

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES & COMMENT

by CAMPBELL PATERSON

In April I spoke of the "Roses" and the "Vintage Cars" issues. These were very popular, and while there are still plenty about I would not be at all surprised if in years to come a natural demand for attractive stamps takes them into the 'scarce' class.

It is a different story with the "Five Commemoratives", since issued to commemorate a series of anniversaries. Readers will have read my criticism of these in our NZ Newsletter and I will not bore them again with my personal opinions on the designs. But I would like to make it very clear that I really don't expect everybody - or indeed anybody - to agree with me. Any criticism I make is my own view - I expect other views exist in equal numbers with the numbers of readers!

However my personal disappointment - and it is pretty strong - with the "Five Commemoratives" has led me to some hard thinking on the whole question of stamp designs. Again, the results are only my personal opinions and put forward solely in the hope that others will voice opinions, here or elsewhere, that may result in a general improvement in designs. There is no real reason why every stamp published should not be a little gem of great beauty, but first we have to ascertain what is the general consensus as to what constitutes beauty! Frankly, I think the stamp issuing authorities in New Zealand are puzzled themselves - how else can we account for the wide difference of approach between the naturalistic "Roses" and "Vintage Cars" issues and the "artistic", largely symbolic treatment of the "Five Commemoratives"?

I emphasise "artistic" because here it seems clear that to produce designs of artistic merit, rather than to illustrate the event commemorated, has in this case been the aim.

In the 3c Wanganui we undoubtedly have an example of 'bold' modern art - but how much does the stamp tell us about Wanganui? In the 5c, early and late types of 'plane' are shown, so we are told. But are they identifiable from the stamp, or is even the symbolic overtaking of early types of plane by more modern types made clear? Again it would seem, art for art's sake has been the governing factor. The 4c really needs a full explanation - how are future generations to be quite sure what story the picture is supposed to tell?

In the 8c it is clear (but only because the inscription says so) that we see Du Fresne's ship at the Bay of Islands - but can anyone honestly say that this stamp tells much of the type of ship, its size, rigging and style generally? As for the Bay of Islands, the pea green sea and sketchy Maori Pa might be anywhere. Here surely, 'art' has taken over completely from reality. Fair enough, if it is art we want, but do we? I'm certain sure that thematic collectors anyhow would prefer a depiction such as G. B. gave of Cook's "Endeavour" and Chichester's "Gypsy Moth IV."

The last stamp, the 10c I submit must stand solely on its artistic merits. I'd defy anyone (not previously told) to say what the heap of stones stands for, although I have heard that the artist considered the stones "evocative." Ah well!

All this brings us squarely to the point, do we want "art" which may or may not convey a clear story of what the stamp is about, or do we want designs that show things as a camera would, leaving no doubt what is depicted and even supplying the sort of detail dear to the heart of those who would genuinely appreciate some information - such as for instance, what did a "Dominie" aircraft really look like, what type of ship was Du Fresne's vessel and even, perhaps, is that really a rat that supports the Wanganui Coat of Arms, or if not, what is it?

AN APOLOGY

We should like to apologise to those among our correspondents who recently may not have received the prompt reply to their orders or inquiries to which they are accustomed. The delays have been unavoidable, and due to circumstances beyond our control. We hope, however, that by the time this note is published, "normal service" will have been resumed.

WELPEX '72 STATIONERY & SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

For the National Stamp Exhibition held at Wellington from 15th - 20th May, 1972, two special envelopes were issued, a 4c blue (the ordinary inland postage rate) and a 22c orange (registered). The envelopes are beautifully produced, and carry a motif incorporating the Wellington coat-of-arms in full colour.

On the six days of Welpex the temporary post office at the Exhibition used different cancellations, each one based on a 19th century Wellington cancellation. Those in use on the first and last days are illustrated below.

WELPEX '72 WELLINGTON N.Z.



NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

WELPEX '72 WELLINGTON N.Z.



NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

We can offer these special items as follows. Supplies are very limited, so early ordering is advised. Please include 5p extra for postage & packing with orders for these.

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|------|--|-----|
| 801. | Envelopes. 4c blue, 22c orange, unused. The set of two | 42p |
| 802. | Cancellations. Six 4c Welpex envelopes, each bearing a different Welpex cancel. The complete set | 80p |

K. E. VII OFFICIALS

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|------|---|--------|
| 803. | Our stock at present includes some unusually fine used copies of these never-easy-to-find issues. We have selected out the best of these, and made them up into superior sets. The sets consist of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d (H01a) two shades; 3d perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H03a) two shades; 3d perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H03c) - very scarce, this one; 6d perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H06b) two shades; 1/- perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H08b) two shades. A really outstanding set of 9 stamps, lovely used | £11.00 |
| 804. | Mint blocks of 4. Even more elusive than fine used singles! A superb quartet of blocks, being one each of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d (H01a), 3d perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H03a), 6d perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H06b) and 1/- perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H08b). The four blocks | £14.00 |

N. B. In neither of the above offers is the 8d represented, but we will be pleased to give priority placing on the waiting list for this value to the purchasers of these lots, if desired.

OBSOLETE COUNTER COIL PAIRS IN COMPLETE SETS

Desirable material and, judging from the last time we offered similar sets, we won't have them for long!

805.	<u>Q. E. 6d</u> with first type coil numbers 1 - 9 (NC1j). Complete with wrapper and centre papers	£ 5.00
806.	<u>Q. E. 8d</u> with first type coil numbers 1 - 19 (NC1k). Again complete with wrapper and centre papers	£ 5.00
807.	<u>Q. E. 1/-</u> vertical pairs with first type coil numbers 1 - 19, sideways reading upwards (NC6c). Cat. £23.75 as individual pairs. A bargain at, the set	£15.00
808(a)	<u>Q. E. 1/-</u> vertical pairs with later type coil numbers 1 - 19, inverted (NC7b). All pairs in this set have "narrow" gutters, measuring about 12 mm. The set	£ 7.50
(b)	As above, but a complete set with the scarcer "trimmed" gutters. In these the gutter measurement is only 7 - 9 mm, the variety emanating from coils made up from some sheets which originally had the coil numbers printed upright in relation to the stamps. These upright numbers were subsequently guillotined off and new numbers printed inverted on the remaining narrow strip of selvage. The interesting set of 19 coil pairs	£22.50
809.	<u>1960 Pictorial 1/6 Tiki</u> , with red coil numbers 1 - 19 (OC2i). The set	£15.00

UNUSUAL COVERS

810.	<u>Dunedin Exhibition</u> . Complete set of three values ($\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d and 4d) on clean, neat cover to Christchurch, lightly cancelled with Dunedin roller cancel dated FE 10 1926. Used "Dunedin" sets are seldom seen these days - nicely used on cover, they're in the rarity class. The fine cover	£ 6.50
811.	<u>Registered, Insured, Express Cover</u> of 1937, addressed to "The Hon. the Minister of Justice, Parliament House, Wellington, N. Z." (We don't know what the contents were, but no stone was left unturned to ensure that the Hon. Minister received it safely and quickly!) Genuine usage of the 6d "Express Delivery" stamp on cover, as here, is not at all common. The interesting cover	£ 3.25

FURTHER FASCINATING MATERIAL

812(a)	<u>Full-Face Queen Official Reprints</u> . The well-known 1906 Hausburg "proofs" in black on card printed from plate 2 of the 2d value (1000 sheets were printed). A grand opportunity to add representation of the classic N. Z. design to your collection at a price you can afford. The "Hausburg" 2d, in block of 4	£ 1.00
(b)	As above, but the 3d value, of which only six sheets were run off. Singles only available. Scarce, each	£ 1.75
813.	<u>Long Fiscals</u> . A bumper lot of 59 (various types) perf and imperf. Values from 1d to £4 - some duplication in the lower shilling values, but most of these show good shade variations. As usual with these stamps, condition is mixed, and many are fiscally used, but a wonderful lot for study. 59 Long Fiscals	£ 5.00
814(a)	<u>1906 Christchurch Exhibition</u> . Set of 4 unused of this scarce set. One or two minor faults affecting the backs of the stamps only. From the front they are fresh, good looking, collectable copies. As a bonus, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d and 6d have the variety wmk inverted. The set	£10.00
(b)	<u>1906 Christchurch Exhibition</u> . $\frac{1}{2}$ d & 1d values used, each bearing superbly clear, dated strikes of the "EXHIBITION/N. Z. /CHRISTCHURCH" postmark. The two, scarce thus	£ 2.50

- 815(a) 1d Universal Variety. Vertical pair of the comb perf 14 x 14½ Royle Plates issue (G10f) with the variety double perfs affecting both stamps. The variety pair, beautiful fresh mint condition. Really scarce £25.00
- (b) As above. A similar pair, but with a fairly extensive though not too noticeable stain. A snip for someone to whom the variety is more important than tip-top condition. (Cat. £25) £ 4.50
- (c) As above. A mint block of 4 with left selvedge, the upper pair having perfectly registered perfs, while the lower pair show a wildly misplaced strike of the comb perf head. Most unusual. A vertical gum crease in no way mars the very fresh appearance of the block (Cat. £16 as normals) £15.00
816. 1d Dominion on Cowan paper (J6a). A fine mint corner block, completely imperf, with top and left selvedge. Previous hingeing is confined to the selvedge. A lovely block £10.00
(It seems a pity to break such a piece, but if you want a marginal pair only. let us know.)
817. 1960 Pictorial 5d Daisy. Two really astounding shades of the dominant background colour, best described as bright reddish purple and dull bluish purple. Offered in mint blocks of 4 for spectacular effect. The two shade blocks ... 65p
818. 1946 Health. Mint copies of each value of the "Soldier" design, both with the distinctive "blurred centre" variety in the characteristic golden brown shade. With normals for comparison. Four stamps £ 5.00
819. 1959 Marlborough Centennial 3d. Mint block showing complete misplaced strike of the comb head in the bottom selvedge, the short rows of holes extending about ¼ inch into the vertical gutters between the bottom row of stamps, thus giving "partial double perfs". Catalogued, and a fine, clearly visible variety. The block 50p
820. 1940 Centennial Officials. Set of 8 mint singles (½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d) all showing the "Joined ff" variety. The 8d has a crease which is scarcely discernible on the face, otherwise condition is superb. The complete variety set of 8 (creased stamp ignored in the price) £15.00
821. 1966 Health 3d + 1d. Mint copy with a remarkable shift upwards and to the right of the black colour, producing a quite indescribable "double bellbird" (it has to be seen to be appreciated). Also affected are the date, bird's name and values, all being noticeably misplaced from normal. The very few copies of this startling variety we have seen have all emanated from miniature sheets. An eye-catching variety if ever there was one (supplied with normal for comparison)..... £10.50

SMILING BOYS OFFERED SINGLY!

Yes, when did you last see such an offer? Now is your chance to complete that set (or to obtain at least a representation of the most famous Health stamp, if the set is out of your reach!). All are first grade mint copies, but supplies are of course limited.

1d + 1d Red Boy, mint, each	£13.00
2d + 1d Blue Boy, mint, each	£12.50
(We can of course supply the set of 2, complete, at £24.50 mint, £22.50 used)	

At the time of going to press, a number of subscribers have not yet indicated whether they wish to renew for the year 1972-73. In order to avoid disappointment, please let us know NOW. Otherwise we cannot guarantee to supply the September and future issues.