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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT - by CAMPBELL PATERSON

These notes are being written during my visit to Auckland. I take this opportunity to greet old friends and customers; at time of writing I have already had some very happy reunions and public meetings (and have more to come), but by early May, I will be on the point of sailing away again. Some day, perhaps, it will be possible to commute in a few hours between the United Kingdom and New Zealand - which is what I would like to do - but alas, not yet.

A recent appeal, in the Bulletin of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, was made by Mr. R. Burge, who exhorted members of the Society to do something to arrest a falling off of membership. I chose the question of the position and functions of "The Royal" as my subject in a talk that I gave in Wellington. I made the point that, as a member myself, for 25 years, I believe that the Royal is not realizing its full potential. Few, if any, collectors seem to regard it as New Zealand's *national* Society. With its fine past record - shown in the publication of the superb, and unique "Handbooks" and its proud title of "Royal"; New Zealand's oldest and premier Society surely should be accorded a more prominent place in the philatelic world than the various local Societies seem to give it. I cannot see why a close-knit and homogeneous country such as New Zealand cannot support a truly *national* Society without in any way detracting from the obvious functions of the local Societies.

I am not overlooking the invaluable, indeed essential, work at present done by the energetic Federation of N.Z. Philatelic Societies whose Committee is representative of the whole country - but the Federation is not, in itself, a Society and no *individual* can be a member of it. NO, if there is to be a national Society to which all New Zealand collectors can give a collective service and loyalty, it has to be the Royal. Yet - it would seem the Royal is either not equipped (or perhaps just not asked to act in a national role) the only *national* body is the Federation, which is not a Society in the true meaning of the term.

I wonder, then, if some day some influential New Zealander, resident in N.Z. will not make the obvious suggestion that the Royal and the Federation become one body - a truly national Society to which all N.Z. philatelists can belong and to which all can look for collective action in the interests of all?

Once such a Society came into existence - much larger and more representative than the Royal at present - thought could be given to the enlisting of the talents of collectors of N.Z. stamps overseas. An invitation to join forces on a world-wide scale might bring a surprisingly enthusiastic response from overseas; the members of the N.Z. Society of Great Britain are obvious candidates for consideration. Of course I cannot speak on their behalf, but I can speak of my own enthusiasm. The idea of one big "Royal N.Z. Society" on a world-wide scale can hardly be dismissed as an impossibility - far from it. It could be a highly productive and unifying body in an altogether too parochial and nationalistic world. All will agree, I think, that philately should be the most universal of hobbies. I leave the thought with all members of Societies throughout New Zealand - think about it!

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

PO Box 5555, Auckland.1.
Room 404 Fourth Floor,
Canterbury Building,
Queen Street,
Telephone: 379-118 Auckland

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

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

The most tragic wreck in the vicinity was, of course, that of the "Waihiine" in April '68, although there was an earlier disaster during the life-time of the previous low level Pencarrow Head light, when the steamer "Devon" of 5,489 tons gross ran ashore in the evening of Aug.25th 1913 during a very strong southerly gale, with heavy driving rain squalls. Fortunately, the bow was firmly wedged on the Pencarrow Rocks and the crew managed to remain there during the night, although the vessel received a severe battering from the waves. Their plight was noticed when daylight broke, and after several attempts, a line was secured to the foc's'le head and all the ships complement safely hauled ashore (breeches-buoy). During the Court of Enquiry, it came out that the Pencarrow light had been taken for the Somes Island leading light for Wellington Harbour entrance. Partly to the danger of the low level light being confused with leading lights for Wellington Harbour the decision was finally taken to do away with the Pencarrow light, substituting one on much higher ground, hence Baring Head light.

4c Cape Egmont This light is situated on the most westerly Point of Taranaki and is sometimes used as a landfall light for vessels coming from the north-west, for Cook Strait. The lighthouse was originally on Mana Island, near Wellington, but after the wrecks of the "City of Newcastle" and "Cyrus" (1870) it was believed that the light was being confused with that at Pencarrow. (See Baring Head light). When the Brothers light was established in 1877, the Manu Island light was closed down. The tower was eventually dismantled and carried in sections to Cape Egmont by the Government steamer "Hinemoa", and the light exhibited in August 1881. The tower (67ft high) stands 109 ft above sea level, and the visibility is 16 miles. The light was electrified in November 1951, and is now fed from the mains supply, with a diesel-electric stand-by plant. There is a sole keeper, with family quarters and children attend a nearby school. The nearest township is 4 miles away and supplies are sent to the station weekly.

The erection of the light was delayed due to hostility shown by the nearby Maoris, the site having been decided upon as early as 1874. Even after completion in 1881, there was a party of about 100 armed constabulary on the site, and it remained there for some time afterwards in case of trouble, which fortunately did not eventuate.

Those who are old enough to remember the Northern S.S.Co's "Clausman" may not be aware that its predecessor (practically a sister ship) the "Gairloch" came to grief on the Oakara Reef 3 miles to the north of the light on Jan.5th, 1903. The "Gairloch" of 373 tons gross, was proceeding on a voyage from Onehunga and had already called at Raglan and Kawhia en route to Wanganui. It ran on to the Reef in the night, during very thick weather, but the seas were calm, and the crew able to reach the shore by the vessel's boats in the morning. This was the Northern S.S.Co's first shipwreck but not their last!

15c Dog Island The light takes its name from the island on which it stands, a rocky islet in Foveaux St., marking the outer entrance to Bluff Harbour Channel. The tower is the tallest in the country (118ft) and its distinctive black and white markings make it a good landmark for ships by day as well as night. It was one of the earliest lights to be erected in the country, being brought into service in August 1865, and is built of stone quarried on the island. The original lighting system was rather unique, employing 16 small lamps, each with its own lens. One can imagine the keeper would be rather busy during the night adjusting and trimming wicks! The light was electrified in October 1954, by operation of a diesel-electric plant. It is 150 ft above sea level and is visible for 18 miles. The light is manned by two keepers who are required to send weather reports during the oyster season only. This is a "Family" station mail and supplies being received fortnightly by air from Invercargill.

The only major wreck on Dog Island, was that of the Union S.S.Co's "Waikouiti" of 3926 tons gross, which went aground here during a dense fog on Nov 28th 1939 en route from Sydney to Lyttelton. There was no loss of life, although the vessel itself became a total loss. This steamer was one of those handed over by Germany as part of the reparations demanded after the 1914-18 war to help replace allied losses due to German submarine warfare. It was built in Germany and originally called "Irmgard". It was well known on the coast, being distinguished by the lack of "rake" to the masts and funnels and with four tall ventilators having horizontal cowls across the tops of the shafts instead of the then conventional curved type.



I hope the above notes will make these stamps of more interest to collectors. According to the map supplied by the Marine Dept. (& shown herewith) there are still 13 manned lighthouses not yet featured by the Govt. Life Insurance Office on their stamps, so there would appear to be enough material for at least two more issues!

Finally I would like to express my thanks to the Marine Dept. Wellington for all the information generously supplied regarding the lighthouses and shipwreck details have been taken from Ingram & Wheatley's "N.Z. Shipwrecks" which is the recognised standard work on this subject.

WARWICK PATERSON. On moderns
EXPO 70 ISSUE 7c, 8c, 18c. Well, I like them and to me they seem to serve notice in their quiet way that we are ready and able to compete fully in the world's market place. As a rejoinder to my comment last month on the dropping of the maori titles in the '70 set such difficulties seem not to arise with Japanese writing - or is it just that the customer is always right.

10c Cameo and Coat of Arms.

Ah me, such ineptitude must be assumed for it is not in nature.

10c Cardigan Bay. Courvoisier didn't let us down and produced a lovely issue.

I went to an Auckland Trotting meeting when Cardy made his recent public appearance and if he wasn't twice as big and handsome as any other horse there he certainly looked it.

18c Wool. Mr. P. Young of Warkworth brought in a used copy with the design giving the appearance of a badly applied transfer in that it was bunched up and out of position; sure enough the surfacing was on the unprinted side and the stamp had been printed "on the gum". The surfacing itself made the watermark near impossible to see or to prove that it was reversed. My combing of the Warkworth and Maungaturoto etc. P.O.S. that week yielded no results.

"TE ARO SPECIAL" Coils. My last month's report brought forth several reports from readers fortunate enough to have picked up examples. My original "very scarce" assessment seems not to be entirely accurate as Gordon Sylvester of Wellington writes. "The Te Aro coils were on sale for approximately 4 months - - they were issued in 2½c, 5c, 8c, 20c. I have two types of the 2½c. The first type was just a gutter pair with a ballpoint written figure 1. The second type has the black large rubber (?) figures crossed out and larger figures substituted - - -. The sheet make up of the 2½c was using 2A1A (3). From the evidence of his examples he suggests "staggered sheets to keep a continuity of coils".

Another reader Mr. P.W. Dougall reports holding the 2½c with printed nos in black 15 crossed out and ballpoint 6

14	"	"	"	"	7
13	"	"	"	"	8
12	"	"	"	"	9
11	"	"	"	"	10

any other information would be most welcome - we may yet be able to piece together a full story of the circumstances and manner of these coils' manufacture.

20c Rock drawing coils are about to be withdrawn I hear and replaced with the 20c meat export. This could suggest their continuing manufacture.

ONE OR TWO USEFUL COVERS

- 312 (a) PARAPARAMU air crash
 One of the very rare covers from the forced landing of a plane on a scheduled flight Christchurch/Wellington 22.5.54. This cover is badly charred and bears the rubber cachet "Recovered from Paraparamu air crash 22.5.54". dated cover ... \$50.00
- (b) K.E. VII covers
 pair of ½d green used on cover 8 No. 09 (F)Dc)50¢
- (c) ditto 3d chestnut
 registered cover ... \$ 1.00
- (d) ditto 4d Red orange ... \$ 3.50
- (e) ditto 2d mauve (and 1d Dominion) ... \$ 1.25

SMALL SELECTION OF INTERESTING MULTIPLES - Mint.

311 (a)	<u>S.G. 120 4d yellow (Full Face)</u> A wonderful block of four of stunning appearance - v.v. scarce - slight crease	...	\$40.00
(b)	<u>2½d Blue 2nd Side face prox 11</u> Lovely block of four	... ..	\$ 5.00
(c)	<u>1d Field Marshal - scarlet</u> Block of four rare shade one stamp gum crease	...	\$35.00
(d)	<u>6d Kiwi Red perf 11 watermarked</u> A magnificent strip of 12 (the complete "NEW ZEALAND" watermark) - an exhibition piece of the highest merit. V. minor stain. Rose Carm.	...	\$25.00
(e)	<u>½d Mt. Cook green Waterlow perf 11</u> Fine double strip of 16 front top left corner selvage in deep green	... ..	\$10.00
(f)	<u>ditto Basted mills p 11</u> Double strip of 10 left selvage horizontal in green (one stamp surface damage)	... ..	\$50.00
(g)	<u>ditto Cowan no watermark p 14</u> Top left selvage double strip of 20 - perfect con- dition. (A quick examination revealed several re- entries) - also top selvage central arrow	...	\$12.00
(h)	<u>1d Universal London print</u> Top selvage block of 12 (4 x 3) top selvage arrow etc - one fine re-entry	... ..	\$ 2.50
(i)	<u>1d Dominion J1a De la Rue</u> booklet pane (blurred) colour bars	...	\$15.00
(j)	<u>K.G.V. ½d Green De la Rue.</u> clear print booklet	... ..	\$ 8.00
(i)	<u>ditto 2d yellow De la Rue</u> A remarkable top selvage block of 8 showing a diagonal "doctor blade" printing effect - your guess may even be better than ours - we can only tell you it's genuine	... ..	\$ 5.00

FULL FACES

313 (a)	<u>S.G. 1 London Printed 1d.</u> Cut close and minor thin but a lovely lightly- marked copy. Cat \$1200 our asking price for this beautiful rarity	... ..	\$200.00
(b)	<u>Proofs at low prices</u> (i) <u>Hauseberg or Joliffe 2d proofs pl II</u> retouched	... ..	.50¢
	undamaged	... ..	.30¢
(ii)	<u>Hausberg of 1d, 3d, 4d,</u> 6d or 1/- each	... ..	\$ 1.00

½d GREEN MT. COOK

FINE

323 (a)	<u>F1e. Waterlow paper mixed perfs. Two fine</u> blocks in green and deep green	...	\$40.00
(b)	<u>ditto or vertical pairs each</u>	...	\$10.00
(c)	<u>F2d Basted P 11 x 14</u> Green (mint)	... ..	\$ 1.25
(d)	<u>F3b Cowan no watermark p.14</u> Fine top selvage arrow block. Four	... ..	\$ 3.00
(e)	<u>F4c Cowan Watermark p11 x 14</u> Green each	... ..	\$ 1.50
(f)	<u>F5b. New plates p14 x 13½</u> Two magnificent blocks of four mint in dull green and the striking unlisted bright green	...	\$ 4.50
(g)	<u>F5c. Ditto p14 x 15</u> Plate 2 block of four fine	... ..	\$12.00
	Plate 1 one stamp tear	... ..	\$ 5.00

324 (a)	<u>THE CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION 1d VALUE IN CLARET SHADE</u> Yes again we have secured one of these tremendous rarities and again the price has literally been forced up to	\$750.00
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FULL FACE QUEENS - Experimental separations

Some of the very great rarities of the Chalon era - the experimental separations which led to the perforations we know today. Every one of the rarities below bears a 1969 certificate of genuineness from the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand testifying to the fact that the latest knowledge and methods have been brought to bear in these expert examinations.

314 (a)	S.G. 20 6d brown Richardson's 2nd colonial print white paper no watermark pair rouletted "about 10" a transcendent lightly marked item (cat. \$300) Roulettes two sides ...	\$250.00
(b)	S.G. 47 1d Orange Vermilion Davies watermark large star, Rouletted 7. Brilliant! Unused (Cat. \$300) (touching top margin) ...	\$145.00
(c)	S.G. 48 ditto 1d vermilion roulette 7 Roulettes 3 sides, 3 huge margins wonderful at (Cat. \$80) ...	\$55.00
(d)	Ditto S.G. 48 Light marking off the face, faded, roulettes four sides ...	\$15.00
(e)	S.G. 49 2d Deep blue large star, roulette 7. Used. A superb lightly marked copy four sides of roulettes ...	\$50.00
(f)	Ditto S.G. 49 wonderful appearance with diagonal cut. roulettes four sides ...	\$ 7.50
(g)	S.G. 51 2d pale blue roulette 7, large star used - appearance absolutely marvellous (Cat. \$50) ...	\$37.50
(h)	S.G. 52 3d Brown lilac. Roulette 7 used, roulettes one side appearance good, (Cat. \$70) ...	\$10.00
(i)	S.G. 53 6d black brown large star, roulette 7 four sides roulettes, appearance excells (Cat. \$50) ...	\$37.50
(j)	S.G. 53 ditto roulettes four sides, one margin appearance lovely (light) ...	\$20.00
(k)	S.G. 53 ditto roulettes four sides, and four good margins light marking, surface of stamp stained and could well be improved. ...	\$20.00
(l)	S.G. 56 1/- dull green roulette 7 Watermark large star appearance idyllic, roulettes four sides, minor repair bottom margin (Cat. \$90) ...	\$35.00
(m)	S.G. 57 1/- yellow green roulette 7 3 sides, closed tears, fine looking (Cat. \$90) ...	\$10.00
(n)	S.G. 58 1/- deep green wonderful looks, if cut into roulettes one side, colour lovely (Cat. \$100) ...	\$25.00
(o)	S.G. 63 6d Black brown serrated perf 16 four sides and lovely - this one the exception with no certificate - but checked and carries our guarantee (Cat. \$400) ...	\$150.00
(p)	S.G. 88 6d black brown on pelure Paper roulette 7 2 sides (Cat. \$100) glorious looks ...	\$30.00
(q)	S.G. 102 2d blue Watermark N.Z. Rouletted 7 four sides - highly attractive (Cat. \$120) ...	\$20.00
(r)	S.G. 102 ditto looks OK with minor thins (four sided roulette) Cat. \$120) ...	\$25.00
(s)	S.G. 130 6d blue perforation A compound of 12½ and 10 Cat. \$70. Attractive with heavier mark ...	\$50.00
(t)	S.G. 130 ditto again ...	\$40.00
(u)	S.G. 130 ditto irreg comp perf. ...	\$30.00
(v)	S.G. 140 1d Brown Watermark N.Z. perf 12½ a tremendous rarity Cat. \$450 this a nice copy with paper slightly stained and an absolute gift at (appearance excellent - stamp intact in all respects) ...	\$195.00

1d Universals

A chance here to fill gaps in a group whose price escalates alarmingly each year - listed some of the scarcer items.

WATERLOW THICK PAPER

- 315 (a) G2a perf II A mighty block of four mint in the deep carmine lake ... \$40.00
- (b) Or singles, depending on demand each ... \$10.00
- (c) G2b perf 14 pair imperf Vert. mint - gum thin one stamp ... \$17.50
- or perfect example ... \$30.00
- (d) G2b ditto a mint single of the lovely carmine lake or deep carmine ... \$10.00
- (e) G2a used p.11 double perfs fair25¢
- (f) G2d used mixed perfs used - very fair (Cat. \$15)75¢
- (appearance (e) and (f) excellent)

BASTED MILLS

- 316 (a) mixed perfs in fine mint vertical pair ... \$16.00

COWAN NO WATERMARK

- 317 (a) perf 14 x 11 mint fine ... \$10.00

COWAN WATERMARK

- 318 (a) G5a p.14 nice mint pair imperf horizontally (Cat. \$30) ... \$25.00
- (b) G5a ditto carm. pink (m)25¢
- (c) G5d perf 14 x 11 fine Mint ... \$17.50

RESERVE PLATE

- 319 (a) mixed perfs in lovely mint (Cat. \$100) ... \$90.00

BOOKLET PLATE

- 320 (a) fine booklet pane ... \$20.00

DOT PLATE

- 321 (a) G8d fine mint bottom selvedge arrow vertical pair unworn mixed perfs ... \$ 4.00
- (b) G8d ditto A very worn pair (mint) ... \$ 4.00

WATERLOW PLATES

- 322 (a) G9 (a) from plate W.1. a specialist's exhibition piece, a vertical strip of three imperf horizontally lowest stamp is R5/24 re-entry (mint) ... \$40.00
- (b) G9 (e) mixed perfs mint Two remarkable mint - one mixed perfs, horizontally, one vertically (2) or \$60 and \$35 respectively. ... \$90.00

ROYAL PLATE

- 323 (a) G10a perf 14 Top selvedge vertical pair imperf horizontal mint ... \$25.00
- (b) G10b perf 11 mint and finest ... \$20.00
- (c) G10d perf 11 x 14 fine (m) ... \$12.00

SECOND SIDEFACES

- 330 (a) An attractive lot of this issue comprising strong representation in the lower values with pages showing perforation varieties plate flaws and substituted electros. ... \$180.00

SOME SCARCE SETS IN MINT

- 325 (a) C7a First sideface 2/- Finest ... \$16.00
- (b) C8a ditto 5/- ... \$16.00
- (c) Second Sidefaces fine Mint ... \$13.50
- (d) 1898 Pictorials complete fine mint ... \$37.50
- (e) K.E. VII complete mint ... \$15.00
- (f) K.G. V complete mint (recess and surface). ... \$18.50
- (g) Blue and Red Boy - Pair ... \$50.00
- (h) 1931 Airs ... \$ 8.50
- (i) 1935 Airs ... \$ 1.60
- (j) Auckland Exhibition ... \$40.00
- (k) Christchurch Exhibition ... \$23.70
- (l) Victory Set ... \$ 8.50
- (m) Dunedin Exhibition ... \$ 4.00