

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT By Warwick Paterson

SPECIALIZATION

SEMI-CONSTANT VARIETIES

(From Last Month)

One class of variations not mentioned last month may be termed "semi-constant". In both Lithography and Delacryl certain flaws are believed to originate in the offset blanket or roller which carries the ink impression of the design from plate to paper. In the case of Lithography, the flaws may appear as

(a) round droplet-like flaws suggesting that water may have interfered with the ink impression during transfer or

(b) a shadow impression of the design of the stamp in one or more of the colours used.

An explanation for these sometimes mis-named "double prints" is that during a "run" the offset blanket may "pick up" an impression of the design to some extent and when its position is altered slightly with relation to the plate, may still tend to transfer ink in the form of that extra impression. These "double impressions", as it now seems more correct to call them, can be spectacular. Both (a) and (b) have been seen in a series of sheets, the "double impressions" affecting perhaps a dozen sheets.

In the case of Delacryl, two similar types of flaw to the above have been noted over a series of sheets. In one case the impression of a previous printing job has been seen in the background taking the form of a shadowy printing and illustrations. Three sheets of one example were found and it seems that the cause may have been similar to that of the Lithography double impressions. In another type of Delacryl flaw, foreign matter appears to have adhered to the blanket and become slightly embedded. These take the form of irregularly shaped white flaws - sometimes large - which disappear gradually over a series of half a dozen or more sheets.

In Photogravure there is an outstanding type of semi-constant flaw. During this process surplus ink is continually being removed from the non-printing surface of the plate, leaving ink in the recesses to be transferred to the sheet of stamps. A fine steel blade known as the "Doctor" or "Wiper Blade" effects this by moving horizontally

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across the plate with a slight traversing movement. "Doctor Blade flaws" occur when a nick or flaw appears in this blade producing a fine line of ink on the non printing surface of the plate where it has failed to wipe ink away fully and this, in turn, produces a fine line of colour on the printed sheet. Alternatively, foreign matter trapped behind the blade may wipe ink from the printing recesses in the plate and thus on the sheet of stamps a white streaked bank may appear. Such flaws have been known to affect a short series of sheets.

ALL THREE PROCESSES - PERFORATIONS

A type of semi-constant defect affecting all processes can appear in the comb (perforation) head of which several types are used to perforate all sheets of stamps. A missing "pin" in this head will produce a missing hole. This feature has been seen over very long runs of stamps and is truly "semi-constant" when it occurs. The use of different perforating heads having different gauges can produce short or long-lived semi-constant varieties

WATERMARKS

The use of watermarked and unwatermarked papers for the same issue gives two semi-constant varieties of major importance.

Variations in the direction of the mesh of the paper and of the position of the watermark may be found during the currency of a stamp issue according to the use for which that issue is to be put. For example, the current Booklet issues of New Zealand feature sideways mesh and a watermark which is sideways with respect to the design of the stamp. This is in contrast to the "main issue" of sheets of the values concerned, where watermark and mesh are both vertical.

Note: The mesh of the paper is determined by the direction in which the paper is manufactured. The small fibres of the paper will be seen on close examination all to lie in a certain direction. In the above case (Booklets) the same paper has been used but the design has been printed sideways on that paper and thus another constant variety is created.

Inverted watermarks may be semi-constant to the extent that a large batch of sheets or an entire reel of paper may be used with the watermark upside down with relation to the design of the stamp.

MAJOR SHADE VARIATIONS

may be semi-constant where a batch of sheets is printed from a different mixing of colour. Both the above variations apply to all three modern processes.

PLATE NUMBERS

The short-lived use of certain plates can produce plate number blocks which are very rare indeed.

An interesting feature which all the varieties mentioned above have in common is that they result from defects in the working or adjustment of the printing machinery, or materials used and are either self-correcting or may be corrected by adjusting, or cleaning the machinery or, correcting the use of materials.

(to be continued)

RECENT VARIETIES

3¢ LICHEN MOTH

This stamp has appeared in reprinted form using plates 1A2A1A and 1B2B1B. The Brown plate being the innovation. The numbers 2A and 2B on this plate appear to have been inserted by hand on the plates using a burin as they show an irregular "screen" effect. The numbers "1A 1B", which must have been on the multi-positive plate used to produce both original and new Brown plates are present on the new plates but have been partially obliterated by the engraving of crude figures "2" in each case.

A number of sheets have been reported with inverted watermark and as it seems likely that this stamp was printed "on the reel", as was the original 3¢ issue, it is most likely that an entire reel was printed with watermark inverted.

50¢ TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

I have seen one sheet with a marked shift in the light green colour of the right hand distant headland, towards the top of the stamp. It is a spectacular and scarce item, rather resembling the shape of a ship in the sky, depending on the activity of one's imagination!

The "Newsletter" report of October 1973 suggesting that the grey colour (above the buff of the sea) is unrepresented by a plate number should now be corrected. Jim Shaw points out that it in fact is made up of the Deep Green colour broken up by "screen dots" which gives it its grey appearance. This is a fine example of the effectiveness of half tones in modern printing - that a basic colour can be made to seem different by the depth of the etching in "light and shade", areas of the design - my apologies!

NOTES FROM JIM SHAWFurther Varieties in the 1973 Health Issue

(a) 3¢ and 1¢ Green : Large sheets Row 1/9 - touch-up on right side of hand in green background.

(b) 3¢ and 4¢ Green: Miniature Sheet Type IV

An oval flaw appears on the Prince's head above the left hand ear. This seems to be a constant flaw but it is worth looking for a retouch as in Type I. of this miniature

4¢ "Puriri Moth" Reprint

sheet

This issue has now returned with the original plates 1A(x5) and 1B(x5) but on unwatermarked paper. With it comes a new variety in plate 1A(x5) at horizontal row 4 - a plate scratch extends from the selvedge across to Row 4/7.

A number of sheets have been found of this unwatermarked 4¢ Puriri Moth reprint with Deep Green colour missing, partially missing and grossly misplaced. The varieties are spectacular in that the veins of the wings are affected.

1973 CHRISTMAS ISSUE

Each value (3¢, 5¢, 10¢) was printed in photogravure by Joh. Enschede en Zonen in tandem sheets - that is two plates for each of the five colours. Both plates in the five colours bear the number 1 and are printed in basic colours of yellow, deep red, deep blue, black and gold - this applies to all three values. Hence two plate blocks are available in each value numbered 1(x5).

Examination of the sheets suggests that in the 3¢ and 10¢ the tandem sheets were printed side-by-side and later guillotined. Evidence for this is provided by punched guide holes in the left selvedge of one sheet and the right selvedge of the other sheet opposite horizontal row No. 1. Both the 3¢ and 10¢ were perforated horizontally by a double-comb head working from left to right while still in double sheet form.

The 5¢ value was also printed "in tandem", this time one plate above the other. Punched guide holes are again in the selvedge - one sheet in the left selvedge opposite Row No. 1, the other sheet on the right opposite Row No. 10. Perforation was again from left to right while in double sheet form.

In all values the paper is unwatermarked (10 x 10 format for stamps) and all perforations measure 12½ x 13½.

For convenience, the following flaws are designated to either plate "A" or "B" in the value concerned i.e. "A" is the left hand sheet and "B" that on the right. 

THE C.P. SPECIALISED LOOSE LEAFCATALOGUE OF N.Z. STAMPS

Now more than ever before mentor and friend of thousands of
happy collectors\$15.00
(Now in the new printing and readily available from stock)

3 cent "A" Plate

(LH margin imperf.)

- Row 4/6 - retouch in sky to top left of Madonna's head.
- Row 7/1 - flaw at bottom of black letters (dark patch).

3 cent "B" Plate

- Row 9/2 - a small black flaw to left of the head of the Madonna (one plate only).

10 cent "A" Plate (left hand sheet)

- Row 5/5 - retouch in blue at base of cross

10 cent "A" Plate (retouch at R 5/5)

- Row 4/4 and 4/6 - horizontal flaws in crimson colour of sky.
- Row 5/5 - further retouching over hills on left (blue).
- Row 5/6 - touch up over hill (blue).
- Row 5/8 - retouching over hills and underneath bird in blue colour.
- Row 5/10 - retouching in blue-green hill on left in blue colour.

10 cent "B" Plate (right hand sheet)

- Row 4/6 - blue flaw on tip of bird's wing beside cross.

NEW ZEALAND'S RECENT DESIGNS

by CAMPBELL PATERSON

I have given my opinion earlier on the "Six Commemoratives" of February 1973, so this present criticism will deal with anything later than that date.

Steam Locomotives At least to my generation, a steam train is always an attractive object, so this set started out with an inbuilt advantage. Fortunately, the four engines shown were depicted with a complete lack of any of the artistic gimmicks that have so often cluttered our stamps. The detail is delightfully clear and I am sure all railway enthusiasts will have been able to discern all the technical details that mean so much to an expert. Top marks.

Frances Hodgkins' Paintings The treatment here has been to show the paintings in frames such as the actual originals must surely have. This has decreased the space available but the stamps are larger than usual and the artist's work shows up well. To my (artistically speaking) untutored eye, the 5¢ "Maori Woman" and the 8¢ "Hill Top" are very attractive. One can see exactly what the subjects are about! As to the other values, 10¢ "Barn" and 18¢ "Self Portrait" the general effect is colourful - if rather dark in the 10¢ and not a little weird in the 18¢. One takes leave to doubt whether stamps lend themselves to the reproduction of modern art. Verdict here then is about half and half - but better than many sets in the past.

"Prince Edward" Healths Again, thanks be, we have a good subject sensibly handled. A very good looking youngster this and the stamps therefore attractive.

Christmas Set These, to me, make the poorest showing of the lot under discussion. The frames are so heavy and so wide (top and bottom) that the designs are left too little space. The 3¢ "Madonna and Child" is delightful as a picture but is here cramped. A great pity that the large format of 1960, 1963 and 1971 (3¢) was not used. I put it as a suggestion that one large format Christmas stamp is all we need. The issuing of three stamps with a total face value of 18¢ smacks too much of the commercialization of Christmas that is an objectionable feature of our Christmas scene. The 5¢ also suffers from the cramping effect of the too large frame. In any case, as any amateur colour photographer knows, stained-glass windows make poor pictures. The beauty of stained glass lies in the effect given by light shining through from without (or at night from within). No stamp can hope to show this effect to any real degree. I would suggest that church windows be dropped as a Christmas subject. (The 10¢ is one of those stamps over-loaded with pictorial cliches. Of its kind it is not bad but there have already been far too many of its kind).

- THE OFFICIALS - MINT

Bringing to a conclusion our detailed and exhaustive coverage of this issue commenced last year. This month's showing largely of mint blocks (shades etc.) and overprint varieties should provide a useful check list for the advanced specialist.

DE LA RUE PAPER

517(a) KO13a 2d. Green A five page notable are blocks of four in Green and Yellow-Green which latter shade is also represented by two pairs.\$1.25

(b) KO16a 1½d. Black Local plate block of four starts us off and four London plate Blocks complete with as wide a range of shades as we've seen - the black is striking - outstanding.....\$4.00

(c) KO17b 1½d. Orange-Brown The page displays three blocks of four and block of six. Minor stains two stamps herin but beautiful pickings at\$1.50

(d) KO18a 2d. Yellow A brilliant page outstanding wherin block of eight and block of six in Pale Yellow and Orange-Yellow resp. Also blocks of four in Yellow and Orange-Yellow. (Latter minor crease, two stamps)\$5.50

(e) KO79a 3d. Chocolate Chocolate and Deep Chocolate in blocks of four - perfect\$6.00

JONES PAPER

518(a) A page including KO13c ½d. Green block of ten and top selvedge early wear block of four and KO19b 3d. Chocolate, fine block of four\$19.00
(Specify individual item if required)

COWAN PAPER - PERF 14 x 15

519(a) KO13e ½d. Green Green block of 15 (one stamp damaged) and blocks of four in Deep Green and Pale Green - super.....\$3.00

(b) KO17d 1½d. Orange-Brown Two brilliant shade blocks of four - CONTRAST!\$10.00

(c) KO19c 3d. Chocolate Two stupendous shades. A remarkable contrast in blocks of four, Red-Chocolate and Deep-Chocolate\$6.00

COWAN PAPER - PERF 14

520(a) KO13f ½d. Green Block of six including "No Stop" overprint variety and one fine shade block of four.....\$2.50

(b) KO13f ½d. Green Block of four shows "No Stop".....\$2.00

(c) KO17c 1½d. Orange-Brown Two fine shade contrast blocks of four\$4.00

(d) KO18c 2d. Yellow Orange-Yellow block of 30 and Yellow block of four\$10.00

(e) KO19d 3d. Chocolate Block of four - brilliant and no-gum shade contrast block (included no charge).....\$4.00

CONTINUED OVER

RECENT DESIGNS BY C.P. (CONTINUED)

Mountains This is a really lovely set and will do more for New Zealand Tourism (if that is a good thing?) than masses of tourist-aimed advertisements. To those who have seen the mountains themselves, these reproductions are really superbly "true to life". If one had to choose, my choice - for clarity and effect - would be the 23¢ "Burnett Range". All are splendid but the 8¢ "Nauruhoe" perhaps does least justice to its subject. It so happens that it is less than a week, as I write, since I saw Nauruhoe, in brilliant sunshine from the Desert Road. I was struck with how much more impressive the mountain is from that angle than from the usual angle, taken from the Chateau. (See the 3/- value of 1960) In the present stamp the unnecessarily wide expanse of sky shown above the peak has a somewhat dwarfing effect. The cloud across the face has a similar effect, though no doubt true to life.

In sum, a good year for N.Z. designs. If the desire to achieve contrived effects is as well repressed in 1974 we will be lucky.

(f) <u>KO20b 2/- Blue</u> Superb block of four.....	\$24.00
<u>521(a) KO15 ld. Field Marshal</u> MINT mini collection of this issue mounted on two pages contains KO15a (perf 14) 5 shade blocks of four and KO15b (perf 14 x 15) block of ten.....	\$4.00
<u>522(a) ld. Dominion</u> MINT mini collection on three pages. <u>Page 1 J02a Jones Paper.</u> Lovely block of nine in Deep shade showing top selvage plate wear and pair fine used. <u>Page 2 J05a Litho Watermark</u> four blocks of four (shades) two singles and a pair and <u>Page 3 J06a Cowan P14 x 15</u> blocks of six, eight and two blocks of four (shades!)	
Lovely (and reasonable!) at	\$25.00

SIMPLIFICATION'S THE NAME OF
THE GAME THIS MONTH

One of the interesting trends of the present day stamp market, (particularly for N.Z.) is the unprecedented pressure on simplified stocks. By this we don't mean that specialisation is on the wane - far from it - but the current major trend to home-based leisure activities has brought an influx of simplified collectors and a feature of collecting in the future may well be that stamps which were never thought to be scarce become harder to find. The moral is clear enough, this month's offerings give a chance to buy stamps which tomorrow may be virtually unobtainable.

FULL FACE QUEENS - USED

IMPERFORATE

<u>503(a) ld. Red</u> Not-so-fine but appearance good.....	\$3.00
(b) <u>2d. Blue</u> Not-so-fine	\$1.50
Intermediate	\$4.50
Superfine	\$16.00
(c) <u>3d. Brown-Lilac</u> Not-so-fine, light mark off the face but cut into "Accidental" imperf - quite acceptable for simplified intermediate -	\$4.00
fine	\$5.00
.....	\$15.00
(d) <u>6d. Black-Brown</u> Intermediate - looks superb.....	\$10.00
Superfine	\$25.00
(e) <u>1/- Green</u> Intermediate copy - lovely item.....	\$30.00
Superfine	\$50.00

PERFORATED - USED

<u>504(a) ld. Red</u> Not-so-fine	\$1.25
Intermediate	\$5.00
Superfine	\$8.00
(b) <u>ld. Brown</u> Not-so-fine	\$2.00
Intermediate	\$4.50
Superfine	\$8.00
(c) <u>2d. Blue</u> Not-so-fine	\$1.00
Intermediate	\$3.50
Superfine	\$7.00
(d) <u>2d. Orange</u> Not-so-fine	\$1.75
Intermediate	\$3.00
Superfine	\$6.00
(e) <u>3d. Lilac</u> Not-so-fine	\$1.00
Intermediate	\$4.00
Superfine	\$7.00
(f) <u>4d. Rose</u> Fine	\$40.00
(g) <u>6d. Red-Brown</u> Not-so-fine	\$1.25
Intermediate	\$2.75
Fine	\$5.00
(h) <u>6d. Blue</u> Not-so-fine	\$2.25
Intermediate	\$8.00
(i) <u>1/- Green</u> Not-so-fine	\$2.00
Intermediate	\$10.25
Superfine	\$15.00

EARLY COMMEMORATIVES

Lovers of the commemoratives won't need telling about the desirability of these lots. Frankly, we think they're a heaven-sent opportunity. With world-wide inflation rampant just give it a thought. With such premium material prices SIMPLY CANNOT REMAIN at today's relatively moderate levels. - Don't say we didn't give you notice, these prices MUST INEVITABLY RISE!

511(a) CHRISTCHURCH EXHIBITION - MINT The set complete - appearance perfect. ½d. has minor crease one corner and 6d. minor hinge but at our price WOW!\$45.50

(b) Ditto with watermark inverted
 1d. value - mint\$ 7.50
 3d. value - mint\$10.00

(c) Ditto Glorious set of superb - no perfect appearance. Lack of gum or some other relatively superficial defect allows us to offer the set, not-so-fine\$15.00

(d) Ditto USED - again not-so-fine - but a chance to fill gaps.
 1d. Vermilion\$0.50¢
 3d. Brown & Blue\$1.50
 6d. Pink & Green\$5.00

512(a) AUCKLAND EXHIBITION
MINT complete set in super condition\$72.50

(b) Ditto Looks wonderful but minor stains on all stamps give us the chance to offer a lovely set (complete) at.....\$20.00

(c) Ditto USED an extraordinary opportunity. The complete set in superb used blocks of four, condition unconditionally guaranteed. Quite an investment.....\$325.00

(d) Ditto Set superfine used. Our price.....\$75.00

(e) Ditto Set superfine used.\$73.00

Note: of course all the above used offers bear the Exhibition Postmark - dated copies on request where possible.

513(a) VICTORY ISSUE - MINT
 Again quite unbelievable in such a high pressured issue. In blocks of four - perfect mint ½d. "Peace and Lion" Green, Deep Green, Yellow-Green, Pale Yellow-Green, 1d. "Peace and Lion" Carmine, Deep Carmine, Carmine Pink, 1½d. "Maori Chief" Orange-Brown, Deep Orange Brown, 2d. on ½d. Surcharge in Red, Green, Yellow-Green, Pale Yellow-Green, 3d. "Lion" Deep Chocolate, 6d. "Peace and Progress" Bright Purple, Deep Bright Purple, 1/- King Geo V Orange-Vermilion, Deep Orange-Vermilion.
 The magnificent display\$110.00

(b) Ditto MINT. Depending on demand we shall break the above blocks to produce sets of singles of the above at.....\$28.00 (Order this lot early so that if we break up the blocks we may give you priority for the singles set.)

(c) Ditto MINT 1/- value finest\$5.50

(d) Ditto Not-so-fine Mint -\$1.00
 Used -\$1.50

Note: Other values are available in mint and used - to fill gaps in your set let us have your want list and condition preference.

514(a) 1923 MAP STAMP
 The complete set - specialised MINT. Includes (finest) De La Rue, Jones and Cowan (3)\$1.85

(b) Ditto Superb used - all three variations.....\$1.20

515(a) DUNEDIN EXHIBITION - MINT
 Complete set of three - fine\$4.50
 (b) Ditto Not-so-fine\$1.00

MORE SIMPLIFIED OFFERS (from page 6.)

EDWARD VII

	<u>MINT</u>	<u>USED</u>
505 (a) ½d. Green	20¢	03¢
(b) 2d. Mauve	\$1.20	75¢
(c) 3d. Chestnut	\$1.30	15¢
(d) 4d. Red Orange	-	50¢
(e) 4d. Yellow	-	75¢
(f) 5d. Brown	\$1.30	20¢
(g) 6d. Carmine	\$3.00	12¢
(h) 8d. Indigo-Blue	\$1.00	15¢
(i) 1/- Orange-Vermilion	\$4.50	\$1.50

EDWARD VII OFFICIAL

506 (a) ½d. Green	75¢	10¢
(b) 3d. Chestnut	80¢	30¢
(c) 6d. Carmine	\$1.00	75¢
(d) 8d. Indigo-Blue	-	\$1.50
(e) 1/- Orange-Vermilion	\$4.50	\$3.50

KING GEORGE V RECESS

507 (a) 1½d. Grey	14¢	18¢
(b) 2d. Violet	50¢	\$1.50
(c) 2d. Yellow	-	\$1.20
(d) 2½d. Blue	40¢	40¢
(e) 3d. Chocolate	30¢	12¢
(f) 1½d. Deep Green	\$1.50	\$2.00
(g) 5d. Blue	\$1.25	40¢
(h) 6d. Carmine	50¢	10¢
(i) 7½d. Deep Red Brown	60¢	75¢
(j) 8d. Indigo Blue	60¢	\$2.00
(k) 8d. Red Brown	\$1.20	40¢
(l) 9d. Sage Green	\$1.50	20¢
(m) 1/- Vermilion	\$2.50	08¢

KING GEORGE V OFFICIALS

508 (a) 3d. Chocolate	10¢	20¢
(b) 4d. Violet	\$1.00	10¢
(c) 6d. Carmine	15¢	10¢
(d) 9d. Pale Sage Green	50¢	-
(e) 1/- Vermilion	30¢	20¢

KING GEORGE V SURFACE PRINTED

509 (a) ½d. Green	08¢	05¢
(b) ½d. Green - war stamp	08¢	08¢
(c) 1d. Field Marshal	08¢	04¢
(d) 1½d. Black (Local Plate)	\$1.00	08¢
(e) 1½d. Black (London Plate)	30¢	06¢
(f) 1½d. Orange-Brown	15¢	05¢
(g) 2d. Yellow	30¢	05¢
(h) 3d. Chocolate	\$1.00	10¢
(i) 2/- Blue	\$10.00	\$2.50

KING GEORGE V SURFACE PRINTED - OFFICIAL

510 (a) ½d. Green	05¢	05¢
(b) 1d. Field Marshal	10¢	05¢
(c) 1½d. Black (Local Plate)	10¢	10¢
(d) 1½d. Black (London Plate)	20¢	60¢
(e) 1½d. Orange Brown	10¢	05¢
(f) 2d. Yellow	15¢	15¢
(g) 3d. Chocolate	60¢	05¢

***** ENGLISH ALBUM COVERS

Used covers of a number of types are in stock. We might coin a phrase "collector tested" (with respectful apologies to the motor trade), as many are in superb condition. These are spring-back types (e.g. Favourite) and several of the Frank Godden peg-fitting type (one is the "de luxe" with padded cover in lovely condition.) Let us have your preference. Limited to two used covers per person while stocks last - ideal for holding spare pages of subsidiary collections - from \$1.00