

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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NEW ZEALAND AS IT WAS..... by Campbell Paterson

I continue with Mr. W. Pember Reeve's descriptive material as given in 'The New Zealand Shipping Coy's Pocket Book.'

On the subject of the thermal areas Reeves is strangely up to date - considering that what is here transcribed was written over sixty years ago. The thermal district has indeed changed little and what was true then is true today. One inevitable omission is any reference to the harnessing of the natural steam power of Wairakei for the generating of electricity - an important feature these days.

Reeves writes:-

"The township of Rotorua, with its side-shows, Ohinemutu and Whakarewarewa, escaped in the great eruption of Mount Tarawera in 1886 scot-free, or, at any rate, with a light powdering of dust. The place survived to become the social centre of the thermal country, and now offers no suggestion of ruin or devastation. It has been taken in hand by the Government, and is now bright, pleasant, and if anything, too thoroughly comfortable and modern. It is scientifically drained and lit by electricity. Hotels and tiny lodging-houses look out upon avenues planted with exotic trees. The public gardens cover a peninsula jutting out into the lake, and their flowery winding paths lead to lawns and tennis-courts. Tea is served there by Maori waitresses, whose caps and white aprons might befit Kensington Gardens, and a band plays. If the visitors to Rotorua do not exactly 'dance on the slopes of a volcano,' at least they chat and listen to music within sight of the vapour of fumaroles and the steam of hot springs. A steam launch will carry them from one lake to another, or coaches convey them to watch geysers made to spout for their diversion. They may picnic and eat sandwiches in spots where they can listen to muddy cauldrons of what looks like boiling porridge, sucking and gurgling in disagreeable fashion. Or they may watch gouts of dun-coloured mud fitfully issuing from cones like ant-hills - mud volcanoes, to wit.

"For the country around is not dead or even sleeping, and within a circuit of ten miles from Rotorua there is enough to be seen to interest an intelligent sightseer for many days. Personally, I do not think Rotorua the finest spot in the thermal region. Taupo, with its lake, river, and great volcanoes, has, to my mind, higher claims. Much as Rotorua has to show, I suspect that the Waiotapu Valley offers a still better field to the man of science. However, the die has been cast, and Rotorua, as the terminus of the railway and the seat of the Government sanatorium, has become a kind of thermal capital. There is no need to complain of this. Its attractions are many, and, when they are exhausted, you can go thence to any other point of the region. You may drive to Taupo by one coach-road and return by another, or may easily reach Waiotapu in a forenoon. Anglers start out from Rotorua to fish in a lake and rivers where trout are more than usually abundant. You can believe if you like that the chief difficulty met with by Rotorua fishermen is the labour of carrying home their enormous catches. But it is, I understand, true that the weight of trout caught by fly or minnow in a season exceeds forty tons. At any rate - to drop the style of auctioneers' advertisements - the trout, chiefly of the rainbow kind, are very

plentiful, and the sport very good. I would say no harder thing of the attractions of Rotorua and its circuit than this - those who have spent a week there must not imagine that they have seen the thermal region. They have not even 'done' it, still less do they know it. Almost every part of it has much to interest, and Rotorua is the beginning, not the end, of it all. I know an energetic colonist who, when travelling through Italy, devoted one whole day to seeing Rome. Even he, however, agrees with me that a month is all too short a time for the New Zealand volcanic zone. Sociable or elderly tourists have a right to make themselves snug at Rotorua or Wairakei. But there are other kinds of travellers, and holiday-makers and lovers of scenery, students of science, sportsmen, and workers seeking for the space and fresh air of the wilderness, will do well to go farther afield.

"At Rotorua, as at other spots in the zone, you are in a realm of sulphur. It is in the air as well as the water, tickles your throat, and blackens the silver in your pocket. Amongst many compensating returns it brightens patches of the landscape with brilliant streaks of many hues - not yellow or golden only, but orange, green, blue, blood-red, and even purple. Often where the volcanic mud would be most dismal the sulphur colours and glorifies it. Alum is found frequently alongside it, whitening banks and pool in a way that makes Englishmen think of their chalk downs. One mountain, Maunga Kakaramaea (Mount Striped Earth), has slopes that suggest an immense Scottish plaid.

"GEYSERS - But more beautiful than the sulphur stripes or the coloured pools, and startling and uncommon in a way that neither lakes nor mountains can be, are the geysers. Since the Pink and White Terraces were blown up, they are, perhaps, the most striking and uncommon feature of the region, which, if it had nothing else to display, would still be well worth a visit. They rival those of the Yellowstone and surpass those of Iceland. New Zealanders have made a study of geysers, and know that they are a capricious race. They burst into sudden activity, and as unexpectedly go to sleep again. The steam-jet of Orakei Korako, which shot out of the bank of the Waikato at such an odd angle, and astonished all beholders for a few years, died down inexplicably. So did the wonderful Waimangu, the spray of which was sent at least fifteen hundred feet into mid-air. The Waikite Geyser, after a long rest, began to play again at the time of the Tarawere eruption. That was natural enough. But why did it suddenly cease to move after the opening of the railway to Rotorua, two miles away? Mr. Ruskin might have sympathized with it for so resenting the intrusion of commercialism, but tourists did not. Great was the rejoicing when Pohutu, still attentive to public events, broke out in full vigour on the day on which the Colony became a Dominion. Still, there are geysers enough and to spare in the volcanic zone, to say nothing of the chances of a new performer gushing out at any moment. Some are large enough to be terrific, others small enough to be playful, or even amusing. The hydrodynamics of Nature are well understood at Rotorua, where Mr. Malfroy's ingenious toy, the artificial geyser, is an exact imitation of their structure and action. The curious may examine this, or they may visit the extinct geyser, Te Waro, down the empty pipe of which a man may be lowered. At fifteen feet below the surface he will find himself in a vaulted chamber twice as roomy as a ship's cabin, and paved and plastered with silica. From the floor the days of Te Waro's activity steam rushing up into this cavern from below would from time to time force the water there violently upward: so the geyser played. Today there are geysers irritable enough to be set in motion by slices of soap, just as there are solfataras which a lighted match can make to roar, and excitable pools which a handful of earth will stir into effervescence. More impressive are the geysers which spout often, but whose precise time for showing energy cannot be counted on - which are, in fact, the unexpected which is always happening. Very beautiful are the larger geysers, as, after their first roaring outburst and ascent, they stand, apparently climbing up, their effort to overcome the force of gravity seeming to grow greater and greater as they climb. Every part of the huge column seems to be alive, and, indeed, all is in motion within it. Innumerable little fountains gush up on its sides, to curl back and fall earthwards. The sunlight penetrates the mass of water, foam, and steam, catching the crystal drops and painting rainbows, which quiver and dance in the wind. Bravely the column holds up, till, its strength spent, it falters and sways, and at last falls or sinks slowly down, subsiding into a seething whirlpool. Brief is the spectacle, but while it lasts it is 'all a wonder and a wild delight.' "

NEW YEAR LARGESSE'!

Now's your chance! Celebrate the new decade by giving yourself a treat!

For a short season we are conducting a New Year Sale. Look through this list carefully - you will get an 'electric' shock - but be quick in ordering - of many offers there is one only available. Why not use the phone (or telegraph) to be in first!

- NY 1 1d Universal A superb, full gum, immaculate strip of four of the first-ever N. Z. 'penny in-the-slot' issue. The strip is from the 'Dot' plate and is imperf on all sides, save for the usual two large perf holes between each pair of stamps. This is a beautiful piece. Usual price would be about £48+, yours for£35
- NY 2 6d Kiwi Red A glowing block of four mint, perfectly centred, full gum, lovely and in the scarce 'brick-red' shade. Usual price 90/- (SG 100/-) a gift..... 60/-
- NY 3 6d Kiwi (Small size) Official A Plate block (!!) of four (Plate 5) of the perf 14 x 13-13½ issue (SG 072). We can say we have rarely seen this Official Plate block. A little off-centre but very rare. Usual price £20 - a grand chance at£8
- NY 4 Early 'Meter' Mark On small piece of 'Official' envelope two 1d impressions of the 1912 type meter mark (Type 12 in Handbook Vol. 3) in red. These are fine and clear and the wording 'Official Paid NZ, P & S DEPT 1d' makes this a scarce and desirable item. The postmark is 'Wellington 8 J1 '12.' Probably worth at least £10 to the 'Meter' specialist. Price 50/-
- NY 5 4d Chalky Mint While not common in used condition, this stamp (the real chalky) is one of the great rarities of modern N. Z. We believe we are the only dealers in the world ever to advertise singles in mint condition. Apart from our small stock, we have seen it offered (in Plate form only) at auction and by one other dealer. You may think you have this stamp (hope springs eternal) but we invite you to inspect ours (the real thing) and find out whether you have been over-hopeful!
- It will be noted that we are really price slashing on all these New Year offers, but here is something that we simply cannot reduce in price, although we suggest that in terms of rarity, it may be the best bargain of all in the whole of this listing. Here is a chance to get a real rarity at a price that we know cannot be bettered. The 4d Chalky mint, S. G. 786a £75
- Our unconditional guarantee of genuineness goes with the 4d Chalky.
- NY 6 ½d Mount Cook (S. G. 342a) Imperf vertically, pair A very fine clean mint pair, absolutely genuine and desirable. C. P. and S. G. both £15 - yours for £11
- NY 7 1960 9d Flag 'with missing red colour' One of the more spectacular 1960 Varieties - the red being absent means white stars and a 'Union Jack' with St. George and St. Patrick red crosses absent - in short a Union Jack in white and blue only! Our usual price £50, special offer (one only)£40
- NY 8 1d Dominion Jones paper Error - Unsurfaced This is S. G. 520a Cat. £40, C. P. usually £30 - an absolute must for the 'Dominion' fan. Lovely mint condition, absolutely guaranteed by us as from the only half sheet ever issued. Price £20
- NY 9 4d Q. E. Official - Error, 'Printed on the gum' A perfect mint block of four of S. G. 0163a (Cat. £200) for a sensational price. The block.....£50
- NY 10 As above S. G. 0163a, a single (Cat. £50) mint, unmounted £15

Note: Both lots NY 9 and NY 10 are, of course, fully guaranteed, genuine, mint, unmounted - despite the prices!

- NY 11 George VI, 2d on 1½d, 'Re-inserted 2' S. G. 625a the grand variety where an almost completely missing '2' has been replaced in a second operation. We offer this classic variety in mint positional block of four (Cat. S. G. £75+) at the extremely attractive price of ... £57/10/-
- NY 12 As above Again the 're-inserted 2' and again guaranteed genuine, this is a used single stamp, Cat. S. G. £60, showing the new '2' rather widely displaced from the normal position. The used single..... £25
- NY 13 8d Rata, 1960 Pictorial plate rarity We offer here a beautiful plate block of the very scarce 8d Pictorial plate number 1121. This is something of a mystery block in that plate 1121 had a very short life. The old plate combination that had preceded it, '1111' was resumed and lasted until the whole issue was withdrawn. Undoubtedly rare and unpriced in any catalogue, it is a real bargain at (Plate block of 8)...£30
- NY 14 1960 9d Flag, Plate 14A15 This plate number was unknown to us at the time the whole set was withdrawn. Very few can exist and none more attractively priced than this superb block of six. (C. P. Cat. £73) The rare plate block £45
- NY 15 1967 15 cent Tiki Plate block with inverted wmk. We offer the rare plate and imprint block (Cat. \$40 NZ) with the added rare feature of being made up of 12 stamps with inverted watermark (each S. G. Cat. £6). The total Cat. value is thus £72 plus premium for being in plate form. What a gift, at.... £30
- NY 16 1925 Dunedin Exhibition Error The well-known POSTAGE error on the 4d mauve in corner block of four. Guaranteed and in splendid mint condition. The block has been lightly mounted but the variety stamp itself is 'mint unmounted.' S. G. Cat. £15/5/- for the block, a snip at our price..... £10
- NY 17 1961 Q. E. 2½d on 3d 'Abnormal' plate As is generally known, Plates 17 and 18 of this issue normally have wide-spaced (5½ mm) setting of the surcharged value. Plates 19 and 20 normally have the narrow (5 mm) surcharge. Here we have one of the rare abnormalities - Plate 17 with the narrow surcharge. A rare plate block, this is of four stamps. Special New Year price £12
- NY 18 As above The same rare Plate 17 but this time in the attractive 'block of six' form. Again, a very special price £16
- NY 19 As above The same 2½d on 3d but here we offer pairs, mint, one stamp with narrow setting, one stamp with wide setting. These se tenant pairs occurred irregularly on only a very few sheets. While our none-too-large stock lasts we offer: (a) Vertical se tenant pair, mint 32/6
(b) Horizontal se tenant pair, mint 37/6
(c) Block of four, being two horizontal pairs 70/-
- NY 20 6d Kiwi Green - offset on back This is one of NZ's most striking and beautiful offsets (i. e. a reversed print on the back of the stamp which is otherwise normal mint). Here the offset is of maximum clarity, differing little in depth from the normal print. (Now Cat. \$25 NZ)
The scarce and beautiful 6d Kiwi green.. £7/10/-
- NY 21 3d Huia, a rare Mixed perf The very rare 3d Huia, Mixed 11 and 14 perfs, mint. Rarely seen, this stamp (S. G. 407 Cat. £40) is now listed in our C. P. Catalogue at \$120 NZ. One only, to the first to ask £30
- NY 22 ½d Victoria Land The ½d Edward VII overprinted 'Victoria Land' for use by Scott's Last Expedition. Now Cat. £90 by S. G., our copy is in pristine mint condition. The ½d Victoria Land..... £40

NY 23 1960 2d Flower, with black missing. This is certainly one of the most spectacular of the Pictorial missing colours - the omission of the black ink means that the stamp bears no name of the country and no name of the flower. Act quickly and you may get this one! Mint £27/10/-

NY 24 Antarctica Shackleton Expedition A small collection consisting of a New Zealand postcard addressed to J. J. Kinsey postmarked with the British Antarctic Expedition cancellation (Feb 27, 1908) on a New Zealand (not K. Ed. VII Land!) 1d Universal. Also present are photos of Sir Ernest Shackleton outside the Camp and a larger photo of the Shackleton hut at Cape Royds. (This hut still stands). Finally there are two used blocks of four dated 1909. But one of these blocks has the top two overprints out of alignment with the lower two, so proving the point made in the records of the issue that the overprinting was done in two operations. The 'unaligned' block obviously comes from rows 5 and 6 at the centre of the sheets as used! The fine and neat collection..... £35

Jan 1 Second Pictorials A series of varieties on the 1935-43 issues, including ½d Fantail L1a with inverted wmk. M & U; L1b, inverted wmk. M. 1d Kiwi L2a, inverted wmk. M; L2a in the scarce carmine-red shade M; L2c horizontal booklet pair with 'Parisian' ads; L2d with inverted wmk. M; 1½d Maori Cooking, vertical pair with R9/2 and R10/2 re-entries, doubling of the string, M. 2d Whare R2/3 Tekoteko U. 2½d Mt. Cook L5a, L5c and L5d all with inverted wmk. and L5f R1/1 Stalk on flower M. 3d Girl, L6b R6/4 re-entry doubling of the tekoteko, background shading and frame line U plus two good shades of this stamp, both having inverted wmk. 4d Mitre Peak retouch either long 'I' or double 'I' in Mitre, and either a mint or used copy of L7b with inverted wmk. 5d Swordfish L8c, inverted wmk, both M & U. 6d Harvesting again both mint and used copies with inverted wmk. 8d Tuatara, L10b watermark inv. U and L10e R13/10, Broken 8, M. 1/- Tui, four various re-entries showing doubling of frame lines. 2/- Capt. Cook, L13a inverted wmk. U, L13c R1/4 the famous COOK variety both M and U, L13e, the same COOK variety again but on Esparto paper perf 12½ M, L13d R8/2, the constant 'Falling Coconuts' flaw, Used. 3/- Mt. Egmont, L14d inverted wmk. M, the same stamp in two really striking shades (the two listed in the C. P. Catalogue, and really outstanding) M, L14f R5/6 re-entry, doubling of tree trunk at left, L14g R9/4 re-entry, doubling of sky and grass at right. The whole collection catalogues at a minimum of £25 by C. P. listing and provides a wonderful opportunity to start in specialising in these issues. Do not hesitate, we can do this material several times over, and even when the items listed have been exhausted, shall be able to supply some excellent substitutes of equal value. This really is a great chance to acquire varieties in all values from ½d to 3/- (save only the 9d) at a fraction of normal catalogue price. A really bumper lot, not to be missed at special New Year Offer Price of £13/10/- (All stamps will be supplied in envelopes clearly identified).

Jan 2 1d Kiwi Booklet pane C. P. L2c with watermark upright complete with 'Parisian' advertising tabs. Mint pane of six £1

Jan 3 Victorian Varieties The 1d Sideface 1889-98 showed a number of constant plate flaws in printings from one of the plates. Two of the most prominent are R4/6 Rectangular break over ND and dent in lower right frame, and R9/2 White oval patch on the Queen's face. Proof of the long period in which the damaged plate was used is found in this series of stamps, each showing the flaws, one of each flaw in perf 10 (issued in 1890), perf 10x11, and the final perf 11. 6 stamps used 20/-

- Jan 4 1898 Re-entries 28 various re-entries - all but six are used - values to 2/- (2) are included, and the collection makes a very attractive section for specialisation in these popular issues. Five of the later ½d Mt. Cooks are included. All with re-entries£7/10/-
- Jan 5 Penny Universal Basted Mills perf 11 x 14, C.P. G3c, S.G. 330. An impressive block of 15 mint. A lovely piece, immaculate and scarce90/-
- Jan 6 Health Mini-sheets The sheets printed in 1958 can be plated by means of minute constant marks. Here is a set of the 3d+1d blue from the eight positions, each clearly identified and with explanatory notes of the distinguishing features, PLUS one sheet from position 3 with retouched tent. A very attractive lot all ready for writing up and mounting to add tremendous interest to your collection. The set of nine mint mini sheets..... 70/-
- Jan 7 Stationery All unused, First number Startup's listing, second number Robson Lowe. All at 15/- each. Scarce provisionals.
- ½d on 1d Dominion postcard.....61. CP 25.
 ½d on King's Head 1½d postcard..... 62b. CP 27.
 1d Map on obliterated King's Head lettercard..70. LCP 19.
 HALFPENNY on 1d Field Marshal postcard...90. CP 35.

Decimal Coils As was reported in the CP Bulletin for October 1969, the Decimal Coils have, without exception, been badly guillotined, so that all copies that have come to hand have perfs removed. It is still proving very difficult to obtain the coils, and with the withdrawal of this issue later in the year we visualise surplus of some values -with the inevitable cut perfs-but nonetheless scarce and nice items to have in your Decimal Pictorials.

NOW AVAILABLE FROM STOCK.

Set of coil pairs with numbers 1 - 19. Complete with printed wrapper and end papers. 3 cent Puarangi 36/-

As above 4 cent Mountain Daisy48/-

As above but numbers 1 - 29 8 cent Flag.....£7

As above 10 cent Timber (Nos 1 - 19).....£6

As above 15 cent Tiki (Nos 1 - 29)£13/10/-

As above 20 cent Taniwha (Nos 1 - 19)£12

As has been recorded elsewhere, there are considerable differences between the sheet and miniature sheet printings of the Captain Cook stamps. At the risk of going off at half cock, we offer some observations which may be of interest, and on which other philatelists may build.

The notable shade differences between the two printings are occasioned largely by the fact that the 'texture' of the prints is vastly different - an appropriate comparison would be to consider the two printings of the 1/- '1960 Pictorial' from plates 9B 9C and 10B 10C. The mini sheets have a smooth background, while stamps from the big sheets have a coarser 'linen' appearance. This is seen particularly readily in the blue background of the 4 cents and 28 cents. With the 6 cents, the Pale Green of the background on stamps from the big sheets is invariably paler than that on mini-sheet 6 cents, while the Dark Green part is darker, and in the 18 cents, the Pale Brown and the Dark Brown both appear paler in printings from the big sheets than in mini-sheet printings.

Apart from these differences, there are constant flaws appearing in both big sheet and mini-sheet printings. Three different mini-sheets may be distinguished from flaws found on the 4 cent. Can readers tell us of any other distinctive varieties on these sheets?

The constant marks noted on the mini-sheets are:

- 1) A prominent retouch under SIT of 'Transit'.
- 2) A minute blue dot below the N of 'Venus' and another similar dot above the T of 'Transit'.
- 3) A disturbance of the background around the first '9' of 1969.

In our experience, sheet 1 has always appeared with the Tarapex overprint.

Constant varieties have been noted on five stamps from the big sheets:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 4 cent | R8/2 retouched area above the A and I of Captain. |
| 6 cent | R5/1 missing belaying pins towards the ship's stern. |
| 18 cent | R6/6 Q for O in CQOK
R7/8 mark to the right of 'Solander'.
R9/7 retouch above RH of 'rhabdothamnus'. |

We have also noted that on the 28 cent stamp there are slight differences in the letters of TOVYPOENAMMU and AE HEINO MOUWE on each stamp, and an enthusiast could, with patience, probably 'plate' this value from the malformed, mis-shapen and distorted letters.

It is unusual for a commemorative issue to lend itself to a specialised study as this one does. We should be pleased to hear from philatelists who can offer further observations on the series. Meantime, we offer from stock:

	MINT	USED
Set of four, 4c, 6c, 18c, 28c from big sheet	7/-	8/-
Set of four from mini sheet in shades contrasting with the 'big sheet' printing, and distinctive background	7/-	8/-

Mini sheets from the three distinctive types recorded above

Type 1 (All of this type have the Tarapex handstamp)	8/-	9/-
Type 2		8/-
Type 3		8/-

Varieties:	4 cent R8/2 in positional block of six, mint.....	4/-
	6 cent R5/1 block of four, mint	4/6
	18 cent R6/6 and R7/8 both in the same block of six, mint.....	15/-
	18 cent R9/7 block of four, mint	10/-

FIRST SIDEFACES

C. P. Catalogue section 'C' all used. This month we can offer some really superior material from a collection we recently secured. The condition of all stamps is fine throughout; in some cases, really superb, and certainly very much better than is usually seen in these issues.

C. P.	S. G.		
C1a	152	1d lilac p. 12½ (some nice used pairs available pro rata).....	2/6
C1d	178	1d 'Large Star' An attractive used pair of this very scarce item.	50/-
C1e	180	1d perf 12 x 11½	2/6
C2a	153	2d First Sideface. The original issue perf 12½	2/-
C2b	173	2d Three sides perf 12½, one side perf 10. Very good used.....	90/-
C2e	179	2d 'Large Star' wmk	7/6
C2f	181	2d perf 12 x 11½	1/6
Variety	—	2d rose imperf with R. P. S. (New Zealand) certificate	£20
C3a	154	3d Good used copies of the perf 12½	45/-
C3b	161	3d perf 10 x 12½	50/-
C4a	155	4d Fresh, good-lookers available	40/-
C4b	175	4d Irregular compound. Three sides perf 12½, one perf 10 Not-so-fine-used, but a rare one!	75/-
C4d	182	4d Definitely superior copies of the perf 12 x 11½	25/-
C5a	156	6d Both light and dark blue shades available. Each	10/-
C5b	163	6d perf 10 x 12½ and all better than average	20/-
C5c	183	6d perf 12 x 11½. Some very nice copies available at	10/-
C6a	157	1/- perf 12½	40/-
C6b	164	1/- More nice copies of the scarcer perf 10 x 12½	50/-
C6c	184	1/- perf 12 x 11½ (not quite so fine)	25/-
C7a	185	2/- Not as fine as we should like to see, but better than is usual for these, and at time of going to press, both shades available. Each	80/-
C8a	186	5/- Quite acceptable copies of this scarce early High Value	80/-

Jan 8 Postage Due C. P. Y1a - 14a, S. G. 1-16. The original issues of 1899-1902, not common nowadays in complete set (excluding the "a" number varieties).. £10

Jan 9 Chambon Perfs Here's a really striking piece for your collection of 1960 Pictorials! 2d Plate Block of 12 (2251) showing very marked characteristics of Chambon perforations. A very pretty block.
(Several available, so do not hesitate)... 32/6