

any particular kind of stamps desired, on approval.

Dealers should always investigate the references given. Many a dealer has lost a valuable lot of valuable stamps in taking it for granted that a particular reference is bona fide and responsible. The only correct way is to look them up before sending the stamps when the party is unknown to you.

When you write a dealer asking him to send stamps on approval, it does not necessarily follow that you intend to buy some stamps, nor are you compelled to do so. It only carries the inference that you will buy if you receive the stamps desired and the prices are right.

The approval sheet method, as we have seen, has its drawbacks as well as its advantages. Among the more advanced collectors, the want list is superseding the approval sheet. The collector sends the dealer his want list and states the price he will pay. The dealer, if he has the stamps, sends them on and if suitable to the collector he accepts and remits for them. Of course when the dealer cannot supply the entire list he sends as many as he can, and the collector sends the remainder of the list to some other dealer.

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New Zealand Notes.

BY INVERTED WATERMARK.

The Colonial printing of the new issue of New Zealand has been commenced in Wellington at the Government printing office. The issue is to be printed on "small star N. Z." paper and the old 11 perforating machine is to be used until worn out, when the finer perforations will be re-adopted. It is reported that several of the plates have

been spoiled. I can hear nothing to make sure but I know that several post offices have received fresh stocks of the old 6d brown. I expect to send further information next month.

The 2d Insurance stamp is printed in two very distinct shades—brown lake and indian red. The first mentioned being perforated 11, and is rather scarce.

The Wanganui Philatelic Society has just closed a very satisfactory year. It has a membership of 48 paid up members; sales for the year amounting to £180, assets £26 and liabilities nil. This must be regarded as very satisfactory and shows that philately is flourishing in New Zealand.

The Samoa current 1d has been surcharged "2½d" in red.

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Honduras.

BY AFEMANTUS.

On the general issue, 1890, of the stamps of Honduras will be found a peculiar picture. Many of the younger collectors, and, no doubt, some of the older ones, have speculated as to what the picture represented. The following paragraph will give a knowledge of what the picture represents, and an idea of the early civilization of Honduras.

In Copan, in Honduras, is a pyramidal structure nearly one hundred and fifty feet in height, (very likely the one from which the engraving on these stamps was made.) It is built after the manner of the Egyptian temples; this principal one with several smaller ones, and all within a "sacred enclosure." The figure of a large baboon, somewhat resembling the cynocephalous of the Egyptians, was found; also sculptured obelisks a dozen feet in height. The Spanish conquistadors destroyed all the records