

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES

Robert Samuel, expert on the Postage Due stamps of New Zealand recently let us have his thoughts on our catalogue listing of this "scarcely discovered" issue. Here they are then, to be read with reference to the C.P. Specialised Catalogue.

There are quite a few major varieties of the Postage Due stamps which are not catalogued by C.P., and a few which are catalogued which should be deleted.

The omission of some of these varieties is not surprising as they are all very scarce. My comments on the various perforation and watermark varieties are:

1/- 1899 (Y3a) Double Perfs.

I have seen about 9 copies of this variety, all used at Dunedin. I do not think it exists mint, even although C.P. lists it in this condition.

5d 1899 (Y5a) Double Perfs.

This is rarer than the 1/- . I have seen only 3 copies (2 in my own collection) and again all are in used condition, postmarked Nelson. Again I doubt if this exists in mint condition.

2d 1899 (Y10a) Double Perfs.

As far as I know, only 1 copy of this stamp is known (and it's not in my collection either!). It is used, postmarked Wellington, and it is doubtful if the listing of this variety in mint condition is correct.

C.P. lists the 6d Y6a with "no stop after N." This is incorrect. The no stop after N variety occurs on the ½d (Y8a), 1d (Y9a), 3d (Y11a), and 4d (Y14a). The 2d (Y10a) could be listed with no stop after D - a very rare variety.

½d 1902 (Y15a) Double Perfs.

Copies of this stamp are found with double perfs vertically. I have seen 2 mint copies and 5 used, postmarked "Winslow" and "Wellington".

½d 1904 (Y15b) Double Perfs and "Imperf between".

I have seen a number of mint pairs with a double row of vertical perforations between the two stamps. This variety is already catalogued but I think the price for a used copy should be replaced with an asterisk. I have only ever seen one used copy of this variety, a single stamp with double perfs horizontally and postmarked Christchurch.

The imperf between variety is probably the commonest of the Postage Due imperfs although it is still not represented in my own collection. The "Rhodes" collection contains a block of four, Robson Lowe auctioned a pair some years ago, and I have heard of other examples. I believe that a local dealer handled a sheet some years ago (probably before the War) in which one vertical row of perfs were "blind" or missing but where all these have gone to I do not know. It should only be catalogued in mint condition. ◊

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Y15b may exist with the watermark inverted. This variety is listed in Volume 2 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" but I have yet to see a copy. A further major variety of Y15b occurred on Row 6 No. 6 from the lower left hand pane over portion of the printing of 1904. This was a printing flaw and showed as the completed absence of the D of ½d. It is an outstanding variety and, although printing flaws are of minor philatelic significance, when they show so neatly they deserve some attention. A similar variety occurred on the 3d Life Insurance of 1946 when the word THREE was spelt HREE. I have seen 3 examples of the "missing D" variety of Y15b (2 used and 1 mint) and it is probably that a bit of publicity will result in further copies being located.

1d 1905 (Y16a) Double perfs.

This is not listed by C.P. I have only ever seen 1 copy, in mint condition.

1d 1913 (Y16c) Imperf.

This is an outstanding rarity. The "Rhodes" collection contains a used pair and a used marginal single. These are postmarked Christchurch, 1913. My own collection contains a mint strip of five, probably from the same sheet. The 1d inverted watermark, listed by C.P. is known in used condition only, as indicated by the catalogue entry.

2d 1906 (Y17b) Imperf.

This is another very rare item. I have a mint single which can be plated as being Row 10 No. 1 from the right hand pane. The "Rhodes" collection also contains a mint single, in this case from Row 9 No. 1 from the right hand pane. Put them together and they make a perfect pair! There must be other copies of this variety in existence - but I don't know where.

The Postage Dues abound in varieties and my notes for Volume 6, "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", just submitted to the editors, cover about 50 typed pages. The "Second Type" issues abounds in plate varieties - flaws, substituted electros, retouches etc - and I have made many new findings with regard to the plates used, the dates of issue etc.

An article on the "Third Type" issue was published recently in "The New Zealand Stamp Collector". Besides clarifying the dates of use, I have been able to show that the Deep Ultramarine shade of Y21b is an "inverted watermark" variety of Y21c and that many stamps thought to be Y22d are really "inverted watermark" varieties of Y22c. The 1d of 1939 (Y20a) should be listed with inverted watermark, both mint and used, while the 3d (Y22a) is listed in Volume 4 with inverted watermark but in this case I have yet to see the variety.

Editors Note: The Postage Dues ("2") section of the C.P. catalogue will soon be brought up to date with new information in line with our current project of revision "right across the board".

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