

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENTS by WARWICK PATERSON

The onset of the New Zealand winter and the consequent re-vitalising of interest in the hobby also seems to have brought with it a short but spectacular series of varieties and errors in recent issues.

6¢ Offshore Islands Issue

I have heard of two sheets of this issue with the final strike of the perforating head missed from the lefthand side of the sheet. This means that the head works horizontally from right to left across the sheet and in this case the lefthand side of the lefthand vertical column of stamps is imperforate, as is the left hand selvedge.

1970 Pictorials - 4¢ Puriri Moth

I have mentioned this 4¢ stamp in these pages before, as perhaps one of the brightest specialist prospects of the whole series - excepting perhaps its partner the 4¢ Provisional Surcharge - and in recent weeks the current 4¢ has showed up again in its "no-watermark-with-white-gum" form, with several spectacular errors.

In the first case a sheet was found with the Brown colour omitted from approximately one half of every stamp in the righthand vertical column (Rows 1 - 10 Stamps No. 20). The cut-off line between Brown background and the absence thereof was quite sharp and distinct. The cause in this case was probably the stopping of the machine for servicing.

In another sheet which gained some prominence in one Auckland newspaper a sheet was found with the background Brown colour totally omitted from every stamp. There is little doubt that this variety has resulted in one of the most spectacular colour omissions in New Zealand stamp history. If you take a 4¢ stamp in its normal form and imagine the effect of removing the darkest and most prominent colour in it you will see what I mean. Certainly the most remarkable feature of this variety is that it ever reached New Zealand at all, and having reached New Zealand, that it was allowed to be sent out to the Post Office from which it was brought over the counter. One of the prominent features of the sheet was the curious but blurred effect of the yellow

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WARWICK PATERSON (CONT.)

printing in the lettering of the stamp. It appears that in the production of Photogravure plates for stamp printing the basic lettering of the stamp is made much wider than it apparently needs to be. This allows for minor errors in the registration of the colours and it can be seen that when the Brown background is printed over this yellow lettering the shape of the letters is clearly defined and appears "complete" even though that Brown background may be slightly out of place with relation to the other colours. The plate number of the sheet found with this variety was 1B1B1B1B. As this stamp is printed by the sheet, logically one other sheet (1A) did leave the printing machine without the brown background. It is most likely, however, that in the case of such a spectacular variety this tandem sheet was picked up and removed at an early stage of checking.

4¢ Sailing Ships Issue

I have seen two sheets of this issue in a very much deeper shade of Red which also show a curious vertical "ribbed" effect throughout, although it is largely evident in the lower part of the sheet and even extends into the bottom selvage. This is a difficult one to explain but I think the cause may well be in the adjustment of the inking mechanism of the printing machinery. Another possible cause is in the pressure between the offset blanket and the plate resulting in the unequal distribution of the ink.

4d Green King Edward VII Official

We have seen a mint copy of this stamp with "Official" completely offset in Black on the back. This is a new variety and will gain listing in the C.P. Catalogue.

7¢ Leather Jacket

I have seen a spectacular double strike of the double comb perforating head in this issue.

23¢ Offshore Islands

A number of sheets of those issued in this value showed the green number "1" missing to the greater or lesser extent. The frequency of this variety has not yet been ascertained as it is extremely difficult to view enough sheets of a reasonable cross-section of the total supply to establish this sort of fact. It does seem, however, that somewhere near 50% of the issue showed this variety to a greater or lesser extent and in the extreme cases the Green "1" appears to be virtually completely missing.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

by Jim Shaw

18¢ Centenary of the Otago Medical School

Plate 1A1A1A1A I have found a number of varieties in the printing from this plate. Some take the form of transient spots and flaws and notable amongst these, appearing on some sheets but not on others, is a small blue flaw in the top selvage above Row 1/2. These transient flaws are of course endemic to lithographic printing processes. There are, however, a number of constant flaws and those of particular note which I have seen appear in the black and red colours. In the black colour a small spot appears on the "S" of "School" and another inside "C" of "School". In the red colour a small flaw can be seen inside the lower loop of "8". Although "flyspecks" I believe these flaws demonstrate an interesting feature of the printing of this issue. All of these flaws appear on a number of stamps in the sheet and from their distribution and frequency it is possible to draw some conclusions regarding the way in which lithographic plates are manufactured.

Every stamp in horizontal Rows 1 to 9 has the above flaws and Row 10 has only the small spot on the "S" of "School" (i.e. the other black and red flaws are absent in Row 10 but present in all other stamps on the sheet).

My theory is that a negative of 10 impressions is built up for each separate colour used in the stamp. This negative takes the form of a vertical column. From the evidence shown above the sequence for the black colour would be as follows:-

The first (bottom) impression is exposed and this one contains the small spot on the "S" of "School". On the next impression - the one above - the flaw inside the "C" of "School" intrudes, possibly in the form of foreign matter on the original single photograph. Logically all the other stamps from Nos. 2 - 10 moving upwards will contain this flaw as well as the one inside the "S" of "School" which first appeared on the First Impression. This vertical column of 10 impressions in negative form is now used 10 times moving across the sensitised surface of the printing plate. The above explanation satisfies me as the cause of the sequence of flaws mentioned earlier. The plates used in the other values of this Issue - 3¢, 5¢ and 10¢ - do not show any such characteristics but it is more than likely that they were produced by the same process.

Other varieties are few in this 1975 Commemorative series. In the 5¢, Row 10/2 a small touch up in the black colour to the left of the large figure of the woman is evident.

A striking variety was discovered in this 5¢ value taking the form of an extremely pale shade in the Deep Blue of the central figures. The results of this carried through the entire sheet producing in the upper background band of hills an almost "missing colour" effect and in the central figures themselves the appearance almost of a completely different colour. Only one sheet of this variety was found.

1968 Maori Bible Issue

Some research I have carried out in this issue has revealed that a flaw in the multi-negative at Row 8/7 in the red colour was subsequently retouched in all the three plate combinations (1A1A1A1A1A, 1B1B1B1B1B, 2A2A2A2A2A).

The flaw appears within the righthand leg of the first "A" of "ZEALAND". It is crescent-shaped. The retouch states I have seen differ greatly in appearance from this. The flaw states may exist in all three combinations although I have only seen this flaw in the 1B1B1B1B1B sheets. I would be interested to know if any reader has seen the flaw states in the 1A1A1A1A1A and 2A2A2A2A2A printings. If not is it then possible that these combinations were retouched prior to the commencement of printing?

Other observations show that the 1A1A1A1A1A combination at Row 8/7 has a small blue dot $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the way down the righthand margin. Both 1A and 1B printings were in a Red Brown shade. The 2A printing was in a Bright Red shade.



(i) flaw



(ii) first retouch



(iii) second retouch

1975 Sailing Ships Issue

These were produced by Harrison and Sons by Offset Lithography in tandem sheets No. 1A and 1B for each value. I have noticed some interesting varieties:-

8¢ Plate 1B1B Row 9/1 - Flaw at top of "8" and "N" of "Land". Row 9/5 and 9/6; weaknesses at Row 9/5 to right headland and Row 9/6 to large sail.

EDWARD VII Varieties

- 276 3d. Chestnut Official perf. 14 x 14 An excellent specialist piece, being a left top corner block of eight (2 x 4); no less than five of the stamps showing flaws, retouches etc. mentioned in the Handbook. Photos and write up on the original album page make identification easy. Several stamps show some doubling of lower detail. The block of eight, mint.....\$ 20.00
- 277 As above A remarkable piece being a vertical block of thirty stamps - the last three vertical rows of sheet in fact, with serial number and full selvedge above, at side and below. This piece may well be unique as it shows that the comb head "9/111" was used for all over perffing of the 3d. value. This fact is not recorded in the Handbook and apart from this block there may be no other proof of the fact. The specialist's piece at less than the sum of the catalogue price of the stamps!\$ 40.00
- 278 Edward Proofs A set of eight proofs and/or colour trials. These make an attractive preface-page to any Edward study. Values are: 3d. black, 4d. green, 5d. black, 6d. carmine, 8d. black and 1/- in brown, in 'wine' and in lake red. This scarce set of eight singles\$ 50.00
- 279 2d. Mauve Two mint variety pairs: the first shows Row 1 Nos. 1 and 2 of Plate 2, R1/2 having a quite extensive flaw line across 'POSTAGE'. This is recorded in the Handbook. Also recorded is the second variety, also in mint pair, in fact it is stated to be "the outstanding variety of this value". We would call it the outstanding variety of the whole Edward series! It is Row No. 8 of Plate 4 and shows a magnificent re-entry with extensive doubling of the lower portion of the design. Both pairs are very fine mint and both are accompanied by photos touched up in red to indicate the details of the varieties. The two major varieties..\$30.00
- 280 Again the 2d. A fine mint block of 4 showing the left one of the two dots which (on the bottom selvedge) denoted the fact that this was Plate 2. Though not complete this is rare and desirable. We have never seen a complete pair of "Plate 2" dots. The rare block \$ 30.00
- 281 2d. Plate Block (Plate 4) Probably the rarest piece in the present series of Edwards, namely a superb mint block of 8 of the 2d. with complete bottom selvedge showing the complete '4 dots' marking that denoted plate 4. Could very well be unique - especially in its form here overprinted "SAMOA". The "Samoa" plate block will not be out of place in any NZ Edwards study but equally would be a prize indeed for the Samoa specialist. The block \$ 60.00

**Most stamp collectors
can't find good modern variety
material.**

JIM SHAW (CONCLUDED)

- 18¢ Plate 1A Row 8/1 - extra "seagull" over headland. An interesting flaw occurs in the "N" of "NEW" in the 1A black cylinder imprints. It is evident in both the 10¢ and 18¢, while on the 8¢ and 23¢ it looks to have been retouched. Neither flaw nor retouch appears on the 4¢ or 5¢. The implications of this flaw are that, in some way during the exposure of images to the sensitised surface of the plates, the imprint and plate numbers are exposed at a different time from a negative which is common to all values.

FULL FACE QUEENS

Five really superb opportunities. The following items have been purchased for their truly outstanding condition. They represent varieties of the Full Faces that are difficult at any time to find in such condition. There can be no doubt that in todays inflationary times they are good property.

294 (a) S.G.5. 2d Blue on Deep Blue Paper

(printed by Richardson 1855). A fantastic copy of perfect used appearance and four large even margins. Paper is of a thicker grade. It is a perfect stamp.....\$75.

(b) S.G.6. 1/- Green on Blue Paper

(ditto) A staggeringly beautiful pair - light central marking and condition throughout is perfection. Surely one of the greatest rarities ever in a pair. Margin touches very slightly one stamp.....\$1000.

(c) S.G.82 2d Ultramarine on Pelure

Paper undoubtedly one of the finest examples we have seen. Fading is present of course as with all these 2d Pelures - nevertheless the colour is markedly good for this issue and every detail of the design is clear and visible. Margins all present.....\$175.

(d) S.G.97 (unused) 1d Carmine-Vermilion with "NZ" Watermark

The stamp looks as though it has just been printed - faultless copy of brilliant appearance.....\$120.

(e) S.G.75 6d Red Brown, Perf 13

Unused copy in absolutely perfect condition. Centering is (most unusually) exceptional. Look for a lifetime and you will not better a stamp like this.....\$115.

SEVERAL REALLY STUPENDOUS ITEMS291 1931 HEALTHS "Blue and Red Boys" FIRST DAY COVERS


These must surely rank among the greatest varieties of the entire Health stamp range. They seldom or never come to light. On the one occasion during the last several years that one has changed hands at auction the price was approximately four times catalogue at the time for the stamps. We offer a pair of covers. One bears an unsevered selvedge pair of the 1d + 1d Red. The other a single of the 2d + 1d Blue. All stamps are in superfine condition.

The two perfect 1931 Health First Day Covers.....\$350.

292 KING EDWARD VII ½d POSTAL STATIONERY PROOF

A Die proof in yellow-green on glazed white card. The design was used on the ½d Postcard of 1907. Also - an unused example of the Postcard as issued.

Superb\$125,

293 KING GEORGE V 1d POSTAL STATIONERY PROOF

A Final proof of the 1d "Field Marshal" Die used for the Letterward of 1927 and Postcards of 1932. Printed in black on glazed white card - also an unused example of the Postcard as issued. The design differs in several respects from the 1d Field Marshal adhesive stamps.....\$110.

**They're not looking
in the right place.**

1d UNIVERSAL

Some of the scarcer items from these series. A chance to fill a few gaps while you may.

"PIBIE" (Waterlow) Paper Perf II

- 295 (a) G2a: Really magnificent! The scarce Carmine Lake shade in a fine used single - utterly guaranteed.....\$3.
 (b) G2a Ditto and even better. The deep Carmine Lake, with its rich dark almost "dried blood" look. Fine again (used)\$6.
 (c) G2b Ditto Perf 14. A nice item - unused! A block of four of this scarce perf. Gum is missing but nevertheless fine and scarce (water mark inverted).....\$4.

"BASTED MILLS" PAPER

- 296 (a) G3e. Mixed Perforations 11 and 14 A lovely used if a little off centre. Dated Reefton squared circle. Nice.....\$9.

COWAN UNWATERMARKED PAPER

- 297 (a) 94c Perf 14 x 11 - Mint. A scarce one which will fill a gap. Stamp is off centre and has creasing - however cat. at \$12. Our price looks good.....\$2.50.

COWAN WATERMARKED PAPER

- 298 (a) G5d Perf 14 x 11 Mint. Really superb! Selvedge single in perfect condition - cannot be bettered.....\$30.
 (b) G5e. Mixed Perfs 14 and 11. A mint copy.....\$4.

RESERVE PLATE

- 299 (a) G6a. Perf 14. A lovely little set comprising three fine used bearing the dates of use of the Reserve Plate. 1902, 1905, 1908 - selected!\$1.50.
 (b) G6d. Mixed Perfs. The rare one and what a beauty! Lovely mint with bottom selvedge and part of arrow.....\$1.20.

BOOKLET PLATE

- 300 (a) G7a. Mint Single. (minor stains)\$2.50.

"DOT" PLATE

- 301 (a) G8b. Perf 11 x 14 Mint. A lovely single with deep colour and marked absence of wear\$30.
 or fine used - this time shows wear.....\$30.
 (b) G8d. Mixed Perfs 11 and 14.
 Fine mint.....\$3.
 Fine used.....\$3.

WATERLOW TRIAL PLATES

- 302 (a) G9a. Perf 14 Used. A WONDERFUL set of ten stamps representing all ten types - five from plate W1 - five from plate W2 - mentioned on page G5 of our catalogue. Quite unrepeatable and all in good used - guaranteed.
 The check set.....\$2.50.

ROYLE PLATES

- 303 (a) G10a. Perf 14. The scarce "Blood Red" shade in fine mint - superb - a dazzling shade.....\$5.
 (b) G10b. Perf 11 Mint again a beautiful and rare item condition superb!\$60.
 (c) G10c. Perf 14 x 11 Mint Another fine rare example - prices must soon rise in this group (last C.P. Revision 1973). Waiting now will gain nothing!\$30.