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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENTS by WARWICK PATERSON

The Curious Affair of the Imperforate Roses - Concluded (We Hope)
As mentioned last month the New Zealand stamp Dealers Association continued their timely and efficiently executed investigation into this whole matter. All members of the NZSDA received a full report on the investigations as far as they were able to be taken and the summary is reproduced here. I think it tells its own story.

"No evidence has been found to substantiate the rumour that the four sheets of 3¢ Roses issue imperforate were removed from the premises of Harrison and Son Ltd. The source of the original supplier's stock has not been established but it is possible that they could have been purchased from a New Zealand Post Office.

If these sheets were in fact purchased from a Post Office it would perhaps be reasonable to ask how they escaped the watchful eyes of Harrison's checkers and the Post Office tellers."

1972 Lake Wakatipu 18¢

Mr. J. B. Hinton of Invercargill points out that while all the other three values (6¢, 8¢ and 23¢) in this issue are genuine scenes of lakes the above is a view taken with the photographer's back to the lake showing the "Remarkables". In fact the moving water in the scene is the Kawarau River.

Printings by the Dutch Printers Joh Enschede en Zonen

Mr. Hinton also mentioned an interesting snippet of information he received first-hand from an ex-employee of these printers in Holland. Apparently the various oddly shaped holes in the selvedge of the sheets which come from these printers are intended as a security measure and batches of the sheets destined for the printing of a given value within a particular set are all identically punched in this way. Hence a gummed batch of sheets with a given selvedge identification hole would be used exclusively for the printing of one value and security would thus be facilitated. >>>

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EXPERT COMMITTEES - a final word

Robert P. Odenweller of New Jersey an old friend of this firm's and I may say one of the most dedicated of advocates for New Zealand stamps overseas wrote to me recently in response to my article on Expert Committees and in doing so passed on some interesting facts as well as viewpoints. Bob was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of NZ. His letter -

"The idea of Expert Committees and their problems has involved my free time in increasing amounts in the past few years. Now as a Trustee of the Philatelic Foundation (since 1970) and one of the few who is also very active in the Expert Committee, I am particularly involved in increasing our efficiency of operation and most particularly in increasing the accuracy of our opinions. Accepted as the most authoritative source of expertization for U.S. stamps (to 1940), our bulk of "patients" come from this area. We do, however, consider the rest of the world and have the finest reference collection of the world's stamps and rarities in a single location (214 volumes, not including the numerous specialized collections).

We have a monthly load of "patients" averaging 450 each month. These were processed in from 2 to 6 weeks in recent times but take about 4 to 8 weeks at the present, perhaps less on the average. I have recently instituted some major changes that already show signs of considerable short order, but that is not to say any less diligence of consideration. As far as accuracy of our certificates is concerned, I examine almost every item we have, or try to. In the long run, there are probably only 15% on which there is any difference of opinion and these are given very close scrutiny. Usually that difference is manifested in the description or in the question of reperforation and regumming (as happens frequently on U.S. stamps). I would imagine that Robbie's statistics were more along this line than total misdescription such as your cited case. (If such were true, we wouldn't have much of a reputation for very long and people would stop paying the fees - \$10 to \$500 each, for our certificates)! I would imagine that the problem boils down more to a question of individual committees or organizations rather than of the entire field taken as a whole. There are certainly those for which one can buy a piece of paper, and that's about the extent of what you get. The opinion expressed thereon may or may not bear some relation to what actually exists. In the case of a clearcut difference of opinion, where two decided opinions appear (usually genuineness of a first day cover of antique vintage or the like) we will "Decline opinion" rather than issue a certificate which could be bad. Also, with "problems" we "hold-over" to another meeting and consult outside experts for supporting material: our scientific lab is expanding even now. We do "reconsider" whatever items the owner feels deserve such, and usually they will provide supporting information or examples for our consideration. The extent of study and research accomplished on the usual item would stagger most imaginations. This is permitted by our normal technique - rather than have a set date and a formal assembling of the Expert Committee to consider the total of patients submitted we are open from 9 to 5 on weekdays and one evening per week for the experts to drop by when they can give the time. Each expert then considers each item in his field of specialty on an individual basis with the curator or assistant curator providing the body of reference material which is needed for it. Colour perception (though, of course, subject to variation as Robbie stated) is seldom ever a problem if you have adequate reference material to compare a patient - rather than ask oneself if a stamp is a rare shade (from memory of that shade), he can compare it with another of that shade and it makes little difference what the lighting condition or individual viewer's "conditions" happen to be.

Considering all the variables and being intimately involved with the operation of the Expert Committee, I would estimate our margin of error at from 1 to 4%, with most of the errors in the form of a missed crease, regumming, reperforation or the like, not on misidentification. Most of the reconsiderations are for items which were given noted faults which decreased desirability (or "value") and which the owner felt too insignificant to deserve mention. On many of these we have reversed our opinion as the problem was close enough to the borderline to go

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in stamps could be the result of buying from the lots listed below. We have recently purchased one of the finest collections in blocks of four (Mint) that we have ever had the pleasure to break up. In the case of some of the enormously rare items below we have had to throw the Catalogue out the window. We're sorry about it but we must emphasise that material such as this is virtually unobtainable elsewhere. Even so, in some cases our price is little above that being offered by overseas dealers today - the writing is on the wall.

CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION

- 500 (a) A complete set ½d, 1d, 3d, 6d, in perfect mint blocks of four.
The chances of our being able to offer these in the foreseeable future are negligible. In terms of recent overseas realizations our price can only represent a "chance".....\$900.00

AUCKLAND EXHIBITION

- 501 (a) ½d and 1d Only the two lower values unfortunately but in superb condition.....\$75.00

VICTORY ISSUE

- 502 (a) In superb blocks of four - the set, ½d Green, 1d Carmine, Deep Carmine, Carmine Pink, 1½d Orange-Brown, 2d Surcharge, 3d Chocolate, 6d Bright Purple, 1/- Orange-Vermilion. Truly superb and quite unrepeatable.....\$125.00

SILVER JUBILEE

- 503 (a) In magnificent blocks of four. This is an (as yet!) underestimated issue - particularly the 6d. Our 6d is the plate/imprint block.....\$45.00

1898 PICTORIALS

Yes - incredible it seems but we have perfect mint blocks of these too this month - again - don't miss your chance!

- 504 (a) E1a ½d Mt. Cook Purple
Perfect mint block.....\$3.50
- (b) E2a 1d Taupo. Block of four mint. "Printer's fingerprint" on back but a fine-looking item.....\$1.00
- (c) E3a 1d White Terrace Superb looking item. Pre-printing (?) crease in two lower stamps does nothing to detract.....\$4.00
- (d) E4a 1½d Boer War (perf 11) Lovely block of four mint in Chestnut shade.....\$6.00
- (e) E5a 2d Pembroke Peak Super - superb in mint block - the Rosy-Lake shade.....\$10.00
- (f) E8d 2½d Lake Wakatipu (perf 14) Superb block of four. Very minor perf stain allows this give-away price.....\$5.00
- (g) E9b 3d Huias (perf 11 no watermark) Two superb blocks of four in Yellow-Brown, Deep Yellow-Brown. Absolutely unbeatable in every way.....\$20.00
- (h) E9b ditto Deep Yellow-Brown but with ink "set-off" of other values on back - appearance very fine.....\$8.00
- (i) E10a 3d Huias (reduced pl4) Gorgeous block.....\$15.00
- (j) E11a 4d White Terrace - attractive block of four mint. Slight grease stain in perfs of two stamps; at the price - ridiculous....\$5.00
- (k) E13b 5d Otira Gorge (pl1 no watermark) Outstanding block of four mint. Incredible at.....\$17.50
- (l) E14a 6d Kiwi Green (London) Fine block of four in perfect condition except tiny frontal thin one stamp - when did you last see a block of four of this stamp?.....\$20.00
- (m) E14g 6d Kiwi Red (pl4 Rose-Carmine) Glorious block of four mint.....\$25.00
- (n) E15a 6d Kiwi Red (reduced pl4) Superb block.....\$20.00

MINT BLOCKS - 1898's (CONT.)

- (o) E16b 8d War Canoe (p11 no watermark) Lovely in mint block.....\$12.50
- (p) E17b 9d Pink Terrace Nice block of four a little off-centre as so many of this issue are - Rosy-Purple.....\$12.00
- (q) E18b 1/- Kea and Kaka (p11 no watermark) Dull Orange-Red shade - lovely block.....\$17.50
- (r) E19a 1/- Kea + Kaka (Reduced p14x13-13½) Somewhat off-centre but a super block.....\$55.00
- (s) E20b 2/- Milford Sound Blue-green heavenly block of four - perfect in every respect.....\$100.00
- (t) E21b 5/- Mt. Cook (p11 no watermark) Perfection in a block of Four. The price we list here is already beginning to fall behind the current market conditions.....\$450.00
- ▶ SECOND SIDEFACES
- 505 (a) D1e ½d Black Glorious in p11 block of four mint.....\$5.00
- (b) D1e ditto Hinged and slight thin spot one stamp.....\$2.00
- (c) D2p 1d Rose p11 Rose and Carmine-Rose in lovely fresh blocks of Four.....\$12.00
- (d) D3p 2d Violet (p11 Waterlow paper) Lovely block - slight gum stains one stamp.....\$5.00
- (e) D4j 2½d Blue perf 11 Perfs parted somewhat and two stamps creased nevertheless it is a superb looking block and scarce thus.....\$12.50
- (f) D5f 3d Yellow perf 10x11 Interpane block of four (wide selvage between stamps vertically). It is a fine item if perfs parted a little.....\$24.00
- (g) D5h ditto perf 11 Attractive block in Orange - top two stamps heavy hinge and untidy gum but stamps are intact - it is a nice item.....\$18.00
- (h) D7e 5d Black perf 10x11 Magnificent block of four of this scarce item. In perfect condition.....\$40.00
- KING EDWARD VII
- 506 (a) A magnificent collection in blocks of four. Contains ½d Green, 1d Dominion (sideways watermark De la Rue). 2d Mauve, 3d Chestnut (perf 14x14½), 4d Red-Orange, 4d Yellow (two shades Bright Yellow and Yellow), 5d Deep Red Brown (perf 14x14½), 6d Carmine (perf 14x14½), 8d Deep Bright Blue (perf 14x14½), 1/- Orange-Vermilion (p14 line-scarce!). The collection - superb, and ready to mount in your album (these stamps are "gold plated" these days).....\$150.00
- KING EDWARD VII - OFFICIAL
- 507 (a) H01a ½d Green block of four.....\$4.00
- (b) H03a 3d Chestnut perf 14x14½ Block of four - superb!.....\$6.00
- (c) H06b 6d Carmine Perfect block.....\$8.00
- (d) H07d 8d Deep Bright Blue Two perf pairs in magnificent block of four.....\$25.00
- ▶ (e) H08b 1/- Orange-Vermilion Marvellous block.....\$60.00
- KING GEORGE V
- 508 (a) Recess Engraved A collection of mint blocks of four in lovely condition. Seldom seen - a chance not to be missed. Includes 1½d. Grey K1a, K1b, K1d (two stamps no watermark) K1e (two stamps no watermark). 2d Violet K2b, 2d Yellow K2g, 2½d Deep Blue K3a, 3d Chocolate K4d, (two stamps no watermark), 4d Yellow K5a, K5b, 4d Violet/Purple K5e, K5g, 4½d Deep Green K6a, 5d Blue K7a, 6d Carmine K8d, 7½d Deep Red-Brown K9a, 8d Indigo-Blue K10b, 8d Red-Brown K10d, 9d Sage-Green K11a, 1/- Vermillion K12b three glorious shades, Salmon, Vermillion, Orange-Vermillion The magnificent lot.....\$200.00
- (b) K20a 2/- Blue - Jones Paper. A superb block of four.....\$100.00

MINT BLOCKS - GEO. V (CONT.)

- (c) K21a 3/- Mauve Jones Paper again - super block of four.....\$150.00
 KING GEORGE V - OFFICIAL
- 509 (a) Surface Printed - Official a complete set - all values - in superb mint blocks of four. You may wait years to see it again.
 1/4d Green, (K013e), 1d Deep Rose-Carmine (K015a), 1 1/2d Black (K016a),
 1 1/2d Black (K017a), 1 1/2d Orange-Brown (K017b), 2d Yellow (K017a),
 1 1/2d Orange-Brown (K017b), 2d Yellow (K018a), 3d Chocolate (K019c),
 2/- Blue (Admiral) K020b,
 The set (fine).....\$190.00
- Recess Engraved - Official
- (b) K04d 3d Chocolate - Pictorial Paper mint block.....\$4.00
- (c) K05h 4d Deep Violet - Purple Mint block.....\$24.00
- (d) K08b 6d Carmine Mint block.....\$1.00
- (e) K010d 8d Red-Brown Rarity! Superb - faultless block of four mint. Virtually never seen these days most of such material has disappeared into investment orientated collections. Now or never!.....\$500.00
- (f) K010d 8d Red-Brown - EVEN RARER. This is perhaps the most amazing offer in the most amazing Newsletter for decades. We offer the PLATE BLOCK NO. 39 of this rare stamp. K010d has "blasted off" in the past several years. Investment dealers are buying up every copy they can get. This plate block must be one of the most sought-after in the NZ Catalogue. Our price will be out-of-date by the time you read this.....\$750.00
- (g) K011a 9d Pale Sage-Green Superb again - the mint block.....\$20.00
- (h) K012b 1/- Deep Vermilion A striking shade and a real show-stopper in our mint block.....\$20.00
- 1931 AIR STAMPS
- 510 (a) Complete set in perfect blocks - getting quite hard to find these days - these are an undercatalogued and underestimated group - buy now and laugh later.....\$132.00
- HEALTHS
- 511 (a) T4a Hygeia (1932) Mint block.....\$34.00
- (b) T5a Pathway 1933 Mint block.....\$24.00
- (c) T6a Crusader 1934 Mint block.....\$18.00
- (d) T8a Lifebuoy 1936 Mint block.....\$2.00
- (e) T9a Hiker 1937 Mint block.....\$3.20
- (f) T10a Children (1938) Mint block.....\$2.00
- (g) T11a, b. Beach Ball (value o/p) (1939) Two blocks mint.....\$4.50
- (h) T13a, b ditto (1941) Two mint blocks.....\$4.00
- 1935 AIR STAMPS
- 512 (a) Complete set in mint blocks 1d, 3d, 6d.....\$16.00
- 1939 EXPRESS DELIVERY
- 513 (a) U2a Motor Car Mint block - vastly undercatalogued.....\$2.50
- OFFICIALS
- 514 (a) 1935 Pictorials Under heavy pressure. If you've ignored our advice in the past we can only say-think hard about these. The next few years will see all the officials race ahead in price. A glorious complete set in blocks of four including 9d with Green o/p and all the scarce values - twelve blocks.....\$75.00
- (b) King George VI Official Fourteen fine mint blocks in scarce complete set. Items like the 1 1/2d Chocolate and 9d Brown-Sepia are our "hot-tip" these days. If they're hard to find now they're going to be impossible in a year or two.....\$50.00
- (c) Queen Elizabeth II Official Eleven superb blocks of four. The 3/- is of course the tough one. Seen here in super condition.....\$45.00

1d DOMINION

We've done it again. We've actually brought together enough specialised stock of this issue to offer you a complete set including one of each of every paper used to produce this remarkably varied issue - as a reference set these must be absolutely unbeatable.

- A. "De la Rue" paper. Quite superb! The set includes a copy in each Carmine, Dull Carmine, Carmine-Pink, the brilliant "Ruby" shade and a blurred print (both the latter from Booklets). Five superb copies numbered 1 to 5 lightly in pencil.
- B. "Jones" paper. Two shades Carmine and Deep Carmine (number 6 and 7).
- C. "De la Rue". Unsurfaced paper. A copy absolutely guaranteed genuine and genuinely used. (Number 8)
- D. "De la Rue" paper with sideways watermark. A scarce one indeed - ours is superb used - and what's more we give you both shades (numbered 9 and 10).
- E. "Art" paper with litho watermark. Two copies this time 11 and 12 showing "Green" and "Blue-Green" watermarks. Extraordinary - unobtainable elsewhere.
- F. "Cowan" paper. This time in Carmine and Deep Carmine shades (13).
- G. "Cowan" paper. With reversed watermark. Hard to find these days (14).
- H. "Wiggins Teape" paper. Another scarce one - with vertical mesh (15).

<u>Lot</u>		
425	The entire superb set of fifteen copies.....	\$24.00
	(Miss out on these and you may not see another chance)	
426	<u>35a Litho watermark</u> An "extra" addition to the above. Stocks are limited but we can offer a rare copy used of the Blackish-Green litho watermark	each.....\$2.00
	or Yellow Green.....	each.....\$5.00

EXPERT COMMITTEES (CONT.)

either way. The final description to a small degree is a function of human frailty and the harshness of the final decision is somewhat controlled by how hard one feels at the time. I hasten to point out that the significance of the difference is an exceedingly small one and we are endeavouring to establish a "tighter" set of guidelines on how to standardize descriptions.

On the whole I would feel that we have a record of which we can be proud but still one which is always open to improvement until the "impossible" 100% level is attained. I do not know much of the operation of the RPSNZ Expert Committee but from what little experience I have had with them, I'd consider their reliability to be exceptionally high - more so than even ours - since they - I presume - do only N.Z. material and take the time they need to do it correctly. Volume does not appear to be a major problem for them either. The RPSL should also do quite well, particularly in British Empire. Their procedure of all the committee considering each item on a specific date can have its minor drawbacks in the appearance of problems requiring to be studied which time does not permit during the regular meeting, thus forcing them to be kept until the next meeting. The delay in returning certificates by any Committee is, I'm sure you're aware a bane in the existence of an auctioneer. Many here have the time limit for a return written into the conditions of sale, and many committees cannot promise to stay within such deadlines. The BPA has been accused of being a group of members of the trade who, however scrupulous, may at times not be able to avoid a conflict of interests. I feel that they do a fine job with the present members. I don't feel that this happens, but the awareness of such considerations does enter the minds of many collectors. The Committees on the Continent function in a way once described by an observer as "arcane and archaic". Often, though not always, the cost of these certificates is quite low. This in itself does not necessarily mean low quality (low cost, that is) but there is always a tendency to feel that one gets what one pays for (high cost, on the other hand, does not necessarily insure a good opinion either)."