

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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DISFIGURING POSTMARKS

By Campbell Paterson

It is widely known - though not, it would seem, to the N.Z. Post Office - that stamp collectors much prefer "circular" postmarks to "line" postmarks. This can be so pronounced a preference that some collectors are even prepared to pay premium prices for circular marks. A further desirable feature for many is to have the postmark not only circular but clean-cut, clear and fully readable as to town and date.

The very large circular handstamps used in N.Z. (and first introduced about 1920) are too large for comfort. Not only are they clumsy-looking but their size militates against their being more than partly on the stamp - hence the office of origin and date are not often readable on the stamp.

The smaller circles used today in conjunction with slogans in cancelling machines are ideal in size but are so placed that the circle falls on the envelope and the stamp is almost always disfigured by the ugly block lettering of the slogan. Why this is done is hard to understand - in fact one is forced to the conclusion that the Post Office has never given the matter any sustained thought. If they did, they would surely see that it is useless issuing attractive stamps if they are to be disfigured by ugly slogan cancellations. Equally, it is useless to have the slogans falling on the stamps (rather than at top-centre or top-left of the envelope) since the slogans are rarely readable when on (and disfiguring) the stamps at top right.

So, to such Post Office men who have power of decision in these matters I make the suggestion, as an experiment if you like, try placing the circular date stamp to the right of the slogan. This will place the circular mark on the stamp and the slogan on the envelope where it can be read. If it is argued that it is more important that the date marks be readable (that is, that they would be less readable if falling on the stamps), I suggest that circular date-stamps be placed at both ends of the slogan. This way, the beauty of the stamps is less endangered and the date etc. are clearly readable (as now) at the top centre of the envelope. The slogan is also readable. ↗

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ENGLAND

One final suggestion. I submit that the standard large circle used for N.Z. hand-held cancellers is unnecessarily large, clumsy and disfiguring. It is somewhat larger than our current 50¢ coin. A much neater circle would be something about the size of a 10¢ coin (the old one shilling) or of a size between the 10¢ and 20¢ (the old florin). The 20¢ is just a bit too large I think. The presently used special "First Day of Issue" cancellers are quite good, though possibly a little too large for neatness. If these seem to be matters of small importance to the Post Office, I can only repeat what I have said above, that it is not much use issuing attractive stamps if you are going to disfigure them by the use of ugly postmarks. Nor is it much use printing slogans in a manner that more often than not makes them unreadable.

COMMEMORATIVES AND SPECIAL ISSUES . JIM SHAW.

The 1973 Christmas Issue

Following the discovery by Mr. J.B. Hinton of Invercargill of several plate blocks in the 5 cent Christmas with left hand selvedge perforated, it is now clear that the two distinct plates are in fact tandem plates as for the 3 cent issue (i.e. one in the left, the other on the right) and not one above the other as previously stated.

"CINDERELLA STAMPS OF AUSTRALASIA"

By Bill Hornadge

From the prolific pen of Bill Hornadge, well known Australian philatelic commentator, humourist and editor of "Stamp News", comes a long overdue guide to "Cinderella Stamps" - an offbeat selection of "phantoms", vignettes, labels and other puzzling philatelic items. Good background notes and a suggested pricing make this a useful reference book.

The N.Z. section lists N.Z. Express Company, Great Barrier Pigeon Post, unauthorised Provisional 1884, 1902-3 Antarctic Relief Expedition, N.Z. Railway stamps, King Edward VII Land, Victoria Land, Reefton Provisionals, Otago Infantry Brigade, N.Z. Railway Buses, Auckland Islands, Timaru Bicycle Post, Queen Maud Land, Republic of Mevu, Waikoa Island and Fiscal and Revenue stamps. A mixed bag alright and if this is your meat - an inescapable "must".

\$ 2.95
(Australian)

1975 STAMP PROGRAMME

The Post Office has released a list of projected issues for 1975 as follows. Notable amongst these are the continuation of "scenic" issues, this time Forest Parks scenery to add to the Lakes and Mountains we have already seen. Almost as an afterthought the beginnings of a new definitive issue is slipped in with ten stamps to replace the current 1¢ to 10¢ issues.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| <u>5 February</u> | A four stamp commemorative issue.
One stamp for the Centenary of the Otago Medical School.
One stamp for International Women's Year.
One stamp for the 50th Anniversary Women's Division Federated Farmers of New Zealand Inc.
One stamp for the 40th Anniversary of the New Zealand Crippled Children Society. |
| <u>2 April</u> | A six stamp issue featuring Historic New Zealand Sailing Ships. |
| <u>4 June</u> | A four stamp issue featuring Forest Parks scenery. |
| <u>6 August</u> | A three stamp Health issue featuring children's pets. |
| <u>1 October</u> | A three stamp Christmas issue featuring an "Old Master" painting; stained glass church window; symbolic design. |
| <u>26 November</u> | Ten stamps replacing the current 1¢ - 10¢ definitive stamps. |

NEWSLETTER SUBS

NOW OVERDUE! Could we have your sub for the current year?
Our advice - don't let it lapse.

LEADING N.Z. PHILATELIST WINS GOLD MEDAL IN SWITZERLAND

Marcel Stanley of Wellington, has been awarded a gold medal (with congratulations of the judges) at INTERNABA 1974, the international stamp exhibition held in the halls of the "SCHWEIZER MUSTERMESSE" in Basle, Switzerland. The award was the highest ever given for a collection of early New Zealand postal history.

"INTERNABA 1974 - CENTARIUM U.P.U." - to give the full title - was the great international stamp exhibition held in Switzerland from 7-16 June as philately's tribute to the one hundredth birthday of the world's most international "stamp club" - the Universal Postal Union.

The collection entered by Marcel Stanley comprised postal history material only of the Chalon Heads period (1855-1873) and contained complete envelopes illustrating early inland and overseas shipping routes and letter rates to Great Britain, U.S.A., Australia, Europe and other places. There are letters cancelled with the special markings used on the early Otago and West Coast gold fields and during the Maori Wars. "Registered", "Too Late", "Advertised Unclaimed", "Postage Due", "Manuscript" and other interesting postal markings are shown. Many letters show date-stamps of early post offices which either no longer exist or have had their name changed.

The gold medal awarded to Marcel Stanley is endorsed by the judges "with congratulations" and is equivalent to a commendation. It is understood to be the highest award given at the exhibition for a British Postal History exhibit.

TWO GREAT RARITIES

A deceased estate yields these two "glamour" stamps so seldom offered, particularly in such fine condition. With the spectre of world-wide inflation running to two digits annually, who can guarantee that such material will ever be offered at such prices again?

500 (a) S.G.1 The "London" 1d. The most sought-after of all the Full Face Queens. The colour is possibly the finest we have ever seen. Marking is light and clean. Margins are not huge but fully present. A superfine example in every way\$2,000.00

(b) L010c 8d. Tuatara Official perf. 14 x 13½
Postmarked "Whangarei" as it should be. Nine copies only are known to exist. A gloriously perfect copy.
Chance in a million\$1,000.00

501(a) AN HISTORIC LETTER The letter mentioned on page 438 of Vol. I of "The Postage Stamps of N.Z." concerning "The Great Barrier Pigeon Agency". Dated 27/7/1899 from Mr. D.N. McMillan to Mr. W.W. Fricker. The letter written on the Island mentions the birds sent there for the "Agency" by Mr. Fricker and establishes the bona fides of this service.Price on Application

EARLY HEALTH STAMPS - MINT

We have been fortunate to purchase one of the finest displays of these issues we have seen for years. Their condition is absolutely superb with not a speck of rust. MAKE NO MISTAKE the Early Healths are among the fastest rising group of stamps in the entire N.Z. range. As an example, who has tried to find a superfine Red and Blue Boy pair lately? Ask him how long you may wait to have them offered again at these prices! Remember, WE stake our reputation on the quality of the offers listed below.

- Lot 1 (a) T1a 1929 Nurse\$ 3.00
- (b) T1c Ditto Superb block of four.....\$12.00
- 2 (a) T2a 1930 Nurse\$ 5.00
- (b) T2a Ditto Fine block of four\$20.00
- 3 (a) T3a 1931 ld. + ld. Red Boy\$35.00
- (b) T3a Ditto Superb block of four.....\$140.00

FULL FACE QUEENS

A continuation of July's bargain offers. You deluged us with enquiries about the last lot and many went away more than satisfied. This month's offers of rare material "with defects" should yield pickings as least as good.

PELURE PAPER

- 71(a) S.G.81 ld. Orange-Vermilion Imperforate, a great rarity - catalogued at \$500 our offer - a copy of superb appearance cut into at bottom and top right corner thin. Lovely buy (Reentry R14/12)\$55.00
- (b) S.G.82/83 2d. Ultramarine Copy of remarkably deep colour for this normally faded issue. Impression clear, clean, marking clear and dated. A lovely specialist's item - cut into slightly at bottom right. Catalogued at \$160\$ 32.50
- (c) S.G.85 6d. Black Brown Catalogued at \$60. Our copy of peculiarly greyish colour, clean, margin missing, looks really excellent\$ 10.00
- (d) S.G.85 Ditto Brown colour - a lovely copy in appearance. Left margin partially missing. Reentry R17/10 - a beauty (cat. \$100)\$ 20.00
- (e) S.G.86 1/- Deep Green Cut into at top and possible fault bottom margin. Nevertheless, a copy of striking colour and appearance (cat. \$150).....\$ 25.00
- (f) S.G.86 1/- Yellow-Green A deep unusual colour - two margins missing but brilliant appearance.....\$ 15.00
- (g) S.G.86 1/- Deep Green - paper blued Margins top missing, left close but another deep clear print. Outstanding at.\$ 20.00
- (h) S.G.89 1/- Deep Green - Roulette 7 Cat. \$250. This a beautiful example lightly marked, roulettes four sides major internal fault at top allows.....\$ 35.00

PELURE PAPER - PERF. 13

- 72(a) S.G.90 ld. Orange-Vermilion A very rare stamp cat. at \$775 corner thin, slightly untidy marking but a good example of fine colour\$ 95.00
- (b) S.G.93 6d. Black Brown Cat. at \$80. Our copy, slightly heavy marking over face and off centre (as are most p.13s)\$ 37.50
- (c) S.G.94 1/- Yellow-Green Marking a little heavy - otherwise really superb (cat. \$200).....\$150.00

2d. THICK WHITE PAPER - UNWATERMARKED

- 73(a) S.G.96 2d. Dull Deep Blue A lovely copy touching at one point. Super opportunity (cat. \$80).....\$ 15.00

EARLY HEALTHS (CONTINUED)

- 4 (a) T3b 1931 2d. + ld. Blue Boy\$35.00
- (b) T3b Ditto Block of four (fine).....\$140.00
- 5 (a) T4a 1932 Goddess Hygeia\$ 7.50
- (b) T4a Ditto Super block of four\$30.00
- 6 (a) T5a 1933 Pathway\$ 4.00
- (b) T5a Ditto Block of four\$16.00
- 7 (a) T6a 1934 Crusader\$ 3.50
- (b) T6a Ditto Block of four\$14.00
- 8 (a) T7a 1935 Key to Health\$ 1.00
- (b) T7a Ditto Block of four\$ 4.00
- 9 (a) T8a 1936 Lifebuoy 35¢
- (b) T8a Ditto Block of four\$ 1.40
- 10 (a) T9a 1937 Hiker 80¢
- (b) T9a Ditto Block of four\$ 3.20

A MAJOR COLLECTION

KING EDWARD VII ISSUES

This month we announce with pleasure our acquisition of the A.A. ORTON collection of Edward VII issues. The listing, starting this month, is one of major significance on the N.Z. philatelic scene as there are items here which are rare and in several cases, we believe, unique. The Edwards may be described without reservation as one of N.Z.'s finest specialist issues and with supplies becoming near-impossible to secure we would strongly urge clients to consider this and next month's offerings very carefully.

DIE PROOFS

- 62(a) On white card "cleared" die proof of the 4d. value in Brown-Purple - diagonal crease but superb.....\$100.00
- (b) Ditto Die proof of the 6d. in Brown. Again minor diagonal crease but this type of proof material is excessively rare. Appearance and general condition really lovely\$150.00

"Uncleared" die proofs showing engravers' guide marks and measurements. Very rare and all these examples are in truly superb condition.

- 63(a) 8d. Deep Blue\$150.00
- (b) 8d. Pale Blue\$150.00
- (c) 2d. Red Brown\$150.00
- (d) 3d. Green\$150.00
- (e) 5d. Violet\$150.00

PLATE PROOFS

- 64(a) A lovely page of proofs most of which are listed on page 576 of the N.Z. "Handbook" Vol. I. All are in black, all are ½d. value. Includes: Block of four on thick glazed unwatermarked paper (not listed in Handbook), block of four on medium-thick glazed unwatermarked paper, block of four on De la Rue chalk-surfaced paper watermark NZ and Star (all the above are imperforate) and a block of four perf. 14 x 15 on De la Rue watermarked paper. Lovely display.....\$ 10.00
- (b) A pair of the thick glazed unwatermarked paper and a single on the medium paper. The pair is unlisted.....\$ 5.00
- 65(a) 2d. Value A bottom left selvedge pair on coloured wove unwatermarked paper - Black on Blue-Green.....\$ 3.00
- (b) 1/- Value As above - Black on Emerald. Item is creased but looks superb\$ 1.00
- This item is scarce, a sheet was taken off in about 1914 and sent to Perkins Bacon as a guide to the spacing of the impressions on the Geo. V plates.

COLOUR TRIALS

- 66(a) A set of eight singles printed on heavy card. 3d. and 8d. Black, 5d. Grey-Black, 4d. Yellow-Green, 6d. Brown-Red, 1/- Brown, Red and Lake-Red. The 8 lovely singles - (what a display!)\$ 50.00

THE SURFACE PRINTED ISSUES

½d. Green and 1d. "Dominion" - MINT

- 67(a) An introductory page showing pairs (1d. De la Rue paper) and blocks of six (1d. De la Rue - two minor crease).....\$ 3.00
- (b) H1a ½d. Green Single, two blocks of four, block of eight - mounted on page with annotation and comments. Lovely range of shades\$ 3.00
- (c) H1a Ditto Another page - this time displays two major varieties - double perfs. from top row of sheet - partial offset on back. Full annotation, explanation and description\$ 25.00
- (d) H01a Ditto (Official) A lovely big top right selvedge block of 24 (8 x 3) showing the major "NNY" flaw at Row 3/18 of one plate. Very rare in this scarce official stamp. A magnificent positional proving piece in superb condition. Annotated and illustrated.....\$ 25.00

THE BOOKLET ISSUES

- 68(a) The first type of Booklets The outer pages from these early Booklets (2 pages) featuring postal rates etc.....\$ 1.00
- (b) The second Booklet type Two items illustrate
 (a) shows a complete set of advertisement panes. Front cover and all but one stamp removed - stapled.
 (b) a complete booklet - stapled.
 Contains three 1d. panes and two ½d. panes (of 6 stamps each) plus full advertisements and inter-leaving. All panes show the characteristic blurring particularly the ½d. panes. Annotated and mounted, superb and utterly unrepeatable\$250.00
- (c) ½d. Green Booklet Ditto Truly superb material. This page shows the pane with ornamental star and five stamps (from the first type Booklet). Very rare indeed...\$ 80.00
 and a plain 6 stamp pane\$ 20.00
- (d) ½d. Green Ditto A pane showing (later) selvedge bars (blurred print)\$ 40.00
- (e) ½d. Green Ditto Scarce blurred pane from left hand side of sheet (bar on left selvedge but no bar on right).\$ 30.00
- (f) ½d. Green Ditto Blocks of four (blurred) showing bars both selvedges (stains) and left selvedge only (as (d) and (e) above) and a pair with binding selvedge showing very worn impressions\$ 8.00
- (g) Booklet Covers A selection of four blue covers from type 2 Booklets showing differing sizes and advertisements\$ 2.00
- (h) Booklets Ditto Eleven different advertisement inter-leaving panes showing various adverts.....\$ 2.00

THE RECESS ENGRAVED ISSUES

PLATE MARKINGS

- 69(a) H07b 8d. Blue p.14 x 14½ Official A block of four from the bottom selvedge showing the "single dot" plate marking added to the plate after arrival in N.Z. (There were two such plates, the other having two dots.)
 Very scarce\$ 30.00
- (b) H07b 8d. Blue Official (Ditto) Selvedge block of four showing "guide dot" added to side selvedge in N.Z.....\$ 6.00
- (c) H07b Ditto Bottom left selvedge block of four shows guide dot added by Royle the plate makers.....\$ 6.00

THE PERFORATIONS

- 70(a) Perforated 14 x 14½ A lovely complete set in mint. Really, quite hard to come by these days. Includes, 2d. Rosy Mauve and Deep Mauve, 3d. Chestnut, 4d. Orange, 4d. Yellow, 5d. Deep Brown, Deep Red Brown, 6d. Carmine, Deep Carmine, 8d. Indigo Blue, Deep Bright Blue, 1/- Vermilion\$ 36.00
- (b) Perforated 14 x 13½ Another page, this time featuring used and mint. 3d. used, 5d. used (heavy) and mint, 6d. used and mint, 8d. used and mint. The fine page.....\$ 28.00
- (c) Perforated 14 (line) Page includes 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d. (mint and used), 8d., 1/- (mint and used).
 Superb\$ 22.50

NEXT MONTH: The finest specialized listing of Edward VII Recess Engraved issues ever to appear in the Newsletter. A study of perforation and plate varieties in the individual values including many huge mint blocks and several unique items.

**Most stamp collectors
 can't find good modern variety
 material.**