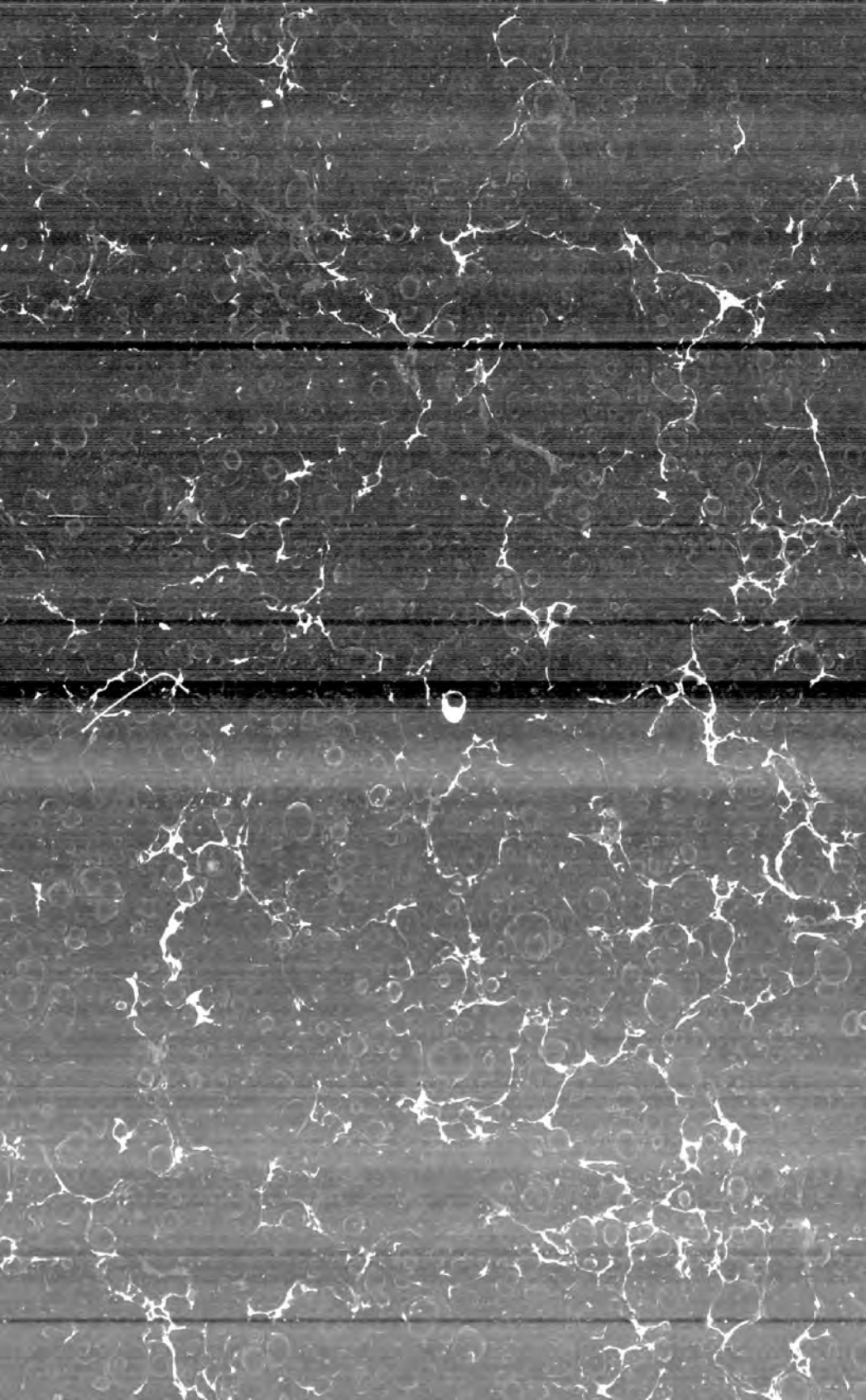




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Grawford 1915 (1-2)

*Crawford 1915(1)*

# The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. I. No. 1.

JUNE, 1903.

1S PER YEAR.

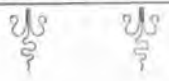
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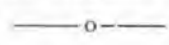
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# The Sterling Monthly.

A Journal for New Zealand Philatelists.

VOL. I. No. 1.

JUNE, 1903.

POST FREE IS. PER YEAR.

**The Subscription** to the "STERLING MONTHLY" being only 6d more per annum than the cost of postage, it is to your interest to forward your subscription at once. One shilling in postage stamps will bring you the paper for twelve months.

**The Sterling Monthly** is published with the object of encouraging true philately in New Zealand, assisting collectors in the pursuit of their philatelic studies, and recording valuable information relating to the stamps of New Zealand and Australasia.

## NOTES.

*The Australian Philatelist* records a report now current in Sydney that the present stamps of the Australian states are to be shortly superseded by a uniform series bearing the King's head and the names of the individual states in a label above. This issue it is expected will continue in use until the appearance of the general Commonwealth stamps some three years hence.

One of the recently issued New Zealand varieties is likely to be rare. This is the 4d, perf. 11., Cowan paper, wmk. star and N.Z. Only 1000 sheets were issued when the perforation was changed to 14.

The editor of an English stamp journal gravely suggests the republics of South and Central America as fruitful fields for specialism. Rather! Especially Salvador!

A correspondent asks the present market value of the 1 cent, grey, Belgian, postmarked in 1895, and the 2 cents, United States, 1884 (the latter slightly damaged). We find it difficult to suggest a price but we think a cheap lucifer match would about fill the bill.

Our information regarding the "O.P. S.O." stamps is accumulating. These stamps are used for correspondence between the New Zealand post office department and places beyond the British Empire. The values surcharged are the ½d, 1d, 2½d, and 5d. Which issues have been so surcharged is not yet clear, but it seems that the overprint is found on the stamps of the 1882 issues and also on the current series. Possibly the London print pictorials were similarly treated and there is good reason to think that in days to come these stamps of mystery will supply a page of extreme rarities for the catalogues. The surcharge is in violet, but recently in error they were overprinted in red.

**Colours and Shades.**—The question of colour and shade description is one that has not received the attention it deserves. The different catalogues are singularly confusing on this point. Take an example or two. Stanley Gibbons describes the ½d, New Zealand, London print, 1898 variously as "purple brown," "purple slate" and "purple black." Scott describes the same stamp as "lilac grey." Hagen describes it as "purple brown," and Nicolle as "dark purple."

This is very confusing, but the shades of the stamp are many and, in a sense, all are right and all are wrong. When, however, we find Stanley Gibbons describing both the 4d of the New Zealand 1863-66 issue and the 2d of the 1872 issue as *orange* we feel that there is something wrong. The two colours are as wide as the poles asunder. A colour dictionary is of little practical use here. Can any reader suggest a remedy?

### Answers to Correspondents.

D.N., Dunedin, writes asking for information *re* the method of rouletting in use at one time in New Zealand. (1). Was the machine a roulette wheel worked by hand or were a series of wheels used working parallel in a frame? (2). Is it known with certainty that the rouletting, pin perforating and serrating of New Zealand stamps were done officially? Can any of our readers supply answers to these queries?

H. J., Clyde, Otago.—We are prepared to believe in the existence of almost any variety of paper or perforation in the current ½d and 1d issues of New Zealand.

C.C.M., New Plymouth.—No. The "lozenge" watermark is usually easy to see.

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PRICE LIST.

**Waterlow Perforations**—How far should specialism extend in the matter of minute varieties of perforation? The stamps supplied in 1898 by Messrs Waterlow will guage almost anything from 12½ to 17. Few catalogues describe these. Are they worth collecting? Having some regard for our eyesight, and realising that life is short and the list of perforations long, we say, No. It would be matter of interest to know how far our readers agree with us in this. We can tolerate the plating by advertisements on

the backs of the stamps of the previous issue, and the minute classification of the errors and varieties of the current ½d and 1d, but when it comes to minutely distinguishing a host of fine perforations we are inclined to write "perf. Waterlow" and have done with it.

### Exchange Advertisements.

*Notices under this heading are inserted at the uniform rate of One Shilling, and must not exceed thirty-six words. We cannot guarantee the good faith of advertisers, but will refuse notices from any persons proved to be dishonest or unsatisfactory.*

**Exchange** desired with all British Colonies by Mr. G. C. Ward Brohier, Regalle, Ceylon.

**Wanted** for cash high value fiscal stamps of New Zealand. The Sterling Stamp Co., Nelson, New Zealand.

**Auction Sales** held at frequent intervals. Collections valued for probate or any other purpose.—MR. W. HADLOW, 12 Adam Street, Adelphi, London.

**New Catalogue** for Spain, Cuba, Porto Rico, Philippines, and Fernando Poo Stamps.—Edited by the Circulo Filatellico Matritense, Alcala 37, Madrid, Spain. Price 7d, not including postage.

**Wanted**.—Old New Zealand Stamps of the full faced Queen type for cash or in exchange for colonial and foreign stamps, from our approval sheets.—THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON.

**Exchange**.—H. Brusewitz, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

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FAMOUS APPROVAL SHEETS.

THE STERLING MONTHLY.



H. BRUSEWITZ, PHOTO.

A GROUP OF EARLY SETTLERS.





### The Paper & Perforation Quest.

The vagaries of New Zealand Stamp Printing during the past year have been enough to stagger all but the boldest collectors. We have heard a rumour that a new perforating machine guaging 16 is to replace the machine now perforating 14. This means that the experiments are not done with yet, and that the departments interested will not be satisfied until the stamps of the colony are produced in a workmanlike manner. We have hopes that we shall yet see stamps of New Zealand well perforated, well centred, and evenly printed. So far the very best printings of the 1d "universal" produced in the colony were those on the discarded "Waterlow" paper, perforated 14. These were among the first to be issued after the arrival of the new machine. Since then the printings seem to have grown worse and worse. We make an exception of a few sheets issued quite recently.

### New Issues and Varieties.

NEW ZEALAND.—2s, pictorial, perf. 11, on laid paper; 8d, pictorial, perf. 11, wmk. star and N.Z.

TASMANIA.—9d, blue, perf. 12½, wmk. V and crown.

VICTORIA.—1s, current, re-engraved.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—4d, red brown, 8d, yellow green, 9d, deep orange, 10d, bright vermilion, all perf. 12½, wmk. V. and crown.

### WANTED.

— To purchase in large or small —  
quantities the current

**New Zealand 8d Pictorial.**

**THE STERLING STAMP CO. NELSON.**

Zealand, perforated 11 x 10. This perforation is known in the ½d value, but it is not a new discovery in the 1d?

### Fiscal Collecting.

A few years ago most collectors in New Zealand affected to despise fiscals. That time has now passed away and a general interest in these stamps has begun to manifest itself. Whether as a supplement to a collection of postage stamps or as a separate branch of collecting there can be no question about the pleasure to be derived from their study. There are several very distinct advantages possessed by the fiscal collector. To begin with, his hobby is less costly and his opportunities of securing a fine collection consequently greater. Then his chances of making discoveries are larger, the fiscal stamps of many countries presenting almost a virgin field. In New Zealand the number and variety of fiscal stamps is very great, and without taking into account minor shades we believe that when they come to be fully catalogued there will be found to be little short of 1000 varieties. This should offer plenty of scope to students of philately. We should recommend all who have given special attention to the stamps of New Zealand and Australia to collect the fiscals also, and to do so not at haphazard but in a systematic manner. The prices of most varieties are still comparatively low, but they are not likely long to remain so. The fiscals of New South Wales, in particular, are an exceedingly interesting and beautiful series, while those of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, and Western Australia, like the issues of New Zealand, have an intimate connection with the postage stamps of those countries.

### — The British Empire Stamp — Exchange Medium.

This is the title of a little book compiled by R. H. Murray, "Newstead," Timperley, Cheshire, England. It contains the names of some hundreds of

collectors in Great Britain and the British Colonies. The idea of compiling such a list is a good one, but there is room for improvement in the manner in which it has been given to the public. The arrangement of the pages is bewildering in the extreme, and the addresses are not always sufficiently definite. More care might well have been taken in this matter. The New Zealand list is a fairly long one, but those of the States of Australia are extremely brief. It is proposed to issue a second edition shortly in which fuller particulars respecting all collectors whose names appear there will be given. No doubt in the second edition all the faults of the first will be remedied, and the *Exchange Medium* will become one of the most important of philatelic publications. All collectors included in the list are requested to furnish references, and this in itself will be a great advance if the references are in every case good. The present classification into three divisions—Beginners, medium collectors, and advanced collectors—is not, in our opinion, altogether satisfactory, but the proposal to remedy this by giving the number of stamps owned by each collector does not seem to improve matters much. The advanced specialist who collects the stamps of a single country may have less stamps than medium collector who collects *the world*. We would suggest that the ages of collectors might with some advantage be given or at any rate those who are under 21 indicated in some manner.

### Important to Philatelic Societies

Reports or notices of Philatelic Clubs and Societies not exceeding two hundred words will be inserted gratis in these pages. Fuller reports can be given of Societies in New Zealand adopting THE STERLING MONTHLY as their official organ.

### "Post Office" Mauritius.

A fine pair (1d and 2d) of the rarest stamps in the world have come to light recently. They were discovered by a

schoolboy in Bordeaux and have since been sold for £2600. This is the highest price that these stamps have yet reached. In 1847 this pair cost 3d in Mauritius. In 1870 £50 was paid for a copy of one of them. In 1880 a copy was purchased for £80. In 1893 £730 was paid for an unused pair. In 1897 £1920 was paid for a pair. No better illustration of the progress of philately could be given than this. Only about 500 specimens of the two varieties were printed and of these probably not more than a dozen specimens are now in existence.

Among the specially good things advertised in the last number of Stanley Gibbon's *Monthly Journal* is "The Pate Collection" of New Zealand stamps, specially rich in old issues.

**The New Wrapper.**—The design of the new New Zealand wrapper is excellent, and a distinct advance on the previous ones, but the execution, like that of the new letter-card is exceedingly rough. The idea is a greenstone pendant with Maori carving enclosing a portrait of the King, and it is certainly striking and original. The new colour brings it into line with the stamps of the Postal Union.

Among the new King's head issues that have reached us the best and most effective stamps are, in our opinion, those of Fiji and Transvaal.

The Sterling Stamp Co.'s philatelic publications are the best for New Zealand collections.

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**The Sterling Stamp Coy.,  
Nelson,**

**NEW ZEALAND.**

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# The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. I. NO. 2.

JULY, 1903.

1S PER YEAR.

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# The Sterling Monthly.

A Journal for New Zealand Philatelists.

VOL. I. No. 2.

JULY, 1903.

POST FREE IS. PER YEAR.

**The Subscription** to the "STERLING MONTHLY" being only 6d more per annum than the cost of postage, it is to your interest to forward your subscription at once. One Shilling in postage stamps will bring you the paper for 12 months.

Subscriptions should be sent to THE STERLING STAMP CO., Box 12, P.O. Nelson.

## NOTES.

The new seven cent stamp of Canada bearing the Queen's head is likely to have but a short lease of life, with the King's head issue for that country coming on immediately.

Japan has the cheapest postal service in the world. Letters are conveyed to all parts of the Japanese empire for the sum of 2 sen., about one third of a penny.

Under date May, 1903, Messrs Stanley Gibbons have issued a second supplement to their catalogue. Many of the new King's head series are listed, also the "Admiralty Official" of Great Britain. The list of recent issues of the New Zealand ½d. and 1d. is, as we expected, somewhat condensed, several varieties being grouped under the heading "Perf. Compound." A good many strange and ugly philatelic mostrosities are illustrated in Part II., but the prize ugly stamp of all recent issues seems to be our own special delivery label.

The stamp has been in existence for some sixty years. The collector arose some forty years ago. This Adam was a

boy. In 1860 a master of Tonbridge School wrote to "Notes and Queries," saying that a boy in his form had formed a collection of three or four hundred stamps, and had quoted Sir Rowland Hill for the statement that there might be then about 500 varieties in existence.—*London Daily News.*

Is the issue of the 1½d. New Zealand stamp really to cease? We find that there are plenty still on sale at the various post offices throughout the colony.

Mr. W. Hughes, B.L., began collecting in 1859, keeping an account of all his expenditure on stamps. In 1896 he sold his collection for nearly £3000. It had cost him only £69.

What is Philately coming to? A United States weekly stamp journal gives the *menu* at the banquet of a Chicago club!

A busy merchant in Dublin handed the office-boy two letters to stamp and take to the post office. One letter was addressed to Nice, and the other Glasgow. In his hurry the office-boy placed a penny stamp on the Continental missive, and a two-penny-halfpenny one on that for Scotland. At the post-office the error was noticed, and the boy said he would put matters right. On returning his employer inquired how he had managed. "Och, nothin' aisier, sorr!" said the boy. "Oi just let the letters and stamps alone, but changed the addresses!"

Surcharged stamps are to be abolished in the States of the Australian Commonwealth. Never mind. The New Zealand dependencies, Niue, Penryn, and Aitutaki,



will more than make up for the loss. It does seem a pity to leave the Chatham and Auckland Islands without a special issue of their own, duly surcharged, with errors thrown in. There is also the following rather formidable list of possible "stamp issuing countries" at present stampless and under the sway of the New Zealand Government. Avarua, Pukapuka, Rakaanga, Manaliki and Suwarrow. What possibilities of error there are in such names as these.

A correspondent suggests that it might cause an increase of interest if the stamps of Niue and Penrhyn were surcharged with the portrait of the Premier of New Zealand. We would humbly offer the additional suggestion that, as the Peruvian Government have no further use for the "Head of Bermudez" surcharge, the plates might be purchased cheaply and used for the above purpose. It is true that the Peruvian surcharge frightens children, but it could hardly be more fearsome than some of the work of our local engravers. We do not, of course, imply that there is any resemblance between the Peruvian general and Mr. Seddon. New Zealand collectors might even have a pardonable pride in seeing the strong, rugged, face of their Premier on the stamps of the Colony. But Mr. Seddon as he *is* and Mr. Seddon as he *might* be represented! Ay, there's the rub!

We have to thank our numerous correspondents for their kind wishes and congratulatory remarks *re* the publication of "THE STERLING MONTHLY." May we in turn ask them to help us in the task of making the journal really useful. Brief notes on all stamp matters will be gladly received.

## .. The "Nelson" Collecting .. Albums.

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No. 1 to hold 2000 stamps post free 1 3  
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## Answers to Correspondents.

C.C.K.—Many thanks. Probably next month.

M.L., Christchurch.—We give rumour of this kind for what they are worth. There may, of course, be nothing in it.

R.S.S., Sydney.—The punched holes in N.Z. fiscals indicate, we think, that they are cancelled by the auditor. The metal clips were used to attach stamps to parchment deeds. See information in another column.

R.J.H.—You might get the discount stamps marked in spite of postal regulations, but they are of no special interest so treated. The crime is atoned for by a fine of 2d., and postage dues are worth nearly half face anyhow.

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Issue for use on northern lines of the North Island. Inscribed "N.Z. Railways," above. "Parcels," and value below. Wove paper, no watermark.

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6d. green " " " "

Issue for general use. Inscribed "N.Z. Railways," above. "Newspaper," and value below. Wove paper. No watermark.

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½d., black	3d., yellow
1d., lilac	4d. carmine
2d., blue	6d., green
3d., brown	

(b) PERF. 11.

½d., black	3d., orange
1d., lilac	4d., carmine
2d., blue	6d., green

(c) PERF. 10.

1d., lilac.

(d) PERF. 11 x 10.

½d., black.

THE STERLING MONTHLY.



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½d., black                      2d., blue  
1d., lilac                        4d., crimson

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The small stops after the N and Z are frequently dropped or absent through the whole series.

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**Wanted** for Cash 1882-97, 1d. red, perf. 12½ x 10.—CHARLES NISSEN & Co., 77 and 78, High Holborn, London, W.C.

**Wanted.**—Old New Zealand Stamps of the full faced Queen type for cash or in exchange for colonial and foreign stamps, from our approval sheets.—THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON.

**Exchange.**—H. BRUSEWITZ, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

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The growth of stamps issues in number and complexity is making it more and more difficult to collect the stamps of the world. This has led a very large number of collectors to confine their philatelic

studies to a single country or group of countries. This in its turn has brought about the publication of many fine albums suited to the needs of the specialist. Most of these albums, though handsome, are large, cumbersome, and expensive. To provide a less costly album sufficient for all stamps and minor varieties of a single country has been the aim of the publishers in producing the "Sterling Philatelic Album." It is arranged on a new plan. One half of each page is divided into squares in which stamps may be arranged in accordance with the catalogues, while the other half is left blank for the reception of specimens on portions of the original cover, pairs, or minor varieties. A very large practical experience has taught the publishers the value of such an album. The greater number of general collectors have their favourite countries which they desire to collect *closely*, studying and arranging all varieties from the normal type. Such collectors using the "Imperial" or some such excellent album, for their general collections find the stamps of their favourite countries overcrowded, the spaces provided being not nearly adequate. While this is so they do not desire to purchase a large and expensive album for, perhaps, the stamps of a single country. The "STERLING" provides, in the opinion of its publishers, just the kind of thing required to meet the needs of the majority. It is strongly and well bound, on good paper, well printed, and of a suitable size.

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### NEW ZEALAND.

2½d., blue, perf. 11, watermark star and N.Z.; 2d., blue-green, perf. 11, watermark star and N.Z.

AITUTAKI.—Current stamp of New Zealand surcharged. ½d., green; 1d., carmine; 2½d., blue; 3d., yellow brown; 6d. carmine; 1s., vermilion.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—10s., green, perf. 11½, watermark crown S.A.

When we wrote a little disparagingly last month of the postal issues of South and Central America we made a mental reservation in favour of one country. Chili has been most temperate in the matter of new issues and the stamps of that republic, not being "made for collectors" are well worthy of study.

## New Zealand Fiscal Postals and Postal Fiscals.

In 1882 it became legal to use the fiscal stamps of New Zealand for postal purposes. It is thus possible that all or any of the very large number of varieties issued may be found with genuine postmarks or may be used at the present time to frank letters. Fiscals used postally have naturally a higher value than those used for their original purposes. This being so it is necessary to distinguish very carefully between postal and fiscal cancellations and that is a task not always easily accomplished. In the early days and as late as the eighty's postal pen-marks are very frequently found, (they are occasionally found at the present day), viz: stamps cancelled at small country offices where they possessed no date stamp. These stamps usually bear the name of the office and the date, not infrequently accompanied by an obliteration put on in transit through a large post office. These should carefully be distinguished from fiscal cancellations. Most of the early postal cancellations are in black, but some are found in red or red brown. The greatest difficulty is experienced in distinguishing between ordinary date stamp cancellations and those put on at the various crown offices. Two guides will help the collector in his decision. First of all the date. Fiscal stamps could

not legally be used for postage before 1882 and should not be found with earlier dates. Again, postal date-stamps never have a crown within the circle, while the crown is usually present in the fiscal cancellations. The embossed imprints of the stamp office, with or without other mark, are a sure indication that a stamp has been fiscally used. Dishonest persons have sometimes tried to press out the imprint, but as the grain of the paper is thus more or less broken the fraud can usually be detected. Attempts have been made with more success to wash out ink markings and get the stamps genuinely cancelled by favour of some post office official. No doubt this has sometimes been carried out with success and in such a manner as to deceive the best experts, but the forgery can more often be detected by the aid of a good magnifying glass. The great bulk, however, of the postal fiscals of the early issues are stamps which were placed on deeds or receipts and never cancelled, and which collectors taking advantage of the legal permission of 1882 have passed through the post. These stamps must be regarded as perfectly genuine, and it must be noted that a late date of cancellation is no bar to the genuineness of a postal fiscal, as these stamps, if unused, are still a perfectly legal tender for the prepayment of postage on a letter. No doubt some fiscals passed through the post earlier than 1882, although there was no official sanction of their use prior to that date, and these if well authenticated are interesting and valuable. Postals were also occasionally used for fiscal purposes and, with the growth of fiscal collecting, will doubtless have a place and value of their own. The writer has seen a stamp of the imperforate postal issue of 1862 bearing the stamp of a well-known bank doing business in New Zealand. A good many collectors of our postage stamp ignore the postal fiscals because they are a little afraid of them. This should not be so. Philatelic difficulties exist only to be overcome and the skill gained through the study of these stamps will well repay the collector. One question remains to be asked and to this we are not yet able to give an answer. Perhaps some of our readers can help us. For what postal purposes are the stamps above the value of £ used?



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**The Sterling Stamp Coy.,  
Nelson,  
NEW ZEALAND.**

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# The Sterling Monthly.

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VOL. 1. No. 3.

AUGUST, 1903.

1S PER YEAR.

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**... AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS. ...**

**Sets, Packets, &c., &c.**

**N**OTE.—In this Catalogue all minor varieties of perforation, &c., which are so confusing to the average collector are omitted and no Collector need go outside the stamps listed in this book, which mentions and prices all those issued in the ordinary way. The work is pocket size, and contains some useful "Hints to Collectors," and a preface of interesting matter. Prices moreover will be found most reasonable.

**Every Collector should have One.**

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**T. H. NICOLLE, Postage Stamp Merchant,**

**14 Hunter Street, SYDNEY.**



# Important to Collectors.

## **Cheap Australasian and Foreign Stamps.**

**F**OR the convenience of Collectors residing in the suburbs, country, or foreign parts, who cannot call and inspect my stock in Sydney, I have made up a large number of special small books containing

**STAMPS PRICED From  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4s. EACH (not more.)**

Size of books permits them being enclosed in an ordinary-sized envelope, and the system is most popular, as it enables a Collector to SEE THE STAMPS BEFORE PURCHASING—a most important item. Most beginners, and others who do not feel disposed to go in for the higher priced varieties, will find these books JUST TO THEIR PURPOSE. All are nice Clean Specimens arranged in order of issue distinctly priced and described, and upon application I shall be pleased to send any ON APPROVAL.

*From collectors unknown to me, I would expect Sydney reference or small Cash deposit.*

THE AUSTRALIAN SERIES consists of books of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, West Australia, and the Pacific Islands, and Collectors may begin with, say, New South Wales, and go through the series—some eight or nine countries, including the Islands.

FOREIGN AND BRITISH COLONIAL SERIES.—These books contain Stamps—from Antigua to Zululand—taken from several large collections recently purchased and amongst them are a great many out-of-the way things which are only procurable from a source like this. Any separate country may be had on approval. Actual beginners would find it far cheaper to buy a good sized packed first, and then fill up blanks from the approval books.

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And I have always a magnificent stock of Australasian and other British Colonial Stamps in all varieties of shades perforations, &c., unused and used, which can be inspected at my offices, or may be had on approval.

COLLECTORS sending me their LIST OF WANTS will be specially catered for

If Collectors, in sending their wants, would give the Nos. in their Albums or an Catalogue, which they are short of, it would facilitate matters considerably.

**T. H. NICOLLE,**

ESTABLISHED 1890.

**14 Hunter St., SYDNEY.**

# The Sterling Monthly.

A Journal for New Zealand Philatelists.

VOL. I. No. 3.

AUGUST, 1903.

POST FREE 1S. PER YEAR.

**The Subscription** to the "STERLING MONTHLY" being only 6d more per annum than the cost of postage, it is to your interest to forward your subscription at once. One Shilling in postage stamps will bring you the paper for 12 months.

Subscriptions should be sent to THE STERLING STAMP CO., Box 12, P.O., Nelson.

## THE STERLING MONTHLY.

### Advertising Rates.

	£	s.	d.
Whole page, per issue ...	1	0	0
Half page .. ..	0	14	0
Quarter page .. ..	0	9	0

TERMS—Cash in advance or approved wholesale parcel of stamps to value.

### NOTES.

The Commonwealth issue for Australia is coming immediately, but it is not to bear the King's head after all. It is not a handsome production. The stamp shows the picture of a seated figure under an arch on which is inscribed the word "commonwealth." The arch springs from pillars evidently supposed to be constructed of squared stones on which are the initial letters of each state with the date of its foundation. In a white label below is the name of the State and in a curved label at the top the word "postage." We are indebted to W. H. Shelton, of Castlemaine, for the following clipping from the *Argus*: The stamp cannot be regarded as an artistic

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In the May number of Stanley Gibbon's Monthly, Mr. Charles J. Phillips gives his views on Stamp collecting as an investment. The article, coming from such an authority, is of the greatest interest and value. Mr. Phillips gives it as the result of large experience, that general collecting as an investment is not nearly so profitable as specialism. Among the many countries which offer good fields for collecting as an investment are Great Britain, Canada, Hong Kong, Cape of Good Hope, Jamaica, Fiji, and all the Australasian Colonies.

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indicate more correctly than most of larger catalogues the real market values of Australasian stamps. We call attention to Mr. Nicolle's advertisements appearing in this issue.

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**THOMAS WRIGHT,**

New and Second Hand **BOOKSELLER,**

Wellesley Street, AUCKLAND.

Agent for THE STERLING STAMP CO.

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We have seen the new official stamps of the State of Victoria. These are perforated O.S. the letters and holes of the perforation being large. Several writers declare their intention of ignoring these, but, however, little we may like it, they seem as worthy of notice as similarly treated stamps of Tunis and Luxemburg.

We notice that side by side on the same official envelope are the old frank stamps, and adhesives with and without the official perforation.

**The Original Use of the Early Canadian Stamps.**

The 3d known as "the 3 penny beaver," 1851, was used for postage on letters between any place in Canada (now Ontario and Quebec) and any place in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Ed. Island and Cape Breton.

The 6d, 1851, was used for postage on letters to the United States of A., except to Oregon and California.

The 12d, 1851, was used for postage on letters to Great Britain, via Quebec and Halifax.

The 10d, 1855, was used for postage on letters to Great Britain via Cunard packet from New York and Boston.

The 7½d, 1857, was also used for postage on letters to Great Britain, but via Canadian packet from Quebec.

The ½d of the same issue was used for postage on drop letters.

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**J. B. INNES,**  
**BOOKSELLER,**

Willis Street, WELLINGTON.

Agent for THE STERLING STAMP CO.

We have again to thank our numerous correspondents for the kind things they say about our journal. Its reception in Australia has been as pleasing to us as that accorded to it in New Zealand. May we ask those who are themselves pleased with the paper to recommend it to their friends. The price brings it within the reach of every collector, and it will be our constant endeavour to make its contents as fresh, interesting, and useful as possible to all classes of readers.

**The Philatelic Society of New Zealand.**

The fourth ordinary meeting of the Fourteenth Season was held in the Society's rooms, on Wednesday, July 1st, 1903, at 8 p.m. Mr. A. T. Bate occupied the chair.

The following were present:—Messrs Thos. Acocks, A. T. Bate, Chas. Jones, J. E. Mourant, R. Pye-Smith, J. H. W. Wardrop, L. A. Sanderson.

Until further notice it was decided to hold the ordinary meetings on Wednesday evenings, instead of Fridays as hitherto.

Two members were elected—Mr Samuel Wylie, Grosvenor st., Sydney—proposed by Mr Bate; and Mr Leon Cohen, Molesworth street, Wellington—proposed by Mr Pye-Smith.

In the last report an error occurred in describing the perforations of Mr Wardrop's uncatalogued varieties of New Zealand stamps—perforated 10 x 12, should be 12½.

Mr Bate exhibited his collection of Niue, Penryn, and Aitutaki stamps. The new envelopes and cards were also shown to the meeting.

L. A. SANDERSON,  
Hon. Sec. and Treas.

**Nelson Philatelic Society.**

A meeting was held on Saturday, July 2nd, in the Bishop's School-room at 7.30 p.m.

The chair was occupied by Mr H. Brusewitz (vice President) and there was a good attendance of members.

After the reading of the quarterly report by the Hon. Sec., Miss N. Jones, Mr.

Brusewitz spoke at some length on the various postal issues of New Zealand, and the Rev. McKee Wright exhibited his collection of New Zealand stamps. A few interesting stamps were also shown by Mr R. I. Kingsley.—*Unofficial.*

## BUICK & CO.,

.. PICTON ..

Agents for THE STERLING STAMP CO.

The Fiscal Philatelic Society of England is doing great work. Bit by bit the great catalogue of fiscal stamps is being put together, altered, emended, discussed until at last the complete list is published and becomes a reliable guide to the thousands in whom an interest in these stamps is being gradually awakened. When the completed list is a thing accomplished it needs no prophet to foretell that fiscal collecting will hold an equal place with any other branch of philately.

### The New Canadian Issue.

We learn from the *Australian Philatelist* that the engraving of the dies for the new Canadian stamps is now completed. This work has been intrusted to Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co., and the actual work of printing the stamps will be performed by the American Bank Note Co., of New York. Both these names afford a good guarantee of fine workmanship. The stamps are to be very similar in design to those now current. The portrait of the King is described as a very pleasant one, clearly engraved in simple line. The severe simplicity of design will command itself to many who have grown weary of pretty pictures of scenery, zoological freaks, steam engines, winged dolls labelled "Empire's call" and the like. We shall look forward with expectancy to the first batch of the new stamps.

## .. The "Nelson" Collecting .. Albums.

(STRONGLY BOUND IN GREEN BOARDS.)

No. 1 to hold 2000 stamps post free 1 3  
No. 2 to hold 4000 stamps post free 2 0

THE STERLING STAMP CO.,  
NELSON, N.Z.

## Answer to Correspondents.

H. W. S.—Castlemaine, Victoria. Very many thanks. All such information very acceptable.

R. G.—Auckland. We can recommend to you the International Stamp Co., Box 563, Montreal.

## .. The "Sterling" Philatelic .. Album.

No. 1. Bound in Cloth post free 3 3  
No 2 Bound in half leatherette .. 4 9

THE STERLING STAMP CO.,

NELSON, N.Z.

## Exchange Advertisements.

*Notices under this heading are inserted at the uniform rate of One Shilling and must not exceed thirty-six words.*

*We cannot guarantee the good faith of advertisers, but will refuse notices from any persons proved to be dishonest or unsatisfactory.*

**Wanted.**—Old New Zealand Stamps of the full faced Queen type for cash or in exchange for colonial and foreign stamps, from our approval sheets.—THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON.

**Exchange.**—H. BRUSEWITZ, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

**P. Coates.**—Timaru, offers collection of 1200 odd different European stamps, each country on sheets or lot on approval for equal catalogue value New Zealand stamps of values above 2½d. or for cash one third catalogue value.

**Wanted.**—Offers of the 2s. current New Zealand on laid paper used or unused.—THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON, New Zealand.

### Does It Pay?

The wave of philatelic indignation against the New Zealand Government is growing and increasing in intensity. Everywhere we meet with the same sneer at the rather paltry and distinctly short-sighted attempts of the postal department to make money out of the stamp collector. New Zealand has for years past been drawing, in a perfectly legitimate way, a considerable revenue from this source and there is no reason why such should not continue to be the case as long as philately maintains its hold. The authorities, however, seem to be quite determined to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. They are descending to the methods of the Central American republics in their effort to make money out of their stamps and the results are not hard to foretell.

The postal authorities are, no doubt, shrewd and long-headed, but they are nevertheless deceived. Philatelic interest in a stamp can only be maintained as long as that stamp serves some legitimate purpose—either postal or fiscal. Now arises the question whether the new surcharged issues for Niue, Penryn, and Aitutaki serve any such purpose. The white population of these islands is very small; the natives use the post office very little, if at all; the islands form an integral part of New Zealand and the stamps of New Zealand would have answered all purposes. We are not sanguine that representations of this kind will have any weight with the authorities in question, in fact it is highly improbable that they will either see or read them, but that our conscience may be clear in this matter, and that we may feel that we have made the timely protest, in the interest of our readers, we set them down here.

Certain points we would desire to be clear and emphatic upon.

1st: It does not pay in the long run to issue useless stamps.

2nd: Collectors and dealers alike dread and abhor a multiplicity of new issues.

3rd: Careless printing and irregular perforation, maintained over a period, lead collectors to give up in disgust the attempt to collect the stamps of a country.

The philatelic record of New Zealand was until 1898 an absolutely clean one. If our postal authorities would regain the ground they have lost they must alter their methods. We would like to see—

1st: All useless issues withdrawn.

2nd: A substantial reform initiated in the oversight of stamps issued.

3rd: The destruction of all old plates.

4th: The abolition of all surcharges (O.P.S.O. among the rest).

If this were really done there is no reason why New Zealand should not be the most popular country in the world with collectors. That the suggested reforms would pay handsomely in the long run we have not the shadow of a doubt.

Those in authority would no doubt reply to all this that they know their own business best. In general postal matters this is doubtless true, but just as certainly it is not true in matters connected with philately. In philatelic matters honesty is the best policy and the postal label deliberately issued with the knowledge that it fulfils no necessary postal use is recognised by every collector the world over as a printed falsehood.

Nos. 1 and 2 of "THE STERLING MONTHLY" can no longer be supplied, these issues having been quite exhausted. All subscriptions date from the actual time at which they are received.

**W. H. CLARKE,**  
**WHANGAREI.**

Agent for THE STERLING STAMP CO.  
STAMPS AND SETS ON SALE.

The Victorian Stamp Department is following the lead of New Zealand in the matter of perforation. Two machines exist perforating respectfully 11 and 12½ and already the ½d value has appeared both compound and mended. The worst of it is that the complications are likely to extend to other States whose stamps are being printed in Victoria, and that even the Commonwealth stamps may appear similarly treated.

# THE STERLING STAMP CO.'S

**BARGAIN LIST for AUGUST.** Orders from this list must reach us before Sept. 30th.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY CASH AND A STAMP FOR POSTAGE AND MARKED "AUGUST LIST."

	s.	d.		s.	d.
1. Canada, 1859, 5c. (beaver red)	0	2	28. Great Britain 1892, 4½d ...	0	3
2. " 1882, ½c. black (small)	½		29. " " 1882, 1d 'I.R. official'	0	½
3. " 1898-99, 10c. brown purple	0	2	30. " " 1902 (King's head)	1	½d.
4. " 1898 (Xmas) map 2c.	0	½	31. " " " " 2d.	0	½
5. " special delivery, 10c. green	0	4	32. " " " " 2½d.	0	½
6. " Registration, 2c. vermilion	0	1	33. " " " " 3d.	0	½
7. " " 5c., green	0	½	34. " " " " 4d.	0	½
8. " 1902, 7c., olive yellow	0	3	35. " " " " 5d.	0	1
9. Chili, 1867, 2c., black ...	0	4	36. " " " " 6d.	0	½
10. " 1877-78, 1c. grey black	0	2	37. " " " " 9d.	0	2
11. " " 2c., orange	0	2	38. " " " " 1s.	0	3
12. " " 10c., blue ..	0	3	39. India, 1866-67 4a. green ...	0	1
13. " " 20c., green	0	3	40. Ceylon, 5c., lilac "on service"	0	½
14. " 1881-86, 10c., orange	0	1	41. Venezuela, 1893, 5c., unused (inland) slate	0	½
15. " " 20c., slate ...	0	1	42. Costa Rica, 1901, 5c., (pictorial) blue and black	0	1
16. " 1892-1900, 15c., slate green	0	2	43. Transvaal, 1896-97, 1d., carmine and green	0	½
17. " " 25c., red brown	0	2	44. Nicaragua, 1900, 1c. purple brown	0	2
18. " 1900-01, 5 on 30c., carmine	0	2	45. Victoria, 1867-82, 4d., rose wink. V and crown	0	6
19. " " 5c., deep blue	0	1	46. New South Wales, 5s. coin type	3	0
20. " " 10c., violet	0	1	47. " " 1s. "O.S" unused	1	3
21. Argentine, 1892-97, 10c., carmine	0	½	48. Samoa, half of 1s. used for 6d on original	2	6
22. " 1899-01, 3c., orange	0	½	49. New Zealand, 1863, perf. 1d red	1	0
23. " " 10c., green	0	1	50. " " " " 2d. blue	0	9
24. " " 15c. slate green	0	2			
25. " " 20c., lake	0	3			
26. " " 30c., scarlet	0	4			
27. " " 1 peso. blue and black	1	0			

In ordering quote number, country, and price. All used unless otherwise mentioned.

**THE STERLING STAMP CO.,**

BOX 12, POST OFFICE,

NELSON.



A very amusing anecdote was related at the opening of the Manchester Philatelic Exhibition by Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., regarding the United States issue of 1869, which was printed in two colours, the stamps being very valuable when the centre position of the design was inverted. A boy went to a well-known dealer in New York and bought a 15c. stamp of this issue for about a dollar. Next day he went back to the dealer and said: "I say, mister, you sold me a bad stamp yesterday. Look here, this thing has got the centre upside down." The dealer was certainly surprised at having sold a stamp worth £30 for the sum of 4s., and was only too glad of the chance to get it back again. Just as the boy was going out of the shop he put his head back and shouted out "Ho, there mister, done yer again. I didn't get that damaged specimen from you, but from someone else."

Many remarkable things have happened in the way of unnecessary stamp production, but perhaps the champion effort in this direction was that of Harden Hinckly who styled himself "Prince James I" and claimed sovereignty over an island called Trinidad in the South Atlantic (not the British colony of that name). He issued a series of seven stamps for his dominion which is an isolated rock in the ocean without a single human inhabitant. Fortunately his stamps are not in the catalogues.

"Among a number of old stamps in a discarded album I once remember coming across what appeared to be a toy stamp prepared for a child to play with. What became of it I can't remember. It had a picture on it of a rider on horseback and the inscription 'Postage one boo.' I thought to myself that some collectors got hold of strange things and promptly weeded it out. The curious thing about it was that as I have since discovered it was a perfectly genuine Chinese local."—*A correspondent.*

Which is the finest postage stamps ever issued? The question may seem a very difficult one to answer with the multitude

of issues crowding one another in our albums. Get an unused English 1d black of 1840 and put it under the magnifying glass. We shall be surprised if you do not answer, "*The first.*"

In this issue our publishers insert an advertisement of cheap stamps to be supplied to prepaid order. Many desirable stamps are included in the list and the prices are remarkably low. Collectors are requested to note that the stamps here listed will *not* be sent out at the same price on approval, and that only one copy of each variety will be supplied to each collector ordering.

A complete collection is roughly estimated to be worth about £300,000. The six rarest stamps are;—(1) British Guiana, 1c. 1856, for which £1,000 has been refused; (2) The famous Mauritius 1d. "Post Office" of 1847, worth £1,000; (3) The 2d. Mauritius "Post Office" of same issue, worth £920; (4) U.S.A. "Baltimore" 10c., 1846, worth £900; (5) Hawaii 2c., 1851, worth £740; (6) U.S.A. "St. Louis," 1847, 20c., worth £600. Thus six old postage stamps represents a fortune of £5,200. Their original cost was 1s. 7½d. only!

### The Perforation Gauge.

Many of the subscribers to this journal are young collectors and to many of these the perforation gauge is a thing of mystery and difficulty. For their benefit we insert the following from the American Standard Catalogue published by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., of New York. —: The second chief style of separation of stamps, and the one which to-day is in nearly universal use, is called perforating. By this process the paper between the stamps is cut away in a line of holes, usually round, leaving little bridges of paper between the stamps to hold them together until they are to be separated. These little bridges are called the teeth of the perforation, and of course project from the stamp when it is torn from the sheet. The width of the teeth and the diameter of the holes between are usually equal. As the size of the perforation is

often a guide to the date of issue of the stamp, it is necessary to measure them and describe them by a gauge number. Thus we say a stamp is perforated 12 or  $13\frac{1}{2}$ . This does not mean that there is 12 or  $13\frac{1}{2}$  perforations on the side or end of the stamp, but that 12 or  $13\frac{1}{2}$  perforations can be counted in the space of two centimeters. A centimeter is the one hundredth part of the French meter, or unit of measure of length, and is very nearly equal to two-fifths of an English inch. More exactly it is equal to 0.3937 of an inch. Each centimeter is divided into ten millimeters, so that two centimeters equal 20 millimeters. This space has been arbitrarily adopted by collectors the world over as the length in which perforations shall be measured, and the number of perforations (each one consisting of a depression and a projection) in two centimeters is called the gauge of that perforation. Thus a stamp perforated 12 would have perforations of such size that twelve of them would measure exactly two centimeters. The current United States stamps are perforated 12, and give a readily obtained material for testing the above rule. The surest way to measure perforations is to draw or paste on a white card a black band exactly two centimeters wide and lay the coin on it so that the centre of a tooth coincides with the edge of the black band; then count the perforations to the other edge of the band, and the number thus obtained is the gauge of that perforation. If the centre of a tooth falls on the other edge the perforation is an even gauge, such as 13, 16, &c., ; but if a hollow falls on the edge it is a half gauge such as  $13\frac{1}{2}$  &c. The publishers of this catalogue sell accurately printed gauges for measuring perforations. A perforation with small holes and teeth close together is called a *fine perforation*; one with large holes and teeth far apart is called a *coarse perforation*; and one in which the holes are not clean cut, but jagged, is called a *rough perforation*. In some cases the gauge of the perforations on the side of a stamp differs from that of the top and bottom, and such stamps are said to have

*compound perforations*. In measuring compound perforations the gauge of the top is usually given first and then the gauge of the sides of the stamp.

### New Issues and Varieties.

The New Zealand series on the new paper is now complete with the 9d and 5s values.

An error was made in our last issue in chronicling the new varieties, 2d blue green should have read 2s blue green.

The new Canadian set is to consist of the following values:— $\frac{1}{2}$ c, 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 50c, 1 dollar.

The Sterling Stamp Co., are prepared to examine New Zealand stamps numbering them by Stanley Gibbon's catalogue, with the exception of the first issue 1854. The inclusive charge for examination is 1s. per doz.

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### ... M. & F. COOKE, ... NELSON.

Agents for the Sale of

STERLING STAMP CO.'S

STAMPS AND PACKETS.

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### Provisionals of Jamaica.

In 1860, when the Jamaica House of Assembly took over the Post Office from the authorities, the first stamps were issued. These had as a watermark the emblem of the island—a pineapple. They were the 1d. blue, 2d. rose, 3d. green, 4d. orange, 6d. violet, and 1s. brown. When newspapers or circulars were posted, the 1d. blue was cut in two diagonally to make a provisional half-penny, and at one time they ran out of 1d. stamps and were obliged to cut the 2d. rose in the same way.

These provisionals are very rare; in fact, they are the most valuable of all Jamaican stamps, but they must be on complete original envelopes. Jamaican stamps with the pineapple watermark

became obsolete soon after the rebellion at Morant Bay in 1865, when the Legislative Assembly abolished the representative constitution of the country and it became a Crown Colony.

## AGENTS

### WANTED FOR THE SALE OF THE STERLING STAMP CO.'S STAMPS, SETS AND PACKETS.

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### ... The "Wakatu" Packets ... Of Mixed Stamps.

No. 1	200 Stamps	price	0 6
No. 2	500 "	"	1 0
No. 3	1,000 "	"	1 9

THESE PACKETS CONTAIN GOOD VARIETY  
BUT MANY DUPLICATES.

THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON

### "Philately."

We have grown used to the name of "Philately" as a term for scientific stamp collecting, and have in some measure forgotten what a clumsy word it really is.

Literally it means something like "loving exemption from tax" (pedants may quarrel with the explanation), and so may include in its wide sweep the great bulk of humanity as well as the very large portion of it who collect postage stamps. It is interesting after a lapse of years to look back and read an early American opinion of the new word. The following was published in 1868:—"This is the new fangled term a few egotists in Europe and a very few more in America have, in their self-sufficient wisdom, decided to be the term by which the science of stamp collecting shall henceforth and forever be designated. . . . Not even the widest stretch of imagination of the amateur lexicographers who coined the term can convince any sensible collector that the word "philately," either in its derivation or literal sense, is in any way applicable as designating the science of stamp collecting, and for which purpose we will venture the remark that the word Timbrophily has hitherto been found in way every suitable without taxing either the patience of collectors or the brains (if they have any) of the pedantic egotists who have coined the lovely phrase. Philately." In spite of the protest the name came to stay and is with us yet.

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Send for the STERLING STAMP CO.'s  
FAMOUS APPROVAL SHEETS.

**WANTED.**

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**STAMPS OF ALL BRITISH COLONIES  
IN QUANTITY.**

Send Samples stating price per lot.

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# Stamp Mounts

**BEST QUALITY.  
CONVENIENT SIZE.**

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**One Shilling per 1000.**

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NELSON.**

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## The Sterling



## Philatelic Album.

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Specialism.

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CONVENIENT.**

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NELSON.**

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“NELSON”  
COLLECTING  
ALBUMS.

The best for beginners.

The best for keeping duplicates.

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PRICES AND DESCRIPTION  
ON APPLICATION.

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**THE STERLING STAMP CO.**

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## APPROVAL.

**T**HE STERLING STAMP  
COMPANY  
will forward stamps on approval  
to any responsible person in New  
Zealand.

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**PRICES: NETT.**

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**THE STERLING STAMP CO.,  
NELSON.**

became obsolete soon after the rebellion at Morant Bay in 1865, when the Legislative Assembly abolished the representative constitution of the country and it became a Crown Colony.

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CONVENIENT SIZE.**

**One Shilling per 1000.**

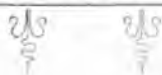
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**THE STERLING STAMP CO.,  
NELSON.**

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**The Sterling**



**Philatelic  
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The best for beginners.

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**THE STERLING STAMP CO.,  
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Australian Stamps.*

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bound in Stout Paper.

Size 6½ x 8½ inches.

Eight Leaves

Perfectly blank.

Suitable for duplicates

To hold 200 stamps.

Price 3d each. 2s 6d per doz.

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**“MAITAI”**

**PACKETS of New  
Zealand Stamps.**

			s.	d.
A1.	15 different	price	0	6
A2.	20	„	1	0
A3.	30	„	2	6
A4.	60	„ mounted and numbered by Gibbons’ Catalogue.	Price	10 0

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**The Sterling Stamp Coy.,  
Nelson,**

**NEW ZEALAND.**

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# The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. I. No. 4.

SEPTEMBER, 1903.

1S PER YEAR.

The Sterling Stamp Co.,

WILL FORWARD SELECTIONS  
OF STAMPS ON

**... APPROVAL ...**

TO ANY RESPONSIBLE PERSON IN NEW ZEALAND. PRICES NETT.

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PRICE 6d.

Post Free.

NICOLLE'S  
**ILLUSTRATED PRICED CATALOGUE**

OF

**... AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS. ...**

**Sets, Packets, &c., &c.**

**N**OTE.—In this Catalogue **all minor varieties** of perforation, &c., which are so confusing to the average collector **are omitted** and no Collector need go outside the stamps listed in this book, which mentions and prices all those issued in the ordinary way. The work is pocket size, and contains some useful "**Hints to Collectors,**" and a preface of interesting matter. Prices moreover will be found most reasonable.

**Every Collector should have One.**

**THE STERLING STAMP Co.,**

**Nelson.**



... New ...

## Collections of Australasian Stamps

Especially suitable for those beginning a collection, or for PRESENTATION Purposes. Excellent value. No single packet contains two stamps alike. All sent POST FREE. CASH WITH ORDER.

		s. d.		£ s. d.
35 Varieties	...	Price 1 0	150 Varieties	... Price 1 0 0
50 "	...	" 2 6	277 "	... " 2 10 0
75 "	...	" 5 0	322 "	... " 5 0 0
100 "	...	" 10 0		

Either of the two latter form the nucleus of a very fine Australasian Collection. The stamps are mounted in small books in order of issue, and may be inspected before being purchased. I can strongly recommend them to anyone just **starting a collection** or for presentation purposes. A **Commoner Series** of Australasian Packets, consisting of 25 for 6d, 35 for 9d, 60 for 2s, 100 for 5s, also good value.

### Special Collections

Can be made up at varying prices from

**30s to £100**

### Something

### Entirely

### New

**Stamps of various States** neatly mounted on sheets in order of issue. All nice stamps, and made up more especially for those who are not collectors themselves, but who are desirous of sending to their friends abroad, a **purely Australian memento**. Only the very large quantity sold enables me to quote these sheets at such a **very low figure**.

40 Varieties of New South Wales only	...	4 0
28 " Victoria	...	4 0
32 " Queensland	...	4 0
40 " S. Aus., Tas. and Isl'ds	...	4 0
40 " W. Australian and N.Z.	...	4 0

The Complete Range, price 20s. Post Free.

**FOREIGN COLLECTIONS** made up in Packet Form and containing only clean and desirable stamps. No single packet contains any duplicates. All post free. 100 for 6d., 150 for 1s, 200 for 2s, 250 for 3s, 300 for 4s, 400 for 5s, 500 for 7s 6d, 600 for 10s, 750 for 15s, 1000 for 25s. The larger packets are splendid value, and contain stamps from almost every country in the world; many scarce varieties amongst them.

## T. H. NICOLLE,

Postage Stamp Merchant,

ESTABLISHED 1890.

**14 Hunter St., SYDNEY.**

LARGEST STAMP FIRM IN AUSTRALASIA.

# THE STERLING STAMP CO.'S

BARGAIN LIST for SEPTEMBER. Orders from this list  
must reach us before Oct. 31st.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY CASH AND A STAMP FOR POSTAGE AND  
MARKED "SEPTEMBER LIST."

	s.	d.		s.	d.
51 Canada 2c. King's Head (unused)	0	2	76 France (continued) 1902, 25c.	0	1
52 Somali Coast 1c. pictorial (unused)	0	1	77 " " " 30c.	0	2
53 " " 2c. " (unused)	0	2	78 " " 1903 (The Sower) 15c.	0	2
54 United States 1c. new issue	0	½	79 Leeward Islands, ½d, 1890	0	1
55 " " 2c. " "	0	½	80 " " 1d. " "	0	1
56 Bolivia 1894 1c. (unused)	0	1	81 Tasmania 2½d. pictorial (unused)	0	4
57 " " 5c. " "	0	2	82 " " 3d. " "	0	5
58 " " 10c. " "	0	3	83 " " 3d. " "	0	7
59 Bulgaria 15 stot, 1901	0	1	84 " " 5d. " "	0	8
60 St. Vincent, 1d. drab, 1883	0	6	85 " " 6d. " "	0	9
61 France, 1876-97, 1fr.	0	2	86 India ½a, pea green	0	½
62 " " 1900, 1c.	0	1	87 " " 1a. carmine	0	½
63 " " " 2c.	0	1	88 " " 3pies carmine	0	1
64 " " " 3c.	0	1	89 " " 2a. blue	0	1
65 " " " 4c.	0	1	90 " " 2a. violet	0	2
66 " " " 5c.	0	½	91 " " ½a. King's head	0	1
67 " " " 10c.	0	1	92 " " 1a. " " "	0	½
68 " " " 15c.	0	½	93 " " ½a. pea green "O.H.M.S."	0	1
69 " " " 25c.	0	1	94 " " 1a. carmine	0	1
70 " " " 30c.	0	2	95 " " 3pies carmine	0	2
71 " " " 40c.	0	2	96 " " 2a. blue	0	1
72 " " " 50c.	0	2	97 " " 2a. violet	0	2
73 " " 1903 10c.	0	1	98 " " 4a. sage green	0	1
74 " " " 15c.	0	1	99 " " 8a. uniline mauve	0	2
75 " " " 20c.	0	2	100 Holland, 1 guilder, 1899	0	6

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3 " " 2c. " (unused)	0	2	78 " 1903 (The Sower) 15c.	0	2
4 United States 1c. new issue ...	0	½	79 Leeward Islands, ½d, 1890 ...	0	1
5 " " 2c. " ...	0	½	80 " " 1d. " ...	0	1
6 Bolivia 1894 1c. (unused) ...	0	1	81 Tasmania 2½d. pictorial (unused)	0	4
7 " 5c. " ...	0	2	82 " 3d. " " ...	0	5
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10 St. Vincent, 1d. drab, 1883 ...	0	6	85 " 6d. " " ...	0	9
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12 " 1900, 1c. ...	0	1	87 " 1a. carmine ...	0	½
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21 " " 40c. ...	0	2	96 " 2a. blue ...	0	1
22 " " 50c. ...	0	2	97 " 2a. violet ...	0	2
23 " 1903 10c. ...	0	1	98 " 4a. sage green ...	0	1
24 " " 15c. ...	0	1	99 " 8a. aniline mauve ...	0	2
25 " " 20c. ...	0	2	100 Holland, 1 gulden, 1899 ...	0	6

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**THE STERLING STAMP CO.,**

BOX 12, POST OFFICE,

NELSON.



# The Sterling Monthly.

A Journal for New Zealand Philatelists.

VOL. I. No. 4.

SEPTEMBER, 1903.

POST FREE IS. PER YEAR.

**The Subscription** to the "STERLING MONTHLY" being only 6d more per annum than the cost of postage, it is to your interest to forward your subscription at once. One Shilling in postage stamps will bring you the paper for 12 months.

Subscriptions should be sent to THE STERLING STAMP CO., Box. 12, P.O., Nelson.

## THE STERLING MONTHLY.

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	£	s.	d.
Whole page, per issue	...	1	0 0
Half page " "	...	0	14 0
Quarter page " "	...	0	9 0

**TERMS**—Cash in advance or approved wholesale parcel of stamps to value.

The present year promises to be a record one in the matter of new issues. The issues of British Colonial stamps bearing the portrait of King Edward VII. have been very numerous, and the list is yet far from being complete. France and the United States of America have also issued, or are issuing, stamps of new types. Portugal and France have been busy in the matter of colonial issues. The republics of South and Central America and the minor States of Europe have shown their wonted activity. Australia has produced a large number of minor varieties, and is adding to these a Commonwealth issue, and New Zealand, with her new dependencies, has done

enough, and more than enough, in the matter of stamp production. Altogether the year will have done much to swell the catalogues, and the pious wish of every collector must be that it will long hold the record for the production of new varieties, and that every year following will see the number diminish.

Specimen copies of the new Canadian stamps have reached us and we own to a feeling of disappointment. Canadian stamps have for years past had a certain distinction of their own due to fine engraving, striking and handsome colouring and excellent printing. We believed that Canada would more than support its reputation in the new issue, but looking at the stamps we can hardly feel that this is so. The colours and paper are practically those of the last issue, the engraving is good, but the portrait is not the pleasing one that we were led to expect. The frame too is, we think, distinctly inferior to that of the last series. The portrait we are told was selected by the King himself, but whether this be true or not, the likeness fails to represent His Majesty as the fine, genial, English gentleman he really is, and has something about it unsatisfactorily foreign. The stamps were, we are informed, issued on July 1st, and were to be on sale for one month only, after which they were to be withdrawn until the older stocks were exhausted.

While our opinion of the Canadian stamps is a little unfavourable, we have nothing but praise for the exquisite series

of little French stamps bearing the picture of "The Sower." We had read condemnation after condemnation of these stamps and we were pleasantly surprised when specimens actually reached us. Philatelically, France is, of course, sinning deeply, this being practically the third series within two years; also it may be urged that "The Sower" cannot be in any true sense an emblem of France, or of the French post office, but, making all allowances, the fact remains that the new series is one of the most beautiful in the world, and that France has had no stamps nearly so satisfactory since the engraved head of Liberty, in its severely simple frame, franked the letters of the republic. The old objection to the minuteness of design still has some force, but it is certainly true that the new issues stand the ordeal of post office cancellation better than the old, and perhaps better than most stamps now current in Europe.

We have been examining the New Zealand 2s stamps on *laid* paper. We believe that these stamps are rightly classed as a distinct variety, but is the paper in the truest sense *laid*? The bars are distinctly seen running vertically through the sheet when the stamps are placed face downward, and they show plainly on the margins, but on the stamps being held to the light the paper looks like wove. We find that the paper on which they are printed is that on which the Government discount stamps have been issued. We suppose that for lack of a better term these stamps will continue to be described as on *laid* paper, but it is well that our readers should get a correct idea of the paper on which they are really printed. The *laid* paper of the current railway stamps sometimes shows the lines faintly on single stamps, but it is apparently not the same as that used for the 2s.

The New Zealand perforating machines do not seem to be improving very rapidly. We have seen a good many stamps lately doubly perforated by the 14 machine. On the other hand mended sheets seem to be less frequent.

### Pigeon Post Service.

The interesting stamps of the two pigeon post services between Great Barrier Island and Auckland do not seem to be very generally known to the rank and file of New Zealand collectors. One series has been recorded by Messrs Whitfield King, of Ipswich and the other by Messrs Stanley Gibbons, but there seems to be a good deal of confusion about the stamps in the minds of collectors. We have heard the triangular stamps described as the *current issue*, and the oblong stamps as *obsolete*. This is not correct. The two kinds represent two distinct and rival services. Of the oblong stamps we have seen four stamps representing four separate issues all of one denomination (one shilling). The first issued in 1898 is printed in dark blue on a white ground and inscribed "Special Post." This variety is said to be extremely scarce, the original sheets having been destroyed on the issue of a new stamp. In 1899 another stamp bearing the same inscription was issued, the design being more elaborate. Evidently at this period a difficulty arose over the infringement of the Postmaster General's privilege, which difficulty seems to have been got over by surcharging the word "Pigeongram" over the words "special post." In 1900 appeared the current stamp bearing the inscription "Pigeon Gram." The issues of 1899 and 1900 are printed in a lighter blue than the first issue. All are lithographed and perforated. We have seen an original message having a cancelled stamp which had been carried by pigeon from the Great Barrier Island to Auckland.

The triangular Pigeongram stamps are of one issue printed in two varieties. They are larger and more striking in design and we have seen them used and unused.

That these stamps should be collected we have no doubt. No collection of New Zealand stamps is complete without them. They are undoubtedly "locals," but locals of the most genuine and interesting kind. The Pigeon Post fills, in the

absence of telegraphic connection, a most useful place, and is, we are told, constantly made use of to carry messages to and fro

We append the following reference list

- A. Small oblong stamps, perf.  
 1898 1s. deep blue inscribed "special post"  
 1899 1s. blue " " "  
 1899 1s. blue surcharged "pigeongram"  
 1900 1s. blue inscribed "pigeon gram"  
 B. Large triangular stamps, perf.  
 6d. blue 1s. red.

### Exchange Advertisements.

*Notices under this heading are inserted at the uniform rate of One Shilling and must not exceed thirty-six words.*

*We cannot guarantee the good faith of advertisers, but will refuse notices from any persons proved to be dishonest or unsatisfactory.*

**Newfoundland.**—27 varieties, including many rare and obsolete stamps—price 3s 6d. post free. Unused stamps of New Zealand (mint condition) accepted in payment. Send for price list of British North American Postage Stamps.—CENTURY STAMP Co., P O. Box 197, Montreal Canada.

**Wanted.**—Old New Zealand Stamps of the full faced Queen type for cash or in exchange for colonial and foreign stamps, from our approval sheets.—THE STERLING STAMP Co., NELSON.

**Exchange.**—H. BRUSEWITZ, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper

**P. Coates.** Timaru, offers collection of 1200 odd different European stamps, each country on sheets or lot on approval for equal catalogue value New Zealand stamps of values above 2½d. or for cash one third catalogue value.

**Wanted.**—Offers of the 2s. current New Zealand on laid paper used or unused.—THE STERLING STAMP Co., NELSON, New Zealand.

## .. The "Nelson" Collecting .. Albums.

(STRONGLY BOUND IN GREEN BOARDS.)

- No. 1 to hold 2000 stamps post free 1 3  
 No. 2 to hold 4000 stamps post free 2 0

THE STERLING STAMP CO.,  
NELSON, N.Z.

We shall be pleased to receive reports from any Philatelic Society in New Zealand or Australia for insertion in these columns. Club notices to members may also be inserted if brief.

### NOTES.

We learn from *The Philatelic Chronicle* that certain Indian stamps surcharged "British Somaliland" have been placed on the market.

Even many philatelists are unaware that there exist stamps with the effigy of the unfortunate French Prince Imperial, the anniversary of whose death has just been observed. These stamps were engraved in London in 1869, the fact having been kept a deep secret. They were made at a time when the Emperor was suffering much from the complaint which ultimately killed him, and was making arrangements for the succession in the event of his sudden decease—V. Hannan, in *Collector's Advertiser*.

India is to have two new stamps shortly. One is to be of the value of 10 annas and the other 1 rupee 8 annas. These values are rendered necessary by the recent revision of the Indian Parcel rates.

"Stamps on the original letter I have long been familiar with. The fiscal collectors go one better. At the last meeting of the Fiscal Society, a Great Britain Hat Tax stamp "on original lining" was shown. I understand that at the next meeting a member is to show his collection of Queensland Beer Duty stamps on the original barrels."—*Philatelic Chronicle*.



During the recent war in South Africa it will be remembered that Colonel Baden-Powell was the recipient of a letter that undoubtedly travelled faster than any missive yet delivered. The message in question arrived per "shell" post on December 4th, 1900, and caused not a little amusement in the beleaguered town of Mafeking. Had the shell exploded the note it contained would have been delivered in sentences too disjointed and fragmentary to convey much meaning, but fortunately its behaviour was, from our point of view, most laudatory, and only the signature appended to the document was lost when it underwent the process of extraction.

"Dear Powell," wrote the individual who dispatched the missive. "Excuse an iron messenger. There is no other means of communicating. Please tell Mrs.—mother and family all well. Don't drink all the whisky. Leave some for us when we get in."

Undoubtedly one of the foes of Philately is fumigation. Even oiled paper is not proof against the penetrating vapour and stamps coming from infected towns are invariably stuck together. No amount of care in separating them can quite save the "original gum" on the backs.

The new 9d Commonwealth stamps which we described last month have been issued in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania. There has been much wrath in Sydney over the arrangement of the names of the States. The New South Wales men complain that there has been an intentional slight offered to their state in placing the name at the bottom. Nonsense! It is one of the foundation stones on which the Commonwealth rests.

### Postmarks.

We do not know whether there are any collectors of postmarks in New Zealand. In England and America their name is legion. The collector of postmarks undoubtedly deserves a place in the ranks of philatelists, as to him must be referred doubtful questions as to the honesty of cancellations. Very few New

Zealand stamps are worth<sup>er</sup> more in the used condition than unused, but there certainly are a few—notably, the 4d. orange, no watermark, of 1872, and the 2s. and 5s. of the London print issue of 1898. Stamps of the Cook Ids, Niue, Penrhyn, and Aitutaki are, without question, of more interest and value used than unused. The question of genuine cancellation touches also the postal fiscals, and here the postmark collector should be able to render valuable service. As against stamp collecting proper the collection of postmarks is a poor thing, but as an adjunct to the former it might prove invaluable. In a country like New Zealand a fine collection could be readily and easily formed that might prove a genuine help to the philatelist of the future. Of paramount interest would be the postmarks found on letter sheets bearing dates prior to the issue of postage stamps, also the names of post offices of early settlements, and mushroom mining towns no longer found in the postal guide.

## •• The "Sterling" Philatelic .. Album.

No. 1. Bound in Cloth post free 3 5  
No 2 Bound in half leatherette „ 4 9

THE STERLING STAMP CO.,  
NELSON, N.Z.

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**WANTED.**

**WANTED.**

**STAMPS OF ALL BRITISH COLONIES  
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will forward stamps on approval  
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No 2 Bound in half leatherette	..	4	9

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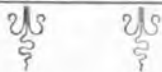
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Size 6½ x 8½ inches.

Eight Leaves

Perfectly blank.

Suitable for duplicates

To hold 200 stamps.

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Price 3d each. 2s 6d per doz.

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“MAITAI”

PACKETS of New  
Zealand Stamps.

			s.	d.
A1.	15 different	price	0	6
A2.	20 „	„	1	0
A3.	30 „	„	2	6
A4.	60 „ mounted and numbered by Gibbons'			

Catalogue. Price 10 0

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# The Sterling Stamp Coy., Nelson,

NEW ZEALAND.

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# The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. I. No. 5.

OCTOBER, 1903.

1S PER YEAR.

The Sterling Stamp Co.,

WILL FORWARD SELECTIONS  
OF STAMPS ON

**... APPROVAL ...**

TO ANY RESPONSIBLE PERSON IN NEW ZEALAND. PRICES NETT.

**THE STERLING STAMP Co.,**

**Box 12. P.O. Nelson.**

PRICE 6d.

Post Free

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OF

**... AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS. ...**

**Sets, Packets, &c., &c.**

**N**OTE.—In this Catalogue **all minor varieties** of perforation, &c., which are so confusing to the average collector **are omitted** and no Collector need go outside the stamps listed in this book, which mentions and prices all those issued in the ordinary way. The work is pocket size, and contains some useful "**Hints to Collectors,**" and a preface of interesting matter. Prices moreover will be found most reasonable.

**Every Collector should have One.**

**THE STERLING STAMP Co.,**

**Nelson.**

... New ...

## Collections of Australasian Stamps

Especially suitable for those beginning a collection, or for PRESENTATION Purposes. Excellent value. No single packet contains two stamps alike. All sent POST FREE. CASH WITH ORDER.

			s. d.			£ s. d.
35 Varieties	..	Price	1 0	150 Varieties	...	Price 1 0 0
50 "	...	"	2 6	277 "	...	" 2 10 0
75 "	...	"	5 0	322 "	...	" 5 0 0
100 "	...	"	10 0			

Either of the two latter form the nucleus of a very fine Australasian Collection. The stamps are mounted in small books in order of issue, and may be inspected before being purchased. I can strongly recommend them to anyone just starting a collection or for presentation purposes. A Commoner Series of Australasian Packets, consisting of 25 for 6d, 35 for 9d, 60 for 2s, 100 for 5s, also good value.

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30s to £100

### Something

### Entirely

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Stamps of various States neatly mounted on sheets in order of issue. All nice stamps, and made up more especially for those who are not collectors themselves, but who are desirous of sending to their friends abroad, a purely Australian memento. Only the very large quantity sold enables me to quote these sheets at such a very low figure.

40 Varieties of New South Wales only	...	4 0
28 " Victoria	...	4 0
32 " Queensland	...	4 0
40 " S. Aus., Tas. and Isl'ds	...	4 0
40 " W. Australian and N.Z.	...	4 0

The Complete Range, price 20s. Post Free.

FOREIGN COLLECTIONS made up in Packet Form and containing only clean and desirable stamps. No single packet contains any duplicates. All post free. 100 for 6d., 150 for 1s, 200 for 2s, 250 for 3s, 300 for 4s, 400 for 5s, 500 for 7s 6d, 600 for 10s, 750 for 15s, 1000 for 25s. The larger packets are splendid value, and contain stamps from almost every country in the world; many scarce varieties amongst them.

## T. H. NICOLLE,

Postage Stamp Merchant,

ESTABLISHED 1890.

14 Hunter St., SYDNEY.

LARGEST STAMP FIRM IN AUSTRALASIA.

# The Sterling Monthly.

A Journal for New Zealand Philatelists.

VOL. I. No. 5.

OCTOBER, 1903.

POST FREE IS. PER YEAR.

**The Subscription** to the "STERLING MONTHLY" being only 6d more per annum than the cost of postage, it is to your interest to forward your subscription at once. One Shilling in postage stamps will bring you the paper for 12 months.

Subscriptions should be sent to THE STERLING STAMP CO., BOX, 12, P.O., NELSON.

## THE STERLING MONTHLY.

### Advertising Rates.

	£	s.	d.
Whole page, per issue ...	1	0	0
Half page " " ...	0	14	0
Quarter page " " ...	0	9	0

**TERMS**—Cash in advance or approved wholesale parcel of stamps to value.

In order to help our readers to arrive at a true idea of the value of the stamps of our country and the colonies nearest to us we have decided to publish regularly a list of the prices which rare Australasian stamps have brought at auction in London. It may, of course, be questioned whether auction prices are a sure guide, there being no possible way of knowing accurately the condition of a stamp sold. Auction prices are usually a good deal below the prices given in the leading catalogues, and it does not always follow that either price accurately represents the true value of a stamp. Certain stamps are little sought for and priced a good deal lower than their actual rarity seems to justify.

Other stamps, by no means so rare, realise very high prices. No ideal price list is ever likely to be produced, and the standard catalogue read in the light of prices realised at auction is about the best guide the collector can have.

We have at last received post-marked specimens of the stamps of Aitutaki which have been used for actual postal service. The ink used is violet, and the cancelling stamps are circular in form. One bears the inscription "Cook Islands" in the circle above and "Aitutaki" below with "P.O." in the centre. The other bears the word "Aitutaki" in the circle above and "N.Z." with the date in the centre. Cancelled stamps from Niue we have also examined. Here there is apparently only one form of cancellation in use, a single-lined circle with a horizontal inscription "N.Z. Niue" and the date, the whole occupying three lines. The blue surcharges on the stamps of Niue vary very much in shade.

We note the appearance of the 1d. blue Government Insurance stamp perf. 14 x 11. The paper is that of the regular issue. We sincerely hope that this variety may be the only one of its kind. By an almost miraculous chance the Insurance stamps have escaped a surcharge, and we have not even heard of a new issue, though the letters "V.R." which appear on the stamps are a little out of place in the third year of King Edward's reign. We trust the new vagaries of perforation are not going to spoil a good reputation.



Which is the best perforation gauge? We have been asked this question several times by correspondents and can give it as our candid opinion that there is no gauge at all to compare with the "Ideal." It is handy, accurate, and with quite sufficient detail for all practical purposes. There are of course many other gauges having distinctive merits of their own, but from our own experience we should say that the "Ideal" is not only the best, but also the most popular with collectors.

The force and power of England are shown in the strength of arm possessed by her post office clerks. More letters probably pass through British post offices than through those of any other nation, and the distinctive glory of the heaviest cancellations remains from the earliest times to this present with Great Britain. Continental collectors may be pardoned if they sometimes fancy that navvies are specially employed to conduct the business of stamp cancellation in England. This is not really so. The fact is that the post office clerk works his date stamp with the same vigour and freedom with which British sailors work their guns or British soldiers send home the bayonet charge. The only remedy is to regulate the supply of ink at his command.

Following out this train of thought we would suggest a new field of study for philatelists—the characters of the Nations as shown in their postage stamps and postal cancellations. The unused stamp is not of sufficient value for this purpose. The stamps must be used, and the design seen through the cancellation before the national character can be correctly read. We make the suggestion for what it may be worth. We have heard of "History in postage stamps," we have been assured that stamp collecting is the royal road to geographical knowledge—why not "character in postage stamps?"

### Answers to Correspondents.

G. R., West Maitland.—Press of work necessitates delay.

J. A. G., Auckland.—We cannot give you any information re the leaves required

for your album, and do not think you will be able to obtain them in New Zealand.

R. A. N., Napier.—We doubt if the interest in these stamps will ever be great, but the practice gained by studying the different papers and watermarks will be useful to you in many ways.

W. J. G. San Francisco.—Making inquiries for .pers you want, but not much hope of obtaining.

### Wellington Philatelic Society.

#### REPORT.

The fifth ordinary meeting of the fourteenth season was held in the Society's room, 24 Lambton Quay, on Friday, Aug. 21st, 1903, at 8 p.m. Mr. A. T. Bate occupied the chair. The following were present:—Messrs Thomas Acocks, A. T. Bate, Leon Cohen, R. Pye-Smith, L. A. Sanderson.

Mr. Bate moved that a circular be sent to all members relative to forming special circuits, for those who desire stamps in unused condition only, and also stamps priced at 10s. and upwards. This was seconded by Mr. Acocks.

Mr. T. R. Mowat, Hunterville, proposed by Mr. H. A. Mowat, was elected a member.

The resignations of Mr. S. Bridge, Pahiatua, and Mr. L. P. Fraser, Wellington, were received and accepted with regret.

A specimen of the 1d. value Government Insurance, perforated 14 x 11 was exhibited to the meeting.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to examination and discussion of novelties, &c.

L. A. SANDERSON,  
Hon. Sec.

### Nelson Philatelic Society.

The quarterly meeting was held in the Bishop's Schoolroom, on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. The chair was occupied by Mr. H. Brusewitz (Vice-president). Miss N. Jones (Secretary) read the report for the quarter showing that the Society's position was satisfactory. It was decided to hold a monthly instead of a quarterly meeting.

The Rev. McKee Wright then gave some notes on "Papers and Watermarks in their bearing on the Postal Issues of New Zealand."

### Recent Auction Prices of New Zealand Stamps.

(Compiled from the London Philatelist.)

	£	s.	d.
1855 London print, 1d, dull carmine	2	12	6
1856 1d., red on blue	1	12	6
.. 1s., green on blue	1	16	0
.. 1d., orange, rouletted	3	12	6
.. 1s., green, rouletted, defective	3	3	0
.. 1s. blue green, serrated, defective	2	2	0
1872 1d., brown, wmk. N.Z.	17	0	0
.. 2d., vermilion, wmk. N.Z. unused	3	15	0
1855 1d., carmine, London print	2	15	0
1856 1d., red on blue, pair unsevered	4	12	0
.. 1s., green on blue	2	6	0
1863-66 3d., brown lilac, unused no gum	2	0	0
1872 2d., vermilion, wmk. lozenges	4	0	0
1856 Half of 1s. green on blue paper used for 6d on entire	4	5	0
1862 1d., pelure paper, perf. damaged	4	7	6
1856, 1d., red on blue	2	14	0
.. 1d., red on blue, pair, one clipped	2	0	0
1862 6d., red brown, star, imperf, mint, unused pair	3	10	0
1864 2d., blue, wmk. N.Z. full roulettes, three sides	2	15	0
1872 2d., vermilion, wmk. lozenges	4	2	0
1856 1d., 2d, and 1s., blue paper	3	5	0

### Exchange Advertisements.

*Notices under this heading are inserted at the uniform rate of One Shilling and must not exceed thirty-six words. We cannot guarantee the good faith of advertisers, but will refuse notices from any persons proved to be dishonest or unsatisfactory.*

**Newfoundland.**—27 varieties, including many rare and obsolete stamps—price 3s 6d. post free. Unused stamps of

New Zealand (mint condition) accepted in payment. Send for price list of British North American Postage Stamps.—CENTURY STAMP Co., P.O. Box 197, Montreal Canada.

**Wanted.**—Old New Zealand Stamps of the full faced Queen type for cash or in exchange for colonial and foreign stamps, from our approval sheets.—THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON.

**Exchange.**—H. BRUSEWITZ, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

**Wanted** to exchange Queensland Stamps with advanced collectors in New Zealand, Tasmania, Western Australia and Fiji only. Basis Gibbons. Common not returned. Never send first.—VERNON L. JACKSON, care of New Zealand Insurance Company, Rockampton, Queensland.

**Malta.**—Exchange of stamps and picture post cards desired. Sheets sent on approval at 50 per cent discount. Whoever sends 10 to 100 Australian stamps receives same number Malta, Crete, Tunis, &c.—W. R. GATT, 51 Strada Vescovo, Valletta Malta.

### The Fiscal Stamps of New Zealand.

(By J. H. S.)

#### I. STAMP DUTY.

This paper is only tentative. It does not profess to give a complete or altogether accurate history of the fiscal stamps of New Zealand, but is written at the request of the proprietors of the STERLING MONTHLY as a guide to those who are trying to arrange their revenue stamps in a systematic manner. It is based on Morley's 1895 catalogue and is the result of the comparison of that list with my own and another collection and the stock of the Sterling Stamp Co. Many errors are doubtless to be found in it, and also a very large number of omissions, but I

believe it to be the most complete attempt yet made to describe the fiscals of this colony. I describe here a good many stamps from hearsay or solely on the authority of Morley's catalogue.

The revenue stamps of New Zealand fall naturally into several groups. Of these by far the largest is the Stamp Duty series.

STAMP DUTY labels were first issued in 1867 imperforate. They were long rectangular in shape bearing in a circular frame the portrait of Queen Victoria to the left. Around the circle in white on a coloured ground were the words *Stamp Duty* above and *New Zealand* below, while the value was surcharged in black, red or blue at the top and bottom. The size of the stamps was about 21 x 37 mm. The most common watermark found on these stamps is a single-lined N.Z. There are no doubt at least two varieties of this watermark varying in size, but throughout this paper I have regarded these as the same. A few varieties have an impressed monogram instead of a watermark consisting of the letters N and Z interwoven. In addition to these a number of varieties especially of the higher values are watermarked a six rayed star which seems to be identical with that of the postal issue of 1862.

With the imperforates must be grouped a small number of stamps showing experimental separations. They are rouletted, pin perforated, and with an oblique roulette. Whether these were done officially or not I am unable to say.

The following is a list of the varieties of the first issue which I have seen or believe to exist. All are on white wove paper.

A. WMK. N.Z. Surcharged in red  
Imperforate.

1d slate	1s. deep brown
1d. slate purple	1s. violet
1d. deep blue	1s. violet (value in
1d. pale lilac rose	two lines)
1d. grey lilac	3s. grey
1d. grey	5s. grey
1d. mauve	7s. violet
1s. grey	9s. violet

1s. grey (value in	15s. grey
two lines)	25s. grey
1s. lilac	35s. grey
1s, brown (value in	
two lines)	

B. WMK. N.Z. Surcharged in black.  
Imperforate.

1d grey	5s 6d. blue
2d. green	6s 4d. green
4d. green	6s 8d. blue
8d. blue (value in	7s 6d blue
two lines)	7s 8d. blue
8d. blue	8s 4d. green
1s 6d. blue (large	8s 6d. blue
figures)	8s 8d. blue (large
1s 6d. blue	figures
2s 4d. green	8s 8d. blue
2s 8d blue	9s 6d. blue
3s 6d. blue	17s 6d. blue
4s. 4d green	27s 6d. blue
4s 8d. blue	

Note.—The colour of this surcharge varies from pale brown to an intense black.

C. WMK N.Z. Surcharged in green.  
Imperforate.

1d. mauve	8s. dull red
1d. violet	10s. "
2s. dull red	20s. "
4s. dull red	22s 6d dull red
5s 4d. brown (large	25s. "
figures)	30s. "
5s 4d brown	40s. "
7s 4d. brown	50s. "
60s. to 200.	dull red, and possibly also
	higher values.

D. WMK. N.Z- Surcharged in blue.  
Imperforate.

6d. bistre	2s 6d, dull rose
6d. deep brown	(large figures)
1s 4d. bistre	3s 4d, bistre
1s 8d. bistre	3s 8d, bistre
1s 8d. brown (large	4s 8d, bistre
figures)	5s 8d, bistre
2s 6d, brown (large	6s. dull red
figures)	6s 6d. brown
2s 6d. deep brown	8s. dull red
2s 6d. bistre	9s 8d. brown
	12s 6d. brown

To be continued.

**ORIGINAL**

**AUCKLAND GREAT BARRIER . .**

**PIGEONGRAM SERVICE STAMPS.**

We offer these stamps for sale at the following prices :—

	S.	D.
First issue 1898 1s. blue, unused	2	6
Second issue 1899 1s. blue, unused	1	6
Current issue 1900 1s. blue, unused	1	2

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The above interesting stamps are those used by Messrs Holden Howie & Co. They are oblong in shape, on paper slightly toned. The prices at which they are offered are the lowest at which they can be obtained and the earlier varieties are very scarce indeed.

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**The Sterling Stamp Co.,**

**NELSON.**



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**WANTED.**

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IN QUANTITY.**

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# THE UNIVERSAL STANDARD CATALOGUE

OF THE

## POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD.

FOURTH EDITION 1903.

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380 PAGES.      2693 ILLUSTRATIONS.

Includes all standard varieties known to be issued up to end of  
February, 1903.

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NO PERFORATION MEASUREMENT OR UNINTERESTING AND BEWILDING MINOR  
VARIETIES!

NO CARDS ENVELOPES OR WRAPPERS!

THE IDEAL CATALOGUE FOR THE GENERAL COLLECTOR!

SIMPLE AND EASILY UNDERSTOOD!

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Retail List (64 pages) of over 1500 different sets and packets of Stamps, sent free on receipt of a penny stamp for postage.

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**WHITFIELD KING & CO.,**

IPSWICH, ENGLAND.

ESTABLISHED 1869.

# The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. 1, No. 6.

NOVEMBER, 1903.

1S PER YEAR.

## The Sterling Stamp Co.,

WILL FORWARD SELECTIONS  
OF STAMPS ON

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TO ANY RESPONSIBLE PERSON IN NEW ZEALAND.

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## THE STERLING STAMP Co.,

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## ILLUSTRATED PRICED CATALOGUE

OF

**... AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS. ...**

Sets, Packets, &c., &c.

**N**OTE.—In this Catalogue all minor varieties of perforation, &c., which are so confusing to the average collector are omitted and no Collector need go outside the stamps listed in this book, which mentions and prices all those issued in the ordinary way. The work is pocket size, and contains some useful "Hints to Collectors," and a preface of interesting matter. Prices moreover will be found most reasonable.

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MY NEW ...

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of COLLECTORS residing in Suburbs, County or Foreign parts who cannot call and inspect my stock, I have made up a large number of

### SPECIAL SMALL BOOKS

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A Journal for New Zealand Philatelists.

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Subscriptions should be sent to THE STERLING STAMP CO., Box. 12, P.O., Nelson.

## THE STERLING MONTHLY.

### Advertising Rates.

	£	s.	d.
Whole page, per issue ...	1	0	0
Half page " " ...	0	14	0
Quarter page " " ...	0	9	0

TERMS—Cash in advance or approved wholesale parcel of stamps to value.

### NOTES.

We have reached the dull season of stamps collecting, while on the other side of the world Philatelists are just beginning to revive their interest in their hobby. There club meetings are once more the order of the day, auction catalogues are being studied, and collectors of new varieties are trying to make up for the opportunities they have lost during the long days of summer. Of course this only applies to the rank and file of ordinary collectors. To the enthusiast the stamp season extends over the whole year, and no chances are ever lost. Here in our own colony we have many such enthusiasts and the philatelic scribe does not write

altogether in vain even in the long summer days. Here and there a copy of the STERLING MONTHLY may be put aside for a more convenient season, but we have abundant evidence that our monthly paragraphs are read with increasing interest by our constantly widening circle of readers.

Should unused official stamps be collected? This is a question which is much in the minds of English collectors at the present moment. A case of unique interest has been before the British courts revealing the fact that many official stamps sold at high prices had been obtained by dishonest means. At the same time it has been shown that stamps of this class were sometimes given to collectors by special favour of the authorities. A shade of suspicion is thrown on all unused official stamps in our collections. The local application of this rule would, of course, take in our Government Insurance stamps.

High value New Zealand stamps will in future be increasingly difficult to obtain in used condition. Large parcels of newspapers formerly prepaid by postage stamps are now sent through the post without these labels and paid for in bulk. The result will be to greatly diminish the use of the current 2s. which will in future be employed chiefly for franking parcels.

We learn from the *Australian Philatelist* that a set of New Hebrides local stamps has been issued by the "Syndicat Francais." They were not accepted beyond the group for postal use, and were suppressed within one month by the

French authorities. The stamps are pictorial but not beautiful. The values run from 5c. to 1fr., and each variety is printed in two colours.

**Wanted for Cash.**—Wholesale lots of common New Zealand and Australian Stamps.—Sets N.Z. 1898, ½p. to 9p. 1s, 2s and 5s, used.—N.Z. 1873-78, 1s, 2s, 5s, used.—N.Z. 1855, 1864, not perforated, all values, on approval, used or unused. *I paid for Sydney view 1850, 1p. 22s., 2p. 16s., 3p. 22s. each.* Registered letters. Cash by return mail or exchange for Champagne Wines.—CH. V. SECONDE, Merchant, Les Petites Loges, Champagne, France.

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#### NEW SOUTH WALES.

	£	s.	d.
Sydney Views, 1d red, plate I on entire	2	12	6
" " " horizontal pair, with dated postmarks	3	5	0
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Sydney Views, 1d. red plate II, a fine horizontal pair on laid paper	3	5	0

Sydney Views, 2d blue Plate I.			
	fine early	1	12 0
" " ditto., fan			
	with six segments	2	16 0
" " 2d. deep blue, Plate II. no outer frame to band		3	3 0
Sydney Views, 1d. red, plate II. a pair on entire original, fine colour and lightly cancelled, one creased but the other very fine		4	4 0
Laureated, 1851, 1d. carmine on bluish, unused		3	0 0
Laureated, 1854, 1d. orange, no leaves right of 'south' unused		3	0 0
Laureated, 1d. red varieties 'wale' in a pair, no leaves right of "South" in a pair, and two leaves right of "South"		2	4 0
Laureated, 2d. blue, stars in corners, pair		1	12 0
" 2d. blue, error "Waes"		2	8 0
" 6d. brown, error "Walls" cut into one side		2	0 0
VICTORIA.			
1850, 3d. blue, type B, pair unused slightly creased		5	5 0
1857-63, star, imperf. 4d. vermilion unused nearly full gum		2	10 0
1862, 3d. marone, unused, part gum		1	13 0
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(By J. H. S.)

#### I. STAMP DUTY. (Continued.)

E. Wmk. N.Z. Various surcharges. Oblique roulette.			
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2s. red " " green			

3s. grey, surcharged in red			
4s. red " " green			
5s. grey " " red			
G. Wmk. six-rayed star. Various surcharges. Imperforate.			
1d. slate purple surcharged in red			
1d. slate grey, surcharged in red			
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£6, red " " green			
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H. With impressed N.Z. Monogram. Thick paper. Imperforate.			
2s. red, surcharged in blue			
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K. With impressed N.Z. Monogram. Thick paper. Perf. 12½.			
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Following the imperforate issue, and the stamps showing experimental perforations listed above, came the first of the perforated issues. These stamps were printed from the same plates though there is considerable variation in the colouring. The date of their issue seems to have been 1868 and they were used for many years side by side with the imperforate issue. The colours used in surcharging were the same and they are found perforated 12½, 10, 10 x 12½, and 12½ x 10. They are printed on white and blue wove paper and all have the watermark N.Z.

(To be continued).

### The Fiscal Philatelic Society, LONDON.

The annual general meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday, Oct. 1st 1903, at 6.30 p.m. at 65 Bishopgate Street, without London, E. Business, to elect officers, discuss programme for ensuing season, and any other matters that may be brought forward. All members are n

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Applications are desired for the posts of Home and Continental Secretaries and Exchange Superintendents.

The annual subscription (5s.) is now due (vide Rules 4 and 5) and should be sent without delay to the Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: A. B. Kay, 2 Haatlem Mansions, West Kensington, W.

### Exchange Advertisements.

*Notices under this heading are inserted at the uniform rate of One Shilling and must not exceed thirty-six words. We cannot guarantee the good faith of advertisers, but will refuse notices from any persons proved to be dishonest or unsatisfactory.*

**Newfoundland.**—27 varieties, including many rare and obsolete stamps—price 3s 6d. post free. Unused stamps of New Zealand (mint condition) accepted in payment. Send for price list of British North American Postage Stamps.—CENTURY STAMP CO., P. O. Box 197, Montreal Canada.

**Wanted.**—Old New Zealand Stamps of the full faced Queen type for cash or in exchange for colonial and foreign stamps, from our approval sheets.—THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON.

**Exchange.**—H. BRUSEWITZ, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

**Wanted** to exchange Queensland Stamps with advanced collectors in New Zealand, Tasmania, Western Australia and Fiji only. Basis Gibbons. Common not returned. Never send first.—VERNON L. JACKMAN, care of New Zealand Insurance Company, Rockampton, Queensland.

**Malta.**—Exchange of stamps and picture post cards desired. Sheets sent on approval at 50 per cent discount. Whoever sends 10 to 100 Australian

stamps receives same number Malta, Crete, Tunis, &c.—W. R. GATT, 51 Strada Vescovo, Valletta Malta.

**Ceylon.**—Exchange desired with postage stamp collectors all over the world. King's head stamps are just out. Answer by return mail. Can offer good exchange in unused.—G. C. WARD BROHIER, Commission Agent, Kegalle, Ceylon.

**Collectors** in New Zealand, Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales send their exchange sheets to LESLIE W. ROBINSON, care of Walter Reid & Co., Ltd., Rockhampton, Queensland, and receive old Queensland stamps in exchange.

We have just seen the new 2½d. stamp of Malta. Like all the King's head series for that island it is exceedingly handsome in design and colouring and equally satisfactory in execution. The head is printed in violet brown set in a frame of ultramarine.

We hope to publish next month a list compiled by Mr. M. L. Cotton, of the New Zealand 1d. universe and the ½d., green, 1900-03. This is a difficult field and Mr. Cotton's notes should be of the greatest value.

The monthly meeting of the Nelson Philatelic Society was held on Oct. 27th in the Bishop's Schoolroom. The Stamps of Great Britain were under discussion.

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Prince Edward Island 1872 1c. used	9 6
" " " " 12c. used	18 0
India ½a, pea green (Queen's Head) unused	0 1
India 3 pies, (King's Head) unused	0 1
Belgium 2c., current, unused	0 1
" 50c. " " " "	0 6
Argentine Republic, 40c. blue, telegraph stamp used for postage (on entire)	3 6

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BRITISH COLONIES,

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Stating Price per lot.

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FOURTH EDITION 1903.

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A Journal for New Zealand Philatelists.

VOL. I. No. 7.

DECEMBER, 1903.

POST FREE 1S. PER YEAR.

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## THE STERLING MONTHLY.

### Advertising Rates.

	£	s.	d.
Whole page, per issue ...	1	0	0
Half page " " ...	0	14	0
Quarter page " " ...	0	9	0

TERMS—Cash in advance or approved wholesale parcel of stamps to value.

Christmas will have come and gone before this number of the STERLING MONTHLY reaches our more distant subscribers. Among the joys of the season it is reasonable to suppose that philately will have some place. Advanced collectors will take an affectionate look at their collections and try to estimate the progress they have made since last Christmas, young collectors will find delight in the album or the packet that has been numbered among the gifts of Santa Claus, and greybeards who used to own an album will look on with pleased eyes and remark how largely philately has added to the sum of human joy. To all our readers young and old we wish a very Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year.

The *London Philatelist* has a slashing article on the "Disgrace of New Zealand" dealing with our recent stamp production, in which it is stated that "the latest issues of New Zealand are of the ridiculous nature that is safe to kill all respect or liking for the ineffable rubbish of an advertising colony." The writer concludes with the words:—"In our humble opinion the action of the New Zealand Post Office casts a grave shadow on the reputation of Colonial Administration. It has descended lower in the scale than the most venal of the South American States, and richly deserves the contempt that is so freely bestowed upon it in this country."

## List of the known Varieties of the N.Z. One penny "Universal" and Half penny Pictorial.

(By M. L. COTTON.)

### I.—ONE PENNY "UNIVERSAL."

- "Waterlow" Paper. No wmk.  
London print perf. 12½ to 16.
- "Waterlow" paper. Wmkd.  
Perf. 11, 14, 14 x imperforate, 14 x 11 (only found used).
- "Basted Mills" paper.  
Perf. 14, 14 x 11, 11 x 14, 14 x imperforate, 11, 14 on three sides, imperf. left side, 14 x Imperforate on one or two side (booklet).
- "Cowan Paper" no watermark.  
Perf. 14, 14 x 11, 11 x 14 (only found used).

"Cowan Paper" wmk. star and N.Z.  
(current.)

Perf. 14, 14 x 11, 11 x 14, 11 (only found used), 14 x imperforate, imperforate x 14, 14 x imperforate one or two sides (booklet.)

One sheet each of the following has been found "Waterlow" paper perf. 14 x imperforate. "Cowan" paper, No wmk. 14 x 11. "Cowan" paper, Watermarked, 14 x imperforate.

Two sheets each of the following have been found:—"Basted Mills" paper, perf. 11. "Cowan" paper, watermarked 14 x 11. "Cowan" paper, watermarked, imperforate x 11 (2 or 3 sheets).

Of the variety on "Basted Mills" paper perforated 14 on three sides and imperforate on the left side only, one vertical strip only is known.

(To be continued.)

**Wanted for Cash.**—Wholesale lots of common New Zealand and Australian Stamps.—Sets N.Z. 1898, ½p. to 9p. 1s, 2s and 5s, used.—N.Z. 1873-78, 1s, 2s, 5s, used.—N.Z. 1855, 1864, not perforated, all values, on approval, used or unused. *I paid for Sydney view 1850, 1p. 2s., 2p. 16s., 3p. 22s. each.* Registered letters. Cash by return mail or exchange for Champagne Wines.—CH. V. SECONDE, Merchant, Les Petites Loges, Champagne, France.

### Nelson Philatelic Society.

Tuesday, Nov. 24th.—Stamps of New South Wales.

Tuesday, Dec. 29th, quarterly meeting, Stamps of Victoria.

Members are requested to bring rarities and stamps they require information about.

### Answers to Correspondents.

H. J. S., Bombay.—We cannot supply No. 1 of the STERLING MONTHLY. The *Australian Philatelist* 3s per year, 74 Elizabeth Street, Sydney. The *Australian Journal of Philately*, 4s. per year, 88 King Street, Sydney. We have not yet

reached the point of paying for Philatelic M.S.

W. J. G., San Francisco.—Unable to obtain journals that you want.

R. R. S., Dunedin.—The surcharged Pigeongram stamp is perfectly genuine but very rare. It is valued at from 20s to 30s.

R. H., Bendigo.—To get current N.Z. stamps well centred is a very difficult matter. You may go through whole sheets and not find a single well centred stamp. The large oblong stamps seem to be the worst.

R. A. N., Napier.—French colonies issue stamps that must claim our respect, but we have it on very good authority that the many of the stamps of German colonies have no postal use at all in the countries whose names they bear. We cannot answer the latter part of your question.

G. M., Christchurch.—If your letter were clever we might insert it, but we have no reason for publishing an attack on stamps and stamp collecting in which there is much abuse and no argument.

### SPECIAL XMAS OFFER.

The best of all gifts for a young stamp collector is one of our Xmas parcels.

**No. 1.—Price 2s 9d. Post free.**

Contains an Album to hold 2000 stamps, 500 mixed Foreign Stamps, A useful perforation gauge, 500 good Stamp Mounts.

**No. 2. Price 4s. Post free.**

Contains an Album to hold 4000 stamps, 1000 mixed Foreign Stamps, A useful perforation gauge, 1000 good Stamp Mounts.

**THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON.**

### Our Recent N.Z. Issues.

"Pelure" writing under the heading "Philately" in the *Otago Witness* takes us to task for our recent article entitled "Does it Pay?" in which we suggested a line of action by which our Postal authorities might recover the ground they have lost in the esteem of Philatelists the world over. He says:—"The article in question

is in exceedingly bad taste from a New Zealand editor." We leave our readers to judge whether or not it is in bad taste to desire that our New Zealand stamp issues should be above reproach. "Pelure" assures us that every change which has taken place in our stamps during the last few years has had a really good reason behind it.

This may be true or it may not, but we should like to know what bearing it has on the question whether the multitude of varieties recently issued are profitable to the Government or not. Does "Pelure" desire these varieties to continue until every collector gives up collecting them in disgust? The interest of every stamp collector, the true interests of our government, our sense of patriotism all demand an emphatic protest. It may be to the interest of a few speculators that we should keep silence. However, that may be, "Pelure" must cease to "asservate" and betake himself to logic before he can convince the stamp world that the postal needs of half a score of white people in Niue formed a "really good reason behind" the issue of stamps for that island.

We are quite ready to believe, and in fact do believe, that very many of our recent minor varieties are merely accidental, but we are unable to see that this makes any important difference to our main contention. Various papers and perforations have been used as a matter of urgency or by way of experiment. Quite a number of mistakes have been made. What we roundly assert is that experimental stamps and stamps printed in error should not have been continuously issued to the public. If they were issued by design, they should not have been so issued. If they were issued through carelessness, they should not have been so issued. In either case a protest should be made in the interests of stamp collecting. It is not pleasant to know that our colony is becoming unpopular with collectors, but it is not wise to shut our eyes to realities. We spoke a little slightly of the South American Republics in a recent issue. An Argentine correspondent at

once replied pointing out that the issues of Argentine and Chili were a deal cleaner than our own. What reply shall we make? Shall we join "Pelure" in "asservating" that it is quite a mistake, that the Government don't care a fig for collectors, that they refused a big offer for unused O.P.S.O. stamps. It may be perfectly true, but appearances are all against us if we make the assertion. It is really of very little interest to collectors whether the Government will sell O.P.S.O. stamps or not, what the collector wants to know is why the things were made at all.

In conclusion, if we are wrong in this matter we sin in very good company. We have met remarks quite as strong as our own in *The Australian Journal of Philately*, *The Australian Philatelist*, *The American Journal of Philately*, and many other papers, while in the last number to reach us of *The London Philatelist* there is an article so sweeping in its condemnation of our recent issues and so strongly supported by the logic of facts that it should convince any really patriotic reader of the danger of seeking to defend a position no longer tenable.

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### WHITFIELD KING & CO.'s

#### 1933 Catalogue.

380 Pages.

2693 Illustrations.

The Best Catalogue for the General Collector.

POST FREE IS 3d FROM

**THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON.**

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We learn that a new edition of Walter Morley's Colonial Revenue Stamp Catalogue will be issued early in the New Year. It is to be got up in a superior style and fully illustrated.

We call attention to the advertisements of Whitfield King and Co.'s catalogue appearing in this issue. The catalogue is undoubtedly the best for the general collector. The Sterling Stamp Co. are agents for its sale in New Zealand. The price is 1s 3d.

Messrs Theodore Champion and Co., of Paris, insert a price list in this issue to which we would draw the attention of our readers. This firm make a speciality of novelties of all kinds. They also notify that their new catalogue has just been issued. Price 2s 6d.

### Exchange Advertisements.

*Notices under this heading are inserted at the uniform rate of One Shilling and must not exceed thirty-six words. We cannot guarantee the good faith of advertisers, but will refuse notices from any persons proved to be dishonest or unsatisfactory.*

**Newfoundland.**—27 varieties, including many rare and obsolete stamps—price 3s 6d. post free. Unused stamps of New Zealand (mint condition) accepted in payment. Send for price list of British North American Postage Stamps.—CENTURY STAMP Co., P.O. Box 197, Montreal Canada.

**Wanted.**—Old New Zealand Stamps of the full faced Queen type for cash or in exchange for colonial and foreign stamps, from our approval sheets.—THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON.

**Exchange.**—H. BRUSEWITZ, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

**Collectors** in New Zealand, Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales send their exchange sheets to LESLIE W. ROBINSON, care of Walter Reid & Co., Ltd., Rockhampton, Queensland, and receive old Queensland stamps in exchange.

**Exchange.**—Send 25-100 stamps of your country and receive same value and number of Holland, Dutch Indies, Germany, France, &c. View cards in exchange for stamps, Register sendings.—F. W. MOHLMANN, Haarlemmerstraat 14, Hillegom, Holland.

### The Fiscal Stamps of N.Z.

(By J. H. S.)

- I. STAMP DUTY. (Continued).
- A. Perf. 12½. Surcharged in Red.  
White paper.
- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1d, blue   | 6s 8d, blue |
| 1d, mauve  | 9s, violet  |
| 2d, green  | 15s, lilac  |
| 1s, violet | 25s, lilac  |
| 1s, grey   | 35s, lilac  |
| 5s, mauve  |             |
- B. Perf. 12½. Surcharged in black.  
White paper.
- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 4d, green    | 7s 6d, blue   |
| 8d, green    | 8s 4d, green  |
| 1s 6d, blue  | 8s 6d, blue   |
| 2s 4d, green | 8s 8d, blue   |
| 3s 6d, blue  | 9s 6d, blue   |
| 4s 4d, green | 9s 8d, brown  |
| 4s 8d, blue  | 10s 4d, green |
| 5s 6d, blue  | 10s 6d, blue  |
| 6s 4d, green | 10s 8d, brown |
| 7s 4d, green | 17s 6d, blue  |
- C. Perf. 12½. Surcharged in green.  
White paper.
- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1d, lilac     | 30s, dull red |
| 1d, mauve     | 40s "         |
| 1s, lilac     | 50s "         |
| 1s, mauve     | 60s "         |
| 3s, mauve     | 70s "         |
| 4s, rose      | 80s "         |
| 5s, mauve     | 90s "         |
| 5s 4d, mauve  | 100s "        |
| 9s 4d, brown  | 110s "        |
| 10s, dull red | 120s " &c.    |
- D. Perf. 12½. Surcharged in blue.  
White paper.
- |                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 6d, bistre                    | 4s, dull red  |
| 6d, brown                     | 4s 6d, brown  |
| 1s 4d, bistre                 | 5s 8d, brown  |
| 1s 4d, bistre (large figures) | 6s, dull red  |
| 1s 8d, brown                  | 7s 8d, brown  |
| 2s 6d, bistre                 | 8s, dull red  |
| 2s 6d, brown (large figures)  | 12s 6d, brown |
| 3s 4d, brown                  | 20s, rose     |
| 8d, brown                     |               |

# THEODORE CHAMPION & CO.,

13 Rue Drouot, PARIS.

Enormous Stock of all kinds of Stamps, Varieties and Novelties.  
Special offer of Novelties and Bargains.

1 fr=10d.

	Sets 10.	Sets 100.
Danish West Indies, 1902, unpaid 1, 4, 6, 10	frs. 30.	
Austria, 1900, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 h.		
	1, 2, and 4 kr.	3.75 30.
Germany, 1900, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 80, pf.		
	1 and 2 mrk.	3.25 25.
Labuan, 1874, 1-24 cts.	.. ..	11.50
.. 1898, 25, 50 and 1 dollar	.. ..	15.
.. 1896, 4, 10, 20, 30, 40 on 1 dollar	.. ..	15.
.. 1897, unpaid 2 to 24cts	.. ..	11.
Mozambique, 1886, 5-300 reis	.. ..	12.50
Nyassa, 1898 on 1894 Mozamb. 2½-300 reis	.. ..	30.
.. " 1898 " 2½-300 ..	.. ..	12.
.. 1901, 2½ to 300 ..	.. ..	25. 230.
	<b>100.</b>	<b>1000.</b>
1900, France Military Stamp, used 15c.	.. ..	12.
	unused 15c.	.. ..
		40.
1902 " " " 15c.	.. ..	25.
Hungary, 1900, 50 filler	.. ..	4.
.. " 60 filler	.. ..	2.50
.. " 1 krona	.. ..	2.50
.. " 2 "	.. ..	15.
.. " 3 "	.. ..	15.
.. " 5 "	.. ..	60.
Iceland, 1902, 1 gildi 3 aur yellow	.. ..	40.
.. " " 5 " green	.. ..	40.
.. " " 16 " brown	.. ..	95.
.. " Service 3 " yellow	.. ..	30.
	4 " grey	.. ..
	5 " brown	.. ..
	10 " blue	.. ..
	16 " rose	.. ..
	20 " blue	.. ..

**Our new Catalogue, 1903-4**, has been issued. It contains all issues until 15th Sept., 1903, many cuts and 800 pages, a highly interesting Catalogue for earnest collectors, wishing to increase their collections, with advantage. Very reasonable prices. Post free, **2s 6d.**

Our "**Monthly Bulletin**" is issued every 25th and forms a supplement to our Catalogue for all Novelties, Bargains, offers of Sets and Wholesale offers for dealers. Specimen post free.



- E. Perf. 10. Various Surcharges.  
White paper.  
1d, mauve, surcharged in green  
2d, green " red  
6d, brown " blue  
1s, mauve " green  
1s 4d, brown " blue  
2s 6d, brown surcharged in blue  
(large figures)
- F. Perf. 10 x 12½. Surcharged in red.  
White paper.  
2d, green.
- G. Perf. 12½ x 10. Various surcharges.  
White paper.  
1s, mauve, surcharged in green  
2s 6d, brown, surcharged in blue  
3s, mauve, surcharged in green  
Error 1d, perf. 10 x 10 x 12½, lilac,  
surcharged in green.
- H. Perf. 12½. Various surcharges.  
Paper blued.  
1d, lilac, surcharged in green  
6d, red brown " blue  
1s, lilac " green  
2s, rose " blue  
3s, lilac " green  
4s, rose " blue  
5s, lilac " green  
6s 8d, blue " red  
20s, rose " blue  
Error "one ishilling" surcharged in green.
- I. Perf. 10. Various surcharges.  
Paper blued.  
1d, lilac, surcharged in green  
2d, green " red  
6d, brown " blue  
1s, lilac " green  
3s, mauve " green  
3s 6d, brown " blue  
(large figures.)
- K. Perf. 10 x 12½. Various surcharges.  
Blued paper.  
1d, lilac, surcharged in green  
2d, green " red  
6s 8d, blue " red
- L. Perf. 12½ x 10. Various surcharges.  
Blued paper.  
2d, green, surcharged in red  
6s 8d, blue, surcharged in red
- and a complete new series issued. The differences between the new and the old are not difficult to recognise. On either side of the circular frame, inclosing the portrait of Queen Victoria, there are two white dots. These on the original plates were small and indistinct on the re-engraved plates they are large and distinct. In a triangular space at the top right hand corner there is a minute dot of colour which is absent in the re-engraved type. In addition to these distinctions there is a marked difference in the shading on the neck and the whole design is clearer in the re-engraved stamps. With the exception of a single stamp, which is watermarked a small star, the whole of the re-engraved series are on paper watermarked N.Z. Nearly all the stamps are on white paper. They are found perforated 12½, 10, 10 x 12½, and 12½ x 10.
- A. Perf. 12½. Surcharged in red.  
White paper.  
2d, green 8d, blue  
4d, green
- B. Perf. 12½. Surcharged in black.  
White paper.  
6d, brown 8d, blue
- C. Perf. 12½. Surcharged in green.  
White paper.  
1d, lilac 1s, violet  
1d, violet 3s, mauve  
1s, lilac 5s, violet  
1s, mauve 15s, mauve
- D. Perf. 12½. Surcharged in blue.  
White paper.  
6d, brown 10s, rose  
1s 4d, brown 20s, rose  
1s 6d, brown 30s, rose  
1s 8d, brown 40s, rose  
2s, rose 50s, rose  
2s 6d, red brown 60s, rose  
3s 4d, brown 70s, rose  
4s, rose 80s, rose  
5s, mauve 90s, rose  
6s, rose 100s, rose
- (Note.—I have not seen many values of this issue above 100s, but as I have the £30 I presume that higher values were issued all being probably rose with the blue surcharge.)
- In 1872 or earlier the plates from which the stamps were printed were re-engraved

E. Perf. 10. Various surcharges.

White paper.

1d, lilac, surcharged in green  
 1s, lilac " green  
 2s, rose " blue  
 10s, rose " blue

F. Perf. 10 x 12½. Various surcharges.

White paper.

1d, lilac, surcharged in green  
 1d, mauve " green  
 1d, violet " green  
 2d, green " red  
 6d, brown " blue  
 1s, violet " green  
 1s, lilac " green  
 1s, mauve " green  
 2s, rose " blue  
 2s 6d, brown " blue  
 3s, lilac " green  
 4s, rose " blue  
 6s, rose " blue  
 10s, rose " blue

G. Perf. 12½ x 10. Various surcharges.

White paper.

2d, green, surcharged in red  
 8d, red brown, surcharged in blue

H. Perf. 10 x 12½. Various surcharges.

White paper.

1d, lilac, surcharged in green  
 2d, green " red  
 6d, red brown " blue

I. Perf. 12½ x 10. Blue surcharge.

Blued Paper.

6d, red brown

K. Perf. 10 x 12½. Wmk. small star.

White paper.

1d, violet, surcharged in green

L. Perf. 12½. Wmk. small star.

White paper.

1d, violet, surcharged in green

In addition to the above a series of the values of one pound and upwards were issued on white paper with a long £ in the surcharge. Of this surcharge there are two types one with a long thin cross stroke on the £ and the other with a short stout one.

M. Blue surcharge with short thick stroke. Perf. 12½.

£1 rose                      £3 rose  
                                     £5 rose.

N. Blue surcharge with long thin stroke.

Perf. 12½.

£1 rose                      £5 rose  
 £3 rose

In 1878 a small rectangular stamp of the value of 1d was issued. It was uniform with the postal issues of the same date in size, watermark and perforation. It was first issued in lilac and soon after in blue.

Wmk. star and N.Z. Perf. 12 x 11½.

1d, lilac  
 1d, blue

When in 1882 the Act came into force by which duty stamps became available for postage, all or any of the duty stamps listed above became possible postage stamps, and as such have a right to be listed in postal catalogues equally with later issues. Many have never been used for postage, but all unused copies are capable of being so used, and may be looked upon as to all intents and purposes postage stamps.

In my next paper I shall deal with the "Stamp Duty" issues from 1880 up to the present time.

(To be continued.)

### The Story of Stamp Collecting.

The story of Stamp Collecting is very simple and soon told; but the influence of the hobby upon the world cannot well be estimated. Its origin is attributed to a Belgian Schoolmaster, who, in the early fifties, with a view to making Geography more interesting to his pupils, suggested to them to get foreign stamps and place them in their atlases against the maps of the various countries shown. The custom spread rapidly until to-day there is hardly a schoolboy who is not, in some manner, interested in the collection of these interesting labels, but I fear the tendency is now rather to collect them for the mere sake of collecting than in pursuance of the original idea. True, the whimsical side of collecting was early in evidence, for as far back as 1841 an advertisement appeared in the *Times*

of a young lady who desired to cover her dressing-room with cancelled postage stamps, and who had then collected 16,000. *Punch*, in 1842, had a scathing skit upon the whimsical project of this young lady, and the *Family Herald* is said to have a reference to collecting in its issue of 22nd March, 1842. Advertisements from dealers appeared in 1857, and I should say, therefore, that even at that early date stamp collecting must have been firmly established. The first print devoted exclusively to stamps was published at Strasburg, in September, 1861, and was merely a list. The first catalogue appeared at Paris, in December, 1861. It contained 48 pages, while the last A. B. C. catalogue contains nearly nine hundred double-column pages. The first English work appeared in April, 1862, from which time the output of philatelic literature has increased yearly.—From "I. P. R. and Collector's News."

### Collections worth Fortunes.

Rare stamps are, without a doubt, a good investment. We have all heard of collectors paying £50 for a single stamp, also of the London philatelist who paid £1,500 for a pair of Post Office Mauritius postage stamps, but of the philatelic Kings of the Philatelic World we hear little or nothing. A few facts about them should prove interesting to the bulk of our readers.

The first collection on our list is the famous Tapling Collection, which in 1891 Mr. T. K. Tapling bequeathed to the British Museum, where it can be seen. Roughly valued at £100,000.

The next collection to come under our heading would be the Thorne Collection, which was recently purchased by the New England Stamp Co., an American firm of dealers, for the sum of 45,000 dollars. This is believed to be a record price for the States.

Of dealers we have Mr. J. B. Moens, the well known Brussels dealer, who sold his entire stock of stamps to Mr E. M. Ruter, of Copenhagen, for £200,000.

In conclusion we must just mention the Castle Collection, the finest of its

kind in the world, of unused European stamps. This was sold for the nice little sum of £29,000.—John Gibbs Price, in "Collectors' Advertiser."

### The World's Cheapest Postage.

The Straits Settlements Government has the cheapest post office in the world. Post cards available in the colony and to the Federated Malay States are sold at one fifth of a penny each; the letter rate of postage throughout the same area is slightly over a half-penny. The postage on letters to any place (with very few exceptions) in the British Empire is four-fifths of a penny per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

We are told that the interest in Government post cards (as distinguished from pictorial) is reviving. Post cards undoubtedly form a very interesting study, and are quite worthy of the attention of philatelists, but their bulky nature has always been a serious obstacle to collectors. Post card albums are at best not very satisfactory, and a cabinet is probably the best receptacle for them.

### THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON, NEW ZEALAND.

Will send selections of stamps on approval to any responsible person in New Zealand.

*Agents Wanted Everywhere.*

We notice the issue of the first Scottish Philatelic journal. Scotland seems to be behind in matters philatelic, and the new journal is not solely devoted to stamps and stamp collectors, but caters also for collectors of Pictorial post cards. We cannot see that there is any family relationship between the two hobbies. Picture cards are pretty and interesting to a degree, but they are not likely to prove an abiding source of pleasure and profit while stamp collecting has stood the test of time and has steadily grown in favour for forty years.

Alfred G. Betts, Printer, Hardy Street, Nelson.

# The Sterling Stamp Co.

Desire common and medium Stamps of all  
**BRITISH COLONIES,**

**In Lots of 500 and upwards for Cash or Exchange,**

**SEND SAMPLES**

Stating Price per lot.

ALL STAMPS SENT MUST BE IN PERFECT CONDITION.

**THE STERLING STAMP CO., . . . NELSON.**

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**Collectors in New Zealand  
and Australia.**

We have prepared a fine Packet of British North  
American Postage Stamps, consisting of . . .  
Canada, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brun-  
swick and Prince Edward Island.

**50 Varieties in absolutely Perfect Condition.**

**Price only 4 Shillings (Money Order.)**

Selections of British North Americans, West Indies, &c., will be sent On  
Approval to Collectors furnishing satisfactory references. **Send for our Price List.**

**International Stamp Co.,**

**Montreal, Canada.**

We refer to Wilcox, Smith & Co., of Dunedin, and the Sterling Stamp Co.

Scott, 1904, Catalogue 2s 5d post free.