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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT - by Warwick Paterson

TARAPEX '69 an unqualified success! - New Plymouth 6th to 11th October
Visitors to New Plymouth cannot but have marvelled at the almost professional efficiency with which the whole show was carried off. There was bags of space, endless wonderful stamps and a presentation and atmosphere many international exhibitions would be hard put to capture. Judging standards appear to have been high but not unduly so. Three golds were awarded out of a reported nine submissions and few would have argued with any of the awards. The grand award went to the magnificent Full Face Queen Collection of Mr. G.J. Elliott of Auckland and there were awards for Research, Airmails, topical collections, Postal Stationery, Captain Cook or Cook Islands Collections and Junior entries. Everything was right, really, from the congress papers (particularly Mr. Stanley's paper on "Full Face Queens - dies and rollers" presenting totally new and highly specialised microscopic work on the genesis of the stamps) to the after-dinner speeches at the Banquet.

COOK BICENTENARY ISSUE 4c, 6c, 18c, 28c

Some surprises and a paradox.

Surprises. All printed by Harrisons right enough with the, now familiar, P.V.A. gum, by photogravure, one plate for each value - 1A1A1A1A - fair enough, but - where is the Harrisons vertical mesh NZ and star paper? The current quartet are printed on a rather thin, white, no-watermark paper and two major conclusions may be indicated by this fact. The NZ Government may have given their "O.K." to the wholesale abandonment of watermarked paper as we now have, Bradbury Wilkinson and Harrisons using no-watermark for new issues - only De la Rue have not made this change yet (if you treat the 1965 Parliamentary Conference Issue as a temporary aberration!) This, of course makes the vertical mesh Harrison Printings on P.V.A. gummed paper a short-lived breed and the fact is certainly worth noting.

Again - look at the back of each of the four issues. Notice how the head in each case has a "cameo" or raised effect. To me this use of a "reverse block" provides another interesting innovation and a "first" in N.Z. issues although used widely these days in "G.B." productions.

Paradox. Against our two innovations we have the unhappy spectacle of Harrisons who have served NZ stamps so well in their multicolour printings going "cheap" and using a basic five colours only over a major Commemorative issue. This is fine of course when carried out with a modicum of skill, but look quickly from the 4c to the 28c and imagine the reaction of a P.O. clerk at the end of a busy day faced with a parcel covered in some of each - you guessed - unprintable!

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C.P. CATALOGUE - The New Revision

Subscribers will find the 1969/70 Revision of the Catalogue well up to customary standard, especially with this year's innovation - two new tables of postal rates; one page covering rates of the "pre-stamp" period the other rates in the "Full Face Queen" period from 1855 to 1873. These have been made up for us by Bob Odenweller of New York. Now that we have completed the change over to Decimal currency revision sets will be smaller - nevertheless the current high level of new issues makes revision a major job even before price changes are considered, and there are price changes in plenty this time over a wide range of issues.

Full Face Queens (Section A) have been completely overhauled and the revision extends to the "commoner" groups as well. Great rarities like the London prints move ahead solidly. For example S.G.1 (1d Deep Carmine Red) goes to (m) \$2000 (u) \$1200 from last year's \$1300, \$900 and the 2d Blue is now priced at \$1200, \$150 against last year's \$1000, \$100. S.G.115b (2d plate 11, perf. 10 x 12½) now stands at \$1000 used as against the previous \$800. These are the eye catchers of course and suffice to say that price changes are based on the actual demand and auction price levels existing at present. Another section to receive a well deserved boost is the 1898 Pictorials (Section E) and the Early Healths as well (Red and Blue Boys rise from (m) \$30 (u) \$26 the pair to \$45, \$41). An interesting supplement is promised to subscribers and one which reaffirms faith in "N.Z." in particular - delivery is projected during November.

News items:

CORSO ISSUE - I was surprised to read in an overseas journal that the Post Office is to produce another 2-value issue "sometime in November" in response to representations from the N.Z. Council of Organisations for Relief Service Overseas. - Let's hope the Post Office is not becoming all coy about their press releases again - this was a new one on me! A 7c stamp features a young girl, holding a food bowl, standing behind a foreground of wheat and an 8c features a woman giving her child a glass of milk, with a herd of cows in the background. Both stamps include the Corso emblem.

10c LAW SOCIETY plate 1111 Row 7/5. Mrs. R.M. Bayne pointed out a "wing" on the right hand Maori design - an outstanding (red) flaw.

2½c Florio NATIVITY Well up to standard and a pleasing stamp I think. I do prefer the larger designs though. Mr. A.B. Young showed me plate 1A (5) R2/6 flaw on Madonnas right cheek and plate 1B (5) R3/8 extra stroke in the C of Christmas - both very naked eye.

COILS. Regrettably I have no further news to hand regarding the coils and stocks in "C.P. condition" are taking a long time to accumulate. Dr. E.G. White sent me a superb "double print" of section 7 in the 15c. - both 7's quite separate and one a little fainter than the other. Experts here in Auckland are still trying to decide how the coils are made - that a new system is in use seems no longer in doubt.

GOVERNMENT LIFE OVERPRINT 1c TAIAROA

One of the charms of the hobby must be to be confronted with something which seems completely inexplicable and this happened to me recently. A regular supplier of interesting goodies sent me a block of 24 he found in this 1c with a long tear running down 5 stamps from the top selvage. What's in a tear you may ask. This one has been patched - and not in the way the Geo. V issues used to be patched in the Post Office - but actually patched before gumming and before printing, with a diaphanous wafer of paper, applied, perhaps, in the paper-making process to avoid breaking a reel? - I know not.

MR. CAMPBELL WATTS

We record with sincere regret the death of Mr. Watts on September 11th, one of New Zealand's best known philatelists. He was a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of the R.P.S. London and in his work originally with Stamps Division of the G.P.O. Wellington and later with the Royal Philatelic Society of N.Z., The Federation of N.Z. Philatelic Societies, the Advisory Council of Postal Division and editing the "N.Z. Stamp Collector" and the later volumes of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" he was one of those tireless workers for philately to which we owe so much. He will be greatly missed.

I reprint below extracts from several publications which represent significant opinions and information of importance to Newsletter readers which I feel the majority may not otherwise see - of those who have already received this information, I crave indulgence.

From the N.Z. Bulletin C.P. describes the discovery of a great rarity - topical, since one of the 9 copies known - postmarked, as is to be expected, at Whangarei - recently featured in these pages and is at present under examination with the Expert Committee of the R.P.S.N.Z.

"In 1943-1944 - which would be about the time of our story - I was working for a firm in Auckland - many of my old friends of those days are of course still with us, as indeed are my good friends, my then employers. The firm was at that time a very heavy buyer of used NZ bulk. It was wartime and the market overseas for used NZ was very brisk. We had on hand, at the time I refer to, about 500 used 8d Officials - all presumed perf. 12½ and all done up neatly, just as we had bought them, in bundles of 100. We also had, as a client, a young collector who made an honest penny in his spare time by mounting stamps on sheets, marking them up and selling them (less a suitable commission) through various stationers and similar shops. He got much of his wholesale supply from us. He bought 200 of our 8d Officials and a day or so later came back with two copies not perf. 12½ but the hitherto unknown perf 14 x 13½. Naturally one was interested (!) and it did not take long to run through the remainder of the stock and to find two more! (I might say the firm did well with those two but looking at today's value they were literally "thrown away".)

"Naturally at the next opportunity I gave publicity to the "find" and news began to trickle in of a further five copies turning up. Almost all were found to be postmarked "Whangarei!" and the sleuths up that way did not take long to discover that (as I understand it) the only Government office in Whangarei that used adhesive Official stamps instead of "meter stamps", was the Police Station! Alas, search there revealed that what one can only suppose had been a single sheet of 8d had all been used up - hence, not a single mint copy is known.

"The obvious inference is that in filling a requisition for the Government printer in Wellington (he did the Official overprinting) the Stamps Branch there had taken from stock sheets of the usual 12½ perf. stamps; but somehow one sheet of the now obsolete L10c (S.G.586) had been included. Quite unrecognised as in any way odd it had found its way to the Police Station in Whangarei where (all alas unknowing) a tidy fortune had been used up on everyday mail. This stamp then, is a great rarity but despite the lapse of some twenty-eight years I'd say there is every chance that one or more copies exist somewhere - unrecognised for what they are and waiting for the collector who has "done his homework" and knows what to look for. That, above all, is the secret of treasure hunting in philately."

From the N.Z. Stamp Collector August 1969

Mr. Alan Orton of Christchurch has added something more to the protracted and unresolved controversy over the existence or otherwise of the 8d King Edward VII upright watermark, perforated 14 (line). Referring to one copy from the Gold Medal collection of the late J.W. Grant F.R.P.S.L. which had apparently been passed as genuine by the late R.J.G. Collins he shows clearly how, by identifying the stamp and its position in the sheet ("plating") and then comparing the irregularities of the perforations in that stamp with the illustrations found in volume IV of the Handbook of the four comb heads known to have been used in perforating these upright water-mark stamps, it can be proved that this example for one cannot be the elusive "line" perf. 14. Using another stamp, as well, (a 4d actually) perforated by the same section of the same comb head he establishes beyond a shadow of doubt that the stamp was wrongly identified. Mr. Orton's comments on why the stamp gauges 14 where it should have gauged 14½ with this perforating head are interesting. The bottom pins in the short vertical rows are spaced at a greater distance than normal from the adjacent pin in the horizontal row and the distance between the first and second of the bottom pins is also above normal. The reading of a perforation gauge is then either 14 or 14½ for the vertical rows according to whether the two bottom holes are included in or excluded from the reading.

A special committee set up by the N.Z. Society of Great Britain returned the opinion that this stamp did not exist. As more and more copies are eliminated by more accurate methods of checking the 8d perf. 14 line may well become a romantic memory. Another romanticised item is the 1½ Boer War Khaki. We recently submitted both mint and used copies of what we believed to be the Khaki to the R.P.S.N.Z. Expert Committee. The answer we received explained that it was not possible to certify our copies as not sufficient information or examples were available for comparison - which, to put it mildly rather closes the subject for the time being!!

FRESH FROM AUCTION

Selected by our own experts at the London Auctions assessed, and offered to you at prices which are favourable. The following three lots all with certificates.

- 186 (a) S.G.1. The London 1d. Deep Carmine Red. A wonderful four margined copy (V.close one corner only) light marking off the face - colour deep. This is one of the finest looking copies we have ever seen, and a tiny marginal thin at back allows (C.P. new Cat \$1200) ... \$400.
- (b) S.G.1. Ditto Again of outstanding appearance, close at two points but otherwise full clear margins including a fair proportion of that of the stamp above - minor thins one corner, marking light, irresistible at ... \$325
- (c) S.G.3 The London 1/- Yellow Green Four lovely margins strong ivory head good marking off the face and a minor marginal fault permits (Cat. \$600) ... \$325
- UNUSED - Fine
- 187 (a) S.G.35 Carmine Vermilion imperf - star wmk - faultless \$40
 (b) S.G.38 Blue Ditto - unbelievable ... \$30
 (c) S.G.41 Black Brown Four Full margins - one close - lovely colour this one, deep and clear Black Brown \$50
 (d) S.G.43 Red Brown Superb with huge left hand margin and part margin of next stamp ... \$40
1d RED PERF 12½ WATERMARK LARGE STAR - UNUSED
- 188 (a) S.G. - Vermilion - fine ... \$10.00
 (b) S.G.110 Carmine Vermilion ... \$12.50
 (c) S.G.112 Orange - The rarity - fine - and a marvellous chance at \$22.50
2d BLUE. PERF. 12½ WATERMARK LARGE STAR Plate 11 - UNUSED
- 189 (a) S.G.114 Deep Blue ... \$4.50
 (b) S.G.115. Blue - Superb ... \$6.50
 (c) S.G. - Pale Blue and fine... ... \$7.00
4d YELLOW PERF 12½ LARGE STAR WATERMARK - UNUSED
- 190 (a) S.G.120 Yellow - very attractive ... \$4.25
1/- GREEN PERF 12½ LARGE STAR - UNUSED
- 191 (a) S.G.125 Pale Yellow Green - Well centred and super copy of this rarity ... \$14.50
- OFFICIAL REPRINTS
- 192 (a) 2d Blue - An attractive set - one copy from the undamaged portion of plate 11 - one from the damaged section - impeccable (2) ... \$22.50
 (b) 6d Brown A fine pair scarce thus ... \$22.00
 (c) Ditto Superb single ... \$12.00

VERY GREAT RARITY

- 218 (a) A10, (S.G. -) The rare 1d brown perf. 12½ x 10 - The fourth copy recorded and good used. ... \$220.00

1920 VICTORY: A brilliant lot of mint blocks, one of each value, including 2d overprint, splendid condition. One of the 1/- stamps has a small thin spot
 The set of 7 blocks ... £13.

GEORGE V An unusual lot of brilliant mint blocks mostly chosen for some outstanding shade or other feature. Includes blocks of the 4½d 14 x 13½, 8d Choc-Brown, 5d Light Blue 14 x 14½ (rare) 4d Brilliant aniline Violet 14 x 14½ (rare) 9d Yellow-Olive (rare) 1/- Salmon (Superb this) 1/- Deep Orange Vermilion 14 x 14½ 4d Official 14 x 13½ (wornplate), 9d Official and 8d Official (very scarce in blocks). The whole superb lot of 11 blocks £28.

EARLY HEALTHS - A Superb Collection

- 207 (a) made up, we think, as a presentation collection for official use, this lot has everything you could wish for in a lot of early Healths. Each page is beautifully arranged with an artistic background and gives short notes on the founding and development of the Camps, a block of four of the issue, a first day cover and a charming photo showing the layout or activities at individual camps. All issues are represented in fine condition and catalogue price of well over \$400 exceeds our asking price ... On application

GEORGE V OFFICIALS

WHAKATANE begat TARAPEX and TARAPEX will beget WELFEX and year by year the standard and volume of entries goes up and up; and the importance of the NEWSLETTER in helping collectors to complete and improve their showings in any group cannot be ignored. This time Geo. V Officials of superb quality.

RECESS ENGRAVED

3d CHOCOLATE

193	(a)	Ko4a p.14 x 13½	Mint - beautiful chocolate-Brown block of four	...	...	\$1.80
	(b)	Ditto	Two fine shades used - Deep Chocolate and Chocolate Brown	...	...
	(c)	Wmk	Inverted fine used	...	...	\$0.75
194	(a)	Ko4b p.14 x 14½	Mint - two fine shades in blocks of four	...	...	\$3.20
	(b)	Ditto	- used in the two shades	...	...	\$0.35
	(c)	Wmk	Inverted - fine used - or mint	...	...	\$0.75
195	(a)	Ko4c	Vertical two perf. pair - mint Chocolate Brown	...	...	\$2.00
	(b)	Ditto	Superb used - genuine	...	...	\$2.50
196	(a)	Ko4d	"Pictorial" Paper wmk sideways - block of four mint	...	...	\$0.40
	(b)	Ditto	used	...	...	\$0.25

4d VIOLET

197	(a)	Ko5d p.14 x 13½	mint - block of four	...	...	\$4.00
	(b)	Ditto	Plate block pl. 20	...	...	\$10.00
	(c)	Ditto	R4/10 mint	...	...	\$6.00
	(d)	Ditto	- used - each	...	...	\$0.25
198	(a)	Ko5e p.14 x 14½	mint Deep Purple - block of four	...	...	\$2.00
	(b)	Ditto	Used fine block of four (dated) in the Deep Violet	...	...	\$0.80
	(c)	Ditto	two shades used and fine	...	...	\$0.30

6d CARMINE

199	(a)	Ko8a p.14 x 13½	Mint. Two fine blocks in Carmine and Deep Carmine	...	...	\$1.80
	(b)	Ditto	Not so fine single in Carmine Lake - rarity	...	...	\$5.00
	(c)	Ditto	Used fine dated - used block of four Deep Carmine	...	...	\$0.75
	(d)	Ditto	used Bright Carmine and Deep Carmine set - fine	...	...	\$0.35

200	(a)	Ko8b p.14 x 14½	- mint blocks of four Carmine and Deep Carmine	...	...	\$1.80
	(b)	Ditto	Shade singles (2)	...	...	\$0.45
	(c)	Ditto	- used (2)	...	...	\$0.25
201	(a)	Ko8c	- two perf pair fine used	...	...	\$3.25

8d RED BROWN

202	(a)	Ko10d p.14 x 13½	- Mint - block of four	...	...	\$10.00
	(b)	Ditto	used	...	...	\$2.50

9d PALE SAGE GREEN

203	(a)	Kolla p.14 x 13½	Magnificent mint block of four	...	...	\$2.25
	(b)	Ditto	Singles	...	...	\$0.50
	(c)	Ditto	Finest genuine used	...	...	\$0.75

1/- VERMILION

204	(a)	Ko12a p.14 x 13½	Vermilion and Orange Vermilion in super mint shade set	...	...	\$5.00
	(b)	Ditto	equally super but used	...	...	\$2.00
205	(a)	p.14 x 14½	- mint blocks of four in Salmon and Orange Vermilion - perfection!	...	...	\$5.50
	(b)	Ditto	three shades Salmon, Vermilion and or Vermilion in a brilliant set of singles	...	...	\$1.80
	(c)	Ditto	used in three shades	...	...	\$1.10
206	(a)	Two perf pairs	in the two shades mint (2)	...	...	\$5.00

C.P.LOOSE LEAF CATALOGUE

Year by year becoming yet more widely used among "New Zealand" collectors. In the past two months selected by 12 Public Libraries in New Zealand who recognised its worth as the most comprehensive work available on the stamps of our country. Now right up to date with the new 1969/70 Revision Sheets

\$9.50

* C.P. to visit next year.

MR. CAMPBELL PATERSON will be in New Zealand in March/April 1970 and further details of his trip will be published as they come available. He will of course be anxious to meet old friends and attend Society meetings not to mention view as much fine N.Z. material as he can fit in!! This trip will provide a real chance for N.Z. Specialists all over the country and friends and Collectors should contact us soon if they would like us to make specific arrangements for C.P. to meet them.

ADSON SELECTION

1d ROSE

209 (a)	<u>perf 10 A fine set including red, Mauve, Green, Brown and Blue ads</u> ...	\$4.00
(b)	<u>Ditto Short set Red and Mauve</u> ...	\$0.60
(c)	<u>Ditto Perf 12 x 11½ - 3d setting in Red Brown</u> ...	\$2.25
(d)	<u>Ditto Adson showing major flaws each</u> ...	\$0.75

2d LILAC

210 (a)	<u>perf 10 Rarity selection includes 2nd setting Green, Brown and Red</u> ...	\$1.85
(b)	<u>Ditto First setting set in Bright Red and Red Brown</u> ...	\$0.85
(c)	<u>Ditto perf 12 x 11½ Red Brown</u> ...	\$2.50
(d)	<u>Ditto Copy of the scarce "PONEKE"</u> ...	\$0.30

2½d BLUE

211 (a)	<u>p.10 Set of three Red Green and Mauve ads</u> ...	\$3.50
(b)	<u>Pair in Red of the rare watermark reversed - dated</u> ...	\$20.00
(c)	<u>Or broken on request for singles each</u> ...	\$10.00

3d YELLOW

212 (a)	<u>Brown and Mauve ads set (2)</u> ...	\$2.00
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4d GREEN

213 (a)	<u>Brown Ads each</u> ...	\$0.65
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5d OLIVE BLACK

214 (a)	<u>in Red</u> ...	\$1.00
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6d BROWN

215 (a)	<u>Brown, Red, Mauve set</u> ...	\$2.00
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8d BLUE

216 (a)	<u>in Mauve</u> ...	\$2.50
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1/- RED BROWN

217 (a)	<u>Copies in Red or Mauve each</u> ...	\$1.50
(b)	<u>Copy in Black</u> ...	\$7.50

MODERN ERRORS

* Yes, we buy them. For double perfs, colour shifts, missing colours, major flaws, major shade differences, offsets, inverted watermarks and all types of modern rarities we pay absolutely top prices. We need modern variety material and this may be your chance. Furthermore, keep this note in mind - you never know what might turn up if you're looking - and we're picking you're looking!!

LOTTING UP A SMALL COLLECTION - some bargains, some fine, some not-so-fine some rarities, prices good.

1898 PICTORIALS - MINT

208 (a)	<u>E1a ½d Mt. Cook Purple Brown, purple slate and Black Purple in not-so-fine</u> ...	\$0.15
(b)	<u>E2a 1d Lake Taupo Blue and Yellow Brown, Blue and Chestnut, Blue and Brown in not-so-fine</u> ...	\$0.20
(c)	<u>E3a 1d White Terrace Crimson, Rose Red (2) Lake Red in not-so-fine (4)</u> ...	\$0.50
(d)	<u>E4a 1½ Boer War p.11 Chestnut (fine) Pale Chestnut and Brown in not-so-fine</u> ...	\$2.50
(e)	<u>E5a 2d Pembroke Peak Brown Lake (2 shades) and Rosy Lake in fine singles</u> ...	\$2.00
(f)	<u>E6a 2d Pembroke Peak p.11 Dull Violet, Mauve and Purple in not-so-fine</u> ...	\$0.60
(g)	<u>E6b Ditto p.14 Dull purple, Reddish Purple and Purple good copies</u> ...	\$0.40
(h)	<u>E6c Ditto Perforation compound of 11 and 14 in excellent used (cat. \$20.)</u> ...	\$15.00
(i)	<u>E10b 3d Huias (reduced) p.14 x 15 Brown and Yellow Brown (All good) (cat. \$4.50)</u> ...	\$2.50
(j)	<u>E13a 5d Otira Gorge p.12 - 16 Pale Rec Chocolate, Red Chocolate, Brown Chocolate and Sepia - fair copies (cat. \$12.50)</u> ...	\$3.50
(k)	<u>E13b Ditto Perf 11 Chocolate and Red Brown (good)</u> ...	\$1.00
(l)	<u>E13c Ditto p.11 watermark Seven fine shades including a nice copy of the rare Black Brown v. nice indeed</u> ...	\$13.00
(m)	<u>E13d Ditto p.14 Four shade copies including the scarce Sepia (This Cat. at \$2.50)</u> ...	\$3.75
(n)	<u>E14a 6d Kiwi Green p.12 - 16 Three good shades including the scarce Grass Green</u> ...	\$6.50
(o)	<u>E14a Ditto Good copy of the offset on back (Cat \$15)</u> ...	\$12.00
(p)	<u>E14b Ditto p.11 Deep Green, Pale Green, Yellow Green (Cat. \$9.)</u> ...	\$4.00
(q)	<u>E21e 5/- Mt. Cook p.14 not-so-fine with fine appearance</u> ...	\$2. ^f