

MODERN N.Z. PLATE BLOCKS (Contd.) BY CAMPBELL PATERSON

Scarcer George VI Plate Blocks

At the beginning of this series of articles I spoke of N.Z.'s providing many examples of Plate (or Cylinder) blocks that are rare but often lie completely unrecognised — and when found can be of "staggering profitability".

In no group is this more the case than in the George VI stamps; the printers produced a surprisingly large number of plates for all the lower values and among them appeared the almost inevitable "sleepers". The best probably, are the 1d Green Plates 26 and 126. While most of the existing blocks are known and treasured for the rarities that they are, it is possible, indeed very probable, that a few of each exist unrecognised as anything out of the ordinary. Plate 26 in red is not a rarity, though it is one of the best of the reds; it is in green that it is outstanding. I would think that perhaps a dozen Plate 26 blocks are known in green. It seems reasonable to suppose (even if it is impossible to prove it), that Plate 26 being the last laid down for use in red printings may have been used, for colour-trial printings only, in green. The green Plate 26 thus has a special philatelic interest as well as being a rarity. Plate 126, also in green, is a mystery. No Plate 127 has ever been recorded and of 126 only about six are known to me, yet Plates 125 and 128 are common. Presumably something unusual occurred to cause Plate 126 to be very soon discarded and a similar fault may have caused the abandonment of Plate 127 before it even reached completion. So Plates 26 and 126 in green are splendid prizes for the N.Z. enthusiast to watch for. It is long odds against finding either but at least it is pleasing to know that to the average collector they would not appear to be in any way extraordinary, — which gives the specialist a very useful advantage.

Equally good, though here the paper is the main factor are the green Plates 32 and 33 on the fine pre-war paper with horizontal mesh. Here the chances of a find are even more heavily weighted in favour of the knowledgeable collector since not all specialists are willing to make the effort to distinguish between the meshes of the various papers. Both of the plate numbers 32 and 33 are quite common on the vertical mesh paper. How to distinguish "mesh" in papers is carefully described in our C.P. Catalogue. On the scarcer paper we list Plate 32 at £25 and Plate 33 at £50; on the commoner paper neither is worth more than 4/-! Which ought to encourage some to make the small effort necessary to learn how to distinguish papers!

Plate blocks and Imprint Blocks in the original ½d green, 1d red and 1½d brown are always worth preserving; of them the ½d green plates 9 and 10, the 1d red Plates 25 and 26 and the 1½d brown Imprint block are all outstanding in their respective groups; but these differing degrees of scarcity are clearly shown in the price lists of our C.P. Catalogue, so I need not elaborate on them here.

The 1941 Provisionals (S.G.624/5) provide no plate block rarities, in fact the plate numbers were deliberately obliterated for some unknown reason, but it is useful to know that the variety, "re-inserted" 2, in the 2d stamp (one of N.Z.'s finest varieties), occurred on Row 10 No. 10, that is, the stamp on the bottom row which lies immediately to the left of the usual Imprint block of 8. This variety does not properly belong in an article on Plate blocks and Imprints but as I have shown, the Imprint is the best guide as to where to look. I need hardly add that it did not occur on every sheet.

The making of the sort of mental note that I have just described is what distinguishes the keen philatelist from his (inevitably!) "less fortunate" brethren.

With the change in the colours of the three lowest values we find that the original "green" ½d Plates 17, 18 and 19 were all used for the printings in brown. Plates 17 and 19 are quite common but Plate 18, (the number appeared on both right and left selvages), is seldom seen. It must have had a short life in brown.

I have already dealt with the great rarities in the 1d green but there are others which are worth watching for: Plates 50, 53, 84 and 85 spring to mind. For details I have once more to refer readers to the C.P. Catalogue.

(To be continued)

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

"Small Pence" values

N1a 1d black and grey-black, two shades	Mint 5d; Used	4d
N2a 1d yellow-orange, two shades	Mint 8d; Used	4d
N2a 1d booklet stamp with inv. wmk.	per stamp Mint 6d; Used	6d
Complete booklet pane (6) Mint	Upright wmk. 3/6; inv. wmk.	3/6
N3a 1½d brown-lake, two shades	Mint 1/-; Used	8d
N4a 2d green, two shades	Mint 1/3; Used	8d
N5a 3d vermilion, two shades	Mint 10d; Used	4d
Booklet stamp with inverted wmk., per stamp	Mint 1/-; Used	1/-
Complete booklet pane (6) Mint	Upright wmk. 6/6; inv. wmk.	6/6
N6a 4d blue, two shades	Mint 2/-; Used	8d
N7a 6d purple, two shades	Mint 4/-; Used	1/-
N8a 8d carmine, two shades	Mint 2/6; Used	1/9

"Middle" values

N9a 9d brown and green, two shades	Mint 5/-; Used	1/3
N10a 1/- black and carmine/black and deep carmine, two shades	Mint 3/-; Used	6d
N10b 1/- black and carmine. Centre die 1b	Mint	£7/10
N11a 1/6 black and ultramarine	Mint 3/-; Used	6d
N12a 1/9 black and orange, two shades, bright and pale orange		
Mint	12/6; Used	3/-
N12b 1/9 on fine white paper	Mint 6/-; Used	1/3

"Queen on Horseback"

N13a 2/6 brown	Mint 15/-; Used	3/-
N14a 3/- green	Mint 12/6; Used	2/-
N15a 5/- carmine	Mint 10/-; Used	3/-
N16a 10/- blue	Mint 32/6; Used	—

"Large Pence" values 1956-60

On Coarse Paper

N31a 1d orange	Mint 3d; Used	2d
1d booklet stamp with inverted wmk., per stamp	Mint 1/-; Used	1/-
Complete booklet pane (6) Mint	Upright wmk. 5/-; inv. wmk.	6/-
N32a 1½d lake, two shades	Mint 2/-; Used	1/-
N33a 2d green, two shades	Mint 2/-; Used	6d
N34a 3d vermilion. Wmk. upright or wmk. inv. either	Mint 1/-; Used	1/-
Complete booklet pane (6) Mint. Wmk. upright or inv. either		12/6
N35a 4d ultramarine, two shades	Mint 1/6; Used	6d
N36a 6d mauve, two shades	Mint 2/-; Used	6d

On Fine White Paper

N31b 1d orange and red-orange (scarce), two shades	Mint 4/-; Used	4/-
1d booklet stamp with inv. wmk., per stamp	Mint 1/-; Used	1/-
Complete booklet pane (6) Mint	Upright wmk. 5/-; inv. wmk.	6/-
N33b 2d green	Mint 9d; Used	6d
N34b 3d vermilion, two shades	Mint 3/-; Used	1/6
3d booklet stamp with inverted wmk., per stamp	Mint 1/3; Used	1/3
Complete booklet pane (6) Mint	Upright wmk. 6/-; inv. wmk.	6/-
N35b 4d ultramarine	Mint 2/6; Used	6d
N37a 8d light brown, very scarce	Mint 7/6; Used	—

The Provisional Values

N40a 2d on 1½d surcharge dot 4½mm	Mint 6d; Used	2d
Ditto, surcharge dot 3½mm	Mint 6d; Used	2d
N41a 2d on 1½d "small pence" type	Mint 45/-; Used	50/-
N42a 2½d on 3d surcharge 5mm wide	Mint 4d; Used	3d
N42b ditto surcharge 5½mm wide	Mint 4d; Used	3d
Wide and narrow setting in se-tenant pair	Mint 40/-; Used	40/-

345 **Representative set.** One of each value as listed above, a magnificent showing of all the Queen's Heads, Queen on Horseback and surcharges including the 2d surcharge on "small pence" type 1½d (S.G. 763b) and both settings of the 2½d surcharge in se-tenant pair. The "large pence" and 1/9d are included on both coarse and fine white paper, but not the 1/- die 1b, 33 stamps. Mint 180 -

346 **A Similar collection** in used but without the 8d and 10/- which are out of stock (31) £5/5

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Queen on Horseback, used 10/-, C.P. N16a, S.G.736. Our price depends upon quality but for really superb copies we will pay 20/- each

MARINE P.O. CANCELLATIONS

The following items are dealt with on pages 266 to 271 of Vol. III of the Handbook.

- 347 (a) **R.M.S. Niagara**. Cover with postmark **MARINE POST OFFICE N.Z.** and boxed **PACKET BOAT** cancellation 37/6
- (b) **R.M.S. Niagara**. Cover postmarked with later type **MARINE POST OFFICE NEW ZEALAND** 35/-
- (c) **R.M.S. Aorangi**. A rare cover postmarked **MARINE POST OFFICE N.Z. R.M.S. AORANGI**, the stamp cancelled with boxed **PACKET BOAT** 40/-
- (e) **R.M.S. Monowai**. Stamps cancelled with boxed **PACKET BOAT** and postmarked **MARINE POST OFFICE N.Z. R.M.S. MONOWAI**. Cover 37/6
- (f) **"Wavy Bars."** A rare cancellator only in use for three years, used on cover in conjunction with **MARINE POST OFFICE N.Z.** postmark 50/-

All the above Marine P.O. covers are scarce. We are handling a fine collection and in most cases have more than one example of each. Also a few examples of the **R.M.S. NIAGARA MARINE POST OFFICE NEW ZEALAND** are available on piece at 7/6d each.

COVERS FOR ALL !

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- | | | |
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| (a) ANZAC | 27th Apl. 1936 | 3/6 |
| (b) CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE | 1st Oct. 1936 | 10/- |
| (c) CORONATION | 13th May 1937 | 3/- |
| (d) CORONATION | 25th May 1953 | 10/- |
| (e) PLUNKET SOCIETY | 14th May 1957 | 2/- |
| (f) MARLBOROUGH | 2nd March 1959 | 6/- |
| (g) 7d ARMS definitive | 14th Dec 1961 | 1/9 |
| (h) RAIL CENTY | 25th Nov 1963 | 7/- |
| (j) CABLE | 3rd Dec 1963 | 4/- |
| (k) I.T.U. | 17th May 1965 | 2/6 |
| (l) CHURCHILL | 24th May 1965 | 1/3 |
| (m) PARLIAMENT CENTY | 26th July 1965 | 1/3 |
| (n) I.C.Y. | 28th Sept 1965 | 1/3 |
| (o) PARLIAMENT CONF | 30th Nov 1965 | 12/6 |
| (p) SCOUTS | 5th Jan. 1966 | 1/3 |
| (q) KOROMIKO 7d | 16th Jan. 1966 | 1/6 |
| (r) K.G.VI 1½d definitive | 1st Mar. 1938 | 2/6 |
| (s) K.G.VI 1½d definitive | 26th July 1938 | 3/6 |

349 **Philatelic Exhibitions**. Special cancellations connected with various stamp exhibitions. A fine lot on six different covers. Some now quite scarce. (See Vol. IV p 481) 30/-

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Add a new dimension to your collection with beautiful illustrations of N.Z. stamp designs. Most of the pictures are magnificent plate or half plate photographs, in many instances the original source of the design. Some of the pieces would be impossible to repeat today. This material took many years to gather together and much imagination and effort has been devoted to it. Pictures are mounted on album leaves with the stamps to which they refer and where appropriate are well written up with details of the design and "the story behind the stamp." The collection has been broken into lots to suit individual interests. Here is an opportunity to add something really different to your philately.

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- (c) **Q.E. II Pelure paper.** 1d orange C.P.N2a, S.G.724. Printed on very thin paper. Mint 1/6
- (d) **As Above.** 3d vermilion. C.P.N5a, S.G.727. Printed on pelure paper. Mint. Blocks available per stamp 2/-
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- (d) **As Above Q.E. Official** 3d C.P.NO246. S.G.162a with inverted wmk. Mint 15/-
- 355 **Q.E. Coil variety** 1/- horizontal coil pair with number sideways C.P.NC5b, S.G.732Eb, the left hand stamp with the major re-entry Row 4/10, doubling of right frame. Mint pair 60/-
- 356 **ZEALAND.** The major variety S.G.783E V7 (catalogued £10) on the 2d Kaka Beak. C.P.O3a. A nice used copy (fetch more at auction!) 40/-

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