

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT By Warwick Paterson

A LEADING COLLECTION CRITICISED.

From a talk given to the Auckland Philatelic Society.

I think we could all profitably take a long hard look at our collections, and decide what we want to get out of them. Whether competing, exhibiting or just enjoying them a critical assessment of the mounting and presentation can provide quite a break-through if only because it will show us what we have or haven't got and where we can go next, in the course of collecting. A well known member of this club suggested to me that I criticise his collection. I might say, his collection is pretty well known too and although it seemed presumptuous to do it, I went ahead and drew up a list of good and bad points, as they appeared to me.

One factor emerged within minutes; that it is impossible to evaluate a collection fully from a critical point of view without giving account of its good points as well as the bad. This may sound obscure, but it seems to me that any feature of a collection which highlights the stamps, and by definition is not too obvious itself is a good feature. The more good features you have in a collection the better, but they should always in the most subtle way emphasise what you have to display. Hence good points invariably take a little more looking for than bad points which are usually all too obvious. In short, the stamps are the thing and should be enhanced by the presentation. This may seem a little glimpse of the obvious, but when you have seen good stamps over-powered by coloured lines, intricate squares, circles and patterns drawn on the page, hideous black printing and screeds of annotation you will readily grasp my meaning. Maybe it's just a matter of good taste.

THE COLLECTION. Of the good points - first, this is obviously a top class collection and 'study'. The material is superb in both its scarce quality in many cases and its overall good condition. The quality of research also is excellent and virtually all original. In other words, this collection actually makes history in that it includes material which will eventually find its way into the specialised catalogues, the original material on which the research was done. ▶

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Write-up is kept to a minimum but is enough to tell a story and hold the viewer's interest, in the words of "the media". It is always easy to read and concise.

The black-card backing to the variety blocks is excellent. It is kept to the bare outline of the outer perforations but is enough to create a contrast with the stamps and "lift" them off the album page in a visual sense. The collection is mainly made up of comparative positional blocks illustrating the various states of the varieties, flaw and retouch etc.

The collection is not just an impressive display of spectacular "errors", missing colours, double perforations and doctor-blade flaws, There is a concentration of interest towards the constant rather than the impressive and transient features of the issue. Making up such a collection may be harder on the feet if a little easier on the pocket. "Errors" are an important part of such a collection but should, as here, be kept in their rightful perspective.

Moving on to adverse comments I would stress that these are my opinion only and some may disagree.

Accepting the fact that this collection is a "going concern" and space must be left for additional blocks and new states as they become available in the Post Office a general comment on layout may be of interest. There is a tendency, even in the case of completed pages to crowd material to the top and a certain lack of thought in the layout.

Attractive and balanced spacing is one of the most unobtrusive ways of enhancing the appearance of the stamps and give a pleasing effect overall.

Although I see the advantages of the use of typewritten annotation I must admit that I prefer to see neat hand-written notes in pencil or - for the daring - in indian ink or "letraset." Certain repetitive information could have been left out on subsequent pages after the scene had been set on the first page of a section. More room would thus be left for informative - if brief- "background" on the nature of the varieties displayed, and "tie" the whole together.

To many of the judges at exhibitions, modern stamp varieties are a new and foreign field and some carefully placed explanations would help to clarify the vagaries of the modern printing processes.

The hand-drawn illustrations while excellent, could perhaps be improved by using a tracing from an enlarged photo of the stamp. The added accuracy in proportion in the enlargement would give a more convincing impression. The use of adhesive arrows is another "possible." Not everyone likes them, but sparingly used they can be effective.

Personally, I like to see a major heading on each page. In this the most international of hobbies the tradition of heading pages with the name of the country concerned has a lot to be said for it. There is something of the glamour of far away places which rubs off on us from our childhood collections and which has a place-even in a specialised one-country collection. So why not have a neat "New Zealand" at the top of each page?

Finally, I must say I subscribe to the idea that some representation of used stamps should be included. After all the stamps are current, readily available in used condition, and even if kept to separate pages or sections of the album would add an entire dimension to such a collection - better still why not feature some of the varieties in used?

4c Puriri Moth

This stamp has now made its long awaited reappearance thus signalling the end of the saga of the 4c Provisional Surcharge. The main feature of the "new" 4c issue is that it is printed on unwatermarked paper. The plates used remain the same (Nos.11111, 1A, 1A,1A,1A,1A).

Continued bottom opposite page

SOME FURTHER "WHOLE ISSUE" COLLEC.

And we emphasise - at "bonus" prices - sold as they stand. Condition is generally very fine and full allowance is made for the few defective copies included. Appearance is, without exception, superb.

KING GEORGE V. RECESS ENGRAVED AND SURFACE PRINTED ISSUES - MINT

68(a) mounted on twenty-two pages, an amazingly complete lot in mainly mint singles. Representation of major papers, shades and perforations seems complete but outstanding items are Recess 4d.; yellow, Reentry Plate 20 R1/6; 6d. perf. 14 x 13½, carmine lake; "colour print" overprint pairs of 4d. in orange-yellow and ochre and 6d. Plate proof, plate block of four (No.23) in black. Vertical two perf. pairs complete, Pictorial paper "no watermark" variations, 5d. light blue imperforate single, 25 plate number selvedge singles, 5d. 2 plate blocks plate 43, two shades of light blue, SURFACE again very complete; proof of ½d. in green; ½d. 1½d. 2d. 3d. in black; COWAN P14 block of four imperf. at top with selvedge (2d. orange); 3d. chocolate R6/8 flaw; Wiggins Teape pair 2d. yellow pair, imperf. at top selvedge; Provisionals; Postcard (used) letter card (unused); Admirals complete, 1d. Field Marshal: pair imperf. at top selvedge and p14 x 15 Booklet ("Parisian" ads).

\$670. 00

THE COLLECTION

1935 PICTORIALS - MINT

69(a) On six pages. Fairly complete in main groups. Includes "wet" printing 1½d. 2½d. 3/- and 2/- Capt. Cook "albino" print (plate II) useful lot at the price.

\$75.00

1931 and 1935 AIRMAILS. PIGEON POSTS. MINT.

70(a) On three pages. Includes particularly 3d. 1931, p14 x 15, pairs of 1931, 3d. 4d. 5d. mint pairs, 7d. mint with "N" flaw, 1935 two top right serial no selvedge plate singles (plate 3) of 6d. val. Pigeon Post, 6d. and 1/-, Triangulars (no gum).

\$5.00

NEW ZEALAND NOTES

An early development is the reporting of four sheets with the dark green colour (veins in wings) missing. Quite a spectacular item which will be available to our new variety customers in due course.

10c "Royal" Stamp.

I have seen a magnificent offset impression on back (reversed) in this issue. The plate no. corner showed the variety and the top left corner to a lesser extent - a clearly and minutely defined reversed impression of the coat of arms in silver. Quite one of the nicest examples of this type of variety I have ever seen.

50c Tasman National Park.

Jim Shaw points out that the grey colour (above the buff of the sea) in this stamp is unrepresented by a plate number at bottom left selvedge of the sheet - amazing that this has not been noticed before as it is clear that five rather than four plates are used to print the stamps. (The grey is not a combination of two of the other colours which would have been an alternative possibility). A sheet has turned up with light green colour omitted. Together with the buff colour omission mentioned recently in these pages this latest constitutes the second major error to come from Swiss, Dutch or Japanese printers. Clearly it will be a great rarity and it is a very noticeable "error" - the geography of the scenery has been altered and a hill at top right removed. Definitely one for the conservationists!

A continuation of last month's outstanding offering - a comprehensive coverage of each group and value including many of the varieties.

ON PROVISIONAL ART PAPER. (WATERMARK LITHO ON BACK).

47(a) Mounted on two pages an "introductory" section with ½d. Green two mint pairs (shades) 2d. yellow - block of four plus single also several mint and used of ½d. green and 1d. Dominion showing watermark colour variation. \$2.25

48(a) K 13d. ½d. Green. Two interesting pages showing large blocks mint, (45 stamps) a bottom left selvedge block of 12 showing watermark colour intensity variation and a block of four of the scarce double gum. \$5.50

(b) K 13d. Ditto. A glorious item - colourless watermark in block of four - WITH HORIZONTAL MESH! Possibly unique this is a superb rarity piece. \$50.00

Or if "unclaimed" at this price singles will be sold at (each) \$15.00

(c) K 13d. Ditto. Block of four of the scarce "double gum" variety: \$1.25

49(a) K 18c 2d. yellow. Lovely multiples offered with shade variations if requested.

Block of four (each) \$2.00

Block of six (each) \$3.00

ON COWAN PAPER (perf. 14 x 15)

50(a) A collection of used mounted on two pages, including several fine varieties. ½d. Green. Nine copies of good standard show wide shade variation, a pair shows heavy wear to the top row of the plate, watermark inverted, and watermark reversed are both represented. (the latter is CP K 13g) 1d. Dominion. five shade singles and two stamps one, watermark inverted, one watermark reversed. 1½d. Orange-Brown. 2 shades (scarce!) five singles. 2d. yellow 5 shade singles and a dated pair (1927) (with crease) of the Reversed watermark. (K 18f) 3d. chocolate. 7 shade singles incl. 3 of the scarce Red-chocolate. Note: these pages include two copies of the rare 1½d. orange-Brown on Cowan p. 14 x 15 - catalogued at \$18. each used.

Our offer: \$40.00

51(a) K 13 e ½d. Green. on two pages. A fine range of shades. Three blocks of four contrast markedly and there is a block of twelve (one stamp damaged) shade blocks (2) of four and six show top row worn plate to advantage and a block of four represents the scarce letters watermark (ex selvedge) all mint: \$5.25

52(a) K 17d. 1½d. Orange Brown. On Cowan p 14 x 15 the scarce one. A mint block of four is offered (perfect of course) \$60.00

(b) K 13 f Ditto. pair shows imperf. at top with selvedge: \$10.00

(c) K 18 e 2d. Yellow. Block of four (top selvedge arrow) imperf. at top. \$20.00

(d) K 18e Ditto - a pair of the imperf. variety - condition reasonable: \$5.00

(e) K 18h Ditto but on WIGGINS TEAPE PAPER - imperf. at top with selvedge. \$20.00

GEORGE V

A shade variation (really excellent) is also submitted here at the same price (\$60.). Request to view both on approval - the chance may never be repeated.

53(a) K 18d. 2d. Yellow - ditto.

On two pages - really outstanding representation in mint. Three blocks of four show dazzling shade variation (one is uniquely Bright) and a pair and two singles complement; a block of four, offset on back, and a block of four (K 18 f) reversed water mark complete the display: \$45. 00

54 (a) K 19c 3d. chocolate. The full range of shades is present in blocks of four - really a most striking series of three contrasts. A block of four Jones paper has strayed on to the page - whence we know not.

The lovely page: \$27. 50

ON COWAN PAPER (perf. 14)

55(a) a page (mint) showing 1½d. Brown vertical pair, 3d. chocolate - abnormally dark in pair and 2d. yellow two contrasting shade singles.

The page: \$9. 00

56(a) a page of used. shows fine shades in ½d. Green (5) 1½d. Orange-Brown (1) 2d. Yellow (5 incl. orange) 3d. Chocolate (4) condition generally O.K.

Price super: \$3. 00

57(a) K 13 f ½d. Green (ditto) mint. Quite extraordinary range of shades in blocks of four - 10 blocks of four from the Palest Yellow - Green to the Deepest of the Greens. 40 stamps in all at (cat.\$6 plus) \$4. 00

58(a) K 17 c 1½d. Orange-Brown. (ditto) very lovely page of shades (mint). Two blocks of four, block of six and top selvedge arrow block of 10. Shades outstanding: \$35. 00

Alternatively set of four shade blocks of four: \$24. 00

59(a) K 18 e 2d. Yellow (ditto) again quite incredible range of shades. Notable are blocks of four and six, Deep orange and blocks of four and (top selvedge arrow) eight - yellow. 34 stamps: \$36. 00

Or as a "special" (first corner) 3 blocks 4 showing the listed shades: \$13. 00

60(a) K 19d. 3d chocolate (ditto). Glorious, glorious! shades are shown in two blocks of four (one showing R 6/8 "face" flaw), strip of four (v. Deep) and top selvedge block of six: \$42. 00

or two shade blocks of four: \$16. 00

R 6/8 block on its own: \$15. 00

(first order gets it!)

COWAN PAPER (perf 14) PERFORATION VARIETIES.

61(a) K 13 f ½d. Green: block of four shows the rare double comb perforation strike: \$50. 00

PRINTED ON WIGGINS TEAPE PAPER.

62(a) a set of 3 mint. 2d. yellow p. 14 x 15 and p 14 and 1½d. orange-brown p. 14 \$12. 00

63(a) K 18 g 2d. yellow - perf. 14 x 15 an extraordinary page - two shade blocks of four, two pairs a block of six. Also scarce bottom selvedge single - watermark inverted: \$16. 00

64(a) K 17e 1½d. Orange-Brown (ditto) Block of four light shade: \$60.
 ditto: Deep shade: \$60. 00
 Block of six: Bright shade: \$90. 00
 The entire page of 3 shade blocks: \$200. 00

65(a) K 18 h 2d. yellow perf. 14 ditto:
 A stupendously beautiful page of spectacular shades, Yellow Group Block of twelve and three blocks of four orange group Block of six and two blocks of four, This unrepeatable page: \$50. 00

THE BOOKLETS - ½d. GREEN.

66(a) K 13a De la Rue. Two panes in different shades, one shows surface damage to two stamps: \$20. 00

(b) K 13c JONES. Block of four with selvedge (bars) three sides: \$4.00
 or pair (ditto) good: \$2.00

(c) K 13 e COWAN p 14 x 15.
 with "Parisian" adverts (complete and fine) \$15. 00
 with "Dainties" adverts (ditto) \$80. 00
 with "Abdulla" adverts (ditto) \$20. 00
 with "Cameron Bros." adverts - mint pair: \$20. 00
 Used (dated) pair: \$ 5. 00

(d) K 13 g COWAN (Reversed).
 Block of four: \$ 3. 00
 Booklet pane with "Kodak" adverts (selvedge damaged by 2 stamps) \$ 5. 00
 Booklet used pair: \$ 2. 50



1d. FIELD MARSHAL.

67(a) A collection of this interesting issue is offered "as is" a good chance. MINT.
 Mounted on seven pages. COWAN p 14 x 15 block of four and bottom selvedge block of twelve (shades)
COWAN p 14 . Block of twelve and three blocks of four (good shades) also block of four imperforate (very deep shade) also line of perforations thru stamp (a single) (extra strike of comb) and a "probably double perf" single (no change).

WIGGINS TEAPE two top selvedge blocks of six (fine shades)
BOOKLETS complete panes with selvedge in p 14 and p 14 x 15 "Parisian" adverts. The two panes.

THE COLLECTION: \$120. 00

(b) K 15 c DITTO COWAN REVERSED PAPER.

A very great rarity. A bottom selvedge block of twelve (3 x 4) the top three horizontal rows of which have completely doubled perforations. May never be repeated herein. The shade is the rare "Deep Claret" \$250. 00

(c) K 15 c DITTO DITTO

The rarely seen full set of shades in this issue in blocks of four. Rose-Carmine, Scarlet, Deep, Bright and Pale Claret - superb material (cat. \$240): \$199. 00
 or (if unsold) singles: \$ 50. 00

(d) K 15 c Ditto.

Scarlet shade - a block of four: \$ 40. 00
 - a single: \$ 10. 00

**COLLECT THE STAMPS OF
 BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND**