

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT—by Warwick Paterson

ANOTHER MAJOR FIND

I managed to secure last month the two examples in circulation of the 5c Scarlet Parrot Fish sheets plate 1A, 1A, 1A, 1A, with an error in the value tablet "\$12" instead of "\$10". Appearance of a major error like this is a good time to indulge that favourite of philatelic pastimes *conjecture!* Two possibilities immediately presented themselves in this case. Firstly the (green) value could have been altered on the original green plate 1A. The "\$12" error erased and "\$10" inserted in its place. Alternatively the first "1A" green plate might have been scrapped and a new one with correct value "\$10" used in its place. One fact was certain from the outset, that a fairly large number - probably as much as a whole initial printing "run" had been produced before the error was discovered. I can say this with some certitude as a major security printer like Harrisons would not send out a shipment including an error like this knowingly - rather, part of a shipment would have to be destroyed and the run begun again - hence it is possible to say that at least one shipment must have been sealed and despatched before the error was found. Following up this line of thought I contacted the Philatelic Bureau in Wellington who indicated more by evasion than by inference that I was correct. A shipment had arrived with the error but had promptly been withdrawn before reaching the distribution stage and that was that. As far as they knew no sheets had filtered out through the checking processes. I could correct them on that point! Meanwhile I was checking the "\$12" sheets for evidence of constant flaws or retouches which would establish whether a new green plate 1A had been produced or the old one merely altered. Flaws immediately showed up in the other colours, notably the black, proving that they, at least, had not been altered. One constant feature of note common to both "\$12" and "\$10" sheets was a red vertical plate scratch, visible best under magnification, beginning between stamps 6 and 7 in vertical row 1 and continuing down and across the bottom selvedge through the N of "New" in each of stamps 7, 8 and 9. Finding constant blemishes in the green plate was more difficult, and, once found, how could one be sure that they were plate defects rather than multipositive or negative flaws occurring at earlier stages of the plate producing process and common to all plates? Conclusive evidence therefore had to take the form of constant flaws or retouches common to both "\$12" and "\$10" green plates numbered "1A" but absent in green plate "1B". I hope I make myself clear here! Notable flaws falling into this category were Row 3 No. 1 defect in the lower part of the C of "5c" Row 10 No 13 light vertical line in 5 of "5c". So the point was proved that the green 1A plate was the same in each case - only the value had been changed; very efficiently too it seemed as the new value \$10.00 showed no evidence of having been altered from \$12.00 and I could

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find no trace of the erasure. What of the possibilities for such a variety? The new rate for airmail is now 5c. With an unforeseen heavy demand it is almost certain that the Post Office will have to call for an early reprinting of this value - particularly (as we know now!) because at least one shipment of the first printing of plate 1A had to be withheld. I predict that the \$12.00 sheets will eventually appear "with value altered". The Post Office has shown in the past that they are prepared to put in the necessary effort to meet demand - viz the hand-altered 15c value blocks of the 1967 Pictorial stamp in altered colours. Who knows, a team of clerks may be sweating it out over a mountain of 5c sheets even now! In the meantime the \$12.00 value error of the 5c plate 1A (4) remains *very rare indeed*.

3c UNITED NATIONS

Another "blanket" flaw. I have seen a copy of this stamp with traces quite easily distinguishable in the blue background, of the central part of the design of the 10c value of the same set. The outline of "25th Anniversary United Nations" and the leaf design shows up in shadowy form to the left of the UN building. Further evidence or comment would be of interest. Readers are referred to October 1970 Newsletter for a possible explanation.

NEW 1970 PICTORIAL COILS?

John Elmes reports that the 3c value has appeared in coil form at Hawera Post Office. John says the coil value was \$12; section numbers 1 to 19 (20 strips of 20 stamps). He has also seen, from the same office an old 2½c "Dickie" roll, made up in June 1967 according to the start and end papers, on sale over the counter. One conclusion could be that in July 1967 at Decimal Conversion time, it was intended to convert the public vending machines to produce 5c amounts in the form of 2x2½c stamps.

8d King Edward VII K7c perf 14 x 13½.

Des Johnson sent me a copy with watermark inverted - a new one on us and rare - it will receive catalogue listing.

ERIC CLARK ON LIGHTHOUSES (continued from last month)

DETAILS OF THE 1949 ISSUE:

The stamps were designed by James Berry of Wellington, who is reported to have said, "To design a series of stamps all having a lighthouse as the central motif posed a problem in avoiding a stereotyped pattern for each design, but by taking the views from different angles, with differing backgrounds, I think this has largely been avoided". I think it will be agreed that his object has been achieved and the sets could be regarded as very tastefully presented.

½d. CASTLEPOINT:

This lighthouse erected on the point so named by Captain Cook from its significant features, is situated on the Wairarapa Coast about 111 miles N.E. from Wellington, and has a bus connection with Masterton (43 miles). The tower is 73ft. high, with the light 170ft. above sea level, giving a visibility of 19 miles, and was erected late 1912, the light coming into service on 12th January, 1913. The light is now electrified by land mains, with a stand-by diesel generator. The Keepers' accommodation is situated about 20 minutes walk from the lighthouse. The Maori name is Rangiwakaoma.

On June 29th, 1862, the steamer "White Swan" (300 tons) ran ashore at Uruti, about 17 miles south of this light and was totally wrecked. The passengers, who included the then Chief Justice of N.Z., the Colonial Secretary, three members of the Legislature and the Auckland M.P.'s, were all landed safely.

On August 10th, 1924, two lifeboats from the ill-fated steamer "Ripple" which foundered near Cook Strait, were washed ashore, and later on the same day the body of its captain was found on the beach.

CASTLEPOINT:

The district is a favourite summer resort and the area around about is noted for excellent fishing, but the coast can be very treacherous, and several fishermen have been swept to their deaths by large waves. In 1922, one of the Keepers was killed when he fell from the tower.

Races on the Beach - When it has collated information on tides, the Castlepoint Racing Club will apply to the Racing Conference for approval of a date for its annual meeting on the beach at Castlepoint. The club uses as a course the Castlepoint Beach, with the finishing post at the lighthouse end, and the hill at the back as a natural grandstand.

1d - TAIAROA:

This is an automatic light situated on the South Dunedin Head at the entrance to the Otago Harbour, and is administered by the Otago Harbour Board, under arrangements with the Marine Department. The tower is 39 ft. high, being 196 ft. above sea level, with a visibility of 20 miles, and is land-serviced from



152 (a)



152 (a)



152 (a)



152 (b)

ONE OF THE GREAT RARITIES

In 1855 when the first New Zealand stamps, the London prints of the Full Face Queens 1d Deep Carmine Red, the 2d Deep Blue and the 1/- Yellow Green were first printed Rowland Hill, the schoolmaster whose brilliant idea was the very postage stamp itself, asked for six sets of the colony's stamps to be given to him. The stamps were marked with the "presentation" cancellation "Cancelled" in an oval of bars.

This month we have pleasure in offering one of the rare sets (illustrated here). This offer is of course virtually unrepeatable in the foreseeable future. The investment consideration in such a set is as favourable as any stamp available in the NZ range today. We would suggest that any interested person contact us direct immediately if they would like to discuss our offer in detail. It is unlikely that such an opportunity will occur again.

152(a) The London Prints 1d, 2d, 1/- with presentation cancellation. Each glows in its pristine four margined condition - colours true as the day the stamps were printed. The 1/- yellow green in one of the finest Full Faces we have ever handled. For clarity of print and impression and brightness of colour these stamps can truly be said to equal the best of mint condition. The set of three London Presentation stamps.

Price on application.

(b) S.G.1. The London 1d. (photo)

The design of the stamp is completely intact and three huge margins are there the fourth just touching at the side top right. The date "1857" (probably contemporaneous) is written in m/s on the back. A slight natural crease runs vertically. The marking (16) in oval of bars is light and off the face. The condition generally may be described as "excellent".

(cat \$1200) \$450.00
(RPSNZ Certificate)

(c) S.G. 110 1d perf 12½ carmine - vermilion a magnificent mint (o.g.) block of four. Natural paper creases - lovely ... \$ 60.00

(d) S.G. 131 1d Brown perf 12½ - lovely block of six showing faulty horizontal perforation alignment left lower right pair imperf margins at bottom - V. fine and o.g. ... \$ 70.00
The feature of the block is its incredible deep colour ...

(e) S.G. 131 ditto 1d a pale brown shade showing advanced wear. Block of six (3 x 2) minor creases ... \$ 40.00

(f) S.G. 117 3d Deep Lilac perf 12½ Superb mint block of four with o.g. ... \$ 42.50

(g) S.G. 118 3d Deep Mauve perf 12½ A fine pair of slightly damaged envelope to Edinburgh from Dunedin. Light Duplex cancellation and clear red London mark ties one stamp, superb ... \$100.00

(h) S.G. 119 4d Rose mint fine ... \$ 47.50

(i) S.G. 119 4d ditto unused and superb ... \$ 50.00

(j) S.G. 120 4d yellow unused ... \$ 10.00

(k) S.G. 122 Deep Red Brown a lovely strip of four mint - excellent \$ 40.00

(l) S.G. 125 1/- yellow green mint pair - superfine ... \$ 30.00

(m) S.G. 40 3d Brown Lilac - imperf unused - found huge margins \$ 50.00

(n) S.G. 40 ditto fine if top margin a little closer ... \$ 40.00

(o) S.G. 43 6d Red Brown imperf. a magnificent unused ... \$ 60.00

THE PLUMS FROM SEVERAL VERY FINE RECENT COLLECTIONS

Selected items - always in demand and prices rising.

SECOND SIDEFACES

<u>153(a) D2K 1d Rose</u> Compound perforation 10 and 12½ mixed perforations in mint pair with advertisements on the back - unpriced in CP perfs show slight cuts officially introduced to facilitate separation	\$ 15.00
(b) D2m ditto Compound perforation 10 and 11 "mixed" perforations in top left pane selvedge block of six, shows separation cuts fine - cat \$60.00 - absolutely lovely!	\$ 40.00
<u>1898 PICTORIALS</u>		
154 (a) E3a 1d White Terraces double perfs - fine used	\$ 1.50
(b) E12b 4d Lake Taupo superb used block - scarce	\$ 12.50
(c) E14a 6d Kiwi green offset on back - lovely! slight hinge mark	\$ 22.50
(d) E14d 6d Kiwi Red Lisbon superfine paper - super single mint	\$ 2.50
(e) E18a 1/- Kea and Kaka London print - mint pair, one stamp shows major re-entry	\$ 7.50
(f) E20d 2/- Milford Sound Perf 11. Watermark mint - major re-entry Row 9/7 - fine	\$ 5.00
(g) E20a ditto London print unused no gum and tear but appearance wonderful, imperf between vertical pair, cat \$100.00	\$ 5.00
(h) E20a ditto Vertical pair bottom selvedge, lower stamp show major re-entry. Row 12/4 mint superb	\$ 15.00
(i) E20c ditto "Laid" pair mint slightly off centre	\$ 8.50
	fine	\$ 9.00
(j) E4a 1½d Boer War perf 11. mint major re-entry - row 2/12	\$ 7.50
(k) E014g 6d Kiwi official pair imperf. vertically - minor stains (cat \$50.00)	\$ 25.00
(l) Flc. ½ Green Mt Cook fine mint 2 x 3 mint block showing mixed perforations 11 and 14 in the waterlow thick paper	\$ 24.00
(m) E4b ditto (Cowan watermarked). perf. 14 mint single shows watermark inverted and reversed	\$ 10.00

LONG TYPE FISCAL OFFICIAL

155 (a) £1 value - hinge mark but'. - (z015g surfaced)	\$ 5.00
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1d UNIVERSALS

156 (a) G2b Waterlow paper perf. 14 pair imperf vertically mint	\$ 30.00
(b) G2b ditto off centre	\$ 20.00
(c) G2b ditto a pair in the Carmine-lake shade mint	\$ 6.00
(d) G5a (Local plates) vertical pair imperf horizontally beautiful mint	\$ 27.50
(e) G6d Reserve Plate mixed perfs 11 and 14 fine and scarce	\$ 90.00
(f) G9e Waterlow Trial Plates mint single shows mixed perfs	\$ 60.00
(g) G10a Royle Plates per 14 top selvedge vertical pair in super mint condition unrepeatable imperf horizontally	\$ 25.00

1d DOMINION

157(a) J5a Litho watermark Black water - guaranteed in mint block of four	\$ 25.00
(b) 55a ditto fine block of four with colourless watermark written guarantee of CP Ltd. 12/11/56	\$ 50.00
(c) 55a ditto mint single watermark on the front	\$ 20.00
(d) 57a Cowan Reversed lovely mint block of four feather flaw	\$ 4.50
(e) 57a ditto bottom right selvedge corner block of four showing N in PENNY flaw	\$ 5.00
(f) J05a Litho watermark official mint positional blocks of six of Row 3/1 feather flaw and row 5/24. Globe flaw	\$ 7.50

Continued bottom of next page...

STOP PRESS !

200 (a) PIGECN POST vP3 1/- overprinted "Pigeongram" on

"Special Post" (vP2) unpriced in C.P. catalogue - the first used copy we have ever handled - used on piece of flimsy with full Great Barrier postmark in purple.

Guaranteed - a very great rarity - - - \$350

(b) RD1a King Edward VII Land

1d universal overprinted MINT a great item.

Block of four - perfect - - \$400

or depending on demand singles each - - \$100

(c) 6d Kiwi 1907 (Reduced size) Die proof in lovely

condition Red - (large piece) - - \$ 75

or Deep Rose Red (small piece) - - \$ 45

"PLUMS" (continued)

GEORGE V

158(a) K013f Cowan p14 official "no stop" after official in positional block of four ... \$ 1.25

(b) K01a 1d Fieldmarshal p14 ditto "no stop" in block ... \$ 1.25

159(a) K15c 1d Fieldmarshal Cowan Reversed The rare shades in fine mint Rose carmine, scarlet and deep Claret ... \$ 23.00

(b) K15c ditto scarlet and Deep Claret ... \$ 18.00

(c) K19d 3d Cowan perf 14 Face flaw in fine mint R6/8 ... \$ 4.00

HEALTHS

160(a) 1931 Blue and Red Boys in perfect mint blocks of four \$180.00

(b) 1960 3d plus 1d Kereru a remarkable plate block with imprint and number selvedge offset in orange, unique ? ... \$ 7.50

1935 PICTORIAL

161 (a) L8f 5d Swordfish coarse paper p 13-3/4 x 13 1/2. Double print one albino - minor perfs grease spot - otherwise perfect \$ 45.00

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

162 (a) N4a 2d Mytle green plate 17 major plate crack block of four mint ... \$ 9.50

(b) N42a 2 1/2d on 3d vermilion block of six plate 17 narrow setting rare and unpriced in CP ... \$ 20.00

(c) N025a 4d Official printed on the gummed side watermark inverted and reversed, one sheet only found ... \$ 60.00

MISCELLANY

163(a) 1963 Xmas lovely mint selvedge block of six shows R3/8 - "Donkeys nosebag" flaw ... \$ 4.50

(b) 1960 Pictorial 8d Rata The rare plate block 1121 ... \$100.00
(Unpriced in CP but examples have sold at \$150.00)

(c) 1953 Royal visit 3d Vertical pair with "drag" effect in print - surface of stamps brushed while ink was wet. ... \$ 5.00

(d) 1956 Southland Centennial 3d value block shows early plate crack ... \$.50

(e) 1967 Royal Society 4c Inverted watermark mint ... \$ 3.50

(f) 1968 Services Issue 28c Inverted watermark mint ... \$ 1.50
or block of four ... \$ 6.00

(g) 1967 Pictorial 15c (original colours) mint block of four watermark inverted - cheap! (cat \$20.00) ... \$ 10.00

(h) King Edward VII Land 1d universal G10a block of four fine used single ... \$ 20.00

Dunedin. The light was electrified in 1955. This is the fourth oldest light in N.Z., being commissioned by the Otago Provincial Council early in 1864, the light first being operated on January 2nd, 1865. Tiri Tiri light came into operation on January 1st, 1865, thus beating Tairaroa Head for 3rd place, by one day. There was a light on this point in 1862, as it is reported that the schooner "Tamar" ran ashore on the rocks below the lighthouse on November 8, 1862, the passengers narrowly escaped drowning. Further enquiries reveal that this was a temporary light, refer New Zealand Pilot 1856, p.186. 'As Otago is a barred Harbour, there are times when it would be imprudent and unsafe to attempt to enter; to denote the state of the bar a code of signals has been established, which are exhibited from Tairaroa Head under the care of a bold and skilful pilot, whose boat's crew are stationed here, and at all times ready to push out when the bar is passable; from this signal-station a temporary light is shown during the night for the guidance of vessels intending to enter the port, and delayed by the tide, or state of the bar; but this light is only shown when vessels are known to be outside.' In 1861 the steamer Victory went ashore on the beach at Wickliffe Bay, south of the Heads, and remains of the wreck were still visible in 1936.

The lighthouse is equipped with a radio beacon and automatic fog signal, which strangely enough was responsible for the loss of the largest vessel on the coast of the South Island. On the 27th September, 1913, the steamer Tyrone (6,664 tons) en route from Lyttelton to Dunedin, was overtaken by a dense fog when approaching the Heads. The captain heard the fog signal but as the land was obscured he could not determine from which direction it came. The engines were slowed down, but a cast of the lead revealed that the vessel was already aground. Attempts were made to work the vessel off, but after going astern for about 250 ft. it struck a rock. The lifting of the fog showed that the vessel was ashore at Wahine Point, where she lay broadside to the weather, having eventually to be abandoned. There was no loss of life.

2D. CAPE PALLISER:

This light is situated on the most southerly point of the North Island. The tower is 58 ft. high, the light 258 ft. above sea level, with a visibility of 22 miles. The light came into operation on 27th October, 1897. It was originally an oil-burner but was electrified in March 1954. The Maori name for the point is Ngawi. Supplies are delivered by truck once a week. The area being very exposed, has been the scene of numerous tragedies. On 14th February, 1869, the ship "St. Vincent" (834 tons) was blown ashore in Palliser Bay and only the chief officer and the sailmaker survived out of a crew of 22. The ship "Zulieka" (1,144 tons) was wrecked four miles west of Cape Palliser on 16.4.87. It struck at 11 p.m. and by daybreak all that remained was a piece of the fore-castle, the entire crew of 21 being lost. On October 3rd, 1945, the yacht "Siren" was blown on to Lee Rocks about one mile south of the lighthouse, two out of three of the crew being drowned, whilst on Xmas Eve 1946, the ketch "La Phare" foundered off the Cape, all the crew being taken aboard the Union S.S. Co. "Kauri". By far the greatest tragedy in recent years in this vicinity was the loss of the steamer "Ripple" which was last reported in a disabled condition, by the keeper at Palliser about 1 a.m. 2.8.1924. After telephoning to Wellington the ship's request for assistance, some time between 1.40 and 2 a.m., he returned to the lookout to find that the steamer's light had disappeared. Two bodies were later washed up on Palliser Beach, and as previously stated the Captain's body and two lifeboats came ashore at Castlepoint. In all, a total of 16 lives were lost. When surveying this area in 1950, H.M.S. "Lachlan" discovered on 8th June, previously uncharted rocks in this vicinity, and it is thought this may be connected with the loss of the "Ripple".

2½D CAPE CAMPBELL:

This light guards the eastern approach to Cook Strait, and is close to the mouth of the Wairau River, near Blenheim. The area is noted for being particularly foul ground, full of reefs and rocks and has a bad reputation, there being at least 14 wrecks of small vessels in the vicinity, nearly all total losses with considerable loss of life.

It was decided in 1860 to put a light here, but it was not until August 1870 that a light was first exhibited. In 1872, faults were found in the wooden tower's construction and it had to be wedged up and re-fastened throughout. Again, in 1878, decay was found in the hardwood and plans were made for a new structure. An iron tower was erected by October 1905 and the old tower demolished. The new tower is 73 ft. high, being 155 ft. above sea level, and the light is visible for 18 miles. It was electrified in July 1938. There are two keepers who send in weather reports five times per day. Supplies and mail come once weekly by truck, from the nearest settlement 19 miles away.

The tower was originally painted with red and white bands, but this was later changed to a red base and white upper half, to give better visibility against the background of white Papa clay. Apparently this was also found unsuitable and it has recently been painted with alternating black and white bands, the same as the Dog Island tower.