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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT - by Warwick Paterson

THE FOURPENCE PUARANGI ON CHALK-SURFACED PAPER

If ever there was a stamp which epitomised trickiness and elusiveness in philately it must be the "fourpenny chalky" of the New Zealand Definitive Pictorial Series of 1960.

In its history since its initial appearance three years ago it has been ignored, prized, criticised, disbelieved and underestimated, and must surely be one of the most generally unidentified, stamps in the New Zealand Catalogue. For months after its first appearance on the Post Office Counters, it was unrecognised as anything different. When at last it was discovered, most of the mint had gone, despite the fact that (as a study of used copies shows) it had a wide distribution from north to south. The critics took a look, and scoffed that there wasn't a real difference, - a nine day wonder, and possibly some wretched trader's ploy. Meanwhile, the wiser sleuths were buried in piles of modern bulk on paper and the ultra violet lamps burned far into the night. A well known catalogue listed them at a few pence each. One expert committee preferred not to certify a plate block for lack of material to compare it with, and the specialist collections began hesitantly to feature them - or their imitators!

What then is this 4d chalky - what is its claim to recognition - shall we prize or despise it? Having watched its fortunes with interest for several years, I hope I may help it to present its credentials - perhaps when I do, some may view it in a more kindly light.

Firstly the period of issue: Regular sorters of bulk lots will need no telling that any unsorted kiloware of the mid - 1966 period is certain to yield a few copies; the earliest dates being, perhaps, late May or early June, and running through to say September. Experience has shown that postmarks vary greatly, and the inference must be that there were a lot of the stamps from one end of the country to the other. They appeared, printed from plates 2333 only - this the last of the cylinder combinations of the 4d Puarangi before withdrawal on "DC" day 10th July 1967. This plate number is, of course, known in other "non-chalky" papers of the issue; a study has revealed that the intriguing "gremlin" flaws were constant and that Row 9/9 "flaw on the D of Zealand" was present in the chalky paper printings in retouched form.

This last fact does suggest that the chalky 4d was not a temporary aberration on the part of the printers, but a deliberate, and late, printing. In view of this we shall, I suppose, never know how many were officially destroyed after D.C. day 1967. The appearance of the other De la Rue printings of the 1d and 3d bears out these conclusions.



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WOKING,
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ENGLAND.

What of the paper itself?

Much is said in philatelic circles of stamps which - here's the rub - once you know how, you can sort like shelling peas. Now I would not say that an experienced chalky 4d hunter could not do this, or should not aim at it; however I would sound a note of caution. The chalky 4d is one of those varieties which, while fully commended as distinct and thoroughly different, must be checked by several different standards before a final decision is given. I make this point, as I think that this is where the real difficulty of the issue lies. It is true that in the many millions of the stamp issued, there are wide variations and many non-chalky stamps will appear to be chalky under one or even two of the tests. Only the chalky 4d stands up to all of them!

The Identification

The fact that this is a surfaced paper has, I think, tended to obscure the real issue - that the chalky 4d is printed on a paper of basically different composition. Examine a number of "non-chalky" examples - you will find that they all have some degree of surfacing - not the thick chalk coating of the rarity, maybe, but surfacing all the same. Examine the backs, and here you find a difference quite as striking as the chalk surfacing itself. For convenience, I list the features which I have found useful in distinguishing the papers.

(a) The silver-spoon test. Personally I think this is a terrible way to treat any stamp and would not advocate it. However, assuming you have the selvage of each paper both will probably be found to give the black line reaction associated with chalk-surfaced papers. With the 4d this is not a conclusive test, although it is true that the "chalky" usually gives a more definite reaction to it.

(b) The Watermarks Soaked in white spirit, the watermark of the 4d chalky is difficult, and sometimes near-impossible to detect. On the other hand the watermark is always clearly visible in non-chalky examples in the detector tray.

(c) Appearance from the front. The chalky paper gives a remarkably clear smooth print, and although "screen" pattern shows up under magnification, the appearance to the naked eye is of a solid background. The surfacing itself is very white and thick, without evidence of fibres, and can be seen to crumble around the teeth of the perforations in the separated stamps. The non chalky print is rough and "granular" by comparison, the surface of the paper appearing toned and, although surfaced to some degree, the fibres of the paper tend to be visible on the surface. There is little or no surface crumbling around the perforations.

(d) Appearance from the back. One of the greatest differences. The chalky paper is of a different composition from the non-chalky. The fibres are finer and closer packed and the whole appearance from the back is of whiteness, smoothness and lack of pronounced mesh characteristics. The non-chalky, however, appears toned, and has quite a definite mesh. This "whiter than white" impression is the notable feature of the chalky.

(e) Reaction under ultra violet lamp. All chalky examples fluoresce very brightly (like a beacon) under u.v. from both front and back. A wide variation in reaction is found in the non chalky, from dull to bright both front and back. U.v. is a useful corroborating test but cannot be regarded as conclusive.

I suggest that an example fulfilling all of the above requirements may be classified as the chalky 4d.

Finally rarity The burning question - In the used this is a "scarce" item but one which will turn up in the odd bulk lot. In the mint - a real rarity. Of plate blocks probably no more than six are known and of stamps the total supply may be less than the equivalent of two full sheets.

* This article first appeared in "Stamp Collecting Weekly" (London) Jan. 8th 1970.

R.P.S.N.Z. EDITORIAL POLICY. The latest Newsletter from the Royal outlines the principle discussions currently in progress regarding the continuation of the Postage Stamps of N.Z. series. One suggestion is to "consolidate all the known information on these issues (Full Face Queens, Side Faces, the Edwards etc.) into a series of monographs like that on the 1d Universal". My reaction to this announcement is one of concern. With buyers of the set of Handbooks Vols. 1 to 1V paying high prices for the set (we sold one such last month) on the express undertaking of the Royal Society that numbers of each volume published were limited to 1000 a policy which sets out systematically to reproduce all of the information from those volumes and summarise it in monographs is to be deprecated. I feel that such a course can be justified where significant new information is being brought in on an individual issue. Merely to reproduce already published details on all issues seems unfair to present holders of the Handbooks in view of the (however regrettable) original "limited publication" policy of the Royal.

CAMPBELL PATERSON TO ADDRESS PHILATELIC GATHERINGS

As promised we publish the dates and venues of meetings so far arranged for C.P. during his New Zealand tour of March - May.

- * CHRISTCHURCH Saturday 14th March 2.00 p.m., at "The Theatre" Canterbury Museum, Rolston Street address to the Federation of New Zealand Philatelic Societies.
- * WELLINGTON Monday 16th March 8.00 p.m. at Clubrooms 1 - 2 First Floor, Y.W.C.A. Building, 355 Upper Willis St., address to the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand and other Wellington based Societies.
- * AUCKLAND Monday 6th April, 8.00 p.m. at the Horticultural Society Rooms, 57a Symonds St., address to Auckland Philatelic Society and other Auckland Societies.
- * WHANGAREI Tuesday 7th April, time and venue to be arranged (evening)
- * HAMILTON During week ending Friday 8th May - date to be arranged.

TWO MAGNIFICENT SPECIALIST STUDIES - 1d Universal, ½d Green

Mt. Cook

We don't often have a chance to offer material of this calibre in this form. Here now are two collections built up over many years of careful selection of shades and used comprising mint in multiples and singles and used in many of the scarcer perfs. and shades.

Note: Much of this material is virtually irreplaceable and either of the collections would stand on its own as outstanding specialist work.

296 (a) A specialised study of the ½d Green Mt. Cook - Condition fine throughout

Mounted on 20 pages we begin at the Pirie printings with a selection of mint shades in singles and blocks, all the rare perfs and shades are represented including a beautiful pair and single of the mixed perfs. There is a proof imperf. single in purple slate. On to another page of magnificent mint shade blocks and several positional blocks and strips of re-entries as well as mint blocks of four of the scarce perforation combinations. The used cover two pages (fine) of all the shades and perforations in quantity and double, mixed, and imperf. vertically represented. Each issue of this stamp has like representation and other outstanding items are - Basted mills p.11 mint, p.14 top left corner block of six, p. 14 x 11 and p.11 x 14 mint blocks of four.

Cowan no watermark. Bottom selvedge pair mint of p.11, mint shade blocks p.14 and positional block of pl.2 flaw R7/8, p.14 x 11 mint and used p.11 fine used.

Cowan Watermarked imperf. vert. pair mint p.11 mint, p.11 x 14, p.14 x 11 and mixed perfs 11 and 14 in mint blocks of four, and a top right corner selvedge serial no. block of 15 of the mixed perfs., positional block of four of pl. 4 flaw R7/14, 8/14 and numerous shade blocks. Used complete coverage of perfs and shades and wmk inverted, also multiples. Re-entries 2 pages of used re-entries (plated) from plates 1,2,3 and 4 (condition good) and New plates four pages of mint shade blocks used shade and perf. singles and plated flaws and re-entries in mint positional blocks, pairs and used singles and pairs. Finally a huge block of 37 of the Official F04b from top left corner of the sheet. The complete collection, catalogued well in excess of... \$350.00

296 (b) A specialised study of the 1d Universal mounted on

33 pages. This is a collection similar in scope to the above and covers the Universal in all its printings and papers - also officials. Outstanding Features are mint shade blocks all issues, pages of used shades. Londons study of mint perf. gauges and two illustrated pages of mint and used re-entries Pirie

Major purchase: We have just taken the well known collection of Mr. A.J. Robinson of Auckland into stock - once again C.P. Ltd provides you, the N.Z. Specialists, with the very best that's going, ----- anywhere.

Deep Carmine Lake mint. Several mint re-entries, mint block of four p.14 and p.14 single Lake shade, used - huge coverage of all shades to the rarest Carmine Lakes and multiples, Basted Mills mint - all perf. variations inc. p.11 x 14 block of four positional block, wmk inverted showing R5/20, R6/21. Used all perf and wmk variations incl. mixed. Cowan no watermark all perf. variations (m) and (u) incl. mixed and a fine mint block of 9 shows pl. 2 re-entries R5/20, R6/21 (c/f B.Mills) Cowan watermarked mint shade singles, blocks positional pairs with re-entries - and perf variations vie with each other p.11 x 14 used 14 x 11 mint. A page of multiples of 12 (2) 6 (2) and three strips of three studies the deterioration of the plates - and three wonderful pages examine re-entries used in all four papers of the three early local plates. Several Used multiples showing re-entry positions.

Reserve Plate: a page of mint and used shades. Mint pos. block of four.

Booklet Plate: Mint pane and used - several re-entries and Carmine Lake also official panes and used shades.

Dot Plate: 2 pages of retouches and re-entries also mint p.11 x 14 and mixed perfs pair - a fine coverages of used shades and plate wear.

Slot machines Dickie (u) Parker (m) (2) Waterlow Trial Plates Six pages include a study of different types A to F and a re-construction of plate 1 has been commenced with numerous re-entries. Imperf. vert. pair mint and a mass of shades and re-entries.

Royle Plate p.11 mint, offset, p 11 x 14, p.14 x 11 mint and three fine top left corner, serial no. shade blocks and a page of shades, retouches and re-entries. Surface printed a page of mint and used shades.

This superlative showing

Price
on
application

USEFUL PUBLICATIONS OFFER

- | | | | |
|---------|---|-----|---------|
| 292 (a) | "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" Vol. II fine | ... | \$20.00 |
| (b) | Ditto - even finer. Vol. III | ... | \$32.00 |
| (c) | Little set of old cats, includes Verne Collins N.Z. Catalogues of 1938, 1946, New Zealand and Dependencies 1925 and a 1909 Stanley Gibbons price - free to the first person to order over \$25.00 from this Newsletter. | ... | FREE |
| (d) | Little set of "New Zealand Stamp Collectors" 30 copies from 1946 to 1952. Selected for their references to the 1d Universal | ... | \$2.00 |
| (e) | Speaking of 1d Universal - a copy of the lovely monograph "The 1d Universal" (R.P.S.N.Z. 1953) | ... | \$7.50 |
| (f) | "New Zealand - A Philatelic Handbook" R.J.G. Collins (Verne & Co. N.Z. 1920) | ... | \$5.00 |
| (g) | "The Stamps of the Pacific Islands" Vol. 1. R.J.G. Collins | ... | \$10.00 |
| (h) | "The History of N.Z. Stamps" William Jolliffe (Ferguson and Osborn, Wellington 1913) complete with the reproductions of the damaged portion of plate 11 of the 2d Full Face Queen | ... | \$20.00 |

294 (a) Rapkins "Favourite" Albums

We have a number of covers for these superb spring-back albums - green, and in perfect "New" condition - ideal for the collector who wishes to re-house his existing sheets - a marvellous chance - each

... \$5.00

EXHIBITION LABELS

295 (a) AUCKLAND EXHIBITION.

Very, Very seldom seen these beautifully designed labels showing scenes of the city 1913-14. A set of five

... \$7.50
... \$1.25

(b) CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION

Set of numbers 3 to 7 (5)
or Each

... \$2.50
... .50¢

MISCELLANY.

1898 Pictorials by Values a selection of perfs; water marks, shades in mint and used prices favourable; very favourable. Some minor hinged.

- 297 (a) E2 1d Lake Taupo mint set of blue and yellow brown, blue and chestnut, blue and brown ... (3)... .75¢
- (b) E3 1d White Terrace crimson and rose red mint (2)... .50¢
- (c) E4 1½d Boer War Contingent mint perf 11 red chestnut and pale chestnut p14 pale chestnut (3)... \$1.75
- (d) E5 2d Pembroke Peak mint top left corner serial no. selvedge block of four rosy lake and two vertical pairs, deep rosy lake and brown lake (8)... \$6.00
- (e) E6 2d Pembroke Peak mint p.11 pair mauve, single purple p.14 block four reddish purple. Two shade pairs purple and two shade singles dull purple (12)... \$4.50
- (f) F8 2½d Lake Wakatipu Mint. London print and p.11 no watermark Dull blue. P.14 dark blue (3)... \$1.70
- (g) E9 3d Huias - mint. London pair and single yellow brown single deep yellow brown p.11 no watermark, yellow brown and two shades deep yellow brown. P.11 watermark yellow brown pair. P.14 bistre pair and bistre brown (12)... \$6.00
- (h) E10 3d Huias (reduced) Mint P.14 brown, p14 x 15 three shades in pairs p14 x 13½ pair brown ... \$17.50
- (i) E11 4d White Terrace. Set of four mint dull rose, deep rose, bright rose, lake rose ... \$4.00
- (j) E12 4d Lake Taupo mint. P11 no watermark single, major re-entry greenish blue and bistre brown single and pair indigo. P11 watermark deep blue and chest single, deep blue and yellow chestnut pair. P14 block four blue and pale brown yellow, two pairs, yellow, brown chestnut. (15)... \$4.25
- (k) E 13 5d Otira Gorge. P.11 no watermark choc. & red brown in pairs. P.11 watermark red brown, black brown. P.14 brown pair (8) ... \$12.50
- * (l) E 14 6d Kiwi Green mint. London green single, deep green pair. P.11 watermark deep green and two shades yellow green (6) ... \$15.00
- (m) E14 6d Kiwi Red mint. P. 11 no watermark brick red. P.11 watermark rose red, rose carmine brick red used with above fairly heavy marked, brick red, salmon, rose carmine (7) and this is a give away. ... \$9.25
- (n) E 15 6d Kiwi Red (reduced). Pair mint p14 x 15. P14 pair carm pink also good used p14 x 13½ (rare) and P.14 deep carmine (6) ... \$14.50
- (o) E 16 8d War Canoe mint London. pruss blue P11 wmk indig blue pair P14, steel blue pair (4) ... \$4.75
- (p) E 17 9d Pink Terrace mint P11 wmk scarce Brownish Lake P14, purple and reddish purple ... \$9.50
- (q) E 18 1/- Kea & Kaka P14 mint, orange red (1) ... \$2.00
- (r) E 19 1/- Kea & Kaka (reduced) P14 x 13 - 13½ single mint P14 x 15 orange red single mint (3) ... \$9.00
- (s) E 20 2/- Milford Sound mint, London blue green P14 green (2) ... \$10.50

MARCH MINI-COLLECTIONS

of exceptional standard.

- 298 (a) Specialised collection of George V issues. Recess engraved and surface printed. Mounted on 12 sheets. All values are represented in superb mint blocks of four most perf varieties are there with two perf pairs - numerous blocks of six and items of particular merit are: 2d yellow, 4d violet, 5d, 6d, 7½d plate blocks, 2d yellow both perfs in nice dated used. 9d yellowish olive block of four and many other items. Surface printed are well represented. Catalogued far in excess of ... \$150.00
- (b) Edward V11 issues mounted on four leaves all values in multiples mint most blocks of four and blocks of 10 and 12 of 3d, 5d and 6d numerous good used and two perf pairs, condition - well, need you ask? - fine ... \$155.00

AIRMAIL COVERS

A wonderful selection of rare items, markings, first flights, pilots signatures, earthquake covers. If you collect this type of material, you cannot afford not to read this. Every item listed below has been authenticated by the Expert Committee of the Airmail Society of N.Z. All stamps are air mails (mostly 1931).

- 291 (a) A really early flight - on envelope of "Whangarei Harbour Board" a cover with typed "per Arial (Sic) Mail Service" pmk. Whangarei 1MR 20 11-00 AM ... \$5.00
- (b) "Special Official Emergency Flight Blenheim - Wellington and Wellington - Blenheim 4- 5- 1933. Two covers signed by pilot A.E. Willis and arrival-backstamped ... \$2.00
- (c) Perfect trial strike of a cachet not approved. An oval date stamp "First Transtasman Air Mail Feb. 1934" plus the eventually approved cachet (circular) (two covers) ... \$1.50
- (d) Special "Achilles" flight 2nd March 1937. A Walrus sealplane arrived at Rongatai at 3.25 p.m. and left for the sounds at 4.5 p.m. carrying mails for H.M.S. "Achilles" arriving at Picton 4.40 p.m.. The Walrus left Picton at 5-6p.m. arriving at the ship at 5-20. The cover authenticated with an Achilles datestamp and signed by Lt. Hood50¢
- (e) "Smithy" signature on 29 MR 34 Southern Cross cover ... \$2.00
(stamps alone cat. \$3.00)
- (f) Ditto. Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith signature 9 Jan 1933. On Southern Cross flight to N. Plymouth ... \$1.50
- (g) Emergency Earthquake Air Mails cachet set of three 3 Feb., 4 Feb and 6th Feb 1931 signed respectively by pilots Bolt, Burrell and Wallis ... beautiful! ... \$7.50
- (h) Emergency flight "Hastings - Gisborne" 29 - 5 - 33 signed by pilot A. Gerrard ... \$2.50
- (i) First Flight Covers - wonderful chance selection of 10 covers all different first flights within N.Z. Satisfaction guaranteed - at our price they are less 30¢ each and the stamps are valuable too - some double flights ... \$2.50
- (j) First Flights - superb!
Catalogue value of stamps on each cover guaranteed to exceed 75¢ and all fine used - not only that each is signed by pilot. We offer sets of five different first flights each fine set ... \$2.50
- (k) Special private first flights set of three covers Gisborne Air Transp. Ltd. 10 MR 31, Kaitaia Aero Club 14APR. 31, East Coast Airways Ltd 6 APR. 35 - 3 Covers ... \$2.50
- (l) Overseas First Flights
Set of five different guaranteed to please - Cat. value of stamps far exceeds cost of sets. Included such oddities as "N.Z. - Kuwait", "N.Z. - Muscat" each set includes at least 2. "Faith in Australia" covers wonderful value ... \$5.00
- (m) Christmas Airmail Covers
5 Different - all 1931 air stamps. Cat. at least 75¢ each fine used ... \$2.50
- (n) Christmas Airmail 1932
Six different - each has stamps (1931 airs) Cat. at least \$1.50 ... \$5.00
-
- 298(c) 1d Universals on 7 sheets a nice little lot with many mint multiples and plenty of used. Items: Londons 2 x blocks of four, retouches and re-entries G8d Dot plate mixed perfs etc. cheap ... \$30.00

A Wellington philatelic society in a circular to members last month advises the possibility of their investing in "Guilt edged securities" - clearly not all that glitters can gild the lily.