

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain it for reference purposes.
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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT by John Robinson

1/- Pictorial, dull green shade: We have recently been shown the current 1/- in a much duller, paler green shade. Earlier printings have been in a brighter shade, and although some variation had been noticed, nothing of such excellent contrast had appeared until now.

2d Pictorial: Black Pl. 3 (3263) Row 9/12 has a rather easily seen flaw, in the wording of the flower name. The U of NGUTU is practically missing altogether. So much for that variety, and now to remind collectors that these 2d stamps are well worth much more than a cursory glance. In several instances there is clear evidence of retouching (technically, "touching-up"). Talking about touching-up reminds me that I really must apologise for the obtuse write-up about the 2d R 3/1, ZF variety. The usual restriction on space caused me to shorten the note and cause a certain amount of confusion. I failed to emphasise that only **one** unit was ever affected, and that although it is possible to "plate" any ZF copy, these plating details show which **combination** of cylinder numbers (apart from the ever-constant Black 2) provided the particular example being examined. In each case the retouch is the **same**, always from Black Pl. 2, R 3/1.

I further made myself unpopular by quoting mysterious "Thirkell" numbers, without explaining what these meant. I had wanted to, but decided against it in order to conserve space. What was meant here was the grid reference obtained from the use of a "Thirkell Position Finder," an as yet generally unfamiliar instrument: it is made from clear plastic (like the Instanta Perforation Gauge) and is scored in black with a grid, each tiny square of which is noted in the same way as a map reference would be. It really is a most useful accessory.

Incidentally, the identification marks mentioned in the June Newsletter will enable collectors to decide for themselves if any particular stamp actually came from R 3/1 or not. Until a positional block is seen with any other fault than a complete change from E to F we can take it that the retouching was done prior to the main printing and that only one state has been found. Mr. R. E. Heath, of London, was able to prove conclusively that this IS a "retouch." He published a note about it in the sadly-missed Strand Stamp Journal. His main argument was the real difference in width of the lower portion of the miscreant letter F, which is thicker than normal. Such a difference is not normally possible with a "flaw."

J3a, SG 524: Our previous appeals to purchase genuine (dated) copies of this stamp have met with no success! It appears obvious, therefore, that this is a much rarer stamp than most people would care to admit, and we have now raised our catalogue price to £5 used (mint remains unaltered). We are still **anxious** to purchase genuine used copies, for which we will pay a very good proportion of the new catalogue price.

PAID (1). Mr. George Edmunds has shown me two more examples of these markings. These two are also on adhesives and are similar to type 19 on page 421 of "Volume 3." The first item is a piece of a parcel label, with a 4d and four 2d King Edwards. The piece bears four strikes of this circular mark, with PAID over D. The other item is a 14d Victory of 1920, with a similar circle, except that there is a thinner, inner circle as well, with PAID over TH. in the centre. From Dunedin and Thames, we suppose, but why on these adhesives?

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SURREY, ENGLAND.

PAID (2)! For many readers of our Newsletter, subscriptions for the ensuing volume are now due, and we respectfully suggest that you fill in and return the yellow forms as soon as you possibly can. Unlike so many unwanted additions to mail these days, we believe that the Newsletter is **welcome**, for it is paid for!

THE "HOLES" AROUND OUR STAMPS

"Still am I busy bookes assemblynge
For to have plentie is a pleasunt thyng
In my conceyt and to have them ay in hande
But what they mene do I not understande."

—Stephen Brandt

Substitute "perfes" for "bookes" and we have, in an olde nutshell, the attitude of the early phylatellists! Even now, and all too often are we loath to ascertain the true significance of perforations, and are content to collect them for their intrinsic worth, rather than because each may have its own absorbing story to tell.

To understand why perforations are generally popular with collectors, one must be willing to delve into the matter with an instrument more worthy than a perf gauge. Let us forget, even, the technical aspects (which are fully described in the **Handbooks**) and concentrate on some of the interesting "stories" behind some perforations in New Zealand stamps.

(1) **Roulettes and Serrates:** As every specialist in Full Faces knows, imperforate stamps were decidedly difficult to separate neatly. One can imagine just how difficult this task would be when a great many stamps were regularly being used. And so we see the reason for the early "separations."

It has always struck me as being rather peculiar why, of all places, Nelson should be pleased with gifted individuals armed with such an array of rouletting and serrating wheels. Auckland had its own roulettes, gauge 7, and one or two other places had one or two other separation methods — but the "Grand Prix de roulettes" goes to Nelson. In past years far too much emphasis was placed on the importance of these separations. Now many people realise that these are best collected as a group without any tremendous regard to the actual denominations in all the various types. Which is how it should be, in my opinion. Or is it that (misguidedly?) so many of these rarities have been subjected to the cold tomb of a museum that there are insufficient left to allow for any great sustained interest on the part of the collector?

(2) **Perf 13:** The use of this machine places special emphasis on what would now be termed a "population explosion" in Otago. Reason? — Gold! The Postmaster in Dunedin was faced with a great demand for stamps and had occasion to consider **perforations** as an important matter. So we see the appointment of Messrs. Fergusson & Mitchell as official perforators of stamps to the P.O. Incidentally, a rather nice story is told about the earning capacity of the workmen who operated this line perforator. As they were paid on a contract basis, it did not take these two people long to realise that (provided nobody else was watching) it was quite easy to perforate more than one sheet at a time. One may even imagine a real difficulty for them while they tried to fill in the rest of their day without encountering suspicion. The result was, or rather is, that the perfectly centred perf 13 Full Face is a real rarity.

(3) **Perf 12½:** The long delay in the acquisition of this machine by the Government highlights either sheer perversity or, more likely, the problems of communication which faced the Colony about 1864. A great many years had passed since Archer had managed to convince the British Post Office that perforation was a great idea. It was, indeed, a long time before New Zealand did something similar, which is just as well, perhaps, for our imperforate classics have a charm and allure of their own.

One of the peculiar and rather extraordinary characteristics of the New Zealander is his flair for improvement, experimentation, redesign, call it what you will, of almost any machine which falls short of his high ideals. Our farmers are particularly adept at such improvisation (and this usually leads to pure improvement. The history of the perf 12½ machine could indicate that this trait has been inherited! It seemed obvious that the operators of this machine were determined to make it work better. They had, too, a certain pride in their job which made them alter the unsuitable comb head to "line" soon enough. From then on pins were damaged, removed, replaced and so on, with the eventual result that, the periods of overhaul provided, in the opinion of some philatelists (I do not subscribe personally to this theory) with the "accidental" imperforates; it further afforded specialists with a fascinating study of the changes made to this 12½ head, as may be demonstrated on the stamps of this classic period.

(4) **Until 1909:** The machines in use from the time the 12½ machine was superseded until 1909 or so were many and varied. One further national trait is often noticeable and this is a natural abhorrence on the part of the true “Kiwi” to masses of paper work, and his refusal to be tied down to filling in forms and complying with regulations. If there is a way out of the mire one may rest assured that it will be taken! This will explain one reason for mixed perfs, official patching of poorer sheets and other peculiar things to be found in our “middle” issues — done in order to prevent time-wasting paper work and long-winded explanations (which appeared necessary in order to satisfy the powers-that-be that all paper used was properly accounted for) — shades of “more ways of killing a cat. . . .”

The perforations of the period show a most remarkable diversity both in type and gauge. Often there were more than one of the same gauge in concurrent use, and all the way the philatelic involvement is a delight to the specialist. The stamps are interesting enough without the perforations, but the converse is equally true. Perfs for the sake of perfs once again!

(To be continued)

Full Faces in "CONTINENTAL" Condition



- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|
| 731 | SG 2a. A remarkable copy, deep full colour, with a tendency toward the characteristics of a "dry-print," and with as white paper as it is possible to get in this issue. 1855, the 2d, printed by Perkins, Bacon in London. Pretty as a picture (illustrated) | £25 |
| 732 | SG 9. J. Richardson printed this (in Shortland Crescent, Auckland) on unwmkd. white paper, using a most attractive pale blue ink . The kind person who removed this from the sheet respected Richardson's craftsmanship and left four huge margins on this copy. The postal clerk co-operated by cancelling it cleanly and very lightly. We carry on this worthy tradition by offering it for your consideration (illustrated) | £16 |
| 733 | SG 17, 1858, 1/- Blue-green, Richardson Print on white unwmkd. paper. PERFECT USED. We were privileged to pay considerably more than "catalogue" for this astounding copy, for we are willing to state that a better used copy may not exist (illustrated) | £110 |
| 734 | NZ Watermark, SG 100, 1/- in yellow-green, imperf, with huge margins and very light cancellation. A splendid copy (illustrated) | £12 |
| 735 | SG 108. Not a rare stamp, but this 6d perf 12½ is perfectly centred and fine | 80/- |
| 736 | Perf 12½. Wmk. "Star," in changed colours. 1d brown, 2d vermilion and 6d blue. Three immaculate stamps | £5 |

Sidefaces of Incomparable Quality

- 737 Cle, SG 180. 1d pale lilac, comb perf 12 x 11½, a rather special mint block of 10. A condition-crank need not apply, for there are a few insignificant creases at the back, but the item is fresh, and in so large a multiple, of no mean rarity 130/-

- 738 Wmk "Large Star" Side Faces:
 (a) Both the 1d and the 2d (SG 178, 9) in **used pairs** of impeccable quality 115/-
 (b) As above, but in singles. Condition ridiculously above average 35/-
 (c) A rather lovely used strip of 3 of the 2d. Multiples are scarce in this issue and this strip is well worth 30/-
- 739 (a) C5c, SG 183. 6d blue, comb perf 12 x 11½. A well-centred, fresh mint block of 4 80/-
 (b) As above, but a nicely **used** block of this 6d 35/-
- 740 C6c, SG 184. The final issue of the 1/- green, comb perf 12 x 11½. A very lovely block of 4, cleanly and finely cancelled with an AK duplex. **Rare** in blocks like this £6
- 741 D1c, SG 226, ½d second Side Face, perf 10 x 11, a finely used strip of 3, a sort of curtain-raiser for its more illustrious though abnormal companion, a similar superb strip of 3, **perf 11 x 10**. The two strips 30/-
- 742 D2k, Variety. A fine used copy of a most difficult stamp, the 1d rose with perfs 10 and 12½, **mixed** 70/-

● EXCEEDINGLY RARE COMPOUND PERFORATIONS— First Pictorials



743

745

746

- 743 SG 403a. Probably **unique**; certainly the first example we have seen, it will be listed in the next catalogue revision. Our copy is a fine used specimen, and has an absolutely unquestionable pedigree. This could be the first (and last) time you ever saw this offered. (Illustrated) 3d, perf 14 x 11 £27
- 744 SG 409, E12e. This is, without question, one of the finest known used copies of the scarce 4d Lake Taupo, **mixed perfs 11 and 14** £7
- 745 SG 404a, E16e. 8d Perf 11 x 14. Certainly not to be refused simply because it is a trifle off-centre — just find another copy if you dare! Otherwise fine used (illustrated) £13
- 746 SG 404b, E17e. 9d Perf 11 x 14. If this did not have an insignificant crease at the back it would probably qualify as the best known used copy of this rarity. Seen a better one? Seen any others at all? We haven't! (illustrated) £16

*Lots 743, 745, 746, and also 751 and 752 are sold with our
WRITTEN GUARANTEES.*

Scarce Penny Universals

- 747 G6d, SG 351b. **Reserve Plate, Mixed Perfs.** A very nice used copy, perf 14 on 3 sides and 11 at the foot. This 11 shows the usual characteristics of the machine which was used in making these "mixed" ones £20
- 748 G9c, **Waterlow Plate, Mixed Perfs.** A splendid example of a scarce and "difficult" stamp. This too is a used copy; desirable £10
- 749 GS 1a. One of the **SLOT MACHINE** group, this is a lovely mint pair, Dot Plate, from the central part of a strip; no rouletting, simply two large holes each side £10
- 750 GS 4a. From the "Parker" slot machine, June 21, 1906. Top grade mint copies, Reserve Plate, imperf all round and with two pin holes (Culprit — the Machine itself!) Each £6

King George V Rarities



751 **K5g.** The very rare "upside-down" vertical pair, two perfs se-tenant. Unlike the far commoner pair, the upper stamp here is Perf 14 x 14½, and the lower one Perf 14 x 13½. Off-centre? The lower stamp is, **naturally!** Fine condition (illustrated) £40

- 752 **9d PALE SAGE GREEN.** A vertical pair, in absolutely glorious condition. The top stamp is completely imperforate, the lower stamp is perforated 14 x 13½ on three sides. This is from the one sheet found in this condition at Port Ahuriri, Napier, in 1924, and as only 12 pairs like this exist, is a splendid investment (illustrated) £85

The Early Healths at Attractive Prices

- 753 1932 "Hygiea." Mint copies in top grade condition, each 20/-
754 As above, 1932, two fine used copies, in really different shades 40/-

- 755 1931, The **SMILING BOYS.** Superb mint blocks of 4 of each value, the red and the blue. Most attractive, and most attractively valued at £26

- 756 (a) 1933, "Pathway to Health." First class copies, mint or used 9/-
(b) A mint block, one stamp with the constant peculiarity of being more lightly entered in the plate, and hence paler than its fellows in the block 60/-
757 1934 "Crusader." Splendid mint, or used, copies, attractively offered at 10/-
758 **Early Health Covers, FDC:**
(a) 1932, Hygiea, fine, and very scarce 70/-
(b) 1933, Pathway. We have two of these, a good example at 55/- and a very clean and fresh one at 65/-
(c) 1934, Crusader. A lovely block of 4 of this, sharing one central Wellington c.d.s., on a clean cover 80/-

A SELECTION FROM OUR STOCK

- 759 **1d Second Side Face Queen:**
(a) Good used examples of the major chisel flaw, R9/2, each 2/-, or in a fine used block with normals, perf 11 10/6
(b) Same stamp, but different flaw — the large white one at top left, R4/6, fine used singles at 2/-, or again in a nice block 10/6
760 **D2c, 1d rose Side Face, Perf 12 x 11½,** the interesting **Die 2a**, previously considered to be a substituted electro. These show the tell-tale break in the right frame, opposite the first E of REVENUE. A few used copies available, each 5/-
761 **D2f, SG 241.** 1d rose, Die 3, an extraordinarily fine used copy of the scarce perf 12½, most copies of which look like something the dog brought in! Seldom offered £5
● 762 **E4a, 1½d Boer War.** A most interesting collection on two pages. There is an amazing range of shades in mint and used singles, including two very fine "browns." A strip of 3, mint, with two rows of double perfs, and a corner block of 4, o.g. (includes the famous R2/12 re-entry), make this lot an important one £9
● 763 **SG 300.** A fine companion lot to the one above, 1½d, the Boer War stamp, in a fine brown shade, o.g. mint block of 4 £5

- 764 **King George V**, 2d orange-yellow, surface printed. We have ample stocks of two of the scarcer ones, our **K18f**, Cowan Reversed paper, mint block, 10/-, and **K18g**, **SG 535c**, again mint blocks, each only ... 10/-
- 765 **L13d**, **SG 589b**, 2/- Capt. Cook, multiple watermark, perf 13½ x 14. A mint copy, off-centre, but not cut into; scarce 90/-

- 766 **King George VI Rarity, SG 625a**:
2d on 1½d brown, a perfect imprint block of 12 stamps, including a really splendid example of the rare **INSERTED 2** variety. This variety, in an ordinary block of 4, fetched £28 at auction recently, so our price is right £32

- 767 **NV 31a**. The redrawn 1d Queen Elizabeth, on coarse paper, **Plate 11, R10/22**. The excellent retouch to the collar and surrounding area. Visible to the naked eye, and listed also in the CW catalogue. Fine used copies, each 10/-
- 768 **3d Q.E.**, original design, small figures, three fine plate varieties, Pl. 22, R5/11 (**NV 5a**), Pl. 24, R6/19 (**NV 5d**), and Pl. 27, R10/7 (**NV 5f**). Three nicely used copies 85/-
- 769 **1/- and 1/6 Q.E. II**. A fine matched pair of pairs, for both are from coils, and all four stamps are double impressions, one albino, with blurred centres. A grand addition to your collection for £17
- 770 **2d Pictorial, Kaka Beak**. The "Spur" variety in R16/11, as catalogued by us and in CW. Fine used 5/-
- 771 **5d Current Pictorial, Daisy**. We are breaking up a sheet which was issued at Tauranga, where the yellow colour is grossly misplaced, completely off the area allotted to the disc florets. **Blocks pro-rata**, we offer mint singles of this "Crazy Daisy" at 3/-
- 772 **COMMEMORATIVES, SOME FINE USED BLOCKS OF 4 —**
(a) **6d red-orange**, 1935 Silver Jubilee 35/-
(b) **7d Centennial**, 1940 22/6
(c) **8d "Takahe"** plus the 8d "Sheep-Shearer," from the Southland and Hawkes Bay Centenary sets. Two attractive blocks 13/6
- 773 **Christchurch Exhibition**. Top grade mint copies of the 3d and the 6d; the pair, 80/-, or complete mint set 90/-
- 774 (a) **Auckland Exhibition, 3d**, a fine mint, o.g., block of 4, a trifle off-centre £7
(b) **The 1d Auckland Exhibition**, in a splendid used block of six £3
- 775 (a) **DUNEDIN EXHIBITION**. Fine mint set of three 15/6
(b) A cover, bearing all three values, posted at the Dunedin Exhibition. Fine 35/-
- 776 **1962 Christmas**. The Flaw in the Veil, **R7/1** of Pl. 1A. Quite noticeable to the naked eye. We have left only a few used examples 4/6
- 777 **COVERS**. We have available 3 bundles of covers, which are offered in varying lots, depending on quality, and made up to the value. We guarantee satisfaction, and offer each bundle, post free, at 30/-
- 778 **High Value Arms**. Multiple Watermark (inverted) issue, a finely used set of the straight "Pound" values, £1, £2, £3, £4 and £5 £9
- 779 **Z40a, SG 544n**. 12/6 purple, Arms type, the only issue (on Cowan paper). Fine used £3
- 780 **Z48b, SG 544v**. The £3 Arms Type, Single Watermark, Wiggins Teape paper; a fine mint copy of this sought after stamp £15
- 781 **TONGA**. We offer, on behalf of a client, the following lots (all of the short-printed Emancipation issue). Condition is superb.
(a) **SG 120 to 127**, the set complete, in **IMPRINT STRIPS**, of 10 in all values save the 2/- and 3/-, which are of 12 each. The lot, at an attractive price £35
(b) The set complete in **mint blocks of 4**, unmounted. The 2/- block includes a copy of **SG 126a**, with the missing fraction-bar. The eight fine blocks £14
(c) The scarce **OFFICIAL, SG O 11**, 2d ultramarine Airmail, **SUPERB** used £6
(d) As (c), the 1/- value, finest possible used copy £4