

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES & COMMENT by Warwick Paterson

A VISIT TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NOTE-PRINTING BRANCH

Through the good offices of several prominent New Zealand and Australian Philatelists I was fortunate last month to have the memorable experience of looking over the Stamp Printing Department of The Australian Note Printing Branch in Melbourne. Had Alice ever got around to collecting stamps (or specialising in photogravure!) this would surely have done for Wonderland. Despite the obvious necessity for the tightest possible security, I was treated to a two hour philatelist's dream-tour covering every process in the production of a photogravure stamp, remarkable patience in answering questions which must have seemed to my guide calculated to prise out each gremlin in the process, and the use of my handset recorder, which when I play the tapes back now sounds like a machine gun at the point where I was watching the big four colour (and perforating)"Chambon" machine churning out sheets "on the reel" at running speed and recording the deafening clatter.

11.30 a.m. saw me signing in, "somewhere in Melbourne" at the Note Printing Factory, a vast rabbit warren-like building that seems to have just grown up to present size; hardly the gleaming monster one might have expected! We were greeted by the Assistant Research Manager who was to be my guide.

At our first call, the "Photogravure Cylinder-making Department", I saw multi-colour artwork, overlays, negatives and multipositive plates, as well as completed chrome-plated printing cylinders for all colours of the new 6¢ Country Women's Association 1922-1972 issue designed by V. Mason - the whole gamut, if you like, of the "origination" for a new issue, and one, I might say, whose design had not yet been released, and which had not been printed. As a point of interest the colours involved in this issue are Cyan (Blue), Yellow, Magenta and Black, and sheets will be printed "two up" in panes of 50. A chart on the wall showed percentage combinations of a set range of colours to produce different shades - presumably the most commonly used colours. Some of the revision work done at this origination stage was described to me; the colour correction at negative stage, for instance, comprises masking overlays, hand retouching, and die work, to correct the errors in tonal density which occur in the colour separation process, where filters used to photographically isolate one colour, fail to "knock out" all of the other three colours involved in the design. Another factor is known as "compression of tonal range". When the design is reduced to a negative of stamp size from a much larger sized "overlay" this also has to be "corrected".

The next stage is the production of the multipositive plates (one for each colour) by use of a "step-and-repeat" camera or a "step-and-repeat" machine. The camera does the job by optics and projection. The machine by contact and photographic

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

PO Box 5555, Auckland. 1.
Room 404 Fourth Floor,
Canterbury Building,
Queen Street,
Telephone: 379-118 Auckland

CAMPBELL PATERSON LTD

PO Box 17,
Oriental Road
WOKING,
SURREY,
ENGLAND.

exposure. One advantage of the step-and-repeat camera is that it is capable of enlarging or reducing the size of the design from a negative of any size. All correction and revision work has ideally been done before the multipositive plate is produced; in theory anyway, revision work is not carried out on this multipositive and the next stage at which retouching can be done is on the printing cylinder itself.

The next step is the exposure of light-sensitised carbon tissue to a (glass) screened grid pattern (the one I saw was 250 to the inch and was scarcely visible) and to the multipositive plate. The carbon tissue itself is quite thin (rather like heavy cardboard) with a reddish brown coating of pigmented gelatine. After exposure the carbon tissue is ready for attaching to the cylinder, "masking" of selvages, gutters etc. and immersion in hot water to dissolve the unexposed, unhardened gelatine- and after that comes etching in acid baths of varying strengths to produce the recessed cellular design in the surface of the cylinder. All that remains then is the final chrome-plating process. Needless to say all of these processes are extremely critical, and are carried out by highly skilled operatives.

One aspect interested me tremendously as it has so much bearing on the varieties we see in photogravure stamps - the cylinder - making and revision processes. The cylinders are immensely heavy and kept in small wooden boxes. They consist of a cylindrical cast iron base onto which a copper coating is "grown" by an electrolytic process. Microscopically accurate "diamond-turning" brings the copper coating back to exact size, (within 1/10 of 1/1000 of an inch!) eliminating any taper and highly polishing the surface. Obviously such cylinders may be used again and again by grinding off an old surface and "growing" a new copper coating thereon. One implication here is that such a cylinder could never be "beaten up" from the back and retouched. Cast iron just wouldn't co-operate!

Next month - We move on into the printing room.

COILS

One value not listed in our summary last month was 8c John Dory Grey-blue start and end papers with the roll value \$32 (altered from \$24) on the lead paper. 4c plus 1c 1971 Health Boys' Hockey Miniature Sheet.

We have purchased a remarkable completely double-printed miniature sheet of this stamp. Every colour can be seen with the naked eye to have been printed twice and displaced fractionally sideways. Particularly notable are the crossed hockey sticks, value, printers imprint and "miniature sheet" selvedge inscriptions all of which are quite clearly doubled. An extraordinary item of which I would be glad to hear of further discoveries.

* C.P. SPECIALIZED N.Z. CATALOGUE PRICE INCREASES FOR MARCH 1972

S1131	15c	15c
S114a	10c	10c
S118a	8c	5c
S119a	20c	20c
S120a	20c	20c
S121a	40c	40c
S122a	10c	10c
S123a	15c	15c
S124a	35c	35c
S125a	60c	60c
S126a	18c	18c
S127a	18c	18c
S128a	20c	20c
Captain Cook miniature sheet		\$2

*** \$ 10,000 ***

Yes that's how much we can put down today on your specialised New Zealand collection (subject to valuation that is!) Think about it. Been thinking on selling, well, its cash we're referring to, \$10,000 cold hard cash!
THINK ABOUT IT!



172 (a)



172 (b)

172 (g)



172 (f)

172 (m)

173 (m)

172 (c)



173 (c)

173 (a)



173 (d)

173 (q)

173 (p)



172 (h)

Yet again "Newsletter" leads in having secured for clients a superb collection of New Zealand's Chalon classics. Comprising such outstanding features as two complete sets of the "London" printings 1d, 2d and 1/- and glorious pairs, strips of three and a strip of four this, month's feature offering can only be described as "significant."

172 The London Printings as glorious looking a set as we have ever handled in our firm; catalogued at over \$2000 (used) the set includes 1d Deep carmine-red a copy showing greater detail in the design than 80% of copies. Yet in colour deep and unfaded (an early print?) (several tiny maginal faults) 3 huge margins 2d Deep Blue no faults at all, four margins, a wonderful copy - light marking, 1/- yellow Green, one of the most stupendous copies we have ever handled, four huge margins, deep vibrant shade, ivory head, light, small marking off the face, minor diagonal crease.

- | | | |
|--------|--|--------|
| | The full set of Londons - out of this world (Illustrated) | \$1200 |
| b) | Another set of Londons again appearance absolutely wonderful, 1d Deep Carmine-Red, two margins only but design fully intact. Colour full and bright, 2d - four margins light mark super colour, impeccable 1/-, marking a little blurred and obstrusive but four margins, ivory head, marginal fault. The set of Londons; - yes LONDONS ! at ... | \$350 |
| | (catalogued at \$2050) (Illustrated) | |
| c) | S.G.4 1d Red Richardson 1st Colonial Printing on blue paper. A superb, light-marked pair - touching one point (minor) in margin. This pair is an item of glorious appearance - Chalon enthusiasts must know what we mean - sometimes an item just has that "something" indefinable - this is it - for he who would appreciate an item with "character" (Illustrated) | \$350 |
| d) | S.G.5 2d Blue. Deep Blue paper ditto. An attractive single-minor corner crease, four margins. ... | \$25 |
| e) | S.G.5 ditto. A lovely pair on piece. Touching one point but condition, colour, marking etc superb. "Petre" CDS DE 30 1857. A lovely item (cat \$140) ... | \$85 |
| f) | S.G.6 1/- Green. Blue paper ditto. Lovely copy - four margins, Deep colour, light mark, - minor fault bottom margin (insignificant) (cat \$400) our give away price for a very lovely item (Illustrated) | \$95 |
| g) | S.G.8 1d Orange a brilliant vertical pair of this stamp in the brightest orange we have seen. The pair is quite remarkable in its colour - anything further from "Dull orange" you couldn't imagine - one stamp four margins. The amazing proving pair (markings light). (Illustrated). ... | \$50 |
| h) | S.G.8 ditto. Super lightly marked strip of four, delightful and unusual, faults on back but three stamps have four margins, (Illustrated). ... | \$100 |
| i) | S.G.9 2d Pale Blue. No wmk white paper. Nice vertical pair, light mark (HM paper) (cat \$80) touching one point only. ... | \$20 |
| j) | S.G.9 ditto VM paper horizontal pair minor corner crease only defect - super appearance and colour, four margins - cheap. ... | \$35 |
| k) | S.G.10 2d Blue ditto on soft paper - glorious lightly marked, full margined strip of three - condition outstanding, colour bright, (cat \$120) ... | \$70 |
| l) | S.G.11 2d Deep Blue (ditto) verging on the Deep ultramarine this is a lovely strip of three, with its "enamel" deep clear look, unbeatable at our price, marking "good" minor defects two stamps (cat \$180) ... | \$75 |
| m) | S.G.12 6d Deep Bistre a lovely clean clear four margined example of the true deep Bistre shade, a beautiful example proving the shade: appearance - one of the best we have ever seen, slightly thinned area one margin - super. (cat \$120) (Illustrated) ... | \$40 |
| n) | S.G.13 6d Brown ditto a good clean pair defects but! Appearance? Let us put it this way - wow! (cat \$100) ... | \$15 |
| o) | S.G.14 6d Pale Brown ditto. A truly lovely pair (hard paper) four margins, light mark (cat \$120) a true bargain at ... | \$75 |
| 173 a) | S.G. 38 2d Blue (Davies wmk star). A wonderful used pair - perfect in every respect - almost miraculous see and believe! (Illustrated) ... | \$35 |
| b) | S.G.41 6d Black Brown ditto on cover. Not tied but a pair! Four margins, one close: marking light, a fantastic pair in appearance by any standards! ... | \$75 |

ONE OF THE FINEST "ONE STAMP" STUDIES WE HAVE EVER SEEN

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1/- VALUE SECOND TRANSFER DIE "1B"

Again "NEWSLETTER" brings you a collection comprising some of the greatest specialist research carried out in this country. Brought together painstakingly over a number of years in a major city "south of Auckland" this collection includes MINT the finest coverage in existence. Imprint block of eight, Plate blocks of four 1A3A1B3B, block of four Rows 7 and 8 Nos 7 and 8, and block of twelve Rows 1,2,3 Nos 1 to 4 (all in all 32 mint copies) USED 158 copies all with different postmarks including 3 pairs and a strip of three. Such is the depth of this remarkable study that copies were identified from over 150 different Post Offices, although most of the mint had gone by the time the collecting public was alerted to the existence of the variety.

The collection comprises copious notes, diagrams, maps, lists, and correspondence with the leading philatelists of the day. One map shows distribution of mint copies found - another, the used; notes tell of numbers checked, and earliest dates. There is a list of all known cancellations. Three pages of illustrations show every minute point of identification in enlarged detail and the "History" notes tell *inter alia* "contrary to usual procedure, no notification of the use of plate 3 was received by the High Commissioner and nothing further was heard until June 1958." The wonderful specialist study.

PRICE ON APPLICATION.

WONDERFUL FULL FACES - CONTINUED.

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------|
| 173c) | S.G. 41 6d ditto very lovely strip of three - four margins, light mark - a glorious multiple and v scarce - v minor turned corner (illustrated) ... | \$100 |
| d) | S.G. 46 1/- Deep Green - no joke this is the real Deep Green! A breathtaking pair - huge margins light mark A PAIR!! (Illustrated) ... | \$100 |
| e) | S.G. 72 2d Blue perf 13. A scarce item - unlisted in CP fine used copy of the double perfs! ... | \$30 |
| f) | S.G. 72 2d Blue ditto fine used pair - a lovely piece - unusual. ... | \$25 |
| g) | S.G. 82 2d ultramarine. (pelure paper) attractive dated finely used copy (imperf) very faded as many of these are - four margins (cat \$150) ... | \$40 |
| h) | S.G. 91 2d ditto perf 13 Truly lovely unused copy. Cat \$500 minor thin at top - lovely centering ... | \$75 |
| i) | S.G. 91 2d ditto dated used condition good - minor crease (cat \$130) (attractive) ... | \$15 |
| j) | S.G. 85 6d Blackish Brown (pelure) attractive four margined copy-marking light ... | \$35 |
| k) | S.G. 88 6d Blackish Brown ditto nice copy of the roulette 7. (cat \$100) light mark intact. ... | \$20 |
| l) | S.G. 93 6d Blackish Brown ditto perf 13 a good lightly marked example (cat \$80) ... | \$15 |
| m) | S.G. 97 1d Carmine Vermilion "NZ" watermark a fantastically beautiful used copy ("Drury") - four margins one of which contains faults which do not affect the stamp, a wonderful offer (Illustrated) ... | \$35 |
| n) | S.G. 98 2d Pale Blue ("NZ"). Lovely pair with touching margin one point - clean clear, attractive. ... | \$45 |
| o) | S.G. 98 2d Ditto nice copy used on piece. ... | \$30 |
| p) | S.G. 105 2d Blue perf 13 "NZ", scarce and probably under catalogued. This copy is lightly marked, beautifully centred (Illustrated) ... | \$35 |
| q) | S.G. 100 1/- Green "NZ" Imperf. A finely used pair, outstanding; Another example with that indefinable "something" Newsletter can not fully convey without showing them to you - they are LOVELY! (Illustrated) ... | \$100 |
| r) | S.G. 106 1/- Green "NZ" perf 13 a pair used dated AU 18 '64 perfs clipped 3 sides but an unusually deep coloured proving piece at only (cat \$120) (print very blurred - this is an interesting item) ... | \$15 |
| s) | S.G. 140 1d Brown "NZ" wmk p12½ beautiful appearance - defects on back (cat \$450) ... | \$15 |
| t) | S.G. 142 2d Vermilion watermark lozenges - a good used and highly attractive looking example. ... | \$60 |
| u) | S.G. 125 1/- Pale Yellow-Green p12½ the scarce double perfs a lovely dated example. ... | \$37.50 |

GEORGE V SURFACE PRINTS

Below we offer a most comprehensive series of the surface-printed values of the handsome George V issue. This issue is steadily becoming scarcer with each passing year and we strongly recommend it at today's prices.

A "STUDY IN GREEN"

- a) ½d Green (K13a, De La Rue paper). Of this surprisingly scarce first issue we offer the three shades, green, pale and yellowish green, all in Mint singles.
- b) ½d Green (K13b, S.G.504a - Experimental issue on thick paper)
The single, green, mint, scarce.
- c) ½d Green (K13c, Jones paper) The single, green mint.
- d) ½d Green (K13d, Lithographed watermark). Four mint, one with green litho, one with blue litho, one (scarce) with colourless litho and one with double gumming.
- e) ½d Green (K13e, Cowan paper, perf 14 x 15). Three mint - one green, one yellow green and one with notable loss of detail through plate wear.
- f) ½d Green (K13f, Cowan paper perf 14). Three mint; one green; one yellow green and one with similar plate wear to that in offer (e) above.
- g) ½d Green (K13g, Cowan paper with reversed watermark, as a result of surfacing on the wrong side). One mint.
- h) ½d Green (K14a, War Stamp, overprinted). Two, one in green, one in yellow green.

The "Study in Green" as above, 18 mint, all different - will make a delightful page. The offer includes every major variation of the ½d Green.

Price \$7.50

A "STUDY IN CARMINE"

- a) 1d Field Marshal (K15a) perf 14, Cowan paper. Three mint shades - rose carmine, deep rose carmine, paler rose carmine.
- b) 1d Field Marshall (K15b) perf 14 x 15, Cowan. Two mint shades - rose carmine and deep rose carmine.
- c) 1d Field Marshal (15d) on Wiggin Teape paper. One mint shade only of this

much scarcer issue "Study in Carmine" mint six 1d Field Marshals \$1.25

A "STUDY IN GREY"

- a) 1½d Local Plate. Two mint shades of the "local" grey black stamp. Probably NZ's most crudely executed stamp ever, but like certain rugged types we know, has a certain charm!
- b) 1½d London Plate. The two fine mint shades of this infinitely superior production - black and grey black.
The "Study in Grey" - four mint ... \$1.50

A "STUDY IN ORANGE-BROWN"

- a) 1½d Orange-brown on De La Rue paper, mint.
- b) 1½d ditto on Cowan perf 14 (scarce) mint.
- c) 1½d ditto on Cowan perf 14 x 15 (quite rare) mint.
The "Study in Orange-brown", three mint ... \$9.00

A "STUDY IN YELLOW"

- a) 2d Pale Yellow (K18b) Jones paper. Two shades of this scarce stamp: pale and "pale-dull" - typical of the Jones throughout its currency.
- b) 2d Pale Yellow (K18c) Lithographed watermark. The shades in this issue were never greatly varying but we can supply two mint giving quite a nice contrast.
- c) 2d Yellow and Orange (K18l) on Wiggins Teape paper perf 11. This issue gives superb colour changes. We can supply three - yellow, lemon yellow and (totally different) bright orange.
The "Study in Yellow" seven mint (Cat \$5.45) ... \$4.00

3d CHOCOLATE

We can hardly call this a "study" as pressure on supplies is such that we can offer only the 3d De La Rue and the 3d on Cowan (perf 14). But these two do show the pronounced change in colour and appearance that took place between the first and the last issues. The two mint \$2.00

Q.E.II COUNTER COILS

We will be pleased to hear from anyone who has Q.E. Coils for sale. We could probably use a fair quantity of most types - with some emphasis on the later issued coils on thick white paper. We would urge any holder to "strike while the iron is hot" and to let us hear from them soon.