

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



PUBLISHED BY CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD.

P.O. BOX 17, WOKING, SURREY, GU22 7BL

ISSUED MONTHLY.

☎ WOKING 5887

All lots offered on approval subject to being unsold.



VOLUME XI

NUMBER 7

FEBRUARY 1974

MINT OR USED?

by Colin Hamilton

Perhaps the question most frequently asked by newcomers to N. Z. stamps is: "Should I collect mint or used?" One is always tempted to give the simple answer "Yes!" to this question, because it is rather like asking: "Should I have my steak rare or well done?" The posing of the question assumes that there is one correct answer (and therefore a wrong one too), and of course there is not. However, unlike the epicurean query, the solution of which is (or ought to be!) dictated solely by personal taste, the philatelic question involves consideration of the advantages which the collecting of mint has over used, and vice-versa.

But first, I think, the collector must ask himself what kind of collection he has in mind. For instance, if he happens to have a predilection for shades, then he has to consider whether he will find it more satisfying to have a show of, say, mint blocks of four (settling sometimes for a mere single in the case of a rarity), or of used singles, including perhaps the odd block as and when he can. Or, if he wishes to concentrate on modern plate varieties, would he prefer to show them in mint blocks proving the sheet position - in which case the variety would more than likely already be identified - or to have the satisfaction of seeking out the varieties for himself from a used accumulation. In the field of plate varieties, it seems to me there is an ideal opportunity for combining the attractions of both, by including used examples and mint positional blocks.

Availability is another factor which must be taken into account, especially by those (and they are in the vast majority) who like to see their collections progressing. Of course there will inevitably be occasions, whatever the chosen field, when finding an elusive item requires a degree of patience. The main objective is to ensure that one's interests are sufficiently broadly based to avoid getting into a position where everything one is seeking is in the "near-impossible" category. To take an extreme example for illustration only, the collector of unhinged mint blocks of 4 of Chalon Heads (!), and of nothing else, will undoubtedly have a lean time as far as adding to his collection is concerned. That is not to say that he shouldn't collect these, but if he wants to be reasonably active, he must widen his scope, either within the Chalon Head issues, or in a different issue entirely.

Digressing for a moment, I think a word or two on the question of "unhinged" and "previously hinged" mint would not be out of place. It seems to me that far too much emphasis has been placed on the former in recent years. The collector of new issues is unquestionably entitled to expect "unmounted mint", of course, but this apart, it is in my opinion wholly misguided to reject a stamp solely on the grounds that it has been previously collected. Experienced collectors generally accept this view, and

it is significant that unused Chalon Heads without even a trace of gum are considered worthy of inclusion in the very grandest of collections. This is a tendency which I foresee extending gradually to succeeding issues. The deterioration of some gums - and therefore of some stamps - with age is a serious problem, and there are certain issues, notably among the First Pictorials and 1d Universals, which would greatly benefit from the removal of the gum.

Returning to our "mint or used" theme, it is one of the strange quirks of the hobby that there is a trait common to some devotees of used - the belief that theirs is the only valid way of collecting, based on the premise that until a postage stamp has performed the duty for which it was produced, it isn't a postage stamp at all. This view is no more tenable than the similarly dogmatic one held by another small minority, that philately ends at the year 1870 or thereabouts.

Both of these attitudes are in reality only illustrations (although rather reactionary ones) of the maxim which should govern all collecting - each to his own. If it appeals, and if it fits your scheme, collect it. But never despise another for "doing his own thing".

THE C. P. LOOSE-LEAF NEW ZEALAND CATALOGUE

Appreciation is always welcome

During the past year we have received two "pats on the back" from distinguished sources.

Users of our Catalogue may be interested to hear how the Editors of two of the world's leading philatelic magazines see our Catalogue. Firstly, we were gratified to read the following in the columns of "The New Zealand Stamp Collector" - commenting on our having passed our 21st anniversary, the Editor wrote under the heading "A Coming of Age" -

"1973 sees the 21st anniversary of the launching of the C. P. Catalogue. It appeared as a loose-leaf venture and throughout the years the advantages of such a presentation have become obvious, with the ability to discard out-of-date pages and add current ones so easily.

"As far as collectors of New Zealand stamps are concerned, it has become their 'bible' and one might now well be at a loss to keep up with the times if there were no 'C. P. Loose-Leaf' for easy reference.

"If we had one regret it would be that it has been found necessary to reduce the size of the type for the descriptions since it may well be difficult for some to read this very small type easily."

No Author-Editor can be anything but delighted with such a comment. Regarding the point made of the use of small-size type, there is perhaps some misunderstanding. The small type is not used for "descriptions" - all such are in normal "8 point" reading type. The smaller type is used for footnotes and for varieties. Use of a larger type for what are details of interest to a minority of users would soon make the book too large for its binder. Actually, the use of the small type has not brought any adverse reaction from readers. I suppose specialists as a group would naturally have normal eyesight or better, otherwise their specialising would be difficult for them. Small type is quite satisfactory for anyone with normal sight.

Our second pleasant surprise came with our reading of a review of our 1973 Catalogue Supplement in the English magazine "Stamp Collecting". The reviewer (Mr K. R. Lake) writes with a cheerful enthusiasm -

"Finally we come to that hardy annual, the Supplement to Campbell Paterson's (Loose Leaf) N. Z. Catalogue. This year we get 12 new permanent pages and 88 temporary pages. These are all essential to every user of this superb specialist catalogue and I need do no more here than announce their publication and urge New Zealand collectors who have not yet subscribed to the full catalogue to find out about it as soon as they have finished reading this week's Stamp Collecting. (Details from Campbell Paterson Ltd.)"

KING GEORGE V RECESS - MAINLY USED

- 201 (a) 1½d Grey. A delightful little collection of used multiples on "Pictorial" paper. In perf 14 x 13½, there are two blocks of 4, one normal and one having two stamps without wmk; in perf 14 x 14½, a block of 4 (normal) and a horizontal pair, one stamp "no wmk"; and in the two-perf variety, a block of 4, comprising vertical se-tenant pairs with and without wmk. Four blocks and a pair, condition superfine used throughout £10.00
- (b) As above. Used singles in perf 14 x 13½ and perf 14 x 14½, each represented on both the "Cowan" and "Pictorial" papers. The set of 4 used 52p.
- (c) As above. Superlative used block of 6, perf 14 x 13½, on "Pictorial" paper £ 1.00
- (d) As above. Similarly fine used horizontal strip of 5, perf 14 x 14½, on "Pictorial" paper, one stamp being without wmk. £ 1.00
- (e) As above. Perf 14 x 14½, "Pictorial" paper, no wmk variety. Used singles, each 33p.
- 202 (a) 2d Yellow. Used singles in each of the three distinct perfs - 14 x 13½, 14 x 14½ and 14 line (the last being on "Pictorial" paper, of course). The scarce set of 3 used £ 2.75
- (b) As above. Perf 14 x 14½, very nice strip of 3, used £ 2.25
- (c) As above. Perf 14 line, "Pictorial" paper. Superfine dated used block of 4. Blocks in this brilliant condition are rare. £ 5.25
- (d) As above. Dated used strip of 5. Another extraordinarily fine multiple £ 5.75
- (e) As above. Top grade used singles on "Pictorial" paper. Each £ 1.05
- 203 (a) 3d Chocolate. Set of 3 used, being one each perf 14 x 13½ and 14 x 14½ (as long as stocks permit, we shall supply these two as contrasting shades of deep chocolate and chocolate brown), and one perf 14 line on "Pictorial" paper. The used set of 3 44p.
- (b) As above. Beautiful used block of 4 on "Pictorial" paper, two stamps in the block being without wmk. (It should be noted that "no watermark" varieties in the 1½d - where the "Pictorial" paper was used upright - occur quite frequently. But when this paper was used sideways, i. e. in the 2d, 3d and 6d, unwatermarked copies are very much scarcer). The very fine used variety block £ 8.25
- (c) As above. Another unusually fine used strip of 5 £ 1.50
- (d) As above. Selected finest used singles. Each 28p.
- 204 4d Yellow. Mint single with the major "Club Foot" re-entry (Row 4, No. 10) £ 5.15
- 205 (a) 4d Violet/Deep Purple. One of the great "interest" stamps among N. Z. issues. We offer a mini-reference set of 5 copies - three violets from plate 20 (perf 14 x 13½, 14 x 14½ and perf 14 x 13½ worn plate) and two deep purples from plate 44 (perf 14 x 14½ and the scarce 14 x 13½). The five 4d's, finest used £ 1.25
- (b) 4d Rare Shade. First grade used copy perf 14 x 14½ from plate 44 (the characteristic crude retouching to the shading of the right hand star in the right hand value tablet is clear and unmistakable), but in the rare VIOLET shade. A normal stamp in deep purple is included for comparison £12.50

- (c) 4d Plate 44 Re-entry. Not one of the five described in the Handbooks (Vols 1 & 2). This re-entry shows as clear doubling of the right hand side of the moustache, and of the corner of the nose. Two examples are included - one perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$, the other perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$. The latter must be rare, since any plate 44 stamps perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ are scarce. The matching re-entry pair, used £ 7.75
- (d) 4d Plate 20 Re-entries. The two big "wrong value" re-entries as listed and illustrated in our Catalogue (R1/6 and R4/10). Excellent used£ 7.50
- (e) 4d Plate Numbers. Mint singles from plate 20 in violet (perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$) and from plate 44 in deep purple (perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$), each being the top left corner copy from a sheet, with the plate number in the top selvage. Highly desirable!£ 7.50
- 206 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Deep Green-Wartime Mail Item. Truly magnificent block of 4 (perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$), cancelled by two clean light strikes of the distinctive "NEW ZEALAND/ADVANCED/BASE/ARMY POST OFFICE" datestamp (Vol. 3, page 354, type 32), used at Alexandria in Egypt during the First World War. The block.....£10.00
- 207 5d Blue. The shades of the 5d seem to cause no end of trouble to many collectors. So here is a reference set of 6 stamps, being one each in Blue, Pale Ultramarine and Steel Blue in each of the two main perms. The set of 6 used.....£ 6.25
- 208 (a) 6d Carmine. Set of 4 lovely shades, perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$, used60p.
- (b) 6d Carmine-Lake. Superb used copy in the rare and beautifully deep colour (it's too distinctive to be termed a shade) used experimentally for one small printing from plate 37. The rarity..... £15.00
- (c) 6d Carmine on "Pictorial" Paper. Singles fine used (scarce thus), each..... £ 1.38
- (d) As above. Used block of 4 (parcel cancel, not too obtrusive) in which the upper two stamps show only a tiny portion of wmk. The disposition of the watermarks in this block illustrates clearly why stamps completely without watermark are so scarce in these issues. The block..... £ 4.50
- 209 8d Red-Brown. The two catalogued shades of Red-Chocolate and Red-Brown. Fine contrasts. The two, picked used copies 55p.
- 210 9d Sage-Green., perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$. Again the shades as listed in C. P., including the scarce Yellow-Olive. Three used£ 1.70
- 211 (a) 1/- Orange-Brown. Like the carmine-lake of the 6d, the orange-brown ink was used experimentally, and stamps in this shade are among the great K. G. V. rarities. The copy offered is in quite exceptional condition, justifying the description "brilliant used"£52.50
- (b) 1/- Plate Number. Lovely mint single in orange-vermilion, perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$, with plate number 41 in top selvage. Scarce, and nice! £ 8.25
- 212 Complete Used Set. Set of 32 stamps, based on the S. G. listing of the Recess-Prints. In perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$, all numbers from S. G. 479 - 495 are included, and in perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$, S. G. 479a - 494a. A few minor faults, but a much-above-average set, with the scarcer values being mainly particularly good copies. The used set of 32 £17.50

K. G. V. TWO-PERF PAIRS

- 213 (a) 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Grey on "Pictorial" paper (K1f). Mint £ 1.75
- (b) As above. A superfine used block of 4 (dated)£ 6.75

	(c) As above, but a really fine used pair <u>without watermark</u>	£ 5.50
214	<u>2d Violet (K2c)</u> . Mint	£ 2.10
215	<u>2d Yellow (K2f)</u> . Very fine used	£ 2.85
216	<u>3d Chocolate (K4c)</u> . Two pairs in contrasting shades of deep chocolate and chocolate-brown, both pairs showing marked plate wear. Mint	£ 6.90
217	<u>4d Yellow (K5c)</u> . Marginal block of 4, perfect mint	£ 3.00
218	<u>5d Pale Ultramarine (K7c)</u> . A magnificent used pair	£ 7.00
219	<u>6d Carmine (K8c)</u> . Another very good used pair	£ 9.75
220	<u>7½d Deep Red-Brown (K9c)</u> . Mint	£ 3.50
221	<u>8d Indigo-Blue (K10c)</u> . Mint	£ 2.10
222	<u>Two-Perf Pairs Used</u> . A remarkable set of 14 values which would normally take many years to assemble. The set includes 1½d "Pictorial" paper (2 pairs, one with and one without wmk), 2d violet, 2d yellow, 2½d, 3d, 4d yellow, 4d violet, 5d, 6d, 7½d, 8d, 9d (this is a block of 4, in which a tear affects one stamp only), and 1/- . Apart from the 9d defect mentioned, condition is exceptionally good. The rare set, to the first order (this is one lot we <u>can't</u> repeat!).....	£85.00

Q. E. II - SOME INTERESTING USED OFFERS

223	(a) <u>1953-58 Q. E. Definitives</u> . Set of 17, complete ½d - 10/-, including the scarce 1/- Die 2. The set (S. G. 723 - 736), finest used.....	£17.25
	(b) As above, but the high value "Queen on Horseback" designs only. 2/6 - 10/-, top grade used	£ 7.50
224	<u>1955 - 59 Q. E. Definitives</u> . The redrawn set, with larger figures of value. Two values (1½d and 6d) appeared on the original thin coarse paper only; one (8d) appeared only on the later thick white paper; all others exist on both papers. All of these variations are included, as is the 1/9 on the white paper. Set of 12, selected used..	£ 1.85
225	<u>1960 Pictorials</u> . Long set of 32, i. e. complete per the S. G. listing 781 - 802, with the single exception of 788a. Included are all the chalky paper issues (the 4d is guaranteed to be the real thing, of course!), and for ease of identification these and the coil stamps are separately packaged. The used set of 32.....	£15.00
226	(a) <u>1967 Pictorials</u> . ½c - \$2, the set as originally issued on 10th July, 1967, plus the 30c on the later unwatermarked paper (S. G. 859a). 19 stamps used, "C. P." condition throughout	£ 6.25
	(b) <u>1967 Arms Types</u> . The four high values (\$4, \$6, \$8, \$10), with line perf 14 - and wmk sideways inverted (W8b) - as issued in conjunction with the above set. All are first class used copies. The set of 4.....	£30.00
	(c) <u>1968 Arms Types</u> . The set as above, but with comb perf, and wmk sideways (W8a). Superfine used	£25.00
227	<u>1967 - 69 Pictorials</u> . The new values, designs and colours. 7c - \$2, incl. both 7½c. 11 stamps, selected used quality.....	£ 4.00
228	<u>1970 - 71 Pictorials</u> . ½c - \$2, one of each value. The set of 21 (S. G. 914 - 934), yet again all prime used copies	£ 4.75

- 229 (a) Healths 1953 - 73. Complete sets of all 21 issues of the present reign, with both wmk's of 1957, both perfs of 1960, and including the scarce shade of the 1956 1½d+½d (S.G. 755a). 49 stamps, used £ 3.45
- (b) Health Miniature Sheets Used. An almost complete collection of used miniature sheets, 1957 - 73, lacking only the 1971 pair. Both wmk's of 1957 are present in this most attractive lot of 34 miniature sheets, all fine used £26.00
- 230 Christmas Issues. Complete set, 1960 - 73, including all the beautiful Old Master painting reproductions, and both wmk'd and unwmk'd issues of 1969. 23 stamps, finest used £ 1.10

231

A POSTAL HISTORY ITEM PAR EXCELLENCE

On December 17, 1863, a contract was signed in London by the New Zealand Postmaster-General (The Honourable Crosbie Ward) and The Intercolonial Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, for the carriage of interprovincial mails in New Zealand (and related connections to and from Australia), and between New Zealand and Panama.

We can offer the entire original dated document, complete with seals and the signatures of all parties. The contract runs to 31 paragraphs, and includes schedules laying down the timetables for both the N. Z. - Panama run and the interprovincial sailings. The whole is written in copperplate hand on 15 vellum pages, each approximately 18" deep x 12" wide.

The background story behind this contract is of considerable interest, and is well documented in "A History of the Post Office in New Zealand" by Howard Robinson. We shall gladly provide all the relevant details to the purchaser, if he does not have access to a copy of Robinson's book.

This is a unique and historic item, and a direct link with the very heart of the N. Z. postal service of well over a century ago. The document is in a remarkably fine state of preservation. Price..... £375

Used Varieties

- 232 Q. E. 2½d on 3d Provisional. Horizontal pair with wide and narrow settings of the surcharge se-tenant. Seldom seen used - this pair is superfine £ 6.50
- 233 1960 1/6 Tiki. Used copy with the very elusive (and mysterious) "Green Dots at Left" variety which occurred on R6/1 £ 6.75
- 234 1959 Health 3d+1d. Spectacular example of the "Shifted legs and eye" variety. In this case the shift is fully 7 mm left and about 2mm low, resulting in part of the legs protruding into the white gutter at left. Superb used £15.00
- 235 1963 Health 3d+1d. Used copy with the R3/5 "Finger Flaw" in the much scarcer original state £ 8.25
- 236 Used Variety Collection. No less than 51 different varieties on stamps of the current reign. All identified either by C. P. Catalogue number or sheet position and/or description. A wonderful start to a fascinating collection, offered at a fraction of catalogue value, many scarce items being included. £25.00

RECENT ISSUES

- 9/1/74 Xth British Commonwealth Games 4c, 5c, 10c, 18c, 23c, (the 5c commemorates the IVth British Commonwealth Paraplegic Games, taking place simultaneously in N. Z.) Set of 5, Mint 60p.
 Complete set of 10 imprint/plate blocks (two each value) £ 9.75
 Set of 5 imprint/plate blocks (one each value) £ 4.90
 First Day Cover with full set of stamps 69p.