

Campbell Paterson's NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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LONDON NEWSLETTER

By Campbell Paterson

Further on my visit to Bradburys. I think in fairness to myself I should make a little explanation regarding my Notes on "the visit." One of the conditions of my being allowed to publish these Notes was that they should be submitted to Messrs Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. for censoring. This was understandable since I was to see in action machines and processes which are, in the highly competitive printing field, the unique property of the firm. The censoring was throughout reasonable but in places severe, so that I had finally to leave much unsaid. I think it fairly describes it to say that in places my original draft was positively eviscerated! I mention this only as an explanation of my omission in places of the details that no doubt my readers would have welcomed.

Most emphatically I make absolutely no complaint on the score of the censoring of my original Notes: I am much too appreciative of the fact that I was extremely privileged in being allowed in at all. As I have said, I met a group of most charming people—to expect them to allow the divulgence of their jealously guarded trade secrets would be quite absurd and very ungrateful, too.

Various Meetings in London. I have naturally done my best to attend as many Society Meetings as possible—within the restriction placed upon me by the necessity of sometimes getting some sleep! I have not lacked invitations for people have been extremely kind.

Royal Society. I have been twice to "Headquarters," once at the invitation of Mr. Strange, the Editor of the London Philatelist and once with Mr. H. Gordon Kaye, the eminent N.Z. specialist. Of these meetings I will only say that they do not differ from other Society meetings to any great extent in procedure. But of course—as is to be expected in what is the hub of British Philately—the standard of displays is supremely high. There is a certain solemnity about the meetings but this again is what one expects. Where practically everyone present is an expert in his or her field one does not look for other than a serious and studious atmosphere. The building at Devonshire Place is a fine setting for the Royal, and the Library unsurpassed. In fact, I understand that the growth of the Library is causing some considerable concern owing to lack of space. In a conversation with one member the question of the Society's Collection came up. This member spoke of its huge and mounting proportions—it appears that it is not unusual for leading specialists to will their treasures to the Society. The opinion was given that this practice, worthy in intention, did have the unfortunate effect of "freezing" priceless material that might otherwise be continuing to give joy to collectors. Once in the Society's Collection such bequests are seldom seen—though available for viewing by members—and the cost to the Society in insurance is great. This was just one member's viewpoint and others might differ—I would not care to express an opinion on what is a domestic matter—but N.Z. Societies busy amassing a "Society Collection" may find in it food for thought.

(continued on back page)

SOMETHING SPECIAL!

400 The 1898 issue has proved so extremely popular in latter years that prices have hardened and material in good condition is fast being absorbed. It is with pleasure that we announce having purchased another fine collection and offer the following bargains. Remember though—**BE EARLY WITH THOSE ORDERS.**

- (a) **London Issue.** Fine used set of very attractive appearance, containing various shades. ½d (3), 1d (2), 2d (2), 2½d (4), 3d, 4d (3), 5d (2), 6d (2), 8d (2), 9d 1/- (2), 2/-, 5/-. Set of 26 stamps mounted. Cat. over £9/10/0.
..... £8/15/0
- (b) **2nd Local Print, Perf. 11,** watermarked N.Z. and Star. Another fine used set, well represented by shades and comprising 2½d (2), 3d (3), 4d, 5d (3), 6d (5), 8d (2), 9d, 1/- (4) 2/- (2), 5/-. Set of 24 stamps mounted. Cat. over £9/10/0 £8/10/0
- (c) **1902-07 Perf. 14** watermarked N.Z. and Star. Lovely fine used set with good shade range. 1½d 2d (3), 2½d (2), 3d (2), 4d (3), 5d (2), 6d (2), 8d, 9d, 1/- (3), 2/- (2), 5/- (2). 25 stamps mounted and cat. over £10. £9/ 5/0
- (d) **Issue of 1900 Perf. 11.** This used set represents the 1st local print and contains ½d Mt. Cook (4), 1d Terraces (3), 1½d Boer War (3), 2d Pembroke Peak (3), 4d Taupo (3), 6d red Kiwi (3), Catalogued over 33/-. 19 Stamps unmounted £1/ 5/0
- (e) **1907-08 Reduced Size Pictorials.** Perfs. "14," 14x13-13½, 14x15. Three used sets with variety of shades. 18 stamps in all and mounted. Catalogued over 55/- £2/ 5/0
- (f) **Issue of 1900 Mint Perf. 11** covering the 1st local print with ½d Mt. Cook (4), 1d Terraces (3), 2d Pembroke Peak (3), 1½d Boer War (2), 4d Taupo (2), 6d red Kiwi (2). 16 stamps mounted and catalogued over 25/- £1/ 2/6
- (g) **Mint London Issue of 1898,** mounted, with a goodly showing of shades. ½d (3), 1d (2), 2d (2), 2½d (4), 3d, 4d (3), 5d (2), 6d (2), 8d (2), 9d 1/- (2). 2/-, 5/-. 26 Stamps in all. Catalogued £13/10/0. £12/10/0
- (h) **1899 Issue of Perf. 11, no Watermark.** This used collection, mounted on one page, consists of 19 stamps as follows 2½d (2), 3d (2), 5d (2), 6d (2), 8d (2), 9d (2), 1/- (4), 2/- (2), 5/-. All stamps are in good condition but the 5/- value is fiscally cancelled. Catalogued over £3/2/0 (without 5/- value) £3/0/0
- (i) **A Grand Addition.** Simplified set in blocks of 4 mint and comprising the following values and shades. ½d green, ½d purple (2), 1d Taupo (2), 1d Terraces (slight stain), 2d brown-lake (2), 2d purple (2), 2½d Wakatipu, 2½d Wakitipu (crease over 3 stamps), 3d brown 4d Terraces (2), 4d Taupo, 5d chocolate, 6d green, 6d red, 8d blue, 9d purple, 1/- orange-red, 2/- green; one single copy each of the 5/- carmine and vermilion. All are mounted on four pages and are catalogued over £26 £24/0/0

GEO. V. ISSUE (Recess)

401 Here again we feel quite confident in stating that this Geo. V. issue is in keen demand and stamps in fine condition are on the hard-to-produce list. We recommend that you check the following list carefully. **THESE OFFERS WILL NOT LAST.**

- (a) Fine mint set of horizontal pairs embracing all the colour changes and in the 14 x 13½ perforation. Set comprises 16 pairs which includes 1½d on Pictorial paper. Catalogued at £5/15/0 £5/0/0
- (b) This is a very fine simplified set of all the Recess issue in blocks of 4 mint, but not of any particular perf. It is complete in colour changes and includes the 1½d on Pictorial paper. 16 Blocks, catalogued over £10/15/0 £9/15/0

- (c) **SPECIAL.** An excellent used set covering all shades and perms. except for vertical pairs and five shades. Total of 54 stamps unmounted and catalogued at £5/2/6. £4/17/6
- (d) Sets mint and used, mounted, of the perf. 14 x 13½ issue. 16 Stamps catalogued £4/5/6 £4/0/0
- (e) As for "d" but perf. 14 x 14½, 15 stamps (no 8d red-brown issued in this perf.). Catalogued £5/2/6 £4/17/6
- (f) Official issue mint and used covering both perms. and also 3d Provisional issue on Pictorial paper (14 line). Two shades of the 1/- in mint and used. 24 Stamps in all, catalogued over £3/5/0. £3/2/6

GEO. V LITHO

- 402 A fine two page display of this "local" watermark variety. Page 1 consists of two blocks of each value (½d, 1d, 2d) one block of each showing rough perms. and the other clean cut perms. Page 2 has six blocks (½d green, ½d almost colourless, 1d blue-green, blackish green, yellow-green and 2d yellow) and three singles showing a good range of the watermark colours including 1d almost colourless, blue, blue-green. There is also a convenient space for mounting the 1d colourless when available. The two pages of mint stamps catalogued at over £11 £10

EDWARD VII

- 403 A nice little mounted one page collection in mint condition of the 14 line and 14 x 14½ perforation. Does not contain the rare 8d but includes the provisional issue on Pictorial paper of this value. Three shades of the 2d and two each of the 5d, 6d and 8d are included. Total of 22 stamps, catalogued over £8 £7/10/0

POSTAGE DUE COLLECTIONS

- 405
- (a) **First Design.** A complete lot in all variations, of 14 stamps, all being mint except for 10d (scarcer thus) and 2d with small D and NZ. The set, cat. £4/7/6 £4/0/0
- (a) **Second Design.** A splendid little collection absolutely complete in all perms., papers and watermarks in mint, except for 2d Cowan paper, reversed watermark and 3d Cowan 14 x 15 which are in used. A total of 24 stamps (includes scarce 2d perf. 11 sideways watermark) £3/12/6

COMMEMORATIVE SNIPPETS

- 406
- (a) **Christchurch Exhibition.** Complete set in lovely mint condition £4/12/6
- (b) **Special Offer.** Mint block of four ½d val. with sideways inverted watermark £1/10/0
- Mint block of four 6d val. (superb) also with inverted watermark £15/0/0
- Auckland Exhibition.** We have a further mint and used set of this commemorative (which seems to be becoming more difficult to find) to offer, based on the present Catalogue selling figures.
- (c) Complete mint, condition well up to average. Cat. £6/10/0. Price the set £6/0/0
- (d) Complete used, condition good except for two weak perms. on 6d. Catalogue £6/12/0. Price the set £6/0/0
- (e) **1935 Jubilee.** After a lengthy period without the higher value, stocks allow us to offer the quite scarce used set of three of this attractive issue at 11/6. Mint set also 11/6

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Postal History Society. I attended a meeting here by kind invitation of Mr. Frederick Walker—well known to many in New Zealand. Again I was greatly impressed by the depth to which British specialists delve in their studies. It is also amazing how much material two or three hundred years old, has survived. I have always held the opinion that the relative scarcity of N.Z. Postal History material is largely the result of our domestic style of architecture. It is almost unknown in N.Z. for a house to have an attic or storeroom—but attics are common in England. So, where in England the tendency would be for letters to be kept, in New Zealand they would be burnt. At any rate, it is incredible what the energetic English specialist is able to fossick out.

Herts Society. This old and distinguished London Society recently celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with a Dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. I was fortunate in receiving an invitation. The evening commenced with cocktails and a display in a lower room. One display particularly caught my eye—a collection of all the abnormal forms of the Maltese Cross postmark, each a superb strike on a perfect Penny Black on original cover. Very pretty indeed! Needless to say the dinner was good—and at Simpson's that means GOOD—and the after dinner speeches of London standard. Quite a memorable experience.

N.Z. Society of Great Britain. At their meeting on March 30 the N.Z. Society was so kind as to make me their guest of the day. It was very pleasant to be among collectors again all of whom were interested in N.Z. stamps. I am not sure what they expected of me—perhaps an erudite dissertation on the substituted clichés of the Second Sidefaces or something. Anyhow I asked them to let me off lightly and I suggested they ask me questions about N.Z. stamps or give me their criticisms of our Catalogue. Results exceeded all expectations. The meeting commenced at 2 p.m. and the questions were still being fired at me at 5.30. Personally I thoroughly enjoyed it and I think everyone else did too, though I am not so sure that all the answers fully satisfied the questioners. In brief it was a happy gathering of people of like interests and I found it most satisfying. For fear of missing someone—my memory for names is atrocious—I will mention only the President, Mrs. Euphemia Moore, and the Secretary Mrs. Margarete Erskine. These ladies are much alike, both being charming, energetic, young and beautiful.

B.P.A. This important organisation had its annual get-together at Ramsgate this year. I attended as guest of Mr. W. (Bill) Cooper, leading member of the local host Society. Mr. Cooper happens to be a penfriend of mine of many years and was of great assistance to me in my early dealing days. This was the first time I had met him in person—a pleasant occasion. The B.P.A. does great work in this country in the protection of both collectors and dealers—about two-thirds of the members are amateurs. Expertisation of stamps and protection of members by the keeping of records of defaulters, “changers” and undesirables are just two of the functions of the Association. Present amongst many at this meeting were Miss Eileen Evans, Secretary (again, C.E. Y and B. see reference to “N.Z.” ladies above) and Mr. Noel Turner of the N.Z. Society who displayed and described his fine specialised lot of N.Z. Healths. Mr. Turner has one proof item of a Health that made my teeth water. At the risk of being cryptic I would describe it as a “Royal Displeasure.” Perhaps Mr. Turner will give us a note on the subject some time.

Plunket Jubilee Issue. Mr. Dexter has been over both plates of this stamp with his usual thoroughness and reports quite a number of instances of retouching to faulty frame lines—in all cases on the left side.

Plate 1: R2/15, 2/18, 3/10, 4/17, 7/9, 7/16. Plate 2: 1/10, 2/8, 2/10, 2/20, 3/18, 7/10, 7/17. Although these are worth recording as another instance of plates having been given considerable attention, only R7/9 7/16 from Plate 1 are easily visible in the form of “graver” slips.

Stars Right and Stars Left: While the mention of the variation of watermark in the 4d Meat Export aroused interest—incidentally the latest report of a used “stars right” shows that Palmerston North had them, too—it also served to show that there is a good deal of confusion in differentiating between the two so a word of explanation may be useful. In the first place it must be understood that the following applies when the stamp is viewed from the **back**. Taking the 4d stamp above as an example it will be seen that the “top point” of the star i.e. the one closest to the ZN points to the left—if it points to the right then you are in luck! This is “stars left” and one having the point in the opposite direction would be “stars right.” If it is remembered that the point closest to the letters ZN decides the issue then the rest will be easy.
