

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by CAMPBELL PATERSON

The N. Z. P. O. is really trying!

I need hardly dwell on the fact that one of the most vexed questions in philately today is the deluge of new issues appearing all over the world. It was with pleasure (tinged admittedly with some doubts like "It sounds too good to be true".), that N. Z. collectors read in an official statement that the N. Z. P. O. would be restricting new issues in any one year to six - and that to include the Health and Christmas issues.

As I say, one had some doubts as to how this policy would work out. Without for a moment questioning the integrity and good faith of the official statement, one was left to wonder what face values would be included. Even four issues (excluding, that is, the Health and Christmas), could be expensive if they included many 18c and 28c (or 23c) stamps such as appeared in the 1969 Law Society set, the 1969 Captain Cook set, and the 1970 Expo set. Nor, as far as I know, was any undertaking given to limit the number of stamps in any one set.

So, one had doubts; but I am glad to say that since the "Expo", not one set has had an individual stamp higher than 10c - and even of 10c stamps the number has been limited. Indeed, if one analyses the values of the sets of the last 20 months, an interesting pattern emerges. It is evidence of the careful consideration being given to the most recent issues that we find the "Roses" issue restricted to three values only, and the denominations to 2c, 5c and 8c - all respectably low values. At first sight one might say "Why 5 cent, not 4 cent, having in mind the current basic letter rate of 4 cents?" Again, "Why a 2 cent value, since there is no apparent use for a 2 cent in any of the current rates of postage?" But I believe we can see some good and thoughtful reasoning here. Firstly, there is very evident resistance to the temptation to produce a set of, say, ten or more stamps: after all, any rose lover will gladly produce fifty varieties of roses which he will swear are as worthy of appearing on stamps as are the three that were selected. So, top marks to the P. O. for what must have been a difficult decision in the case of the 'Roses'. Top marks, too, in the selection of the actual values chosen. Let me explain: we have a 2c, a 5c and an 8c. Compare with these the most-used rates in N. Z. postal business at present, as follows: ordinary postage inland, 4c (so use a pair of 2c); inland air post, 5c; commonest overseas air rates, 7c, 8c, 9c, 10c, 12c, 18c and 23c - all easily achieved by using the three 'Rose' values, alone or in various combinations. Except for the omission of a 3c value to cover inland second-class mail, the trio as issued are really ideal, and indicate that the P. O. was anxious to keep the face value down to reasonable levels. (Re. the omitted 3c, it may have been reasoned, fairly enough, that the period of issue coinciding with the currency of the Christmas issue, with its beautiful "Madonna and Child" 3c, another 3c stamp would have been superfluous.)

We next come to the Vintage Cars issue. Here, anything less than six different would have been (one surely must agree?) inadequate to represent a fascinating subject. But again, although six this time may seem a lot, it is such an attractive set that no one should complain - after all, we would complain if we got too few attractive issues, would we not? In any case, by limiting the face-values to a modest 10c for the top one, the P. O. is again playing very fairly with collectors - or so it seems to me. Once again, all conceivable rates of postage are covered by the succession of values selected.

So I think my heading to this article is fully justified. It is surely clear that the P. O. is doing its best: firstly, to produce stamps of beauty and general appeal; secondly, to avoid giving the impression of exploiting collectors. To avoid that impression is imperative in these days when "banana republics" and the like are all trying to jump on the bandwagon and to get a free ride on collectors' backs! (for which horrific mixing of metaphors I humbly apologise).

I have often taken it upon myself to criticise the N. Z. P. O. for what I believed to be shortcomings of one sort or another. So it gives me quite a lot of pleasure to say to whoever is (obviously) using unusual intelligence in our recent issues - well done! Please keep it up!

One final word - not, alas, in high praise this time. Why are the Roses and the Vintage Cars not identified on the stamps? This is an inexplicable omission, and one which will cause a lot of annoyance in years to come.

AN EXHIBITION OF PETULANCE by Colin Hamilton

Four values from the contemporary definitive series, drably overprinted in black - this is scarcely the recipe for an exciting commemorative issue. Yet the austere appearance of the Auckland Exhibition set of 1913 masks a fascinating story of inter-city rivalries and jealousies, not to mention the considerable interest to be found in the stamps themselves.

To begin at the real beginning. The 1906 Christchurch Exhibition had been deemed worthy of a special issue of stamps, so it was not unnatural that Auckland should expect similar (or better!) consideration for its own show. The suggestion of a commemorative issue, however, was left until very late in the day. The actual proposal (by the Auckland Philatelic Society) was made on 29th October, 1913, scarcely more than one month before the Exhibition's opening date of 1st December.

Official approval was forthcoming surprisingly promptly - on 11th November - but even so the time factor obviously made a specially designed issue impracticable. It was decided, therefore, to apply a suitable overprint to limited quantities of the current $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 3d and 6d definitive stamps.

That such makeshift arrangements should rankle in the minds of proud Aucklanders - especially those with sets of the Christchurch Exhibition stamps already in their albums to remind them! - is understandable, but to add insult to injury, the postal validity of the Auckland set was limited to the prepayment of postage on internal mail, and on mail to Australia.

The result was a spontaneous, and determined, boycott of the stamps. During the 20 weeks they were on sale, only a fraction of the supply was sold, and the large unsold remainders were

subsequently destroyed. Precise figures are not recorded, but it is estimated that at least two-thirds of all the stamps overprinted were unsold. The full significance of this estimate will be realised when compared with the official record of total quantities printed: $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 84,000; 1d, 240,000; 3d, 30,000; 6d, 40,000. The figures for the 1d value include 120,000 specially printed on doubly-gummed paper and made up into rolls for sale from slot machines. Of these, less than 20,000 were sold.

In spite of the official limitation on validity, some stamps were used on foreign mail. We recently handled a registered cover (undoubtedly genuine) bearing a complete set, and addressed to Germany.

Varieties on the basic stamps are of course to be found also on the overprinted issues. For instance, on the 1d value the "Feather" and "Broken Globe" flaws are always worth looking out for. And, gem of gems, it is possible that vertical pairs or blocks of the 3d and 6d values may be found with "two-perfs" - not of the better-known $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ - $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ variety, but from two different heads gauging $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$, i. e. of the type recently accorded a full listing (and rightly so) in Section H of the C. P. Catalogue.

There are no notable varieties of the overprint, but collectors should beware of copies with forged overprint. These are by no means common but, as with all forgeries, are nonetheless dangerous. Fortunately they are easily recognised. The lettering is a good deal heavier than the genuine, and much less well-formed, and the stop after 1913 is circular, whereas in the genuine overprint it is definitely rectangular in shape.

CHOICE ITEMS FROM STOCK

- 401 Full-Face Queens. A really beautiful set, perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, Large Star watermark, in the originally issued colours. Comprising 1d vermilion (2 shades), 2d blue (plate 1, worn), 2d blue (plate 2), 3d lilac (2 shades), 4d rose, 4d yellow, 6d red-brown, 1/- green. Markings are generally light - the 4d's and 1/- are particularly fine copies. 10 stamps, used. A remarkable blaze of colour..... £40.00
- 402 First Pictorial "Officials". 3d, 1/- and 5/-, all in superfine used blocks of four. The 5/- block is of the sideways wmk issue, and is a magnificent piece, of deep fresh colour. All three blocks have clear dated circular postmarks. The short set of 3 used blocks, very scarce thus £26.50
- 403 1913 Auckland Exhibition. Complete set of four values, $\frac{1}{2}$ d-6d. If we were to tip any set for future appreciation, this one would be high on the list. Fine mint.. £25.00
- 404 Second Pictorial 2d Whare. The final issue on coarse paper - a mint horizontal pair with left selvedge, the marginal stamp showing a crystal-clear partial offset impression on the reverse. A delightful variety in joined pair with normal stamp, mint..... £5.00
- 405 1936 Health. Set of eight plate blocks of 4, showing the plate numbers 1 and 2 in all positions in which they occurred on the printed sheets. Absolutely complete - seldom offered thus. The eight mint blocks..... £10.00

- 406 1937 Health. Similar coverage to the above, this time of the "Hiker" issue. One or two very minor spots of foxing. Eight plate blocks of 4, complete, and scarce £21.00
- 407 1938 Health. Plate no. H1 from both sheet positions, in superb corner blocks of 6 (one with sheet serial no. 00008), and an equally fine imprint block of 8. The three mint blocks £6.50
- 408(a) 1967 8c Flag. A small but prominent retouch occurs on R10/1, at the foot of the first A of ZEALAND. Offered in mint counter coil pair 75p
- (b) As above. Another retouch (by the E of NEW), on stamp 1 of an unknown horizontal row. Again offered in counter coil pair, mint. 75p

BOOKLETS AND BOOKLET PANES

- 409 1d Universal. Complete mint pane of 6 from the special Booklet Plate, overprinted OFFICIAL £1.25
- 410 K. G. V. 1/2d Green. Pane of 6 (on Cowan paper with wmk reversed), complete with all selvages and "Kodak" ads. For the specialist, this pane bears part of the sheet serial no., thus proving its plating position. The mint booklet pane. £4.50
- 411 K. G. V 1d Field Marshal. A 2/- booklet from which two panes of stamps have been removed. Two panes remain (perf. 14 x 15, with "Parisian" ads), together with all interleaving advertisements, postal information etc. Condition very fine. The part booklet. £7.50
- 412 1935 1d Kiwi. 2/- booklet, complete with four panes of six stamps (with "Parisian" ads), and all interleaving, etc. Booklet panes of this issue are relatively common, but complete booklets (especially in the exceptionally fine condition of this one) are scarce. An additional point of interest is the hand-stamped "Errata" note on the back cover, correcting information contained in one of the advertisements within. The fine and scarce booklet. £15.00
- 413 K. G. VI 1d Scarlet. Booklet pane of six stamps, mint. £1.75
- 414 K. G. VI 1 1/2d Chocolate. Booklet pane of 6, with wmk inverted, mint. £2.50

K. G. V RECESS PRINTED - MINT AND USED

- 415(a) 1 1/2d Grey. Singles of each perf (14 x 13 1/2 and 14 x 14 1/2) on both the normal and "Pictorial" papers plus, on the latter paper, a "two-perf." vertical pair, and a single without wmk, perf. 14 x 14 1/2. Seven stamps, all mint. £1.50
- (b) As above, used. Four singles, representing both perfs on both papers. The four used. 38p

- 416(a) 2d Violet. A beautiful mint block of 9, perf. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$, never hinged. Quite superb..... £2.50
- (b) As above. A block of 4 in violet, a single in deep violet, both perf. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$, and a "two-perf." vertical pair. The block, pair and single, all mint..... £2.75
- 417 2d Yellow. Fine used single on "Pictorial" paper (with sideways wmk). Very much scarcer than mint..... 50p
- 418(a) $2\frac{1}{2}$ d Deep Blue. Two mint singles, one perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, the other $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$. The former is in the slate blue shade, while the latter is a distinctive deep blue. The two, mint..... 40p
- (b) As above. The two catalogued shades, deep blue and slate blue, perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, used..... 40p
- 419(a) 3d Chocolate. Perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, mint single 50p
- (b) As above. A comprehensive used showing with, in each perf., two excellent shades and a markedly worn plate copy. A pair on "Pictorial" paper completes a fine lot of 8 stamps, all used..... 85p
- 420(a) 4d Yellow. This value is not notable for shades, but we can offer two good contrasts in each perf., one having a distinctly orange tinge. Four stamps, mint..... 70p
- (b) As above. The two major re-entries (R1/6 and 4/10) on the 4d Yellow. The former is a mint single (perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, of course) while the "Club-foot" appears in its classic form, being the upper stamp of a "two-perf." pair. The latter has a minor crease, not affecting its appearance in any way. The two major variety items, mint..... £6.00
- (c) As above. Used "Yellow" are very elusive. Our offer is of copies in either perf., markings a little heavy, each..... £1.00
- 421(a) 4d Violet. A truly stupendous range of shades, from deep purple to bright violet. In perf. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ there are four, and in perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ five, including a beautiful copy of the very deep purple from plate 44 (very scarce in this perf.). Nine mint..... £6.00
- (b) As above, perf. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ only. Four outstanding shades, mint..... 90p
- (c) As above, perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. Deep purple (shade 3 in the C.P. Catalogue). Superfine used copies of this unmistakable shade, printed from plate 44. Scarce, each..... 90p
- (d) As above. Three fine shades, excluding the deep purple. Two of these show advanced plate wear. The three used..... 15p
- (e) As above, perf. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$. Three used copies. One, from plate 20, is in bright violet; the others, from plate 44, are in deep purple, and one of these shows a prominent retouch to the cross on the crown. Three used..... 15p

- (f) As above - Catalogued Varieties
- (i) R1/6 Re-entry. Perf. 14 x 13½, used..... £2.00
- (ii) R4/10 Re-entry. Perf. 14 x 13½, used..... £2.00
- (iii) R3/8 Re-entry. Perf. 14 x 14½, used..... 40p
- (iv) R10/12 Re-entry. Perf. 14 x 14½, used..... 40p
- 422 4½ Deep Green. Finely used copies, either perf. 14 x 13½ or 14 x 14½ (please state which is required). Each..... 50p
- 423(a) 5d Light Blue, perf. 14 x 13½. The three catalogued shades - light blue, ultramarine and steel blue - mint..... £1.65
used..... 55p
- (b) As above, perf. 14 x 14½. Light blue and ultramarine. Two excellent shades, mint..... £2.75
- (c) As above. The distinctly different steel blue shade, perf. 14 x 14½, lovely used 75p
- 424(a) 6d Carmine, perf. 14 x 13½. Carmine and deep carmine. The two mint..... 40p
- (b) As above. Three beautiful shades (including dark-carmine) in each perf. 14 x 13½ and 14 x 14½. Six stamps, used..... 80p
- (c) As above. "Pictorial" paper. Single, fine used (scarce)..... £1.00
- (d) As above, but marking a little heavy 60p
- 425 7½d Deep Red-Brown. Singles in each perf., and a "two-perf." pair. A nice little lot of four stamps, mint..... £2.50
- 426 8d Indigo-Blue. Mint horizontal pair perf. 14 x 14½, and a "two-perf." vertical pair. The two pairs, mint..... £1.75
- 427 8d Red-Brown. The two catalogued shades, red-chocolate and red-brown - lovely contrast. Used..... 28p
- 428 9d Sage-Green. Again a complete range of shades per the C. P. Catalogue with, in perf. 14 x 13½, three including the scarce yellowish-olive, and one perf. 14 x 14½. Four used..... £1.60
- 429(a) 1/- Vermillion. Two glorious shades, perf. 14 x 13½, mint..... £2.20
- (b) As above. Rich shades of vermillion and orange-vermillion, in each perf. A fine quartet, all used..... 45p

NOT NEW ZEALAND

- 430(a) Pitcairn Islands. The 1940-51 Pictorial Definitive set ½d-2/6d, 10 values complete, fine mint (S. G. set price £8.50)..... £4.50
- (b) As above. Short set of 7 values, used (no 4d, 8d or 2/6d). Cat. £4.50, a bargain at £2.00