

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD.

Vol. 4 No. 12 JULY, 1967. Issued Monthly. All lots offered subject to being unsold and will be sent on approval to known clients. Complete satisfaction is guaranteed on all lots offered.

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SCARCE N.Z. PLATE BLOCKS (Continued from May)

BY CAMPBELL PATTERSON

One tends to think that rare plate number blocks will mainly be found in the older issues yet as well as the George VI already discussed, the Q.E. period produces an astonishing number of good examples.

Dealing first with the "Small Figures" Q.E. Head stamps and the high values a good item is the cracked Plate No 17 in the 2d N4a (S.G.726). This plate block is found without crack but at its best, the crack in the plate, showing as a ragged line below the "17" is very spectacular; rather as one would expect, the plate had little use in this condition. So the cracked Plate 17 is rare.

The Centre plate "3", used for the 1/- value only, is a real puzzler. Study of dated used copies proves that while the total number of sheets issued to P.O's throughout N.Z. was (for some unknown reason) quite small, it was still a sufficiently wide-spread distribution to allow for keen collectors to get their blocks without too much trouble. This is where the mystery arises, for despite Plate 3 sheets being on sale in numerous places, only one collector (our old friend Stewart Larsen) seems ever to have noticed that a new plate was in use; he found (I believe) two sheets at Eureka in the Waikato. It may be that one or two others were found in out of the way Post Offices, but they really were very few indeed and to-day owners have little trouble in selling the two plate blocks "3A" and "3B" at £100 the two. No record ever seems to have existed at the G.P.O. of the issue of this plate, — a mystery indeed but not so mysterious as the apparent failure of N.Z. collectors to notice what was happening under their noses!

The "small figures" 1½d over printed 2d is of course scarce, being an error issue; naturally the plate number "13" is a scarce block and well worth watching for. However the stamp itself is so well known to be a good one that the odds on finding an unrecognized plate block are not good. Still, it is worth remembering!

Turning to the later redrawn Q.E. stamps with larger figures of value, the 2d Plates 3 and 5 are quite scarce "without dot after the plate number", and all 4d and 8d (brown) plates are worth more than the stamps that are involved — but by far the best in this group are the abnormal plates of the surcharged 2½d on 3d (S.G.804/a). As is generally known, there are two settings of this surcharge, one about 5mm wide, the other a ½ mm wider; the difference is largely in the spacing between the '2', the '½' and the 'D'. The sheets with Plate numbers 17 and 18 normally had the wider surcharge, while Plates 19 and 20 normally had the narrow. But in a very few cases 17 and 18 are found with narrow surcharge and 19, 20 with wide. These are definitely "sleepers" of the rarer kind: — quite unrecognized as in any way abnormal by 99 out of 100 collectors, when found they are worth £20 to £30 each.

Finally, in the "Q.E. Heads" group, mention has to be made of the special "Official" stamps. These are unique in N.Z. issues in being of a special Official design, not overprinted. All Plate numbers of these stamps are scarce as they were not generally available to the public.

CHALON HEADS

- 360 (a) A set of eleven very fine used perf 12½ Chalons (all of the group S.G.110 to 136) — all picked copies. Includes 1d red, 1d brown, 2d blue, 2d orange, 3d lilac, 4d rose, 4d yellow, 6d brown, 6d red-brown, 6d blue, 1/- green. Ideal for the collector who wants a representative set of N.Z.'s first stamps. (11 fine used) £20
- (b) A shorter set, includes 1d red, 1d brown, 2d blue, 2d orange, 4d yellow, 6d red-brown, 1/- green. Another attractive lot. The set of seven £8/10
- (c) As (b) but without 2d orange. The set of six £7/10
- (d) For the collector who wants just one Chalon, a fine copy of the 6d red-brown — the stamp that has been called "The Rembrandt of Philately" 17/6

1935 - 41 PICTORIALS

The first pickings from a collection we are handling.

- 361 (a) **1d Fantail.** A grand collection including a strip showing stamps with letter watermark and no watermark, matched blocks from the un-numbered plate showing R8/3 flaw and without flaw (these in both ordinary and official issues). Plate 1A R8/1 and R8/3 flaws, a block of four in a scarce pale shade, R2/21 flaw in A of ZEALAND, a block with the inverted multiple watermark, and a complete set of plate blocks in both single and multiple watermark. No fewer than 112 stamps. A magnificent study. All Mint..... £8/10
- (b) **1d Kiwi.** The temporary perforation 13½ x 14. C.P.I.2b, S.G.557a. Scarce and undercatalogued. These are off centre but fine unmounted mint. Plate block (B2)..... 90/-
Singles..... £1
- (c) **As above.** A fine collection of the 1d Kiwi including single watermark plate blocks A1, A2, B1, B2 and plate B2 in perf 13½ x 14, complete booklet panes of 6 with "Parisian" ads, with both upright and inverted watermarks, and a vertical strip from plate A1 showing the plate crack and "capped kiwi" variety. In multiple watermark, all plate blocks are included with an additional plate B4 block with inverted watermark, also a complete booklet pane of six. In the "Official" issues we see plate blocks in both single and multiple watermarks, and a strip from plate A1 showing the plate crack and "capped kiwi". 104 stamps all mint..... £10/10

MODERN INEXPENSIVE VARIETIES

C.P.	S.G.		
T25a	719 V18	1953 Health 1½d. R2/10 Leg flaw (Positional block of 4).....	7/6
T30b	765	1958 Health 3d. Two Miniature sheets, one normal, one showing retouched tent. (2 sheets).....	27/6
T31b	777	1959 Health 3d. Miniature sheet, every stamp showing a major shift of the pink printing. Spectacular (sheet).....	250/-
T35b	816 V9	1963 Health 3d. R3/5. The major flaw on hand in its scarce original (unretouched) state. (positional block of 9).....	75/-
T35b	—	1963 Health. Prince Andrew with the prominent constant variety "extra shirt button". Complete miniature sheet.....	6/-
T38a	839	1966 Health. 3d. R3/7 the word BIRD is blurred and R4/10 retouch above E of HEALTH. Two constant varieties in positional block of eight.....	8/6
T38b	840	1966 Health 4d Weka. A striking but mysterious "cap on the weka" occurring on the top row of a few sheets. In vertical pair with normal and with top selvage.....	90/-
06a	786	4d Hibiscus R9/9 Tail on D of ZEALAND. Positional block of eight.....	7/6
08a	788	6d Pikiarero R8/7 Retouch of 1 in PIKIARERO. Positional block of 18.....	17/6
09a	789	8d Rata R1/1 damaged leaf. Single stamp with selvage.....	6/-
012a	791	1/- Timber. Doctor blade flaw. Striking and attractive. Block of six, the flaw horizontally across two stamps.....	17/6
S53a	695	6d Otago R6/6. The "machine gun on tower" variety in block of four.....	6/6
S72a	758Ea	4d Lamb. Watermark inverted Mint or Used.....	20/-
S73a	759	8d Lamb. R8/11 white line above the first 8 of 1882. Positional block of 6.....	32/6
S75a	766 V4	6d Tasman flight. Re-entry in star.....	15/-
S81a	772 V17	2d Marlborough R14/3. Retouching of sky. Nice used singles.....	5/-
S82a	773	3d Marlborough. Partial double perfs in block of 6.....	8/6
S82a	773	3d Marlborough R1/6 Major retouching in the water above the bullock's head from plate 1 with dot. Positional block of 4.....	8/6
S93a	821 V12	3d Road Safety R3/2 Apostrophe flaw in positional block of 6.....	10/-
S94a	826 V15	4d Anzac R9/4. Sail on the water.....	3/6
S99a	833 Ei	4d L.C.Y. Watermark inverted.....	30/-

LIFE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

We wager there are few of our readers with a complete showing of these stamps, but no collection is complete without them. Here is an unusual opportunity to secure a fine selection from the finest run we have offered for some time.

Jan 1913. De La Rue Paper. Perf 14 x 15.

C.P.	S.G.		MINT
X7a	1026	½d green ...	1/3
X8d	1027	1d red ...	4/-
X9a	1029	1½d black ...	5/6
X9b	1030	1½d brown ...	8d
X10b	1031	2d purple ...	7/6
X10c	1031a	2d yellow ...	2/-
X11a	1032	3d brown ...	10/-
X12a	1033	6d pink ...	6/6

1925 Cowan Paper. Perf 14 x 15.

C.P.	S.G.		MINT
X7b	1026	½d yellow-green ...	3/-
X8c	1027	1d carmine pink ...	5/-
Cowan Paper Perf 14.			
X7c	1034	½d pale green ...	1/-
X8f	1036	1d scarlet ...	1/6
X10d	1037	2d orange-yellow ...	1/-
X11b	1038	3d chocolate ...	1/3
X12b	1039	6d pink ...	6/6

1937 Wiggins Teape Paper. (Vertical Mesh). Perf 14 x 15.

C.P.	S.G.		MINT
X7d	—	½d pale yellow green ...	4d
X8g	1027	1d scarlet ...	1/6
X12c	—	6d deep pink ...	3/6

1944-47 Multiple Watermark.

C.P.	S.G.		MINT
X7e	1040	½d yellow green ...	3/-
X8h	1041	1d scarlet ...	1/-
X10e	1042	2d orange yellow ...	1/-
X11c	1043	3d chocolate ...	2/-
X12d	1044	6d pink ...	3/6

A complete collection, one of each stamp listed above, each issue separate and clearly identified. A grand representative set..... 65/-

Simplified set ½d, 1d, 1½d brown, 2d, 3d, and 6d. Six mint..... 10/6

1947 - 63 "Pictorial" Lighthouses

C.P.	S.G.		MINT
X13a	1045	½d Castlepoint.....	2/6
X14a	1046	1d Taiaoroa.....	2d
X15a	1047	2d Cape Palliser.....	3d
X16a	1047	2½d Cape Campbell.....	4d
X17a	1048	3d Eddystone.....	4d
X18a	1049	4d Stephens Island. Orange and Brown.....	1/-
X18b	—	4d Deep Orange and Dark brown.....	6d
X19a	1050	6d The Brothers.....	8d
X20a	1051	1/- Cape Brett.....	1/3
Set of seven including the scarce ½d and both printings of the 4d. Mint.....			6/-

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER

Nice to have just one specimen of a "two perf" pair. Through a keen bulk purchase, we are able to offer the 8d indigo K.G.V. at a very attractive price. To all customers buying stamps from this Bulletin priced at 50/- or over, we offer a vertical pair, top stamp perf 14 x 13½, lower stamp 14 x 14½ (C.P.K10c, S.G.515b) Mint..... 8/6

COVERS FOR THE POSTAL HISTORIAN

362 **Edward VII** C.P.5b, S.G.457 used on cover for the registered postal rate. An unusual item nice to have on cover..... 8/6

363 **Official Stamps.** These are seldom found on cover and make an attractive addition to any collection.

C.P.	S.G.		
(a) K018a	096	K.G.V. 2d yellow official used on cover.....	5/-
(b) O1.2d	0125	1d Kiwi official used on cover.....	5/-
(c) O11a	0138	K.G.VI. ½d green official used on cover.....	5/-
(d) O12a	0139	K.G.VI. 1d scarlet official used on cover.....	5/-
(e) O16a	1052	K.G.VI. 2d yellow official used on cover.....	5/-

364 **First Day Covers.** All good ones and scarce! Complete sets of the commemoratives in each case.

(a) SILVER JUBILEE	7th May 1935 (A rarity).....	50/-
(b) LAMB	15th Feb 1957.....	12/6
(c) HAWKES BAY	3rd Nov 1958.....	10/6
(d) MARLBOROUGH	2nd Mar 1959.....	10/-
(e) WESTLAND	16th May 1960.....	15/-

1959 RED CROSS VARIETIES

An interesting and attractive selection of constant flaws on the popular C.P.S84a, S.G.775, all in positional blocks.

R/II	Small circle on tip of Greenland.....	5/-
R7/5	Major retouch on West coast of Greenland.....	5/-
R12/2	Extra island in the Falklands group.....	5/-
R11/6	Retouches in the Falklands group.....	5/-
R13/6	The prominent coloured vertical line through the flag. A notable flaw which was noticed after only a few sheets had been printed. The plate was withdrawn from use and retouched. This is a major rarity. The original state in positional block.....	£18/10
	Variety Double perf. A block of six showing partial double perfs. A nice piece to have.....	40/-

1936 - 41 1d KIWI BOOKLET

- 367 A complete booklet, including four panes of 6 of C.P.L2d, S.G.578, with interleaving of advertisement panes and covers, all "exploded" and mounted neatly and attractively on album leaf..... 45/-

POSTAL STATIONERY

- 365 (a) **Unused.** A representative selection covering all reigns, with 5 envelopes, 2 newspaper wrappers, 1 letter card, 1 registered envelope and 15 post-cards, including scarce provisionals. 24 items..... 120/-
- (b) **Used** A collection of envelopes, letter-cards, registered letters with many provisionals and postcards including earlier rarely found used. 28 items... 130/-
- (c) **Registered Letter.** The rare provisional of 1953, R.L. RP24. Fine used and a good item to have..... 17/6

NOT NEW ZEALAND

- 366 **Postcards.** One side is blank for the address and correspondence, the other shows in natural colour a philatelic gem such as a mint block of Cape Triangulars, 1d Blacks on a Mulready cover, U.S. "Postmasters", Post Office Mauritius and mint blocks of Swiss Cantonals. Suitable for framing, for display (the stamps illustrated are worth hundreds of thousands of pounds), for correspondence, or just to enjoy, pleasing to philatelists and non-collectors alike. 12 different, post free..... 9/-

THIS MONTH'S SECOND SPECIAL OFFER

All customers buying goods to the value of £5 or more from this Bulletin are invited to order the scarce £1 rose S.G.646a, cat £10, at a favourable price. This stamp was issued in 1958 and was superseded within two years by the £1 geyser of the Pictorial Set. The scarcest of all the £1 Arms. Perf 14 x 13½. Mint.....

£6

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