

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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1974 HEALTHS - REVIEWED BY CAMPBELL PATERSON

I am somewhat at a loss when discussing these remarkable specimens of modern art. I say "modern art" since that is what I take them to be, hence the problem. You see, I am terribly ignorant of modern art - so much so that apart from his "traditional" period I find Picasso not only mystifying but positively off-putting. These stamps, of course, are hardly "Picassos" but from the appearance of the curiously wooden and (for me) uninspiring children depicted, I imagine that the designs are achieved by cutting out figures and pasting them onto the canvas, this being, in terms of modern art (I think) known as "montage".

Anyhow, so far, I seem to have got nowhere and frankly, for me, the stamps get nowhere too. I have given it as my opinion before that "art for arts' sake" is not good on stamps. Beside which there is a sameness about the three values that suggests a lack of imagination.

Talking of that, but not especially of this year's efforts, it does seem that over the years the Health Camps people have made use of stamps to raise money but don't seem ever to have given much thought as to whether the designs used are the best for the purpose. The dead hand of "Children at Play" has lain like a wet blanket over the issues. Why, for instance, was it not the Health Camps who first saw the potential of the Scenic series - or Trams or Ships or Mountains or Lakes? Do they ever take any advice from someone who has some idea of marketing. Instead of the rather anonymous animals (and worse than anonymous children) which appear on this year's issue, why not a well designed series over perhaps four years showing in detail the different breeds of dogs or cats. Perhaps they do not know that around the world there are millions of thematic collectors who would greet such a series with delight? They have missed being first on Mountains, Flowers, Trains, Lakes and their ideas still run on Children - O.K. if they must, why not a series (clearly not "artistically" dealt with) of different children of the world. The possibilities are endless, yet year after year we get the same old theme - as if someone is too tired to really bother. If that is the attitude, they may find that the long-suffering public will also cease to bother

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WOKING
SURREY
ENGLAND

Returning to this year's issue, on the 3¢ it is made clear that someone may love the animals but it is not the children - they clearly lost interest. And can anyone remember when last a New Zealand child was seen bowling a hoop - of all things? On the 4¢ the distant dog is having a good scratch but what breed of dog is it - or the other for that matter? I rather like the cat but then I like all cats. The 5¢ at least gives the impression that the kids are interested in the animals but the animals are not interested in the kids, that's certain! Finally, the larger child should have washed his face - or is he growing a moustache?

LATEST NEWS ON 1970 PICTORIAL VARIETIES by JIM SHAW

3¢ "Lichen Moth" Plate 1A(X3) has produced a new variety upon its withdrawal from Post Offices. Row 8/17 was known with a horizontal scratch and an appearance of a "touch up" below the letters "Lichen Moth". Now, however, the flaw state has been seen for the first time. A remarkable defect beneath the letter "Lichen Moth" was obviously noticed by the Printers and subsequently removed. The area affected is a narrow horizontal band stretching across to the value 3¢.

A Theory. The "weakness" was clearly a raised portion of the plate (photogravure being an intaglio process). Hence, removal was quite simply - merely by cutting away the raised area but in the process a narrow scratch was left. Undoubtedly, by a late appearance, this flaw state will be extremely rare.

5¢ "Parrot Fish" It appears that retouching was performed upon several positions in the 1A plate combination early in the "\$12.00" sheet value error state of this stamp.

- (1) Row 9/16 Plate 1A (flaw and retouch). also the following flaw
 - (2) Row 10/16 and 10/17 plate 1B (flaw only).
- Both are in the green background colour.

7¢ "Leather Jacket" A sheet with complete double perforations in the left hand two vertical rows has been found - a double strike of a double comb head - and spectacular.

20¢ "Tattoo Mask" Row 4/1 has a visible flaw in the black colour over the right hand eye in the watermarked paper - this flaw was retouched in the unwatermarked paper reprint.

50¢ "National Park" A problem has arisen as regards Row 5/7 in the upper plate 1(X4). Evidently only the retouch state appears in the second printing. As the facts stand, the flaw and retouch state both exist in the third printing. A possible theory explaining this lies within the methods used to repair such flaws. By the use of a "plug" of metal a flaw could be retouched but it could later "fall out". Perhaps persons with material in the first printing of this value could throw some light upon the problem:-

- (1) Does the flaw or retouch state appear in the first printing?
- (2) Does the flaw state also appear in the second printing?

Notes: Identification of Printings 50¢ Value

- (1) 1st Printing Pale green (not frame colour) is a distinct shade. (i.e. Long green headland.)
- (2) 2nd Printing This headland appears in a new shade - a brighter green.
- (3) 3rd Printing Buff in sea - now yellow buff. (Previously in 1st and 2nd printings it was pink-buff.)

XMAS GIFTS

"Don't be silly" you say? "Xmas is miles away yet." Don't you believe it! and the signs are that it may be harder than usual to locate that ideal gift.

The C.P. Loose-Leaf Specialised Catalogue of N.Z. stamps is a gift you cannot afford not to consider carefully. Quite the most comprehensive source of information available to the ordinary man today - a veritable kitset for greater collecting pleasure. 10 days approval will prove it to you if you don't already know\$15.00

The C.P. Loose-Leaf Album for Simplified N.Z. Collectors. A high class job in every way. Illustrations, lay-out and historical/descriptive notes make it a lovely present in every way for young collectors up to 90 years\$ 7.95

SIDEFACE SELECTION

The fortuitous arrival of some bulk material allowed us to sort the following useful "backbone" material into stock. Condition superfine, of course, a selection of shade sets peppered with some brilliant multiples and better varieties - well worth checking through.

NEWSPAPER STAMP

- 153(a) Lovely representation of the issue in finest used copies. The major varieties are there ready for mounting (shade variations are included).
 B1a perf. 10 "NZ" watermark Pale Dull Rose
 B2a perf. 12½ watermark small star Dull Rose, Deep Dull Rose, Rose
 B2b watermark as above, perforation "Nearly 12". Dull Rose
 B3a watermark "NZ and star". Perf. 12½ Bright Rose, Pale Bright Rose.
 Glorious show of seven different copies.....\$ 6.50
- (b) Supplies of the scarce items listed above are limited. Another set is offered of B2a (three shades) and B3a (two shades) and these make an equally spectacular page.....\$ 1.00

FIRST SIDEFACES

1d. Lilac

- 154(a) C1a MINT 1d. Lilac perf. 12½ Lilac shade.....\$ 4.50
 Dull Lilac superb.....\$ 5.00
- (b) C1a Ditto (USED) Lilac and Dull Lilac set.....\$ 1.00
 Bluete paper (heavier mark).....\$ 3.50
- 155(a) C1b MINT perf. 10 x 12½ Very scarce indeed - a nice copy\$14.00
- (b) C1b Ditto USED Untidyish marking but good.....\$ 3.50
- 156(a) C1d Large star wmk. p.12½ marking over face but a good example\$ 6.00
- 157(a) C1e perf. 12 x 11½ MINT Mauve-Lilac - a lovely item.....\$ 2.50
- (b) C1e Ditto USED Mauve-Lilac and Deep Mauve-Lilac in lovely copies 75¢

2d. Rose

- 158(a) C2a perf. 12½ USED Gorgeous set - Rose, Pale Rose, Deep Rose\$ 1.25
 Bluete paper superb!\$ 5.00
- 159(a) C2b perf. 10 x 12½ USED Copy with heavier marking (Cat. \$10)\$ 5.00
- 160(a) C2e "Large star" watermark USED - excellent.....\$ 1.25
- 161(a) C2f perf. 12 x 11½ MINT Rose and Deep Rose.....\$ 5.00
- (b) C2f Ditto USED Superb, two shades as above..... 70¢

3d. Deep Brown

- 162(a) C3a perf. 12½ MINT A fine copy.....\$ 8.00
- (b) C3a Ditto USED Heavier marking.....\$ 3.50
- 163(a) C3b perf. 10 x 12½ USED Irregular compound perf., minor crease\$ 4.00

4d. Indian Red

- 164(a) C4a perf. 12½ MINT Slightly off-centre.....\$20.00
 Mainly o.g.....\$25.00
- (b) C4a Ditto USED Fine copy\$ 7.00
 Bluete paper\$13.50
- 165(a) C4b perf 10 x 12½ USED Delightful example.....\$12.00
- 166(a) C4d perf. 12 x 11½ USED Superb dated vertical pair showing marked sideways shift of comb-perf. head - a proving piece if there ever was one.....\$10.00

SIDEFACES TO BE CONTINUED
 NEXT MONTH

EDWARD VII

A Continuation of Last Month's Superb Offering

- 121 5d. Deep Brown 14 x 14½ A strip of 6 mint from the last vertical column inc. top and right side selvedge - perforated by the '9/111' machine. A "proving" piece demonstrating the use of this machine throughout the whole sheet. The mint piece.....\$12.00
- 122 As Above A similar proving piece from the 9/111 machine, this time a mint block of 6 with top selvedge. The piece.....\$12.00
- 122 As Above A complete page, comprising 5 mint blocks and two mint singles. The range of shades is delightful. The lot of 22 stamps.....\$42.00
- 123 As Above but perf. 14 x 13½ A page of three mint blocks and a vertical pair, all perf. 14 x 13½ (machine "AA"). One stamp Row 2/12 recognizable by individual peculiarities is on this page as well as in Lots 121 and 122. The page....\$40.00
- 124 As Above but "two perf." block The 'normal' type of two perf. block with the top stamps 14 x 13½ (machine "AA") and the lower stamps 14 x 14½ (machine 9/111). The block has at some time lost its original gum - hence the give-away price\$ 7.50
- 125 As Above but perf. "line 14" The page, comprising two mint blocks of different shades and a single mint. The page.....\$20.00
- 126 As Above perf. 14 x 14½ This page with two mint pairs (again R2/12 is included) and a used single, is devoted to the demonstrating of the flaw (over 'C' of 'PENCE') which occurs on every stamp of the sheets except for the first two laid down, namely, Row 9/1 and R10/1. The page.....\$ 9.00
- 127 As Above flaws Row 1/12 and Row 3/9 mentioned at length in the Handbook are here shown with descriptions in two mint pairs together with marked demonstration photos. The page.....\$ 9.00
- 128 As Above Row 4/10 (twice), Row 6/11, Row 7/9 and 7/10 demonstrated with marked photos. Six stamps in all, two being mint in pair, 4 used. The page.....\$ 5.00
- 129 As Above Row 9/3 (two used copies) and R10/11 (one used) shown with write up and one demonstration photo. The page...\$ 2.00
- 130 As Above A page of 18 used 5d. (condition generally very fine at least one defective): every stamp shows peculiarities of recutting of corners - with demonstration notation.\$ 5.00
- 131 6d. Carmine perf. 14 x 14½ Official Complete one third of the whole sheet being 4 vertical columns of 10 each. Selvedge is present at top left side and bottom. Some damage to the side selvedge has occurred alongside the first stamps in Rows 8, 9 and 10, the adjacent three stamps also somewhat damaged. The point of interest in this fine specialist's piece lies in the fact that the perf. machine "9/111" has been used throughout - this fact is not recorded in the Handbook. We would not know if the piece is absolutely unique but it could be. The block of 40.....\$40.00
- 132 As Above perf. 14 x 13½ This is a scarce stamp which makes it all the more remarkable that here we have two blocks of four and a block of 8 all mint and all three blocks in different shades. We can sell the whole page as it stands for \$136 but for those who would prefer a block we offer
 (a) Block of 4.....\$36.00
 (b) Block of 8.....\$70.00

EDWARDS TO BE CONTINUED
NEXT MONTH

THE "POSTAGE STAMPS OF N.Z."

Volume IV

We will pay \$15 per copy for volumes in good condition. This is a fine offer - over to you!