

CAMPBELL PATERSON'S NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain for reference purposes.

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N.Z. NOTES and COMMENT

(By Campbell Paterson)

Centennials

My remarks re scope for study in this issue (see last paragraph, September Notes) may have been misconstrued. It is obvious enough that Mr Watts, in compiling the chapter in the Handbook, would have studied the proof sheets and some issued sheets. Nevertheless, on the evidence of the George VI set, I feel that one cannot rely on the proof sheets to tell the whole story and further study of issued sheets could be fruitful.

C.P. Catalogue

I would like to express my very real appreciation of the many kind letters which have reached me from readers who have found the Catalogue to their liking. In many cases I have answered them personally, but a large number arrived while I was away on my recent trip.

It will be readily understood that this enthusiastic reception has been a great relief to me. In compiling the work I introduced many new features. These I thought would be appreciated, but what I thought was hardly important—it was what the readers thought that mattered, and that was something I could not know until the book had been published.

Apart from my natural anxiety that my work should be found satisfactory there was the very potent factor of capital outlay to keep me awake at night. Costs today are quite incredible—in the event, our paper alone cost (approximately) £140; blocks were £180; linotype setting £150; these are basic costs only—to them were added the whole of the printer's costs for compositors' work, printing and binding, and (hardly the least factor) my own time over a period of quite nine months.

As it turned out, things went exceptionally well and we sold the whole original printing order within four weeks of the date of issue. The printer had run a small extra number and these, augmented by some I retrieved from local shops, have availed to keep us going since. We can continue on these lines for a little while yet, but I would certainly not advise anyone to delay their order much longer.

Some suggestions for future editions (always most welcome) have been made by readers and these I will review now.

An Index

This has been suggested by quite a few and I agree it is a good idea. It will be included in future.

Numbering of Pages

The absence of page numbers has caused comment, but some readers realised the reason, which is that the whole book (though bound this year), is based on the loose-leaf idea. No numbers will be possible in the later loose-leaf form, since the addition of extra pages from time to time, as is intended, would soon make such numbering chaotic. The heavy type "leaders" at the top of each page should go far to compensate for lack of numbers.

Older Issues Omitted

The absence of the pre-1898 stamps (caused by costs and the time factor) was of course regrettable, though not more so than the absence of many other sections (which will assuredly be added in future years. This year's edition is just a very

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small beginning and we have in the present book only a faint foreshadowing of things to come. Rome was not built in a day, nor was any existing catalogue in the world first issued in the size and form it takes today. Suffice it to say that this is (we believe) the only catalogue in the world deliberately planned for future expansion on a really large scale—expansion on lines calculated to make it a real handbook on all phases of New Zealand philately.

New Numbers

It was inevitable of course that most, if not all, collectors would regret the appearance of "yet another" new numbering system. The majority would realise that there was no alternative. The suggestion that we should use some existing system of numbers, made in all seriousness by more than one collector, quite ignores the existence of the law of copyright. In any case no existing system would fit the new set-up. So it was not really a question of whether or not to use a new set of numbers—it was a case of new numbers or no Catalogue at all.

Sectional Listing

The new set-up, keeping each issue quite separate from all others and dealing with each value in its entire range before passing on to the next, has been very well received. So I think it should be, as it must inevitably make identification easier. In addition it happens to be the set-up used widely by advanced specialists in the arrangement of their collections.

Prices

This is a subject where it is impossible completely to please anybody. When the collector has the stamp he likes it to increase in price; when he does not have it he likes it to go down! The important thing is that the prices should reflect the true market position. They must also be backed by an available stock which (subject always to sudden market fluctuations in individual cases) the Catalogue publisher is prepared to sell at those prices. Our Catalogue fulfils these requirements, the stock behind it being in all probability the biggest New Zealand stock in the world. A catalogue published by a firm doing little business and holding negligible stocks would be useless as a true market guide.

Novices' Reactions

It has given me great pleasure to note that those who class themselves as novices and beginners are particularly pleased with the Catalogue. For my aim was to produce a highly specialised work which would attract the non-specialist—not an easy task, since the beginner is invariably shy of the difficulties of specialisation.

1935 - 1947 PICTORIALS

(Continued from October Newsletter.) (Blocks pro rata unless stated.)

Lot No.

150	1d Kiwi Single Watermark, Booklet, Die II:	
	(a) Complete pane from Booklet with "Parisian" adverts	12/6
	(b) As (a), inverted watermark	12/6
	(c) Single stamp, wmk normal or invert, mint 2/-, used 6d . Pair with adverts, normal or invert, mint	4/6
151	1d Kiwi Multiple Wmk:	
	(a) Normal. Red (deep or pale), mint 4d , used	1d
	(b) Inverted watermark, mint	6d
	(c) Plate Blocks, A3, A4, B3, B4, each	3/-
	(d) Official, mint 6d , used	1d
152	1½d Cooking, Single Watermark 14 x 13½:	
	(a) Normal. Mint 2/-, picked used	1/3
153	1½d Cooking, Single watermark 13½ x 14. Wet Print:	
	(a) Normal. Mint, special offer, 1/6: used, fine	1/3
	(b) Official, mint, special offer, each 9d: used	9d
154	1½d Cooking, Single Wmk. Inverted and Reversed:	
	(a) Normal. Mint, special offer, 3/6: used, fine	3/6
155	1½d Cooking, Multiple Watermark:	
	(a) Normal, mint, red-brown or deep red-brown, special offer	1/
	(b) Normal, used. Either reddish shade, picked copies, each 1/- (per dozen 10/-); fine used block of 9, purple-brown	17/6
	(c) Plate Block, 1B, mint	17/6
	(d) Variety, mint, "double string" re-entry, in pair	20/-
	(e) Official; Mint, special offer, each 9d: used	6d
156	2d Whare, Single Watermark:	
	(a) Normal, mint, special offer (Cat. 1/6)	1/-
	(b) Normal, fine used, quite a scarce stamp, each	5d
	(c) Plate Block, 1B	7/6

Lot No.

157	2d Whare Multiple Wmk, perf 14 x 13½, Esparto:	
	(a) Normals. A remarkable range of shades, ranging from reddish orange to pale orange. We recommend a range of three widely-differing shades, mint at	1/3
	(b) A similar range of shades, fine used	5d
	(c) Plate Blocks, 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, each 2/-: 3B	3/-
	(d) Official. Red-orange and orange, the two shades, mint	8d
158	2d Whare Perf 14 (line):	
	(a) Normals, well centred, mint 3/6, used	9d
	(b) Plate Block, 2B	17/6
	(c) Official mint. Special offer (Cat. 1/3)	6d
	(d) Official Plate Blocks. Special. Plates 2A, 2B, each (Cat. 7/6)	3/6
159	2d Whare Perf 14 x 15 (line):	
	(a) Normals, well centred. Mint 5/-, used (picked copies)	1/-
160	2d Whare Perf 12½:	
	(a) Normals, deep reddish-orange or deep orange, mint 1/3, used ..	4d
	(b) Plate Blocks, 2A, 2B, each, special offer	4/6
	(c) Official. Mint (scarce) 6/-. Official Plate Block, 2A	30/-
161	2d Whare 14 x 13½ Coarse Paper:	
	(a) Normals. An excellent range of three shades. mint	9d
	(b) Plate Blocks, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, each 1/6; 4A, 4B, each 2/6; 5, 5A, 5B, each	1/3
	(c) Official Plate Blocks, 3A, 3B, 4B, each 1/6; 5, 5A, 5B, each	1/-
162	2½d Mt. Cook Single Wmk Perf 13-14 x 13½:	
	(a) Normals. Special offer , mint 1/-, fine used	1/6
163	2½d Mt. Cook Single Wmk Perf 13½ x 14, Wet Print:	
	(a) Normals. Special offer , mint 1/-, fine used	1/6
	(b) Plate Block. Plate 1	7/6
164	2½d Mt. Cook, Mult. Wmk Perf 13-14 x 13½:	
	(a) Normals. With dark or very pale frames (a wide difference here), each, mint	2/-
	(b) Fine used, each 1/-. Fine used block	4/-
	(c) Plate Block. Plate 1, special offer	8/6
	(d) Inverted watermark, mint	6/-
	(e) Variety. Block of 6 mint, including R5/3, with pale lower corner ..	15/-
	(f) Official. Mint 4/6, fine used 3/6. Fine used block	14/-
165	2½d Mt. Cook Perf 14 (line):	
	(a) Normal. Mint 10d, used	6d
	(b) Plate Block. Plate 3	4/6
	(c) Official. Mint 9d, used 9d. Plate 3 block (long or short head perf) ..	3/6
166	2½d Mt. Cook, Perf 14 (comb):	
	(a) Normal. Mint 9d, used 5d, fine used block	2/-
	(b) With exceptionally dark frame; mint, each	1/6
	(c) Plate Block, Plate 3, special offer	3/3
	(d) Double strip across the sheet, 12 stamps, showing both side selvages, with the centre plate markings which first appeared in this issue. The double strip, mint	12/6
	(e) Official. Mint 1/6. Plate Block	7/6
	(f) Official. Two selvage blocks, showing the right and left side centre plate markings. The two blocks	15/-
167	2½d Mt. Cook, Coarse paper, Perf 13½ x 13½:	
	(a) Normal. Mint 5d, used 4d, fine used block	1/6
	(b) Plate Block, Plate 4, with burele band, 3/-: without band	2/6
168	2½d Mt. Cook, Coarse paper, Perf 14¼ x 13½:	
	Note—Supplies of this perf are proving most difficult to locate.	
	(a) Normal. Mint, each	1/-
185	3d Maori Girl, Single Watermark.	
	(a) Normal. Mint (a good and scarce stamp), 6/-, fine used	3d
186	3d Maori Girl, Mult. Watermark.	
	(a) Normal. Mint (again a scarce stamp), 6/6; fine used	3d
	(b) Fine used block of four	1/3
	(c) Invert wmk. Cheap at the price, mint	12/6
	(d) Plate No. 1, definitely scarce, in block, 45/-: in pair	18/-
	(e) Official. Mint, 3/6; used, 4d; fine used block	1/6

Lot No.

187	4d Mitre Peak, Single Watermark.	
	(a) Normal, mint (special offer), 1/3; used	1d
	(b) Interesting variety. Misplaced centre, putting boat well "aground" on the frame. Mint, each	2/6
	(c) Plate No. 1 in block of four	7/6
	(d) Variety. Wmk "capital letter," mint	3/-
188	4d Mitre Peak, Mult Wmk.	
	(a) Normal, mint, 10d; fine used, 1d; fine used block of 9	1/6
	(b) Variety: "Boat well aground," mint	2/6
	(c) Plate numbers: 1 or 2A in block of 4, each	5/-
	(d) Varieties: Retouches, "Long I" or "Thick I," mint, each 4/6; used, 1/6. Re-entry, "Triple peak," mint, 7/6; used	5/-
	(e) Official. Mint, 1/-; used, 1d; Plate No. 1 in block	5/-
189	4d Mitre Peak, per 14 line.	
	(a) Splendid mint copies of this fine stamp, well centred, immaculate. One of the best stamps in the set and sure to rise in value. (Blocks pro rata.) Each	45/-
	(c) Plate strip. A great rarity, being a complete strip from the bottom of the sheet showing the Plate Nos. 3-2B (10 stamps). The strip	£30
	(d) Official. This is a useful stamp to have on hand to check shade, etc., of any non-official 4d thought to be the "line 14." Mint, each	1/6
190	4d Mitre Peak, perf 12½.	
	(a) This is our tip as the Pictorial most likely to rise (in mint) from the "moderate" to the "high-priced" group in the near future. Stocks are good at the moment. Mint, 1/6; used	3d
	(b) Naturally the Plate numbers will more than reflect any future rise. We have them (3 or 2B) in blocks at 10/-; Strip of 10 with both Nos., 20/-; Double strip of 20 with both Nos.	45/-
	(c) Official. Mint, 1/3. Block of four with Plate No. either 3 or 2B ...	6/-
191	4d Mitre Peak, 14 x 14½, Coarse Paper.	
	(a) Min, 6d; used, 1d; fine used block	8d
	(b) Plate Nos. (all in blocks of 4), 1, 6/-; 2A, 2B, 4, each	3/6
	(c) Official. Mint, 8d; used	1d
	(d) Official Plate strip 20 stamps "Blank-2B"	25/-
192	5d Swordfish Single Wmk. Perf 13-14 x 13½.	
	(a) Normal. Scarce. Mint, a special offer, 5/-; used	1/-
193	5d Swordfish Single Wmk., Perf 13½ x 14.	
	(a) Normal. Another scarce stamp. Mint, 4/6; used	1/-
194	5d Swordfish Mult. Wmk. Perf 13-14 x 13½.	
	(a) Normal, mint, 3/6; used	3d
	(b) Variation, Perf 14-13 x 13½, mint	3/6
	(c) Invert Wmk, mint	7/6
	(d) Plate No. 1 in block of 4. A good block	15/-
195	5d Swordfish, Perf 12½ Esparto.	
	(a) This is another of the "Blitz" perfs which is on the up and up. Mint, 4/6; used	1/-
	(b) Plate No. 1 in block of 4	20/-
196	5d Swordfish, Perf 12½, Coarse Paper.	
	(a) Again sure to rise. Mint, 3/-; used	9d
	(b) Plate No. 2 in block of 4	13/6
197	5d Swordfish, Perf 13¼ x 13½, Coarse Paper.	
	(a) Normal, mint 9d; used	3d
	(b) Plate No. 2 in block	4/6

May we remind clients that we are always in the market for
NEW ZEALAND SPECIALIZED and GENERAL
COLLECTIONS. Also Empire Collections, Single Rarities, etc.