

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

Vol. 22 No. 1 January 1971. issued monthly, subscription \$1.50; registered at G.P.O. Wellington as a magazine. Published by Campbell Paterson Ltd., Auckland ASSOCIATES VERNE COLLINS AND CO. LTD.

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT

— by Warwick Paterson

A "Delacryl" Doctor Blade Flaw? Any reader of the Newsletter could tell you, without batting an eyelid, that the "Doctor" or "Wiper Blade", is an appendage of a photogravure printing press, whose function is to clear surplus ink from the surface of the plate leaving ink in the recesses, then to be transferred to the printed sheet of paper. The theory goes that a notch in the blade will produce a coloured flaw or line across the sheet and foreign matter — a white (or parallel white and coloured) line, where such is trapped behind the blade. The blade moves with a traversing motion and hence this type of flaw usually has a downward slope to one side of the sheet. Offset — lithography processes like Delacryl, which produced the current Christmas issues, have no such equipment as the printing portions of the plate are flat. In view of this we were surprised last month to find a sheet of 2½c Christmas stamps with an orange coloured line, for all the world like a doctor blade flaw horizontally across the 8th row, first 6 stamps (plate 2A2A3A2A1A). A provisional theory? As there is no orange component in the stamp I think that the sheet of stamps printed in yellow and magenta only may have brushed one of the moving parts of the press on the way out after printing.

Printers in the sterling area really seem to have had some bother with the Decimal System and possibly may not master it completely until they have to use it themselves! Remember the 15c in the 1967 Pictorials — both issues? The value was stated in the selvedge as \$22.5, and in the second issue the N.Z.P.O. had laboriously inserted an "o" in red ballpoint pen. That was a Harrisons printing. Now De la Rue appear to have stated the value of the 2½c Xmas sheets at \$2.5, in plate 1A (blue) (top right selvedge), then erased the error (but not very efficiently) and replaced it with \$2.50 in slightly larger figures. The fact that this can be done at all on a Delacryl plate is interesting. Mr T. Pasfield of Taylorville drew my attention to the variety.

Plates: A large number of plates have been recorded in this issue so far.

They are:—

2½c 1A1A1A1A1A, 1B1B1B1B1B, 1A1A2A1A1A, 1B1B2B1B1B, 1A1A3A2A1A,
1B1B3B2B1B, 2A2A3A2A1A, 2B2B3B2B1B.

3c 1A1A1A1A1A, 1B1B1B1B1B.

10c 1A1A1A, 1B1B1B.

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CHATHAM ISLANDS 1c and 2c

They were printed in Japan and really seem very pleasing indeed. The colours are well matched and production (as usual) seems almost faultless. Not the least intriguing feature is that extraordinarily knowing bird on the 2c, reminds me of a schoolmaster I once knew.

I have seen a small doctor blade flaw on the 1c value confirming that these are printed by photogravure.

LONDON PRINTED FULL FACE QUEENS

71. The great rarities of the New Zealand field. These masterpieces still glowing in their original colours - we offer a COMPLETE SET of the three values, 1d Deep Carmine Red with its distinctive "dried blood" look - colour full, true and even - marking light - four margins. 2d Deep Blue, again superb, marking off the face, four margins. 1/- yellow green - one of the finest we have ever seen - four huge margins, light marking, ivoryhead - blue colour "bleeds" into margin - clean, even and clear. The set - wonderful in all respects:-
One Thousand Pounds Sterling - (\$NZ2,125.60)
-

EDWARD VII - USED (FINE)

A specialist offering of fine copies.

72. (a) H1a ½d Green surface printed. A superb specialist set including shades, yellow green, green and deep green and a blurred print (from booklet) - - - - 20c
73. (a) H2a 2d Mauve. Super set. Mauve, deep mauve, rosy mauve, pale rosy mauve. - - - - \$ 2.00
74. (a) H3a 3d Chestnut. p14x14½ set of three - chestnut, deep chestnut, bistre brown. - - - - 30c
(b) H3b ditto. Perf 14 (line) finest chestnut - - - - 35c
75. (a) Hxb 4d Red-Orange. Perf 14 (line) fine MINT block of four \$ 3.50
76. (a) H4c 4d yellow. Perf 14 x 14½. Set of two bright yellow and yellow. LOVELY! - - - - \$ 1.00
77. (a) H5a 5d Brown. Perf (14 line) set of deep brown and deep red brown. - - - - \$ 1.25
(b) H5b ditto. Perf 14 x 14½ as above, two shades - - - - 30c
(c) H5c ditto. Perf 14 x 13½ as above, two shades - - - - 25c
78. (a) H6a 6d Carmine Perf 14 (line) Carmine and Deep Carmine - - \$ 1.60
(b) H6b Ditto Perf 14 x 14½ As above two shades - - - - 15c
(c) H6c Ditto Perf 14 x 13½ Carmine - fine - - - - \$ 3.00
Deep Carmine - - - - \$ 3.00
79. (a) H7b 8d Indigo Blue Perf 14 x 14½. Indigo blue and Deep bright blue. - - - - 25c
(b) H7c Ditto Perf 14 x 13½ as above two shades - - - - 45c
80. (a) H8a 1/- Orange - Vermilion Perf 14 (line) orange vermilion - wow! - - - - 75c
(b) H8b Ditto Perf 14 x 14½ orange vermilion and vermilion pair \$ 1.25