

# Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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## NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT - by Warwick Paterson

The Newsletter, as it has been for twenty years, is devoted to one country specialisation, so for its readers, and those who would use its contents as a guide, one specialist decision has already been made. Here now is the first of a series of articles, which will appear as time permits, on individual issues, and an assessment of their appeal to collectors.

### FULL FACE QUEENS

Someone was once moved to call the 6d in this set the "Rembrandt of Philately" a description which stands up not badly in the face of heavy competition. From the "general attraction and appeal" point of view Full Faces always score well; they command attention at exhibitions particularly if some of the rarer shades and papers are represented and written up. This glamour aspect and the "age appeal" which goes with it is a strong factor in starting people off. High catalogue prices have an understandable tendency to frighten collectors away, yet it is not generally realised that it is still quite possible to assemble a collection of Full Faces, representing the vast majority of papers, printings, perforations and shades for a fraction only of catalogue price. Defects, like thinned areas on the back, or a minor tear, can reduce the price of an item to between 1/10 and 1/5 of its full catalogue price and yet such stamps can still give a very lovely showing. A perfectionist would not wish to make up a collection of "not-so-fines" as these are sometimes called, and to take full advantage of the rapid price increases from year to year it is quite true that only the finest copies should be included. However it seems a pity that handsome examples of great rarities like the 1d or 1/- pelures should be left out of consideration merely because the perfectionists do not want them. The point I am making is that there is pleasure galore in the set at a low cost. For an issue of such vintage (1855-1873) supply and availability are really remarkably good. It seems true to say that demand calls forth the supply if the stamps are in existence at all, and short acquaintance with the London Auctions shows that most of the rarities come up in one grade of condition or another; sooner or later.

The openness of the market and its world-wide nature is certainly a point in favour of the Full Faces - those who decide to sell have ample outlets for their stamps and should not need to have them too long on their hands. Other sources for buyers are through private treaty, club circuit books and trade lists. The trade material is probably as safe as any for the tyro - he will

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want to be assured that the material he buys is not faked or repaired and perhaps, as crucial, that it is fairly priced in terms of its condition and of the market. The choice of dealers - particularly those who are prepared to give a guarantee of genuineness and price material on reliable principles is one which should be made carefully, and early in the piece. Fakes and repairs are often seen and although experience and perception soon begins to grow in the collectors mind, it is as well to be reliably advised from the outset.

The Full Faces, then, as a group, offer a surprising amount to the would-be specialist. The wide range of varieties can make the assembling of a good representative lot a long term and fascinating study, there is still room to new research and original discovery and the group is possibly one of the best documented of all classic issues. Modern work is still being carried out and as time goes on far more information is currently in preparation by at least one major student of the issue and will become available over the next few years - such may well precipitate a new flood of interest in the issue. However when you get to the core of it, it is the stamps that count to the collector and the Full Faces have all the charm and beauty you could wish. Here are a few notes on some of the individual varieties in the series written from the collectors point of view.

#### LONDON PRINTS 1d, 2d and 1/- (1855)

In a class of their own really - particularly the 1d and 1/- - and perhaps less affected in price by factors of condition, for this reason - these are the glamour issue par excellence of all N.Z. stamps and as such have to be specially treated! The 1d, with a 1969/70 catalogue value of \$1200 used can still be found with good colour, postmark and appearance - minus a margin perhaps or thinned - for under \$300. The 1/- shows similar reductions in price in similar circumstances (1969/70 cat \$ ) Important factors to look for in the Londons are full deep colour (the "dried blood" appearance in the 1d) and in the 2d and 1/- the "Ivory Head" shown as a blue outline when the stamp is seen from the back. Produced by a chemical reaction between ink and paper this bluing shows also on the margins of the printed stamp. Naturally fading and bleaching can seriously affect these features and fine copies are worth waiting for. Pairs are excessively rare in all values. Supply of the 1d and 1/- could be realistically described as a trickle, but once secured, the 1d and 1/- London must be the best and most saleable stamps in the N.Z. field.

#### RICHARDSON PRINTINGS ON BLUE PAPER (1855)

##### 1d, 2d and 1/-

Of the three values the 1/- is the most seldom seen followed by the 1d and 2d in that order. The 2d is a relatively common stamp and a fine 4 margined copy should be fairly readily found. The 1d is scarcer than the catalogue prices would suggest and really good copies are rare. Variety to look out for in all values (especially the 1/- of which one or two only can ever have been seen) is the "papermaker's watermark". This issue has perhaps traditionally been overshadowed by the Londons as the "colonial cousin". They do, however contain very great rarities, and the 1/- bisected and used on cover is definitely a "glamour" item. The price paid for this issue should take all factors of condition fully into account - depth of colour, margins, marking etc.

--To be continued :

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LAW SOCIETY ISSUE, those multifarious plate blocks Several readers have chastised me for omitting a check-list of the plate numbers in this issue while they were still on general post office sale. Actually the omission results from the fact that all the numbers available in at least one value (18c) were not known, it appeared, anywhere in the country - and what is more it seemed virtually impossible to find out what numbers were available or were not available - as the case may be!! The rather unusual situation arose where certain numbers (in the 18c, Law Society 1111, 1121, 1a1a2a1a, 2221 2a2a2a1a) appeared to be on general distribution all over the country, certain others (1221, 1a2a2a1a) were the subject of rumours which flashed up and down the country and I doubted at one stage whether they existed at all. That they do exist is not now in doubt but as to quantities and distribution not enough information is available even to surmise. Latest rumour in Auckland as I write concerns the existence of an eighth plate 1a1a1a1a - logical enough when you come to think of it, (all the other

Opportunities to fill some "unused" gaps.

1d RED

138	(a)	<u>S.G.35</u> Davies star Watermark imperf. Carmine Vermilion Lovely, slight cut into one side (Cat \$40) ...	\$10.00
	(b)	<u>S.G.35</u> Ditto - cut 2 sides ... but wondrous appearance	\$5.00
	(c)	<u>S.G.97</u> Ditto with NZ Watermark - cut into - fine looking, clean etc (Cat \$85) ...	\$12.50
	(d)	<u>S.G.110</u> Ditto (a) perf 12½ - fine pair ...	\$30.00
	(e)	<u>Reprinted</u> copy Pale Dull Orange - cut into but lovely	\$1.25

1d BROWN

139	(a)	<u>S.G.131</u> Star wmk p.12½ Deep Brown fine ...	\$4.00
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2d BLUE

140	(a)	<u>S.G.107</u> NZ wmk perf. 12½ Pale Blue - nice (Cat.\$12)	\$10.50
	(b)	<u>S.G. 115</u> Ditto Star wmk plate 2 - pair - shows heavy retouching ...	\$35.00
	(c)	<u>Reprinted</u> copy margin close at top but superb (Cat \$15) ...	\$10.00

2d ORANGE

141	(a)	<u>S.G.133</u> p.12½ Star wmk Orange. Lovely pair, major retouch, creased but well centred and fine (Cat.\$32)	\$15.00
	(b)	<u>S.G.133</u> Ditto single orange-vermilion fine ...	\$6.00

6d RED BROWN

142	(a)	<u>S.G.108</u> N.Z. wmk p.12½ Deep Red Brown - minor corner crease (Cat \$20) ...	\$10.00
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6d BLUE

143	(a)	<u>S.G.136</u> p.12½ star wmk. Pale Blue fine ...	\$7.50
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1/- GREEN

144	(a)	<u>S.G.46</u> star wmk imperf. Minus bottom margin, but appearance idyllic (Cat \$90) ...	\$15.00
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KING EDWARD VII

A Listing of Edwards always precipitates a rush - make sure you're leading it this time.

1/2d GREEN (surface)

74	(a)	<u>H1a</u> - Mint block of four Green ...	0.50
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Used set of three fine - Yellow Green, Green and Deep Green ...	0.10

2d MAUVE (Recess)

75	(a)	<u>H2a</u> - Mint. Rosy Mauve block of four ...	\$4.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> used. Set of three, Mauve, Deep Mauve, Rosy Mauve ...	\$1.50

3d CHESTNUT (Recess)

76	(a)	<u>H3a</u> p.14 x 14 1/2 Deep Chestnut. Block of four, Mint	\$3.25
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> - Used - Chestnut ...	0.10
77	(a)	<u>H3b</u> p.14 line - Mint - Scarce ! ...	\$2.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Used each ...	0.35
78	(a)	<u>H3c</u> p.14 x 13½ - Mint copy - V.scarce ...	\$3.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> - Super Mint block ...	\$12.00
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> Used nice copy (dated) of thus difficult item	\$3.25

single number combinations have an "a" mate and are quite clearly printed "in tandem"). Naturally any information readers can give to help clear up the remaining mysteries would be most welcome! After all this one can only wish that the Post Office would take some measures to standardise their procedures for publicising the lists of plate numbers available - moreover with each issue with its series of plate blocks I find it difficult to justify the Post Offices refusal to sell smaller blocks (say of 6) than the minimum size (10) they insist upon now. I think we need more information and a less institutional approach to the collector and his requirements - Governments have a monopoly on stamp issuing and it behoves them to exercise it with careful judgment. - In the case of the Law Society Issue I would suggest that the three "Bureau" Offices equipped to handle this type of demand have a supply of each plate available - the Post Office is hardly likely to lose out on the deal!!! Other Law Society plate blocks available are 3c. 1111, 1a1a1a1a, 2222, 2223, 2233. 10c: 1111, 1a1a1a1a.

The Export Trio: Fruit Industry, 18c Wool, 20c Meat.

The 8c and 20c are appearing on no watermark paper of several grades. The 18c is on NZ and Star watermarked paper with vertical mesh - also of two noticeable grades of thickness and tone. One wonders whether Bradbury's, who printed them by offset-litho, are merely using up old stock, or are in fact phasing in watermarked paper for future issues - will be worth watching. Plate numbers available in Auckland so far are 8c, 18c and 20c all 1111, 1a1a1a1a.

8c Flag - Current series. Miss P. Guymmer sent me an apparent "offset" she has coming from the top row of this stamp. The print on the front was obviously rough (particularly below a not-quite-horizontal line running across the middle of the flag) where it looked "grainy" and smudged. The top margin was rough and irregular. Turning the stamp over the area above the line on the back gave a distinct "offset" effect in that the blue of the design showed through. Closer examination showed that the "offset" was in fact more of an aniline effect in that the blue ink above the line had soaked through the paper to the back. What I think happened is that the machine was halted for cleaning - fluid or cleaner was applied and the machine later re-started. The horizontal line would show where the doctor blade rested on the cylinder and the "aniline" effect could be caused by residual cleaning fluid mixing with the ink and impregnating the paper.

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1969 Healths: 2½c 1c, 3c 1c Cricket 4c 1c Dr. Elizabeth Gunn. Plate numbers in 2 values 1111, 1a1a1a1a and 4c 11 1a1a. Resisting an impulse to utter stronger words about this set I shall confine myself to saying that if the Post Office wishes to reverse the declining trend of revenue and interest in this series the mere addition of an extra high value is unlikely to achieve much. In every possible way they seem to mark the nadir in the history of the series.

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A FEW ODDMENTS:

Law Society 10c - Most noticeable flaw is in the third vertical column of stamps in both plates (a multipositive flaw) appearing as a prominent, short vertical red line out of the owls left ear. (Red plate).

2½c Kowhai R16/2 plate 2A1A1A1A. Dr. R.A. MacDiarmid reports a noticeable white spot between the two top strokes of the E of Zealand.

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POST OFFICE RELEASES STATISTICS

A tale of unqualified success is reported by the N.Z.P.O. Sales through the three offices of the Philatelic Bureau in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch are "currently averaging \$33,200 per month". Costs of establishing the branches was \$38,000 and monthly operating expenses total \$7,000. Overseas were up 55% in the first three months of the year.

Demonetisation of the £.S.D. issues has now been delayed until 31st July 1971 from the originally stated date 31st July, 1969. I think in view of my earlier comments (March N.L.) this action on the part of the P.O. could be described as "realistic".

A listing of earlies to make the eyes boggle.

## 1ST TYPE 1899

* 124	(a)	<u>Y1a ½d NZ and D Large</u> - Mint - supreme block of four	\$1.20
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Single	25¢
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> Good used	50¢
* 125	(a)	<u>Y2a 8d NZ and D Large</u> - Mint - wonderful block of four	\$14.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> - Single	\$3.00
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> Good dated used	\$5.00
	(d)	<u>Ditto</u> - good used	\$4.50
* 126	(a)	<u>Y3a 1/- NZ Large</u> Mint. Divine block of four	\$12.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Good dated used	\$2.50
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> Used	\$4.25
* 127	(a)	<u>Y4a 2/- NZ Large</u> Mint - perfect block of four	\$16.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Single	\$4.00
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> excellent dated used	\$6.25
	(d)	<u>Ditto</u> Fine used	\$7.00
* 128	(a)	<u>Y5a 5d NZ Large D Small</u> Mint Sublime block of four.	\$8.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Dated used - attractive	\$1.75
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> good used	\$1.25
* 129	(a)	<u>Y6a, 6d NZ Large D Small</u> mint - transcendent block of four	\$8.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Used (date)	75¢
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> Good used	\$1.25
* 130	(a)	<u>Y7a 10d NZ Large D Small</u> Mint block of four	\$16.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Single	\$4.00
* 131	(a)	<u>Y8a ½d NZ Small D Large</u> - mint - super block of four	\$0.20
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Single	\$0.05
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> Two superb blocks of six combining top left selvedge corner of the left and right hand panes of the "value" plate. Right hand pane shows the scarce "no stop after D"	\$7.50
	(d)	Corner Selvedge block of six	\$0.50
	(e)	Block of four shows Right Hand pane value plate foot of 2 deformed at right	\$1.50
	(f)	<u>Ditto</u> Good dated used	\$0.35
	(g)	<u>Ditto</u> Fine used	\$0.30
	(h)	<u>Ditto</u> Dated used block of four	\$1.50
	(i)	<u>Ditto</u> Fine used copy "no stop"	\$5.00
* 132	(a)	<u>Y9a 1d NZ Small D Large</u> mint fine block of four	\$2.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Fine used	\$0.05
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> Superb strip of five - dated	\$0.75
* 133	(a)	<u>Y10a 2d NZ Small D Large</u> - mint - incredible block of four	\$2.50
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> dated used	\$0.10
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> Good used	\$0.09
* 134	(a)	<u>Y11a 3d NZ Small D Large</u> Excruciating block of four	\$2.80
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Single	\$0.70
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> Dated used	\$0.20
	(d)	<u>Ditto</u> Used	\$0.17
* 135	(a)	<u>Y12a 1d Small NZ and D</u> - delightful block of four	\$2.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> fair - dated used	\$0.03
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> - used	\$0.05
* 136	(a)	<u>Y13a 2d Small NZ and D</u> mint - super block of four	\$3.20
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Nice dated used	\$0.20
* 137	(a)	<u>Y14a 4d NZ and D Small</u> Mint, Luverly block of four	\$8.00
	(b)	<u>Ditto</u> Good dated used	\$0.75
	(c)	<u>Ditto</u> Used	\$0.85

\* a statistical error

Mr. Alan Jackson of Dunedin has informed me of advice he has received from the G.P.O. Records Section that of the 1967 Healths the numbers of miniature sheets sold were 2½c 1c - 105, 199, 3c 1c - 151,580 (not stamps as previously published in the Philatelic Bulletin).

4d RED ORANGE

79	(a) <u>H4a p.14 x 14½</u> Two wonderful shades in mint blocks of four - the pair	...	...	\$6.50
	(b) Ditto Single Mint	...	...	0.80
	(c) <u>Ditto</u> Used (good)	...	...	0.75
80	(a) <u>H4b p.14 (line)</u> Two more magnificent shades in blocks of four	...	...	\$6.50
	(b) Ditto Mint single	...	...	0.80
	(c) <u>Ditto</u> Good used	...	...	0.85

4d YELLOW

81	(a) <u>H4c</u> Divine Mint block of four	...	...	\$2.75
	(b) <u>Ditto</u> used each fine	...	...	0.50

5d BROWN

82	(a) <u>H5a p.14 (line)</u> Deep Brown and Deep Red Brown in absolutely <u>gorgeous</u> blocks of four mint	...	...	\$8.00
	(b) Ditto Singles - <u>Gorgeous</u> again	...	...	\$2.00
	(c) <u>Ditto</u> - Used two shades	...	...	\$1.20
83	(a) <u>H5b p.14 x 14½</u> Three shades in inexpressably glorious blocks of four - includes quite the reddist Deep Red Brown and quite the Brownest Deep Brown we've ever seen and <u>something in between</u>	...	...	\$9.50
	(b) <u>Ditto</u> - Used. Two lovely shades Deep and Deep Red Brown - Fine	...	...	0.30
84	(a) <u>H5a p.14 x 13½</u> Deep Red Brown - single. Finest	...	...	0.75
	(b) <u>Ditto</u> - used - Two good shades Deep and Deep Red Brown	...	...	0.25
85	(a) <u>H5d Two Perf. Pair</u> - Mint - Lovely pair	...	...	\$3.00
	(b) <u>Ditto</u> - Used - very nice	...	...	\$3.25

6d CARMINE

86	(a) <u>H6a p.14 line</u> - Mint - Carmine and Deep Carmine pair	...	...	\$4.00
	(b) <u>Ditto</u> Used - Two fine shades	...	...	\$1.60
87	(a) <u>H6b p.14 x 14½</u> Mint - Carmine and Deep Carmine	...	...	\$4.00
	(b) Ditto Used - Ditto shades	...	...	0.15
88	(a) <u>H6c p.14 x 13½</u> Mint - Deep Carmine	...	...	\$3.50
	(b) <u>Ditto</u> Used. Fine singles	...	...	\$3.00

8d INDIGO BLUE

89	(a) <u>H7b p.14 x 14½</u> Indigo Blue and Deep Bright Blue in two surpassing blocks of four mint	...	...	\$8.00
	(b) Ditto Two mint singles	...	...	\$1.95
	(c) <u>Ditto</u> - used - the two shades	...	...	0.25
90	(a) <u>H7c p.14 x 13½</u> - Mint - The two fine contrasts as above	...	...	\$2.25
	(b) <u>Ditto</u> Used two shades	...	...	0.45
91	(a) <u>H7d Vertical Two Perf Pair</u> - Mint - Indigo Blue	...	...	\$2.50
92	(a) <u>H7e Pictorial Paper</u> Lovely block of four	...	...	\$2.60
	(b) <u>Ditto</u> Single	...	...	0.65
	(c) <u>Ditto</u> Used	...	...	0.50

1/- VERMILION

93	(a) <u>H8a p.14 (Line)</u> Mint good	...	...	\$3.00
	(b) <u>Ditto</u> Used - good too	...	...	0.75
94	(a) <u>H8b p.14 x 14½</u> Mint fine	...	...	\$3.00
	(b) <u>Ditto</u> Used. The two fine shades ORANGE Vermilion and Vermilion	...	...	\$1.25

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