

Campbell Paterson's NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

Registered at the G.P.O. Wellington as a Magazine.

This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain it for reference purposes. Vol. X, No. 7, Feb., 1959. Issued Monthly—Subscriptions, 6/- per annum. All lots offered subject to being unsold and will be sent on approval to known clients. Complete satisfaction is guaranteed on all lots offered.

Postage Extra on Orders Under 10/-.**New Zealand Notes and Comment by Campbell Paterson**

Marlborough Centennial Issue. By courtesy of the Stamps Branch, Wellington, we have advance photos of the stamps, 2d, 3d and 8d which will be issued on March 2. They look a promising lot, though regrettably in photogravure again. The 2d, which shows Capt. Cook's "Endeavour" careened at Ship Cove, should be very popular. The other two, the 3d "Shipping Wool, 1857" and 8d "Salt Industry" are rather less exciting. The 3d has an interesting sideline interest in that in the distance it shows a paddle steamer. No doubt this is authentic though it does seem early for a steamship on the N.Z. coast. The "ship" enthusiasts will no doubt find out what ship it is. A good point about the set is that all stamps are of horizontal format and will not pose the usual problem of how to set them out on the album page.

Hawkes Bay Variety. A small white flaw is constant on R10/2 of the 3d from Plate 7 "with dot." It is found just above the second A of "LAND," at the base of the large rock. This variety was certainly first reported overseas—New Zealanders being once again "beaten to the draw."

Studying current stamps. One or two readers have felt that my criticism of N.Z. collectors generally—that they are too prone to sit back and let the other fellow do the hard work of close study—was somewhat unfair. The average man simply cannot afford to buy complete sheets of everything. This certainly is a problem but not perhaps unsurpassable. Anyone who has an acquaintance who uses large quantities of stamps should be able to manage some arrangement with him whereby complete sheets could be studied before being used up. Failing that, I have a suggestion to make that can be taken up by any individual or, better still, by Societies. It is that the Stamps Branch, Wellington, be asked to give consideration to adopting a system whereby any reputable collector could buy sheets from them, paying cash on the understanding that after study (and within a time-limit) the sheets could be returned, unbroken, for full refund. I cannot see that the Stamps Branch could possibly lose anything by this except the time occupied in handling the sheets. They would gain by the increase in the number of specialists. I think everyone will agree that an increase in the number of specialists would result in added sales to collectors. The student would not need to spend anything permanently—he would just need to have enough funds to uplift sheets "on deposit" as it were. It's an idea anyway and anyone who is really keen to study should see what he can do to get the wheels moving.

Gone with the wind. The rush of Christmas cards was apparently too much for the 2d Hawkes Bay which, in Auckland anyhow, disappeared like snow in summer. As I write, the 3d and 8d are still obtainable. However, I do not advise any large scale investment buying. There are probably enough mint in existence to fill all collectors' needs.

Relief Postmark. Mr. B. A. Mills has shown us some strikes of a "relief" canceller which he reports as in use at Pukenui from Nov. 19 to Dec. 5, 1958. It is just the usual relief type of ring mark and replaced an old "squared circle" mark that was still in use there after many years. Incidentally, for those interested, we can supply complete covers from Pukenui with the old squared circle mark—price 1/- each. The new Pukenui mark which followed the temporary relief mark is, we understand, a standard modern mark.

George VI Official Plate. Mr. P. C. Nyberg has a plate block of the 2d George Official, Plate 141. This is new to us and not previously reported.

Jamboree Plates. Four plates—A1, A2, B1, B2 have been used. None appears to be scarce though B2 has not been as plentiful around Auckland as the others, A1 particularly.

RE M I N D E R !

Though it is now over six weeks since the Catalogue Supplements were sent out, quite a few recipients have not responded to our appeal for co-operation in prompt payment. Give us a break, folks! We have done our best for you, now do your best for us!

SOME VERY UNUSUAL PIECES

- 281 **War Stamp 1915.** A part sheet of 190 stamps of this stamp—a fine piece for a student. This is not a rare stamp but in all our time we have not handled it before in part sheet. Beginning to separate along the perfs. in places but still perfect for study. Abounding in overprint varieties. The part sheet for..... £3/10/0
- 282 **4d Yellow George V.**
- (a) A magnificent mint block of 35 with top and right selvedge, including both the two major re-entries, R1/6 and R10/4 and seven two perf. vertical pairs, (one inc. R10/4 of course). This fine mint block, catalogued (C.P.) at £10—a grand bargain buy at £6/10/0
 - (b) A fine mint double vertical strip of 10, with top selvedge, the bottom block of 4 being in 2 perfs—a specialist piece, demonstrating the use of the 14 x 14½ perf for the lower rows of the sheet 25/-
 - (c) A mint block of 55, perf 14 x 14½ with side and bottom selvedge. Catalogued (C.P.) £6/17/6, (S.G. £13/15/0), but somewhat off-centre. Another gift for the first to order £2/10/0
- 283 **1d Dominion.** Look at this! No less than a complete sheet of the scarce issue on De La Rue unsurfaced paper (J3a, S.G.524). This is a grand specilaist's piece, invaluable for plate study and rare, too. Includes, of course, the Broken Globe, Feather, Broken frame and all the other flaws on this plate. Splendid clean condition. The complete sheet (Cat. S.G. £72) £38
- 284 **2d Stamp Centennial 1955 Varieties.** Modern varieties that have been largely overlooked. Plate 1A 1A R5/3, double flaw on ship nearest Maori's leg—giving the appearance of two mooring cables. Also, on R5/4, plate cracking around Maori's head showing as a mass of hair lines in green. In block of 12 which includes both Plate number and Imprint. Each block 12/6d
- 285 **1898-1908 Pictorials—some Fine pieces**
- (a) 2½d Wmk'd, P.14. A fine mint block of 20 (4 x 5). Deep dull shade, mainly blind perfs, well-centred and clean 60/-
 - (b) ½d Mt. Cook F5b. Perf 14 x 13½, the scarce dull green. A magnificent block of 36 (6 x 6). This is definitely a scarce stamp and must be rare in such a large piece. Worth every penny of £6/10/0
 - (c) ½d Mt. Cook F5b. As above, an equally fine block of 18, (3 x 6) in the scarce shade £3
 - (d) ½d Mt. Cook F5b. As above, but in a bright yellow-green shade—as different from the above as could be. A fine block of 16 (4 x 4) 30/-
 - (e) 1½d Boer War E4a, Perf 11. A splendid mint block of 10 (5 x 2). Another stamp scarce in fine, big blocks 45/-
 - (f) 1d Universal Surface-printed (G11a). A strangely scarce little stamp. A fine, clean block of 8 (4 x 2) 15/-
- 286 **Booklet Panes**
- (a) ½d George V & 1d Field Marshal Cowan P.14. A neat and clean pane of each. No ads. The two panes 80/-
 - (b) ½d George V & 1d Dominion. Neat and clean panes of each with "Abdulla" and "Jeyes" ads. Scarce today £7
 - (c) 1d Kiwi Multiple wmk. A fine and complete Booklet containing four panes and all advert interleaving. Complete Booklets are much sought after today 70/-
- 287 **Ross Dependency.** The current Pictorials, used.
- (a) Complete set in singles used on cover with two clear Scott Base cancellations 8/6d
 - (b) As above but in pairs on cover and three clear cancellations 17/6d
 - (c) The set in blocks of four, fine used 35/-
 - (d) 8d. The scarcer issue with blue (not ultramarine) frame. Fine used. Single 3/6d; pair 7/6d; block 15/-

288 1946 (Soldier and Child) 2d plus 1d Health—philatelic pieces.

This is one of the most pleasing offers we have made for a long time. At least it gives us satisfaction for it is real philately, establishing facts in a practical way.

- (a) A triple strip across the sheet (24 stamps) including R8/8 in its first abnormal state with "bird on hat" flaw. In the same piece is R6/1 with complete absence of shading ("no clouds") at top left.
- (b) A similar triple strip but here R8/8 shows the "first re-entry," the scarcest form, with doubling of sky lines at top left. In the same piece R6/1 has heavy colud effect in the previously vacant portion of sky. The two pieces 50/-

NOTE.—The two pieces should always be kept together for they prove the sequence of the varieties. They prove that the "bird on hat" coincided with the R6/1 "no clouds" and that the first re-entering of R8/8 coincided with the re-entering of R6/1. (It is well known that R8/8 was again re-entered later, as were R7/7, R6/8 and R7/8, all of which are normal in the present pieces). Collectors should not be deterred by the size of the pieces. They will be sent out folded in the way they should be mounted—still fully intact but fitting very comfortably on any album page. Incidentally, piece (a) is in deep sepia and yellow-brown; (b) is in light brown-sepia and red-brown. We can repeat this offer several times—do not imagine you must miss out.

2d ON 1d PROVISIONAL "ERROR"

298 Plate block No. 13. This very scarce plate number perfect mint with block of six stamps, £35. Or with block of four stamps £30
This Plate has been sold elsewhere for £40.

MODERN COMMEMORATIVE PLATES

- 289 1940 Centennials (all in blocks of 4).
 ½d Plates: 1T, 2T, each 9d. 1½d Plates: A1, A2, B1, C2 each 2/6d
 1d Plates: A1, A2, B1, B2, C2, D1, F2, G1, G2, G3, H1, H2, H3, H4, each 2/6d
 1d Plates: 1L I3, I4, I5, I6, J2, J3, each 3/6d
 2d Plates: A1, A2, A10, B1, B2, B3, C3, C4, D3, D4, E5, E6, F5, G6, G10, H6, H8, H9, 17, 18, 19, J7, K9, each 3/-
 3d Plates: A1, A2, B1, B2 each 5/-
 Other Plates: 2½d at 2/-; 4d at 5/-; 5d at 6/-; 6d at 7/-; 7d at 20/-; 8d at 10/-; 9d A1 at 25/-; 1/- (strip of 4) 45/-
- 290 1940 Centennial Officials (blocks of 4).
 ½d Plates: 1T, 1L, each 9d; 2T, 1/6d. 1½d Plates A1, 2/-; C1 3/6d
 1d Plates: A2, B1 B2, each 2/-; G4, H4, each 4/6d; 15 6/6d
 2d Plates: A1, A2, B1, B2, G9, G10, each 2/-; H10 4/6d
 3d Plates: A1, B1, B2, each 4/-
 Other Plates: 2½d at 2/6d; 6 at 11/-; 8d at 10/-; 9d at 7/-; 1/- (strip of 4) 15/-
- 291 Royal Visit. 3d Plates 45983 or 45984, each 2/6d; 4d, 45985 3/3d
- 292 Plunket. Plates 1 or 2 or Value block, each 2/-
- 293 Nelson. Plates 1 or 2 or Value block, each 2/-
- 294 Kingsford Smith Plate 1, 4/-; Plate 2 or Value block, each 3/6d
- 295 Hawkes Bay Plates (Blocks of 6). These can only be supplied at present in complete sets. Sets include 2d Plate 8; 3d Plate 7 with dot, 3d Plate 7 without dot; 8d Plate 6. The set 14/6d
- 296 Hawkes Bay Value Blocks (Blocks of 4). Again complete sets only. Included are 2d, 3d and 8d. The set of three 8/-
- 297 Ross Dependency (These are difficult to get).
 (a) Plate Block or Imprint block of the 1/6d value 14/-
 (b) The two shades of the 8d (these are really good!) in Plate Blocks of 4. One set only. The two Plates 25/-
 (c) Value block of the 3d at 2/6d; ditto of the 4d 3/-

Miniature Sheets. I have always presumed that Health Miniature sheets are printed from plates which carry more than one block of 6 impressions. This is borne out by the fact that among this year's 3d plus 1d Min. sheets there are three at least which are identifiable as different. In one, the sheet value "2/-" has the diagonal bar much shorter than usual and there is a small flaw on the boy's wrist in the centre bottom stamp. Another sheet is found with the "pence" dash of "2/-" short, (hardly more than a dot), while in the third this dash is much longer than in either of the other two types. All these variations are constant and prove that there are at least three "miniature sheets" on the printing cylinder. Specialists may care to see if they can spot still further constant differences in other sheets in either the stamps or the value inscriptions. The 2d plus 1d would also be printed from a cylinder carrying more than one block of six impressions.

Kingsford Smith—another problem. Mr. E. H. Moore of N.S.W. has solved our problem of identical flaws on different plates. He says that in Australia the usual thing is to lay down a master plate and from it "grow" any number of "electros." These are backed and surfaced and form the printing plates. All such "electros" faithfully repeat any peculiarities of the master plate. Simple isn't it?

But Mr. R. Robinson now throws a new spanner in the works by reporting that the small flaw under the wing on Row 2/4 is not constant on either plate. Now one must reason that since the flaw is found in identical form on both electros, it must be on the master plate and if it is on the master plate it must **show up always** on both "electros." But it doesn't! Sometimes it is there, sometimes it is not. The only suggestion I can make is that it may have been re-touched out on both "electros" after numerous sheets had been printed. If so, the human element would come in and it should be possible to find evidence of the retouching on each "electro." Being hand work, such evidence (if any) should be different on each "electro." Unfortunately I have no complete sheets on hand to study.

Postal History. I recently saw some old letters, all posted from Auckland or Wellington to New Plymouth in the early 1850's. Some were particularly interesting in that four covers bore impressions of the New Plymouth oval town mark (Illust. 10 Page 24 and notes on page 25, Handbook, Vol. 3). In all cases the oval was in black and had been used as a receiving mark. Details were as follows, in order of date.

1. Auckland, Sept. 8, 1851, received New Plymouth, Sept. 16, 1851.
2. Wellington, Nov. 15, 1851, received New Plymouth, Dec. 2, 1851.
3. Auckland, May 10, 1852, received New Plymouth, May 24, 1851.
4. Auckland, June 7, 1853, received New Plymouth, July, 18, 1851.

It will be noticed that the 1852 and 1853 Auckland marks are matched by 1851 New Plymouth marks. No doubt the year was not changeable though the day and month were—as in the early Kororareka oval. The impression on the June 1853 Auckland cover was so worn as to be almost unreadable. Incidentally the Auckland "Crowned Circle" appeared on this cover.

I have a very fine article on hand, awaiting space, from Mr. R. M. Startup, who needs no introduction to New Zealand Postal History specialists. I hope to fit it into the next Newsletter.

Fair Go! A special pictorial canceller will be used on the Main Trunk Railway on Feb. 15th to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Main Trunk Railway Travelling Post Office (R.T.P.O.). An announcement of this in the N.Z.P.O. Philatelic Bulletin and in the press, invites collectors to send addressed covers to the Chief Postmasters at Auckland and Wellington not later than the 12th Feb. Covers must be stamped at ordinary rates **plus the late-fee charge of 2d per cover.** It is good of the P.O. to offer this service but if they wish to make a charge for handling why not call it a handling charge? To call the heavy supercharge of 2d a "late-fee" when the covers will, in fact, be three days early, is hardly correct.

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