

# Campbell Paterson's NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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## NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT by Campbell Paterson

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**Marlborough Variety.** A rarity of the first order has been seen in the form of a "double paper" in the 8d Marlborough. This variety results from the necessary joining up of rolls of paper for the printing machine. The end of one roll is gummed to the beginning of the next and so printing does not cease just because one roll is exhausted. Of course the printer would intend to remove the joined portion—but these things slip through occasionally. The piece seen was of three horizontal rows right across the sheet. The top row was half on double paper, the two lower rows wholly thus. The last double paper I can recall in N.Z. was the 3d Coronation.

**6d Sideface Dies.** Nothing is impossible, so when Mr. J. M. Shelton of England suggested that he may have uncovered an excellent new means of distinguishing between Dies 1 and 2 of the 6d Sideface I was not too incredulous. Still it seemed hardly likely, after nearly 70 years. It is well known that apart from a difference in the background lines—not a very reliable guide—the accepted method of distinguishing between the Dies has been to study the ball ornament on the diadem immediately above the Queen's ear. In Die 1 it has shading lines, in Die 2 it has only dots. A pretty poor and unsatisfactory test, I have always thought. Now Mr. Shelton calls attention to a small break in the outline of the back of the neck on Die 2—just above where the back of the neck ends in a point. On Die 1 there is no such break. Neither Mr. Shelton nor I have had enough material to work on to be able to say definitely that this Die 2 break is an infallible test. I can only say that it has yet to fail as far as I am concerned and it is very easily seen. I will be interested to hear if anyone can fault this new test.

**Red Cross Varieties.** There has been the usual crop of minor blemishes and retouches. The best in my opinion are R13/6 and R11/6, with R12/2 "mentionable". Here is the list: Row 1/1: extension of Greenland to the right. Row 4/3: small retouches to N.W. corner of flag and bottom of left hemisphere. R7/5: small retouch, south coast of Greenland. R11/3 and 11/4: On all sheets seen there is an offset of a division arrow on the backs of these two stamps. R11/6: there is a retouch at the South Pole and one of the two Falkland Islands is missing. R12/2: there is an extra island off Graham Land (south of Sth. America). R13/5: a retouch to the blue shading at top right of flag. R13/6: a bigger retouch to the blue shading, bottom right corner of flag. R20/3: a strong retouch occurs on the buffer bar ("Jubilee line") below this stamp. Credits are due to finders as follows: Mrs. L. M. Foote R12/2; C. S. Mayer R11/3, 11/4; G. Hendry R7/5, 13/5; A. Dexter R1/1, 4/3, 11/6, 13/6, 20/3.

**Next Healths—a new chapter.** Grand news is given in the latest Govt. Bulletin to the effect that we are to see this year the start of a series of Health stamps depicting native birds. This year's will be the usual two values followed each year (so I understand) by another two different birds—for how long is not stated. This following of one theme for a number of years (and getting away from the ad nauseam "children at play") is one of the suggestions I made in these columns long ago. Not that it was new, for the Swiss have done it for many years past. It will give continuity and added interest which cannot fail to help the sales of stamps. Another suggestion of mine (which later became a remit from the Federation) that the year of issue should be incorporated in the designs each year, has been rejected by the Postal authorities. The reason for rejection (I read in the Hutt Valley Society's really splendid Newsletter) is that "as the subject of the stamps is changed each year the addition of the

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## BREAKING UP A FINE COLLECTION

We offer on a "page by page" basis one of the best collections of middle period N.Z. that has recently come our way. As almost all pages represent years of hunting to obtain the wanted shades in blocks or strips, there is no room for cut-rate prices—these are choice stamps and worth every penny asked. Condition is first class throughout. (The figures in brackets before the prices indicate the number of stamps in each lot).

- 392  $\frac{1}{2}$  **Mt. Cook, London print.** A page of superb mint blocks (5), four being selvedge, one showing the re-entry P.2, R10/12. Also two singles, one with variety. Shades range from light purple to almost black. (22) The page 40/-
- 393 **1d Taupo, London.** A grand showing on 3 pages, in blocks (9, some of 6 or 9 stamps) and 14 singles; all but 2 stamps are mint. Apart from the superb range of shades (the scarce brown seems to predominate) there are 8 examples of re-entries. This lot would take many years to duplicate (54) £5
- 394 **2d Pembroke, London.** This stamp is increasingly hard to find today. One page of mint, 3 blocks, in three fine shades. The lot (13) ..... 40/-
- 395  **$\frac{2}{3}$ d Wakitipu (Error of spelling).** Here we feel like getting really lyrical. Never have we seen a wider, brighter, cleaner range of shades—from pale sky blue to deep dark blue. All in blocks (4) or strips (3), superb mint on 2 pages. The lot (27) ..... 90/-
- 396 **3d Huia, London.** A smaller lot, but again a stamp that is getting scarcer. Two finest mint shade blocks (one is a corner with early serial No.) and a single. The page (9) ..... 30/-
- 397 **4d Terraces.** A fine lot of mint blocks (4) and singles including 2 re-entries, one of which is new to us. Two of the blocks show early corner serial Nos. (487 and 491) but are of different shades—as are the other blocks. The lot (20) ..... 70/-
- 398 **5d Otira, London.** A fine mint page with a selvedge block in choc-brown, a pair in chocolate and a single in the rare deep sepia. The last shows distinct traces of re-entry. (7) ..... £6/5/0
- 399 **6d Green Kiwi, London.** Two lovely blocks of 4, one being near to grass-green, also a single and a pair with superb complete clear offset on back (Cat. £5 each). The page can be sold without this pair at £6/10/0 or with one offset stamp only at £11. But complete as described the price is (11) ..... £16/10/0
- 400 **8d Canoe, London.** Two superb blocks in indigo and deep indigo, plus a single in prussian blue. The page (9) ..... 60/-
- 401 **9d Terraces, London.** A fine mint block of four and a single, perfect in all respects. (5) ..... 45/-
- 402 **1/- Keas, London.** An outstanding lot of a scarce stamp. Two blocks, one has selvedge and is an unusual intense shade, also two singles. All mint of course. (10) ..... £7/10/0
- 403 **5/- Mt. Cook London.** A lovely selvedge pair in impeccable condition ..... £10
- 404 **No Watermark Locals.** The collector has not done much in this group, contenting himself with a single page for the set to the 1/- (plus the set below). The present lot is of singles: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 6d pale green, 8d (2 shades), 9d (two shades) and 1/-. Also a block of 4 of the 3d including a re-entry. The page (13) ..... £5
- 405 **1/- Local, No Wmk., P.11.** Few if any values can equal the 1/- for range of shades and this page shows an amazing variety from a pure red through red-oranges and red-browns to a deep orange-brown. One block, in bright orange-red, the rest a pair and singles. The page (13) ..... £7/10/0
- 406  **$\frac{1}{3}$ d Boer War Perf 11.** Three glorious blocks in differing chestnuts, plus chestnut and deep brown singles; finally a grand pair in a khaki-brown, the lower stamp being the major re-entry with the whole design doubled. An exhibition page (16) ..... £10
- 407 **Changed values.** The 1d Terraces (block),  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mt. Cook (2 blocks) and 6d Kiwi red (single), plus 4 of the 4d Taupo, these including a re-entry R8/10 and a major centre retouch, R7/1; and a used double perf. The page (17) ..... 50/-
- 408 **2d Pembroke, Perf 11.** A very fine page of shades, mainly in blocks (5) ranging from purple to two shades of mauve. Two singles include a re-entry. The page (22) ..... 50/-
- 409  **$\frac{2}{3}$ d Huia, Wmk'd Perf 11.** An amazing lot of nine blocks including shades from yellow brown to yellowish bistre, some stamps are letter wmk or no wmk, others reversed wmk. The 2 pages (36) ..... £6/6/0
- 410 **4d Taupo Wmk'd Perf 11.** A page of mint inc. two shade blocks, two pairs and a single, plus a used single with re-entry R8/10. The page (14) ..... 60/-

- 411 **5d Oтира Wmk'd perf 11.** Perhaps the most striking lot in the whole collection. Includes 5 strips of 3, two pairs and two singles, which not only demonstrate all listed shades inc. black-brown but also show watermarks normal, inverted, reversed and inverted-reversed. We would say it would be nearly impossible to duplicate this lot. All but one stamp mint. The 2 pages (21) ..... £10/10/0
- 412 **6d Kiwi Red. Perf 11, Wmk'd.** A grand page of 4 shade blocks inc. a superb block of the scarce pink, also 2 singles. A blaze of colour. The mint page (18) ..... £10/10/0
- 413 **8d Canoe Perf 11, wmk'd.** Blocks of 4 and 6 mint in superb shades (one block has wmk invert-reversed) plus a single. The page (11) ..... 70/-
- 414 **9d Terraces Perf 11 Wmk'd.** A fine block plus 5 equally fine singles inc. the brown-lake shade. All mint. Very handsome. The page (9) ..... 75/-
- 415 **1/- Keas. Perf 11 Wmk'd.** Another blaze of colour. Amazing shades and condition in three blocks and 4 singles. An unbeatable lot, this. The mint page (16)) ..... £10
- 416 **2/- Milford Perf 11, Wmk'd.** A page of five superb mint inc. a pair. Among others is a deep blue-green—almost green-blue. The page (5) ..... £5
- 417 **5/- Mt. Cook.** The two shades, vermilion and deep red, in choice mint singles (2) ..... £11
- 418 **Perf 14 Mint Collection.** A little mint collection, all choice stamps, mounted on three pages. Includes 1½d (3), 2d (6), 2½d (5), 3d (4), 4d (15), 5d, 6d, 8d (2), 9d (3), 1/- (3), 2/- (2), 5/- (2). There are five blocks in all. Where there are more than one of any value it can be taken that there is no duplication—shades are excellent. Condition is very high throughout. The lot (47) ..... £18/10/0
- 419 **Perf 14 Used Collection.** Probably the finest used collection of this group that we have ever handled. Condition is "hand-picked" throughout and many blocks are present of stamps very rarely seen thus. Ask to see this collection if you can possibly afford it—you will not be disappointed. Includes 1½d (6 inc. block); 2d (18, block, strips); 2½d (12, block, strip); 3d (14, block, pair); 4d (33, three blocks, strip, pairs, re-entry); 5d (26, three blocks, four pairs); 6d (9); 8d (13, strip, pairs); 9d (9, two pairs); 1/- (11, 2 pairs); 2/- (6); 5/- (3). We cannot do justice to the general superiority of this lot—take it from us this is an extraordinary used collection, the result of years of fastidious hunting. The lot (160) ..... £27/10/0
- 420 **George V 4d, a page of varieties.** A remarkable page of mint and used 4d Georges. Includes a mint block in deep purple perf 14 x 13½—a scarce stamp—another block 14 x 14½, this last showing the Row 3/8 re-entry and the R4/7 retouch. Another block (violet) shows the se-tenant pairs in two perfs, one stamp having the major R4/10 re-entry. The same re-entry (club foot) is present in a mint 4d yellow and a used 4d violet. Then there are two violet used pairs (one "worn plate"), both showing the major R1/6 re-entry. There are 3 other mint stamps on the page. The lot, (21) ..... £11/10/0
- 421 **"Newspaper" and First Sidefaces.** A page showing the three original ½d Newspaper stamps of 1878 (perfs 10, 10 x 12½ and 12½) **both unused and used.** Also the later star wmk issue mint in both "near 12" and 12½ perfs. Also a block mint of the last issue. In Sidefaces there are three used: the 2d said to be (and probably is) the "near 12" perf and the 1d and 2d on Star paper. Condition varies but is much better than the price would suggest. The page of 15 stamps (cat. over £23) ..... £9

### A GOOD MODERN VARIETY

**Marlborough 3d—Double perfs.** A number of sheets of the 3d Marlborough appeared with partial double perforating of the bottom row of stamps. This peculiarity varied in extent, some sheets having 5 or 6 holes doubled in each vertical row. These were rarer and consequently dearer but we can supply a few blocks showing 2 or 3 holes doubled.

- (a) Block of 9, Plate number on selvedge, partial double perfs ..... 8/6d  
 (b) Block of 6, right side and bottom selvedge, partial double perfs ..... 6/6d

### LIFE INSURANCE

382 **Early V R Type.** A very fine little lot of these stamps—very elusive in mint. Includes the original set from 1d to 1/-, the 3d, 6d and 1/- all being in top condition. Also S.G. 1008 and 1009, 1013 and 1014, 1019, 1020, 1022 and 1023. This last in very scarce indeed mint. The desirable lot of 14 ..... £8/15/0

383 **Early V R Type used.** A page of stamps from S.G. 1001 to 1022 including the first set, complete to the 1/-, S.G. 1015 chocolate and various others. Condition varies, 24 stamps in all, a gift at ..... 17/6d

385 "No VR". Mint Blocks. A really lovely lot of 22 mint blocks from the whole period of 1913 to 1947. All the De La Rues are present inc. 1½d black, 2d purple, 3d yellow-brown, 6d deep rose and 2 fine shades of the 1d Cowans, one block of each, ½d, 2d, 3d and 6d; 3 blocks (diff. perfs and shades) of the 1d. Single Wmk W.T. 6d. Mult. wmk, full set ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d and 6d. This lot in fact comprises every issue from 1913 to 1947 with three exceptions of no great value. A grand opportunity to be nearly complete in mint blocks in one go. The only missing blocks are X7b, X7d and X8g. Take this chance while you can. The set of 22 mint blocks ..... £8

387 Scarce "Small Pictorial" Plate Numbers. Plate number blocks (with top selvedge) of the ½d Mt. Cook perf. 14 x 15 and the 6d Kiwi, same perf. These plate numbers are scarce. The ½d blocks are from Plates 1 and 2 and the 6d is Plate 6. (Total cat. (C.P.) of the three blocks is £10). The three blocks ..... £7

388 Postage Dues. Small Collection. This collection, mainly used but with quite a few mint, covers all the three issues from 1899 to 1939. There are 18 of the first type including 3d (3), 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 10d and 1/-. Of the second type there are 19 and of the last issue 16. The set of 53 ..... 15/-

389 Centennial Officials. Overprint variations. An interesting page of 13 used including 2 each of the 1d, 2d, 4d and 6d showing thick and thin overprints. In the 3d there are five, differing widely in shade or thickness of overprint. One is so misplaced as to be over the name "New Zealand". A small lot but unusual and worthwhile ..... 10/-

390 Life Insurance Pictorials. A complete mint set of Plate Blocks, one to each value. The 3d, 4d and 1/- are of necessity in blocks of 6. The set ..... 25/-

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year is not necessary particularly in view of the amount of other lettering which is required to appear on the stamps". It is possible that the Department has been under the misapprehension that the remit was put forward with the idea of helping the public to recognise one year's stamps from another's. What they have not understood—it would seem—is that the idea of dates is to lend continuity and interest over a period, so that collectors (who are important in this case) may know what they have and what they lack and be moved to make certain they do not miss any issues. As for the idea that the date would clutter the design, a date could be hidden away somewhere in very small figures—like the Canadians used to do with dates at one time—thereby adding a certain puzzle picture element, still further to interest collectors. Someone, somewhere along the chain, has not understood or else lacks imagination. It might save the Federation wasting their time in future if they explained, when forwarding remits, what the idea is behind each one. Now that we are to have a series, all depicting birds and therefore all somewhat alike, the usefulness of dates becomes more, not less, evident. It is to be hoped that the Federation will not treat this rejection as final but will press the suggestion again—with explanation.

½d Mt. Cook, a discovery. There recently came into our hands a complete sheet of the ½d Mt. Cook, perf 11 on the thick Pirie ("Waterlow") paper, our Fla, S.G.294/6. This sheet had only one plate marking, an inverted "3" scratched on the plate and appearing on the selvedge almost exactly one inch below the 12th stamp in the bottom row. Herein the interest lies, for reading the Handbook, Vol. 1 pages 198-200, it would seem that heretofore it has been believed that marker arrows and duplicate plate numbers were simultaneously scratched on the plates after they (the plates) had been in use for some time. This sheet then is a key piece, proving that plate 3 (with probably all the others as well) was first given a plate number low on the selvedge. This being unsatisfactory (one supposes) a second number was scratched on, higher up and the arrows added at the same time. We still have the sheet and anyone interested in acquiring an important piece of evidence should contact us. The sheet, incidentally, is in perfect, fresh, mint condition.

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