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FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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CP'S NEW ZEALAND STAMPS - WELCOME TO OUR TRADITION



WILSON'S STORM PETREL. A TALE OF COURAGE AND DEVOTION.

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3d. MT. COOK GREEN from KEN COSGROVE

In May 1986, Colin Hamilton reported in the New Zealand Bulletin "Mr J.P. Pearce of Derbyshire has shown me a copy of this stamp, printed from the Perkins Bacon plates and perf. 14 x 15 (F5c) with characteristics looking uncannily like the plate wear which affected later printings from the original plates. Volume I of the New Zealand Handbook states quite categorically that such wear did not occur on the Perkins Bacon plates and in point of fact this characteristic (and lack of it) have for long been accepted as a standard test for distinguishing stamps printed from the old plates and those from the new, particularly the issues on Cowan watermarked paper, perf.14 (F4b and F5a) which are otherwise identical."

I have now come across a copy of F5a from my own collection which exhibits what appears to be similar plate wear. Taken in isolation, both the "Pearce" copy and my own might be regarded as being the subject of a fortuitous imperfection, but the strip of four stamps clearly shows that plate wear did, in fact, occur in at least one of the new plates.

A question that now arises is "Can we be sure that plate wear shows on all printings from the old plates on Cowan watermarked paper?" - and the answer to that, unfortunately, is that we cannot. Many stamps from the old plates show so little wear as not to be a reliable means for positive identification. This can, perhaps, best be shown from a most remarkable set of four stamps in my collection. This pair, part of a block from the "old" plate 4, shows the stamp at Row 1 No.11 with heavy plate wear while its mate at Row 1 No.12 shows not the merest suspicion of wear. It would be interesting to hear from other collectors having this pair and to learn of their pairs show the same characteristics.

Identification is simple by reference to the perforation for all except the perf.14 stamps. All perf.14 in the lovely Deep Yellow-green shade can safely be attributed to being from the "new" plates, but for the other shades some other identification is needed such as by reference to flaws or re-entries or other identification marks or, in used copies, the postmark. In the strip of four stamps positive identification was from the large selvedge arrow, which is unique to the new plates.



Strip of 4 from C.P.'s stocks.
New plate showing plate wear.



Pair from "old" plate 4.
These are Row 1 Nos. 11 and 12
showing respectively plate
wear and no wear.



Nos. 1 to 5 from Row 10 "old" plate 3. Nos. 4 and 5 are a pair with plate wear characteristics similar to the pair from plate 4 illustrated above.



Slight, if any, wear but verified as "old" plate from 1902 postmark.



"New" plate 14x15 with wear.

QEII MIDDLE VALUES

Half-sheet values on printings from Centre Plate 2
from J.C.Hess, Stoke on Trent, United Kingdom.

According to PSNZ (Vol.1V p.152) NZPO instructed the High Commissioner, on 7 Sept. 1955, to inform the Printers that the practice of putting half-sheet values on separated panes should be discontinued.

But PSNZ (Vol.1V p.142) records that by June 1956 DLR had decided that Centre Plate 1 was becoming unserviceable and had accordingly laid down a new plate (Centre Plate 2) from which they had (already) commenced printing.

On the face of it, there is an inconsistency between the two statements.

If DLR had more-or-less promptly complied with the NZPO instruction of Sept. 1955, then one would not have expected to find half-sheet values on any of the printings from Centre Plate 2. In fact they are found on both the 1/- value with original 19-pin perforation and on the 9d. value with 18-pin perforation, the printing of which values from the new plate seemingly did not commence until some 9 months later.

Was there a substantial delay between NZPO issuing their instruction and the Printer receiving it? or did the Printer simply take his time over complying with the instruction? Could the instruction have been issued not in September 1955 but in September 1956? or did printing from Centre Plate 2 start appreciably earlier than June 1956?

I wonder if any of your readers can throw further light on the matter?

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.

GEORGE V Shades - A Postscript

Mr. W.H.Hicks of Victoria, Australia, and editor of the Australian Gemmologist, has written to us taking issue with the level to which Graeme White took his shade descriptions in the four-part study recently published in the C.P.Newsletter. Mr. Hicks maintains that there is no excuse these days for not defining colour in a way intelligible to others. He points out that several systems are available and probably the "Maunsell" is the most used. He allows that the full system is very expensive but a book such as the "Methven Handbook of Colour" at £30 sterling contains 1266 colour samples cross-referenced to the Maunsell system and with interpolation between hues, values and chroma, at least ten times this number can be defined, as can colour ranges.

I suspect that Mr. Hicks requirements for colour definition are very naturally more precise than those of most stamp collectors. It is difficult to argue against as precise a system of colour definitions as possible and if they can be related to a coded system, then so much the better. The problem as I see it is that stamp collecting is a pleasurable hobby and one in which too-precise definition could be counter-productive.

Modern colour analysis identifies three main features of all colours by which they may be defined. First is the "Hue" which gives the main colour groupings such as "red", "yellow", etc. The second characteristic is "Value". This codifies the "lightness" of the colours from light to dark. The third characteristic is "Chroma" which defines the "vividness", or "dullness" of the colour saturation, which varies within the one hue. In philately these two latter definitions are covered by the expressions "light and dark" or "bright" or "dull".

To attempt to define all the colours existing of given stamp issue would very likely be a never ending task. One only has to consider the effects of minor fading, over-inking and the fact that colours may be inefficiently mixed between different batches and that there may be minor differences in the amount of certain colours added, to realise the enormity of the task that Mr. Hicks proposes.

Personally, I prefer to see shade definitions expanded and made thereby more precise, as Graeme White has done, but still to leave in the element of "discovery", which leads the collector on to greater delights. I can't help feeling that at the point where the collector sits down with a digitalised colour identification system at his side and works purely from that, then the hobby will for all practical purposes, have passed into the realm of science, never to be seen again. W.P.

Note: Graeme White's notes on K.G.V shades will conclude next month with Part IV - 1/- orange-vermilion.

FIRST SIDE-FACES 6d BLUE, perf. 12½ (C5a)

Ted Moore has notified us of a new discovery in this issue - watermark reversed. This is a significant new discovery and matches similar varieties in the 1d and 2d of the same series. It is certainly 'listable' in the C.P. Catalogue.

ANTARCTIC BIRDS

Notes on the 50c "Wilson's Petrel"

by Campbell Paterson

When these stamps were first issued, the name "Wilson" on the 50c struck me immediately. I have long held Dr. Wilson, (Capt. Scott's head naturalist) in great admiration and respect. He accompanied Scott on both the 1901 and 1910 and on the evidence recorded was the first to recognize the bird that bears his name as a distinct species or sub-species.

Edward Adrian Wilson was a devout Christian and a man of the highest principles. His courage and steadfast loyalty were unsurpassed among a body of men notable almost without exception for those virtues.

Undismayed to the end, he died with Scott and Lieut. "Birdy" Bowers, the three last to go at the end of the Polar journey of 1910-1912.

Anyone interested to know more of "Uncle Bill" Wilson (as he was universally known on both the Expeditions) should read "The Worst Journey in the World" by Apsley Cherry Garrard.

The "Worst Journey" of the title was not in fact the Polar dash. It was an account of the winter journey made by Dr. Wilson, Lieut. Bowers and Cherry Garrard himself to Cape Crozier to try to obtain some near-hatching eggs of the Emperor penguin. As an account of endurance against unbelievably adverse conditions it is nearly incredible.

So the pretty little Wilson's Storm Petrel can tell us a stirring story if we care to follow it up.

C.P. NEWSLETTER "The only source of specialised information in the world on N.Z. stamps"

Dr. K.J. McNaught has quite rightly pointed out that our claim for the C.P. Newsletter is not entirely correct. The New Zealand Stamp Collector official publication of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Inc. contains a tremendous amount of information on all aspects of New Zealand stamps and is issued four times a year. It is quite right that the N.Z.S.C. be accorded this recognition.

My comment referred really to the fact that the C.P. Newsletter is intended, at least in part, as an amplification of the C.P. Catalogue and that means that it deals with all varieties in all issues, large or small "across the board". I stand by my comment that there is no other publication in the world deals with New Zealand stamps to this level of specialisation "across the board".

Note also that the New Zealand Stamp Collector is available only to members of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Inc., membership of which in turn is available only to approved individuals.

2½d Mt. Cook and Lilies Wet Printing with reversed watermark. Dr. McNaught points out that in fact he was the original discoverer of this variety, found about thirty years ago. A comment that C.P. Ltd. had discovered the variety "quite some years ago" refers to a copy found by the Editor during the early 1970's, which was the basis for the C.P. Catalogue listing and which we erroneously considered the first found. Our apologies to Dr. McNaught for this oversight.

POSTAL FISCALS**DECIMAL ARMS TYPES**

- 10 (a) Z58a \$4, W8b, line perf. 14, UHM \$50,
LHM \$30
- (b) Z58b \$4, W8a, comb perf. 14, UHM \$25, FU \$20,
CU \$10.
- (c) Z58b(z) \$4, W8b, comb perf. 14, UHM \$60
- 11 (a) Z59a \$6, W8b, line perf. 14, UHM \$50
- (b) Z59b \$6, W8a, comb perf. 14, UHM \$25,
FU \$25.
- (c) Z59b(z) \$6, W8b, comb perf. 14, UHM \$60,
FU \$50.
- (d) Z59c \$6, no wmk. UHM \$12, FU \$9.
- 12 (a) Z60a \$8, W8b, line perf. 14, UHM \$80.
- (b) Z60b \$8, W8a, comb perf. 14, UHM \$25,
FU \$25.
- (c) Z60c \$8, no wmk, UHM \$16, FU \$12, CU \$6.
- 13 (a) Z61a \$10, W8b, line perf. 14, UHM \$125.
- (b) Z61b \$10, W8a, comb perf. 14, UHM \$45,
MNSF \$15, FU \$40, CU \$25.
- (c) Z61b(z) \$10, W8b, comb perf. 14, UHM \$90,
CU \$40.
- (d) Z61c \$10, no wmk, UHM \$20, FU \$15.

WANTED TO BUY : Z59c(z), Z60c(z), Z61c(z) Mint & used

OFFICIALS

- 14 (a) Z02f, 1914 2/- blue, HM \$25, CU \$15,
NSFU \$5.
- (b) Z02g, 1915 2/- blue, HM \$25, FU \$20, CU \$10
- (c) Z02g(z) -do- No Stop, LHM \$115, U in pair
with normal \$175
- 15 (a) Z06f, 1913 5/- green, HM \$50, MNG \$20.
- (b) Z06g, 1915 5/- green, LHM \$75, FU \$100
- (c) Z015f, 1908 f1 pink, CU \$450
- 16 (a) Z033a, 1933 5/- vertical, UHM \$750, LHM \$350
- (b) Z033b, 1938 5/- horizontal, CU \$15
- (c) Z033c, 1943 5/- horizontal, MNSF \$15, FU \$5
- (d) Z033d, 1950 5/- horizontal, UHM \$25, LHM \$10
- (e) Z033e, 1962 5/- horizontal, UHM \$20

1940/53 ARMS OVERPRINTS

- 17 (a) Z53a 1940 3/6d, LHM \$9
- (b) Z53b 1942 3/6d, LHM \$9, U \$4
- (c) Z53c 1950 3/6d, UHM \$20
- (d) Z53d 1952 3/6d, UHM \$50, LHM \$20
- (e) Z53e 1953 3/6d, UHM \$60, LHM \$25
- 18 (a) Z54b 1944 5/6d, LHM \$25, U \$25
- (b) Z54c 1950 5/6d, CU \$5
- 19 (a) Z55b 1942 11/-, LHM \$55
- 20 (a) Z56b 1945 22/-, U \$40
- (b) Z56c 1950 22/-, UHM \$340

Continued back page.

NEW YEAR VARIETIES

All superb UHM

- (a) **PAV5(b) and PAV5(c), 1975 Roses.** 5c Diamond Jubilee. Top left corner block of ten containing R1/5 retouch to top frame and R2/1 retouch top left frame. Plate 1A..... \$ 22.00
- (b) **PA8a(X), 1975 Roses.** 8c Josephine Bruce. Single with the yellow colour completely offset on back of stamp. Superb!..... \$200.00
- (c) **PAV8(a), 1975 Roses.** 8c Josephine Bruce. Top left corner block of eight containing R4/1 white flaw on rose petal, top left. Plate 1A..... \$ 30.00
- (d) **PA15a(Zb), 1978 Shells.** 20c Paua Shell. Imperf. and partial imperf. in pair (i.e. two strikes of perf. head missing)..... \$450.00
- (e) **S109a(Z), S111a(Z), 1968 Armed Services.** The 4c and 28c inverted watermark varieties in **Plate Block** form. Scarce! The pair of Plate Blocks..... \$235.00
- (f) **S152a, 1972 Vintage Car Rally.** 3c 1895 Benz. Bottom right corner block of ten containing R10/6 "girl with black eye" constant flaw. Plate 1A..... \$ 25.00
- (g) **S161a, 1972 Commemoratives.** 8c Marion Du Fresne. Top selvedge block of four with R2/5 flaw to right of "Y" in "ANNIVERSARY". A second block shows a progressive stage of the flaw. An unusual pair..... \$ 25.00
- (h) **S162a, 1972 Commemoratives.** 10c Methodist 150th Anniversary. Bottom right block of eight containing R9/7 "droplet" flaw on the "1" of "10c"..... \$ 24.00
- (i) **S218a(Z), 1977 Anniversaries.** 10c Badge of the A.A. The superb missing grey variety, in se-tenant pair with 10c R.A.C.S. stamp. Cat. \$500..... \$450.00
- (j) **SM220-4, 1977 Silver Jubilee Miniature Sheet.** Complete plating reconstruction of the twelve positions. Twelve miniature sheets together with explanatory notes on the identification of each position. Virtually impossible to assemble nowadays. SCARCE!..... \$ 75.00
- (k) **SS1a, 1972 Alpine Plants.** 4c Black Scree Cotula. Single with a double impression of the violet colour and a triple impression of the green. An unusual variety..... \$120.00
- (l) **SS20a, 1975 Forest Parks.** 23c Coronandel Forest Park. Right selvedge block of four with R7/9 retouch in the sky at top left..... \$ 15.00

There are many of our readers, we know, who are concerned about the decline in interest in our hobby of philately by the younger generation. Well, help might just be to hand in the form of one of the current youth culture heroes. Yes, none other than Leonardo, a certain teenage mutant ninja turtle, lists "stamp collecting" as his chief hobby! His official biography goes on to list his other interests as heavy rock music and reading, and his favourite food as salami and raspberry jam pizza!!

"New Zealand Stamp Collector" magazines -
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42/2, 3, 4	41/2, 3, 4	40/3, 4	39/3, 4
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33/4	32/4	31/4	27/3, 4
25/3, 4	24/3, 4	23/3, 4	22/3, 4
19/1	15/2, 3, 4	12/2, 3	

"New Zealand Stamp Collector" magazines -
FOR SALE the following backnumbers offered
at \$3 each.

70/3	65/2, 4	64/3, 4	49/3, 4	48/1
41/1	40/1, 2	39/1, 2	38/1, 2	37/1, 2
36/1, 2	35/1, 2	34/1, 2	33/1, 2, 3	
32/1, 2, 3		31/2, 3		

ARMS TYPES

- 21 (a) Z44b, 30/- brown, CU \$175, CU (not so fine) \$125
- 22 (a) Z46c f2 purple, UHM \$170, MNG \$20, NSFU \$4
- (b) Z46d, f2 purple, NSFU \$15
- 23 (a) Z47a, f2/10/- red, NSFU \$25
- (b) Z47d, f2/10/- red, LHM \$250
- 24 (a) Z49d, f3/10/- rose, UHM \$1995
- 25 (a) Z50a, f4 light blue, LHM \$325
- 26 (a) Z52d, f5 indigo-blue, UHM \$325, NSFU \$25
- 27 (a) f6/f6 overprint, NSFU \$6
- (b) f7/f7 overprint, UHM\$345, NSFU \$7
- (c) f8 green, NSFU \$8
- (d) f9/f9 overprint, NSFU \$18
- (e) f10/f10 overprint, NSFU \$9
- (f) f15/f15 overprint, NSFU \$10
- (g) f20/f20 overprint, NSFU \$10
- (h) f30 orange-red and black, NSFU \$18
- (i) f30/f30 overprint, NSFU \$25
- (j) f35 green and blue, NSFU \$35
- (k) f40/f40 overprint, NSFU \$35