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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT By Warwick Paterson

A BRAND NEW VARIETY Once again, that perplexing stamp the 4c
Magle Moth Provisional Surcharge has presented us with a problem
- one which I hope will tax readers' imaginations, because if there
exists a solution its not an easy one this time.

I have in front of me a sheet of the 4c Surcharge with the second
Harrisons' overprint by letterpress. The basic sheet of 2½c
stamps is from plate IAIAIAIA in the state described in Newsletter's
summary of March 1972 with Black plate flaws at Row 1/20, 2/17 and
2/3 in Retouched form. The surcharge corresponds with the last
state of the first forme of the letterpress surcharge ("J")
described in Newsletter of March 1973.

Row 5/1 bars missing : Row 3/1, 1/2, 10/20 bars replaced etc etc
and the surcharge is (characteristically for this "J" state)
unusually heavy to compensate for stereo wear and the "extra line"
between the left hand extremity of the figure 4 and the bottom
stroke is present.

So far so good - the sheet is accurately placed in its correct
category both as regards basic 2½c stamp and surcharge type. One
factor worthy of mention at this point is that the "missing bars"
at Row 5/1 are almost completely absent. This is an unusual
form of the variety, as most examples while differing in extent,
carried an appreciable portion of the impression of the left hand
ends of both bars. Row 5/1 therefore carries a virtually
unaltered 2½c value as well as a 4c overprinted value at top left.
I mention this point in detail as (in such a sheet as this) any
variant on the normal state of stamps or surcharge may give us a
clue to the cause of the variety.

Again it should be noted that state "J" was the last of the
states of the first letterpress forme used by Harrisons, this
first forme then being withdrawn and replaced by the second
forme.

THE VARIETY Impressed in regular spacing over the entire sheet
and apparently overlying the 4c Surcharge impression are the
shapes of small five-pointed stars. These impressions are
inverted and have been imposed on the front of the sheet. Being
colourless they are more obvious seen from the back than from the
front where they show clearly in relief. They are also easy to

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P.O. Box 5555, Auckland 1
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Queen Street
Telephone: 379-118 Auckland

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detect by touch in other words they are a very definite feature of the sheet. The spacing of the stars is quite regular and each horizontal row has ten stars (one for every second stamp) and they are 1,11/16 of an inch apart from top point of star to the next. Each vertical row of stamps contains 11 stars (slightly more than one per stamp). Spacing vertically (again between top points of stars) is 7/8th of an inch.

ORIGIN: OF THE SHEET Ten sheets carrying the variety were discovered in the South Island. Seven sheets were withdrawn by the Post Office (due to the fact that Row 5/1 was defectively surcharged (see above)) thence three sheets are now known to exist.

'A THEORY' In arriving at a theory two major factors strike me as significant:- (a) The flaw at Row 5/1 was *serious* enough for Post Office staff to withdraw the sheet as defective. (b) The even spacing of the embossed stars suggests to me that *the stars were deliberately impressed* by a process intended for that and similar sheets. If we accept these two points then it seems likely that:- (a) The sheet also appeared defective to the printers (due to R 5/1 flaw) and (b) It was the printers, by dint of the obvious deliberation with which the stars are impressed, who had the sheet treated thus. The conclusion from this hypothesis is clear, the stars being a means by which sheets are defaced after they have been judged defective ("printer's waste") and are held pending the auditor's inspection and the waste's destruction.

One question remains. Why if this is the case are the stars not printed in black, red or some other obvious colour to make the sheets unusable for postage? My final "shot in the dark" is that *they were intended to be defaced* but - as with the "double surcharge impression, one albino" (see last month's Newsletter) the defacing overprint was impressed correctly on the upper of two sheets, the lower one having been wrongly picked up by a badly adjusted machine, and thus receiving the *impression only* of the defacing overprint and later finding its way back into stock as an apparently perfect sheet.

any other theories?

MORE ON THE CURRENT SCENE - 4c SURCHARGE - THE LOCAL SURCHARGE

MAKES ITS APPEARANCE

At long last there it was in the Philatelic Bureau in Auckland. After all the speculation and doom-watching ("it'll be a shoddy job - of course!") really, first impressions were surprisingly good - with figure and bars. More the shape and size of the original Harrison's photogravure surcharge this letterpress job is generally clean, clear and acceptable. Outline of the impressions is a little wavy and irregular, but definition is generally good. It is quite distinctive from the other two surcharge types by Harrison's by photogravure and letterpress. There are some recurring surcharge flaws, but of these more in due course. Plates used in the basic 2½c stamps are all (as expected) IAIAIAIA and IBIBIBIB. These appear to be exclusively sheets recalled by the Post Office from all over the country, when the 2½c stamps were withdrawn. Major boob so far noticed is the absence of any surcharge to the sheet value (top left selvedge). This value corner is now the subject of a P.O. directive I hear to Postmasters that all sheet values must be changed and the variety of hand-done and rubber stamped jobs will be, I predict like the Sands of the Sea.

OBSERVATIONS - FROM JIM SHAW

10c "Royal" Stamp Two dark blue plates have been used for the new printing of this stamp on unwatermarked paper. The first (old) plate which was used exclusively for the first (water-marked) printing has naked-eye retouches at Row 1/2 and 1/3 (in the top "frame-line"). The new dark blue plate is recognizable by the absence of these retouches.

CONTINUED BOTTOM OPPOSITE PAGE

IMBROGLIO REVISITED

A selection of multiple shades and varieties from earlier N.Z. issues, mint and used, a veritable pot-pourri of specialist interest.

4d NEWSPAPER STAMP - ROSE

- 7 (a) Bla perf. 10 Mint copy in good condition. Some pencil marks on reverse, but full gum and attractive. \$5.00
(b) Bla ditto Copy with no gum, but letters watermark makes it an interesting item \$4.00
(c) B1c perf 10 x 12½ Unused copy without gum and with thin spot Letters Watermark, nevertheless a genuine rarity. \$2.00
(d) B2a Vertical mesh perf 12½ used. The set of three shades listed Dull Rose, Deep Dull Rose, Rose in fine order \$0.70
(e) B2a Ditto used. Strip of four with dated Auckland Squared circle pmk. Condition quite good. \$0.45
(f) B2a Ditto Block of four unused without gum. Attractive indeed \$0.75
(g) B3a "NZ and Star" Watermark The two shades Bright Rose and Pale Bright Rose in mint - fine used - \$0.50
\$0.08
(h) B3a Ditto Letters watermark. Variety in mint fine used \$0.60
\$0.40

FIRST SIDEFACES

- 8 (a) Cla 1d Lilac perf 12½ mint. Lilac and Dull Lilac shades - fine \$10.00
(b) Cla Ditto used. Lilac, Dull Lilac and Deep Lilac in good used \$1.45
(c) Cla Ditto Bleuté paper in goodish used - heavyish mark \$2.00
(d) C1b Perf 10 x 12½ Copy in "good used" \$2.50
(e) C1d "Large Star" paper Again fair used \$3.00
(f) C1e Perf 12 x 11½ Copy in Mauve, Lilac - mint - fine \$2.00
- 9 (a) C2a 2d Rose perf 12½ The two shades, Rose and Pale Rose mint \$10.00
(b) C2a Ditto used. Rose, Pale Rose, Deep Rose in excellent used \$1.00

JIM SHAW (CONT) ◀

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE FOUR ▶

23c Mt. Egmont The "lower" plate printings (with punched hole in bottom selvedge) has now appeared with double comb perforation - the same comb as used for the "upper" plate (with punched hole in top selvedge) except that the sheets have been perforated "in tandem" starting from the bottom selvedge.

3c Coils These have now been brought into line with the 4c, 5c, 6c, 8c and 20c coils in that a new "coil" printing of the section numbers on the selvedge between the strips has been carried out with the number "inverted", when compared with the original 3c coil pairs. The numbers, then, now read for all these values sideways with the bottom of the numbers facing right when the coil stamps are viewed from the front. In this 3c value moreover the numbers are now printed on the right hand selvedge (previously on the left selvedge) and are finer and in a deeper carmine shade. The 10c coil is the only value now with the section number with bottoms of figures facing left.



STAMP - POWER

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IMBROGLIO CONTINUED

(c) C2a Ditto	Multiples used. A lovely pair (Rose)	\$0.60c
	a fine strip of three (Pale)	\$0.90c
(d) C2a Ditto	used, a lovely (Rose) copy bleute paper	\$3.75
(e) C2c perf "Nearly 12"	a nice copy identifiable by its wider size. Guaranteed and good for this variety	\$15.00
(f) C2e Large Star paper	used, a really nice copy of this scarce item	\$1.25
(g) C2f perf 12 x 11½	a nice mint copy o.g.	\$2.50
(h) C2f Ditto	Rose and Deep Rose in fine used	\$0.70
10 (a) C3a 3d Deep Brown perf 12½	Mint. Copy in delightful condition	\$8.00
(b) C3a Ditto	used. Copy in "good" condition - fully intact etc marked - wee bit heavy	\$5.00
(c) C3b perf 10 x 12½	mint. Irregular compound perf of 10 and 12½ a rare one - we offer two not so fine (thin spot), but superb appearance	\$4.00
	Fine copy (lovely!)	\$22.50
(d) C3b Ditto used	Not-so-fine (to fill space) looks good	\$0.50
	Irregular compound perf "commercially" used	\$10.00
11 (a) C4a 4d Indian Red perf 12½	Lovely copy	\$30.00
(b) C4a Ditto used.	"Commercial" copy (good)	\$5.00
(c) C4b perf 10 x 12½	irregular compound perf - fine used	\$20.00
(d) C4d - perf 12 x 11½	Lovely vertical pair used. Shows pronounced "step" sideways of comb perf. Highly unusual and very fine	\$10.00
11 (a) C5a 6d Blue perf 12½	used. Blue and Deep Blue shades in fine used	\$5.00
(b) C5b perf. 10 x 12½	Lovely mint copy	\$22.50
(c) C5b Ditto used	fine used	\$6.00
(d) C5c perf 12 x 11½	used good used	\$1.50
12 (a) C6a perf 12½	mint, stupendous copy	\$100.00
	Lovely copy, of glorious appearance	\$75.00
	Not quite so fine, but face beautiful	\$20.00
(b) C6a Ditto used	Lovely, light pink	\$6.00
(c) C6b perf 10 x 12½	used very good used	\$10.00
(d) C6b Ditto used.	Irregular compound perfs, bottom perfs minor clipped	\$5.00
(e) C6c perf 12 x 11½	Block of four used - scarce. Heavy mark and two stamps damaged, but a nice item	\$4.50
13 (a) C7a 2/- Claret (Rare!)	Good mint	\$25.00
	Not-so-fine used	\$2.50
14 (a) C8a 5/- Grey (Ditto!)	Nice mint	\$32.50
	Good mint	\$25.00
	Not-so-fine used	\$2.50

NOTE: The "not-so-fines" in the above listing are excellent and economical buying for young philatelists.

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FULL FACE QUEEN RARITIES

NOT-SO-FINE COPIES AT GIVE AWAY PRICES

Accumulated from a series of collections this month's offer is a remarkable chance to fill gaps in a collection of this Chalon Head Issue at prices which are quite ridiculously low. Not everyone is in a position to pay high prices, which makes this offer a perhaps never-to-be repeated opportunity. Appearance is in most cases fine, but certain defects in each copy make this our chance virtually to give them away.

GROUP 2 : RICHARDSON PRINTS - DEEP BLUE PAPER

- 1 (a) S.G. 4 1d Red unused! A copy of superb appearance with three margins. Several major internal creases do not unduly mar its appearance (cat \$600) our incredible price \$20.00
- (b) S.G. 5 2d Blue used. Two margins, but marking well off the face, a lovely clean and clear copy - again believe us or believe us not \$5.00
- (c) S.G. 5 2d Blue used. Another one, this time mark over face \$1.00

GROUP 3 : RICHARDSON PRINTS ON WHITE PAPER

- 2 (a) S.G. 8 1d Dull Orange unused! Magnificent copy with four margins. In appearance perfect. Small tear at right margin. This is a gloriously spectacular copy (Cat \$150) \$12.50
- (b) S.G. 2d Pale Blue Stupendous looking lightly marked copy, four margins (just), but invisible crease (from front) allows \$3.00
- (c) S.G. 9 2d Dull Pale Blue Again in appearance outstanding. Three margins (just) colour striking \$4.00
- (d) S.G. 9 2d Dull Pale Blue Margins poor, but marking virtually non-existent. We were tempted to call it unused \$3.00
- (e) S.G. 13 6d Brown used. Really beautiful looking copy with most margins. Light marking of face. Major thin on back and marginal defect too, nothing to detract from this beauty \$3.50
- (f) S.G. 13 6d Brown used. This time a heavier marking, but three margins present make this most desirable \$3.50
- (g) S.G. 14 6d Pale Brown used. Two margins fair. Appearance superb. Light postmark. This is an unusual shade. Slight crease (cat \$50) \$3.00
- (h) S.G. 14 6d Pale Brown used. Hard paper (scarce). This is an outstanding three margined, lightly marked example. Unbelievable value at (cat \$60) \$5.00
- (i) S.G. 15 6d Chestnut. The glamour shade of the entire issue. Margins top and bottom minor thin, light postmark, but colour bright, true and unmistakable (Cat \$130) \$7.50
- (j) S.G. 15 6d Chestnut used. This time one of the great rarities. We have only seen one other. This stamp on thick paper with horizontal mesh. The shade is right! Three margins and light postmark catalogued at \$250 - \$15.00
- (k) S.G. 16 1/- Dull Emerald Green used. Beautiful looking stamp with light postmark and three good margins. Colour full and true. Tear at right allows this absurd price (cat \$200) \$15.00
- (l) S.G. 17 1/- Blue Green used. Face clear again and three good margins. Thin area on back, but again, on appearance this is a potential prize winner. \$10.00

CONTINUED PAGE SIX

GROUP 4A : DAVIES PRINTS, IMPERF ON STAR PAPER

- 3 (a) S.G. 37 2d Ultramarine-slate used. Another of the top shades of the issue. This one quite striking in shade. Heavyish dated, pink off the face. Three good margins. Catalogued at \$150 at our price unapproachable by any other source \$12.50
- (b) S.G. 37 2d BLUIISH SLATE used. Four margined stamp this time, internal creases and soiling present, but marking is respectable and off the face. An example to be justly proud of if you're lucky enough to get it at this extraordinary price \$5.00
- (c) S.G. 44 1/- Bluish Green used. Talk about glamorous shades. One margin only, but marking light and stamp shade generally beautiful - a really lovely stamp. \$5.00
- (d) S.G. 44 1/- Emerald Green used. The title "Emerald" conjures up a vision of vibrant beauty, a timeless colour of deep attraction. Got it? Well that's this stamp to a tee. Margins close but \$20.00

GROUP 5 : PRINTS ON "PELURE" (very thin) PAPER

- 4 (a) S.G. 85 6d Black Brown used
Three margins fair and marking definite, but clear and dated. Delightful appearance \$10.00
- (b) S.G. 86 1/- Deep Green used. Torn corner and other faults, but at our price a gift of a superbly attractive copy. Excellent postmark \$7.50

GROUP 5A : PROVISIONAL 2d PRINTING ON THICK WHITE UN-WATERMARKED PAPER

- 5 (a) S.G. 96 2d Dull Deep Blue, with slight plate wear used.
Four margins, light mark, superb in every aspect of appearance. Tear at left is virtually invisible (Cat \$80) Our price \$5.00

GROUP 6 : ON NEW PAPER WITH WATERMARK "NZ"

- 6 (a) S.G. 97 1d Carmine-Vermilion. Unused! A scarce item indeed. This copy with four big margins creased vertically, but wow! (Cat \$100) \$10.00
- (b) S.G. 98 2d Blue Three good margins very light postmark off face. Vertical crease is not too bad, appearance - the best! \$5.00

NEXT MONTH: Watch for them! Some of the greatest rarities in roulettes and perforated issues.

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