

N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENTS BY CAMPBELL PATERSON

Plate Blocks of unusual rarity

N.Z. Plate Blocks of unusual rarity. I continue this series of notes with the 3d 1935 Pictorial, (S.G.561). The 3d with Single watermark in plate block is extremely rare. The only plate ever used, (numbered "2"), had the number engraved so low on the plate that it was trimmed off the vast majority of sheets. The very few that survived are excellent property. In the Multiple watermark sheets (S.G.582), a larger proportion were issued with the number intact but they are not common.

In the rest of the 1935/47 set rarities that mostly lie unrecognised and frequently sell "for a song" are not numerous but are well worth memorising.

4d Mitre Peak. Look for a bottom strip of ten stamps (or the whole sheet) showing plate numbers 3-2A or 3-2B. In the "perf 12½" these are not scarce and in the "perf. 14" they are scarce only because the stamps (S.G.583b) are themselves scarce; but in the common stamp, perf. 14 x 14½ (S.G.583c), these plate numbers are so scarce that many specialists lack them. They are probably undercatalogued at £10 each.

With the 5d Swordfish, Multiple watermark, it so happened that the introduction of a new plate "2" coincided with the first usage of the poor wartime quality paper, coarse in texture and readily recognised as different from the earlier smooth papers. But the original plate "1" did see some small use on the coarse paper and sheets from it were perfed both 12½ and 14 x 13½. So Plate Blocks from Plate 1 on the coarse are always good, in either perf. We catalogue them at £6 each in our C.P. Catalogue.

In the 8d Tuatara a "sleeper" plate block of a different nature should be watched for. It is Plate 3 of S.G.586b with the top right stamp of the block showing as a much deeper impression (darker in colour) than the adjacent stamps. Where all four stamps are of equal depth the block is not scarce. This difference results from a re-entering of the mentioned stamp (and others) very late in the life of the plate. A whole sheet with these late re-entries would be a very nice find.

In the 2/- Captain Cook the prime rarity in plate block form is of course S.G.589b (because of the rarity of the stamps themselves); another good one to watch for is Plate Block "1" in the final perf., 14 x 13½. The other two plates, "2" and "3" are commoner.

Finally in the 1935 set we have the 3/- Mt. Cook; the "sleeper" to watch for is Plate 1, perf 13½ x 13½. A word of caution is necessary here. S.G. list 590b as "perf 14 x 13½" but in fact this listing covers two perfs, 14½ x 13½ and 13½ x 13½. The latter, (the scarcer), can be recognised either by gauge or by the fact that its horizontal perfs extend to the edges of the sheets on both right and left; in the "14½" the side selvages are imperf.

These notes will be continued as space permits.

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1874 - 1898 SIDEFACE ISSUES

In continuing our listing of these issues, we start with some items which specialists should not overlook.

FIRST SIDEFACES

- 330 (a) **Specimen Stamps.** The 1d and 2d First Sidefaces p 12 x 11½ with "SPECIMEN" overprint diagonally in mauve. The two (unused of course!)..... 35/-
- (b) **Variety Imperf.** 1d lilac. A single used copy, imperf with such enormous margins that it looks good, but not recorded, so sold "as is". Wmk N.Z. and star. A nice variety to have — see it on approval..... 45/-
- (c) **As above.** Imperf 1/- . An unused copy with wide margins all round, not previously recorded, probably a plate proof and a "must" for the specialist..... 30/-

SECOND SIDEFACES

- 331 (a) **1890 - 1891, 2½ and 5d.** The two additional values of this series, introduced to meet the U.P.U. postal rates of 2½d per ½oz. on foreign letters. Plate proofs of the two values in black, imperf. The two..... 50/-
- (b) **Unissued 2½d.** Red-brown was selected as the colour for this value, but to conform with U.P.U. ruling this had to be changed to blue. One sheet in the original colour was retained, the remainder destroyed. 2½d red-brown imperf. on paper watermarked N.Z. and star. Only 240 ever existed, each..... £7/10
- (c) **1895 ½d Plate Proof.** This value is not commonly found. On cream unwatermarked paper in black. A choice item..... 25/-
- (d) **Second Sidefaces.** A series of plate proofs. 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, (both dies) 8d and 1/- . The eight in black 90/-
- 332 **Variety double perf.** 5d (C.P.D7a, S.G.196) with double perf. at bottom. Mint..... 30/-

1893 ADS ON SIDEFACES

In the past we have offered these popular items in sets and reconstructed sheets. Here is an opportunity to acquire the odd values you need. Approvals of used stamps can be submitted in most values with a selection of all different adverts.

D2e 1d p 12 x 11½ advert in red-brown, one used pair available at 40/-

	M	U		M	U
D2j 1d p 10 advert in blue	—	4/6	D5e 3d p 10 advert in brown or mauve	15/-	5/-
advert in green	—	6/-	D6e 4d p 10 advert in brown or mauve	17/6	4/6
advert in mauve or red brown	5/-	2/6	D7d 5d p 10 advert in red	20/-	10/-
D3g 2d p 10 advert in brown	—	4/-	D8h 6d p 10 advert in mauve	—	5/-
advert in green	—	4/-	D10e 1/- p 10 advert in red brown	—	10/-
advert in mauve or red brown	6/-	2/6			
D4e 2½d p 10 advert in green	—	15/-			
advert in mauve or red	20/-	8/6			

1898 - 1906 PICTORIALS

We continue our listing of this series with a selection of the Official issues.

C.P. EP13b, S.G.054. The scarce O.P.S.O. overprint in purple on the 5d chocolate Otira Gorge. A very fine copy of this rarity and guaranteed genuine. £7/10

C.P.	S.G.		Mint	Used
OE6b	061	2d purple.	9d	4d
OE6b	062	2d bright purple	9d	4d
OE9d	063	3d bistre brown	3/6	—
OE14g	064a	6d pink Imperf between pair	£25	£25
OE15b	072	6d Kiwi pink 14 x 13	45/-	15/-
OE15c	071	6d Kiwi pink 14 x 15	15/-	—
OE18e	065	1/- red	10/-	5/-
OE20e	066	2/- green	12/-	—
OE21e	067	5/- Mt. Cook	—	45/-
OE21f	—	5/- wmk upright	£7	—

C.P.OE15b, S.G.072 Plate block. The Small Kiwi "official" 6d, p 14 x 13 in corner block of four with scarce plate number 5 in top selvage. Mint..... £17

VARIETIES ON THE 1882 - 1898 1d. SIDEFACE

Two major flaws appeared on the plate of the 1d value. On row 9/2 a flaw is found on the head, probably as a result of a screw-driver being dropped on the plate. On Row 4/6 a large white flaw developed in the top frame.

FLAW ON HEAD				FLAW IN FRAME			
		M	U			M	U
D2j	1d perf 10	—	3/6	D2j	1d perf 10	—	3/6
D2k	1d perf 10 x 12½	70/-	—	D2m	1d perf 10 x 11	—	2/6
D2m	1d perf 10 x 11	6/-	2/6	D2p	1d perf 11	3/6	2/-
D2p	1d perf 11	3/6	2/-				

"PENNY DOMINION" VARIETIES

C.P.	S.G.			
J1a	450	Offset on back. Brilliant mint with clear offset.....	10/-	
		"Cracked Globe" variety.....	Used	4/-
		"Feather" variety.....	Used	4/-
		"Q" variety.....	Used	7/6
		"Q" variety.....	Mint	15/-
J2a	520	"Cracked Globe" variety.....	Mint	10/6
		<i>The paper on which the "Jones" paper stamps were printed was chalk surfaced. On one sheet only, half the sheet accidentally escaped surfacing. Stamps from this half sheet are, of course, rare. We have a few copies which could be described as brilliant mint but for a slight stain from previous mounting. Because of this we offer at a special price! Jones unsurfaced paper. S.G.520a (Cat £30).....</i>		
				£10
J5a	528	"Art" litho. Blackish 'watermark'.....	Used	30/-
		Colourless "watermark" (vertical mesh).....	Mint	45/-
		"Watermark" on front. (printed on wrong side).....	Mint	£10
J6a	531	"Broken N" variety.....	Used	12/-
J8a	535a	The variety on Wiggins Teape thick hard white paper.....	Mint	40/-
		The variety on Wiggins Teape thick soft paper.....	Mint	12/6

COVERS! COVERS! COVERS!

- 333 **Official Covers** A grand collection which includes "PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE OFFICIAL PAID" frank on cover signed by S. Holland, a franked official mourning envelope used following Queen Victoria's death. F.D.C. of the Q.E. Official stamps are included, and various covers postmarked "Government Building" and "Parliament Buildings", perhaps the nicest being a special envelope commemorating the opening of N.Z. Parliament by H.M. the Queen on Jan. 12th. 1954. 16 covers, every one with Official frank, stamps or postal markings, scarce and a remarkable lot..... £10/10
- 334 (a) **Travelling P.O.'s** A series of early 20th century covers and attractive picture view cards, all stamped with various 1d Universal issues, and every one with a Travelling Post Office marking, all items difficult to find on entire. 10 covers and cards..... 75/-
- (b) **As above** A collection of 20 stamps all with clear Railway P.O., Travelling P.O. or LOOSE LETTER markings. All periods are well represented from early side-faces to 1960 Pictorials. 20 pieces (not entire)..... 30/-
- 335 **Paquebot and Ship P.O.'s** Covers posted at sea with special postmarks and cachet. There are British stamps on some covers, but all have a New Zealand connection, including PACKET BOAT WELLINGTON and PACKET BOAT AUCKLAND postmarks. The covers are mounted on album leaves, written up and with colour illustrations. 9 Covers, 3 pictures..... 50/-
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- 336 **Dunedin Exhibition** Some collectors may feel these stamps have risen out of their price range, so we are offering the lower two values as a short representative set, ½d green and 1d rose (now catalogued 7/- by S.G.) Mint..... 3/6
- 337 **Mitre Peak Varieties.** Retouches on the 1935 4d. Pictorial producing varieties, "long I", "double I" and "thick I" in "MITRE"
- (a) Row 7/8 variety "long I" on C.P.L7a, S.G.562..... Mint 5/-
- (b) ditto. The same variety on C.P.L7b, S.G.583..... Mint 5/-
- (c) Row 7/10 Variety "thick I" on C.P.L7b, S.G.583..... Mint 5/-
- (d) Row 8/10 Variety "double I" on C.P.L7a, S.G.562..... Mint 5/-
- (e) Two vertical pairs each consisting of Rows 7/10 and 8/10. In both pairs the R8/10 shows the "I" of "Mitre" double, but in one pair there has been retouching of R7/10 producing a thick "I", while in the companion piece, the "I" has not been retouched; Two beautifully matched pairs. C.P.L7b, S.G.583.....

KING GEORGE VI

- 337a **Inverted Watermarks.** The method of producing booklets meant that a proportion of all ½d, 1d and 1½d values which appeared in booklets had their watermark inverted; but the higher values with inverted watermark are very scarce. In some instances only one or two sheets are known. In the shilling values with sideways watermark, the top point of the star viewed from the back of the stamp normally points to the right. The 'inverted watermark' has the top point towards the left.

ALL WITH WATERMARK INVERTED

C.P.	S.G.	Mint	Used	C.P.	S.G.	Mint	Used
M1a	603 ½d green	5/-	1/6	M13c	686b 1/- Die II uprt. wmk. inv.	60/-	—
M2a	604 1d scarlet	4/-	1/6	M14b	687 1/3 Die 1b sideways wmk.	45/-	—
M2c	604a 1d green (not booklet)	25/-	—	M15b	688 2/- Brown and green	12/6	—
M4a	605 1½d chocolate	8/6	1/9	M16a	689 3/- Red-brown & grey	30/-	—
M10a	683 6d carmine	£6	£6				
M12b	685 9d sepia	40/-	—				
M13b	686 1/- Die I sideways wmk.	30/-	—				

- 338 **1940 Centennial "Official" variety** The elusive and sought after "ff" joined in pair with normal, ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d (all the values on which the variety occurred) Scarce. Complete Mint 170/-
- 339 **1946 Peace** A fine selection of these popular stamps with varieties (several illustrated and written up), a mint set mounted in the official P.O. descriptive folder prepared at the time of issue and a range of plate and imprint blocks which includes both the elusive 1/- plate numbers 1A and 1B. A substantial basis for a specialised study of a set that is full of interest. 178 Mint and 50 used..... £7

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

- 340 **1953 Coronation** Complete set of 5 on First Day Cover, now becoming very elusive..... 10/-
- 341 **2½d Titoki variety** C.P.04a, S.G.784. Some years ago John Robinson, our late Auckland manager, spotted a sheet of this value with the green colour strikingly pale. No other examples of this printing have been found and it is very rare. We offer copies from stock, with the normal darker green for comparison. Blocks show the colours to advantage and can be supplied. Single stamps (2)..... Mint 15/-

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