

Campbell Paterson's NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain it for reference purposes. Vol. 10 No. 8, March, 1959 Issued Monthly—Subscriptions, 6/- per annum. All lots offered subject to being unsold and will be sent on approval to known clients. Complete satisfaction is guaranteed on all lots offered.

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT by Campbell Paterson

Q.E. New 1d and 1½d retouches discovered. Our old friend Frank Mohr comes to light with two very fine retouches—both unfortunately in stamps no longer current. The first is in the 1d “Small figures.” The stamp affected is Plate 5, Row 4, No. 6 and the retouch takes the form of a redrawing of the background horizontal lines in the bay formed by the chin, throat and shoulder. These lines are no longer parallel and vary in thickness from the normal. The second retouch is on the 1½d “Small figures,” Plate 14, Row 1, No. 20. Here the horizontal lines between crown and hair and the leaves in the top left corner are recut. They are relatively uniform in thickness instead of tapering. The shape of the shadowing is different as a result of this retouching.

These two varieties—to me eminently collectable—both require a strong glass such as our “IOX” Inspector. To some this will mean that they are too “small” to be of interest. I can understand this point of view quite well, but I do not subscribe to it. Here we have unmistakable evidence of superb retouching executed by a master hand—are we to discard this sort of thing as “too small” and restrict ourselves to eye-catching flaws that are evidence of nothing but carelessness, accident or poor workmanship? It all boils down to a question of whether we are collectors or students of postal history. If we are collectors only, then obviously we want only stamps and those stamps must show (in design, colour or other variety) some special feature to justify their place in our albums. But if we are postal historians then what we are primarily interested in is the story behind every phase of an issue. In these cases now reported the important fact is that these two stamps were retouched. It is also of interest that they were superbly executed. It matters not a jot that the evidence is hard to find, in fact that lends interest. In putting these stamps in our albums we are not so much “collecting” them as using them to illustrate our history of the issue. The difference between the two different hobbies that are lumped together under the title “Philately” is, it seems to me, fundamental. I do not say one is superior to the other, both can give tremendous pleasure, but we serve no purpose by shutting our eyes to the fact that there are two hobbies, not one, and that it is strangely hard for the devotees of one hobby to understand the enthusiasm of the followers of the other. That is why it is so difficult to please everyone in the usual sort of Philatelic society. The “stamps only” display, even though it may contain beautiful material, seems dull to the postal historian—to the “collector” a display of postal history can be well nigh incomprehensible. How to break this impasse is the problem of every Society Committee. All too often it would seem that Societies languish through the failure of their Committees even to realise that they have in fact two hobbies to cater for—not one.

Q.E. 1/9d on new paper. A recent surprise arrival is the 1/9d on thick white paper. This paper is of very fine quality and results in a print immeasurably superior to previous printings on the Royal Cypher grade, poor quality paper, that we and the printers have had inflicted upon us since 1942. That this poor paper, introduced during the scarcities of war, should have continued in use for definitives through 14 years of peace, is incredible. I invite readers to put the old 1/9d alongside the new to appreciate just what this has cost New Zealand in the form of oceans of definitive stamps that never had a chance of looking well, no matter how potentially beautiful the designs.

The new paper is distinctive. I should say it is identical with that used for the Nelson and Jamboree issues and is certainly the same as that announced in the Government Bulletin as now in use for the 2d Official and 2d Life Insurance. It is intensely white, (thereby revealing just how yellowish is the Royal Cypher), and of uniform thickness—definitely a much heavier, smoother paper than the old. It must be a delight to the printers to have something so good to work on. Inasmuch as this new paper represents in policy a departure from years-old precedent, and furthermore is easily recognisable, we will be giving full Catalogue rank to all stamps that appear on it. The Q.E. set probably has not much more than a year to run, if that, so collectors should be careful to watch for other

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Q.E. GALORE

We have just bought a very big accumulation of Q.E.—varieties, plate blocks, value blocks, shades—a wonderful stock, unequalled anywhere. The issue has a limited life left now and with the new paper appearing (see Notes on 1/9d) who knows when any stamp will suddenly disappear. Our advice is to play safe and get those gaps filled now. You have been warned!

300

"SMALL FIGURES" (BLOCKS OF 6)

N1a ½d grey-black. Plate 1, 1/6d; Plate 2 (very elusive)	3/6d
N2a 1d orange. Plate 5. 2/6d; Plate 31	2/-
N3a 1½d lake-brown. Plates 11, 12, 13, 14, each	2/6d
N4a 2d myrtle-green. Plates, 15, 16, 17, 18, each	2/6d
N5a 3d Die 1a red. Plates 3, 4, 7, 8, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, each	2/6d
N5b 3d Die 1b red. Plate 33	3/-
N6a 4d ultramarine. Plates 9, 19, each	3/3d
N8a 8d rose.carm. Plates 10, 20, each	6/-
N12a 1/9d black and orange (old paper). Plates 1A 2A or 1B 2B in strip— block inc. Imprint	30/-

302

LARGE FIGURES (BLOCKS OF 6)

N31a 1d orange. Plates 12 or 14, each	1/6d
N32a 1½d lake-brown. Plate 7 only, each	4/-
N33a 2d myrtle green. (Plate Nos without stops); Plate 3 (scarce) 12/6d; Plate 4, 1/6d; Plate 5 (scarce) 20/-; Plate 6	1/9d
ditto (Plate Nos with stops): Plate 3, 1/9d; Plate 5	1/9d
N35a 4d ultra. Plates 15 or 16, each	3/3d
N36a 6d purple. Plates 1 or 2, each	4/6d

303

PROVISIONALS

N40a 2d on 1½d (overprints with large black circle). Plate 7, 3/6d; Plates 9 or 10, each	2/6d
ditto (overprints with smaller black circle). Plates 7, 8, 10, each	2/6d
N41a 2d on old 1½d (error). Single stamp, 7c/-. Plate 13, (block of 6)	£35

Note.—S.G. have recently raised their price for this stamp from 45/- to 75/-.

Q.E. PLATE VARIETIES

304 **The ½d to 1/9d Centre-plate flaw and retouches to R6/10, Plate 1B 2B. . . .**

This R6/10 series is probably the most interesting of all Q.E. varieties and in fact probably the best single stamp study in N.Z. philatelic history. The stamp is found in pre-flaw, flaw and first, second and third retouched states. Since the same centre plate was used in all four values from 9d to 1/9d the result is a remarkable series of variety blocks. The 9d is not known in other than pre-flaw state but the other values all occur in several states. Curiously, the flaw itself and the second retouch are known only in the 1/9d value.

All offers are in positional blocks of 6 with side and bottom selvedge showing the plate number 1B 2B.

9d Row 6 No. 10. The early state without flaw	9/-
1/- Row 6 No. 10. (a) early state without flaw, rare and not available; (b) First retouched state 15/-; (c) Third retouched state	12/-
1/6d Row 6 No. 10. (a) early pre-flaw state, rare and not available. (b) First retouched state, 25/-; (c) Third retouched state	17/6d
1/9d Row 6 No. 10. (a) early pre-flaw state, 22/6d; (b) with flaw, 22/6d; (c) second retouched state, not available. (d) third retouched state, not yet in stock but seen on the new paper.	

Note.—A new centre-plate, 3, is now in use for the 1/- and will presumably be used for new printings for the other values. All are advised to get in early on these offers.

305 **1/- Row 5/2 (Pl. 1B 2B) Flaw and retouch series.**

This variety is in the difficult category of being available only in the final state. Nevertheless the flaw and first (rough) retouch have been seen in used copies and the wise specialist is he who makes sure of the second retouch, while he can.

Row 5/2 in block of 8, with skilful retouch to W of NEW 16/-

306 **1/- Plate 1B 2B Rows 1 to 4, No. 10.**

The above block of 8 in two forms.

(a) with top selvedge showing the value marking "£8"	16/-
(b) with top selvedge showing the altered marking "£4" (scarce)	21/-

307 1/9d Plate 1A 2A, R5/10, flaw (on the old paper).

This is certainly the biggest flaw in the Q.E. issues. See notes re its modification on the new paper.

R5/10 flaw on "9" and "NE", in positional block of 8 23/6d

HEALTH VARIETIES

310 We have "isolated" two different Miniature sheets in the green 1958 Healths and four different in the blue.

- (a) Health, green Min. sheet (small dot on brow under badge, stamp 1) 3/-
- (b) ditto, ditto (no noticed variety) 3/-
- (c) The above two green Min. sheets, together 5/-
- (d) Health, blue, Min. sheet (short shilling bar in the "2/-") 6/-
- (e) ditto ditto (short pence dash in "2/-" & retouch on stamp 6) 6/-
- (f) ditto ditto (normal "2/-", extended tip boy's nose, stamp 1) ... 6/-
- (g) ditto ditto (normal "2/-" white spur on 'G', extra tent peg above 'd', stamp 6). Not in stock.
- (h) Set of 3 different blue Min. sheets, together 16/6d

GEORGE VI VARIETIES

311 1/3d George VI Major Plate rarity. We have for sale a perfect plate block of Plate 3A-2 with upright wmk (M14c)—this being in our opinion the rarest of all George Plates. Never advertised before, nor likely again. The block £30

312 2/- George VI Row 12/3 and 13/1 series of flaws & retouches.

- (a) Block of 6 with big flaw on R12/3, smaller flaw R13/1 30/-
- (b) Block of 6 with both above flaws visibly retouched out 25/-

312a 1/3d Scarce Re-entry Pl 3A-1, R15/3. This late stage re-entry was missed by nearly everybody at the time of its currency. We have a number of blocks of 6 with Plate number and including R15/3. One of the rarer Geo. VI. varieties, it is a good example with clear doubling. Each block 50/-

POSTAL HISTORY OPPORTUNITY

313 Early Australian covers. We don't know if these are priceless, they could be, we only know what we must get for them. Four covers in all. They are: (1) Franked with big red "Crowned circle PAID" and with neat Sydney "6 o'clock" in rounded frame. (2) Franked with big red "Crowned circle FREE" 1849 and again the "6 o'clock" mark, addressed to the Colonial Secretary (Sydney). (3) The red "Crowned circle PAID" mark again, 1850, back-stamped "Brisbane. New S. Wales" in black oval. (4) addressed to the Hon. E. D. Thomson, Col. Secretary Sydney, bearing two fine strikes of a handsome big "G.P.O. South Australia" with crown and 1847 date incorporated. On the back a fine strike of a circular "Ship letter Sydney" mark incorporating crown and date. These must be considered common material indeed if worth less than our price of—the lot £7/10/0

FULL-FACE QUEENS

314 Fullfaces—Perf 12½. A neat representative set of 11 different inc. 1d red. 2d blue (3 inc. both plates) 2d orange, 3d lilac, 4d yellow, 6d brown (2), 6d deep blue, 1/-. The set of 11, condition above average (except 3d, small defect) very cheap at £6/10/0

315 F.F.Q. pairs and strip. Used pairs, perf 12½, of the 3d lilac, 6d brown, 1/- green (2 pairs, 2 shades) and a strip of 3 of the 1d red. Four of these five pieces show both portions of duplex cancellers. Condition good, postmarks rather vigorous but interesting. A very cheap lot at £5/0/0

316 F.F.Q. Job lot to clear. A grand chance for someone. A lot of 48 Full Faces (inc. 18 imperf.) all less than superb but few indeed really poor. Includes 3 pairs (2 imperf.). We notice 5 Richardsons, 2 steel blues, 3 pelures, four 4d's and four 1/-. Two stamps are unused. For the first comer £10/0/0

EDWARD VII PLATE FLAW

317 ½d Edward VII flaw.

The clear and noticeable flaw (Row 3 No. 18) consisting of a white triangular mark by the second N of PENNY. A little known flaw but a good one. Seldom seen, we consider ourselves fortunate in having bought a fair number in mint pairs with normal. Each pair 8/6d

values appearing on the new paper during 1959. Whether all values will appear thus will depend on stocks held at present.

Q.E. 1/gd retouches. On the new paper we find that Row 6/10 (Plate 1B 2B) shows the "third retouch" (see our Catalogue for details). This is the first time this has been seen on the 1/9d and proves conclusively that this retouch is in fact the third and last—something that was perhaps open to argument before though the evidence was fairly conclusive. Another retouch, affecting the S.W. corner ornamentation and the adjacent figure 1 on Row 4/1 (Plate 1A 2A) has been noticed by Jack Keatley. On the new paper it is so clear and relatively extensive that we thought it must be new. However, on looking at R4/1 on the old paper we find it there, too, though the print is so inferior that it has previously been overlooked. The big flaws on "9" and "NE" in the S.W. corner of R5/10 (Plate 1A 2A) show evidence (on the new paper) of some sort of attempt at removal. They are less well defined and paler where one would expect them to stand out more in this finer printing. Two new marks have appeared on the left leg of the N of NEW on this stamp.

Health retouch. Under close examination a retouched circular area can be seen on the sixth stamp on one of the 3d plus 1d miniature sheets. It is a sheet with very short "pence" dash in "2/-"—not the one with short "shilling" bar nor the one with long "pence" dash. The retouch lies in the sky a little above the trees on the extreme right.

2d Hawkes Bay retouch. Mrs. J. M. Foote (first to find the unretouched 1d O.E. Plate 11 Row 10/22, remember?), has found a retouch, very similar to the Health mentioned above, on Row 20/1 of Plate 7 (with dot). The retouch can be found just below the coloured dot that lies between "AL" and "1958" at the top of the stamp.

Newsletter Errata. Last month's issue was numbered "Vol. 11 No. 6" in error. This should be "Vol. 10 No. 7". Please correct. A tardy correction should be made to the Christmas Newsletter. In the notes on Hawkes Bay Plates I gave "5" as the plate number of the 2d value. This should have been "8". No plate 5 has been seen.

An article by R. M. Startup. I am pleased to be able to publish something from the pen of this leading student of N.Z. Postal History. His subject is the 1d Full Face Queen. Readers may find that this contribution will add interest to the colour print of the same stamp which is now a feature of our Catalogue.

THE STORY OF THE 1d RED FULL FACE QUEEN

When it was decided to obtain postage stamps for New Zealand in 1853 the values selected were 2d and 1s to prepay current postage rates, and 1d for the privilege postage rate for British soldiers and sailors stationed in New Zealand. Personnel of British Army and Navy had been granted this postage concession in 1795 and, when the first soldiers arrived from Australia in 1840, they continued to enjoy this privilege in New Zealand while civilians were forced to pay high rates.

Eventually the 12,000 1d (CP A1a), 66,000 2d & 8,000 1s stamps arrived in New Zealand from London and were placed on sale in July, 1855. As the 1d stamps were meant for soldiers and sailors serving in New Zealand it would be expected that proportionate stocks of this stamp would have been sent to post offices in garrison towns; however this was not so. For distribution of the stamps to provinces it seems that it was decided that each province should receive stocks of the three values in the same proportions of the bulk stock received from London, disregarding entirely the probable usage of the 1d.

To determine what proportion of the stamps each province should receive it appears that the percentage of the provincial postal revenue in the Colony's total was used. Thus Canterbury and Otago with 17 per cent of the postal revenue received 17 per cent of the stamps received from London, including 17 per cent of all the stamps which could not be in any demand in those areas.

On the other hand Taranaki, with 12½ per cent of the Colony's military, only received 5 per cent of the 1d stamps. This maldistribution, plus the arrival of 200 more soldiers, found the New Plymouth postmaster requisitioning for more 1d stamps by November, 1855.

Plates and printing equipment had been sent out from London with the stamps and the Printer was instructed to initially print the same quantities, and proportions, of stamps as had been printed in London. However, so strong had become the demand for 1d stamps from North Island provinces that by the close of 1855 the only stamps he had printed were 29,016 d stamps (CP A1b A1c). Unfortunately no records exist of printing details for 1856 and 1857, but it is thought that further 1d stamps were printed as well as the first local printings of 2d and 1s stamps.

Most of these 1d stamps used by soldiers during this period would bear Auckland and other North Island cancellations.

Between 1858 and 1861 about 200,500 1d stamps (CP A1d) were printed and, as there were troubles in Taranaki, many of these would be used on letters through the New Plymouth post office, as well as through Auckland. But in 1860 12,000 1d stamps had been sent to Otago, reason unknown but possibly for a local newspaper rate?

(to be continued)