

# Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWS LETTER New Zealand Stamps

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## NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENTS by WARWICK PATERSON

Robson Lowe great globe-trotting philatelic personality auctioneer and - I say it with the greatest respect - bon-vivant and wit, was in New Zealand last month and as usual charmed a party of wretched traders, esteemed amateurs, and wives to the most superb of dinners, as only Robbie knows how. It all brought to my mind an occasion six or seven years ago when I cornered Robbie and with the impertinence of a newcomer to the game, asked him, didn't he agree that sometimes too much weight was placed on all the pronouncements of leading philatelic experts and commentators? Did he not think that sometimes they might to paraphrase Cromwell "think it possible they may be mistaken"? Was it not possible that sometimes the temptation to appear to have all the answers might lead an expert - not necessarily philatelic either - into making an absolute statement as of fact rather than modifying it with "possibly" or "in my opinion" or even "the research carried out to date indicates". To my surprise my question seemed to strike a chord - the problem it seemed was one which had often occurred to Robbie (presumably in his role as one of the most frequently seen signatures on the certificates of the Expert Committee of the B.P.A.). I remember also that he commented that it could be scientifically proved that one's colour perception could be altered by what one had recently been eating or drinking (he didn't elaborate, but the imagination ran riot).

I paid particular interest, therefore, to a recent article penned by Robbie in the "Canadian Philatelist" Journal of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. In it Robbie develops the theme of "The Philatelic Disease". In talking about Certificates of Genuiness issued by Expert Committees of Philatelic Bodies he says "in our experience, somewhere between a fifth and a quarter of the certificates in existence are inaccurate to some degree. Over a tenth appear to be totally inaccurate." A shattering observation from one who can be taken as being in a position to know (our own experience at C.P. bears out the substance and the statistics of this statement). Robbie quotes individual cases; "a lithographed reproduction certified that it was the typographed original" and so forth - in all cases people lost money as a result of the erroneous certificates although in many cases certificates were in favour of the owners of the material. Robbie also quotes perfectly genuine stamps damned by erroneous certificates. What's to do? Do we dispense with the Expert Committees? Of course not - the vast body of their work is excellent, invaluable and gives Philately an essential backing of reliable authenticity. But this function by no means demands their infallibility. Concludes Robbie "THE PHILATELIC DISEASE IS THE VALUE PUT ON OPINIONS. Their mystique should be exploded by printing on certificates" 

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of opinion THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT A GUARANTEE and by producing certificates of guarantee under which a stipulated sum was payable if the guaranteed opinion was proved wrong. In the present position one pays for an opinion which, if correct, bears a statement that it is valueless, and if it is incorrect, it is a menace."

Note: Not every opinion quoted in the Newsletter is endorsed thereby but this one surely is!

Variety News

The designs of the new definitive low values were released last month and it appears that they should be issued within a few weeks. Roses are to be the theme of the first 9 values 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 4¢, 5¢, 6¢, 7¢, 8¢ and 9¢. By all appearances they should be a lovely set and Harrison's Photogravure is to be used. My personal view is that all the signs and portents are good for a fine new definitive set, hopefully with lots of specialist interest. The imminence of the new low values of course means that the curtain will come down on the present moths and butterflies. Any specialist material in this issue becomes worth holding onto or building up towards completion as a result of this news.

4¢ Puriri Moth

I have seen four complete sheets all from Plate 1B1B1B1B1B with a complete single comb double perforation strike in the vertical left hand column. Perforation varieties are scarce these days and this was a superb example.

1¢ Red Admiral Butterfly

I have seen a complete offset in the Buff and Black colours of this stamp on the back of two stamps in the top righthand corner of one sheet with a diagonal cut-off line (several other stamps were partially affected). The next sheet showed a fainter but otherwise identical effect.

10¢ "Royal" Stamp

I have seen one sheet only with the Dark Blue (marginal lines top and bottom, value and Queen's Head) missing - a remarkable error and most spectacular as the imaginative will readily appreciate.

10¢ Xmas Stamp

The current Xmas trio are out and seem an attractively designed Photogravure production overall. In the 10¢ I have seen a sheet with many copies showing a striking Yellow offset (central halo and cross on mast) another block I saw showed a fairly strong offset of the Green (value inscription etc.). I did not see the full sheet so cannot comment further.

4¢ 1969 Life Insurance

Mrs. E.M. Licence of Ngaruawahia showed me a used copy with Deep Blue Sky and strikingly clear screen pattern as opposed to the normal Light Blue and indistinguishable screen pattern. Any other sightings particularly in mint?

XMAS IS UPON US!

Well - nearly anyway. Not too soon at all to think about that ideal Xmas gift. May we suggest that with inflation making a mockery of the value of money you consider a gift of lasting value which will house prized possessions of constant - even increasing - value. THE C.P. LOOSE LEAF SIMPLIFIED NEW ZEALAND STAMP ALBUM. In the new specially commissioned Stanley Gibbons springback album cover. A superb possession in every sense - a place and a picture for every New Zealand stamp - historical and instructive background notes.

Wonderful value.....\$12.00 plus postage.

THE DELIGHTFUL DIES OF SECTION D!

The original Dies of the 1d and 2d Second Sidefaces of 1882 were not a success. The head had little of the cameo effect that can make such portrait stamps quite beautiful. Two attempts were made to improve the Dies (resulting in "Dies 2 and 3" in both the 1d and 2d) and these can be recognised by features described in our C.P. Looseleaf N.Z. Catalogue.

It is rarely that we can offer complete sets of these Dies - on all three different papers that were used during the period. But we have them now in fine used! Supplies are good but not of course unlimited. Condition is well above average and identification of Dies and papers absolutely and unconditionally guaranteed. A rare and delightful opportunity - be in!

- C.P. No.      The 1d Rose
- D2a      1d Die 1 (watermark W3) The first issue - generally rather 'flat' prints with close spaced background lines giving a poor definition between background and head. (The paper is with W3(6mm) watermark and with horizontal mesh). Perf 12x11½.
- D2ba      1d Die 2 (watermark W3) The first attempt at improvement. The background lines have been "opened up" while the head remains the same. This gives in most cases a pleasing cameo effect. An identifying feature is the absence of one or two lines in front of the brow - above the eyebrow level and lower than the diadem level. (The paper still has the 6mm watermark (W3) with horizontal mesh.) Perf 12x11½.
- D2e      1d Die 2 (watermark W4) As D2ba but now on the "W4" (7mm watermark) paper. (Perf 12x11½, vertical mesh.)
- D2e      1d Die 3 (watermark W4) The Die has been given further attention. The missing lines still show in front of the brow and the diadem ornament immediately above the ear has had some of the shading to its left removed, making it much more prominent and in shape not unlike a white figure '1' (Perf 12x11½, vertical mesh.)
- D2g      1d Die 3 (watermark W5). Stamp as D2e but the paper is the relatively short-lived type with "4mm watermark" known as "W5". This is the paper first used for the "V.K." Life Insurance stamp and often called "the Life Insurance paper" (Perf 12x11½, vertical mesh.)
- The 2d Lilac
- D3a      2d Die 1 (watermark W3) As with the original 1d the rather ill-defined, murky look. However the colour is a pleasing shade of bright lilac and like any "first edition" these (and D2a) have a charm of their own. (The paper is the "6mm", the perf is 12x11½ and the mesh horizontal.)
- D3ab      2d Die 2 (watermark W3) All details as in D3a but as in the 1d the background lines have been opened up, leaving the head as before and giving in most cases a very attractive delicate appearance. One or two missing lines of shading immediately above the top of the head (hair) serve as a sure means of differentiating between Dies 1 and 2. (Perf is 12x11½, mesh horizontal)
- D3b      2d Die 2 (watermark W4) As D3ab but on the later paper with "7mm watermark" (Perf 12x11½, horizontal mesh)
- D3c      2d Die 3 (watermark W4) The head has now been given attention. The missing lines above the top hair are still a feature and in addition a short vertical white line, not seen before, enters the "bun" of hair immediately below the "&" of "Postage & Revenue" (Perf 12x11½, mesh vertical)
- D3e      2d Die 3 (watermark W5) As with the 1d (D2g), we have here the use of the Life Insurance paper (Perf 12x11½, mesh vertical)

So----the above 10 stamps, providing a complete range of the Dies, papers and watermarks of the 1d and 2d Second Sidefaces perf 12x11½. A study in "philately without tears!" This set is a

worthy addition to the various sets of "Universals", "Dominions", "Papers", etc. that have become one of our more popular services to the collector who wants (who doesn't?) to have a reference set always to hand.

The Complete Reference set of 10 1d and 2d Second Sides faces perf 12x11½ - absolutely guaranteed and these days extremely hard to accumulate. Will make a tremendously attractive and instructive page.

Lot 256 The set of 10.....\$10.00

Additional For those who would like to fill out the page we can offer picked copies of the 1d (all Die 3) in the later perfs (plus some shades and papers) and the 2d similarly.

This supplementary set is offered only to those buying the "Dies" set above (we have to make this proviso in order to ensure that those who order the "Dies" set will not be disappointed by the absence of this supplementary set) Of course the "Dies" set will sell out in time and after that - if any are left - the supplementary set will be available on its own. So---the supplementary set will include:

1d Rose (a) perf 10 (D2j) in both pale and deep shades; (b) perf 10x11(D2m) one only; (c) perf 11 (D2p) on both fine and coarse paper. (The coarse paper is the "fourth paper" of the Handbook and our supplies of it include some of the splendid "carmine" shade - we have not segregated them and those who get one can count themselves lucky).

2d Mauve or Lilac (a) perf 10 (D3g) lilac and mauve; (b) perf 10 x 11, one only; (c) perf 11 (D3k) on fine and coarse papers (similar to D2p above); and finally perf 11 (D3p) on thick paper with Sideways watermark, (one only).



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The used set of 11 of the 1d and 2d  
Second Sides faces.....\$1.50

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE DEPT.

This is a group of which the early issues are becoming increasingly difficult to find. Stocks are limited and any not mentioned are not in stock. Those that are available are in our usual fine condition unless stated otherwise.

First Issue, 1891, with 'VR' in the design

- X1a ½d purple, perf 12x11½, (watermark W5) fine used.....\$1.00
- X1e ½d purple or mauve, perf 11, watermark W4, fine used.....40¢
- X1g ½d bright or pale purple, perf 11, watermark W7 sideways fine used.....30¢
- X2a 1d blue, perf 12x11½, watermark W5, fine used.....\$1.00
- X2b as X2a but the very scarce issue with watermark W4, fine used..\$2.00
- X2c 1d blue perf 10, a few available, fine used.....40¢
- X2d 1d blue, perf 10x11, again only a few available.....\$1.50
- X2f 1d blue, perf 11, watermark W4, fine used.....10¢
- X2n 1d blue, perf 11, watermark W7 (sideways) fine used.....10¢
- X2j 1d blue, perf 14x11, otherwise as X2h, fine used.....\$1.00
- X3a 2d red-brown, perf 12x11½, watermark W5, fine used.....\$1.00
- X3a as above but in "not quite so fine" condition.....40¢
- X3b as above but the scarce issue with watermark W4, fine used.....\$1.00
- X3c 2d red-brown perf 10, fine used.....\$1.00
- X3d 2d red-brown, perf 11, fine used.....\$1.00
- X3d 2d - the scarce "chocolate-brown", good used.....\$4.00
- X4a 3d brown. Good used - a few available.....\$4.00
- X5a 6d green, perf 12x11½, fair used only.....\$3.00
- X6a 1/- rose, perf 12x11½. This is a very scarce stamp. One available, good used, \$15; others, less fine.....\$5.00