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MONTHLY

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS.

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EXCELLENCE IN NEW ZEALAND STAMPS



ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S GREATEST MODERN VARIETIES The 1971
Country Women's Institute "make ready" printers proof - offered
this month (See Lot 25)

CAMPBELL PATERSON LIMITED
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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT BY WARWICK PATERSON

L03a - The Rare 1½d. Maori Girl Cooking, Perf 14 x 13½ on Vertical Mesh (Single Watermark) Paper Dr. Ken McNaught of Hamilton has noticed our offer of this rare stamp in last month's Newsletter and has kindly supplied me with some most useful information regarding its background. He supplied two articles - both from the Collectors Club Philatelist, New York, in 1986/1987 - one written by Robert P. Odenweller, well known USA specialist New Zealand philatelist and one by himself which outlines the circumstances of the discovery of the variety and offers comment on its cause and nature.



Fig.1 The variety as offered by CP in July 1989

From Robert P. Odenweller "New Zealand adopted the use of "Official" overprints on current definitive issues in late 1891 for use by Government offices on official correspondence. These took many forms and were initially considered to be more of an audit check than to create a special issue of stamps.(1). The early OPSO (On Public Service Only) rubber handstamps were applied as needed on whatever values seemed to be required.

In 1906, the Government Printer was instructed to provide official stamps with the word "OFFICIAL" overprinted on the regular issues available. This practice continued until 1954 when official stamps of distinctive design were designed for official use. These were discontinued in 1965, ending the use of official stamps in New Zealand (with the sole exception of the Life Insurance Department stamps which still continue for that use in that department).

The error illustrated (Fig.1) comes from the first printing of the 1½d. Pictorial issues of March 1936. The bottom left block with the plate markings was, for some reason, missing on one sheet of the wet printing, perforated 13½ x 14, with single watermark. To make a complete sheet, a block of four was removed from another sheet, by mistake the dry printing which was perforated 14 x 13½ with single watermark and was patched into the missing space. The result was one of the rarest of 20th century New Zealand stamps - the 1½d. "Official" with single watermark, perforated 14 x 13½. Later that year the same value was overprinted "Official" on the multiple watermarked paper issue, perforated 14 x 13½.

(1) The Postage Stamps of New Zealand (Vol.I), p.460

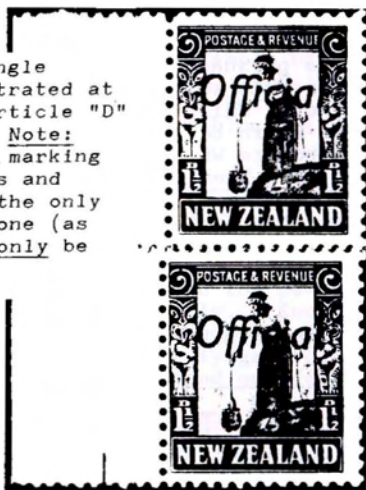
"I wish to compliment you and your Company for the excellent service which you have provided to collectors of New Zealand stamps over so many years." - JGRM, Havelock North

Of the four examples, one is reported to be damaged. Some mystery surrounds these stamps. It has been mentioned that a very well known New Zealand expert obtained the block, with some, if not all, of the surrounding stamps. Such being the case, the likely split of the block would have been the se-tenant pair at the left top each with left side selvedge (illustrated), a block of four of which the bottom left stamp would be the error, a se-tenant horizontal pair of which the (right) normal stamp only would have bottom selvedge, and a single with left selvedge only. It is not known which of the other three is reputed to be damaged.

Normal belief has been that the patched sheet was overprinted after being "made whole". A recent theory, based on the appearance of the illustrated pair, has been advanced that the stamps were overprinted **before** they were patched into place. This is on the basis of the position of the words "Official" which are not in line vertically as they would be if they had been overprinted in a single operation. If so, the remaining part sheet was very probably destroyed (or could remain within government archives - a very remote possibility), or the stamp would be much more common than it is. Though I have had an interest in such varieties for more than 30 years, I cannot recall having seen any other examples ever appear for sale in auctions or with dealers.

As a final note of interest, New Zealand has the history since the early 1880's of completing partially defective sheets by replacing defective stamps with sound ones, patching them into place with gummed strips of paper. Often the "new" sheets would be reperforated, giving lines of double or mixed perforations, and frequently slits would be cut with a blade to sever the patching paper. These early varieties have always been of great interest to New Zealand specialists. The 1936 official may be one of the last examples of this practice, yet it is, for all its un-pretentious appearance, a great modern rarity. (Fig. 2 The lower stamp is the error, perforated 14 x 13½, SG.0116a, while the stamp above is the normal 0116, perforated 13½ x 14. Evidence that the stamp came from the middle of another sheet is given by the vertical line in the selvedge which is found in that location on the sheet).

Editor's Note: And the single mentioned is the one illustrated at the beginning of of this article "D" and featured last month. Note: The corresponding selvedge marking in these two "error" stamps and the fact that our copy is the only "unhinged" or "unpatched" one (as it indeed is) i.e. it can only be "D".



FOUR

From Dr. Ken McNaught "To the Editor: NEW ZEALAND: A RARE 20th CENTURY VARIETY As the discoverer of this variety which was the subject of Robert P. Odenweller's note in the Jan./Feb. 1987 issue of this journal, I am able to provide authentic information on its early history.

During 1936, when I visited the Stamps Branch of the GPO in Wellington to request plate number blocks of the 1d., 1½d., and 1/- Pictorial stamps overprinted "Official", I was advised by Campbell Watts to try the Government Buildings Post Office as the Stamps Branch was experiencing difficulties in disposing of the balance of sheets of official stamps from which plate number blocks had been removed.

A	B	
A	B	
D	C	C

OR

A		
A	B	B
D	C	C

When I explained the position, the Postmaster, Government Buildings, allowed me to remove the plate number blocks I wanted. I immediately observed in the sheet of 1½d. stamps in his stamp book that the plate number block in the bottom left corner of the sheet had been removed and replaced by a block of four of the first printing of 1½d. stamps with colourless gum in contrast to the brownish gum of the stamps in the rest of the sheet. This block was attached by thin strips of transparent paper in exactly the same way as "repairs" noted in other stamps both normal and overprinted "Official", printed in New Zealand. This means that although the original Pictorial stamps were printed, gummed and perforated by De la Rue and Co. in Britain, the repair was carried out at the Government Printing Office in New Zealand.

The minimum sized block to demonstrate the nature of the variety was 9 (3 x 3), but to avoid the odd halfpenny I removed a block of 12, 3 wide by 4 deep. Subsequently I separated the top strip of 3 stamps, leaving a 3 x 3 block of 9.

When I showed this to my dealer brother, Colin M. McNaught, now deceased, he persuaded me during 1937 to sell it to him for £60. Colin then sold this to A.B. Hamilton, a senior member of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand. A few years later Colin bought this back from "Andy" Hamilton and sold the block to Whitfield, King & Co. Subsequently the block must have been split up into pairs of normal plus variety, either two vertical pairs and one horizontal or one vertical and two horizontal, as illustrated in the diagrams, leaving the stamp in the bottom left corner as a single.

ANGELA NICHOLSON'S NEW VARIETY NOTES WILL APPEAR NEXT MONTH

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX: All prices in this Newsletter are subject to the addition of GST where purchases are made within NZ. Overseas clients do not pay GST.

The 4d. 1935 Pictorial - from Ron Ingram - Further Thoughts I have read the comments by Colin Larsen of Western Samoa regarding these missing plate numbers in the 4d. Pictorial. I have the following comments to make: The missing number 4 and 2B have obviously been caused by some malfunction of the printing machine. The printing machine used was probably a single colour machine, thus the inaccuracy occurred while the first colour was printing and then when the 2B plate was used. The angle of the partial missing 4 that is known would indicate that Colin Larsen's theory is unlikely. He also states that his theory will only stand if the paper was fed into the machine top selvedge first. I have checked examples that I have and have definite evidence that the sheets were fed into the machine lower selvedge first. As a double check I compared the shift dots of the 6d. and 8d. values and the plate drag in all cases is towards the shift dots. In the case of the 4d. and 8d. the sheets have been printed from the lower selvedge and in the case of the 6d. the sheets were printed from the left hand side of the sheet - the shift dots in the 6d, being on the right hand selvedge.

It should be noted that these plates are known to have been used both by De La Rue and Co., and Waterlow and Sons and although Waterlow and Sons put the shift dot on the plates, examples of the 4d. frame plate 2B with shift dots which have been printed by Thos. De La Rue and Sons with the centre plate 4 (or un-numbered) are known.

To my knowledge, no examples of the 4d. are known with a partial plate number on the top selvedge or with an albino impression have been reported, but as the sheets were printed bottom selvedge first, these are not likely to be found.

The printing machine malfunction that has caused this variety may never be known, but at least it has been established that the un-numbered plate was not the original un-numbered plate, but plate number 4 with a missing number and also that a large proportion of this printing was apparently overprinted Official.

One question has not been posed - has an example of the 4d. been found with the 2B completely missing? As Colin points out, the 4 was lower on the printing plate, but it would be interesting to find a right-hand corner block without a plate number.

ELLA McNAUGHT

It is with deep sadness that we record the passing of Dr. Ken McNaught's wife, Ella, recently. Known to New Zealand philatelists all over the world, Ella made friends everywhere through her friendly generosity and kindness and all of us at CP extend our deepest sympathy to Ken in his sad loss.

Ella will always be missed by all of us.

CP NEWSFLASH! - NEW ZEALAND POST COOKS SLAIN GOOSE

Readers of April issue will remember CP Newsletter's drawing attention to the high face value of issues projected for the twelve months from that time and several other features of NZ Post's issuing policy which seemed to us to run counter to collectors' interests.

Over the subsequent months we received a number of letters from our readers who have contacted NZ Post and who had received standardised replies to the effect that "Note had been taken of the points that they raise and that their enquiry would be referred to the correct department".

Ted Jones of Auckland, wrote to the Postmaster-General and made several points culminating in the comment "I cannot see that the present increase in issuing so many unnecessary stamps will ever bring in more revenue for NZ Post, if as it seems obvious, it is aimed at the stamp collector.....

This has been tried over many years by various countries and has led only to their being dropped by collectors."

In due course, Ted received an answer which was curious in several respects. Firstly, he had addressed his enquiry to the Postmaster-General, but received his answer in an envelope postmarked "Parliament Buildings" and bearing the free "Official Paid" frank of the Minister of Energy. Enclosed was a letter from the Private Secretary to the Postmaster-General which informed him that the matter on which he wrote was now dealt with by the Minister of State Owned Enterprises. In turn, another answer came; this time signed by the Hon. R.J. Tizard, Minister of Defence, signing on behalf of the Minister for State Owned Enterprises, which ran as follows:

"Thank you for your letter of 14 June, 1989 concerning the number of stamp issues by New Zealand Post.

New Zealand Post inform me that the number of new stamp issues proposed for the coming year are in line with other countries, such as Great Britain and certainly fewer than many others. Given the significance of 1990 in terms of New Zealand's history, the fact we will host a World Stamp Exhibition during that year, combined with the additional point that 1990 marks the sesquicentenary of postage stamps, New Zealand Post will most likely make a similar number of issues then.

Insofar as the cost of the current year's programme is concerned, New Zealand Post believes that due note must be taken of the \$10 face value of one of the stamps. This stamp aside, the overall face value of stampsto be issued is not unreasonable. Business demands require that New Zealand Post issue a \$10 stamp.

New Zealand Post have noted your concerns and I can assure you that they will be reviewed when New Zealand Post determine their future stamp issue policies."

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE



1.

2.

4.

5.

6.

9.

17.

16



LOT 10

LOT 11 S.G. 36 S.G. 37 S.G. 38



LOT 21



LOT 21

19

EX 22

LOT 23

MAGNIFICENT CHALONS

A selection of gems from several recent purchases. Fully condition-adjusted prices, of course, as in every CP offering. Quality is in some cases superior than we have handled in years. With demand strong and building in inflationary overseas markets this is the time to secure such quality - wherever you are.

Lot 1	<u>A1a (SG.1) 1d. Deep Carmine-red (1855) London Print</u> Four-marginal copy of superb deep colour. The obliterator postmark is prominent, but overall this is a superior "London Penny". Cat. \$20,000. (Certificate of the BPA)	\$3250.00
Lot 2	<u>A2a (SG.2) 2d. Deep Blue (1855) London Print</u> Four-marginal item of pristine quality. Marking over face a little, but fine colour, condition. (Cat. \$1300)...	\$325.00
Lot 3	<u>A6a (SG.3) 1/- Yellow-green (1855) London Print</u> Copy of wonderful colour and appearance - strong ivory head. Three full margins with top right margin touching design - light postmark. Cat. \$12,500. Wonderful copy - fresh	\$2000.00
Lot 4	<u>A1c (SG.4) 1d. Bright red on Blue Paper, Richardson Print</u> Glorious four-marginal, if very close bottom margin. Marking slightly over face. Very, very nice example indeed - brilliant colour. (Cat. \$3250).	\$1800.00
Lot 5	<u>A2b (SG.5) 2d. Blue on Blue Paper</u> One of the finest we have ever handled. Absolutely massive margins all round - eight other copies were mutilated to produce this pulchritudinous goddess of a stamp. The price? No regrets - no apologies!	\$975.00
Lot 6	<u>A6b (SG.6) 1/- Green on Blue paper</u> Brilliant four-margined example with wide left selvedge margin. Brilliant colour and print. Obliterator 10 positioned centre and right centre. Clean, clear postmark, although postmark obscures face this is a fine four-margined example of rare merit. Cat. \$7750. Our price for this great rarity	\$4250.00
Lot 7	<u>A1d (SG.8) 1d. Dull Orange, Thick White HM Paper</u> Good 3½-margined copy - light postmark off face. Touching one point. Pale print in upper portion - not in our opinion faded. (Cat. \$750)	\$150.00
Lot 8	<u>A2c (SG.10) 2d. Blue, White VM Paper</u> Lovely four-marginal. Light crease at back. (Cat. \$250)	\$25.00
Lot 9	<u>A6c (SG.16) 1/- Dull Emerald green, No Wnk., White Paper</u> Brilliant four-margined copy (close left lower only). Light, clean oblit. - off face. Full even colour. Thins and repair allow the price of this lovely item. (Cat. \$2000)	\$350.00
Lot 10	<u>1862-1864 Davies Prints, Imperf., Star Wnk or NZ Wnk.</u> Glorious used set of fine, lightly marked, four-marginal copies. Some of the nicest we've seen. <u>1d. Carmine-vermilion (SG.35): 2d. Blue (SG.38): 3d. Brown-lilac (SG.40): 6d. Grey-black (SG.41): 6d. Deep Red-brown (SG.42) 1/- Yellow-green (SG.100) (RPSNZ Cert.).</u> Lovely set	\$1500.00

EIGHT

CHALONS (Contd.)

Lot 11	<u>1862-1864 2d. Plate 1, Imperf.</u> A superb set of twelve selected copies, demonstrating the progression of plate wear from early (unworn) to late (very worn). The shades highlight this development and are verified by the wear. The set comes from the world-famous Grand Prix Award collection of Mr M.C. Stanley. An important offering. The Ultramarine-slate and Milky-blue group with very early wear (SG.37a) are rare	\$2500.00
Lot 12	<u>A2d (SG.37) 2d. Ultramarine (Dull)</u> Superb unused. Touches top left only. This is an example of rare beauty and colour. Very rare unused - one of the finest we've seen of the variety unused. (BPA Certificate). Cat. \$3000	\$750.00
Lot 13	<u>A6d (SG.45) 1/- Deep Yellow-green, Imperf., Star Wmk.</u> Four margins if very close at left. Nice example of the shade. (Cat. \$325)	\$125.00
Lot 14	<u>A2d(y) (SG.49) 2d. Deep Blue (Unworn Plate 1)</u> Roulette 7 on all four sides. Four margins, deep brilliant colour - 20% of stamp on right included. Inevitably one of the finest of this variety in existence. Validity unquestioned - ask for our written 12-month money-back guarantee. It will be gladly given on such a fine example. (Cat. \$800)	\$750.00
Lot 15	<u>A5b(x), (SG.53) 6d. Grey-brown, Roulette 7</u> Four margins again - roulettes four sides. A stamp of great status - again one of the finest extant. (Cat. \$600). Guarantee given	\$500.00
Lot 16	<u>A3a(z), (SG.52) 3d. Brown-lilac, Roulette 7</u> Four colossal margins - roulettes all sides. Marking clean if obscures face a little. Fabulous item for specialist to match previous two lots. (Cat. \$1500)..	\$975.00
Lot 17	<u>A5a(12), (SG.15) 6d. Chestnut, Richardson VM White Paper</u> Absolutely magnificent-looking item. Two full margins - if others cut and top margin thin. Cat. at \$1250. This is a stamp which quite literally defines the shade in its full fiery brilliance. One of the best shades we've seen. Well worth	\$375.00
Lot 18	<u>A5a(4), (SG.13) 6d. Brown</u> Lovely four margins. Very full colour. Marking light if over face. Slight scuff top margin. Cat. \$550	\$300.00
Lot 19	<u>A2f (SG.82) 2d. Pelure Paper</u> Pale Ultramarine shade - Imperf. Colour "faded" as is normal for this issue, but surely one of the finest in existence. Entire design clear and even, four huge margins, marking light and clear of face. Very fine indeed - superfine - for this issue. (Cat. \$1750)	\$1050.00

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Andrew Dolphin, CP's Export Manager in Auckland and by now a well known name to CP clientele in New Zealand and overseas, has recently announced his engagement to Katina Buchanan of Auckland: No doubt CP clients will join with all of our staff in wishing Andrew congratulations on his engagement and best wishes for his future with Katina.

- Lot 20 A6f (SG.86) 1/- Deep Green, Pelure Paper, Imperf.
Marking over upper part of face, but a superb four-
marginal example. Classed with confidence as "very
fine" and guaranteed \$1975.00
- Lot 21 1864-1873, Perforated, UNUSED Made up from three
different collections, this is one of the most glorious
sets we have ever seen put together. It is 10 years
since we had a similar opportunity. WE URGE clients to
consider this set seriously. Looking ahead to the turn
of the century and beyond, we may seldom see their like.
Eleven super stamps. 1d. Carmine-vermilion, 1d. Deep
Brown, 2d. Deep Blue (pl.2), 2d. Orange, 3d. Lilac,
3d. Mauve (scarce), 4d. Rose (rare), 4d. Orange-yellow
(no wmk.), 6d. Deep Red-brown, 6d. Blue, 1/- Yellow-
green P.O.R.
- Lot 22 1864-1873 The set as above, but used. Excluding
3d. Mauve and 2d. is plate 1. Very, very fine used .. \$1100.00

ONE OF THE GREATEST MODERN NEW ZEALAND VARIETIES

LOT 25 - 1971 COUNTRY WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

The excessively rare "make ready" proof-readers' marking.
A fine used single - one of only two known to exist makes
this one of the rarest of all authenticated NZ varieties.
A proof reader has marked the sheet for the plate maker's
attention with a broad blue fibre pen. The blue pen
line lies under the colours of the (later) central
badge, particularly viewed from the back. The sheet has
gone back on the pile and later been issued. Possibly
never again - this wonderful modern rarity P.O.R.

1898 PICTORIALS.

Selection of superb UHM and blocks (some with 2 x 1H stamps). Lovely
unrepeatable material. Shades, perfs and scarcer values, from several
recent purchases. Watermarks "W7", "W6" etc. per CP Catalogue.

- 900 (a) E1a, ½d. Mt. Cook - Purple, London Purple-slate - UHM \$7.50
- 901 (a) E2a, 1d. Taupo, London Blue and Yellow-brown - UHM. \$4.50
Blue and Chestnut \$10.00
- 902 (a) E3a, 1d. Terraces, p.11, W6 Crimson - UHM \$15.00
Rose-red - UHM \$15.00
- 903 (a) E4a, 1½d. Boer War, p.11, W6 Chestnut - UHM \$20.00
Pale Chestnut - UHM \$20.00
UHM selvedge pair, including R2/12 re-entry \$145.00
- (b) E4b, 1½d. Ditto, p.14, W7 Pale Chestnut - UHM \$15.00
Block of four - UHM \$75.00

1898 PICTORIALS (Contd.)

904 (a)	<u>E5a, 2d. Pembroke Peak, London</u>	Block of four - LH	
	VVVVLH		\$225.00
905 (a)	<u>E6a, 2d. Pembroke Peak (Purple), p.11, W6</u>	Violet - UHM	\$7.50
(b)	<u>E6b, 2d. Ditto, p.14, W7</u>	Dull Purple - UHM	\$9.50
906 (a)	<u>E7a, 2½d. Lake Wakitipu, London</u>	Deep Blue - UHM ...	\$15.00
	Sky Blue - UHM.....		\$15.00
	Grey Blue - UHM.....		\$15.00
	Deep Dull Blue - UHM.....		\$15.00
907 (a)	<u>E8a, 2½d. Lake Wakatipu, London</u>	Deep Blue - UHM ...	\$20.00
(b)	<u>E8b, 2½d. Ditto, p.11, No Watermark</u>	Blue - UHM	\$25.00
	Dull Blue - UHM		\$25.00
(c)	<u>E8c, 2½d. Ditto, p.11, W7</u>	Blue - UHM	\$25.00
(d)	<u>E8d, 2½d. Ditto, p.14, W7</u>	Dark Blue	\$25.00
908 (a)	<u>E9a, 3d. Huia, London</u>	Deep Yellow-brown - UHM	\$45.00
	Block Ditto - 2LH, 2 UH		\$150.00
	Unused (no gum) left selvage block of 12 - nice!....		\$50.00
(b)	<u>E9b, 3d. Ditto, p.11, No Watermark</u>	Yellow-brown - UHM	\$30.00
	Deep Yellow-brown - UHM		\$30.00
	Block of four, Yellow-brown, 2 LH, 2 UH		\$100.00
	Double perfs, single - LH		\$50.00
(c)	<u>E9c, 3d. Ditto, p.11, W7</u>	Yellow-brown - UHM	\$30.00
	Yellow-brown, 2 LH, 2UH, block		\$100.00
(d)	<u>E9d, 3d. Ditto, p.14, W7</u>	Bistre-brown - UHM	\$30.00
	Block 2 LH, 2 UH.....		\$100.00
909 (a)	<u>E10a, 3d. Huia (Redrawn), p.14</u>	Deep Brown - LH ...	\$50.00
(b)	<u>E10b, 3d. Ditto, p.14 x 12.3/4 - 13½</u>	Brown LH	\$50.00
(c)	<u>E10c, 3d. Ditto, p.14 x 15</u>	Brown - LH	\$50.00
910 (a)	<u>E11a, 4d. White Terrace</u>	Dull Rose - UHM.....	\$30.00
	Deep Rose - UHM		\$30.00
	Bright Rose - UHM		\$35.00
	Dull Rose block - UHM		\$150.00
	Bright Rose block - UHM		\$175.00
911 (a)	<u>E12a, 4d. Lake Taupo, p.11, no wmk.</u>	Greenish-blue	
	Bistre-brown - UHM		\$15.00
(b)	<u>E12b, 4d. Ditto, p.11, W7</u>	Deep Blue and Chestnut - UHM	\$16.50
	Deep Blue and Bistre-brown - UHM		\$16.50
	Deep Blue and Chestnut - UHM block		\$82.50
	Deep Blue and Bistre-brown - UHM block		\$82.50
(c)	<u>E12c, 4d. Ditto, p.14, W7</u>	Blue and Yellow-brown - LH	\$8.00
(d)	<u>E12f, 4d. Ditto, p.14 x 12.3/4 - 13½</u>	Blue and Yellow-brown - LH	\$35.00
912 (a)	<u>E13a, 5d. Otira Gorge, London</u>	Deep Sepia - LH	\$150.00
(b)	<u>E13b, 5d. Ditto, p.11, no wmk.</u>	Chocolate - UHM	\$40.00
	Red-brown - UHM		\$40.00
	Chocolate block - 2LH, 2UH		\$135.00
	Red-brown block - 2 LH, 2UH		\$135.00
(c)	<u>E13c, 5d. Ditto, p.11, W7</u>	Red-brown - UHM	\$40.00
	Deep Brown - UHM		\$40.00
	Red-brown block - UHM		\$135.00
	Deep Brown block - UHM		\$135.00
(d)	<u>E13d, 5d. Ditto, p.14, W7</u>	Brown - UHM	\$50.00

Continued next month

CP MONTHLY BUDGET PLAN

Simplified - specialised - this is the foolproof way to complete your New Zealand collection. Of particular value where your time is short.

- * Selected material of top quality
- * Guaranteed by CP - blanket 10% discount
- * You set the monthly amount
- * Scarce or rare issues - we find them for you
- * Preferential offers of "difficult" items
- * 14-day approval or return
- * Absolutely no obligation

A unique service - tremendous benefits. Write for details to:

C A M P B E L L P A T E R S O N L T D

THE PENNY POST (CONCLUDED)

The population during the same time has not nearly doubled itself. It has already been remarked that the principle of Sir Rowland Hill's reform has since been put into operation in every civilised country in the world. It may be added that before long we shall in all human probability see an inter-oceanic postage established at a rate as low as people sometimes thought Sir Rowland Hill a madman for recommending as applicable to our inland post. The time is not far distant when a letter will be carried from London to San Francisco, or to Tokio in Japan, at a rate of charge as small as that which made financiers stare and laugh when it was suggested as profitable remuneration for carrying a letter from London to the towns of Sussex or Hertfordshire.

The "Penny Post", let it be said, is an older institution than that which Sir Rowland Hill introduced. A penny post for the conveyance of letters had been set up in London so long ago as 1683; and it was adopted or annexed by the Government some years after. An effort was even made to set up a halfpenny post in London, in opposition to the official penny post, in 1708; but the Government soon crushed this vexatious and intrusive rival.

In 1738 Dr. Johnson writes to Mr. Cave "to entreat that you will be pleased to inform me, by the penny post, whether you resolve to print the poem." After a while the Government changed their penny post to a twopenny post, and gradually made a distinction between district and other postal systems, and contrived to swell the price for deliveries of all kind. Long before even this time of the penny post, the old records of the city of Bristol contain an account of the payment of one penny for the carriage of letters to London. It need hardly be explained, however, that a penny in that time, or even in 1683, was a payment of very different value indeed from the modest sum which Sir Rowland Hill was successful in establishing. The ancient penny post resembled the modern penny post only in name."

The fortieth year of continuous publication of the CP Newsletter seems a good time for a little critical self-assessment. If anything, CPNLM is an anomaly in the world of modern stamps and collecting. Much of the detailed information about New Zealand issues may be found in Official NZ Post brochures and press releases. The issues themselves with their mainly offset-lithography production methods show little evidence of the work of the skilled craftsmen who produced our earlier issues from plates made with hand-engraved dies and carefully retouched and maintained to give longer life.

Where's the scope for a specialised Newsletter in the high-speed, cost-effective world of today?

Fact: The twin urges of collecting and delight in miniaturisation have so far resisted attempts to eliminate them from the human psyche. I can state categorically that there will (a) always be collectors and (b) they will always find something to collect. I'm convinced, for instance, that collectors of coaches and hansom cabs (yes, I saw a magnificent private collection in the USA some years ago) deplored Henry Ford's mass production methods for model T Fords - collectors items of today.

Rather like the economic times it is difficult to see beyond the present. What I'm implying is that future collectors will collect items from the present range, that have not yet established themselves in our minds as "collectible". Which is one reason why I instinctively suspect philatelists who make unbendable rules about what (and how) people should collect: and it is also why so few collectors - as a proportion of the total - enter for exhibitions.

Back to Newsletters: CP Newsletter and its writers cannot know what of the present stamp scene will appeal to future collectors. What it can do is record carefully what seems interesting, intriguing and sometimes inexplicable about stamps. The answer to the conundrum and the exposure of the illusion for what it really is, is likely to contain the formula for future philatelic pleasure (and rarity!).

With the input of observations and reports that its readers contribute year-by-year, the CP Newsletter will continue to provide an independent melting pot for what eventually enters the CP Catalogue and the RPSNZ Handbooks. In the words of "A Century of Philately", published by the 'Royal' in 1988, "..... Campbell Paterson's Newsletter must be treated as a serious journal of record and research in NZ Philately". With the interest of readers and their suggestions and input it will remain so.

WARWICK PATERSON

Lot 23 1906 "ONE PENNY CLARET" from time-to-time in CPNLM - a copy of this magnificent rarity. Very, very lightly hinged - condition immaculate. Brilliant offering (cat. \$10,000) \$8000.00