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AN EXCITING AND IMPORTANT DISCOVERY

By Campbell Paterson

Our Mr. Colin Hamilton of our English Branch recently brought off what I can only call a "tour de force" of keen observation.

He discerned something that the whole philatelic world has failed to notice in 70 years. As a result, a whole group of stamps will never seem quite the same again.

The discovery was made when Colin was inspecting a mint block of 18 of the relatively common 1907-08 ½d. Mt. Cook Green (C.P.F5c, S.G.440).

The block was in three horizontal rows each of six stamps. Colin noticed that the bottom row of six stamps looked different, as to perfs, from the two rows above. Careful further study revealed the philatelicly startling fact that here was a block perforated by two different perforation "heads" - not differing in gauge, but distinguishable by individual peculiarities in the positioning of the pins. In short, the block set back the first use of that peculiarly N.Z. phenomenon, the "two-perfed" sheet, by at least three years, into a group where nothing of the kind had ever been imagined before. Hitherto we have known of rare instances of "two-perfing" using two different perf heads, both of the same gauge, on the same sheet, but such have invariably been in the Edward VII set.

Later, (1915), the "two-perfing" was invariably in different gauges - e.g. 14 x 13½ and 14 x 14½. The practice continued into the George V set, indeed was used most widely in the Georges, but (as far as we know for sure) always in the two different gauges.

Now the ½d. Mt. Cook, perf 14 x 15, can be added to the list where the two perfs are from different heads, but of the same gauge. Of this form of two-perfing we still know of only this ½d. Mt. Cook and the Edward VII 3d, 4d Orange and 6d - all of extreme rarity.

Thus, we now know that two-perfing started as early as 1907-08, not in 1910 as previously thought by us and certainly not in 1915, as first listed by S.G.

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CAMPBELL PATERSON (Contd.)

So what about the other comb-perf stamps current from 1907 to 1915? I consider that all must now be counted as possibles for two-perf examples. The stamps worth watching are, I consider, (C.P.) E10b, E10c, E12f, E15b, E15c, E19a, E19b, F5b, (and F5c, of course), G10f, G11a, H1a, J1a and any early George V (whether known already to exist in the 14 x 13½ - 14 x 14½ form or not).

To the above should be added all "Officials" of the same stamps and all the 1913 "De la Rue" Postage Dues and Life Insurance issues.

Footnote: In one of those astonishing coincidences of discovery that happen so often as almost to form a rule, on the very day when we were examining Colin Hamilton's find, W.P. received for inspection from Mr. E.R. Hutchinson of Tokoroa, a used block of four, again of F5c, but over-printed Official, showing what looked very like the same or similar "two-perfing". Mr. Hutchinson had keenly noted that there was "something odd" about the block - full marks for that! To be doubly sure that W.P.'s enthusiasm was not causing him to "see things" he submitted both the block of 18 and the used block of 4 to Dr. K.J. McNaught for a "second opinion". I am glad to say that Dr. McNaught fully agreed with our findings in both cases.

Truly, N.Z. is a country unparalleled in the production of hitherto unknown philatelic facts and varieties. We - all of us who make it our study - are indeed happy in our choice. All that is needed is the alert and open mind - taking nothing as finally proven and ever ready for yet another pleasant surprise.

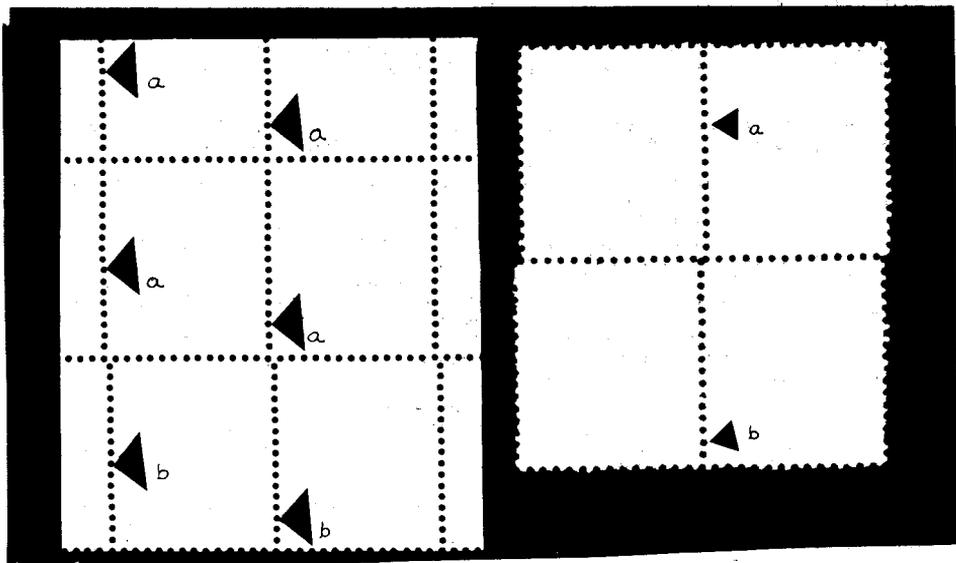


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 1: Detail of large F5c block showing clear evidence of two perf heads, 14 x 15, set-tenant (note arrowed discrepancies), a over b.

Fig. 2: Detail of F05c block of four (shows similar discrepancies to Fig. 1)

SPECIALISTS' FOOTNOTE: Of F5c, dealt with above, the Handbook states that four different "heads", all gauging 14 x 15, were used for this and the other "small Pictorials" of the same group. No suggestion of "two-perfing" is implied. We have not the data to establish whether the block of eight and the used "Official" block of four are from the same two heads. It is thus possible that F5c could produce numerous different combinations of "two-perfs" especially if each of the four heads was used at different times as the upper and the lower head.

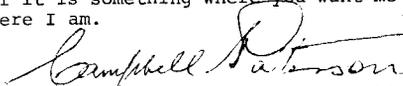
CAMPBELL PATERSON (Contd.)

Of all the stamps worth scanning for two-perfs, the obvious ones most likely to provide finds are the "small Pictorials" of 1907-08, perf 14 x 15, i.e. (as well as F5c), E10c, E15c, E19b. Anyone with a block or vertical pair is in with a chance. What has to be looked for is not a differing gauge, but variations in the placing of the individual vertical pins in vertically adjacent stamps - easy enough to detect in a block, but difficult (though not impossible) in a vertical pair.

We illustrate above a part of the mint block of eight (F5c) and the used Official block of four (F05c). These will both be catalogued by us as main-line variations - not minor varieties. Happy hunting!

NOTA BENE!

From the above it is to be hoped that all my old friends will get the message that I am back in N.Z. - alive, well and active in Auckland. Some, after seven years, seem still in doubt! My main interests are the editing of our Catalogue and Album, but especially for the old (or new) client and friend (same thing, I hope!), I am always happy, as time permits, to travel to evaluate and buy collections or to offer any advice asked for. Of course, our expert staff are our first resource and should be contacted for all Newsletter orders, Wants Lists, etc., - but subject to my duty to get the Catalogue and Album Supplements out on time I invite people to count me, with all our staff, as available to assist them or visit them for possible buying of their collections. They may even wish to drop in and have a chat. Better always previously to name a date if calling to see me personally, as I am working outside of the central city most of the time. So - our staff is there at your service, but if it is something where you want me personally - for old times sake perhaps! - here I am.



Campbell Paterson - Auckland, 1977

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By Warwick Paterson

10¢ "Royal" stamp A new plate? Isolated reports from both the U.K. and N.Z. indicated last month that a new plate 2A2A2A3A definitely existed in this issue. However, the Philatelic Bureau in Auckland denied all knowledge of it and when I phoned the Headquarters in Wanganui they replied in writing. "I am sorry that I am unable at this stage to confirm that this block has been printed". We await developments with interest - have readers any sightings?

50¢ Tasman Park A fifth printing has been noted indentifiable by the spade-shaped punched paper-batch hole in the bottom selvedge - report Colin Capill.

NEW ISSUES

The N.Z. Post Office appears to have been faced with a problem when preparing stamp coils to be used in the new "POSTAFIX" letter stamping machines. They appear to have been forced to use a stamp of the size of the 1970 Pictorial low values, rather than that of the 1975 Roses, which are larger. The result is two new surcharges which are being issued in coil form (regular sheets guillotined into horizontal strips and selvedge-joined - 400 stamps). The 1970 3¢ Lichen Moth has been hideously overprinted 7¢ with a block over the old value and similarly the 4¢ Puriri Moth now appears in yet another form (and this time aesthetically repulsive) surcharged 8¢. We might argue the merits and demerits of overprinting low value stamps with higher values, but thereby two totally new listings are added to the 1970 Pictorials. Already a yellow offset on back has been noted in the 8¢ surcharge. The surcharges bear all the evidence of a very local job.

BOOKLETS

Again using up old stock (must be austerity time Government-wise!) new booklets have appeared. One at face-value 80¢ contains a block of 10 (5 x 2) with selvedge of the 8¢ Josephine Bruce Rose taken from cannibalised main sheets. Similarly, the \$1 face-value Booklet contains a block of 10 of the 10¢ "Royal" stamp (details as 8¢).

WARWICK PATERSON (Contd.)

LONG TYPE FISCAL VARIETY

I have seen a magnificent "dual variety" block of Z2f - the 2/- Blue, perf 14, on De la Rue paper. The block is from the top right selvedge and is totally imperforate vertically. The oddity of the block is compounded by a major diagonal paper fold before perforating.

FULL FACE QUEEN

ld. Brown - irregular compound perforation 10 x 12½ x 12½ x 12½. This variety is certainly well known used, but hardly ever - if ever - is it known unused. I received one in an auction lot last month and a lovely item it is. Whether the extra line of perfs added "to correct irregularities" is the 12½ at the bottom or the 10 at the top seems to be a matter of conjecture. Nevertheless it will now be listed in the C.P. Catalogue where it was not before - unused!

SILVER JUBILEE MINIATURE SHEETS

We have just received comprehensive notes on the "plating" of the 12 types of the above from our old friend Jim Shaw in London, unfortunately, too late for this month's Newsletter. Readers should watch out for them next month and it is pleasing to note that Jim is still fully active, although far from New Zealand. In the meantime he has given us some valuable notes on the papers and inks used for New Zealand's 1976-1977 issues. Recent purchasers of the ultra-violet scanner should note carefully, as much of the following relates to U.V. studies.

Observations from Jim Shaw

- (a) 1976 Roses: The 7¢ Rose reprint, 2A and 2B combinations, reacts with a slight "afterglow" effect to U.V. light (2-5 secs).
- (b) 1976 Pictorials, 11, 12, 13 and 14¢: "Courvoisier printings". This paper appears to be similar to previous papers with the exception that under U.V. light it does not react with the "gold" security flecks. It also was first noticed in a reprint of the \$1 and \$2 Pictorials.
- (c) 1977 Reprints of 25¢ 30¢ Pictorials (1970 Pictorials)
 - (i) The 25¢ "purple" reacts with a pink glow in U.V. light (pl. 34634 and tandem plates).
 - (ii) The 30¢ "pale grey" (sky) colour reacts with a yellow-orange glow in U.V. light (pl. 3323, 3333 and tandem plates).
- (d) 1977 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Miniature Sheets
 - (i) A bright even glow is the reaction under the U.V. lamp (doubtless the chalk coating reaction).
 - (ii) Used stamps which have been soaked in water shrink noticeably in a vertical direction. (The complete miniature sheet shrinks by 1 mm).
- (c) 1977 Education - se-tenant strip: For some peculiar reason this paper is heavily phosphor-impregnated, glowing up to 60 seconds after being exposed to U.V. light. Under the U.V. lamp it glows a fine yellow shade. Again, another paper change for Harrison's!

THE JUMELLE MACHINE PERFORATING DRUM

Although not a new innovation to G.B. stamps, a first for N.Z. issues was attained in the production of the 1976 Christmas issue, as printed by Harrison and Sons. Reference to Mr. York's comments (see C.P. Newsletter, February 1977) indicates that future issues may be so printed.

The use of the characteristic "interpane gutter" is the most distinctive feature - leading to collecting "gutter-pairs", whilst the less noticeable feature of the second perforation hole on the perforating drum is the other feature.

It is also interesting to note that this machine is capable of photogravure and recess printing simultaneously, while the recent Education issue appears to be by lithography, which leads me to wonder whether "Recess" and "Photogravure" are all "Jumelle" is capable of!?

1898 PICTORIALS - SOME FURTHER
SUPERB OFFERINGS - ALL MINT

We make no apology this month for returning to this heavily sought-after issue. Such has been the demand for earlier offerings that now we have limited new stocks we rush them into print - do not delay!

1½d. BOER WAR CONTINGENT

- 372 (a) E4a, Perf 11, Pale Chestnut A perfect block of four - gorgeous \$25
 (b) E4a Ditto A single \$5
 (c) E4a Ditto Chestnut A single..... \$3
 (d) E4a Ditto Reddish Chestnut Fine single \$7.50
 With hinging - lovely \$5.00
- (e) E4a Ditto The scarce Brown. A Deep Deep example; hinged maybe, but terribly hard to repeat \$20
- (f) E4b Perf 14 Gorgeous in top selvedge block of four. Some minor paper crinkles - it's nice! \$7.50
- (g) E4b Ditto A single \$2.50
 Or one with crease \$1.00

2d. PEMBROKE PEAK (BROWN LAKE)

- 373 (a) E5a A fine single \$5

2d. PEMBROKE PEAK (PURPLE)

- 374 (a) E6a, Perf 11 Really gorgeous bottom selvedge block of 15 in the scarce Mauve - wow! \$50
 (b) E6a Ditto Super block of four in Dull Violet \$10
 (c) E6a Ditto A single in Dull Violet \$2
 (d) E6b Perf 14 Dull Purple or Purple single - nice! \$1.50
- 2½d LAKE WAKATIPU

- 375 (a) E7a Really outstanding block of four mint in Grey Blue \$15
 (b) E7a Ditto Nice - if minor hinge - single in Sky Blue \$3

2½d. LAKE WAKATIPU

- 376 (a) E8a (London) Fine single \$6
 (b) E8b, Perf 11, no watermark Stupendous top selvedge block of four in Dull Blue - perfection \$20
 (c) E8c, Perf 11, wmk Single in Blue (a little off-centre) \$6
 or Sky Blue (fine!) \$6
 (d) E8d, Perf 14 In Dark Blue - a finest block of four \$15
 or a superb single \$3
 (e) E8d Ditto Fine single in Deep Blue \$3
- 3d. HUIAS

- 377 (a) E9a London - superb \$6

JIM SHAW (Contd.)

A detailed study of the 1976 Xmas issue leads to the following conclusions:

- (a) All three values - 7¢, 11¢ and 18¢, were printed on the Jumelle machine.
- (b) All have been seen with the extra perf hole, either -
 (i) On the left side of the inter-pane gutter, or
 (ii) On the right side of the right-pane - in both top and bottom selvedges
- (c) Most sheets do not show it (we should call it the E2 perf type), E1 being the normal.
- (d) As to the regularity (or the position of E2 on the perf drum), it would be necessary to examine a series of consecutively numbered sheets in order to establish its frequency (i.e. whether E2 occurs after every 24th, 48th, etc., row of stamps).

1898 PICTORIALS - 3d HUIAS (Contd.)

- 377 (b) E9b, P.11, no wmk Super\$4
 (c) E9c, P.11, no wmk\$4
 (d) E9d, P.14, - perfect!\$4
- 3d HUIAS (reduced)
- 378 (a) E10a, Perf 14 Fine single - Deep Brown \$10
 (b) E10b, Perf 14 x 12½ - 13½ Out-of-this-world block of four ... \$50
 (c) E10b Ditto Single (Deep) - a little off-centre and hinge. Looks good!\$5
- 4d. WHITE TERRACE
- 379 (a) E11a Top left selvedge block of four. Some parted perfs, but a superb piece in Bright Rose \$16
 (b) E11a Lake Rose The hard one in lovely copy - tiny hinge \$10
- 4d. LAKE TAUPO
- 380 (a) E12b, Perf 11, Watermark A nice little set Dp. Blue and Chestnut and Yellow-Chestnut \$8
 (b) E12c, Perf 14 Vintage piece for centre page - top selvedge block of ten - Blue and Yellow-Brown \$50
 (c) E12c Ditto Little set of two frames in Chestnut and Brown-Yellow\$9
- 5d. OTIRA GORGE
- 381 (a) E13a London Sepia in slightly off-centre and hinged\$20
 (b) E13b, Perf 11, no wmk Fine Red-Brown single\$7.00
 (c) E13c, Perf 11, wmk Fine Deep Brown single\$8.00
 (d) E13d, Perf 14 Outa this world! Block of four - Red-Brown ...\$35
 (e) E13d Ditto Single in Brown\$7.50
 (f) E13d Ditto Single Red-Brown\$7.50
- 6d. KIWI (GREEN)
- 382 (a) E14a London Lovely mint single - minor hinge \$12.50
 (b) E14a Ditto Superb dated used - we said superb! \$15
 (c) E14a Ditto The finest offset in N.Z. Philately - quite a beauty - unmarked, brilliant in its detailed perfection\$75
 (d) E14b, Perf 11, no wmk In Yellow-Green - lovely single\$20
- 6d. KIWI (RED)
- 383 (a) E14c, Perf 11, no wmk Beautiful top selvedge block of four. Central perfs largely parted, but a piece of significance in Rose-Red \$18
 (b) E14c Ditto Nice little set in Rose-Red and Rose (2)\$9
 (c) E14d "Lisbon" paper An incredible right selvedge block of four, two stamps letters watermark and the selvedge completing the letters "LIS". INCREDIBLE!\$100
 (d) E14d Ditto A lovely block of four - condition perfection! ...\$50
 Or a nice, if slightly hinged, single\$8.50
 (e) E14e, Perf 11, watermarked Glorious! A block of four in Rose-Carmine (bottom selvedge)\$30
 (f) E14e Ditto Again, this time bottom selvedge block of four in Carmine Pink\$60
 (g) E14e Ditto Perhaps THE offering of the month - it's years - no, we can't even remember seeing such an item. It's the rare, rare, rare Brick-Red in superb, perfect, unmarked, unconditionally eternally guaranteed BLOCK OF FOUR!! See it and be shattered at its epic magnificence! \$350
 (h) E14e Ditto Fine single in Rose-Red\$6
 (i) F14g, Perf 14 Perfect block of four in Pink\$50
 Or a single\$10

REAL RARITY

Is represented in the several items listed below. For one reason or another each and every one is a premium piece or set in its own right. Extraordinary blue-chip items in this age of fantastic philatelics.

FULL FACE QUEENS

- 410 (a) SG16 The rare Richardson printing on soft paper with horizontal mesh. A chance to show this rarity now catalogued by C.P. at \$600 (Emerald) \$700 (Blue-Green).
Emerald Green This one a superb example! Light marking, margin close at bottom, but design intact. Postmark has penetrated paper slightly. A chance ...7..... \$375
- (b) SG16 Ditto We were lucky to get these! (a) and (b) This one has light mark, full margins and its only sin is minor thinning at back. Glorious \$175
- (c) SG17 The Blue-Green A copy of wonderful deep bright colour - light obliteration, which obliterates nothing of the design. The stamp has full margins and looks super. There is, however, a major fault at left margin on the back (paper tear and thin). At Cat. \$700 you will never see this again\$75
- (d) SG96a 2d Unwatermarked, perf 13 (1863 provisional) UNUSED Wow! It is a lovely copy with an absence of the thinning that mars so many of this issue. Slightly off-centre like the majority of perf. 13's. It is well worth its price on rarity alone!...\$475
- (e) SG139 4d Orange-Yellow - Unwatermarked This is a glorious stamp and great rarity thus USED. Most copies are highly suspect, having been cancelled "by favour" at a later date. Our copy is unquestionably genuine as the obliteration covers the face and although heavy is clean. We will complete our unconditional guarantee if required by the fortunate buyer\$150
- (f) REPRINTS Seldom offered and they're really getting quite scarce. 1d Orange, 2d Blue, 6d Brown (the latter - thinned area at back). Nice set \$50

EARLY PRESTAMP POSTAL MARKING

- 411 (a) With pleasure we offer this month one of the finest examples of a true pre-postage-stamp era Post Office marking that we have EVER SEEN! It is an example of the fabulous "Wellington" crown within oval marking - a scarce one on entire from Auckland with the "New Zealand" date stamp MR18 1844. The letter relates to a legal matter and is addressed to R.R. Strang. It is an unrepeatable item \$500

EXHIBITION STAMPS

- 412 (a) AUCKLAND EXHIBITION SET 1913 In fine mint condition. This price will be hard to beat now. Superb! \$375
- (b) DUNEDIN EXHIBITION One of the most fabulous sets of multiples we've seen for a while. These 1925 Exhibition stamps in perfect dated used blocks - a once-in-a-lifetime offer when you consider just how scarce the 4d is today\$350
- (c) VICTORY ISSUE 1920 Another unbelievable set in used blocks. This time the Victory Issue - hard enough to get in used singles, but these blocks are all perfect dated used (1920's). The set is complete - ½d Green, 1d Carmine, 1½d Orange-Brown, 2d on ½d surcharge, 3d Chocolate, 6d Purple, 1/- Deep Orange-Vermilion. Condition is perfect. Again - literally unrepeatable!\$350
- (d) Vib 3d 1931 AIR - Perf 14 x 15 A great rarity to round off a chapter of the rarest! This time a block of four in perfect condition. We can't remember having seen one before. A growth prospect if there ever was one! Cat. at \$60 per stamp..\$275