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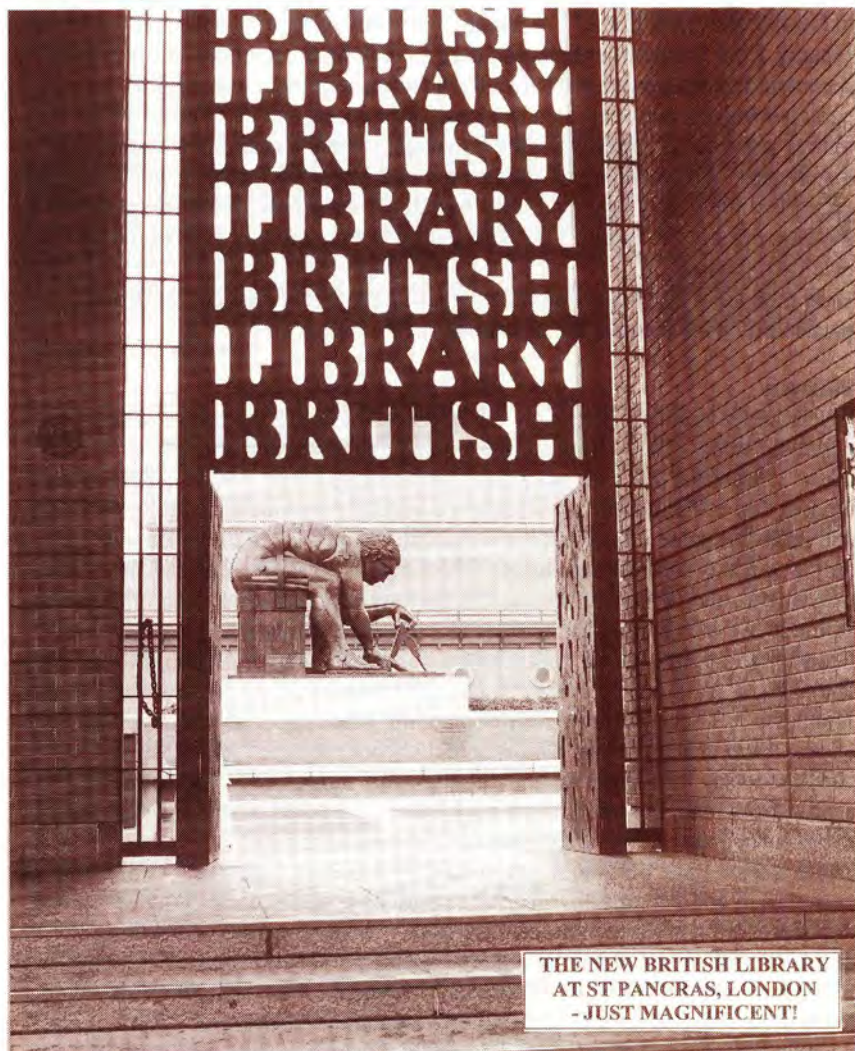


PATERSON

NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 4, NOVEMBER 2000



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TRAVELLERS TALES – BRITAIN IN 2000

from Warwick Paterson

At risk of boring our UK readers with much which will seem to them quite common-place – even mundane – I have found that visiting Britain at regular intervals over a period of over forty years has given me a heightened awareness of the changes which are taking place in what was known during my childhood in New Zealand as “home”. Arriving at my new Grammar school in Surrey in January 1956 I remember listening hard to pick up the nuances of the Surrey accent and to my school mates my Kiwi twang sent them into a mimic’s paradise with its odd “elevated terminal” inflections and its “flat” vowels. Not today! now we all speak the same language, same expressions with regional differences. Above all we all understand each other perfectly. Even trying out your rusty university French on the French evokes a tired, relentlessly patient look as if to say “Why don’t you just get on with it and talk English like anyone else”, its quicker.

Here then are a few observations on what I have found changed in Britain, particularly over the past ten or twenty years.

Philately

Where better to start? Britain by my observation is still the centre of real philatelic study – that’s where it started and that’s where it continues. This doesn’t mean that there are not true collectors elsewhere – of course there are – it’s just that in Britain for some reason albeit to an ageing generation, philately still holds the same allure that it always did. What’s more in my experience, only a minority of quite serious collectors belong to stamp societies, enter into exhibitions, and otherwise take part in the “social interaction” side of the hobby. While many who belong to societies and organise exhibitions may find this frustrating, the truth of the matter is that for many – and particularly in Britain – collecting is an intensely private pursuit followed by many professionals seeking refuge from the pressures of busy demanding practices or businesses. An oasis of peace and privacy if you like, where the world outside melts away needless to say, this is not an attempt at a value judgement. The hobby has always been, and inevitably must always provide, something individual for every participant. Why otherwise do it for goodness sake?

There is a shortage of good material, and by that I mean not just “collectible” as such, but in good condition. So while many bemoan the atrophying of interest in philately, the evidence speaks otherwise. There never has been enough desirable specialised philatelic material in the market and certainly never enough of the top 10% by condition. This hasn’t changed. Everything that’s any good tends to be snapped up and absorbed by the market. If the hobby were dying, why is the world not awash with fine philatelic desirables at give-away prices?

And it’s impossible to ignore the effect of the relative strength of currencies on the flow of philatelic material around the world. While the American dollar strengthened after the war, much that was good disappeared into that market – their dollar was strong and could simply buy the best at prices which to them

seemed relatively cheap. Translate that into Y2K terms and you have Britain with its pound rampant, able to buy everything and anything that is any good from anywhere in the world with the possible exception of America where the dollar remains relatively strong. Yes, yes, I realise that the pound sterling has begun to weaken in the past month or two and perhaps in the end that is a trend which will be welcomed by British industry which has suffered from the strong pound. The truth is however, that over the past several years the pound sterling has held sway in the philatelic markets where fine New Zealand material is concerned.

The British Library

Where better to see the sheer quality of philatelic presentation and care than the new British Library!? Good friend, Dr David Beech FRPSL, curator of the philatelic collections for the library, took us to lunch there in Euston Road, St Pancras (just next to the station). From the outside the British Library building has attracted a lot of criticism, according to David, with its very plain lines and red brick finish. The red brick of course fits nicely with St Pancras Station itself, which is the height of Victorian Gothic architecture. The contrast, in architecture is striking!

David showed us how well placed the philatelic collections are. Just up the stairs from the main foyer you encounter a huge bank of frames (behind armour-plate glass of course!) which slide easily out of the wall and in the beautifully modulated light allow you to examine in some detail the wonders of the "Tapling" collection. Readers may remember my previous visit to the British Library in its old premises and my description of the Tapling collection and its importance to all New Zealand philately, and indeed, all philately. Well here it is available for all to see and the first display which will not now be changed for some considerable time is, believe it or not, the fine New Zealand material. Any New Zealand collector should be happy to routinely visit the British Library and feast his eyes on what is not only some of the best early New Zealand in the world but easily the best form of light and temperature and atmosphere controlled presentation in the world. The library itself is, by the way, full of the most stunning delights you could imagine, all presented in interactive ways. Not offensively, and not simplistically, but very much part of the enjoyment of the history involved. Just to cite one example, David showed us into a room where there was a bank of interactive computers showing ancient books and illuminated documents, Eastern writings (the first printed book) and numerous other material. You sit down in front of the screen and the computer allows you to zero in on any one part of the page you are looking at and examine it in detail. Place a finger on the edge of one page and move it across the screen and the page literally turns in front of your eyes. This is the most exciting computer technology that I have seen used for archival/historical material. The whole effect is so good and so effective that it's difficult to get out of your mind. Ancient documents, scrolls, illuminated manuscripts and so forth of huge value will never now again have to be handled by human hand. In the case of one Taiwanese religious tract, monks could be heard chanting the text in what is believed to be the authentic manner.

To cap it all David took us to lunch in the staff cafeteria, which is more like a high class restaurant! The British Library, in its entirety incidentally, is one of those buildings which has been cleverly designed to maximise the use of light. There does seem to be more light inside the building than outside the building, an effect which I have only seen in very few other buildings in the world. David took us also to the headquarters of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, itself a fascinating experience – a pilgrimage.

Royal Mail

The British Post Office is so fed up with “Railtrack”, the privatised infrastructure company which has partially replaced British Rail, that it is threatening to move up to 25 million letters a day from the railways to British roads, Saints preserve us – (see “The Traffic” below). Apparently removing letters from the railways is going to add thousands of vans and lorries to the Post Offices fleet of thirty six thousand vehicles and this, it appears, is a severe blow to the integrated transport strategy announced by John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister.

Although the Post Office owns forty trains and a number of special stations, and indeed Railtrack itself, and although the performance of “English, Welsh and Scottish” (the national rail freight company) has improved markedly in recent months, Railtrack is the fly in the ointment and Royal Mail’s ability to respond to pressure from big companies for faster delivery and tighter guarantees is being damaged.

Royal Mail is committed to transporting mail by rail just as it always has been but it is not going to be at any price. Perhaps this is sabre rattling and Royal Mail will now sit back now and see Railtrack raise its act as Royal Mail has been able to do in previous disputes. Railtrack cites its investment of £2.6 million in a new Bristol rail hub as evidence of its commitment to making the system work, but one can only gag at the thought of tens of thousands of Royal Mail vehicles being added to the already heavy atmosphere pervading the main road routes of Southern England.

British prices (non-philatelic that is). The British seem to be asked to pay the most exorbitant prices for just about anything despite their strong pound. A strong pound you would say should mean lower prices for imported goods, but this is not the case. One of the great current complaints in Britain is the astounding prices they have to pay for imported cars, particularly from Europe where the Euro is getting so comparatively weak, that surely the converse should apply. While I was in Britain, both BMW and Mercedes began to drop their prices in response to the outcry but I haven’t seen anyone yet come up with a half decent explanation as to why everything in Britain should seem so expensive and why the British pound in all its strength should seem to go such a small distance.

And are people better off? Not necessarily. While the technocrats of the New Economy, particularly those with computer skills, do incredibly well and earn huge salaries and even huger bonuses in the City of London, many in Britain who have missed out on the opportunity to take advantage of the boom times find themselves left floundering in the wake.

Two pointers:-

There's a whole new class of yuppie abroad in the City of London. Each year he buys – no doubt with his £150,000 bonus – an obscenely expensive new exotic European car and flaunts it in the streets and areas where his friends, and no doubt competitors, will learn to appreciate him best.

These points, by the way, are not a matter of personal observation but are developments which were worthy of newspaper reportage.

Such is the demand in London for top graduates with good degrees coming onto the market out of the universities now, that anything up to £10,000 “golden hello” incentives are being offered for new recruits by Andersen Consulting.

This put other city firms and banks under real pressure and it looks as if a bidding war may be on to attract top talent with handouts like that (The Times 22 August). Hitherto the brightest and best have gone to the dot-com companies, but that era's coming to an end with some of the big employers in the financial and consultancy sectors frantic to fill their new graduate personnel slots. In England, as in New Zealand, many graduates leave university with massive debt hanging over them (anything up to NZ\$50,000). “Golden Hellos” may prove the answer, at least for some of the smartest.

The Health System

So you're sick to death of hearing about the shortcomings of New Zealand's government funded hospital system, drug delivery system and every other aspect of health care provided, at least partly by state funding. You are not alone. In Britain the NHS (National Health Service) hits the headlines in just about every newspaper every day of the week with some ghastly revelation about excess, inefficiency, second-rate service, or whatever else you care to name. It could almost be called a system in crisis some of the stories are so bad.

Example: recently there was a hullabaloo in the press when it was realised just how many “health tourists” were entering the country and obtaining free health care under the NHS system. Some of them asked why they weren't paying for the health care a benign British government provided for them, actually said that they had tried to pay – offered cash – and been told that there were no facilities in place to handle that sort of transaction and why didn't they just go away?

One prominent doctor even went so far as to write to The Times and state that under his training he had learnt that his purpose in life was to relieve suffering and treat his patients to the best of his ability. This as opposed to collecting funds for the British Government from foreigners and making sure that they went into the public purse.

Horror stories abound – hundreds of medical specialists are found “doubling up” and earning private fees as well as being employed by the National Health. Action is going to be taken.

The one general practitioner whom I visited in England as a “health tourist” turned out to be young, switched-on, extremely pleasant, very attentive and obliging and as far as I was concerned the sort of professional you would be happy to meet anywhere. Of course he was seeing me on an “emergency” basis in the weekend and when offered payment said “no, no – it's free”, Heaven knows, at least I tried to pay.

The Traffic

Every year that I have visited Britain at least since 1980 there seems a huge, even frightening – increase in the volume of cars on British roads, particularly in the South. What's more, the more cars that seem to pour on to the road, the faster they seem to go no matter how narrow the road or how wide the motorway. Consider a real "beginner's view" of the M25, the "orbital" route circling London and presumably allowing one to make quick transits from any point of the compass without actually having to go through the busy centre. "The largest parking lot in the country", is the tired response when you complain. A better story had one little old lady driving her car two and a half times around the peripheral route (a distance of hundreds of miles) and not finding a way of getting off it. Apocryphal, no doubt, but strangely compelling. Part of the problem I found with the motorway signage system was that it's possible to encounter a big blue sign directing you towards the motorway and listing all the places you can get to once you get on to the M25. Problem is that half the places on the list will be north of your entry point and the other half will be south. In other words, unless you know the geography of the area quite well, you can very easily find yourself going down the wrong slip-road and driving for perhaps twenty miles in the wrong direction before you get a chance to turn around, and that's expensive, given British fuel prices. What's more, when I recounted my own horror stories, many understanding Britons nodded sagely and said "I've done that myself". I found that the trick is first of all to understand that all of the exits or motorway junctions in Britain are numbered and therefore it's better to go by the junction numbers in the first instance and then work the rest out after that. It's possible however at a junction on the M25 to get onto a roundabout which requires you to study the faded destination markings painted on the road (M25 Reigate, etc.) and simply jump lanes as you go round the roundabout in the certain belief that eventually when you reach the correct slip-road exit, you will be OK because you will be in the right lane. This can prove stimulating on a crowded roundabout with everybody doing the same thing but not necessarily switching into, and out of the same lanes as you are.

And once on the motorway what then? Well, the fast lane means fast lane and that means 90mph (145km/hour). And woe betide you if you if you stay in that lane at anything much under that speed because your primary objective is to get out of the way of the Mercedes flashing his lights at you as he comes up behind you. Time was that "passing on the inside" on a motorway was absolutely taboo in Great Britain. Not any more. On the M25 people pass you on all sides, cutting in front of you in their own version of a Le Mans event.

It all sounds bad and yet strangely enough there is a quality of courtesy and decency on British roads which I have never encountered in any other country where I have driven (and I learned to drive in GB). For instance, approaching a narrowed piece of road there is some sort of instinct takes over which allows both drivers to judge who should pull over and let the other through. And it works. Let somebody through – or even a stream of traffic through as you pull over to the side and you will get a wave of appreciation and a smile from each of them as they drive past you. Now that I have seen nowhere else in the world.

The fact of the matter is however, that the South of England is slowly, but inexorably, stifling itself with the never-ending increase in the volume of traffic on its roads and attendant pollution. How one gets people out of their cars and into public transport or car-pooling, must be questions which sorely tax the British government. If driving in the South of England is a foretaste of things to come in larger countries, then these questions will have to be addressed soon. With people wanting more choice in where they live and more flexibility in where they work, the situation will continue to be exacerbated.

The Countryside

And make no mistake – there are still great areas of rural peace and beauty in southern England. On one genealogy expedition into deepest Kent we found several quiet villages warm in the late summer days, which still seem untouched by time and ignored by the throng.

Australia the Beautiful

I remember years ago walking into a petrol station in Kent and hearing one Kentish lad say to another “my shout tonight” (translation roughly “my treat” or “I’ll pick up the tab”). Picking myself off the floor I realised that Australian culture, Australian language and the Australian personality are having a much more intense effect on British life than you might have believed. Television shows like “Neighbours” all help this along the way of course being among the most avidly followed ‘soaps’ in the country at prime time, but there’s something about the Australian style, particularly in the year of the Olympics which gives them a strange in-your-face fascination for the British. The newspapers and TV are full of stories analysing Australian culture, highlighting Australian attractions and otherwise presenting Australia as “the place to envy”. “Is Australia at last to come of age?” asks the Financial Times. In other words, Australia matters to the British and they simply can’t get enough of it. Why should this be so? From my observation Australian sportsmen, activities and ways of living, present the British with strong contrast to what they do themselves. The emergence of the “Australian identity” and its endlessly discussed characteristics is worthy of feet of column space. You can’t help feeling that Australia’s brush with Republicanism and its referendum have not put the British off at all. In fact they’ve thought it rather admirable. To us the Aussies are understandable competitive cousins. To the British the Australians pose fascinating, unanswerable questions about themselves and their own society.

And the biggest Antipodean “whale” of them all, media mogul Kerry Packer, was reported in the British press as having lost \$40 million or something (who cares?) at Las Vegas. Now there’s an Australian that mesmerises the British – and anyone else for that matter. Packer was reported to have been approached by a swaggering Texan oil millionaire who announced “ah’m worth a hundred million dollars” “a hundred million eh?...toss ya for it”, says Packer.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

by Campbell Paterson

From the Newsletter - November 1950

Geo. VI Varieties

I will give Mr Greathead's interesting findings on Frame Plate 1 of the 3/- value.

3/-, Frame Plate 1:

R14/4 and 15/4, right panels heavy and blurred as with a sideways shift. The figures "3" on the right are affected, being distinctly smaller than normal in the case of 15/4 particularly. I have checked on these stamps, with the surprising result that I find them as described by Mr Greathead (very noticeable too) on one sheet, while on a second sheet no variation from normal is to be seen. I am following the matter up and will report any further information gained.

1/- and 2/-, Centre Plate 1:

Mr Mohr has uncovered some puzzling features of this Plate (used for both 1/- and 2/-). I will quote Mr Mohr, as there seems no good reason to transcribe his letter.

"Regarding the Centre Plate 1 used for the 1/- and 2/- Georges, I enclose some Plate blocks showing in some cases the strengthening of certain diagonal lines between the head and the top right corner, and in other cases showing the same stamps (R15/1 and R16/1) without this apparent retouching-

2/- sideways wmk: Three blocks with faint lines. Two blocks with strengthened lines. These blocks show spots on forehead, and I have not seen a block with the spots without the strengthened lines, either 1/- or 2/-.

2/- upright wmk: Two blocks with strengthened lines. Both blocks show the spots on forehead flaw, in early stage. (I have not seen the upright wmk stamp without the strengthening).

1/- sideways wmk: two blocks with faint background lines. I have not seen the sideways wmk stamp with other than faint lines.

1/- upright wmk: Two blocks with lines retouched. These blocks have the second E in Revenue complete on frame plate (Row 15 No.2). Two blocks with lines retouched. These blocks show the spots on forehead. The frame has second E of Revenue broken on 15/2. Two blocks with faint lines.

"If I am correct in saying that retouching has taken place - (it is my opinion that retouching can be presumed, C.P.) - then some interesting facts seem to become evident, one being that the first printings were on paper watermarked sideways, or, at least, that some printings were made on sideways wmk paper before some printings were made on upright wmk paper. Although I have not seen it, the 2/- may have appeared, without the retouch on upright wmk paper and the 1/- with the retouching on sideways wmk paper.

"The fact that the retouches appear in conjunction with the frame plate showing the complete second E in Revenue is interesting, but the sequence of printing the frame and the centre may not have been the same - in fact it apparently was not so.

"Another point of interest was that in cases where I also have Row 16 No. 9, the strengthening apparent on that stamp seems constant, whether or not R15 and 16 No.1 appear faint or retouched, indicating that not all the touching up was done at the same time".



542 (f)



542 (g)



544 (a)



546 (b)



547 (a)



551 (a)



550 (b)



552 (c)



555 (a)

The British Library Philatelic Collections

Elsewhere in this Newsletter I recount a visit to the British Library as the guest of Dr David Beech FRPSL, curator of the philatelic collections. In their recent newsletter there appears an interesting account of the conservation of a "stamp office archive" received into the British Library philatelic collections recently and badly in need of conservation. The following is a reproduction of the description given of the conservation and is interesting in that it clearly lays out the highly scientific principles by which the British Library operates.

When this Archive was received it was immediately obvious that a major effort would be required in order to conserve it. The guard books and albums had been stored in unsatisfactory conditions over a long period, bindings had deteriorated, become worn or broken, and layers of dirt and dust were ingrained into much of the material. Just the kind of challenge our conservators enjoy.

The first task was to stabilise the Archive, and this was done by holding it in a controlled environment within certain parameters of temperature and humidity. It was decided to deal with the 34 volumes of embossed stamps first, as they had been entered directly onto the pages, and some showed signs of splitting away. An intensive test programme was instigated using paper and ink samples supplied by the Stamping Department. The knowledge gained from these cleaning, repairing and ageing tests then enabled a conservation programme to be drawn up. It was only after we were completely satisfied with the test results were the volumes cleaned repaired and refurbished. This phase of the project took more than two years to complete.

The next phase, and the most extensive, is the task of removing the thousands of complete and part sheets of proofs, registration and printed stamps from their defective guard books. Again, a procedural programme of work has been prepared. The only practical way to preserve this material is to completely remove the sheets from the guard books and to rehouse them in conservation quality materials. Thus the programme of work is as follows. First, the pages in each volume are collated to ensure no items are absent and they are in numerical sequence. The sheets are then cut from of the guard books, bringing a strip of the binding with them. The pages are then dry cleaned using a cleaning pad to remove the surface dirt, avoiding any printed areas or text. The pages are then dusted to remove any debris.

Any small tears in the paper are treated, paste is spread thinly along the edges and Japanese tissue is laid on the back of the sheet to reinforce the repair. Larger damaged areas are cleaned around the edges and paper patches of similar colour and weight are prepared and pasted in place.

The remainder of the guard book paper is then removed, using an ultra sonic humidifier and preservation pencil to soften the glue. After the edge is dampened the residue of the guard book paper is removed by scraping. The repaired sheets are now allowed to dry, are pressed between plain paper and are ready to be encapsulated.

Polyester sleeves, made to size, are used to hold the renovated sheets. The sleeves are sealed on three sides, the sheets are inserted and spot welds are applied around the edges to prevent the sheets from slipping within the sleeves. Storage boxes, constructed from conservation quality material, are then made to contain sets of approximately fifty sheets resting on an expanded foam bed, which provides a cushion and also adds rigidity to the construction. The final procedure is the titling of each box with the details of its contents along the spine.

We are indebted to the British Library conservation staff for their high level of skills and abilities demonstrated in the renovation of the Archive.

New Zealand Post

New Zealand Post is ultra-careful in the selection of its stamp designs as will have been gathered recently in the CP Newsletter discussing the accountability required of designers themselves to justify what they put into their designs, but also in the extreme measures that they review what is submitted and make sure that no offence is given to minorities, other countries and indeed just about anyone who might eventually catch a glimpse of the stamps! All of which makes it all the more remarkable that an issue with such heavy political overtones as the recent "Leading the Way" designs, ever got past the strict review procedures.

In the United States it is no different. Perhaps like politicians we get the stamps we deserve – and particularly that has to be said if the public are actually asked to submit opinions about the favoured subjects for this issue or that.

In the U.S. there is a body appointed by the Postmaster General "The Stamp Advisory Committee" which is an eclectic group of historians, academics, philatelists, trend-spotters, and quasi-celebrities. Even the actor, Karl Malden, is a member, there's a sports commentator and former Notre Dame coach.

Everybody's got their own opinion of course about stamps and the purpose for which they should serve the community. The amazing thing to me is that stamps are, in this day of electronic communication, still such a subject of public debate and interest. In the Financial Times some months ago the process by which the United States selects designs was reviewed and the history professor of Angelo State University in Texas (and head of the Stamp Selection Committee), when interviewed, said that she considered that stamps are supposed to be a chronicle of history. "As an historian I know that what you chose of the moment is unlikely to be eternally important. That's, however what we're aiming for".

U.S. citizens were asked to make suggestions for “1990s Icons”, and immediately the Postal Service had problems. One of the biggest issues in stamp design selection is the fact that sometimes the most popular icons at any time are real living people, and for a number of reasons international convention has it that people on stamps should be dead and not only that but well dead (ten years?). There are undertones here of the fear of the emergence of personality cults and the use of stamp issuing for political purposes. All very understandable. But when U.S. citizens’ suggestions for 1990s icons came in, more than four million had voted on the subjects they thought best represented the past decade and should appear on stamps. In the Arts and entertainment category, the movie “Titanic” collected the most votes (of course). The problem was to represent the movie version of Titanic without a picture of the film’s star, Leonardo DiCaprio, standing on the bow of the ship with his arms outstretched seem inappropriate. Unfortunately Mr DiCaprio is very much alive (well – er fortunately for him anyway). (Apparently US presidents are a bit of an exception. They only need to have been dead a year before their faces can grace postage stamps). Does this mean that the time it takes you to become “very dead” depends on how powerful you are? Ooops, just thinking aloud.

The U.S. Post Office is working hard on making stamps more and more popular and is apparently succeeding, employing a teenage market research company in New York to help increase the popularity of stamp collecting among youngsters. This years cartoon series may well surpass the Elvis series for the highest number of stamps bought – amazing. Stamps for previous decades were easy to select, the Vietnam War and Woodstock for the 1960s, or the Womens Rights Movement and a Smiley Face for the 1970s. Most votes in the 1990s Science and Technology category, the World-Wide Web, seems a safe bet according to the F.T. But in the lifestyle category the two winners, Mobile Phones and Sport Utility Vehicles – will they always represent the 1990s. They have a stamp each.

The final question was asked, how did they get around the “Titanic” and “Seinfeld” problem? They used a boat picture and a picture of Seinfeld’s living room.

I guess imagination still has a place in stamp design.



702(a)



702(b)



702(c)

EDWARD VII AND GEORGE V

A Magnificent Collection of Used Blocks of Four is Broken Up

Rather like booklets, self-adhesives, used health miniature sheets and a number of other categories, fine used blocks of four of early and middle issues are very much gaining ground currently. Imagine our pleasure recently then when we had the chance to purchase a really carefully selected group – every item a beauty! We urge clients to take their chance now – when we will be able to offer such material again is a matter of conjecture.

Newspaper Stamps

- 540 (a) **B3a wmk W4** p12½ in **Bright Rose** – dated block of four in strong colour \$20
or slightly heavier marking (1895) paler shade \$20

First Sidefaces

- 541 (a) **C5a 6d Blue wmk W3** p12½, centred block with slightly untidy postmark. Nice item \$40
(b) **C6c 1/- Green wmk W3** p12 x 11½ in Green – block of four of the period. One stamp pulled perf (Catalogued \$400) \$200

King Edward VII

Some of the loveliest blocks we have seen

- 542 (a) **H1a ½d Green** p14 x 15, dated item Christchurch 1912 in Yellow-Green \$12.50
(b) **H2a 2d Mauve** p14 x 14½ in Mauve shade, block of six, light dated markings – spectacular \$85
(c) **H3a 3d Chestnut** p14 x 14½, block of four with very light marking, lovely deep Chestnut shade \$20
or block of six with light dated marking (2 x 3) one stamp ink mark, pale shade – a nice display item \$15
(d) **H3b block of four** of the scarce item – must be extremely unusual. Facially beautiful with dated marks and fresh colour. Slight ageing, wonderful example for the serious exhibition entrant \$100
(e) **H3c 3d Chestnut** p14 x 13½ - rarity. Most unusual in block of four and although there are faults this item would be hard to match. Well centred, light markings, one stamp slight tear and some discolouration on the back. Exceptional exhibition item (stamps Catalogue \$600) \$475
(f) **H4b 4d Red-Orange** p14 line. Block in bright shade with single light marking of the period. One of the most spectacular items in the offering \$250
(g) **H4d 4d Yellow** p14 x 14½, lovely block of six (3 x 2), very light parcels cancellation in centred stamps. Another eyecatcher \$125
(h) **H5a 5d Brown** p14 line. Block in Deep Brown shade, some faults but wonderful appearance \$10
or equivalent block in Red-Brown shade, light marking, well centred – scarce \$50

	(i)	H6b 6d Carmine p14 x 14½, nice block with light parcels cancellation, faces all clear	\$20
	(j)	H7b 8d Indigo-Blue p14 x 14½, superb block of six (3 x 2) in Indigo Blue, light markings mainly off the face	\$40
	(k)	H7d 8d Deep Bright Blue , two different comb heads, se tenant. Very light dated marking, clear faces, well centred. Most unusual and difficult to duplicate.	\$400
	(l)	H8b 1/- Orange-Vermilion p14 x 14½. Another spectacular item of an issue that is becoming harder and harder to obtain in fine used. Block of four dated with very light markings, well centred	\$200
	(m)	HO3a 3d Chestnut Official p14 x 14½, nice item with light marking	\$25
	(n)	HO7d 8d Indigo-Blue Official 2 perf pair, light markings – rare and magnificent condition	\$495
King George V – Recess Engraved			
543	(a)	K1b 1½d Grey p14 x 14¼, dated used block	\$35
	(b)	K1c 1½d Grey , vertical pairs, se tenant, block of four dated 1916 – lovely, lovely item	\$400
544	(a)	K2a 2d Violet p14 x 13¼, very fine commercially used block of six (light parcels cancellation) – fine appearance and general condition. Dated 1916 (Catalogued at over \$600) – this month's opportunity	\$375
	(b)	K2b 2d Violet p14 x 14¼ in Deep Violet, a block of four, light central dated cancellation – star offering	\$325
	(c)	K2c vertical pairs , two perfs se tenant in a pale shade of Violet. Light parcels cancellation – glorious block of six of this extraordinarily rare item. Probably unrepeatable (Catalogued at just under \$1000)	\$775
545	(a)	K2e 2d Yellow p14 x 14¼, one of the most genuine blocks of four we have seen, dated 1916. Very fine condition Catalogue (stamps) \$320 – extraordinary price this month	\$295
546	(a)	K3a 2½d Deep Blue p14 x 13¼, in Slate Blue. Block of six (3 x 2), wonderful condition and light markings, dated. (Catalogued at \$100) (stamps)	\$100
		or block of four in Slate Blue, dated, light marking, nicely centred	\$70
	(b)	K3b 2½d Deep Blue p14 x 14¼ in a shade of Deep Blue. Light markings off the faces – glowing piece	\$140
547	(a)	K4a 3d Chocolate p14 x 13¼ in Deep Chocolate, nice lightly marked dated block of four	\$40
	(b)	K4b 3d Chocolate p14 x 14¼ in Deep Chocolate. Block of four as above	\$35
		or in Chocolate Brown , fine block of six centred left	\$35
		or another nice block of four lightly marked	\$30

- 548 (a) **K5c 4d Yellow**, 2 perfs se-tenant – brilliant block of four with very light markings top and bottom (probably CTO). Excellent exhibition item for club display, etc., (Catalogue \$1000). The block includes the major re-entry “club foot” at row 4/10 \$300
- 549 (a) **K5d 4d Violet** (plate 20), p14 x 13¼ in Bright Violet, light parcels cancellation \$15
or **nice block of six** (3 x 2) in Dull Violet, slight plate wear – very, very attractive item \$45
or **nice block of nine** in the same shade with plate wear \$35
- (b) **K5e 4d Violet**, p14 x 14¼, block of six (3 x 2) with light parcels cancellation and very fine appearance. Bright Violet shade \$30
- 550 (a) **K5G 4d Deep Purple** (plate 44) p14 x 14¼, scarce block of six with dated and heavyish Auckland parcels cancellation, Deep Dull Purple shade \$10
K5g(4) 4d Deep Black-Purple, block of four with light marking and 1928 date. Most unusual \$50
- (b) **K5h 4d deep Purple** p14 x 13¼, block of six (3 x 2) with light dated marking (1928). Very fine looking exhibition piece in Blackish Purple \$400
- 551 (a) **K6b 4½d Deep Green** p14 x 14¼, commercially used block of four centred left, marking a little heavy although certainly not unattractive. Delightful item (Catalogued \$340) \$200
or **block of four** with light dated Wellington cancellation, perfect centring and in all other respects, very fine indeed – scarce issue and well worth \$400
- 552 (a) **K8a 6d Carmine** p14 x 13¼ in Deep Carmine. Magnificent block of six (3 x 2) dated 1926 \$25
or in **Carmine**, lovely dated block of four \$15
or in a **bright shade of Carmine**, nice used block \$20
or in lovely delicate shade of **Carmine-Rose**, dated 1926 – very fine item indeed. Some writing in ink on one copy but this is a most unusual offer. Guaranteed \$200
- (b) **K8c 6d Carmine**, vertical 2 perf pairs, se tenant in Bright Carmine. Commercially used block of four with light parcels cancellation, not obscuring the stamp at all. A very genuine item indeed and very rare \$600
- (c) **K8d 6d Carmine** perf 14 (line) on Pictorial paper with sideways wmk. Commercially used block of four with date \$675
or perhaps the pick of this months offerings, magnificent bottom right selvage **corner block of four**, fine military usage (field PO) with 1918 date \$750
- 553 (a) **K9a 7½d Deep Red-Brown** p14 x 13¼, used block of four with indistinguishable marking and a portion of registration crayon mark. Not a demonstrably clear usage but nice item at (Catalogued \$300) \$100

- 554 (a) **K10c 8d Indigo-Blue**, vertical pair, 2 perf se tenant, commercially used block of four – utterly genuine and eternally guaranteed! Another very lovely piece from a most remarkable offering \$950
- 555 (a) **K10d 8d Red-Brown, Red-Chocolate**. Nice block of four with neat little coin type marking – pretty \$40
- 556 (a) **K11a 9d Sage-Green** p14 x 13¼ in Sage-Green, lovely block of four dated 1932 \$50
 or **Pale Sage-Green**, slightly more untidy postmark but genuine \$35
 or in **Yellow-Olive**, really lovely block of four with light central marking \$120
 or in **Deep Yellow-Olive**, slightly more untidy marking but again demonstrably genuine piece dated Cambridge 1926 – very fine and rare \$225
- 557 (a) **K12b 1/- Vermilion**, p14 x 14¼ in Vermilion very fine block of four dated 1926. Slightly heavyish central marking \$40
 or in **Orange-Vermilion**, very light marking – beautiful item, one of the freshest and finest we have seen \$40
 or in **Pale Orange-Vermilion** – one of the finest we have seen of this shade and extremely distinctive, quick unlike the normal run of these shades – Guaranteed \$100
- King George V Official**
- 558 (a) **KO5g 4d Violet** (plate 44). Block of four (3 x 2) with light circular date stamps (dated) in the shade of Dull Purple \$75
- 559 (a) **KO11a 9d Pale Sage-Green**. Block of four of this rare item, very light marking well off the face (Catalogued \$440) \$400
 or equally fine **block of six** (3 x 2) light dated marking, very fine “Blockbuster” exhibition piece (Catalogued \$650) \$575

Chalons – A small significant selection – three Blockbusters

- 702 (a) **SG100 1/- NZ wmk**, magnificent unused (see illustration). One of the most magnificent looking copies in existence with very deep colour indeed. Stamp four marginal (Catalogued \$3,250) \$3,000
- (b) **SG81 1d Orange-Vermilion** on Pelure paper. This is possibly one of the most complete copies in existence with four margins and good strong colour throughout 99% of the stamp. Top left corner very slightly worn front and back. This is a stamp which almost never appears and which most specialists spend many years searching for. The copy in question is beautiful with a heavyish but clear strike of the Christchurch obliterator which leaves 45% of the face clear. (Catalogued at \$7,500 and due for a re-rating) Our copy this month would be near impossible to duplicate (see illustration). \$5,550

- (c) **SG119 4d Rose p12½ Star wmk.** Really amazing copy centred just a little high but very strong and good colour. With hand made papers such as the Rush Mills paper that was used to produce the Full Face Queens, there are sometimes inequalities, heavier fibres, "seeds", and other features that enter into the paper manufacture. In this case there is a tiny thicker piece of rag or material which has become embedded in the slurry at the point of manufacture and caused a slight thickening over which the stamp has been printed. The effect is tiny but the print is complete and can be seen to cover the inequality completely. This stamp is guaranteed unconditionally by us as precisely as issued and a very fine example and very authentic copy indeed. Beautiful clear print – lovely quality, minor short perf centre bottom row – steal of the month.

\$3,125



WIGGINS TEAPE PAPER

Selected offerings from this major group of surface printed middle issues. The WT paper is among the more difficult "general" issues to obtain and the following represent material which is virtually irreplaceable. Some inevitable price increases we regret.

- 942 (a) **J8a 1d Dominion WT VM paper, Purple-Carmine.** Superb top right selvedge, horizontal strip of four showing plate damage and serial number in black. Perfect UHM \$290
 or **top selvedge block of six**, ditto showing selvedge arrow (2x3). Lovely piece in perfect UHM (hinged in selvedge only) \$435
 or **J8a(y) printed on thick soft paper** – lovely UHM \$ 90
 or **LHM** \$ 75
 or **J8a(x) example UHM** on thick highly surfaced hard white paper – rare \$150

943	(a)	K15d 1d Field Marshal VM perf 14 WT paper. Glorious top right selvedge serial number block of four	\$250
		or top selvedge strip of three (serial number)	\$165
		or nice lightly hinged example	\$ 25
944	(a)	K18g George V 2d Yellow , perf 14 x 15 VM. Lovely UHM example in Yellow	\$ 26
		or LHM	\$ 13
		or example in Lemon-Yellow	\$ 32
		or LHM	\$ 15
		or Deep Yellow UHM	\$ 26
		or LHM	\$ 12
	(b)	K18g(z) , superb UHM example on hard white paper (thicker) – superb in Orange shade (unlisted)	\$100
		or LHM	\$ 25
		or as above example in Lemon-Yellow shade UHM	\$ 35
		or LHM	\$17.50
945	(a)	K18h WT paper ditto, perf 14. UHM single in Yellow – superb	\$ 22
		or LHM	\$ 11
		or UHM in Lemon- Yellow (scarce)	\$ 33
		or LHM	\$ 16
	(b)	K18h(y)(1) Yellow ditto on thicker paper – lovely top right selvedge serial number block of four	\$120
		or LHM single	\$ 10
		or 2 UHM, 2 VLH block of four in Yellow	\$ 75
		or in deep shade of Yellow LHM single	\$ 12
	(c)	K18h 2d ditto PICK OF THE GROUP – Magnificent top right selvedge serial number block of four on hard white paper – hinged in selvedge only. A magnificent item and almost impossible to duplicate today with the scarcity of this quality of rarer papers in the market place (unlisted).	\$450

OFFICIAL POST CARDS

from Ron Ingram

Notice to attend for Medical Examination – Post Cards

War. Form N.Z. – 317.

During the second World War the New Zealand Military Forces used post cards to advise personnel to attend for Medical examinations at various locations either at a Drill-Hall or a hospital. The card is of standard size 3" x 5", printed in black ink on a light cream card. Postage and registration of 5d has been paid by the use of a pictorial 2d and a 3d George 6th stamp over-printed Official. The card has been postmarked on the 8th of July 1942 at Hastings. "Out 10/7/42" has been written in blue pencil on the front which indicates the addressee was not home when the first delivery attempt was made.

On the reverse the word "Specialist" has been typed in and this was probably the reason for this card to have been sent registered mail. There are remnants of the green registration receipt on the right hand edge. The "Defence Dept. Hastings" stamp at lower left has been impressed in blue ink and the Assistant Area Officer etc., stamp is impressed in purple ink.

R	No. 360	O.H.M.S.	
HASTINGS			
72/777			
KELLY J.J.			
500 N RIVERSLEA ROAD			
HASTINGS.			

out 10/7/42

NEW ZEALAND MILITARY FORCES.		WAR.
		Form N.Z.-317. (Banded in 100's.)
Notice to Attend for Medical Examination.		
Date:	8th July 1942.	DEFENCE OFFICE, HASTINGS
	Specialist	
You are hereby warned to attend for medical examination at		
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HASTINGS.		
on	16th July 1942.	at 4 P.M.
	(Date)	(Time)
*A travelling warrant is enclosed.		
		Lieut.,
Assistant Area Officer, Sub-Area 7A/2		
Rank:		
Appointment:		
* Deleted when not required.		500,000/11/40-11005

The imprint on this card reads (200,000/11/40-11005). The following are the imprints from three other printings recorded:

(Forms 317/3	30,000/12/39 -14840
(Forms 317/3 (2)	35,000/ 6/40 - 4375
(Forms 317/3 (2)	100,000/10/40 - 9907

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557(a)

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