

THE NEW ZEALAND "THANK YOU" PERFIN. Rosemary Smith.

This article is taken from the October 1990 Issue of "Captain Coqk" (correct spelling!) the Newsletter of the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc.). The Perfin Society has a reciprocal exchange of Bulletin with the above society.

For 1988/89, 100 sheets of the 1c Nephrite stamp were sent to Slopers. It was requested that 90 of these sheets be perforated normally so that the words read correctly when viewed from the front of the stamp; the other 10 sheets were to have the perfin reversed so that the words read normally when read from the back of the stamp. It was thought that some collectors may like to purchase blocks of both varieties, mounting one block face up and the other face down in their collections. The idea was good enough, but its implementation caused some problems.

The sheets of stamps obtained from the Post Office came from two different printings. Most of the sheets were from the fourth printing, on white paper (CP PBlb) with the "four dot" plate number (listed by Campbell Peterson as 11114). The rest of the supply was from the fifth printing, on cream paper (CP PBlc) with the "five kiwi" plate number.

The stamps were received back in New Zealand on Feb 8 1989 and a small quantity of first day covers was prepared on that date.

Slopers had difficulty in perforating the stamps - perhaps the instructions had been hard to follow - and, besides the two solicited variations ("normal" and "reversed" perfin) there are a number of abnormal variations: including inverted, inverted and reversed perfins, double perfins, and missing perfins. The following is a check-list of known varieties.

Normal perfin

Plate blocks: Four dot plate number and Five kiwi plate number.

Double perfin: Triple perfin: Inverted perfin.

Inverted perfin in pair with normal perfin.

Double inverted perfin.

Reversed perfin.

Plate blocks: Four dot plate number and Five kiwi plate number.

Double perfin: Inverted and reversed perfin.

Inverted and reversed perfin in pair with "normal" inverted.

Double perfin, one impression inverted, the other inverted and reversed.

All of the unsolicited varieties were sold by auction, some of these still appearing in the Philatelic Foundation's various sales. The 1c "Thank You" stamp was sold by Federation at its stand at New Zealand 1990 and considerable numbers would have been used in the Exhibition "passport".

If the 1988/89 perfin had been something of a collector's dream, the 1989/90 2c perfin was very "ho-hum" in comparison. Again 100 sheets of stamps - this time the 2c Agate - were sent to Slopers. These were all perforated normally, i.e. so that the words read correctly when viewed from the front of the stamp. All stamps came from the same printing - the first printing, on white paper (CP PB2b) with the "one dot" plate number (listed by Campbell Paterson as 11111).

The stamps were received back in New Zealand on 20 April 1990 and, again, a small quantity of first day covers was prepared.

