

Campbell Paterson's NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain it for reference purposes. Vol. 11, No. 3, Oct., 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.

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT by Campbell Paterson

NEW HEALTHS

The Designs. There can be no two opinions about it—the new Healths are a vast improvement on anything we have previously had in the series. They ought to prove very popular overseas as well as at home, with consequent benefit to the Camp funds. Such a result is much to be hoped for—it will spur the Federation on to efforts in future years. Up till now it has been hard to believe that anyone has had much interest in Health designs. The new stamps look really well on cover and should attract attention everywhere they go.

All this is high praise coming from one who thinks that photogravure is the lowest form of printing—but I hasten to correct any impression that I think the stamps are perfect; far from it.

The designs incorporate a hotch potch of different kinds of lettering and figures. We find black roman letters and black sans-serif; white sans-serif and white figures, the latter a mixture of stylised and roman. I can hardly be accused of liking cluttered-up designs but it does strike me that in the red stamp there is too much space below the bird—space that could have taken a few reeds or something similar to suggest the bird's habitat. The anaemic figures are definitely giving trouble to old people who cannot see as well as they might. They should be bolder. Another criticism which I consider fully justified on artistic grounds is that in the case of "POAKA" the bird faces "off" the envelope. Anyone who has had anything to do with placing portraits in a book or on walls knows that they must always face "inwards" not "outwards". A small point, but do we want our stamps perfect or don't we?

Finally, why the use of Maori names for birds which are seldom if ever called by anything other than their English names? The objection is not that the names used are Maori—in the cases of Kiwi, Kea, Kaka, Tui, Huia and others the use of anything but the Maori would be ridiculous—but the names given should be the names by which the birds are every where known.

I was invited, in company with friends Val MacFarlane and Harry Voyce to contribute a short round-table discussion for a national broadcast last Sunday (Sept. 20th). I there voiced my objection to the use of these virtually meaningless names. Taking up the point later in the broadcast, Dr. Falla of the Dominion Museum apparently disagreed with me though he did agree that these names are practically never used, even by Maoris. He put forward the viewpoint that since the Maori names are single words (as against the English double words) "the Maori is neater". He also "liked the quiz element" which results from the use of names not normally used. It is hard to believe that the learned Doctor was serious about this—carried to its logical conclusion we might argue that the quiz would be even more intriguing if we gave no names at all. This would be only slightly less informative than "Poaka" and "Tete". But what seemed to me to be the most telling argument against the use of Maori names in these cases was given (if I understood him right), by Dr. Falla himself. I gathered from what he said that both these birds are of Australian origin, having been rare here at one time but now seen in increasing numbers through migration. If this is so then perhaps "Poaka" should be whatever the Australian aboriginal equivalent may be. I am no talented writer with a fine vocabulary at call—if I were I could doubtless find adjectives to suit this case. As it is, I can think of no other words to describe the use of these Maori names than "plain silly". Equally ill advised is the failure to show the year of issue. A good point about this omission is made by a correspondent, Mrs. A. J. Lash. Mrs. Lash points out that in the Post Office "List of stamps valid for Postage and Revenue purposes" the list of Health stamps takes up half the foolscap page—obviously if the date appeared on each Health no such longwinded (and probably confusing) descriptions would be necessary.

Finally we come to this year's "official" covers. For cheap unattractiveness these take the cake. It is evident that the effort made to improve the stamps has completely exhausted the reserves of inspiration in those concerned and the covers have suffered accordingly. Perhaps someone who has examples of the really beautiful "Wesley" covers put out in Australia today could show some to the Federation Committee and so enlighten them as to what is possible.

Varieties. Mr. Graham Hendry was very quick off the mark and reports some flaws etc. on the big sheets. As always with photogravure they are numerous and mostly trivial but the following merit notice: 2d plus 1d Red, R5/6, retouch on the near wing. 3d plus 1d Blue, R1/4 a clear retouch to left of the top of "1d"; R5/4 a small retouch above the "k" of "POAKA"; R2/9 a really extensive background retouch to right of the legs; R3/10, a small retouch between leg and "A" of "POSTAGE".

Of the above, the Red R5/6 and the Blue R2/9 are both excellent varieties. Inverted Sideways Wmk. The normal is Wmk W8a, that is, Sideways, stars pointing right as seen from the back. A dozen or so sheets have been found in an Auckland suburb with "stars pointing left".

1959 MINIATURE SHEETS PLATED

Expecting that the miniature sheets would be printed from cylinders bearing 8 groups of 6 images (as were last year's), I set out on the first day to get as many different as possible, to see in fact if I could locate 8 each in both red and blue

(continued on back page)

1d DOMINION, SPECIALIST'S TREAT

It is not generally known that in the laying down of Plate 2 of the 1d Dominion the roller deteriorated progressively. Early impressions (from the left of the sheet) show none of this deterioration but further to the right are found vertical rows containing one, two three, four or five of the progressive roller flaws. Our lots each contain a fine enlarged photograph of the five flaws, plus blocks of stamps—all in the scarce "unsurfaced De La Rue" issue (our J3a)—showing one or more flaws. Supplies are limited so not every lot is as complete as another. Take your pick.

NOTE.—The flaws referred to are constant, progressive alterations in the impressions affecting whole groups of stamps and must not be confused with accidental freakish flaws such as the well-known "feather", "globe", "Q", etc. These latter do not figure in any of our lots.

- 155 (a) Two blocks of J3a, one has all stamps with flaws 1 and 2, while on the other all stamps show flaws 1 and 2 while two stamps show flaw 3. The 2 blocks, plus the photo 30/-
- (b) A set of 4 blocks. (a) all stamps show flaws 1 and 2. (b) all stamps show flaws 1 to 3. (c) all stamps show flaws 1 to 4. (d) all stamps show flaws 1 to 5. The splendid lot of 4 blocks plus the photo 95/-
- (c) Very similar to (b) but includes also a block showing flaw 1 only; also a block with 2 stamps of flaw 1 stage and two of flaw 2 stage. With four blocks as in Lot (b) above this makes a grand lot of 6 blocks, with photo 130/-
- (d) A really magnificent showing of 9 blocks, (a) to (i). (a) shows no flaws; (b) flaw 1 only; (c) a block of 6, two stamps flaw 1 only, four stamps flaws 1 and 2; (d) all stamps show flaws 1 to 3; (e) 2 stamps show flaws 1 to 3, 2 stamps show flaws 1 to 4; (f) 2 show flaws 1 to 4, a block with 2 stamps of flaw 1 stage and two of flaw 2 stage. With 4 flaws 3, 4 and 5 in a block of 6, all other stamps showing flaw 1 only. Finally, blocks (h) and (i), not in the "progressive" series but each showing abnormal flaw, "broken shield" on right. This unbeatable series of blocks plus photo £10

HERE AND THERE

- 156 **1893 Advertisement Stamps.** We have a number of "reconstructions" of the adverts—mounted and made up of 240 1d and 2d stamps to show the lay-out of the adverts as issued, in four panes—just as illustrated in our Catalogue. These are valuable property today and cheap at £12
- 157 **1891 Life Insurance.** A simplified mint set (perfs., wmk., etc., ignored) including all values, ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d and 1/-, in fine clean mint condition. The ½d, 1d, 2d and 3d are all very fine, well centred stamps, the 6d fine and clean, slightly off-centre to the right, the 1/- also off to the right and a minor crease. A very useful set to fill an awkward gap—for these are really scarce stamps mint. The set of six 80/-
- 158 **4d Meat Export—Inverted sideways wmk.**
We have a small lot available of this none-too-common modern variety. (Blocks prorata). Each 15/-
- 159 **Q.E. Complete finest used sets.**

- (a) The complete range (without Provisional 2d) of the Q.E. issue used including all obsolete "small figure" stamps and all high values inc. 2/6d and 10/-. These are specially picked stamps intended for fastidious collectors. Just the thing for your overseas correspondent. The set of 22. 16/6d, Two sets 30/-
- (b) Similar to the above but including the full range of Official stamps, finest used. The set of 29, 19/6d; two sets 36/-

INSPECTOSCOPES IN STOCK AGAIN !

After a lapse of some months we are again able to offer this very fine—and for specialists indispensable—magnifying glass. We now stock only the transformer model that runs from any power plug or socket, giving a clear bright light on the object to be studied. The clear plastic head permits of daylight use without power. The magnification is "10X" which we find to be the ideal for stamp work. As a customer wrote to us recently, "this instrument is a treat to work with." And so it is. It will send you back to your collection smartly when you realise how much you have not been seeing in the past! The price is down a little on the last shipment. The Inspectoscope 10X power model £5

THE RARE "PROVISIONAL" PLATE BLOCK

- 154 One only available, the very scarce Plate 13, in block of 6 of the sensational 2d on 1d Q.E. Error Provisional of 1958. The plate Block, perfect, in block of 6 £35

THE NEW MINIATURE SHEETS—AN OFFER AND A SUGGESTION

There will be no general distribution of "plated" miniature sheets under our "New Variety" service so collectors wanting any or all of those listed in this month's "Notes" should say so. On the other hand, where we definitely know (from his earlier interest in the 1958 sheets) that a customer is interested in such specialisation, he can be fairly sure we will automatically keep him supplied as stock permits. To be really on the safe side any collector who wants to complete a set should let us know and save possible disappointment. The sooner the better, for first come is first served. As long as supplies are generally available the cash price will be "double-face" for each identified sheet.

BUT—A CHANCE FOR YOU

We find we need supplies of some of the current miniature sheets. We therefore offer to exchange, on a "two sheets for three sheets" basis, any we have in quantity for any we need which readers can send us. We retain the right to cease this "swapping," in part or entirely, without prior notice, at any time. Please be sure you understand this offer. It is that we will exchange on a basis of two of our Red sheets for three of your Reds—or two of our Blues for three of your Blues. But if we cannot supply something that is wanted or we no longer need what you have to offer then you just get your own sheets back and no ill feelings. Right?

As of now we need the following: Red sheets: C. F. and H. Blue sheets: A, C. E. and H. (See this month's Notes.)

We can supply: Red sheets B, D, G and Blue sheets B, D, F and G.

Alternatively, collectors can, if they like, send along anything they have—we may find we need some later that we have in surplus now—please identify your sheets. The data is given you in this month's Notes, please use it. Each sheet can be lightly lettered in pencil at topright corner. If interested in "swapping" you must say what you want, giving quantities, otherwise we will be in the dark.

Postage 6d must be included with every swap deal.

A SUGGESTION

Why not start now on a sideline collection, "plating" the Health Miniature sheets each year? If a separate album is allocated to the job this sideline will in time become quite an exhibition in its own right. 1959, beginning the Birds series, would make a good starting point but it is not too late to start in on 1958 with its fascinating retouches. (Incidentally we are still interested in offers of 1958 Miniature sheets, particularly those with retouches, for which we pay high prices).

Anyhow, there's the suggestion—it should result in a lovely collection, not be too costly, combining eye appeal with a little not-too-exacting specialisation. As an investment we have no idea if it would give a good return or not and we suggest you forget that angle entirely.

You will need an album worthy of the job—make it one of the superb F.G. (all peg fitting) range: "Graduate", leaves not hinged, interleaved, £2/12/6d; "Burlington", hinged leaves and interleaved, £4/2/6d; "Warwick" (very superior this), £6/10/0; "Warwick Major" (125 leaves!), £9/12/0; "Popular", gilt edged, all refinements, £10; De Luxe (right out of this world), £17/17/0. Postage extra on all.

HINGES

Take warning! The hinge position is none too bright under present import restrictions. We have just received new supplies but have no idea when we will get more. All top quality only:

"F.G." (Godden's) medium, per 1000	2/6d
"Eveready", pre-folded, per 1000	2/3d
"Peerless", in the green tins, per 1000	3/-

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min. sheets. Helped somewhat by a new feature, that four sheets in each value (identifiable from others by various flaws, etc.) always have the left selvedge without horizontal perforations, I had surprising success and located 7 different of each sheet. This really completed the job for it follows that if there are 8 in all (as is presumed) and we have 7 identified, then the 8th is identified too, though unseen, as it will surely be found not to show the varieties seen on the other 7. Actually, the fact that each min-sheet carries three plate numbers ("I" in all cases) makes plating easy if one has the sheets for study, for the numbers vary a lot in appearance and shape; but to describe these numbers here is difficult. It is easier to describe small flaws, where such are found, and this I have done. I would appreciate sight of "H" in each case if anyone finds them (Later: I now have seen the red "H" sheet, thanks to Mrs. D. F. Young.)

I know that work such as "plating" is not everyone's pigeon but I do recommend it for any beginner who feels like trying his hand. It is very simple work, easy to take to finality, most of the material comes at face value from the P.O., (you get the missing links from us) and you can repeat the exercise each year. Don't ask me if it would be a good investment; could be, but might not return a penny profit—your guess is as good as mine. Anyhow that's not the point—you do it for fun or better leave it alone.

I suppose it is necessary to explain that the flaws mentioned for plating purposes have no value or real interest except as evidence. As evidence they are useful. As collectable varieties (except possibly Mrs. D. F. Young's "black eye" flaw on Red Sheet "E") they are of no interest.

1959 RED MINIATURE SHEETS PLATED

- 2 A. Imperf. left margin. Stamp 2. White spot near margin, a little lower than the beak and faint yellow spot to left of the "I" of "ID"; Stamp 5, a white spot to right of the lower half of "E" of "Postage". A streak, vaguely white runs through the top three stamps at the level of the tops of the value figures.
- 8 B. The black plate number is small and weak, the red is thick and stumpy. Stamp 2: a small dark dot to right of the duck's lower foot. Stamp 5: the top serif of the D of LAND is an isolated dot. Also there is a spot on the underside of the duck's tail.
- 4 C. Imperf. left margin: Stamp 4: a tiny red dot in the margin to right of the top "H" of "HEALTH". Stamp 2: a red smudge appears well to the right of the "G" of "POSTAGE". There are some small black scratch marks to right of the black plate number.
- 7 D. The black plate number is small and weak. Stamp 4: the "Z" has a weak top stroke. Stamp 5: a dark spot on the duck between wing and top of nearer leg.
- 5 E. Stamp 3: there is a faint yellow spot in the margin to left of the lower part of the "N" of "NEW". Also there is a red spot in the right margin opposite the 6th and 7th wing feathers. Stamp 4: a big, dark flaw occurs on the bird's head, giving a black eye effect (this reported by Mrs. D. F. Young).
- 1 F. Imperf. left margin Stamp 4: a red spot is seen in the background between "E" of "TETE" and "Id". The edge of this stamp is weak opposite the tip of the duck's bill. Stamp 5: there is a strong red dot between this stamp and stamp 2, above the right leg of the "N" of "NEW"; however this is often cut away by the perf. holes.
- 6 G. Stamp 2: A spot on the duck's body, almost dead centre. A whitish streak very faint crosses the top three stamps (strongest on stamp 3) at a level lower than the tops of the value figures but well above "TETE".
- 3 H. Imperf. left margin: a dark dot appears on Stamp 1 on the bird's body to left of the extreme top of the near leg. A similar spot is seen on Stamp 3 in the centre of the innermost feathers of the big wing, that is, close in to the body of the bird.

1959 BLUE MINIATURE SHEETS PLATED

- 8 A. The red plate number is obviously retouched. There are two distinct down strokes, that on the right being the thicker. Stamp 4: There is a break at the top of the left leg of the "A" of "ZEAL".
- 5 B. The red plate number is again of two vertical lines, spindly and curved, with clear white space between. The left line is somewhat the thicker. The black plate number has a long, sharp-pointed top serif. Stamp 5: a dark spot on the lower shank of the bird's nearer leg. Stamp 6: a tiny black dot is usually seen above and to the right of the N.E. corner. Similarly a tiny black mark usually appears on Stamp 2, on the left edge, 1mm below the "N" of "NEW".
- 4 C. Imperf. left margin. Black marks are seen to the right of the "M" in "Miniature". Stamp 4: a small blue mark in the margin above the "A" of "LAND". The black plate number is crudely printed.
- 3 D. Imperf. left margin. A blue dot generally appears in the top margin above Stamp 2, below the left leg of "M" in "MIN". On most sheets a red dot appears at the right edge of stamp 1, between D of LAND and the beak and two small red spots appear on the bird's head, left of the eye. The blue plate number shows a series white dots down its length.
- 6 E. Stamp 1, a blue dot in the top margin, above the "W" of "NEW".
- 2 F. Imperf. left margin, Stamp 6: Two tiny dark spots below bird's head, on neck. Black plate number has long pointed top serif. The red plate number is in two lines, the right much the thicker towards the bottom.
- 7 G. Stamp 2. A good clear blue dot in the margin to the right of the bottom of the "d" of "Id".
- 1 H. Not yet seen. Can be presumed to have features differing from all the above and to have imperf. left margin though this is not certain.

rd Universal, Double perf. Roy Heath of London has shown me a part sheet of the Basted Mills perf 11 x 14 with a whole extra strike of the perf 11 running at an angle down the sheet. This looks like a true accidental double perf, not a deliberate re-perfing to correct poor alignment. Anyhow it has not been recorded before.