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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT – by Warwick Paterson

Current 30¢ and 50¢ definitives

As mentioned later I arranged to see examples of these values with the new P.V.A. gum (and the Philatelic Bureau in Auckland obliged with their usual prompt assistance) as some curious force (could it be gravity?) has caused them to accumulate in the South of the North Island – anyway they're not on general sale in Auckland yet. Surprisingly the mesh and watermark details remain the same for the reprint and the shade variation, although present, is minimal – this is quite contrary to expectations as all other P.V.A. gummed stamps from Harrison's are now on the new vertical mesh paper. The possibility of further developments is pretty strong here I think although I hesitate to do any forecasting – other rapid changes recently have undermined my confidence to forecast anything accurately!! – suffice to say I'm sure they and all other Harrison printings will be worth watching over the next sixteen months or so. Actually that applies to the whole 1967 series, which has "caught on" in a much bigger specialist sense than the '60 Pictorials ever did. Last minute changes in the 60's (4d chalky mint, 9d Flag 14A15 plates) caught most people napping in 1966-67. What will happen with the 67's? That's anyone's guess; but so far they have proved a fine issue for specialisation with loads of variety and interest enough for the most voracious among our number (no offence meant here!)

Frank Mohr, that doyen of George VI specialists, wrote me recently with some characteristically detailed work on the 1/3 value of that series. "Newsletter" of December 1951 expressed the opinion that the two re-entries in Frame Plate 1 of that value, at Row 4 No. 2 and Row 15 No. 3, had been laid down using the "die lb" state of the transfer roller – George VI devotees will recall that the die lb state was evident in Frame Plate 2 and hence these two re-entries were in fact die lb impressions in the sheet of die la stamps. Frank has now listed for me the actual differences visible under magnification at R15/3 and 4/2. It should be noted that a characteristic of die lb was the damage suffered by the transfer roller affecting the frame lines and portion of the ornamental panel on the right hand side of the stamp. The break in the frame lines was noticed and every impression in plate 2 was touched up (c.f. Handbook Vol.IV p.125) Frank now adds the following information "_____ in frame plate 1 re-entries only the outer most frame line has been recut, the break in the inner one being only partially closed by a continuation, sharply downturned, of the recutting of the top lines of the curved ornamentation beside it. (Row 15 No. 3 also has the distinctive doubling of the design down the right hand side)".

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WOKING,
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ENGLAND.

Jim Lawrance, another old friend who can usually be relied upon to put the cat among the pigeons, has been doing some amazingly specialised work over a number of years on the above flaw on the 2d (1960 series). In this R3/1 stamp he has studied not only the "ZF" flaw itself but most other areas of shading as well. In state "A" as he calls it, the shortened leg of the E of ZEALAND is thinner and more squared-off. In "B" the outline is rounder and shorter. This is a naked eye difference. Moreover many of the black lines of shading in "A" have either disappeared or become abbreviated in "B" and lines of shading have appeared in other positions. Jim postulates that there were two cylinders numbered 2 and that the "ZF" is a multipositive flaw common to both. Owners of one or more copies of R3/1 should have a close look at theirs or send them to me for a look. Further examples or observations could help to clear up a puzzling variation.

The "re-check everything" principle

Well, it's never been called that before but philatelists have been using it with a lot of success for donkey's years! It's interesting to note though that many collectors don't use it at all, perhaps thereby denying themselves the chance of finding something really good - or letting knowledge slip through their hands. How often does one hear of a new development or variety, a new shade perhaps or a new gauge of perforation in an existing stamp and simply accepts it as an established fact with a "must get one of those soon". Eventually we do get it from one source or another of course and into the collection it goes identified and often prized as "the new variety". It's easy to be carried by the tide and yet it is at this stage that reputations and fortunes stand to be made! My contention here is that when a new variation appears, everything about that stamp should be checked with the previous issue. A shade difference appears in a current stamp; easy enough to put it in as the "new shade". But a new shade often signifies a new printing - and a new printing often brings a host of other changes far more significant than the variety which first gave the show away (in this case the new shade). One of the best recent examples I can think of is the reprint of the 7½¢ Trout. I was certainly not the first to notice this one - I read about it in another publication where it was stated that not only had the shade changed but that the "missing perforation" at the top of each stamp had been replaced - proof positive that there had been a reprint - an exciting variety to be sure. Here the "re-check everything" principle really came into its own. A glance at a sheet of the reprint showed immediately that although the vertical mesh paper being used remained the same the watermark was now upright (previously sideways) and a closer look at the replaced perforation made it obvious that so far from a different perforating head being used the original had in truth been "botched up" with a new pin of smaller gauge "tacked on" to the end of the vertical rows. Similarly the new Harrison's printings with P.V.A. gum seem important enough per se. P.V.A. seems not half so important though when you have a look at the back and notice that both watermark and mesh have changed and that it is obvious that Harrison's are now using a totally new paper for some of their reprints - not all mark you. The new P.V.A. gummed 30¢ and 50¢ reprints are on the same paper as before (c.f. March N.L. report). Back to the lower value definitives; a "re-check everything" look at the 2½¢ and 3¢ plates 2A(3)3A, 2B(3)3B, revealed that they were printed by the sheet and not on the reel as all the previous plates had been - how easy it would have been merely to accept them as "just another plate number". Again even new plate number sheets should be closely examined in the positions where major flaws have been seen in earlier plates. Multi-positive flaws coming from the original positive photographic plate common to all plates often recur in identical or retouched form - and so I could go on - if there is a royal road to philatelic eminence (which I doubt) I'm certain the "re-check everything" principle must cut quite a few miles off its length!

* October 1969 will bring "Tarapex 69" the important National Exhibition at New Plymouth. The prospectus is available now and I personally wish all the organisers and their helpers from the Taranaki Society the best of goodluck in their fine venture - it should be, as Whakatane was, a grand show.

1939/49 POSTAGE DUE 1d VALUE - A SURPRISING FIND

Recently, while sorting through a small quantity of the Postage Due 1d of the 1939 design (hopefully looking for used copies of the issue with Multiple watermark) I came across several with watermark W.7a instead of the normal W.7b. (Note, that the normal watermark in all these "1939" Postage Dues is W.7b, that is, N.Z. & Star with the N and Z lying sideways, the star being to the right of the N.Z., or as it is often called "with Star pointing left". This is unusual in N.Z. stamps but was standard for this particular issue.)

So, unquestionably, I had uncovered several stamps with sideways inverted watermarks and try as I may I can find no reference anywhere to this variety having been noted before. One would expect that I would recall it if I had heard of it before and indeed I would have listed it in our Catalogue. I was, in 1943/44, very busy indeed compiling the first of the two New Zealand Catalogues for which I have been responsible. So, as far as I can say at this time, this is a new variety, overlooked for twenty-five years. Someone may be able to prove me wrong by producing lots more of "Y20a" with watermark "W.7a" but I doubt it. If they can, I hope they will, and without delay. In fact I invite everyone to join the search. For their guidance I can tell them that the few copies discovered all appear to have been used in late 1943 or early 1944 and all without exception emanating from the "Delivery Counter" at Christchurch.

This is as good a place as any to mention what must be one of New Zealand's rarest and most underestimated modern stamps, namely the later 1d Postage Due, of the same design but with Multiple watermark. This stamp was issued only a month (or perhaps less than that) before the date on which all New Zealand Postage Dues were finally withdrawn in 1949. I was active in stamps myself at the time and I can recall making sure of having supplies of mint in stock. Unfortunately I failed to post myself a few hundred underpaid envelopes! Had I done so this stamp might not be, as it is today, perhaps the rarest modern New Zealand stamp in used condition. I may have seen a genuinely-used copy at some time but I cannot recall having done so. On cover it may not exist! Certainly it is a prize well worth looking for. Remember, mint copies are common, so to be worth while a used stamp must show an unmistakable 1949 date.

OYEZ OYEZ - 3RD TYPE - POSTAGE DUES

This month we have pleasure in presenting an offer which may never be repeated anywhere again. What are we trying to say? - you're right! If you miss out now, you're really going to miss out and believe us, we don't care what your specialist interest is - this is a genuine chance of getting something VALUABLE - our advice-order right away and don't risk disappointment.

First of all read C.P.'s note from England (see above).

Now read on - these are one of our most neglected specialist issues.

3RD TYPE POSTAGE DUES

½d GREEN

92(a) wmk W7b	mint each	...	...	...	2¢
(b) Ditto	used	...	...	...	20¢

1d CARMINE PINK

93(a) Y20a wmk w7b	mint each	...	...	...	5¢
(b) ditto	used	...	...	...	5¢



(c) wmk w7a	This is the rarity mentioned above - we have some fine used copies and would urge that buyers contact us immediately while stocks last - each	...	...	...	\$6.00
(d) y20b Multiple wmk w8a	- Mint each	...	...	...	5¢

2d BRIGHT BLUE

94(a) y21a wmk 27b	- Mint each	...	...	...	30¢
(b) Ditto	- Used each	...	...	...	5¢
(c) Multiple wmk w8b	- Mint set of two shades - Bright Blue and Deep Ultramarine (2)	...	...	...	30¢
(d) Ditto	- Used 2 shades	...	...	...	40¢
(e) Y21c wmk w8a	- Mint each	...	...	...	25¢

3d ORANGE BROWN

95(a) Y22a wmk 27b	- Mint each	...	...	75¢
(b) Ditto	- Used each	...	...	20¢
(c) Y22b w8	- Mint each	...	...	\$2.00
(d) Ditto	- Used each	...	...	\$2.00
(e) Y22c wmk w8b	- Mint each	...	...	40¢
(f) Ditto	- Used each	...	...	40¢
(g) Y22d wmk w8a	- Mint each	...	...	40¢
(h) Ditto	- Used each	...	...	75¢

Note: Watermarks represented in the above sets are single watermark: 27a stars left w7b stars right: multiple watermark. w8 upright w8a stars left w8b stars right.

* SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFERS

96(a) MINT	- Simplified - one of each value	...	...	60¢
(b) MINT	- Specialised - one of every variety - a superb opportunity showing every variation and shade in this set	...	...	\$4.50
97(a) USED	- Superb simplified - one of each value	...	...	50¢
(b) USED	- Lovely specialised collection - one of each variation including shades (y20b and y21c only issues omitted) excluding the newly reported w7a 1s Carmine Pink - (see above offer 93(c))	...	...	\$4.00
98(a) USED WONDERFUL SET	of fine used blocks of four Simplified - one of each value	...	...	\$3.00
(b)	Specialised for easy watermark recognition contains blocks of four used of y19a, y20a, y21a, y21b (both shades) y22c, y22d	...	...	\$7.50
(c)	Used block of four y22b	...	...	\$7.50
99(a) Special Watermark Recognition Set	shows single stars right (y20a), multiple upright (y22b), stars left (y20b), stars right (y21b) (a fine specialist set this demonstrating with crystal clarity the differences not only between the watermarks listed but between the types of papers themselves often quite marked in this issue)			
MINT	(excludes single wmk - stars left)	...	...	\$2.25
USED	- includes y22d instead of y20b excludes single stars left (see above offer 93(c))	...	...	\$3.00

IMBROGLIO - VIII

(xxii) 10d Blue and Mauve - mint	...	...	\$0.10
used	...	...	\$0.10
(xxiii) Two lovely used plate blocks A2, C2	...	...	\$1.25
(xxiv) used block of four	...	...	\$0.50
(xxv) 1/- Sage Green and Deep Green Mint	...	...	\$1.75
Used	...	...	\$0.40
(xxvi) Good used block of four	...	...	\$2.00
(xxvii) Not so fine - set of 14 - used	...	...	\$1.00
k) PEACE ISSUE 1946			
(i) 1d Green and Brown - mint - set of three shades - Brown, Red Brown and Grey brown	...	...	\$0.17
(ii) Used - set of three above shades - fine	...	...	\$0.12
(iii) Set of three fine used blocks of four - three shades and superb !	...	...	\$0.60
COARSE PAPER			
(iv) Two shades in mint - Brown and Red Brown	...	...	\$0.10
(v) Used - lovely block of four (Brown)	...	...	\$0.10
(1) 1d GREEN			
(i) Mint	...	...	\$0.02
(ii) Used	...	...	\$0.02
(iii) Two marvellous light-used blocks of four - two shades	...	...	\$0.25

(continued on page 6)

UNIQUE OFFER OF PROOF AND PRESENTATION MATERIAL

Give the whole story - represent these important phases in the life of an issue.

DIE PROOFS

- 101(a) Government Life Insurance Department (V.R. Type). A magnificent collection of die proofs of this fine specialist's issue - includes 14 items, in black on card ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, in black on paper 6d and 1/-, in colour on card ½d Blue (2), 1d Green, 1/- Brown and a 2d Brown plate proof Die proofs of this issue are exceedingly scarce.
- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| The collection | ... | ... | ... | \$300.00 |
| (b) Beer Duty Die Proof "Ten Gallons Two Shillings and Sixpence" in Green on card - Rare! | ... | ... | ... | \$40.00 |
| (c) Ditto in Black (slight crease over corner) | ... | ... | ... | \$15.00 |
| (d) Die Proofs of the rare Government Life Vignette on card. We have only two and offer them at each | ... | ... | ... | \$45.00 |

PLATE PROOFS

- 102(a) Small lot including ½d First type Postage Due (y1a) Carmine and Green and Brown and Green (2) and three Express Delivery plate proofs Red and Green, Red and Brown, Red and Blue (3). Collection \$12.50
- (b) Spare copy of the ½d Due (First Type) Red and Green \$2.50

PRESENTATION SETS

Again of great scarcity, the last time we offered these there was a near riot - suggest this time you send us a telegram, and stop beating in our door.

- 103(a) 1898 PICTORIALS. The collection includes ½d Mt. Cook, 1d Lake Taupo, 2d Pembroke Peak (brown lake), 2½d Lake Wakitipu, 3d Huias (large), 3d Huias (small), 4d White Terrace, 4d Lake Taupo, 5d Otira Gorge, 8d War Canoe, 1/- Kea & Kaka (small) A fine collection. \$15.00
- (b) ½d First Type Postage Due Very seldom seen \$4.50
- (c) George V 2d Violet, 2½d Deep Blue, 4½d Green \$3.50

ANOTHER GLORIOUS MISCELLANY

1½d Boer War - Study

- 104(a) E4a p.11 wmk'ed A stupendous range of shades mint includes Brown (1) Chestnut (1) Pale Chestnut (2) Red Chestnut (1) \$7.50
- (b) Ditto set of three shades this time all the major re-entries R2/12 - gasp!! Chestnut (2) and Red Chestnut (1) (slight stain) \$6.00
- (c) Ditto the extraordinary Brown Shade \$4.00
- (d) Ditto - Red Chestnut - pair imperf. mint \$40.00
- (e) Ditto pair - imperf. horizontally - mint \$70.00

6d Kiwi Red

- 105(a) E14d Lisbon superfine paper mint - Pair of Rose Red and Red also a single of the Rose Red \$12.50
- (b) E14e p.11 Watermark Pair imperf. vertically (Cat \$30) \$15.00
- 106(a) ½d Green Mt. Cook F4b Cowan old plates p.14 pair imperf. vertically Cat \$30 \$25.00
- 107(a) 1d Universal 95¢ Local plate 0.14 x 11 \$17.50
- 108(a) George V Surface Printed A lovely set of mint blocks of four showing paper types incl. ½d Green Cowan p.14 x 15, Cowan reversed. 1d Rosepink Wiggins Teape, 1½d Orange Brown, Wiggins Teape Cowan p.14, 2d Yellow, Cowan Reversed Cowan p.14 x 15, Wiggins Teape p.14 and p.14 x 15, 3d Chocolate Brown p.14 x 15. The fine set of blocks \$35.00

EARLY VERNE COLLINS PUBLICATION

Collectors pieces now are these historic handbooks by R. J. G. Collins who may be said to have put New Zealand Philately "on the map". Any one of these will be a valuable addition to a philatelic library.

100(a)	<u>"New Zealand, a Philatelic Handbook"</u>	Complete up to the George V issue and of tremendous value to a specialist in these issues - packed with knowledge	... ..	\$4.00
(b)	<u>"The Stamps of the Pacific Islands"</u>	A similar period - a similar mass of information	...	\$10.00
(c)	<u>"The Cancellations of New Zealand"</u>	The first book written about New Zealand postmarks - Edition limited to 250 copies - profusely illustrated	... ..	\$15.00

IMBROGLIO (continued from page 4)

(m)	<u>1½d SCARLET</u>			
	(i)	Mint (also wmk inverted)	... ..	\$0.05
	(ii)	Used (ditto )	... ..	\$0.05
	(iii)	Nice used block	... ..	\$0.20
	(iv)	Ditto inverted wmk	... ..	\$0.20
(n)	<u>2d PURPLE</u>			
	(i)	Mint	... ..	\$0.04
	(ii)	Used	... ..	\$0.02
	(iii)	Wonderful block of four	... ..	\$0.10
(o)	<u>3d ULTRAMARINE & GREEN</u>			
	(i)	Mint	... ..	\$0.05
	(ii)	Used	... ..	\$0.02
	(iii)	Glorious used block of four	... ..	\$0.12
(p)	<u>4d GREY GREEN AND ORANGE</u>			
	(i)	Mint - Two shades Orange and Vermilion	... ..	\$0.15
	(ii)	Used - Two shades as above (finest)	... ..	\$0.08
	(iii)	Fine block used	... ..	\$0.40
(q)	<u>5d GREEN AND ULTRA MARINE</u>			
	(i)	Mint set of three - Green, Pale Green, Emerald Green	... ..	\$0.50
	(ii)	Used - set of three again	... ..	\$0.20
	(iii)	And a stupendous shade set of three fine used blocks of four	... ..	\$0.75
(r)	<u>6d CHOCOLATE & VERMILION</u>			
	(i)	Mint - two shades Chocolate and Chocolate Brown	... ..	\$0.33
	(ii)	Used - as above (2)	... ..	\$0.12
	(iii)	Fine used block of four	... ..	\$0.10
(s)	<u>8d BLACK & CARMINE</u>			
	(i)	Mint	... ..	\$0.12
	(ii)	Used	... ..	\$0.05
	(iii)	Unbelievable block of four used	... ..	\$0.30
(t)	<u>9d BLUE AND BLACK</u>			
	(i)	Mint - Black and Grey Black	... ..	\$0.45
	(ii)	Used - Ditto (2)	... ..	\$0.35
	(iii)	Extraordinary set of blocks of four - both shades	... ..	\$1.75
(u)	<u>1/- GREY</u>			
	(i)	Mint	... ..	\$0.25
	(ii)	Used	... ..	\$0.20
	(iii)	Used block of four	... ..	\$0.85

Note: The absolute pick of this months offers are the used blocks of four in the above listing. Take it from us they're really good and give a stupendous showing of this lovely issue.

(v)	<u>OTAGO CENTENNIAL</u>			
	(i)	1d Blue and Green Mint	... ..	\$0.02
		Used	... ..	\$0.02
	(ii)	2d Green & Brown Mint	... ..	\$0.03
		Used	... ..	\$0.03
	(iii)	3d Purple - Mint	... ..	\$0.05
		Used	... ..	\$0.05