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FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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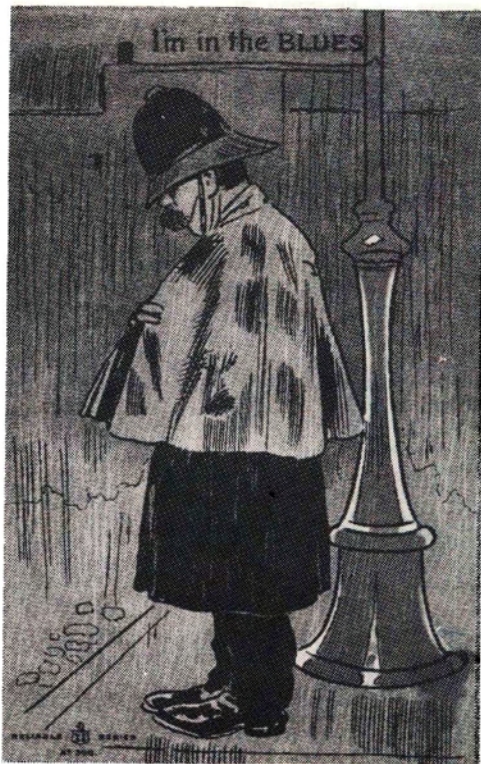
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EXCELLENCE IN NEW ZEALAND STAMPS



Early Twentieth Century Policemen in NZ, The caricature is humorous, but did men like him connive at New Zealand's most notorious "privately generated" stamp issue in Reefton in 1906-1907? Read on and decide for yourself.

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NZ NOTES AND COMMENT BY WARWICK PATERSON

THE REEFTON PROVISIONALS

Dead these many years - but why won't they lie down?

They even used to be listed in the CP Catalogue. Of all the debunked "possibly privately generated" issues of the past 100 years in New Zealand philately, the Reeftons must be the most tenacious. To this day they are offered in collections and auctions world-wide and almost invariably attract major interest, even high prices. And yet as long ago as 1938 - fifty years ago - C.W. Watts and N. Lincoln eruditely argued their case in Volume I of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" and pronounced judgement. They said, then, "Because of conflicting evidence and the absence of any recorded authorisation of the issue it is not possible to recognise these stamps as regularly issued". And more recently another commentator, Dr. R.D. Gwynn, has denounced them with convincing finality.

However, the story is an interesting one and deserves retelling even if much of it still remains unknown - or unsaid - and there's another side to the story too, as will emerge.

THE PLAYERS

Insp. (C.O.?) Wilson . Inspector-in-Charge of the Greymouth Police District, a self-acknowledged collector of Official stamps and one known to have sold such to dealers in his time.

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.

Mr R.T. Bate, RDP An early New Zealand philatelic expert and commentator.

Members of the Police Force in Greymouth and Reefton.

Employees of the Post Office at Greymouth and Reefton.

Dealers well known in New Zealand.

THE SCENE

Franking privileges for Official Mail had long been a part of New Zealand's Postal Regulations. Markings took the form of "Paid" or "Free" hand stamps, signature franks, manuscript endorsements. By the turn of the century restriction on the use of these "Paid and "Free" markings was being more rigidly enforced.

On 2 January 1907 stamps overprinted "Official" were introduced exclusively for the use of Government Departments and officials on mailings of under 100 items. Sale to the public was prohibited.

It can be seen, then, that at the end of 1906 a major change in Postal requirements placed on Government Departments was about to take place. Getting supplies of the new overprints distributed throughout the country must have been a large undertaking and accounting for the change must have brought about an escalation in Post Office paper work.

The event also, as will be seen, provided an opening for emergencies and shortages which, as every philatelist knows, are parents to scarce and unusual issues of stamps - be they fortuitous or contrived - or both. The mails must go through.

THE RECORDED EVENTS IN SUMMARY On 29 December 1906 the NZ Police Station at Reefton requisitioned the Post Office for £3.8.6d. worth of Official stamps. The form of the requisition is recorded and it reads as an invoice ("Dr. to the Postmaster, Reefton"). Inspector Wilson of Greymouth appears here as he had to authorise the requisition himself.

The amount is made up of ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/- stamps in varying quantities - 24 stamps in all. The requisition was signed by Insp. Wilson at Greymouth, before submission to the Post Office at Reefton.

A circular rubber stamp had been prepared at Greymouth with the inscription "Greymouth Paid 3". This handstamp was sent 47 miles to Reefton Post office. Due to a shortage of "Official" stamps at Greymouth, the Police Station requisition was filled with stamps of the 1898 Pictorial issue bearing the "Greymouth Paid 3" handstamp and "Official" overprinted by hand in bright red diagonally, reading upwards (see illustration).

The handstamp was "supplied with the stamps" according to a later police officer's account (probably for use on bulk mail). However, evidence suggests that the red "Official" manuscript overprint was applied at Reefton, possibly in error, and not at Greymouth where correct procedure would have been known.

FOUR

THE POSITION SO FAR A provisional issue of stamps bearing the "Greymouth Paid 3" handstamp and a manuscript "Official" overprint in red is supplied at the beginning of January 1907 by the Reefton Post office to the Reefton Police Station during an apparent shortage of officially overprinted stamps at Greymouth - the usual source of supply. Some of the stamps are used and some remain mint and find their way into the hands of the public via the hands of the police and dealers.

COMMENT Insp. Wilson's statements, made some years after the event, provide both the justification for recognition of the issues and in their inconsistency, the reasons for rejecting them. In 1908, for instance, Mr Wilson wrote inter alia to Mr Bate (who was investigating the issues' validity), "I was surprised to find hand-made provisionals had been issued" and "I found that £3.8.6d. worth had been prepared at Greymouth and forwarded to Reefton - the local Postmaster issued them to the Sergeant of Police". Mr Wilson confirmed on two occasions that the provisionals had been prepared in Greymouth.

However, his statements raise several questions and the PSNZ Volume I asks:

- (a) Why was the "Greymouth Paid 3" handstamp sent to Reefton?
- (b) Why did the Greymouth Postmaster later explain the "Official" overprint as an error of a small office used to inscribing envelopes similarly in the traditional way? The Greymouth Postmaster would have had full knowledge of the correct procedure.
- (c) Greymouth "had plenty" of the new stamps to supply to Reefton as evidenced by the fact that no other offices went without supplies.
- (d) Where is there an official authorisation for this irregular issue?

The Handbook then concludes that the provisionals' acceptance as genuine is not possible. Perhaps the answer may never be known. Were the provisionals devised to fill an artificial "shortage"? Were the provisionals actually prepared at Reefton? Could the "ignorance" of a small Post Office (Reefton) and the confusion of a new procedure provide a shield for an issue of stamps which could only be described as "philatelic"?

Or is there a possibility that the stamps were provided (with the "Greymouth" rubber stamp applied by Greymouth) and the "Official" overprint added in ignorance of procedure at Reefton in the event of a real shortage?

Did the authors of Volume I have a special knowledge of the "circumstances" of the issue? Well known dealers were known to have supplied them - presumably in mint condition. What were their sources? Are we looking at a "whitewash" designed to avoid pointing fingers when the Handbook condemns the issue so absolutely?

A CASE FOR ACCEPTANCE In the absence of hard evidence either way, the whole affair must become a matter for speculation on the involvement of Insp. Wilson, a respected long-term member of the Force and later Senior Inspector at Wanganui. Does anyone really believe that such a man would jeopardise his career by involving senior officials at two Post Offices and his own subordinates at Reefton in an elaborate fabrication of provisional stamps worth £3.8.6d. face value?

Insp. Wilson's vagueness is an annoyance - maybe he even suggested the solution to the shortage - but if it was routinely carried out does that invalidate it? Philately is full of such unorthodox events.

In a carefully reasoned re-examination of the case in 1938 in "Philately from Australia" (Royal P.S. of Victoria) longtime CP client, Horace Chisholm, posed these and other questions regarding the likely validity of the provisionals. One example will suffice. Mr Chisholm says:

"If it is still argued that the absence of any recorded authorisation is a fatal bar, then search must be made precedent. The standard for accepting one provisional issue must be the standard for another.

An adequate precedent is available. One of the best-known New Zealand philatelic rarities is the bisected shilling Chalon Head. Because there were no sixpenny stamps to meet the reduction in postage rates for letters via Southampton, the Postmaster at Dunedin, Captain Elles, cut 1/- stamps in halves, stuck the bisect on the envelope and cancelled it with his canceller. He did this in preference to using three 2d. stamps, of which there was no shortage and did so from 1857 to 1859.

And this is what The Postage Stamps of New Zealand says (Vol. I, p.60):

Captain Elles did not request authority for his action from headquarters in Auckland, but this cannot reasonably be considered as invalidating the use of the bisected stamps.

Unless further evidence is found, I submit, some future volume of The Postage Stamps of New Zealand must review the story and status of the Reefton Officials and include a passage that will say, in effect:

There is no record of the Chief Postmaster at Greymouth or the Postmaster at Reefton requesting authority for his action from headquarters in Wellington, but this cannot reasonably be considered as invalidating the use of the endorsed stamps."

To this day, the RPSNZ has remained unrepentant in their Handbooks. In a recent letter to me on the subject, Dr. K.J. McNaught said "I agree there is still a very slender possibility that Wilson's account could be true, but this is the only basis which can be used for their acceptance."

Finally, Dr. Robin Gwynn, in his "Collecting New Zealand Stamps" is uncompromising in his condemnation even though he does not introduce evidence or directly refute any of Horace Chisholm's points. His main emphasis is that the issue was not authorised and he implies thereby nothing short of a comprehensive conspiracy.

No doubt collectors will continue to debate the issue. It seems to me, however, that while the evidence against the Provisional issue remains circumstantial, the door should not entirely be slammed on the "Reefton Provisionals". If Capt. Elles were found to have collected stamps, would all 1/- Chalon bisect covers become valueless overnight?



Next month: Dr. K.J. McNaught responds

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES BY ANGELA NICHOLSON

40¢ Brown Kiwi - 2 Kiwi Reprint Malcolm Francis of Timaru reports that the current 40¢ brown kiwi booklet (\$4.00 Mt. Cook) is now available with the 2 kiwi reprint symbol above the colour dots in the left selvedge. It is interesting to note that the stamps used in these booklets have distinctly blue gum. When the 2 kiwi reprint was first released in sheet form in April this year, the stamps had white gum. Now, however, coinciding with the appearance of the blue gum stamps in booklets, Dr. Francis reports that sheets of the 2 kiwi reprint are available with the blue gum also. Another interesting feature is that under U.V. light, the white gum stamps fluoresce brightly, whereas the blue gum stamps are noticeably duller.

"I am also greatly impressed by your ability to locate not one, but two very nice items in a very short time. I have indeed been searching for some time, being out-bid at a mail auction by a few \$\$ a year or so ago." - MS, Ottawa

1989 Heritage - The People In July's Newsletter I reported that the \$1.30 value of this issue had been seen with the 1A1A1A1A plate marking only. I can now confirm that this value is also available with the 1B1B1B1B marking.

Selvedge Perforation Variations A sheet of the current 30¢ Silvereye definitive without perforations through the top selvedge was noted in our office recently. John Gluyas of Ashburton reports that sheets of the 40¢ brown kiwi 2 kiwi reprint are available both with and without perforations through the top selvedge. Our English branch informs us that the sheets of the \$10.00 kiwi definitive exist with and without perforations through the right selvedge. These examples once again indicate that, in each case, two or more individual plates were used in the production of the overall printing plate (see May Newsletter, p.5).

Varieties Update Our mail bag over the past couple of months has contained several interesting letters from Newsletter readers.

Jim Lawrance of Opotiki reports a constant flaw on sheets of the 6¢ Cresset (1975 Pictorials). The flaw occurs in R10/6 and takes the form of a long green line which extends from above the "C" of "Cresset" to the base of the middle rose-bud. Mr Lawrance informs us that this flaw is present on the 2B(5) plate only and is constant on both the original issue and the later overprint. Unfortunately, we have insufficient stock of the 2B(5) plate to check this one out and we would therefore welcome readers' comments on the above flaw.

F.G. Holden of Australia reports a flaw on the 1949 2d.+1d. Nurse Health stamp. This small white flaw occurs in Row 6/20 just to the left of the daffodil leaves in the bottom left of the stamp. This flaw is constant on our stock of c. 15 sheets.

Mrs G. Hansen of Mt. Maunganui wrote in with details of an unusual constant flaw on the 40¢ Katherine Mansfield stamp. Although difficult to detect with the naked eye, this flaw is worth mentioning. It takes the form of a very thin orange-red line which extends horizontally across stamps 2 and 3 in Row 10, just below "40" and through the hair. At first sight this appears to be a very minor doctor blade flaw. However, it is peculiar to the actual design of the stamp and does not cut across the margin between the stamps. It is therefore likely that this flaw occurred during the manufacture of the multi-negative and not during the actual printing of the stamp. Here, it is worth expanding a little on the lithographic printing process.

In lithographic printing, the plates used have been treated with chemicals to make them light-sensitive. They behave, in effect, like photographic film. One such plate is required for each colour of the design. Using a "step and repeat" process, the original negatives are used to build up a "photograph" of the entire sheet. This "photograph" is in negative form and is referred to as the multi-negative. We believe that it was during the laying-down of the multi-negative that the above flaw occurred. It is difficult, however, to establish the actual cause.

SECTION OD 1967/70 - FIRST DECIMAL PICTORIALS

SPECIALISED LISTING

411 (a)	<u>OD1a, ½¢ Manuka</u> UHM 18¢: VFU 10¢: plates 1A(3) or 1B(3) - each \$2: imprint \$2: booklet pane of 6 (W9a(z)).....	\$2.25
412 (a)	<u>OD2a, 1¢ Karaka</u> UHM 10¢: VFU 10¢: plates 1A(4) or 1B(4) - each 70¢: imprint 70¢: booklet pane of 5 (W9a(v))	\$3.25
413 (a)	<u>OD3a, 2¢ Kaka</u> UHM 10¢: VFU 10¢: plate 1A(4) or 1B(4) \$1: imprint \$1: plate 1A(3)2A (OD3Vf) \$10: plate 1B(3)2B (OD3Vh)	\$10.00
414 (a)	<u>OD4a, 2½¢ Kowhai</u> UHM 10¢: VFU 10¢: shade(3) Milky Blue UHM \$5: plates 1A(4), 1B(4), 2B1B(3) or 2B(3)3B - each \$1: imprint \$1: plate 2A1A(3), (OD4Vc) \$5: plate 2A(3)3A, (OD4Vi) \$7: blue lines flaw \$5: green cross flaw \$5: flaw OD4Vg (2B1B(3)) \$7: counter coil ODC4 (various numbers)	\$4.00
415 (a)	<u>OD5a, 3¢ Puarangi</u> UHM 10¢: VFU 10¢: plate 1A(4) \$6: plates 1B(4), 2A1A(3), 2B1B(3), 2A(3)3A, 2B(3)3B - each \$1: imprint \$1: booklet pane of 6 (W9a(T)) \$2.75: flaw ODV5c \$15: various plate 2B (blue) flaws (five different) \$10 each: blue scratch flaw \$5: counter coil ODC5	\$2.00
416 (a)	<u>OD6a, 4¢ Matua</u> UHM 50¢: VFU 10¢: plates 1A(4), 1B(4), 1A(3)2A, 1B(3)2B - each	\$8.00
417 (a)	<u>OD7a, 5¢ Pikiarero</u> UHM 50¢, VFU 10¢, plates 1A(3) or 1B(3) - each \$4: imprint	\$4.00
418 (a)	<u>OD8a, 6¢ Koromiko</u> UHM \$1.50: VFU 40¢: plates 1A(4) or 1B(4) - each \$19: counter coil ODC8 \$2.50: coil-end	\$2.00
419 (a)	<u>OD9a, 7¢ Rata</u> UHM \$1.50: VFU 45¢: plates 1A(4) or 1B(4) - each \$12: imprint \$12: flaw ODV9d \$15: flaw red loss	\$15.00
420 (a)	<u>OD20a, 7¢ Fishing</u> UHM \$1.50: VFU \$1.25: plates 1(4) or 1a(4) - each	\$11.00
421 (a)	<u>OD26a, 7½¢ Trout</u> UHM \$2: VFU 90¢: plate 1A(4) \$13: imprint	\$13.00
	(b) <u>OD26b, 7½¢ Trout</u> UHM \$2: VFU \$1: plate 1A(4) \$14: imprint	\$14.00
422 (a)	<u>OD10a, 8¢ Flag</u> UHM 90¢: VFU 15¢: plate 1A(2) \$10: counter coil ODC10 (many different numbers)	\$4.50
423 (a)	<u>OD21a, 8¢ Fruit</u> UHM \$1.50: VFU \$1.20: plates 1(4) or 1a(4) - each \$11: blurred print (nice item)	\$6.00
424 (a)	<u>OD11a, 10¢ Timber Industry</u> UHM \$1: VFU 40¢: plate 1A(2) \$10: error brown shift (good) \$12: flaw ODV11a.	\$10.00
425 (a)	<u>OD22a, 10¢ Timber</u> UHM 80¢: VFU 20¢: plate 1A(4) \$5.50: counter coil ODC22 \$6: coil-end.....	\$3.00
426 (a)	<u>OD12a, 15¢ Tiki</u> UHM \$1.50: VFU \$1.25: plate 1A(2).	\$36.00
	(b) <u>OD12b, 15¢ Tiki</u> UHM \$1.50: VFU 90¢: plate 1A(3) \$13: value tablet "\$22.5" not pen-corrected \$60: or "\$22.50" pen-corrected \$10: doctor-blade flaw (good) in pen-corrected value tablet block \$25: counter coil ODC12 (many different numbers)	\$5.00
427 (a)	<u>OD23a, 18¢ Wool</u> UHM \$3: VFU \$1.50: plate 1(4) or 1a(4) - each	\$20.00
428 (a)	<u>OD13a, 20¢ Maori Drawing</u> UHM \$2: VFU 15¢: plate 1A(2) \$22: flaw background disturbance	\$8.00

429	(a)	<u>OD24a, 20¢ Meat</u>	UHM \$2.50: VFU \$1.25: plates 1(4) or 1a(4) - each	\$17.00
430	(a)	<u>OD14a, 25¢ Butter</u>	UHM \$4: VFU \$1.50: plate 1A(2)..	\$25.00
431	(a)	<u>OD25a, 25¢ Dairy</u>	UHM \$6: VFU \$3.50: plate 1A(4)..	\$42.00
432	(a)	<u>OD27a, 28¢ Fox Glacier</u>	UHM \$2.25: VFU 20¢: plate 1A(4) \$25: error yellow shift	\$6.00
433	(a)	<u>OD15a, 30¢ Tongariro</u>	UHM \$9: VFU \$1.25: plate 1A(3) \$65: flaw OD15aVb	\$40.00
	(b)	<u>OD15b, 30¢ Tongariro</u>	UHM \$28: LHM \$15: VFU \$8: plate 1A(3) \$200: flaw OD15bV6.....	\$120.00
434	(a)	<u>OD16a, 50¢ Waterfall</u>	Shade (1) UHM \$5.50: LHM \$3.50: shade (2) UHM \$5.50: LHM \$3.50: VFU 90¢: plate 1A.	\$60.00
435	(a)	<u>OD17a, \$1 Tasman Glacier</u>	Shade (1) UHM \$42: LHM \$27: shade (2) UHM \$42: LHM \$27: VFU \$9.50: plate 1A ..	\$250.00
436	(a)	<u>OD18a, \$2 Geyser</u>	UHM \$37.50: LHM \$24: VFU \$38: plate 1A	\$500.00
	(b)	<u>OD18b, \$2 Geyser</u>	UHM \$100: LHM \$60: VFU \$75: plate 1A(3).....	\$1500.00
437	(a)	<u>OD1a/27a</u>	Complete set ½¢ - \$2 (2) (30 values), UHM	\$250.00
	(b)	Ditto, VFU		\$145.00
	(c)	<u>W9a(Y)(S) booklet pane set (4) XB</u> , UHM		\$50.00
	(d)	Ditto, XA, but broken panes (4), UHM		\$25.00

1898 PICTORIALS - the continuation

913 (a)	<u>E14a, 6d. Kiwi Green, London</u>	Deep Green - UHM	\$125.00
	Block - 3 LH, 1 UHM		\$380.00
(b)	<u>E14b, 6d. Ditto, p.11, no wmk.</u>	Deep Green, Pale Green, Yellow-green. The set - LH	\$150.00
914 (a)	<u>6d. Kiwi Red, p.11, no wmk.</u>	Rose - UHM	\$60.00
	Rose-red - UHM		\$60.00
	Brick-red - UHM		\$200.00
	Rose block - 2 LH, 2 UH		\$220.00
	Rose-red block - 2 LH, 2 UH		\$220.00
	Brick-red block (few parted perfs, certificate RPSNZ) - 2 LH, 2 UH		\$500.00
(b)	<u>E14e, 6d. Ditto, p.11, W7</u>		
	Rose - UHM	Block - 2 LH, 2 UH.	\$220.00
	Rose-red - UHM	Ditto	\$220.00
	Rose-carmine - UHM. \$65.00	Ditto	\$240.00
	Carmine-pink - UHM. \$85.00	Ditto	\$310.00
	Brick-red - UHM ...\$210.00	Ditto	\$600.00
	Salmon - UHM	Ditto	\$600.00
(c)	<u>E14g, 6d. Ditto, p.14, W7</u>		
	Pink - UHM	Block - 2 LH, 2UH..	\$240.00
	Rose-carmine - UHM. \$65.00	Ditto	\$240.00
	Bright Rose-carmine - UHM		
	UHM	Ditto	\$240.00
915 (a)	<u>E15a, 6d. Kiwi (redrawn), p.14</u>	Red - UHM	\$80.00
	Carmine-pink - superb VVVLH block		\$350.00
(b)	<u>E15b, 6d. Ditto, p.14 x 12.3/4 - 13½, W7</u>		
	Carmine-pink - VVVLH		\$300.00
(c)	<u>E15c, 6d. Ditto, p.14 x15</u>	Carmine-pink - UHM..	\$65.00

1898 PICTORIALS (Contd.)

916 (a)	<u>E16a, 8d. Canoe, London</u>	Indigo - UHM	\$65.00
(b)	<u>E16b, 8d. Ditto, p.11, no wmk.</u>		
	Deep Blue - UHM	\$55.00 Block - 2LH, 2UH.	\$200.00
	Prussian Blue - UHM....	\$55.00 Block - UHM	\$250.00
(c)	<u>E16c, 8d. Ditto, p.11, W7</u>		
	Indigo Blue - UH.....	\$55.00 Block - 2LH, 2UH.	\$200.00
	Deep Blue - UH		\$65.00
(d)	<u>E16d, 8d. Ditto, p.14, W7</u>		
	Steel Blue - UHM	\$55.00 Block - 2LH, 2UH.	\$200.00
	Deep Blue - UHM	\$55.00 Ditto	\$200.00
917 (a)	<u>E17a, 9d. Pink Terrace, London</u>	Purple Lake	\$60.00
	Block - 2 LH, 2 UH		\$200.00
(b)	<u>E17b, 9d. Ditto, p.11, no wmk.</u>	Rosy-purple - UHM	\$55.00
	Block ditto - UHM (cnr. selvedge)		\$275.00
(c)	<u>E17c, 9d. Ditto, p.11, W7</u>	Reddish-purple - UHM.	\$55.00
	Reddish Block - 2LH, 2 UH		\$200.00
(d)	<u>E17d, 9d. Ditto, p.14, W7</u>		
	Purple - UHM	\$55.00 Block - 2LH, 2UH.	\$200.00
	Pale Purple - UHM.....	\$55.00 Block - 2LH, 2UH.	\$200.00
918 (a)	<u>E18a, 1/- Kea & Kaka, London</u>		
	Orange-red - UHM	\$180.00 Block - 2LH, 2UH.	\$600.00
	Dull Red - UHM	\$180.00 Block - 2LH, 2UH.	\$600.00
	Brownish-Or. - UHM	\$180.00 Block - 2LH, 2UH.	\$600.00
(b)	<u>E18b, 1/- Ditto, p.11, no wmk.</u>	Bright Or-red - UHM	\$65.00
	Block ditto - UHM		\$300.00
(c)	<u>E18d, 1/- Ditto, p.11, W7</u>		
	Deep Red - UHM	\$65.00 Block - UHM	\$325.00
	Orange-red - UHM	\$65.00	
919 (a)	<u>E19a, 1/- Kea & Kaka (Redrawn), p.14 x 12.3/4 - 13 1/2</u>		
	Orange-red - UHM		\$400.00
(b)	<u>E19b, 1/- Ditto, p.14 x 15</u>	Orange-red - VVVLH..	\$225.00
	Orange-brown - LH - superb. (Cat. \$660)		\$400.00
920 (a)	<u>E20a, 2/- Milford Sound, London</u>	Grey-green - VLH	\$100.00
(b)	<u>E20b, 2/- Ditto, p.11, no wmk.</u>	Blue-green - VLH.	\$100.00
(c)	<u>E20d, 2/- Ditto, p.11, W7</u>	Deep Green - VLH	\$100.00
921 (a)	<u>E21a, 5/- Mt. Cook, London</u>	Vermilion - HM	\$150.00
(b)	<u>E21c, 5/- Ditto, p.11, W7 (sideways)</u>	Red - HM..	\$150.00
(c)	<u>E21d, 5/- Ditto, p.11, W7 (upright)</u>	Deep Red - LH	\$200.00
(d)	<u>E21e, 5/- Ditto, p.14, W7 (sideways)</u>	Red - HM ..	\$150.00

\$10 Arms Type Indigo-blue - A New Listing. Mr Ken Cosgrove has shown us a pair of this stamp with a ball-point pen cancellation (probably postal) with clear horizontal mesh. Observation of listings Z61a to c shows that mesh should be either vertical or sideways horizontal and in both cases would be vertical to the design. Mr Cosgrove's pair are clearly unwatermarked, clearly comb perf., clearly horizontal mesh. This is a listing which should attain CP Catalogue status.

SPRING SELECTION

Assortment of specialist gems from several recent offshore purchases.

- 26 (a) FULL FACES - A1c (SG.5), 1d. Red on Blue Paper (1855)
Wonderful four-marginal copy. Light postmark and good clean face. Huge left margin. One of the nicest we've seen and a theoretical "100%" copy. Catalogued by CP at NZ\$3250..... \$2950.00
- (b) A5a(6), (SG.4), 6d. Tan Brown "OVERLAP" On thick HM white paper (printed Richardson). Super example of this amazing feature of NZ stamp printing. Richardson's sheets were too small for the plates and he gummed them together. Soaking, of course, parted the join and the result is an horizontal cut-off at the top of the design and absent top margin. "Socked on the nose" (oblit.16), but a brilliant looking item withal. Very seldom seen \$1500.00
- (c) A6c, (SG.16), 1/- Dull Emerald Green White paper, imperf (1858-61). Lovely four-marginal (three huge) with light oblit. No.10 (over face, but pretty). Back slightly shaven one or two points. This is a fine chance (cat. \$2000) \$625.00
- (d) A6d(z), (SG.56), 1/- Dull Green - Star Wmk., Roulette 7
Possibly unique example with partial double roulettes. Three huge margins - roulettes slightly through value tablet. Ex M.C. Stanley collection. Fully authenticated provenance and CP guaranteed (cat. \$750)..... \$695.00
- (e) A1r(y), (SG.137), 1d. Brown "Portion of Watermark T.H. SAUNDERS" Lovely example with large part of second "S". Fine used - irreplaceable \$995.00
- (f) A2f(y), (SG.138), 2d. Orange "T.H. SAUNDERS" Watermark
Glorious fine used strip of three (horizontal). Centre stamp fully watermarked "AU". Wonderful exhibition piece (cat. at least \$2500) \$1500.00
- (g) A4c, (SG.139), 4d. Orange-yellow "No Wmk." Probably the finest in existence. "Wellington" postmark (c.d.s.) beautifully placed over base. Very lovely example \$2500.00
- 27 (a) SECOND SIDEFACES - Complete Set in fine used. Lovely items - all nicely centred. Good postmarks \$150.00
- (b) DA2(j)(3)(x), 1d. Carmine adson Mixed perfs 10 and 12½. Magnificent vertical pair showing both copies, full and mixed perfs and patching. Catalogued at \$600 this fine rarity piece \$100.00
- (c) D9d, 8d.Blue, Perf.11 Block of four fine used. Centred low, but most attractive. Catalogued at \$500 \$400.00
- 28 (a) 1898 PICTORIALS - E021e, 5/- Mt. Cook - Sideways Wmk., p.14 - Official Specialist rarity item - reversed watermark. Light diagonal crease. Nice item (cat. \$450) \$275.00
- (b) 1898 LONDON PRINTS Collection fine used. A set in shades: includes ½d. Purple, three including Black-purple. 1d. Taupo, three including Chestnut and Chocolate-brown. 2d. Pembroke Peak, two shades.

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TWELVE

SPRING SELECTION (Contd.)

- 2½d. Wakitipu, fineshades - superb! 2½d. Wakatipu,
 five great shades - wonderful copies. 3d. Huias, two.
4d. Terraces, four shades. 5d. Otira, five shades.
6d. Kiwi Green, three shades. 8d. Canoe, two shades.
9d. Terrace (1). 1/- Kea & Kaka, three shades. 2/-
Milford Sound, two shades. 5/- Mt. Cook (1).
 Glorious - unrepeatable. Priced well below catalogue. \$1250.00
- 29 (a) ½d. GREEN MT. COOK - Fla, Pirie Paper, Perf.11 Offset
 on back. Unused copy, but unlisted and rare item.... \$60.00
- 30 (a) 1d. UNIVERSAL - G8d, Dot Plate - Mixed Perfs 11 & 14
2 LH, 2UH block of four - slight sheet bend (cat. \$120) \$25.00
 (b) GS4b "Dickie" Slot Machine Strip of Three Stamps
"Parker" machine. Single UHM \$250.00
Or LH (slight crease) \$50.00
- 31 (a) 1d. DOMINION - J5a(z) 1d. Litho Watermark (printed on
front). Superb LH example \$100.00
- 32 (a) QUEEN ELIZABETH II - NO25a, 4d. Blue - Official
Printed on the gummed side (wmk. inverted and reversed).
 Superb mint example \$300.00
- 33 (a) ARMS TYPE - Z40a, 12/6d. Deep Plum Superb LH copy
 (cat. \$350) \$275.00
 (b) Z47d £2.10.0d. Red - Wiggins Teape Paper LH copy -
 lovely. Cat. \$425..... \$275.00
 (c) Z/33a, 5/- Arms "Official", o/p vertical) Copy VVLH. \$450.00

DID YOU KNOW ...?

That carrying the mail in the mid nineteenth century was still a risky business? During the winter of 1837-1838 the end of the Little Ice Age brought skating on the Serpentine and roasting of sheep on the Thames. On 26 January the Times carried a letter from a passenger of the Glasgow Mail, who had been delayed at Preston to wait for the connecting Liverpool Mail "which had to be dug out of the snow". He reported that "When near to Lancaster the guard was missing; what has become of the poor fellow we cannot tell; he was with us at Garstang ..." (From The American Philatelist, May 1989).

In the nineteenth century postal charges were almost invariably paid by the recipient rather than the sender and the Secretary of the Atlas Insurance Company, based in London, admitted that almost half of its shareholders "lived in the country" so never received notice of any meetings, "because we do not wish to put them to the expense of postage". One London merchant reckoned to have "hundreds of customers in Scotland and Ireland who never know when their goods are sent off or by what mode they are coming", because "they would rather do anything than pay the charge of the Post Office".