

# Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWS LETTER New Zealand Stamps

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## NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT - by Warwick Paterson

Mr. Kenneth Rowe of Toronto, Editor of the "Canadian Philatelist", journal of the Royal of Canada, recently published an article, titled, "The Agents of Destruction" which comprised a remarkable amount of research, and (from an extensive bibliography) reference.

I wrote to Mr. Rowe asking permission to use notes from his article and he has responded generously, with a further mass of information on the subject, this time as it relates to Postal History, comprising chronologies of the development of papers and inks. These last I hope to use in further notes later on - in the meantime, however, I shall summarise the research as it concerns stamps - I think readers should find the notes to say the least, apocalyptic!

### "1. Chemical Migration Damage

The chemical phenomenon of migration is one of the biggest culprits in the philatelic damage field. Low grade paper has a high degree of acidity and these chemical compounds will migrate to anything mounted or held in contact with such papers.

The main culprits are cheap album pages, black paper or mounts, cardboard stiffeners inside covers and cheap interleaving. All of these products are acidic and will cause damage to stamps.

It never fails to amaze me that a collector will pay several hundred dollars for a set of stamps and then proceed to mount them on little squares of cheap black paper. A good quality album page of 100% Rag Bristol may cost a little more to purchase because of the extra care which has gone into manufacturing it but in the long run it will save money by providing a less damaging environment. Black paper mounts and pages should be avoided like the plague. You have only to examine an old postcard or photo album to realise what this ink, or dye, impregnated paper can do to material mounted upon it.

The composition of the paper, the ink or the gum of the stamps themselves may sometimes be of poor quality and unless they are mounted on a good quality, chemically neutral page the effects of ageing will be accelerated.

Many of you have seen, as I have, letters from the 16th and 17th century which show the paper as firm and crisp today as when it was first made and we have also seen letters from 20 or 30 years ago which are now going brown and brittle. The reason for this, of course, is the difference in manufacturing processes which has occurred in the last two centuries. Before 1792 paper manufacturing processes built a degree of protection into the paper itself. An Alkaline bleach was used. It was washed in hard water containing calcium and often chalk was used as whitener.

Consequently such papers are very low in acid content and are extremely permanent. The introduction of chlorine as a bleach in 1792, followed by the use

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### Latest Reports

#### '69 Xmas stamp - at last the full story

Well, two different papers were used for the Xmas stamp last year and some rapid backpeddling by the Post Office has proved unnecessary.

Harrisons, the printers, have advised that after producing part of the order on watermarked paper they found that their remaining stock of this paper was unsatisfactory for printing. Time was running short, and as there was insufficient time to secure further watermarked supplies the balance of the order was printed on unwatermarked paper. Only watermarked stamps will appear used on the first day of issue.

#### Two Fantail Varieties

##### 3d Green Fantail - 1935 Series

Val McFarlane of Auckland has in his possession a plate block (1A) of this stamp bought, he affirms, on the first day of issue which does not show the famous R8/1 clematis flaw. According to Volume 11 of the "Handbook" (p.4) "In all sheets with the marking 1A a flaw occurred on Row 8 No.1 and consisted of a large spot of colour in the centre of the clematis blossom above the back of the bird". Val's block proves conclusively that the flaw took place after printing began and the "no flaw" states must be very rare indeed - his may be unique.

##### 4d 1d Piwakawaka 1965 Health

An advertisement in "Stamp Collecting Weekly" (London) of December 25th announces the existence of this stamp with green completely missing - the leaves are brown and the printing is absent - the price? - £135 sterling.

#### Into 1970

The N.Z.P.O. has announced the stamp programme for the first six months of the New Year and it is clear that the relatively high level of new issues is to continue, for better or for worse this year, further boosted by the phasing-in of the new 1970 Definitive series. Factors which should help to make the programme well worth while are the letting of one contract at least (Cardigan Bay 10c) to the Swiss firm of Courvoisier, who have produced such magnificent photo-gravure work for other countries for many years - this really is something to look forward to - and with the first use of the adventurous new definitive designs and colours - 1970 may well be a vintage year.

#### The Programme

28 January 1970	Cardigan Bay issue, 1 stamp, 10c denomination.
12 March 1970	1st stamp of 1970 Definitive issue, 1 stamp, 10c denomination.
8 April 1970	Expo '70 issue. 3 stamps, 7c, 8c and 18c denominations.
20 May 1970	Moth and Butterfly stamps of 1970 Definitive issue, 6 stamps. ½c, 1c, 2c, 2½c, 3c and 4c denominations.
24 June 1970	25th Anniversary of United Nations, 2 stamps, 3c and 10c denominations.

The Expo '70 Issue 7c, 8c and 18c were designed by M. Cleverley of Auckland. The 7c shows the Geyser Restaurant one of the main attractions of our pavilion at the exhibition; the 8c shows the unusual pavilion itself, comprising five interconnected units and finally an exhibit called the "bush walk" is represented on the 18c value. Each design includes the Expo '70 symbol together with the words "New Zealand Expo '70" in English and Japanese.

#### CAPTAIN COOK MINIATURE SHEETS

Note from our Working Staff.

An examination of our stocks of Miniature Sheets shows that there are at least four types clearly discernable with the use of a glass by certain constant marks found on the 4c value.

1. A prominent retouch under SIT of "Transit".
2. A minute blue dot below the N of "Venus" and another similar dot above the T of "Transit".
3. A disturbance around the background of the first 9 in "1969".
4. A minute dot to the left of the C in "Bicentenary" and also a blue mark to the left and just below this (not discernable on all stamps). Also on the 18c a prominent retouch (?) above the word SOLANDRI.

Type 1 we have seen only with the "Tarapex" overprint.

We shall be pleased to hear from any collector who knows of any other types or can add to our knowledge in any way.

4c AIRMAIL ENVELOPE from the 16th December this new addition to N.Z. Postal Stationery has been on sale. The date is the 50th anniversary of the first official airmail flight in New Zealand and they cost 5c each from the Post Office.

THOROUGHLY UNUSUAL

is how we'd describe this month's offers. A pot pourri of interest and hardly-ever-seen items middle and modern.

266	(a)	<u>Early Covers</u> A small lot of 5 covers from the Full Face era. Some stamps have been removed however interesting markings include OTAGO 1858, "PAID LYTELTON" date stamp with "Paid" erased JY 20 1862, and G.B.1d Red used on cover ...	\$10.00
267	(a)	<u>EXPRESS AND POSTAGE DUE COVERS</u> Three good items ...	\$ 3.00
268	(a)	<u>Q.E. 11 RARITY</u> 1d plate 11 Orange - WEAK ENTRY - one of the greatest rarities of the series and to our knowledge less than ½ dozen examples known ...	\$250.00
269	(a)	<u>XMAS STAMP 1963</u> Donkey's nose flaw, plate 1B Row 3 No. 8 in positional block of six ...	85¢
	(b)	Ditto 1962 "Shawl flaw" R7/1 in pos. block of six - scarce!	\$ 5.00
270	(a)	<u>1960 PICTORIAL 6d</u> Pikiarero. "Plate Block" of six from the top selvedge. Faulty Guillotining has left the plate number in top selvedge - spectacular ...	\$ 50.00
	(b)	Ditto 8d Rata plate 1121 - an elusive rarity ...	\$100.00
	(c)	Ditto 1/- <u>Timber Industry</u> - top selvedge block of four showing spectacular additional strike of perfs into selvedge and double strike complete in row 1 ...	\$ 30.00
<u>HEALTHS</u>			
271	(a)	<u>1944 Princesses 1d + ½d Green</u> Plate block 1 showing disfiguring blob of ink ...	50¢
	(b)	<u>1946 Soldier</u> - Mint single of the wmk inverted ...	\$ 3.00
	(c)	Ditto - "Lettuce green" shade - mint each ...	\$ 1.25
	(d)	Ditto Stupendous set of two 1d + ½d and 2d + 1d both showing the rare "blurred centre" (golden shade) - the set ...	\$ 7.00
	(e)	<u>1947 Eros 2d + 1d</u> bottom selvedge block of four with perfs doubled - good ...	\$ 4.00
	(f)	<u>1948 Health Camp 2d + 1d</u> Plate A.1. a diagonal corner fold has prevented printing appearing in the lower left corner of the first stamp in the bottom row and part of the imprint - visually, a remarkable item ...	\$ 35.00
	(g)	<u>1949 Nurse and Child 2d + 1d Blue</u> "NO dot below D" flaw in top left corner selvedge block of four R1/2 DITTO used on first day cover ...	\$ 2.00 \$ 5.00
	(h)	<u>1950 Princess Elizabeth and Prince Charles 1d + ½d Green</u> Watermark inverted in block of four mint ...	50¢
	(i)	<u>1953 Guides and Scouts 1½d + ½d Blue</u> R2/10 White flaw on leg in pos. block of four ...	50¢
	(j)	<u>1958 Brigade Children 3d + 1d Blue</u> miniature sheet selection (i) Sheet 3 tent retouch stamp 6 ... \$ 2.25 (ii) Sheet 4 tent flaws stamps 3, 6 ... \$ 2.00 (iii) Sheet 8 tent retouches stamps 3, 6 ... \$ 4.50 (iv) Sheet 6 ... 75¢	
	(k)	Ditto Bottom left corner selvedge, block of six showing portion of design duplicated in selvedge ...	\$ 1.25
	(l)	<u>1963 Prince Andrew 2½d + 1d Blue</u> R5/8 re-entry in selvedge block of six ...	85¢
	(m)	Ditto 3d + 1d The famous "finger flaw" original state in selvedge block of six ...	\$ 7.00
	(n)	Ditto "retouched" state ...	\$ 1.75
<u>COMMEMORATIVES</u>			
272		<u>CENTENNIALS 1940</u> Some of the scarce plate blocks - an extraordinary opportunity for collectors with spaces where these ought to be ...	
	(a)	<u>1d Captain Cook</u> Plate J.5 ...	\$ 7.00
	(b)	<u>1½d Sovereigns</u> rare plate B.2 ...	\$ 20.00
	(c)	<u>2d Abel Tasman</u> plates D8, H7, K8, L8, each ...	\$ 2.00
		Plate A8 (pair) ...	\$ 30.00
		Plate B4 ...	\$ 15.00
	(d)	<u>9d Gold Mining</u> Plate B1 original form ... \$ 8.00 Plate B1 Retouched form ... \$ 8.00	

273	<u>PEACE ISSUE 4d Army Commem.</u>		
(a)	Unusual combination - a mint copy with blurred centre and preprinting paper crease across corner - food for researcher's thought? ... ..	\$ 30.00	
(b)	<u>8d St. George</u> with preprinting paper crease across centre ... ..	\$ 1.25	
(c)	Incredible selection of double perfs.		
	(i) <u>1½d St. Pauls</u> bottom selvedge block of six	\$ 10.00	
	(ii) <u>4d Army</u> bottom selvedge block of four ...	\$ 10.00	
	(iii) <u>1/- Carillon</u> bottom left corner selvedge block of six ... ..	\$ 7.50	
<u>274</u>	<u>OTAGO CENTENNIAL 1948 1d Otago Harbour - amputee Maori.</u> We offer a stupendous set of four double strips comprising the bottom two rows of the sheets concerned showing (a) the hand of the Maori at left complete (b) the hand partially missing (c) the hand almost missing (d) the hand totally missing. The wonderful set of four strips in perfect condition ...	\$150.00	
<u>275</u>	<u>ROYAL VISIT 1953</u> <u>3d Queen Elizabeth</u>		
(a)	Double strip of fourteen stamps shows major pre-printing paper creases ... ..	\$ 4.75	
(b)	Pair showing re-entry from bottom row (seen in background lines top left) Row 10/8 ... ..	50¢	
<u>276</u>	<u>1955 POSTAGE STAMP CENTENNIAL</u>		
(a)	<u>2d Maori Mail Carrier</u> two fine blocks of eight from bottom right corner showing (i) paper crease and perforations duplicated in selvedge and (ii) extra strike of perfs. bottom selvedge ... ..	\$ 5.00	
(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Interesting specialists set - two bottom left selvedge blocks of eight - one showing R5/3 "anchor lines from left hand ship" (in a very pale shade) and one without this variety both plate blocks 1A1A ...	\$ 7.50	
<u>277</u>	<u>SOUTHLAND CENTENNIAL 1956</u>		
(a)	<u>8d TAKAHE</u> We offer a block of this stamp comprising the last three vertical columns in the sheet. The order of laying down impressions on the plate was R4/20, R5/20. R3/20, R6/20 R2/20, R1/20 and a short line to the left of the lowest toe of the birds right foot is seen to deteriorate from a strong line to a broken one. In rows 7 and 8/20 the line is thin and there is an additional line parallel to and above it. In the stamps of the 19th vertical row the shading line was replaced by a short dash in horizontal rows 2 to 8. In R1/19 there is a dot only in this position and in the 18th vertical row the line is completely missing. The intriguing specialist piece ... ..	\$ 15.00	
(b)	<u>Ditto</u> plate block with diagonal selvedge crease and perfs. duplicated in selvedge ... ..	\$ 5.00	
<u>278</u>	<u>FROZEN MEAT EXPORT 1957</u>		
(a)	<u>4d Watermark</u> inverted mint ... ..	\$ 1.50	
(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Block of six shows Stewart Island flaw R5/8 ... ..	\$ 2.25	
(c)	<u>8d Orange</u> R10/1 1.882 flaw in pair ... ..	\$ 1.75	
<u>279</u>	<u>KINGSFORD SMITH 1958 6d</u> Bottom right corner selvedge block of six shows plate 2 R.10 Nos 9,10 "flaws in stars" ... ..	\$ 2.50	
<u>280</u>	<u>MARLBOROUGH CENTENNIAL 1959 3d Wool.</u>		
B1	Block of four from bottom selvedge shows spectacular double perfs. ... ..	\$ 1.00	
<u>281</u>	<u>RED CROSS 1959</u> Block of four shows R1/1 Greenland flaw	\$ 4.50	
<u>282</u>	<u>TELEGRAPH 3d 1962</u>		
(a)	Bottom selvedge strip of two complete shows R19/1, R20/3, R19/4 ... ..	\$ 2.00	
(b)	Magnificent imprint corner block of 24 shows R15/3 line in sky R16/1 left frame line retouch R19/1 forefinger R20/3 and R15/4 in sky ... ..	\$ 7.50	
<u>283</u>	<u>COMPAC 1963</u>		
(a)	R10/4 broken cable flaw in block of six ... ..	\$ 5.00	
(b)	Fine bottom left selvedge block of four shows selvedge yellow doctor blade flaw ... ..	\$ 4.50	

1D UNIVERSAL - WATERLOW "TRIAL PLATES"

Superb specialist opportunity to represent this issue.

The roller dies used to lay down the two Waterlow plates of 1906 W1 and W2 contained five impressions in vertical format. The dies were used, therefore, twice in each vertical row of ten stamps. These five impressions are quite clearly distinguishable as types A, B, C, D and E and each appears twice in the vertical rows i.e. A (1 and 6) B (2 and 7) C (3 and 8) D (4 and 9) E (5 and 10) Furthermore retouching to the subsidiary master die from which these rollers were taken makes the W1 roller impressions distinguishable from the W.2 stamps.

Briefly, the identification hinges (a) on the 3 pearls at middle right of the design. W1 pearls are white and without shading W2 pearls have shading and (b) on the upward curving design to the right of the scroll directly under the left hand rosette. Differences in the two parallel horizontal lines within this design give the clue to identification and this, of course is where this month's offer will prove absolutely indispensable as an aid - better see them!

This month we offer fine copies of each of these five impressions (used) - 10 stamps in all in a set which tells a vital story in the genesis of the stamps.

This is a fine chance to illustrate a feature of recess engraving.

- 287 (a) Set of 10 impressions  
 Plate W1 A to E  
 plate W2 A to E  
 fully identified and ready for mounting and annotating \$ 5.00
- (b) As above but Official stamps ... \$ 5.00

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Ask any collector of New Zealand stamps what he thinks the best and quickest rising item has been for the last ten years and what is likely to remain so and he will probably say "Xmas Stamps". "Stamp Collecting Weekly" correspondant W.E. Fyndem apparently thinks so too and has picked them as a good buy. We agree entirely with Mr. Fyndem's assessment and offer this month complete sheets.

- 288 (a) 1960 Rembrandt "Nativity"  
 60 lovely stamps with a total catalogue value of \$75 \$ 50.00
- (b) 1961 Durer "Adoration"  
 Again sheet of 60 (cat. \$45) ... \$ 30.00
- (c) 1962 Sassoferrato "Madonna"  
 Full sheet in perfect condition (cat. \$33) ... \$ 22.00
- (d) 1963 Titian "Family"  
 Sheet of 60 (Cat \$8.40) ... \$ 5.50

COMMEMORATIVES (Mint)  
 (with a real future!)

- 289 (a) Southland Centennial  
 8d TAKAHE Cat 40¢ each per dozen ... \$ 2.40
- (b) Hawkes Bay Centennial  
 8d Shearing - Cat 50¢ each per dozen ... \$ 3.00
- (c) Marlboro Centennial  
 8d Salt Industry, cat. each 50¢ per dozen ... \$ 3.00
- (d) Westland Centennial  
 8d Pioneer Woman Cat. each 55¢ per dozen ... \$ 3.50
- (e) Telegraph Centennial  
 8d Teleprinter - Cat. 50¢ each - per dozen ... \$ 3.50
- (f) Railway Centennial  
 1/9 Train. - Cat 65¢ each - per dozen ... \$ 4.75

No we're not joking - every one of the above is an absolute winner!

- 290 (a) "THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND"  
 Vols. i to iv in beautiful condition ... \$160.00

THOROUGHLY UNUSUAL (continued)

- 284 ROAD SAFETY 1964 Block of six shows spectacular  
 "apostrophe" flaw R3/2 ... \$ 1.00
- 285 ANZAC 1965  
4d Bistre
- (a) "Sail on the shore" R9/4 in pos. block of 8 ... \$ 1.50
- (b) "Soldiers on beach" R10/7 in pos. block of 4 ... \$ 1.50
- 286 MAORI BIBLE 1968  
 Set of two fine top left corner selvedge blocks of  
 9 from plate 1A(5) (a) shows R3/1 flaw (red hairline  
 on left page of Bible) (b) Line erased. R3/3 black  
 hair line right page of Bible is present in both  
 blocks. The "(a)" state is a rarity ... \$ 5.00

Agents of Destruction - from page 1.

of alum in sizing have ensured that all papers produced after that date are very acidic. This means that they deteriorate at a much faster rate. Paper like all other things is, of course, dependent on initial quality; obviously a paper which was cheap when purchased cannot be expected to have the same degree of permanence that will be achieved by a good quality paper.

### 2. Plastic Protection Damage

When dealing with plastic materials, one should always remember the old Indian proverb that "there is no way to catch a snake that is as safe as not catching him". There are too many factors which contribute to deterioration which are inherent in the stamps and covers themselves, and the environment in which they are stored, without adding another one.

The use of plastic materials for philatelic purposes seems to increase each year and they are now being used for interleaving, stock book strips, pockets and mounts.

It is unfortunate that these plastics materials have not been with us long enough to have stood the test of time. There are already several reported instances in the philatelic press of damage caused to philatelic material by plastic protection of one sort or another. (1) Although manufacturers of these products guarantee that they are perfectly harmless, one wonders if, in twenty years' time when any damage becomes obvious, the manufacturers would replace the damaged items or even still be in business. Collectors should note that the only plastic protection accepted by the U.S. Bureau of Standards for archival purposes is cellulose acetate compounded to their own formula. Mylar and polyethylene films are being considered but extensive tests have not been conducted. Collectors should be aware that they are risking irreversible chemical changes in their stamps and covers by using these untested materials.

It is impossible for the individual collector to determine the quality of any plastic product until it is too late. It is safer to avoid these products until time has passed judgment upon their permanence and neutrality.

The damage caused by plastic adhesive tape is well known and it should never be used for any philatelic purpose. The nature of the adhesive means that eventually fibres and adhesive will bond into a brittle oily mass and no solvent has yet been found which will remove the stain when such decomposition is advanced.

### 3. Light Damage

The action of light in combination with oxygen causes a breakdown of all types of cellulose and exerts a chemical effect upon most types of ink. It can and does penetrate up to five layers of paper protection and the foxing around the edges of an old book is often caused by light penetrating from the edge of the page inwards. Collections should not, therefore, be stored in brightly lit locations but should be kept in closed cupboards. Particular care should be taken when exhibiting the material at exhibitions that direct daylight does not fall on the material.

### 4. Air Pollution Damage

Air pollution is, of course, very newsworthy these days and its effects upon paper and books are well known. The main culprit is sulphur dioxide, which creates acidity in paper and book bindings. This phenomenon is more serious in the industrial areas of the country but exists to some extent everywhere.

Collections stored on open shelves are more susceptible to this damage than collections enclosed in cupboards. Albums should not be laid flat but stored on end with sufficient space to allow for restricted air circulation. Sealing material in closed containers only accelerates deterioration.

### 5. Temperature and Humidity

If possible, the temperature at which collections are stored should never exceed 70° Fahrenheit as heat accelerates all chemical processes. Closely related to temperature change is the degree of humidity. A 50% humidity is recommended, more than this encourages micro-organisms which will feed on both the size and the cellulose in the paper.

The effects of a tropical climate on both stamps and album pages are too well known to require any description here.

### Summary

These then are the agents of destruction. Only one has been missed and this is the one that affects all things - time. In order that the collectors of the future will have something to collect we must take care of our treasures now.

There is only one time-proven method of maintaining a philatelic collection in the optimum condition for the longest period of time and that is to mount all stamps, mint or used, directly onto a 100% Rag Bristol album page by means of top quality gummed hinges. Ensure that any interleaving or page backing is of the highest quality (non-plastic) obtainable. By so doing you will ensure that your stamps are maintained in optimum condition for as long as possible. Remember that by the time you come to sell your stamps the mint-unhinged fad will probably have gone the way that all such fads usually go".