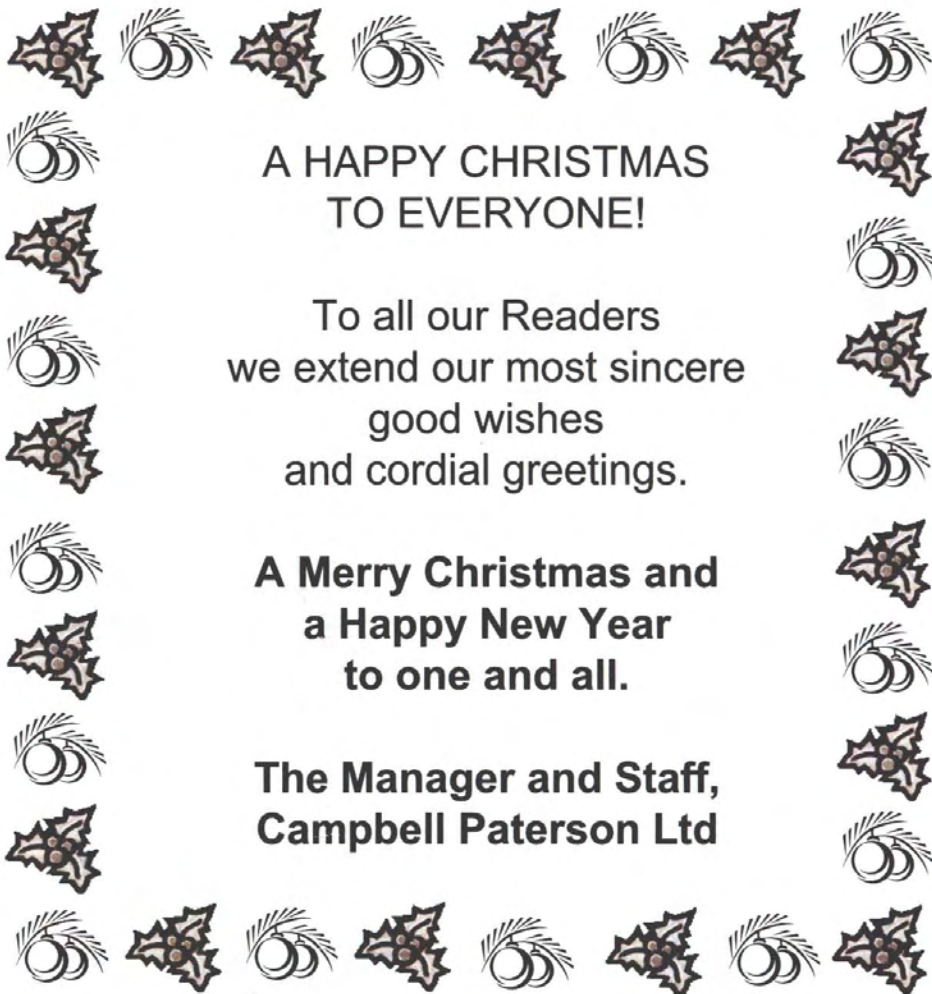




NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

Volume 56 Number 5, DECEMBER 2004



A HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TO EVERYONE!

To all our Readers
we extend our most sincere
good wishes
and cordial greetings.

A Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
to one and all.

The Manager and Staff,
Campbell Paterson Ltd

CP'S NEW ZEALAND STAMPS - WELCOME TO OUR TRADITION

CAMPBELL PATERSON LIMITED, PO BOX 5555, Auckland 1, New Zealand
Level Three, General Buildings, Cnr O'Connell & Shortland Streets, Auckland 1
Telephone 64-9-379 3086, Facsimile 64-9-379 3087



NZ NOTES by Warwick Paterson

A recent "whirlwind" world trip of four weeks duration during late September and early October gave Jenny and me a chance to sample delightful places which we had never visited before. Notable among them was, Tokyo where we were spoilt, as only Japanese friends can do, and the Greek Islands, where my fascination with Minoan culture was given free reign at Knossos, Akrotiri and Heraklion.

Socially however, the undoubted peak of the trip was the chance to attend the New Zealand Society of Great Britain weekend, held by the Scottish Chapter in Edinburgh, on September 9/10. Clients of CP Ltd will have no illusions about my strong attachment to the Kiwi Society, not simply as a member but as an admirer of their vitality as an organisation, high level of activity and their ability to span via their members the whole gamut of New Zealand Philately and Postal History "as far as it goes", in specialist terms. The connection between CP Ltd and the Society goes all the way back to its inception in Britain in the 1950s. At one time CP himself offered a free CP Newsletter subscription to all those who joined the Society at that time. My own association commenced with a visit to the Shaftesbury Hotel in the West End of London in late-1965, forty years ago this year – when with trepidation, but a lot of enthusiasm, I was leaving the UK to return to New Zealand to take over the operation of the Auckland Branch, due to the unfortunate illness of my predecessor, John Robinson. On that day I met notables like Noël Turner, Mrs Euphemia Moore, Michael Burberry and many others – mostly now long gone – who helped to create the strong foundation in London which the Society enjoys today.

In Edinburgh this year I was particularly glad to meet at last, John Studholme, who I call the "father" of the Scottish Chapter, as four years ago when I was in the UK he was holding the first informal barbeques and meetings to see if support existed for such a group. His success was evident in Edinburgh this year, at what must be one of the most friendly and welcoming philatelic gatherings I can remember.

Alexander McCullough also played a large part in the establishment of the Chapter, played a leading role in the organising and running of the weekend, as did yet another valued friend, Pat Riddell, who presented me with his golf club tie – not St Andrews I note, but "older and harder to get into" (1761). A large contingent of Kiwi Society members from the South were also present, including Derek Diamond, the current President, Andrew Dove, Paul Wreglesworth and Bernard Symonds.

The format for Kiwi Society meetings is one that works well. Any member can get up and speak to his own collecting interest usually with a display and Len Jury of Auckland joined other speakers, with a display of his own Postal History collection and that of another New Zealand collector. Notable was the fact that Len displayed laser copies of excellent quality of the latter collection and little seems to have been lost in the process, visually at least.

Overall, the very strong Scottish links with early New Zealand which still hold true today in my opinion, were strongly in evidence in the displays and in the interests and connection of the members. Our colleague, Jos Gregson and Jenny, who are retiring from the philatelic trade, were awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Society, in recognition of their support over the years.

The Kiwi Society maintains warm and co-operative links with professional philately and I believe that this has also helped to strengthen and ensure its active future well into the future. The spontaneity and relative informality of the weekend and the strong Scottish tone to it all served to make this a highly memorable and successful occasion.

CP Newsletter readers and clients who would like to consider membership of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain, should write to me in Auckland and I will ensure that your interest is passed on to the Society.

From the other side of the fence

Recently it has been my pleasant duty to work with a national (inter-district) Rotary Committee, which has negotiated a new set of stamps with NZ Post to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Rotary International in Chicago in 1905.

The set of stamps is scheduled for appearance in February 2005 and will be combined with issues commemorating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the YMCA and the fiftieth anniversary of Lions, another international service club.

The Rotary stamps will be of face values at 45c and \$1.50 (this according to New Zealand Post the most used overseas rate) and will feature scenes indicating the community work undertaken by Rotary throughout the world for the last 100 years with the slogan "Supporting Communities". The lower value will show younger people using their cultivation skills (handling mulch!) and the higher value shows the process initiated by a civil engineer, Stuart Thomson in one of Auckland's Rotary districts, whereby people in Fiji are encouraged to make their own bricks and build their own, purpose designed, cyclone-proof cottages.

Of particular interest to me has been the playing out of the process of working with New Zealand Post and their stamp design unit in achieving a successful result. New Zealand Post doubtless with their long experience of dealing with voluntary organisations at this level, sets deadlines and applies a gentle continuous pressure to achieve the design submissions and wordings that they require. I have to say though that there is never any doubt about who is in control of the situation and whereas New Zealand Post are very amenable to suggestions and accept wordings without much question, the ultimate form the designs take is – as it must be – produced by them. They also retain contractual control until they are 100% satisfied with the detail (with such a monopoly – why not?). No doubt the uniformity of the whole issue is taken into account in this policy, although I have not yet seen the final designs for the Lions and the YMCA. New Zealand Post however are courteous and co-operative and it is not hard to establish personal contact with the people who matter in the production of the stamps and to discuss the range of issues that inevitably arise.

When it comes to criticise these issues – *as it will as night follows day* – my difficulties will be compounded, having had so much to do with the selection and form of the designs. Perhaps I shall invite someone else to criticise them!

And meanwhile back at Royal Mail

Brian Payne of Hampshire has sent us cuttings which he has been accumulating, all of which allow me to update readers on developments in the UK.

Item: In May this year, it was revealed that the British Government had been approached by a consortium of the City of London's major investment banks seeking a mandate to privatise Royal Mail "within the next year to 18 months".

The Chairman of Royal Mail, Alan Leighton, has always been implacably opposed to the privatisation of Royal Mail, but may be spared that experience when he steps down in March 2005. Leighton – no doubt with Toime's assistance – has transformed the business which now looks likely to declare profits of about £400 million. This would prepare the scene for a floatation that could net the Treasury billions of pounds. A huge aspect of any such deal would be to satisfy the Unions and the 160,000 employees themselves. It has even been suggested that quite a large minority of the shares in a newly privatised Royal Mail, would be offered to them. Additionally, staff may be offered a bonus if Royal Mail achieves that profit and this alone could produce £4,000 for many employees.

Royal Mail – which has often been referred to in CP Newsletters as a disaster story of humungous proportions – has lost £1.8 billion in the past two years, but the current moves – and the renewed profitability of the company, and the fact that the Government may be able to sell off a debt-free organisation, have changed the scene radically. 30,000 jobs were slated to be cut, most of those through natural attrition. Assets of the company, valued a number of years ago at £2.5 billion. Today, a sale – and – lease programme on these assets could net up to £4 billion. However, according to the report, standards are slipping fast. Complaints are legion, there are fewer deliveries, millions of letters arriving late and the London Unions' are involved in an increasing militancy. Royal Mail actually faces a £50 million fine, for missing most quality targets and it does not appear that standards will improve any time soon.

Although it has not been widely released, a snippet of information (from Royal Mail actually) informs us that Elmar Toime previously CEO of New Zealand Post and latterly Deputy to the CEO of Royal Mail, is no longer with the British Post Office. I mention this simply for the record, no other information being available at present. A straw in the wind?

Item: Into the black hole went the 14 million

Another of Brian Payne's cuttings tells us that over 14 million letters are lost by Royal Mail each year. Nearly 300,000 pieces of mail every week are stolen or opened by the wrong people, or simply arrive too late, after going to the wrong address.

The social cost of this sort of loss is hard to quantify. When you count within this, vital hospital appointments, job offers, university places and the many firms who lose business, through late arrivals, bills going unpaid, this is indeed a major issue. It appears that misdirected mail is the major culprit accounting for 60% of the losses, but in mitigation the Chairman of Post watch, Peter Carr, said that the missing letters represented less than 0.07% of the 21 billion items handled by British postmen every year. Poor or wrong addresses form much of it, but a BBC Channel 4 documentary

earlier in the year showed postal workers slacking, stealing from and dumping letters. One can't help wondering if these are the people who will be receiving shares in a privatised Royal Mail along with their £4,000 bonuses?

A large part of the problem appears to have followed Royal Mail's abolition of the Second Post, earlier in the year, which has meant that the First Post in some areas has been delayed until the afternoon or evening. In the meantime, performance targets continue not to be achieved. The Communication Workers' Union has accused Royal Mail of trying to change too quickly. "They have rushed it", says the Deputy General Secretary, Dave Ward. Who can blame them?

Item: And the real threat.

The major problem facing Royal Mail, as faces any major service provider, is to achieve the objective with accuracy and efficiency but also to leave its customers with a good feeling about the transaction. A breathtaking 70% of all mail is sent by a mere 100 Royal Mail customers. Qualifications in rocket science are not required to see that if private companies (c.f. Postal Operators) were able to snatch the business of these massively profitable accounts, then Royal Mail might be facing extinction.

Possible solutions being suggested are differential charges (levying higher prices for larger rather than heavier items). The long-suffering British population has once again recently seen its rail service cast in harsh light, and everyone in Britain thinks that the Railways and the Post Office could be run a lot better. Royal Mail has been described as the last major bastion of unreconstructed union power in British industry. If Royal Mail can get past the obstacles that that presents and consolidate its position as a highly efficient – and profitable – privatised organisation, then everyone could benefit; workers with higher wages and bonuses, and a stake in profits and a British public with renewed confidence and enjoyment of efficient communications.

And again, the point has to be made, that an efficient postal system is still as essential as it ever was. If the experience of Royal Mail is anything to go by, then in a complex, crowded and busy western economy like Britain, the public still expects mail to go through.

Item: And a word to the wise – or "I-don't-usually-discuss-exchange-rates-but-this-time-in-fairness-to-readers, I'll make an exception"

The US dollar is at present plumbing historical lows. The New Zealand dollar is at present scaling historical highs. This situation – should you live in the USA – offers an unprecedented opportunity to dispose of high quality New Zealand philatelic material to Campbell Paterson Ltd. Using our normal buying criteria, where we pay between 50% and 65% of our **selling price** (which may be more or less than Catalogue price) we are able to compete in buying valuations with anything you are likely to be able to obtain in the US or in any other currency area normally influenced by the US dollar.

My recommendation:

Consider carefully whether this is an opportunity to sell at least part of your New Zealand specialised holding. Remember, as we have always said, top quality is the key – choosing the time to sell is not always possible. This time, as seldom before, *you hold all the trump cards.*

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES

by Rob Talbot

Christmas Fare (4 October 2004)

A poorly illustrated set in a "diamond shape" which never seems satisfactorily to accommodate the graphic elements. The silverware is overdone, the picnic shown is most unlikely in New Zealand, the kebab is very unconvincing (no self-respecting Kiwi could barbeque an oyster!) and none but the initiated could stand a hope of deducing that the veggie garden (90c value) was actually a hangi (Maori earth oven) being revealed in all its glory. Why does the Christmas issue so often attract the overuse of gold? Look how drab, boring and alike it has made the different designs. There is no good differentiation of denomination other than seeking out the small figures of value.

Hopefully NZ Post will bring back Lindy Fisher next year – her previous Christmas designs have all been very strong. At least there is good philatelic interest in this issue.

Designed by Paul Hooker, Auckland and printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin by offset lithography in four process colours.

- *Gummed sheets of 50*, Tullis Russell 104 gsm Red Phosphor stamp paper. Perforation 14.3, mesh vertical (to the sheet i.e. with "New Zealand" reading right).
- *Two booklets* – 10 x 45c, 8 x \$1.00. Both perforation 9.75 x 10 and vertical mesh.

Note: All self-adhesive formats are phosphor tagged with a straight-sided box and reported as Avery Dennison PSI Non DC self-adhesive stamp paper. Matrix intact.

- *Self adhesive roll of 100 x 45c*. Perforation and mesh unchanged from booklets. Matrix stripped.
- *Self adhesive sheet of 50 x 90c*. Perforation and mesh unchanged from booklets. Matrix intact.
- *Jumbo roll strip 45c, 90c and \$1.00 se-tenant*. Perforation unchanged at 9.75 x 10 but mesh is now horizontal. Matrix intact.

Designs are:	45c	Traditional Feast	}	Diamond shape
	90c	Hangi		
	\$1.35	Barbeque		
	\$1.50	Picnic		
	\$2.00	Dessert	}	Orthodox shape
	45c	Traditional Feast (s/adh roll)		
	45c	Traditional Feast (s/adh bklt)		
	90c	Hangi (s/adh sheet)		
	\$1.00	Christmas Cake (s/adh bklt)		

Ross Dependency – Emperors (3 November 2004)

A good business-like design though it would have added an extra interest element if the area of the Dependency had been highlighted on the map. Good differentiation of value and excellent choice of bird illustrations. A remarkable creature able to spend the winter breeding season on the open ice – the *only* one to do so.

Designed by Ocean Design, Wellington. Printed by Joh. Enschede Security Print, Netherlands by offset lithography in four process colours.

- *Gummed sheets of 50*, Tullis Russell 104 gsm Red Phosphor stamp paper. Perforation 13.4 x 14, mesh vertical.

Designs are:	45c	Mother and baby
	90c	Teenager
	\$1.35	Feeding time
	\$1.50	Proud parents
	\$2.00	The Committee

Baypex Exhibition (29-31 October 2004)

Designed by Stamps Business, NZ Post. Printed by Southern Colour Print, Dunedin (Litho, four process colours).

- *Miniature sheet incorporating one of each value se-tenant*. Paper type Tullis Russell 104 gsm Red Phosphor stamp paper. Perforation 13.4 x 13.7, mesh vertical (no change from original printings).

Designs are:	\$3.00	Cape Kidnappers (Old design)
	\$1.50	Hawke's Bay Vineyard (New design)

SPECIAL NOTE: The \$1.50 Hawkes Bay together with the other five \$1.50 designs of the original issue (1 September 2004 – Tourism issue!) was tentatively listed in CP's Scenic category. You may want to also re-read the notes in the October Newsletter (p5) in conjunction with these.

It seemed likely that NZ Post consider both these stamps as definitives in joining them on this miniature sheet and this has since been confirmed. Also there are precedents for "defining" definitives even if available for sale for 12 months or less i.e. provisionals, miniature sheets and booklets containing definitives. There is a distinct possibility that these designs will be available for longer than the 12 months originally announced. Accordingly, the set announced by NZ Post as "Tourism 2004 – A Nationwide Tour" is now reclassified as section PE-definitives.

Definitive Reprints (September ? 2004)

Apart from Kiwi silhouettes there are no changes to technical details. However, on what is almost certainly perhaps the last 100-stamp roll to be issued (the format is stated to be replaced by self-adhesive sheets), a print indicator is printed on the reverse of the backing paper in addition to being on the box (hard to see on the bottom) for the first time.

5c	Mt Cook 3-Kiwi
45c	Kaikoura (s/adh roll) 1-Kiwi reverse of backing paper

Olympic Games 2004 – Further feedback

Another dealer reports one of his clients has found a further error type involving the laminating of the illustration. The main difference to previously reported errors is that the illustration is the wrong value for the denomination of the stamp paper. Fortunately there are other manufacturing faults which provide good provenance as this is the first type of error, of this issue, which would be relatively easy to manufacture.

The reports of error discovery to date strongly suggest that they are very scarce indeed. Despite the errors of lamination being varied (and extremely interesting) they are far from endemic and perhaps amount to a total of less than a dozen. We are, of course, in the market for these errors but so far no full sheets have been discovered and lucky finders of single examples seem to want to keep them.

We have now received a lot of feedback on the © copyright symbol appearing in this issue (see October CPNL p.6). It is clear that it was intended to appear on every stamp but the silk-screen process wasn't up to something that small.

Bill Chrystall (now of Taupo, NZ) noted a peculiarity of the 45c sheet but which I confirm can be seen on any value sheet. "Why do the images differ in any one position?" he writes. Of course he was rocking the sheet on a horizontal axis to produce the phenomenon. Also you can try photocopying a sheet on different axes – very entertaining.

Whereas the printing of four colours on the back of the lenticular substrate must be at least as precise as regular process printing the registration of the print to the "lenses" is not at all precise. Yes, the gauge of the "lenses" must match that of the interlaced images but the registration of the two matters not at all.

Naturally there can be slippage in feed or gearing causing a slight and gradual change to the registration and also the co-efficiency of expansion between printing plate and substrate will play a part. Over a single stamp this will not affect the imaging of the lenticular process but it will likely change over a sheet and definitely during a run, i.e. between sheets. There is no guarantee that all the laminated strips in a sheet of stamps come from the same printed sheet and hence the image will normally differ in any one position.

5c PROVISIONAL ISSUE 2004 **by Warwick Paterson**

As already noted in the Newsletter, New Zealand Post issued 5c labels of utterly nondescript design in colour to fill a gap in their stocks of 5c regularly-issued stamps, subsequent to the increase this year in the basic postal rate from 40c to 45c. The label, its appearance and the dramatic circumstances of its issue, raised philatelic eyebrows around the world and I can report that this was a major subject of conversation at the recent Philatelic Convention of the Scottish Chapter of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain, which I attended in early October.

So far so good – is not all of philately filled with such quirky events, even to this day?

Although New Zealand Post seems to be having as much trouble coping with the backwash of this incident as anyone else, let alone the CP Catalogue – and just like the Catalogue, New Zealand Post's problems appear to centre around the definition of such an item, rather than its purpose or actual usage.

Client Campbell Page in Basel, Switzerland, wrote to New Zealand Post complaining that he had missed the recent emergency 5c Provisional stamp, despite his long term standing order for all new issues of New Zealand Post. Imagine his surprise then when he received the following answer from Ivor Masters, the CEO.

"I regret any inconvenience that the 5c postage label caused you. As you are aware NZ Post had a price increase from the basic 40c stamp to 45c. Our stockholdings of 5c were put under extreme pressure by the excessive demand, the increase generated.

As part of the stock management process for the supply of 5c, an area in New Zealand Post, other than the normal stamp area, created a filler 5c label. This label did not follow the normal process of development and is not truly a postage stamp but rather a self-adhesive label.

The "label" was then withdrawn. This was the reason that you did not get notified of the 5c and by your standing order did not incorporate it.

I do apologise for this event and can assure you that steps are being taken so that labels cannot be circulated in this way again."

As a gesture, Mr Masters arranged to have complementary labels sent to Campbell, ended with the interesting comment:

"I hope that this goes someway to reposition your thoughts about us".

A case of pouring fuel on the fire? My question is, "how does a 5c postage label – otherwise described as a filler 5c label or self-adhesive label, fail to be defined as a stamp when it is fully valid for postal usage and is accepted for the prepayment of mail? How do you define a postage stamp?"

I can assure Newsletter readers and Catalogue users that Campbell Paterson Ltd regards the 5c self-adhesive filler postage label of 2004, a fully fledged stamp and will treat it as such in our Catalogue.

As a final thought, didn't the British Post Office call the Penny Black a "label"?



"I think the concept of the catalogue and its depth of detail is superb, and I have grown to love it in the short time I have owned it. However, I believe it [a second-hand CP Catalogue] was a foolish buy on my part and I could have put my money to better use by buying new from the start. And that has to be the logical next step."

A.T., UK

FIFTY YEARS AGO

From the Special Christmas Edition Newsletter – December 1954

by Campbell Paterson

Are Philatelists Ungrateful? I was at a meeting of the Waikato Society some months ago and was asked to say a few words. Caught unprepared, I had to think of something not too banal to talk about. The above heading was my hurried choice but the remarks were very much extempore and far from profound. However the incident did set me thinking and I came to the conclusion that there might indeed be much in the suggestion I then made, that collectors generally are most ungrateful to the hobby they follow and presumably enjoy.

Take the case of the keen golfer as a contrast. He pays anything up to £50 for a set of clubs; his annual subscription may be ten or more guineas (I don't know for sure as I don't play myself); he will spend pounds each year on benzine driving to the course and what he spends at the nineteenth hole is proverbial. In short his hobby costs him a pretty packet. Then there is the amateur movie photographer. £200 for a fine camera and projector is nothing extraordinary – or so I'm told – and then about £5 for every reel developed. My figures may be wrong but if anything I fancy they underestimate the expenses. The point is that neither the golfer nor the movie fan expects to see his money again. Both golf clubs and camera equipment can be sold second-hand but only at a substantial loss – never a profit. Does one hear these enthusiasts complain that they cannot turn their hobby to profit? Not so far as I know. They apparently think that the fun they get is worth paying for. That well-known character "a visitor from Mars" might be excused if he thought, after studying the outlook of various hobbyists, that any other hobby on earth must be superior to philately, for he would soon learn that few stamp collectors will willingly pay a penny for the fun they get from collecting. To the average collector the idea of paying 1/- for a stamp and selling it later at the same figure is painful. One should expect to make at least 50%. When this does not happen it only proves – according to our average collector – that "collecting stamps is a mug's game", and "one would do better with the money in the bank". Note that no allowance whatsoever is made for the days or even years of enjoyment that the stamps have provided. Our friend from Mars could not but conclude that little pleasure was to be had in philately – that in fact the hobby is not really a hobby but rather a form of gambling where everyone is out to make some quick money at the expense of his fellow collectors.

This is not I think an unnatural conclusion for a non-collector to arrive at. Some such thought may have been behind the angry attack on philatelists written by Harold Nicholson a year or so ago. H.G. Wells also is on record as having referred to "idiot" (stamp) collectors".

We who are collectors and have been so in many cases since childhood, know that it is not a true picture. Our hobby is, we believe, the finest in the world. It has restored serenity to troubled and overworked minds; it has given solace and pleasure to invalids by filling in empty hours; it is at once the hobby of the poor as well as of the rich and it has more devotees than any other indoor pastime. I recall that about 1935 I discovered the almost unlimited fascination of "plating" the Penny Black of Great Britain. At that time one could buy a good P.B. for from 2/6 to 5/-. I estimate that in studying the copies which came my way – some 270 all told – I gained not less than half an hour of unalloyed pleasure and experience from every stamp and this before I even mounted it in the album. That I eventually sold them

all for an average of at least 15/- per copy is quite beside the point. I do not recall expecting the gain nor giving the matter much thought (though I was not displeased when it came) but I know that if I had not got a penny for the lot I would still have been heavily indebted to those stamps.

Some, perhaps more than I think, do feel gratitude to their stamps for the pleasure they have given and these are the ones who really get that pleasure in full degree. But it must be admitted that philately has more ingrates than it deserves.

6d Peace. Another re-entry. What is quite the best frame re-entry in the 6d Peace has been noticed by Mr R.A. Dexter on R5/7 of Plate 42853. This stamp is adjacent to the R5/8 which has been mentioned here before as being found in two states – with re-entry and with retouch. The R5/7 re-entry shows a clear doubling (to the right) of the D of ONWARD. Clear traces are also seen in the A, L and A of ZEALAND. It is worth noting that this re-entry is constant in conjunction with both states of R5/8.

Elizabethan News Mr W. Vercoe of Auckland reports the existence of the 9d in half-sheet form with the original sheet value "£6" cancelled out and a new value "£3" inserted in green.

1½d George VI Invert. Following the 3d invert comes word of the 1½d red, used, with inverted watermark. Mr J.F. Morrison of Timaru is the finder. He reports that he also holds used copies of the 3d and ½d chestnut of which no more than two or three copies are known. Mr Morrison has indeed been lucky, or – which is much more likely – he has gained an excellent result from a great deal of hard work.

My experience has been that the collector who has the time and inclination to make a really thorough study of a stamp or group – reading all available authorities, using his brains and keeping his eyes open – cannot fail to profit by it. I recall the days when I was an avid collector and student of "Penny Blacks"; it was rarely that I failed to find something of extra value or interest in every copy I came by. From the monetary point of view I did very well and my gain in interest and philatelic knowledge was incalculable. There is the important point too that one cannot really study any issue without building up a store of general philatelic knowledge that is valuable in the study of other issues.

N.Z. DESIGNS I can imagine many readers resenting the space I have lately given to N.Z. stamp designs. Others will simply skip this with a shrug and perhaps a muttered "there he goes again!" My excuse is that I do feel strongly on the subject. I do not enjoy criticising and I long for something to praise – like the lower value Elizabeths, which I still think are the best we have had for years.

But can anyone honestly suggest that our Health stamps have been other than terribly uninspired and generally poorly executed? The Health series does seem to me to have been a wonderful opportunity for producing something of real interest and dignity – something unequalled in its advertising value and worthy of the noble cause for which the stamps are issued. This opportunity has been frittered away through lack of interest, lack of continuity and above all lack of vision.

It is doubtful if criticism does much good. Certainly mine has borne precious little fruit. One gets the impression of battering against something massive – immovable and impregnable yet strangely dead. It is rather like punching a sponge of great thickness backed by a stone wall. The most one can elicit is a taunt of "destructive criticism" – which reply apparently absolves those responsible from the necessity of giving the matter any further thought. But the subject is important enough to be worth another try. Let us suppose I were in a position of some influence – what would I do to improve the Health series?

No doubt my ideas will be disagreed with by many but at least they cannot be called "destructive criticism."

1. It is suggested that the Healths, from next year onward should show the year of issue as did several early issues. Why was this not continued? It would make for continuity, binding the Healths as it were into set form. It would be helpful to the collectors, especially the children, and would be an encouragement to avoid missing any year issue.
2. It is suggested that a definite long-term plan of designs be adopted. The much used and now hackneyed theme of associating children and healthy activity would be abandoned and a series of more colourful subjects started. Here I suggest for consideration that a period of five years be adopted. During each period and at the rate of two (?) each year similar designs should be used. We could have a series of famous N.Z. athletes for five years; then a series of NZ flowers for a further five; then perhaps scenic beauties; national sports; birds; industries – the possibilities are enormous. Again the result would be to encourage the collecting of the sets and the sales would cease to drop off as they seem to be doing this year.
3. During any period the frames of the stamps should remain the same. The aim again is continuity and the result would be a better balanced, cohesive set.
4. In any period the size and shape should be constant. This might mean the elimination of tall subjects if a horizontal format were chosen but again I feel that the balance and cohesion of the set is of paramount importance. As to size, my own preference is for a smaller stamp than the size now in use and square rather than long. The Crusader appeals as being about right. It is not necessary to have big clumsy stamps, as the Swiss have shown often enough.
5. All Healths should be bicoloured. The shades should be bright and carefully chosen for artistic results. This year's colours are unaccountably drab.
6. Photogravure and other cheap methods should be avoided in the printing. Recess printing is still unequalled for dignity and character.
7. Engravers, printers and papermakers should be impressed with the fact that New Zealand demands and will accept nothing but the highest standard. If contracts were made competitive and anything shoddy ruthlessly rejected we would soon obtain results comparable with the exquisite productions issued by some Continental countries. This is not a second-rate country and our stamps should not suggest that it is.
8. In December, 1951, I called attention to the apparent anomaly that the P & T Department seemed to be reaping rather more benefit from the Health stamps than were the children for whom the stamps were issued. Nothing has been changed since then. It seems certain in any case that the Department could increase their costs of printing, etc. by many thousands of pounds and still make a handsome profit. Such expenditure if made on improvements in design, printing, etc. could greatly increase the sales of the stamp, to the advantage of the children – and the Department.
9. I am strongly of the opinion that the number of Health values each year could be increased without hurting anyone. Why not issue values $1\frac{1}{2}d + \frac{1}{2}d$, $3d + 1d$, $4d + 2d$, and $1/6 + 6d$? The total face value, $3/-$, is less than the price of a seat at the pictures and should not be beyond anyone in these spacious

days. Business firms could still confine their contributions to the lower values and private individuals could use their own discretion. The Department's profit would of course increase to even larger proportions, making the above mentioned anomaly so glaring that it would have to be attended to by a subsidy to the Camps – which would be all to the good.

6. The prize offered for a design this year attracts only one entry. Obviously it will have to be increased to interest leading artists. The money is there and it is only short-sighted to continue on the present meagre scale. Well, there you have it – constructive ideas. Beyond advocating chlorophyll gum, I have nothing further to suggest.

EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From The New Zealand Stamp Collector – December 1919

FORGED O.P.S.O.s We are indebted to Mr R.F. Joyce of this city for the following notes on these dangerous forgeries. "I have just been shewn some forged O.P.S.O. stamps which have been offered for sale in Christchurch. To a collector not having a genuine one for comparison, the following notes may be useful.

	Genuine	Forged
Length of overprint	23mm	23mm
Height of Letters	3.4	4.2

Distance between full stops: Place Zero of the Millimetre measure on the centre of the dot after the first 'O' in O.P.S.O. The centre of the other dots will correspond to:

Genuine	6.8	13.6	&	21mm
Forged	6.1	12.8	&	19.5mm.

These measurements are really quite simple and can be taken from an ordinary S.G. perf. gauge. The dots in the genuine are nearly square, though a heavy impression or dirty pad frequently gives them the appearance of being nearly circular. The forged dots are distinctly OBLONG. As the width of the letters in the forgeries are the same as the genuine, their 25 per cent. increased height makes them very noticeable.

Postmarks – The genuine used should have only the Wellington G.P.O. postmark. The forged overprint appears to have been stuck haphazard on any used N.Z. stamp, noticeably Christchurch.

I am indebted to Mr H. Smith, of Wellington, for the first sight of these forgeries." **NEW ZEALAND** Our publishers have shewn us the current 1½d. Official with overprint in two distinct settings. "Victory Stamps." We now learn that there are to be six values in the new "Victory" set and that they are already in Wellington.



We would now take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and to those who have recently returned from the great European conflict, we would wish everything that is good; and may the joy of returning to their loved ones, not to mention their stamps, speedily dispel the ills and troubles they have endured while doing their duty to King and Country.

241202



1977407



600(a)

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

GST will be added to all prices listed in this Newsletter for local orders (12.5%).
Overseas orders are "zero-rated" and do not pay GST.

- 601(e) **L3b** " " " an identical plate 1A single R10/2 inc. re-entry, from the experimental wet printing, perf. 13½ x 14 **LHM \$16**
- (f) **L3d** " " " plate 1A, block of four with R9/2, R10/2, two re-entries, both doubling of string from hand to basket. 2 x LH, 2 x UH for the two re-entries **\$50**
- (g) **L4d 2d Whare**, perf. 14 x 15 line, plate 2B, plate block of four UHM (LHM in selvedge) (cat. \$425) **\$375**
- (h) **L7e(Q) 4d Mitre Peak**, pair from plate 1 with R5/7, major frame re-entry, UHM re-entry, LHM **\$40**
- (i) **L7e(R)** " " " left selvedge block of six from frame plate 2B with two upper frame re-entries, R4/1, R6/1 **UHM \$65**
- (j) **L7e(S)** " " " top right selvedge block of nine from the unnumbered centre plate with R2/8 flaw prominent line across Mitre Peak and R3/8 the double re-entry to the outline of the peaks right and left. 7 UH, 2 LH (cat. \$110) **\$90**
- (k) **L7e** " " " a lower selvedge strip of ten, plate 3 – 2A (cat. for a strip of 20 - \$525) **UHM \$175**
- (l) **L8f 5d Swordfish**, plate 1, plate block of four from the initial limited printing of the final issue, perf. 13¾ x 13½, before plates 2 and 3 were introduced **UHM \$300**
- (m) **L8f** " " " plate 2, plate block of four containing L8f(U), a re-entry R10/1, following plate 2 repairs. 2 UH, 2 LH **\$64**
- (n) **L9a-L9b 6d Harvesting**, a nice set of five, plate 1, plate singles, illustrating the development of the plate 1, cracked plate from uncracked, to tiny line extending from the foot of the plate 1, to small plate crack (3 x L9a) and two L9b plate singles showing the plate crack getting progressively larger until it was an irregular, unsightly split about 1cm in length, in its advanced state. 1 UH, 4 LH. A most interesting set of five. **\$175**
- (o) **L9d** " " " plate 2, plate block of four, including the re-entry R10/1 on the left panel, 3 UHM, 1 VLHM (cat. \$375) **\$325**
- (p) **LO13f(T) 2/- Captain Cook Official**, perf. 12½, a lower right corner selvedge pair, R10/11, R10/12 with two prominent re-entries. Fine item **UHM \$450**
- (q) **L13g** " " " " plate 1, plate block of four including L13g(V), R9/2 dots over bow retouch **UHM \$375**
- (r) **L13g(T)** " " " " lower selvedge block of four with R10/5, major re-entry, illustrated CP Cat. Perm Page L8 **Fine UHM \$200**
- (s) **L13g** " " " " left selvedge block of six including portion of the burele band normally guillotined off, with five of the six stamps having minor retouches or flaws, as described. **UHM \$300**

1935 PICTORIALS USED BLOCKS OF FOUR

Always popular and quick to sell, be in quick here for these:

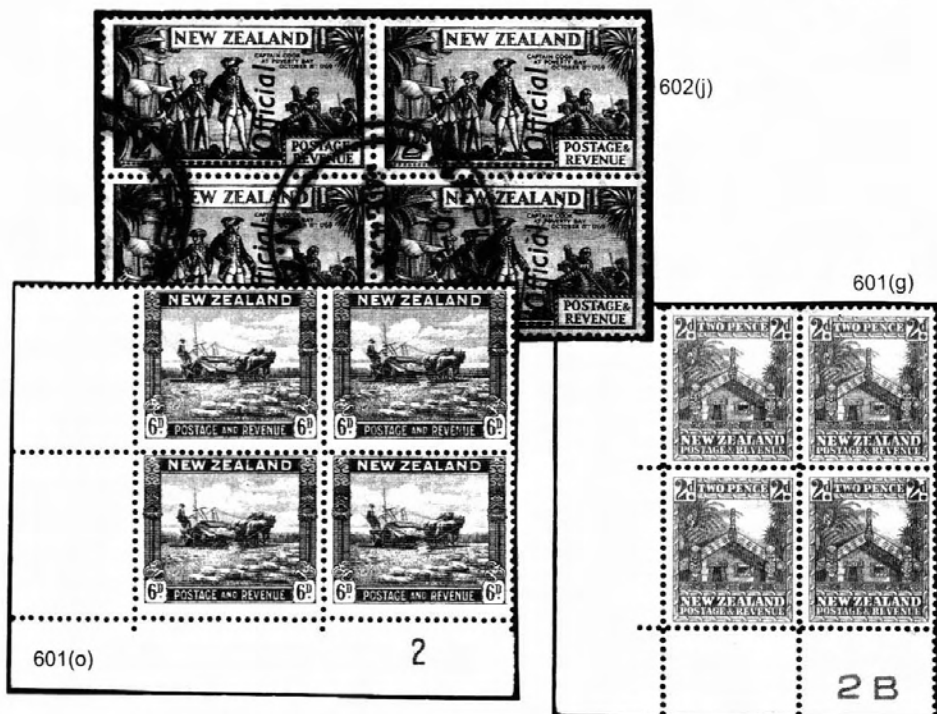
- 602(a) **LO2a 1d Kiwi Official**, block of six **U \$25**
- (b) **LO2a** " " " block of four **U \$20**
- (c) **LO4b 2d Whare Official**, block of four **U \$7**
- (d) **LO4f** " " " block of six **U \$14**

602(e)	LO4f	" " " lower selvage block of four	U \$15
(f)	LO9c 6d Harvesting Official , perf. 12½, overprint at top, block of four		FU \$40
(g)	L10d 8d Tuatara perf. 12½, block of four		FU \$20
(h)	LO10e 8d Tuatara Official , block of four (cat. \$90)		FU \$80
(i)	LO10e " " " block of four		FCU \$65
(j)	LO13g 2/- Captain Cook Official , block of four, a difficult block to find		FU \$135

AROUND THE CP CATALOGUE – SECTIONS M TO Z – PART THREE

473(a)	M2b 1941 1d Green , fine paper, horizontal mesh	FU \$3
(b)	M2e 1944 1d Green , coarse paper, horizontal mesh	FU \$12
(c)	M4a 1938 1½d Chocolate	UHM \$35
	" " " "	LHM \$15
	" " " "	FU \$4
(d)	M4a(Y) 1938, 1½d Chocolate inverted watermark	UHM \$50
	" " " "	LHM \$27
	" " " "	FU \$8
(e)	MO2b 1941 1d Green Official , fine paper, horizontal mesh.	UHM \$45
	" " " "	LHM \$25
(f)	MO2e 1946 1d Green Official , coarse paper, horizontal mesh	FU \$10
(g)	MO4a 1938 1½d Chocolate Official	UHM \$150
	" " " " "	LHM \$80
	" " " " "	MNSF \$30
	" " " " "	FU \$22
	" " " " "	CU \$14
	" " " " "	VCU \$8
(h)	MO8b(1) 1953 4d Purple Official , coarse paper	UHM \$13
	" " " " "	FU \$15
(i)	MO8b(2) " " " " " fine paper	FU \$50
	" " " " "	CU \$30
(j)	MO12b 1954 9d Grey-sepia Official	FU \$25
	" " " " "	CU \$15
474(a)	N5a(4) 1954 3d Vermilion (Die 1b)	UHM \$5
	" " " " "	FU \$2
	" " " " "	CU \$1
	" " " " " Pelure paper	FU \$4
(b)	N10a(Y) 1954 1/- Double centre print, one albino (blurred centre)	UHM \$100
(c)	N10b 1958 1/- (Die 1b)	FU \$50
	" " " "	CU \$30
	" " " "	NSFU \$15
(d)	N11a(2) 1954 1/6d Black and blue-ultramarine	FU \$12.50
(e)	N16a 1954 10/- Blue	UHM \$140
	" " " "	LHM \$70
	" " " "	MNSF \$30
	" " " "	FU \$65

474 (e)	N16a 1954 10/- Blue	CU \$40
	" " "	NSFU \$15
(f)	N31b(3) 1959 1d Red-orange	FU \$3.50
(g)	NO24b(Z) 1960 3d Official inverted watermark	U \$45
475 (a)	O2b, 5b 1963 1d, 3d Pictorials, sideways watermark, perf. 14½ x 13.	UHM \$4
	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	LHM \$2
	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	FU \$5
(b)	O6b 1965 4d Chalky	CU \$15
(c)	O9a(Z) 1966 7d inverted watermark	UHM \$20
(d)	O12a(1, 2) 1960 1/- set of two shades	UHM
	" " "	\$2.50
	" " "	U 70¢
(e)	O13a(1, 2, 3) 1960 1/3d set of three shades	UHM \$9.75
	" " "	LHM \$4.85
	" " "	U \$1.20
(f)	O15a(1, 2) 1960 1/9d set of two shades, Yellow-bistre and Bistre-brown	UHM \$44
	" " "	LHM \$25
	" " "	U \$2.50
(g)	O16b 1966 2/-, Chalky paper	UHM \$4.25
	" " "	LHM \$2.50
	" " "	U \$3
(h)	O19a-O21a 1960-1966 High values, 5/- to £1. 5/- and 10/- both on ordinary paper and chalky paper (5v) set to clear at special Newsletter price (cat. UHM \$157)	LHM \$75
	" " " " " " " " " " " " (cat. FU \$99)	CU \$49



THE 50%-OFF PAGE

Subscribers please note – offer extends through December 2004 only. Paid-up subscribers only please. Shades and sub-varieties not included; while stocks last; listed prices subject to 50% discount. One of each per customer please.

1d Universal

500(a)	G1a Red "London" print. UHM example with perfect centring and condition	\$20
(b)	G2a 1d on Waterlow paper, p.11 wmk W.6. Superb UHM example	\$25
(c)	G3b "Basted Mills" paper, p.14 wmk W.6. A superb UHM example	\$40
(d)	G3c 1d " " " p.11 x 14. UHM	\$35
(e)	G3d 1d " " " p.14 x 11, a fine UHM example	\$45
(f)	G6a 1d Carmine, "Reserve" plate, p.14 wmk W.7. Superb UHM well-centred of this scarce item	\$100
(g)	G8d 1d "Dot" plates, mixed perfs, 14 and 11, wmk W.7, scarce item	\$60
(h)	G10a 1d "Royle" Plate, p.14 wmk W.7, superb UHM, copy of rich colour	\$10
(i)	GO7a 1d Booklet Plate "Official" p.14 wmk W.7, superb UHM example	\$25

King Edward VII

501(a)	H3b 3d Chestnut, p.14 (line), superb example UHM of this very scarce item	\$200
(b)	H4a 4d Red Orange, p.14 x 14½, fine UHM	\$100
(c)	H4b 4d " " p.14 (line), super UHM	\$100
(d)	H7b 8d Indigo-blue, p.14 x 14½, lovely UHM	\$70
(e)	HO6b 6d Carmine (Official) p.14 x 14½, UHM example	\$150

King George V – Recess Engraved

502(a)	K1 1½d Grey, lovely set of four stamps: K1a p.14 x 13¼; K1b p.14 x 14¼; K1d (Provisional) p.14 x 13¼, K1e (Provisional) p.14 x 14¼, perfect UHM	\$41
(b)	K2b 2d Violet p.14 x 14¼, beautiful UHM copy	\$35
(c)	K2d 2d Yellow p.14 x 13¼, UHM	\$25
(d)	K2e 2d " p.14 x 14¼, UHM	\$25
(e)	K2g 2d " p.14 (line), Provisional UHM	\$25
(f)	K3a 2½d Deep-blue, p.14 x 13¼, fine UHM	\$40
(g)	K5a 4d Yellow p.14 x 13¼, fine example	\$25
(h)	K5b 4d " p.14 x 14¼, very fine UHM	\$25
(i)	K6a 4½d Deep-green, p.14 x 13¼, lovely UHM	\$75
(j)	K6b 4½d " " p.14 x 14¼, UHM	\$85
(k)	K8a 6d Carmine p.14 x 13¼, fine	\$40
(l)	K8d 6d " p.14 (line), Provisional UHM	\$35
(m)	K9a 7½d Deep red-brown, p.14 x 13¼, very fine UHM	\$55
(n)	K10b 8d Indigo-blue, p.14 x 14¼, lovely UHM	\$45

50% off Specials – see p.19



501(e)



500(f)



502(j)



501(a)

600(e)



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