

# REPRINTS

## A MATTER OF TERMINOLOGY

Our Editor is to be congratulated in preparing an article which is virtually guaranteed to get collectors whatever they collect, to respond.

Philatelists have almost forever had their own terminology, so reference to Dictionaries and Encyclopedias is not an option, unless it is to confuse us even more than we already are.

Take for instance another **"Re"** word

**Re-entry** – Philatelists use this term in connection with examples of remaining portions of original engraving which have not been completely removed; which of course is opposite to the more general use of the word.

Discussion on the use of the term has been carried on now for over a hundred years.

**Re-prints** – To most philatelists, this is a case of **"Caveat Emptor"** Let the buyer beware.

If a country's stamps have been reprinted then in most cases that country or that particular issue is to be avoided. Certain South American countries' issues cannot be given away because of the affairs of Nicholas Frederick Seebeck.

Actually one of the main advantages of collecting New Zealand Classics is the fact that only three values were reprinted, long after the stamps were replaced, and whilst they were in similar colours to the later printing, identification was reasonable easy. In the majority of cases they were issued cancelled, and unused copies were not generally available.

Nothing puts a new collector "OFF" than to see somewhere in the catalogue the statement "Collectors should be wary of reprints"

As far as I could make out, our editor is suggesting that because there are a number of kiwis appearing in the sheet margin then they represent a new printing or a reprint?

If anyone accepts this theory then all the 224 different plates of the GB 1d red are reprints as are the 12 plates of the GB 1d black!

The definition of a **Reprint**<sup>1</sup> Prints taken from the printing base of issued stamps after they have gone out of use; the reprints, normally, differ in several particulars such as paper and colour from the issued stamps.

In New Zealand we have had these previous definitions: -

Marcel Stanley talking about the Chalon 1d, 2d, and 6d, stamps reprinted in 1884-1885<sup>2</sup> **states "These are the only true reprints of NZ"**

*The RPSNZ Handbook Vol. IV page 557 Appendix IV*

**States "The 1d, 2d, and 6d Full-faces are the only NZ stamps of which Reprints were made"**

The complete definition of REPRINT from the above reads:-

**"Printing in the correct colour made from a plate after a stamp has been withdrawn from sale at Post Offices"**

In my opinion, the definition should be as follows

#### **REPRINT**

**"Printing in the correct colour made from the original plate after a stamp has been withdrawn from sale at Post Offices.**

**The 1d, 2d, and 6d Chalon Head issue are the only NZ stamps of which Reprints were made.**

Having established that everything else which has been previously erroneously described as a Reprint, should now be described either as a Reproduction or a Facsimile.

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<sup>1</sup> L.N. Williams *Fundamentals of Philately* American Philatelic Society 1990

<sup>2</sup> Know your Full-faces – The Proofs, Reprints and Reproductions. NZ Stamp Collector Dec 1972

## REPRODUCTIONS

### *RPSNZ Definition*

**A printing in black or in colours, other than those in which stamps were issued, made from a plate after a stamp has been withdrawn from sale at post offices.**

In my opinion, the definition should be as follows

## REPRODUCTIONS

**A printing in black or in colours, other than those in which stamps were issued, made from either the original plate after a stamp has been withdrawn from sale at post offices., or from original dies or new dies and plates.**

This would include the prints carried out for inclusion in the proposed "The RPSL Australasia Book" (Hausburg) and the NZPS first Publication (Jolliffe) and the Handbook Volume II, also would include the extra sheets printed at the same time 1906 and 1913.

## FACSIMILIES

RPSNZ do not include a description in their Glossary of Philatelic Terms.

In my opinion, the definition for the Chalons should be as follows

## FACSIMILES

**A likeness or imitation of a genuine stamp sometimes differing quite obviously from the original, openly described as such (unlike a forgery) and produced with no intent to deceive or defraud.**

Having cleared up those definitions, there still appears to be a variance of opinion in respect to Proofs, even Die Proofs and Plate Proofs. Unfortunately there are a lot of Reprints, and Reproduction being called proofs, no doubt to enhance their value?

## PROOFS

### Die Proofs - definitions

#### **RPSNZ Handbook *Volume IV***

A trial impression. It is usual for the engraver to make a series of prints from the die as an indication of the progress of his work.

#### **L.N. Williams *Fundamentals***

Impressions taken from the die for the purpose of examining either the progress or state of engraving.....

My definition

**A proof or trial impression taken directly from the die**

### Plate Proofs – definitions

#### **RPSNZ Handbook *Volume IV***

It is customary to produce proofs both in black and colour from the plates.

#### **L.N. Williams *Fundamentals***

Impressions taken from the plate for the purpose of examining the progress or state of engraving or manufacture, or else the colour of the print (often called "colour trials" or "colour proofs")

My definition

**A proof or trial impression taken directly from the plate**

Re the question of New Printings or Further Printings, I would refer our Editor to the first design of the stamp from Denmark, which I believe was issued over a period of 75 years!

Having written the above in April, it comes to mind that the **kiwis** are in fact only

## MARGINAL INSCRIPTIONS

## **MARGINAL INSCRIPTIONS**

Marginal Inscriptions come in various shapes and sizes, and can include: -

### **Controls**

Marginal Control Letters and or Numbers appeared on sheets of British Stamps from 1881, until 1947 when they were superseded by Cylinder Numbers.

Controls were references for Accountancy purposes, the figures being the last two digits of the year of issue and proceeded by an index letter.

The Control did not form part of the Printing Plate but was screwed into the Margin before printing began and removed when the printing ceased.

In the case of the Photogravure issues, Controls had bars below, to the left and right, or all round (Boxed) representing progressive periods during the year. The Controls on the King George V and VI issues are known as Fractional Controls.

### **Cylinder Numbers**

These are records of every Cylinder made, the number with a "Full Stop" was the left hand pane and without the stop the right hand pane.

Control Numbers were discontinued in 1947 with only Cylinder Numbers shown.

In the case of New Zealand Stamps, traditionally there have been: -

Cylinder Numbers  
Sheet Value  
Altered Sheet Value  
Printer's Imprint  
Sheet Numbers  
Black Bars (to provide against the miss-use of paper)  
Etc.

Food for thought, and long may we have such an interesting and intriguing hobby.



**Long live the KIWI**

Gerald J. Elliott MNZM RDP FRPSNZ

22 April 2011

3 June 2011

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