

Campbell Paterson's NEWSLETTER

FOR
COLLECTORS OF
NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

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Vol. 17, No. 9 - APRIL, 1966. Issued monthly - Subscriptions, 7/6 per annum.

Slot machine Rolls—a fresh development

Mr. R. A. Dexter has drawn our notice to the fact that the rolls of the 1d and 3d stamps dispensed in public slot machines and produced for that purpose in England have now reverted to upright watermark and old perforation ($14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$). Our listed varieties 02b, 05b have disappeared from the machines after a currency of about 2 years and are likely to be sought after now.

Our Christmas stamp has certainly made a hit overseas. James Watson in "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" states: "Surely the New Zealand 3d issue depicting 'The Two Trinities' after Murillo must rank as one of the most beautiful stamps in recent years. Its softly glowing colours and extraordinary matt finish make it a real 'masterpiece in miniature'." He goes on to say that the Spaniard Murillo who died after a fall from a scaffold while painting an altar piece at Cadiz drew for his subjects from the squalid life of the poor and from religious themes. Spain herself has used some of his work in stamp designs ("Stamp Day" 1960).

The Use of Paper Mesh in Stamp Identification

By C.P.

I ought to apologise to those readers who already understand and make use of the mesh of New Zealand papers for identifying stamps otherwise difficult to separate as to watermark. For them this note is obviously superfluous. If readers care to think about it they will realise that change of watermark is inevitably at the same time a change of paper. So the use of differences in the papers is essentially something undertaken to avoid the necessity for identifying watermarks that are all too often very difficult to decipher. It follows that if some feature of the paper, usually the mesh, forms an easy and certain way of differentiating between different watermarks it is the obvious course to use the paper difference rather than the watermark difference to distinguish between issues. Anyone who has had watermark difficulties ought to appreciate the point. So these notes are meant for our many newcomers to the "Newsletter", ranks to whom "mesh" is still a mystery.

I intend to explain below how to recognise the mesh of almost any machine-made paper, but in order to ensure—I hope—that beginners will not stop reading these notes (if indeed they have reached this far), I had better stress the usefulness of the exercise by giving some examples. Below I give a list of the N.Z. issues in the cases of which the recognition of mesh (which is utterly reliable) obviates all necessity for looking for watermarks which are difficult and at the best uncertain.

The issues are: (a) The Queen Victoria Second Sidefaces, where sight of the mesh obviates the searching for watermarks that are only one millimetre different in size; (b) 1d Universals and $\frac{1}{2}$ d Mt. Cooks, where mesh automatically segregates the "Pirie" (Waterlow) and "Basted Mills" papers from those with single-lined wmk. or no wmk.,—in fact from all other issues; (c) all stamps on the chalk surfaced papers of the George V reign,—that means, the 1d Dominion, George Surface prints, Life Insurance 1913 to 1947, Postage Dues of the same period and the Arms Types,—most of these have atrociously difficult watermarks and equally difficult papers,—Cowan, Wiggins Teape, etc.,—but here the mesh

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makes life, not perhaps entirely without problems, but at least infinitely easier; finally, we have the 1935 Pictorials where, (except for the 1941 smaller sized 9d stamps (S.G. 626, 627), one can work to the infallible rule that all Single watermark stamps have a mesh vertical to the watermark while all Multiple watermark issues have horizontal mesh. Since the "1935" watermarks are notoriously difficult and may even deceive in cases where big money is involved, it is surely only common sense to use every possible means to ensure accuracy. The point is all the more relevant where the act of learning makes a host of other stamps easy to sort where before they were irritating problems.

So, to explain what mesh means:

Incidentally, for those who are interested in Australian stamps it may be news that the first "Kangaroo" stamps are all on horizontal mesh paper while all later issues have vertical mesh. That ought to be useful news to many.

One should perhaps go into the intricate details of the manufacture of machine-made papers but that is not possible here; suffice to say that on the underside of all modern papers used for stamps, there exists (and can be seen by anyone with good eyesight, either aided or unaided by glasses) a series of tiny grooves running in parallel lines either across or up-and-down the stamps. These grooves take the form of very short cuts (though the paper is not of course pierced), and they are always either vertical or horizontal, never diagonal. Nor are they ever in the form of ridges, always cuts. One invariably speaks of the mesh as either vertical to the watermark or horizontal to it; that is what is implied by the words "vertical" or "horizontal."

Perhaps the most important feature of mesh that makes it so reliable a guide is its constancy. For example, if we know (as we do) that the mesh of the Basted Mills paper is recorded as vertical then we know with absolute certainty that it is *always* vertical. The idea of some Basted Mills papers having vertical mesh and some horizontal is quite unthinkable. The same with the "Cowan" or any other paper; if it is horizontal sometimes then it is horizontal at all times. For the record I may say here that all the following stamps have horizontal mesh: First Sidefaces, all stamps on Cowan papers, surfaced or unsurfaced, all De La Rue chalky paper stamps of 1909-1924, all Jones paper stamps, all 1936-1947 Pictorials. The verticals are the "Thick Waterlow" (preferably known as "Pirie") stamps, the Basted Mills, the 1935 Pictorials and all Wiggins Teape stamps. There are others such as the second, third and fourth papers of the Second Sidefaces which are thus distinguished from the first paper of the same issue, but I think I have given enough examples to demonstrate that all machine-made paper have a mesh and you can take my word for it that it can be seen.

I should not labour the point but anyone who has struggled with the watermarks of the Arms Types ought to grasp gladly at the suggestion that he can pick the "Cowan" single watermark stamps without ever even looking at the watermarks; an equally striking example is given in the 1d Universals. In that issue any stamp with perf. 11 can be very (or relatively) common if it is on thick Waterlow or Basted Mills paper, while it can be worth as much as £50 if it is on "Cowan"; the man who knows his meshes will not be a possible victim for a crooked (or ignorant) seller, for he will know that a vertical mesh puts the stamp into the commoner group. Let others frenziedly look for watermarks to prove that they have a rarity; the man who knows "mesh" has no such trouble.

So, how to see this invaluable aid? I suggest an experiment. Newspaper, like any other paper, has a mesh and is cheap. So take a sheet of newsprint and try tearing it both down and across. It soon becomes apparent that it tears much more easily and straighter one way than the other. The easy, straight way indicates the direction of the mesh. So, the mesh direction of your piece of newsprint established by this experiment, you can now look at it carefully and if you have normal sight you should be able to see the little grooves quite readily. Do not try to see mesh if your eyes are not up to standard. You would not expect to thread a needle with poor eyesight would you? But if you do have normal sight try turning the paper so that a strong light strikes across (not along) the direction of the mesh as indicated by the tearing experiment. The light makes the mesh show up better, much as the light of the sun makes the mountains of the moon more visible at those points where the light strikes obliquely rather than directly on the mountains.

We invite those who wrote for November Newsletter No. 321 (Second Side Face Proofs) and were disappointed to "come again" as further supplies have come to hand. Let us have your order.

To Delight The Specialists

- 340 **1936 Anzac 21st Anniversary.** One Plate block of each value, each block being clearly postmarked, "Marine Post Office R.M.S. Makura." The pair of most unusual blocks **60/-**
 N.B. We can repeat the above lot once.
- 341 **1936 Commerce.**
- (a) ½d green. Four plate blocks, all showing the Plate number ("1") in a different corner. Mounted together to form a square the blocks make a most attractive "miniature sheet." The four blocks **6/6**
- (b) 1d red; a similar set of four blocks, all Plate 1 **10/-**
- (c) As (b) two blocks only, both from Plate 2 **5/-**
- 342 **2d Marlborough.** Used singles, each showing the extensive bow retouch and "fingerprint" flaw of R14/3. Illustrated in our Catalogue **3/6**
- 343 **Original Dominion Airlines flown cover.** This cover bears the Company's own stamp, "Dominion Airways Ltd" and "Hastings to Gisborne." The word "Airways" is typescript altered to "Airlines," the stamp initialled by the agent and the cover signed by the Pilot. An historic cover **£6/10/-**
- 344 **1883 Small Queen's Head Fiscal-Provisionals.** C.P. Z1a & Z1b (S.G. F144/5). The very scarce 1d lilac, with money-back guarantee, postally used **£5**
 The 1d blue, same guarantee, postally used **4/-**
- 345 **X8h. 1d red No. V.R. Life Insurance Small Lighthouse Type.** A remarkable block of four, Mint, every stamp showing the sky heavily retouched. A nice block **25/-**
 Similar to the above but only three of the four stamps retouched **20/-**
- 346 **Type 1 Express Delivery.** If you hold our Simplified A'bum here is a chance to fill a gap. We have a good supply of Express, either mint, used or unused without gum. The latter are very cheap and will make good spacefillers.
- (a) U1a 6d (Figure of value of red), Cowan Unsurfaced, Mint block, 50/-; mint single, 12/6; used single **8/6**
- (b) U1b 6d (Figure of value in vermilion), perf. 14 x 14½, Cowan chalky paper. Mint **10/-**
- (c) U1c 6d (Figure in carmine) perf. 14 x 15, Cowan chalky. Mint, 15/-; used **15/-**
- (d) U1d 6d (Figure in carmine) perf. 14 x 14½, Wig.Tp. chalky, Mint, 10/-; used **7/6**
- (e) U1e 6d (Figure in vermilion) perf. 14 x 15, Wig.Tp. chalky, Mint or used **30/-**
- (f) U1b, c or d, unused, no gum. Each **3/6**
- (g) U1e, unused, without gum. Each **7/6**
- 339 **2d Postage Due.** C.P. Y17b (S.G. D22 and 22a).
- (a) As do S.G. we list both shades of frame and centre (issues of 1906 and 1910). Here they are in superb mint blocks. The two blocks **30/-**
- (b) As above, the same two issues, mint singles **6/-**
- 340 **2d Postage Due, C.P. Y17d & e (S.G. D28, D31).**
- (a) The set of two giving a fine contrast in colours **3/6**
- (b) Alternatively, Y17e (S.G. D31 on Cowan) **2/6**
- 341 **3d Postage Dues, C.P. Y18a, b. (S.G. D32, D36)**
- (a) The scarce perf. 14 and the 14 x 15. The two mint **15/-**
- (b) Alternatively, Y18a (perf 14) only, Mint **5/6**

- 337 **1963 Christmas stamp.** One block demonstrating the best flaws which this stamp produced.
- (a) Row 3/8 "Donkey's nose" flaw and "eyebrow" flaw R2/9.
The (value) block of nine 8/6
- (b) Shades. Three superb blocks of four showing the lovely variations of colour which occurred. The set of three blocks 6/-
- 337a **T35a Prince Andrew Health, blue.** Re-entries R11/10. The block of six 8/6
R5/8 a fine re-entry. The block of six 8/6
- T35b Prince Andrew red.** Has Andrew had his blouse mended? The miniature sheet with the flaw in the bottom left hand stamp. A really striking item to show and only 4/-
- 337b **4d Anzac 50th Anniversary.** A set to get now! Three spectacular flaws in this 4d value.
- (a) R10/7 "The soldiers on the beach" in the two acknowledged states. The two blocks of four 10/-
- (b) R9/4 "The sail on the shore" incorporated in a plate block (1A) of 8 8/6
- (c) R6/2 "The Volcano" in a selvage block of six (have you seen this one?) 11/6
- (d) AND three lovely shades. Three blocks of four 7/6
- 337c **5d Anzac.** Two shades of the poppy blocks of four (and they are very different). Two blocks 7/6

"Hunting" Agents Wanted

We urgently need the assistance of agents throughout N.Z.—people who can obtain for us varieties, plate blocks, shades, etc. of the current and all new issues. We pay well for regular supplies in quantity. With our two branches (in N.Z. and U.K.) we have a voracious appetite for such material. If you think you can supply us in some quantity write for details.

Postage Dues

- 338 These days Postage Dues are as scarce as hen's teeth and under great demand from users of our Simplified Catalogue. But these ones are not only for the Simplified—have a look at the first offer!
- (a) **2d Postage Due.** C.P. Y17a (S.G. D20). The rare perf. 11 2d Postage Due of 1906 in mint block of four. This may not be unique but it is not far off it! A slight gum crease across the lower stamps does nothing to detract from the fine appearance of this rare block. The block, mint £10
- (b) As above, a single mint 50/-
- (c) As above, a fine mint specimen with **major flaw at lower right.** To demonstrate the interesting fact that the same plate was used for the frames of all values, ½d, 1d and 2d, we include in this offer a used 1d (perf 14) and a mint ½d, **both of these showing precisely the same flaw as the scarce 2d.** This set of 3, hard to match 75/-
- (a) Again Y17a, this time an unused copy without gum 30/-
- 339 **1960 Pictorials. 1960 ½d Manuka blue.** Four used copies with missing colour. Priced in accordance with their condition.
- (a) Blunt corner 50/-
- (b) Rather heavy postmark £5
- (c) Good postmark £7/10/-
- (d) Superb used £12/10/-
- N.B.: This is an opportunity.