

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.

Postage extra on all orders under £5, please.

VOLUME XIII

NUMBER 12

JULY 1976

IS YOUR CATALOGUE OVERFULL ?

A personal note from Campbell Paterson

For two quite unrelated reasons, the physical size of the C. P. Catalogue has increased considerably over the years past, and it is inevitable that this trend will continue in the future.

The first of these reasons - the annual quota of new issues - is both obvious and inescapable. The second is, to the 'casual' owner (whom I believe to be in the vast minority) perhaps not quite so obvious, since it stems from a deliberate policy of continuous improvement of the Catalogue as a work or reference, and involves the expansion of informative text and illustration in both 'Permanent' and 'Temporary' pages. In the last year or two, for instance, I have undertaken a major re-writing of large sections of the Catalogue, incorporating new information and, in many cases, fresh methods of presentation of existing information. I can assure all that I have not done this to make the Catalogue (or individual Supplements), bigger. The only criterion for any change is: "Does this benefit the user?" The present series of improvements is now near completion, the only complication being that no sooner is one major project finished than another one needs starting. My job as Editor reminds me of that of the apocryphal painter of the Forth Bridge. It is never complete! However, I wouldn't have it otherwise, for the number of appreciative comments I receive convinces me that I am working along the right lines. I take this opportunity of thanking most sincerely all who have taken the trouble to write, whether to express appreciation or to make constructive suggestions, which are always welcomed, and receive most careful consideration.

Reverting for a moment to the natural expansion of the body of the Catalogue, we have given parallel attention to the binder in which the pages are housed. Since the loose-leaf concept was introduced by me in 1951, the capacity of the binder has been progressively increased, and the current one, with large D-shaped rings, is designed to accommodate the entire Catalogue comfortably for the foreseeable future. Owners of earlier copies, though, and more especially those with the original one-inch ring binder, must now be finding that their Catalogues are uncomfortably full (several have already reported that this is so). It occurs to me that many may be under the impression that they have no option but to either grin and bear this state of affairs, or to purchase a complete new Catalogue. Far from it! Either branch can readily supply a new D-ring binder (without pages), to anyone who feels the need for one. Orders to Woking should be accompanied by a remittance for £4. 50, which includes postage and packing costs. As I mentioned, this new binder will house the whole Catalogue for many years to come, but owners might like to consider dividing their copies into two volumes, using one binder for those sections they refer to most frequently, and the other for

the remainder. Just one more example of the flexibility of the loose-leaf system.

Footnote (by Colin Hamilton).

A number of C. P. Catalogue owners have queried the omission from the 1976 Supplement of the listing of those items generally known as the "Reefton Provisionals".

This omission was deliberate, not accidental, and was the result of detailed discussions between the Catalogue Editor and Dr. K. J. McNaught, of Hamilton N. Z., who has made an in-depth study of these items and their background. The conclusion reached by both parties was that the "Reefton Provisionals" were not officially issued, and the Editor therefore decided that they should no longer be listed in the Catalogue. This decision, however, does not make these items any the less collectable - it merely indicates our long-held policy that the recognised standard reference work on N. Z. postage stamps should be as accurate as it is humanly possible to make it.

KING EDWARD VI LAND - AN INTERESTING BLOCK

We recently handled an absolutely brilliant mint block of eight of these stamps, with bottom selvedge. Its size and condition alone made it of far more than usual interest (mint multiples are scarce, and blocks or more than four stamps are very seldom seen). This particular piece, however, was a specialist's dream, for it comprised rows 9 and 10, stamps 13 - 16, and at the left edge of the selvedge was a large part of the 'divisional' arrow and two prominent coloured dots, one immediately below the arrow and one to its right. It was that gem among gems, a plate block - or to be precise, as close to a Royle "three-dot" plate block as it is possible to get in these Expedition stamps.

As its name implies, this plate was identified by three dots, clustered round the central divisional arrow in the form of an inverted triangle. But before the "KING EDWARD VII LAND" overprint was added, the sheets of 240 stamps were divided into four parts, each consisting of six complete vertical rows. It follows, therefore, that the central division separated the full plate marking into two parts.

Incidentally, even in their unoverprinted form blocks of 1d Universals showing the "three-dot" marking (and indeed the "four-dot" marking, from the other 1907 Royle Plate) are of extreme scarcity, as any collector will testify. Yet there is no evidence at all to suggest that, for instance, Royle "Trial" Plates stamps were issued in greater numbers than those from the later Royle Plates. However, selvedge blocks including the 'R1' and 'R2' plate numbers (although themselves hardly in the everyday category) are almost commonplace, in comparison with "three-dot" or "four-dot" blocks. As in the similar case of Edward VII 'Heads' plate blocks, one can only attribute this rarity to the fact that the identification markings are mere coloured dots rather than letters or numbers; that their significance was not recognised at the time the stamps were current; and that no effort was therefore made by collectors to preserve blocks with these markings.

KING EDWARD VI - MINT BLOCKS OF 4

Many of the blocks offered below are previously unmounted - a few have light hinge marks. This material is seldom available nowadays and when it is, it's in great demand. Stocks are strictly limited, so early ordering is advised.

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------|
| 701 | <u>1d Green</u> . Perf. 14 x 15 (H1a). Two blocks (one marginal) in contrasting shades. Superfine mint | £1. 80 |
| 702 | <u>2d Pale Mauve</u> . Perf. 14 x 14½ (H2a). Perfect mint block | £9. 00 |
| 703 | (a) <u>3d Chestnut</u> . Perf 14 line (H3b). Marginal block, again superfine | £15. 00 |

- 703 (b) As above, Perf. 14 x 13½ (H3c). A scarce stamp, and rare in blocks. This block is beautifully centred, fresh, and fine £32. 50
- 704 (a) 4d Red-Orange, Perf. 14 x 14½ (H4a). Lovely block, in an unusually bright (almost aniline) shade £6. 00
- (b) As above, Perf. 14 line (H4b). Superb marginal block, shade contrasts violently with the previous block £6. 00
- (c) 4d Yellow, Perf. 14 x 14½ (H4c). Superfine mint block £5. 50
- 705 (a) 5d Brown, Perf. 14 line (H5a). Corner block in a delicate pale red-brown. Superb £6. 75
- (b) As above, Perf. 14 x 14½ (H5b). Two lovely blocks, in gloriously contrasting shades £12. 00
- 706 6d Carmine, Perf. 14 line (H6a). Magnificent £15. 75
- 707 (a) 8d Indigo-Blue, Perf. 14 x 14½ (H7b). A marginal block - sheer perfection £5. 25
- (b) As above, Perf. 14 x 13½ (H7c). Two stamps lightly hinged, otherwise an immaculate block £9. 00
- (c) As above, Perf. 14 line, 'Pictorial' paper (H7e). Fresh and well-centred for this sideways wmk. issue. The block £3. 50
- 708 (a) 1/- Orange-Vermilion, Perf. 14 line (H8a). Brilliant mint block in bright orange-vermilion £30. 00
- (b) As above. Perf. 14 x 14½ (H8b). Top marginal block in pale vermilion. The bottom right stamp has a large printing ink flaw which partly obscures the D of ZEALAND. The block, fine mint £27. 50

KING GEORGE V HEADS

Some superb offers of these ever-popular issues, which are among New Zealand's most beautiful stamps.

(i) Recess-Printed on 'Cowan' Paper.

- 709 1½d Grey. A lovely set, consisting of an imperforate block of 4 plate proofs in black, of the issued stamps, pairs in each of the main perfs 14 x 13¼ and 14 x 14¼, plus a block of 4 with the two perfs se-tenant. All stamps are mint, and condition is of the highest order throughout. The 1½d page-in-the-making par excellence £28. 00
- 710 2d Violet/2d Yellow. Just one plate proof block is included here, but stamp content in both violet and yellow is exactly as in the previous lot. Thus there are four pairs and two "two-perf" blocks of 4, again all finest mint £43. 50
- 711 2½d Deep Blue. Comprehensive coverage, precisely as in lot 709. In this case the proof block is a marginal one, and has part of the "SPECIAL POSTAGE PAPER LONDON" watermark which occurred once in each sheet of one of the papers used for the recess proofs. The 2½d collection £31. 25
- 712 3d Chocolate. Apart from the change of value, the description of the 2½d lot above could be repeated here word for word. Another quite magnificent single-value page in the making £38. 00

- 713 4d Yellow/4d Violet. Another superfine lot, matching the 2d lot above in content. The yellow "two-perf" block has the extra attraction of including the major "Club-foot" re-entry (R4/10) and the proof block (which again has part of the 'Special Postage Paper London' watermark), although it is (like all the stamps) clearly from plate 20, includes one impression with a re-entry typical of several on plate 44, doubling being evident at the right of the King's moustache ! The magnificent lot of 4d's £61. 50
- 714 4d Violet. A lovely used vertical strip of 3 from plate 20, the uppermost stamp being the R4/10 major re-entry. In addition the strip is from a "two-perf." sheet (the variety stamp is perf. 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$, the lower pair perf. 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$). Thus the strip includes the item listed in our Catalogue as K5f(Z) - a real rarity in fine used condition. The used variety strip ... £25. 00
- 715 4d Deep Purple. A superfine mint (lightly hinged) example of the rare variety "Vertical pair, partly imperforate" from Plate 44 (K5gZ), caused by the omission of a complete row of comb perfs. Thus the lower stamp is perforated at bottom and sides and imperf. at top, while the upper stamp is imperf. at bottom and sides, but perforated to top. The 4d rarity £120. 00
- 716 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Deep Green. "Standard" representation (for this series of offers!), with imperf. proof block in black (again marginal), mint pairs of stamps in each perf., and a "two-perf" block. Immaculate condition throughout ... £51. 00
- 717 (a) 5d Blue, Perf. 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ (K7a). Plate block of 4 in pale blue, fine mint £18. 00
- (b) As above. Major variety "Pair Imperforate" (K7aY), with large margins all round (so generous at the top, incidentally, that this can only be a marginal pair). Yet again superfine mint £27. 00
- (c) As above. Plate proof block of 4, imperf, printed in black on unwmk'd paper. Diagonal crease affects upper pair, but invisible from front. The proof block £8. 25
- 718 6d Carmine. Same content yet again. A crease (not noticeable from the front) affecting the lower pair of stamps in the two-perf. block is more than compensated for by the glorious fresh shade and pristine appearance. The set of 6d's £45. 00

719

7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d PROVING BLOCKS

The "two-perf" method of perforating was used on all sheets from October, 1920, whereas earlier sheets of the 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d were invariably perforated 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ throughout the sheet. Although this 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ -only form extended over a period of five years, blocks proving the method - i. e. including stamps which are demonstrably from the lower part of a sheet - are both very scarce and of considerable specialist interest. We can offer such 'proving blocks' in three forms (all being superfine unhinged mint !)

- (a) Top selvage block of 10 stamps (2 x 5) £22. 50
- (b) Side selvage block of 6 stamps, the selvage showing the coloured dot which appeared alongside the gutter separating the sixth and seventh rows £15. 00
- (c) Bottom selvage block of 4 stamps £12. 50

- 720 7½d Red Brown. Incredibly (but it at least breaks the monotony of perfection!) there is neither two-perf. block nor 14 x 14½ pair here. The lot consists of an imperf. plate proof block of 4, plus in the issued stamps blocks of 6 and 4 and a pair (all perf. 14 x 13½) in a nice range of shades... £33. 00
- 721 8d Indigo-Blue. Imperf. plate proof block of 4 in black, on NZ and Star wmk'd paper, with wmk inverted. The block £15. 00
- 722 9d Sage Green. This value is without a plate proof block, but the stamps are again represented by pairs in each perf., plus a two-perf. block, all superfine mint £43. 50
- 723 1/- Vermilion. Composition is back to "normal" in this value, with plate proof block (marginal) and the usual two pairs and se-tenant block. All the stamps are in the scarcer vermilion shade, and what a pretty picture they make ! £75. 00

(ii) Recess-Printed on 'Pictorial' Paper

- 724 Collection. An outstanding lot of the 1½d, 2d, 3d and 6d on the provisional paper, beautifully mounted and written up on 4 album leaves. Representation of all four values is identical, in each case consisting of three singles, two pairs, a strip of 3, and a block of 4 (in the 1½d, the block is a two-perf. one, in which one of the vertical pairs is the no wmk. variety). Other "no wmk's" and "almost no wmk's" on the 1½d, 3d and 6d are noted in some profusion. The magnificent ready-made collection, condition superfine mint throughout £72. 50
- 725 (a) 1½d Grey. Mint block of 20 (the first two vertical rows of a sheet, complete with all selvages). The top selvedge shows a small part of the plate number 14; one complete vertical row has all 10 stamps without wmk; and since all sheets of the 1½d on this paper were perforated by the "two-perf" method, the block includes at Rows 4 and 5, "two-perf" pairs (one of which has no wmk). A fine mint piece, apart from a little unobtrusive reinforcement of perfs where the block has been folded, but as this is between horizontal rows 6 and 7, no vital part of the block is affected £17. 50
- (b) As above. Mint block of 18 (6 x 3), perf. 14 x 14½, from bottom right corner of a sheet, including 6 stamps without watermark. The mint block.. £3. 75

726 K. G. V 'TWO-PERF' PAIRS

A set of 15 vertical pairs, with the two main perfs. se-tenant, including 1½d (2 pairs, one being on "Pictorial" paper), 2d violet, 2d yellow, 2½d, 3d, 4d yellow, 4d violet, 4½d, 5d, 6d, 7½d, 8d indigo-blue, 9d, 1/- - in other words complete except the very rare and nigh impossible 4d "reversed" pair from pl. 44 (K5j). Overall condition is as fine as we can recall seeing - an unrepeatable opportunity for someone at, the set £137. 50

727 1920 VICTORY

The complete set of 7 values ½d - 1/- (including the 2d on ½d surcharge) in mint blocks of six. As everyone knows, multiples of four stamps are elusive enough - larger blocks are almost unheard of nowadays. The 1d block is an irregular one, all others are either 2 x 3 or 3 x 2. One stamp in the 1/- block has a corner crease, otherwise condition is fresh, mint and stain-free - in a word, superlative. The set of 'Victory' blocks, unrepeatable £112. 50

N. Z. PHILATELIC LITERATURE

- | | | |
|---------|---|----------|
| 728 | "New Zealand. A Philatelic Handbook" by R. J. G. Collins. A good copy of this scarce early forerunner of the larger volumes which were published in later years by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand. In addition to its historical interest, this little book (of 88 closely-printed pages) gives much invaluable information on all aspects of N. Z. stamps up to about 1921 | £6. 50 |
| 729 (a) | "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand". An absolutely complete set of the matchless R. P. S. N. Z. Handbooks mentioned briefly above, and consisting of Volumes 1 - 5 plus the matching monograph on the 1d Universal by G. R. Lee. Condition varies from very good to 'as new'. The complete set of Handbooks, the finest investment in knowledge a serious NZ collector can make | £250. 00 |
| | (N. B. Volume 6 of this series is now well advanced in the course of preparation, and if the purchaser of the above set hasn't already placed an advance order for a copy, we will gladly add his name to the list, on request). | |
| 729 (b) | <u>As above.</u> A part set, comprising Volumes 1, 2, 3 and the 1d Universal monograph. Ideal for the philatelist whose interest doesn't extend beyond the King George VI period. (Incidentally, all four volumes in this set are "matched" copies, i. e. they have the same serial number). Condition good to fine (Volume 1 has had some annotation added in ink by a previous owner to page margins for easier reference). The short set | £185. 00 |
| | (c) <u>As above.</u> Volume 3 - the postal historian's "bible" - a very fine single copy | £45. 00 |
| 730 | $\frac{1}{2}$ d MOUNT COOK RARITY | |
| | Marginal block of 4 on Cowan Unwatermarked paper, perf. 14 x 11 (C.P. F3c, S.G. 336). Superb unhinged mint. The rare block | £60. 00 |
| | FINE 1d UNIVERSALS | |
| | (continued from last month's listing) | |
| 731 | <u>Basted Mills Paper,</u> Perf. 14 (G3b). Two fine shades, mint | £4. 80 |
| 732 (a) | <u>As above,</u> Perf. 11 x 14 (G3c). Four mint blocks of 4 (shades), with all possible variations of watermark - normal, inverted, reversed and inverted-and-reversed. In addition, the inverted-and-reversed item is a corner block and includes the prominent plate 1 re-entry at R1/24. The set of 4 fine blocks, full of specialist interest | £27. 00 |
| | (b) <u>As above.</u> An exactly similar set of blocks, except that the re-entry block (which again has inverted-and-reversed wmk.) shows Plate 3, R5/24. The specialist set of 4 blocks | £27. 00 |
| | (c) <u>As above.</u> Mint block of 4, again perf. 11 x 14, with wmk. inverted .. | £6. 00 |
| | (d) <u>As above.</u> Superb mint block of 6 (non marginal), including the Plate 2 re-entry at R1/1 | £10. 00 |

- 732 (e) As above. Bottom selvedge block of 12 (4 x 3), including the "clearly redrawn pearl" variety mentioned in last month's issue (see lot 604f. June Bulletin). Furthermore, the block also includes the re-entry which is plate-able to Pl.1 R9/24, thus proving the position of the redrawn pearl variety to be R9/21.
The superb block (with wmk inverted) £18. 50
- 733 As above, Perf. 14 x 11 (G3d). Superbly centred block of 4, mint, one stamp with minor re-entry (unplated). The block £10. 50
- 734 (a) Cowan Unwatermarked Paper, Perf. 14 (G4a). Fine mint blocks in (a) carmine and (b) very deep crimson. The latter is a most distinctive shade, the like of which we cannot recall ever having seen before.
The two blocks £25. 00
- (b) As above. Two excellent shades (neither of which is the very deep crimson), in mint singles £3. 00
- (c) As above. Perf. 14 x 11 (G4c). A scarce stamp. Fine mint £10. 80
- (d) As above. Not-so-fine copy (slight foxing on a few perfs.), but an excellent spacefiller at £5. 25
- (e) As above. A very good used copy £6. 00
- (f) As above. Mixed perfs. (G4d). A lovely mint copy (with bottom selvedge), originally perf. 14 all round, re-perforated 11 at top and bottom £18. 00
- (g) As above. A great rarity, being a vertical pair, originally perf. 14 x 11 (itself not a common stamp), but with the bottom two rows of horizontal perfs. badly misplaced. The upper of these two rows, which should have fallen between the stamps, has been officially patched, and the machine gauging 11 used to re-perforate between the stamps. Unlike lot (f) above, therefore, this pair is the variety "Mixed perfs. on G4c", and must be of very considerable rarity. It is of additional interest that the pair is obviously from the bottom of a sheet, and although the bottom row of perf. 14 is very badly misplaced downwards (leaving the stamp with a "wing margin" at the foot), no corrective re-perforating has been done.
The rare pair £60. 00
- 735 (a) Cowan Watermarked Paper, Perf. 14 (G5a). A pristine corner block of 18 (6 x 3), with full selvages and sheet serial no. Being from the First Local Plate no.1, the block includes the prominent re-entry at R1/24. The large multiple, lovely £12. 50
- (b) As above. Another fine top selvedge block (of 24 stamps) in a rich shade from a relatively unworn plate. No re-entries noted - just a most appealing piece £10. 50
- (c) As above. A further superfine block of 24, from plate 1, comprising Rows 6-10, stamps 7-12, with full bottom selvedge attached. As such, it includes the good re-entries at R10/8 and 10/9, and at the extreme right of the selvedge, an almost complete impression of the scratched-on plate number 1. Blocks showing examples of this, and any of the other First Local Plates numbers, are rare, especially so in this particular issue. The plate number block, superb and highly desirable £45. 00

- 735 (d) As above. Block of 6, two blocks of 4, and three pairs, with a nice range of shades and plate wear. 20 stamps, all finest mint £7. 25
- (e) As above. A page of no less than 20 single stamps, all G5a, showing the extreme range of shades and plate wear which are to be found in this issue £6. 00
- 736 As above. Perf. 11 (G5b). A used copy (light clear c.d.s.) of this, one of the great rarities among 1d Universals. A few short perfs at left, but a good copy of a seldom seen stamp - and fully guaranteed, of course (Cat. £130 +) £105. 00
- 737 (a) As above. Perf. 14 x 11. Another scarce stamp - and we can offer fine mint examples in either of the Catalogued shades of carmine or carmine-pink at, each, (please state preference) £22. 50
- (b) As above. Average used copies (completely sound, but rather heavy pmk or somewhat off-centre). Now Cat. £12, each £6. 00
- (to be continued)

738

KING EDWARD VII LAND

A superfine used block of 4, cancelled by Brit. Antarctic Expd datestamp of FE 27 08, in which the overprints on the upper pair are distinctly out of alignment with those on the lower pair, thus nicely demonstrating the fact that the surcharging of each pane of 60 stamps was done in two stages (only pieces including stamps from rows 5 and 6 se-tenant can possibly show this). Almost incidentally, the top left and bottom right stamps in this block are re-entries, with doubling of the horizontal lines of shading around Zealandia - in the former this doubling is particularly pronounced. The scarce and interesting used 'Antarctic' block (RD1a) £40. 00

RECENT ISSUES

- 2/6/76 N. Z. Waterfalls. 10c Purakaunui, 14c Marakopa, 15c Bridalveil, 16c Papakorito. 48p
- Set of 4, mint £2. 95
- Imprint/plate blocks. Set of 4 (of 6 stamps each) 65p
- Official Illustrated F. D. C. (Wanganui pmk) 75p
- 1975 Roses Presentation Pack. An attractive full-colour folder, including one stamp of each value (1c - 9c). Supplied in a pictorial envelope.
- The pack, post paid 75p
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