

Campbell Paterson's NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT by Campbell Paterson

Another fine "Middle Values" Series

Frank Mohr has again hit the jackpot with a fine report on Centre plate 1B (of the 9d, 1/- and 1/6d), Row 8, No. 5. This stamp is the lower left unit in any block of four with imprint, from the 1B sheets, and will therefore be in the hands of most "plate and imprint" collectors. There are three main states and two sub-states, as follows.

State 1. Flaw, stage 1—a small but strong piece of colour just to the right of the centrepiece of the necklace (from which the pendant is suspended).

Seen in the 1/- and 1/6d.

State 2. Flaw, stage 2—a white patch with weakened surroundings and spots on left near site of original flaw—9d, 1/-, 1/6d.

State 2a. Flaw, stage 3—as stage 2, plus a spot on right—9d only.

Stage 3. Retouch, stage 1—the horizontal shading has been restored to normal, but the outline of the centrepiece and details on it are still weak—9d, 1/- and 1/6d.

Stage 3a. Retouch, stage 2—as stage 1, plus a small flaw practically on the site of that which developed in stage 3 of the flaw—1/6d only.

Mr. Mohr comments: "This series of varieties must have started in very early printings as the flaw reached the advanced stages before the re-entries were made in the first two columns of plate 1A. Whether 8/5 in plate 1B was re-touched at the same time as the impressions in plate 1A were re-entered, is something we will probably never know. All things considered, I would expect to find the retouch in 1/- printings, but haven't come across it."

That ends Mr. Mohr's report but I can add a little further comment. I am glad to say we found we could let him have the 1/- example that he mentions in his last sentence, which is why the 1/- is noted as existing in State 3. The listing under "States 1, 2, 2a, 3 and 3a" is mine I feel that 2a and 3a are best treated as minor variations of the main three states. Mr. Mohr calls State 2 "flaw, Stage 2" but some may prefer to consider this rather as a first attempt at obliterating the earlier flaw—hence a retouch. Students will find State 3 very difficult to recognise as other than a normal stamp. The best guide by far is the continued weakness of the centrepiece of the necklace (not the pendant). The actual retouching of the shading nearby is very finely done and most difficult to distinguish as a retouch except that a certain faintness of lines which is common to all other stamps, just to the right of the centrepiece, is not now evident on this stamp. Still, the very weak outline and detail of the centrepiece is the best clue. As one of the bottom row on the sheet, R8/5 will be found in some vertical coil pairs.

An abnoxious idea. In a letter to the Editor of the R.P.S.N.Z. Newsletter, (without doubt inspired by my recent comment in these columns on the lack of numbers of "working" specialists in N.Z.), an anonymous writer puts forward ideas that amount to an advocacy that specialists should keep information to themselves—not passing it on for public consumption. This I consider a most objectionable doctrine—not, as the writer suggests, because "some dealers sit back until the student has spent hours and hours—and then cash in," but because the publishing of original research is the duty of every specialist in any field of endeavour. To cite an extreme case, what would the world think of a doctor who spent years discovering a cure for cancer—and then, for fear that other doctors might profit, refused to publish his discoveries? In our lesser field the principle is the same. The specialist who lets others remain in ignorance for selfish motives—leaving them to work over the same ground, not knowing that it had been covered before, is acting in a manner unworthy of his calling.

It may at first sight seem unfair—one man does the work, many profit by it—but if we all acted on this thought we would have no Handbooks, no Newsletters, no Catalogues—probably no hobby. The correspondents who through ten years have freely sent me their findings have known well enough that many

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FANFARE OF TRUMPETS

This month, in roughly chronological order, we offer as fine an array of N.Z. stamps as we have ever done. And that means something—where else but in the Newsletter do you see such things offered?

- 318 **Full-face 2d Retouches.** Two fine 2d orange, major retouches. One perf 12½, one 10 x 12½. Excellent condition. The two 60/-
- 319 **Full-face 2d Richardson (S.G.10).** Imperf, unused, with greater part of original gum, four fine margins. S.G. £22, not absolutely perfect but rare and handsome £10
- 320 **Full-face 2d Blue paper (S.G.5).** A beautiful copy, four margins, close one spot. Light p/m. S.G. to £20 £10
- 321 **Full-fafce 6d Star, Imperf (S.G. 41).** A fine, rich grey-brown, clear face, fine margins, just touched one corner, a very handsome stamp 70/-
- 322 **Newspaper Stamp. (C.P. B1a).** Perf 10. A superb mint block of 4, two stamps letter wmks, one NZ wmk, one no wmk. Full gum. A delightful piece for the connoisseur £12
- 323 **Newspaper. (C.P.B1a, b, c).** Perfs 10, 12½ x 10 and 12½. The set of 3 all mint with full gum (rare thus); the two scarcer stamps are "no wmk". This is an excellent opportunity to get this scarce set in top condition £10
- 324 **Newspaper (C.P. B1a, b, c).** As above, the set of three diff. perfs all **fine used** with light postmarks. Very scarce thus £5
- 325 **Newspaper (C.P. B2a, b).** Star Wmk. The 12½ in pink and in deep rose, plus the very scarce "near 12" perf. All three are finest mint, full gum ... 40/-
- 326 **Newspaper Rarity. (C.P. B2a).** A used pair, "imperf between." This pair is badly centred but of extreme rarity—the first we have seen. A snip for someone at £6
- 327 **Newspaper. B3a.** Three delightful strips of 9, mint, every stamp either letter wmk or no wmk. In three fine shades: rose, rose-red and rose-pink. Very attractive. The lot 60/-
- 328 **1st Sidefaces. Rare colour trials.** A set of four: 1d brown, 2d blue, 3d lilac and 6d brown, watermarked, ungummed, overprinted "Specimen" in black. Extremely scarce and desirable. The set of four £15
- 329 **1st Sidefaces. Fine used set perf 12½.** The fine complete set of 6 values to the 1/-, picked used copies, very attractive 80/-
- 330 **1st Sidefaces. Fine used set perf 10 x 12½.** A difficult set, again the best copies we have had for a long time. The set of 6, complete £6
- 331 **1st Sidefaces. Complete set to 5/-, perf 12 x 11½.** The complete set of seven finest mint all beautifully fresh. The 1/-, 2/- and 5/- are all top grade stamps—as indeed are the 1d, 2d, 4d and 6d. The set £15
- 332 **1st Sidefaces 2/- and 5/- fine used.** These two scarce stamps in very attractive condition. Guaranteed genuine postally used £6
- 333 **1st Sideface Variety.** A superb used 6d, perf 12 x 11½ **double perf.** An unrecorded rarity of particularly fine appearance 50/-
- 334 **½d Mt. Cook Purple Offset.** One of the superb 1898 offsets, and not the commonest. The offset is as clear as the normal print. Finest mint £5
- 335 **1898 London Prints.** The complete set, ½d to 5/-, 14 values in absolutely perfect mint condition. N.Z.'s most beautiful set £9/10/0
- 336 **1898 London Prints.** As above but all in finest used condition. This is a set you can be truly proud of £9
- 337 **1900 1½d Boer War.** Three perfect blocks of four, mint, in three different shades of chestnut. The lot (includes the fine red-chestnut) 50/-
- 338 **6d Kiwi Red—Double Print.** New Zealand's best double print. In this case the double print extends half-way up the stamp—a very fine mint example £18
- 339 **1d Universal—a rarity.** The very scarce G2c (S.G. 321) in really superb used condition. A choice stamp £8
- 340 **1d Universal—another rarity.** The scarce G2d (S.G. 323) in superb used, dated postmark, guaranteed £5

- 341 **½d Mt. Cook. Fre** (S.G. 322). A splendid mint block of 14 (2 x 7), twelve of the stamps being mixed perfs—original patching adheres of course. A specialist's piece, Cat. £12 in our Catalogue £8
- 342 **1d Universal**. (G3e, S.G. 332). Basted Mills mixed perfs. A superb mint block of 9, (3 x 3) with arrow on selvedge. Six of the stamps are reperfed 11 over the original 14 x 11 perf. Another choice piece £15
- 343 **6d Kiwi Imperf vertically**. (E14e, S.G. 363a). A vividly fresh mint pair, imperf vertically, has been folded between the stamps (Cat. £10) ... £8
- 344 **2/- Laid paper**. This scarce issue, both mint and used. Both of superb appearance, both have one perf short. A bargain £3
- 345 **5/- Mt. Cook. E21**. (Perf 11, wmk upright). Finest mint £5
Finest used 110/-
- 346 **5/- Mt. Cook. E21f**. (perf 14, wmk sideways). The deep red shade both mint and used. The two £8
- 347 **5/- Mt. Cook. E21f**. The vermilion shade, both mint and used £8
- 348 **1d Claret Christchurch Exhib**. One of the finest mint copies of this famous rarity that we have ever handled. Only one available but you could be lucky! £80
- 349 **1/- Small Keas—Rarity**. The very scarce issue in orange-brown. You should get this while you can £8
- 350 **1d Dominion Offset**. A mint strip of three of J1a (S.G. 450) with offset almost as clear as the normal 30/-
- 351 **½d Edward "Star"**. A mint "pair" from a Booklet, one of the "stamps" being the ornamental star. Much sought after 35/-
- 352 **Booklet Panes**. Two ½d Edward (one blurred) and 1d Dominion, Booklet panes; two from the issue without selvedge markings, one ½d pane with side markings. The three panes £7/10/0
- 353 **Auckland Exhibition**. Complete set. Mint £6/10/0, good used £5
- 354 **George V Rarity**. The 1/- perf 14 x 14½ in the very scarce brown shade. Guaranteed. Superb used £6
- 355 **George V Major Re-entry**. The famous "club-foot 4" (plate 20, R4/10): (a) in mint block of 4 "2 perfs", 4d yellow 60/-
(b) in finest used single, 4d violet 20/-
- 356 **George V. Bargain basement!** To clear somewhat surplus stocks we offer: The 2d violet, the 2d yellow, the 4d yellow and the 4d violet **all in 2 perf pairs**. (C.P. Cat. 42/6d) at the very low price for the four pairs 27/6d
- 357 **George V Pictorials paper, No Wmk**. Superb mint blocks of 6 of the 3d and 6d, three stamps in each block truly without watermark. Cat. by us £8/7/3d. Another real bargain £5
- 358 **Booklet Rarities**. The excessively scarce "Dainties" adverts panes of both ½d George and 1d Dominion, plus the even scarcer "Kaitangata" pane of the 1d Dom. All are in superb mint condition. This is an offer that may never be repeated. The three panes £25
- 359 **Admirals 2/- and 3/-**. The complete set of 4, mint, one each of the two values on each of the Jones and Cowan papers. Cat. £10/12/6d. An offer you cannot afford to miss 90/-
- 360 **Arms Type—Single Wmk**. A set including the 6/-, 7/-, 7/6d, 8/-, 9/-, 12/6d, £1, 30/-, £2, £4, £5, 3/6d, 5/6d and 35/- (ovpnt). All are fine used except the 3/6d and 5/6d which are mint. (Cat. S.G. £34/10/0). These colourful stamps are fetching very high prices in London today—almost full S.G. in many auctions. This is an opportunity £16
- 361 **Arms Type—Mult. Wmk**. Another grand lot. Includes 6/-, 7/-, 7/6d, 8/-, 9/-, 10/-, 15/-, £1, 25/-, 30/-, £2, £2/10/0, £3, £4, £5, 3/6d, 5/6d, 11/-, 22/-. All these are fine used and in addition there is a mint copy of the rare 3/6d with sans-serif lettering. For the first to order £24
- 362 **George V1 Rarity**. The famous "second insertion 2" in mint block of four. The misplacement of the new "2" is one of the widest we have seen—it is impossible to imagine a better example of this major variety. The block £25

others, who could work but do not, have profited from their labours. None has ever differed from me in my belief that they were doing the right thing. As for myself, I publish all information I get—including my own and my staff's discoveries—immediately.

That is my duty and I have never been reproached for failing in it by any of my informants. With this prompt publication—easily the most rapid and regular in N.Z.—the “cashing in” if any, is open to everyone who reads the Newsletter.

The advocacy of silence is not only pernicious, it is stupid. I think most of my correspondents will agree that they have been well repaid for their efforts. In the more outstanding cases, “unknowns” ten years ago, they are today leading figures in N.Z. Philately, invited to prepare chapters for the next Handbook and to read papers at Congress. Those who sat tight and said nothing are mostly where they started.

Marlborough Varieties. I have been over sheets of the new issue—not thoroughly enough, probably, but giving what time I had to the job. I may well have overlooked something. I found numerous small varieties but will restrict this report to those that seem to be of some significance.

2d value Row 9/4; a white patch in the smoke below the “D” of “2d”. **Row 9/6;** a similar flaw below the “2.” **Row 13/6;** a white area below the “E” of “NEW”—quite good, looks rather like a light in the sky. **Row 14/3;** this stamp is most interesting. On my run over the sheet I missed it but a young enthusiast, Mr. G. Hendry, reported that on all sheets he had seen there was a fingerprint effect showing in the top right area of this stamp. I looked on our sheets and failed to find this but I did find a very extensive retouch to the bow of the ship, around the point where the bowsprit joins the vessel. Further investigation revealed that many, but not all, sheets showed Mr. Hendry’s “fingerprint” effect, while all showed the bow retouch. Mr. Hendry also first spotted a fine retouch on R20/1 within the pyramid formed by the rigging immediately below the Z of ZEAL.

3d value. I studied only the sheet having the plate number “without dot” (as in the 3d Hawkes Bay there are two plates with the same number, one with dot, one without) and found nothing of note.

8d value. On Row 7/1 there is a retouch or some such disturbance of the background below the “N” of “NEW.” On Row 9/2 something similar is seen below the “EW.”

1/9d on the new paper. Readers will recall that last month I spoke of an ineffective attempt to efface the big flaws on R5/10 (P.L.I.A 2A). I can now report that this stamp in yet a later state has been re-entered and all traces of the flaws have gone. So already we have two states of the 1/9d on the new paper. The new re-entry is recognisable by some slight doubling towards the right side—as well as by the absence of the flaws of course.

Health stamp retouches. Something of a sensation has been caused by the publication in Gibbons’ Stamp Monthly of a report on some fine retouches to be found in late prints of the blue Miniature sheets. Four, at least, different sheets show these retouches: (a) the sheet with the short “shilling” bar, (b) the sheet with very small “pence” dash (and earlier sky retouch above the big tent on stamp 6); (c) and (d), two different sheets both with normal “2/-” (one of these has flaw on boy’s nose, stamp 1). In (a), both stamps 3 and 6 are retouched; in (b), (c) and (d), stamp 6 is retouched. In all cases the retouching is easily seen and takes the form of extra colour added to the right side of the big tent.

As I have said, all these retouches are late states—the same sheets can be found without retouches. Much of the above information I have from Mr. R. J. G. Collins and Mr. R. Samuel, plus of course the G.S.M. It can be said that not only our correspondents but even the Study Circle of the R.P.S. (so I understand) were left behind by the overseas people in this case. However, it is clear that the late states are scarce and it could be that some Post Offices never had any of the retouched sheets at any time.

Marlborough Partial Double perf. Some sheets of the 3d have been found with an extra strike of the perf head giving double perforations to the extent of 5 or 6 holes up the sides of all stamps in the bottom row. Definitely a catalogue variety. Other cases with one or two holes doubled have been seen.

Health Double perf. One full sized, (not Miniature), sheet has been found of the 1958 2d plus 1d green Health having all stamps in the two righthand rows doubly perfed—in this case all holes on all sides of the stamps are clearly doubled. A true double perf and unique as far as is known, this will be one of the classic rarity pieces of the Health issues.