

Campbell Patersons **for collectors of** **NEWSLETTER** **New Zealand** **Stamps**

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENTS by WARWICK PATERSON

The 1975 Healths - From the Sublime to the Cor Blimey

A famous man once said that every action has an equal and opposite reaction (I think I have got it right) and in a despairing attempt to account for this latest advance in the stamp designer's art, that is all I can think of! The last few years of New Zealand stamp design have seen a series of attempts to do "something different" combined with designs which are good, sound, and in the best traditions of New Zealand philately. Looking back over the Commemoratives we have had sets like the Captain Cook Bicentenary, which, in my opinion is pedestrian and basically uninteresting. We move to the Corso issue which again is pedestrian, but this time makes the time-honoured mistake of trying to cram the absolute maximum of detail and "significance" into the tiny area of a stamp. Cardigan Bay, One Ton Cup, and others to me represent good, strong, and quite acceptable designs and the Roses, Cars and Trains mark high points in recent New Zealand stamp design. Interspersed among these, we have attempts at sophistication represented by the Expo designs and the 1972 and 1973 Commemorative issues. These latter are more or less successful depending on your point of view and personal taste, but at least they do represent to me the attempts of the stamp designer to produce something imaginative and in keeping with modern trends. I should say here that in stamp design I really believe that any design whether traditional, or "trendy" must be taken on its merits and sophistication in design sometimes runs the risk of becoming self-parody. Back to the Healths - these seem to me to go in the opposite direction to an exaggerated extent. It is almost as if the designer (perhaps recognising the dangers of ultra-modern designs suggested above) has thought to herself "well this time we will get back to basics". Any one of these designs could have been plucked from my daughter's nursery rhyme books. The best that one can say is that they are competently designed and colourful, but if this is to represent the beginning of a series of stamps for pre-schoolers perhaps the New Zealand Post Office might let us know about it. Another point here is that if stamps are to be produced with a surcharge over and above face value for the benefit of a charity, then I think that to the collecting and stamp using public the Post Office has an obligation to maintain a high standard of design. In view of the recent controversy on New Zealand television between the Health Camp Federation who produce the "Official" First Day Cover (which yields a certain income for the Health Camp Scheme) and the "privately produced" covers it seems to me - although we as a company do not produce any First Day Covers of

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any type ourselves - that a high standard of design and sheer value for money is the chief criterion in the matter and that the Health Camp Federation should always keep this in mind when asking for the support of the public in such a worthy cause.

Auction Catalogues for Local Postal Auctions in Support of Worthy Philatelic Causes

It seems I am in a complaining mood this month but it does occur to me, that if certain organisations are going to request the support of the collecting public and stamp trade as a whole, by holding auctions and asking dealers to donate material for this cause the catalogues which are produced, should be much more readable and more clearly laid out for convenience of bidding. One which I have in front of me at the moment has New Zealand lots interspersed with Botswana, Switzerland, Canada. Even within the New Zealand lots postal history jostles for attention with philatelic items. Surely a little time spent organising the sale, and "lotting up" would result in a catalogue with clearly readable headings, chronologically arranged lots and so forth, which would yield for the organisers far more keen interest and better bids than they would get from an auction catalogue which, to put it mildly, is virtually unreadable.

A Correction

In July Newsletter I stated that the 4¢ Puriri Moth with Deep Green (wing veins) omitted in its upright watermark (original main sheets) form was relatively common. My error! It is very scarce and only a few used have been found. Thanks to Mr. A.L. Neeson for pointing this out.

NAUGHTY! NAUGHTY!

by M. S. Burberry

To be a good philatelist you have to have a rebellious mind. You do not trust anything anyone has written or told you, however authoritative that person is, unless you have also seen the proof.

You may well ask therefore, how you can set about studying a new subject. The answer is that you treat other people's work as "hypotheses". Only when you can prove them true do you accept them as facts. Very occasionally you will find someone has made a faux pas in his hypothesis, and as you are working only from proven facts, you will be able to correct the theory - but remember do not extrapolate your theory beyond the bounds set by the known facts, without clearly stating so.

In case you think the old boy is blathering, I will give you an example that occurred as recently as October, 1974.

The Great Barrier Pigeongram Mail is the story of two rival companies - the Original Great Barrier Pigeongram Service (known as the "Original Service") and the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency (known as the "Agency").

One of the greatest enigmas of philately seems to me the way the early history of the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency was completely blotted out. It was not until 1968, 60 years after the pigeon services were terminated due to the arrival of the telegraphic facilities on the island, that the researches of the Aucklander J. Reg. Walker, were published by the Collectors' Club in New York as their handbook 22 "The Great Barrier Island 1898-99 Pigeon Post Stamps" and brought to light the fact that W.W. Fricker, proprietor of the G.B.P. Agency, started the first regular pigeon service from the island to Auckland. 60 years of oblivion!!

This oblivion was deepened and prolonged by Volume 1 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. The opening of a service on 14th May, 1897 by Parkin through the efforts of Company promoter Smales is chronicled and the fact that S. Holden Howie took over the so-called Original G.B.P. Service in April 1898. Omitted completely were the facts that

- 1) Smales had earlier approached W.W. Fricker who had started his service in February, 1897 at 2/- per message. Probably because Fricker refused to reduce the price, Smales later approached Parkin who agreed to charge only 1/6d.

Σ)

2) Fricker was not eliminated from the scene by the antecedent moves to set up the second service, but had moved his loft to Oroville in April, 1897 and appointed D.N.McMillan as his loft manager.

I said that Volume 1 deepened and prolonged Fricker's oblivion because they had the clue in their hands that the Agency had been operating in 1897.

I recently had the good fortune to acquire the flimsy quoted on pages 438/9 as follows:-

"An extant flimsy which provides evidence of the bonafides of this (Agency) service bears the date 17/7/99 and contains the following message:-

To Mr. Fricker
Dear Sir,

I heartily congratulate you on your success in the show and I feel as proud as if I had won it myself. I hear Parkins has challenged you to fly your birds from here to Auckland for £5/0/0 I think he would have some trouble in beating No 2 or No 3 they are far the best birds you have here as they lose no time in getting away. I am sending you this note principally to ask you not to send the young birds this week as I only got the timber up last night about dark and I have to be away from home today. I think you had better send down some wire for the front of their place and a trap like the one the other birds have. "

D.N.McMillan

As the flimsy consists only of a handwritten message, it could be just a copy of a genuine message or an imaginary one written out on a blank flimsy and then cut down to size. Thus the first job is to establish its status.

27.7.99

This was a Thursday, the day on which the weekly boat normally arrived. Hence the flimsy would not be a flown flimsy, but one sent to Auckland by boat with the returned pigeon baskets, etc.

Parkin's Challenge

This seems very odd as in 1899 he had long retired from the Original Service, and, as far as I know, was Secretary to two pigeon racing clubs - The Auckland Flying Club and the Auckland Homing Society. £5 seems a lot of money - in 1899 terms - for the Secretary of clubs who in private life is the caretaker of "Auckland Chambers" a building occupied by printers, to bet publicly with one of his members.

Instructions re "this week's" birds

This is also odd because the birds for "this week" will be arriving that day, so that the instructions are really about "next week's" birds.

Nothing seems quite right - I suppose they did record the date correctly. NO!! The correct date is 27.7.97!!

Now let us start again.

Date 27.7.97. Tuesday

Just the right day to fly out instructions about this week's birds.

Parkin's Challenge

This came from the rival company's sole proprietor and was merely continuing the infighting.

Even the show becomes intelligible - it was probably the New Zealand Champion Bird and Poultry Show which had been held in the Agricultural Hall in Auckland on 16th July, 1897. Mr. Fricker had been showing his birds there equipped for the journey.

After sundry other tests I satisfied myself that I had obtained what I had long been searching for - a pre-stamp flown flimsy - perhaps the oldest known example, though there may be one from Parkin's commencing day, 14.5.97.

And how did the error occur? Someone changed the date to fit in with his theory. Naughty! Naughty!



THE DAY OF THE WEEK OF ANY DATE BETWEEN 1800 AND 1999

The formula given below will tell the day of the week for any date between 1800 and 1999. Perhaps the mathematicians can explain how it works!

Take the last two digits of the year.
Add a quarter of this number, neglecting any remainder.
Add the date of the month.
Add according to the month as follows:-

January...1 (in leap year 0)	February...4 (in leap year 3)
March.....4	April.....0
May.....2	June.....5
July.....0	August....3
September.6	October....1
November..4	December...6

Add for the 19th Century...2, for the 20th Century...0.
Divide the total by 7, and the remainder gives the day of the week as follows:-

- 1 = Sunday
- 2 = Monday
- 3 = Tuesday
- 4 = Wednesday
- 5 = Thursday
- 6 = Friday
- 0 = Saturday

Any year, except a century year, which is exactly divisible by 4 is a leap year.

Editor's Note: This article is reproduced by kind permission of the Editor of "The Kiwi" Mr. Alan Berry who we had the pleasure of meeting recently when he and his wife toured N.Z. "The Kiwi" is official organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN, one of the most active of all "New Zealand" philatelic societies. Those wishing to learn more about "The Kiwi" or the "Kiwi Society" should contact the Hon. Secretary Mr. C.A. Gilders, 10 Southspring, Avery Hill, Sidcup, Kent DA15 8DX, U.K. The Society meets regularly in London, and New Zealand visitors are warmly welcomed particularly if they bring an interesting display with them! The table below can be used to check the accuracy of Mr. Burberry's calculations. This table also appeared in "The Kiwi" with the comment that the flimsy mentioned should be the earliest known example of an "agency" pigeonram - but are there any earlier examples than 27th July, 1897 known using "The original service"? We and Mr. Burberry would like to know - W.P.

IMPORTANT NOTICE



Because of the Devaluation of the New Zealand Dollar which took effect during August prices of all philatelic accessories which originate overseas will be increasing by 15%. We can, however, offer our existing stocks of these accessories at the "old" prices and we would therefore urge all our customers to order now while stocks last.

We have available at the old prices.

- Hawid strips, most sizes
- Stamp Hinges
- Tweezers
- Colour guides and keys
- Magnifiers
- Perforation gauges
- Stock Books - some sizes

Order from the enclosed list. Unfortunately stocks are low and we cannot guarantee that all items on this list will be available. Most will, however, and we urge clients to ORDER IMMEDIATELY.

We have been doing some tidying up - and with surprising results. Anyone interested in something out of the ordinary will do well to run his eye over the offers below -

- 42 2½d. Titoki (O4a)
 "Doctor Blade" flaw. A delightful strip of three with double pale green doctor blade flaw stretching across the three stamps, colourful, unusual, will brighten up any page.....
 The strip.....\$15.00
- 43 4d. Puarangi (O6a)
 Major retouch: (Variety OV6c). The clearly redrawn 'A' of 'ZEAL' in plate block of 8.....\$3.50
- 44 Another "doctor blade". The 1960 Christmas
 Strip of three from top right corner with value marking: a double line of Brown flaw crosses all three stamps (across the Virgin's face and neck). The strip.....\$10.00
- 45 1/- 1960 (O12a)
 Two printings, two shades. For some reason, never divulged, the plates "9B9c" produced prints of a sharper, harder appearance than did "10B10c" the late, and short-lived, second pair of plates. Under a good glass both Brown and Green inks look totally different. We can offer both plates, (in blocks of 4), and the Imprints (in blocks of 6) from the two different sheets. The four blocks (Cat. \$14.50).....\$12.00
- 46 1d. Taupo 1898 (E2a)
 Two immaculate MINT blocks of 4, one with the best re-entry of this issue (R1/1) and the other with prominent re-entry above the top frame, in right corner scroll and in 'LAND'. Two lovely blocks.....\$10.00
- 47 2d. 1920 Victory (S12a)
 Both the major varieties of overprint: in blocks of 4, both blocks in finest Mint, both in the Pale Yellow Green. One block shows the badly broken 'C' of 'PENCE', the other has two of the red 'd's with broken top, reading '2a'. This is an offer very rarely made.....\$12.00
- 48a 3d. 1953 Coronation (S60a)
 A variety, quite outstanding that we do not recall having ever seen before - but it has all the appearance of being constant. Our copy is a single, used, and the variety is a broken 'R' in 'REVENUE' - the 'R' looking like a 'D' on stilts. To the first comer.....\$5.00
- 48b P.S. Somewhat tardily, having written the above, we decide to go a-hunting and - "Ah've found it, Ah've found it!" No not in the Yellow pages, but in our very own reserve stock. It is constant and occurs on R1/16. A very nice variety. Incidentally it calls attention to the fact that the 'R' of 'Revenue' seems curiously varied in shape on the 'normal' stamps. Something for our experts to explain, perhaps? Anyone wanting the one Mint example from our stock can have it at.....\$8.00
- 49 1948 Health 1d. + ½d. on Fine Paper
 It is not often mentioned (though it is clear enough in our Catalogue) that the lower value Health of 1948 appeared on two papers - one the awful rubbish on which stamps had to appear during the war and for years after and the other a fine strong paper of high quality known at the time as 'Tokelau' paper from the fact that it was first used for the Tokelau Islands first issue in this same year. (Sorry we cannot any longer supply at the ridiculously low previous price of 25¢). Mint, each.....\$1.00
- 50 1960 2d. Kaka Beak (O3a)
 One of NZ's most striking varieties, the 2d. with ZFALAND misspelling. This is pretty obviously an error of touching up - as is the "No Dot" in Lot 51 below. Be that as it may it is today a very scarce variety. The error (Row 3/1) in corner block of six.....\$30.00



- 51 1949 Health (T21b) "No Dot" error
This famous mistake with no dot under the 'D' of '1D' is almost certainly an error of retouching. A distinct retouch under the '1' probably showed as a white dot on the proof sheets and had to be corrected. In the correcting one can almost see the operative spotting the other white dot below the 'D' and touching that out too!
In block of 4, the 'No Dot' error.....\$3.00
- 52 1949 Health (T21a) 'Bandage' and 'Wristlet Watch'
These are companion varieties of Lot 51 above; (however, they are white flaws, not retouches). We have only one set of two blocks showing the two varieties (whereas we can supply Lot 51 more than once). The two blocks.....\$5.00
- 53 1946 Healths
Both values very fine used - both with the attractive and scarce blurred centres as catalogued in 'CP'. The two.....\$10.00
- 54 1½d. Boer War
New Zealand's most superb re-entry of any series. On the issue perf 14 (CPE4b) in lovely corner block of 4. The selvedge perfs have been reinforced by normal stamp hinges. The block.....\$12.00
- 55 1935 Pictorials, 3/- Egmont (L14g)
Superb block of 4 inclusive. The major sky re-entry of Row 9, No. 4. has been lightly hinged, otherwise perfect.....\$15.00
- 56 1935 1d. Kiwi Die 2. Complete Booklet
This is the issue with heavy sky shading and "Parisian" adverts on side selvedge. The staples have been removed as rusting but the Booklet otherwise complete - one pane by its staple holes appears to be a substitute but all are in top condition. All panes have inverted watermarks. The Booklet.....\$25.00
- 57 1935 3/- Egmont L14c
This is the very scarce experimental issue with watermark inverted and reversed - a superb piece being an unmounted single (Row 1/1) with full corner selvedge. Few such can exist.
The rarity.....\$50.00

GEORGE V OFFICIALS

Recess Engraved



A couple of months ago we advertised a lovely little collection of George V Officials (Recess Mint) and were rushed with far more orders than we could supply. We have managed to get a few more and offer them here - just about unrepeatable this time - so if you were unlucky last time please do not delay! - MINT.

- 39 (a) The best we can do. Includes 3d. Chocolate both perfs plus perf 14 x 14½. Inverted watermark; also 3d. two perf pair and a "Pictorial" paper single. 4d. perf 14 x 13½ Violet and perf 14 x 14½ Deep Violet - Purple (the scarce one) 6d. perf 14 x 13½ Carmine, Deep Carmine and the new shade (i.e. to be listed next year) Carmine Pink also perf 14 x 14½ single. Also 6d two-perf pair in Bright Carmine. 8d. Red Brown 9d. Green (tiny stain) and 1/- perf 14 x 13½ Vermilion perf 14 x 14½ Salmon and Vermilion.....\$102.00
- (b) The set as above except that 3d. inverted watermark is excluded. 4d. perf 14 x 14½ is Deep Purple and 9d. Green is excluded.....\$97.50
- (c) A short set but most attractive. 3d. both perfs plus Pictorial Paper single. 4d. perf 14 x 13½. 6d. perf 14 x 13½ Carmine and Deep Carmine and 6d. perf 14 x 14½. 1/- perf 14 x 13½ Vermilion and perf 14 x 14½ Salmon and Vermilion Also 8d. RED BROWN.....\$82.25
- (d) A set as 39(c) but excluding 8d. Red Brown.....\$22.25

SOME CHALON GEMS

Careful people our buyers - sometimes they strike it lucky and land one or two quite outstanding pieces. That's what we are here for of course to give you - the C.P. clients - the best opportunity on earth to buy the best New Zealand material in the world.

- 41 (a) S.G.8 1d. Dull Orange by Richardson on unwatermarked white paper. Beautifully used copy. Four large margins, colour clear and unfaded marking clean and light, paper intact fine.....\$60.00
- (b) S.G.8 1d. Dull Orange as above a stupendous pair. Four margins if close at Bottom and touching one point. Light clear mark, outstanding impression and general appearance really lovely.....\$120.00
- (c) S.G.10 2d. Bright Blue Richardson on unwatermarked white paper. This month we are able to offer one of the great specialist rarity pieces of the entire Chalon series. We have a glorious strip of three in superb condition. Two of the stamps show the pronounced "overlap" characteristics which occurred when two sheets were attached to make a full-sized sheet for printing purposes - when the top sheet has come away from the bottom sheet part of the design of these two stamps has also come away. The third left-hand stamp shows the same feature quite clearly in the top margin. It is a very great rarity and in this condition quite irreplaceable.....\$550.00
- (d) S.G. 35 1d. Carmine Vermilion. Imperf - lovely mint pair with full gum margin close left side and part of lower side. Fully intact however and a super buy at.....\$135.00
- (e) S.G.92 2d. Pelure Deep Ultramarine. Perf 13. Probably one of the finest copies in existence in that its colour is so deep and there is so little fading (fading is a feature of these 2d. Pelures). Glorious example and superb buying at.....\$150.00
- (f) S.G.99 6d. Deep Red Brown "NZ" watermark. Superb copy with four margins light mark and full deep colour margin close one or two points allows.....\$85.00
- (g) S.G.105 2d. Blue perf 13 "NZ" watermark. A scarce variety particularly in such good used condition. It is a fine pair with light clean dated postmark. Plate worn, as it should be, in this variety. Good.....\$65.00

1935 RARITY

- 40 L010c. 8d. TUATARA OFFICIAL. Perf 14 x 13½ - USED. One of the great rarities of all time - Used, with postmark Whangarei as it should be. Fine condition and one of the nicest plums we have had to offer for a while. The price is still rising fast (catalogued \$1500).....\$1250.00

GEORGE V (RECESS) some further plate singles

3d. Chocolate

- 18 (a) K4a
Plate 18 single.....\$7.50

4d. Yellow

- 19 (a) K5a
Plate No. 20 in superb single.....\$3

Some of the scarcer varieties to fill the more awkward gaps.

Waterlow (Pirie) Paper

- 201 (a) Flb. perf 14.
Lovely Mint Green.....\$1.50
Deep Green.....\$1.50
- (b) Flb. perf 14. Used
Green..... 50¢
Deep Green..... 50¢
- (c) Flc. perf 14 x 11 Mint
Green.....\$3.00
Deep Green.....\$3.00
- (d) Flc. perf 14 x 11 Used
Green..... 50¢
Deep Green..... 50¢
- (e) Fld. perf 11 x 14 Mint
Green.....\$3.00
Deep Green.....\$3.00
- (f) Fle. Mixed perfs
Lovely Mint single in
Deep Green.....\$8.00

Basted Mills Paper

- 202 (a) F2d. perf 11 x 14
Fine Mint copy.....\$2.50

Cowan Unwatermarked Paper

- 203 (a) F3b. perf 14
Lovely Mint.....\$1.00
- (b) F3c. perf 14 x 11
Glorious single of a very scarce item
to the first comer\$25.00
- (c) F3e. Mixed perfs to match Lot 203b
another fine single.....\$25.00

(Hurry for these - they won't last)

Cowan Watermarked Paper

- 204 (a) F4b. perf 14
The scarce one with watermark inverted
and reversed.....\$25.00
- (b) F4c. perf 11 x 14
Fine Mint.....\$1.50
- (c) F4d. perf 14 x 11
Fine Mint.....\$1.75
- (d) F4e. Mixed perfs
Superb Mint.....\$2.00

1935 SPECIALIST SETS (USED)

Listed below one or two complete sets of various values in fine used. The sets are selected copies identified with numbers on the back of the complete range of papers, watermarks and perforations found in their respective values - an unrepeatable chance - anywhere!

- 13 (a) 2d. Whare L4a, L4b, L4c, L4d, L4e and L4f.
Six superb copies.....70¢
(includes the scarce perf 14 x 15)
- (b) 3d. Maori Girl
The two types L6a, L6b.....20¢
- (c) 4d. Mitre Peak
L7c, L7b, L7c, (scarce perf. 14 line) L7d, L7e wow!\$2.50
- (d) 6d Harvesting
L9a, L9b, L9c, L9d, L9e.....55¢
- (e) 8d. Tuatara
L10a, L10b, L10c, L10d, L10e.....\$1
- (f) 1/- Tui
Only a few sets available L12a, L12b, L12c, L12d.....\$2
(includes the scarce perf 12½)