

MID-MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT TO . . .

# CAMPBELL PATERSON'S NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain for reference purposes.

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## N.Z. NOTES and COMMENT

(By Campbell Paterson)

### 1898 1907 PICTORIALS

#### "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" Volume III.

This latest addition to the splendid "Handbooks" produced by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand has now appeared. It deals exhaustively with all phases of New Zealand postal history. Any attempt to review it in these small columns would be presumptuous—for wealth of information, superbly illustrated and presented, it is a colossal work. To my mind it is superior even to Volumes I and II, themselves probably the finest works of their kind produced up till now. No tribute can be too great to pay to the Co-editors, Messrs. R. J. G. Collin and C. W. Watts. The amount of time and toil spent on this book without material reward of any kind simply staggers the imagination. How many would guess that the great majority, if not all of the illustrations of postmarks, meter marks, etc were copied by hand by Mr. Collins from often inadequate originals? This is a fact and I understand that the greater part of the manuscript was his also. No doubt the book itself is all the reward that its Editors want but all New Zealand philatelists should join in expressing their thanks for this truly monumental work. New Zealand is fortunate in having the services of these gifted philatelists.

The heartiest congratulations too must go to the Royal Society for its vision and energy in producing yet another Handbook. "The Royal" has proved worthy indeed of its position and proud title. Nor should be forgotten the lengthy list of collaborators who did their share. New Zealand philately owes a real debt to them all. New Zealand is fortunate too, in having a Postal Department prepared to co-operate in this work. Without this unstinted co-operation the book would have been a mere shadow of its present self.

If anyone has not yet ordered his copy from the Royal Society (Box 1269, Wellington) I would urge he do so immediately. This book is going to be indispensable and with the printing small (1150 copies) it should soon be fetching premium prices. **1d Otago Variety.**

Recently through our hands passed a few copies of the 1d Otago with a strange variety. All the first vertical column of stamps showed the larger ship apparently printed, for the most part, in purple. There was some blurring of the purple and of adjacent blue areas. Close study revealed the interesting fact that in one or two places the ink is neither blue nor purple but a genuine pure red. I showed two copies to Mr. Watts and he pointed out that the variety is mentioned in the Handbook (Vol. II, Page 145). However (this is not really implied in the Handbook note) he agreed with my belief that the only likely solution is that a red colour (ink) was used on the plate immediately before these stamps were printed and that the plate was not thoroughly cleaned. Even this explanation gives no reason for the blurring, so I exercised my imagination and arrived at the following theory.

The plate requires cleaning from time to time. I presume that this is done by a workman using a cloth heavily soaked in a cleaning spirit. A later stage would be a wiping off of the cleaning fluid by means of a clean, dry cloth (not the mechanical wiper as this is specially made to wipe the surface only, leaving ink in the sunken lines of the impressions). A cloth would go into the sunken lines and clean them out. I think this presumption is reasonable. Let us suppose then that the first cloth,

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soaked in cleaning fluid, is one which has been used for a similar purpose before and is stained with red ink; let us then suppose that in the later clean-wiping a narrow strip of the plate misses being cleaned. We would then have a situation which would answer the facts of this case. Where there was red in the recessed lines the plate when next used would print red or (where the blue mixed in with it) purple—but in both cases it would be an adulterated ink and likely to give a "blurred" result. Just theory, but we are not likely ever to get the hard facts. A very interesting variety, anyhow.

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