

# THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND 1855 - 1873

## THE CHALON HEAD ISSUES



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## **The Postage Stamps of New Zealand: 1855-1873 The Chalon Head Issues**

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This is a completely new study of the classic Chalon issues of New Zealand. It represents the culmination of over 50 years of research and collecting by the author, most recently aided by the gathering of all known records from many sources. Although some crucial records were the victims of fires in New Zealand, this new resource permitted an opportunity never before seen to make new discoveries. As a result, some remarkable findings now answer questions that were first raised over a century ago.

The book is case bound, and in production quality is a twin of the author's book on Samoa. It has almost 400 pages and many hundreds of illustrations, which show over 1,000 different stamps and covers, including virtually all the shades listed in the most thorough catalogues. Illustrations were provided by The Royal Philatelic Collection, Joseph Hackmey, David Patterson and the author, along with individual unique items from other sources. The result is a display of the most outstanding and notable items in each issue.

New discoveries are revealed for almost every issue. Starting with the London prints, questions now have answers. The quantities of the stamps that were previously "known" to have been distributed to various provinces can now be seen to have been only the beginning. Two denominations were under heavy pressure and used up quickly while the other was returned by the provinces after a long period during which the stamps were not used up.

In this, and particularly in the issues where the genuine copies could be a target for fakes made from lesser copies, remarks show what one should look for to determine which are genuine. Any matter that is not fully proven is given as "opinion", along with a section of areas for future study. No book can be the final word and some work remains.

The Richardson blue paper prints are now explained in depth, including the evidence of when the blue paper was replaced by the white paper. Previous studies were based only on the relatively few known covers of the era. The analysis shown here is based on actual records from the Colonial Secretary and Colonial Treasurer. The existing records of virtually every printing and stamp issued up to 1858 are listed in an appendix, but also include the fragmentary records following that to 1862.

Besides the largest known unused and used multiples of the early issues, each denomination is illustrated with one or more covers to show the typical and not so typical ways they may have been used. These illustrations record many that may be considered the finest available, and are a useful resource when considering other examples.

Both the blue and white paper printings by Richardson had overlap varieties, due to the paper being smaller than the plate. A new discussion about them, with varieties illustrated, updates the current level of knowledge beyond the author's earlier paper on the subject.

When the supply of large star watermark paper was exhausted, other papers filled the gap. Pelure paper was used in late 1862, with the very rare 3d produced at the end of the year. Both known copies are illustrated. The 2d Provisional on thick unwatermarked paper was printed in early 1863, and was the only one with vertical overlaps. These varieties are shown, including on the unique cover with the vertical overlap.

The introduction of the government perf 12½ machine produced some interesting varieties. Starting off as two different width comb perforation heads, designed to handle the earlier and later manufactured plates, the teeth of the comb were ultimately pulled to create a line perforation. The chapter on these covers values where the differences are important to identify some of the rare varieties, such as the 3d brown lilac. Each of the shades in the most specialized catalogue is illustrated with an example.

Discussion of when the colours of three denominations was changed in 1871 has to date been based on observed covers. The records of printings from 1865 to 1873 are included in an appendix, which enables us to show the actual date of introduction of the first changed colour printings. The perf 10 machine, with variants that include this in compound with the perf 12½ is shown, along with some of the rarer varieties.

Use of papers with the NZ watermark and lozenges, as well as basically unwatermarked paper have traditionally been assigned to either 1871 or 1872. Printing records and notations from the Colonial Secretary's office show that they were all printed in 1873. The papermakers' watermarks are covered in detail.

A chapter on the damaged and retouched bottom quarter of the 2d Plate II illustrates virtually all the positions damaged, before retouch, retouched in blue, retouched in vermilion, and on the black reprints. This aids anyone who would wish to attempt an identification of a stamp that shows early plate damage as well as those who would attempt a full reconstruction.

Previous books showed re-entries often as the latest state from the reprints. A very thorough section shows the acknowledged retouches in early, middle and late states of the plate on actual stamps. This allows an evaluation of the progress of the change of the state of the plate at that particular point.

Dies, plate proofs, full sheets, reprints, specimens and forgeries offer a useful chapter to show where they belong in the story.

The postal history section acknowledges that there are other thorough coverages available. In spite of that, the vast majority of known covers fit into the more usual rates, which are all covered, with examples, and dates and amounts of change. It offers a very useful and easy approach to the analysis of a cover.

The one shilling bisects are discussed, showing that they did not originate where they were long thought to be from. A full illustrated list, corrected from previous lists, shows each known cover.

The concordance of catalogue listings compares those of Campbell Paterson, Stanley Gibbons, Scott, Yvert & Tellier, and Michel, to give a cross-comparison to those who might use the various catalogues. Basic reference within the book is according to Stanley Gibbons, but those wishing a more detailed listing may go to Campbell Paterson, while those with more general tendencies may choose to use the others.

The annotated bibliography offers a selected group of the more usually available books, commenting on the usefulness of each.

Two appendices summarize what is known about the numbers and dates of issue of the stamps. Others cover the "Dwarf" and Castle front, elemental analysis of inks, and full transcription of some of the early documents that concern these issues.

A very thorough Index adds considerably to the utility of the book.

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