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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENTS by WARWICK PATERSON

4c on 2½c Maggie Moth Provisional Surcharge

Developments in this current stamp crowd in so thick and fast that the would-be commentator is constantly embarrassed. "Authoritative" statements are shown to be eyewash by some new and unbelievable development. (My experience in philately has taught me to suspect "authoritative" statements anyway - one of the great philatelic joys is disproving entrenched theories - a sort of philatelic iconoclasm!)

Latest in the saga is the appearance so far reported from several North Island centres, of the 4c stamps surcharged by the letterpress process. A word of explanation is indicated here - the original surcharge, readers will recall, has been by the photogravure process identifiable by the "screen dots" which make up the "4c and bars" impression. The "new" surcharge differs from this original in that the "4c and bars" is printed by a plate containing 200 impressions raised above the surface of that plate. These raised surfaces are entirely solid and carry the ink to the sheet - a surface printing method - which leaves a slightly embossed impression when viewed from the back. Early reports have it that most of the original plates have been seen and plates 1A(4) and 1B(4) have been found in their "original" unretouched state (flaws at R1/20, R10/20, R2/3 etc). While it is early to attempt a schedule of varieties and conclusions there are certain early pointers.

- (i) The quality of the letterpress surcharge is so poor as to give credence to rumour that part of the surcharging was done in New Zealand. A rather negative attitude you may say, but philatelic history does repeat itself and traditionally the "London" prints have always been better than the locals (Viz 1d, 2d, 1/- Full-face Queens, 1898 Pictorials, 1d Universal etc.) This lack of quality takes the form of uneven blotchy impressions, surcharge out of position and (I have seen) a sheet from plate 1A1A1A3A with no surcharge but an embossed albino impression, out of position throughout. The resultant 2½c sheet is of course unique in this plate number. Reference to my note in October 1971 Newsletter suggests that sheets numbered 1A and 1B were recalled from Post Offices for surcharging locally. The latest discovery could support such a theory.
- (ii) Jim Shaw of Auckland suggests that there may be two letterpress surcharging plates in use. He identifies many flaws common to all sheets with the new surcharge. But some are not. Were two surcharging plates taken from the same matrix some flaws would be common to both and some common only to one or the other. This last is still an open question. ▶

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Major flaws reported by Jim are Row 7/2 (across bar of 4), Row 7/6 (in "c" of 4c), Row 9/17 and 9/18 (bars) and many others. Readers comments on this question would be very welcome.

- (iii) Identification of the letterpress surcharge is easy enough if only by the size and shape of the "4c and bars". Both are thicker and the bars are shorter than those of the photogravure surcharge. In the "value \$8-00" inscription the letters are thicker and smaller and the surcharge bars consist of two close spaced with a thinner bar above them, all are shorter than the photogravure "value" inscription.

As ever with this stamp the question must remain "What's next?"

FURTHER NEWS - on the retouching of the basic 2½c stamp.

Readers should refer to the table of varieties enclosed with March Newsletter and April 1972 notes. Jim Shaw has discovered material evidence to establish that the First Retouching to the black plates involved 1A plate (Row 2/3 and Row 3/17) and 1B plate (Row 2/19 and Row 4/19). The Second Retouching involved Row 2/17 and Row 1/20, printing having taken place after the above First Retouching. Later retouching now move down one i.e. "Second Retouching" becomes "Third Retouching" etc, there now being six retouchings by Newsletter's list.

5c Scarlet Parrot Fish - "\$10.00" overprint.

Jim Shaw has come up with the theory that the "overprinted" state of the value inscription in sheets 1A and 1B of this issue ("\$10.00 inserted, original "\$12.00" overprinted in green) was effected in double panes ("in tandem") (see August Newsletter). To support this he points out that the original printing and perforating was in double sheets, and also the overprinting of the value inscription is totally different in each of sheets 1A and 1B. These two overprinting plates must have been produced to rectify the "\$12.00" value inscription (only) in quite large quantities. The "B" overprinting plate (plate 1B has perforations through top selvage) has constant flaws in the side selvage and in the vicinity of the \$10.00 overprint. These flaws are green and belong only to the plate used to overprint the value inscription. Several large green flaws in the selvage with small doctor blade flaws around them.

Above Row 1/14 - similar flaws.

Row 1/17 - Diagonal scratch from top right hand corner up to V of "value".

Row 1/19 flaw in background by fish's tail, flaw on "d".

Row 2/11 - Large green dot on the fish.

GEORGE VI ISSUE

"SLOT MACHINE MYSTERY" (continued) - by CLAUDE SCOTT

COUNTER COILS

I hope help in solving this slot machine mystery will be more rapidly forthcoming than was information about the counter coil issues. Although it was gratifying to have the booklet published in mid-1970 so well received, it was disappointing that only one collector wrote to add to the sum of knowledge. A considerable amount of additional information has been acquired in the past two years from collections and accumulations. Main points of this were published in the "New Zealand Bulletin" of February, 1971 and only one more seems to require mention now.

One listing has to be deleted from the booklet (Page 23). The 2d yellow-orange with normal purple rubber-stamped numerals is not known to me on CVM and CHM combined.

Remaining additions are mostly of new gutter numbers in stamps and varieties, some of which have been recorded. The over-all generic picture is not affected.

3/- (M16a)

In contrast to the poor response about coils, it was a delight to have Mr. John Dennis's quick answer correcting my supposition that a 3/- with blurred frame (double print, one albino) might be unique. It is good to know that the whereabouts of four copies are on record.

This 3/- stamp never ceases to give interest. A job lot obtained last year produced the missing block to complete the R14/4 - R15/4 combined jigsaw. These two stamps can be shown in a combination of no fewer than nine states:

State 1	With Centre Plate	2	Normal	Normal
State 2	"	"	"	Normal
State 3	"	"	"	Normal
State 4	"	"	"	Normal
			Flaw above value	Flaws on L and W
			tablet at right	Flaws on L and W

continued Bottom
opposite page

CHALON CLASSICS - (CONTINUED)

The occasion of the breaking up of a great collection surely provides collectors with a once-in-a-lifetime chance. For how many great collections has any of us seen broken up? Some will take advantage of that chance and benefit, some will pass it up and always regret it. These prices will never be lower for such material and almost certainly will go very much higher.

FIRST COLONIAL PRINTING - By Richardson on Deep Blue paper.

- 10 (a) S.G.4 1d Bright Red - a pair.
This pair represents one of the most brilliant pieces we have ever seen in this issue. The colour is rich, full and bright the pair, entire margins all sides - a really lovely offering to start this month's incredible listing \$550
- (b) S.G.4 Ditto - This time an excellent pair in the Duller "Red" colour - touching one point and one margin missing, but light mark and condition excellent ... \$175
- (c) S.G.4 Ditto - Bright Red. A really vibrant copy of the scarcer shade; a deep brilliant example - two margins excellent, marking clear, a rare one ... \$ 65
- (d) S.G.4. ditto Red, Attractive light marking in corner only - four margins (if close) - super stamp by any standard \$110
- (e) S.G.4. Ditto Watermark letters Stamps on blue paper with the letters watermark are very rare. This month we feature one of the few chances available to secure one of these copies. Superb four margined lightly marked copy (close at bottom). One of the finest in existence ... \$250
- (f) S.G.4. Ditto - attractive letters watermark (double-lined "S") three margins ... \$ 75
- 11 (a) S.G. 5 2d Blue on Deep Blue Paper - Lovely strip of three - Deep colour, Blue shade. Two stamps, four margins \$120
- (b) S.G.5 2d Ditto - Fine single in Blue. Light mark, four margins, one of the finest we know ... \$100
- (c) S.G.5 2d Ditto. This time the Pale Blue shade. Margin close one point. ... \$ 50
- (d) S.G.5 2d Blue Ditto OVERLAP.
Two sheets were used to make up one sheet large enough to cover the entire plate; occasionally the print crossed the overlap between, and after soaking apart, copies are found with evidence of this method. *They are very rare.* This month we offer a piece that, virtually defines the nature of the variety. A strip of three, very fine used, shows overlap characteristics in the (wide) top selvedge - that which passed under the attached sheet above. Part of the top printed margin of the two stamps on the left is missing - the "cut-off" line, where the printed impression passed onto the sheet above. This is a unique and lovely piece and may never be repeated \$750



GEORGE VI COILS (CONT)

State 5	"	"	"	"	Re-entry-right deeper	Re-entry - right deeper
State 6	"	"	"	"	Re-entry	Re-entry - vertical scratch inside inner right frame
State 7	"	"	"	"	Re-entry	Re-entry - vertical scratch fainter. Plate cracks between Stamps 4 and 5
State 8	With Centre Plate	3A			Re-entry	Re-entry. Vertical scratch faint. Plate cracks between Stamps 4 and 5
State 9	"	"	"	"	Re-entry	Re-entry. Vertical scratch faint. Strong plate cracks between Stamps 4 and 5

DO THEY EXIST?

Even volumes as splendid as the Handbooks can obtain mistakes and I have come to doubt whether two George VI stamps may not have been listed in them in error. Years of specialisation and searching have failed to bring sight of these items:

- 1½d rose-red Plate 129 R 9/22 without retouch
- 2d yellow-orange Plate 61 on horizontal mesh paper (M6b)

Do they exist?

- (e) S.G.5 Ditto Watermark letters - another great rarity 4 margined copy with marking over face ... \$ 60
- (f) S.G.5 Ditto - Two examples demonstrating the markedly differing paper thicknesses used in this issue. These may be described as extremes - one being quite tangibly "thick" and one quite translucent and thin. Fine, both four margined \$140
- 12 (a) S.G.6 1/- Green on Blue Paper. A glorious pair. One of the "plums" of this month's listings. Enormous margins except touching bottom LH stamp; light mark colour deep and full. Truly one of the finest we could hope to offer ... \$1000
- (b) S.G.6 Ditto Fine, four margined example, clean mark Deepish colour - super ... \$400
- DAVIES PRINTS ON STAR WATERMARK PAPER - IMPERFORATE
- 13 (a) S.G.37 (Unused) 2d Deep Dull Ultramarine slate. A lovely copy if two margins touching. Very rare in this form \$150
- (b) S.G.37 (Unused) 2d Greenish slate, a lovely looking four margined copy. Paper fault top margin, does nothing to detract - a rarity (Cat. \$350) ... \$150
- (c) S.G.36 2d Deep Blue - Unused pair in super condition minor scissor cut between stamps at top, does not show. This is a pair of glorious deep (unworn plate) appearance. \$ 75
- (d) Two singles unused - S.G.36 2d both in the Dull Deep and Deep Blue shades. Former is scarce - they make an impressive showing in their unworn state, some margins close \$ 70
- (e) S.G.38 2d Blue (Worn plate) - Wonderful block of four unused - three stamps full margins - one close - most rare! \$350
- (f) S.G.38 2d Deep Dull Blue (Intermediate plate wear) Unused scarce even if one margin touches ... \$ 20
- (g) S.G.38 2d Pale Blue (plate very worn) Copy shows major reentry Row 8/11 to great advantage - four margins clean - o.g. pre-printing crease - fine ... \$ 50
- (h) S.G.38 2d Blue (worn) Copy with left hand selvedge (part) and other huge margins - a staggering example ... \$ 60
- 14 (a) 2d Blue, star watermark imperf - used. This month we have pleasure in offering a set which we are confident has never been attempted before and which constitutes one of the finest miniature collections we have had to offer in this lovely issue. A SET OF PAIRS showing plate wear and shades. The collection commences with "no plate wear".
Shades: Dull Deep Blue (Rare, marking heavy, but four margins) Deep Blue (four margins fine). Blue (a "dry print" four margins-fine) Bright Blue (clean, four margins). Bluish-slate (magnificent, four margins, clean). "Early plate wear". Milky-Blue (clean, four margins, attractive) "Intermediate wear". Deep Blue - (four margins, superfine), "advanced wear" Blue (four margins superb). Eight glorious pairs - the story of this issue in pairs ... \$450
- (b) S.G.36 2d Bright Blue - No plate wear. Fine block of four on piece. Full margins three sides touching at bottom, light mark. Condition outstanding. Blocks of four are excessively rare ... \$400
- 15 (a) S.G.40 3d Brown Lilac. - a transcendental block of six mint of this stamp. An extraordinary multiple in an issue where multiples are sought after and rare. An investment piece - can we say more - minor gum stains ... \$750
- (b) S.G.40 Ditto used. A set of three shades. Deep Brown Lilac, Brown-Lilac and Pale Brown Lilac. A set of beautiful used, four margins and light marks all. Absolutely guaranteed! \$150

VIVE LA DIFFERENCE

1959 MARLBOROUGH CENTENNIAL

- 23 (a) a fine study on 7 pages, 2d value block of eight shows Row 20/1 "smoke" retouch. Block of six "sea" retouches R1/3, 2/2 block of twelve. "white patches in smoke" R9/4, 9/6 another block of twelve. R13/6 White patch in sky R14/3 Retouch to bow etc. 3d value - varying degrees of double perforations, left corner (bottom) block of four (six holes doubled) Right corner block of 8 (one hole doubled) 8d value plate block "2" with major selvedge doctor blade and an AMAZING RARITY - double paper in vertical strip of three - join is clearly visible in top stamp. The collection ... \$ 75

We're breaking up a nice lot of Commemoratives and Healths from these years. Included are errors and plate variety material which could add a new dimension to a purely straight forward showing of these years. Prices are rising in these groups incidentally and have been for some time - particularly in the higher values.

1953 CORONATION ISSUE

16 (a) S59a 2d Buckingham Palace - value of sheet altered from £1 to 10/- for half sheet. With normal, showing "£" (two blocks) \$ 5.25

1955 POSTAGE CENTENNIAL

17 (a) S66a 2d Mail-carrier. - Top left selvedge block of four - centre overlaps frame impression "Colour shift" ... \$.75c
 (b) S66a Ditto Plate block of six plate 1A1A shows flaws Row 9 No. 3 "mooring ropes of ship" and a matching block shows flaws removed ... \$ 5.00
 (c) S68a 4d Airliner a STUPENDOUS RARITY unique plate block 1A1A with blurred centre plate impression. First albino impression has resulted in coloured impression having "blotting paper" effect ... \$300

1956 SOUTHLAND CENTENNIAL

18 (a) S71 (a) 8d Takahe - A nice variety lot mounted on two pages Page 1 shows 3 blocks of four, Row 1/7 deep frame impression. Row 3/14 minor doubling of lower shading and frame lines and Row 7/20, 8/20 shading lines complete these being among the first impressions rolled into the plate. The second page shows complete 19th and 20th vertical rows showing deterioration of the shading line to the left of the lower toe of the bird's right foot as folling in by the die progressed. Interesting study of a scarce stamp ... \$ 15.

1957 FROZEN MEAT EXPORT

19 (a) 4d and 8d Lamb and N.Z. S72, 73.
 Beautifully mounted on six pages this study commences with mint and used fine 4d Blue with inverted Watermark singles. Then follow block of four Row 1/5 (flaw to A of "Trade") and block of six Row 5/8 ("Stewart Island" flaw).. Another block (of eight) shows Row 12/4 ("Bluff" flaw) and Row 12/7 ("Gisborne" Flaw). 8d Orange features flaw 1-882 at Row 10/1 in selvedge block of six and another block of six shows flaw over "8" R 8/11 and ship's bow flaw R 9/12. Another block of six shows R 3/5 and R 3/6 flaws "sail" and "Export"... The fascinating coverage ... \$ 20.75
 (b) A shorter set in the 8d Orange includes two blocks of six with Row 10/1, R 8/11.. scarce ... \$ 6.50
 (c) 4d value block of four mint watermark inverted ... \$ 8.00

1957 PLUNKET JUBILEE

20 (a) S74a 3d Truby King - a remarkable block of 48 from plate 2 shows major retouching to left frame line Row 2/20, 3/18, 7/17, and another page offers graver's slips Row 7/9 and 7/16 (lovely material). Page 3 shows strengthening of left frame in plate 1 Rows 2/15, 2/18, 3/10, 4/17 and page 4 shows left frame retouches R 1/10, 2/8, 2/10, 7/10... an attractively mounted and illustrated study ... \$ 10.00

1958 FIRST TASMAN FLIGHT

21 (a) S75 (a) A superb mounted and illustrated study on three pages. Two blocks of eight (used) show developing states of the major flaw Row 2/4. A block of six demonstrates the flaws Row 10/9 and 10/10 (in the stars) (appear on both plates 1 and 2) and the Retouch Row 7/7 is shown in block of eight ... \$ 10.00
 (b) S75a Ditto - short set of the block of six (R 10/9 R 10/10) and block of eight (R 7/7) ... \$ 4.00

1958 HAWKES BAY CENTENNIAL

22 (a) S78a 3d Cape Kidnappers - mint copy with perfs so out of place parts of four stamps show ... \$ 5.00

1959 RED CROSS ISSUE

24 (a) S84a A study including block of eight double perforations (partial). lock of twelve shows R1/1, Greenland flaw and R13/6. Block of six retouched. ... \$ 13



10(a)



11(a)



11(d)



12(a)



10(e)



11(b)



12(b)



13(a)



13(b)



13(c)



13(h)



15(b)

15(a)