

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.

Vol 12, No. 12, JULY, 1961.

Issued Monthly—Subscriptions, 6/- per annum.

All lots offered subject to being unsold and will be sent on approval to known clients. Complete satisfaction is guaranteed on all lots offered.

Postage Extra on Orders Under 10/-.

NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT by Peter Oldham

PIGEON POST

A few weeks ago while the Auckland Naval Reserve training ship, which I had the privilege to command, was laying at anchor off Port Fitzroy on Great Barrier Island, a small amphibian flew over and landed near by. As I watched the mail and stores being unloaded from the plane I found myself comparing this regular air service with days long ago, when the island's only communication with the mainland was a steamer which did the trip once a week if the weather permitted.

The island, which has an area of 110 square miles and is situated about 60 miles north of Auckland, had a plentiful supply of kauri trees and this was possibly one of the main attractions to the early settler, who exported quantities of timber. The later discovery of copper deposits attracted more settlers and by 1862 the population of Port Fitzroy, the chief settlement, was sufficient to warrant the opening of a post office. The easily accessible timber soon began to dwindle however and the copper mines were not profitable, so for many years trade was small.

Mr. Smales, who had an interest in the copper mining company, felt that a more rapid and efficient system of communication would greatly assist his company and so in 1897 he contacted Mr. Perkin, a pigeon fancier of Auckland, who decided to inaugurate a pigeon service.

Services were established from Port Fitzroy and Okupu and the first message was carried on 14th May, 1897. Thereafter a regular service was operated and further agencies were later established as far afield as Port Charles on the Coromandel Peninsula, Waiheke Island and Whitford.

The birds could each carry up to five messages, which were written on tissue paper and tied around the leg. No service was operated from Auckland to the island and the birds were sent over by the weekly steamer.

A fee of 2/- per message was charged during the first year, but in 1898 this was reduced to 1/- and a special stamp was printed to simplify the method of collecting the charge. The first message with a stamp was carried from Okupu on 27th October, 1898.

The stamp was of ornamental design and printed on white paper in varying shades of dark blue. In the centre of the design a swallow was depicted carrying a letter, while over the top was the inscription **Great Barrier Island**. In a cut out portion of the design under the bird were the words **Special Post** and the value in type appeared on each side. The gum was brownish and the stamps which had a perforation of 12½, were printed in sheets of 18 containing six horizontal rows of three. 1800 stamps were printed, but only about 300 were used, the remainder being purchased by collectors. Forgeries are known to exist.

After the success of the first issue, a second issue was printed with a design based on the first but more ornate, the first stamp being used in January, 1899. They were in sheets of 24 and printed in two distinct shades of bluish-green and greenish-blue on greyish coloured paper. The gum was colourless and they were perf 12½. One printing was made of 4800 stamps and of these about 800 were actually used, approximately 3000 went to collectors and the remainder were over-printed to form a third issue.

Until this time the Postal Department had ignored these stamps, but in view of numerous inquiries from the public regarding their authenticity, the postmaster in Auckland was instructed by head office in May, 1899, to inform the organisers of the service that the issue of stamps must stop. They were not prepared to do

Notes continued on back page.

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD., Room 44, 4th Floor, Lewis Eady Bldg., Queen St., Auckland, C.I. Telephone 49-118. Box 5555.

1935 - 47 Pictorials

The following offers from this attractive and picturesque series are for mint stamps, but we can supply most of them in singles in used condition.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| ½d Fantail | | | |
| 420 | L1a (Single wmk). | Singles ... 4d | A block 1/3 |
| 421 | L1b (Mult. wmk). | Singles 4d | A block 1/3 |
| 1d Kiwi | | | |
| 422 | L2a Die I. Perf 14 x 13½. | Singles 4d | A block 1/3 |
| 423 | L2b Die I. Perf 13½ x 14. | Singles, off-centre | 7/6 |
| 424 | L2c Die 2. | Singles 2/- | A block 7/6 |
| 425 | L2d Die 3. | Singles 4d | A block 1/3 |
| 1½d Maori Cooking | | | |
| 426 | L3a Perf 14 x 13½ (single wmk): | | |
| | Singles | 2/3 | A block 8/6 |
| 427 | L3b Perf 13½ x 14 "Wet Printing." | Singles | 2/3 |
| 428 | L3c Perf 13½ x 14 (wmk Inv. and Rev.), | Wet Printings: | |
| | Singles | 3/9 | A block 12/6 |
| 429 | L3d Perf 14 x 13½ (Mult. wmk): | | |
| | Singles | 1/6 | Two good shades 3/- |
| | A block | 5/6 | Two blocks, shades 11/- |
| 2d Whare | | | |
| 430 | L4a Perf 14 x 13½ (Single wmk): | | |
| | Singles | 9d | A block 3/- |
| 431 | L4b Perf 14 x 13½ (Mult. wmk): | | |
| | Singles | 4d | Three excellent shades 1/- |
| | A block | 1/3 | 3 blocks, contrasting shades 3/6 |
| 432 | L4c Perf 14 line. | Singles 3/- | A block 11/6 |
| 433 | L4d Perf 14 x 15. | Singles 5/- | A block 17/6 |
| 434 | L4e Perf 12½ line. | Singles 9d | A block 2/9 |
| 435 | L4f Perf 14 x 13½ (Mult. wmk), | Coarse Paper: | |
| | Singles | 3d | Two fine shades 6d |
| | A block | 1/- | Two blocks, shades 1/9 |
| | Pale orange, single | 1/- | Pale orange, block 4/- |
| 2½d Mt. Cook and Lilies | | | |
| 436 | L5a Perf 13-14 x 13½ (Single wmk). | Singles | 1/6 |
| 437 | L5b Perf 13½ x 14, Wet Printing. | Singles | 1/6 |
| 438 | L5c Perf 13-14 x 13½ (Mult. wmk): | | |
| | Singles | 2/- | A block 7/6 |
| 439 | L5d Perf 14 line. | Singles 2/- | A block 7/6 |
| 440 | L5e Perf 14 comb. | Singles 1/6 | A block 5/6 |
| 441 | L5f Perf 13½ x 13½, Coarse Paper: | | |
| | Singles | 5d | A block 1/6 |
| 442 | L5g Perf 14½ x 13½. | Singles 1/6 | A block 5/6 |
| 3d Maori Girl | | | |
| 443 | L6a (Single wmk). | Singles, a little off-centre | 4/- |
| 444 | L6b (Mult. wmk). | Singles | 6/- |
| | Singles, a little off-centre | 5/- | A block 20/- |
| 4d Mitre Peak | | | |
| 445 | L7a Perf 14 comb. (Single wmk): | | |
| | Singles | 1/- | A block 3/6 |
| 446 | L7b Perf 14 x 13½. | Singles ... 10d | A block 3/- |
| 447 | L7c Perf 14 line. Scarce: | | |
| | Singles | 27/6 | A block £5 |
| | A slightly damaged single | | 15/- |
| 448 | L7d Perf 12½ line. | Singles 1/6 | A block 5/6 |
| 449 | L7e Perf 14 x 14½. | Singles 9d | A block 2/6 |
| 5d Swordfish | | | |
| 450 | L8a Perf 13-14 x 13½ (Single wmk). | Singles | 4/- |
| 451 | L8b Perf 13½ x 14. | Singles 5/- | A block 20/- |
| 452 | L8c Perf 13-14 x 13½ (Mult. wmk): | | |
| | Singles | 2/6 | Two shades 4/9 |
| | A block | 9/6 | Two blocks, shades 18/6 |
| 453 | L8d Perf 12½. | Singles 3/- | A block 11/6 |
| 454 | L8e Perf 12½. Crs. paper. Sgls. | 3/- | A block 11/6 |
| 455 | L8f Perf 13½ x 13½. Coarse Paper: | | |
| | Singles | 9d | Singles, deep grey-blue 3/- |

6d Harvesting

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| 456 | L9a Perf 13½ x 14 (Single wmk.) | A block | 9/- |
| | Singles | 2/3 | Singles, two shades 4/3 |
| 457 | L9b Perf 13½ x 14 (Mult. wmk.) | Singles | 1/3 |
| | | A block | 4/6 |
| 458 | L9c Perf 12½ | Singles | 1/- |
| | | A block | 4/- |
| 459 | L9d Perf 14½ x 14 | Singles | 10/- |
| | | A block | 40/- |
| 460 | L9e Perf 14½ x 14. Coarse Paper: | | |
| | Singles | 10d | A block 3/- |

To be continued in next newsletter.

1873 - 1892 Newspaper Stamp

An often neglected group, so do not let this chance slip by. Like the collector of unused Full Face Queens not everybody insists on gum, especially when prices are heavily discounted to compensate.

| | | | |
|-----|---|--|------|
| 486 | 1873 Perf 10, S.G. 143: | | |
| | (a) Facially perfect—unused, no gum, 20/; ditto, used | | 20/- |
| | (b) Standard not quite so high — unused, no gum | | 12/6 |
| | (c) Very presentable used. Each | | 15/- |
| | (d) "No Watermark" variety — unused, no gum, 20/-; used | | 20/- |
| 487 | 1873 Perf 12½, S.G. 144: | | |
| | (a) Unused, no gum. A rarity at one-third catalogue. Each | | 40/- |
| | (b) Nicely used, 40/-; average copies | | 20/- |
| 488 | 1873 Compound Perf 12½ x 10, S.G. 145: | | |
| | A beautifully used copy in the more unusual 10 x 12½ | | 45/- |
| 489 | 1875 Star watermark, S.G. 149: | | |
| | Three contrasting shades, used. The three | | 2/6 |
| 490 | 1875 Perf nearly 12, S.G. 150: | | |
| | Mint copies (with gum). Reasonable condition. Our usual selling price 35/-. | | |
| | Going at half-price. Each | | 17/6 |
| 491 | 1892 NZ and Star, S.G. 151: | | |
| | (a) Two shades, mint. The two | | 1/- |
| | (b) Three shades, used. The three | | 6d |

Cheap Offers of Interest From First Sideface Issue

Our basic stock of these stamps, now widely recognised as "semi-classics," is at the moment, second to none. The following offers should contain something of interest for everyone. ALL STAMPS ARE USED.

| | | | |
|-----|--|--|------|
| 492 | 1874 Perf 12½: | | |
| | (a) Set of six 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, in above average condition. Catalogued £5/10/- | | £5 |
| | (b) Set of six as above in average condition | | £4 |
| | (c) Set of six as above, below normal standard but all sound stamps. (3d may be 12½ or 10 x 12½). Dirt Cheap | | 15/- |
| | (d) 1d value only in three fine shades | | 4/- |
| | (e) 2d as above | | 2/- |
| | (f) One only — the set of six in horiz. pairs. An unusual opportunity for the first lucky enquirer | | £10 |
| | All values available individually. | | |
| 493 | 1874 Perf 10 x 12½: | | |
| | (a) 1d lilac, reasonable condition | | 10/- |
| | (b) 2d rose, nice stamp | | 25/- |
| | (c) 3d brown, very reasonable condition | | 25/- |
| | (d) 6d blue, as above | | 17/6 |
| | (e) 1/- green, a beauty | | 45/- |
| | (f) 1/- green in horiz. strip of three | | 90/- |
| 494 | Not so fine at prices to clear: | | |
| | 1d lilac, 3/-; 2d rose, 10/-; 3d brown, 7/6; 6d blue, 8/6; 1/- green | | 12/6 |
| 495 | 1875 Star watermark: | | |
| | (a) 1d lilac — one copy only, an elusive stamp | | 25/- |
| | (b) 2d rose — very presentable copies in two shades. To clear, the 2 | | 5/- |
| 496 | 1878 Perf 12 x 11½: | | |
| | (a) Set of five 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, nice condition. Cat'd. 58/6 | | 50/- |
| | (b) As above, average condition | | 30/- |
| | (c) 1d lilac, in two shades | | 2/- |
| | (d) 2d rose, in three shades | | 1/6 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------|
| (e) | Set of seven, 1d to 5/-, in reasonable condition. Again one only available. To the first bargain hunter | 130/- |
| All stamps available individually. | | |
| 497 (a) | 2/- claret. These will certainly not harm the look of your collection. Not many available. Each | 75/- |
| (b) | 5/- MINT | £5 |

New Zealand Live Airmail — The Pigeongrams

| | | |
|---------|---|-------|
| 498 VP1 | Original design: | |
| (a) | Good mint condition except for slight thin. Cat'd. £8 | £4 |
| (b) | Used in good condition. Cat'd. £10 | 150/- |
| VP2 | "Special Post": | |
| (a) | Mint copies. Cat'd. £5 | 60/- |
| (b) | Mint block of four | £10 |
| VP4 | "Pigeongram": | |
| (a) | Mint copies | 70/- |
| (b) | Used copy, quite good condition | £4 |
| VP6 | "Marotiri Island," perfect mint copies. Cat'd. £10 | £8 |
| VP7 | 6d Blue Triangular, excellent used | 50/- |
| VP8 | 1/- Red ditto, again excellent used | £5 |
| | The pair of Triangles, used | £7 |

An Official Imperf Rarity

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----|
| 499 OE14g | (S.G. 064) A horiz. strip of three, all stamps imperf vertically. In top condition and rare. The strip | £25 |
|-----------|--|-----|

Notes continued from page one.

this, however, as the service was considered to be essential and eventually a compromise was agreed to whereby the words **Special Post** (which was the main objection of the Postal Department) were cancelled by the word **Pigeongram** being overprinted. 960 stamps were overprinted, of which about 160 were actually used in connection with the service.

A further issue was put on sale in July, 1899, to replace the provisional type. The design was similar to the second issue and they were printed in pale blue on greyish buff paper in sheets of 12. The gum was slightly brownish and the perforation gauged between $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12. 12,000 stamps were printed and about a quarter of these were used in the service, the remainder being acquired by collectors. They remained in force until the service was terminated in 1908 when a cable was laid between Auckland and the island.

In view of the success of the original company, a rival company called the "Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency" was formed and commenced operations from Okupu in 1899. They asked permission from the Government to issue stamps and as the original company were issuing stamps at this time, there was no objection provided nothing on the stamp indicated that it was a normal postal issue; they could not be officially recognised however.

The stamps were triangular in shape and were edged with the words "Great Barrier Isld Pigeongram Auckland," a pigeon being depicted in the centre. In order to compete with the original company the charge was reduced to 6d a message from the island to Auckland and 1/- a message was charged for communication with the island. They were printed on white paper with a perforation of $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 12. 10,000 of the 6d were printed in dull blue and 5000 of the 1/- in carmine. There was only one issue.

Sixty-seven miles north of Auckland is a group of islands called the Hen and Chicken Islands, the Maori name for which is **Marotiri**. Copper mining operations were commenced on Hen Island, the largest of the group, in 1899 and the "Original Great Barrier Pigeongram Service" established an agency there. As a provisional measure it was decided to overprint stamps of the second Great Barrier issue with the words **Marotiri Pigeongram**, but as stocks were exhausted a special printing had to be made. The ink was a much paler blue however; 240 stamps were printed, but very few are thought to have been used. Soon afterwards a special stamp was printed and issued in September, 1899. It depicted a pigeon carrying a letter in the centre, around which was the inscription "Marotiri Island Pigeongram," while outside this were the words Copper Mines, with the value in letters down each side. The stamp, which was bright red, was printed on white paper with a perforation of $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 12. 600 stamps were printed, but very few were used, as the mining company ceased operations shortly afterwards.

I am indebted to Vol. I of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" for much of the information contained in this article.