

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENTS by WARWICK PATERSON

5¢ COMMONWEALTH GAMES

A remarkable sheet came into my hands last month in this value. As opposed to the "general" issue which is printed on highly chalk-surfaced paper, this sheet was on a completely unsurfaced paper. The print was dull and "rough" ("normals" have a clear cut, clean appearance). "Trial" issue or mistake? - whichever, it will gain full catalogue listing.

3¢ LICHEN MOTH

Half a sheet was shown to me with "reel join" horizontally. At the point where the two reels over-lapped and were gummed, a green strip of (gummed ?) paper divided the two. The join was of approximately one stamp width and the printing "unwatermarked". Needless to say, such variations are very rare and seldom find their way past the checking procedures.

THE GAMES AND "WAITANGI" ISSUES REVIEWED

by Campbell Paterson

Both these recent issues leave a good deal to be desired, the "Games" set perhaps more so than the "Waitangi".

Looking at the Games set as a whole one cannot avoid the feeling that a grand and happy occasion was sadly missed, philatelically speaking. Equally one wishes that in this and many other occasions our local artists, when commissioned to design stamps, would turn to the Philatelic Societies and individual collectors with the aim of seeing what is being produced on similar occasions by other countries. To this observer at least, there is little that is inspiring in what we got. The sports depicted were ill-chosen, the figures are smudgy and completely anonymous and the flat, almost garish colours of the backgrounds are meaningless and tend to overwhelm the themes. The choice of sports depicted is mystifying. Why pick on bowls, shooting and cycling? Of all possible themes these must be amongst the least appealing as "spectator" sports. (I think that in stamps the "spectator" appeal must surely be given due weight.) One wonders at the inclusion of only one solitary example of the field and track events without which the Games would have been pretty dead. Why no runners, both sprint and long distance? Why no javelin, no swimming, no diving, no long or high jumping and no pole vault? Of course not all sports could be depicted but it is a fair guess that bowling, shooting and cycling had a minimal appeal to watchers compared with the track and field.

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

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

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

P.O. Box 17
WOKING
SURREY
ENGLAND

The solitary track event shown is fair enough I suppose - it does show best of all, one of the great successes of the Games, namely the inspired device used as the "signature" of the Games as a whole. The idea of the paraplegic basketball player on the 5¢ is good but almost drowned out by the over-heavy purple colour.

The idea of using what would seem to be "TV type" black and white figures was possibly meant to underline the wide TV coverage that alone allowed the Games to reach the huge audience they did; but it still seems a bit contrived and it certainly gives a wooden effect to what could have been our most dynamic series ever. In any case, lined T.V. is no longer universal. Those of us with good neighbours blessed with a "colour" set know that T.V. today has lost those irritating lines. Lastly one protests again at the continued issuing of high values (18¢ and 23¢) in Commemorative sets. They are totally unnecessary and the Post Office had better be careful that they do not create a situation of diminishing returns; though the paying for them might be less painful if the stamps were attractive.

Overall, the "Waitangi" set is much more pleasing to the eye. Only on when analysing the designs do doubts and regrets return yet again.

Taking the best first, I find the "Treaty House" design quite delightful. It is a beautiful house and makes a beautiful stamp. The Queen's portrait does not do Her Majesty justice but is quite a good attempt. The "beehive" addition to Parliament Buildings may give architects tremendous satisfaction but I have yet to meet anyone else who does not find the new building other than comic. The "Signing of the Treaty" is a good simple design and most acceptable in that it makes no appeal to mawkish sentiment. I wish one could say the same of the "Children". Labouring the obvious, that New Zealand is one of the happiest bi-racial countries in the world, the artist surely cannot have known that we have had children on stamps ad nauseam for the last 40 years. The bi-racial point is clearly made but was it necessary to make the children ambidextrous? Note the artist's playful balance of design in having the frontrow children both right and left handed. Ugh! To return to the "Signing" stamp, I wonder how many have noticed the gaffe committed in the use on this stamp of the Union Jack as a tablecloth? I would rank it as one of the most glaring errors ever made on a New Zealand stamp and I am sure that the Maori signatories (if the Union flag had been so misused) would have classed Captain Hobson and his staff as ignorant barbarians. (If someone comes up with proof that Hobson did in fact use the flag as a tablecloth I can only say I think he ought to have been dismissed the Service.)

SELECTION OF ODDMENTS

- distinctly odd some of these and unusual - even for the Newsletter. Read on.

PIGEON POST

- 541(a) Type VP2 "Special Post"
In Beautiful used, lovely full strike of "Great Barrier Pigeon Service" postmark\$37.50
- (b) Type VP7 6d. Blue Triangular
Superb with full gum, mint\$12.00
- (c) Type VP7 Ditto
As an alternative to Lot 541(b) we can offer a sound copy of this issue with gum removed. These stamps are subject to heavy "foxing" and frequent "thinning" so a copy without gum at our price may in this day and age be a better investment. The five unused\$ 4.00
Please hurry for this last lot.

MARINE POST OFFICES

- 542(a) R.M.S. Niagara
Two date stamps were used from November 13th 1923.
On Piece 1d. Dominion pair 1 August 1926 and
On Cover 9 June 1932 - superb examples of both date stamps. Material clean and fine (Auckland-Vancouver Service)\$15.00
- (b) R.M.M.S. Aorangi
Used from February 6th 1925. This fine postcard shows good strike 4 August 1926\$10.00
(Auckland - Vancouver).

(c) F.M.S. Makura

Wellington - San Francisco from April 28th 1925.
 Two superb strikes on piece 1 December 1934,
 5th April 1934 and on cover 18 May 1933. French Oceania
 stamps with also fair only strike of the PACKET BOAT
 double ring (small letters) cachet.
 The "combination" cover stamps fair\$20.00

CRASH COVERS

543(a) Fine example in authentic "slightly singed" condition
 bearing "salvaged mail aircraft crash, Singapore 13-3-1954"
 Scarce and good\$20.00
 (b) Incomplete but fine cover bearing the above cachet.....\$10.00

FULL FACE COVER

544(a) 2d. Blue p12½ Plate 2
 Fine example on equally fine cover Dunedin Duplex "O"
 in oval of bars, nicely tied MY2 70\$10.00

NEWSPAPER STAMP

545(a) B2a Watermark small star perf. 12½ VM. Five fine
 shades including the Deep Dull Rose. One stamp narrow
 (line perf.)\$ 1.50

FIRST SIDEFACES

546(a) C61 1/- Green p12 x 11½
 Overprint "specimen" in black, attractive.....\$25.00
 (b) C5c 6d. Blue p12 x 11½
 Overprint "specimen" in mauve, nice!\$20.00

SECOND SIDEFACES

547(a) D2k 1d. Rose Compound perf. 10 x 12½
 Top left pane vertical pair with selvedge and wing
 margins perf. 12½ x 10 - fine\$30.00
 (b) D3j 2d. Lilac perf. 10 x 11
 Superb block of four mint mixed perfs. 10 and 11
 vertically in centre\$20.00

1898 PICTORIAL

548(a) E3a 1d. White Terraces
 Possibly unique superb used block of four. The major
 reentry of Plate 2 Row 4 No. 15 in which the vertical
 lines of the Terraces are doubled in the water below.
 Strong evidence of reentry can be seen also in
 "New Zealand" and in "Postage" and "Revenue".
 This reentry is generally conceded to be N.Z.'s 2nd
 best ever! - after the notable 1½ Boer War R2/12.
 We have it amazingly in a fine used block of four
 used at Greymouth 2 March 1907. The reentry stamp is
 the best stamp of the excellent four\$12.00



GEORGE V

549(a) K1d 1½d. Grey
 Plate 14 in top selvedge (only) block of nine - deep shade -
 plate No. almost cut off as is normal in the "Pictorial
 Paper" printing\$ 7.00
 (b) K7b 5d. Light Blue perf. 14 x 14½
 In a fine (brown gum as is normal) block of four mint -
 really superb\$17.50
 (c) K13d ½d. Green with Litho Watermark on Art Paper
 Vertical mesh but watermark virtually colourless.
 Block of four mint and fine 50c

PROOFS

(d) 4d. (Recess Engraved)
 A superb pair overprint "cancelled" in black.....\$12.00
 (e) Surface printed proofs on surfaced paper
 1½d., 2d., 3d. in black. The fine set.....\$ 5.00

PERFORATED FULL FACES - FROM

LAST MONTH

PERFORATED 13

- 537(a) S.G. 71 2d. Blue Unused
V. Early wear - off-centre but crystal clear Blue print...\$55.00
- (b) S.G. 72 2d. Dull Blue
Further wear on unused copy. Facial thin streak
allows this madness\$ 5.00
- (c) S.G. 77 6d. Deep Red Brown
MAGNIFICENT - One of the **FINEST EXAMPLES WE HAVE EVER SEEN.** Out of this world, huge margins, O.G. etc. etc.
See it we beg you - just see it\$100.00
- (d) S.G. 68 1d. Orange-Vermilion Used
Attractive if a little tired.
Certainly a gift at\$25.00
- (e) S.G. 69 Ditto 1d. Carmine-Vermilion
Not-so-fine but shows major reentry\$ 4.00
- (f) S.G. 70 Deep Blue 2d.
This one shows slight wear. Perforations somewhat
damaged but lovely appearance and Deep colour - Dated.....\$ 5.00
- (g) S.G. 74 3d. Brown Lilac
Copy off-centre but very clean - good at.....\$15.00
- (h) S.G. 77 6d. Deep Red Brown
Really a fine stamp\$ 7.00
- (i) S.G. 79 1/- Deep Green
Thin spots but truly magnificent in appearance.....\$ 7.50
- (j) S.G. 80 1/- Deep Yellow-Green
Perfs. two sides clipped but in colour an outstanding
example\$ 5.00
- (k) S.G. 105 2d. Blue Perf. 13 Medium
Plate wear - used. A pair of this scarce item -
marking - well, heavy but in a pair attractive!.....\$35.00
- (l) S.G. 105 2d. Ditto
A nice single heavyish obliterator but clean, clear
and nothing to be ashamed of\$20.00

PERFORATED 10

- 539(a) S.G. 126 1d. Brown
Very lovely with obliterator "4"\$22.50

PERFORATED 10 x 12½

- 540(a) S.G. 127 1d. Brown
Unused. Intermediate plate wear and excellent
appearance - a shade off-centre\$16.00
- (b) S.G. 127 1d. Brown
Used. Lovely - bears "Southland S" pink.
Deep colour, clean\$ 7.00
- (c) S.G. 127 Ditto
Used. Irregular compound perf. 12½ x 12½ x 10 x 12½ -
obliterator heavyish but nice\$13.00
- (d) S.G. 128 2d. Vermilion
Used with "4 ONEHUNGA A" postmark. Fine example.....\$ 5.00

1935 PICTORIAL

- 550(a) L4f 2½d. Whare perf. 14 x 13½ Coarse Paper
Block of four two stamps showing offset over half of
reverse side - clear and spectacular - only one sheet
was found\$15.00
- (b) A single showing complete offset - superb.....\$15.00

COMMEMORATIVE

- 551(a) 525(a) 1d. Deep Carmine
Of Coronation Set 1937 a complete set of plate blocks
1T, 1L, 4L, 4T, 5T, 6T, 6L in superb blocks of four.....\$ 1.75