

Revenue Review

Two Day Sale

A couple of months ago I reported [with web site address] a rather large thematic train collection coming onto the market via a UK dealer and his private treaty web pages which can be easily accessed from his web site. I can report a further update on this thematic collection of trains. A very large and varied collection of New Zealand 'Railway Charges' appeared on the web site with a ticket price of items individually listed adding up to well over £5000.00, but don't bother to go look as the complete collection sold out in just two days!

This collection included figure 1 the Express Freighter private company fee stamps renamed in 1895 from Campbell and Crust. It operated an independent parcel delivery service, but apparently had a close working agreement with the state-owned railway, including special drop boxes on trains, and parcel transfer arrangements.

Several values from ½d to 3d were present in the collection. You can see the train just above the word PROMPTITUDE. Figure 1 also has a super hand stamp

from the company with a nice clear date of 16 JAN 01.

In the large group of Railway Charges was a nice copy of the 10/- [fig 2], a very rare revenue indeed. I believe only a couple of handfuls have survived to date which includes two pairs, most from Thorndon station. Looking deeper into the Railway Charges section of the collection there are some very rare station names, some coming from towns of just 600 or less residents at that time. Survival of this issue is very limited, and in some cases zero survival. The bulk of the set was printed in 1920 but not released until 1925 and continued till 1959. The ½d was for sending newspapers only. The 1d exists both with and without 'stop'. The 8d value is interesting, this was to ship a bushel of fruit sparing the clerks having to use a 2d and 6d.

I believe there are around 300 or so recorded stations in New Zealand, with five main types of station name overprints to collect. 1. Small Horizontal Stencil. 2. Large vertical stencil in capitals, up and down. 3. Same but letterpress again in capitals. 4. One station recorded in upper & lower case and 5. Rubber stamped name



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Dave Elsmore

and station number. The latter being scarce. Several are recorded without any overprints, again scarce. Most denominations exist with three different perforations. Perf 14 can be found on issues 1928 – 1936, 14½x14 1926-1939 and 15x14 from 1926-1940. Some are found on paper maker's watermarked paper.

If all combinations of those variations existed, there would be over 70,000 collectible varieties, but not all denominations were issued to all stations and very few stamps have ever been seen with watermark. This collection can add the 9d value to the listing. The ½d does not exist in one of the perms with 2 other values only found in 2 perms. For example, of stamps with perf 14½x14, 99% are with a small 'typewriter' horizontal overprint as seen in figure 2, while the large up and down overprints are 99% the other two perms. So when we do the maths, the actual number of stamps is probably closer to 10,000. Many stations were issued Charges stamps in such small numbers that survival rate as mentioned above is as low as zero. Therefore any collection in any quantity to come onto the market would be quickly snapped up,

in this case there was very little duplication per value of station name.

One of many star items in the collection is figure 3, a super multiple showing the strange but fascinating way the overprint mould was applied. I am not sure if this was the norm as I have not seen many blocks larger than 4 to compare it with. Maybe you have a few blocks sitting in your collection? If so please share them here. One last piece of information I would like to share with you on these New Zealand Railway issues was that for a short time you could pay for excess luggage with Charges stamps, something Australian States Railways did not allow.

I have referenced "*New Zealand Charges Stamps: Design & Printing*" by Jim Brodie [1983] in the preparation of the above article.

Good Value

Part of my revenue collection is Store Notes or coupons. One such note auctioned recently was from Hunter's Emporium at [corner of McDowall and Arthur streets]



Fig. 3

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in the commercial heart of Roma. It was the head store and signature building in a chain of western Queensland drapery stores established by John McEwan Hunter [1863-1940]. Further branches were opened at Mitchell (c1900), Wallumbilla (c1906), Jackson (c1913), Miles (c1925) and Chinchilla (c1941). By 1930, the firm had become Hunter's Ltd. In February 1916.

Survival of these notes is far and few between and when they do come up are keenly sort by collectors. Figure 4 selling for just over AU\$1,000.00 yes I said 1000. You may have a bag of old coupons sitting in your collection. Best go have a look and see if you have a Hunter's!

Full of Holes

A Western Australia 2d shot full of holes came up for auction in a mixed lot selling for around \$20. Figure 5 was singled out and re auctioned this time pulling around \$70.00, a tidy profit for a 'CANCELLED' perfin.

Seeing Backwards

A rather nice marginal kiss print of a Queensland 2d King George issue with an extra row of perfs at no extra cost [fig 6] has surfaced. It is a rather nice clean example. This needs to be recorded and I wish to do so here.

As you can read from the above the New Zealand Railway article it has dominated this issue of 'Revenue Review' for this month without mention of a perfin, well ok just the one.

Finally Richard of Charlestown in NSW has reported a NSW 4d Edward value with the scarce to rare NSW grey underprint on document, a rare combination. I spoke of this in the March 2011 issue. Many thanks for sharing Richard.

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Fig. 4