

# Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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## NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENTS by WARWICK PATERSON

### SPECIALIZATION

(continued from last month)

Over the next few months I shall list the major types of constant and transient varieties found in the three main processes used to print modern New Zealand stamps. As far as possible I shall indicate their causes (without "bogging down" in intricate detail!). Potential specialists should note that the list is confined to "naked eye" varieties and avoids the "fly speck" aspect so often criticised, which is far from necessary for an enjoyment of modern specialization - so don't let the traditionalists spoil your fun!

### CONSTANT VARIETIES

#### Plate Flaws

Easily the group of varieties to which the most attention has been paid, these flaws are found in several forms.

#### (a) In One Stamp Only On The Sheet

Causes of such flaws vary and they may be "coloured" or "white". In photogravure a coloured flaw represents a recess in the surface of the plate which has trapped ink and a white flaw - an area which is flat and flush with the surface of the plate.

Among the causes applying in all three processes are

- (1) foreign matter intruding during the photographic transferring of the design of the sheet of stamps to the printing plate, faulty corrective work during that process or faults during the etching or plate-making processes or
- (2) actual damage to the plate through wear or accident (for example "plate scratches")
- (3) one other source of such a flaw is the original photograph of the sheet of stamps which is transferred to the printing plate (known as the multipositive plate). A flaw in this photograph will reproduce itself in exactly the same position on every printing plate taken from it - hence "multipositive flaws".

#### (b) In One Row Of Stamps In The Same Position On Each Stamp

If a photograph of ten impressions only is used to "build up" a complete printing plate of 100 impressions row by row, then any flaw in that photograph will reproduce itself ten times.

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(c) In Every Stamp On The Sheet

If there is a flaw in the original negative of a single stamp which was used 100 times to build up that complete photograph of the sheet (see (a) ) then that flaw will appear on every stamp in the sheet.

RETOUCHES

Retouching or "plate revision" work is used by the printer to correct flaws on the fully-prepared printing surface of the plate. In the case of Photogravure this can involve expert work with a sharp instrument (burin) applied to the flawed area. The characteristic "screen dot" pattern may thus be superimposed on a white flaw area to reconstruct the design. This type of retouching can be very spectacular, particularly where it occurs in an even-toned background area. Recessed flaws may be filled in with a plug of hard material or by electroplating the selected area. Less is known about retouching on Lithography or Delacryl plates but it may safely be said that it involves the reconstituting of screen dot or solid areas by the application of chemicals to the printing (ink receptive) or nonprinting (ink resistant) areas of the plate.

(Continued next month)

NEW YEAR SPECIALS

FULL FACES - UNUSED

500(a) S.G. 38 2d. Blue Imperf

Very slight plate wear. Margins close each side but very attractive indeed! .....\$20.00

(b) S.G. 40 3d. Brown Lilac Imperf

Absolutely superb with gargantuan margins - perfection in a Full Face .....\$55.00

PERFORATED 12½ - Star Watermark

501(a) S.G. 110 1d. Carmine Vermilion

Very attractive, nice colour, centering "good".....\$12.50

(b) S.G. 132 1d. Reddish Brown

(Extended plate wear) very attractive appearance o.g. one short perf. (corner) .....\$5.00

(c) S.G. 113 2d. Blue Plate 1

(Extensive plate wear) attractive - fine.....\$10.00

(d) S.G. 134 2d. Vermilion - Major Retouch

Very attractive - scarce .....\$20.00

(e) S.G. 117 3d. Deep Lilac

Beautiful copy with o.g. - a real delight .....\$10.00

(f) S.G. 139 4d. Yellow

Lovely copy .....\$15.00

(g) S.G. 129 6d. Blue

Copy with o.g. slightly off centre but intact and attractive .....\$12.50

(h) S.G. 122(a) 6d. Brown

A scarce shade in an absolutely outstanding unused copy - the true "Brown" .....\$25.00

SEVERAL VARIETY "PICKINGS"

Four collections offered "as is".

502(a) Royal Society Issue 4¢ and 8¢

Mounted on six pages: included are all the plate blocks and a strip of three showing the rare "5 - number" block in the 4¢ also imprint and value blocks and 4¢ two blocks of four and a strip of three showing (a) two states of major flaw Row 7/10 and R1/3 and 8¢ two pairs and blocks of 8 and 10 showing constant flaws .....\$60.00

(b) ANZAC ISSUE 1965

On six pages 4d. ten blocks of 4 or 6 showing plates and imprint and all the major flaws (R9/4, 5/1, 6/2, 10/7 two states, 4/2, 9/9, 7/11, 8/6 etc. 5d. 5 plate, shade and variety blocks including partial missing red in poppy .....\$15.00  
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