to	

Lot No.

	reperfing, one is untouched and one reperfed without patching. The outstanding block	£6
267	Basted Mills Paper, Perf 11 (C.P. F2a, Pim's 309) (a) A very fine, well centred block of four mint, green	£6/10/-
	(b) A single, mint	35/-
	(c) A single, used, rather heavy cancellation Cat. 40/-	20/-
268	Basted Mills Paper, Perf 14 (C.P. F2b, Pim's 311) (a) Two perfect mint blocks of 4 in green and deep green. These are very fine, one block has the watermark inverted and reversed, the other watermark inverted. The 2 mint blocks	35/-
	(b) A variety set of three, one stamp wmk reversed, one wmk inverted and one invert and reversed. All fine used. The set	10/-
269	Basted Mills Paper, Perf 11 x 14 (C.P. F2d, Pim's 314) (a) The two shades, green and deep green in fine mint blocks of four, one block with reversed wmk. The two blocks	15/-
	(b) Singles, mint, deep green, watermark reversed	2/-
270	Basted Mills, Mixed Perfs (C.P. F2e, Pim's 317) (a) A block of four, mint, originally perf 11 x 14, re-perfed 11 ver- tically, watermark reversed	£6
271	Cowan, No Watermark Perf 11 (C.P. F3a, Pim's 319) (a) A superb mint block of 4 of this exceedingly scarce stamp. There must be few similar blocks in this country. The mint block	£20
	(b) Single, superb mint	£5
272	Cowan, No Watermark, Perf 14 (C.P. F3b, Pim's 320) (a) Perfect mint block of 4, 4/-; single	1/-
273	Cowan, No Watermark, Perf 14 x 11 (C.P. F3c, Pim's 322) (a) A perfect mint block of 4 of this other rarity, probably the scarcest of all ½d Mt. Cooks. The block	£20
	(b) A single mint copy of the above	£5
274	Cowan, No. Watermark, Mixed perfs (C.P. F3e, Pim's 325) A very fine used copy (Opotiki postmark). Very scarce	£4
275	Cowan, Watermarked, Perf 11 (C.P. F4a, Pim's 327) (a) A superb mint block of this scarce variety	£7
	(b) Single copy, mint	35/-
276	Cowan, Watermarked, Perf 14 (C.P. F4b, Pim's 329) (a) A particularly choice lot from the Myers collection. It consists of 8 mint blocks of four in a striking range from a real blackish green, through green to a pale yellow-green, and two blocks showing blurred printing (almost the appearance of double prints). The set of 8 blocks	40/-
	(b) A very fine block of 4, imperf vertically. This outstanding block	£7/10/-
277	Cowan, Watermarked, Perf 11 x 14 (C.P. F4c, Pim's 331) (a) Single stamp, finest mint (deep green or green), each	4/6
278	Cowan, Watermarked, Perf 14 x 11 (C.P. F4d, Pim's 332) (a) Superb mint block of 4	22/-
	(b) Single stamp, mint	5/-
279	Cowan, Watermarked, Mixed Perfs (C.P. F4e, Pim's 335) (a) Mint block of 4, reperfed vertically	30/-
	(b) Mint block of 4, reperfed horizontally	40/-
	(c) Single stamp with patching intact, green or deep, each	10/-
280	New Plates, Perf 14 (C.P. F5a, Pim's 408, 408a) (a) Another wonderful set of shades from the Myers collection. Six blocks ranging from the true green through a range of yellow- greens to two very dark blocks of striking appearance—quite new to us. The set of mint blocks	80/-
	(b) Deep yellow-green, a mint pair, completely imperf. The rare pair	£5
281	New Plates, Perf 14 x 13, 13½ (C.P. F5b, Pim's 411); (a) The scarce true dull green shade. A block of four, superb mint with arrow marking on top selvedge	17/6
	(b) As (a) a fine block without the arrow marking	12/-
	(c) Single, dull green, finest mint	3/-
	(d) Yellow-green and deep yellow-green, the two shades in perfect blocks	10/-
	(e) Singles: Yellow-green or deep yellow-green, mint	1/3

Lot No.

282 **New Plates. Perf 14 x 15 (C.P. F5c. Pim's 416)**

- (a) Once again the Myers collection is strong in shades—on this occasion in a stamp not noted for shade variations. Four fine shades in superb mint blocks 12/6
- (b) Singles: Yellow-green or deep yellow-green, mint, each 8d
- (c) Rarity. A mint block, top stamps imperf, bottom stamps imperf at top. The block £9
- (d) As (c), but a pair, top stamp imperf £4
- (e) Another pair, top stamp imperf, with side selvedge and **lower stamp showing major plate flaw.** The presence of some slight staining is the reason for the very low price. The pair 50/-

283 **½d Mt. Cook, Plate Number Blocks**

The very scarce plate numbers of this issue are seldom seen and even less often advertised. We can supply Plate Numbers 1 and 2 in the perf 14 x 15 form—each in block of six stamps. The two Plate Blocks **£5**

ARROW INDICATORS FOR THE SPECIALIST

We have stocks of these most useful little accessories. The collector places the arrow so that the point indicates the particular feature of interest in his stamp.



Each arrow is ready gummed and the portion not touching the stamp is lightly moistened to fix it in place on the page. They are not only useful, but add a special touch of colour and interest to the album page.

Available in red, green, white, black, blue or yellow, each colour being in packets of 100.

Per packet of 100 — 1/6

First Sideface Collection

It is generally recognised that in New Zealand philately the First Sideface issue is the most difficult to build to respectable proportions. Practically all values are exceedingly hard to find in mint or good used condition and blocks are rarely seen. Accordingly, the collection we offer here is outstanding and though not large by standards applicable to other groups, it compares more than favourably with the Sideface Collections held by most of the leading collectors. The collection was compiled by the late Dr. Myers. In the Perf 12½, mint, there is a block and a strip of 3 of the 3d and several singles, including the rare 1/- (Cat. £50). In the 12½ used there is a very wide range, including a page each of the 1d and 2d; two blocks (very fine) and two pairs, of the 3d; 9 of the 6d, including an inverted watermark not previously recorded; 3 of the 4d and 2 of the 1/-, one being another invert not previously known. The 2d in scarce perfs is shown by one copy of the "nearly 12" and two of the rare "12½ x nearly 12." The 10 x 12½ group shows 8 stamps (all values except the 4d, of which there is a rather doubtful single). Bleute paper stamps are strong in both 12½ and 10 x 12½ perfs, highlights here being beautiful copies both mint and used of the 4d and a copy of the very scarce 1/- used. The "Large Star" watermark 1d and 2d occupy a page, there being 2 pairs and a single of the 1d; one pair, one strip and 7 singles (one mint) of the 2d. The 12 x 11½ mints are the best we have seen and include blocks of the 2d (2), 6d and 1/- and pairs of the 2d, 4d (superb) and 5/- (superb), plus many singles, including two each of the 2/- and 5/-. This group in used is naturally strong, with a fine range in all values, including 3 of the 2/- and 4 of the 5/-.

Altogether this is a collection hard to match and carries our strongest recommendation. The Catalogue value is approximately £300. It can be sent on approval to anyone interested. The Collection **£200**

286 **"Joined F" Centennial Officials**

The well-known variety where the overprint on one stamp of the "OFFICIAL" joined instead of separated. We can offer the composite set of all 8 values which ever had the variety. In each case the variety is shown in pair with normal. The set of 8 pairs, mint .. **£5**