

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

Vol 24 No. 10 May 1973 issued monthly, subscription \$1.75; registered at
G.P.O. Wellington as a magazine. Published by Campbell Paterson Ltd., Auckland
ASSOCIATES VERNE COLLINS AND CO. LTD.

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 \$5 please.
All orders from this newsletter should be sent to Box 5555, Auckland.
Our telegraphic address is BOXFIVES, Auckland.

NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT By Warwick Paterson

CONDITION IN STAMPS - HOW RIGID CAN YOU BE ?

From our earliest collecting days most of us realize that condition is as important a factor in collecting as any. The rarity of an item to the young collector is likely to be of relatively little significance but a stamp is more treasured when its appearance is good. It is a natural and entirely laudable urge to improve all the time, replacing inferior copies with better and simply rejecting examples on the grounds of condition. The collection which has been "developed" in this way is always quickly recognizable to a dealer. There is an evenness about it and something which establishes confidence in the valuer. Needless to say such collections almost invariably fetch top prices for the material they contain. Investment may have been far from the collectors mind but he may do better in the long run than the speculator stockpiling sheets and amassing job lots without affection for the hobby. Collecting the stamps you like, the way you like them simply because you like them seems a reliable formula.

Sensibly applied I am quite sure that a discerning attitude to condition is a Good Thing. Like a lot of Things however, a keenness for condition can become an obsession and very definitely a Bad Thing. At this stage some of the enjoyment goes out of collecting. Most dealers are familiar with the collector who if not impossible to satisfy is very nearly so and I suspect he drives a hard bargain in the exchange circle as well.

Most of our attitudes to condition are really a matter of what is generally accepted. This is logical as sooner or later most collectors become either buyers or sellers and some general rules of assessment have to be applied in arriving at a price.

The terms are well enough known - Fine, No-so-Fine, Fine used, Mint, and so forth. There are, however, areas in which attitudes may clash: some examples - and my attitudes - "USED, COMMERCIALY USED" Well, by definition a used stamp has gone through the post and suffered the indignities of such an experience. To place too high a standard on used stamps is, I think, a mistake. A fair distinction can be made here, depending on the age of the stamp and the period in which it

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

P.O. Box 5555, Auckland 1
Room 404 Fourth Floor
Canterbury Building
Queen Street
Telephone: 379-118 Auckland

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

P.O. Box 17
WOKING
SURREY
ENGLAND

was used. For example to apply the same standard to a 5/- First Side-face as to the latest high value definitive is just "not on". Firstly in 1878 the objective of the man wielding the "killer" or obliterator was to render the stamp unusable - i.e. to damage it beyond repair. Small wonder so few got through in recognizable condition. The point is that a "fine used" 5/- of 1878 may justifiably have a heavy black marking partly for the above reason and partly because this can be useful proof that the stamp is genuinely postally used and is not a fiscal. The supply demands that of such early stamps most collectors will have to make do with a heavily used copy and I see no harm in this.

MINT WITH ORIGINAL GUM A thorny one! Usage or fashion or perhaps a little expediency has long freed the Full Face Queens from the necessity to have gum when unused. Not that it is not desirable that they should, but most specialists will accept an unused Full Face Queen without gum at full price. This is a step in the right direction if for only one reason. Rust or foxing is a fungoid condition known to most people as the yellow-brown spots in old books or documents. It attacks all stamps and renders them valueless. In the case of used it can be removed. In the case of mint o.g. removal of rust removes the gum also and in most issues this destroys value. It seems unreasonable to me that so many of the rare early unused stamps, say in the First and Second Sidefaces should be rendered unacceptable to collectors by a few spots of rust which can be both removed and neutralised. The time will come, I am sure, when the removal of gum from such early stamps may be regarded as acceptable, where the stamp is threatened by rust which feeds on that gum and in turn threatens other stamps in the same collection. Rust is extremely contagious!

MINT UNHINGED This seems to me to be yet another "fad" if I may use the expression. It is not hard to visualise some point of time in the not too far distant future where every single mint stamp prior to 1900 will have been mounted with a hinge at some time or another. Will collecting of such issues fall off drastically? I think not. Once again collectors will cut their coats according to the cloth available and accept that a hinge, if not too abominable, is one of the least unpleasant things that can happen to an early stamp.

So it's a thin line between consistency of condition in collecting on the one hand and a degree of realism on the other. The age of the issue, the severity of the threat to the stamp and the availability of a better copy seem to be the main factors and after all, in the long run it's only a hobby!

THE NEW "SIX COMMEMORATIVES" by Campbell Paterson.

A short survey of the designs may not go amiss. I do not expect all or even many to agree with me but I hope that useful criticism in Societies and Clubs may be stimulated.

The Set as a whole The grouping of five or six Commemoratives undoubtedly saves a lot of Post Office staff work. However it also results in the anniversaries being something of a hotch-potch. Some are merely trivial occasions and other receive less attention than they warrant. I imagine that a policy of ignoring trivial occasions while giving more important ones attention (as in the Vintage Cars set of six) would be a popular move.

3c "THAMES" Rather effective but the colour uninspiring. The importance of the issue, clear enough to New Zealanders who know the history of "The Thames", will be lost on outsiders. On this evidence Thames looks like a good background for a John Wayne epic.

4c Westport. A clear demonstration of the unwisdom of trying to get a quart into a pint pot. Not an exciting stamp and as usual the Post Office has chosen one of the less attractive designs for the value most widely used. Why?

APRIL MINI-COLLECTIONS.

A chance for the "lazy" to secure near-complete coverages of these issues, 1/4d Green Mt. Cook, 1d Universal, George V, Edward VII

- 160 (a) 1d UNIVERSAL MINT. Mounted on three pages - a delightful study made up by a dedicated perfectionist. NOT a great deal missing here really, London print, "Piries" perfs 11, 14 and mixed 14 and 11, Basted Mills perfs 11, 14, 11x14, 14x11 and mixed, Cowan unwatermarked perf 14 two shades, 14x11 and mixed, Early local plates perf 14, 14x11 and mixed, Reserve plate perf 14 Booklet Plate perf 14, Dot Plates perf 14, 11x14, mixed, Waterlow plates perf 14, Royle plates perf 14, 14x11, 11x14, 14x14½, and Surface printed perf 14x15. Twenty-seven outstanding copies - a delight and perhaps never-to-be-repeated. - \$165.00
- (b) Experimental slot machine stamps on one page. A complete lot Gs1a (Dot) Gs2a (Dot), Gs3a, Gs4b, Gs5a, all mint - all lovely - \$100.00
- (c) G5b 1d Universal, "Early local plates" perf 11 One of the great rarities of New Zealand Philately - our copy is used and absolutely, unconditionally, eternally guaranteed (We're confident) if you need it, it's here waiting for you. BUT HURRY, we know of several people who will grab this one. - \$200.00
(New Catalogue price)
- (d) G10b Royle Plates 1d Universal rarity again, a magnificent mint copy of the rare perf 11. We can say with certainty that the price will never be lower. Pass up the chance and watch someone else make a real investment. - \$60.00
- 161 (a) 1/4d GREEN MT COOK Mounted on one page. A really extraordinary coverage of this issue - MINT - COMPLETE! Waterlow paper perf 11 two shades, Pale Yellow Green and Deep Green, perf 14, 14x11, 11x14 and mixed. Basted Mills perf 11, 14, 14x11, 11x14, mixed, Cowan unwatermarked perf 11, 14, 11x14, 14x11, mixed. New Plates perf 14, 14x13½, 14x15. Twenty-three stamps make this a complete coverage of all papers and perforations. - \$120.00
- 162 (a) GEORGE V Mounted on two pages. Complete coverage of the perf 14x13½ and 14x14½ issues. Twenty-nine stamps MINT - \$23.00
- (b) Ditto Fabulous coverage of the two-perf pairs COMPLETE. All values are here. Fourteen fine pairs - \$67.50
- 163 (a) EDWARD VII Set of Edwards mint in superb condition mounted on two pages. Perfs 14x14½ and 14x13½ are there and line perf 14 are complete except for the doubted H7a 8d upright watermark line perf 14. 6d Carmine two-perf pair is the only other item missing from this lovely lot - 19 stamps, 3 two-perf pairs. - \$70.00

5c Canterbury University. Very effective and attractive I think. No gimmicks here, thanks be, and only a cynic would suggest that the "quiet cloisters" shown are hardly typical of the universities today.

6c "Birds and Forest" The best of the set. The scene is a beautiful one, typical to me of the calm, but vivid evening light that we get in New Zealand.

8c Rowers. A justifiable subject, paying tribute to a band of true amateurs who earned their laurels at the Olympiad. The attempt to incorporate the black of New Zealand's sports rig and the gold of the medals has produced an unnecessarily sombre stamp. Also, the use of puppet-like figures is a foible of modern art that is ill-placed in this context.

10c ECAFE Puppet-like figures again and again a stamp heavy with symbolism. How one wishes that our various stamp artists would realize that modern art has its place but that that place is very seldom on a postage stamp.

PIGEON POST - AN INCREDIBLE OFFER

From years of observation we have ascertained that there are three types of collector. One gets the material he wants and builds a fine collection, the second is always seconds too late and makes do with a mediocre collection, the third - well, never mind. Most Newsletter readers are in category one - if you're not this could be your chance to graduate!

- 163(a) Three Certificates of historical interest presented to S. Holden HOWIE pioneer of "The Service" and the use of prepayment therefor by postage stamps. The certificates are for prizes won by Mr. Howie with his birds in races in 1896 and 1898. One from the Auckland Homing Society includes the central motif for the triangular stamps of 1899 - obviously the inspiration for the design and of extreme significance to collectors of proofs essays etc. - \$30.00
- (b) Photograph of Mr. Werner, pigeon post pioneer on Great Barrier Island. - \$1.00
- (c) Memorandum believed to be of Mr. Howie giving pedigree details of several of his birds - two memo sheets. - \$5.00
- (d) VP7. Complete reconstruction of the sheet including one block of six - all stamps mint. The scarce 6d "Triangular" a printed sheet gives details of the identifying features of each copy. 20 stamps RARE! - \$200.00
- (e) VP7 Ditto block of six stamps - \$60.00
- (f) VP1. 1/- Original design used very fine copy - \$45.00
- (g) VP2 1/- "special post" mint - \$18.00
- (h) VP6 1/- Marotiri Island Red (mint) a block of four (rare!) including The double print - \$140.00
- (i) VP6 Ditto a single (doubled) - \$35.00
- (j) VP7, VP8 6d and 1/- triangulars - each fine used on piece (flimsey) The pair - \$35.00

GEORGE V. A SUPERB LOT

A large lot this comprising mainly mint stamps in singles and multiples: varieties abound and over the next few months we shall work through them in order; Recess engraved, surface printed and officials. Watch this space for items, including some of the great rarities.

RECESS ENGRAVED.

- 152(a) PROOFS Page of proofs on Cowan unsurfaced paper imperforate watermarked N.Z. and Star. 4d (with "cancelled" overprint) 5d, and two copies, one inverted watermark of each of 6d, 8d and 1/-. Superb variety material in the proofs field. - \$32.00
- (b) Another page of proofs in black, this time paper unwatermarked, complete coverage of all values and extra 6d in "Blue-black" 13 proofs - \$52.00
- (c) Colour trials overprinted-imperforate "COLOUR PRINT". A beautiful page of singles ½d (surface print) in Green and Deep Green, Recess Printed 1½ Slate, Deep Slate-Black, 2d Aniline Purple, Deep Grey Violet, 3d Chocolate, Deep Chocolate, 4d Ochre and Reddish Orange, 4½d Bronze Green, Myrtle Green, 7½d Reddish-Chocolate, Red Brown, 9d Olive Green. Fifteen perfect examples. - \$95.00
- (d) Ditto 4d Reddish Orange "colour print" overprint in block of four - superb - \$35.00
- 153(a) K15a Cowan chalky paper Block of four completely imperforate - superb again - \$40.00
- (b) Single of Field Marshal 1d unwatermarked, imperforate in black - \$5.00
- 154(a) K1a. 1½d Grey, perf 14 x 13½. Super mint, two shades in blocks of four, block of four from bottom right selvedge and two fine shade singles - lovely display - \$3.00
- (b) K1b Ditto, perf 14 x 14½ Another page, two shades in blocks of four (one, bottom selvedge) and two shade pairs. - \$2.00
- (c) K1c "Two-perf pairs" in block of four AN EXTRAORDINARY ITEM. The block shows marked doubling of the whole design over the lower part of the top two stamps and the upper part of the lower two stamps. Probably caused by a dragged impression. Rare - \$15.00