

Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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NEW ZEALAND NOTES & COMMENT by Warwick Paterson

4c ON 2½c MAGPIE MOTH PROVISIONAL SURCHARGE - A PATTERN EMERGES AT LAST

Months of research and observation resulted in Jim Shaw's comprehensive tabulation of plate varieties in this most fascinating of photogravure issues (see insert in March Newsletter). In reading this month's (April) notes I would suggest that the tabulation be kept on one side for reference (further copies are available free from us on request - please include postage).

In drawing conclusions from the available data, I should explain first that the "chronology" of the tabulation (reading from left to right) was based on one major assumption regarding the initial printings where Black plates 1A and 1B were used. Readers will see that the 2½c "version" of sheets bearing these two plate numbers follows the 4c surcharged issue of the same plate numbers. The assumption is that the first 2½c sheets printed from plates numbered 1A1A1A1A and 1B1B1B1B contained major flaws (for instance Row 1/20 in Black plate 1A and Row 10/20 in Black plate 1B). The flaw at Row 1/20 was discovered and the double sheets - (the two plates 1A and 1B in each colour are printed side by side "on the web" in tandem) were put aside in storage. The flaw at Row 1/20 in Black plate 1A was retouched and printing continued producing 2½c sheets numbered 1A1A1A1A and 1B1B1B1B, the former with the Row 1/20 flaw retouched, the latter with the Row 10/20 flaw still in its flaw state. During this second printing run the flaw at Row 10/20 in plate 1B1B1B1B must have been discovered and retouched.

EVIDENCE: 2½c Sheets sold in New Zealand numbered 1A1A1A1A always contained Row 1/20 in its retouched state and those numbered 1B1B1B1B have been found both with 10/20 flaw, and with that flaw retouched.

Later when the call came from New Zealand for sheets to be surcharged "4c" the original printing (still in double sheets) was surcharged, guillotined into two sheets and sent to New Zealand. As well, a further printing took place using these plates in their retouched form and these sheets were also surcharged 4c and sent to New Zealand. EVIDENCE: 4c surcharged sheets were sold in New Zealand with both plate 1A1A1A1A Row 1/20 and plate 1B1B1B1B Row 10/20 in both flaw (initial printing) and retouched (final printing) states. Analysis of the tabulation suggests that retouching took place on at least five different occasions. On two of these occasions the work seems to have taken the form of interim retouching to Black plates during the use of those plates (see below "second retouching" and "fourth retouching").

FIRST RETOUCHING

Time: After the initial printing (from plates 1A1A1A1A and 1B1B1B1B) The retouching of the plates took place when this initial printing was put aside in storage later to be surcharged 4c. ▷

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Plates and positions of flaws and retouches

Yellow 1A (Row 3/17) Red 1B (Row 2/19 Row 4/19) Green 1B (Row 5/9) and Black 1A (Row 2/3 and multipositive flaws Row 1/20 and Row 2/17)

SECOND RETOUCHING

Time: During the continuation of printing of the 2½c sheets from plates 1A1A1A1A and 1B1B1B1B which were later issued as 2½c stamps in New Zealand. Plates and positions of flaws and retouches. Black plate 1B only (Row 10/20).

Additional Comment.

The tabulation shows that Black plate 1B flaw is unique in that it appears both in flaw and retouch states in both its 2½c and 4c surcharge forms. This indicates that the flaw was discovered later than those listed under "first retouching", none of which is found in the 2½c form of these 1A1A1A1A, 1B1B1B1B sheets. In other words sheets containing Row 10/20 flaw were not all put aside, later to be surcharged 4c, but were in part at least, released as 2½c stamps. Needless to say this flaw state in the 2½c "version" is rare.

THIRD RETOUCHING

Time: After printing of sheets numbered 1A1A1A1A and 1B1B1B1B had been completed, and before the introduction of the Black plates 2A,2B.

Plates and positions of flaws and retouches

Red 1A (Row 2/10) Green 1A (Row 3/6) and Yellow 1B (Row 2/4, Row 2/7 and Row 6/19)

Additional Comment.

Two possibilities exist to account for the introduction of Black plates 2A, 2B and 3A3B: (a) that they were intended specifically for production of a further supply of 2½c stamps before the need for this value was obviated by the 1971 changes in postal rates (b) the 2A2B, 3A3B plates, already having been prepared at considerable expense, were used to produce 2½c stamps solely to be surcharged.

It is unlikely that we shall resolve this question.

FOURTH RETOUCHING

Time: During printing from plates 1A1A1A2A, 1A1A1A2B.

Plates and positions of retouches:

Black plate 2A only (multipositive flaws at Row 1/20 and Row 2/17).

Additional comment:

This retouch appears to be additional work done to that already carried out on these multipositive flaws before printing from Black plate 2A commenced (designated "T" (touching up) in the tabulation). This initial "touching up" followed by a later "retouch" is suggested by the existence of two different states of the R 1/20 repairs on the 1A1A1A2A sheets.

FIFTH RETOUCHING

Time: After printing of sheets numbered 1A1A1A2A and 1A1A1A2B had been completed and before the introduction of the Black plates 3A and 3B.

Plates and positions of flaws and retouches:

Green plate 1B only (Row 2/14).

Additional comment:

As the sheets were printed "two up" ("in tandem") and later guillotined, chronological evidence relating to one plate may be taken to apply to its "mate" i.e. what applies to 1A must apply to 1B.

UNRETOUCHED FLAWS

Several flaws were not present in the first sheets printed from plates 1A1A1A1A and 1B1B1B1B (i.e. those which were stored and later surcharged) and remained as flaws throughout all printings. They are Red 1A (Row 3/6) Red 1B (Row 7/2 Row 7/14) Black 1A (Row 3/6).

One flaw, that in Red 1B (Row 6/20) appeared during the printing from plates 1A1A1A2A, 1B1B1B2B and remained present in the later printing from plates 1A1A1A3A and 1B1B1B3B. It can then be found in some sheets from plate 2B and in all sheets from plate "3B".

ANOMALY - an unexplained occurrence in the behaviour of Green 1A flaw (Row 4/15). This flaw was retouched in the First Retouching (see above) and reappeared as a flaw when printing commenced from plates 1A1A1A2A, 1B1B1B2B.

Comment *This may have been caused by deterioration of the retouching. If a coloured flaw is filled in with cement or other material, this may fall out during printing due to the pressure of the paper or the drag of the doctor blade (ref. my notes on the Australian Note Printing Branch in this Newsletter).*

ANOTHER ASSUMPTION

Although the printers have stated that these 2½c stamps are printed "on the reel" (i.e. on a continuous roll of paper) the fact that both perforating and surcharging can be proved to have been done in double sheets suggests that the reel is guillotined into double sheets for perforating purposes as it emerges from the printing machine.

Guillotining into single sheets takes place after perforating (and after surcharging in those sheets which were surcharged 4c).

THE 1d UNIVERSAL

Breaking up a collection of this glorious specialist issue, this month we can offer material irresistible to experienced collector and tyro alike. Buy some of the bulk offering below for instance and a wonderful world of philatelic delight will open up for you - a chance to burrow deep into the myriad papers, perforations, plate varieties, shades, (postmarks even!) which abound in the 1d UNIVERSAL.

- 174 (a) BULK USED by the 100 ABSOLUTELY UNCULLED. Yes we can offer a complete money-back guarantee that nothing - but nothing! has been taken from these bulk lots. A brief glance through the bulk showed up Londons, Piries, Dot plate, Waterlow, and Royle plates - and some superb copies! per 100 ... \$ 1.00

Note: The following material is all mint except where specifically stated to be used.

LONDON PRINTS

- 175 (a) G1a Two lovely shades in blocks of four - a marked difference condition perfect ... \$ 2.00
 (b) Three shades in singles - distinctive ... \$.75

WATERLOW PAPER

- 176 (a) G2a perf. Three nice shades in pairs, Carmine, Deep Carmine and Carmine-Lake - value super ... \$ 7.00

BASTED MILLS PAPER

- 176 (a) G3b perf 14 Carmine and Bright Carmine in glorious blocks of Four (2) ... \$ 8.00
 (b) G3a perf 11 x 14 a wonderful bottom right hand corner block of 12 (4 x 3) watermark inverted and reversed - spectacular piece ... \$ 8.00
 (c) G3d p. 14 x 11 A superb bottom selvage block of 16 (Rows 7 to 10 Nos. 5 to 8) showing the major reentry at plate 2 Row 8/4. *Heady stuff!* ... \$20.00

COWAN UNWATERMARKED PAPER

- 178 (a) G4a perf 14 - Carmine and Deep Carmine in glorious blocks of four ... \$ 8.00
 (b) G4c perf 14 x 11 nice block of four of this scarce item \$40.00
 (c) G4c ditto - an attractive single ... \$10.00
 (d) G4d mixed perfs 14 and 11 Vertical pair of the scarcest of these Cowans (mint) - patched officially ... \$30.00
 (e) G4d ditto a block of four nice used of the mixed perfs an item of considerable scarcity if not rarity. This is material for the exhibition specialist - patching \$60.00
- 179 (a) G5a Early local plates perf 14 - block of ten mint in the pale Carmine-pink shade ... \$ 2.75
 (b) G5a Ditto Nice little ready-made display; block of four Carmine-pink shade, strip of three Carmine (deep and full) and a pale single - all mint ... \$ 2.40
- 180 (a) G6a Reserve plate perf 14 - early (1902) Shade in Deep Carmine - a pair - ... \$ 4.50
 (b) G6c Ditto superb mint single of the rare perf 11 x 14. The shade Deep Bright Carmine - very distinctive ... \$100.00
 (c) G6d Ditto mixed perfs 11 and 14 another lovely mint copy - condition superfine (same shade as (b)) Rare \$100.00
- 181 (a) G7a Booklet plate superb mint pair in Deep Carmine \$ 5.00
- 182 (b) G8a Dot Plates perf 14 Four superb blocks of six in shades - Rose Carmine, Deep Carmine, Bright Carmine, Carmine-pink. One block is very worn - one other block shows aniline effect ... \$ 7.50
 (b) G8d Ditto another wonderful set. Four super blocks of four demonstrating degrees of shade and plate wear. Rose Carmine, Deep Carmine, Carmine-pink and one extraordinary block of four in one of the deepest shades we have seen in this stamp showing no wear (one stamp in this last, major Reentry) ... \$ 9.50
 (c) G8a Ditto a lovely set of singles includes Rose Carmine, Deep Carmine, Bright Carmine, Deep Carmine Lake, Carmine Pink. The entire listing as per C.P. Superb! ... \$ 8.00
 (d) G8d Ditto mixed perfs 11 and 14. A super block of 8 of this spectacular variety - perfect ... \$16.00
 (e) G8d Deep Carmine Ditto Ditto. Bottom right selvage corner block of four - shows watermark "4" in right selvage unusual! mixed perfs! an item of lovely appearance - Rose Carmine Shade \$12.50



- 183 (a) G9a Waterlow Plates perf 14
 Plate block No. W.1. in block of four ... \$30.00
- (b) G9a Ditto Top right hand selvedge block of four (brown gum) dated June 2 1906. Variety "No sea under Globe" Deep Rose Carmine ... \$10.00
- (c) G9a Ditto Rose carmine pair ... \$ 3.00
- 184 (a) G10a Royle plates perf 14
 Plate "R1" in fine Rose Carmine block of four ... \$25.00
- (b) G10a Ditto A very great rarity. The "four Dot" Royle Plate block in block of four, four dots in bottom selvedge NB. YOU MAY NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE! ... \$75.00
- (c) G10a Ditto Nice set of blocks. Block of four Blood Red and Bright Rose Carmine. Block of six, Rose Carmine \$20.00
- (d) G10b Ditto perf 11 lovely appearance - crease ... \$10.00
- (e) G10c perf 14 x 11 lovely pair ... \$20.00
- (f) G10f Ditto perf 14 x 14½ Nice mint, Rose Carmine \$ 8.00

Experimental Slot Machine Issues

- 185 (a) GS2a Dot plate roulette 14½ and two holes on each side of stamps a superb mint pair ... \$50.00
- (b) GS1a Reserve Plate. Two large holes - an apparently used strip of three - fine! ... \$60.00
- (c) GS1a Ditto. Two o.g. mint pairs fine Dot and Reserve plates \$40.00
- (d) GS1a Ditto. Dot plate - C.T.O. ... \$10.00
- (e) GS4b Ditto Reserve plate. No holes a mint single and superb dated used on piece ... \$40.00
- USED
- 186 (a) G8b Dot plate perf 11 x 14 fine used ... \$15.00
- (b) G8d Ditto mixed perfs 11 and 14 Two copies used on piece \$ 4.00
- (c) G8d Ditto used single - fine ... \$ 2.00

1d DOMINION

- 187 (a) *Mint - a collection in blocks of four. A study in perfect whinged material, ready for mounting and display - fine opportunity to have a reference collection of this interesting group.*

Contains: plate proof single in black on card; J1a De la Rue top left selvedge block; also block of four (top selvedge) offset on back; J2a Jones paper, thick and thin paper blocks; J3a De la Rue unsurfaced; J4a De la Rue sideways watermark; J5a "art paper" litho watermark six blocks. Watermarks Blue, Dull Green, Greenish Blue, Yellowish - Green, Colourless (Horizontal mesh). Blackish Green, some stamps hinged; J6a Cowan paper block of four, also two blocks of four, positional blocks of "Globe" flaw and "NNY" flaw, also Booklet pane "Abdullah" adverts. J7a Cowan Reversed block of four, also Booklet pane "Kodac" ads J8a Wiggins Teape Two blocks of four top selvedge showing plate wear Thinner and Thicker paper

The wonderful coverage of this issue ... \$110.00

* URGENTLY REQUIRED

A list of remarkable offers for stamps now URGENTLY REQUIRED

		MINT	USED
L03d	1½d Cooking	-	8c
L013f	2/- Captain Cook	-	25c
M4a	1½d Chocolate	40c	8c
N16a	10/- Horseback	-	\$4.00
N36a	6d Mauve	10c	-
N37a	8d Light Brown	-	90c
N43a	7d "Arms"	-	8c
N039a	3/- Grey official	-	\$3.00
O D25a	10/- Tasman	-	50c
S18c	6d Jubilee	-	\$2.00
T2a	1930 Nurse	-	\$3.00
T3b	Blue Boy	-	\$14.00
T4a	Hygeia	-	\$5.00
T5a	Rathway	-	\$2.25
T27a	Medallion 1½d and ½d	-	4c
V5a	Trans Tasman 7d	\$2.00	-
X16a	2½d Cape Cambell	12c	-

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE - Well, that is, nearly everyone. A miscellany of tempting pieces and sets all of particular specialist interest - come to think of it, when did we last advertise something not in that category?

- 191 (a) X5a - Life Insurance - 6d Green - mint! ... \$12.00
- 192 (a) George V Recess Printed Issue Two-perf pairs - a collection, a complete offer of these scarce specialist items. Prices for this group will rocket higher soon, so if you do not have them, this is the time to open up this branch of your collection, contains:- K1c and K1f 1½d Grey on "Cowan" and "Pictorial" paper respectively K2c, 2d Violet K2f 2d Yellow K3c 2½d Deep Blue, K4c 3d Choc - brown K5c 4d Yellow K5f 4d Violet K6c 4½d Deep Green K7c 5d Light Blue K8c 6d Carmine K9c 7½d Deep Red - Brown K10c 8d Indigo - Blue K11c 9d Sage - Green K12c 1/- Vermilion a complete set of 15 lovely pairs condition perfect ... \$70.00
- (b) K9c 7½d Red - Brown - used! not dated but fine ... \$10.00
- (c) K12b 1/- Salmon (!) plate 42 in fine condition - a rarity \$40.00

1960 PICTORIALS

- 193 (a) CHAMBON PERFS. The unusual "Chambon" perforating head (see W.P. notes on "Chambon" printing machine) perforated one row of stamps completely and half of the vertical sides of the stamps above and below. Vertical blocks of six (2 x 3) therefore often showed irregularities in the spacing of perforation holes in every second vertical row. We present a set of the seven De la Rue printed values which contained this feature ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d. Fine condition and nowadays, believe us, scarce! (not on chalky paper) ... \$11.50
- (b) 04a 2½d Titoki spectacular major colour shift in block of four ... \$ 1.00
- (c) 05a 3d Kowhai Missing yellow in vertical pair with normal - thrown out at our price (cat \$30) and a block of six including a single partial missing brown is thrown in free for good measure ... \$15.00
- (d) 05a Ditto block of four with a massive, dazzling yellow doctor blade flaw down right hand selvedge ... \$10.00
- (e) 07a 5d Mountain Daisy top selvedge block of six (3 x 2) shows missing perf holes in two vertical rows, all stamps - spectacular ... \$ 5.00
- (f) 09a 7c Koromiko watermark inverted (cheap) ... \$ 1.50
- (g) 012a 1/- Timber Industry top selvedge block of six (3 x 2) with partial double perfs ... \$ 5.00
- (h) 013a 1/3 Trout plate 1A1B1C in the Bright (shocking) Blue - scarce ... \$15.00
- (i) 015a 1/9 Top Dressing Bistre Row 6/16. Major retouch in pos. block of four ... \$ 3.00
- (j) 015b 1/9 Ditto multicolour Major colour shift "Two planes in formation" ... \$ 2.50
- (k) 017a 2/6 Buttermaking, Plate 2A2B - scarce one now \$ 4.00
- (l) 018a 3/- Tongariro Sepia-Black Block of four plate 5 \$30.00

1967 PICTORIALS

- 194 (a) OD4a 2½d Kowhai massive treble strike of double perforating comb head from left hand side of entire double top row of sheet affects four stamps - tremendously spectacular \$25.00
- (b) OD5a 3c Puarangi Grossly misplaced perforations in double top row. Top selvedge block of 14 produced "miniature" stamps. The double comb head perforated two rows, and then went haywire! ... \$15.00
- (c) OD5a 3c Puarangi an amazing set of matching flaw and retouch blocks of six showing positions of flaws includes Row 2/3 flaw over "C" of 3c, and retouch Row 1/8 blob on lower loop of 3 and retouch Row 3/7 flaw and retouch Row 12/9 a beauty over left hand flower ditto - Four Blocks - also included flaw Row 7/3 in block of six and Row 14/10 retouched plate scratch and Row 15/8 "gnomes head" flaw ... \$ 7.00
- (d) OD16a 15c Tiki Watermark inverted in value block of four (cat \$60) \$40.00

* C.P. CATALOGUE PRICE RISES

Note: Owing to the publishing of our specialised catalogue supplement in May this year, this month's Newsletter does not contain a list of price rises. The new supplement - a large one - will of course bring catalogue user's volumes right up to date next month.

COMMEMORATIVES

- 195 (a) S17c 4d Dunedin Exhibition "POSTAGE" flaw to "F" in fine used \$30.00
 (b) S88a 3d Telegraph Issue Major retouching up (hand) Row 11/2
 in block of four also Block of eight with R14/1 R15/3 and
 R16/4 touch ups and plate scratches - superb! ... \$ 6.00
 (c) S88a 3d Road Safety "apostrophe" flaw in block of four \$ 1.00
 (d) S94a 4d Anzac superb full sheet including Row 9/4 (sail on
 shore) R10/7 ("soldiers on beach") and all the other fascinating
 flaws and retouches which went to make this an outstanding
 specialist stamp. The sheet ... \$10.00
 (e) S94a ditto blocks of four with Row 9/4 and R10/7 \$ 2.00
 (f) S96a 9d ITU block of four shows R 2/4 Retouch by "u" in
 Globe! ... \$ 1.00
 (g) S99a 4d ICY the two shades Olive and Pale Olive in blocks
 of four ... \$ 0.60
 (h) S99a 4d ditto Inverted watermark - mint ... \$ 3.00
 (i) S106a 4c Royal Society mint copy - watermark inverted \$ 3.50
 (j) S108a 3c Bible positional block of 10 shows Red line flaw in
 "ND" of Zealand R 4/5 ... \$ 0.55
 (k) S109a 4c Services Inverted watermark in block of four -
 bottom selvage! ... \$18.00

HEALTHS

- 196 (a) 1958 Brigade Children
2d and 1d Miniature sheets. Two sheets types 5 and 8 as listed
 on page 331 of Volume IV "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand".
 (b) 1958 Health 3d and 1d a marvellous offer of all 8 types of
 miniature sheet listed in Volume IV including all the retouches.
 Miniature sheets represented are sheet 1, sheet 2 (used) sheets
 3 and sheet 3 (retouch) sheet 4 and sheet 4 (retouch) sheet 5,
 sheet 6 and sheet 6 (retouch) sheet 7 and sheet 7 (retouch) and
 sheet 8 and sheet 8 (retouch) (used). Thirteen lovely
 miniature sheets in perfect condition. Unrepeatable \$20.00
 (c) 1959 Healths miniature sheets 2d and 1d a marvellous set of
 8 mini sheets showing the types listed on page 337 of Volume
 IV stupendous ... \$10.00
 (d) 1959 ditto 3d and 1d as above the 8 types listed in the
 Handbook - scarce and desirable ... \$10.00
 (e) 1963 Health T35a 2d and 1d Prince Andrew set of three
 lovely blocks of six Plate 1B two blocks show Row 10/10
 weak entry and 2nd state reentered. Another block shows
 Row 5/8 reentered; three blocks ... \$ 4.50
 (f) 1963 ditto 3d and 1d - miniature sheet shows blouse flaw at
 position 4 - spectacular ... \$ 1.00
 (g) 1963 ditto 3d and 1d two lovely blocks of six demonstrating
 the two states of the "bandaged finger". Row 3/5 plate 1B.
 One shows finger flaw, the other flaw "scratched" out - one of
 the great mysteries of modern N.Z. Philately how was the flaw
removed - secure these examples and you could come up with a
 clue ... \$ 8.50

A FURTHER SELECTION OF FULL FACE QUEENS

Included in the collection now being broken up - a small selection of first class Full Faces. One or two fine examples of rarities here so study this advertisement carefully.

- 190 (a) SG33 1d Davies Imperforate, Star Watermark orange - vermilion.
 A faultless example with four margins - a glorious stamp \$40.00
 (b) SG 35 Ditto Carmine - Vermilion. A similar stamp - margin
 touches minutely one point but appearance unbelievably good \$40.00
 (c) SG 15 6d Chestnut, Richardson Printing on Unwatermarked white
 paper. Four margins - a lovely true example ... \$125.00
 (d) Davies Prints imperf. An "intermediate" set including 1d
Carmine-Vermilion, one margin touching slightly but lovely.
2d Blue (late, worm) a lovely four-margined stamp, 3d Brown
Lilac, three margins but appearance stupendous. 6d Red Brown,
 four margins - deep colour - glorious 6d Black brown, lovely
1/- Yellow Green four margins, light marking - wonderful - a
 set to cause a sensation ... \$150.00
 (e) SG 85 6d Blackish - Brown, pelure paper 1862-63 lovely four
 margined example, clean, clear ... \$60.00
 (f) SG 93 6d Blackish - Brown pelure paper perf 13 a lovely
 example only slightly off-centre ... \$50.00

After showing the "origination" of a stamp, the 7c Country Women's Association 1922 - 1972, right from rough drawings up to shining chrome-plated cylinders, Assistant Research Manager Mr. Kieni now took me on past a new chrome plating room, (then in preparation), to the Printing Room. From a good distance the roar of the machinery was quite audible - later, inside the room conversation became impossible!

The "Chambon" machine is of English origin and is perhaps 60 feet long. It is basically a machine for printing "on the web" (or "reel"), meaning that a continuous, sheet-wide strip of paper runs into the machine at one end and emerges at the other, printed, perforated and guillotined, into sheets. Two huge reels of gummed paper are locked into a framework, and one of them fed into the machine over a number of rollers, which serve to remove creases and inequalities. The machine is capable of changing reels "on the run" as it were, a remarkable fact when one considers the speed at which the printing is done. The issue being printed was the 12c Animal Science (presumably a reprint) in four colour photogravure: yellow, green, brown and black. The "web" of paper continues on under the first cylinder or "head" then over a number of rollers, for drying, and registration control (described later) and into the next "head". There were four heads in all - one for each colour, after which the web was drawn out under the perforating attachment. The single comb perforating head moves up and down, rather like a sewing machine needle - only three times as fast (!) and despite the presence of a noise suppressor, this perforating machinery was the noisiest part of the process. The "confetti" falls into a box below and the web continues on under the guillotine and out into a pile of sheets ready for the initial quantity check. To see stamps being printed in this way was a marvellous experience, and I can only say that my own understanding of modern varieties underwent a significant purification! I recommend it! Several important items of interest arise from my discussions with Mr. Kieni (whose patience was monumental!)

THE CONTROL OF "REGISTRATION" - OF EACH COLOUR TO THE OTHERS

This is carried out by electronic devices attached to each "head" (including that for perforating), rather like boxes with dials displayed on the outside. These devices are linked to a master control cabinet with duplicate dials in another room. Each dial records at any second whether the web is in correct register lengthwise with the cylinder in question or the perforating head. Sideways registration is always correct and needs no adjustment. When the web does become out of position the amount of paper between the cylinder affected and the previous cylinder is automatically increased or decreased to bring it back into register. Movement of the rollers over which the paper "runs" between the cylinders allows this to be carried out very quickly indeed.

THE "CHAMBON" PERFORATIONS OF THE 1960 PICTORIAL ISSUE

I have reason to believe that the unusual comb head used by De la Rue to effect these perforations may have been a "special" De la Rue attachment to one of these "Chambon" machines. I also believe that De la Rue have a distinct penchant for this type of original adjustment. Readers will recall that the "Chambon" head perforated one row of stamps completely and half of each vertical row of perforations above and below - it was *in effect* a "double comb" head.

APPLICATION OF INK TO THE CYLINDER AND DOCTOR BLADE FLAWS

In the Chambon machine the ink is actually *sprayed* onto the cylinder as it revolves. Surplus ink from the surface of the cylinder is removed by a "doctor" or "wiper" blade which has a slow sideways oscillating movement. The blade is, in effect, supported by the cross-cross lines imposed earlier on the carbon tissue by exposure to the "screen" and now imposed as a raised pattern on the surface of the cylinder. Ink is retained in the cells between these lines; these cells make up the design. Surplus ink, from the blade travels to the tank, and is recirculated. Doctor blades, I was told, come in three sizes: 1/4000, 1/6000 and 1/8000 of an inch and the finest blade possible is used, particularly with finely etched designs. Inks with a "hard pigmentation" are the most likely to cause doctor blade flaws where the particles of ink in suspension are large and can accumulate behind the blade, lifting it fractionally. Cobalts and Blues usually have a hard pigmentation.

MISSING COLOURS can be caused by "weir starvation" where nozzles become blocked and a part of the cylinder is not sprayed with ink. The "heads" on cylinders lift automatically when the machine is stopped for a change of Doctor Blade or cylinder cleaning. This could cause sections of missing colour.

INKS are all solvent-based, so that the cylinder is being cleaned constantly during printing. More drastic cleaning is effected by stopping the machine and spraying the cylinder with powerful solvents.

MULTIPLE STRIKES OF PERFORATING HEAD can occur where the web is held up in the machine. Judging by the speed of perforating while I was observing, even a minute hesitation would result in the web's being mauled beyond recognition - none of your neat double strikes in this machine I fear!

CHECKING Unfortunately the only checking I saw was by several girls in the printing room, counting sheets for accounting purposes, and looking for major machine faults. Naturally, as with all high speed processes, the checking procedures are of paramount importance, and I was assured that all sheets were subjected to careful checks in another "security" room. From the printing room we moved back into the Cylinder Making Department where the cylinder revisions (retouching etc.) are carried out. Of particular interest to me was the "Dalic" machine which is used for an "electro-deposition" method of retouching. Briefly, the machine is capable of electro-plating a selected area of the surface of the cylinder at a previously ascertained "plating rate" or speed. This gives great control in the filling in of a depression (coloured flaw) and of course such filling would never fall out as the plating is bonded to the surface of the cylinder. Another method of removing coloured flaws is to drill them out and fill them with a section of copper wire, lead or even dental amalgam! All of these methods may result in the plug's falling out at a later time due to pressure of the web or pulling of the doctor blade (hence the reappearance of retouched flaws). Use of the burin, or the roulette (the latter is a small wheel used to reproduce the screen pattern) is available for colourless flaws (raised areas) but the roulette, I was told, is normally avoided as it tends to push up a "shoulder" of metal on the edge of the retouched area, over which the doctor blade would tend to ride. Plate scratches are burnished off if shallow. If deep they are Dalic electro-plated (see above) and if they run across a finely etched area, the cylinder may actually have to be scrapped.

THE DESIGNER AND THE PROCESS

One factor which was impressed on me was that a good designer of modern stamps must know at least something of the requirements of the process he is designing for. One memorable designer mentioned to me (without name!) used to slip in an extra colour in his drawings without fail, thus making his designs impossible to reproduce within the four-colour regimen of the machinery. Knowledge of the process is likely to produce designs which "come over" well in photogravure. (Look at our own recent "Rose" stamps!). In an extreme case the whole design may be thrown out at first proof sheet stage - cylinders, multipositives, negatives, rough artwork scrapped - where a design is simply not suitable or where the colour separations have been unsuccessful or inaccurate.

THE FUTURE FOR AUSTRALIAN STAMP PRODUCTION

The Note Printing Branch is soon to take delivery of one of the big modern "Rembrandt" machines which (as I think, although I may be corrected), Harrison's use in Britain. The Rembrandt machine has an entirely different method of cylinder making (wrap around cylinders?) and is much faster (fast enough to take on some New Zealand orders?). It is a sheet-fed machine (not web fed) and prints five colours at a time. The sheets may be turned around and run through again, thus producing ten-colour stamps. This would not be possible on the Chambon machine due to its web feed.

As a footnote I would stress that all my comments made above apply only to the Chambon machine I saw and to photogravure as practised by the Australian Note Printing Branch. Naturally, although the process is largely standardised, there are differences between the practices of each major printer.

Finally, should readers have any specific queries in their minds about photogravure or my comments above, I hope they will let me know. I would glad to to try where I can, to answer them!

- * Note: We shall be glad to give permission to anyone who wishes to make use of the original information and conclusions reached in last month's tabulation sheet and this month's notes provided that prior permission is requested of us and due credit is given to Mr. Shaw and ourselves in any such reproduction.

FURTHER FULLFACES (continued) -

- (g) SG 120 4d Ochre - Yellow perf 12½ watermark large star
Shade given with absolute and unconditional money back guarantee - a lovely stamp - verges on the orange-yellow \$50.00
- (h) 4d Orange - Yellow ditto SG 121 again, slightly off centre
but a glorious deep vibrant colour. This stamp also carries our full guarantees \$175.00
- (i) Perforated 12½ - a good "intermediate" set including 10
attractive copies 1d Red, 1d Brown, 2d Blue, 2d Orange,
3d Lilac, 4d Yellow, 6d Red Brown, 6d Blue, 1/- Green \$45.00