

Campbell Paterson's NEWSLETTER

FOR COLLECTORS OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

Registered at the G.P.O. Wellington as a Magazine.

This Newsletter gives valuable information. Retain it for reference purposes.
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LONDON NEWSLETTER

(by Campbell Paterson)

A nice find. Among a recent purchase of covers made here was one bearing the very scarce "Goldfield" datestamp on the back. This mark can be found illustrated in Vol. 3 of the Handbooks on page 78 (fig. 35) and described on page 79. On the latter page it is stated that this datestamp "was introduced in 1863." It gave me very considerable pleasure to find that this cover was dated March, 1862. It is a commentary on the scarcity of this stamp that if we take this find as the earliest known it means that it was in use for at least nine months of 1862 and of all the covers that bore it during that period only one has survived. Naturally I considered whether this might be a freakish use of the wrong year in the canceller but fortunately there was a fine clear 1862 Dunedin mark on the face of the cover. For the record I may say the adhesive involved was a fine 2d blue on white no wmk. paper, Richardson Print. The history books record that the Gabriel's Gully strike that set off the Otago Gold-rush was made in 1861 so there is now evidence that a special Goldfield datestamp was introduced by the P.O. with praiseworthy celerity. There is no doubt that the Postal History field is largely neglected in New Zealand. That it is now beginning to receive more attention is almost wholly the result of the publication of Vol. 3 of the Handbook. This volume stands in my opinion among the greatest works on philately ever produced.

Pressure on the Arms Type. A rather remarkable feature of recent Auction Sales in London has been the very high prices that collectors have been paying for Mint Arms Type high values. This has been mainly concentrated on the single watermark set. The pressure has undoubtedly been increased since the appearance of the latest Stanley Gibbons Part I Catalogue but was noticeable earlier. The most striking example is the 35/- yellow without overprint which is selling very readily on the few occasions that it is offered at £50 and more. Others eagerly sought are the 25/-, 50/-, 70/-, and 90/-, but really all the values of the Single watermark set seem to be sharing to some extent in the current rush. It has long been obvious that these stamps are extremely scarce in mint condition but I think that few collectors in N.Z. can have anticipated that any brisk appreciation in value would ever occur. It can be safely said that the number of collectors in N.Z. who have in the past included the Arms Types, Mint, is extremely small. If I was told that such collectors in N.Z. were in number less than thirty I would not be surprised. I mean, of course, serious collectors who were willing to lay out the quite large sum represented by the face value of the whole set, in both watermarks, up to the £5 value. The total may be well under thirty. I have not noticed any great increase in demand from N.Z. collectors so it seems safe to say that the new pressure and practically all the earlier interest has come from collectors in this country and to a much lesser extent from foreign collectors. The question is, how much stability can there be in a set which is literally ignored in the very place where one would expect to find the keenest interest—that is, in the country of origin? The situation is without parallel in any other group of stamps in any country, or so it seems to me. I will say this that I feel that the overseas collectors have gained a good deal from the purely collecting angle. Contrary to the general opinion I have always thought the set attractive with its wide range of large colourful stamps. They do make a very striking page in mint condition. But then I never have been particularly impressed by Pictorials just on the ground

NEW SEASON'S PICKINGS

Lot No. 522

- (a) **1d Universal Plate No. W2.** Over 50 years since this Waterlow Perf 14 plate number was issued and very few can possibly exist today. This is a lovely block of four, well centred and of lovely colour £6/10/0
- (b) **Edward & Dominion Booklet Panes.** The ½d Edward, two panes from the "blurred" Booklet plate, also a block of three stamps and ornamental "star" from pane, with side and bottom selvedge; a complete Booklet pane of the "blurred" 1d Dominion and another similar but in an extremely pale print, this last without stapling selvedge. Seems a pity to break this lot up. The fine set of Booklet pieces £12
- (c) **Edward VII Collection in Mint Blocks.** This is a beautiful and highly colourful lot. Just the thing for someone wanting to expand his (or her) Edwards from "singles only" to something more notable. When more than one block is included it can be taken for granted that the shades are really outstandingly different—and in Edwards that MEANS different! The collection is solely of mint blocks. They are: Perf 14 x 14½, 3d, 4d yellow (2), 5d, 6d, 8d indigo, 8d very deep blue and 1/-. Perf 14 line, 4d orange, 6d & 1/-. 14 x 13½, 3d, 5d (2), 6d and 8d deep blue. Combined perfs, 8d both colours and 5d. Finally a block of the 8d perf 14 (sideways watermark). The 20 blocks at a price which is below what we would charge for singles £36
- (d) **Edward VII Serial Numbers.** An attractive set of corner pairs, all with serial numbers on the selvedge. Included are (a) Perf 14 x 14½ 2d, 3d (three, all of widely differing shades); 4d yellow, 5d (two, one deep brown, one red-brown); 8d (with paper deeply blued) and 1/-. (b) Perf 14 line; 4d orange, 5d brown. The fine set of 11 pairs mint, all with serial numbers on selvedge £7

OFFER EXTRAORDINARY Cooks—Niue Die Proofs

523 The following form as attractive an offer of Islands material as we have ever been able to make. No collector of the N.Z. Dependencies should miss these magnificent proofs.

- (a) **Centre Die Proofs. Designs of 1920.** A delightful set of three proofs taken from the Master Die of the Centre Plates of the 1½d, 3d and 1/- values, each on a large rectangular piece of white paper. Faint guidelines cut in the metal show the future shape and size of the Die and towards the outer edges of the paper further lines indicate the centre of the Die. All three are in black, forming charming miniatures of the designs, seen here without the frames The scarce and valuable set of proofs £10
- (b) **Complete Die Proofs of the 1920 issue.** Similar and equally desirable proofs as in (a) but with the addition of the 6d value and with all values showing Frame Master Die Proofs in conjunction with the Centres. All the centres are in black as before but the frames may have been used also as colour trials—the 1½d frame is in blue, the 3d in brownish-purple, the 6d in orange and the 1/- in brown. Again a most charming and desirable addition to any Islands collection. The set of four Die Proofs £15
- (c) **Centre Die Proofs of the 1932 Issue.** These again are similar to (a) though in the later issue and they differ in that they show the progress of three of the Master Dies from the initial stages to the final stage where the engraver has finished his work and the Master Die can be considered ready for use. All are in black on rectangular pieces of medium thick white paper. The full size of the original block of metal on which the engraver has been
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working can be seen by its impression towards the outer edges of the paper. Of the ½d (Sailing ship and palms) there is one Proof; of the 1d (Capt. Cook), there are two; of these the second has deepened lines, particularly of the background. Of the 2d there are four stages, commencing with a very light engraving through second and third states to the final state with new guide lines, indicating the exact centre of the Die. Finally, there are four stages of the d, these being particularly interesting in that the progressive work of the engraver can be seen at a glance. For instance, in the first state there is little or no shading of the water and the ground in the foreground, to the left of the biggest palm, is non-existent. This rare and remarkable set of 11 Master Die Proofs £30

NOTE.—As the above 3 lots of Cook-Niue Die Proofs are co-related, any serious specialist of the N.Z. Dependencies would possibly like them as a whole. With this in mind we are prepared to offer the complete 18 proofs for ... £50

GEORGE V RECESS

524 Considered as one of New Zealand's most attractive sets, the recess printed Geo. V issue has always (and no doubt always will) had a keen following. Fill those album gaps NOW! In quite a few cases blocks are obtainable at prorata rates. All Mint.

1½d 14 x 13½	1/-	4d 14 x 14½ bright violet	3/6d
1½d 14 x 14½	1/-	ditto deep purple	2/-
1½d 14 x 13½ (Pict. paper)	1/-	4d 14 x 13½	3/-
ditto, no wmk	2/-	4½d 14 x 14½	4/6d
1½d 14 x 14½	10d	5d 14 x 13½ Light blue	4/-
ditto, no wmk	2/-	5d 14 x 13½ steel blue	8/6d
2d violet 14 x 13½	1/9d	5d 14 x 14½ light blue	12/6d
2d violet 14 x 14½	1/9d	6d 14 x 13½	3/6d
2d yellow 14 x 13½	3/9d	6d 14 x 14½	6/6d
2d yellow 14 x 14½	2/-	6d 14 line	2/-
2d yellow 14 line	1/-	7½d 14 x 13½	2/-
ditto no wmk	20/-	7½d 14 x 14½	6/-
2½d 14 x 13½	1/9d	8d 14 x 13½	3/6d
2½d 14 x 14½	3/6d	8d 14 x 14½	3/6d
3d 14 x 14½	2/6d	8d brown 14 x 13½	4/6d
3d 14 line	1/3d	9d 14 x 13½ sage green	7/6d
ditto, no wmk	17/6d	9d 14 x 14½ sage green	10/-
4d yellow 14 x 13½	2/3d	1/- 14 x 13½ vermilion	12/6d
4d yellow 14 x 14½	2/6d	ditto orge-vermil.	10/-
4d 14 x 13½ bright violet	2/6d	1/- 14 x 14½ vermillion	10/-
ditto deep purple	15/-	ditto orge-vermil	6/-
		ditto salmon	14/6d

—We can offer a very fine set covering one each of the above but omitting the "no watermark" varieties. Catalogued at £9/8/0. The set £9

Vertical Pairs

525 They will not last, but at the moment we have in stock a fine range of these in mint condition. To avoid disappointment be EARLY.

1½d pairs	7/6d	4d violet pairs	17/6d
blocks of four	15/-	blocks of four	35/-
1½d pairs (Pictorial)	8/6d	4½d pairs	25/-
2d violet pairs	8/6d	blocks of four	50/-
blocks of four	17/-	6d pairs	55/-
2d yellow pairs	6/6d	blocks of four	110/-
2½d pairs	12/6d	7½d pairs	25/-
blocks of four	25/-	blocks of four	50/-
3d pairs	12/6d	8d pairs	15/-
blocks of four	25/-	9d pairs	55/-
4d yellow pairs	10/-	blocks of four	110/-
blocks of four	20/-	1/- pairs	75/-

that they are pretty pictures. To me colour is just as acceptable as design and a good deal more acceptable than designs which attempt to show on a tiny area subjects that call for a wide canvas. But as to the future of these Arms from the monetary angle, I admit I just do not know. What is clear is that those who are NOW selling stamps that they bought at face are making a fine profit. Another certainty is that future appreciation will depend almost entirely on overseas demand.

LOCAL NOTES

1/6d Ross Dependency. In some sheet portions shown us there has apparently been uneven pressure applied during the printing to the lower left corner of the sheet (lower right corner on the plate) which has resulted in the first three stamps of the bottom three rows showing as very pale impressions against the normal stamps. A few other stamps in the area are also affected to a lesser degree.

9d Q.E. inverted watermark mint. Some time ago Mr. C. Henwood sent in a used copy of this variety, this being the first time it had been recorded. Lately, Mr. H. Robinson of this city, has shown us a very nice mint block of four. It is always worthwhile spending a few minutes examining any new acquisitions to ensure that no opportunities of purchasing worthwhile material, such as this, are missed, when you are doing your "rounds." Actually the block was a "substituted value" corner block from a 1B 1B sheet.

3d 1935 Airmail inverted watermark used. Mr. R. Samuel, who was reported as doing some keen work in Jan. notes, has now uncovered the above find—a lapse of some 22 years since the date of issue.

Postal History Catalogue. A serious and praiseworthy effort to bring some sort of order to the retail side of Postal History has been made by Mr. L. J. G. Franks of 7 Dallas St., Riccarton in his publication of the "Postal History Catalogue of New Zealand." Mr. Franks does not attempt to cover all sections of this vast field but nevertheless has managed to include a surprising amount of information accompanied by illustrations of cancellations, censor marks, etc., relevant to the sections covered. These include First Day Covers, Exhibitions, Maritime markings and so on—twelve priced sections in all. A handy little book for P.H. students.

2d Provisional. As we go to press an unheralded surprise has appeared at numerous Post Offices and takes the form of the 1½d Q.E. overprinted 2d. So far we have personally only seen Plate 9 (large figures of value) with a circular black spot obliterating the original figure of value and 2d superimposed above it. What other plates have similarly been treated and whether supplies of the small figures of value warranted overprinting also, we cannot as yet say, but we welcome reports from clients.

Possible issues for 1958. Announcements have been made concerning a simultaneous stamp issue in September by Australia and New Zealand of the same design, to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Trans-Tasman flight. October will see the Nelson City Centennial special issue closely followed by the usual Health Issue. Finally the Postmaster-General announces a special issue to commemorate the centennial of the province of Hawke's Bay later this year. New Zealand collectors appear to be well catered for this year.

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