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FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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CP'S NEW ZEALAND STAMPS - WELCOME TO OUR TRADITION



THE BIG NZ SPELLING ERRORS. THE PRINTERS, THE POST OFFICE AND THE PARADOX

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES - WARWICK PATERSON

THE 2½d. WAKITIPU ERROR - WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

If ever there was a case of a Post Office "responding" to the demands of stamp collectors, then it was the involved incident of the 2½d. Lake Wakitipu error.

Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal of 31 December 1903 takes up the story ... "early in November 1887 the proofs of the 2½d. stamp, sent out by the Agent-General, arrived in Wellington and in due course were seen by the Government Printer, who wrote on 19 November to the Secretary for Stamps: 'I notice in the impressions sent by the Agent-General of the 2½d. stamp, the word Wakatipu is spelt Wakitipu. It would be advisable to ascertain whether the error is also in the new die for the recess process and have it altered for printing. (This seems to have been the first notice of the "error". A cable had been sent about this mistake, but reached the Agent-General in a "mutilated condition")

There was some doubt afterwards, when it was found that the plate had been made, as to whether the error stamp should be issued, but on 12 February 1898 it was decided that this should be done. The Agent-General said, inter alia, on the 20 January 1898, "I regret to say that owing to an error in the original design, the word 'Wakatipu' on the 2½d. stamp has been incorrectly spelt 'Wakitipu'". The Hon. Minister's telegram, which was evidently intended to direct attention to the error, was so incorrectly transmitted that its meaning could not be understood. It came to hand in the following shape; 'In new stamps 'Wakatiu' is spelt 'Wakatipu' - correct. It was, of course, clear to me that there was some objection to the word. I therefore sent instructions to Messrs. Waterlow & Son to leave it out altogether, but this could not be done as the plate was already completed. It will, I fear, be necessary to have another plate made. I am sending the stamps which have been printed off to be dealt with, as the Post Office authorities may deem fit. Steps have been taken so that the supply of stamps in question with the word correctly spelt may be forwarded as soon as possible".

And later, the new stamps were issued to the public on the 5th April and at once took a high place in public favour and the excitement was enhanced by the series including the so-called 'error' in the 2½d. value. At first only small quantities of the values were sold to any individual and of the 2½d. the sale was restricted to one sheet to any one person per day; later, only half a sheet was allowed and it was not until the arrival of a further supply in April that a full sheet was allowed again.

Seeing that the number on order would not supply the demand or leave any for departmental requirements, instructions were sent to the Agent-General to have a further supply of this value printed off for reserve purposes - which, however, seems to have been already done judging by the following extract from a letter from the Agent-General. "To the Premier (postage stamps) ... With reference to the Hon. Minister's cablegram relating to the plates of the 2½d. stamp in which

the word 'Wakatipu' is spelled 'Wakitipu', I beg to state that the plate has not been destroyed and will be retained awaiting further instructions as to its disposal. The die, I may mention, was altered for the plate of the stamp in which the word 'Mt. Earnslaw' was omitted and the word 'Wakatipu' is spelt correctly. I may add that in addition to the 300,000 of those (in which the word is spelt 'Wakitipu') forwarded to the colony, there were 25,000 printed off in anticipation of their being required for sale and these are still at Messrs. Waterlow's awaiting instructions as to their disposal. On 18 May 1898 the Agent-General cabled to the Premier "25,000 2½d. error. Shall I sell? If I can, what price?". The reply was "Sell one half at face value, forward balance here."

Quite clearly contrary to what one may think, then, the "error" is a misnomer - or at least a qualified misnomer. While the original die may have been engraved "Wakitipu" in error, their issuance, was anything but an error.

And would such Post Office policy be countenanced today?

This is an age of commercialism and the unedifying spectacle of Post Offices around the world busily developing the "collectibles market"; and yet in one of those strange paradoxes which delight philatelists and students of human nature there exists an entirely comparable and very recent case to the "Wakitipu-Wakatipu incident" when supplies of two values of a recent Christmas issue were found to have "Christmas" spelt "Cristmas", the New Zealand Post Office moved incisively - and with conspicuous lack of success - to have all the error supplies incinerated. But at least they tried!

An interesting quandary for the moralists, then. How would we have reacted to both "Cristmas" and "Christmas" being put on the market at the same time - and with official Post Office blessing - one sheet per collector, please?!

New Zealand 1990 - "Orchids" Sheet Another "first":

It's official - we have it from the World Stamp Exhibition President that New Zealand Post will issue imperforate Orchid sheets to be sold by the Exhibition with the season tickets, for \$25. As the normal daily entry charge is \$5, a season ticket plus the imperforate sheet, is half-price and the imperforate sheet is thrown in.

Dick Armstrong, of the Exhibition Committee, has suggested to us that as New Zealand Post have advised that the imperforate sheet is valid for postage, then Stanley Gibbons and Campbell Paterson Catalogues should list it.

40¢ Brown Kiwi R10/1 flaw. "Am not usually interested in varieties with microscopic flaws or errors, but this is something else again. Spectacular and very acceptable." - JJS, Northland

FOUR

CPNLM would like to have its readers' views on this vexed subject. The decision seems to me to be a clear-cut one: either
(a) The sheet is issued imperforate by New Zealand Post, is valid for postage and should be listed in the Catalogue.
(b) The sheet has been deliberately manufactured imperforate as part of a plan to raise funds for the Exhibition. It is literally given away to collectors with a cut-price season ticket, in order to encourage attendance at the Exhibition. It is not apparently available from ordinary Post Offices to the general public. I have a clear idea what the decision of the major cataloguers will be on this subject - why not let us have your views?

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES BY ANGELA NICHOLSON

Native Orchids Issue Available in miniature sheet form only, the 1990 Orchids Issue was released on 18 April. Designed by Lindy Fisher of Auckland, the sheet contains four 40¢ stamps (sun orchid, spider orchid, winika orchid, greenhood orchid) and one 80¢ stamp (odd-leaved orchid). A First Day Cover, also designed by Lindy Fisher, was available.

Printing was carried out in Australia by Leigh-Mardon Pty Ltd., using the lithographic process. The five stamps measure perf. 14½ all round and form a horizontal se-tenant strip in the centre of the sheet. All examples seen to date have blue gum and are of vertical mesh.

As noted in last month's Newsletter, the Orchids miniature sheet is a special issue, released by New Zealand Post in support of the 1990 World Stamp Exhibition. Retailing at \$4.90, the sheet has a face value of only \$2.40, with the remaining \$2.50 going towards the exhibition costs. The exhibition organisers inform us that an imperforate version of the miniature sheet is available and will be given away free with each \$25 Exhibition Season Ticket. According to NZ Post, these imperforate stamps are valid for postage - the first legal imperf. New Zealand postage stamps since the Chalon heads! Perf. or imperf. however, outside of philatelic circles I can't imagine that many people will wish to break up a \$4.90 sheet to obtain \$2.40 in postage.

Incidentally, those philatelists unhappy with the cost of the 1990 miniature sheet should consider the plight of the G.B. collector. The British 1d. Black miniature sheet commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first postage stamp has a postal value of only 20p and retails for one pound - five times face value!

\$4.00 Stamp Pack A recent addition to the NZ Post retail range is a \$4.00 stamp pack, now available in Foodtown supermarkets. The pack consists of a sealed white window envelope which contains one 40¢ Brown Kiwi miniature sheet (10 stamps) and five FastPost labels. New Zealand Post produces the pack specially for Foodtown and the envelope carries the logos of both companies. The pack retails for \$4.00 - face value.

"A couple of excellent varieties. Thank you very much and ones which I am delighted to retain." -
MMcG, Wellington



The miniature sheet which we purchased from an Auckland Foodtown supermarket has blue gum and there is a distinct yellow tinge to the colour of the kiwi. Sheets from the \$200 Stamp Pads have cream gum and the kiwi is reddish-brown. In both cases stamps measure perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ and the paper is of vertical mesh.

\$1.00 Kokako Shade Mr D.J. Carter of Invercargill sent up an example of a light shade of the \$1.00 Kokako on white paper (PC5a). The bird is grey as opposed to the usual deep grey. Although both of these shades are known on the later cream paper printing (PC5b), this is the first time we have seen such a light shade of the original white paper printing. Mr Carter's example is on a First Day Cover (24 April 1985) and he also possesses an Imprint Block of 15 stamps. It appears that this lighter shade was on sale at Invercargill North Post Office.

COLIN HAMILTON

The Second Pictorials - "Blitz Perfs" The contract to produce all the "Pictorial" recess-printed values (that is, the entire set excepting the 9d.) was awarded to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., but when their premises in London were damaged by enemy bombing in late 1940-early 1941, that firm was temporarily unable to cope fully with its obligations and two other security printing firms, Waterlow & Sons and Harrison & Sons, were enlisted for a period of a few months to assist in maintaining continuity of supply. This resulted in what became popularly known as the "Blitz Perfs", although strictly speaking, a more accurate term would be "Blitz Issues", for in addition to assistance with perforating by both companies, Waterlow & Sons were also involved in the actual printing of some supplies. A full list of these emergency issues is to be found on Permanent Page L3 in the CP Catalogue.

The "Blitz Perfs" are, of course, of interest in themselves. However, the printing involvement of Waterlow & Sons resulted in a phenomenon of particular and special philatelic interest. All eight of the printing plates employed by Waterlow (4d centre plate 3, 4d frame plate 2B, 5d plate 1, 6d plate 2, 8d plate 3, 1/- plate A1, 2/- plate 1 and 3/- plate 1) had been passed over to them by De La Rue and when Waterlow had completed their emergency printings, all were returned to De La Rue for further use. But while in Waterlow's hands,

at least five of these plates (both 4d's, 5d, 6d and 8d) acquired a series of markings, in the form of groups of coloured dots arranged in roughly horizontal rows, which appeared in the selvages of printed sheets - in the case of the 4d and 8d, close to the middle of the top selvage and in the 5d and 6d, close to the middle of the right selvage. Moreover, in all cases except the 6d, sheets printed by Waterlow occurred with progressively increasing numbers of dots (although the progression was seemingly not always regular).

Waterlow explained that these markings were added to the plates by their Bank Note Department as an indication to themselves on which shift a particular sheet had been printed and that differing numbers of dots on sheets of the same denomination indicated different shifts. There was no explanation as to why sheets of the 1/-, 2/- and 3/- printed by Waterlow are unknown with "shift markings", nor why the progressive increase in the numbers of dots did not (as mentioned above) always follow a regular pattern.

There is no evidence to suggest that any of these markings, in their final forms, were removed from the plates at any subsequent stage. In fact, there is considerable evidence that they were not removed. In attempting to compile a comprehensive list of possible markings, therefore, it is best to consider them in two groups. (1) On printings made by Waterlow and (2) On subsequent printings, from the same plates, made by De La Rue. In the lists that follow, the figures in parentheses after the number of dots indicate the layout in horizontal rows, commencing at the top of the marking; an asterisk indicates a marking I have seen, or which has been reported to me by correspondents.

Group 1 Printings by Waterlow & Sons:

5d L8d : 4 dots (2,2)*; 5 dots (2,2,1)*; 6 dots (2,2,2)*;
 7 dots (2,2,2,1)*; 8 dots (2,2,2,2)*.
 6d L9c : No dots*; 2 dots (2)*.
 8d L10d : 1dot*; 7 dots (4,3)*; 10 dots (5,5)*;
 13 dots (6,7)*; 14 dots (7,7)*; 15 dots
 (7,8)*.
 1/- L12c : No dots.
 2/- L13e : No dots.
 3/- L14e : No dots.

Group 2 Subsequent printings by De La Rue:

5d Pl.1 : L8e 8 dots (2,2,2,2); L8f 8 dots (2,2,2,2)*.
 6d Pl.1 : L9d 2 dots (2)*; L9e 2 dots (2)*.
 8d Pl.3 : L10e 15 dots (7,8)*.
 1/-Pl.A1 : L12d No dots.
 2/-Pl.1 : L13f No dots; L13g No dots.
 3/-Pl.1 : L14f No dots; L14g No dots.

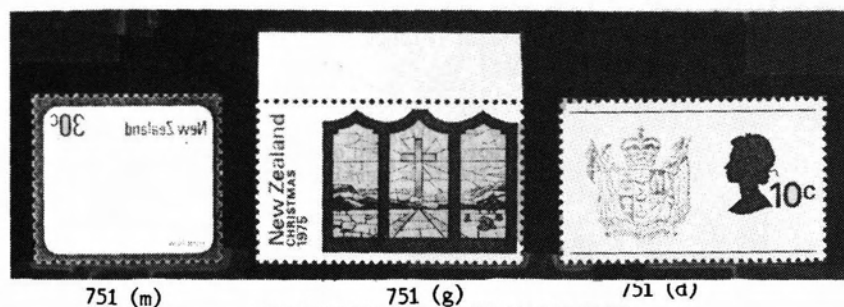
I have deliberately left the 4d to be dealt with separately, for two reasons. Firstly, it is printed in two colours and therefore from two plates, so the shift dots on this value are actually two separate markings, one set (in black) relating to the centre plate, the other set (in sepia) relating to the frame plate. When centre plate 3 and frame plate 2B were used in combination, the full marking appeared as four horizontal rows of dots, the upper two being the centre plate marking and the lower two that of the frame

VARIETY SELECTION

- 700 (a) X5a, 6d Green Life Insurance, (1891), Perf. 12 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, "VR" Type Superb very lightly hinged copy (cat. \$800) \$695.00
- (b) G2a, 1d. Universal, Waterlow Paper An extraordinary range of shades in blocks - six in all. A magnificent representation, including Bright Carmine, Crimson shades and Deep Carmine-lake. These are a remarkable opportunity and the Carmine-lake, particularly, is a most difficult shade to get in this fine condition in our experience \$650.00
- (c) G3e, 1d. Universal, Ditto, Basted Mills Paper Block of four with left selvedge from the perf. mixed 14 + 11 group. Two re-perforation lines horizontally, p.11 and official patching. Cat. \$900. \$560.00
- (d) G7a, 1d. Universal Booklet Plate Complete booklet pane of six and although the binding selvedge has been trimmed slightly this is a wonderful item. Imperforate sides and bottom \$425.00
- (e) 3d. Green Mt. Cook Extraordinary set of mint blocks of four from the four Perkins Bacon plates (1907-1908). The listings F5a,b,c and d are represented. This set includes the rare two-perf block and is a very clear example of two different perforation heads of the same gauge used to perforate the same sheet. Wonderful rarity material... \$775.00
- (f) F1a 3d. Mt. Cook Green Ditto, Waterlow Paper, Perf 11 An extraordinary unhinged mint block in the Pale Yellow-green shade. A really brilliant item for any exhibition page \$100.00
- (g) H6e King Edward VII, 6d. Carmine Two-perf pair in very fine used (commercially used) condition. Light octagonal parcel cancel. Wonderful item... \$625.00
- (h) KO15a (1d. Field Marshal, Rose-carmine) and KO 13f (3d. Green Geo. V), Both Perf. 14, o/p Official Row 5/24 in the o/p plate featured the major o/p variety "No stop after Official". Our offer this month, one right selvedge single copy of each value, demonstrating the variety. Wonderful unhinged mint perfection. Cat. \$100 the pair - our impressive offer this month \$65.00

Orchids Miniature Sheet Further to philatelic reaction in New Zealand regarding the difference between face value and cost price of the NZ 1990 Orchids Miniature Sheet - face : \$2.40, cost : \$4.90, over twice face - we thought readers might be interested in the Miniature Sheet issued by the British Post Office in support of the Stamp World London 90 Exhibition. This is a well designed and executed Miniature Sheet depicting Britannia ruling the waves in her three-horse-drawn chariot, showing the 1d. Black, incorporating the 20p two-Queens 1990 definitive stamp, and inscribed "1840-1990" and "One Pound"- face : 20p, cost : £1, five times face!!

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.



MAGNIFICENT MODERN VARIETIES

A selection of varieties from our current stock - all are in superb UHM condition! (Note: Lot 751 (j) is fine used, on cover).

1967 Decimal Plate Varieties A chance to fill the gaps in your collection or to enter into this popular area. All varieties are in positional blocks.

- 750 (a) ODV1a ½c Manuka R6/6 - prominent retouch at top left, covering background from green tip of leaves to the side frame..... \$7.50
- (b) ODV2a 1c Karaka R11/10 - touch-up to left of "N" of "NEW"..... \$6.00
- (c) ODV4b 2½c Kowhai R10/7 - circular area of touching up disfigures the top of the "E" of "NEW"..... \$7.50
- (d) ODV4d 2½c Kowhai R2/3 - top of stamp badly misshapen by large dent above "2½c". R2/4 - in same block, retouch in similar position..... \$12.50
- (e) ODV4e 2½c Kowhai R8/5 - large blue butterfly-shaped flaw on upper left flower..... \$12.50
- (f) ODV4f 2½c Kowhai R14/9 - large white flaw just above "D" of "LAND"..... \$12.50
- (g) ODV4g 2½c Kowhai R20/4 - curved white flaw stretches from below the "KO" of "KOWHAI" to the top of the "A" of "LAND"..... \$7.50
- (h) ODV4H 2½c Kowhai R3/3 - small white flaw on the lower point of the "c" of "2½c" converts it to a "G". \$7.50
- (i) ODV5a 3c Puarangi R19/1 - a major blue scratch stretching down from figure "3" to the lowest left flower..... \$8.00
- (j) ODV5b 3c Puarangi R5/10 - "LA" of "LAND" is malformed..... \$15.00
- (k) ODV5c 3c Puarangi R14/10 - patch of touching up to right of top right flower. In the same block, R15/8 - yellow bell-shaped flaw to right of "I" in "PUARANGI"..... \$20.00

- | | |
|--|---------|
| (l) ODV5d 3¢ Puarangi R11/5 - large white flaw dis-figures the top of the "Z" of "ZEAL"..... | \$12.00 |
| (m) ODV5e 3¢ Puarangi R13/9 - blue spot of touching up surrounded by shadowy weakness of background above the "D" of "LAND"..... | \$6.00 |
| (n) ODV6a 4¢ Mountain Daisy R8/8 - retouch by left of "4¢"..... | \$10.00 |
| (o) ODV15b 30¢ Tongariro R8/1 - retouch to right of flag pole | \$45.00 |

Other Modern Varieties

- 751 (a) PC6a, \$2 Black Robin New perforation variety. Several sheets show discrepancies in the placing of the single comb perforating head. This manifests itself as alternate wide and narrow placing of the strikes. One of the few varieties to appear in this issue to date. Block of four \$25. The pair \$12.50
- (b) PC6a(Z), \$2 Black Robin R4/5 "grub on branch" variety \$25.00
- (c) PC2a/2b, 40¢ Blue Duck Definitive Two outstanding errors. (a) An extremely heavy print due to faulty blanket adjustment in the offset press. (b) An error in printing resulting in virtual missing blue and red colours and pale shades of grey and yellow-brown. Easily the most spectacular errors to appear in this issue. Pair of Imprint blocks \$775.00
- (d) PA16a(Z), 1978 NZ Shells 30¢ Toheroa - single with violet colour completely offset on back of stamp. Rarely seen! \$400.00
- (e) PA10a(Z), 1977 10¢ Queen Elizabeth Completely imperforate pair from the UNIQUE SHEET! Scarce!.... \$675.00
- (f) S198a(Z), 1975 Sailing Ships 4¢ "Lake Erie" - block of four of the "ribbed" print variety. Un-usual in multiple form \$100.00
- (g) SC16b(Z), 1975 Christmas 5¢ Window - single of the missing brown colour. The "5¢" value has been completely omitted..... \$400.00
- (h) SS16a(Z), 1974 Scenic Issue 23¢ The Brothers - Plate 11111 with fifth plate number defective. Scarce \$375.00
- (i) SS10a(X) and (Y), 1973 Scenic Issue 8¢ Ngauruhoe R9/3 black flaw below the "N" of "NEW". Also the matching retouched block \$52.50
- (j) P30a(T), 1971 4¢ on 2½¢ Magpie Moth Misplaced surcharge variety (photogravure) ON COVER, fine used. "4¢" at lower left, bars at top right. Superb! \$250.00
- (k) P3b(V), 1970 Pictorials 2¢ Tussock Butterfly - block of four of the "horned butterfly" variety. Major purple-brown colour shift results in this stunning variety..... \$400.00
- (l) P8b(W), 1970 Pictorials 6¢ Sea Horse - single of the missing olive green colour. Scarce!..... \$450.00
- (m) P12b(V), 1970 Pictorials 10¢ Coat of Arms - single of the missing light blue colour. The blue hair ribbon and the words "New Zealand" have been completely omitted. Spectacular \$500.00

- 751 (n) X33a(Z), 1969 Life Insurance 15¢ Dog Island -
 R10/1 white flaw on right-hand side of lighthouse
 tower. Plate 111. Also the matching retouched
 block - retouches in lithographically printed
 stamps are rare. Pair of Plate blocks \$21.00
- (o) S104a(Z), 1967 P.O. Savings Bank Centenary 4d.
 Queens Elizabeth and Victoria - pair of the defec-
 tive gold print variety. On one stamp the gold hyphen
 is completely missing and on the other it is partly
 missing \$75.00

1935 SHIFT MARKINGS (Concl.)

plate. Part of the former was frequently missing from the issued sheets as a result of the trimming process, but usually sufficient remains to allow positive identification. The second complicating factor arises in the later De La Rue printings from these plates, since they were used both in combination with each other and in combination with other plates which were never printed from by Waterlow and which, therefore, bore no shift markings. Thus, to be added to Group 1 above, we have:

- 4d L7c : No dots*; 8 dots (3,3/1,1)*; 16 dots
 (5,5/3,3)*.
 4d L7d : 20 dots (7,7/3,3)*; 26 dots (10,10/3,3)*.

and to be added to Group 2:

- 4d L7e : (from pl.3-2B) 26 dots (10,10/3,3)*.
 (from pl.3-2A) 20 dots (10,10/-,-)*
 (from pl.4 2B and -2B) 6 dots (-,-/3,3)*

I will come to the issues overprinted Official next month.



- (a) 13 October 1928 "Smithie's" first return Trans-Tasman flight Blenheim to Richmond NSW. One of sixteen covers flown; signed. Important early New Zealand airmail cover, very rare.
- (b) 17 October 1901 OAS cover sent by member of Canadian Scouts contingent from Pretoria to New Zealand. Possibly unique Boer War rarity item.
- (c) 1 October 1923 1d. Map stamp - First Day Cover. First seen by us.
- (d) 15 September 1864 "Queen's Redoubt" obliterator on cover to Sydney. Ex Laver correspondence. Very rare item of Maori War period.
- (e) Belgium 1917-1918 German POW drawing of battlefield scene, including British tank. Superb and rare World War I historical item on German Field Service Post Card.

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Also available: "Collecting New Zealand Stamps" by Robin Gwynn, published by Heinemann Reed, including four colour plates. Highly recommended \$30.65 (Plus postage and packing)

NZ 1990 World Stamp Exhibition New Zealand
New Zealand 1990 - Auckland Expo Centre
24 August - 2 September 1990

Campbell Paterson Ltd
Stand No. 9, East Pavilion

