

# Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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## "HOW TO EVALUATE PHILATELIC VARIETIES" by Arthur Dexter

*The collection of varieties is for the advanced collector, if he feels inclined that way.*

But even if you are not a specialist, sooner or later you may be faced with the problem of having to assess the collectable value of a stamp or block. You may see something or even buy something in a P.O. or be offered something by a non-collector of which you have to assess the value. I have done this myself, often. The most outstanding example I can recall, was when I bought a Plate Block of the Maori Bible Stamps at the Farmers P.O. Several days later I found it had inverted watermark. The first thing I had to do was find out how scarce this was. To do this I must publicise the item and get people looking for it! When it goes off issue you should be able to assess how scarce it is.

A variety of a stamp issue is something that makes one stamp or block or sheet different from the regular issue. Varieties come in all degrees.

An issue may be printed in two different ways so that there are as many of each. It is hard in this case to define the normal and the variety. Examples of this are the 1½d Peace watermark sideways right and left 2½d 1960 Pict. Printed sideways, printed vertically. 20c Current Definitive perf vertically and perf sideways.

Varieties fall into five main Classes:—

1. Different methods of Production.
2. Constant flaw on one or more stamps of every sheet or a number of sheets.
3. Work done on printing plate or cylinder to correct a flaw.
4. Repair work on printed sheet of stamps.
5. Accidental mal-function of printing or perf machinery.

We have heard the term "printers waste" used to describe varieties. Only examples in Class 5 come under this category. Now that we have our varieties classified we can study their relative importance for our collection and then their monetary value.

*I must stress that the following remarks are my own ideas only, but based on years of specialised study.*

I have found that the value of varieties, that is their monetary value, depends on the following circumstances. When a variety is discovered the first thing that must be done is to advertise it. As I have said this will in time determine how scarce the variety is.

If there is only one of this variety it cannot obtain great publicity and very few people will know of it.

Stamp collectors must rely on dealers to publicise their varieties for them. For the dealers to take a real interest in them they must have one or more to sell themselves.

If a variety is plentiful enough to get into the hands of several dealers it will get the publicity, and if the supply then runs out the price will increase very rapidly.

If the variety comes under Class one it is a very desirable item and a supply of a few sheets can make a very valuable item in a very short time.

We will now study the various Classes.

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## CLASS 1.

For your collection it is imperative that you have examples showing each different method of production in an issue. These can come under the following headings:—

- A. Type of Printing: Examples of this are the Geo V. issue Surface printed and recess printed and the 2½d 1960 Pictorial printed vertically on the web, and sideways in sheets. In nearly every case of a variety of this nature there are enough supplies of each so that none are very scarce or expensive. However some experimental printings do increase in price.
- B. Type of Perforating: Varieties here involve the use of a different perforating head. If the gauge is changed it constitutes a major variety, which can be catalogued in mint and used singles. In early issues notably Edward V11 a change from a comb head to a line machine produced some very scarce varieties. Even recently there has been much controversy as to whether recorded examples of the 8d value in the line perf. really do exist. Scarce examples like this can be very expensive. On the other hand many recent issues perf. sideways and some vertically receive very little attention.
- An example of the 1/9 Q.E. 11 with use of a perf. head only used on the 9d and 1/- values is the only example like this I have seen and is still not worth many dollars.
- C. Paper: This is naturally the main basis of a stamp and hence of major importance. Many issues are printed on different types of paper, usually enough to each type to keep the price down. A notable recent example is the 4d 1960 Pictorial on chalk paper of which very few were saved mint and the price rose accordingly.
- D. Gum: Different types of gum, as in the current issue with Poly-vinyl Alcohol gum have very little effect on value as they are usually in plentiful supply and can only be listed in mint condition.
- E. Watermarks: Sometimes the whole issue is evenly divided in wmk. upright or inverted as in the 1½d Peace & hence there is no difference in price, then in the case of the 1950 Health there was quite a story to account for a considerable number of both values issued with inverted wmk. Owing to paper shortage a new supply was joined in the reel the wrong way & caused the variety. There was also a noticeable difference in the paper. The Maori Bible issue was significant as only part of one sheet was saved mint, but enough to get publicity and into dealers hands and so command a high price.
- F. Plate No.: Normally a plate is used to print a large number of stamps, but many examples have occurred where, for various reasons, very few sheets of a certain number have been saved. One example was the 1d Geo VI when a colour change occurred just before plate 26 was scrapped hence 26 in green is a very expensive item. Mystery surrounds plate 3A-3B of the Q.E. II 1/- value, also 1121 of the 8d 1960 Pictorial both of which were in very small supply. It turned out that the 1/- Q.E.II was from a new die with noticeable differences, hence all stamps in the sheet were affected. There was enough saved in mint condition to create world interest, hence with publicity the price rose quite high.

Of a different category is the alteration of the 4c. Royal Society Plate Nos. 1A1A1A1A2A to 1A1A 1A2A. In this case one plate at one stage had two numbers on it and was soon altered. But there were a considerable number of the variety, enough to make them very desirable.

- G. Surcharging: A notable example of this is the 1½d Q.E.II existing in two forms and most of the surcharging to 2d done on the large figure stamps, but a few sheets of the small figure issue were also surcharged. Enough mint sheets were saved to get into dealers hands and gain publicity and hence command a high price. In the case of the 3d of the same issue surcharged 2½d with two different type settings on the same sheet, single copies are of equal price but set-tenant pairs are scarce and hence valuable.

*TO BE CONTINUED*

### NOTES AND COMMENT — By Warwick Paterson.

I hear breathe that the new definitives (1970) Pictorials) are to be printed by Harrison and Sons using photogravure. When you come to think of it, a fairly logical move. While we may see the odd commemorative issue printed by the Japanese or Swiss it is hardly likely that the N.Z. Post Office would grant a major contract like a full definitive issue to any country other than Great Britain. Patriotic feelings about the old country apart from the present time is a critical one for New Zealand with G.B.'s negotiating for entry into the E.E.C. and N.Z.'s pressing its claim for "special consideration" in that event. (Which incidentally makes the N.Z. Government's consistently buying American Aircraft, both civilian and defensive, seem more than a little dog-in-the-manger, regardless of economics).

Accepting that, for the low values at least due September 3rd, it is Harrison's one new feature of their printing may well be worth looking out for. In October 1969 with the appearance of the first independent Jersey definitives Harrison's brought into use a totally new "rotary sheet perforation" which is quite unlike the perforations that we are used to in our issues and bears very little resemblance to line or comb types of perforation. Briefly, the sheets are perforated automatically inside the printing press by male and female drums which are synchronised with the colours. Unlike the Chambon method however, the sheets are perforated individually and the selvedge of each sheet will be completely imperforate. The perforating drums are placed just after the fourth colour cylinder and are of the same diameter as the latter. Pins in one correspond with holes in the other and the "confetti" is punched into the female drum and sucked out by an air device. What's more the new method is foolproof!

UNITED NATIONS ISSUES: In line with the usual "Newsletter" policy of scotching rumours put about by those who mean no good, I wish to make it quite clear that the high value design was not taken off a local Breakfast Cereal packet, unchanged — anyone knows that breakfast cereals cost more than 10c per packet.

**Note:** Some staining has occurred on certain of the pages but where this has affected the stamps, however slightly, no value has been placed on those stamps. In other words in accordance with our usual practice "clean" stamps only have been included in the prices listed. Catalogue value on all pages vastly exceeds our prices.

8. (1) ½d MT COOK PURPLE. 2 pages including two blocks of four two pairs, strips of 3 and 4  
A selection of 1d Taupo shades superb . . . . .75c
- (2) 1d TAUPO. Page of used shades (11) good . . . . .30c
- (3) 1d WHITE TERRACE. page of 15 used, fine variety of shades . . . . .35c
- (4) 2½d LAKE WAKITIPU. 4 copies also 2 copies 4d Terraces fair . . . . .50c
- (5) LONDON PRINTS. page of used includes 5d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-  
[5/- good (cat far excess)] . . . . . \$20.00
- (6) 2½d WAKATIPU. perf 11 no wmk includes block of four, strip of four and five shade  
singles . . . . . \$1.75
- (7) 2½d WAKATIPU ditto. fine used block of six, strip of four and shade singles  
. . . . . \$2.00
- (8) 3d HUIAS. Perf 11 no wmk strip of three and numerous shade singles  
. . . . . .45c
- (9) 5d OTIRA GORGE. p 11 no watermark. Two strips of three and 8 shade singles – a  
glorious page . . . . . \$3.50
- (10) 6d KIWI GREEN. No wmk p 11. page of 8 singles, two mint, various good shades includ-  
ing pale green (catalogue \$3.50) . . . . . \$2.50
- (11) 8d WAR CANOE. No wmk p 11. page including fine block of four used, two vertical strips  
of three, a pair and three singles, various shades super at . . . . . \$10.00
- (12) 9d PINK TERRACE. No wmk p 11 another marvellous page, two vertical strips of three, a  
pair and four shade singles . . . . . \$10.00
- (13) 1/- KEA AND KAKA. No wmk bright red shades . . . . . \$4.00
- (14) 1/- KEA AND KAKA. ditto similar page in duller shades strip of three two pairs, six  
singles . . . . . \$4.00
- (15) 2/- MILFORD SOUND. perf 11 no wmk. 6 fine used shades . . . . . \$20.00
- (16) 5/- MT. COOK. p.11 no wmk two shades – minor stains . . . . . \$20.00
- (17) 2nd SIDEFACES. p.11 a selection of ½d black and 2d lilac inc. a glorious fine used strip  
of 6 . . . . . \$1.50
- (18) ½d GREEN MT. COOK. page of p 11 watermark W.6 Basted mills shades  
. . . . . .35c
- (19) 1d WHITE TERRACES. 4 pairs 7 singles in a variety of shades . . . . . .40c
- (20) 1½d BOER WAR and 2d PEMBROKE PEAK. page of shades . . . . . .50c
- (21) 3d, 4d, TAUPO, 6d RED KIWI. no watermark 2, 4d Taupo (5 items)  
. . . . . .40c
- (22) 1d UNIVERSAL. Waterlow no watermark paper-fair page of shades  
. . . . . 5c
- (23) 1d UNIVERSAL. ditto page of shades including Deep carmine lake mint (fine)  
. . . . . \$10.50
- (24) ½d GREEN MT. COOK. used page Waterlow p14x11 (4) p11x14 (3) 1d Universal (w/low)  
mixed 11 and 14 (shades) good at (cat \$31). . . . . \$15.00
- (25) ½d GREEN MT. COOK AND 1d UNIVERSAL. (waterlow) perf 14. page of shades (fine)  
. . . . . \$2.25
- (26) ditto another page . . . . . \$2.50
- (27) ditto Basted mills paper a page including F2d (2 fu) G3c (2 fu) and two copies of G3c  
mixed perfs 11 and 14 in good condition (cat \$19) extraordinary bargain  
. . . . . \$8.50
- (28) ditto page ½d Mt. Cook  
F3 b (u) (2) and G4a also G3c Basted (2) . . . . . .50c
- (29) ½d GREEN AND 1d UNIVERSAL. Cowan paper – page p14 shades  
. . . . . .75c
- (30) ditto another fine page . . . . . \$1.00
- (31) 2½d WAKATIPU, 3d HUIAS, 4d TAUPO. (used) includes E8c (3) E9c (10) incl. pale bistre  
(fine) E12b 2 fair used copies . . . . . \$2.25
- (32) 5d OTIRA GORGE, 6d KIWI RED. (p11 watermark) E13c (6) incl. fine red brown E14e  
(7) incl. fine shades . . . . . \$1.00
- (33) 8d CANOE, 9d TERRACES, 1/- KEA AND KAKA. p.11 watermark E16c (3) E17c (2)  
E18d (6) . . . . . \$2.00
- (34) 1½d BOER WAR, 2d PEMBROKE PEAK 2½d WAKATIPU, 3d HUIAS, 4d TAUPO.  
attractive page E4b (1) fine E8d (2) E6b (3) E9d (3) E12c (3) incl. deep brown  
. . . . . \$2.25
- (35) 5d OTIRA, 6d RED KIWI, 8d CANOE, 9d TERRACES, 1/- KEA, 2/- MILFORD, 5/- MT  
MT. COOK. p14 a lovely page dominated by a fine copy of E21e (value guaranteed)  
. . . . . \$20.00
- (36) 4d TAUPO, 2½d WAKATIPU, 8d CANOE, 1/- KEA, 2/- MILFORD, 5/- MT. COOK.  
Perf. 14 another page with some nice copies 5/- a good copy . . . . . \$8.25
- (37) Page including copies of 96a, 97a, 98a, 99a, etc. good copies . . . . . .40c
- (38) Page of F5a shades f used etc. . . . . .10c

EXQUISITE FULL FACE OFFER.

1. (a) S.G.1 London 1d. Deep Carmine Red. (1855) a marvellous copy with four margins – marking light and off the face; colour magnificent (catalogued at \$1200 this year – next year who knows?)  
Our Price . . . . . \$1000.00
- (b) S.G.1 ditto. Another lovely looking example of N.Z.'s. "Glamour item". Four margins again and really good colour. Minor defects top margin but exceptional marking light and off the face (certificate) . . . . . \$600.00
- (c) S.G.1 ditto. Very light marking off the face, stamp with defects – appearance excellent and this stamp is a gift at . . . . . \$175.00
- (d) S.G.37 2d blue. 1862 – 64 ultramarine slate – a lovely four margined, lightly marked example . . . . . \$50.00
- (e) S.G.37 ditto. A superb looking example with marginal defect and pinhole – (cat. \$60) Dull Slate . . . . . \$10.00
- (f) S.G.41 6d Black Brown 1862–64. An exceptional unused example with four full margins – absolutely faultless (B.P.A. cert.) . . . . . \$90.00
- (g) S.G.135 6d Blue. Pair used on cover – one stamp fine, marking backstamp ARROW RIVER Au. 27. 73. fair . . . . . \$10.00

SURPRISINGLY CHEAP OFFER OF P.O.W. COVERS W.W.11.

2. (a) "For use by civilians to write to members of the New Zealand armed forces while in captivity in enemy P.O.W. camps." These are real varieties and a number of different types are recorded. The exigencies of camp life, the frequent movement of P.O.W's between camps and the difficulties of keeping any form of personal property intact meant that only a tiny percentage of these letter forms written *to the camps* ever survived. We have several examples of the May 1943 type stamp imprint 1/- Geo VI in blue, unwatermarked, inscriptions on tuck in flap and back panel as Nov. 1941 type. Listed by LAVA (the U.S.A. specialist P.O.W. letter dealers) as type 102 M.B. at U.S. \$60; our price in finest possible used condition . . . . . \$30.00
- (b) From OFLAG VIII 1944 usage P.O.W. Letter card in fine condition . . . . . \$1.75
- (c) Italian Camp. An extremely unusual usage. P.O.W's. found that by addressing their letters "via Lisbon and America". They could get mail home to N.Z. in a shorter time; on official Italian P.O.W. letter form. Finest 1943 usage of this item . . . . . \$5.00

A NEARLY COMPLETE COLLECTION OF NEW ZEALAND.

6. Mounted in a C.P. loose-leaf simplified album this is an attractive lot of generally high quality and includes complete pages of nearly all sets. For instance, the full Face Queen page is complete and includes both mint and used. S.G. 40 is there in pristine 4 margined mint and others are S.G.4, 10, 14 and 86 (pelure 1/- imperf) all lightly marked attractive copies. 1st sideface 5/- unused 1898 2/- and 5/- mint, Auckland and Christchurch Exhibitions mint are there as well as many of the highly cataloged Arms Type (a fine £2, 10 mint,) valued carefully on condition throughout. The attractive N.Z. lot . . . . . \$350.00

1898 PICTORIALS (cont.)

- (39) REDUCED SIZE 3d HUIAS 6d KIWI RED. Eloa (3) E 15a (9) (pink shades) finest . . . . . \$4.50
- (40) 6d KIWI, RED REDUCED. a lovely page of E 15a p14. including fine used block of four red and deep rose red single fine used (super!) . . . . . \$7.50
- (41) ½d GREEN MT. COOK. New plates p14 x 13½ etc – fine page of shades in pairs . . . . . .45c
- (42) 3d HUIAS REDUCED. page of shades in p 14 x 13 13½ pair good quality . . . . . \$6.50
- (43) 4d TAUPO, 6d KIWI (Reduced) 1/- KEA (Reduced). fine page of the scarce E12f 14d p 14 x 13 – 13½ two pairs, strip of three and single (fused) and E15b (2 copies) also E19a (2) (guaranteed!) . . . . . \$25.00
- (44) page incl. F5b fu, block of four G11a fu, block of four and others. . . . . .50c
- (45) 3d HUIAS (REDUCED) 6d KIWI (Reduced). E10c fine block of four used, and 3 singles E15c pair and three singles, nice (cat in excess) . . . . . \$7.00
- (46) 1/- KEA KAKA (Reduced). E19b – p14 x 15 The rare stamps, 2 pairs and six shade singles (cat \$25) our price . . . . . \$22.50



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(\$1.50)