

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWS LETTER New Zealand Stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT – by Warwick Paterson

The Stockbook Controversy

With the man in the song who liked bananas because "they have no bones", I am forced to admit I like stockbooks because they need no stamp hinges; and I think I have the support of many collectors - so much so that I believe the day has gone when a stockbook (for the uninitiated) - with its transparent strips holding the stamp gently against the page - was something you kept your duplicates in. The purist will ask "What are you going to do when you want to enter a competition?" I would ask another - how many collectors enter their pages "as is" anyway - most would agree that entering involves a good deal of remounting, reannotating and insertion of new material - and that, of course, is the way it should be if our collections are to improve. Spare a thought as well for the dealer and consider the sheer joy of valuing a collection which has never seen a sticky, wet hinge - the ease of running through page after page of unmounted mint blocks and allowing the best price for each because *make no mistake* whatever is said *against* the current obsession with unmounted mint, I have yet to meet the collector who will meekly accept hinged material at high rates if at all. My suggestion is, by all means mount for display, and competition, but otherwise leave them in a stockbook - I'm sure it will pay off.

The New Sets

Life Insurance ½¢, 2½¢, 3¢, 4¢, 15¢.

This time I have to go with the fundamentalists and admit that the recess engraved sets were better. Bradbury Wilkinson have however, used their lithography to its best advantage and the 15¢ is the only value which I think fails. In general the colours are striking and imaginative and the ½¢ conveys a real impression of shining light.

Law Society Centenary 3¢, 10¢, 18¢

Again by Bradbury Lithography; this is a charming little set - in designs perhaps a little cluttered, but in colours muted and pleasant.

Work is now well under way in the designing and selection of our 1970 Pictorial Definitives, I hear. It will be regrettable, I think, if the Government does not continue the Design Selection Committee in some form for later issues.

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WOKING,
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ENGLAND.

From a U.S.A. Reader

Well known American writer Herman Herst Jr. renowned for his amusing and pungent commentaries on anything and everything in the philatelic world, wrote to me recently and I quote him in full. Says Mr. Herst -

"I always enjoy reading your Newsletter. In your March number, there is an article on the demonetization of your stamps, which does have in it something which is not absolutely correct. I refer to the statement that the United States has never found it necessary to demonetize its stamps.

There have been two occasions on which this country has demonetized. The first when our first issue of 1847 was followed by the issue of 1851. The rates were entirely different, and since the old stamps did not fit at all with the new rates, the stamps were demonetized on the appearance of the new issue.

The second occurred on the outbreak of our Civil War in 1861. Thousands of Post Offices, in the eleven Southern States had millions of dollars worth of stamps which were valid for postage in the North but not in the South once the Confederate Post Office was instituted.

In order to make certain these stamps would not be smuggled North, where they could be sold and obtain Funds for the Confederacy, they were demonetized between August 1861 and December 1861. They have never been valid for postage, from that day to this.

Your readers might want to know the story of this demonetization. It is quite true that any postage stamp issued for general purposes since 1861 is still good for postage in this country. The only exception would be the high valued Newspaper stamps issued between 1865 and 1895, but since these were sold to publishers rather than to the general public, they do not come within the purview of this letter."

From the R.P.S.N.Z. Newsletter - February 1969

The following article by Mr. K.J. McNaught F.R.P.S.N.Z. is reprinted with the permission of the Society - its interest is, I think, general.

"In the early 1950's Mr. J.R.W. Purves of Melbourne suggested to me that "stitch watermark" variations might be found in some of the N.Z. Second Side-Face Queen Stamps. He had found such varieties in stamps of Victoria printed on similar papers.

Since then I have searched through tens of thousands of these N.Z. Side-Faces and managed to find several examples in the later printings of the 1d, 2d and 6d values. Recently through the co-operation of Laurie Franks Ltd., I have added the 4d value. All stamps found so far in this issue are per. 11 x 11 and on the medium thick rough white paper used for the reissue of these stamps in 1899 and 1900 during the shortage of 1898 pictorials. The date ranges are from December 1899 (2) to April 1900 (6). I have also found an example of the ½d Newspaper Postage on coarse mesh Star watermark paper, perf. 12½, 1890-2.

What are stitch watermarks? The reader is recommended to consult pages 324-7 of Volume 11 in conjunction with this note. In the machine manufacture of paper, the suspension of fibre in water flows on to a continuous screen made of wire gauze which produces the fine mesh pattern in the paper. Where the ends of this gauze are stitched together, the extra threads of overlapping fine wire give a band 2 to 4 mm. wide of slightly diagonal parallel fine lines, nearly 1mm apart, which can be seen in good light, especially in daylight. This is really a "mesh" variety rather than a true watermark variety. Watermarks are deliberately produced by introducing a "dandy-roll" to produce the watermark design, whereas, of course, "stitch watermarks" are unintentional varieties." D

* DON'T FORGET:-

Our prompt and efficient GREAT BRITAIN NEW ISSUES SERVICE - get the new stamps within a week or two of their issue - beat that!

Robert Samuel of Christchurch, leading Postage Due specialist, wrote to me last month in response to our query in the last month's Newsletter - I quote him verbatim too!

Speaking of the 3rd Type Due with single watermark inverted he says -

"I would agree that this variety was in use at the Christchurch office, but this was by no means the only office. Supplies were also issued to Dunedin, New Plymouth, Akaroa and Wellington at least. Your dates of use, late 1943 and early 1944, are of interest as these are considerably earlier than any I have recorded previously. Dated copies in my own collection range from October 1944 until February 1946.

I have never seen the 3d value with inverted watermark. It must be very rare. Likewise, I have yet to see the 1d inverted watermark in mint condition.

It is almost certain that this "inverted watermark" was not accidental but an entirely separate printing and should be accorded full catalogue listing.

The statement that the postage due stamps were "finally withdrawn in 1949" is puzzling. Although there was a trial period at Christchurch and, I understand, at Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin, when normal stamps were used in place of postage dues, they were still in use at other offices until finally withdrawn on 30 September 1951. I have not been able to ascertain the period of the "trials" but have several covers from the Christchurch C.P.O., dated between March 1950 and May 1951 where normal stamps have been used in place of postage dues. A cover used in July 1949 does in fact bear postage due stamps.

I agree wholeheartedly that the 1d multiple in genuinely used condition is very rare but this was because it saw little or no use at the four main centres! I have very few copies of this stamp, none are in really perfect condition, and those with dated postmarks have been used at Timaru (July 1951) and Levin (September 1951)."

PLUMS FROM THE LONDON MARKET

A few items ripe for picking in the Chalon line - prices rocketing these days - but read on for value.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|---------|
| 106 | (a) | <u>S.G.4 Richardson Print 1d Red on thin blue paper - a glorious looking item with four (albeit narrow) margins, clean and full colour (Cat \$150) ...</u> | \$130 |
| | (b) | <u>S.G.38 Davies 2d Blue on star paper - unused - four margins and a delight to behold! ...</u> | \$30 |
| | (c) | <u>S.G.83 Pelure Paper 2d Grey Blue - 3-7/8 mighty margins - an extraordinary copy with fine colour, touching one point and marking prominent but a good buy at (Cat \$150) ...</u> | \$90 |
| | (d) | <u>S.G.127 1d Red Brown perf 10 x 10 x 12½ x 10 irregular compound(sheet reperfed in line 12½ machine. Finely used, minor plate wear light marking and superb colour (phew!) ...</u> | \$7.50 |
| | (e) | <u>S.G.139 4d Deep Yellow p.12½ with magnificently clear watermark "ER" of T.H.SAUNDERS - mint and (of course!) scarce as hens teeth ...</u> | \$57.50 |
| | (f) | <u>"HEADQUARTERS" Maori war marking on S.G.35 Carmine Vermilion - the lettering is shown beautifully clearly and in full ...</u> | \$60 |
| | (g) | <u>S.G.3 The London 1/- Green Four margins and glowing! Light Markings and clean make this No. 3 one of the best we've had during the last year or so. Stark Blue Ivory head on the back and colour full and true - just <u>see it</u> then! (Cat \$600) ...</u> | \$325 |

URGENTLY REQUIRED

1960 Pictorial coils with black numbers complete sets 1-23 of the 4d and 1-19 of the 1/6 value. We will pay for the two sets complete to the first comer ...

\$75.00

COMPLETE COLLECTION LOTS

Offered "as is". Two nice lots selected from the many we see in the course of a year. Recommended to those who are looking for a firm foundation to build on.

- 124 (a) contains a fine general specialised assemblage from Full Faces to Q.E.11 including S.G.138 (a) 2d Orange Letters wmk (T.H. SAUNDERS) fair copy, a superb mint coverage of 1898 Pictorials including Lisbon super-fine Kiwi, laid paper Milford 2/-, 5/- two shades mint etc. and a selection of used. Almost complete lots in mint Geo. V, Edward VII and many other issues. View on approval ... \$200.
- (b) A similar album in fine condition - complete 31 Airs, recent Commems. in blocks of four, 60 Pictorials ditto and Q.E.11 Block of four N41a (m) Edwards and Edwards Officials complete (m) singles Geo V ditto to high values (block of four Geo.V 2/-) Geo VI issue, Officials and Coils, 1935 Pictorials a fine coverage and good Healths complete earlies. Also Commemoratives complete from earlies in excellent condition and a selection of recent Norfolk Island. The extensive lot (valued conservatively in excess of) ... \$300.

SPECIALISED CHALONS - ALL GRADES

As announced some time ago, the mid 1969 supplement to the C.P. Loose-Leaf Catalogue is now being designed to include totally new information about the Chalons of New Zealand - a mass of information which has never before been released and which will, in our opinion, completely revolutionise the collecting of New Zealand's first and finest issue; included are details on plate wear, paper thickness and shades, most of which is completely new and which will inevitably popularise this issue more than ever before. Listed below this month some selected items to suit most pockets - ever taken a hint?

RICHARDSON PRINTS 1855-1861

- 107 (a) S.G.4 1d red on blue paper: Nice looking copy with 2 margins and light mark (18 in bars) (cat. \$150.) \$12.50
- (b) S.G.5 2d blue on blue paper: a fine looking item with no margins and light marking off the face (cat \$60.) \$ 5.00
- (c) S.G.5 Ditto: superb copy with full margins, deep colour light marking ... \$45.00
- (d) S.G. 8d Dull orange ditto: on no watermark white paper. Three margins, thinned. At the price -- good -- \$4.00
- (e) S.G.8 1d orange-vermilion ditto: four margins, clean and lightly marked. Good at (cat. \$60.) \$20.00
- (f) S.G.10 2d blue ditto: wonderful appearance if close cut (cat. \$30.) \$5.00
- * (g) S.G.12 6d Bistre Brown ditto: a glorious example of the shade with three margins marking (15 in bars) light (cat.\$70)\$30.00
- (h) S.G.13 6d Brown ditto: on the thin hard paper, a copy of surpassing excellence - full margins and marking light \$30.00
- (i) S.G.14 6d Pale Brown ditto: similar description to (h) slightly better if possible \$32.00
- (j) S.G.16 1/- Pale Green ditto: delightful item cut close four sides and thin but with a fine light marking (8 in bars) (cat. \$200) ... \$15.00
- * (k) S.G.17 1/- Blue Green ditto: similar description and * companion to above - marking a little heavier (cat.\$180.) \$15.00

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WATERMARK LARGE STAR IMPERF. 1862-64

SUPERFINE CONDITION See them on approval - these are incredible stamps!!!

- 108 (a) S.G.33 1d orange vermilion: huge margins, marking light off face ... \$30.00

(continued on page 5)

MINT

- 117 (a) Unbeatable chance to fill some album gaps with this lovely material.
- | | | |
|-------|--|---------|
| (i) | V.P.1. 1/- original design super mint ... | \$17.50 |
| (ii) | V.P.4. 1/- "Pigeongram". Slight thin otherwise perfect ... | \$2.50 |
| (iii) | V.P.6. 1/- "Marotiri Island" Red ... | \$25.00 |
| (iv) | V.P.7 6d "Triangular" no gum and fine | \$6.00 |
| (v) | V.P.8 1/- ditto ditto ... | \$7.50 |
| (vi) | V.P.7 Proof of the 6d Triangular imperf. | \$2.50 |
- 118 (a) Selection of double perfs in used copies includes 1d Second Sideface perf 11 vertical pair, and single, 1d Terraces and a fine copy of ½d Green Mt. Cook double perf. p11. A few not so fine duplicates thrown in \$4.50
- (b) E8b 2½ Wakatipu p.11 NO Wmk Pair imperf horizontally (Cat \$40) in superb condition ... \$30.00
- (c) E14e 6d Kiwi Red - pair imperf at top with huge margin \$15.00
- (d) Fle ½d Green Mt. Cook mixed perfs block of four (patched) fine ... \$15.00
- 1d DOMINION
- 119 (a) J5a on "Art"paper (with lithographed watermark) an item of extreme rarity - possibly unique. A fine mint block of six with colourless watermark from the top left hand corner of the sheet R3/1 shows feather flaw - mesh is horizontal proving that this is the genuine "colourless" watermark of the trial sheet mentioned on p.289 of the Handbook Volume 1. Again this example proves that plate 11 was used for this trial sheet. \$100.00
- (b) Note: The above block of six is contained in a larger block of 18. We would like to see the larger block of this unique sheet stay in one piece. Failing offers for the larger block we shall break it to supply (a) The block of 18 H.M. colourless watermark ... \$200.00
- (c) J.2a Jones Paper another great rarity on unsurfaced paper - a perfect mint copy in the pale carmine shade \$60.00

K

CHALONS (continued)

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------|
| (b) | S.G.34 1d vermilion: better yet ... | \$40.00 |
| (c) | S.G.36 2d Deep Blue: very fine ... | \$9.00 |
| (d) | S.G. 3d Brown Lilac: ditto ... | \$27.00 |
| (e) | S.G.41 Grey Brown: ditto wee bit close one point | \$18.00 |
| (f) | S.G.43 Deep Red Brown: 4 margins 3 vast - marking almost non-existent - unusual stamp ... | \$25.00 |
| (g) | S.G.45 1/- Yellow Green: Wx Amundsen collection and an absolutely tremendous copy, R.P.S.L. certificate | \$50.00 |

PRICES REDUCED

- 109 (a) S.G.34 1d vermilion: lovely-looker 3-7/8 huge margins, light mark - thin allows ... \$4.50
- (b) S.G.36 2d Deep Blue: Wonderful copy as above again minor thin permits ... \$3.00
- (c) S.G.37 2d a real slate blue: minus a margin - but wow! \$5.00
- (d) S.G. 38 2d Blue: minor thin good margins ... \$3.00
- (e) S.G.39 2d Pale Blue: One margin short of superfine \$2.50
- (f) S.G.38 2d Blue: Medium plate wear, four margins, light marking with tiny tear ... \$3.50
- (g) S.G.40 3d Brown Lilac: four big margins, marking fairly heavy (5 Otahuhu A) ... \$18.00
- (h) Ditto Deep Brown Lilac: nice with slight stain - margins full ... \$20.00
- (i) S.G.41 6d Black Brown: Superb margins - slightly cut into one point ... \$12.50
- (j) S.G.42 6d Brown: Marking a little heavy also \$12.50

(continued on page 6)

CHALONS (continued)

- (k) S.G.43 6d Deep Red Brown: lovely if cut one side and trim \$3.00
- (l) S.G.44 1/- Dull Green: Four margins, light marking, slight cut ... \$5.00
- (m) Ditto 1/- Emerald Green margins huge, marking a little heavy but a lovely example of the shade (Cat \$80) \$25.00
- (n) Ditto 1/- Bluish Green one margin missing - otherwise absolutely fine - (undercatalogued for rarity at \$40.) \$ 7.50

MARKINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- (o) On damage S.G.35 1d an almost complete strike of the "HEADQUARTERS" marking - fine and rare ... \$30.00
- (p) On 3 margined S.G.41 Black Brown "4 ONEHUNGA A" almost complete and clear ... \$20.00

PRICES SLASHED! PERF. 13 at Dunedin

- 110 (a) S.G. 68 1d Orange Vermilion - marking heavy but stamp intact ... \$6.00
- (b) S.G.72 2d Blue - a good copy and though marking prominent this is well-centred! ... \$3.50
- (c) S.G.64 3d Brown Lilac - a good copy ... \$20.00
- (d) S.G.74 Ditto marking a little heavy but deep colour \$12.50
- (e) S.G.77 6d Deep Red Brown - fine and well centred \$8.50
- (f) Ditto - heavy mark ... \$3.00
- (g) S.G.80 1/- Yellow Green - Lovely looking with thin \$5.00

THIN PELURE PAPER

- 111 (a) S.G.85 6d Dark Brown Imperf-(Cat.\$60.) close four sides and thin but this lovely bargain ... \$10.00
- (b) S.G.86 1/- Deep Green (Cat \$150) bargain at ... \$5.00
- (c) S.G.82 2d perf.13 Grey Blue (Cat. \$150.) damaged but a good example ... \$7.50
- (d) S.G.93 6d p.13 Dark Brown (Cat. \$70) A copy of wonderful appearance and incredibly cheap ... \$10.00

WATERMARK "N.Z."

- 112 (a) S.G.97 1d Carmine Vermilion - imperf. Nice copy with 3½ big margins ... \$20.00
- (b) S.G.97 Ditto - super with marginal fault ... \$5.00
- (c) S.G.98 2d Pale Blue - imperf. Good four margins, marking smudged ... \$15.00
- (d) S.G.98 Ditto - nice looking with crease ... \$10.00
- (e) S.G.99 6d Red Brown imperf - wonderful (4m) copy with small thins filled at back, light mark - (Cat. \$80.) \$ 5.00

Continued next month

Realisations

A block of four of the 1d Claret Christchurch Exhibition sold recently at Auction in London for £975. A plate block of the 4d chalk-surfaced (1960 series) pl.2333 sold at £500.

In an Auction lot recently, we bought a used pair of the 1d London print (S.G.l.) and a copy of the S.G.109 - the 1/- Green p.12½ with N.Z. Watermark; both apparently unrecognised by anyone except ourselves as such, and both well above average despite defects.

We at Auckland have landed another lovely general lot in Wellington - the extensive A.B. Hamilton collection - assembled over many years and containing such plums as L010c 8d Tuatara Official p.14 x 13½ (9 copies known) and one of the finest overall showings of Postage Dues and Life Insurance we have seen, as well as fine 1st and 2nd Side Faces and most other groups. Mr. Hamilton is a past President of the R.P.S.N.Z. Newsletter readers will have the chance of the pickings from this superb lot over the next several months.