



# L13: 2/- CAPTAIN COOK LANDING, TYPE L13 (Recess)

## PLATE 1, The 2/- Pictorial of 1935-1942

### by R.J.G. Collins, 1951

## Flaws and their Treatment with particular reference to Retouches.

Many of the flaws mentioned here are so small that in ordinary circumstances they would not merit consideration. However, it is obvious that the printers, in their desire to keep the plate in commission and to maintain a high standard of production, subjected the plate to continuous inspection. When flaws, which show on the stamps as very small dots, were so situated that they would appear on the plate as extraneous to the design, they were treated while others, which are quite large and obvious to the eye of the philatelist, were overlooked.

Because this plate had been produced from a line-engraved die, flaws, which show on the stamps in colour, would be removed by burnishing, accompanied, where the lines were relatively deep, by a knocking up of the surface. This would leave a blank or uncoloured space. Retouching would be effected by means of hand cutting with a burin and all dots or lines added in this way would appear on the stamps in colour.

For example, as the plate was made of copper, it was not difficult to remove the extraneous dot in **R1/11** by burnishing but, in the process, portions of the lines of the sky shading, which, being thin, would be only shallow depressions in the plate, were also erased. When the blank space was noticed lines were recut and, because

these were not in the same positions as they appeared in the die, the evidence of the retouching is obvious.

Small dots and fine lines could be removed by burnishing but it is also possible that the progressive reduction in the extent of such flaws or their ultimate erasure could be attributable to the wearing of the plate. The reduction in the intensity of the line in **R10/10** in the period between the early sheets and those on the paper with multiple watermark, perf. 13-14 x 13 1/2 was probably due to the cut becoming shallower as the plate was used and not, at that time, to a deliberate act on the part of the printers to remove the flaw.

Messrs. De La Rue and Co. were asked why the COOK flaw persisted throughout all printings. They stated that this flaw was "discovered neither during the preliminary printing nor whilst the plate was on the machine. The varieties in **R1/6**; **R8/2**; and **R9/2**, showed as a 'dig' and were thus more obvious faults which were noticed and removed."

Flaws, which are considered of sufficient importance to warrant recognition by most collectors, are included in the checklist. Specialists will possibly be interested in all the recurring flaws.

## RE-ENTRIES.

The re-entries in this value are particularly interesting to philatelic students. They include not only examples which conform to the usual definition, that is to say varieties which show a doubling of portion of the design, but also examples where the work was perfectly executed.

They are true re-entries in that the impressions were rolled in after the plate had been put to press. Although the plate had been curved to fit the cylinder in the printing machine, Messrs. De La Rue and Co. have stated that they had no difficulty in rolling in impressions from the transfer roller.

When the original impressions were laid down on the plate, the flaw, which showed as a dot to the right of Cook's arm on the 43rd horizontal line of shading in the background, received attention before the plate was put to press. According to De La Rue and Co., the engraver removed this dot from the plate. In some instances, the evidence of this treatment is to be found in a thickening of lines of the sky touching or adjacent to Cook's arm.

If the engraver had in fact removed all traces of the dot from the original impressions, then the appearance of a

dot to the right of Cook's arm on stamps from plate 1 would be conclusive evidence of re-entry. Actually well-inked and clearly-printed copies of the stamps may be found with traces of a dot from parts of the plate which show no evidence of re-entry. Hence, in practice, the magnitude of the dot must be taken into account as evidence in assisting in the recognition of re-entries.

The first published description of these varieties was an article written by Dr D. G. Wallace and which appeared in "The New Zealand Stamp Collector," Vol. XXV, No. 2. The re-entries fall into three groups.

Before the plate was used for the printing on the paper with multiple watermark and with perf. 13 1/2 x 14, the impression printing **R10/5** was re-entered. When parts of the plate were recut before it was put to press, the rigging to the right of the foremast had been heavily recut in this impression, particularly the lower portion of the third upright line. Apparently it was considered that this might develop into a plate crack so this portion of the plate was knocked up from the back, the surface burnished and another impression rolled in. The work was carefully done, the doubling of the design showing only on the left-



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hand side. The vertical lines of the trunk of the tree-fern, the ribs of the third leaf from the bottom, the rigging at the left and the left-hand side of the value panel are doubled.

Because the plate was knocked up and the portion of the original impression to the right of the foremast was burnished, the characteristic horizontal lines of the rigging of this stamp in the earlier printings were partly erased and it has some resemblance to stamps from plate 3.

The second group comprises **R2/12**, and **R8/12**. In the sheets printed by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons these two stamps have the dot to the right of Cook's arm. The dot did not show in the earlier printings, but it is also found in the De La Rue printings on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper.

In **R2/12** there had been a fine line between and N and D of ZEALAND, and in **R8/12**, a small dot had appeared under the O of OCTOBER. Both flaws were similar to some which, in other impressions, had been removed and neither appears to have been of sufficient magnitude to require treatment by re-entry. It is, of course, possible that, after the printing on the paper with multiple watermark, perf. 13 1/2 x 14, had been completed, these impressions had become damaged and that it was considered advisable to correct them by re-entry. The characteristic lines of shading in the rigging in these stamps, in the sheets printed by Waterlow and Sons, are identical with those of the earlier printings. Furthermore, there is no trace of any doubling of the design. Hence, careful consideration must be given to these two stamps before they may be classed as re-entries.

In a proof sheet on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper, in the reference collection of the G.P.O., Wellington, **R2/12**, **R8/12** and **R10/5**, stand out from the other stamps in the sheet, because of the relative heavier appearance of the impressions. In **R2/12**, the dot is not very prominent, but there appears to have been a general strengthening particularly of the lines of shading in the hills. In **R8/12**, the dot is quite as prominent as it is in **R10/5**, and in stamps from

plates 2 and 3 and the strengthening shows in the lines of shading in the sky.

**R4/12**, **R5/12**, **R9/12**, and **R10/12**, in the final printing, all have the dot to the left of Cook's arm and the characteristic lines of shading in the rigging are still identical (in **R10/12**, almost identical) with those in the earlier printings. **R5/12**, shows a slight doubling of some of the lines of the sky shading, and **R10/12**, has a doubling of portion of the design and all these stamps are strong impression. It should be noted that these stamps, together with **R2/12**, and **R8/12**, were all printed from the impressions at the bottom of the plate.

Some of these stamps also have the characteristic lines of the rigging below the large sail, due to the touching out of another dot on the transfer roller.

It would appear that, where care was taken so that the second impression coincided with the original and where the portion of the original impression to the right of the foremast was not burnished, the characteristic horizontal shading lines would remain and the evidence of re-entry would be provided by the dot to the right of Cook's arm and by the general deepening and strengthening of the impressions. The degree of strengthening would depend upon the pressure exerted on the roller in the transfer press.

Parenthetically it should be observed that, while particulars are included here of all impressions which were strengthened by the use of the transfer roller, and while all these varieties are of interest to specialists, many collectors will be satisfied with those which show an actual doubling of portion of the design.

The third group comprises no less than sixteen stamps and these re-entries are found only in the last printing made by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. Some of these sheets were perforated 12 1/2 line by Waterlow and Sons and others 14 x 13 1/2 comb by De La Rue and Co.

