

L8: 5d SWORDFISH TYPE (Recess) Notes from Vol 2, The Postage Stamps of New Zealand.



This denomination showed a striped marlin swordfish and was the combined work of Messrs. R. E. Tripe and W. J. Cooch, of Wellington.

In August, 1936, printings were placed on sale on the paper with multiple watermark and in July, 1937, 85 sheets were issued with the watermark inverted. These had been printed from a plate numbered 1 and the sheets comprised 120 stamps in 10 rows of 12.

In R4/1 two horizontal dashes showed to the right and near the foot of the left-hand 5. In June, 1938, a dot appeared after the D in the right-hand value tablet in R6/2.

All printings made up to 1940 were on the good quality esparto paper and were perforated on the comb head gauging 13-14 x 13 ½. The colour was a bright ultramarine and was kept relatively uniform.

Late in 1940, the original plate was handed to Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, who made a printing of 21,000 sheets which were then passed back to De La Rue for perforating, but this printing was lost in the fire. On February 21, 1941, an order was given for another 21,000 sheets and these were printed and perforated by Waterlow & Sons. The paper contained less esparto than formerly and varied in the amount of esparto content. The ink used was bright ultramarine but paler than the earlier printings. The perforation was 12 ½. These stamps were issued in July, 1941.

On December 5, 1941, 20,000 sheets were or-

dered and these were printed by De La Rue & Co. but were perforated by Waterlow & Sons by means of the line machine gauging 12 ½. A relatively small part of this printing was made from the original plate but for the bulk of the supply a new plate numbered 2 under the second stamp in the bottom row and with the figure larger than the 1, was employed.

The stamps printed by De La Rue & Co. and perf 12 ½ may be distinguished from those printed by Waterlow & Sons by the fact that they were on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper. The shade was generally deeper than the Waterlow printing. One sheet was issued with double print, one being albino.

In November, 1942, this value appeared with the new comb perforation gauging 14 x 13 ½. The stamps were printed and perforated by De La Rue & Co. and were on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper. Plates 1 and 2 were used and in addition a new plate numbered 3 was also used. The 3 was larger than the 1 but not as large as the 2, and was higher on the selvedge than the 2. It again appeared under the second stamp in the bottom row. No re-entries have been noted in plate 3. Printings made from it were first issued in April, 1944.

In the first printings from plate 2 with perf. 14 x 13 ½ nineteen stamps showed evidence of re-entry. These were : -

It is not suggested that the majority of these re-entries should be recognised by collectors. They are in the main of a minor nature only,

- R1/1** Doubling of the inner of the three outer vertical frame-lines on the right.
- R4/7** Doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the left, particularly towards the bottom, of the tail of the 5 in the bottom left corner, the doubling being on the left side, and of the three short curved lines immediately below the left-hand wheel in the top left corner.
- R5/4** Traces of doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the left, particularly towards the top, and of the three short curved lines immediately below the left-hand wheel in the top left corner.
- R5/7** Doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the left, particularly at the bottom, of the tail of the 5 in the bottom left corner, the doubling being on the left side, of the concentric lines of the left-hand wheel in the top left-corner, of the four short curved lines immediately below this wheel and of some of the vertical lines in the side-panel on the left.
- R6/1** Traces of doubling of the inner two of the three outer vertical frame-lines on the right, of some of the vertical lines in the side-panel on the right and of the short curved lines immediately below the right-hand wheel in the top right corner.
- R6/4** Doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the, left, of the left-hand side of the tail of the figure 5 in the bottom left corner, of some of the vertical lines in the left side-panel and of the short curved lines immediately below the left-hand wheel in the top left corner.
- R6/9** Doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the left, of the left-hand side of the tail of the figure 5 in the bottom left corner, of some of the vertical lines in the left side-panel, of the concentric lines of the left-hand wheel in the top left corner and of the short curved lines immediately below the wheel.
- R6/10** Doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the left, particularly evident at the bottom, of the left side of the tail of the 5 in the bottom left corner and of some of the vertical lines in the side-panel on the left.
- R6/11** Traces of doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the left, of the left side of the tail of the 5 in the bottom left corner, of some of the vertical lines in the left side-panel and of the concentric lines of the left-hand wheel in the top left corner.
- R6/12** Doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the left, of the left-hand side of the tail of the figure 5 in the bottom left corner, of some of the vertical lines in the left side-panel, of the concentric lines of the left-hand wheel in the top left corner and of the short curved lines immediately below this wheel.
- R7/1** Doubling of the inner fine frame-line immediately below the 5d on the left and of the left-hand portions of the outer two horizontal frame-lines at the bottom.
- R7/5** Faint trace of doubling of the inner fine frame-line immediately below the 5D on the left.
- R7/6** Traces of doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the left, of the left-hand side of the figure 5 in the bottom left corner and of the short curved lines immediately below the left-hand wheel in the top left corner.
- R7/10** Traces of doubling of the outer two vertical frame lines on the left and of the left-hand side of the tail of the figure 5 in the bottom left corner.
- R9/1** Traces of doubling of the vertical frame-lines at the left bottom corner and of some of the vertical lines in the left side panel.
- R9/4** Doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines at the left bottom corner and of the left side of, the vertical bar and the tail of the 5 in the bottom left corner.
- R9/8** Doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines at the left, of the left-hand side of the vertical bar and the tail of the figure 5 in the bottom left corner, of some of the vertical lines in the left side-panel, of the concentric lines of the left-hand wheel in the top left corner and of the short curved lines immediately below this wheel.
- R9/9** Doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the left, of the left-hand side of the vertical bar and the tail of the figure 5 in the bottom left corner, of some of the vertical lines in the left side panel, of the concentric lines of the left-hand wheel in the top left corner and of the short curved lines immediately below this wheel.
- R9/10** Doubling of the outer two vertical frame-lines on the left, of the left- hand side of the vertical bar, curve and tail of the figure 5 in the bottom left corner, of the vertical lines in the left side-panel and of practically all the lines of the ornament in the top left corner.

During the course of printing the plate became damaged by pitting and this damage was evidenced by extraneous dots of colour on a number of stamps in the sheet. The deterioration was noticed and was corrected by a further series of re-entries. These are:

- R1/2** Doubling of practically all lines of the design in the top right corner and of the vertical lines of the side-panel on the right. Also evidence of doubling of some of the vertical frame-lines on the left.
- R1/4** Doubling of the right-hand portion of the ornament in the top right corner, of the vertical lines of the side-panel on the right and of the vertical frame-lines on the right.
- R2/7** Doubling of the vertical frame-lines on the left, of the vertical lines of the side-panel on the left, of the lines of the ornament in the top left corner and of the left side of the figure 5 on the left.
- R3/2** Doubling of the vertical lines of the side-panel on the right and of the ornament in the top right corner.
- R3/3** Doubling of the short curved lines below the left-hand wheel in the top left corner, of the outer vertical frame-line at the top left corner and of the innermost vertical frame-line on the right.
- R3/10** Doubling of the inner two of the three vertical frame-lines on the left and of the vertical bar of the figure 5 on the left.
- R4/8** Traces of doubling of some of the lines of the ornament in the top right corner.
- R4/10** Doubling of the vertical frame-lines on the right, of the vertical frame-lines of the side-panel on the right and of the right-hand portion of the ornament in the top right corner.
- R5/1** Doubling of the vertical frame-lines on the left, particularly evident at bottom, and of the vertical bar and tail of the figure 5 on the left.
- R5/10** Doubling of the vertical lines on the inner side of the side-panel on the right and of some of the lines of the ornament in the top right corner.
- R6/7** Doubling of some portions of the ornament in the top left corner and of the vertical bar of the figure 5 on the left.
- R7/8** Doubling of vertical frame-lines on right, especially at top, of the upper portions of the vertical lines of the side-panel on the right and of the right-hand portion of the ornament in the top right-corner.
- R8/1** Doubling of practically all the vertical lines in the side-panel on the right, of the ornament in the top right corner, of the curved portion of the figure 5 on the right, of the D on the right, of the H in SWORDFISH and of the birds in the central portion of the design.
- R8/5** Traces of doubling of the upper portions of the vertical lines of the side-panel on the left, of the left-hand portion of the ornament in the top left corner and of the tail of the figure 5 on the left.
- R8/10** Doubling of practically all the vertical lines on the left, of the ornament in the top left corner, of the vertical bar and the tail of the figure 5 on the left.
- R9/1** Doubling of the vertical frame-lines on the right, of the vertical lines of the side-panel on the right and of the right-hand portion of the ornament in the top right corner.
- R10/1** Doubling of practically all the lines of the right-hand portion of the design and also of the vertical bar and tail of the figure 5 on the right.

It is not suggested that the majority of these re-entries should be recognised by collectors. They are in the main of a minor nature only, but they have been detailed in this instance as they provide evidence of the stages in the life of a plate, and of the way in which De La Rue & Co. ensured that impressions from a plate would remain satisfactory.

in plate 2. In the sheets from the first printing with perf. 14 x 13 ½ R6/10 had a coloured mark under the right-hand side of the second A in ZEALAND. As printing proceeded this mark developed in extent and in addition a crescent-shaped flaw showed in the gutter between R4/10 and row R5/10. This appeared under the L of ZEALAND.

Some marked and interesting flaws developed In some sheets extensive flaws later appeared



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in R4/10 and R5/10 and took the form of irregular patches of colour joining the bottom of the L and A of ZEALAND in R4/10. In R5/10 a flaw runs horizontally across the label under NEW ZEALAND and through the frame in the bottom right-hand corner. In other sheets there was a break running vertically down the right-hand side of R5/10 and R6/10 and appearing also in the gutter between these stamps. R4/10 showed a thickening of the outer line on the right-hand side and a curved mark in the right-hand corner. It seems probable that the horizontal flaws were the first to develop and that these were corrected and that later the vertical flaw became obvious. It is a matter of interest as to why the horizontal flaws should have been removed and yet the crescent-shaped flaw

and the one under the A in R6/10 did not receive attention."

The printings with perf. 14 x 13 ½ ranged from bright ultramarine to pale bright ultramarine and some sheets had a greater amount of blue in the pigment. One sheet had a double print, one albino. The paper had been run through the machine with another sheet and had received an un-inked impression which had the effect of closing the pores of the paper so that when the sheet was again run through the machine and received an inked impression the pigment did not become as absorbed as usual and consequently the stamp has a cobalt blue colour. The 5d. was withdrawn from sale on April 30, 1947.

L8: 5d SWORDFISH TYPE (Recess) Campbell Paterson's Notes 5d



I last dealt with the 4d Mitre Peak and we now come to the 5d – one of the most interesting stamps of the set. The main issues are clearly defined and easily separated – when one knows how. They are:

- L8a Single wmk, fine Vert mesh paper, perf 13-14x13½**
- L8b Single wmk, fine Vert mesh paper, perf 13½x14**
- L8c Mult wmk, fine Horiz mesh paper, perf 13-14x13½**
- L8d Mult wmk, fine Horiz mesh paper, perf 12½**
- L8e Mult wmk, coarse Horiz mesh paper, perf 12½**
- L8f Mult wmk, coarse Horiz mesh paper, perf 13¾ x13½**

This may seem a formidable list but given a methodical approach it becomes readily manageable. Let us suppose we have a large pile of 5d Swordfish, possibly containing many of every one of the above variations.

The first step is to segregate all stamps on the coarse paper. This is a war-time paper-grade and viewed from the back of the stamps is of decidedly coarse, rough finish; the watermarks are easily seen and the paper usually of a rather dirty or yellowish tone. So all must be either L8e perf 12½ which means larger, clumsy perfs, or L8f perf 13¾x13½.