

CAMPBELL PATERSON'S NEWSLETTER

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENT

By CAMPBELL PATERSON.

1½d PROVISIONAL, UPRIGHT WATERMARK

This is a new variety, all previous supplies having inverted watermark. I know of six sheets (480 stamps) and have made a distribution to regular customers. As with the 9d invert of last month, I paid fairly heavily to get my supplies, believing both to be good items.

STOP PRESS — 12/9/1950

I have just received word of further sheets of the above being discovered in several places—Dunedin, Hamilton, Matamata, Wellington and Palmerston North. In view of this and in accordance with my policy of seeing that my best customers do not suffer through a "collapse" of the market, I hereby reduce the price to 1/3 per copy. I have credited the accounts of all who have retained copies I sent them, the amount of credit being the difference between the old price and the new. This is a very substantial reduction, the new price being far less than I paid myself. It is made possible only through the generosity of my original supplier, who has adopted a very fair attitude to me in the matter.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

In the August issue of the "New Zealand Stamp Collector," Mr R. J. G. Collins, writing on the subject of varieties in the current issue, states (second column page 26): "A claim has been made that in row 2 No. 4 from Plate 90 of the 4d value a break developed which was retouched. However, a check of proof sheets would seem to negative this theory, as the so-called retouch showed on the proof sheet, while the flaw is found on later printings."

Since, to the best of my knowledge, my references to this stamp (Row 2 No. 4 Plate 90) in these notes were the first references to it made by anyone, it must be presumed that the "claim" mentioned by Mr Collins is mine. Accordingly, and particularly since I have been selling the retouch as a retouch, I may be permitted to answer Mr Collins. In the interests of clarity I will refer to the stamp in its form showing the flaw as "A" and in its form without the flaw as "B." Mr Collins, by his reference to "the so-called retouch," obviously maintains that "B" is not a retouched impression. I maintain that it is, quite definitely and notwithstanding any apparently contrary evidence on the proof sheets.

Examination of "A" shows that at some time Row 2 No. 4 received such damage as to cause a clear break in the innermost frame-line above and slightly to the right of the King's head—in fact, just below the right "wing" of the ornament above the King's head. It is also noticeable that some of the small horizontal shading lines between the frame-line and the head are completely absent.

Turning now to "B," we find that at the exact spot on the stamp the small shading lines differ in position from those on any other stamp on the sheet and the innermost frame-line is of uneven thickness. This evidence, which certainly calls for a powerful glass, but is equally certainly quite clear, means that this impression must have been retouched at some stage—"B"). Since we know it was damaged at some stage ("A"), it is surely reasonable to suppose that "A" preceded "B"—not that "B" preceded "A." The latter theory would suggest that Row 2 No. 4 was damaged and retouched before printing, then printed from (in its "B" stage) and then again damaged ("A") in precisely the same spot as before. Which is possible, I suppose, but so unlikely as to border on the ridiculous.

As to the proof sheets, I have not seen them, but, as I see it, their conflicting evidence must mean one of two things: (1) that the proof sheets were run off the plate before the damage "A," and therefore show not "B," but a stage even earlier than "A"; or (2) the proof sheets were run off the plate after the retouching which followed the "A" printings. This seems most unlikely.

In his next paragraph Mr Collins refers to "a claim that Row 4 No. 10 on the 1½d Plate 21 was retouched." In case anyone should think that this "claim" is also mine, I would emphasise that I have never suggested that this stamp was retouched. It is the stamp which differs in appearance from its neighbours on the sheet in that the King's hair is lighter, and I would refer readers to my notes on it in the June, 1950, Newsletter, and my offer of copies for sale, Lots 657 and 658, in the August, 1950, Newsletter.

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 - (d) 2d Purple, 211, Double perfs vertically, fine used **7/6**
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 - (f) 1d Rose, 239, 12½ x 10, fine used **25/-**
 - (g) ½d Black, 252, Mixed perfs 10 and 11, fine used **25/-**
 - (h) 1d Rose, 253, Mixed perfs 10 and 11, fine used **20/-**
 - (i) 2d Purple, 254, Mixed perfs 10 and 11, fine used **40/-**
 - (j) 2½d Blue, 255, Mixed perfs 10 and 11, fine used **40/-**
 - (k) 2d Purple, 201, Perf 12 x 11½, with Advert on back, fine used ... **35/-**
 - (l) 3d Yellow-orange, 203a, Perf 12 x 11½, with Advert on back, fine used **45/-**
 - (m) 4d Green, 204, Perf 12 x 11½, with Advert on back, fine used ... **45/-**
 - (n) 1/- Red-brown, 208, Perf 12 x 11½, with Advert on back, fine used **17/6**
- N.B.—Items L and M above are very rare indeed and probably greatly undervalued at these prices.

GEORGE VI.

S233 1/- Sideways Wmk. Misplaced Centre.

We have a sheet showing the most grossly misplaced centres of our experience, leaving a large white patch below the head (not offered before). Mint. Each **2/-**

S234 1/3 Plate 3A/2 New Shade.

A shade new to us—the centre is a pale chocolate. Well worth a place in a specialised collection. Frame also notably pale. Mint. Each **1/9**

S235 9d Plate 97 New Shade (Coarse paper).

This shade is a blackish sepia and shows virtually no signs of red content. Mint (not offered before). Each **1/2**

S236 1/- Plate 3A/2 New Shade.

The centre shade is a deep chocolate; this, combined with the deep engraving of Plate 3A, makes this stamp strikingly different from earlier issues. Mint. Each **1/4**

S237 ½d Official Plate 111 (Coarse paper).

This is a new variety of catalogue rank, being the first Official ½d to appear on coarse paper. Blocks, 3d: Singles **1d**
 N.B.—In all Lots 233 to 236, blocks can be supplied at pro rata rates.