

CAMPBELL PATERSON'S NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain for reference purposes.

Vol. 7 No. 7—February 1956

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N.Z. NOTES and COMMENT

(By Campbell Paterson)

9d Peace —

a Second State Re-entry Discovered

That the full story of the Peace set is not yet known is shown by Mr R. E. Heath, of London, who has sent in two blocks of the 9d, both from Frame Plate 42723. The blocks are identical in the stamps they comprise, this being proved by the presence in both of the good frame re-entry R10/5. However, in one block R12/5 shows the extensive doubling of all the vertical frame lines on the right (reported in the Handbook Vol. 2), while in the other this same stamp shows a doubling of the outer right frame line only. Examination makes it clear that there is no affinity between these two re-entries, so that one or the other is a later state. So it seems that the 9d, like the ½d and 6d, was re-entered after some use, the original re-entry being possibly a roller-shift, the later state being a true re-entry. Just which of the two states is the later it is not possible to say on present evidence.

Catalogue Corrections:

The following corrections should be made to the new catalogue sheets recently sent to Catalogue users:

- 1 Page Temporary T4—Change the date of the Medallion Healths to read "1955"; alter T28b to T27b and T28c to T27c.
- 2 Page XXI—This, the second of the green pages, should bear the revision date "1955-56" not "1954-55." The new Page XXI lists Section Z numbers and can thus be readily distinguished from the superseded Page XXI.

Concern has been expressed by some at the apparent elimination of the variety illustrations which originally appeared on Permanent Page S12. There is of course no reason why the old S12 should be discarded by anyone who wishes to keep it, but the explanation why the variety illustrations have been dropped pro tem is simple enough. As can be seen, there is no room for them on the new S12, so that to include them would mean a new page with a blank reverse side; next year, when a new page will in any case be needed for the data of the Southland set, they will reappear. As I have explained to those concerned, each year brings its own particular problems of spacing and layout and each problem must be dealt with as seems best in the interests both of the Catalogue owners and ourselves.

New Issues:

The first value of the current Queen Elizabeth set to appear with enlarged figures was the 6d (date of issue 20th Oct., 1955). The ½d has now made its appearance. The date of issue of the latter has not yet been officially announced, but it would

appear to have been about the 12th of December. Four plates, Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10, have been noted.

New Coils:

An unexpected change in the numbering of the 1/- coils has just been seen by us. The coils are vertical, as they have been for some time now, but the numbers lie sideways in relation to the stamps, instead of upright as always before. No doubt to avoid confusion, the numbers "6" and "9" are each followed by a full stop—this being the first time this has been done. Whether the few we have seen are the forerunners of a general change affecting all 9d, 1/- and 1/6 coils I cannot yet say for certain; they are surely not accidental—the full stops show that—but they could perhaps be experimental. For myself I expect to see the changed form become the standard—though the reason for the change is not clear.

C.P. Catalogue Price Changes:

The following price changes have been made. Catalogue users may care to record the necessary alterations in their Catalogues.

M6a Coil with smaller printed numbers	6/6
N3a Plate Blocks, Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, each	1/8
N7a (insert) Pair, coil, printed number between	2/6
S40a Plate No. 4, 2/-; Plate No. 5	1/9
S41a Plate Nos. 1A, 1B (either water-mark), each	2/6
S42a Plate No. 7	7/6
S44a Re-entry, Row 10, No. 3	5/-
T13a: Mint, 1/9; used, 3/3. T13b: Mint, 1/9; used	2/3

Queen Elizabeth Booklet Plates Reconstructed

Mr R. A. Dexter, of Auckland, has the untiring enthusiasm and singleness of purpose which are the marks of the genuine student—and these attributes bring results. Some time ago Mr Dexter turned his attention to the possibility of plating (i.e., reconstructing) the whole of the current 1d and 3d Booklet Plates solely by study of the panes as found in the Booklets sold at post offices. How he did this makes an absorbing subject, but one which is not easy to describe other than at inordinate length—it was a long and exacting task. I would not like to guess just how much time he must have spent going to post offices to buy Booklets in the hope of fitting yet another piece into his jig-saw puzzle. Nor how much it cost in capital outlay at 4/- per Booklet—over £75, I believe he said. The subject is indeed a lengthy one—more suitable for a Handbook chapter than for these small pages—but perhaps I can manage a short description of the plating method. Readers can be sure that if they are genuinely interested in having a shot at this quite herculean task, Arthur Dexter

will be happy to lend aid with advice and fuller description.

The first thing to understand is that the Booklet Plates are differently constituted from the ordinary plates. The impressions are so laid down that the sheets can be guillotined into seven vertical blocks, each three stamps wide and ten stamps deep, each such block having plain selvedge running down one side on the left of the stamps. To make this possible the plate is laid down thus: The first block of 30 (three vertical columns of 10 stamps) is laid down in the normal way; a second block of 30 is laid down inverted in relation to the first block; then a single column is left blank; next the process is repeated of two blocks of 30, one inverted; next, another blank column is left; a further two blocks of 30 (one inverted) are laid down; yet another blank column is left; finally, a single block of 30, not inverted, completes the plate. (It would help readers if they here made a rough sketch of the plate as described, but anyone possessing the Handbook Vol. 1 can see exactly how it is done by turning to page 373. The finished plate, then, is of 210 impressions, though it is the same size as a normal plate of 240—the three blank columns accounting for the deficiency of 30 stamps. These columns provide the necessary margins (for binding in the booklets) at the left of each block of 30. After printing, the sheets are guillotined into separate blocks of 30. Cuts are made between the 3rd and 4th rows; down the centre of the first blank column which lies between the 6th and 7th rows; between the 9th and 10th rows; down the centre of the blank column between the 12th and 13th rows; between the 15th and 16th rows; down the blank column between the 18th and 19th rows; finally, a cutting off of the selvedge on the right of the 21st row. The resultant blocks of 30 need now only to be cut each into five blocks of 6 and the printer has 35 finished panes ready for stapling into booklets. The panes with inverted watermark are, of course, from the three blocks of 30 which were inverted in the laying down of the plate.

The first problem facing the plater is how to tell from which block of 30 any particular pane has come. This, in fact, is the easiest step of all. The same two perforating machines as are used for the ordinary sheets of stamps have been used on the Booklet sheets and it so happens that by irregularities in the placing of the pins, any pane can be readily "placed" as to its position in relation to the perforating head and therefore in relation to the sheet of stamps. A keen collector will have little difficulty in finding complete sheets of ordinary current stamps to use as checks for the identification of the perfs in his Booklet panes. The two perf heads in use differ widely, though of the same gauge. One, called by Mr Dexter perf head "A," is very irregular in the spacing of the pins; the other, perf head "B" is regular and even. Both are "double comb" heads, so that a horizontal double strip of stamps from the bottom of a sheet will show all the peculiarities to be looked for in a Booklet pane perforated by the same head (one gets very quickly used to these perf heads—Mr Dexter can "place" a Booklet pane as to its "perf head" position almost at a glance). It will be clear then (I hope) that any pane can be allocated to its parent block of 30 without much trouble—the real problem is that each block of 30 provides five panes—how is one to decide which of the five one has? I know this gave Mr Dexter quite a bit of trouble before he finally solved it. This he did by intensive study of minor flaws, retouching of frame lines, etc., but also, rather

ingeniously I thought, by the discovery that the blocks of 30 are collated with unsevered Booklet covers and advertising pages before they are guillotined into their five separate panes. That is to say we can visualise at one stage five Booklets complete with covers and advertising pages and fully stapled, but still all together in a vertical whole—rather like the long type of receipt book often seen in offices. It will be seen that this joined lot of five Booklets has to be guillotined four times to separate the Booklets, but it does not need to be guillotined at top or bottom and therein lies a useful clue. The guillotine leaves a very slightly rough edge in its cutting, so that the stamps in a Booklet with cover and sheets (other than the stamps) having a perfectly smooth top edge must be from the top of the sheet (or the bottom in the case of panes with inverted watermark); similarly a smooth bottom edge indicates the bottom of the sheet (or the top in the case of panes with inverted watermark).

Though it has been long enough in the telling, this is not the whole story, of course. From the above it should not be beyond any collector to allocate a pane to its correct block of 30 in the sheet and in the cases of the fourteen top or bottom panes, to allocate them to their exact sheet position. There still remain to be exactly allocated the remaining 21 panes. This, as I have said, Mr Dexter has done by the study of minor marks and retouches; what he has done no doubt others can do too. But I hope at the least that I have done justice to what has been a fine display of common sense (though uncommon sense would describe it better) and sheer dogged determination. With these Booklets soon perhaps to be superseded by new ones with stamps of the "larger values" type, it may be too late for a start to be made now, but no doubt the new Booklets will be equally plateable and will offer an opportunity for others. Finally, Mr Dexter reports that the current 1d panes are found with perforations of both "A" and "B" heads, but the 3d has always been found with perf "A" only until the appearance of the latest Booklets (which contain Airmail stickers). In these more recent Booklets Mr Dexter has found the 3d panes only with perf "B."

Health Stamp Sales:

In the "New Zealand Herald" for Jan. 10th a report appeared stating that sales of the current Health Stamps to Dec. 31, 1955, reached a gross figure of £130,049. It was also stated that this total was £19,737 higher than on Dec. 31st, 1954. Exact analysis of these figures is not possible, since details of the sales of the individual values in the two sets are not given. I have made an analysis however on the basis of equal quantities sold of both values in 1954 and of all three values in 1955. This gives an interesting result, but I would point out that unless the sales of the current 2d + 1d value equal or exceed the sales of the other two values, the results may be less favourable to the Health Camps than my figures here suggest. So on the basis that the published figures represent the sale of so many complete sets in each year we get the following result:

	Government's Camps'		
	Sales	Share	Share
1954	£110,312	£77,218	£33,094
1955	£130,049	£93,924	£36,125

These figures show that from the increase of £19,737 in the total sales, the Health Camps may benefit by £3031, while the Government may receive an extra £16,706! Certainly this assessment is incorrect through lack of detailed figures—it remains to be

seen whether I am right in my opinion that the final result will be even less favourable to the Camps.

Southland Centennial Set:

Reactions to this new issue are hardly likely to be over enthusiastic. The 8d has come out quite well and does justice to its rather quaint looking subject. The 3d has dignity and clarity, but why pick this sombre shade for the most used value? The 2d is disappointing. The subject is a romantic and thrilling one, but the result is the poorest recess printed stamp that I can recall having seen. There is a crudeness in the engraving that differs strangely from the treatment of the 3d. Maybe it is the colour which does it, but the stamp reminds me most unpleasantly of the Australian "Produce More Food" daubs.

Considering the profits made by the Department on Commemorative and Health issues the producing of one-colour stamps in this set is an action both parsimonious and short sighted.

As a footnote re the 8d, I wonder why New Zealanders usually call the bird

"Notornis" instead of its Maori name "Takahe"? One does not use "Apteryx" when referring to the Kiwi. For overseas readers' benefit I may say "Takahe" is pronounced Tah-kah-heh. The "Tah" and "kah" are short sounds running together almost like "tucker," while the "heh" is like "hay," but shorter and softer. There is no accenting of any syllable—this being a rule in Maori pronunciation. I hasten to disclaim any extensive knowledge of Maori.

Again for the benefit of non-New Zealanders I should explain the local significance of the Takahe. From about 1900 to about 1950 this bird was classed among New Zealand's long list of extinct birds. Quite a major flutter was caused in ornithological circles in the early 50's when a tiny colony of the birds was found to be surviving in a remote Southland valley near Lake Te Anau. Faint hopes have been aroused by the incident that perhaps in even more inaccessible country some small species of Moa may some day be discovered alive. The Takahe is flightless and (I understand) about the same size as a small goose.

New Superior A.S.A. Stock Books

A new imported line and much superior to anything we have ever had. (We have been so impressed with these ourselves that we have decided to cease production of our own stock books.) The A.S.A. stock books not only are cheaper, but have that fine "pre-war" finish that we have looked for in vain since 1939. The pages are of strong board, linen hinged and edged, the slots of clear thin cellophane, each slot immovably tucked in at ends and bottom edge. A most superior type of book, built to last a life time. Outer covers are of strong heavy boards in rexine. Interleaving between pages is of best quality glassine. Two styles of book are available:

A.S.A. Loose-leaf, six leaves 9" x 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (12 pages, 84 slots), in red, blue or green—**30/-**.

A.S.A. Bound, dimensions as above, in red or green — **27/6**.

Postage and packing on each stock book — **1/- extra**.

A Plastic "Library" Cover for your C.P. Loose - Leaf Catalogue

We do most strongly recommend these crystal-clear protective covers. Used with our colourful paper dust jacket (which is automatically supplied with each plastic cover) the plastic gives permanent protection and beautiful appearance to the Catalogue. We cannot imagine the cover wearing out; it is really tough. Don't make do with that ugly old home-made cover—this is miles better and immeasurably more attractive. As one buyer said — "It is super!"

The plastic, linen-edged cover, with paper dust jacket, post free — **3/3**.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d MT. COOK GREEN

Second only to the 1d Dominion, this stamp provides a feast of philatelic interest. Stocks are good even of some of the rarer items.

186 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mt. Cook on Waterlow (Pirie) paper.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|------|
| (a) Perf 11, deep yell-green mint | 1/- | (e) Perf 14 x 11, mint 2/-, used | 1/- |
| (b) Perf 11, deep green, mint | 1/- | (f) Perf 11 x 14, mint 3/6, used | 3/6 |
| (c) Perf 11, three used shades | 6d | (g) Mixed Perfs. Mint 15/-, used | 10/- |
| (d) Perf 14, mint 2/-, used | 9d | | |

187 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mt. Cook on Basted Mills paper.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|
| (a) Perf 11, mint only | 30/- | (d) Perf 11 x 14, mint only | 1/6 |
| (b) Perf 14, mint 3/-, used | 2/6 | (e) Mixed perfs used (heavy concl.) | 15/- |

188 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mt. Cook—Cowan No Watermark paper.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
| (a) Perf 11 rarity. Used only | 90/- | (d) Mixed perfs, good used | 35/- |
| (b) Perf 14, mint 1/6, used | 1/- | (e) Mixed perfs, finest used | 70/- |
| (c) Perf 14 x 11 rarity, used only | £5 | | |

189 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mt. Cook—Cowan Watermarked (Old Plates).

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| (a) Perf 11, mint 30/-, fine used | 35/- | (d) Perf 11 x 14, mint only | 4/6 |
| (b) Perf 14, three shades mint | 1/9 | (e) Perf 14 x 11, mint 5/6, used | 6/- |
| (c) Perf 14, three shades used | 5d | (f) Mixed perfs, mint 8/6, used | 10/- |

- 190 **½d Mt. Cook Watermarked (New Plates).**
 (a) Perf 14, mint, yellow-green 2/- (d) P. 14 x 13, 13½, mint, yell-
 (b) Perf 14, used, two shades 1/4 green 1/3
 (c) P. 14 x 13, 13½, mint, green 3/- (e) P. 14 x 13, 13½, 3 used shades 1/9
 (f) P. 14 x 15, mint 8d, used 1d
- 191 **½d Mt. Cook Scarce Varieties.**
 (a) Imperf pair, superb, from the new plates. A real rarity £10
 (b) Perf 14 x imperf vertically, old plates, a pair, one stamp has defect. Barg. 40/-
- EDWARD VII.**
- 194 **Complete Simplified sets.**
 (a) All values, ½d, 2d, 3d, 4d yellow, 4d orange, 5d, 6d, 8d, 1/- finest mint. The set 42/6
 (b) Values as in (a) but minus the 4d yellow, finest used 7/-
Some selected lots.
- 195 **½d green** from booklet in pair with ornamental star (and selvedge both sides). This is illustrated in our Catalogue. Quite a scarce item. Mint 40/-
- 196 **Edward Colour Collection.** This is an unusual offer. We have got together a range of Edward shades—and in this issue that means something. We have ignored perfs (most are 14 x 14½) and the very colourful result is a set of 28 picked **used** stamps which mounted will make a lovely showing. Incl. are four ½d (including the "blurred"), four 2d, three 3d, two 4d yellow, two 4d orange, four 5d, three 6d, four 8d and two 1/-. Condition is tops—not a poor copy in the lot. The set of 28 used 25/-
- 197 **Perf 14 (line) set.** The set of 3d, 4d orange, 5d, 6d and 1/- (i.e. a complete set but for the 8d rarity) all fine used in this scarcer perforation 12/6
- 198 **Perf 14 x 13½.**
 (a) 3d finest mint 16/6 (d) 6d mint 17/6, used 15/-
 (b) 3d no+ so fine used 7/6 (e) 6d rot so fine used 7/6
 (c) 5d mint 3/6, used 6d (f) 8d two shades fine used 2/-
- 199 **Two-perf vertical pairs.**
 (a) 5d deep brown mint 12/6 (d) 8d indigo mint 22/6
 (b) 5d deep red-brown mint 12/6 (e) 8d deep brt. blue mint 20/-
 (c) 6d perfect mint 50/-

NEW ZEALAND — ODDS AND ENDS

- 104 **8d Centennial Variety:**
 One of the few re-entries in this set. Shows doubling of the orange lines of shading under **NEW**. Used singles only, each 4/6
- 105 **George V Invert:**
 A mint specimen of the 2d surface-print on Wiggins Teape paper perf 14 x 15 (C.P. 15/-). Scarce 12/6
- 106 **½d Mt. Cook Flaws:**
 An attractive set of four flaws on two singles and two pairs. One flaw is a strong vertical line lying to the left on the centre vignette. This is shown perf 14 x 1 (mint) and in two shades perf 14 used. The other flaw is a gash below the D of LAND (in pair used). All are watermark W.7. The set of 4 flaws (6 stamps) 7/6
- 107 **1d Second Sideface Flaws:**
 (a) The famous 1d "chisel" flaw (in used pair) perf 12 x 11½ (scarce); ditto perf 11 mint and used; ditto perf 10 mint and used; ditto perf 10 x 11 used. The rather remarkable set of 6 identical flaws 15/-
 (b) "Chisel" flaw perf 11, mint, 3/-; used 1/6
 (c) "Chisel" flaw perf 10, mint, 3/6; used 2/6
 (d) 1d. Two different white flaws each affecting the top of the frame. The larger also has a big break in the side at lower right. The two used, perf 11 2/6
 (e) 4d and 1/-. The 4d (used) is a fine example of the white flaw or weakness around the central circle of pearls. The 1/- (mint) is the somewhat starting white "dot on nose." The two 20/-

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