

ALL ORDERS TO CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD.
6 ROSTREVOR AVENUE, EPSOM, AUCKLAND.

N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT.

2/- Captain Cook Retouches.

It must be very widely known amongst students of the 1935 Pictorials that the 2/- value (Plate 1) underwent an extensive course of "face-lifting" during the period of the perf 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, woodpulp issue. A considerable number of the impressions on the plate were re-entered and these re-entries make an interesting group in any specialised collection.

I think I am right in saying that an earlier overhaul of the same plate is not so well known and may indeed be entirely unknown to most of my readers. I do not pretend that my own knowledge of this earlier overhaul is complete any more than I would claim complete knowledge of any N.Z. stamp--the full evidence can be found only in stamps which are becoming quite scarce and the "placing" of individual copies is made difficult by the scarcity of complete sheets or even big blocks. However I can call attention to some very fine and to me fascinating, retouches which may encourage others to take the matter further.

For the benefit of any new recruits to the hobby I will explain that "retouching" is done with a hand-tool known as a graver and is often necessitated (as in the cases I will give) by the appearance on the plate of unwanted marks, spots etc which are themselves the result of damage; perhaps the dropping of a tool on the plate or perhaps "pitting" caused by rust. In fact anything which caused a dent, groove, line or hole on the plate where none should be will show on the stamp as a dot, line or blot and it is ⁱⁿ the removal of such disfigurements that retouching is made necessary.

It must be understood that throughout this article I am referring to retouching of a recess plate--that is, one in which the coloured lines of the design are sunk below the level of the surface of the plate.

In the operation, the craftsman first hammers the back of the plate at the point where the blot appears. This has the effect of erasing the offending blot but it also unavoidably erases the normal lines of the design at that particular spot on the plate. It then becomes necessary to re-engrave on the surface of the plate such lines of the design as have been destroyed. It will be seen then, that retouching of this type is not the whole operation; rather is it a repairing of damage done to the plate in the repairing of earlier damage. I hope I have made that sufficiently clear.

Two stamps on the plate are to me of particular interest and curiously they are adjacent impressions--Row 8, No.2 and Row 9, No.2. It is possible to find copies from the perf 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x14 issue in which Row 8/2 shows marks in the sky on the right and just below the cabbage-tree leaves. These look like, and are colloquially known as "cocoanuts". Row 9/2 in the same perf can be found with one or sometimes two spots just above the bow of the rowing boat which the zealous sailors, having already run hard on the rocks are busy trying to punt over dry land.

These defectives (I mean Row 8/2 and Row 9/2, not the sailors) were retouched while this 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x14 perf was still in use and copies showing undeniable evidence of the retouching can be found in all the subsequent issues as well as this one--that is to say, Pim's No's 577a, 577b, 577c and 577d.

I will describe the evidence of retouching in full in the January Supplement and in the meantime, not of course allowing it to interfere with Christmas dinner, readers may care to see if they can find copies themselves. The places to look are as stated. below the leaves on the right or just above the bow of the boat--watch the farthest hills. Perhaps I should do the decent thing and point out that Row 9/2 is the top right stamp in any Plate number block of four.

A Merry Christmas to you all.

N.Z. Offers.

Lot No.

S87 Peace Set.

a fine little set comprising: Imprint blocks: 1d (two blocks, one on woodpulp), 3d (the two frame plates), 4d (three distinct shades), 5d (two blocks, one with re-entry), 6d (two blocks, one from each frame plate), 8d, (two blocks of 6, one showing red plate flaws), 9d (two plates, one shows fine re-entry). Plate Blocks: 1d, the complete set of 10; 2d, the complete set of 8 (including the scarce No's 7 and 8); 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1A and 1B (two of each, showing both watermarks); 1/-, blocks of 6, Plates 1A and 1B. Also included, all in blocks of 4, are: 4d showing Re-entry; 5d Bow Re-entry Row 14 No.1: 3d Tail retouch, two blocks showing each of the two retouches: 9d Major Re-entry Row 9 No.8. Also included are two (continued overleaf)

blocks of each of the 1d and 2d showing striking shade variations. This fine lot of 47 blocks will give a splendid start towards a specialised collection. The lot..... £6-15-0

S88 Peace Varieties. Mint.

The following varieties, all of which are included in Lot S87, are also available separately. (a) 4d value in block showing re-entry..... 3/-
(b) 5d value in block showing "bw" re-entry... 4/6d; (c) 3d value in block Retouched tail (2 types) each block..... 2/-

S89 Peace Varieties. Used.

A small set of 4 fine used 5d Peace, each showing a different variety. (a) Bow re-entry, (b) Major retouch Row 9/2 (see October Supplement) (c) "Water" re-entry, (d) Minor frame re-entry. The set of 4..... 8/6d

S90 1935-47 Pictorials. COOK flaw.

We have a fine range of this prominent and popular variety in most of the issues in which it can be found. These Pictorials are advancing so steadily in value and popularity, both here and overseas, that we strongly advocate immediate completion of sets. All below are mint.

- (a) Pim's No. 556, Single Wmk, 13-14x13½, Cook, singles..... 18/6d
- (b) " " 556a, " " 13½x14 Cook, singles..... 18/6d
- (c) as (b) in pair with normal..... 32/-
- (d) Pim's No.577, Mult Wmk, 13-14x13½, Cook, singles..... 27/6d
- (e) as (d) in pair with normal..... 45/-
- (f) Pim's No.577b, Mult Wmk, 12½ Asparto, Cook, singles..... 25/-
- (g) " " 577c, " " 12½ Woodpulp, Cook, singles..... 6/-
- (h) as (g) in pair with normal..... 9/6d

N.B. The above carry our strongest recommendation with particular emphasis on No.577. We believe this stamp mint both with variety and normal, to be amongst the scarcest five of the whole issue, behind only No's 557b, 577a, 578 and 571a (in that order).

S91 1946 Health Re-entries.

Each of the "Soldier" Healths shows an excellent re-entry, the 1½d with double inner frame, Row 8 No.8 and the 3d with girl's head strongly doubled, Row 14 No.1.

1½d value, mint in block, with re-entry 3/-, 3d value, mint in block, with re-entry 3/6d.

S92 1947 Gros.

It is generally known that the 3d Gros comes on two different papers, one with vertical, the other with horizontal mesh. We have both, (shades differing slightly). The two papers in blocks, 3/- in singles 10d.

Some Christmas Bargains:

S93 Healths.

As a special Christmas offer we have available a splendid lot of Healths at reduced prices for one month only.

- (a) Complete set of Healths, 1929 to 1949, fine used..... £12
- (b) Individual items: 1929 mint 9/6d, used 7/6d; 1930 mint 25/-, used 26/6d; 1931 Red Boy, fine used 25; 1932 Hygeia, mint 30/-, used 25/-; 1933 Pathway mint 13/-; 1934 Crusader, mint 13/-, used 11/-; 1935 Keyhole, mint 3/6d, used 1/9d; 1936 Lifebuoy, mint 2/9d, used 1/6d; 1937 Hiker, mint 3/-, used 2/-; 1938 (cat.4/-) mint 3/-, used 1/3d; 1939 mint 6/-, used 5/8d; 1940 mint 10/-, used 10/-; 1941 mint 5/6d, used 5/-; 1942 mint 2/9d (cat.3/6d), used 1/9d.
- (c) Complete set from 1943 to 1949, mint 4/6d, used 2/6d.

S94 1931 Ains. Christmas Offer.

3d brown (cat 10/-) mint 7/-; used (cat 5/-) 4/-.
4d purple (cat.10/-) mint 8/-; used (cat 7/6d) 6/-.
7d brown-orange, mint (cat 27/6d) 20/-; used (cat 15/-) 11/6d.
Trans-Tasman 7d blue (cat.20/-), mint 14/-.

N.B. Notwithstanding the very low prices of the above, we guarantee them to be in the finest possible condition. There are no second grade copies in our stock.

S95 Centennials.

The three stamps which make this a difficult set to complete--offered separately.

- 7d Centennial, mint (cat 8/6d) 7/6d; used (cat. 6/6d) 7/6d.
- 9d " mint (cat 7/6d) 7/-; used (cat. 4/6d) 3/4d.
- 1/- " mint (cat 17/6) 16/-; used (cat. 2/3d) 1/6d.

Complete sets of Centennials, mint (cat 44/6d) 35/-; used (cat 20/-) 16/-.