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AS I WAS SAYING

by CAMPBELL PATERSON.

(From "The New Zealand Bulletin")

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.

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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 marvelous collection" that would have been worth "thousands" if 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!

It seems that Ray once offered Sir Heaton Rhodes a cover bearing a 2d Vermillion Chalon, perf 10 x 12½. The price was certainly less than £2 -- this being a good many years ago. Having already a good showing of S.G.128 on cover, Sir Heaton returned the item. For some reason that he himself could not explain -- that sixth sense perhaps, that one develops in one's chosen field -- Ray now took the step of carefully removing the stamp from the cover -- presumably to look at the watermark. He was well rewarded. The stamp was C.P. A2w (not listed by S.G.) having the "NZ" watermark -- the only 2d vermilion perf 10 x 12½, with wmk NZ, that has ever been discovered. To this day it remains unique. Knowing that Sir Heaton would certainly now want the cover Ray resubmitted it to him priced (I was told) at a fully justified £75 ! Sir Heaton took it this time, and without questioning the price.

The long association of Sir Heaton Rhodes and R.J.G. Collins, in their respective roles of specialist collector and specialist dealer, was one of the most fruitful in the history of N.Z. philately. It resulted in what was, in its day, the premier N.Z. collection. In due course, after Sir Heaton died, it fell to Ray to round off the story by preparing the collection for permanent display at the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch. Whether or not one agrees that museums are suitable homes for famous collections, it is there clear for all to see what can be achieved when professional and amateur philatelists co-operate in mutual respect and confidence.

Mention of the 2d perf 10 x 12½ reminds me of a delightful "find" I made some years ago in the same group of Chalons. In a very tatty bundle of old covers, all bearing Chalons, though none of any obvious rarity, I found one cover (rather incredibly, in beautiful condition), bearing an unsevered pair of the 1d brown perf 12½ x 10. This is the reverse of the usual 10 x 12½ (perf 10 top and bottom, 12½ sides) but I could find no references anywhere to indicate whether my find was unique. Certainly I had not seen it before. I consulted with other authorities with the result that it was soon clear that this was indeed another unique piece. It remains so, no others ever being reported.

In the same combination of perfs (10 and 12½) I have another story -- not so happy as to its ending. In a mixed and grubby lot on view at an auction in the U.K. about three years ago I came across a 2d First Sideface with Large Star watermark, perf 10 x 12½. A look at our Catalogue or in S.G. will show that no such stamp is recorded. I have no doubt it was genuine but at that time it was impossible to give it a proper examination. I made what was a reasonable bid for the lot but I could not attend the auction and I must have been outbid. The stamp has never since been heard of by me and is probably today in some collection unrecognised for the rarity that it is.

NOTES AND COMMENTS BY WARWICK PATERSON

Readers will be glad to see notes from C.P. in England this month and to hear that accompanied by manager Peter Collins and quite a large staff now he is still very much on the job over there. Advertised this month, they will also be pleased to see a number of gems from one of our best buys of the last few years. Discovered "somewhere in the North Island" this collection/accumulation was remarkable not only for the huge quantity of fine rarity material (a sheet of the Jones paper map stamp, sheets of 1d Dominions and 2 sheets of each value of the Dunedin Exhibition set and so on) but for the superb condition the Owner had managed to preserve in it. A remarkable achievement really when you consider the way rust races away in this country given half a chance, and without fear of contradiction I can say that the owner was fully rewarded for his care in the price realised for the stamps.

The "Petre" cover advertised this month from the same lot is of very great rarity indeed and is the first we as a firm have ever handled. The "Sierra and Sonoma" cards are significant postal history gems of the first order and the Victory set and Christchurch Exhibition proofs and colour trials are in a class of material simply not available these days.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

3c Puarangi. Various plates Row 5/10

This flaw (sliced second A of Zealand) has aroused a lot of interest judging by the spate of letters and theories arriving on my desk. Plate 2B1B1B1B was the first to be reported (News Letter January 1968) and now Mr. R.W. Pollock of Invercargill has noted a flaw in the same position in plate 2A2A2A3A. The flaw in this plate is larger comprising quite a large white blob inside the lower part of the A. One theory is that originally the 2B1B1B1B state of this flaw was as prominent as the 2A2A2A3A but was touched up before printing. Mr. Pollock also reported the same broken left leg of the second A in plate 2B2B2B3B but my sheet from these plates did not show the flaw suggesting that plate 2B2B2B3B was retouched after printing. The interest in this R5/10 flaw is made greater by the fact that the reel printed plate 2B1B1B1B and the sheet printed 2A2A2A3A, 2B2B2B3A must be produced in the same place from the same multipositive plates (presumably by De la Rue themselves) wherever the actual printing is done (see Newsletter report July 1968 on this stamp).



SOME OUTSTANDING GEMS OF POSTAL HISTORY.

THIS MONTH'S BEST OFFER.

6. COVER BEARING THE EXCESSIVELY RARE "PETRE" CROWNED CIRCLE MARKING. "PAID AT PETRE NEW ZEALAND". A FINE CLEAN COVER BEARING A CLEAR STRIKE OF THE CROWNED CIRCLE RED MANUSCRIPT "TOO LATE" and "2" WITH WELLINGTON UNFRAMED C.D.S. "MY 19 1860" ON THE FRONT AND BACK STAMPED "PETRE NEW ZEALAND MY 15 1860, A" unframed C.D.S. - a crystal clear strike.

PRICE ON APPLICATION

BACKGROUND NOTE: "PETRE" was the official name for Wanganui when the office there was first opened (1842). The crowned circle marking was supplied along with those to other offices in October 1846 and the instructions were that it was to be impressed in red. The Petre marking ranks as perhaps the rarest of the crowned circle markings of this type. The cover offered this month is an internal one addressed to "Wainuiomata by Wellington".

7. COVER BEARING THE 2½d. Lake Wakatipu STAMP. Handstamped "OPSO". C.P. listing E.P.8b. Postmarked "Wellington 30 8A 92" sent to Los Angeles and returned undeliverable. The cover bears an interesting Los Angeles "Advertised unclaimed" marking on front and a variety of U.S. and N.Z. dead letter office markings etc. on the back.

PRICE ON APPLICATION

8. TWO ANTARCTIC COVERS.

(a) EDWARD VII LAND. RD1a 1d. Universal overprinted in Green used on cover. - \$15.00

(b) VICTORIA LAND. RD2a and RD3a used on a fine cover. Lovely pmk over the corner of the stamps only dated "JA. 18. 13" very fine example ... \$150.00

9. RARE MARINE P.O. MARKINGS.

From the San Francisco Mail Service era.

* R.M.S. SONOMA, page 265 of the "POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND VOL III" illustrates two types of marking used on this ship. We offer examples of both of them exquisitely impressed on postcards of the time, themselves rare and interesting.

(a) The incredibly rare type "20" illustrated in the Handbook of this datestamp *only several copies have previously been recorded*. We have two examples both being magnificent strikes - one in purple-blue ink, one in green. Both stamped with 1d. universals both stamps bearing the scarce "PACKET BOAT" marking. We repeat this is an offer in a million only a few copies ever having been reported before.

	Each -	\$100.00
(b) <u>R.M.S. SONOMA</u> marking "type 18". Further beautiful strikes of the "more often seen" type (who has ever seen them?) with "packet boat" marking again. Markings available in green - all have the date manuscript-changed (faultry slug?) each card.		\$25.00

(c) <u>"R.M.S. SIERRA"</u> , Five clear cards bearing superb blue markings alongside the Marine P.O. Obliterator "Z" in oval of bars.	Each -	\$20.00
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(d) <u>Fanning Island cover</u> , Dated MY 27 04. Two fine strikes one clear of the stamps. The last visit of the Sonoma to Fanning Island.		\$10.00
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19. <u>"Calpurnia"</u> cover of 1938. No stamps but the cover bears the rubber stamp in purple "Received in damaged condition ex Flying boat Calpurnia". (Handbook Vol.III page 315 type 43).		\$10.00
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20. 1d. <u>UNIVERSAL F.D.C.</u> The official cover 1JA 01 (Wellington)		\$5.00
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21. <u>1d. Q.V. Second Sideface Cover</u> . Bearing a lovely full strike of the "Flag" cancellation.		\$2.50
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22. We have a series of $\frac{1}{2}$ green Mt. Cook and 1d. universal post cards showing various machine R.T.P.O. and other markings. We offer:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (i) <u>$\frac{1}{2}$ Mt. Cook green cards</u>
10 fine cards all different markings. A nice little lot and satisfaction guaranteed - condition superb. ... | \$1.50 |
| (ii) Various 1d. universal post cards with machine cancellations a selection on approval at each ... | \$0.35 |
| (iii) Other coin and English types selection on approval each ... | \$0.25 |
| (iv) Various T.P.O.S. selection each ... | \$0.75 |

23. <u>AIRMAIL COVERS</u> an interesting collection of 68 different covers in good condition. Contains the early N.Z. - Australia flights and a number of non New Zealand. Many internal N.Z. first flights bearing an incredible variety of 1898 pictorials, Health Air and other Definitive issues. An amazing offer at only \$30 and well worth viewing on approval. - ...	\$30.00
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From last month : Alphabetical Imbroglío V

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (t) <u>USED.</u>
(i) Set of two used one showing top row worn plate | \$0.40 |
| (ii) Not so fine block of four used ... | \$0.15 |

1d DOMINION OFFICIALS

Jola De la Rue

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (u) <u>MINT</u>
(i) Fine set of three selvage blocks of four. Two striking shades and one (top left with serial number) blocks shows slight (top row) wear to plate - superb! ... | \$4.50 |
| (ii) Set as above but singles ... | \$1.00 |
| (v) <u>USED</u>
(i) Two shades in fine used ... | \$0.07 |
| (ii) Ditto pairs ... | \$0.15 |
| (iii) "Broken Frame" and "globe" flaws ... | \$0.75 |

Jo2a "JONES"

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (w) <u>MINT</u>
(i) 2 Singles of Carmine and Deep Carmine ... | \$1.25 |
| (ii) "Globe" flaw in fine selvage single ... | \$1.10 |
| (iii) USED singles ... | \$0.20 |
| (iv) Ditto thick paper ... | \$0.25 |

PICKING THE EYES OUT OF A VERY FINE COLLECTION

PROOF MATERIAL *Two amazing and rare offerings of material almost never seen outside the biggest of the big collections. Condition is perfect throughout the following lots incidentally - not a speck of rust has affected these beautiful items.*

24. CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION.

Colour trials - imperforate and fine. (In the listing below reference has been made to "The Postage stamps of New Zealand Volume I.") The prices will be supplied for each lot on application.

Proofs produced by Photo Lithography at the Government Printing Office:

(a) Thin surfaced unwatermarked paper.

(i) 3d. brick red design in reverse (roller proof).

(ii) 6d. pale dull pink.

(b) Plate proof produced by photo engraving from zinc plates imperforate on white wove unwatermarked paper. 3d. deep brown.

(c) Plate proofs surface printed in black from electrotype plates on thick white glazed unwatermarked paper imperforate.

½d., 1d., 3d., 6d. The set (4)

(These four have hinge marks the 3d. thinned slightly - price adjusted accordingly).

(d) Thick glazed unwatermarked paper. ½d. Emerald green imperf. (1)

(e) White wove semi-surfaced unwatermarked paper ½d. green, 1d. dull pink, 1d. carmine red, 1d. vermilion (this last unlisted in the Handbook) (4)

White wove unwatermarked paper.

(f) 3d. bright chestnut and ultramarine, myrtle and sepia, violet and blue green, maroon and deep blue green, maroon and sage green. (5)

(g) 6d. grey green and sage green, grey green and dull violet, dull violet and deep sage green, dull violet and olive brown, maroon and deep olive brown, dull maroon and deep sage green, chestnut red and olive green, pink and olive green. (8)

Note: The above lots have been listed for convenience of classification as sets. With material as rare and valuable as this is, we are naturally not anxious to see the sets broken up. Depending upon response however, we are prepared to sell items individually only if it appears that a demand does not exist for them as sets. We will supply prices on application.

25. VICTORY ISSUE. Set of imperforate plate proofs on surfaced water-marked paper-gummed. A superb showing in absolutely pristine condition. This is International Exhibition standard material, includes ½d. yellow green, 1d. carmine, 1½d. orange brown, 3d. chocolate, 6d. deep bright purple, 1/- deep orange vermilion.

Unrepeatable this side of 2000 at our or anyone's price! - \$110.00

26. (a) VICTORY ISSUE. Set of blocks of four - includes 1d. yellow green, 1d. deep carmine, 1½d. two shades of orange-brown, 2d. yellow green, 3d. chocolate, 6d. deep bright purple, 1/- orange-vermilion.

8 blocks - superb! \$30.00

(b) ditto. Singles mint, ½d. green, deep green, yellow green, pale yellow green; 1d. carmine, deep carmine, carmine-pink, 1½d. orange brown, deep orange brown, 2d. on ½d. Green, yellow green, pale yellow green, 3d. chocolate, deep chocolate, 6d. bright purple, 1/- orange vermilion -

Nice set of 16 - \$12.00

27. S18c. 6d. JUBILEE Red orange, plate No.5 in fine mint. Block of 4 \$7.50

28. DUNEDIN EXHIBITION 4d. mauve on pale mauve. "POSTAGF" flaw at right

(i) Fine used single - ... \$30.00

(ii) Fine mint single - ... \$20.00

(iii) Fine mint in positional block of four ... \$35.00

29. 1d. DOMINION Jones printing -

Top right selvedge corner block of 12 showing paper fold and resultant distortion. R1/1 is partially imperforate on two sides. \$12.50

STOP PRESS !

The new Harrison & Son printings of the 10 and 15cents current pictorials are not only appearing on paper gummed with polyvinol alcohol but are now on paper with vertical mesh - a significant new departure

report Arthur Dexter.

EARLY HEALTHS

Selection to make the mouth water. If ever an issue had proved itself these have and this month's offering provides one of those rare opportunities which the many regret not taking up and the few are glad they did.

5 (a) 1929 "NURSE" MINT

(i)	fine block of four	...	\$6.50
(ii)	singles	...	\$1.50
(iii)	hinged single	...	\$1.25

(b) DITTO USED

(i)	fine singles	...	\$1.60
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(c) 1930 "NURSE" MINT

(i)	fine blocks of four	...	\$12.50
(ii)	singles	...	\$3.00

(d) DITTO USED

(e) 1931 BLUE AND RED BOYS MINT

(i)	Two lovely blocks of four. Chance in a million here, slightly hinged but intact and otherwise absolutely beautiful	...	150.00
(ii)	Red Boy vertical strip of three mint. Unmarked and perfect in every way	...	60.00
(iii)	Both values in mint pairs - slight hinge marks but otherwise lovely	...	75.00
(iv)	Mint singles in perfect condition each value \$20; pair -	...	40.00

(f) DITTO USED

(i)	Red boy used fine	...	20.00
(ii)	Blue boy used fine	...	12.00
(iii)	finest used pair	...	35.00
(iv)	Blue boy used on cover. V. fine	...	15.00

(g) 1932 "GODDESS" MINT AND USED

(i)	mint singles fine	...	\$4.00
(ii)	used singles fine	...	\$3.25

(h) 1933 PATHWAY MINT AND USED

(i)	mint block of four	...	10.00
(ii)	singles	...	\$2.50
(iii)	used singles	...	\$2.75

(i) 1934 "CRUSADER" MINT AND USED

(i)	mint block of four	...	\$9.00
(ii)	singles	...	\$2.20
(iii)	fine used	...	\$2.10

(j) 1935 "KEY" MINT AND USED

(i)	superb blocks of four	...	\$4.75
(ii)	singles	...	\$1.00
(iii)	single used	...	\$0.75
(iv)	First Day cover	...	\$0.75

Continued from Page 4

Jo5a Art litho wmk

(x) MINT

(i)	2 blocks of four one from top selvedge shows worn plate	...	\$3.50
(ii)	Ditto singles	...	\$0.90

Jo6a COWAN

(y) MINT

(i)	2 blocks of four including one from top left selvedge (serial number) worn plate (2)...	...	\$4.00
(ii)	Ditto singles	...	\$0.90
(iii)	Pair "feather" and "N" flaws	...	\$2.30
(iv)	USED Singles (3) two fine contrasting shades and worn plate copy	...	\$0.95
(v)	Ditto pairs	...	\$2.00
(vi)	Fine used pair	...	\$1.00

COWAN "reversed"

(z) MINT

(i)	Two shades	...	\$3.00
(ii)	Top selvedge pair - worn plate	...	\$3.25