

Campbell Paterson's for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENTS - by Warwick Paterson

Exposé

Sorting through a really "rough old lot" of Chalons the other week, turned up a copy of S.G.5 (Richardson 2d on blue paper 1855) - a poor thing brutally cut into two sides and blackened into anonymity by oxidation. Believing, like the preacher, that none is too far gone to be saved, I thought I'd experiment with this individual and make up a strong solution of hydrogen peroxide - stronger than I would normally use on any stamp - around 50 : 50 with water, and gave the 2d a good dousing in it. The transformation was immediate and dynamic - up came the colour (quite a light shade) and I was able to take the item out in a matter of minutes - small bubbles had formed on the surface of the stamp and were giving off a strong odour of sulphur gas - (reminiscent of Rotorua!) This reminded me of an article I read years ago in the "Canadian Philatelist" (R.P.S. of Canada) on the question of "oxidisation" - according to that, it appears that oxidisation is in reality a misnomer - what I had struck on was physical proof of the fact. Apparently (and I write from memory) many of the inks used on early stamps contained a lead component and the blackness of "oxidisation" is in fact "sulphurisation" - a combination of sulphur in the air (in gas form) and the lead in the ink. The resultant compound of sulphur and lead is black - hence the disfigured appearance of the stamp. The effect of Hydrogen Peroxide on the lead-sulphur compound is to combine oxygen with the lead (producing a lead/oxygen compound) and release the sulphur - hence the smell; and another feature of the experiment - a white powdery by-product on the surface of the stamp - the lead/oxygen compound. At any rate, I doubt if such an explanation (excruciating as it may be to a chemist) will have any effect on the use of the term. I for one will carry on calling it "oxidisation"!

Inter Alia

I've heard little in the way of reactions to our new Maori Bible stamp (23rd April) so far - neither cries of joy nor howls of rage - which is unusual. In my opinion the design is colourful and basically well-conceived; only why on earth is it so small? As a marvellous example of Delacryl printing De la Rue have reason to be proud of it (I took the glass to see if I could read the small type in the Bible) but as we have seen in N.Z. stamps of the past, minute detail alone doesn't always give you a good design. Actually a local First-Day-Cover-producing firm printed the identical design in colours which pale the stamp itself into insignificance.

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Bible :

Varieties? Little of note so far I think except a full sheet of missing golds reported from Christchurch and another Canterbury correspondent's suggestion that even more than that one may exist.

On a more favourable note I'm sure that the Services issue (7th May 4c, 10c, 28c) is going to be enthusiastically received. Bold and strong in design and colours the Post Office has come up trumps this time.

No doubt the concept is outdated in the world of the ban-the-bomb march and the protest song, and I'm no more pro-war than anyone else; but I do think that any New Zealander worthy of the term will get a kick out of this trio. The point that we have not, as a nation, been undistinguished in the conflicts of the past is one we needn't forget.

In the course of chatting the other day with an old friend, Polyvinol Alcohol came up again. He suggested that the new adhesive may well help eliminate the great rust bogey from the troubled dreams of the mint specialist. Inasmuch as Polyvinol Alcohol is non-organic and gum arabic is, the assumption is that the fungus will find less to feed on. Frankly, I hope he's right! A word from a chemist or a biologist could be illuminating. Another point he made, touched on the activities of the printers in the curious placing of plate numbers and imprints in recent issues - we agreed that someone, somewhere is jumping on the bandwagon. As a "damn' trader" I personally deplore any practice which requires that to get a positional block of four stamps you must buy a minimum-sized block of ten - such a rule could reduce post office sales in the long run.

4c ROYAL SOCIETY/DELACRYL - MORE THOUGHTS

That the same multipositive plates were used to produce all the printing cylinders in this issue seems obvious now (see Steve Ruane's list of multipositive flaws which recur in all cylinders (March newsletter)) An examination of the cylinder numbers is interesting (and I thank Mr. R.C. Baldwin of Auckland for bringing the point up).

PLATE NUMBERS 1A1A1A1A are normal. 1B1B1B1B - Black and Grey 1B show traces of the removal of 1As under the 1B markings.

1A1A1A2A The black number (2A) has been moved to position "5" and we now know that the original black 1A on this cylinder was not removed until after printing had commenced (viz: the "5 number" 1A1A1A1A2A plate blocks)

1B1B1B2B black 2B shows no trace of the earlier number 2A - the other numbers 1B are unchanged in this plate block.

From the above I am tempted to draw some conclusions. It seems strange that in the production of the black 2A and 2B cylinders the positioning of these numbers should be changed to "position 5" rather than the "position 3" of black numbers 1A and 1B - I think now that the sequence of events was

- (a) production of 1A1A1A1A cylinders from four individual multipositive plates bearing these numbers - one for each colour.
- (b) production of a second 1A black plate from the same multipositive as "(a)" still bearing this number. On discovery of the error black number 2A is inserted on the cylinder however printing is commenced before the 1A is removed.
- (c) the numbers 1A1A1A1A are removed from the yellow, blue black and grey multipositive plates and numbers 1B1B1B1B are inserted on these original multipositives - the second yellow, blue and grey cylinders are produced as is the 3rd black cylinder (numbered 1B)
- (d) The 4th black plate is produced from the same multipositive as the first 3. Black number 2B is inserted at position "5" and black number 1B is removed from position "3" before production of the plate.

I hope that the above does not seem too confusing. It is the best explanation that I can think of to explain those odd plate numbers; readers with all the blocks at their disposal may care to comment.

* LATEST PRICE CHANGES

		M	U
C.88a	3d Telegraph - bright green	7c	3c
	grey green	12c	8c
S54a	1d Canterbury Centennial	3c	3c
T3a	1d + 1d Smiling Boy red	\$20	\$20
T3b	2d + 1d " " blue	\$20	\$12

HEALTH MINIATURE SHEETS 1960 - 1967

Postal Division has kindly responded to my request to supply details of these and I reproduce them.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Printer</u>	<u>Blocks per sheet</u>	<u>Layout</u>
1960	Bradbury, Wilkinson	16	4 across x 4 down
1961	"	16	" "
1962	Thomas De La Rue	20	5 across x 4 down
1963	"	16	4 across x 4 down
1964	Harrison & Sons	12	3 across x 4 down
1965	"	4	4 blocks down
1966	"	12	4 across x 3 down
1967	"	4	4 blocks down

The information (supplied by the High Commissioner's Office, London) went on

"For the 1965 and 1967 issues Harrisons' printed the miniature sheets on the same plate as the ordinary stamps, the four blocks of miniatures being laid down the right side of the plate so that the 120 set in four blocks of six were printed simultaneously on the same sheets."

I would be interested to know if anyone can identify any or all of the different sheets in these issues - this is of course extremely valuable information.

3c PLATE 1B1B1B1B

Ngaiio Giddings brought in some fine specialist work on this stamp last month - comprising two matching blocks of 10 from rows 14 and 15, numbers 6 to 10. In state "one" Row 14 Nos 7, 8 and 9 all showed background weakness around the word "Puarangi", R15/10 was normal and there was a large white flaw at Row 15/8 above the top right hand flower. R14/10 showed weakness to the right of the top right hand flower.

In state "Two" there was no weakness in Row 14 Nos 7, 8 and 9 R15/10 showed a flaw to the right of the lower petal of the right hand flower and R14/10 and R15/8 were as state "one". *The question is, was the weakness (R14 Nos 7, 8 and 9) removed or did it develop and was the flaw at Row 15/10 removed or did it develop? and which came first.* Ngaiio also has an "apparent retouch" of R15/10 in a single used - an added complication!

A Note from Campbell Paterson

1d. Universal - an interesting item. In Volume 2 of the Handbook, page 309, mention is made of a prominent re-entry to be found on Plate 3, (of the "Original" plates), R7/16. This re-entry was first recorded by the late Mr. H.T.M. Fathers after Volume 1 of the Handbook had been published. The chief reason for the present note is to call attention to an error in the Handbook description. Therein it is stated that there is "extra colour below the E of NEW". This should read "below the E of ZEAL". Perhaps because my copy is a particularly strong impression I am able to add further facts. There is extra colour in the curve above the right leg of the N of NEW and there is a clear mark (rather like a buoy), in the water below the forepart of the ship. The Handbook description might also be improved by changing the wording "extra colour on the upper left arm" to "three extra marks in colour on the upper right arm, - on the left side of the stamp".

Further points of interest about the stamp I have been describing are that in colour, fullness of background shading, and prominence of the inner line in the "spur" ornament below NEW, it looks much more like a Reserve plate stamp than any Plate 3 copy I can recall. It bears the NIUE overprint (S.G. Niue No.19) and is one of three, a pair and a single. All these stamps have guide lines down the left of the design and all look equally like Reserve plate prints. "Islands" specialists may know whether this Niue issue is noted for fine, full-colour prints. Had it not been for the lucky incidence of the identifiable re-entry I might have been tempted to enquire whether Reserve plate stamps had ever been used for Niue overprints!

OPPORTUNITIES opportunities

- 319 (a) Printed by J. Davies at Auckland watermark large star imperforate. A complete set including S.G.34 1d Vermilion S.G.36 2d Deep Blue, S.G.40 3d Brown Lilac, S.G.41 Black Brown, S.G.43 Deep Red Brown 6d Yellow Brown (printed by Richardson) S.G.45 Yellow Green - the only defects these stamps have is the lack of margins or a slight thin on the back. Their markings are all light and off the face - the 1d bears a light impression of the rare Maori war "Queen's Redoubt" marking - they are unquestionably the finest looking set of these stamps that you will ever see at the not-so-fine price of \$40.00
- (b) As above - this time super-fine 1/- is N.Z.wmk - all four margins light marks and LOVERLY! \$135.00
- (c) As above - somewhere between (a) and (b) ! but a set of stupendous appearance and superb value at \$70.00

NOTE: The catalogue value of the sets (a) to (c) is (each) approximately \$165.

- (d) Printed by J. Davies at Auckland perforated 12½ star watermark. Our complete set includes S.G.110 1d Carmine - Vermilion, 1d p.10 x 12½ Brown, S.G.113 2d Blue, 2d Orange S.G.117 Lilac, S.G.118 4d Rose, S.G.120 4d Yellow, S.G.122 6d Red Brown, S.G.75 6d Black Brown p.13, S.G.135 6d Blue, S.G.125 1/- Green.
The not-so-fine set of good appearance \$15.00
(Catalogue on this lot is \$60.)
- (e) As above this time extraordinary!
1d is S.G. 112 Orange, 2d is S.G. 114 Deep Blue, 6d is p.13 Brown - condition is TOPS. At \$55.00

UNUSED WMK - LARGE STAR - Goodlookers

- (f) S.G. 110 p.12½ 1d Vermilion \$8.00
- (g) S.G. 117 p.12½ 3d Lilac \$5.00
- (h) S.G. 120 p.12½ 4d Yellow \$8.50
- (i) S.G. 126 p.12½ 6d Blue \$6.00
- (j) S.G. 125 p.12½ 1/- Yellow Green \$13.00
- (k) S.G.34 imperf 1d Vermilion \$20.00
- (l) S.G.43 imperf.6d Red Brown \$10.00
- (m) S.G.41 imperf.6d Black Brown \$25.00
- (n) Lovely little short set of the Richardson (imperf.) prints of 1859-61 on white paper (the thick white grade) includes S.G.8 Orange Vermilion. 1d S.G.10 Blue 2d, S.G.13 Brown 6d - appearance outstanding as ever with these prints (a bit of a perfectionist our Richardson - we could use him today!)... .. \$17.50

HOTCHPOTCH OF USEFUL PIECES

- 320 (a) S.G. 8a 2d Deep Ultramarine - printed by J. Richardson on no-watermark white paper imperf. Accepted as from the first Richardson printings this is a fine rare shade and very very seldom seen at all. Quite apart from the colour (which is amazing) the soft white paper used at this time gives the design of the stamp a clear cut almost "enamel" look. A beautiful shade and our three - margined lightly-marked example will fill a gap in almost every Full Face showing at \$17.50
(Cat. \$100.)
- (b) S.G.118a 3d Deep Mauve "Accidental imperf" - Another incredibly rare item in this form - a pair used on piece!! with its all-round margins light marking and staggering appearance this is a chance in ten thousand at our price \$200.00

- 316 (m) F5b Ditto p.14 x 13½ An extraordinary set of 3 mint blocks with Dull Green, Yellow Green and an outstanding bright green shade seldom seen in this issue and unlisted ... \$ 3.50
- (n) Ditto used The three listed CP shades Dull green, Yellow green, Deep yellow green, in super used ... \$00.25
- (o) F5c Ditto p.14 x 15 These perfs are always clean cut - that's how we'd describe the following shade blocks mint - yellow green and deep green - 2 blocks ... \$ 1.75
- (p) Ditto and four distinct shades in the above 2 classifications \$00.05

1d UNIVERSAL

- (q) G1a London Prints - Carmine Red
Two fine shades in mint blocks of four a grand start \$00.95
- (r) Ditto Fine used copies on piece each post marked 1st day of issue 1 Ja 01 - scarce and good! each ... \$00.25
- (s) Ditto A perfect used block of four ... \$00.25
- (t) G2a Waterlow P.11 Two strips of four - not particularly light marking but highly unusual carmine and deep carmine - the two ... \$00.15
- (u) Ditto and free with the first order over \$10 from "Imbroglio - Episode 11" a lovely used block of four of this Waterlow P.11 in carmine ... Nix
- (v) Ditto Fine shade set of three, Carmine, Deep carmine, Carmine Lake --- while stocks last (and they won't -- long that is) \$00.50
- (w) Ditto Free with the second and third orders over \$10 from this Section - 2 shade pairs used. Carmine and Deep carmine Nothing
- (x) G3c Basted p.11 x 14 - Mint Attractive block of four \$ 1.25
- (y) G3e Ditto mixed perfs Fair but (spacefiller) ... \$ 2.50
- (z) G4a Cowan p.14 Nice pair of used blocks of four - Carmine and Deep carmine - appearance good! ... \$00.30

Don't miss our next episode - in next month's Newsletter !

"PICKINGS" CHAPTER 111

Bringing to a conclusion one of our most popular advertisements of recent years. No doubt about the popularity of New Zealand variety material in our minds of whatever period or issue - it's good stuff and gets snapped up every time.

- 317 (a) E3a 1d White Terrace Red
Fine used copy of the double perfs - better our price if you can \$00.75
- (b) E4a 1½d Boer War p.11 Row 2/12
The greatest re-entry in the history of New Zealand philately you're literally seeing double! shown to tremendous advantage in our lovely pair - mint and used singles ... \$12.00
- (c) E8b 2½ Lake Wakatipu p.11 no wmk - mint
Left hand selvedge single with no perfs left side - to you on a plate at ... \$3.50
- (d) F5c ½d Mt. Cook, New plates p 14 x 15
An absolutely impeccable single of the double perfs mint - very very nice indeed ... \$3.75
- (e) G2a Waterlow Universal p.11
Again we give you notice that prices in this section are about to rise - and how!! a pair of the double perfs ... \$1.85
- (f) Ditto A single used of the same - not bad ... \$00.50
- (g) G8d Pot Plate mixed perfs
Our mint single shows (top and bottom) two rows reperfed 11 Grand ... \$1.50
- (h) G10c Royale Plate p 14 x 11
A fine block of four of this seldom-seen item (how much of this material do you see other than seldom anyway? - or maybe you're lucky!) ... \$15.00
- (i) J6a Cowan Dominion
Wmk inverted - many will have a gap for this one. Especially at our price ... \$ 1.25
- (j) J5a Art paper Dominion Universal
Watermark blackish green - an opportunity to buy a superb single \$ 3.00
- (k) K5d 4d Violet p 14 x 13½
Super for a specialised Collection of worth block of four of the worn plate - Not often seen, this is a good offer \$ 1.75
- (l) K7a 5d Steel Blue
Pair imperf - IMPERF!!! ... \$13.50

* when selling please see list



Kickings:

- 317 (m) K15a 1d Fieldmarshal - Rose Carmine
Cowan p.14 - Lovely pair imperf at top with selvedge - another eyecatcher ... \$11.00
- (n) K15a Ditto
Extraordinary coil pair showing join ... \$ 7.50
- (o) K15b Ditto p.14 x 15
Even more extraordinary - strip of four stamps ex slot machine all show two pinholes ... Price on Application
- (p) L4b 2d Whare mult,wmk
A beautiful strip of 6 (used) Row 2 Nos. 1 to 6 showing a very early state of the famed "TekoTeko" re-entry a really outstanding piece in fine condition ... \$ 4.50
- (q) L14c 3/- Egmont experimental
"Wet" printing wmk inv, and rev. excessively rare as this is fine used ... \$15.00
- (r) N41a 2d Q.E. 1st over printed (small figures)
One of the most illustrious and elusive errors of recent years and we may say one of the fastest-rising in value. We offer a stupendous bottom selvedge block of four mint & fine (worth every penny of it too!) ... \$30.00
- (s) S45a Peace 5d Navy Commem.
Blurred centre - fine and rare (emerald green) ... \$12.50
- (t) Sc 2a 1961 Xmas Durer "Adoration"
Block of four of a fine colour shift upwards "rainbow above bottom lettering" - match that "golden letters" block you got from C.F. a while ago at ... \$ 4.50
- (u) Health shades set
Includes blocks of four of 1947 Eros 1d + 1/2 yellow green and 1962 Kakariki (3 blocks) blue and pale blue in blocks of four ... \$ 2.50
- (v) T22a + b 1950 Princess Elizabeth and Prince Charles
Blocks of four of the rare double perfs. an exhibition special! ... \$17.50
- (w) 1933 Pathway 1d + 1d an attractive variety set
Includes two matching sets of mint blocks of six showing respectively R2/1 and R3/3 cloud retouches before and after, R1/3 retouch to frame single (mint) a mint block of four showing R3 Nos 4 and 5 and R4/5 (two huge graver's slips) a mint block of four showing Row 5 Nos. 5 and 6 ("camp site" flaw and graver's slip) a mint pair showing Row 1 Nos. 1 and 2 (retouching) and fine used copies of R2/1 and R5/5 - all in all a marvellous chance to start a specialised showing in healths - do we recommend them? do we ever! at ... \$75.00
The stamps alone catalogue (\$64) and early healths are good property need we say!
- (x) ARMS TYPE - Used overprints
253b 3/6 on 3/6 green 254b 5/6 on 5/6 lilac - 2 used (fine of course) ... \$ 2.00
- (y) 255a 11/- on 11/- yellow and 35/- on 35/- orange-yellow (fine) ... \$25.00
- (z) 22/- on 22/- scarlet - a great rarity in lovely condition used ... \$35.00

Finally as an interesting exercise we suggest you run through the above lots comparing catalogue price with our prices. Quite honestly, is there another price list anywhere which makes offers so consistently well below catalogue (some are down to 50%) let's face it are you looking a gift horse in the mouth or are you!!!

An Extraordinary offer!

To any N.Z. reader ordering over \$20 worth from our Newsletter this month we offer free, gratis and for nothing one of the well known Eveready illuminated magnifiers - complete with batteries and bulb, and the extremely useful detachable "macroscope" grid fitting which are a feature of this excellent glass - a gift with a real difference - ideal for any collection!

To readers overseas we offer a credit of the equivalent sale value of the glass.

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