

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT BY WARWICK PATERSON

"Good years" in philatelic terms don't seem usually to be remembered in any overall sense. I mean people don't say "1899 Ah! *That* was a good year" even if they're lucky enough to remember it. However they are associated with various events, for instance, the start of a new Issue (1898, 1935) or the year of a rarity (1931) and I am lead on to ask is 1968 going to be a "good year"? In as much as it has seen an unusual number of attempts by the printers to improve their productions by the use of new methods I don't think it's been too bad (*long live healthy competition!*) The now exclusive use of chalk-surfaced papers, (Harrisons coat and gum their paper themselves, De la Rue get theirs done by Sam-Jones & Co.) The introduction of that chimera "Delacryl", and P.V. Alcohol gum all kept everybody on their toes even if the benefits weren't always easily recognised. And even if the printers had to publish lengthy press releases to lay a spate of evil rumours about the new gum.

However it's been an unequal struggle I'm sorry to say. 1968 could be put down as a year in which the Post Office plumbed the depths of mediocrity and inconsistency. I here question again the efficiency of the apparatus for the selection of new designs.

And while methods improve what about production standards? Take the Trout 7½¢. The perforations in the first printing were of a rare type that makes it hard to find a used blessed with both top corners. In the second printing a job of work worthy of Heath Robinson emerged, first impressions leading me to suspect that someone skilfully went over the sheets with a pin inserting the missing holes. But that's ridiculous of course. That sort of antique method went out way back in 1963 with the Prince Andrew finger retouch. And the mystery of the 4¢ Royal Society "5-number" plate blocks ushered in a new phase in the printers' long term plan to drive us all bonkers.

However it's unfair to Post Office and Printers to suggest unalleviated gloom as this is certainly not the case. In the 28¢ Fox Glacier they have given us a stamp which although short-lived will charm generations of collectors and rival some of the greats in popularity (the 3/- Mt. Egmont). Sir James Hector is better remembered now in a stamp which will grace many albums and the 1968 Xmas stands out as one of the sure successes of the series. The question is where did the trend lie in 1968?

Well, - - here's hoping!

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

PO Box 5555, Auckland.
Room 33, Vulcan Buildings,
Corner Vulcan Lane and Queen Street,
Telephone: 379-118 Auckland

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

PO Box 17,
Oriental Road
WOKING,
SURREY,
ENGLAND.

January is the month when none of us likes to do anything but laze but two items just won't wait till next month !!

2½c Kowhai

A huge doctor blade flaw affecting four consecutive sheets (to our knowledge) came into our hands - this coloured almost the entire left hand selvage in blue.

3c Puarangi

It's happened at last !! Three sheets have been found (plate No. not known to me) with a missing strike of the perforating comb down the right hand selvage - the last vertical row of stamps is imperforate down the right hand side. The discovery was made, I am told, some time ago and I think they are going to be very rare indeed. One sheet at least has so far been broken up - these to my knowledge the first "partial imperforate" of N.Z. photogravure issues. Found in the Waikato.

K.G. VI SHILLINGS BONANZA - 1

by Claude Scott

Few issues offer a greater treasure trove of interest to collectors of all degrees than the shillings values with the portrait of King George VI released on May 1, 1947. There are only four denominations yet they can produce material for a specialised display running to 150 or more album pages. Better still, they provide inexpensive variety pieces to lift any collection out of the ordinary.

The lowest value - 1/- red-brown and claret - is listed in all the catalogues with its two dies of the centre and its printings on papers with watermark upright and watermark sideways. What is not so widely publicised is that each sheet of 160 of the Die 1 stamps contained at least 13 stamps sufficiently different from the others to be collectable as varieties. The differences occur in both centre and frame plates and were constant throughout all printings with both watermarks.

To take the centre plate first, the first and second stamps in the second row (R2/1 and R2/2) have two of the horizontal shading lines strengthened next to the hair on the right. The fourth and sixth stamps in the same row (R2/4, R2/6) and the ninth stamps in the third, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and sixteenth rows (R3/9, R9/9, R10/9, R11/9, R12/9, R13/9, R16/9) have the diagonal lines in the right corner heavier than normal. R11/9 also has the horizontal lines above the head doubled. For that reason it has achieved recognition and a higher price. The others can usually be acquired as normals.

There are two constant varieties on the frame plate. The second stamp in the thirteenth row (R13/2) has the top half of the left frame line strengthened. The fifth stamp in the sixteenth row R16/5) has the top frame line similarly strengthened.

It is, however, the first two stamps in each of the fifteenth and sixteenth rows - the plate numbers block - that give the greatest joy. I have identified this block with watermark upright (M13a) in no fewer than six states - and should like to know if there are more.

In the first state all four stamps are normal. State 2 introduces a flaw on the second "E" in "Revenue" on R15/2.

In the third state there are flaws on the other three stamps as well, all on the centre plate. On R15/1 a coloured spot occurs at the extreme right opposite the collar and is often partly hidden by the frame, on R16/1 there is a tiny spot at the far left of the forehead and on R16/2 there is a much bigger spot on the left of the forehead.

State 4 shows all four flaws but with those on R15/1, R16/1 and R16/2 more pronounced. In addition there are signs of weakening in the frame plate with spots in its colour evident between R16/1 and R16/2.

The fifth state shows further deterioration in the frame plate. A serious defect reveals itself on R15/2 as a red gash on the lower part of the face, sometimes beside the mouth, sometimes on the nose.



Then came a major cleaning-up. All frame plate flaws were removed except, curiously, the oldest, that on the second "E" of "Revenue". The centres of R15/1, R16/1 and R16/2 were completely re-entered. But the centre plate weakened under this treatment and very apparent centre plate cracks opened between R16/1 and R16/2.

To tabulate:

	R15/1	R15/2	R16/1	R16/2
State 1	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
State 2	Normal	Flaw on "E"	Normal	Normal
State 3	Coloured spot	Flaw on "E"	Spot on forehead	Spot on forehead
State 4	Bigger spot	Flaw on "E"	Bigger spot	Bigger spot
State 5	Spot	Flaw on "E" Red gash	Spot	Spot
State 6	Re-entry	Flaw on "E"	Re-entry	Re-entry

Frame plate flaws between 16/1, 16/2
Centre plate cracks between 16/1, 16/2

In the Centre Die 1 stamps with watermark sideways (M13b) there is apparently no such plate block line-up. I have seen only the last state, with R15/1, R16/1 and R16/2 re-entered and the "E" flaw on R15/2.

WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN

Yes, yet again we have scooped a superb collection and again Newsletter readers and serious New Zealand enthusiasts the world over are presented with the very best available in specialised N.Z. anywhere. Listed this month the stupendous individual items contained in the lot now being broken up and handled by us for a valued client.

All prices will be supplied on application to genuinely interested clients.

66 ½d Green MT. COOK - Full sheets

The tremendous gain in enthusiasm for these earlier recess-engraved issues really has to be seen to be believed.

To say that this issue is rare in this state is to be guilty of gross understatement. Look hard - you will in all likelihood never see this class of material offered again - even in the Newsletter - condition super in all cases, this is student's material.

(a) F.1a Waterlow perf 11 wmkW6

PLATE 1. Complete sheet in perfect condition shows faint No "1" scratched under bottom row - 12th stamp.

(b) F.1b Waterlow perf. 14

PLATE 2. with 2 and reversed 2 scratched in bottom margin complete sheet.

(c) F.3b Cowan no Watermark perf 14

PLATE 3 with 3 and reversed 3 scratched in bottom selvedge: sheet.

(d) F.1a Waterlow perf 11

PLATE 4. No numbers in selvedge: sheet complete.

NOTE: We can duplicate lot (d) once

67 E6a 2d PEMBROKE PEAK - PURPLE perf 11 watermark W6

Complete sheet in impeccable condition

68 E.12b ½d LAKE TAUPO, DEEP BLUE AND CHESTNUT perf. 11 Watermark W7

Complete sheet - perfection.

69 G.3c 1d UNIVERSAL BASTED MILLS PAPER Watermark W.6 perf.11 x 14.

PLATE 1, in the second state known - double lined "1" scratched in centre bottom selvedge. Rare! complete

70 G.4a 1d UNIVERSAL COWAN perf.14 no watermark

PLATE 11 Single lined "2" scratched in bottom selvedge.

71 Y.15a ½d SECOND TYPE POSTAGE DUE perf.11 No watermark Complete perfect double-pane sheet.



Solution to last month's X-word - hope readers don't feel too badly towards us !!

WATERMARKS INVERTED - USED

- 72 (a) P.O.S.B. 4d - Superb used \$5.00
 (b) I.C.Y. 4d - again top grades25
 (c) Bible 3c - lovely lovely \$15.00

DITTO - MINT

- 73 (a) 4c SERVICES - only a few sheets turned up and with the issue now withdrawn from general sale the supply situation is not likely to change - a case where we don't advocate waiting any longer - each ... \$3.50

(Note - if you belonged to our New Variety Service you paid \$2. for this item - on a scarcity basis they're worth twice that!)

- (b) 28c SERVICES INVERTED
 each \$1.50

Incidentally, sellers please note C.P. is your best market when you come to sell - let us advise.

COMMEMORATES - fine used

ROAD SAFETY 3d

- 59 (a) "APOSTROPHE" flaw R3/2 now famous and cheap at50c
 (b) Informed sources tell us that in R5/8 the driver had been working on the engine and picked quite a lot of oil on his wrist - whatever your explanation this is a good flaw45c
 (c) P9/6 Flaw (blue) in D of Roads35c
 (d) R5/3 Nick in the N of New30c