

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

Vol. 22. No. 8. March 1971. issued monthly, subscription \$1.50; registered at G.P.O. Wellington as a magazine. Published by Campbell Paterson Ltd., Auckland ASSOCIATES VERNE COLLINS AND CO. LTD.

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT – by Warwick Paterson

PLACING RARITY

The rarity which is assigned to philatelic items of which only a small number exists is the result of a combination of a lot of different factors; information gleaned from philatelic writings, and official records, personal observation and experience, judgement and in most cases a dash of inspired guesswork. The *value* that is placed on the item is really an extension of the rarity factor because it brings in other considerations; popularity, resale value, catalogue value, condition, the chances of another coming onto the market and above all, in the mind of the mature philatelist, and a point often missed I think - *the value of the item to him*. This is a subjective assessment, literally "how much do I want it" expressed in money terms. This is why a "glamour stamp" may fetch a high price totally without relationship to its catalogue value and, unfair or illogical as it may seem to some, in the world of the classical rarities and modern "errors" it is the major factor in establishing price - the fundamental effect of supply and demand overriding the objectivity of the catalogue publisher. Rarity is something, however, which while not always easy to assess is, when accurately assessed, reasonably stable in the absence of new information. It is therefore of considerable importance to be able to relate the rarity of an item to some reliable scale, some gauge which within practical limits will tell just *how many exist* - which is what rarity is really, when you fight your way through the "really scarce", "uncommonly rare" and that woolly monstrosity "almost unique." Philatelic advertising has established its own esoteric jargon of overstatement and understatement, and the end result is not always the most accurate story. Like the three grades of untruthfulness, "lies, damned lies and statistics," the "impression" given for rarity is quite often in the latter class. The tendency in a lot of philatelic writing and advertising has, I suggest, been to avoid making a definitive statement of known rarity* and to select, instead some impressive term which may mean everything to the writer and nothing to the reader unless he is familiar with his integrity, scale of values and the extent of his vocabulary. The establishment of an *ad hoc* scale of rarity would, honestly applied, at least give philatelists a straw to grasp! Where rarity was simply not known, or the information was considered inadequate this could be expressed in the scale in prefix form, or an allocation simply not made at all. The advantage of such a system (over others like simply using the catalogue values) would be that it would give an assessment of the *rarity factor* only where such was appropriate and not one obscured by all the other influences affecting price. One disadvantage would be that such a scale would have to receive the blessing of the major catalogue publishers, if only because it would have to be universally known and accepted to be of any use at all.

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

PO Box 5555, Auckland. 1.
Room 404 Fourth Floor,
Canterbury Building,
Queen Street,
Telephone: 379-118 Auckland

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

PO Box 17,
Oriental Road
WOKING,
SURREY,
ENGLAND.

The "Mail Coach", organ of the Postal History Society of N.Z. for December proposes one such scheme for the assessment of Postal History items, and asks its readers to comment on the suggestion. I have taken the liberty of altering it slightly, to suit philatelic requirements

- N *Normal, can be found in everyday use.*
- C *Common, not found in everyday use but an item every interested collector should have.*
- S *Scarce, not so easy to come by but may be obtained after a short search*
- VS *Very scarce, reasonably well known but an item collectors have to wait for.*
- R *Rare, probably in 50 - 100 collections at most*
- RR *Very rare, probably in 10-50 collections at most*
- RRR *Excessively rare - less than 10 copies known*
- U *Unique.*

Once such a system were in general use, I think it would be difficult for any advertiser not to "Tell all" at least where the rarity was concerned!

* Our own policy in these pages has been and will always be to "tell all" we know, and where new information appears we are anxious to publish it both here and in our catalogue. We are pleased to guarantee any stamps described in this newsletter at any time.

STOP PRESS! STOP EVERYTHING!

I had the pleasure the other week to purchase the only known sheet of what must be the finest double print in New Zealand stamp history since the 6d Kiwi Red of 1900. The sheet was of the 3c Law Society stamp of 1969 (Supreme Court, Auckland) and diagonally sloping upwards to the right was a complete if slightly fainter (than the main print) impression of the blue cylinder. The top right selvedge showed the print and plate number (bottom left) value tablet (top right) and colour check "Traffic lights" (bottom side right) all showed the doubling. Bottom right selvedge had an impression from the sheet below suggesting another "doubled" sheet - however it is likely that as the stamp is now long off sale and another sheet has never appeared that this was found by routine checks and removed. The effect in the stamps themselves was of "castles in the air" the clear extra impression of the supreme court hanging vision - like in the sky above. If this sounds lyrical, I excuse myself, if ever there was a "lyrical" variety, this is it.

CURRENT NOTES

1/2d Green Edward VII Official

Des Johnson of Christchurch showed me a mint copy with offset on back of the stamp's design. This will receive a catalogue listing.

3c 1970 XMAS - John Elmes of Auckland brought in a copy of this stamp printed on a buff - surfaced paper. While the back of the stamp looked normal enough the chalk surfacing on the front looked distinctly brownish and under ultra violet gave a dull reaction. I would be interested to hear of any others who may have seen copies of this variety; it is striking..

EARLY HEALTHS - Bargains. One of N.Z.'s most promising groups.

<u>125 (a) 1929 Nurse</u>			
Mint block of four	...	...	\$ 6.00
(b) single	...	...	\$ 1.50
(c) used block of four fine (F.D. use)	...	...	\$ 6.50
(d) used each (finest)	...	...	\$ 1.50
<u>126 (a) 1930 Nurse</u>			
Mint each	...	...	\$ 3.00
(b) Fine used	...	...	\$ 3.25
<u>127 (a) 1931 Boy</u>			
Mint set Blue and Red	...	...	\$ 45.00
(b) ditto best used	...	...	\$ 43.00
(Take our tip - if you need these to fill a gap - secure them now)			
<u>128 (a) 1932 Hygeia</u> mint each			
(B) used	...	...	\$ 8.00
	...	...	\$ 8.00
This is a scarce stamp and very much a "sleeper" we have double its price in our catalogue within the past year.)			
<u>129 (a) 1933 Pathway</u>			
Mint block of four	...	...	\$ 10.00
or each	...	...	\$ 2.50
(b) used each	\$ 2.75
<u>130 (a) 1934 Crusader</u> mint block of four			
Mint each	\$ 8.50
	\$ 2.20
Used each	\$ 2.20

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FULL FACE QUEENS

Yet another selection, some superfine, some of the scarcest varieties.

- 108(a) S.G. 3 THE LONDON 1/- an example of magnificent appearance and wonderful deep true colour, blueing on back and margins. The stamp has two large side margins but close or slightly cut into margins at top and bottom and minor other faults allow us to offer this great stamp at (catalogue \$700)... \$75.00
- (b) S.G. 53 6d Black Brown Rouletted 7; unquestionably one of the most stupendous "experimentals" we have ever seen. No hyper bole here.. (see N.Z. notes!)
The stamp has four huge margins and roulettes on all four sides; parts of the left hand, lower left hand, lower lower right hand, and right hand stamps are present in the margins and the three stamps above and to right and left above would have contributed to this beauty had this not been a top marginal copy. In all, parts of the designs of 6 stamps are present.
This stamp is unrepeatabe - ... \$100.00
- (c) S.G. 34 Davies Imperf. Wmk Large Star 1d Vermilion One of the finest we have seen for some considerable time - four big margins and light marking ... \$ 40.00
- (d) S.G. "101" 1d Carmine - Vermilion Watermark N.Z. Unused.
A beautiful stamp with one side roulettes. Catalogued at \$500.00 in CP latest revision ... \$200.00
- (e) S.G. 36 2d star wmk imperf. deep blue - four margins again - light mark - a very choice stamp ... \$ 15.00
- (f) S.G. 92 2d pale ultramarine on pelure paper cat \$130.00 colour outstanding a chance at ... \$ 75.00
- (g) S.G. 40 3d brown lilac imperf. Star Wmk
Another super - superb copy four margins light etc. etc. ... \$ 40.00
- (L) S.G. 40 ditto deep brown lilac again four margins one fairly close \$ 30.00
- (i) S.G. 40 ditto Brown lilac four margins - two close, a lovely unused \$ 20.00
- (j) S.G. 41 6d Grey black imperf. Star watermark
High margins, lightmark - perfect ... \$ 45.00
- (k) S.G. 43 6d Dp Red Brown ditto
condition transcends one margin a little close ... \$ 20.00
- (l) S.G. 43 Red Brown ditto
Unused and very near absolute perfection ... \$ 75.00
- (m) S.G. 45 1/- Yellow green imperf. star wmk
four margins etc. etc. - an outstandingly fine copy ... \$ 45.00
- (n) S.G. 100 1/- Green N.Z. mark imperf.
Close at one point only - light mark etc. - fine ... \$ 30.00

PERFORATED 12½ Star Wmk. - used

- 109 (a) S.G. 110 Carmine vermilion, light clear mark. ... \$ 7.50
- (b) S.G. 110 ditto well centred - attractive ... \$ 7.00
- (c) S.G. 110 ditto a pair - light mark ... \$ 15.00
- (d) S.G. 131 1d Brown with intermediate plate wear a superb used pair \$ 12.50
- (e) S.G. 131 ditto with some plate wear - wonderful ... \$ 12.50
- (f) S.G. 113 Deep blue plate 1 advanced plate wear fine used \$ 4.75
- (g) S.G. 114 Bright blue a lovely copy ... \$ 5.00
- (l) S.G. 114 Deep blue another super looking item ... \$ 5.00
- (i) S.G. 115 blue fine light marking ... \$ 5.00
- (j) S.G. 114 Dull blue a fine pair light mark off the face \$ 12.50
- (k) S.G. 115 Blue another attractive pair ... \$ 9.00
- (l) S.G. 115 ditto a strip of three some perfs. slightly clipped \$ 8.00
- (m) S.G. 134 2d vermilion one of the best we have seen - well centred \$ 7.50
- (n) A.G. 133 ditto pale orange a fine pair ... \$ 10.00
- (o) S.G. 117 Deep lilac - a good copy ... \$ 3.50
- (p) S.G. 117 Pale lilac a really splendid copy ... \$ 7.25
- (q) S.G. 119 4d Rose fine copy ... \$ 30.00
- (r) S.G. 120 4d pale yellow fine ... \$ 8.00
- (s) S.G. 120 4d yellow heavier mark but good ... \$ 7.50
- (t) S.G. 122 a 6d Reddish brown a superb copy \$ 7.50
- (u) S.G. 122a ditto slightly heavier marking ... \$ 5.00
- (v) S.G. 135 6d blue - fine ... \$ 6.50
- (w) S.G. 136 6d Pale blue another marvellous stamp ... \$ 6.50
- (x) S.G. 136 6d Pale blue a wonderful pair ... \$ 12.50
- (y) S.G. 125 11 - yellow green a fine copy ... \$

PERFORATED 13

- 110 (a) S.G. 75 6d Black Brown - Lovely ... \$ 8.00
- (b) S.G. 77 6d Deep Red Brown a strikingly attractive copy - very well centred ... \$ 10.00

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POT POURRI "SCENE ONE".

A conglomeration of magnificent specialist material, shades, varieties, blocks etc. The ideal way to give a collection a shot in the arm, not that we advocate mainlining for your or your collection.

PEACE ISSUE

112 (a) S 39a 1/2 d Lake Matheson

Set of 3 blocks in mint shades. Green and brown, grey brown and red brown.	...	...	\$ .70¢
or singles	...	...	.17¢
(b) S39a ditto The 3 shades in lovely used singles	...	...	.12¢
(c) S39a ditto course paper	...	...
Grey brown and Brown in mint blocks of four	...	...	\$ 1.00
or 3 singles this time including one very heavy frame print in red brown	...	...	.35¢
(d) S 39c ditto coarse superb used block of four in Red Brown.	...	...	.25¢
or the three shades in fine used	...	...	.20¢
<u>113 (a) S40a 1 d Green Parliament Bldgs. bright green mint</u>	...	...	.02¢
(b) S40a ditto used fine	...	...	.02¢
<u>114 (a) S41a 1 1/2 d Scarlet Watermark W8a (stars left) two fine shades in selvage mint blocks of four</u>	...	...	.50¢
(b) S41a ditto - a lovely top left cover block - first day of issue at Government Buildings	...	...	.40¢
or two superb shades in used blocks of four	...	...	.50¢
ditto singles	...	...	.10¢
(b) S46a ditto used singles of the same shades	...	...	.12¢
<u>121 (a) 8d St George Black and carmine mint block of four</u>	...	...	.48¢
(b) or used single - fine	...	...	.05¢
<u>122 (a) 9d Waiho Gorge Chapel Pale Blue and Black two unit blocks. Black and Grey Black</u>	...	...	\$ 1.80
(b) Two used shade singles	...	...	.35¢
<u>123 (a) S49a 1/- Carillon Grey Two distinct shades in mint blocks of four</u>	...	...	\$ 2.00
singles each	...	...	.25¢
(b) ditto used single fine	...	...	.20¢

GEORGE VI

A fine two - volume specialist collection.

Catalogued at over \$900.00 this collection has been brought together by one of New Zealand's better-known collectors and researchers. It is well mounted and an attractive representation of the papers, plate numbers, (many in singles or strips) plate varieties (in positional blocks) with copious illustrations. Representation of coils types is there and overprint varieties particularly in the 1 1/2 chocolate surcharged 2d Row 10 No. 10 "Reinserted 2" is there in a fine mint block of four. The "shilling" values include some fine positional blocks of flaws and reentries and the 1/- section represents the blurred centre (double print one albino) in beautiful mint.

PRICE ON APPLICATION.

HEALTHS - from page 2

<u>131 (a) 1935 Key</u> Block of four mint	...	...	\$ 4.00
Wonderful used	...	...	\$ 2.75
(b) Singles Mint	...	...	\$ 1.00
Fine used	...	...	.70¢
<u>132 (a) 1936 Lifebuoy</u> Blocks of four mint	...	...	\$ 1.80
Lovely used	...	...	\$ 1.40
(b) singles Mint	...	...	.45¢
Used	...	...	.35¢
<u>133 (a) 1937 Hiker</u> Mint block of four	...	...	\$ 4.50
each	...	...	\$ 1.20
(b) Used each	...	...	\$ 1.05
<u>134 (a) 1938 Children</u> Mint block of four	...	...	\$ 2.00
Each	...	...	.50¢

FULL FACES - from page 3

UNUSED

<u>111 (a) S.G. 127 1d perf. 10 x 12 1/2, Brown superb</u>	...	...	\$ 8.00
(b) S.G. 131 1 d perf. 12 1/2 Redish Brown - intermediate plate wear	...	...	\$ 7.50
(c) S.G. 132 ditto Reddish Brown. The plate wore badly towards the end of its use (1872) and this unused copy displays excessive wear proving that it must have been printed towards the end of the life of the plate.	...	...
Outstanding	...	...	\$ 10.00
(d) S.G. 133 2d orange a beautiful unused copy	...	...	\$ 10.00
(e) S.G. 139 4d Deep yellow No Wmk O.G.	...	...	\$ 20.00