

N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENTS BY CAMPBELL PATERSON

The Plate Block Lucky Packet

When I was young we used to be able to buy, for a penny or two, envelopes called "Lucky Packets". In them we found small trinkets of no real value and a few cachous or other sweets dear to a child's heart. Just occasionally the packet would contain something of better quality, a sixpenny piece or similar surprise, and great was the joy of the finding!

I doubt if many collectors of N.Z. — other than those who collect them — realise that in its plate blocks N.Z. presents a "Lucky Packet" of sometimes truly staggering profitability. I do not say that one can be sure of striking a "Jack-pot" very often, but that the chance is there I intend to demonstrate in this article. Of course the chance is open only to collectors who have the knowledge (easy enough to acquire, as it is there to see in our Catalogue), but it is amazing how many collectors prefer to continue in ignorance rather than do a little study.

Collectors of plate blocks will find the following notes of interest and to those who do not collect such blocks I would advocate a memorising of the list in anticipation of that joyful moment when a rare block — unheralded, unrecognised and unsung — suddenly hands them a prize of heart-warming proportions! To the collector forearmed with knowledge this is almost certain to happen in time, provided he gets around and keeps his eyes open.

For the uninitiated (who are equally able to join in the fun), I should explain that for the purpose of this article a "plate block" is a block of stamps taken from a complete sheet and showing on its selvedge (which **must** be intact) the plate number or cylinder number of the plate or cylinder used to print the sheets. It is my general practice to use the name "plate" to cover both flat and cylindrical plates. Since both kinds **are** plates there is no reason to differentiate unless the method of printing is the point of interest. Most N.Z. sheets since 1916 have carried "plate numbers". It will be readily understandable that in the event of a certain plate having proved defective and having been withdrawn after little use, any plate blocks from that particular plate will be rare. And, yet there be no doubt, such rarities are valuable.

I have in mind to mention only those plate blocks which are rare solely because of their particular plate number. There is no use my listing a plate like the current £1 which is not rare but which is worth good money simply because the stamps involved are pricey. I will be drawing attention to the sort of block that does not apparently rate a second glance — being made up of common or relatively common stamps.

Early plates

Starting at the beginning, I need not over-emphasize the W1, W2, R1 and R2 plates of the 1d Universal, nor the "New Plates" 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the ½d Mt. Cook of 1907/08. These are all pretty obviously good property as are the neat plate numbers of the redrawn 3d, 6d and 1/- Pictorials of the same period. What may not be known so well is that in both the ½d Mt. Cook and the 1d Universal blocks can be found showing that plate numbers were at times scratched by hand tool on the previously unmarked edge of the plates — thus being visible, if often faint, on the selvedge. As well as numbers, the plates were sometimes given small punch holes, appearing as dots of colour on the selvedge. The "Royle" Universals are found with differing numbers of dots to indicate the printer's identification number for each plate. These dots were not of course on the same plates as the "trial plates" R1 and R2.

Occasionally blocks of Edward VII are found with similar selvedge "plate dots" showing that punch marks were added to the margins of the plates. Little is known of these and they are very rare.

George V plates

In the George V Engraved issues a plate number appeared at top left of each sheet. These are excellent property but obvious enough — except that some are rare or very rare in one perf, while being common in another perf. For example all the 1½d, 2d, 3d and 6d sheets printed on the Pictorial paper were later trimmed as to margins and it is quite unusual to find a good complete plate number. They are an underestimated group.

The next "sleeper" to be memorized (very carefully too!) is the George V 4d purple, Plate 44 perf (14 x 13½). This is a very common plate in the other perf (14 x 14½)

so that it is almost always unrecognized in the 14 x 13½ as the great rarity that it is. With some satisfaction (excusable I hope!) I recall that I was able many years ago publicly to deduce (from the existence of stamps with the re-entry R3/8, perf 14 x 13½), that this plate number **must** exist, though at the time I had never seen one, nor apparently had anyone else. The Handbook Vol 1 (page 312, first paragraph) states in effect (and erroneously) that the top halves of Plate 44 sheets were **never** perf 14 x 13½. This Plate Block 44, perf 14 x 13½, is a real "trap for young players" and a great joy when one finds it. We catalogue it at £25 but I would be prepared to pay the full £25 for a block right now.

In the 5d George V there were three colours (or if you like, three shades of blue), even if S.G. list only two of them. All 5d Plates are good but the Plate 43, perf 14 x 14½ (note the perf!) is much rarer in the **light blue** shade than in the other shades, ultra-marine and steel-blue.

In the 6d George V, of the four plates the early ones, 22 and 23 are both highly desirable, being much scarcer than the later 37 and 38; but of course Plate 37 in **carmine-lake** is a pearl of great price.

A similar situation obtains in the 1/- George V. Here there are four plates again. The original two, Plates 26 and 27, are rare compared with the later 41 and 42 but Plate 42 in the pale "salmon" colour is rare, while Plate 41 in "orange-brown" is fabulous. I do not recall ever having seen one though it must be presumed that one or two exist. Any offers?

That covers the rare plates of George V but in later issues similar "sleepers" abound. I will deal with them in later notes.

I need hardly stress that we as a firm are keen buyers of the type of plate block covered by this article. Where to the general dealer one N.Z. plate is much the same as another we, as specialists, know the good ones and are willing to pay enhanced prices for them.

"STAMP COLLECTING" February 24th 1967

At the end of February, "Stamp Collecting" are producing a special New Zealand edition. This is an indication of the tremendous current interest in N.Z. philately and no doubt many "Bulletin" readers will want this number of "S.C.". Included will be special N.Z. features, articles of lasting interest, and of course C.P. Ltd will be advertising top class material from the most extensive N.Z. stock in the world.

1898-1908 PICTORIAL ISSUES

Once again we are handling a fine lot of these issues. Every item is in fine condition, and without exception, these are stamps you will be proud to own.

297 ½d. Mt. Cook (C.P.E1a, S.G.246-248)		
Two contrasting shades.....	Mint 3/-; Used	1/6
298 1d Lake Taupo (C.P.E2a, S.G.249-250)	Two fine shades. Mint 3/-; Used	1/-
299 1d White Terraces (C.P.E3a, S.G.297-299)		
An elusive stamp in mint.....	Mint 3/6; Used	2d
300 (a) 1½d Boer War Perf 11 (C.P.E4a) Brown (S.G.300).....	Mint 30/-, Chestnut (S.G.301).....	Mint 5/-, Pale chestnut (S.G.302).....
(b) Perf 14. C.P.E4b, S.G. 378. Mint.....		3/6
301 2d Pembroke Peak (C.P.E5a, S.G.251).....	Mint 4/6; Used	4d
302 (a) 2d Pembroke Peak reduced size/perf 11. (C.P.E6a, S.G.303-305)		
Three contrasting shades.....	Mint 7/6; Used	1/6
(b) 2d Perf 14 (C.P.E6b, S.G.397-381). Three shades mint.....		2/6
303 2½d blue. The "error" Wakitipu (C.P.E7a, S.G.253-254)	This stamp was hoarded in mint condition because of the error in spelling, and used copies are consequently not common. We have a good stock of fine genuinely used at present.	
(a) Two used shades.....		15/-
(b) Bright sky blue offered in singles or blocks of four used, per stamp.....		8/-
304 (a) 2½d blue Wakitipu (C.P.E8a, S.G.255).....	Mint 3/6; Used	2/6
(b) 2½d Perf 11 No Watermark (C.P.E8b, S.G.272-273)		
Two shades.....	Mint 7/6; Used	3/6
(c) 2½d Perf 11 Wmk. NZ and star (C.P.E8c, S.G.352-353)		
Blue.....	Mint 4/-; Used	3/-
(d) 2½d Perf 14 Wmk. NZ and star (C.P.E8d, S.G.383)		
Deep blue.....	Mint 2/6; Used	1/6

305 (a) 3d brown Huia (C.P.E9a, S.G.257).....	Mint 3/-; Used	1/6
(b) 3d Perf 11 no watermark C.P.E9b, S.G.274-275. The two shades.....	Mint 6/-; Used	2/6
(c) 3d Perf 11 Wmk NZ and star C.P.E9c, S.G.354-356 Three outstanding shades. Mint.....		10/6
(d) 3d Perf 14 Wmk NZ and star C.P.E9d, S.G.384-386 Three fine shades Mint.....		20/-
306 (a) 3d Huia reduced size (C.P.E10a, S.G.430) perf 14....	Mint 8/6; Used	3/6
(b) 3d perf 14 x 13-13½ C.P.E10b, S.G.435-436. Brown and Yellow-brown Two shades Mint.....		12/6
(c) 3d perf 14 x 15 C.P.E10c, S.G.442. Brown.....	Mint 6/-; Used	2/6
307 4d rose, White Terraces Three contrasting shades Mint.....		15/-
308 (a) 4d blue & brown, Lake Taupo (C.P.E12a, S.G.307-309) Three fine shades.....	Mint 15/-; Used	5/-
(b) 4d perf 11 Wmk NZ and star C.P.E12b, S.G.357.....	Mint 4/6; Used	9/-
(c) 4d perf 14 Wmk NZ and Star C.P.E12c, S.G.387-389 The three shades.....	Mint 9/-; Used	6/-
(d) 4d perf 14 x 13-13½ Wmk NZ and star C.P.E12f, S.G.437, Mint or Used		10/-

CHOICE AND RARE FOR THE POSTAL HISTORIAN

316

- (a) **Entire from Auckland 1846** A fine clean cover with superbly clear strike on the front of the rectangular framed 'PAID AT AUCKLAND', one of the great rarities of N.Z. Postal History. The type that will be in our next Catalogue supplement. The date-stamp, NEW ZEALAND MAY 26 1846, on the back and the London receiving-mark 2 NO 1846, show the cover took over five months in transit. A postal history item. £45
- (b) **Crowned Circle** A good impression on piece of the marking "PAID AT AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND" in "Crowned Circle", with beside it a manuscript note "Detained for Postage" which has subsequently been over-written "Paid". On the back we see an example of the quaint economy of writing a letter both horizontally and vertically on the paper to keep to a minimum the number of sheets used. A piece of unusual interest at an attractive price..... 85/-

309 (a) 5d Otira Gorge (C.P.E13a, S.G.261) Sepia, Mint.....		65/-
S.G.262 brown.....	Mint 12/6; Used	4/-
(b) 5d perf 11 no watermark (C.P.E13b, S.G.276-277) Chocolate or red-brown.....	Mint 10/-; Used	2/6
(c) 5d perf 11 Wmk NZ and star. C.P.E13c, S.G.358-359) Red brown.....	Mint 10/-; Used	6/-
Deep brown.....	Mint 10/-; Used	2/6
310 (a) 6d Kiwi Red perf 11 no watermark (C.P.E14c, S.G.311-312) The two shades, rose and scarlet. Mint or used.....		10/-
(b) The rare double print S.G.311a Single or horizontal pair with printing clearly doubled about 5mm away from the original impression. Beautiful appearance & outstanding condition. Mint.....		£35
(c) As above. Another striking example of this variety. Very fresh and bright but not quite perfect so greatly reduced to.....		£12/10
311 (a) 6d on Provisional Paper (C.P.E14d) see the note above S.G.415. Blocks of four showing watermark of letters from part of the words LIS-BON SUPERFINE which occur once only on each sheet, Mint.....		70/-
(b) As above Unwatermarked singles on the distinctive Provisional Paper. Mint or Used.....		15/-
312 (a) 6d perf 11 Wmk NZ and star (C.P.E14e, S.G.361-362) Rose and rose-red, two shades Mint.....		10/-
A selection of used shades available, each.....		1/6
(b) 6d perf 14, Wmk NZ and star (C.P.E14g, S.G.392-393) Pink or rose-carmine, each.....	Mint 15/-; Used	3/6
313 6d, reduced size perf 14. (C.P.E15a, S.G.431-432) Carmine pink or red or red Mint.....		10/-
314 Plate proofs: An attractive selection at a low price including ½d Mt. Cook, 1d Terraces, (1 magenta, 1 orange) 2d small size in black, 9d, plus ½d Mt. Cook and 2d Pembroke Peak with vertical perfs.....		40/-

- 315 **Covers:** Historic items, all over 60 years old and including both plates of ½d green Mount Cook, perf and shade varieties of the small 2d Pembroke Peak, 3d Huia, 4d Taupo and 6d Kiwi. Every one is on cover, with a fine range of postal markings. 15 covers, 24 stamps..... 65/-

A MISCELLANY

- 291 **Long Fiscals:** Unused Stamps which have always been scarce. A fine lot including 2/-, 3/-, 4/-, 6/-, 7/-, 7/6, and 8/-, a nice simplified set of eight.... 110/-
- 292 **George V:** Recess printed 4d yellow C.P.K5a S.G.483a. A few sheets were perforated 14 x 13½ throughout the sheet instead of the more usual 14 x 13½ for the top four rows and 14 x 14½ for the lower six. We offer "proving pieces" of the 14 x 13½ perf in blocks of four with bottom selvage. MINT..... £1
- 293 **Booklet stamps:** An attractive collection of material seldom seen, including a pair of proofs of the DOMINION booklet pane and a pair of proofs of the Field Marshal booklet pane. The stamps include mint 1d Dominion, 1d Field Marshal, ½d K.G. V. De la Rue and ½d K.G. V. Cowan reversed watermark, all single stamps from booklets with side selvage. 7 items which will "add something different" to your collection..... 60/-
- 296 **Auckland Exhibition 1913.** One of the classics of New Zealand Commemorative sets, and as such constantly in demand and rising rapidly in price. Now £10. 17. 6d. in S.G. but could be much more next year. Complete set of four mint..... £8/17/6

Half-penny Newspaper Stamp

- 288 **Letter Watermarked 1892:** Strips and single stamps each watermarked with a different letter, the whole forming the words NEW ZEALAND (in reverse of course). An extraordinary series of 10 stamps, fine used..... 30/-

1962 3d. Telegraph Centenary: Varieties

- 289 **A series of flaws and retouches.** Two are catalogued by S.G. but all are outstanding and of equal importance.....
- (a) Block of 4 including R14/1 green line on hand. (S.G.810, V8)..... 20/-
- (b) Block of 4 including R11/2 green spot on hand. (S.G.810, V13)..... 25/-
- (c) Block of 6 including R15/4 retouch above EA..... 7/6
- (d) Block of 4 including R19/4 retouch below board and R20/3 retouch between W and Z..... 10/-
- (e) Eight varieties. The four offered above, and four others, all identified, clearly visible, and of major importance. One set only available..... 65/-

290 Postmark Collections all Under £2

Attractive lots of selected postmarks have been specially made up to add background and interest to your collection. Several have been prepared at the same price and as we anticipate they will be popular, please give alternatives.

You are invited to see anything that interests you on approval without obligation. Any items not giving full satisfaction may be returned with no reasons given.

- (a) **Second Sideface 2d lilac:** A fine selection of duplex, letters, numbers, squared circle and coin type postmarks. Historic 19th Century material, 50 stamps..... 37/6
- (b) **Penny Universals on Covers:** A grand collection from 1901 to 1907 every one an uncommon postmark, with many different types represented, not to mention the range of backstamps and transit marks. 14 covers including items in use for only a limited period..... 37/6
- (c) **A selection:** Stamps and pieces including Loose Letter, R.T.P.O., Naval, Military, Parliament Buildings, Exhibition and others, 19th Century to modern. An unusual lot of more than average interest. 20 items..... 37/6
- (d) **English Place Names:** Modern N.Z. covers specially selected for postmarks which include Epsom, Hastings, Sheffield, Birkenhead, Cambridge, Sandringham. Altogether 17 names with English associations (A beginning for a new sideline collection?)..... 37/6
- (e) **Modern Selection Covers galore!** Every lot guaranteed to include out-of-the-way Maori names, scarcer slogans, inverted machine date, Stores' Post Offices and Forces markings. Including recent Healths & Commemoratives, the catalogued value of the stamps alone must be as much as we are asking for each bundle of 45 covers..... 37/6

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