

# C.P. NEWSLETTER MONTHLY

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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## EXCELLENCE IN NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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*Lot 501 - The "Reefton Provisional" 1/- (see back page)*

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**CAMPBELL PATERSON LIMITED**  
P.O. Box 5555, Auckland 1, New Zealand  
Room 404 Canterbury Arcade  
Queen Street, Auckland.  
Telephone 793-086



UK: P.O. Box 17, Woking, Surrey, England



## NEW YEAR NOTES - WARWICK PATERSON

JAMES BUSBY, BAY OF ISLANDS - MERCHANT BANKER James Busby is a significant character in early New Zealand history. He had been sent over to New Zealand from Sydney in 1833 as the British Resident and was instructed to apprehend escaped convicts and send them back to trial, to encourage trade, to assist settlers, to keep on good terms with missionaries and Maoris and to urge the chiefs to keep law and order. (Reference: Sinclair's "A History of New Zealand"). He was apparently left "a functionary without any apparent function", "a man of war without guns" by the British Government.

Busby proved ineffectual in the role and failed "even to maintain an official appearance of dignity". Busby it seems was full of self-importance and found himself in a Gilbertian situation, acting out a "solemn farce".

A letter passed through my hands written by Busby to Messrs. J. Howland and Company of Bedford, Massachusetts, dated 25th May 1857. It shows that Busby by that time still considered himself a man of potential importance. He writes as follows:

*"Gentlemen: The high premium charged by the traders at this place upon the money advanced to the Masters of American whale ships has long been a matter of complaint.*

*Until the last year it has never been below \$20 upon every \$100 advanced and in some cases even \$25 per \$100 has been required.*

*I've also been informed by some of the whaling Masters that if, upon their arrival here they had the money in their hand to purchase their supplies instead of getting them a credit from the traders, they could save 25% on their disbursements.*

*Under these circumstances I beg to inform you that being deeply interested in the prosperity of the Bay of Islands, although not engaged in the trade with the whale ships, I have made arrangements to discount the drafts of Masters upon their owners and you may if you please, inform the Masters of your ships that unless a considerable advance should take place in the rates of exchange in the Australian colonies, I shall discount their drafts at 10% immediately on their arrival and thus enable them to purchase their supplies on the most advantageous terms. I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant, James Busby."*

What came of Busby's suggestion I know not, but perhaps it fell on stoney ground as did an earlier plan of his. In 1837 he proposed to the British Government an extraordinary arrangement whereby New Zealand would remain a sovereign Maori state under British protection and whereby in reality the ruler of the country would be James Busby himself, with British troops under him to strengthen his authority. He held that "100 English soldiers would be an over-match for the united forces of the whole islands."

Later the Maori Wars put a more accurate perspective on his assessment of the Maori as a warrior. However, in view of the prevailing British attitude of the day his ideas were not completely without foundation it seems. Both Hobson and Busby saw the future of New Zealand as a "plural society" and perhaps New Zealand's later reputation as an integrated society owes something to that.

*"Thanking you for your service and help over many years now." - LCM, Victoria, Australia.*

## FIRST SIDEFACE 2D. - PERFORATION "NEARLY 12" - SOME NEW INSIGHTS

CP Catalogue users will be well aware of the difficulties of identifying this rare 1875 First Sideface 2d. Rose issue.

The confusion arises in differentiating stamps perforated by the comb perforation head gauging 12 x 11½ (1878) and the line perforated issue where all the perforations (vertical and horizontal) measure 11 or "nearly 12".

Dr. K.J. McNaught, writing in the September issue of The New Zealand Stamp Collector, journal of The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, identifies some useful features of both methods which will assist collectors to identify the rarity, if they have it. As a point of interest, these pointers should be applied to every perf. 12 x 11½ stamp in the 2d. value to make sure that the rarity is not lurking unrecognised in your collection.

(a) The comb head, perf. 12 x 11½, consisted of a long row of perforations with short rows descending from it, which was used to perforate from the top of the sheet working down. The full horizontal row of perforations was applied together with the side perforations in all the stamps in a given row. This comb machine had only 13 pins in each of the 14 "short heads" needed to perforate the sides of the 12 stamps in each horizontal row and the narrow gutter between left and right panes. These 13 pins are insufficient to complete the vertical perforations right to the bottom corners of accurately spaced stamps and therefore stamps of normal height perforated by the comb machine always show wider teeth or missing holes at the bottom corners. Therefore any stamp with more than 13 holes on the sides cannot be comb perforated. Any stamp with missing holes at the bottom left/right corners must be comb perforated.

(b) Due to the unusual positioning of the short rows relating to the pins of the long horizontal rows, the positioning of the holes on the top left and right corners of the stamps is not reliable in establishing the type of perforating used. Moreover, intersecting perforation holes in the top corner are not a reliable test because although they are a feature of line perforating methods, overlapping holes from the previous strike above can mean confusion between comb and line perforating in these cases.

(c) Abnormally wide stamps must belong to the line perforated group. Width of the stamps perforated by comb heads is absolutely pre-determined. This can be easily checked by placing the suspected stamp on top of a known perf. 12 x 11½ copy.

(d) Coincidence of perforation holes. Dr. McNaught points out that in stamps with comb perforation the perforation holes on the left side are always exactly opposite the corresponding holes on the right side. In stamps with a line perforation a perforation tooth will commonly be found opposite a perforation hole.

(e) Abnormally narrow stamps. These are prima facie line perforated stamps, but the possibility of double perforation producing narrow stamps is observed by Dr. McNaught, therefore this is not an infallible test.

*"Look forward to regular dealings! It is difficult to visit stamp shops from here and business of life precludes interest that I would desire." - Chatham Islands*

## NEW YEAR NOTES (Contd.)

(f) Dates. Dated stamps with line perf. 12 show 1878 dates only. The date 1875 in the CP Catalogue is erroneous.

(g) Colour. Any stamps in the Bright Rose printings of 1881/82 can certainly be eliminated as being exclusively comb perf. 12 x 11½, but on the whole colour is not a reliable guide.

Dr. McNaught contends that 2d. stamps perforated "nearly 12" are not as scarce as the price in the catalogue would suggest. He does, however, acknowledge that a collector may want more than the position of the perf. hole or the number of perf. holes in the side of the stamp to identify his copy. Therefore, for clearcut examples of undoubted rarity, high prices may be justified.

*Editor's Note: For a fine example of undoubted perf. "nearly 12" stamp in used condition, see the colour illustration on the back page of CPNLM for September 1984. Lot 119 (c) demonstrates exactly the factors that Dr. McNaught refers to. It is (a) far too wide for comb perf., (b) 15 holes in both right and left hand sides and clearly intersecting holes in the bottom left right-hand corners.*

## INTER ALIA - PAUL D'ARAGON

NZ "Arms" - Watermark Error In mid-1984 some observant collectors noticed that some "Arms" stamps were appearing with the watermark W8b, rather than the usual W8c. As the NZPO had no knowledge of this, enquiry was made of the Government Printer, who admitted that this watermark direction was an error caused by an inexperienced machinist. As far as is known, three values were thus treated - \$4, \$6 and \$10. No examples of the \$8 have been seen. The first supplies of the \$4 and \$6 were placed on sale at the Auckland Philatelic Sales Office on 8th July and only two first day covers were serviced. The \$10 value appeared on 12th July. It is quite possible that offices elsewhere in the country had them before these dates without being aware of the fact and any readers who possess examples with earlier strikes are invited to contact the Editor.

In addition to the error in watermark, the Government Printer made an error in perforation in that whilst the Arms values are normally imperforate bottom selvedge and perforated top selvedge, examples of the \$6 value with inverted watermark have been seen with perforated bottom selvedge and this also has been acknowledged as an "error".

Quite large quantities of the \$4, \$6 and \$10 have been seen with the correct watermark and direction of perforation with a "blind" perforation in the second from right vertical row.

From the foregoing it could be deduced that the \$8 value may not be reprinted as often as the other values. Certainly, with the wide range of shades available, the reprinting of the Arms stamp must be a regular and frequent occurrence.

As an aside, perhaps some knowledgeable reader can inform us, has any stamp been issued longer than the 53 years of this design? Should the NZPO apply for inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records?

And as of date of publication the three "inverted watermark" values \$4, \$6, \$10 are no longer available over the Philatelic Counters of the NZPO.

## NEW YEAR BONANZA

A selection of the superb and rare. Seriously, these key items, targeted from our stock, have been picked to add an extra quality to any collection of their several issues.

### 1d. UNIVERSAL

- 300 (a) G1a UHM block of six contains major re-entry (extensive doubling in value tablet). Lovely item ..... \$100.00  
 (b) GS4b Trial "Parker" slot machine Strip of three completely imperforate (LH). Reserve Plate. Probably ex stock disposed of by Mr. Parker ..... \$100.00

### KING EDWARD VII

- 301 (a) H5d, 5d. Brown Two-perf pair in very fine, genuine dated, used - lovely example and scarce! ..... \$175.00  
 (b) H6e, 6d. Carmine Two-perf pair in very, very fine used. Lovely item - authentic in every way. One of the nicest items we've seen ..... \$350.00  
 (c) H7d, 8d. Indigo-blue In two-perf pair. Fine genuine dated used ..... \$150.00  
Or Deep Bright Blue ditto ..... \$150.00
- 302 (a) H1a, 1/2d. Green Row 3/18 "Flaw under 'NY'" is one of the all-time famous plate flaws. We have a genuinely used copy of the flaw on postcard dated 27th Sept. 1913 at Whangaroa. Lovely piece ..... \$50.00
- 303 (a) W3b(w) 1/2d. Green Single booklet pane with "pair wide" bar. (From the Electrotpe plates) - showing blurred print ..... \$225.00  
 (b) W3b (m) 1d. Dominion Pane as above ..... \$200.00

### 1d. DOMINION

- 304 (a) J1a, De La Rue paper Superb and rare - a bottom selv-edge block of four. UHM with lower pair "imperf sides and bottom". Cat. by CP at \$1000 a pair - let alone a block of four UHM. Wonderful item for a 1d. Dom. collection and note the price! ..... \$375.00  
Or a pair as catalogued at \$1000 ..... \$250.00  
*(This is a superb chance - subscribers only, please - but hurry!)*
- (b) J1a(z) 1d. Dominion Ditto Offset on back. Brilliant example in UHM block of four ..... \$100.00  
Or single ..... \$25.00

### JUNIOR SPOT FROM VAL MCFARLANE

**MINIATURE SHEETS** A miniature sheet is a small sheet of stamps issued by the Post Office for a special event or exhibition. The sheet can contain a single, pair, block, or a set of stamps that is required for the event. The sheets have wide margins and with our Health Stamp issue they have the words Miniature Sheet and the Value printed across the top and the printer's name across the bottom. Miniature sheets are also issued for stamp exhibitions as a souvenir of the event.

## BONANZA (Contd.)

## KING GEORGE V

- 305 (a) K5g, 4d. Purple, perf. 14 x 14½ (Ex Plate 44). Superb bottom right corner selvedge block of six showing the major re-entry at Row 10/12. "Widespread doubling" says "CP" and illustrates the variety. UHM block with perfect centring tool ..... \$125.00
- 1970 PICTORIALS
- 306 (a) W10a, 75¢ Booklet complete Contains 3¢ pane "inverted watermark". Superb! ..... \$200.00
- 1931 HEALTHS
- 307 (a) T3a, T3b, 1d. + 1d. Red 2d. + 1d. Blue, in blocks of four Super - superb buying in 2 LH, 2 UHM blocks ..... \$2000.00

KING EDWARD VII LAND

- 310 (a) RD1a, 1d. Universal - from the Royl Plates Superb used block of four - dated FE 27 08 - glorious ..... \$400.00
- (b) RD1a Ditto Lightly hinged copy of this rarity (cat. \$1000) ..... \$750.00
- Or no gum copy ..... \$100.00
- (c) RD1a Ditto Fine used ..... \$100.00

VICTORIA LAND

- 311 (a) RD2a, 1d. Edward Green Overprinted. Ex 1913 Certificate - a lovely used copy - on piece (cat. \$1500) ..... \$1000.00
- (b) RD3a, 1d. Dominion Single - fine used ..... \$125.00
- (c) RD3a, 1d. Ditto Hinged mint copy ..... \$50.00
- (d) RD3a Ditto Block of four - UHM. Superb! ..... \$400.00
- (e)

MAJOR OFFER RD3a, 1d. Dominion o/p 'VICTORIA LAND' in VVWLH block of four. One stamp includes the variety "No stop after 'Land'". Catalogued in single at \$1000. This is a magnificent piece and at our price a major opportunity for a specialist ..... \$500.00

"The Mulready Envelopes were much ridiculed when they were relased in England in May 1842. A poem of the period said of them:

'Brittania is sending her messengers forth,  
To the east, to the west, to the south, to the north,  
At her feet is a lion wot's taking a nap.  
And a dish-cover rests on her legs and her lap.  
To the left is a Musselman writing a letter,  
His knees form a desk for want of a better ...  
To the right is the King of the Cannibal Islands  
In the same pantaloons they wear in the Highlands.'

'Use the folded sheet, in preference to envelopes, as this saves separating the post-mark from the letter.'" - From The Old Farmer's Almanac, 1857 and The American Philatelist, August 1984

## BONUS OFFER

10% off again for orders received during January - a continuation of this tempting series.

COMMEMORATIVES			Mint	Used	COMMEMORATIVES			Mint	Used
S234	10¢	Stratford Cent.	.30	.20	S272	20¢	Family Life	.40	.30
S235	10¢	Ashburton Cent.	.30	.20	S273	25¢	" "	.50	.50
S234-235		Se-tenant Pr.	.75	.90	S274	30¢	" "	.60	.60
S236	12¢	Telephone Cent.	.35	.30	S275	35¢	" "	.70	.70
S237	20¢	Bay of Is. Cent.	.75	.75	S276	20¢	Royal Wedding	.40	.40
S238	10¢	Ag. Science	.25	.20	S277	20¢	St. Paul's	.40	.40
S239	12¢	" "	.30	.30	S276-277		St-tenant Pr.	1.00	1.00
S240	15¢	" "	.35	.50	S278	20¢	Tauranga Cent.	.40	.40
S241	16¢	" "	.50	.60	S279	20¢	Hawera Cent.	.40	.40
S242	20¢	" "	.60	.80	S280	25¢	SPCA Cent.	.50	.45
S243	30¢	" "	.90	1.00	S281	30¢	Frozen Meat Exp.	.60	.55
S244	12¢	Resources of the Sea	.35	.30	S282	35¢	Yr. of Science	.70	.70
S245	15¢	" " "	.45	.40	S283	20¢	Early NZ Arch.	.40	.35
S246	20¢	" " "	.60	.40	S284	25¢	" " "	.50	.40
S247	23¢	" " "	.70	.50	S285	30¢	" " "	.60	.50
S248	35¢	" " "	1.00	.60	S286	35¢	" " "	.70	.60
S249	10¢	Sir Julius Vogel	.70	.50	S287	35¢	1983 CER	.70	.70
S250	10¢	Sir Geo. Grey	.70	.50	S288	24¢	Salvation Army	.48	.48
S251	10¢	Richard John Seddon	.70	.50	S289	30¢	Auckland Univ.	.60	.60
S252	10¢	Early NZ Arch.	.20	.20	S290	40¢	Rainbow Trout	.80	.80
S253	12¢	" " "	.25	.24	S291	45¢	World Communica- tions Year	.90	.90
S254	15¢	" " "	.30	.30	S292	24¢	Commonwealth Day	.48	.48
S255	20¢	" " "	.40	.40	S293	35¢	" " "	.70	.70
S256	10¢	Int. Yr. Child	.20	.15	S294	40¢	" " "	.80	.80
S257	14¢	25th C'wealth Parl. Conf.	.30	.20	S295	45¢	" " "	.90	.90
S258	20¢	" "	.40	.40	S296	24¢	Rita Angus Ptgs.	.48	.48
S259	30¢	" "	.60	.60	S297	30¢	" " "	.60	.60
S260	14¢	125th Anniv. of First NZ Postage Stamp (Red FFQ)	.28	.28	S298	35¢	" " "	.70	.70
S261	14¢	Ditto (Blue FFQ)	.28	.28	S299	45¢	" " "	.90	.90
S262	14¢	Ditto (Green)	.28	.28	CHRISTMAS STAMPS				
S260-262		Zeapex Min. Sh.	7.50	12.00	SC1	2d	1960	.40	.15
S263	17¢	Rotorua Cent.	.40	.40	SC2	2½d	1961	.40	.10
S264	25¢	Int. Orchid Conf.	.50	.50	SC3	2½d	1962	.40	.15
S265	30¢	World Ploughing Conference	.60	.60	SC4	2½d	1963	.15	.12
S266	14¢	1970 Arch.	.30	.30	SC5	2½d	1964	.15	.12
S267	17¢	" "	.35	.35	SC6	3d	1965	.15	.12
S268	25¢	" "	.50	.50	SC7	3d	1966	.15	.10
S269	30¢	" "	.60	.60	SC8	2½¢	1967	.15	.10
S270	20¢	Feilding Cent.	.40	.35	SC9	2½¢	1968	.15	.10
S271	25¢	Int. Yr. of Disabled	.50	.40	SC10	2½¢	1969	.15	.10
					SC11	2½¢	1970	.20	.10
					SC11	3¢	1970	.25	.10
					SC11	10¢	1970	1.25	1.50

"The 'phone call that I made to your NZ offices was rewarding - I got to talk personally with two of your people who were very pleasant. Sometimes it is nice to personally contact people rather than just by letter." - PMY, Ohio, USA

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SPECIAL OFFER OF THE MONTH

Lot 500 - N41a, 1958 2d. on 1½d. Lake-brown The 2d. surcharge "with stars" error. UNHINGED MINT - an offer literally never to be repeated. Catalogued at \$250 this item is one of the most sought-after "errors" in NZ stamp history. It literally never falls in demand.

All copies absolutely guaranteed. Our offer is to CP Newsletter Monthly subscribers only and is an unbeatable chance to secure a scarce and potentially great item. Orders received in February only - our price ..... \$200.00  
 Note: A block of four is available to the first comer... \$800.00

CLASSIC OFFER OF THE MONTH

Lot 501 - THE REEFTON PROVISIONALS (See illustration front page)  
 Vol. I of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" refers to the £3.8.6d. worth of stamps prepared by misunderstanding at Greymouth and forwarded to Reefton for the use of the Police Sergeant there. "Official" was inscribed in red diagonally and the handstamp "Greymouth Paid 3" in double concentric circle was impressed. Used examples bear the Reefton squared circle with 1907 date. Our example of this "unofficial" official is "unused" and is the 1/- Kea and Kaka (CP listing E18e). It is also the example illustrated in Robson Lowe's "Encyclopaedia" Vol. IV, p.421.  
 Cat. by SG at £1,000 ..... \$2500.00  
 ..... (Approx) US\$1250.00



Work is in progress on Volume VII of The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, to be published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, which will update information on NZ Stamps and Postal History pre-1874.

A special appeal is made to collectors who have examples of the Province of Auckland date stamp with the serial Number 7, to forward details to G.J. ELLOTT, P.O. Box 59-090, Mangere Bridge, Auckland, New Zealand.